

50th Anniversary of the formation of the Northern Premier League Top 100 Players

As part of the celebrations of the formation of the Northern Premier League, now the Evo-Stik League, supporters were asked to vote for their top 100 players who had played in this competition over the last 50 years. The NPL was formed in 1968 with the best non-league clubs between Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Derby being selected on their performance over recent seasons. Macclesfield were inaugural members winning the League in 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1986-87 when they gained promotion to the Conference.

There were 2000 nominations with the top 100 announced in June 2018 which will be included in a specially commissioned book covering the history of the NPL since 1968.

Number one was current England player Jamie Vardy but Macclesfield Town are well represented with a total of 10 entries.

4th - Andrew Teague

Andrew learnt his trade at Macclesfield in the youth and reserve teams before signing his first professional contract in 2005. In all he made 51 appearances for the Silkmen and having recovered from a broken leg spent time on loan at Tamworth and Hyde United. He left Macclesfield to sign for Leigh Genesis in July 2008 moving to Lancaster City in January 2009 where he helped to marshal the defence before signing for Chorley in January 2011. Here he has made over 300 appearances, is captain and led his side to the Championship of the Evo-Stik NPL Premier League in the 2013-14 season when he was the BetBright Step 3 & 4 Player of the Year.

12th – Elliott Durrell

Elliott signed for the Silkmen in the summer of 2017 and remains a member of the Macclesfield Town squad. Playing on the wing, he was an intricate part of the 2017-18 Vanarama National League Championship winning team and named in the National League Team of the Year.

With Telford United and Rushall before signing for Hednesford Town in August 2008 where he remained, other than for a six month break at Evesham United, until January 2014 when he signed for Wrexham. During his two spells at Hednesford Town he made 152 appearances and collected the Player of the Season accolade at the 2014 NPL Player of the Year awards. Elliott then played for Tamworth July (2015) and FC Chester (July 2016), and was part of Jamie Vardy's V9 Academy.

23rd – Ben Seddon

Signed for Macclesfield in the summer of 1982 where for a single season he was a tower of strength in the back line and gained a winners' medal in the Cheshire Senior Cup. In total made 49 appearances scoring seven goals.

As a teenager he represented Bottle Schoolboys before making his one and only appearance in the Football league for Tranmere Rovers, the central defender finally hanging up his boots in 1983 at South Liverpool. After leaving Tranmere and joining Southport, he went on to play for a host of clubs and made one winning and one losing appearance for Stafford Rangers in the FA Trophy finals at Wembley in 1976 and 1979 respectively. At 28 years of age and after a six-year stay at Stafford Rangers, Runcorn were still more than happy to pay a £2,000 transfer fee. Also turned out for Formby and Wigan Athletic.

34th – Chris Camden

Known as 'The Buffalo' he was a prolific striker over the years and won three NPL championships in four years in the 1990s with Stalybridge Celtic and two more with Marine.

Prior to signing Chris manager Peter Wragg informed everyone that he was negotiating the transfer of a player who had won the Golden Boot award. Chris moved to the Moss Rose in the summer of 1990 from Stafford Rangers where he had scored 36 goals the previous season.

He had previously played for Poulton Victoria, Chester City, Oswestry Town, Tranmere Rovers, Chorley, Rhyl, Ellesmere Port & Neston and South Liverpool. For some reason he failed to fit into the Silkmen side and spent time on loan at Leek Town before moving to Cheltenham Town for a fee of £1000. He then moved to Stalybridge where he appeared regularly on the score sheet. Later he played for Marine, Witton Albion, and West Kirby going full circle when he was appointed player/manager at Poulton Victoria. Chris worked in the Body Shop at the Vauxhall Plant at Ellesmere Port.

47th – Alan Zelem

Before signing for Macclesfield Alan had been on the books of Preston North End, Skelmersdale United, Winsford United, Stalybridge Celtic and Bolton Wanderers.

At Macclesfield he made 147 appearances (in all competitions) in his Northern Premier League days and coupled with the 205 Conference appearances stands at 13th in the all-time list of appearances for the Silkmen. Alan was a member of the 1986-87 treble winning side and was considered one of the best NPL goalkeepers of his time. Known as 'The Cat', Alan was the 1989-90 Player of the Year.

On leaving Macclesfield he played for a number of clubs – Hyde United, Witton Albion, Chester City, Curzon Ashton (player/manager), Mossley, Ashton United, Winsford United.

