

# BURSCOUGH

## Football Club

23/11/2024



VS



Official Matchday Programme  
2024/2025 Season



Photos by Ellie Wright  
@elliewright\_photography



**Birkdale**  
Insurance Group



# The Community Ground

## The home of Burscough Football Club



As you can see, we are still working hard to complete all the new development and infrastructure improvements at the ground, we appreciate your patience whilst this continues.

We have made great progress since the end of the 23/24 season. Our new function room, the '1946 Lounge', is now fully operational, along with the Churcher Estates-sponsored viewing terrace and a 100-seater stand next to the hospitality suite and accessible viewing area.

Visitors can purchase hot and cold drinks plus a variety of food and snacks at our Burscough FC "snack hut". Along with these is the Burscough FC pitch-side bar, which is fully licensed to sell alcoholic beverages as well as soft drinks.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

**We would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today...**

# Irlam



Ground: The Community Ground  
Address: Bobby Langton Way, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 0SW  
Legal Entity: Company limited by shares C/No: 03998165

# Burscough FC Honours

Northern Premier League Premier Division Champions: 2006/07

North West Counties League Champions: 1982-83

League Cup Winners: 1992-93, 1995-96

Lancashire Champions: 1955-56, 1969-70

Division Two Champions: 1953-54

Liverpool County Football Combination Champions: 1949-50

FA Trophy Winners: 2002-03

Liverpool Senior Cup Winners: 2000-01

Cheshire Senior Cup Winners: 1974-75

Lancashire Junior Cup Winners: 1947-48, 1949-59, 1966-67, 2006-07

## Officials/Committee

**Chairman:** Paul Gilchrist

**Secretary:** Christopher Jones

**Commercial Director:** John Doherty

**Programme Editor:** Adam Rothwell/Zoe Quinn

**Guest Relations/Marketing:** Zoe Quinn

**Manager:** David Dempsey

**Asst Manager:** Chris Stammers

**Physio:** Liam Thompson

**Fan Liaison Officer:** Pete Hill

**Directors/Committee:** Paul Gilchrist, Joanne Gilchrist, Phil Gilchrist, David Sutton, Christopher Jones, Neil Wilson, Zoe Quinn, Adam Rothwell, Pete Hill, Wayne Kitney, Peter Foulkes.



# BURSCOUGH FC MANAGER

# DAVID DEMPSEY

Good Afternoon.

Welcome to Irlam FC for today's league game. We need a result and hopefully today is the day we break the back of the poor run of results we have found ourselves in. Recent form is there for all to see and trust me when i say this, we expect more as do you all. We are working relentlessly in order to find that elusive win for us to build on and gain momentum once again.

This weekend marks my 1 year anniversary of managing this football club. From what we took over to where we are now both on and off the field we have seen big improvements off it and smaller improvements on it. However, I feel we are not far away and we have closed the gap of being well away from competing to having an expectation around the group to win games week in week out and we take a lot from that in terms of the job we have done.

I'm not going to mention previous games, I'm going to mention the next run of games that we have. We have a tough 5 fixtures coming up but I wouldn't want it any other way. As players and a management team this could be the making of this group and if we are able to stop the rot together I genuinely believe we will have an extremely strong 2nd half of the season.

As always, thanks for your support. I hope you enjoy today's game and I hope we can put a smile on all of your faces once again!

Demps



# BURSCOUGH FOOTBALL CLUB 2024/25 FIXTURES

## JULY/AUGUST 2024

SAT 27/7	LONGRIDGE TOWN (A) L 1-0
TUE 30/7	SQUIRES GATE (H) W 4-2
SAT 3/08	WEST DIDS (A) FA CUP L 3-2
SAT 10/8	WEST DIDS & CHORLTON (A) W 1-2
TUE 13/8	CHARNOCK RICHARD (H) L 1-3
SAT 17/8	RAMSBOTTOM UTD (A) L 4-0
TUE 20/8	LOWER BRECK (H) L 1-2
SAT 24/8	DROYLSDEN (H) FA VASE W 2-1
MON 26/8	PADIHAM (H) D 2-2
SAT 31/8	GLOSSOP NORTH END (H) L0-1

