



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR FOOTBALL CLUB | ISSUE 3 | 2023/24

# THE BLUE PRINT

£2.00

**VS BEDLINGTON TERRIERS**  
**TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2023 | 7:30PM**  
**SCOTSWOOD**  
**WWW.NBSFC2018.CO.UK**





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### EDITOR NOTES

Hello and welcome to the second programme of the Northern League season. We have started the season in the best possible fashion and look to continue that this evening. Unfortunately, our home game against Chester-le-Street United was postponed due to the weather but we played again last Wednesday, where we came from behind at Billingham Synthonia to win 3-1 and at the time of writing haven't played Esh Winning yet. Tonight's opponents are a young side that are on an upwards trajectory after finishing third in the league last season. They have some real quality in their squad, and I am sure it will be a great test. This weeks issue includes a quiz, opposition preview a brand new section titled 'get to know' and more!

**MATTY HUNTER**  
PROGRAMME EDITOR

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# OUR HISTORY...

**Newcastle Blue Star Football Club were originally formed in 1930, before the club vanished in the 2008/09 season and reforming in 2018 to play their home games at the Scotswood Sports Centre.**

Blue Star originally joined the Wearside League back in 1973 and won the FA Vase in 1978. Blue Star played most of their games at the Wheatsheaf Ground, known as Druid Park in the west of the city, and at Kingston Park which is now the home of Rugby Union club the Newcastle Falcons.

Blue Star soon won promotion to the Northern Premier League but with some off-field trouble, it resulted in the collapse of the football club.

Now, Newcastle Blue Star Football Club is one of the fastest growing amateur football clubs in the North East of England, with the goal of bringing success back to a historic football club and have ambitions of becoming a key club in the city.

The club is based in the West End of Newcastle upon Tyne and is currently playing in the Northern League Division Two.

As well as the first team, Blue Star have a reserve squad who are competing in the Northern Football Alliance Second Division and have numerous youth teams.

The first season in Northern Alliance seen the first team finish third in the league. The 2022/23 season was a huge success as Blue Star won the Premier Division and lifted the 132-year-old trophy.

After the success of last season, Blue Star soon earned promotion into the Northern League Division Two for the 2023/24 season.

With vital support from 1978 FA Vase winners Paul Dixon and Ian Crumplin the club like to get as much support as possible from you. Together, hopefully we can have more Wembley moments to enjoy!



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# THE ASSISTANT



## Good evening and welcome this afternoons game! Today, we host Bedlington Terriers at Scotswood.

I want to welcome the players, staff and Bedlington supporters to tonight's game.

I thought the last time we played at Scotswood was a really good team performance, as yet again we went a goal behind which made us push on.

I just thought it was a good team performance as there are never any easy games in the Northern League, especially at the start of the season as everyone has the bit between their teeth and everyone thinks they can

win the league at the start of the season. But ultimately, I thought we were good.

I think what is good about our squad is that when we make changes, we don't weaken the team, which is a massive plus.

So, it was good to see people getting a rest and getting the points on the board.

The lads who didn't start the other week came on and showed lots of hunger.

I also thought the lads who came off the bench were also excellent, Dean especially after getting the goal to win us the game.

Dean is a livewire, and he wants to play every minute of every game and he could easily.

He is a great player and can play in so many positions now, we have seen him as a left-back, in the 10 and out wide.

We are up against a really strong side tonight, but I think we are more than capable of getting something out of this game.

Enjoy the match!

**ANDY BOWMAN**  
**NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR ASSISTANT**  
**COACH**





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# MATCH PREVIEW



## Words by Dan Tracey

**With a deluge of August rain falling on Scotswood 10 days ago, it meant Newcastle Blue Star's league clash with Chester-le-Street was postponed. Thankfully a sunnier climate means that tonight's meeting with Bedlington Terriers will go ahead.**

One that has been keenly anticipated since the Northern League fixture computer sprung into life over the summer. This iteration of Blue Star are considered the new kids on the block, Bedlington Terriers are one of the more esteemed names in the North East football scene.

