



# v ANSTEY NOMADS

2023/24 | The Official Matchday Programme | £2



Saturday 4th November 2023  
Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

**PITCHING IN**

PARTNERS WITH



NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

## CLUB HONOURS

**United Counties League Premier Division South**  
Winners 2023

**Midland Alliance League Cup**  
Winners 2010

**Midland Combination Premier Division**  
Champions 2007  
Runners-up 1996, 2002, 2005, 2006

**Midland Combination Challenge Cup**  
Finalists 1999  
Winners 2002, 2005

**Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup**  
Winners 1966, 2005, 2006

**Coventry Charity Cup**  
Winners 2007

**BCFA Midweek Floodlit Cup**  
Winners 2007

**Tony Allden Cup**  
Winners 2007

**FA Vase**  
Quarter Finalists 2008

## OTHER HONOURS

**United Counties League Programme of the Year**  
Winners 2023

**Midland Alliance Programme of the Year**  
Winners 2008  
Runners-up 2009

**Midland Combination Programme of the Year**  
Runners-up 2005  
Winners 2006, 2007

**Midland Combination Hospitality Award**  
Winners 2006 (Division 3)  
Winners 2007 (Division 2)



## CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman: Daniel Cahill  
Vice-Chairman: Joseph Fletcher  
Finance Officer: Neil Buswell  
Club Secretary: Sharon Taylor  
Matchday Secretary: Sharon Taylor  
Youth Secretary: Sharon Taylor  
Pitch Allocator: Dave Bull  
Welfare Officer: Joanne Bull  
Ticket Manager: Mandy Seddon  
Programme Editor: Chris Nee

### FIRST TEAM STAFF

Joint Manager: Shaun Thomas  
Joint Manager: John Woodward  
First Team Coach: Nigel Starkey  
Goalkeeping Coach: Damian Morgan  
Goalkeeping Coach: Michael Taylor  
First Team Physio: Kirk Holland  
Kit Manager: Paul Seddon  
Chief Scout: Jim McClean

### GROUNDS TEAM

Paul Wright, Martin Sutton

### MEDIA TEAM

Chris Nee  
Liam Cook

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Marcus Robinson  
Stuart Guest

### MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY

Leanne Talbot & Donna Crouch

### MATCHDAY VOLUNTEERS

Martin Sutton, Dave Bull, Alan Townsend

### Coventry Sphinx Football Club

Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena, Sphinx Drive, Coventry, CV3 1WA  
024 7645 1361

Coventry Sphinx Football Club is a non-for-profit organisation



# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit  
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



**TRIDENT LEAGUES**  
VOLUNTEER HUB  
POWERED BY ENTAIN



**NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE**



## Print. Display. Merch.

info@buymyprint.co.uk

www.buymyprint.co.uk

social: @buymyprint

0330 043 7961



Earlsdon | Coventry | CV5 6GF



Business Print



Promo Print



Workwear Print



Display Print

## Upcoming fixtures

AWAY



### Walsall Wood v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

Saturday 11th November 2023 | 3.00pm

John Sylvester Stadium

Walsall Wood, WS9 9NP

AWAY



### Nuneaton Borough v Coventry Sphinx

Birmingham County FA Senior Cup Second Round

Tuesday 14th November 2023 | 7.45pm

Liberty Way

Liberty Way, Nuneaton, CV11 6RR

HOME



### Coventry Sphinx v Hinckley LR

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 3.00pm

Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena

Sphinx Drive

AWAY



### Harborough Town v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

Tuesday 21st November 2023 | 7.45pm

Harborough Town Community Football Ground

Northampton Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9HF

AWAY



### Boldmere St Michaels v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

Saturday 25th November 2023 | 3.00pm

The Trevor Brown Memorial Ground

Church Road, Boldmere, B73 5RY

X CoventrySphinx

f CoventrySphinxFootballClub

Instagram CoventrySphinxFC

## In this issue

6	Editorial	24	The End of the Age of Sportsmanship
8	Our History	28	Report: Sphinx 0-0 Coleshill Town
12	Meet The Squad	32	Welcome to Wrexham
16	2023/24 Player Statistics	36	Today's Opponents
18	Report: Shepshed Dynamo 2-2 Sphinx	40	NPL Midlands Update
22	2023/24 Season Overview	44	Match Squads

coventrysphinx.co.uk | youtube.com/@CoventrySphinx

It feels like more than a couple of weeks since we were here watching Coventry Sphinx's goalless draw with Coleshill Town. What promised to be a busy period has proved otherwise, at least in terms of fixtures, but the boys have been working hard to prepare for November's matches.

The first of those will take place today and it has a little added spice. The two teams were promoted into the Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands as champions of their respective divisions in the United Counties League last season.

In that sense, today's fixture against Anstey Nomads is another yardstick for Sphinx as we continue to navigate this new adventure.

But today's visitors represent a formidable challenge in their own right. They kick off this fixture in third place in the league table. Week by week, we're learning more about just what an achievement that is.

After ten matches, the Nomads are also the only unbeaten team in the division. Their six wins have been eye-catching to say the least, and they certainly won't be taken lightly in this meeting of promoted sides.

Under John Woodward and Shaun Thomas, this team has built its success on punching up. That's the name of the game for 2023/24 too, and this afternoon's test is no different regardless of our shared progress up to this point.

The thinning out of October's schedule has had the inevitable effect on November and we have some rearranged fixtures ahead of us.

After this game against Anstey Nomads we'll be off to Walsall Wood next Saturday before the autumn

goes into football overdrive. On Tuesday 14th November we begin our Birmingham Senior Cup campaign with a second round clash against Nuneaton Borough. We were drawn away but where that match actually takes place is anyone's guess at this point.

The following Saturday brings another recent Step Five opponent to Sphinx Drive. We finished a couple of places behind Hinckley LR in their promotion season and they've settled nicely at this level in the season and a bit since.

On Tuesday 21st November we'll be away at Harborough Town for the rearranged match originally planned for the end of October.

We then close out the month at Boldmere St Michaels, so a couple of artificial pitches should keep us occupied as December draws closer. Weather permitting, November will be a breathless month and, potentially, a pivotal one.

It's in spells like this that the boys in sky blue and white have regularly stood up to be counted since football emerged from lockdown. If this club has a philosophy it's to go out there and earn the right to play, and then to play our way.

They've nailed that and they've proved themselves time and again. By the time we face current leaders Loughborough Dynamo at the start of December we'll know a lot more about the shape of the remainder of the season.

Welcome to the supporters, players, management and officials of Anstey Nomads to Sphinx Drive this afternoon.

I'm expecting an entertaining match and hopeful of a good start to the month. Come on you blue boys!

# From grassroots to Heroes

Official Benchwear Partner to the Pitching In Northern Premier League



**macron**

for every athlete at every level

Find the Macron Sports Hub closest to you



These clubs have chosen Macron



macron.com



# OUR HISTORY

The history of Coventry Sphinx began in 1946. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft FC had been highly successful in the city before and during the Second World War and changed their name to Sphinx FC.

AWA's legacy was replicated by the new club. Sphinx won a number of league and cup competitions throughout the 1950s and 1960s before playing a major role in the formation of the Coventry Alliance and continuing to win trophies in the following decades.

Coventry underwent significant socioeconomic change in the 1990s. The recession led to the closure of factories in the city and surrounding areas, which in turn led to the dissolution of many of Coventry's football clubs. Sphinx needed a new challenge and joined the Midland Combination Football League in 1993.

In our first season in the Midland Combination we were promoted from Division 2 and reached the semi-finals of the Birmingham Sunday Vase. A second consecutive promotion followed thanks to a second-placed finish in Division 1 the next season.

With promotion to the top division of the Midland Combination secured it was decided that the club should be linked more closely to our city. We became Coventry Sphinx and the first match under our new name was against a Coventry City XI at our home ground.

Throughout its history, our club has been served by countless loyal and hard-working local people who've contributed enormously to Coventry Sphinx on and off the field. Through their dedication we

have achieved some unbeatable highs. There have also been times of great tragedy.