## SEPTEMBER 2024

WED 4/9	LITHERLAND REMYCA (A) W 3-1
SAT 7/9	STOCKPORT TOWN (A) W 0-2
TUE 10/9	PRESTWICH HEYS (H) W 1-0
SAT 14/9	RAMSBOTTOM UTD (H) L 0-6
TUE 17/9	FC ST HELENS (A) D 2-2
SAT 21/9	BURY (A) FA VASE L3-0
TUE 24/9	PILKINGTON (H) W 3-2
SAT 28/9	SOUTH LIVERPOOL (H) L 1-2

## OCTOBER 2024

TUE 1/10	DAISY HILL (H) MACRON CUP W 4-1
SAT 5/10	COLNE (A) W 0-3
TUE 8/10	AFC LIVERPOOL (A) L 5-1
SAT 12/10	ABBEY HEY (H) L 1-2
SAT 19/10	SOUTH LIVERPOOL (A) D 1-1
TUE 22/10	CHADDERTON (H) L 3-4
SAT 26/10	STOCKPORT TOWN (H) L0-1
TUE 29/10	PRESCOTT CABLES (A) L 1-0 LSC

## NOVEMBER 2024

SAT 2/11	LOWER BRECK (A) L 4-2
SAT 16/11	FC ISLE OF MAN (A) L 3-2
TUE 19/11	MAGHULL (A)
SAT 23/11	IRLAM (H)
SAT 30/11	BURY (H)

## DECEMBER 2024

FRI 6/12	CHARNOCK RICHARD (A)
TUE 10/12	WEST DIDS & CHORLTON (H)
SAT 14/12	FC ST HELENS (H)
SAT 21/12	PADIHAM (A)
THU 26/12	AFC LIVERPOOL (H)
SAT 28/12	BARNOLDSWICK TOWN (A)

## JANUARY 2025

SAT 4/1	PILKINGTON (A)
SAT 11/1	CHEADLE TOWN (H)
SAT 18/1	ABBEY HEY (A)
SAT 25/1	BARNOLDSWICK TOWN (H)

## FEBRUARY 2025

SAT 8/2	CHADDERTON (A)
SAT 15/2	SQUIRES GATE (A)
SAT 22/2	IRLAM (A)

## MARCH 2025

SAT 1/3	ISLE OF MAN (H)
SAT 8/3	PRESTWICH HEYS (A)
SAT 15/3	COLNE (H)
SAT 22/3	LITHERLAND REMYCA (H)
SAT 29/3	CHEADLE TOWN (A)

## APRIL 2025

SAT 5/4	LONGRIDGE TOWN (H)
SAT 12/4	GLOSSOP NORTH END(A)
SAT 19/4	BURY (A)

**ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



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## EARLY GOAL CRUCIAL TO LINNETS DEFEAT

### BURSCOUGH 1-2 ABBEY HEY

By Neil Leatherbarrow

A goal in the first minute set the tone of Burscough's game against mid-table Abbey Hey on Saturday, it gave the visitors from East Manchester a platform to base a battling performance that although the Linnets had the away goal under siege at times they couldn't recover and it arguably cost them at least a point.

Joel Ankers got the opening goal it was missed by anyone arriving a bit late for the game or anyone having an extra sip in the bar. Burscough after their rude awakening soon went close to equalising, Matty Hamilton seeing away goalkeeper Joe Lawton pull off a tremendous save then from the rebound Alfie Carmichael couldn't quite manage to level matters.

In a busy spell keeper Lawton saved Abbey Hey again on 18 minutes frustrating Callum Laird, before Lawton made a slip up but Laird couldn't capitalise on that one. Burscough were well on top now but they couldn't find that equaliser, on 33 minutes Lawton saved from Laird, then a defender bravely blocked a Carmichael effort.

Twice the Linnets went close around the 40 minute mark, first in a move that started with goalkeeper Ben Barnes and went the length of the pitch, Adam Dawson had a shot saved by Lawton before a Peter Moore effort was blocked but again Abbey Hey withstood a right old scramble. Before from a free-kick Kian Bell headed wide.

When you are ploughing forward to find an equaliser you are vulnerable at the back and as the interval approached, Barnes made an excellent save to his left after a shot from 18 yards. A goal down at the interval, Burscough had had far more chances but were left rueing a slow start. Soon after the break Matt Coughlan beat two opponents only to see his shot curl agonisingly wide but Abbey Hey were still a threat on the breakaway and Dave Rigby saved Burscough with a great tackle.

On 66 minutes Burscough did suffer, now playing with the wind Abbey Hey got the ball a step or two inside the Linnets half, Jordan Barnett looked up to see Ben Barnes off his line and lifted a huge long range shot over him to make it 2-0, a nightmare scenario for the hosts.

