



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BLYTH SPARTANS AFC | ISSUE 1 | 2023/24

SPARTANS

£2.00

VS HARTLEPOOL UNITED
SATURDAY 22ND JULY 2023 | 3PM
CROFT PARK



TEXO





WE'RE BACK! ARE YOU?

**GET YOUR
2023/24 SEASON TICKETS NOW!**
#PACKTHEPARK



CONTENTS

BLYTH SPARTANS AFC VS HARTLEPOOL UNITED

SATURDAY 22ND JULY 2023 | CROFT PARK

EDITORS NOTES

Good afternoon Blyth Spartans supporters and welcome back to this season's edition of Spartans! Today is the first home fixture of our 2023/24 pre-season campaign as we host Vanarama National League side Hartlepool United. I'm very pleased to be taking over as Programme Editor for this season, and hope that you enjoy the various new content that's going to be inside! In this week's issue, we hear from Stephen Turnbull as he reminisces on scoring that goal against today's opposition almost a decade ago in the FA Cup, some historical content and introducing our new Junior Spartans Page! Now, let's get behind Graham Fenton and the team today and get Croft Park bouncing... HOWAY BLYTH!

HUGH HUTTON
PROGRAMME EDITOR



05 PROUD OF OUR HISTORY
A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR FAMOUS FOOTBALL CLUB

06 MANAGER NOTES
NOTES FROM OUR MANAGER GRAHAM FENTON

09 MATCH PREVIEW
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM TODAY'S GAME

10 PRE-SEASON SO FAR
A REVIEW ON OUR PRE-SEASON CAMPAIGN SO FAR



20 FA CUP REWIND
A LOOK BACK TO A HISTORIC NIGHT AT VICTORIA PARK

22 THE INTERVIEW
A LOOK BACK ON PAST RESULTUS AGAINST THE VISITORS

24 OPPOSITION PAGE
STEPHEN TURNBULL REMINISCES ON SCORING IN THE FA CUP

26 JUNIOR SPARTANS PAGE
TEST YOUR SPARTANS KNOWLEDGE WITH OUR QUIZ



BLYTH SPARTANS AFC

CROFT PARK
BLYTH
NE24 3JE
01670 352373
WWW.BLYTHSPARTANS.COM

OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: TONY PLATTEN
VICE-CHAIRMAN: KEVIN SCOTT
COMPANY SECRETARY: COLIN BAXTER

GENERAL MANAGER: MIKE COULSON
COMMERCIAL MANAGER: MARK SCOTT
STADIUM MANAGER: COLIN BLACKETT
FIXTURE SECRETARY: JEFF YOUNG
HOSPITALITY: GEORDIE CHARLTON
LIFE MEMBER: GEORGE WATSON

FIRST-TEAM STAFF

FIRST-TEAM MANAGER: GRAHAM FENTON
ASSISTANT MANAGER: JON SHAW
GOALKEEPER COACH: IAN AITKEN
PHYSIO: GARY NEASHAM
ASSISTANT PHYSIO: VACANT
KITMAN: DARREN MAGUIRE
GROUNDSMAN: PETER HENDERSON
OPPOSITION ANALYST: JOSH MOIR

MEDIA

MEDIA MANAGER: MATTY RAYSON
ASSISTANT MEDIA MANAGER: JACOB EMERY
PRESS OFFICER: BEN LIGHTFOOT
PROGRAMME EDITOR: HUGH HUTTON
PHOTOGRAPHERS: BILL BROADLEY, KRIS HODGETTS, PAUL SCOTT, STEPHEN BEECROFT
VIDEOGRAPHER: JACK BRAMLEY
BLYTH LIVE: PHIL CASTIAUX, BEN LIGHTFOOT, CRAIG DOBSON
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: HUGH HUTTON
PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTORS:
HUGH HUTTON, PHIL CASTIAUX, BEN LIGHTFOOT, JACOB EMERY



Fergusons

Ware of every

TEXO

TEXO



**NEW SEASON.
NEW LOOK.**



PROUD OF OUR HISTORY

BLYTH SPARTANS WERE FOUNDED IN 1899 BY FRED STOKER WHO NAMED THE CLUB AFTER THE GREEK SPARTANS ARMY IN THE HOPE THAT THE PLAYERS WOULD GIVE THEIR ALL AS THEY WENT INTO "BATTLE" ON THE FIELD.

THE CLUB PLAYED FRIENDLY GAMES FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE BEFORE JOINING THE EAST NORTHUMBERLAND LEAGUE IN 1901 WHERE THEY WON THE LEAGUE ON THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT.

