

**MACCLESFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
TIME LINE**

19th CENTURY	
1873	*Football first played in Macclesfield on the formation of the 8 th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers team.
1874	*The year used as the anniversary of the formation of the football club. *Other than a mention in a book written by John Earles relating 50 years of football in Macclesfield (1875-1925), that Association Rules were adopted in 1874, there is no evidence of a team named 'Macclesfield' being formed at this time. He is very vague about the date of formation of the club, writing that the football team had been established over half a century ago. *The Macclesfield correspondent in the Staffordshire Sentinel newspaper wrote in 1888 that football was first played in Macclesfield in 1873 but that was not Macclesfield FC which was formed some years later. *Graham Phythian, in his book <i>Saga of the Silkmen</i> published in 2001, states in his very first sentence 'the beginnings of Macclesfield Town Football Club can be traced, at least in part , to the endeavours of a group of young men known as the 8 th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers.'
1876	*Formation of Macclesfield Football Club following the merger of 8 th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers and the Olympic Cricket Club. *First football match as Macclesfield FC played on 28 th October 1876 against Stoke who won 1-0.
1878-79	*Macclesfield United merged with Macclesfield Football Club
1879-80	*The first season that Macclesfield FC played all their matches with only 11 players on each side.
1880-81	*Winners of the Macclesfield Association Silver Medal Competition.
1881-82	*Winners of the Macclesfield Association Silver Medal Competition for a second time.
1882	* 18 November – First entry into the FA Cup losing 3-4 to Lockwood Brothers.
1886	* 6 February – Joint record win 15-0 at home to Chester St Mary's in the third round of the Cheshire Senior Cup.
1887	* 12 November – Joint record win 15-0 at home to Barnton Rovers in the first round of the Cheshire Senior Cup.
1890	* 22 March – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup defeating Nantwich 4-1.
1890-91	*Became members of The Combination joining a competitive league for the first time. * 28 March 1891 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the second time defeating Crewe Hornets 1-0.
1891	* 12 September - moved to the Moss Rose ground.
1894	* 21 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the third time defeating Chester 2-1.
1895	* July – First limited company formed in the name of Macclesfield Football and Athletic Company Limited.
1896	* 11 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the fourth time defeating Crewe Alexandra 2-0.
1897	*First Macclesfield Football Club folded at the end of the 1896-97 season.
1897-98	*Local amateur side Hallefield moved their fixtures to the Moss Rose competing in the Stockport and District League. *Hallefield were champions of the Stockport and District league without losing a match.

1898-99	*Hallefield became members of the North Staffordshire and District League.
1899-1900	*Played as Hallefield-Macclesfield in the North Staffordshire and District League.
20TH CENTURY	
1900-01	*Having re-formed, Macclesfield Football Club became members of the Manchester League.
1906	* 6 October - New grandstand costing £77 opened.
1908-09	*Champions of the Manchester League.
1910-11	* 8 April 1911 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the fifth time defeating Chester 1-0. *Champions of the Manchester League for a second time.
1911-12	*Fielded two senior teams, one in the Manchester League with the second in the Lancashire Combination 2 nd Division. *This was the last season Macclesfield played in the Manchester League.
1912-13	*Just one senior team fielded in the Lancashire Combination 2 nd Division
1913-14	*Completed the season as runners-up earning promotion to the 1 st Division
1914-15	*Last season of competitive football following a decision by the Football Association that it would no longer permit organised football competitions until after World War 1.
1919-1920	*Became inaugural members The Cheshire League. *Subsidiary Competition held which was the precursor to The Cheshire League Challenge Cup.
1921	*First official matchday programmes printed.
1922	* June – Supporters' Club formed.
1925	* <i>1875-1925 Fifty Years of Football in Macclesfield</i> by John Earles published * 3 May – Won Cheshire League Challenge Cup defeating Manchester North End 4-2 AET.
1930	* 12 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the sixth time defeating Nantwich 5-4.
1931-32	*Cheshire League Champions for the first time. *Winners of the Cheshire League Challenge Cup for the second time defeating Port Vale 1-0.
1932-33	*Cheshire League Champions for a second time.
1933-34	*Albert Valentine sets all-time club record scoring 82 goals in the season.
1935	* 13 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the seventh time defeating Crewe Alexandra 5-2.
1936-37	*James Stevenson – appointment of first ever manager.
1937-38	*Managerial responsibility for the team reverted to the Committee.
1939-40	*Members of the wartime Cheshire League Series West and then Series East for the second half of the season. *Won the Cheshire Senior Cup under the wartime competition. *With outstanding debts, withdrew from competitive football.
1946-47	*Debts having been cleared, re-joined the Cheshire League. *A new limited company formed – Macclesfield Town Football Club Limited *Team subsequently plays under the name Macclesfield Town . * Summer 1946 -Jos Stevenson appointed Player/manager. * January 1947 – William Edwards appointed manager.
1948	* 14 February - Highest gate involving the Silkmen at the Moss Rose of 9003 against Winsford United in the second round of the Cheshire Senior Cup.