In November 2001, Sphinx manager Willie Knibbs was killed in a car accident on the way home from a cup match at Meir KA. Willie was a former Sphinx player in his second spell as manager. His death was a terrible loss to our club and to local football in Coventry.

After a painful season, Sphinx went on to win the Midland Combination Challenge Cup and it was renamed the Willie Knibbs Cup as a mark of respect. Our main stand is also named in Willie's honour.

Sphinx became one of the leading teams in the Midland Combination Premier League, finishing as runners-up in our first season and again in both 2005 and 2006. We reached the final of the Endsleigh Challenge Cup on three occasions, losing to Alveston at Villa Park in 1999 but beating Coventry Marconi in 2003 and Feckenham in 2005.

We also won the Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup in successive seasons, making Sphinx the last winners of the competition at Highfield Road and the first at the Ricoh Arena.

Although first team success is a driving force, the heartbeat of our club is the thriving junior section. Formed in 1997, it started with just three teams and has grown ever since. There are now hundreds of players representing Coventry Sphinx and we were the first club in Coventry to achieve the FA Charter.

Our youth team started competing in the Midland Floodlit Youth League in 2003 and one of the

biggest successes to date came in the 2014/15 season, when they won the double after suffering only one league defeat and beating Stourbridge 3-0 in the Birmingham County FA Midweek Floodlit Youth Cup.

Under manager Paul Charnley, Coventry Sphinx's men's first team completed a remarkable treble achievement in May 2007.

In addition to finally becoming champions of the Midland Football Combination – achieving promotion to the Midland Football Alliance in the process – Sphinx won the Coventry Charity Cup and the BCFA Midland Floodlit Cup.

The 2007/08 season saw Sphinx enjoy our best ever run in the FA Vase, reaching the quarter-final for the very first time and losing controversially to Kirkham & Wesham, the eventual Wembley winners, in a replay at Sphinx Drive.

We made a run to the semi-finals of the League Cup in the same season and went on to win the Midland Alliance Polymac League Cup by beating Westfields in the final in 2009/10.

In 2014/15 the club was honoured to become a founder member of the Midland Football League Premier Division. After a top ten finish under Stuart Dutton, Lee Knibbs took over as manager in the autumn of 2017.

Lee is the son of Willie Knibbs and returned to the club after an earlier spell as assistant manager to Danny McSheffrey.

He guided Sphinx to some of our most memorable results of the decade before deciding to step aside in November 2019.

Knibbs was succeeded by his assistants, John Woodward and Shaun Thomas, who became the club's joint managers and ended the truncated 2019/20 season on a long unbeaten run, the foundation of Sphinx's greatest achievement to come.

Sphinx made a sideways move as part of FA restructuring ahead of the 2021/22 season, competing in a newly formed Premier Division South in the United Counties League.

In our first season we finished in fourth place, losing only twice in the second half of the season, and enjoyed a long run in the FA Vase, narrowly missing out on another quarter-final.

The following season saw Sphinx lose on penalties again in the same round of the FA Vase but 2022/23 was the best season in our history.

In the space of one week in April, our club acquired the freehold to the Sphinx Drive ground for the very first time and secured the United Counties League Premier Division South title with a 7-0 win against Eynesbury Rovers.

Sphinx won all of the last eleven league matches to close a big gap at the top and become champions. We scored 106 goals and ended the season three points clear of runners-up Rugby Town to confirm promotion to the Northern Premier League Midlands Division. 2023/24 is our first ever season at Step 4.

Football never stands still. Local football in Coventry has declined over the years, so to be playing at our highest ever level after more than seventy years is an achievement of which the players, officials and supporters of our club can be proud.

The structure in place at senior, youth and junior levels for both men and women promises a bright future for Coventry Sphinx as we work towards the progress Willie Knibbs' memory deserves.



STUART GUEST



**Sponsors of the ground and facilities of  
Coventry Sphinx Football Club**



**Sponsors of the Coventry Sphinx Football Club  
first team home kit**

Scan the QR codes to find out more about our sponsors



**BESPOKE GARDEN ROOMS  
AND OUTBUILDINGS**

INFO@LOURDESGARDENROOMS.CO.UK  
WWW.LOURDESGARDENROOMS.CO.UK

024 7644 2838 / 07544 051 129



**RF Digital Systems**

Sky and Freeview Installation - HD Distribution - CCTV  
Multi Room Audio - AV Distribution

**Tel: 02476 454 234**

[www.rfdigitalsystems.co.uk](http://www.rfdigitalsystems.co.uk)

**WELCOME TO**

**BUDGET SKIPS**

**COVENTRY**









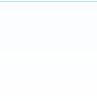


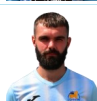








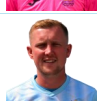















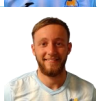
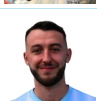
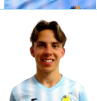




[www.budgetskipscoventry.co.uk](http://www.budgetskipscoventry.co.uk)



024 7636 3002

# MEET THE SQUAD

	<b>Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls</b>	Explosive forward player with high-level experience. Signed for Sphinx in the autumn of 2023.	 024 7644 2838
	<b>Harvey Billing</b>	Former Sphinx youth team captain who returned to the club after spells with Stratford Town and Easington Sports.	 HELPING GOALKEEPERS SINCE 1999
	<b>James Bryson</b>	Strong and steady central defender with a knack for a goal. A crucial part of the title-winning Sphinx team in 2022/23.	Sponsored by <b>MANDY SEDDON</b>
	<b>Kyle Carey</b>	Incisive and creative attacker who returned to Sphinx in March 2023 to help secure the league title.	Sponsored by <b>STUART GUEST</b>
	<b>Antonio Cristofaro</b>	Skilful former Walsall youth midfielder with dribbling ability, sharp creative instincts and an eye for goal.	 ALWAYS THERE
	<b>Gio Dainty</b>	Experienced and versatile midfield player who returned to Sphinx in 2023 after a long and successful spell with Coleshill Town.	Sponsorship available
	<b>Jack Downes</b>	Versatile, battling midfielder with a tremendous engine. Outstanding since returning to Sphinx Drive and a league winner in 2022/23.	
	<b>Luke Downes</b>	Creative midfield player who returned to Sphinx in 2021 after countless impressive performances here as a youngster.	
	<b>Jamie Draper</b>	Defender who emerged from the Sphinx youth team and has become a regular starter in our best ever team.	
	<b>William Edjenguele</b>	Experienced former Coventry City central defender who joined from Bedworth United after spells with Barwell and Nuneaton Borough.	Sponsorship available
	<b>Sam Ellis</b>	Entertaining attacking midfielder who joined Sphinx after spells with Sutton Coldfield Town and Hinckley in 2022/23.	
	<b>Keelan Fallows</b>	Talented goalkeeper who joined from Tamworth at the start of Sphinx's first season in the eighth tier of English football.	
	<b>Louis Guest</b>	A former Sphinx junior and now a leader in our squad, Guesty is a long-serving central defender and the club's vice captain.	