THE CLUB MOVED UPWARD JOINING THE RANKS OF THE SEMI-PROFESSIONALS IN THE NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE LEAGUE FOLDED IN 1958.

THE GREEN ARMY'S MOST FAMOUS SEASON IS UNDOUBTLY WHEN THEY REACHED THE FIFTH ROUND OF THE FA CUP DURING THE 1977-78 CAMPAIGN.

GOING UP AGAINST WREXHAM, SPARTANS DREW 1-1 IN THE FIRST LEG WITH A REPLAY TOOK PLACE AT NEWCASTLE UNITED'S ST JAMES' PARK, IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF 42,167 PEOPLE BEFORE EVENTUALLY BOWING OUT OF THE CUP LOSING 2-1 BUT WAS A TRULY HISTORIC DAY FOR THE CLUB.

IN OCTOBER 2004, SPARTANS APPOINTED HARRY DUNN AS MANAGER FOR THE SECOND TIME AND LED THE CLUB TO WIN THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION, GAINING PROMOTION INTO THE CONFERENCE NORTH (NOW KNOWN AS NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH).

IN THEIR FIRST SEASON IN THE CONFERENCE NORTH, BLYTH CEMENTED THEMSELVES IN THE TOP HALF OF THE TABLE WITH THE CLUB NARROWLY MISSING OUT ON A PLAY-OFF POSITION ON THE FINAL DAY AND FINISHING 7TH.

BLYTH STRUGGLED TO FIND SIMILAR FORM IN THE FOLLOWING FEW YEARS, WITH WINS TOWARDS THE END OF THE SEASON PRESERVING THEIR CONFERENCE NORTH STATUS FOR THE NEXT TWO SEASONS.

IN THE 2008-09 SEASON, BLYTH HIT ANOTHER CUP RUN WITH BLYTH GETTING THROUGH TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE FA CUP WITH WINS AGAINST SHREWSBURY TOWN AND AFC BOURNEMOUTH PUT BLYTH THROUGH TO THE THIRD ROUND.

BLYTH'S FA CUP DREAM SOON ENDED IN THE THIRD ROUND AFTER COMING UP AGAINST PREMIER LEAGUE BLACKBURN ROVERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CLUBS HISTORY BEFORE BOWING OUT OF THE COMPETITION IN 1-0 DEFEAT.

HOWEVER, AFTER 113 YEARS THE GREEN ARMY SUFFERED THEIR FIRST EVER RELEGATION IN THE 2011-12 SEASON AND WERE RELEGATED FROM THE CONFERENCE NORTH AFTER A 1-0 HOME DEFEAT TO GLOUCESTER CITY.

THE CLUB APPOINTED TOM WADE AS MANAGER AND ONCE AGAIN HAD A FA CUP FAIRYTALE IN 2014 AFTER BEATING LEAGUE TWO SIDE HARTLEPOOL UNITED.

STEPHEN TURNBULL'S MAGNIFICENT FREE-KICK AND A LATE WINNER FROM JARRETT RIVERS STAGED A DRAMATIC AND HISTORIC COMEBACK FOR SPARTANS AND THE GAME WAS SHOWN LIVE ON THE BBC.

ONCE AGAIN, THE GREEN ARMY BOWED OUT OF THE CUP IN THE THIRD ROUND AFTER ROBBIE DALE'S FIRST HALF BRACE WASN'T ENOUGH AS BIRMINGHAM CITY SCORED THREE GOALS IN SIX MINUTES TO END THE NORTH EAST SIDES HOPES OF REACHING THE FOURTH ROUND.

IN THE 2015-16, SPARTANS NARROWLY MISSED OUT ON PROMOTION AFTER FINISHING SECOND IN THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION BEFORE BEING DEFEATED BY WORKINGTON AFC IN THE PLAY-OFFS.

BLYTH APPOINTED ALUN ARMSTRONG AS MANAGER AND THAT FOLLOWING SEASON WITH ARMSTRONG LEADING BLYTH TO THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE WITH 101 POINTS.

IN THE 2018-19 SEASON, BLYTH FINISHED IN THEIR HIGHEST EVER NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH POSITION IN SIXTH PLACE AND IN A PLAY-OFF SPOT. HOWEVER, THE GREEN ARMY WERE DEFEATED IN THE PLAY-OFFS AFTER LOSING 7-6 ON PENALTIES TO ALTRINCHAM.

THE CLUB ARE NOW UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAHAM FENTON FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON AND ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING IN THE VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH.