1948 contd	<p>Winsford running out 3-2 winners.</p> <p>*19 March – Record attendance at the Moss Rose of 10041. Semi-final of the Cheshire Senior Cup Witton Albion v Northwich Victoria</p> <p>*30 April – Winners of the Cheshire League Challenge Cup for the third time beating Altrincham 3-1.</p>
1949	*May – Bert Swindells appointed manager.
1951	*21 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the eighth time defeating Northwich Victoria 3-2 AET.
1951-52	<p>*October 1951 – Jack Smith appointed player/manager.</p> <p>*26 April 1952 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the ninth time defeating Witton Albion 2-0.</p>
1952-53	*Cheshire League Champions for the third time.
1953-54	*7 April 1954 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the tenth time defeating Winsford United 1-0.
1954-55	<p>*1 November 1954 – First occasion Macclesfield played a competitive match under floodlights in the Ashton Floodlight Competition held at Ashton's ground against Stalybridge Celtic, Macclesfield winning 2-0 in a fog affected match.</p> <p>*November 1954 – Bert Swindells appointed manager for a second time.</p>
1958-59	*Peter Robinson appointed player/manager.
1959	*September – no managerial appointment.
1960	*23 April – winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 11 th time defeating Hyde United 2-1.
1960-61	<p>*Frank Bowyer appointed player/manager.</p> <p>*5 November 1960 - Reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time since the introduction of Preliminary Rounds in 1888-89, losing 2-7 to Southport. First occasion Macclesfield Town FC appeared on the Football Pools.</p> <p>*Cheshire League Champions for the fourth time.</p>
1963	*15 May – Johnnie Mullington scored all eight goals in the 8-0 home defeat of Witton Albion setting the all-time club record for scoring the most goals in a single match.
1963-64	<p>*Albert Leake appointed player/manager.</p> <p>*18 April 1964 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 12th time defeating Northwich Victoria 1-0.</p> <p>*Cheshire League Champions for the fifth time.</p>
1965	*August – completion of the installation of floodlights. First match under the lights played on 1 September against Northwich Victoria, Macclesfield winning 4-1. Malcolm Allison and Sir Stanley Matthews performed the official opening.
1967	*1 May – Winners Cheshire League Challenge Cup for the fourth time beating Runcorn 3-0 on aggregate.
1967-68	<p>*Keith Goalen appointed player/coach.</p> <p>*27 January 1968 – Reached the third round of the FA Cup for the first time losing 2-4 at Fulham. Keith Goalen received the <i>Evening Standard's</i> 'Footballer of the Month' award – the first non-league player to do so.</p> <p>*Cheshire League Champions for the sixth time.</p> <p>*Promoted to the Northern Premier League.</p>
1968-69	<p>*Summer 1968 – new main stand constructed at a cost of £14,000 on the London side of the ground.</p> <p>*Frank Beaumont appointed player/manager.</p> <p>*16 April 1969 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 13th time defeating Northwich Victoria 3-1 on aggregate.</p>