Not only is it an anticipated clash between relative upstarts and tradition

but it is also one that pits two promotion hopefuls together in the first month of the new season. Two hopefuls that are both on nine points after the fourth fixture round.

A similarity in points but a difference in how they have been collected. Brian Smith's men have won each of their first three league outings. Bedlington Terriers suffered their first loss of the campaign just a days ago.

Defeat that came at the hands of Boldon Community Association and with them also harbouring desires of promotion to the top tier of the Northern League, it only shows how cutthroat this division will be.

While the performances have been

rather cutthroat where Blue Star have been concerned. In each of their opening trio of league outings, they have given up the first goal. Giving head starts is certainly not recommended but NE15's finest keep finding a way to win in the end.

Not a template that you would want to see all season. In fairness it is not a template you would want to see this evening either. But if the ends justify the means and another maximum is delivered, ultimately that is all that matters.

A warm welcome goes out to the traveling Bedlington Terriers team and support and for those who lend their voice to the home team, make sure to bring the noise throughout.





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# LAST TIME OUT



1 - 3



Words By Mitch Tapner

**It was once again a memorable night on the road for Blue Star as they came back from 1-0 down, to win 3-1 against an unbeaten Billingham Synthonia side.**

After a frantic start to the game with chances a plenty at both ends - Blue Star would go 1-0 behind for the third game in a row, conceding a header in the 20th minute.

'The Star' pushed for an equaliser before half-time but could not find the goal they desired and went into the break 1-0 behind.

Looking for a quick start to the half, Blue Star were straight out of the traps and grabbed an equaliser just four minutes after the restart - with substitute Curtis Coppen emphatically heading home from a corner.

'The Star' however did not stop there, grabbing another goal just four minutes later with Michael Richardson calmly slotting home to give his side the lead.

The Blue Star faithful were then sent into pandemonium as Dan Lanning made it three goals in 15 minutes, tapping the ball home in the 60th minute to make it 3-1.

Billingham would then look to get

themselves back into the game but Blue Star would hold firm and come away with a 3-1 victory - making it three wins from three to start the season.



# ★ THE NEW BOYS ★

Words by Mitch Tapner

NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR HAVE HAD A BUSY SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW WITH SEVEN NEW ADDITIONS COMING INTO THE BLUE STAR RANKS AHEAD OF THE NORTHERN LEAGUE CAMPAIGN. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW ADDITIONS TO BRIAN SMITH'S SQUAD ...



## HARVEY WALSH

Coming through the ranks at both Salford City and Sunderland, Walsh most recently featured for Newcastle Independent in the Northern Alliance.

The forward who can play across the frontline will surely bring plenty of entertainment and flair to the team this upcoming season.



## PAUL ROBINSON

Achieving promotion with Ashington FC last season, the attacking midfielder joins 'The Star' having previously played for the club back in the 2006-07 season.

Robinson has previously played for York City and Blyth Spartans, boasts a record including over 500 appearances and 150 goals at non-league level.



## BEN HARMISON

Also joining from newly promoted side Ashington FC alongside Paul Robinson, Harmison has a rich reputation for finding the back of the net at non-league level.

The imposing centre forward joins with a wealth of experience, having also featured for North Shields, South Shields and Morpeth Town.



## MICHAEL RICHARDSON

Spending a large majority of his career in the Newcastle United youth setup, Richardson most recently played for Blyth Spartans - even scoring a famous goal against Wrexham AFC in the FA Cup.

The talented midfielder will bring a whole host of top-level experience to Scotswood having pulled on the shirt for clubs including Leyton Orient, Gillingham & Accrington Stanley.



## LEE MASON

Joining from Ashington alongside Ben Harmison and Paul Robinson, Lee brings a whole load of experience at non-league level having previously represented the likes of Blyth Spartans and South Shields.

Playing either as a striker or off the wing, Lee will certainly provide us with some much-needed attacking depth ahead of a busy season.