BLYTH SPARTANS 1901-2



THE MANAGER GRAHAM FENTON



Hello everyone, and welcome to Croft Park for this afternoons game against Hartlepool United.

I'd like to welcome the players, the staff and Hartlepool supporters who have travelled up for today's game.

It's been a good rest period for the lads after a tough season last year but its time to start putting in the work to go again and build on the way we ended the season. Generally, the lads who are signed are looking good – they just need that sharpness and that comes through training and game time.

We're trying to build the lads up gradually across the six games we had scheduled for pre-season, we're now on our fourth game and it's just the case of trying to get everyone up to speed and get some fitness.

The window so far has seen four new lads come in the first being Harrison (Clark) who I think has real potential and I look forward to seeing him develop over the next 12 months as a player.

Then Jon (Shaw) coming in as my assistant, that was a real boost for us as I know how good at his job he is. It gives me confidence as I know he can give the lads good quality coaching as well as being able to help out on the field.

I know how hard we worked behind the scenes as well to get both Finn (Cousin-Dawson) and JJ (Hooper) over the line and I'm really excited to get working with them both over the next few weeks.

I know everyone has been talking about signings, and it has went slower than we would have liked but we're working hard behind the scenes to get the right lads in.

I'm hoping that we're able to get two or three new signings over the line in the next few weeks to boost the squad and be very competitive at National League North level.

Enjoy the game!

THE ASSISTANT JON SHAW



Good afternoon Blyth Spartans supporters and welcome to Croft Park this afternoon.

I'm looking forward to this afternoon's game which will be my first game at Croft Park as assistant manager of Blyth Spartans.

The game the other week against Blyth Town was really disappointing for us but we were still trying a lot of things out, we were trying a few younger lads who probably weren't ready for the club, but I think we really improved at the Newton Aycliffe game.

The lads who have been here a while had more minutes on the pitch, the

team started taking on more shape and trying to implement the things we've been doing out on the training pitch on to the field.

I felt that it was important we showed more character after the Blyth game and that's something I felt for large parts of the Newton Aycliffe game we did.

I think we played some really good football that game, we're missing a bit of cutting edge with JJ (Hooper) and a few players missing, but with a couple new additions and getting the lads minutes in the tank I think we'll be fine.

It's important now that the lads get as

many minutes in the legs as possible and push their fitness levels up, we're halfway through pre-season now so we need to keep pushing and getting the lads up to speed as quick as possible.

We've got a tough test this afternoon against Hartlepool, I saw them play against Middlesbrough and they're a good side.

So, for us it's going to be a brilliant test. It's a similar level to what we're more likely going to be facing on a weekly basis at National League North so it'll help us in our development with the players.

Howay Blyth!

TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR VAN LEASING



Find The Best Van Leasing Deals At
[vanarama.com](https://www.vanarama.com)

MATCH PREVIEW



Blyth Spartans are set to host Hartlepool United at Croft Park this afternoon in the fourth pre-season fixture ahead of the 2023/24 National League North campaign.

This is the first fixture back at Croft Park since the 'Great Escape' where Graham Fenton's side won 5-0 against Hereford to secure survival in the National League North.

Today's opponents Hartlepool finished 23rd in EFL League Two which seen them relegated from the Football League for the second time in the clubs history.

Fenton's side have had a lukewarm pre-season so far, having won one, drawn one and lost one out of their three pre-season fixtures so far.

However, Pools have only played one pre-season game which ended in a 2-1 victory against Championship outfit Middlesbrough.

Blyth Spartans and Hartlepool United have only faced each other seven times in a competitive fixture.

Spartans have only won the County Durham side twice with the most notable being Blyth's victory back in 2014 where Spartans ran out 2-1 winners at Victoria Park and were through into the third round proper.

However, the last time the two sides met was in a pre-season friendly back in 2021.

Spartans won that game 2-1 through Jordan Hickey's wonder strike and JJ O'Donnell who beat defender Gary Liddle and slotted the ball into the bottom corner.

PRE-SEASON SO FAR

FOLLOWING LAST SEASONS DRAMATIC NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH GREAT ESCAPE, GRAHAM FENTON HAS BEEN PREPARING THE SPARTANS SQUAD FOR OUR 2023/24 PRE-SEASON SCHEDULE. OUR ASSISTANT MEDIA MANAGER JACOB EMERY REVIEWS HOW OUR PRE-SEASON CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR...



SATURDAY 08/07/23 DAREN PERSSON STADIUM

OUR FIRST PRE-SEASON FIXTURE STARTED WITH A COMFORTABLE 2-0 AWAY VICTORY AGAINST NORTH SHIELDS AT THE DAREN PERSSON STADIUM.

