



# **MACCLESFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB RETURN TO THE NON-LEAGUE SCENE**

## **CHAPTER SIX Season 2017-2018 CHAMPIONS!**



**BY  
GEOFFREY KNIGHTS**

## OVERVIEW

On the field there was success, the Silkmen were crowned champions of the Vanarama National League with 92 points, 10 points more than their nearest rivals Tranmere Rovers, to gain promotion to the Sky Bet League 2 in the English National League. In recent years the team's performance had declined during the second half of the season and it seemed that something had to change. With only four players signed from the 2016-17 season, manager John Askey was faced with rebuilding the team. He did a fantastic job with the small squad gelling from the start in direct comparison with the 1996-97 season when manager Sammy McIlroy was supported by a small squad with a fantastic team spirit who gained promotion to the Football League for the first time. Probably going out of both the Emirates FA Cup and the Buildbase FA Trophy in the first round helped as only 50 matches were played in comparison to 60 in the 2016-17 season (including the Cheshire Senior Cup). The team's success overall gave the manager and team members various accolades.

Attendances improved, with home gates averaging 1839 in comparison to 1456 the previous season, increasing gates were evident from December 2017 onwards when it began to dawn that perhaps promotion could be achieved. It just goes to prove that no matter how successful marketing initiatives are, it is the performance on the pitch which has a direct impact on attendances.

In contrast to the success on the pitch, off the pitch there seemed to be difficulties behind the scenes at times, with key staff leaving and rumours of financial difficulties in paying staff on time and one very public incident when the players received their pay late.

## OFF-FIELD

### Life President

It was good to see from the match day programme that Jeremy Turner had been made a Life President of the club in recognition of his work as a former director, providing financial assistance to the club from time to time and responsibility for the Boardroom on match days.

### Chairman

Mark Blower was voted onto the Board of the Vanarama National League as a club representative.

### Club Staff

There were five appointments during the year:

- **Ellie Denton** – took on the role of Events Manager
- **Caroline Hall** – was appointed Accounts Manager
- **Tony Brown** – formerly the team logistics co-ordinator became the kit-man.
- **Callum Williams** – appointed senior physiotherapist.
- **Alex Thompson** – Chef responsible for match day catering.

Departures during the year were:

- **Steve Watson** – left the club in October 2017 when he was appointed manager of fellow Vanarama National League side Gateshead.
- **Dan Ackerley** – Commercial Manager, also left in October 2017 stating his reasons on social media at a later date.
- **Martyn Irvine** – Youth Engagement officer, with responsibilities for the Under 21 Development team, left in December 2017.
- **Ian Liversedge** – Head Physiotherapist left during the season to take up a similar appointment at Tranmere Rovers.
- **Gary Lewis** – Groundsman left the club at the end of the season moving to Blackpool FC.
- **John Askey** – Manager, left the club at the end of the season on his appointment as manager at Sky Bet League One club Shrewsbury Town on a three-year deal.

- **Callum Williams** – Head Physiotherapist, left the club at the end of the season.

While the club made no announcement, from comments on social media it would appear that the role of General Manager may well have been disbanded, **Rob Heys** having held the position but during the season he announced on social media that he had stood back from the role but continued to help the club until the last few weeks of the season.

## Farewell

Every year we have to say farewell to former players and supporters, but this year has seen an unusual number of supporters who have died.

- **Steve Adams** – died in March 2017 at the age of 57, but notice of his passing did not come to light until after the publication of Chapter Five. Steve featured as a midfielder for the Silkmen during the 1993-94 season making a total of 47 appearances scoring a single goal. Said to be the comedian of the team and gained a winners' medal in the Conference League Cup.
- **Kieron Durkan** – died in February 2018 at the age of 44. He was with Macclesfield from March 1998 until the summer of 2001 making a total of 117 appearances, scored 13 goals and gained a winners' medal in the Cheshire Senior Cup in 2000. Usually played on the right wing but there were times when he successfully partnered Richie Barker as a striker. Often made pin-point crosses, was a dead ball expert and will be remembered for his fine performance against Burnley at Turf Moor in March 1999 when he scored two goals.
- **Geoff Thornley (July 2017)** – a supporter for 65 years.
- **Robert 'Ian' Miller (August 2017)** – a Vice President season ticket holder since August 1997.
- **Joan Greaves (November 2017)** – Attended matches over very many years with her husband Don. Her daughter, Elaine, is responsible for the match mascots.
- **Dave 'Moose' Littler (November 2017)** – In more recent years organised away travel as 'Moose Tours' for supporters.
- **Hilary Wolliscroft (December 2017)** - alongside her husband was a supporter for many years.
- **Peter Jones (February 2018)** – a supporter for over 70 years.
- **Raymond Pyatt (February 2018)** – A lifelong supporter.
- **Margaret 'Marg' Wills (April 2018)** – a lifelong supporter who travelled the length and breadth of the country supporting the Silkmen.
- **Martin Taylor (April 2018)** – a supporter since the late 1960s.

## Season Tickets

The Early Bird purchase of season tickets was split over three phases as follows

	9am 6 March to 23.59 26 March	Midnight 27 March to 23.59 23 April	Midnight 24 April to 23.59 19 May	Midnight 19 May onwards
<b>Seating</b>	<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>	
Vice President	£560	£660	£660	£660
Adult	£320	£340	£360	£400
Senior	£240	£255	£270	£300
Under 25	£80	£85	£90	£100
Under 18	£50	£50	£50	£50
Under 12	£30	£30	£30	£30
<b>Standing</b>				
Adult	£240	£255	£270	£300
Senior	£160	£170	£180	£200
Under 25	£80	£85	£90	£100
Under 18	£50	£50	£50	£50
Under 12	£30	£30	£30	£30

The Patron Scheme continued to be offered (See Chapter Three for full details).

The price of tickets for single league matches remained at the same level as set out on page four in Chapter Four of this eBook with discounts available for early purchase.

Vouchers were re-introduced for the season with a different voucher for each month from August to April. Examples were: August - 50p off a match day programme, November – buy one pie and get a second at half price in the match day kiosks and March – 10% off any item in the store excluding replica shirts,

567 season tickets were sold, a slight increase on the 543 sold for the 2016-17 season.

**Half Season Tickets** were on sale valid from Boxing Day to the end of the season as follows

- **Seating**

Adult	£170
Senior	£130
U25	£40
U12	£20
- **Standing**

Adult	£130
Senior	£90
U25	£40
U12	£20

**Final Six Matches of the Campaign** – went on sale in February with an offer of six matches for the price of five.

- **Seating**

Adult	£95
Senior	£75
U25	£25
U12	£15
- **Standing**

Adult	£75
Senior	£50
U25	£25
U12	£15

### **Sponsorship**

Umbro became the official kit suppliers with Arighi Bianchi again sponsoring both the home and away shirts, Palletower back shirt sponsors and new sponsors SK Distribution having their logo printed on shorts. Jako continued to supply match wear for backroom staff and bench substitutes.

Stands continued to be sponsored:

- **Moss Lane stand** - Big Brand Ideas. They were also responsible for the provision of the new official web site for the club and won the Creative Impact Award at the Cheshire Business Awards for their 'We're Going to Wembley' campaign in the run up to Macclesfield Town's appearance in the Buildbase FA Trophy Final at Wembley in May 2017.
- **Main Stand (London Road)** - Weston Park Care Home.
- **Star Lane End** – Premier Estates

Other club partners were Audi Macclesfield, Cheshire Demolition, Spiral Print and Mid Communications sponsors of Season Tickets.

Match day and general sponsorship continued to be available with details available on the club's official web site.

### Financial Matters

- **Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2017** – were available from Companies House from April 2018 which showed that the club made a profit for the first time in many years of £179,747 enabled by a good run in the FA Trophy competition and the sale of players. The loan from Ramy Limited, the owning company of the club, reduced by £117,302 with overdrafts and loans increasing by £29,945 and an increase in trade creditors of £20,700. In the accounts there was a note that on 1 November 2017 long term loans to the value of £1,400,000 were converted to equity in the form of £1 Ordinary A Shares. £240,929 long term loans were converted to equity in the form of 365,044 £0.66 Ordinary B shares, and £200,496 of long term loans were agreed to be waived by the debt holder, strengthening the net assets of the company by £1,841,425. These changes will show in the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2018.
- **Super Silk Lotto** – continues to be successful increasing the number of members to 380 (245) having distributed £16,450 in prize monies since the launch in November 2014 with £20,150 handed to the club. MACC Multi Activity Centre was selected as the charity partner for the current year which unfortunately ceased trading in May 2018. The Silkmen Supporters' Trust continued to provide assistance for all financial aspects of the Lotto. Concerned in February 2018 about the effect of the recent high rainfall on the pitch, the groundsman Gary Lewis, at his own expense of £350, hired drainage equipment to verti-drain the pitch, a process which punctures 18 inch holes to assist with drainage. When the organisers of the Lotto together with the Silkmen Supporters Trust became aware that Gary had paid for the hire of the equipment out of his own pocket, they immediately reimbursed him.
- **Silkmen Campaign Fund** – re-opened in December 2017 until 31 January 2018. A statement from the club announced that with the support of the Silkmen Supporters' Trust (£1000) and the majority shareholders having injected a six figure sum into the club in recent weeks, individuals and businesses were invited to make a financial contribution. Limited to donations totalling £50,000 in multiples of £25.00 with pledges repaid plus the same amount again if the Silkmen achieved promotion to the English Football League at the end of the 2017-18 season. It was announced on 31 January 2018 that the period for contributions had been extended to 16 February 2018. At that time contributions totalled £21,000 including £10,000 from a single donor, £5,000 from senior figures in the club and Life Presidents together with £1,000 from the SST which indicated that only £5,000 had been pledged by others. No further announcement was made as to the final amount raised.
- **Amar Alkadhi (Owner)** – has come under some criticism during the course of the season but without his investments there is a possibility that the club might not have survived over the years. During the current season he came to the rescue, together with Andy Scott (member of the Operations Committee) and Mark Blower (Chairman), when players' wages had not been paid on time for the month of January following a very public exchange of views between the players and the club officials. When taking over responsibility for the club, significant five figure debts secured by debentures were cleared and in subsequent seasons a financial injection was made on a regular basis. Also, in the summer 2014, the club officials attended the Conference Annual General Meeting without having fulfilled one of the regulations of the Conference that all football debts had to be paid in full before the date of the Annual General Meeting. At this time the club could have lost its Conference status as



Hereford United and Salisbury City did, but Amar Alkadhi came to the rescue with yet another financial injection.