# CALLUM DOBSON



Signing from National League North side South Shields, Newcastle Blue Star's sixth summer signing was young goalkeeper Callum Dobson.

The youngster joins the 'The Star' on a youth loan until the 19th of September. The talented goalkeeper, who signed his first professional contract with Julio Arca's side only in June this year, provides cover for the first 8 weekends of the season.

Commenting on the move, Callum said: "It's a great feeling to have completed this loan move to Newcastle Blue Star, and I can't wait to get started.

"I look forward to gaining valuable first team experience and thank Bri for the opportunity.

"It was a special moment to sign my first professional contract earlier this summer, and now it's about getting important minutes between the sticks and doing a job here."



# DARRYL DONNELLY

Joining from Northern League Division One outfit Seaham Red Star, Darryl will provide Blue Star with some much-needed defensive cover ahead of a busy season.

The 33-year-old has a plethora of experience at Northern League level having previously plied his trade for the likes of Jarrow and Seaham.



# ALL ABOUT... DEAN HOLMES

LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR 'THE BLUE PRINT' COVER STAR DEAN HOLMES!  
DEAN TOOK PART IN ANSWERING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIMSELF:

## POSITION:

Historically an out and out winger, now anywhere I can get a game!

## AGE:

31

## WHAT CLUB DO YOU SUPPORT?:

Newcastle United

## WHO WAS YOUR IDOL GROWING UP?:

Steven Gerrard!

## WHO IS THE BEST PLAYER YOU'VE PLAYED WITH?:

Jack Don!

## FAVOURITE MOMENT IN A BLUE STAR SHIRT?:

Probably the last minute winner Gary scored against Halmtwistle (I think) after being behind on a Friday night at home.

## WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO PRE-MATCH MEAL?:

Always beans on toast unless I'm running late.



IF ONE OF YOUR TEAMMATES HAD TO TAKE A PENALTY TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO TAKE IT?:  
Gary Ormston.



WHO IS THE CHANGING ROOM JOKER?:  
It was Luke Carr last season but nobody has taken over that role yet.

WHO HAS THE WORST DRESS SENSE IN THE SQUAD?:  
He'll not agree but I'll go Curtis Coppem!





# ★ BLUE STAR ★ GO GLOBAL

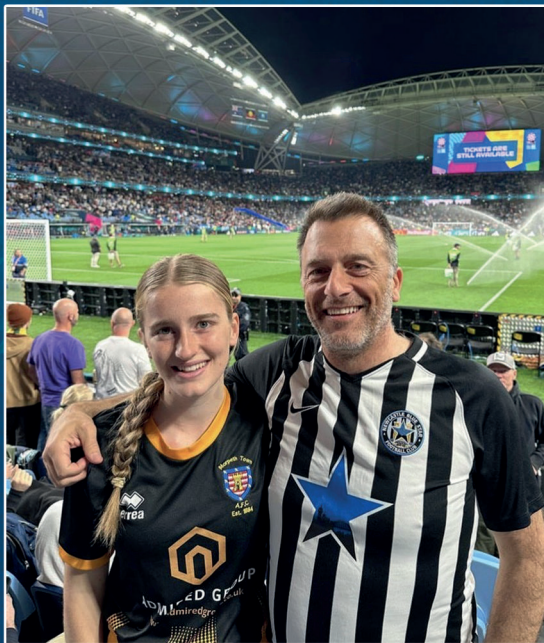
WORDS BY MITCH TAPNER

**NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR MADE A SURPRISE DEBUT AT THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP A FEW WEEKS AGO – WITH BLUE STAR SUPPORTER TEXI SMITH DAWNING THE FAMOUS BLACK & WHITE SHIRT, WHILE AT A GAME IN AUSTRALIA!**

Originally from Northumbria, Texi now resides in Australia – following 'The Star' from down under.

Texi, who works as both an author and journalist, even sponsored the club as recently as two seasons ago.

We hope to see you down Blue Star in the future, Texi!