First half goals from Jordan Hickey and new signing JJ Hooper secured a win for Spartans first pre-season fixture in North Tyneside.

New signings Harrison Clark, JJ Hooper and returning Finn Cousin

Dawson all featured for Graham Fenton's side, while assistant manager Jon Shaw also featured in the match for his respective debut.

Inside the opening three minutes, Alex Mitchell was called into action to make a comfortable gather after Anthony Myers' header was flicked on target by Connor Oliver's floated set-piece from the left flank.

After 20 minutes, a throw-in on the left-flank from Michael Liddle half-way inside the hosts' half worked its way through to Jordan Hickey who unleashed a venomous first-time

strike 30-yards out into the bottom corner of the net to put Spartans ahead.

Hooper doubled Blyth's lead five minutes later when his initial shot was well saved by North Shields keeper Finlay Hodgson but the ball found itself back to the forward's path and he converted his chance the second time of asking.

A solid first half performance allowed Spartans to manage the second half effectively and kickstart the pre-season schedule with a positive result.



**WEDNESDAY 12/07/23 GATEWAY PARK
SPARTANS SUFFERED A 4-0 DEFEAT AT
THE HANDS OF LOCAL RIVALS BLYTH
TOWN ON TUESDAY EVENING IN FRONT
OF A CROWD OF 1,429 SPECTATORS AT
GATEWAY PARK.**

Alex Mitchell and JJ Hooper were absent for this fixture following the clubs victory the previous week to North Shields while fullback Rhys Evans returned to the squad.

The likes of Finn Cousin-Dawson, Michael Liddle, Harrison Clark, Nicky Deverdics, JJ O'Donnell and Rio Joisce all featured from the start within the first half.

Graham Fenton's side perused with more attacking intent but there were limitations to the attempts on goal as they came from range; Harrison Clark struck a powerful effort which was met by a brave defensive body before a trialist followed up with a shot of his

own but deflected comfortably into the grasp of Lewis Baker in the Town net was met by yet another Town defender which deflected the effort inches over the crossbar.

Our neighbours opened the scoring after the half hour mark when a header at the far post was converted by Brandon Slater.

In response to falling a goal behind, a Spartans trialist was set in beyond the Town backline on 33 minutes but could not quite adjust his stance to wrap his foot around the ball to direct it on target.

Moments later, O'Donnell worked his way into an identical situation at range, but another left-footed strike from the 31-year-old was not able to force the hosts' goalkeeper into great caution.

Spartans went into the interval a goal down. Things didn't get better for Fenton's side when The Braves began

the second half with confidence

oozing in their play and forced a string of saves out of Spartans' trialist 'keeper before Sawyer bagged himself a goal directly from a corner.

With 20 minutes left on the clock, a third would be added to the score-line by Joseph Gibson from close range.

A fourth was added five minutes later by Dillan Short after a mishap in communication at the back for Spartans seeing the fixture rounded off in an underwhelming fashion.

*The Premier League,
The FA and Government
are together for football.
Unlocking the power
of pitches to transform
lives and strengthen
communities.*



Find out our plans for your area:
footballfoundation.org.uk



SATURDAY 16/07/23 SECURICORP STADIUM
OUR MOST RECENT PRE-SEASON
FIXTURE SAW FENTON'S SIDE
RECORDED A 1-1 DRAW AWAY
NEWTON AYCLIFFE ON SATURDAY
AFTERNOON.

Alex Mitchell returned to the squad between the sticks with the likes of Rhys Evans, Michael Liddle, Nicky Deverdics, Harrison Clark, Rio Joice, JJ O'Donnell and Curtis Round all started the matchup alongside three trialists.

Thunder and lightning mixed in with a downpour of heavy rain bellowed in the build-up to kick-off, but by the time the first whistle blew belatedly due to an assistant referee being held up in traffic, a summer's day commenced.

It was Spartans who would start to shine in the opening encounters as a flurry of attacks put early pressure on the hosts' backline.

With eight minutes on the clock, an in-swinging cross from Rio Joice on the left flank was met by the head of Curtis Round but he couldn't quite direct the momentum on target, seeing his effort rise over the crossbar.

Persistent harrying from Joice and Round deep in the attacking third forced the ball to a trialist to unleash a shot on target, however, the Newtonians' keeper excellently saved with his feet from point-blank range just before the half-hour mark.

Alex Mitchell was called into his first piece of action of the afternoon five minutes later as he was alert to make a smart parry down to his right-hand side to keep out an awkwardly bobbling attempt which skimmed off the wet surface.

