



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR FOOTBALL CLUB | ISSUE 6 | 2023/24

THE BLUE PRINT

£2.00

VS CHESTER-LE-STREET UNITED
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER | 7:30PM
SCOTSWOOD
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EDITOR NOTES

Hello and welcome to the sixth matchday programme of the Northern League season. Despite a recent blip in form, we have started the season in fine form racking up eight wins from eleven games so far this season and seek to continue that good run tonight with the visit of Chester-le-Street United. Tonight's opponents have endured a mixed start to the season with two wins and two draws from 12 games (at the time of writing) They, like ourselves, are relatively new to this level, having only made their Northern League debut two years ago. This week's issue includes a quiz, opposition preview, a brand-new section for this season, titled 'get to know', and much more!

MITCH TAPNER
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 COACH



Good evening and welcome to Scotswood! Today, we host Chester-Le-Street United in the Northern League Division Two.

I felt that match we needed to win (the game against Newcastle University) so it's job done in that sense.

It was hard for us in the first half, they scored first which made it even harder for us, especially when things haven't been going our way recently. We also got the rub of the green with certain things that game, which in games we've previous played in haven't gone our way.

The first half was a bit like a basketball

match, that's what we said at half-time. It was very end-to-end, as they really went for it and left themselves open at the back – we were doing the same at the other end.

We didn't really have much control of the game in the first half so in the second half we settled down and didn't actually run around as much in certain areas but actually got more control of the game.

But I think to go out and get that result against Newcastle University was massively important for us after previous results.

I thought Ryan Johnson did really well, he's a very young lad and looked very

confident. His time here will do him the world of good, so it's a win-win for everybody – it's helped Spennymoor, it's helped him and of course, helped us.

We've got a good group here so it's crucial we keep morale up and use the result against the University to continue our push for promotion into the Northern League First Division.

Hopefully we can put good performance on for all the fans today at Scotswood.

Enjoy the match!

STEVE CUGGY
NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR COACH



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MATCH PREVIEW



Words by Dan Tracey

With this fixture originally being scheduled for August, Newcastle Blue Star will once again open their Scotswood doors to Chester-le-Street United.

Last time out it was the weather that was declared the winner, now both teams will be looking to end September with three more points to their name.

While Blue Star will be looking to return to winning ways on home soil, as their last outing saw them handed a first NE15 reverse of the season. Boldon Community Association served as the opponents on a scorching day and they would eventually fire themselves to a 2-0 win on enemy territory.

A victory that halted the momentum that Brian Smith's men had generated beforehand. 10 games without defeat to start the campaign and not bad going when you consider the same club were operating in the Northern Alliance just a few months prior.

With such a run under their belt, some quarters are perhaps quick to forget that Blue Star are a promoted outfit. At the same time, their run at the start of the campaign, suggests this is a club that is not settling for midtable malaise.

Especially as they returned to winning ways as soon as possible and after travelling to Prudhoe's Essity Park to face Newcastle University, those involved would pass their latest footballing exam by virtue of a 4-1 win.

A win that certainly puts them in the early promotion hunt and with a quarter of proceedings now complete, Blue Star find themselves lying in the top five and ready to take further steps up the league ladder.

12 or so months ago, it was Blue Star who ran out 3-1 winners in a pre-season friendly, but that is a rather long time in football and more importantly, there were no league points on offer. Tonight, will make sure the intensity is increased for both sides.

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



1-4



Words By Mitch Tapper
Newcastle Blue Star
returned to winning ways
coming from behind to win
4-1 against Newcastle
University.

Goals from Paul Robinson, Nelson Ogbewe, Michael Richardson, and an own goal from the University goalkeeper handed 'the Star' their first win in three games.

Blue Star made the trip to Essity Park looking to put their run of winless games behind them, having failed to win since their 5-0 thumping of Washington back in August.

Both sides would start the game in quick fashion, with it being very end-to-end early on. Newcastle Uni though would be the ones to strike first, with their number nine curling

a beautiful effort into the top corner from around 30 yards out, to give his side the lead in the 18th minute.

Going behind seemed to kick Blue Star into action, immediately replying with a goal of their own in the 23rd minute. Robinson would be the man to get his side level, firing a left-footed shot into the bottom corner.

The home side however would nearly fire themselves back into the lead just four minutes later, with their number nine hitting the crossbar then somehow missing the rebound from two yards out.

Despite both sides having chances before the break, the score would remain 1-1 at half-time.

Clearly frustrated by their sloppy first-half performance, Blue Star came out in the second half looking

to right the wrongs of the first. They would do exactly that just five minutes into the second half when Craig McFarlane's cross found Ogbewe at the back post, who tapped home into an empty net.

'The Star' however would not stop there, scoring a third goal in the 54th minute, thanks to a rather odd own goal by the Newcastle Uni goalkeeper – in which he somehow punched the ball into his own net.

It seemed as if the game would peter out at 3-1 but Blue Star midfielder, Richardson, would have other ideas, curling a beautiful free kick into the bottom corner in the 90th minute – to round off an impressive comeback by 'The Star'.