## Media

Supporters were well served with free match highlights on the official web site together with highlights of recent encounters with forthcoming opponents. Free match commentaries were transmitted for every match via the internet and Mixlr with maximum numbers for home matches ranging from 30 to 160 and for away matches 68 to 392, the numbers increasing for away matches as the successful season progressed. Whilst the away commentary team encountered one or two technical problems these were quickly resolved, however, the home commentaries were beset by technical problems, including the loss of transmission, volume discrepancies and significant distortion.

BT Sport transmitted five Vanarama National League matches involving the Silkmen and they provided a highlights programme each Sunday evening.

There were four main web sites providing information about the club. The Official web site [www.mtfc.co.uk](http://www.mtfc.co.uk) which, as the name implies provides pre- and post-match information, commercial activity, general announcements and official details.

Fans on Line, or better known as Wraggs to Riches [www.https://fansonline.net/macclesfieldTown/mb/index.php](http://www.https://fansonline.net/macclesfieldTown/mb/index.php) is limited to providing a message board for fans although there is now duplication (see below). The previous web master did his best to widen the scope of this web site with competitions, match reports (although these were often very late in submission), Unsung Heroes articles etc., but the format has never lent itself to anything other than a Message Board.

The archive web site [www.silkmenarchives.org.uk](http://www.silkmenarchives.org.uk) continues to operate as an independent web site operated and sponsored privately, providing historical and statistical information, profiles for all players and managers who have featured for the club together with a photo archive. Viewed by individuals throughout the world there are a significant number of hits on a daily basis, including many enquiries from the commercial sector.

A brand new web site [https://starlaneend.com](http://starlaneend.com) was introduced by lifelong supporter Bob Trafford at the beginning of the season, quickly picking up momentum with a wide range of articles and comprehensive coverage of matches and events across the board at Macclesfield Town Football Club. It soon became the first port of call for information. Initially all costs and prizes were provided at Bob's sole investment although early in 2018 the opportunity for Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors to provide monetary support was introduced successfully.

Club News, Match information (pre-match reviews, live up-dates, post-match reports, action photographs and Fan Cam), commercial information, interviews, Silkmen Legends, full coverage of Macclesfield Under-21 Development team matches including live reports, competitions, articles by supporters and much more feature on this site.

A fan's forum (message board) was added dedicated to the late Kevin Tomlinson, who was a real character, and a Forum for Moose Tours was also added and re-named 'The Dave Littler Away Match Forum' following Dave's untimely death.

Interesting bits of information came to light in the many interviews, especially the one with Steve Burr who recalled the time he was being considered as manager (before Steve King was appointed).

He clearly stated that on coming out from the interview with the owner he advised the UK officials of the club that he did not want to be considered for the job. However, this information was never communicated to the fans at the time, in fact the UK officials stated that they had been overruled by the owner. An independent web site gives the web master the opportunity to report the facts as they are!

Associated with the web site is a Facebook site (over 600 members), Twitter (over 300 members) and Instagram.

As part of the work of the Star Lane End web site, members commenced the renovation of the garden on the car park with the idea that it should become a Memorial Garden dedicated to supporters and workers of the club who had passed on. The original garden had fallen in to complete disrepair, the volunteers completely cleared the area but further work was postponed. The area bounded by the John Askey Terrace, London Road and Moss Lane is owned by the Scott Pension Fund who obtained planning permission for commercial development of the site such that the Memorial Garden ceased to be a viable project.

### **Silkmen Supporters' Trust**

The Trust continued to support the club in diverse ways including:

- Purchase of Player of the Year Trophies.
- Sponsorship of John Askey's home shirt and Mitch Hancox away shirt for the 2017-18 season
- Purchase of a sit-on lawnmower.
- Raised £1903.70 through the Silk Pledge, £245 (to March 2018) Easyfundraising and £45 from auction of a John Askey shirt donated to the SST.
- £1000 donation to the Silkmen Campaign Fund (see above).
- Together with the Super Silk Lotto covered the cost of the hire of equipment to verti-drain the pitch (see above).
- £500 donation to the club to obtain kitchen and bar equipment.
- The Christmas Raffle raised £920.64.

### **Other Initiatives**

These are listed in no particular order of merit.

- **Cricket Match** – in the days when the late Bernard Jordan was programme editor he organised an annual cricket match. It was good to see the re-introduction of a match on this occasion using the 20/20 format with a John Askey XI taking on a Macc Town Sponsors XI at Macclesfield Cricket Club. The sponsors batted first making a total of 143 runs. The John Askey XI had posted 129 for 8 with three overs to go, Tyrone Marsh set about achieving the target and with one ball to go Askey's side needed just one run and the sponsors' one wicket. Tyrone Marsh smashed the ball deep and went on the winning run only for the umpire, former Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Corrigan, to decree that Marsh had been run out, the game ending all square. Video evidence left a big question mark over the decision by umpire!
- **Community Sports Trust**  
Continued their excellent work with projects including Holiday Camps, Friday evening Development Football Sessions, the Community Scheme 'Placed Best' activity programme with grant funding from the National League, delivery of sessions to schools called 'Premier League Primary Stars' to develop the pupil's enjoyment of PE and to develop the teacher's confidence at teaching PE funded by the National League Trust and the Premier League, Saturday Morning Soccer, Alternative Curriculum, Macclesfield Football Academy and Walking Football.

- **Silky Sunday Discos**

Held in the McIlroy Lounge and organised by Dean Holmes and Sean Worth to provide people with learning disabilities with a great night.

- **Butch's Bar**

Supporters Dean Holmes, Bethan Happer and Robert Sterling took over the operation of the Bar, sprucing it up over the close season and implemented the introduction of draft beer instead of solely selling bottled beer. As well as being open on match days, the bar was open on one or two non-match Saturdays for live internet commentaries of some of Macclesfield's away matches together with TV coverage of national matches. The bar was opened specially to celebrate St Patrick's Day and for an Easter Egg Hunt on 1 April.

- **Others**

*Car Boot Sales* were held throughout the season, *FIFA 18 Computer Tournament Game* with 26 young players together with six Macclesfield Town players, Tyrone Marsh running out winner with Josh Hawkes from the Macclesfield Town Community Sports Trust as runner-up, a *Sportsman's Evening*, sale of *Christmas trees*, development of *Roary's Den* beneath the Family Section of the Big Brand Ideas (Moss Lane) stand, and the Silkmen Café became a member of the nationwide '*Refill*' scheme, a tap water initiative designed to reduce plastic pollution and promote healthy hydration by making refilling a water bottle easy, social and rewarding.



**Amar Alkadhi Club Owner (PH)**





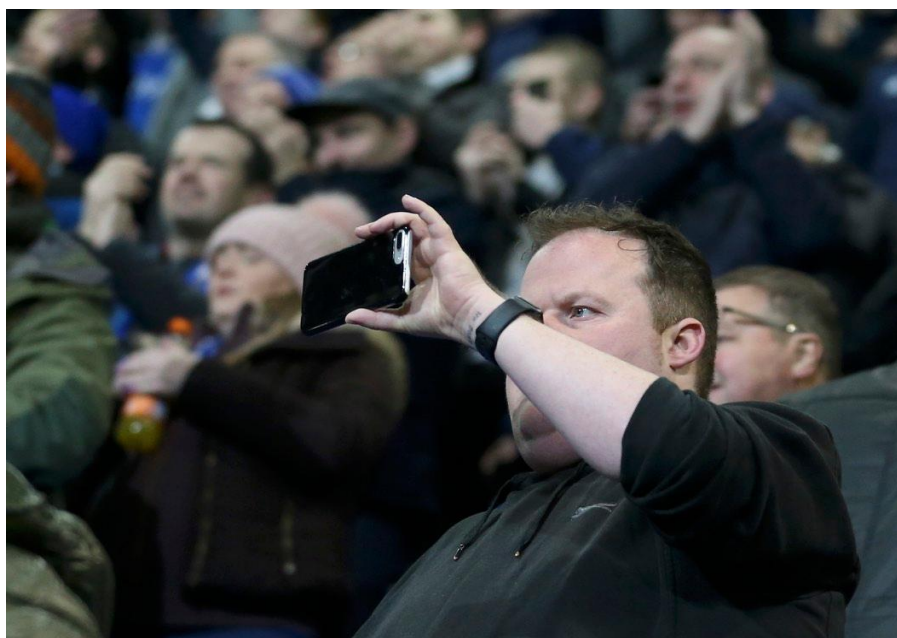
**Chairman Mark Blower celebrating promotion to the English Football League with Tyrone Marsh and Danny Whitaker (PH)**



**Verti-drain machinery in action (SST)**



**Butch's Bar (SLE)**



**Bob Trafford, Webmaster of the Star Lane End Site working at a match (PH)**

## ON-FIELD

John Askey was again appointed manager with Steve Watson as his assistant although Steve left in October when he was appointed manager at Gateshead, no replacement was appointed for the remainder of the season but John was supported by Bill Gorton, goalkeeping coach.

A total of 23 players were used in the season, 12 fewer than during the 2016-17 season. A full list of players is included at the end of this chapter.

Defender Jared Hodgkiss was appointed team captain following the departure of Andy Halls to Chester.

The Play-offs for the Vanarama Leagues were changed by agreement at the National Conference AGM as follows:

- Changed from four to six clubs finishing second to seventh in each of the three leagues to contest the end-of-season Play-offs.
- Matches to be decided on a one-leg basis with advantage of being at home to those who finish higher in the table.
- The format is
  - Match 1: 4<sup>th</sup> v 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Match 2: 5<sup>th</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Match 3: 2<sup>nd</sup> v winner of Match 1
  - Match 4: 3<sup>rd</sup> v winner of Match 2
  - The two winners to then play in their respective Final on the terms for their designated League as current Regulations for those Promotion Finals. That is the Final for the National League to be played at Wembley.

For the first time the referee to use vanishing spray for free-kicks solely in the Vanarama National League.