Both Joice and Harrison Clark had respective efforts on goal as the first half neared its conclusion, however, limited from range, they both failed to test the hosts' keeper.

On the stroke of half-time, Jacob Mallinson fired a powerful left-footed strike from an acute angle into the roof of the net to put the Newtonians a goal up going into the break.

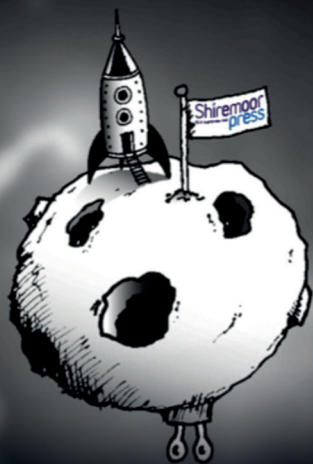
Jon Shaw was introduced for the second half to slot in at central defence alongside Evans while Joice made way for a trialist too.

A counterattack crafted neatly by the hosts forced Mitchell to adjust and backpedal to claim a looping attempt on 57 minutes before the turnover of play saw a trialist steer a strike wide for Spartans having been teed up by O'Donnell.

The equaliser was then found on the hour mark for Spartans as pressure on the Newton Aycliffe defensive line caused confusion which allowed a trialist to pinch the loose ball and wrong-foot the hosts' keeper to slot it into the back of the net simply.

WE ALSO LANDED IN 1969

In 1969 when others were taking small steps for man, we were taking a giant step into the printing world for Shiremoor Press.



WE ALSO LANDED IN 1969

OVER
50 years



FULFILMENT
& DISTRIBUTION



**NEW SEASON.
NEW LOOK.**



errea

SPARTANS
AFC

TEXO



JJ
HOOPER



THE CLUB STORE

SCAN HERE:



Fergusons



We take care of everything



PROUD SPONSORS
OF
BLYTH SPARTANS AFC



**NEW SEASON.
NEW LOOK.**





FA CUP REWIND!



31' JONATHAN FRANKS

1-2



**56' STEPHEN TURNBULL
89' JARRETT RIVERS**

AN ALAN SHEARER TEAM TALK, A JARRETT RIVERS WINNER AND ANOTHER GIANT KILLING – BLYTH SPARTANS AND AN FA CUP RUN SEEM TO GO HAND IN HAND.

Rivers wrote another chapter in our rich FA Cup history as his last-minute winner earned Spartans a 2-1 victory against EFL League Two side Hartlepool United nearly a decade ago.

Under the management of Tom Wade, Spartans were the under-dogs going into this Second Round tie at Victoria Park, with three divisions separating the two sides.

Newcastle United top goal scorer and Premier League legend Shearer wasn't just in attendance that cold December night - but gave the lads in the dressing room a 'pre-match team talk' that seemed to help inspire an FA Cup fairy-tale.

Pools opened the scoring through Jonathan Franks after the half hour mark when Neil Austin's floating cross from the right-hand side was headed in by the winger.

The fellow North-East club went into the interval a goal to the goods with Wade's side looking certain to bowing out the competition to a Football League Club.

However, Stephen Turnbull had other



ideas, with just over 10 minutes into the second half, Blyth won a free-kick 25 yards out in front of the Rink End where Spartans had over a thousand fans watching.

Turnbull stepped up to send a fabulous curling strike over Pools' wall and past Scott Flinders into the top corner of the net sparking wild celebrations among teammates and fans alike.

Despite Brad Walker firing a low-range effort narrowly wide for the home side, Blyth's tails were up. The Green and White army were the ones who looked likely to get something out of the game.

However, Hartlepool striker Marlon Harwood's shot looked to have crossed the line but wasn't given by the officials deep into the second half of the game.

Things got worse for the Football League Club when left-back Dan Jones slipped, and Rivers picked up the ball and surged forward before firing a low-driven shot through defender Matthew Bates' legs and into the back of the net.

The whistle was finally blown, and another famous Blyth Spartans FA Cup victory was written in the history books.

A NIGHT IN PHOTOS...





Community
Foundation
Tees & Wear and Northumberland

6
errea

CARA

THE INTERVIEW

**NOT MANY SPARTANS FANS WILL FORGET ABOUT THAT COLD DECEMBER TRIP TO VICTORIA PARK NEARLY A DECADE AGO. IT'S CERTAINLY A NIGHT GOAL SCORER STEPHEN TURNBULL WILL NEVER FORGET EITHER!
TURNBULL SPOKE TO US ABOUT THAT MEMORABLE NIGHT IN HARTLEPOOL ...**

I remember that the fixture was picked for live coverage for BBC so there were more nerves going into the game than there would be normally.