Alan runs a contract cleaning business with his brother.

53rd – Steve Burr

Played for Atherstone, Lichfield and Stafford Rangers before signing for Macclesfield in 1984 remaining until 1991 with a short spell back at the club during the 1995-96 season.

Always a favourite at the Moss Rose he made 157 appearances during his Northern Premier League days and coupled with the 196 Conference appearances stands at 12th in the Silkmen all-time appearances. Is also the club's all-time highest scorer with 182 goals (82 NPL, 100 Conference) being top-scorer in six of his seasons with the club. Steve was a member of the highly successful 1986-87 treble winning team.

On leaving Macclesfield he was transferred to Hednesford Town for a fee of £12,000 after which he played for Stafford Rangers, Halifax Town before moving to the managerial ranks with Nuneaton, Hucknall Town, Northwich Victoria, Stalybridge Celtic, Kidderminster Harriers, Chester, Southport and Stafford Rangers.

62nd – Karl Marginson

Has played for numerous clubs during his career starting with Stockport County's youth section before moving to Blackpool, Chorley, Curzon Ashton, Droylsden, Ashton United, where he made 146 appearances, and Rotherham United.

Initially joined Macclesfield on loan towards the end of the 1994-95 season, signing permanently in the summer of 1995 although he never managed to get a foothold in the senior side.

On leaving the Silkmen he signed for Chorley and then played for a further seven Non-League sides. Appointed the first manager of FC United of Manchester in 2005 he led them to four promotions eventually standing down in October 2017.

69th – Colin Little

Colin played for Altrincham, Wythenshawe Town, Rossendale, Hyde United and Crewe Alexandra before spending time at Macclesfield on loan during the 2002-03 season, signing permanently in the summer of 2003 going on to make a total of 35 appearances scoring seven goals.

After Macclesfield he played for Halifax Town, Altrincham, FC United, Radcliffe Borough, New Mills and Witton Albion. Has been a coach at Manchester United for several years and is currently with the Under 18s squad.

75th – Brian Fidler

Had been on the books of Rotherham United, Gainsborough Trinity, Workshop Town and Heanor Town before signing for Macclesfield in the summer 1966 during their Cheshire League days, remaining with the club until 1972.

He made 298 appearances in all competitions ranking him 18th in the Macclesfield all-time appearances and scored 167 goals, third in the all-time goalscorers list for the Silkmen behind Steve Burr and Harold Kelly. Known as 'Mr Showman' he liked to celebrate his goals with a lap of honour and was top-scorer for the seasons 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1970-71. Brian was a member of the NPL championship team in 1968-69 and 1969-70, holder of winners' medals for the Cheshire Senior Cup in 1969 and 1971 and a member of the team which won the first-ever Trophy Final in 1970.

On leaving Macclesfield he played for Stafford Rangers and Boston United before joining the managerial ranks overseeing Frecheville, Gainsborough Trinity, Burton Albion and Frickley Athletic.

98th – John Coleman

John enjoyed a long and successful career at Non-League level netting over 500 goals including a very short time at Macclesfield Town in 1988. He featured for Kirkby Town, Burscough, Marine, Southport, Runcorn, Rhyl, Witton Albion, Morecambe, Lancaster City and Ashton United. He was also selected to play for the England semi-professional team.

Appointed player/manager at Ashton United in 1997 where he spent two years before moving to Accrington Stanley, achieving three promotions, including promotion to the Football League in 2006. Having left Accrington he was manager at Rochdale, Southport and Sligo Rovers before returning to Accrington Stanley in September 2014.

99th – Phil Staley

Goalkeeper Staley was one of Stockport County's first ever apprentices at the age of 15 going on to play for Hyde United, Blackpool, Crewe Alexandra, Buxton, New Mills and Nantwich.

He moved into management with Welsh League side Bethesda then Ashton United before moving to Macclesfield from Chorley, where he had been coach, in October 1968 remaining with the Silkmen

until September 1980. Later was assistant manager at Nantwich Town but had to resign after a month due to ill health.

Author of the book *Get those sheep off the pitch – a Life in Non-League Football* in which he pens his experience over 40 years including many amusing incidents including his shortest managerial stint of 48 hours at Droylsden without even setting foot in the ground.

He has been a scout for Crewe Alexandra, a match summariser for Signal Cheshire Radio and the ill-fated ITV Digital.