

# MOTORS



VS CREWE  
ALEXANDRA  
18th July 2023



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**Highest League Position**  
11th, Conference North, 2008  
**Best FA Cup Performance**  
2nd Round, V Macclesfield, 2002  
**Best FA Trophy Performance**  
4th Round, 2001  
**Best FA Vase Performance**  
Semi-Final, V Chippenham, 1999



## **CONTENTS**

- 4** McGraa's Notes
- 7** Ahead of the Game
- 8** 60 Seconds With...
- 10** Meet the Visitors
- 14** Youth RoundUp
- 16** Fan Focus
- 18** Played for Both
- 20** Pie and a Pint
- 24** VMFC Club History
- 25** The Away End
- 27** Head to Head
- 28** A Deeper Look
- 30** Match Report
- 31** Mini Motors Quiz
- 32** Meet the Motors
- 34** Today's Preview
- 35** On This Day
- 36** Today's Teams

You can find our Matchday Programme in alternative forms, such as via Issuu on our website and our Social Media pages



YouTube

in

Cover photo by Paul Bartlett  
at PB Sports Photos



# MOTORS V CREWE FROM THE BOSS



Good Evening and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for today's pre-season friendly between Vauxhall Motors FC and Crewe Alexandra.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Lee Bell, his players and his backroom staff to Ellesmere Port for today's game.

## TODAY'S GAME

I think that it is a credit to where we've come from and the progression that the club has made over the last few years to get Crewe here for pre-season.

It's great to see two League Two sides here at the VanEupen Arena this pre-season, with today's game against Crewe Alexandra, as well as Tranmere Rovers last week.

We're hoping for the crowd that we got on the day where we won the league against AFC Liverpool, and that shows how far that the club has come, from getting 30-40 people through the gate to the 500 plus against AFC, and the superb following that we took to West Didsbury and Chorlton when we lifted the league title.

It's been an amazing journey so far, and long may it continue.

## BACKROOM STAFF CHANGES

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Alan Morgan as Assistant Manager. Firstly though, it's important to know why he has come in - my current Assistant, Joe Heath, who has been here 4 years, him and his family have taken the decision to move to Australia.

He let me know so I had to move in quickly - so I brought in Alan who mirrors a bit of Joe - he's demanding, professional and hard-working.

I saw Alan leave Marine, and we're good friends anyway, so I think it took a week to ensure he would come in.

The difference he will make is that he brings a little bit more professionalism which we may have lacked last season in terms of the level we've been playing at and the coaching environment. He'll know players and recruit with myself, so he'll be a big part of us.

We're all looking forward to the new season, where preparations are well underway!

Enjoy the game,

**MICK MCGRAA**  
First Team Manager







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# AHEAD OF THE GAME

Ahead of our next three matches, you can see opposition information, including admission prices, facilities available around the ground, plus key facts about the match.

## CONGLETON TOWN

On Saturday, 22nd July, the first piece of silverware of the 2023-24 season is up for grabs, as Congleton Town visit Ellesmere Port in the North West Counties Cup Winners Cup. This is where the North West Counties Football League Premier Division Champions, Vauxhall Motors, will face off against the Macron Cup Winners, Congleton Town. The match will be held as an official North West Counties match and further information will be released in due course.

VS CONGLETON TOWN	
Adults	£8
Concessions	£5
Under 16s	£2

VS MARINE AFC	
Adults	£6
Concessions	£3
Under 12s	£3

## MARINE AFC

Marine AFC will take the trip over the water in the final pre-season match prior to the opening day of the Northern Premier League season. The match will be played on the Rivacre Road Grass Pitch and admission will be two pounds, with fundraising opportunity available such as

spot the ball. The Clubhouse will be open for hot and cold drinks as well as alcoholic beverages, as well as hot and cold food which will be available for purchase. Tickets will be purchased via a pay on the gate scheme and cash is preferred.

## 2023-24 AT THE VANEUPEN

We're gearing up for the 2023-24 season here at the VanEupen Arena, with significant progress both on and off the pitch. Ahead of the new season, some dates for your diary include the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round date is the weekend of the 5th August 2023, and the opening day of the Northern Premier League Division One West being the weekend of the 12th August. With the snack bar open, the new club shop and much more, there's plenty to look forward to! Please see below our admission prices for matches at the VanEupen Arena this coming season.

2023-24 AT THE VANEUPEN	
Adults	£8
Concessions	£5
Under 16s	£2





60

SECONDS WITH

# ETHAN GOULDBOURNE



## Go to McDonalds order?

Double Cheeseburger,  
Large Chips,  
20 Chicken Nuggets  
and a Fanta!



## Team Mates 5-A-Side Team

GK - Sam Booth  
CB - Greg Drummond  
CM - Jordan Deer  
ST - Ben Holmes  
ST - Michael Burkey



## Dinner with 3 people

If I could have dinner with 3  
people, dead or alive, I'd  
choose Steven Gerrard,  
Chris Martin and Adam  
Sandler.



## Favourite Movie

My favourite  
film at the  
minute is Cast  
Away.