I knew people were going to be tuning in to watch so I was a little bit more anxious than normal.

But I was revved up for the game, I couldn't wait to get out there and put my boots on.

I was so confident and sure of it. I know that we were three leagues below them, but we were flying at the time we had players like Robbie Dale dragging us through games and Hartlepool were struggling in League Two, so I thought we had a good chance.

Having played for Hartlepool previously, it added more emotion to it. I was desperate to get something over them because I felt that I had a point to prove.

Shearer coming into the dressing room was a moment I'll never forget. Newcastle United was my childhood club and him coming into the changing room to talk to us all was something special.

He walked in and he told us "someone is going to be a hero tonight. Whether it's someone in this dressing room or in Hartlepool's, tonight someone will be a hero. Can that someone be you?" When he said those words, I just remember

thinking "I wouldn't mind it being me!"

Then we got a free kick. I was never the designated free-kick taker, we didn't really have one if I'm honest, it was just whoever was feeling confident - and I was. I just thought "what have I got to lose? We were 1-0 down, live on telly, why not have a go? What's the worst that can happen?"

So, I hit it. The feeling when I saw the ball hit the back of the net was just pure ecstasy! I didn't even expect to hit the target! In front of all the fans, my family were in there and it was just such an undescribed feeling.

I'd been playing football both professionally and semi-professionally for 20 years and that was easily the best moment of my career.

I remember Tom Wade telling me after the game Shearer said that 'it was the best free-kick he'd ever seen live!' I think Tom exaggerated a little bit. I mean Howay, I've seen plenty of Lauren Robert free-kicks and they were a lot better than mine!

But the commentator said, 'no keeper in the world would have saved that!' So, I guess it must've been a good goal!

It was such an emotional game for me. Shearer being there, the game live on TV, my friends and family watching on, but I also invited Michael Maiden's parents to the

game. Me and Michael played for Hartlepool together at youth level, but he sadly died back in 2007. With him playing for Blyth and Pools, I thought it would be fitting for his parents to come to the game, so I got them tickets and they watched the game in the stands.

I still think about the game to this day. Whenever I go for a drink with my mates, I still show the video of my goal to everyone, my lass is sick of seeing it!

As well, both clubs mean a lot to me. Whenever I look back at my career, those are the two clubs I enjoyed my time at the most.

I achieved some great stuff at Hartlepool. My full debut for the club I played away against Bristol City and got man of the match at just 18-years-old. I got man of the match again when I played against Nottingham Forest at the City.

Hartlepool was a great club for me to learn my trade and get better.

I had three spells at Blyth and I loved it. FA Cup Runs, Senior Cup wins and got promoted. We finished ninth in the Conference North which wasn't bad on the budget we had. Just fond memories at my time at Blyth and I still watch out for all the results!

When I look back at both clubs, I've got nothing but great memories from them!

OUR OPPOSITION THIS AFTERNOON...

HARTLEPOOL UNITED



Formed in 1908 as Hartlepoons United Football Athletic Company, Hartlepool United are a club based in the North East of England.

The club bought the assets and liabilities of West Hartlepool who were then playing in the North Eastern League in 1910.

Hartlepoons United were elected into the Football League in 1921 and would spend the next 37 years in the Third Division North, at which point they were placed into the Fourth Division. In 1968, the 's' and the United of the club's name were removed.

The club won promotion in 1967–68 for the first time, though were relegated out of the Third Division the following season. In 1977, the United was added back to the team's name. They won another promotion in 1990–91, though were relegated in 1993–94.

They won further promotions out of the fourth tier in 2002–03 and 2006–07, having been relegated again in 2005–06 after losing the 2005 League One play-off final to Sheffield Wednesday in the previous season.

Hartlepool ended their 96-year run in the Football League with relegation into the National League in 2016–17.

Hartlepool achieved promotion back to the Football League in 2020–21, beating Torquay United in the 2021 National League play-off final.

However, after just two seasons back in the Football League, Hartlepool returned to the Fifth tier of English Football after suffering relegation in the 2022/23 season.

POOLIE FACTS

The club's mascot, 'H'Angus the Monkey', was elected mayor at the 2002 Hartlepool Borough Council election.

Hartlepool United are known for being the first club Brian Clough started his managerial career at.

A famous supporter of Hartlepool United is former Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling.

Hartlepool hold the record for the most times a club has applied for re-election into the fourth tier of English football with fourteen occasions; however, they were not relegated from this level until 2017.

