



Official Matchday Programme

Newcastle Benfield

23.08.25 | 3pm

THE ISUZU FA VASE



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League Division 1

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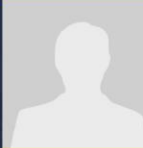
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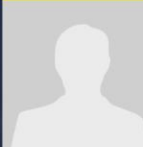
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Manager's Notes

“

Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to the MPM Stadium for today's FA Vase fixture against Newcastle Benfield.

”

I'd like to extend a special welcome to their players, management team and supporters, and we hope you had a safe journey down to Ilkley.

Whenever we come up against a team from the North East, we know we're in for a tough test. That part of the country has long been a hotbed for footballing talent – there really must be something in the water up there! Newcastle Benfield have started the season strongly and currently sit third in the table, so we're under no illusions about the challenge in front of us this afternoon.

As for ourselves, we've developed a bit of a habit in recent weeks of leaving things late. In our last two outings we've found ourselves trailing by two goals with 20 minutes to play, only to show incredible spirit and determination to turn the games around. None more so than last weekend's dramatic 3-2 win over Route One Rovers, which was particularly pleasing and a real testament to the never-say-die attitude running through this squad.



In terms of team news, we're still without a few players who are away, and it will be good in the coming weeks to get some of them back to help us settle into more of a rhythm. That said, the lads available today have shown fantastic character and togetherness, and we'll be giving it everything once again.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our supporters for turning out today. Your backing makes a massive difference to the players, and we hope we can reward you with another strong performance and, hopefully, a positive result.

Enjoy the game!

Sam Dexter,
First Team Manager

Meet the opposition

Newcastle Benfield



Formed as Brunswick Village in 1988 as part of the Northern Alliance League division two they moved to division one the following season. When the club moved to their current ground and changed their name to Benfield Park.

By the time the 2003-04 season started they had again changed their name to Newcastle Benfield Saints and joined division two of the Northern League, and gaining promotion to division one by the following season.

For the 2005-06 season the name changed to Newcastle Benfield Bay Plastic the following season Newcastle Benfield BP and finally settling as plain Newcastle Benfield for the 2008-09 season.

Since joining the first division in that 2004-05 season they have had an unbroken tenure of that division.

In September 2005 former Hartlepool Striker Paul Baker took over as manager and was still at the helm when the club lifted their first Northern League honour, the League Cup, in May 2007, having beaten Nissan 1-0 at federation Park Dunston, courtesy of a magnificent Alu Bangura goal. Baker enjoyed particular success in FA competitions leading the club to their best performance in the FA Vase in 2006 and a year later reaching the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, narrowly losing to York City 1-0 in front of a ground record crowd of 927 fans.

The club's finest season was yet to come when in 2008-09 under Tom Wade, they won the league title on the last day of the season with an eighty-eighth minute goal by Stephen Young in the final game at Penrith. It is notable that they had never been at the top of the table till that goal.

That was turned into a double success when they were to win the League Cup, ironically also against Penrith with a breath-taking Ian Graham goal however many would agree that Andrew Grainger's performance in goal was probably the finest individual performance.

Wade left before the following season with Baker returning and Benfield winning the Cleator Cup, the Northern League equivalent to the Charity Shield.

In September 2011 Baker resigned for a second time, replaced by former player, captain and assistant manager Alu Bangura. The same player who scored the magnificent goal against Nissan in 2007. Alu's time was short lived replaced by Perry Briggs after 6 months and the club limped to a disappointing league finish in twelfth place. Briggs was to leave in the autumn of 2012 replaced by Anthony Woodhouse and he was to bail out early 2013 citing work pressures. Woodhouse was replaced by former Bedlington Terriers player Steve Bowey who performed the role as player manager.

For the 2013-14 season Bowey's side put in some impressive performances but still ended up only fourteenth in the table, but this was balanced by some fine results in the FA Vase.

Meet the opposition

Newcastle Benfield



Tragically, club co-founder Danny Gates passed away in November 2013 his contribution cannot be underestimated; he will not be forgotten as long as the club exists.

