



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

# THE BLUE PRINT

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VS CHESTER-LE-STREET UNITED  
SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023 | 3PM  
SCOTSWOOD  
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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 today. We secured a hard-fought win in our first game against a spirited Jarrow side and then again on Tuesday with a victory from behind against Yarm in what was their first ever Northern League fixture. Today's opponents are a side that have a great senior pathway for those coming through their ranks to play at a higher level and they have some real quality in their squad. This issue against Chester-le-Street United 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 Chester-le-Street United at Scotswood.**

I thought Tuesday was a really good team performance as yet again we go 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.

I thought the lads who didn't start last Saturday came on and showed lots of hunger. The lads off the bench were also excellent shown by Dean getting the goal but not just him, everybody else who came on were a massive part of the win.

Dean is a livewire, and he wants to play every minute of every game and he could easily. But on Tuesday, he came on with the right attitude and

he's picked his spot and found the top corner with a great composed finish. 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 play a really strong side today in Chester-le-Street United, but I think we are more than capable of getting something out of this game.

Whatever the result is today, I hope everyone enjoys the matchday experience here at Scotswood!

Enjoy the game!

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



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# MATCH PREVIEW



**Words by Dan Tracey**

**As we end the first week of this season's Northern League campaign, Newcastle Blue Star find themselves with a maximum six points to their name. An exciting opening weekend victory at Jarrow was soon followed up by a more routine home win over Yarm & Eaglescliffe.**

Although just like last Saturday, Blue Star had to do things the hard way and after going behind on Tuesday night, it was set to be another test of the squad's character.

After handing fellow promoted side Yarm & Eaglescliffe the advantage midway through the first half, last season's Northern Alliance champions

found themselves with their backs against the wall and it looked as if the visitors would go into the break with the narrowest of advantages.

Again, just like last Saturday, Nelson Ogbewe's pace was too much to handle as the forward surged in on goal just seconds before the interval, he would also coolly slot home to restore parity on the scoresheet.

From there, Brian Smith's men certainly had the bite between their teeth and after some smart substitutions in the second half, it would be one of the fresher sets of legs that would soon make all the difference.

Now the task is to make it three wins in the first eight days of the campaign.

The team that is standing in their way is Chester-le-Street and for those who can remember the summer of 2022, they provided opposition in one of our home pre-season friendlies.

12 or so months ago, it was Blue Star who ran out 3-1 winners but that is a rather long time in football and more importantly, there were no league points on offer. Saturday will see another three up for grabs.

A warm welcome goes out to the traveling Chester-le-Street 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



2-1



Words By Mitch Tapner

**The Northern League returned to the West End in style on Tuesday night, with Newcastle Blue Star coming from behind to win 2-1 against Yarm & Eaglescliffe.**

Fresh from an opening day thriller, Blue Star entered the game hoping to build on their opening day 3-2 victory at Jarrow, last Saturday. Yarm meanwhile would have hoped to bounce back after a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Prudhoe.

The home side started the brighter of the two sides with them

dominating most of the ball early on.

Despite 'The Star' controlling the affair in the early stages, they struggled to find the killer pass needed.

This would eventually come back to bite them as they would fall behind in the 27th minute, with the Yarm number four heading home from a corner.

Blue Star would immediately push for an equaliser but yet again could not find the magic needed.

It seemed as if Blue Star would go into the half-time break a goal behind but Ogbewe had other ideas

as he raced in-behind the Yarm defence and curled the ball perfectly into the far corner.

The second half started similar to the first with neither side taking a foothold in the game.

With 10 minutes remaining, Blue Star would get the goal they desired with substitute Holmes firing his shot into the top corner, to give his side a deserved lead.

Following the goal, Yarm would push for a late equaliser but Blue Star would hold strong and ultimately come away with all three points - making it back-to-back wins to start the season for Brian Smith's side.

# THE NEW BOYS

Words by Mitch Tapper

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... DAN LANNING

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

## POSITION:

Centre forward

## AGE:

18

## WHAT CLUB DO YOU SUPPORT?:

Newcastle United

## WHO WAS YOUR IDOL GROWING UP?:

Harry Kane

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

Tough choice this one. Either between Bobby Clark or Lewis Miley from my time at Newcastle Academy.

## FAVOURITE MOMENT IN A BLUE STAR SHIRT?:

Scoring two goals in the cup final and getting man of the match.

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

Usually, I'd have some type of pasta with chicken.



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

It would have to be Gary Ormston.



## WHO IS THE CHANGING ROOM JOKER?:

Was definitely Luke Carr last season but this year I'd have to say it's Bully and Dean as they're always bantering each other.