NICKNAME: POOLS
STADIUM: SUIT DIRECT STADIUM
CAPACITY: 7,858
LEAGUE: NATIONAL LEAGUE
LAST SEASON: 23RD (RELEGATED)



MANAGER:
JOHN ASKEY

John Askey has managed five football clubs over his managerial career.

The 58 year-old has managed the likes of Macclesfield Town on two occasions, Shrewsbury Town, Port Vale, York City and current club Hartlepool United.

DWLLL RECENT LEAGUE FORM

Stockport 1 - 1 Hartlepool
Hartlepool 3 - 1 Barrow
Hartlepool 0 - 2 Crawley
Salford 2 - 0 Hartlepool
Newport 2 - 0 Hartlepool

PLAYERS TO WATCH

HERE ARE SIX PLAYERS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR IN HARTLEPOOL UNITED'S SQUAD
THIS AFTERNOON!



JOSH UMERAH

Scoring 14 goals in EFL League Two last season, Josh Umerah is a powerful and prolific centre-forward.

The 26 year-old's strength and hold play causes problems for opposition defenders.



CALLUM COOKE

Following his departure from Bradford, Hartlepool signed Peterlee-born midfielder Callum Cooke.

The midfielder scored his first league goal for Pools Boxing Day in 2022 which was a late 25-yard free kick in a 2-1 win at Rochdale.



EMMANUEL DIESERUWWE

New signing Emmanuel Dieseruwwe scored in Hartlepool's most recent friendly against Middlesbrough.

The forward scored 14 goals for FC Halifax last season and will hope to build on the goals he scored last season for Pools this campaign.



CHRIS WREH

Pools' sixth signing of the summer transfer window was Chris Wreh.

The forward netted 23 goals and claimed 16 assists for fellow National League North side Banbury during the 2021/22 season.



DAVID FERGUSON

David Ferguson is a key player on the flanks of Hartlepool's defence.

The fullback was in the National League Team of the Year for 2020/21 campaign after contributing 11 assists.



JOE GREY

At just 20-years-old, Joe Grey has made over 50 appearances for Pools.

The forward scored the winner in a 2-1 win over Championship side Blackpool in the third round of the FA Cup.



JUNIOR SPARTANS

DIE HARD BLYTH SPARTANS FAN?

CASUAL FOOTBALL FAN?

WHY NOT TEST YOUR FOOTBALL KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS QUIZ!

**1. WHEN WAS BLYTH SPARTANS AFC
FOUNDED?**

**2. WHAT LEAGUE POSITION DID
HARTLEPOOL UNITED FINISH LAST SEASON?**

**3. HOW MANY PREMIER LEAGUE GOALS
DID ALAN SHEARER SCORE?**

**4. IN 2014, WHO SCORED THE WINNING
GOAL FOR BLYTH SPARTANS IN OUR
HISTORIC 2-1 VICTORY AGAINST
HARTLEPOOL IN THE FA CUP?**

**5. WHO IS BLYTH SPARTANS ALL TIME
RECORD APPEARANCE HOLDER?**

**6. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME NEWCASTLE
UNITED LAST WON A MAJOR TROPHY?**

**7. WHO WON EFL LEAGUE ONE LAST
SEASON?**

**8. WHO SCORED IN SUNDERLAND'S
CAPITAL ONE CUP FINAL DEFEAT TO
MANCHESTER CITY IN 2014?**

**9. HOW MANY APPEARANCES DOES RHYS
EVANS HAVE FOR BLYTH SPARTANS?**

**10. WHEN WAS HARTLEPOOL UNITED
FOUNDED?**

FUN AND GAMES!

GUESS WHO?

We've warped one of our players, can you help identify who this member of Graham Fenton's strike force is?



SPOT THE BALL

Can you guess the correct position of the football on this image of Curtis Round?