Changes were made by Burscough including the introduction as substitute of striker Danny Boden who has been a long term injury casualty, the relentless Linnets offensive continued. After a classical move on the left Che Trapasso-Tully was the latest to suffer at the hands of keeper Lawton before he was finally beaten with just four minutes remaining, a fine build-up seeing defender Kian Bell get forward to show his attacking team mates how to do it.

As the game entered added time Abbey Hey went down to ten men as Barnett, was shown a red card, his team now under siege. Rigby has an effort cleared off the Abbey Hey goal-line, then with moments left defender Tom Dean had a header saved by Lawton who amazingly after the match wasn't given the Man of the Match award.

The early slackness by Burscough had gone all the way to the end and cost them dearly.

**BURSCOUGH:** Barnes, Coughlan, Rigby, Dean, Bell, Moore, Dawson, Walsh, Laird, Carmichael, Hamilton Subs Imadiji, McGrath, Boden, Trapasso-Tully, Bailey

**ABBAY HEY:** Lawton, Grant, Turner, Yoak, Dibble, Dunford, McKnight, Clooney, Henderson, Ankers, Barnett Subs Taylor, Forshaw, Crawford, Ojo, Worsley

**REFEREE:** Oliver Holland

**ATTENDANCE:** 130

# NWCFL Premier Division League Table



As of 20/11/2024

	Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Ramsbottom United	24	16	5	3	53	18	35	53
2	Bury	21	14	7	0	61	19	42	49
3	Chadderton	24	14	5	5	62	42	20	47
4	Lower Breck	25	13	7	5	54	32	22	46
5	FC Isle of Man	24	14	3	7	46	33	13	45
6	FC St Helens	23	11	7	5	45	34	11	40
7	West Didsbury & Chorlton	22	11	5	6	45	29	16	38
8	Padiham	22	10	8	4	53	44	9	38
9	Irlam	23	11	4	8	45	36	9	37
10	AFC Liverpool	23	12	1	10	51	51	0	37
11	Stockport Town	24	11	3	10	34	37	-3	36
12	Barnoldswick Town	21	10	4	7	31	31	0	34
13	Charnock Richard	25	9	6	10	54	47	7	33
14	Abbey Hey	24	10	2	12	45	54	-9	32
15	Cheadle Town	21	8	4	9	29	26	3	28
16	Glossop North End	23	7	6	10	33	43	-10	27
17	Longridge Town	23	8	3	12	45	59	-14	27
18	Burscough	23	7	3	13	35	49	-14	24
19	Litherland REMYCA	21	6	5	10	29	43	-14	23
20	Squires Gate	24	6	4	14	43	61	-18	22
21	South Liverpool	25	4	8	13	24	44	-20	20
22	Pilkington	22	4	5	13	30	50	-20	17
23	Colne	23	3	4	16	20	55	-35	13
24	Prestwich Heys	24	2	3	19	22	52	-30	9

Source: [www.nwcfll.com/league-tables](http://www.nwcfll.com/league-tables)



# IRLAM CLUB



# HISTORY

IRLAM FOOTBALL CLUB began life as Mitchell Shackleton Football Club, founded in October 1969 by a group of employees working for Mitchell Shackleton Limited, a well-established engineering company based in Eccles, which manufactured marine and diesel crankshafts.

The founding members of Mitchell Shackleton Football Club were Bob Cowlshaw (Chairman), Bill Russell (Secretary) and Charlie Flynn (Treasurer, who served the Club also served as Secretary with distinction from 1981 until his death in 1994). They were ably supported by a Committee comprising of Alf Johnson (now Club President), Ged Moore (Kit Manager) and Stan Catlin (Team Manager). Although the Club has been in existence for over 30 years, Mitchell Shackleton FC can trace teams playing under the Company's banner as far back as 1935.

Initially, the Football Club was financially supported through the Company's active Sports and Social Club, however the recession of the late 1970's led to the Company restructuring its business interests, and unfortunately a reduction in the workforce. These events inevitably led to the dissolution of the Sports and Social Club, and a splintering of the various sporting sections with each individual group becoming self-financing.

## **IRLAM FC IN THE NORTH WEST COUNTIES**

IRLAM FC made the decision in 2006 that they would seek election to The North West Counties football League, and entry via ground improvements at Silver St meant that the Club entered their highest level of competition in their history in readiness for the 2008/2009 season.

