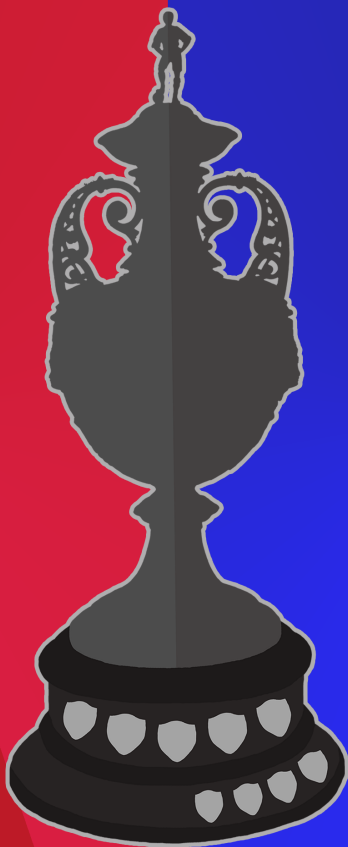


Tuesday 16th April 2024
Boundary Park



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



The Manchester FA Frank Hannah Premier Cup

FINAL 2024

Ashton United FC **V** **Avro FC**

WELCOME FROM MANCHESTER FA



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

Everyone at Manchester Football Association would like to welcome the players, management, officials and the supporters of both Ashton United FC and Avro FC to Boundary Park this evening.

A huge thankyou to Oldham Athletic for hosting our prestigious cup final fixture, during a busy season for everyone connected to football. We would also like to thank Nicky Johnson, Jeremy Sayle & John Porter from Ashton United, alongside Jamie Ross from Avro, for allowing us to use their images in the programme.

We hope tonight will be a great contest and atmosphere between two excellent sides, in front of a bumper crowd. Tonight, we expect an entertaining game with both teams enjoying good seasons.

Ashton United are the competitions most decorated side, this being their 23rd Premier cup final, having won the competition 16 times with their last victory coming in 2022. Avro will be looking to win their second ever Premier Cup, with their only victory coming in 1942.

On behalf of Manchester FA, good luck to each of tonight's teams!



@Manchester_FA



@Manchester_FA



Manchester Football Association



Manchester FA



Support@manchesterfa.com



0161 225 1966

REMEMBERING FRANK HANNAH MBE



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



From the 2015/16 season the competition has been named after our beloved Frank Hannah.

The Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup is Manchester FA's most senior non-league county cup competition, where the best semi-professional sides compete for the chance to win this historic trophy.

To ensure Frank's legacy lives on, this competition will carry his family's name for years to come as we sadly lost Frank and his devoted wife Doris in 2014. As Chairman and President of Manchester Football Association, he received an MBE (pictured) for his services to sport in the Queen's 2010 New Year Honours list.

We are extremely proud to have some of Frank's close family here with us again this evening, as Manchester FA will never forget his contribution. He remains in all our hearts and we would also like to thank all the participating clubs who understand the importance of the name in this competition.

May you continue to rest in peace and we know you'll be here in spirit.



THE FRANK HANNAH PREMIER CUP



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

The Premier Cup is Greater Manchester's senior non-league competition.

It was first competed during the 1934/35 season, the Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup (or Manchester County FA Shield as it was then known) was first won by Manchester North End.