2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	KO	OPPONENT	SCORE	SCORERS
Sat Aug 05	3:00pm	Gloucester City (H)		
Sat Aug 12	3:00pm	Warrington Town (A)		
Tue Aug 15	7:45pm	Scarborough Athletic (A)		
Sat Aug 19	3:00pm	Hereford (H)		
Sat Aug 26	3:00pm	Buxton (A)		
Mon Aug 28	3:00pm	Spennymoor Town (H)		
Sat Sep 02	3:00pm	Boston United (A)		
Tue Sep 05	7:45pm	Farsley Celtic (H)		
Sat Sep 09	3:00pm	Chester (A)		
Sat Sep 23	3:00pm	Alferton Town (H)		
Sat Oct 07	3:00pm	Banbury United (A)		
Sat Oct 14	3:00pm	Bishop's Stortford (H)		
Sat Oct 21	3:00pm	Tamworth (H)		
Tue Oct 24	7:45pm	Darlington (A)		
Sat Oct 28	3:00pm	King's Lynn Town (A)		
Sat Nov 04	3:00pm	Scunthorpe United (H)		
Tue Nov 07	7:45pm	Southport (H)		
Sat Nov 11	3:00pm	Brackley Town (A)		
Tue Nov 14	7:45pm	Curzon Ashton (A)		
Tue Nov 21	7:45pm	Chorley (H)		
Sat Nov 25	3:00pm	Peterborough Sports (H)		
Sat Dec 02	3:00pm	Rushall Olympic (A)		
Sat Dec 16	3:00pm	Alferton Town (A)		
Sat Dec 23	3:00pm	Chester (H)		
Tue Dec 26	3:00pm	South Shields (A)		
Mon Jan 01	3:00pm	South Shields (H)		
Sat Jan 06	3:00pm	Bishop's Stortford (A)		
Sat Jan 13	3:00pm	Banbury United (H)		
Sat Jan 20	3:00pm	Gloucester City (A)		
Tue Jan 23	7:45pm	Scarborough Athletic (H)		
Sat Jan 27	3:00pm	Warrington Town (H)		
Sat Feb 03	3:00pm	Hereford (A)		
Sat Feb 10	3:00pm	Buxton (H)		
Sat Feb 17	3:00pm	Spennymoor Town (A)		
Tue Feb 20	7:45pm	Farsley Celtic (A)		
Sat Feb 24	3:00pm	Boston United (H)		
Sat Mar 02	3:00pm	Tamworth (A)		
Sat Mar 09	3:00pm	King's Lynn Town (H)		
Tue Mar 12	7:45pm	Darlington (H)		
Sat Mar 16	3:00pm	Southport (A)		
Sat Mar 23	3:00pm	Peterborough Sports (A)		
Fri Mar 29	3:00pm	Curzon Ashton (H)		
Mon Apr 01	3:00pm	Chorley (A)		
Sat Apr 06	3:00pm	Rushall Olympic (H)		
Sat Apr 13	3:00pm	Scunthorpe United (A)		
Sat Apr 20	3:00pm	Brackley Town (H)		

*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL GAMES LISTED ARE NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





Looking for a Kit Supplier?

Become a New Balance partner and receive:

- FREE online shop
- Gift of Kit
- Dedicated account manager
- Custom kit and training wear
- Support of a leading global brand



SCAN ME

Kick off your career in the sports industry

Turn your passion for football into a career with the **University Campus of Football Business** and its **Global Institute of Sport** where you can study a wide range of courses with access to **iconic stadiums** and **global summits**.

Over 90% of UCFB graduates find full-time employment within 6 months of graduating with two thirds of those working in football and sport



We have alumni working in each of the **20 Premier League** clubs and **49 of the 72 EFL clubs**



I really enjoyed my time at GIS where I gained valuable analysis knowledge and additional coaching experience. This is definitely the place to go if working in football is your long term aim.

Dene Field

GIS graduate, First Team Analyst and Coaching Assistant at **Watford FC Women**

They say if you have a job that you love you'll never work a day in your life and I genuinely feel like that.

Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**



Scan here for more information and how to apply, or visit **UCFB.ac.uk**

SPARTANS 2023/24



MANAGER: **GRAHAM FENTON**

ALEX MITCHELL
JORDAN HICKEY
NICKY DEVERDICS
JJ O'DONNELL
MICHAEL LIDDLE
RHYS EVANS
CURTIS ROUND
RIO JOISCE
FINN COUSIN-DAWSON
JJ HOOPER
HARRISON CLARK
JON SHAW

MANAGER: **JOHN ASKEY**

JOEL DIXON
PETE JAMESON
DAVID FERGUSON
JAKE HASTIE
JOSH UMERAH
CALLUM COOKE
JOE GREY
EDON PRUTI
MIKAEL NDJOLI
MOHAMED SYLLA
TOM CRAWFORD
ALEX LACEY
LOUIS STEPHENSON
CAMPBELL DARCY
JOSEPH KITCHING
DAN DODDS
OLIVER FINNEY
KIERAN BURTON
MANNY ONARIASE
KIERAN WALLACE
EMMANUEL DIESERUVWE
CHRIS WREH

NEXT UP CROFT PARK



MARSK UNITED

TUESDAY 25TH JULY
19:30 KICK-OFF