# OPPOSITION FOCUS



**Words by Matty Hunter**  
**Bedlington Terriers have played their league football in the Northern League Second Division for eight seasons now after relegation to the tenth tier in 2015/16.**

The Terriers are on an upward trajectory back to the first division after finishing in third place last season, only one point behind Horden and four points behind the league winners Boro Rangers.

Andy Ferguson's side have had a great start to this campaign too, with a trio of victories to start against Billingham, Chester-le-Street and Thornaby before only narrowly losing 3-2 to Boldon last time out.

It's certainly going to be a great test for us when the Northumberland

natives visit Scotswood, and they will provide tough competition in all areas of the pitch.

Until their last outing, the Terriers had only conceded one goal so will be hard to break down this evening.

The team is a young outfit with 60% (12/20) of the players under the age of or of the age of 21.

The club captain Sam Dinsley has been described as a versatile midfielder who can play in several positions, and today is his 22nd birthday.

Their goalkeeper is Adam Cameron, a 21-year-old shot-stopper who has been at Gateshead and most recently Sunderland's academy set up, who the Terriers snapped him up from.

Their star player to watch out for is striker Joseph Thompson, who has

already notched three goals this season in the league and will look to add to that tally when the 23-year-olds team visit this evening.



# HALF-TIME

# QUIZ

## HOW MANY QUESTIONS CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

QUESTIONS BY MATTY HUNTER

1. WHICH SIDE HAS WON THE FA CUP THE MOST TIMES?

THE NORTHERN LEAGUE IS THE OLDEST NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL DIVISION IN THE WORLD? TRUE OR FALSE?

3. WHICH STRIKER SCORED TWICE FOR URUGUAY TO BEAT ENGLAND 2-1 IN THE 2014 WORLD CUP?

A) LUIS SUAREZ B) EDISON CAVANI C) DIEGO FORLAN

4. WHAT COLOUR IS OUR AWAY KIT THIS SEASON?

5. WHICH OTHER NORTHERN LEAGUE CLUB HAS 'STAR' IN THEIR NAME?

6. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE CURRENT HOME GROUND OF WEST BROMWICH ALBION?

7. WHO WAS NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR'S TOP SCORER LAST SEASON?

8. WHO IS THE OLDEST CURRENT MANAGER IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

9. WHICH NORTH EAST NON-LEAGUE OUTFIT PLAY THEIR HOME GAMES AT CRAIK PARK?

10. OUR NEW SIGNING, MICHAEL RICHARDSON, PLAYED ON LOAN FOR A RECENTLY RELEGATED FROM LEAGUE ONE SIDE IN 2013/14. WHICH CLUB WAS IT?



# JUNIOR BLUE STAR

**Just like the first team, our under-23 squad has been preparing over the summer for their 2023/24 campaign. Mitch Tapner spoke to our under-23's manager David Hubble about how pre-season has gone...**



BC Photography  
@BCPhotography @BCFC

*How have your pre-season preparations gone so far?*

It's been busy! We've come into post and went straight into pre-season, training twice per week and then games. Numbers at sessions have been good- integrating new arrivals with those retained, as well as progressing a significant proportion of the Under-18 team that enjoyed success last season.

We've used the pre-season friendlies to rotate and look at people. There's undoubtedly some exciting young players here.

*A number of your players are taking the step up from junior football to*

*senior football, how do you think they will get on with that transition?*

They're certainly motivated players who are invested in their football. It's a great opportunity for them to step up into senior football together- they understand the challenge and want to embrace it.

We know we've got some talented young footballers- the season will offer a great platform for them to showcase their ability.

The club are supporting them which sends out a great message to all of its current junior footballers- with the right attitude there'll be opportunities.

*What are your aspirations for the season ahead?*

We love to win football matches but understand there's a bigger picture with this team.

Last season's Reserves progressed x2 players into the first team squad, that in itself is success. It would be great to see that sort of progression every season.

There's already good links between the two squads- with lots of the U23s involved in the first teams pre-season. We're looking forward to the season- we want to attack it and see the team progress.