John Askey was faced with re-building the team for the 2017-18 season; the position was as follows following the end of the previous season:

- **Only one player remained under contract** – Mitch Hancox.
- **Five players were released** – Dan Cowan, Scott Flinders, Andy Haworth, Jack Sampson and Chris Sutherland.
- **Eight players were offered new contracts** – only three signed, David Fitzpatrick, George Pilkington and Danny Whitaker with five leaving for other clubs, Andy Halls (FC Chester), John McCombe (FC Chester), Kingsley James (FC Chester), Ollie Norburn (Tranmere Rovers) and Craig Ross (Barnet).
- **Five players on loan returned to their parent clubs** – Anthony Dudley, Rhys Browne, Luke Summerfield, James Thorne and Danny Whitehead.

## Friendly Matches

There were six matches in all, won two, drawn one and lost three. No arrangements were made for the annual Keith Alexander Memorial Trophy Memorial match against Buxton or for the proposed new annual Richard Butcher Memorial match against Kettering Town.

**Derby County** visited the Moss Rose on Saturday 15 July. This match was well covered by the media with live home commentary on Mixlr and was transmitted live on Derby County TV. There were 866 Derby County supporters (attendance 1501), the club having provided free coach transport, and the Rams brought a full strength squad following pre-season training in Tenerife and a 4-0 win against Kidderminster Harriers.



As expected Macclesfield used numerous trialists, but the first eleven players fielded played well and held the Championship side to a 0-0 score-line at half time. After the interval the visitors made 10 changes with only Jamie Hanson playing the full 90 minutes. Macclesfield made six substitutions at the start of the second half with the other five substitutes gaining time later in the second half.

Again at the beginning of the second half Macclesfield played fairly well, but as the half progressed Derby came into their own and began to dominate play with much of the play in the Macclesfield half. In the 71<sup>st</sup> minute Bradley Johnson gave them the lead with a low shot across the goal into the bottom corner. 10 minutes later they doubled their lead, Mason Bennett giving himself the perfect 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday present when he headed home, the ball going in off the post. During the latter stages of the second half there was an unfortunate incident when trialist Jack Storer was involved in a physical disagreement with a Derby County player resulting in him having to be restrained and leaving the pitch. He stormed off, removing his shirt and throwing it down just before disappearing down the tunnel. Needless to say he was not offered a contract!

The Silkmen gave a good account of themselves when **Bury** came to the Moss Rose on Tuesday 18 July. A powerful strike by Scott Wilson in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute, which hit the underside of the crossbar and bounced down over the line was the only difference between the two teams. Commentator Richard Patrick did a good job on Mixlr especially considering he only received the team sheet just as he was about to broadcast and some of the players on the pitch did not feature on the team sheet.

There was a disappointing visit to **Stockport County** on Saturday 22 July. It started so well for the Silkmen with Tyrone Marsh opening the scoring in the fourth minute heading home a brilliant cross by Jared Hodgkiss from the right. County were level in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute when Matty Warburton notched his first goal of the afternoon. Scott Wilson doubled the score for Macclesfield after latching onto a cross from Courtney Richards. The score remained 2-1 in favour of the Silkmen at the interval. Macclesfield made six changes for the second half which seemed to impact on their balance of play, the home side scoring three more goals (Warburton and two from Jason Oswell) to make the score 4-2 for the hosts. John Askey made three more changes in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. Stockport went on to win the match 5-2, Warburton converting a penalty in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute to notch up his hat-trick.

Entertaining **Crewe Alexandra** on Tuesday 25 July the Silkmen enjoyed a much better match and were in control from the start. Three second half goals sealed the victory without reply: a penalty by Danny Whitaker in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute, a trialist reached a speculative long ball before the Crewe 'keeper, to head home in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute and Ryan Lloyd completed the scoring, poking home in the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute.

A hastily arranged match was played at **Trafford FC** on Friday 29 July which finished 0-0 but there was no mention of this match by Macclesfield but from the Trafford FC report it would seem that they had the best of the play.

The final pre-season match saw **Blackpool** come to the Moss and win 2-0. There were no numbers for Blackpool on either the team sheet or on their shirts. Blackpool dominated most of the possession in the early stages but then Macclesfield had their chances through Tyrone Marsh but to no avail. The visitors started the second half the stronger team taking the lead in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute when Mark Cullen scored from a corner with a glancing header. Mark Cullen doubled the score nine minutes later when Bright Osayi-Samuel drove his way through the Macclesfield defence only to see his shot parried away by the Macclesfield 'keeper, but Cullen was the quickest to react. Towards the end of the match there were several chances created by the Silkmen; A free-kick from 20 yards out,

Scott Wilson, Gime Toure and a powerful shot from a trialist which hit the woodwork, but the Silkmen could not find any response.

*As this was Girls' Football Week there was encouragement for all female players to attend this match wearing their kit or team jacket. One adult required to attend the game for every four Under 16s, the cost of the adult ticket was £10.*

During pre-season training Shay Given, Wes Brown and Alex Bruce were present. Wes Brown and Alex Bruce were both studying for their coaching badges and took a training session whilst Shay Given took part in training sessions with the goalkeepers.



**Action against Derby County**



**Goalmouth Action against Derby County**





**Scott Wilson scoring against Bury**



**Action from the friendly against Blackpool**



**Match action at Stockport County**

## **SEASON REVIEW**

### **Cup Competitions**

In line with Vanarama National League Clubs Macclesfield entered the **Emirates FA Cup** at the fourth qualifying round playing **Stourbridge** away, meeting them for only the second time in the Silkmen's history and with five well taken goals eased their way into the first round. John Askey made five changes to the starting line-up and played a 4-1-4-1 formation with Danny Whitehead featuring just in front of the back four. Two goals in the first 12 minutes by Whitehead and Tyrone Marsh followed by a strike by Elliott Durrell on the stroke of half time, without any reply by the hosts, virtually sealed the match. A further two goals in the second half from Koby Arthur and Scott Burgess put the icing on the cake, the Silkmen proving too strong for the Glass Boys who failed to find the back of the net.

The first round saw the Silkmen drawn away again, on this occasion to **Forest Green Rovers** who were promoted to Sky Bet League 2 at the beginning of the season to play their first-ever season in the English Football League. A first-half goal by Forest Green Rovers striker Christian Doige saw the home side through into the second round. Macclesfield had their chances to score, but ability in the last third of the pitch lacked quality, unfortunately a feature of their play in the season to date.

*George Pilkington made his 600<sup>th</sup> career appearance (all clubs, all competitions)*

Having reached the final of **Buildbase FA Trophy** in the 2016-17 season expectations were high for good progress this season. Macclesfield found themselves with an away fixture again when they were drawn against fellow Vanarama National League side **FC Halifax Town**.

The match eventually took place on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at the MBI Shay Stadium following postponements on 16 and 19 December 2017, the latter match was called off as late as 19.23. Having been victorious over Halifax on Boxing Day and on New Year's Day it was perhaps rather a



surprise when the hosts ran out winners in this cup match with a single goal scored by Matty Kosylo in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute. Macclesfield had more than their fair share of chances to win this match with Scott Wilson, George Pilkington, Kobe Arthur and Scott Burgess all missing the target.

**The Cheshire Senior Cup** no longer has the charisma it once had when the final was staged at a league ground often on a sunny Saturday afternoon in early May. Entering the competition in the Preliminary Round away at **1874 Northwich**, Macclesfield fielded their Under 21 Development Youth team. This was always going to be an uphill task for Macclesfield as the majority of their players were aged 16/17. The Silkmen took the lead in 32<sup>nd</sup> minute when Liam Chambers scored from the penalty spot but the hosts were level a minute later when they scored a penalty of their own. The score remained 1-1 until the 70<sup>th</sup> minute when 1874 Norwich took the lead. They went on to score two further goals in the 72<sup>nd</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> minutes to win 4-1.



**Macclesfield Town under 21 Development Team (SLE)**

The Macclesfield under 21 Development team was formed at the beginning of the 2017-18 season managed by the Youth Engagement Officer Martyn Irvine until he left the club in December 2017 when John Hall took over the responsibility.

Match Information for their season can be found at the end of this chapter.



**Elliott Durrell in action at Stourbridge in the Fourth Qualifying Round of the Emirates FA Cup (DT)**



**Danny Whitehead at Stourbridge (DT)**



**Kobe Arthur celebrating scoring a goal at Stourbridge (DT)**

## **VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **August 2017**

The opening league match of the season saw the Silkmen travel to **Wrexham's** Racecourse Ground where they continued their good form against The Dragons having only lost two of their previous Conference encounters. The visitors started the stronger of the teams fielding seven of the summer signings in the starting line-up. Debutant Noe Baba gave Macclesfield the lead in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute, a lead which they held to win the match. In the second half Wrexham pressed hard, they had a penalty claim dismissed and Macclesfield had the ball in the back of the net but Tyrone Marsh's effort was ruled off-side.

*Debuts for Macclesfield – Noe Baba, Scott Burgess, Elliott Durrell, Ryan Lloyd, Keith Lowe, Tyrone Marsh, Adam Yates, Courtney Richards (from the bench) and Scott Wilson (from the bench)*

**Hartlepool United** came to Macclesfield the following Tuesday having been relegated from the English Football League at the end of the 2016-17 season and having suffered a defeat in their first National League match. Watched by TV presenter Jeff Stelling, a long-time supporter of the Monkey Hangers, they earned their first point of the campaign in a 1-1 draw. Playing with a single striker Macclesfield took the lead in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute through temporary captain Danny Whitaker with Hartlepool coming more into the match in the second half, they equalised in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute following a free-kick. Disappointingly Macclesfield failed to make the most of the chances they created and as a consequence had to settle for a point.

*Kieran Kennedy made his MTFC debut.*

*This was Macclesfield's 650<sup>th</sup> Conference match.*

Another home match saw John Askey using his favoured 4-5-1 formation when **Bromley** were the visitors. There was little to choose between the two sides, neither of whom could capitalise on their chances throughout the match. Macclesfield's claim for a penalty in the second half was turned



down and at the final whistle with the score 0-0 both sides remained unbeaten in their first three matches.