## Changing Room DJ

Lewis Buckley is the  
changing room DJ.  
Fair play to him, I  
do enjoy his music.



## Worst Dressed

I can't decide!



## Likely to be a Manager

The most likely to be a  
manager in our squad is  
Tom Mitchell.



## Worst Banter

It's a really  
tough one - I  
can't decide!



## Would you rather fight 10 duck-sized dinosaurs, or 1 dinosaur sized duck?

I would rather fight 10 duck sized dinosaurs.







# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In have recently launched a new online Volunteer Hub where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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Please visit  
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](http://Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



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LEAGUE**



# WELCOME



[www.crewealex.net](http://www.crewealex.net)

Scan here for the Complete Squad List



## FORM GUIDE

Crewe Alexandra continue their preparations for the upcoming Sky Bet League Two campaign with their visit to the VanEupen Arena this evening. The Alex will look to gain valuable match fitness as well

as showing local fans their quality and what to expect ahead of the new season.

Crewe will compete in their second pre-season friendly of seven today, with upcoming fixtures including Barnsley away, Whitchurch Alport away, Lincoln City at home, Burton Albion at home and Runcorn Linnets away.

Crewe, who play their home games at the Mornflake Stadium, will want to improve on their 13th place finish last season, and would like to return to League One at the second time of asking.



## LAST 6 SEASONS

13th - 22-23



24th - 21-22



12th - 20-21



2nd - 19-20



12th - 18-19



15th - 17-18



## LAST 6 RESULTS

D 2-2



W 3-2



W 2-1



L 2-0



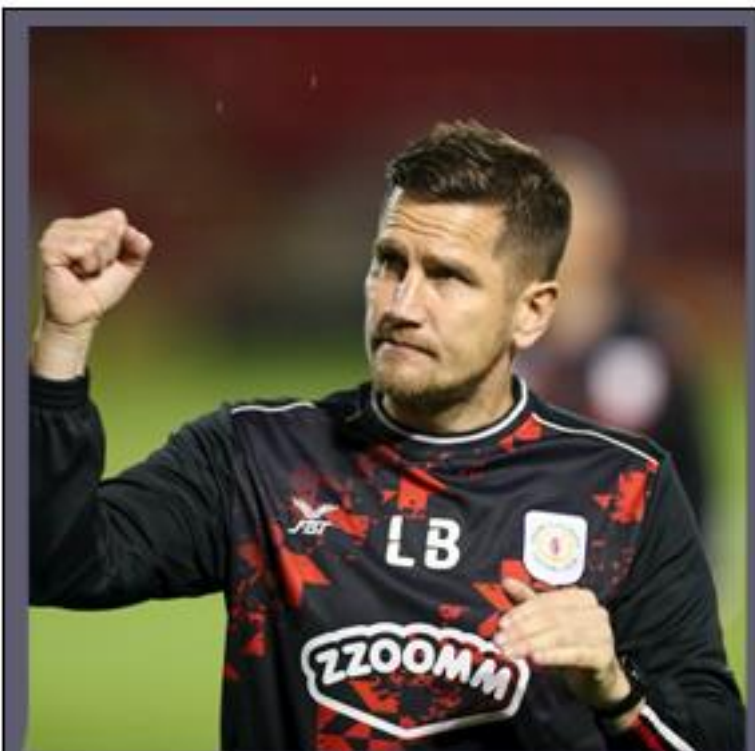
L 2-0



W 2-0







### MEET THE BOSS:

Crewe boss, Lee Bell, started his playing career by progressing through the ranks at Crewe. He also featured for numerous other football league clubs in an illustrious career, including Shrewsbury Town, Burton Albion, Mansfield Town and Macclesfield Town - however, the majority of appearances came for the Alex, featuring 128 times over 2 spells.

He was appointed Alex boss in November 2022, and has managed 32 games - winning 11 and drawing 9 - meaning a win percentage of 34.4%. He guided them away from relegation and to a 13th place standing, one which he will look to improve on this season.

### ONE TO WATCH THIS SEASON:





Charlie Finney, 19, is just one of the Youth players which the Alex fans should look out for this season.

Finney, a local Crewe boy, progressed through the ranks at the Mornflake Stadium before signing his first professional deal in 2021.

He went on loan to Chorley last season, and the midfielder has made 9 appearances for the Railwaymen in his career so far, and will look to make more in the 23-24 season.



### NEXT 4 FIXTURES

AWAY	AWAY	HOME	HOME
			



# ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP



Good Evening and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for today's friendly match between Vauxhall Motors FC and Crewe Alexandra.

I'm James, Vice-Chairman of the club and Commercial Manager, and I'll explain below the various sponsorship opportunities we have on offer for the 2023-24 season, with the First Team entering the NPL Division One West.

## WHY SPONSOR A NON-LEAGUE CLUB?

Having your business on an advertising board or on a team's shirt is much more than just that. Sport helps to deliver many life lessons for children of all ages and we can all learn things through these life lessons - discipline, respect, team work amongst other things.

By advertising your business with a non-league club like Vauxhall Motors, you help to establish your business in the community and give an opportunity for children to play sport in a safe and structured environment.