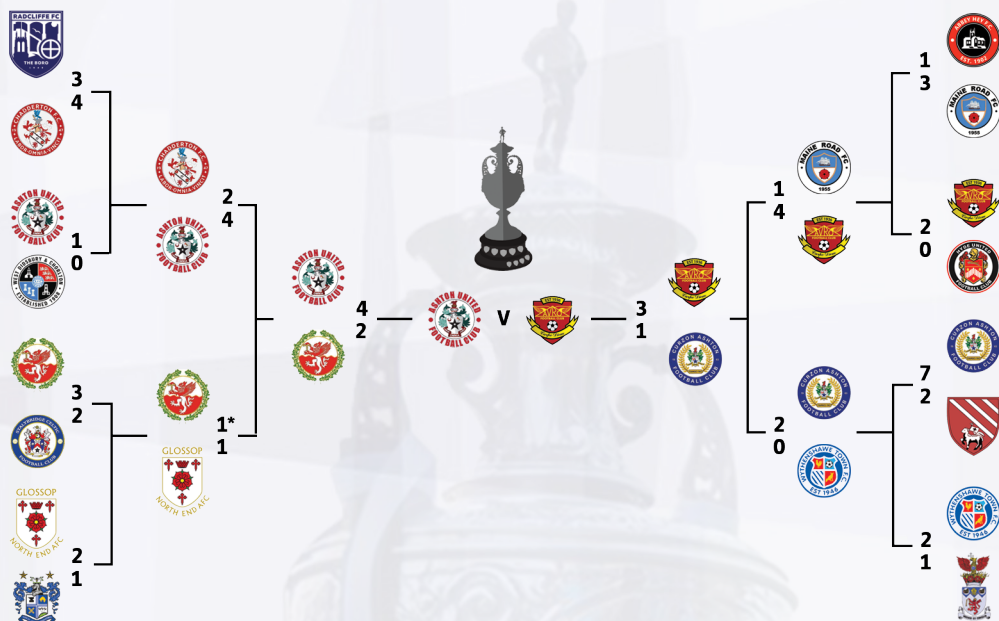
PAST WINNERS

1935 - Manchester North End	1964 - Bury	1993 - Droylsden
1936 - Hurst (Ashton United)	1965 - Droylsden	1994 - Hyde United
1937 - Ashton National	1966 - Ashton United	1995 - Hyde United
1938 - Mossley	1967 - Mossley	1996 - Hyde United
1939 - Hurst (Ashton United)	1968 - Mossley	1997 - Glossop North End
1940 - Ashton National	1969 - Stalybridge Celtic	1998 - Glossop North End
1941 - Urmston	1970 - Droylsden	1999 - Hyde United
1942 - Avro	1971 - Dukinfield Town	2000 - Droylsden
1943 - Army	1972 - Curzon Ashton	2001 - Ashton United
1944 - Goslings	1973 - Curzon Ashton	2002 - Ashton United
1945 - Ashton National	1974 - Curzon Ashton	2003 - Ashton United
1946 - Urmston	1975 - Little Lever	2004 - Droylsden
1947 - Droylsden	1976 - Maine Road	2005 - Hyde United
1948 - Goslings	1977 - Maine Road	2006 - Hyde United
1949 - Mossley	1978 - Salford Amateurs	2007 - Droylsden
1950 - Ashton United	1979 - Salford Amateurs	2008 - Radcliffe
1951 - Lancashire Steel	1980 - Ashton United	2009 - Droylsden
1952 - Droylsden	1981 - Droylsden	2010 - Droylsden
1953 - Ashton United	1982 - Curzon Ashton	2011 - Droylsden
1954 - Ashton United	1983 - Ashton United	2012 - Mossley
1955 - Ashton United	1984 - Curzon Ashton	2013 - Mossley
1956 - Hyde United & Oldham Ath	1985 - Irlam Town	2014 - Trafford
1957 - Hyde United	1986 - Curzon Ashton	2015 - Mossley
1958 - Stalybridge Celtic	1987 - Curzon Ashton	2016 - Mossley
1959 - Ashton United	1988 - Maine Road	2017 - FC United of Manchester
1960 - Droylsden	1989 - Mossley	2018 - FC United of Manchester
1961 - Mossley	1990 - Curzon Ashton	2019 - Curzon Ashton
1962 - Bury	1991 - Mossley	2022 - Ashton United
1963 - Ashton United	1992 - Ashton United	2023 - Radcliffe

THE FRANK HANNAH PREMIER CUP 23/24



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL

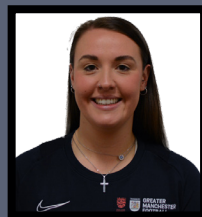


AIMEE COOK - FOOTBALL SERVICES OFFICER

Our County Cup Finals are now well underway for 2024, where we have seen some thrilling finals, showcasing the quality of grassroots football across Greater Manchester.

Tonight, the highly anticipated Frank Hannah Premier Cup Final will be contested by Ashton United and Avro. Both teams have shown their qualities throughout the competition and they both thoroughly deserve their places in the final. I offer a very warm welcome to spectators, teams and match officials to this evening's Final.

A massive thank you to everyone involved in making this final happen, including Oldham Athletic for hosting this prestigious competition. Finally, I would like to wish both teams the best of luck!



"MY COACH DIDN'T ONLY
BUILD ME AS A PLAYER
— HE BUILT ME
AS A PERSON."



"My ethos was —
play with a smile
on your face."

— David
Marcus's Grassroots Coach



COACHES. IT STARTS WITH YOU.
STAY POSITIVE. BE SUPPORTIVE. SHOW RESPECT.



LOVE FOOTBALL
PROTECT THE GAME.

MEET THE MATCH OFFICIALS



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

It's important not to forget the 'third team' taking to the pitch for tonight's match, the officials!



TOM PARSONS
REFEREE



JACOB GRAHAM
ASSISTANT REFEREE



MATT MALTON
ASSISTANT REFEREE



OLIVER NOONAN
FOURTH OFFICIAL

Just as with the Clubs, being involved in a Cup Final is a special occasion and a significant achievement that's earned from countless good performances throughout the season. Each of the match officials appointed to the game honed their skills in the grassroots leagues across Greater Manchester.



THERE'S NO SPACE FOR HATE IN OUR GAME.

ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
DISCRIMINATION WILL BE PUNISHED.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME

VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT: STEVE CUNNINGHAM



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

It's always nice to end the season with a chance of silverware and give the fans something to look forward to after a long gruelling season.