*Gime Toure and Billy O'Brien made their MTFC debuts.*

*Mitch Hancox made his 50<sup>th</sup> appearance for Macclesfield.*

*There was a minute's applause before the match for Robert 'Ian' Miller who had died recently. Ian had been a Vice President season ticket holder since the 1997-98 season when Macclesfield were first promoted to the English Football League.*

A visit to **Sutton United** came next to play on their artificial surface on a Tuesday evening. There were five changes to the team, four to freshen up the side and the fifth in the goalkeeper's position, Shwan Jalal having been injured the previous match was replaced by Billy O'Brien. Macclesfield made the best possible start when a stunning strike from 25 yards by Scott Wilson opened the scoring in the second minute. Throughout the match Sutton played the long ball to their tall forwards. In the second half Sutton were in the ascendency and in the 85th minute substitute Moses Emmanuel equalised with Tommy Wright scoring the winning goal only a minute later. Having resisted pressure from Sutton for most of the match it was disappointing to succumb so late in the match.

Travelling in the opposite direction for the next match, **Gateshead** were the opposition. John Askey continued his policy of rotating the team with three changes. However, it was a below par performance by the Silkmen conceding three goals without any reply. The first goal for the hosts came when Gateshead moved the ball down the field for at least 80 yards, the shot first hitting the post before crossing the line. Initially the assistant referee indicated off-side but he was overruled by the referee. The second goal was a body blow being scored on the stroke of half time from a corner. In the second half the third goal was a one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

The match against **Dover Athletic** at the Moss Rose, had been scheduled for Saturday 26 August but was brought forward to Friday 25 August, the two clubs giving conflicting reasons although on this Bank Holiday weekend there was disruption on the railway network due to planned works. The Silkmen almost took the lead in the second minute but Danny Whitaker's fierce shot was pushed away by the Dover 'keeper Mitch Walker. For the rest of the first half the visitors were in command having more possession, territory and corners, however, the Silkmen weathered the storm to keep the score 0-0 at half time. There was one interesting incident in the first half when Shwan Jalal in his first match back in the team after recovering from injury and was having rather an uncertain time between the sticks, picked up the ball letting it slip from his hands and collected the ball for the second time in his area against the Rules of Play but the resultant free-kick was well defended. A similar incident happened at the Moss Rose many years before again when the Silkmen were playing in a Conference league match. At the start of the second half the Silkmen came out the more determined of the two sides and took the lead in the 49<sup>th</sup> minute when Tyrone Marsh headed home an excellent cross from Elliott Durrell to score against his former club. The home side were in the ascendancy for the rest of the half and deservedly took all three points with a 1-0 victory.

Facing four former Silkmen in Andy Halls, Kingsley James, John McCombe and Paul Turnbull at **FC Chester**, Macclesfield dominated this derby with a 4-4-2 formation. Mitch Hancox gave the Silkmen the lead in the seventh minute with Kieran Kennedy adding a second in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute to gain the second win on the bounce.

At the end of the month the team were in 10<sup>th</sup> position having earned 11 points.

## SEPTEMBER

**Woking** were welcomed to the Moss Rose on a warm and sunny afternoon for the first match in September. Both sides fielded an unchanged side after winning their previous matches with Macclesfield retaining their 4-4-2 formation. Macclesfield started well unusually playing towards the Star Lane End in the first half and were rewarded when Elliott Durrell scored his first goal for the Silkmen in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute heading home an excellent cross by Tyrone Marsh. The visitors were on level terms nine minutes later when Macclesfield 'keeper Shwan Jalal failed to hold a deflected shot from Jason Baton. Only moments later Jalal made a brilliant triple save but when his fellow players went to congratulate him he pushed them away and in frustration kicked the upright. Despite having the better of the play the Silkmen found themselves 2-1 down in the 41<sup>st</sup> minute, Joe Ward curling the ball home. In the second half both sides hit the woodwork but it was Woking's on-loan striker Inih Effiong who sprang the off-side trap to give the visitors victory with a third goal in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute. This was Woking's first win of the 2017-18 season and their first win at the Moss Rose since 25 April 1995. Yet again Macclesfield missed several excellent goal scoring opportunities.

Next came a visit to Damson Park home of **Solihull Moors**, where there were three changes to the Macclesfield side including Noe Baba featuring at right back with Jared Hodgkiss still injured and Adam Yates having returned to Port Vale at the end of his loan spell. This match hinged on two incidents. Firstly, a tremendous penalty save in the second half by Macclesfield 'keeper Shwan Jalal and secondly, four minutes later, Scott Wilson scoring from open play to give Macclesfield a 1-0 victory.

**AFC Fylde** had gained promotion to the Vanarama National League at the end of the 2016-17 season, came to the Moss Rose on Tuesday 12 September for their first encounter with the Silkmen. Macclesfield returned to a 4-5-1 formation and started well taking the lead after 14 minutes when Scott Wilson tapped in Elliott Durrell's cross, a lead which they held to half time. After the interval the visitors started brightly and drew level after four minutes. Just as it looked as though the match was going to end in a draw, Wilson rounded former Silkmen 'keeper Rhys Taylor to score and win the match for the home side. A taste of what was to come in the season with late goals gaining valuable points along the way.

Against **Maidstone United** at the Moss Rose it was not just a bad day at the office but a disastrous one. The visitors contained the Macclesfield attack, dominated the match and never let the Silkmen get up a head of steam. Two goals in each half for Maidstone with a late single consolation goal by Koby Arthur for Macclesfield saw the Silkmen well and truly beaten 4-1.

*Goalkeeper Shwan Jalal made his 50<sup>th</sup> appearance for MTFC.*

At Plainmoor John Askey made three changes to the team bringing in Danny Whitehead, George Pilkington who had recovered from injury and had not played since the second match of the season, and captain Jared Hodgkiss who had recovered from a pre-season groin injury to make his debut for the Silkmen. They replaced Noe Baba, Kieran Kennedy and Scott Burgess. A tense first half against **Torquay United** produced no goals. Four minutes into the second half, Scott Wilson capitalised on a Torquay defensive mistake to slot home. Macclesfield had opportunities to extend their lead but they had to rely on some splendid goalkeeping by Shwan Jalal to keep Torquay at bay and win the match 1-0.

*Jared Hodgkiss made his debut for MTFC.*

Macclesfield's 13<sup>th</sup> league match of the season got off to an explosive start when Ryan Lloyd opened his account in the 21<sup>st</sup> second. The visitors, **Aldershot Town**, took the game to Macclesfield in the first half but could not find an equaliser. In the second half Macclesfield were on top with Elliott

Durrell scoring an exquisite goal from just outside the area in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute to seal a 2-0 victory, the first home win for either side in their encounters since 2013.

The team ended the month of September in fourth position with 23 points, only one point off the top position in a tight table where only three points separated first and tenth positions.

Scott Wilson was named as Vanarama National League Player of the Month for September.

## OCTOBER

Macclesfield got the month of October off to a great start by winning 2-1 at **Guiseley** to claim top spot in the league. Danny Whitaker celebrated his 400<sup>th</sup> appearance for Macclesfield with a goal in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute, however, everything did not go the Silkmen's way as the hosts drew level three minutes before half time. There was a calm start to the second half, but gradually Macclesfield applied pressure which paid off in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute when Elliott Durrell scored an excellent goal to take the score to 2-1. Guiseley did their best to score an equaliser but were thwarted by the Macclesfield back line which had been strengthened to five on the introduction of Kieran Kennedy from the bench.

*Danny Whitaker made his 400<sup>th</sup> appearance for Macclesfield (all competitions)*

On Non-League Day and an international break for the top teams, there was an increased attendance totalling 1635 including the presence of former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson for the visit of **Ebbsfleet United**. For the third consecutive match John Askey fielded an unchanged side which paid dividends, Mitch Hancox giving the Silkmen the lead in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute when he fired a loose ball into the roof of the net. Played in heavy rain, both sides had chances in the second half with Ebbsfleet throwing everything at Macclesfield in the last quarter of the match but the Macclesfield defence again held firm, Ebbsfleet suffering their first away defeat since Boxing Day 2016.

Kick-off was delayed by 20 minutes at **Leyton Orient** for the evacuation of the stand behind one of the goals so that unsafe advertising boards could be removed from the roof. This was the first occasion that the two teams had met at National League level having last met in the English Football League. Overall a tight match which Macclesfield won by a single goal scored by Scott Wilson on the stroke of half time. Goalkeeper Shwan Jalal incurred a head injury early in the first half and was replaced by second string 'keeper Sam Ramsbottom who made some fine saves to keep a clean sheet.

*Sam Ramsbottom made his debut for MTFC.*

*Leyton Orient dedicated this match to Mental Health Awareness and for those living locally with dementia they were given free entry together with their carer.*

It was somewhat unfortunate having to make a second trip to the capital in the space of four days with planning going amiss as the Silkmen took their red away strip which meant that the hosts **Dagenham & Redbridge** had to change into their white away strip as their usual home strip is red. This was an entertaining match which was goalless at half time. The hosts started the second half strongly and were rewarded with a goal in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute which proved to be the winning strike.

Two goals from **Eastleigh's** Mark Yates on either side of half time won this match for the visitors to the Moss Rose. The first came about when the Macclesfield 'keeper, in his first match back after recovering from injury, was well outside his area failed to clear the ball which fell to Yates who struck home from distance into an empty net. His second was perhaps fortunate as there was a hint of handball in the run up to the goal which the referee did not spot, and with the Macclesfield defence unusually static, Jalal was out numbered. Macclesfield had sufficient chances during the

match to have taken at least a point but Danny Whitehead's 90<sup>th</sup> minute strike was merely a consolation goal with The Spitfires winning 2-1.

*This was Macclesfield's 666<sup>th</sup> Conference match, no wonder they lost as in cricketing terms the number 111 or any multiple is regarded as bad luck.*

*Prior to the game there was a 'Happy Hour' between 12.30 and 13.30 when a pint of Carlsberg could be purchased for £2.50.*

*Also 'Paint Macc Pink' Day with a bucket collection for the prevent Breast Cancer charity.*

Completed the month in second place with 32 points.

## NOVEMBER

A visit to the Furness Building Society Stadium to play **Barrow** proved fruitful. Captain and right back Jared Hodgkiss scored his first goal for Macclesfield when he had pushed forward to fire home a ball from Danny Whitaker. Elliott Durrell doubled the score in the second half with a superbly curled shot from just inside the area and whilst the home side put Macclesfield under pressure they resisted to take all three points back down the M6.