	<b>Jordan Hayward</b>	Former Long Buckby wide player who scored on his debut in August 2022 and went on to win the UCL Premier Division South in his first season.	Sponsored by <b>IAN AND PAULINE MCINTOSH</b>
	<b>Max Johnson</b>	Classy former Bedworth United midfielder who debuted for Sphinx in October 2022 and went on to claim a league winner's medal.	
	<b>Alex Lock</b>	Highly rated midfield player signed from Rugby Town in October 2023.	Sponsorship available
	<b>Callum Martin</b>	Pacy former Coventry City junior full back who loves a tackle and causes opponents problems in the attacking third.	 Windows & Doors
	<b>Dylan Parker</b>	Dangerous forward player who signed for Sphinx in November 2022 and has been a consistent scorer ever since.	Sponsored by <b>DANNIE CAHILL</b>
	<b>Dawid Peplinski</b>	Future Pro Academy scholar and former Sphinx youth central defender who joined the first team ranks after playing Step 5 football in 2022/23.	
	<b>Leigh Phillips</b>	Experienced wide player who returned to Sphinx ahead of 2023/24 after a successful career in armed forces football.	 024 7644 2838
	<b>Joe Pursey</b>	Sturdy defender who came in late in 2022/23 and had an instant impact in Sphinx's title quest.	Sponsored by <b>LENA MELLOR</b>
	<b>Jac Redhead</b>	Creative midfield player with experience at Barwell and Halesowen Town.	Sponsored by <b>JOHN MELLOR</b>
	<b>Matthew Shipman</b>	Physical and mobile striker who led the line in the UCL Premier Division South title season after signing from Long Buckby in 2021/22.	Sponsored by <b>BF ESSENTIALS 07927 649288</b>
	<b>Finlay Shorrock</b>	Versatile left-sided player who joined Sphinx in September 2023 and debuted in our first win in eighth tier football.	Sponsorship available
	<b>Callum Whiteside</b>	Versatile defensive player who joined Sphinx at the start of 2022/23 and quickly became a reliable regular for John Woodward and Shaun Thomas.	
	<b>Callum Woodward</b>	Long-serving legendary club captain, a battling mainstay in the Sphinx midfield and a vital source of goals and creativity.	 Displays • Displays • Display Fixings

## FIRST TEAM MANAGEMENT

John Woodward	Joint Manager	Sponsorship available
Shaun Thomas	Joint Manager	Sponsorship available
Nigel Starkey	First Team Coach	Sponsorship available
Michael Taylor	Goalkeeping Coach	Sponsorship available
Damian Morgan	Goalkeeping Coach	Sponsorship available
Jim McClean	Chief Scout	Sponsorship available
Kirk Holland	First Team Physio	Sponsorship available
Paul Seddon	Kit Manager	Sponsored by CEFOVID UGANDA
Sharon Taylor	Club Secretary	
Martin Sutton	Matchday Volunteer	CNS SPORT 
Liam Cook	Match Commentator	
Chris Nee	Programme Editor	

If you're interested in claiming one of our vacant player or management sponsorships, speak to one of our media team today or contact [neil@coventryphoenix.co.uk](mailto:neil@coventryphoenix.co.uk)

**SKYBLUES**   
in the COMMUNITY

# WALKING FOOTBALL

Meet new friends and improve your physical and mental well-being.

**Over 50 and feeling inspired? Come and join us!**

**LOCATION**  
Coventry Sphinx Sports & Social Club, CV3 1WA

**DAYS**  
Mondays | Thursdays

**TIME**  
10am meet | 10.30am KO

**£5 per session**

Socialise and chat over tea, coffee and refreshments included.

  
LETTINGS AND SALES  
Supporting grassroots football

  
COVENTRY SPHINX FOOTBALL CLUB



For more information please contact us via:  
**02476 786 349 | [sbitc@sbitc.org.uk](mailto:sbitc@sbitc.org.uk)**



# 2023/24 Player Stats (all competitions)

Player	Apps	Mins	Starts	Full 90	Sub On	Yellows	Second Yellows	Straight Reds	Goals	Assists	Goals Per 90	Assists Per 90	G+A Per 90
Bailey-Nicholls, Khaellem	2	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Bryson, James	4	248	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Carey, Kyle	5	396	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cristofaro, Antonio	4	105	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dainty, Gio	1	90	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Jack	12	1034	12	9	0	6	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Luke	11	681	8	4	3	4	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Draper, Jamie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Edjenguele, Will	6	519	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ellis, Sam	10	239	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fallows, Keelan	10	900	10	10	0	2	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Guest, Louis	13	1080	12	12	1	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hayward, Jordan	5	308	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hedge, Zach	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Jackson, Sam	1	28	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Johnson, Max	11	539	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lock, Alex	2	180	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Martin, Callum	6	427	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Parker, Dylan	13	1021	11	6	2	3	0	0	2	3	0.022	0.033	0.056
Peplinski, Dawid	4	168	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Phillips, Leigh	3	125	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pursey, Joe	10	900	10	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Redhead, Jac	5	350	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Shipman, Matty	11	990	11	11	0	3	0	0	5	1	0.056	0.011	0.067
Shorrock, Finlay	5	450	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Whiteside, Callum	13	1019	12	9	1	4	0	0	1	0	0.011	0.000	0.011
Woodward, Callum	9	716	9	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	0.011	0.022	0.033

# 2023/24 Player Stats (NPL Midlands only)

Player	Apps	Mins	Starts	Full 90	Sub On	Yellows	Second Yellows	Straight Reds	Goals	Assists	Goals Per 90	Assists Per 90	G+A Per 90
Bailey-Nicholls, Khaellem	2	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Bryson, James	4	248	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Carey, Kyle	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cristofaro, Antonio	3	91	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dainty, Gio	1	90	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Jack	10	854	10	7	0	5	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Luke	9	529	6	3	3	4	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Draper, Jamie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Edjenguele, Will	5	429	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ellis, Sam	8	183	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fallows, Keelan	8	720	8	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Guest, Louis	11	900	10	10	1	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hayward, Jordan	4	218	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hedge, Zach	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Jackson, Sam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Johnson, Max	9	449	4	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lock, Alex	2	180	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Martin, Callum	6	427	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Parker, Dylan	11	877	9	5	2	2	0	0	2	3	0.022	0.033	0.056
Peplinski, Dawid	4	168	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Phillips, Leigh	2	63	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pursey, Joe	9	810	9	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Redhead, Jac	4	260	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Shipman, Matty	9	810	9	9	0	3	0	0	5	1	0.056	0.011	0.067
Shorrock, Finlay	5	450	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Whiteside, Callum	11	853	10	8	1	4	0	0	1	0	0.011	0.000	0.011
Woodward, Callum	8	654	8	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	0.011	0.022	0.033

## SHEPshed DYNAMO 2 COVENTRY SPHINX 2

**Pitching In NPL**  
**Division One Midlands**  
Saturday 14th October 2023

After signing the club's first ever contracted player, chairman Dannie Cahill reiterated Coventry Sphinx's intention to be competitive in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands.

Early draws in the 2023/24 season gave way to a difficult spell but wins over AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Rugby Town offered hope. A 2-2 draw at Shepshed Dynamo on a sunny October afternoon demonstrated again that Shaun Thomas and John Woodward's side have the ability to make their presence felt at Step Four.

On another day this match might have been won or lost. Both teams hit the frame of the goal in the second half. Sphinx deservedly led twice but had to hold on to a point as Shepshed rallied late. It was, in the end, an entertaining contest between two good teams – contrary to the loudly expressed view of a home supporter that the opposite had been true.



Disruption on the M1 meant that Sphinx's joint managers had to rethink their plan. Goalkeeper Keelan Fallows started behind Callum Whiteside, Will Edjenguele and stand-in captain James Bryson with Callum Woodward out injured and Louis Guest's delayed arrival leaving him on the bench.

Joe Pursey and Finlay Shorrock played out wide with Luke Downes, Jack Downes and new signing Alex Lock selected in midfield behind Dylan Parker and Matty Shipman. Both forwards would give Sphinx the lead in a highly competitive match in Leicestershire.

The first two chances of the game dropped for Jack Downes, attacking the box from midfield. In the fourth minute he was thwarted by goalkeeper Brandon Ganley after he'd come out to punch a

cross. In the fourth, Downes' clean strike was deflected into the goalkeeper's arms.

Sphinx came to play and made a good start at the Dovecote Stadium. Parker was next to go close, firing wide on the half-volley after a determined header by Shorrock to keep the move alive.

A Shepshed free kick from just outside the box was deflected wide immediately before Sphinx opened the scoring in the 20th minute. Goalkeeper Fallows sent a long kick forward looking for Lock, with Parker making the run in behind.

Lock didn't appear to get a touch but the bounce did the job and Parker smartly turned the ball past Ganley and into the Shepshed net for a lead the visitors deserved to cap off a fine first quarter of the match.

Dynamo were sparked into life by the need to chase the game. While Sphinx continued to look the better side for much of the first half, the hosts began to create openings.