We have had such a good season so far, chasing the playoff places, but this is an opportunity to put our hands on a trophy and we will be doing all we can to win it.

We face tough opponents in Avro and we need to be at our best if we are to win the game.

We hope the supporters enjoy the game and thank them for their continued support.





MANCHESTER FA *HEART SAFE*

Learn CPR in 15 minutes for free with RevivR™
from The British Heart Foundation.

Many of us will witness a cardiac arrest in our
lifetime. Be ready for that day with RevivR, our
fast, free and easy-to-use online training
course!



British Heart
Foundation



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL

VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT: ALEX FROST



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to manage my Avro side in the final of the most prestigious non-league cup competition in the Greater Manchester area. It is only since we became a semi-professional club back in 2018 that we have again become eligible to take part in it, so this will be a great honour for us.

One of my first big experiences in management came in the semi-final of this competition against tonight's opponents in 2022 - and it was not a happy one! We led 1-0 until the closing stages of the ninety minutes, but then conceded two goals to bow out.

We will certainly be looking to make up for that this evening, but we know that it is going to be an extremely tough game against an Ashton United side who are having an excellent season. We are therefore very much the underdogs, but to be honest, that does not bother us - we are used to it by now!

Thanks to all those who have travelled to support us tonight, and to Oldham Athletic for agreeing to host the final - it will certainly be a great experience for both sets of players.

My time as Avro manager will come to an end when this season is over because of work commitments, and whilst of course I hope to sign off with some silverware, it has been a fantastic two and a half seasons regardless of tonight's outcome. Thanks to everyone who has played their part in ensuring that this has been the case.

The MANCHESTER FA WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP FINAL



V



TIE TO BE PLAYED WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY 2024 - 19:45

ROCHDALE AFC, CROWN OIL ARENA

TICKETS ON SALE AT [MANCHESTERFA.COM](https://manchesterfa.com)



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



A&H INTERNATIONAL
#WEAREREFEREES

CLUB HISTORY: ASHTON UNITED



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

Several teams played in the village of Hurst in the 1870s as the club began life as Hurst FC in 1878 with the first recorded game played in 1879 against Hurst Red Star. The current Hurst Cross ground was first used by the club in 1884, making it one of football's oldest surviving venues.

Hurst entered the FA Cup as early as 1883 and reached the second round at the first time of asking. In 1884 the club were one of 12 founder members of the Manchester FA and won the Manchester Cup in 1885 - beating Newton Heath, the forerunners of Manchester United; the attendance record was set at Hurst Cross the same year, with over 9,000 people watching the FA Cup holders Blackburn Rovers.

Following the war, Hurst returned to playing in 1918, setting a club record 13-1 victory over Marple the following year. The club switched from black and white stripes and the nickname 'The Lambs' to red shirts and being known as 'The Robins'. Hurst won two Manchester Challenge Cups in 1936 and 1939. Just before the outbreak of World War II, the club secured the services of William 'Dixie' Dean at the end of his glorious career – but the conflict was to deny the folk of Hurst more than a couple of glimpses of Dean's skills.

Like many others, Hurst struggled on and off the field in the immediate post-war era - the change of name to Ashton United came about in 1947. Ashton's first post-war trophy success again came in the form of the Manchester Challenge Cup, won in 1950, then held for three further seasons (1953-55). The 1960s started with Ashton as holders of the Manchester Intermediate Cup and later that year the club saw the debut of 15-year-old schoolboy Alan Ball, a World Cup winner just six years later.

Under the managership of Hugh Kelly, Ashton subsequently stormed to the 2nd Division title in 1962 – winning every home league game on the way - and taking the League Cup. 1963 saw the club win the Manchester Intermediate Cup once more, a feat repeated in 1966. After continually being frustrated in their attempts to re-join the Cheshire League, they embarked on a two-year experiment of playing in the Midland Counties League. Midlands football proved a financial disaster, and the club re-joined the Lancashire Combination in 1966; two seasons later they finally got their much sought-after move back to the Cheshire League, where they stayed until the North West Counties League was formed in 1982. The intervening years had seen the club twice win the Manchester Senior Cup, whilst their first season in the NWCL saw Ashton land the recently founded Manchester Premier Cup for the second time in three years.

CLUB HISTORY: ASHTON UNITED



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Local businessman Terry Liversidge came to Hurst Cross in 1990 and helped transform the club and ground; in 1992, under manager Dave Denby, Ashton became the first team to win the NWCL title and cup double in a season where they lifted four trophies, including another Manchester Premier Cup. The club established itself as a force in the Northern Premier League 1st Division as they finished in third place six times over ten seasons, and won the First Division Cup in 1994, 1997 and 1999.

Ashton finally won promotion to the Premier Division via the inaugural NPL play-offs under Gerry Quinn in 2002, and also retained the Manchester Premier Cup they had won the previous season - they were to win it again in 2003 and became founding members of the Conference North in 2004, but their stay in the new league was ended after just one season.