*One minute's silence held before kick-off for Remembrance Day.*

*This victory was slightly spoilt when a few Macclesfield supporters entered the pitch at the end and a smoke bomb was also thrown onto the pitch. Subsequently, it was surprising to see support for this unacceptable behaviour being posted on Macclesfield Message Boards.*

Macclesfield welcomed **Boreham Wood** to the Moss Rose in the next match. A disappointing performance by the Silkmen when scoring chances were created but to no avail: Danny Whitehead hit a fizzing shot, Danny Whitaker had two opportunities and Mitch Hancox was unfortunate to see his shot skim the top of the crossbar near the end. Boreham Wood have the reputation of defending well and they frustrated the Silkmen throughout, the match ending 0-0.

**Tranmere Rovers** were the next team to visit the Moss Rose. Still relying on a 4-5-1 formation John Askey played an unchanged side. Macclesfield had to come from behind twice to earn a share of the points. Despite a bright start by the Silkmen it was the visitors who took the lead in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute. As the game approached half time the home crowd were becoming more frustrated but a strike by leading scorer Scott Wilson after Danny Whitaker's penalty shot had been saved saw the teams on level terms. Two minutes later, in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute, the visitors scored to take a 2-1 advantage into the interval. Much of the second half was played in the midfield and to change the direction of the game Striker Tyrone Marsh replaced midfielder Scott Burgess in the 80<sup>th</sup> minute. Macclesfield then played with a two-man strike force which paid dividends with Marsh scoring in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute to take the score to 2-2 which, for Macclesfield, looked unlikely at one time.

*Before the match there was a minute's applause for Joan Greaves who had died recently.*

There were two changes in the team on the visit to **Maidenhead United**: veteran Danny Whitaker was rested as was striker Scott Wilson, replaced by Mitch Hancox and Tyrone Marsh. The match did not get going until Ryan Lloyd's spectacular goal from just inside the Maidenhead half in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute. At the end of the season this strike was voted the best goal of the season. By the 59<sup>th</sup> minute the home side had introduced all three of their substitutions but Macclesfield played the whole match without making any substitutions. The Silkmen were well on their way to registering a victory but, with their first shot on target in the second half, Maidenhead substitute Jake Hyde headed home in off the post in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute to level the score at 1-1, condemning Macclesfield to third consecutive draw.

Dropped to third in the table with a total of 38 points, but still only one point from the top.

## DECEMBER

December proved to be a good month for the Silkmen and a time when supporters, and the Town, began to believe that promotion back to the English Football League could be a possibility. Attendances started to show a regular increase (see Match Information).

**Hartlepool United** were the first team who the Silkmen faced in a return fixture during this campaign, Macclesfield travelling to Victoria Park on the first Saturday of the month. The Silkmen were having something of an off day, Hartlepool took full advantage going ahead in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute. The introduction of striker Scott Wilson for midfielder Scott Burgess in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute saw a change in formation to 4-4-2, and coupled with the earlier introduction of Elliott Durrell gave the Silkmen a better balance. At least in this campaign manager John Askey seemed to have a Plan B in contrast to previous seasons which proved particularly effective in this match, coupled with the team's ability to score important late goals. The equaliser came in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute when Ryan Lloyd turned in Elliott Durrell's cross from the by-line. A stunning comeback was completed when Kieth Lowe headed home a ball which had rebounded off the cross bar to score his first goal for the Silkmen and achieve a 2-1 win.

BT Sport transmitted the home match against **Wrexham** with a 12.30 kick-off. Volunteers including the chairman turned up at the Moss Rose from 6.00 to assist in taking the covers off and preparing the ground to ensure that the match could be played. Kieran Kennedy replaced George Pilkington who had injured his back, with striker Scott Wilson in for midfielder Mitch Hancox. From the start the front two of Wilson and Tyrone Marsh combined well. In the sixth minute Wilson picked up a through ball from Marsh just inside the Wrexham half, carrying the ball to the area and shooting past the advancing 'keeper. Macclesfield continued to dominate this exciting match with the score remaining 1-0 at half time. The match continued with Macclesfield in the ascendancy but then Wrexham enjoyed a good spell with former Silkman Scott Boden equalising in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute. Wilson restored the lead four minutes later, again Marsh was the provider, and basically won the match when the Wrexham goalkeeper failed to hold a strong shot from Danny Whitehead, Wilson first to re-act to prod home from close range to net his hat-trick in the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute. It had been snowing throughout the match and by then the snow had covered the line markings, the referee stopping play whilst the ground staff and supporters (including a Father Christmas) cleared the lines. The Silkmen were still not finished. In the 92<sup>nd</sup> minute Danny Whitaker sent his corner towards a space in the outfield, David Fitzpatrick running in hit the ball first time to score his first goal for Macclesfield to seal a 4-1 victory and continue dominance over the years against the Dragons. With Sutton United losing at Leyton Orient, the Silkmen replaced them at the top of the table.

*A minute's applause was held before kick-off following the recent deaths of Hilary Wolliscroft and David 'Moose' Littler.*

The visit to **Bromley** proved to be a match of two halves with Macclesfield performing better in the first half, Ryan Lloyd giving the Silkmen the lead in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute. Bromley were more dominant in the second half equalising in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute with the score remaining 1-1- at full time. Nevertheless with none of the top eight teams in the league winning, Macclesfield remained top, two points clear of Wrexham.

Macclesfield entertained **FC Halifax Town** on Boxing Day in front of a crowd of 2313. Against the run of play the visitors took the lead in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute when Tom Denton nodded home a dangerous cross from Jake Hibbs. Macclesfield continued to strive and Scott Wilson thought that he had equalised but his effort was ruled off-side. However, with the last kick of the half, Danny Whitehead's deflected shot drew the scores level. In the second half the league leaders were on top, Tyrone Marsh cleverly headed home Elliott Durrell's cross. There was a scare right at the end of the match when the visitors had the ball in the back of the net but it was disallowed for a foul on



goalkeeper Shwan Jalal who had been bundled into the net. With this 2-1 win Macclesfield went three points clear at the top of the table.

The final match of the year saw top-of-the-table Macclesfield playing third placed **Sutton United**, Aldershot having played earlier in the day had moved into second position. Sutton's tactics frustrated however, it was the home side who took the lead through a Danny Whitaker penalty after he had been blocked in the area. Towards the end of the first half, captain Jared Hodgkiss had to be substituted when he was injured allowing George Pilkington to return following his recovery from injury to fill in at right back. Macclesfield went down to 10 men in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute when goalkeeper Shwan Jalal was dismissed for colliding with Ross Lafayette outside his area. Second string 'keeper Sam Ramsbottom was introduced at the expense of striker Scott Wilson. 10-man Macclesfield held firm to take all three points.

Completed the month with a total of 51 points and retained top position.

John Askey gained the Vanarama National League Manager of the Month Award for December, the team having accumulated more points than any other side.



**Noe Baba celebrates in fine style after scoring at Wrexham - 5 August (CM)**



**Danny Whitaker celebrates with Noe Baba after scoring against Hartlepool United - 8 August (PH)**



**Striker Tyrone Marsh in action in the 0-0 draw against Bromley – 12 August (PH)**





Match action in the 3-0 defeat at Gateshead – 19 August (CW)



Scott Wilson's (right) winning goal at Solihull Moors - 9 September (PH)





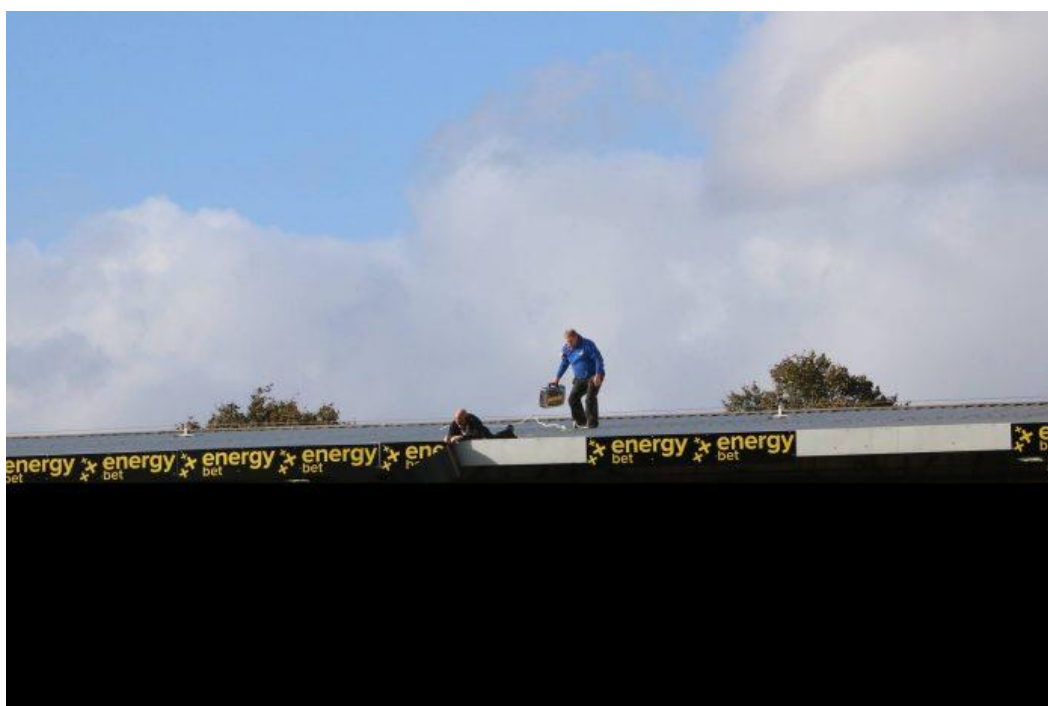
Goal celebration against AFC Fylde at the Moss Rose - 12 September (PH)



Captain Jared Hodgkiss in the pre-match Respect handshake against Aldershot Town - 30 September (PH)



Danny Whitaker celebrating his 400<sup>th</sup> appearance for MTFC (against Guiseley) with manager John Askey - 3 October (PH)



Unsafe advertising hoardings being removed before the match at Leyton Orient - 21 October (CW)





**Injured goalkeeper Shwan Jalal handing over to Sam Ramsbottom at Leyton Orient  
21 October (CW)**



**Sam Ramsbottom in action at Leyton Orient – 21 October (CW)**



**Acrobatic play in the 2-0 win at Barrow - 11 November (PH)**



**Celebrations after Ryan Lloyd scored the 'Goal of the Season' at Maidenhead United – 25 November (PH)**





Scott Wilson celebrating his hat-trick against Wrexham at the Moss Rose - 9 December (PH)



Shwan Jalal in action against Bromley - 23 December



**Celebrations after Danny Whitaker had scored from the penalty spot against Sutton United - 30 December (PH)**



**Manager John Askey with his December Vanarama National League Manager of the Month Award (MTFC)**



## JANUARY

There was a good start on New Year's Day at **FC Halifax Town** although it took until the stroke of half time for the deadlock to be broken when Mitch Hancox gave The Silkmen the lead. This was to be Mitch Hancox's match as he doubled the score three minutes after the break. It got even better when striker Scott Wilson got in on the act on the hour mark to give the league leaders a three goal lead. Halifax came back at the Silkmen with George Waring, who had replaced the tall Tom Denton, pulling a goal back for the hosts in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute. Nevertheless, only two minutes later, on-fire Hancox completed his hat-trick when he slotted home a penalty. Halifax had the opportunity to score a second goal but former Silkman Ben Tomlinson skied his penalty shot. The 4-1 win left Macclesfield six points clear of Aldershot Town at the top of the table.