★ 100 CLUB ★ APPEARANCES

WORDS BY MITCH TAPNER

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JOE WALKER WHO RECENTLY MADE HIS 100TH CLUB APPEARANCE
IN BLUE STAR'S 4-1 WIN OVER NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY.**

**WHETHER IT BE AT LEFT BACK, RIGHT BACK, OR
MIDFIELD – JOE HAS BEEN A DEPENDABLE MEMBER
OF THE BLUE STAR SQUAD FOR SOME TIME NOW
HAVING JOINED THE CLUB WAY BACK IN 2019.**

Joe commented on his appearance milestone:

“Hitting 100 appearances for this club is a huge milestone for me, as Blue Star has been a big part of my life for a few years now.

“Coming from junior football, it was a big step for me to join Blue Star back in 2019 but it's one of the best decisions I've made and I've really enjoyed my football here.

“Hopefully, I can rack up a few more appearances for Blue Star in years to come!”



★ 50 CLUB ★ APPEARANCES

WORDS BY MITCH TAPNER

ALONGSIDE JOE, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MORE MILESTONES RECENTLY WITH BOTH DEAN HOLMES AND CLUB CAPTAIN GARY ORMSTON HITTING THE 50-APPEARANCE LANDMARK.

BOTH DEAN AND GAZ HAVE BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CLUB'S RECENT SUCCESS WITH GAZ BEING CLUB CAPTAIN WHEN BLUE STAR WON THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE PREMIER DIVISION TITLE LAST SEASON.

Everyone at Newcastle Blue Star Football Club would like to congratulate Dean and Gaz on this achievement!





WELCOME RYAN JOHNSON!

Words by Mitch Tapner

NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR HAVE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE LATEST ADDITION TO OUR SQUAD WITH YOUNG GOALKEEPER RYAN JOHNSON JOINING FROM NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH SIDE SPENNYMOOR TOWN.

The 16-year-old joins 'the Star' on dual registration from the National League North side - as he takes his first steps into senior football.

The young 'keeper is familiar with the club having actually played against Blue Star during pre-season when Blue Star travelled to The Brewery Field to face Spenny Moor Town.

Johnson also started for Blue Star in last weekend's 4-1 away victory against Newcastle University in the Northern League Division Two fixture.

We can not wait to see him in between the sticks again this season and thrive playing in the West End of Newcastle!



WELCOME TO SCOTSWOOD, RYAN!



ALL ABOUT... CURTIS COPPEN!

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

POSITION:

Centre-back

AGE:

28

WHAT CLUB DO YOU SUPPORT?:

Newcastle United



WHO WAS YOUR IDOL GROWING UP?:

Steven Gerrard

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

Adam Forster

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENT IN A BLUE STAR SHIRT?:

Winning at Burradon away early on in the season thought it was my best game

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

Chicken and Pasta



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

There's only one right answer, Gary Ormston!



WHO IS THE CHANGING ROOM JOKER?:

Andy Bowman, he is one funny man!



WHO HAS THE WORST DRESS SENSE IN THE SQUAD?:

Steve Cuggy, his shirt on the team holiday in Benidorm was shocking!

★ JUNIOR ★ BLUE STAR

WORDS BY MITCH TAPNER

NEWCASTLE BLUE STAR ARE PROUD OF THE YOUTH SET UP THAT WE HAVE BUILT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, WITH MANY OF OUR YOUNG TALENTED PLAYERS GETTING TRIALS OR MOVING ON TO CLUBS HIGHER IN THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID.

THIS IS NO EXCEPTION FOR ONE OF OUR VERY OWN ALAN ACHUO WHO PLAYS FOR OUR UNDER 16 SQUAD!

The youngest had trials with Welsh giants and EFL Championship side Swansea City last week!

Alan made the journey to the southwest of Wales where he undertook a two day trial with the championship club.

Everyone at Newcastle Blue Star Football Club would like to wish Alan the very best of luck we are all sure you will smash it!



HALF-TIME

QUIZ

HOW MANY QUESTIONS CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

QUESTIONS BY MITCH TAPNER

1. WHO SCORED THE ONLY GOAL IN NEWCASTLE'S 1-0 WIN OVER BRENTFORD?

2. WHO IS BLUE STAR'S TOP GOAL SCORER SO FAR THIS SEASON?

3. WHICH CLUB HAS OUR NEW SIGNING RYAN JOHNSON JOINED FROM?

4. NAME THE THREE CLUBS NEWCASTLE WILL PLAY IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGE :

5. WHICH CLUB DID BOTH PAUL ROBINSON AND BEN HARMISON JOIN FROM?

6. BEFORE THIS SEASON, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME NEWCASTLE PLAYED IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?

7. WHICH CLUB DID NEWCASTLE UNITED SIGN LEWIS HALL FROM?

8. ALONGSIDE BLUE STAR, WHO ARE THE OTHER TWO NEWLY PROMOTED SIDES IN THE NORTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO?