	*Champions of the Northern Premier League at the first attempt
1969-70 1969-70	*Champions of the Northern Premier League for the second time. *Winners of the North West Floodlit League.
1970	* 2 May – first ever winners of the FA Trophy defeating Telford United 2-0 at Wembley.
1971	* 21 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 14 th time defeating Northwich Victoria 2-1.
1972	* April – Billy Haydock appointed manager.
1973	* 11 May – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 15 th time defeating Winsford United 2-1.
1974	* January – Eddie Brown appointed manager.
1974-75	* September 1974 – John Collins appointed temporary manager. * October 1974 – Willie Stevenson appointed player/manager. * January 1975 – John Collins appointed player/manager.
1975-76	* January 1976 – Tony Coleman appointed caretaker manager. * February 1976 – John Barnes appointed manager.
1976-77	* October 1976 – Brian Taylor appointed manager. * November 1976 - Dave Connor appointed manager.
1977-78	* February – Board of Directors responsible for team management. * April – Derek Partridge appointed manager.
1978	* October – Phil Staley appointed manager.
1980	* October – Jimmy Williams appointed manager.
1981	* February – Brian Booth appointed manager.
1983	* 23 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 16 th time defeating Congleton Town 2-1.
1985-86	* July – Neil Griffiths appointed player/manager.
1986	* February – Roy Campbell appointed caretaker manager. * March – Peter Wragg appointed manager.
1986-87	*Won the treble. *Champions of the Northern Premier League and promotion to the Conference. *Northern Premier League Challenge Cup defeating Burton Albion 2-0 at Maine Road, Manchester. *Presidents' Cup, winning 2-1 on aggregate against Marine.
1989	* 13 May – finalists in FA Trophy beaten 1-0 AET by Telford United at Wembley.
1990-91	*Chester City FC, members of the old Third Division, played their 'home' matches at the Moss Rose whilst their new Deva stadium was being built. * 6 May 1991 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 17 th time defeating Witton Albion 2-0.
1991-92	*Chester City FC played their 'home' matches at the Moss Rose for a second season. * 15 May 1992 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 18 th time defeating Witton Albion 2-0.
1993-94	*Sammy McIlroy appointed manager. *Winners of the Conference League Cup (Bob Lord Challenge Trophy) defeating Yeovil Town 4-1 on aggregate. *Winners of the Staffordshire Senior Cup for the first time defeating Wednesfield 14-1 on aggregate.
1994-95	*Conference Champions. *Promotion blocked as the required ground grading requirements had not been achieved within the required timescale.

1995	* 19 September – Won the JC Thomson Shield defeating Woking 3-2 AET at the Moss Rose.
1996	* 19 May – Winners of the FA Trophy for a second time beating Northwich Victoria 3-1 at Wembley. * Summer – German National team use the Moss Rose ground as their training headquarters in preparation for the Euro '96 competition.
1996-97	* September 1996 – Death of chairman Arthur Jones in tragic circumstances. * 7 October 1996 – Winners of the JC Thomson Trophy for the second time defeating Stevenage Borough 2-1 AET *Winners of the Staffordshire Senior Cup for the second time defeating Bilston Town 4-3 on aggregate. *Conference Champions for the second time. *Promoted to the Football League for the first time in the club's history.
1997-98	* 9 August 1997 – first ever Football League match played at the Moss Rose against Torquay United, Macclesfield winning 2-1, with the first Football League goal scored by new signing Efe Sodje. * 7 October 1997 – Winners of the JC Thomson Shield for the third consecutive season defeating Woking 3-1 at the Moss Rose. * 15 May 1998 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 19 th time defeating Runcorn 1-0. *Completed the season as runners-up to Notts County gaining promotion to Football League Division Two *Undefeated in all home league matches winning 19 and drawing four.
1998-99	* <i>Against all Odds</i> by Graham Atherton, Neil Howarth and David Lafferty published covering the Silkmen's first season as a Football League club. *Ended the season in 24 th position in Division Two. Relegated for the first time in the history of the club
1999-2000	*Members of the Football League Division Three * 27 November 1999 – Darren Tinson became the first Macclesfield Town player to achieve 100 Football League appearances in the home match against Hartlepool United. * 28 December 1999 – In the 2-1 win against Carlisle United at the Moss Rose, Chris Priest's second goal scored in time added on, was officially recognised as the last Football League goal scored in the 20 th Century. * January 2000 – Peter Davenport appointed manager. * 4 May 2000 – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 20 th time defeating Altrincham 2-1.
21ST CENTURY	
2001	* <i>Saga of the Silkmen</i> (the official history of the club) by Graham Phythian published. * January – Gil Prescott appointed manager. * 11 March – New stand on the Moss Lane side of the ground initially known as the Alfred McAlpine stand officially opened by former manager Sammy McIlroy.
2001-02	* October 2001 – Kevin Keen appointed acting manager. * November 2001 – David Moss appointed manager. * 28 November – 24 penalties required to settle the first round FA Cup replay at Forest Green Rovers in favour of Macclesfield. At the time a record for the number of penalties required to settle a FA Cup match Macclesfield winning 11-10.