# ★ BLUE STAR ★ GO GLOBAL

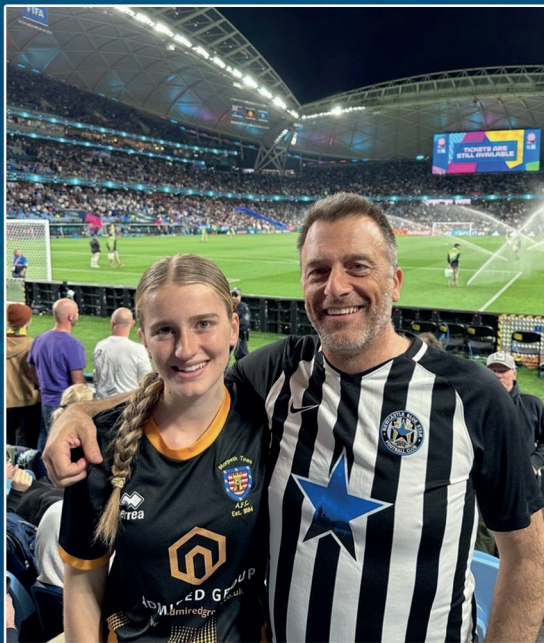
WORDS BY MITCH TAPNER

**NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR MADE A SURPRISE DEBUT AT THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP LAST WEEK – 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**

**Today's visitors are Northern League new-boys, after only being promoted in 21/22 from the Wearside League and only being founded in 2020.**

They made a great account of themselves last season finishing comfortably in mid-table and such as their pathway to higher level operates, they have seen several changes to their squad over their summer, which included their top six scorers.

They have also seen a change of manager, appointing the former experienced player Michael Nelson. The club work very closely with the Park View Football Academy in their senior pathway model they have, and are a well-ran club.

Even though there's been plenty of United had a very encouraging

pre-season, with a win at Gretna Town, and a draw against a very strong Middlesbrough Academy squad. United had a very encouraging pre-season, with a win at Gretna Town, and a draw against a very strong Middlesbrough Academy squad.

Then, they defeated Hartlepool United Academy 4-1, making it three matches unbeaten, before losing their final pre-season outing at Tow Law Town.

Although, for the Tow Law fixture, they had no less than 14 first team squad players unavailable due to those individuals representing England in the ISF World Schools Championship in Morocco!

Chester-le-Street kicked off their second ever Northern League campaign last Saturday, still with those 14 players away, facing Boldon CA at the Riverside.

They were defeated 3-1 and Jeff King, the club secretary, commenting on the match said to us: 'a two-goal deficit loss was perhaps not the score line that a team featuring seven 16-year-olds and three more on the bench deserved although it has to be said that Boldon were worth the win.

'We may even have seen the Goal of the Season competition being closed after only one game as well as Aaron 'AJ' Jervis' strike from fully 35 yards smashed in to the 'top bins' for a spectacular equaliser. Unfortunately it wasn't enough to earn us a point.'

Following their respectable 12th place finish in their inaugural Northern League campaign last season, the project rolls on.

# 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...**



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o Per Club

*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 1st 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 1st team's pre-season. We're looking forward to the season- we want to attack it and see the team progress.



# JUNIOR BLUE STAR

LAST SUNDAY, 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

# NORTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

# LEAGUE TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L
1.	BEDLINGTON TERRIERS	2	2	0	0
2.	NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR	2	2	0	0
3.	BOLDON CA	2	1	1	0
4.	BILLINGHAM SYNTHONIA	2	1	1	0
5.	BLYTH TOWN	1	1	0	0
6.	PRUDHOE YC SENIORS	1	1	0	0
7.	CHESTER-LE-STREET TOWN	2	1	0	1
8.	HORDEN CW	1	1	0	0
9.	NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY	1	1	0	0
10.	REDCAR TOWN	1	1	0	0
11.	EASINGTON COLLIERY	1	0	1	0
12.	FC HARTLEPOOL	1	0	1	0
13.	SUNDERLAND WEST END	2	0	1	1
14.	BILLINGHAM TOWN	2	0	1	1
15.	JARROW	1	0	0	1
16.	THORNABY	1	0	0	1
17.	BRANDON UNITED	1	0	0	1
18.	RYTON & CRAWCROOK ALBION	1	0	0	1
19.	CHESTER-LE-STREET UNITED	1	0	0	1
20.	ESH WINNING	1	0	0	1
21.	WASHINGTON	1	0	0	1
22.	YARM & EAGLESCLIFFE	2	0	0	2

\*PLEASE NOTE LEAGUE TABLE MAY NOT BE UPDATED DUE TO PRINTING DEADLINES.



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