The Silkmen were held to a 0-0 draw on a heavy pitch when **Solihull Moors** visited the Moss Rose which was not too surprising as the visitor's recent form had shown improvement. Tyrone Marsh had an effort cleared off the line on 16 minutes but 10 minutes later Kieran Kennedy was injured and had to be replaced by Jared Hodgkiss who was still recovering from injury. In the second half Hodgkiss had to leave the field and was replaced by Noe Baba. Minutes later Elliott Durrell had two shots on goal blocked and, in an attempt to break the deadlock, Scott Wilson was introduced in place of Mitch Hancox changing the formation from 4-5-1 to 4-4-2, but to no avail.

*Following the match John Askey complained that the pitch had been cut with a lawnmower. An interview with groundsman Gary Lewis indicated that Askey's statement was incorrect as the ground had been spiked to help the drainage. In addition, the team had trained on the pitch on Friday afternoon leaving the groundsman less time to prepare for the match the next day. The BT Sports highlights programme that weekend showed that many of the grounds in the National League were suffering, with some looking to be in a worse condition than the Moss Rose.*

There was a blip in form on the visit to Mill Farm, home of **AFC Fylde** who, in recent weeks, had come to terms with the league and had seen their results improve. Macclesfield struggled from the start and whilst Shwan Jalal had recovered from injury Sam Ramsbottom started the match. Goals by Montrose, Muldoon and Finley saw the hosts three goals to the good by the 34<sup>th</sup> minute prompting the introduction of Scott Wilson to replace Scott Burgess and a change of formation to 4-4-2, but Smith scored a fourth goal for Fylde before the interval. Ramsbottom was replaced by Jalal for the second half however, the home side scored a further two goals to notch up a 6-0 victory.

*A small number of Macclesfield fans created problems during this match resulting in the club taking action banning them from home matches for the rest of season.*

Next a top-of-the-table clash against bottom-of-the-table **Torquay United** at the Moss Rose. Both sides had opportunities to take the lead but it took until the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute before a goal was registered when Danny Whitehead hit a stunning shot. Seven minutes later Torquay equalised when goalkeeper Shwan Jalal failed to collect a high ball whilst under pressure allowing Elliott Romain to pounce and score to level the scores at 1-1.

*There was no manager's article in the programme for this match. It would appear that in a recent filmed interview, the club had removed a comment by John Askey resulting in him not submitting any further programme articles, giving interviews to the official web site and not allowing his players to be interviewed for the remainder of the season.*

*Alister Lofley, who works for Hanson Auctioneers, provided free valuations for sporting memorabilia from 1030 to 13.30 in Keith's Bar.*

Despite dropping points in the last two matches Macclesfield ended the month still in top position with 56 points.

## FEBRUARY

The month did not start well with the league match at **Maidstone United** postponed as they were still involved in the Buildbase FA Trophy. As a consequence Wrexham became league leaders on goal difference following their 2-0 win at Guiseley.

Also, the players went public with an announcement that they had not received their wages for the month of January. An interview with the chairman and a forced meeting seemed, initially, to make matters worse but in the end, only days later, monies were transferred from abroad to cover the wages. The owner, Amar Alkadhi, issued an apology stating that the money had not been transferred on time due to a technical error.

Macclesfield got back on track when they entertained **Guiseley** who had replaced Torquay United at the bottom of the table. There were four changes to the starting line up – Jared Hodgkiss (returning from injury), Nathan Blissett (on loan from Plymouth Argyle), Mitch Hancox and George Pilkington replaced Scott Wilson, Kieran Kennedy, Ryan Lloyd and Callum Evans. The two strikers, Blissett and Tyrone Marsh, partnered each other for the first time but Macclesfield were again wasteful in front of goal with Guiseley taking the lead in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute. The Silkmen were much more dominant in the second half with Blissett equalising in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute with an acrobatic goal, his first for the club, and Marsh providing the winning goal in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute. Towards the end of the match Guiseley almost equalised but were denied by an excellent save from Shwan Jalal. With this win Macclesfield regained their number one place.

*There was a minute's applause before the match for lifelong fan Peter Jones who had supported the Silkmen for 70 years and had passed away recently.*

Before the match this tie between the top two teams in the National league at **Aldershot Town** looked to be an appetising affair. It started dramatically when Macclesfield striker Nathan Blissett was brought down in the area by Aldershot defender Will Evans, the referee awarding a penalty and dismissing Evans as the last man. Danny Whitaker made no mistake in despatching the penalty to give the Silkmen the lead in the third minute. The Shots sacrificed Bobby-Joe Taylor for Manny Oyeleke who took up a midfield position who proved to be a nuisance to the Silkmen throughout the rest of the match. Reorganised to a 4-4-1 formation, as often happens when a team is reduced to 10 men, Aldershot pressed Macclesfield all the way and at times were the better side. Three minutes into the second half Blissett rounded the 'keeper and doubled Macclesfield's score but this did not dent the Shots ambition with Macclesfield left defending for much of the half. The hosts gained a penalty in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute when George Pilkington was adjudged to have handled the ball, Scott Rendall converting the resultant penalty but Macclesfield held onto their lead to remain top dogs.

A visit to Prenton Park gave us another first versus second match with **Tranmere Rovers** going into the tie having won their last nine home matches. In front of a crowd of 7385 including 429 Macclesfield supporters, the first half belonged to Tranmere until one minute into added time, Danny Whitaker shooting over the 'keeper to give Macclesfield a 1-0 lead at the interval. Tranmere equalised four minutes into the second half through striker Andy Cook but the rest of the half belonged to Macclesfield. With a long range shot Elliott Durrell gave the Silkmen the lead, then a penalty by Danny Whitaker and a second goal by Durrell, all within the space of eleven minutes, gave Macclesfield a 4-1 victory extending their lead at the top to five points.

A return to the Moss Rose with **Maidenhead United** the visitors for the last match of the month. The Silkmen were not at their best in this match and looked rather tired at times but the last two matches had been hard fought affairs. Another late goal gave Macclesfield a 1-0 win courtesy of substitute Scott Wilson in the 91<sup>st</sup> minute.

Macclesfield retained their top position with 68 points and were certainly gaining momentum. Elliott Durrell was the Vanarama National League Player of the Month for February.

## MARCH

The match scheduled at **Boreham Wood** on 3 March was postponed due to the weather. Macclesfield travelled south on the following Tuesday to **Maidstone United**, but due to an accident in the Dartford Tunnel some of the Maidstone players were unable reach the ground with the referee postponing the match. A rather frustrating time for the Silkmen as they had already arrived at the ground.

The first action of the month came on Saturday 10 March when **Barrow** were the visitors. The morning of the match saw the pitch in front of the Moss Lane Stand waterlogged. Thanks to good work by groundsman Gary Lewis assisted by Steve Caulcott, Andrew Galloway and Jim Goodwin they ensured the pitch was playable. Barrow opened the scoring in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute with a goal from Luke James and they almost doubled their tally but for some brilliant goalkeeping by Shwan Jalal. However, overall it was Macclesfield who kept pressing and they were rewarded in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute, Mitch Hancox blasting home from 25 yards to level the scores 1-1. The second half belonged to Macclesfield who might have scored more but for some fine goalkeeping by the Barrow 'keeper Steve Arnold who is coached by former Silkmen backroom member Mike Holgate. Nevertheless, a penalty and another superb goal by man-of-the-moment Elliott Durrell gave the Silkmen a well-deserved 3-1 victory keeping them two points clear at the top with a game in hand.

**Dover Athletic** had signed Keanu Marsh-Brown on loan from Forest Green Rovers only days before this match at Crabble. He opened the scoring after just 32 seconds with a strike along the ground from distance and went on to double the host's lead in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute. Despite playing the better football, it was not Macclesfield's day as they were unable to convert their goal scoring opportunities. Fortunately with the teams below all failing to win, top place was retained by two points with a game in hand.

*After the match in an unofficial interview, manager John Askey when asked what it would have like to have been able to sign Marsh-Brown, he responded by stating that the club had been under a transfer embargo for a few weeks. When asked for the reason, John diplomatically said that the interviewer would have to ask the chairman. This was the first time that supporters had been made aware of the embargo as no official statement had been made by the club nor was there any statement when the embargo was lifted.*

The re-arranged match at **Maidstone United** was played on Wednesday 21 March. John Askey reverted to a 4-5-1 formation with Nathan Blissett as the sole striker. The first half belonged to The Stones who took the lead in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute when the Macclesfield 'keeper could only parry away a Joe Anderson free-kick with Alex Wynter the quickest to react. Macclesfield hit the woodwork twice, Elliott Durrell seeing his shot hit the post and just before half time Blissett hit the crossbar. The second half saw the Silkmen draw level in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute with Danny Whitaker taking full advantage of a mix in the Maidstone defence and then take the lead in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute, the lively Elliott Durrell striking home. However, substitute Ross Lafayette had the last word when he equalised for the home side in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute.