# JUNIOR BLUE STAR

A FEW WEEKS AGO, NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR PLAYED HOST TO THEIR VERY OWN JUNIOR FOOTBALL FESTIVAL. HUNDREDS OF JUNIOR PLAYERS ATTENDED THE FESTIVAL HAVING A FANTASTIC TIME AND ENJOYING THEIR FOOTBALL.

Thanks to all who made it possible; referees, coaches, parents, catering staff, groundstaff, helpers & more! Your hard work does not go unnoticed. So, let's take a look at our winners:





# 2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	KO	OPPONENT	SCORE	SCORERS
Sun Jul 09	3:00pm	Jarrow (A)	2 - 3	Lanning x2
Tue Aug 02	7:30pm	<b>Yarm &amp; Eaglescliffe (H)</b>	2 - 1	Holmes, Ogbewe
Wed Aug 09	7:00pm	Billingham Synthonia (A)	1 - 3	Coppen, Richardson, Lanning
Sat Aug 12	3:00pm	Esh Winning (A)		
Tue Aug 15	7:30pm	<b>Bedlington Terriers (H)</b>		
Sat Aug 19	3:00pm	<b>Brandon United (H)</b>		
Tue Aug 22	7:45pm	Washington (A)		
Sat Aug 26	3:00pm	[FA VASE] Silsden AFC (A)		
Tue Aug 29	7:45pm	<b>Redcar Town (H)</b>		
Sat Sep 02	3:00pm	Chester-le-Street Town (A)		
Thur Sep 07	7:30pm	<b>Easington Colliery (H)</b>		
Sat Sep 09	3:00pm	<b>Boldon CA (H)</b>		
Sat Sep 16	3:00pm	Newcastle University (A)		
Sat Sep 30	3:00pm	Horden (A)		
Sat Oct 07	3:00pm	<b>FC Hartlepool (H)</b>		
Sat Oct 14	3:00pm	Sunderland West End (A)		
Sat Oct 21	3:00pm	<b>Blyth Town (H)</b>		
Fri Oct 27	7:30pm	Billingham Town (A)		
Sat Nov 04	3:00pm	<b>Thornaby (H)</b>		
Fri Nov 10	7:30pm	Prudhoe YC (A)		
Sat Nov 18	3:00pm	Yarm & Eaglescliffe (A)		
Fri Nov 24	7:30pm	<b>Billingham Synthonia (H)</b>		
Sat Dec 09	3:00pm	Bedlington Terriers (A)		
Sat Dec 16	3:00pm	<b>Washington (H)</b>		
Sat Dec 23	3:00pm	Redcar Town (A)		
Tue Dec 26	7:30pm	<b>Ryton &amp; Crawcrook Albion (H)</b>		
Sat Dec 30	3:00pm	Easington Colliery (A)		
Fri Jan 05	7:30pm	<b>Prudhoe YC (H)</b>		
Sat Jan 13	3:00pm	<b>Jarrow (H)</b>		
Sat Jan 20	3:00pm	Chester-le-Street United (A)		
Sat Jan 27	3:00pm	<b>Esh Winning (H)</b>		
Sat Feb 03	3:00pm	Brandon United (A)		
Sat Feb 10	3:00pm	<b>Chester-le-Street Town (H)</b>		
Sat Feb 17	3:00pm	Boldon CA (A)		
Sat Feb 24	3:00pm	<b>Newcastle University (H)</b>		
Sat Mar 09	3:00pm	<b>Horden (H)</b>		
Sat Mar 16	3:00pm	FC Hartlepool (A)		
Sat Mar 23	3:00pm	<b>Sunderland West End (H)</b>		
Mon Apr 01	7:30pm	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion (A)		
Fri Apr 12	7:30pm	<b>Billingham Town (H)</b>		
Sat Apr 20	3:00pm	Thornaby (A)		
Tue May 06	7:30pm	Blyth Town (A)		

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL GAMES LISTED ARE NORTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIXTURES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME GAMES MAY NOT BE UPDATED DUE TO PRINTING.



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