At the end of that season Steve Bowey resigned and Neil Saxton took his place who in turn left in October to be replaced by the returning Steve Bowey, with the club languishing near the foot of the table. His return galvanized the club and a run of fourteen games including eleven wins and one draw saw them finish the season in tenth place. This also saw Paul Brayson win Northern League Player of the Season with a tally of 49 goals in all competitions.

The following season 2015-16 saw Benfield finish eighteenth and Bowey tender his resignation again at the end of October. Sadly, John Colley who was the co-founder along with Danny Gates also passed away December 17 aged 74 for many years John was the club Treasurer, and will also be missed.

The club then appointed Mark Convery and Paul Brayson as joint Player Managers in November 2015 and with a thin squad they stabilized in the 2016-17 season ending a credible tenth in the league.

The 2017-18 season saw Benfield finish seventh only denied sixth on a one goal spot by Stockton Town. Including a forty-nine-goal contribution by Paul Brayson.

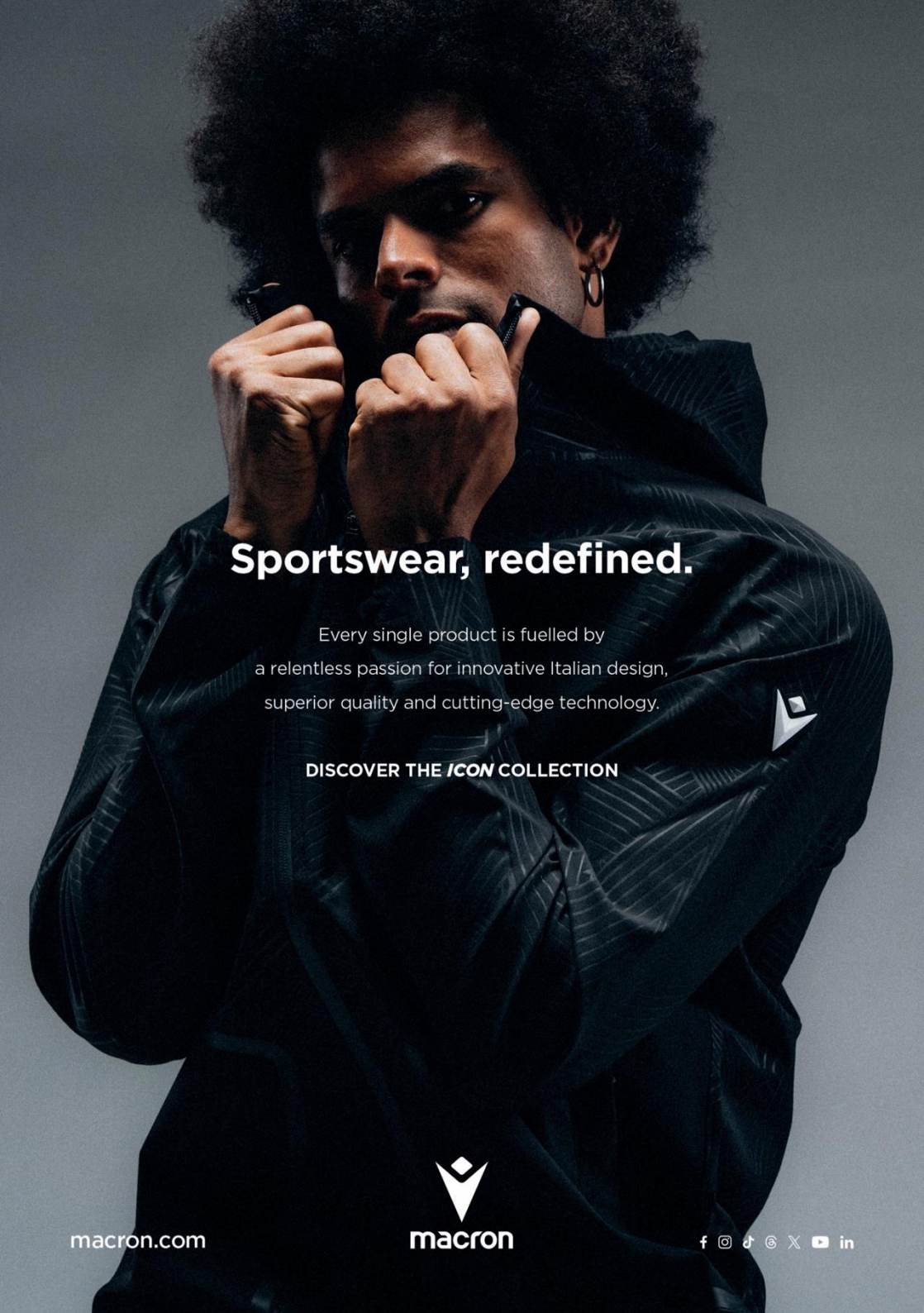
2018-19 after a slow start to the season saw Mark Convery and his assistant Craig "Bruiser" Heward leave the club at the start of October, with Tom Wade returning after a nine-year absence however this only lasted four months, with former Newcastle United and Benfield player Stuart Elliott take the reins. Stu took the Lions to the Northern League Brookes Milesen Trophy final only to lose 4-3 on penalties. Stu stayed with the Lions until December 2021 and then the club appointed Colin Stromsoy as Manager in January 2022.