The match against **Gateshead** scheduled for the Moss Rose was postponed due to Gateshead's involvement in the semi-final of the FA Trophy. Sutton took top place on goal difference but having played one more match than the Silkmen. However, this match was played on the following Tuesday evening when both sides had chances. In the end a single goal scored by Nathan Blissett in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute gave the Silkmen all three points.

Good Friday saw the Silkmen travel to **Woking**, the match was televised live on BT Sport with the usual kick-off time of 15.00. This was a pulsating game from start to finish played in the rain and on a heavy pitch and was John Askey's 300<sup>th</sup> in charge as a manager/caretaker manager although he was dismissed by the referee just after Woking had scored their second goal for kicking a pool of water which may well have sprayed the fourth official. Woking started the better side and deservedly went a goal up in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute when they took advantage of the Macclesfield 'keeper spilling the ball. Askey immediately reacted and having started with a 4-4-2 formation changed to 4-5-1 bolstering the midfield by moving the ever improving Callum Evans from the right wing into the centre of midfield with Tyrone Marsh moving from his striker position to the right wing where he was just as effective. As had been demonstrated during this season going a goal down had no impact on the Silkmen's performance as it had in recent seasons. Fifteen minutes after Woking had scored Nathan Blissett headed home to level the scores. Nine minutes into the second half Tyrone Marsh gave the Silkmen the lead, Mitch Hancox having headed a long ball to Marsh who struck an unstoppable volley from 15 yards. Woking who were fighting for their lives just above the relegation zone came back into the match to equalise in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute. Both sides then went for the win but it was Macclesfield who triumphed in the 94<sup>th</sup> minute. Marsh struck a shot towards the centre of the goal but the ball stuck in the mud whilst Marsh was celebrating in front of the Silkmen fans thinking he had scored, fortunately Danny Whitehead reacted quickly storming in to put the ball over the line to earn a 3-2 win.

At the end of the month Macclesfield remained in top position with 78 points.

#### **APRIL**

On Easter Monday there was the Cheshire Derby at the Moss Rose when **FC Chester** were the visitors. This match was played following sterling work by the groundsman and several volunteers. The first half was a fairly even affair with Chester trying their best to improve their lowly league position and Macclesfield wanting to retain top spot, but the half ended in stalemate. With the rain pouring down at the start of the second half both teams were fired up but it was the Silkmen who took the lead, Danny Whitehead rolling the ball home in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute. Macclesfield had much of the possession but created little and it was left to goalkeeper Shwan Jalal to ensure Macclesfield's victory with two fine saves. With Sutton United losing to Bromley, the Silkmen went nine points clear at the top although Sutton had a game in hand.

A visit to **Ebbsfleet United** came next, the match televised by BT Sport with a 12.15 kick-off. Macclesfield started slowly with the hosts dominating the match initially but in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute tall striker Nathan Blissett gave Macclesfield the lead. Following the goal Macclesfield had more of the possession and worked hard to maintain their 1-0 lead. Tyrone Marsh doubled the lead in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute and at this stage of the match Macclesfield were strolling to victory. However, a mistake by goalkeeper Shwan Jalal presented The Fleet with a cast iron penalty which top scorer Danny Kedwell struck home sending Jalal the wrong way. This goal rejuvenated the home side and they were given further encouragement with Blissett shown a red card when it looked as though the Ebbsfleet player had blocked Blissett. The home side made the most of Macclesfield being reduced to 10 men, Rance equalising five minutes after the sending off. They then threw everything at Macclesfield who defended gallantly with match finishing 2-2 after seven minutes of added time to leave the Silkmen 10 points clear at the top.

*On appeal, Nathan Blissett's red card was rescinded.*

*Ebbsfleet's programme was one of the best produced in the National League and was excellent value for three pounds. There were many articles including 'The Week's Events in Football' (for the National League), 'Matchday Preview' including Silkmen player profiles and photos, 'Silkmen 1-2-3' for former players, details of the referee, 'Common Ground' and 'Silkmen Milestones', 'On This Day', 'Up, Up and Away' looking back to the 2001-02 season to date detailing how new boys to the*



*Conference/National League had fared, and 'The Unlikely Lads' by Leigh Edward's the football historian, about former Macclesfield players who have featured in higher leagues.*

At **Boreham Wood** on one of the best, if not the best, playing surfaces in the National League, a hard fought match was played out with Tyrone Marsh scoring a goal in each half to give the Silkmen a 2-0 win.

Another match transmitted live by BT Sport with a 12-15 kick-off at the Moss Rose was against **Leyton Orient**. This was not the most entertaining of matches but Macclesfield started the brighter and took the lead in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute through Danny Whitaker. Shortly after the Silkmen were forced to make a change when the injured Callum Evans was replaced by Scott Wilson. As the half progressed Leyton Orient began to make their presence known and determined, according to pre-match reports, to spoil the party for Macclesfield. And they did just that in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute when Josh Koroma's shot passed through a crowded six yard box to defeat the unsighted Macclesfield 'keeper. The Silkmen never really got going in the second half probably feeling effect of a long journey south the previous Tuesday, the O's pressing with 12 corners (Macclesfield three), nevertheless Macclesfield held firm including a last minute block by David Fitzpatrick to deny the visitors victory.

*Shaun Wallace, known as the Dark Destroyer on the ITV programme The Chase, was present as he had been at Boreham Wood the previous Tuesday. Shaun is a Chelsea supporter.*

At **Eastleigh** BT Sport were there again for a live transmission with a 12.30 kick-off. Macclesfield went into this match knowing that a victory would see them Champions of the Vanarama National League and promoted to the English Football League leaving second place Tranmere Rovers unable to catch them. There was a dream start in the third minute when in-form Tyron Marsh rushed in to crash the ball into the top of the net from a brilliant cross from the left by David Fitzpatrick. Eastleigh were not daunted and pressed for an equaliser looking, at times, the side more likely to score but it remained 1-0 at half time. Mitch Hancox clinched victory in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute when the Eastleigh defence failed to clear Danny Whitehead's low cross, Hancox pouncing on the ball, coolly beating the 'keeper to send the 494 Macclesfield fans wild at the Silverdale Stadium.

*On arrival back at Macclesfield the players were chanting 'We're going up with a tenner in the bank', a chant which the supporters had been singing for some time.*

On the last Saturday in April champions Macclesfield Town took to the pitch at the Moss Rose in front of a crowd of 4201 (a record Conference attendance at the Moss Rose), through a guard of honour formed by the visitors **Dagenham & Redbridge**. With neither side having anything to play for there was a rather end-of-term feeling but towards the end of the first half Macclesfield defender Keith Lowe, who had played every minute of the season, had the ball in the back of the net but his effort was ruled off-side. The second half came alive a little more but it was not until top scorer Scott Wilson had replaced Nathan Blissett there were any goals. Wilson had not featured often in recent matches but having been introduced in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute, as though he had a point to prove, he scored in the 79<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> minutes to ensure that Macclesfield completed the season on a high note. Four minutes from full time central defender George Pilkington replaced Callum Evans playing as a striker for the remainder of the match – real end-of-season stuff. Macclesfield finished with 92 points, 10 points clear of Tranmere Rovers in second place who also gained promotion back to the English Football League through the Play-offs.

*The Trophy was presented at the end of the match.*

*The groundsman had emblazoned 'Champions' in the goals.*

*A light aircraft flew over trailing a banner 'Silkmen Champions, thank you Sir John'.*

*There was a banner displayed on the ground 'Thank you Sir John and the lads. We did it together'.*

*180 diners enjoyed the pre-match meal.*

### **Macclesfield Town Player of the Year Awards**

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Supporters' Player of the Year   | Danny Whitaker                    |
| • Players' Player of the Year      | Keith Lowe                        |
| • Star Lane End Player of the Year | Keith Lowe                        |
| • Wraggs2Riches Player of the Year | Keith Lowe                        |
| • Goal of the season               | Ryan Lloyd (at Maidenhead United) |
| • SST Andy Mellor Endeavour Award  | Danny Whitaker                    |

### **National Game Awards**

- John Askey – Manager of the Year sponsored by FieldTurf
- Danny Whitaker – Player of the Year sponsored by Mark Harrod, Products for Sport
- Club – FMPA Medicine Performance & Team Award (presented to club physiotherapist Callum Williams)

### **Vanarama National League Awards**

- Manager of the Year – John Askey
- Included in the Team of the Year – Shwan Jalal, Danny Whitaker and Elliott Durrell

### **Freedom of the Borough of Macclesfield**

- John Askey was made a Freeman acknowledging his contribution to Macclesfield Town Football Club over some 34 years.



**Danny Whitehead celebrates his goal against Torquay United with Keith Lowe – 27 January (PH)**



**Nathan Blissett in action against Guiseley - 10 February (PH)**



**Tyrone Marsh heading home against Guiseley - 10 February (PH)**





Elliott Durrell at the feet of scorer Nathan Blissett at Aldershot Town - 17 February (CW)



Scorer of two goals at Tranmere Rovers Elliott Durrell has every right to appear overjoyed - 20 February (PH)





**Scott Wilson celebrates scoring the winning goal in the 94th minute against Maidenhead – 24 February (PH)**



**Goal celebrations against Barrow - 10 March (PH)**





**Nathan Blissett scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute against Gateshead - 27 March (PH)**



**Macclesfield favourite Danny Whitaker acknowledging the crowd at the end of the match against Gateshead - 27 March (PH)**





**Danny Whitehead's winning goal scored in the 94th minute at Woking - 30 March (PH)**



**A packed stand at the match against Leyton Orient - 14 April (PH)**





**Mitch Hancox scoring the second goal at Eastleigh ensuring Macclesfield's promotion back to the English National League - 21 April (PH)**



**Macclesfield's excellent official photographer Peter Hilton (right) jubilantly holding the Vanarama National League Trophy**





**Manager John Askey with the Vanarama National League Trophy**



**Danny Whitaker receiving the Supporters' Player of the Year Award**

In June 2018 the euphoria in Macclesfield becoming champions of the Vanarama National League and promotion to the Sky Bet League Two in the English National League was somewhat diluted when it was announced that manager John Askey had been appointed manager at Sky Bet League One side Shrewsbury Town after almost 34 years continuous and valuable service at the Moss Rose. This appointment is richly deserved by John and everyone thanks him for everything he has done for the club in his various capacities and wishes him well for the future. Macclesfield club sponsors Messrs Bianchi and Kirk were representing players and it was interesting to see a photograph taken at Shrewsbury on the day John was appointed as manager with Shrewsbury's Chief Executive Officer, John and Nick Biachi. When John appointed John Filan as his assistant at Shrewsbury Town it came to light that Filan had been helping out at Macclesfield in the latter part of the season but there had been no official announcement.