A first ever NPL Challenge Cup victory was achieved when The Robins beat Northwich Victoria 1-0 in the 2011 final. After three successive end-of-season play-offs from 2014-16, in 2018 under a new manager in Jody Banim, it proved fourth time lucky as Ashton earned promotion to National League North. Ashton couldn't retain the higher status and relegation was confirmed in April 2019, just as the joint chairmanship of David & Jonathan Burke (son and grandson of Ashton's record appearance holder, Johnny Burke) had been confirmed as replacements for the outgoing Terry Hollis. Hyde United were beaten 1-0 in the 2021-22 Manchester Cup Final to give the co-chairmen their first silverware, who were also busy investing in updating the facilities at Hurst Cross. The club are looking to build on the existing community development programme and develop the playing side under current manager Steve Cunningham.

CLUB HISTORY: AVRO FC



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

Our history begins in the years just before the start of the Second World War. A.V. Roe established an aircraft factory at Chadderton. The factory would become the home of the famed 'Dambusters' aircraft – the Avro Lancaster, as well as the famous Cold War 'V' bomber - the Avro Vulcan. A.V Roe purchased a smaller factory in Failsworth, where the Lancaster Club was located.

In 1950, the Lodge was opened to all personnel of Avro and took on the Lancaster Club name. The Grade II listed Lancaster Club then became the club's headquarters for the next 67 years. We joined the Manchester League in the 1954/55 season, won the Division 1 Championship in 1988/89 and re-established our junior teams, but lasted just three seasons in the Premier Division before being relegated in 1991/92.

We again won Division 1 in 2003/04 and promotion to the Premier Division, but for a second time were relegated after three seasons in 2006/07. However, on this occasion we bounced back immediately, returning to the top flight in 2008/09 before being crowned Premier division champions for the first time in 2009/10.

By this time Oldham Council had bought the Lancaster Club land from Oldham Athletic FC who had purchased it as part of a plan to build a new stadium on the site, which never materialised. After numerous meetings between the council and our chairman Robert Fuller, we were granted a lease on the former Whitebank Stadium in Limehurst Village, Oldham. After an enormous amount of work to bring it up to standard, this has become our new home ground; The Vestacare Stadium.

In the summer of 2017, the new management team of Lee O'Brien and James Hampson took over and led the team to a second Manchester League Premier Division title, as well as the Manchester FA County Cup in their first season. The move to the new stadium has allowed the club to pursue its ambitions of Step 6 football which was achieved in 2018 with promotion. In our first season in NWCFL we reached the semi-final of the Macron Cup and the final of the First Division Cup, as well as reaching the 3rd Round Proper of the FA Vase. In the league we finished runners-up to Longridge Town and were promoted as one of the highest points per game clubs in the country.

Our first season in the NWCFL Premier Division 2019/20 saw us consolidate and finish a respectable 12th position after 30 games, the season being curtailed by the coronavirus outbreak of course. We also made a first appearance in the FA Cup, drawing to Litherland REMYCA.

CLUB HISTORY: AVRO FC



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Photo Credit: Jamie Ross

In the curtailed 2020/21 campaign, the team finished Boxing Day top of the Premier Division after some excellent performances, particularly away from home. The FA Cup ended in a defeat at home to Bootle after a performance that very nearly took the Merseysiders to penalties.

January 2022 saw the resignation of our successful management duo of Lee O'Brien and James Hampson with the club sitting in a highly respectable fifth position in the Premier Division. The board decided to appoint from within, and player Alex Frost became the new manager. The positive results continued in the league and we finished in a very creditable 6th position.

During the close season the new management team recruited excellently and the first contracts in the club's history were offered to a number of key players. We hit the ground running and recorded a club record 720 minutes without conceding a goal, with Emley in the FA Vase being the first team to score against us on 26th August, nine games into the season.

That consistency continued through the season and we suffered consecutive defeats on only two occasions, finishing the season with fewest goals conceded in the NWCFL Premier Division and in second position. That led to a play-off final at Lincoln United, an historic day for the club as goals from Tom Benthams and Jack Morrow fired us up into the Northern Premier League. Our first ever season of step 4 football has been a steep learning curve, but we have remained in playoff contention until the last month of the campaign and look forward to trying to better that achievement with a new management team in 2024-25.

UPCOMING MFA COUNTY CUP FINALS



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

VETERANS CUP

Friday 19th April at Irlam FC

U16 BOYS YOUTH CUP

Tuesday 23rd April at Abbey Hey FC

U16 GIRLS YOUTH CUP

Thursday 25th April at Abbey Hey FC

WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

Wednesday 1st May at Rochdale AFC

GIRLS YOUTH CUP FINAL DAY

Saturday 11th May at Avro FC

BOYS YOUTH CUP FINAL DAY

Sunday 12th May at Avro FC

ALL GAMES LIVE ON



PLAYER PROFILES: ASHTON UNITED



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Photo Credit: John Porter

LUKE SIMPSON (Goalkeeper)

Luke began his professional career with Oldham and signed for Ashton in the summer of 2023 to fill the problem position of keeper.