Pearson Mwanyongo showed good composure to give himself a shooting chance that he took well but couldn't guide on target. With half an hour played, Fallows had to make a brilliant low save to keep out another deflected effort.

But Shepshed's pressure was building and they equalised in the 38th minute. There was a touch of good fortune about the cross from the right as it took a nick on the way to James Shaw but the striker did well to finish off-balance at the near post.

Sphinx hadn't been able to hold out until half time but felt they could get themselves back in front in the second half.

They didn't take long to do so. Woodward and Thomas made a substitution at half time, with Bryson carrying a yellow card and a change of shape deemed necessary. Max Johnson came into midfield and it was a fruitful shift.

In the third minute of the half Parker rolled his man and got in behind again. This time he was fouled by Elwalid Elhagany just inside the box and a penalty was awarded.

Injured skipper Callum Woodward took Sphinx's previous penalty so striker Shipman took responsibility for the spot kick and drilled home it to Ganley's bottom right while the goalkeeper headed in the opposite direction.

Sphinx remained on top into the middle of the second period. With his team in front and in the ascendancy, Shipman found himself on the end of a set of studs to the ribs. For the second match in a row, a Sphinx player was subjected to a clear instance of serious foul play and not a red card between them.

Shipman was subsequently shown a bizarre yellow card but the energetic visitors continued to push for a third goal. They thought they had it when Whiteside met a corner at the back post.

His header struck the inside of the post and somehow stayed out. Ganley had to react quickly to prevent it from spinning over the line and it was the closest Sphinx would get to another goal.



Dynamo's Kieran Cummings served notice as the home team cranked into action in search of a second equaliser. His powerful strike sailed over Fallows' goal with 20 minutes remaining but Shepshed's second was imminent.

Unfortunately it was a disappointing goal to concede from a Sphinx point of view. Substitute Dylan Reason headed in from a poorly defended corner to make it 2-2 and the home team now had the momentum.

Fallows had to tip over from a crossed free kick that would have snuck in the top corner with quarter of an hour left. Jack Downes, the captain for the second half, had to head an effort off the line from the resulting corner.

Sphinx had their moments. Lock was unlucky not to get a telling touch on a vicious ball across the box, and Shipman managed to dig out a speculative curling shot that was turned wide of goal for a corner. But Dynamo had the better of the final few minutes.

Fallows had to tip over once more with ten minutes left, shortly before another cross looked to be a threat only to swing just over the crossbar. In the second minute of stoppage time the home team came close to a spectacular winner.

The Sphinx goalkeeper cleared the ball into midfield and the quick-thinking Shaquille Master's chip was almost perfect. On this occasion it was the away team who were thankful for the intervention of the woodwork.

Sphinx returned to Coventry with one point that might have been three. Drawing after twice going in front is cause for frustration but the effort and application of the players – not to mention the quality on show – rightly earned them applause at the end of a terrific match.

Shepshed are now an established Step Four outfit and Sphinx went toe to toe with them, matching them for the most part and bettering them for spells too. It was an encouraging display and one that can give the team confidence as they move towards the last game of October.

Like Shepshed, Coleshill Town are former Midland Football League rivals now settled in the division above. Sphinx have proved themselves capable of taking points off opponents at this level and should be looking forward to the visits of the Coleman and Anstey Nomads over the next few weeks.

### TEAMSHEET

- 1 Keelan Fallows
- 2 Callum Whiteside
- 3 Finlay Shorrock
- 4 Luke Downes
- 5 Will Edjenguele ▼ Guest (90+2)
- 6 James Bryson @ ▼ Johnson (HT)
- 7 Joe Pursey
- 8 Jack Downes
- 9 Matty Shipman ⚽
- 10 Alex Lock
- 11 Dylan Parker ⚽ ▼ Ellis (90+2)
- 12 Louis Guest ▲ Edjenguele (90+2)
- 14 Sam Ellis ▲ Parker (90+2)
- 15 Max Johnson ▲ Bryson (HT)
- 16 Antonio Cristofaro

SPHINX MAN OF THE MATCH  
**JACK DOWNES**



# #ANDYSMANCLUB

**SUICIDE IS THE BIGGEST  
KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45  
1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS**

**ALL OUR GROUPS  
MEET MONDAY 7PM**

**TO FIND YOUR NEAREST  
GROUP VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.ANDYSMANCLUB.CO.UK**



**#ITSOKAYTOTALK**

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

 [info@andysmanclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andysmanclub.co.uk)

 [andysmanclub](https://www.facebook.com/andysmanclub)

 [andysmanclubuk](https://www.instagram.com/andysmanclubuk)

 [@andysmanclubuk](https://twitter.com/andysmanclubuk)

**We are a peer to peer support group for men.  
Come have a brew and a chat!**

# #ITSOKAYTOTALK

Registered Charity: 1171728



The  
**Daniel Wilkinson**  
Foundation

*Providing Screening and Defibrillators to  
prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in the young*



The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).



Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

## SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

## OUR MISSION

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.

**Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.**

## Find out more

 [@dannywilks5](https://twitter.com/dannywilks5)

 [thedanielwilkinsonfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation)

 [dwfoundation5](https://www.instagram.com/dwfoundation5)

 [contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](mailto:contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)

 [thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](https://www.thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)

**To donate:** [mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation](https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation)

Date	Opponents	Comp	H A	Res	Starting Eleven											Substitutes ( <i>not used in italics</i> )							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17 / GK	18	19 / GK	
5 Aug	Stourport Swifts	FAC EP	A	2-0	L	Fallows	Pursey	Hayward	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	Parker	J. Downes	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	Ellis	Jackson	Pepinski	Cristofaro	Billing	Martin	Selley-Haywood
12 Aug	Quorn	NPL M	H	1-1	D	Fallows	Pursey	Hayward	J. Downes	Guest	Whiteside 1	Parker	Woodward ©	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	L. Downes	Ellis	Phillips	Cristofaro	Martin		
15 Aug	Gresley Rovers	NPL M	A	1-1	D	Fallows	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	Parker	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Carey	J. Downes	Johnson	Pepinski	Ellis	Jackson	Cristofaro		
22 Aug	Sporting Khalsa	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	Hayward	J. Downes	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	Parker	Ellis	Pepinski	Cristofaro	Jackson		
26 Aug	Spalding United	NPL M	A	4-0	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	J. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	Hayward	Woodward ©	Parker	Ellis	Johnson	L. Downes	Pepinski	Cristofaro	Draper			
28 Aug	Bedworth United	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	J. Downes	Woodward ©	Parker	Cristofaro	Johnson	Phillips	Pepinski	Ellis	Penton			
2 Sep	Sutton Coldfield Town	NPL M	A	4-1	L	Fallows	Whiteside	Martin	J. Downes	Guest	Pepinski	Pursey	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Redhead	Parker	L. Downes	Johnson	Ellis	Phillips	Cristofaro		
9 Sep	Quorn	FAT 1Q	A	4-0	L	Fallows	Whiteside	Phillips	L. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	J. Downes	Woodward ©	Shipman	Redhead	Parker	Johnson	Carey	Cristofaro	Pepinski	Ellis	Hedge	
16 Sep	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	NPL M	H	2-1	W	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	Hayward	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Redhead	J. Downes	Parker 1	Johnson	Ellis	Pepinski	Bryson		
30 Sep	Rugby Town	NPL M	A	1-2	W	Fallows	Bryson	Shorrock	J. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	Whiteside	Woodward © 1	Shipman 1	Redhead	Parker	Pursey	Bailey-Nicholls	Castellano	Ellis	Phillips		
7 Oct	Corby Town	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Fallows	Bryson	Shorrock	Whiteside	Guest	Edjenguele	Pursey	Woodward ©	Shipman	Ellis	Parker	Johnson	L. Downes	Phillips	Bailey-Nicholls	Redhead		
14 Oct	Shepshed Dynamo	NPL M	A	2-2	D	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Edjenguele	Bryson ©	Pursey	J. Downes	Shipman 1	Lock	Parker 1	Guest	Ellis	Johnson	Cristofaro			
21 Oct	Coleshill Town	NPL M	H	0-0	D	Fallows	Pursey	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Edjenguele	Parker	J. Downes	Shipman	Lock	Dainty	Whiteside	Bryson	Redhead	Ellis	Johnson		
4 Nov	Anstey Nomads	NPL M	H																				
11 Nov	Walsall Wood	NPL M	A																				
14 Nov	Nuneaton Borough	BSC 2R	A																				
18 Nov	Hinckley LR	NPL M	H																				
21 Nov	Harborough Town	NPL M	A																				
25 Nov	Boldmere St Michaels	NPL M	A																				
2 Dec	Loughborough Dynamo	NPL M	H																				
9 Dec	Cambridge City	NPL M	A																				
16 Dec	Gresley Rovers	NPL M	H																				
23 Dec	Quorn	NPL M	A																				
26 Dec	Lye Town	NPL M	H																				
1 Jan	Bedworth United	NPL M	A																				
6 Jan	Spalding United	NPL M	H																				
13 Jan	Sporting Khalsa	NPL M	A																				
20 Jan	Harborough Town	NPL M	H																				
27 Jan	Coleshill Town	NPL M	A																				
3 Feb	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	NPL M	A																				
17 Feb	Rugby Town	NPL M	H																				
24 Feb	Corby Town	NPL M	A																				
2 Mar	Shepshed Dynamo	NPL M	H																				
16 Mar	Cambridge City	NPL M	H																				
23 Mar	Loughborough Dynamo	NPL M	A																				
30 Mar	Sutton Coldfield Town	NPL M	H																				
1 Apr	Lye Town	NPL M	A																				
6 Apr	Walsall Wood	NPL M	H																				
13 Apr	Anstey Nomads	NPL M	A																				
20 Apr	Boldmere St Michaels	NPL M	H																				
27 Apr	Hinckley LR	NPL M	A																				