To compliment this written account, much more detailed information can be found in 'Match Information' for scores, scorers, attendances and teams, 'Season Statistics' for individual player appearances and goals competition by competition, 'General Information' and 'Player Profiles' which provide statistics and information for individual players.

Grateful thanks are extended to Peter Hilton (PH), the club's official photographer, who is always most helpful, and also to his assistants Chelsie Wilson (CW), David Tolley (DT), and Connor Molloy (CM) for the supply of photographs which add so much to the written word. Thanks also go to Bob Trafford of the Star Lane End Web Site (SLE) and the Silkmen Supporters' Trust (SST).



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Promotion to the English Football League brings to a close this Ebook. Will the Silkmen be able emulate Lincoln City's first season back in the EFL when they reached the Play-offs or will they struggle as Forest Green Rovers did in their first ever-season as members of the EFL?

**PLAYER MOVEMENTS  
SEASON 2017-18**

PLAYER	SIGNED/EXISTING PLAYER	LOANED/LEFT
Koby Arthur	*Summer 2017 from Birmingham City	
Noe Baba	*Summer 2017 from Birmingham City	*Released at the end of the 2017-18 season.
Nathan Blissett	*January 2018 loan from Plymouth Argyll	*Returned to parent club at the end of the 2017-18 season
Scott Burgess	*Summer 2017 on season-long loan from Bury	*Returned to parent club at the end of the 2017-18 season.
Elliott Durrell	*Summer 2017 from Chester	
Callum Evans	*January 2018 loan from Forest Green Rovers	*Returned to Forest Green Rovers at the end of the season when he was released by them. *May 2018 signed a permanent contract with MTFC.
David Fitzpatrick	*Existing Macclesfield player	
Mitch Hancox	*Existing Macclesfield player	
Jared Hodgkiss	*Summer 2017 from Kidderminster Harriers	
Shwan Jalal	*Summer 2017 from Wrexham	*May 2018 signed for Chesterfield
Kieran Kennedy	*Summer 2017 from AFC Fylde	*June 2018 signed for Shrewsbury Town
Keith Lowe	*Summer 2017 from Kidderminster Harriers	
Tyrone Marsh	*Summer 2017 from Dover Athletic	
Billy O'Brien	*Summer 2017 from Manchester City	*Contract cancelled by mutual consent 13 September 2017.
Ejiro Okosieme	*Existing Macclesfield player	*Transferred to Dover Athletic October 2017
George Pilkington	*Existing Macclesfield player	
Sam Ramsbottom	*September 2017 from Barrow	*Released at the end of the 2017-18 season.
Courtney Richards	*Summer 2017 from Torquay United	*Three month loan to Solihull Moors from 15 September 2017. Returned to Moss Rose in December 2017. *Release at the end of the 2017-18 season.
Gime Toure	*Summer 2017 from Fontenay LCVF	*Left club by mutual consent on 31 January 2018.
Danny Whitaker	*Existing Macclesfield player	
Danny Whitehead	*September 2017 re-signed from Wigan Athletic where his contract was cancelled by mutual agreement.	*May 2017 signed for Salford City.
Scott Wilson	*Summer 2017 from Eastleigh	
Adam Yates	*August 2017 loan from Port Vale	*Returned to Port Vale on 5 September 2017 at the end of his loan.
The following players were signed by the club but did not make any appearances Adam Dugdale, Diego De Girolamo, Shamir Mullins and Josh Thompson		

**MACCLESFIELD TOWN U21 DEVELOPMENT TEAM**  
**SEASON 2017-18**

DATE	OPPONENT	H / A	RESULT	SCORERS	TEAM
3 Sept	STYAL <i>League Challenge Cup</i>	H	5-3 W	Rendle (3), Dolling, Del-Rio	Smith, Nolan, Kemp, Anderson, Okome, Ezzedine, Chambers, Ogundaisi, Dolling, Rendle, O'Connor Subs: Arnold, Blower, Crosdale, Del Rio
17 Sept	GLOSSOP NORTH END	H	1-4 L	Wright	Smith, Nolan, Kemp, Blower, Okome, Chambers, Ogundaisi, Riley, Del Rio, Rendle, Wright Subs: Arkian, Arnold, Dolling, Ezzedine
24 Sept	Poynton	A	7-0 W	Chambers (1+2 pens), Rendle, Dolling, Williams, Riley	Smith, Nolan, Kemp, Blower, Okome, Chambers, Riley, Williams, Dolling, Rendle, Wright Subs: Arnold, Del Rio, Ezzedine, Ibrahim, Ogundaisi
1 Oct	POYNTON <i>League Challenge Cup</i>	H	5-1 W	Chambers (2), Del-Rio, Rendle, Williams	Smith, Nolan, Kemp, Blower, Okome, Riley, Chambers, Wright, Del Rio, Rendle, Williams Subs: Ibrahim, Ezzedine, Arkian, Anderson, Dolling
8 Oct	SALE	H	0-2 L		Smith, Nolan, Kemp, Blower, Okome, Riley, Chambers, Arkian, Dolling, Rendle, Wright Subs: Ezzedine, Scully, Biggin, Del Rio
15 Oct	Stockport Vikings	A	11-0 W	Chambers (7) Rendell (2) Scully, Dolling	Smith, Biggin, Kemp, Ezzedine, Okome, Riley, Chambers, Blower, Del Rio, Rendle, Scully Subs: Ibrahim, Arkian, Wright, Williams, Dolling
22 Oct	WEST KIRBY UNITED YOUTH <i>Championship Division Cup</i>	H	2-1 W	Chambers pen Nicholson OG	Smith, Biggin, Kemp, Ibrahim, Okome, Ezzedine, Chambers, Blower, Del Rio, Rendle, Williams Subs: Nolan, Arkian, Anderson, Wright, Dolling
12 Nov	CHEADLE TOWN	H	2-3 L	Chambers, Riley 83	Smith, Biggin, Kemp, Ezzedine, Okome, Riley, Chambers, Arkian, Scully, Rendle, Wright Subs: Ibrahim, Nolan, Anderson, Dolling, Del Rio
19 Nov	Southport <i>League Challenge Cup</i>	A	1-4 L	Riley	Smith, Biggin, Kemp, Ezzedine, Okome, Riley, Nixon, Arkian, Chambers, Rendle, Wright Subs: Nolan, Scully, Anderson, Dolling, Del Rio
26 Nov	Avro	A	1-4 L	Dolling	Smith, Riley, Kemp, Arkian, Okome, Ezzedine, Biggin, Anderson, Dolling, Nixon, Nolan Subs: Wright, Scully, Del Rio, Blower
17 Dec	Avro	A	8-3 W	Dolling (2), Riley, Wright (3 + pen), Kemp,	Smith, Ezzedine, Riley, Anderson, Okome, Grezice, Kemp, Arkian, Dolling, Wright, Dominic Subs: Del Rio, Blower, Arnold
14 Jan	Cheadle Town	A	3-3 D	Wright 58, 77 Nixon 61	Smith, Ezzedine, Nolan, Anderson, Smith, Arkian, Chambers, Dominic, Dolling, Wright, Kemp Subs: Scully, Del Rio, Nixon, James, Samuel
21 Jan	POYNTON	H	7-2 W	Wright (2), Chambers (2), Samuel, Scully, kemp	Smith, Ezzedine, Arnold, Scully, James, Arkian, Chambers, Samuel, Dolling, Wright, Kemp Sub: Biggin
11 Mar	Tytherington U21s	A	1-2 L	Box	Smith, Scully, Dolling, Davidson, Kemp, Jones, Gordon, Box, Biggin, Nolan, Likoi-Elumba Subs: Kerr, Del Rio, Smith
25 Mar	Glossop North End	A	1-3 L	Kemp	Smith Ogundaisi, Simpson, Biggin, Kerr, Arkian, Kemp, Deane, Scully, Dolling, Likoy-Elumba Subs: Jones, Del Rio, Jordan, Davidson
8 Apr	NESTON NOMADS <i>Championship Division Cup</i>	H	2-3 L	Dolling, Jordan	Smith, Nolan, Biggin, Kerr, Smyth, Arkian, Kemp, Jones, Dolling, Jordan, Scully Subs: Box, Del Rio, Robinson, Deane, Barraclough
22 Apr	Sale	A	1-2 L		Team information not published
30 Apr	TYTHERINGTON U21s <i>Played at the Moss Rose</i>	H	0-1 L		Smith, Nolan, Kerr, Smyth, Kabbani, Arkian, Box, Jones, Dolling, Jordan, Scully Subs: Biggin, Del Rio, Davidson, Simpson, Dinsley(?)

Grateful thanks go to the SLE web site for the above information which has been extracted from their match reports.



**MACCLEDSFIELD TWON FOOTBALL CLUB  
OFFICIAL TEAM PHOTOGRAPH  
SEASON 2017-18**



**Back Row**

Tyrone Marsh, George Pilkington, Adam Yates, Noe Baba, Courtney Richards,  
Scott Wilson, Scott Burgess

**Middle Row**

Martin Ollier (Physio), Bill Gorton (Goalkeeping Coach), Kieran Kennedy,  
Gime Toure, Shwan Jalal, Ryan Lloyd, Billy O'Brien, Keith Lowe, Josh Thomson,  
Rae Ingram (Masseur), Tony Brown (Kit Man)

**Front Row**

Koby Arthur, David Fitzpatrick, Danny Whitaker, Byron Jenkins (Coach), John Askey (Manager),  
Steve Watson (Assistant Manager), Jared Hodgkiss (captain), Elliott Durrell, Mitch Hancox