SAM BAIRD (Defender)

Currently the club's longest serving player, Sam had an inspired 2022-23 campaign - the centre back monopolised the awards at the club's end-of-season Presentation Evening, winning every available award apart from Top Scorer.

LUKE BURKE (Defender)

Having played most of the last six years in National League North, it was no surprise that Luke immediately impressed in pre-season.

BERNARDO COUTO (Defender)

Portuguese-born started in England with Oldham's academy and made his Football League bow shortly after his 17th birthday; still only 19, he has already had a loan spell with The New Saints in 2023 and helped Ashton to a clean sheet on debut.

DAN COWAN (Defender)

Dan made his Robins debut on loan from Macclesfield Town in 2016; after promotion-winning spells with Stockport, Buxton and Macclesfield, he returned to Ashton as a permanent signing - linking up with manager Cunningham for a 3rd time in the process.

SEAN NEWTON (Defender)

Liverpool-born Sean joined Ashton as Player-Coach under Steve Cunningham at the start of 2023; he has Football League experience and an FA Trophy winners medal with York City on his CV.

PLAYER PROFILES: ASHTON UNITED



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL

BRAD ABBOTT (Midfield)

A former Barnsley junior player and first teamer, Brad was brought in to patrol Ashton's midfield during the summer from league rivals Matlock, having helped the Gladiators to the play-offs despite him missing a large chunk of the season through injury.

ANDREAS BIANGA (Midfield)

Former Burnley trainee Andreas returned to Hurst Cross in the summer of 2023, having featured under previous manager Micheal Clegg before moving on to Mossley; he has also played for three other Tameside clubs - Curzon, Hyde, and Droylsden.

ALEX BYRNE (Midfield)

An attacking midfielder, Alex has played for a variety of current / former NPL clubs – most recently he was last season's top scorer and Supporters' Player of the Season at Matlock, before committing to Steve Cunningham's summer rebuilding programme.

JAMES CATON (Midfield)

James played in the Football League with Blackpool, Accrington & Shrewsbury – he then completed a BA Degree with UCFB whilst playing at National League level; a sound showing in pre-season led to the winger signing on at Hurst Cross.

NATHAN LOWE (Midfield)

A former Burnley trainee, Nathan was one of Steve Cunningham's immediate transfer targets on arrival in January 2023 – after a goal on debut he has gone on to become the heart of the Ashton midfield and one of the first names on the teamsheet.

GEORGE MILNER (Midfield)

Initially signed on a month-long loan to cover gaps at the start of the 2022-23 season, George returned to Ashton in October 2022 as a permanent recruit; a striker when with Chesterfield's academy, he can now be found playing in midfield or at full-back.

MARCUS CUSANI (Midfield)

A familiar face on the NPL scene, goalscoring winger Marcus ended his second spell at Atherton Collieries when switching to Hurst Cross in the summer – he has also featured with Warrington Town and Ashton Athletic.

JAMES HARDY (Midfield)

Stockport-born midfielder James had already played for Steve Cunningham at Buxton before joining Ashton on loan from Macclesfield – after scoring on debut, Hardy's loan spell was such a success that the two clubs eventually agreed a permanent deal.

PLAYER PROFILES: ASHTON UNITED



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Photo Credit: Jeremy Sayle

CHRIS DAWSON (Midfield)

Former Leeds United and Wales Under-21 midfielder Chris links up with manager Steve Cunningham for a second time in his career, having previously played for him at Buxton.

MICAH JEBBISON (Forward)

Canadian-born Micah trialled with Sheffield United as a 16-year old alongside brother Daniel; prior to him joining Ashton in November 2023, the pacy striker had played a significant part in Long Eaton's back-to-back promotions over the past two seasons.

KIELEN ADAMS (Forward)

Initially brought in on loan last season, Kielen made such an impression in his first couple of outings for The Robins that he was soon made a permanent signing; finished as top scorer for the campaign with a final day 'screamer' at Bamber Bridge.

JAKE CHARLES (Forward)

The grandson of one Britain's greatest ever players marked his Ashton debut with a goal; Jake has gained a wealth of experience at National League and Northern Premier League clubs since making his Football league debut with Huddersfield Town.

JASON GILCHRIST (Forward)

Jason was prolific as a junior at Manchester City and in Burnley's academy; bagged a brace on his Robins' debut in January – one a clinical striker's finish and one a typical poacher's goal – and only finished one goal away from being leading scorer last term.