2001-02	<p>*April 2002 – club record transfer fee of £300,000 for a player sold when Rickie Lambert moved to Stockport County.</p> <p>*Reserve team Champions of the Avon Insurance League Division Two under the managership of John Askey.</p>
2002-03	<p>*Amar and Bashar Alkadhi, through their company Ramy Limited, invested substantial funds into the club to clear outstanding debts and became owners.</p> <p>*Information Technology Centre – won award ‘UK Online Centre for the North West’ and came third in ‘Best in Britain’ awards.</p> <p>*3 May 2003– John Askey retired as a player having made a total of 678 appearances in all competitions for Macclesfield Town, a club all-time record.</p>
2003-04	<p>*October 2003 – John Askey appointed manager</p> <p>*April 2004 – Brian Horton appointed manager</p>
2004-05	<p>*January 2005 – club record fee of £40,000 paid for a player when Danny Swailes was signed from Bury.</p> <p>*May 2005 – reached the Play-offs being defeated by Lincoln City in the semi-final</p>
2005-06	<p>*December 2005 – Football Association levied fines and repayments totalling £257,000 in respect of the funding of the McAlpine stand.</p> <p>*January 2006 – Formation of the Silkmen Supporters’ Trust.</p> <p>*6 October 2005 – Ian Brightwell appointed acting manager.</p> <p>*23 October 2005– Paul Ince appointed manager.</p>
2006-07	<p>*6 January 2007 – 41434, the highest attendance the Silkmen had ever played in front of in the third round of the FA Cup at Chelsea.</p>
2007-08	<p>*June 2007 – Ian Brightwell appointed manager.</p> <p>*February 2008 – Keith Alexander appointed manager.</p>
2009-10	<p>*<i>The official Macclesfield Town Quiz Book</i> published</p> <p>*<i>The League Story so far</i> by Geoffrey Knights published covering the first 12 seasons in the Football League. A complimentary copy was presented to each season ticket holder.</p> <p>*March 2010 – Gary Simpson appointed manager on the death of Keith Alexander.</p>
2010-11	<p>*January 2011 – Player Richard Butcher died at the age of 29.</p> <p>*7 May 2011 – Elliot Hewitt became the youngest player at the age of 16 years and 342 days to make a Football League appearance for the club.</p>
2011-12	<p>*10 September 2011 – In the home league match against Morecambe Ben Tomlinson scored the fastest known goal in the history of the club taking just 6.4 seconds.</p> <p>*September 2011 – Archive web site www.silkmenarchives.org.uk went live</p> <p>*March 2012 – Brian Horton appointed manager for a second time.</p> <p>*April 2012 – Glyn Chamberlain appointed temporary manager.</p> <p>*May 2012 - After 15 seasons competing in the Football League, completed the season in 24th position resulting in relegation (for only the second time in the club’s history) to the Conference thereby returning to the non-league scene.</p>
2012-13	<p>*May 2012 – Steve King appointed manager.</p> <p>*26 January 2013 – reached the fourth round of the FA Cup for the first time losing 1-0 to Wigan Athletic at the Moss Rose.</p> <p>*April – John Askey appointed manager for a second time.</p>
2014-15	<p>*Super Silk Lotto launched.</p> <p>*21 April – Winners of the Cheshire Senior Cup for the 21st time defeating Northwich Victoria 3-2.</p>

Sources of information

**1875-1925 Fifty Years of Football in Macclesfield* by John Earles.

**Saga of the Silkmen* by Graham Phythian.

**The League Story so far* by Geoffrey Knights.

*www.silkmenarchives.org.uk

*The author's own notes.