9. HOW MANY PREMIER LEAGUE GOALS DID ALAN SHEARER SCORE?

10. WHICH CURRENT BLUE STAR PLAYER HOLDS THE RECORD FOR MOST CLUB APPEARANCES?

INTRODUCING OUR OPPOSITION...



Chester-le-Street United was formed during the lockdown of 2020 and comprises of one of the most forward-thinking football clubs in Chester-le-Street working in partnership with Park View Academy of Sport.

United was formed by John Gamble and Lewis Pendleton to create a pathway for the club's academy.

Having ran an Under 19 programme playing age group football, Gamble and Pendleton thought the best possible pathway for the young players to get into professional football was to give expose to senior football at the mens level

The club then formed a senior side to play at the Park View Academy of Sport to enhance opportunities that lead to professional football.

While the club's first season was curtailed due to the continuing pandemic it from being a successful one.

The County Durham club reached the semi-final of the Durham Challenge cup and went on to beat Boldon CA in the final of Alan Hood Cup to achieve the first club's first ever piece of silverware.

The County Durham club continued winning silverware, as in their second season after winning the Monkwearmouth Charity Cup and promotion to the Ebac Northern League.

United had an excellent first season in the Northern League Second Division finishing 12th in the league.

The club prides itself on giving young players an opportunity to test themselves in the men's game and all their squad for the forthcoming season are aged 19 and under.

The club are now looking to consolidate and push on this season as well as looking to parade their new project in The FA Vase and FA Youth Cup where the majority of the club's first-team squad are eligible to play in.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ryan

O'Connor:

Age:

18

Position:

Central/Attacking
Midfielder

Place of Birth:

Sunderland

Number of seasons at the club:

Second Season



Emanuel Ighehon:

Age:

17

Position:

Central Defender

Place of Birth: Italy

Number of seasons at the club:

Second Season



Dylan Wilkinson:

Age:

19

Position:

Central Defender

Place of Birth:

Newcastle

Number of seasons at the club:

Third Season



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	Yarm & Eaglescliffe (H)	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)	1 - 4	Mason, Carr, Lanning x2
Tue Aug 15	7:30pm	Bedlington Terriers (H)	3 - 2	Mason x2, Lanning
Sat Aug 19	3:00pm	Brandon United (H)	5 - 0	Walsh, Carr, Lanning, Livermore, Mason
Tue Aug 22	7:45pm	Washington (A)	0 - 5	Walsh x2, Livermore, Ogbewe, Richardson
Sat Aug 26	3:00pm	Silsden AFC (A)	2 - 1	Holmes
Tue Aug 29	7:45pm	Redcar Town (H)	0 - 0	
Sat Sep 02	3:00pm	Chester-le-Street Town (A)	2 - 2	Lanning, Mason
Sat Sep 09	3:00pm	Boldon CA (H)	0 - 2	
Sat Sep 16	3:00pm	Newcastle University (A)	1 - 4	Robinson, Ogbewe, Richardson
Sat Sep 23	3:00pm	Brandon United (A)		
Tue Sep 26	7:30pm	Chester-le-Street United (H)		
Sat Sep 30	3:00pm	Horden (A)		
Fri Oct 06	7:30pm	FC Hartlepool (H)		
Thu Oct 12	7:30pm	Easington Colliery (A)		
Sat Oct 14	3:00pm	Sunderland West End (A)		
Wed Oct 18	7:30pm	Newcastle United U21 (A)		
Sat Oct 21	3:00pm	Blyth Town (H)		
Tue Oct 24	7:30pm	FC Hartlepool (A)		
Fri Oct 27	7:30pm	Billingham Town (A)		
Sat Nov 04	3:00pm	Thornaby (H)		
Fri Nov 10	7:30pm	Prudhoe YC (A)		
Sat Nov 18	3:00pm	Yarm & Eaglescliffe (A)		
Fri Nov 24	7:30pm	Billingham Synthonia (H)		
Sat Dec 09	3:00pm	Bedlington Terriers (A)		
Sat Dec 16	3:00pm	Washington (H)		
Sat Dec 23	3:00pm	Redcar Town (A)		
Tue Dec 26	7:30pm	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion (H)		
Sat Dec 30	3:00pm	Easington Colliery (H)		
Fri Jan 05	7:30pm	Prudhoe YC (H)		
Sat Jan 13	3:00pm	Jarrow (H)		
Sat Jan 20	3:00pm	Chester-le-Street United (A)		
Sat Jan 27	3:00pm	Esh Winning (H)		
Sat Feb 03	3:00pm	Brandon United (A)		
Sat Feb 10	3:00pm	Chester-le-Street Town (H)		
Sat Feb 17	3:00pm	Boldon CA (A)		
Sat Feb 24	3:00pm	Newcastle University (H)		
Sat Mar 09	3:00pm	Horden (H)		
Sat Mar 16	3:00pm	FC Hartlepool (A)		
Sat Mar 23	3:00pm	Sunderland West End (H)		
Mon Apr 01	7:30pm	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion (A)		
Fri Apr 12	7:30pm	Billingham Town (H)		
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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