HOMOPHOBIC CHANTING AND BEHAVIOUR

**IT'S NOT OK.
IF YOU HEAR IT, REPORT IT.**



FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

WWW.FOOTBALLVHOMOPHOBIA.COM

 [@fvhtweets](https://twitter.com/fvhtweets)  www.bit.ly/fvhpage  [football_v_homophobia](https://www.instagram.com/football_v_homophobia)

PLAYER PROFILES:

AVRO FC



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Photo Credit: Jamie Ross

JAMES COATES (Goalkeeper)

Back up keeper, helping out on many occasions. A veteran experienced stopper who played for numerous clubs.

GRANT SHENTON (Goalkeeper)

A massive presence on and off the field, Shenton is the team captain having joined in the summer 2022. Grant was the NWCFL Premier Division goalkeeper of the season 2022/23, keeping a club record number of clean sheet

GEFFRY EBHOTE (Defender)

Born in Italy and played in Serie C for his local club in Verona before moving to the North-west. Initially played amateur football for AFC Oldham before being picked up by Stockport Town in the NWCFL. Joined Avro in Summer 2022.

DAVID FITZPATRICK (Defender)

Highly experienced Manchester born defender who began at Northwich Victoria before playing Conference football for Southport, and also played EFL football at Macclesfield before joining Port Vale. Signed from Radcliffe this season.

LUCA HAVERN (Defender)

A vastly experienced defender who joined us after a period as interim Head Coach at Bradford Park Avenue, where he was a fixture in defence for over six years.

SAM RATHBONE (Defender)

Sam is the club captain and Avro through and through. Skipper of the Manchester League double winning side and NWCFL Division 1 North promotion team, Sam doesn't score many but when he does they are memorable!

PLAYER PROFILES:

AVRO FC



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

DEANE SMALLEY (Defender)

A vastly experienced player with well over 100 appearances for Oldham Athletic in a distinguished career covering Rochdale, Oxford United and Bradford City.

CHIEKH THIAM (Defender)

Joined from Warrington Rylands, and counts FC United and Stockport Town amongst his previous clubs. Appeared in the EFL Trophy for Fleetwood Town. Born in Verbania, Italy.

KANE WALLWORK (Defender/Midfielder)

A hugely talented player who has been at Avro for all his career, and a survivor of our Manchester League side.

JAMES DWYER (Defender/Midfielder)

Came through at Chadderton, had spells with Prestwich Heys, Wythenshawe Town and Stalybridge Celtic, before making the move to the Vestacare Stadium.

BEBETO GOMES (Midfielder)

Hails from Guinea-Bissau, and is a tricky, skilful player who was at Pilkington before joining Stalybridge Celtic for a short time.

JAKE COTTRELL (Midfielder)

Another vastly experienced player with a pedigree from the NPL. Jake joined us after his contract at Ashton United expired, having spent most of his non-league career at FC United and Chorley FC.

MATTY CROTHERS (Midfielder)

Dead ball expert, Matty joined from Radcliffe in January 2023, where he had played for several years. His previous clubs were Curzon Ashton and Chadderton.

AARRON GREWAL (Midfielder)

A recent arrival from Witton Albion, Aarron is a skilful, pacy winger who began his career with West Didsbury & Chorlton.

ETHAN KERSHAW (Midfielder)

A non stop, all action midfielder who was a recent signing from Barnoldswick Town. Has caught the eye with his displays and has scored some important goals.

DARREN MCKNIGHT (Midfielder)

A calm and composed presence in the centre of the park, Darren joined on a dual registration arrangement with West Didsbury and Chorlton earlier this year.

PLAYER PROFILES:

AVRO FC



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL



Photo Credit: Jamie Ross

JACK MORROW (Midfielder)

A box to box midfield dynamo joined in the summer of 2019, making his debut as a substitute against Squires Gate. Previously with Rochdale Sacred Heart.

JAMIE ROTHER (Midfielder)

A midfield dynamo and if there's a blade of grass he's not covered, we haven't found it yet! Jamie joined in December 2022, and is a hugely experienced former captain of Ramsbottom United.

MUIS BIBIRE BELLO (Forward)

Mallorca born, Middleton based forward who has come through the ranks from Avro's reserve side. Made his debut coming on as a sub in a win at Northwich Victoria last season.

LIAM ELLIS (Forward)

Heywood based striker who has played in NPL for Radcliffe, Mossley and Trafford. Began his non-league career at Avro, and rejoined permanently in the summer of 2020.

KYLE HAWLEY (Forward)

A powerhouse striker with an eye for goal, Kyle joined us early in the season from New Mills.

BEN WHARTON (Forward)

An experienced striker who joined us from Bury FC. Stockport born Ben has vast experience at this level with several Northwest non league clubs, including making over 250 appearances for Radcliffe.

THE FA RESPECT CAMPAIGN



GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL

COACHES. IT STARTS WITH YOU.
STAY POSITIVE. BE SUPPORTIVE. SHOW RESPECT.