# THE END OF THE AGE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

CHRIS NEE | HPBP.SUBSTACK.COM



Somewhere in the sociohistorical development of English football there was a change that had implications that reached right into the cardiac chambers of the sport.

Football as we know it was originally a construct of Victorian England, an era in which the Industrial Revolution, an increase in leisure time and the establishment of public schools collided to shape the sporting spirit into which organised football was born.

As the game evolved in the second half of the nineteenth century, amateurism and gentlemanliness were more than incidental to football. They were values; football was a game and games were to be played.

The Victorian gentleman might have been competitive but he also considered himself refined and dignified.

Fair play was paramount and even the idea of professionalism was contemptible. Playing to win was one thing. Paying to win was quite another. Chicanery, while not absent, was beyond the pale.

These values, early English football's corinthian spirit, became so thoroughly baked into the social understanding of the game that they withstood the

dawn of professionalism and football's significant shift up the country and down the social classes. Even today, the very notion of sport is coloured by their residue.

It's easy to imagine the early days of organised football in grainy sepia, respectful teams of well-to-do gentlemen in stockings and heavy jerseys steadfastly observing the rules they were still in the process of engineering.

The first couple of decades of FA Cup finals alone were full of tales of sportsmanship even as the centre of power moved northward. But there was vexation aplenty too.

Nevertheless, there's no denying that football's essence has changed in the last century and a half. Darwin, one of the north-western clubs to make a significant impact on the FA Cup in what can be considered its second act, were probably the first in England to pay a player.

Football is a highly professionalised business nowadays – lucrative, too, and therein lies the likely root of the matter.

A hundred years of money-making either through or with competitive young men inevitably brought us to where we are today and, honestly, the game is

better for it. There's no need for rose-tinted spectacles, here: football in the commercial age has been a cultural creation *par excellence*.

But have we pushed it too far? Even in the Premier League area we've seen the elite footballer's unwavering and indeed admirable thirst for victory go into overdrive.

That intensity is necessary for the preservation of the modern game's vitality but it's also the core of a lot of its criticism.

The ever shrinking vocabulary of football's online hard-of-thinking absorbs, misappropriates and destroys cultural language from outside itself. Everyone's a 'starboy', now. 'GOAT' has outgrown its immediately tedious Twitter phase and leaked into television advertising for dad-dancing brands apparently content to be ripped off by their creative agencies from the inside of the arsehole out.

But 'shithousery' is irritating and reductive guff all of football's own making. Overused though it is, the phenomenon it describes is very real and almost completely accepted. We are in the age of win-at-all-costs cheating. That sounds like a complaint; it's not. The extreme competition, purified professionalism and global commercialism of football makes it unavoidable.

It's a simple fact that cheating is everywhere in top-level football. Diving is much more prevalent than it was (I was actually told there was academic research that backed this up but, after a cursory search, I couldn't find it) and time-wasting has been one of football's most popular talking points since the most recent World Cup.

The same mentality – along with financial ambition and other, more nefarious goals – is also behind the boardroom developments of the last twenty years. The game is awash with dirty money and the machinations and manipulations of ownership groups, state or not, are worthy of note too.

That we allow clubs to be adopted as the inferior sibling in international stables is extraordinary, when you think about it. It's not cheating but it's definitely up at the snide end of the spectrum. There's nothing corinthian about Red Bull.

In my experience all of this is broadly seen as acceptable by the majority of supporters. After all, not everybody is a middle-aged man offering his old-fashioned opinions on the internet. The divers and the state-owned clubs are just playing the game, aren't they?

I'd love to know why football collectively shrugs its shoulders on this matter, as if its commercial imperative necessarily erodes its sporting origins.

I don't have anything approaching an answer to that. I just find it interesting, and in the part of my brain where that happens is a frustrated sociologist more inclined to turn his gaze to the fans.

It's important to distinguish between normal, functioning human beings who like football and the maniacs who spoil it online for the rest of us. There are big problems in the real world. The behaviour of men in crowds has deteriorated. Lockdown, drugs and hardship are all anecdotally linked to increases in violence and antisocial offences at football.

But an extreme anti-sporting attitude – the cultish zealotry with which football fanatics on social media defend and advocate for everything their clubs say and do – is a problem that starts online and, really, mostly stays there.

Battle lines are drawn in blood. Not an inch of ground is to be conceded. No matter is to be considered closed.

This is toxic digital extremism in our football culture, the farthest possible point from amateurs admitting to handball and congratulating one another on a game well played.

It doesn't necessarily ooze out into the stands but it has reached the click-hungry media and tainted the overall football discourse. It's a vicious cycle and it's erected a barbed wire fence around each of our clubs.

It's not so much a case of us versus them, but us versus them and them and them and them and everyone else too. No wonder we approve of a bit of diving.

Sportsmanship is dominated in modern football by the will to win, its eternal foe. But it's still out there, on the pitch, in the form of camaraderie and even outright examples of fair play.

It still exists, still matters, and even though we generally accept that there's a game within the game, sportsmanship is worth preserving.

Football rightly has no desire to return to amateurism or corinthian principles but fair play, respect, integrity and collective supporter action should be valued. Without them, football really will fall into the hands of those who deserve it least.

# For people, clubs, and businesses like you

The official insurance provider to the Pitching In Northern Premier League. From insurance to risk management and employee health and benefits\*, it's our passion to advise, protect and support you.

**01756 655505**

**marshcommercial.co.uk**

This is a marketing communication

\*Employee health and benefits are provided by our sister company, Mercer.

Mercer Marsh Benefits is a trading name used by Mercer Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Mercer Limited is registered in England and Wales. No. 984275. Registered Office: 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London, EC3R 5BU.