That inaugural season, under the guidance of manager Dave Mann was a tremendous success, finishing in 8<sup>th</sup> position on 52 points in our first campaign. The Club's performances over following seasons fluctuated in the NWCFL as the Club adjusted to the higher level of competition.

Previous managers Dave Mann, Ryan Gilligan and Nick Parker have all poured their effort and commitment into the Club, culminating in the appointment, Steve Nixon, a local manager with an impeccable coaching CV in readiness for season 2014/15 after taking over mid-way through the previous season with manager Steve Nixon at the helm for his 3<sup>rd</sup> campaign for the 2015/2016 season, the future began to look bright both on and off the pitch at Silver St. The opening of a brand-new Clubhouse at the ground again pushed the Club to greater heights, creating a real non-league footballing set up at Silver St.

Season 2015/16 season proved to be a watershed moment for the Club. Since joining the league in 2008/2009 the focus has been on youth and development of the ground, and it was 2015/2016 season when all the efforts and sacrifices made came to fruition. Irlam manager Steve Nixon shaped a fantastic group of maturing young players as they put together a magnificent run of results to take second spot and gain automatic promotion to the Premier Division for the first time in their history.



# IRLAM CLUB



# HISTORY

For season 2017/2018 a restructuring of positions at the Club has seen new faces take control of on the field matters. 1st team manager Steve Nixon and asst Chris Boardman have moved out of the hot seats in order to take over the commercial side of the Club, with Steve Nixon taking over from Ron Parker as chairman of the Club. New manager Michael Dodd, and asst Matty Kay, both part of the 1st team backroom staff last season was chosen to take control for the new campaign. They have assembled a strong backroom staff around them and we wish them well for future campaigns.

Season 2017/18 saw the team enter what is usually called the "tough second season" in the Premier Division. A tough campaign, added to for all Club with the pressure of 4 relegation spots due to the 20-club restructure for 2018/19 season, IRLAM performed well, and despite indifferent home form, away form proved to be the catalyst for improvement. An indifferent start to the campaign, mainly driven by injuries to key players saw the team in the bottom half of the table for the first period, but the quality of the squad wasn't in doubt when available, and notable back-to-back wins against West Didsbury, and a draw and a win against Runcorn Linnets showed the quality of the side. A decent run in the Macron Cup, losing in the Semi Final to Burscough, kept the players focussed as they moved up the Division, and an eventual 13th place finish in the table gave Irlam a feeling of having established themselves in the top tier.

## 2018/2019 Season

Arguably the most successful season the Club has embarked upon since its entry into the national league system in 2008/2009. Although league position remarkably remained the same as season 2017/2018 (13th), it was in the national competitions where the young Irlam squad gave a glimpse of things to come in the future. An unprecedented FA Cup run, surpassed only by an even greater campaign in the FA Vase, saw the side mentioned in dispatches up and down the country.

A three-match winning streak in the FA Cup, including a 2-1 victory away at Prescot Cables set the side up for an away trip to Gateshead Club Dunston UTS, a match that saw Irlam's campaign end with a narrow 2-1 defeat at the hands of the North East side, who would go on to a famous victory over Chester FC in the next round.

The FA Vase would capture the imagination of all at the Club as the team confidently pushed into the fifth round of the FA Vase, a five-match winning run, beating Clubs from up and down the region as they overcame Burscough, Yorkshire sides Handsworth and Hemsworth, Hull based Winterton and Midlands based Cadbury's Athletic.

The fifth round however would prove to be a bridge too far for IRLAM. Welcoming Surrey based Chertsey Town FC to the Ambitek Stadium, a rearranged fixture after snow put paid to the original date, the Southern based side just had the edge on the day, a 2-0 victory moving the Curfews in to the quarter finals and ultimately into the Final itself where they eventually lifted the Famous Trophy at Wembley Stadium.

# IRLAM CLUB



# HISTORY

An excellent season, built on solid foundations gives the Club renewed confidence going into the new season, and with manager Michael Dodd retained with his backroom staff, the omens are good for 2019/2020.

Season 2019/2020 would be infamous in the history of not just the game, but the country as normal life stopped as we knew it as the covid 19 virus spread through the country. The resulting ban on gatherings would bring a premature end to our season and 8th spot position in an uncompleted season finished with a 4-1 home victory against Whitchurch Alport FC. The Club had another stellar campaign in the FA Cup, wins over Ashton Athletic, Charnock Richard and an excellent victory over Stocksbridge Steels set the team up for a BBC television debut at home against York City FC.