Respect isn't just earned on the pitch, it's earned off of it as well. When we talk about Respect, we are talking about the positive environment we want to encourage across all of football. It's about making the game a better place for all to enjoy.

To achieve this, we understand the importance of the role of our coaches across the game in implementing a positive environment to make their players better on and off the pitch.

A coaches dedication takes players to the next level. Tactics, skills, fitness - all these things are important, but there's one big factor that can make a huge difference to the people you coach - and it could be the simplest change you make this year to transform your team.

Studies have even shown that players who feel positive on the pitch actually play better.

While as a coach you can't control each moment on the pitch, you can set the tone before and during every match, at every training session, in every interaction with your team.

Veo Cam 3

veo

Manchester FA members can benefit from £200 off their VEO camera purchase via our affiliate link which you can access through the VEO article on our website!

- ➞ HDR Video Quality
- ➞ 5G Streaming
- ➞ Crisp Sound Quality
- ➞ Improved Strength & Durability



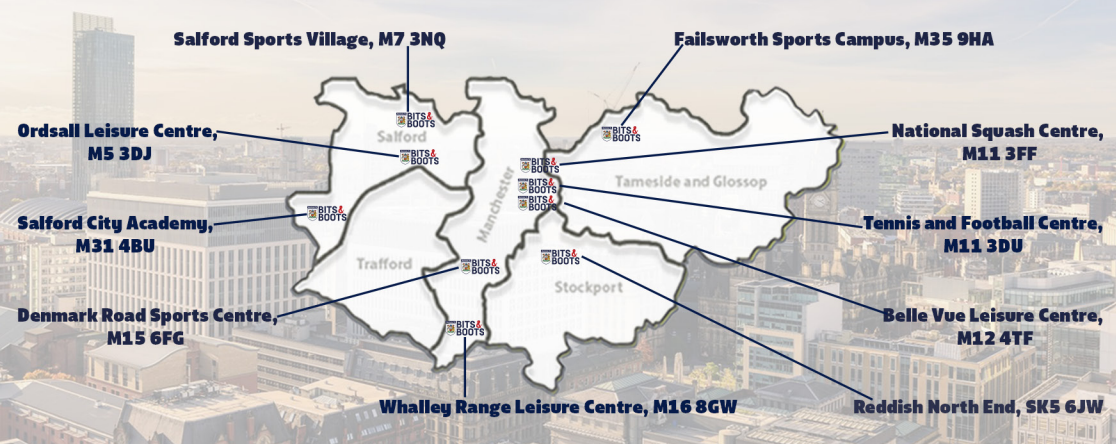
**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



MANCHESTER FA BITS AND BOOTS



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



Manchester FA have launched a new club shop consisting of pre-loved items of kit (shirts, shorts, boots etc) that will be collected from donation points across the region and re-distributed to individuals and families.

Manchester FA has partnered up with numerous organisations across Greater Manchester, to help those facing financial pressure remain in football. **Greater Manchester is home to some of the highest concentrations of poverty and deprivation in the country.** There are 620,000 people, out of a population of 2.8m, living below the poverty line in our city region.

Bits and Boots hopes to alleviate some of the pressures of the cost of living crisis and ensure people can continue to remain active in sport and improve the retention levels of people taking part in physical activity across Manchester. Kit/boots will be available online and at our pop shop within the season.

"Lots of us have unwanted and sometimes unused football kit/boots in our wardrobes and don't know what to do with them, especially with children who grow out of kit and boots so quickly. We want to create a new initiative that helps those who need it the most during this cost of living crisis; as well as helping reduce carbon footprint by recycling unwanted clothing. We are committed in helping those who need it whilst also aiding our environment by charging a nominal fee for kit. We hope this will keep the project sustainable for the long term" - Manchester FA's staff, Aimee Cook and Georgie Oliver.

If you need access to kit and boots, would like to refer someone or if you wish to get involved, please contact us at support@manchesterfa.com with the subject Bits & Boots.



Manchester FA
@manchester_fa



THE VAULT

HAS BEEN UPDATED

New content has just dropped in The Grassroots Mental Health Vault! Included in this are: ⚽ 2 new podcasts, ⚽ 4 new articles/infographics, ⚽ A new date for Mental Health First Aid Training

Visit www.vault.thefmha.com for **FREE** access.

MANCHESTER FA HALF-TIME QUIZ



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

1. What was the final score of the 2022 World Cup Final between Argentina and France?
2. How many goals did Wayne Rooney score for England?
3. Who is the only active player that has played more than 500 matches in the Premier League?
4. Which club won the first ever Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup?
5. Which club won the most recent Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup?
6. Which team has won the Frank Hannah Manchester Premier Cup (and its previous guises going back to 1935) the most with 16 wins?
7. What is the capacity of Boundary Park?
8. With 260 goals, who is the Premier League's all-time top scorer?
9. Who is the most expensive player in history?
10. Which is the only Club to have won the Football League top flight title never to have played in the Premier League?