Marsh Commercial is a trading name of Marsh Ltd. Marsh Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for General Insurance Distribution and Credit Broking (Firm Reference No. 307511). Copyright © 2022 Marsh Ltd. Registered in England and Wales Number: 1507274. Registered office: 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London EC3R 5BU. All rights reserved. MC220726019

A business of Marsh McLennan



## YOUTH TEAM FIXTURES

Thursday 17 August	1-4	L	Solihull Moors	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 31 August	2-1	W	Rugby Borough	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 7 September	5-2	W	Stourport Swifts	FA Youth Cup Preliminary Round
Thursday 14 September	1-1	D	Inkberrow	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 21 September	0-6	L	AFC Wulfrunians	FA Youth Cup First Round Qualifying
Thursday 28 September	3-1	W	Stratford Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 5 October	1-4	W	Rugby Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 12 October	4-0	W	P S Olympic	Joel Richards Memorial Cup R1
Monday 23 October	1-0	L	Stourbridge	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 2 November	19.45	A	Inkberrow	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 9 November	19.45	H	Bedworth United	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 23 November	19.45	H	Alvechurch	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Alvechurch	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Bedworth United	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Halesowen Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Halesowen Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Kidderminster Harriers	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Kidderminster Harriers	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Rugby Borough	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Rugby Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Solihull Moors	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Stourbridge	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Stratford Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division

## COVENTRY SPHINX 0 COLESHILL TOWN 0

Most of the drama relating to Coventry Sphinx's home fixture against Coleshill Town happened before the match. Coleshill lined up with Paul Hathaway in the dugout after the swift exit of new manager Dave Stringer in the week.



Marcus Robinson

Sphinx, meanwhile, were able to welcome a new signing into the team in the form of the versatile Gio Dainty, who returned to Sphinx Drive after his own – rather longer – spell at Pack Meadow. He made his debut from the start against his old team-mates.

The match itself was an absorbing but ultimately uneventful and goalless one, leaving the teams to split the points in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands table.

Dainty was joined in the starting eleven by goalkeeper Keelan Fallows and a defence consisting of Joe Pursey, captain Louis Guest, Will Edjenguele and Finlay Shorrock. Jack Downes and Luke Downes started in midfield with Alex Lock and the line-up was completed by forwards Dylan Parker and Matty Shipman.

From frantic beginnings, the game briefly settled into a pattern of Coleshill possession in the middle of the pitch before an injury to former Sphinx player Alex Tomkinson delayed the first half. His replacement, Adrian Gyamera, has also spent time at Sphinx Drive. Coleshill went wide with an effort in the 20th minute and soon began to control the game.

In the 20th minute Sphinx stopper Fallows made the only real save of the match and it was an

**Pitching In NPL**  
**Division One Midlands**  
Saturday 21st October 2023

excellent one. Niall Rowe's header from a Coleshill corner appeared destined for the net but a strong hand from the diving goalkeeper denied him.

Just as it became clear the home team needed to find their feet they managed to put together a spell of pressure at the other end.

Striker Shipman outpaced his marker wide on the Sphinx right and whipped a tremendous ball across the box for Parker, who was smartly levered off balance in front of goal.

The visitors were next to get a glimpse of goal but the shot was driven over. With half an hour played Parker had a shot blocked for the hosts.

A scramble followed in the Coleshill box but the ball never quite dropped for a player in a Sphinx shirt.

Sphinx were the better team for a period in the first half and looked dangerous, getting in behind and starting to make things happen. The chance they wanted remained elusive and the Coleman came back into the match.



Marcus Robinson

But it was the home team who had the final opportunity of a slightly stodgy first half. Shipman and Lock cleverly exchanged passes but the midfielder man could only fire over Lewis Landers' crossbar.

The match opened up a little after the break. Fallows made a simple save from Oscar Tonge after he'd been teed up by Ashton Demulder in the 50th minute and the chance that really should have won the game came Coleshill's way just before the hour.

Lewis Archer capitalised on a defensive slip with the visitors on the break and chose to try and sneak the ball in at the near post instead of going across Fallows with only the goalkeeper to beat. He missed the target and that opening was really the only difference between the sides in this goalless encounter.

Debutant Dainty went over from the edge of the box after a nice tee-up from Guest with his back to goal. Fallows then had to move his feet and get a good hand to the ball to tip over an in-swinging corner but Sphinx were in the ascendancy. Again, they couldn't generate a proper look at goal.



Some sloppy play and a Sphinx giveaway led to another Coleshill effort that went over the bar, and with quarter of an hour remaining a Shorrock free kick met the same fate with Landers unconcerned.

Parker then dug out a lovely cross from the right but Dainty's header under pressure at the back post came to nothing. Despite the late urgency in the game largely coming from the home team, Archer had another chance in the 79th minute and dragged it wide again.

Shipman popped up with two attempts on target late in the day. With two minutes left in regulation time his header from a corner had to be sliced off the Coleshill goal line by Gyamera, and in stoppage time he was slipped in on the right and saw his shot held by Landers.

Thanks to Harborough Town's progress in the FA Trophy there will be a two-week break for Sphinx after the draw with the Coleman, after which Thomas and Woodward's side will be back in league action at home against Anstey Nomads.

Nomads won the United Counties League Premier Division North while Sphinx won the Premier Division South last season, so it'll be another informative test for the boys in sky blue and white.

Steadily picking up points through the winter will go a long way to helping Sphinx meet their objectives for the season and a

draw against Coleshill, established now at Step Four, is a welcome addition to the tally as the chilly weather edges ever



Stuart Guest

### TEAMSHEET

- 1 Keelan Fallows
- 2 Joe Pursey
- 3 Finlay Shorrock
- 4 Luke Downes
- 5 Louis Guest
- 6 Will Edjenguele ▼ Whiteside (69)
- 7 Dylan Parker ▼ Johnson (83)
- 8 Jack Downes ▼ Redhead (73)
- 9 Matty Shipman
- 10 Alex Lock
- 11 Gio Dainty
- 12 Callum Whiteside ▲ Edjenguele (69)
- 14 James Bryson
- 15 Jac Redhead ▲ J. Downes (73)
- 16 Sam Ellis
- 17 Max Johnson ▲ Parker (83)

**SPHINX MAN OF THE MATCH**  
**LOUIS GUEST**



# LFE Engineering Ltd

Hibberd House, Curriers Close, Canley, Coventry, CV4 8AW

Tel: 02476 465 962

Email: [sales@lfeeng.co.uk](mailto:sales@lfeeng.co.uk) [www.lfeeng.co.uk](http://www.lfeeng.co.uk)

**Dave McLeod**  
Building and Groundwork Contractors  
Est. 1985

OFFICE : 024 76 612003

MOBILE : 079 56 456401

HIGH PROTEIN  
**BEEF  
PASTE**

A weekly football newsletter in your inbox every Tuesday morning.

Subscribe at [hpbp.substack.com](http://hpbp.substack.com)

Stadium Development  
Specialists

**fwp**  
architecture

[www.fwpgroup.co.uk](http://www.fwpgroup.co.uk)



architecture • project management • structural engineering • interior design  
building surveying • m&e design • quantity surveying • cdm consultancy



**IF YOU SEE IT  
OR HEAR IT,  
REPORT IT**

'It' is discrimination, in all its forms. Racism. Homophobia. Misogyny. Disablism.  
If you have seen it or heard it, follow the QR code to report it to Kick It Out.  
Together, we can put an end to it.

Take action today at [kickitout.org](http://kickitout.org)





# WELCOME TO WREXHAM

CHRIS NEE | HPBP.SUBSTACK.COM

In February 2021, two North American celebrities completed a deal to purchase a National League football club in North Wales. They promised – in deed if not word – a media circus. In the fifth tier of English football there is a cynicism about bold commitments and ambitious statements of intent. With few exceptions, these are clubs that have been burned before.

The National League, formerly the Football Conference, is in my football blind spot. It's at once too low down and too high up for my tastes, essentially equidistant between the easy access of the Premier League (in which the team I grew up supporting play) and the eighth and ninth levels where I actually experience the sport in person.

Level five, or Step One to me, is of little to no consequence. Apart from enjoying the odd game on television, the National League is so far out of my sphere of experience that I'm wholly unable to raise an opinion even on the matter of how many promotion places the division offers into the EFL – one of the hot button issues in non-league football.

In short, and in the nicest possible way, I don't much care. I wish its participants well and I want them to be solvent and healthy. I hope their supporters get the same joy from the game as I do. But turn the table upside down in the middle of the season and it's a toss-up as to whether I'd notice.