The team would eventually bow out against a strong York side, but could be justly proud of their performance on the day in front of a record home crowd. The continuing effects of the covid virus on the country would eventually mean the season would be declared null and void, with Irlam having played just 27 games and a league position of 8th.

## Season 2020/2021

The COVID virus by now had taken a firm grip on the nation, with most sporting events either severely restricted or cancelled altogether. The decision was taken to suspend the National League Competition soon after it attempted to begin. Again, the season was declared null and void with IRLAM FC sitting in fourth spot having played just 9 games.

## Season 2021/2022

With the IRLAM manager Michael Dodd deciding to step down from day-to-day commitments at the Club, the mantle would be passed to successful IRLAM FC U18's manager John Main. With a completely new squad evolving at the ground under John's management, with the accent on youth, the side would finish a very credible 10th position in the 20 Club division. The highlight of the season for the Club was U18's manager Dave Mann's IRLAM side winning the MCFA County Cup for the 1st time in its history against Hyde United.

## Season 2022/2023

Under John Mains' continuing management season 2022/2023 would prove Irlam's most challenging in the Premier Division to date. A flying start in the Division saw IRLAM consistently in the top 5 of the division right through to Christmas. Inexplicably the side's form would drop off a cliff into the back end of the season. Decisive, and must win games at the back end of our season against Ashton Athletic, Charnock and AFC Liverpool, combined with results going our way elsewhere, meant that a final finishing spot of 17 th out of 22 Club meant Premiership survival was assured.

# 2024/25

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# 2024/25

# Player Sponsorships



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# Welcome to our 1946 Lounge & Viewing Terrace

Completed during the 23/24 season, the Burscough FC 1946 Lounge and Viewing Terrace offers spectators a premier experience. Guests can watch matches from the Churcher Estates terrace while enjoying drinks from the fully stocked, licensed bar, which features an exceptional selection.

The Function Suite, with a capacity of up to 80 people, is available for private hire, making it an ideal venue for a variety of events, including:

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For any event or celebration, quotes are available upon request when emailing [marketing@burscoughfc.com](mailto:marketing@burscoughfc.com)

# Burscough Business Networking



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**1946 Lounge @ Burscough Football Club**  
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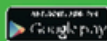
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”

# **PYROTECHNICS\*** **PRESENT** **DANGERS TO** **SPECTATORS, PLAYERS** **AND OFFICIALS.**



The North West Counties Football League takes a zero tolerance approach to the use of pyrotechnics in its stadiums. It is a criminal offence to enter a stadium carrying pyrotechnics, or set them off.

Anyone found carrying, or setting off pyrotechnics will be reported to the authorities and banned from attending matches.

\* Pyrotechnics include flares, smoke bombs & fireworks.

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# MATCHDAY SQUADS



James **McCulloch** ©

Charlie **Ball**

Ben **Barnes (GK)**

James **Barrigan**

Kian **Bell**

Delial **Brewster**

Harry **Cannon-Noren**

Matty **Coughlan**

Tom **Dean**

Mason **Duff**

Danny **Forbes**

Matty **Hamilton**

Osawemwengie **Imadiji**

Callum **Laird**

Jack **McConville**

John **McGrath**

Peter **Moore**

Stephen **Rigby**

Cian **Spencer-McDermott**

Che **Trapasso-Tully**

Anthony **Walsh**

Eric **Byrne**

Ethan **Cartwright**

Declan **Daniels**

Ross **Davidson**

Mason **Everton**

Jacob **Holt**

Toby **Humphries**

John **Johnston**

Andrew **Langford**

John **Main**

Taylor **McMahon**

Jack **Mitchell**

Joe **Rothwell**

Takura **Sambizi**

Lloyd **Shobo**

Dre **Taylor**

Jack **Buckley**

**Manager:** David Dempsey

**Asst Manager:** Chris Stammers

**Coaches:** Ryan Bowen & Liam Bowyer

**Physio:** Liam Thompson

**Manager:** John Main

**Asst Manager:** Andy Langford

**Coaches:** John Johnston, Lee White

**Physio:** Amelia Jenks

**Referee:** Samuel Fletcher

**Assistants:** Jacob Baker, Jack Lucas

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