ANSWERS

(NO CHEATING!)

1. 3-3 (Argentina won 4-2 on penalties)
2. 53
3. James Milner
4. Manchester North End
5. Radcliffe FC
6. Ashton United
7. 13,513
8. Alan Shearer
9. Neymar, costing approximately £200m in 2017 when moving to PSG
10. Preston North End

WD PHYSIOTHERAPY

Sports & Neurological Rehabilitation

Welcome to WD Physiotherapy, a leading provider of expert physiotherapy and rehabilitation services for sports and neurological injuries, trusted by Manchester FA members.

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our personalised care, advanced treatment techniques, and a compassionate, skilled team dedicated to your recovery journey. Specialising in bespoke rehabilitation programmes and home visits, we offer state-of-the-art solutions to guide you back to optimal health and well-being.

Our specialist offerings include:

- Sports injury rehab
- Expert care for Neurological conditions
- Tailored support for the elderly and frail
- Hospital avoidance strategies
- Comprehensive falls prevention programmes
- Specialised physiotherapy to enhance mobility and independence

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any questions or queries.

WDPhysio.com
Will@wdphysio.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING AT MANCHESTER FA



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



Colin Bridgford

CEO & Senior Safeguarding Lead

Colin.Bridgford@ManchesterFA.com



Scott Dean

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Scott.Dean@ManchesterFA.com



Will Blandemer

Board Safeguarding Champion and
Independent Chair of the Safeguarding
Strategy Group



Paul Roots

Football Services Manager & Deputy
Senior Safeguarding Lead

Paul.Roots@ManchesterFA.com



Simon Dear

Football Services Officer (Compliance) &
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer

Simon.Dear@ManchesterFA.com

USEFUL SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



**GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE**

POLICE (Immediate Threat)

Tel: 999

POLICE (Non-Immediate Threat)

Tel: 101

NSPCC

NSPCC

Tel: 0808 800 5000

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

ChildLine

Tel: 0800 1111



Child Exploitation & Online Protection

www.ceop.police.uk



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

Manchester FA

Tel: 0161 225 1966

For more information around keeping safe please visit the Safeguarding & Welfare page of our website.

www.ManchesterFA.com



Touchline™

SPINTSO®

LIMIT
1912



REFEREES DIRECT



molten®

A&H International are proud to be the official referee kit and equipment partner with Manchester FA

Shop now at - www.referee-equipment.com



A&HINTERNATIONAL
#WEAREREFEREES

MANCHESTER FA

FOOTBALL FIRST AID KIT

Pitch-Ready First Aid for Manchester FA

Equip your team with the essential Greater Manchester Football First Aid Kit, complete with comprehensive contents for the treatment of football injuries.

Use the discount code below for 20% off Football First Aid Kits and Steroplast items.

USE CODE

MFA20

Visit www.sterosport.co.uk

Limited time offer.

**SAVE
20%**



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**

Web: sterosport.co.uk

Tel: 0800 978 8301

Email: andrew@sterosport.co.uk



**GREATER
MANCHESTER
FOOTBALL**



ASHTON UNITED FC

Colours: Red, Red, Red

Goalkeeper: Grey

Luke Simpson (GK)
Paul Cooper (GK)
William Blease (GK)
Sam Baird
Luke Burke
Bernardo Couto
Dan Cowan
Sean Newton
Brad Abbott
Andreas Bianga
Mitchell Rose
Warren Clarke
Alex Byrne
James Caton
Nathan Lowe
George Milner
Marcus Cusani
Chris Dawson
James Hardy
Micah Jebbison
Kielen Adams
Jake Charles
Jason Gilchrist

Steve Cunningham
Sean Newton
Nigel Keogh
Jake Ratcliffe
Megan Brown
Paul Jolleys
Luke Sayle

Manager
Assistant Manager
First Team Coach
Goalkeeper Coach
Physio
Tech Team
Kit Man

AVRO FC

Colours: Blue, Black, Black

Goalkeeper : Rainbow

James Coates (GK)
Grant Shenton (GK)
Geffry Ebhote
David Fitzpatrick
Ben Woods
Luca Havern
Sam Rathbone
Deane Smalley
Chiekh Thiam
Kane Wallwork
James Dwyer
Bebeto Gomes
Jake Cottrell
Matty Crothers
Aaron Grewal
Ethan Kershaw
Darren Mcknight
Jack Morrow
Jamie Rother
Muis Bibire Bello
Liam Ellis
Kyle Hawley
Ben Wharton

Alex Frost
Phil Edghill
Mark Dickinson
Kyle Harrop
Lee Watmough
Kristina Lees
Andy Pheby

Manager
Assistant Manager
First Team Coach
Assistant Coach
Goalkeeper Coach
Physio
Kit & Equipment

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Tom Parsons
Assistant 2: Jacob Graham

Assistant 1: Matt Malton
4th Official: Oliver Noonan