The club and Colin went their separate ways in the January of 2023 and long serving striker Paul Brayson was given the caretaker managers job and in May of this year Paul was given the managers role permanently. Paul is now into his second full season as manager of the team and we are looking forward to the 24/25 season with him at the helm.

Tragically, club founder and chairman Jimmy Rowe passed away September 4th 2019. Everything the club has achieved so far is down to Jimmy and everything we achieve in the future will be dedicated to his memory.

Dave Robson stepped up to take on that role as Club Chairman only to be another tragic loss to the club in February 2021. Roppa's bar, our outside venue, was constructed in his memory.

Since Dave's passing, Craig Bell has now stepped up to take the role as Chairman and has taken the team and the club forward into a new era



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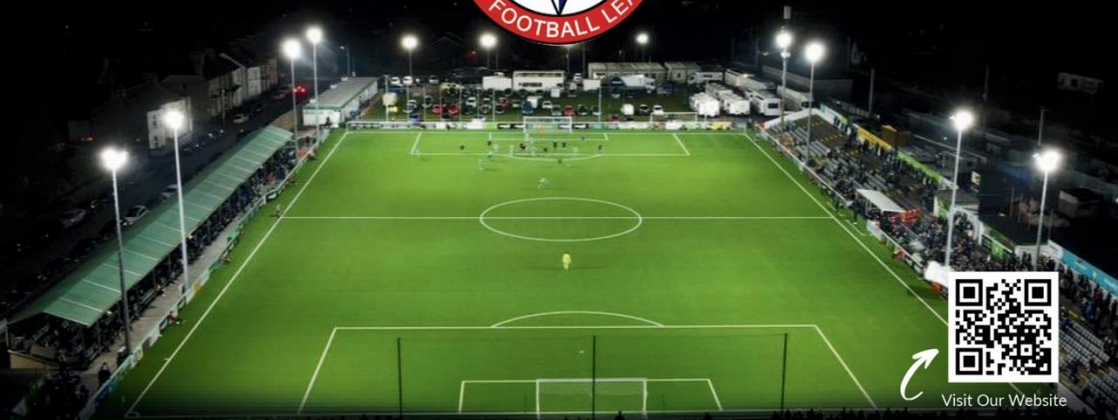
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NEWCASTLE BENFIELD
MANAGER: PAUL BRAYSON

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 Andre Bennett
 Kevin Carr
 Elliot Cartr
 Andrew Evans
 Terrance Galbraith
 Kyle Fryatt
 Aiden Haley
 Austin Hall
 Matthew Hayton
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 Wrcfa Affiliation Number Faw00110
 Chairman: Robert Brown

Programme Design:
 mboucherart@gmail.com

UPCOMING FIXTURES

V Harrogate Railway Athletic (H)
 NCEL1 – 26.08.25 – 8PM

V Dearne & District (A)
 NCEL1 – 30.08.25 – 3PM

V Athersley Recreation (A)
 NCEL1 – 02.09.25 – 7.45PM