So, when Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds bought Wrexham, their takeover initially inspired the usual scepticism that comes into my mind when ailing clubs are rescued by knights in shining armour and never

more so than when I've heard of them. I'm not Against Modern Football in any meaningful sense but I am in many ways a traditionalist and a little old-fashioned when it comes to my football values. Celebrity, documentaries and clubs spending beyond their previously sustainable means always ring alarm bells.

Yet I've found myself gradually coming around to Ronald McDonald and Van Wilder's ownership of Wrexham. What makes this takeover different from others that have left a sour taste?

The first thing that should be acknowledged is that I already liked McElhenney and Reynolds. That's not true of all football club owners and it certainly isn't true of all celebrity club owners, most of whom are plastic, vacuous tosspots who have no idea what they're doing and no intention of finding out.

So, there's some bias here. Between *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and its associated podcast I spend more virtual time than is strictly advisable in McElhenney's company. I'm a fan of McElhenney, of the show, of Charlie Day and Glenn Howerton, of Kaitlin Olson and Danny DeVito. I've always found Reynolds funny.

That's not a reason to support their ownership of a lower league football club but damned if it doesn't buy them a longer leash when it comes to my own cynicism. It would be poor form not to admit that. The upshot is that I believe them, albeit while reserving the right to pull that sentiment at a moment's notice. I'm not in favour of everything they've done and said at Wrexham but if we're asking whether they're a positive for Wrexham in terms of the bigger picture, I'm sold.

It helps that I'm late to the party. I'm interested in non-league football and Wrexham have been one of the biggest stories, so I've observed from afar. But it's only relatively recently that my wife and I have rattled through the documentary.

Wrexham are now in the fourth tier. The pudding's already been eaten and the proof must have been pretty special. The new Wrexham had already achieved big things before I sat down to watch the first episode of *Welcome to Wrexham* and that sure makes it easier to trust that the owners have good intentions and the smarts to bring them to fruition.

The documentary reveals a pair of owners who know what they don't know but care a whole hell of a lot. When they're wealthy enough to make an impact, that really is the key difference. *Welcome to Wrexham* is good television, raw and apparently honest, and its greatest attribute is its focus on the learning curve of owners who are aware that they have lots to learn.

It's not all sunshine and light in North Wales. The documentary has clearly been made with an American audience in mind and therefore occasionally chafes for those of us who absorbed the basics of football the better part of four decades ago.

There are some people who appear regularly in *Welcome to Wrexham* with whom I would actively avoid going for a pint. Out of respect for the fact they are members of the public, I shan't delve any further. There are a number of instances of what I believe to be performative passion – inauthentic "I'm so bloody Wrexham, me!" showing off that simply doesn't ring true.

But there's also Paul Mullin. The now globally famous Liverpoolian striker is, by every measure I can dream up, a good egg. Like McElhenney and Reynolds, I find Mullin natural, engaging and easy to root for.

Then we come to Shaun Harvey, whose prolific presence in *Welcome to Wrexham* seems to suggest that his official role as advisor to the board undersells his influence at the Racecourse Ground. Harvey is the documentary's puzzle. He obviously comes across well – that's how it works – but the level of access McElhenney and Reynolds appear to be serving up does give Harvey the space to reveal himself as an informed and capable administrator especially suited to leading the club in lieu of any actual expertise elsewhere at board level.

But...well, it's Shaun Harvey. The worldwide audience of *Welcome to Wrexham* will have no idea about his career up to this point but it shouldn't be overlooked. Harvey became one of English football's most powerful officials when he was voted in as the Chief Executive of The Football League, which operates and represents the second, third and fourth tiers of the English game.

In his time in charge of The Football League, which unfortunately became the EFL by way of a rebrand

under his watch, Harvey was neither popular nor respected. He was instrumental in the introduction of the dastardly EFL Trophy and oversaw the completion of a television rights deal that wasn't well received by the league's 72 clubs. The manner in which the deal was done was also criticised.

Harvey's involvement with Wrexham is presumably under the guise of Wantaway Limited, the consultancy firm of which he shares directorship with his wife, Nicola, and has other clients that include the always delightful folk at FIFA. *Welcome to Wrexham* looks good on him, though, and as well it might. McElhenney and Reynolds have brought a lot to the Racecourse but success on the pitch wouldn't happen without the knowledge of Harvey and the ability of manager Phil Parkinson.

Clearly, Parkinson has also had some outrageously superior raw materials with which to work. Currently turning out alongside Mullin and Ollie Palmer, the big signings lauded by the documentary thus far, is Steven Fletcher. The Scottish striker has played for three different clubs in the Premier League and two in the Scottish Premiership, not to mention a loan spell at Marseille and 39 international caps.

Therein resides the reason I shouldn't be as amenable as I am to the Wrexham project. Mullin and Palmer should have been out of reach for a National League team. Fletcher should have been out of reach for an EFL League Two team. That they weren't is proof positive that McElhenney and Reynolds have tilted the playing field. That, to me, tends to be a major problem. Even in this case I find it a little difficult to stomach.

But there's nothing inherently wrong with investing one's money in a football club within the parameters of the rules and my issue with outwardly ambitious ownership always really comes down to whether they're breaking the rules and whether their very involvement puts their clubs at risk when they're supposed to be custodians.

That's the crucial difference with *Welcome to Wrexham*. Call me overly generous and gullible and naive, accuse me of being redwashed by Hollywood, but I look at Wrexham from a distance and the one thing above all that I don't see is undue risk from their ownership.

For all the sideshow glitz and star power, McElhenney and Reynolds seem to be a force for good in North Wales and at Wrexham because they put the club before their celebrity but use their celebrity for the betterment of the club.

A cynical old fool I may be, but I wouldn't be much of a football supporter if I begrudged the Wrexham fans that. We all need to soak up and enjoy the good times. Wrexham have had many during their long history.

They might just be on the cusp of the best of all.



Baby Bottles Wholesale Ltd.  
One of the UK's leading single  
site wholesalers of beers, wines,  
spirits, soft drinks and more to  
a huge range of on-trade  
outlets based in the midlands.

Call Us:  
02476 361518

Visit Our Website:  
[www.babybottlesltd.co.uk](http://www.babybottlesltd.co.uk)



Stand-in skipper Louis Guest on patrol against Coleshill Town. (Photo: Stuart Guest)



Alex Lock on the move against Coleshill Town. (Photo: Marcus Robinson)

# ANSTEY NOMADS



Before the Second World War two clubs, the St Mary's and the Prims, were playing in Anstey.

It was after the war when the boys returned from the services, that the two clubs, Marys and the PM decided to join forces under the name of Anstey Meths and Mary's, which formed in 1946. However after one season it was decided that the name of the club would be changed to Anstey Nomads.

With the formation of the Nomads football in Anstey took on a higher status, for Leicestershire Senior League Football – the highest grade of amateur football in the county – came to the village.

Early successes in winning the Senior League Division 1 (1951-52 and 1953-54) were followed by heady exploits in the FA Amateur Cup. In their first attempt they reached the first round proper losing 2-1 at Cambridge.

In the second season Gedling Colliery knocked them out in the final qualifying round 2-1 a Gedling. The following season the club wrote a new page in Leicestershire amateur football history, after playing through all five preliminary rounds, their big day arrived when 400 supporters hired a train and made the journey to Gray's in Essex to see the team win 3-1 in the 1st round proper. The 2nd round saw a crowd of 4,500 at Cropton Road with the Nomads losing 2-1 to Hayes.

The club then joined the Central Alliance with little or no success. The revamping of Midlands football saw the club in the East Midlands Regional League in 1966-67

and of the six years spent there, top four places were gained in three of them.

Back in the Leicestershire Senior League in 1973 and after winning Division Two in their first season the Nomads became one of the powerhouses of local football mainly under the guidance of John Perkins, Willie Wilcox and Denis Moran.

In the nineties history was created when the Leicestershire Senior Cup and Junior Cup "the double" was achieved in 1994-95. Into the Noughties and 2008-09 was the Nomads most successful season for many a day.

Champions of the Leicestershire Senior League and winners of a host of local cups under Stu Deeley. Also gaining promotion to the East Midlands Counties League. And apart from one season steady progress has been made with u/21 and u/18 teams flirted with.

Promoted to the United Counties league, new dressing rooms and a ground overhaul, season 2021/22, with first team, under 21's, 3 x under 18's, women's senior team and a further 34 junior teams together with a walking football side.

Further promotion has put on step 4 playing in the Northern Premier League Midlands Division 1.

In addition to the first team we now have 57 teams playing under the Nomads banner including Women, Under 18's and Junior sides.

# Unlocking the power of pitches

The Football Foundation  
is the Premier League,  
The FA and the  
Government's charity.

We award grants and work  
with partners to deliver  
outstanding grassroots  
football facilities  
across England.

Search  
**Football  
Foundation**  
to find out more





# COVENTRY SPHINX LADIES FC

Sunday 3 September	0-4	L	<b>Solihull Sporting Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 10 September	3-0	L	<b>Shifnal Town Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 17 September	1-8	W	<b>Crusaders Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 24 September	1-6	L	<b>Worcester City Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 1 October	0-5	W	<b>AFC Telford United</b>	Women's FA Cup 2QR
Sunday 8 October	5-5	D	<b>Solihull Sporting Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 15 October	0-5	L	<b>Stourbridge 1st</b>	BCFA Women's County Cup
Sunday 22 October	7-5	L	<b>Northampton Town</b>	Women's FA Cup 3QR
Sunday 29 October	3-4	W	<b>Kidderminster Harriers Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 5 November	14.00	H	<b>Lichfield City Ladies</b>	West Mids Premier Cup 1R
Sunday 12 November	14.00	H	<b>Lye Town Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 19 November	14.00	H	<b>Shrewsbury Town Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 26 November	14.00	A	<b>Burton Albion Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 3 December	14.00	A	<b>Worcester City Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 10 December	14.00	H	<b>Knowle Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 17 December	14.00	A	<b>Lichfield City Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 7 January	14.00	A	<b>Lye Town Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 14 January	14.00	H	<b>Crusaders Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 28 January	14.00	A	<b>Shrewsbury Town Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 4 February	14.00	H	<b>Burton Albion Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 11 February	14.00	H	<b>Kidderminster Harriers Women</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 18 February	14.00	A	<b>Coundon Court Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 25 February	14.00	A	<b>Knowle Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 3 March	14.00	H	<b>Shifnal Town Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
TBC		H	<b>Coundon Court Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division
TBC		H	<b>Lichfield City Ladies</b>	West Mids Regional Premier Division



## COMMERCIAL 2023/24

### BUY A PITCHSIDE ADVERTISING BOARD

£475 + VAT NEW  
£350 + VAT RENEWAL

- ◆ Standard sized pitchside board for the season
- ◆ Full-page programme advertisement for the season
- ◆ Business name/logo on Sponsors section of club website
- ◆ One free Match Sponsorship package

### SPONSOR A HOME MATCH

£100 per match

- ◆ Two adult tickets for sponsored match
- ◆ Business name mention in highlights commentary\*
- ◆ Business name/logo in highlights package\*
- ◆ Business name/logo in matchday programme and social media posts

\* Subject to match coverage

### SPONSOR A SPHINX PLAYER

£75 per player

- ◆ Business name/logo alongside player in matchday programme
- ◆ Business name/logo alongside player on website
- ◆ Business name/logo in Sponsors section on website
- ◆ Social media mention when player scores a goal

### BUY A PROGRAMME AD

Full page    £150 + VAT

Half page    £100 + VAT

Quarter page    £60 + VAT

Contact [neil@coventryspinx.co.uk](mailto:neil@coventryspinx.co.uk) to find out more

# PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

## DIVISION ONE MIDLANDS FIXTURES

Saturday 4th November

AFC Rushden & Diamonds	v	Boldmere St Michaels
Bedworth United	v	Rugby Town
Cambridge City	v	Shepshed Dynamo
Coleshill Town	v	Walsall Wood
Coventry Sphinx	v	Anstey Nomads
Gresley Rovers	v	Hinckley LR
Loughborough Dynamo	v	Lye Town
Quorn	v	Harborough Town
Sporting Khalsa	v	Corby Town
Sutton Coldfield Town	v	Spalding United

Tuesday 7th November

Hinckley LR	v	Harborough Town
Shepshed Dynamo	v	Anstey Nomads
Spalding United	v	Corby Town
Sporting Khalsa	v	Cambridge City

Saturday 11th November

Anstey Nomads	v	AFC Rushden & Diamonds
Bedworth United	v	Loughborough Dynamo
Boldmere St Michaels	v	Cambridge City
Corby Town	v	Sutton Coldfield Town
Harborough Town	v	Sporting Khalsa
Hinckley LR	v	Coleshill Town
Lye Town	v	Gresley Rovers
Shepshed Dynamo	v	Rugby Town
Spalding United	v	Quorn
Walsall Wood	v	Coventry Sphinx

# PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

## DIVISION ONE MIDLANDS LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Loughborough Dynamo	12	8	2	2	28	16	12	26
2	Spalding United	11	7	2	2	24	12	12	23
3	Anstey Nomads	10	6	4	0	22	10	12	22
4	Harborough Town	9	7	0	2	14	6	8	21
5	Bedworth United	14	6	3	5	18	11	7	21
6	Lye Town	12	6	3	3	18	15	3	21
7	Quorn	10	5	3	2	21	14	7	18
8	Hinckley LR	11	5	3	3	19	19	0	18
9	Coleshill Town	12	5	2	5	18	20	-2	17
10	Shepshed Dynamo	11	5	2	4	16	18	-2	17
11	Sporting Khalsa	10	5	1	4	15	12	3	16
12	Walsall Wood	11	5	1	5	21	20	1	16
13	Sutton Coldfield Town	12	5	1	6	12	13	-1	16
14	Corby Town	11	4	2	5	20	15	5	14
15	Cambridge City	11	3	3	5	13	15	-2	12
16	Coventry Sphinx	11	2	4	5	9	17	-8	10
17	Gresley Rovers	12	2	4	6	16	28	-12	10
18	Boldmere St Michaels	12	2	2	8	14	22	-8	8
19	Rugby Town	12	2	1	9	10	28	-18	7
20	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	12	1	1	10	6	23	-17	4

28/10/2023



Introducing the Spectral Intent Elite  
Exclusive Northern Premier League Match Ball :

- **Microcoated PU casing equalizes airflow**
- **Engineered PU for increased response & enhanced control**
- **Optimal sphericity for straight flight**
- **Modified latex bladder for improved balance & accuracy**



sales enquiries : **e: sales@chryso.co.uk**  
**www.chryso.co.uk**

# PIHER®

**Proud Away Shirt Sponsor of  
Coventry Sphinx Football Club**



**Piher Clamping Tools  
& Piher Grip-On Locking Pliers**

Available in the UK and Ireland

Call 024 7636 4411 for your nearest stockist  
or email [piher-uk@piher.com](mailto:piher-uk@piher.com)

Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls	Jordan Annable
James Bryson	Corey Armeni
Kyle Carey	Callum Ballinger
Alfonso Castellano	Ben Bayliss
Antonio Cristofaro	Harry Bestwick
Gio Dainty	Nyle Blake
Jack Downes	Josh Bowley
Luke Downes	William Clarke
Jamie Draper	Lewis Gibbens
Will Edjenguele	Zak Harris
Sam Ellis	Conrad Logan
Keelan Fallows	Ant Lynn
Louis Guest	Freddie Robinson
Jordan Hayward	Luis Rose
Zach Hedge	Charlie Scanlon
Max Johnson	Tayo Alexander Tucker
Alex Lock	Spencer Weir-Daley
Callum Martin	Brad Wilson
Dylan Parker	Joel Wolfe
Dawid Peplinski	
Leigh Phillips	
Joe Pursey	
Jac Redhead	
Matthew Shipman	
Finlay Shorrock	
Duncan Van Den Top	
Callum Whiteside	
Callum Woodward	

Referee: Brandon Scaife

Assistant Referees: David Patrick and Phillip Carey