By supporting the first team and advertising within the main arena, you're helping the club develop the direct pathway from a small child joining the club at aged 6 or even younger in some cases to progress through the age groups and hopefully on to play semi-pro football with us.

As well as helping to support the current crop of First Team players with all expenses from tracksuits to travel to away matches - the more funding brought in through sponsorship and people's generosity means the more we can do to ensure our younger children always have a place to enjoy their football.

## INCOME GENERATION FOR SPONSORS

Sponsorship at a football club like ours doesn't have to be massively expensive - in a lot of cases, one additional customer to your business can cover a sponsorship for our club, helping out in the community.

There was an example in 2022 where one of our sponsors directly profited over 25,000 pounds on a job purely because they were on the shirts of one of our junior football teams, which proves that there is a lot of business that you can get from it.

In addition, every penny spent is classed as a Marketing Cost hence it is deductible against any profit you make for tax purposes - effectively, it reduces your profit against the tax part of a cost - it is a win-win for all involved.

## ANNUAL FOOTFALL

In 2021, over 250,000 people passed through our facilities - whether this be to utilise the incredible astroturf pitches, as over 50 youth





teams are linked to Vauxhall Motors FC across all leagues, both locally, regionally and nationally - from the Eastham District Mini Football League, the West Cheshire Youth League and the Junior Premier League, as well as our Main Arena with a team which plays in the Northern Premier First Division West.

Each sponsor gets recognition on our website and via Social Media, with over 7,000 followers across all platforms, with over 25,000 views on our YouTube channel in 2022 alone, as well as 10 million impressions on Twitter in the 2021-22 season, and tens of thousands of clicks on our website.

### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 23-24**

There's several opportunities to be involved with our Senior Teams, from pitch side advertising boards in our Main Stadium to training kits with your businesses' logo on it, match sponsors, ball sponsors, junior football match and training kits and much more - we are always on the look out for sponsorship.

And we are always open to new ideas - one of the projects which is currently being looked into include merchandise and matchday programme stalls around the stadium - both of which we are looking to get a sponsor for.

If you are not yet coming down to watch the first team then I strongly recommend doing so - Mick McGraa has a strong group of players, proved by winning the NWCFL Premier Division last season, so it speaks volumes of the quality of players in the squad. It's a cheap way to get your football fix with it being just 6 quid for adults and u16s free with matchday programmes on sale for just two pounds and you can watch the game in style with one of our scarves for a tenner.

We'd love to see more involved watching our First Team and Reserves, with several junior teams being mascots at this seasons' games - all support is much appreciated.

Thanks,  
**JAMES LYON**





VAUXHALL MOTORS FC

# YOUTH ROUNDUP



**G**ood Evening and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for this evening's pre-season friendly match between Vauxhall Motors and Crewe Alexandra.

In this edition of 'The Academy', we spoke to VMFC U13 Cavaliers Manager, Mark Milward, about the progression of our U13 teams.

'From the U7s right through to the First Team, the club has outstanding teams and players and it continues to grow and move in the right direction.'

Mark's team currently compete in the Junior Premier League - Premier Division, and Mark formed the team back in 2016, when the team initially entered the U7s.

'The core group of players have been with the team since the formation 7 years ago. We've obviously added players as we've moved up from 5-a-side and 7-a-side, and unfortunately for us, we've lost players to academies, but it's great to see the development of the players and how they've progressed.'

'Last season, the team achieved the title of the Junior Premier League Winners and

also the North West Champions, which led them to qualifying for the National Championship finals, where the team placed third out of all of the under-12s teams in the country, which is some achievement. This is the second time in three seasons that the team have reached the National Finals, so you can see the talent that we've got here.'

'The objective here always has been on ensuring players enjoy playing their football and trying to create a positive environment to learn, whilst structuring games and training sessions to keep ensuring development as we progress through the leagues and age groups.'

'Being part of the club with amazing facilities allows players to play at the highest possible level, and starting with the JPL, we achieve that.'

'After reaching the National Finals, winning the JPL Regional League and the JPL North West League last season, it proves that the development continues to shine through.'

Thank you to Drawlim Commercial Heating and Plumbing Services, as well as SAF Solutions for sponsoring the teams home and away kits.

Enjoy the game,

**MARK MILWARD**

VMFC U13 Cavaliers Manager





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**BE THE  
FUTURE**



# FAN FOCUS INTERVIEW

For today's fan focus, we spoke to Supporter since the early 2000s, **Matty Ellis**.

## FIRST GAME? YEAR, SEASON?

The first game that I saw at Rivacre Road was a game in the 2003-2004 season, however I'm unsure of the actual game and the opposition. This was the year after the infamous Emirates FA Cup run where we beat Queens Park Rangers and narrowly lost to Macclesfield Town in Round Three, and my uncle Andy, who featured in the last programme's fan focus, took me to my first ever game.



## WHICH SECTION IN THE GROUND DO YOU USUALLY WATCH THE MATCHES FROM?

The majority of the time, I'm watching the match from the Vauxhalls 'right wing', the side of the dugouts, in the corner, mostly with my uncle, Andy. We like standing there alongside Billy Beckett who has been going to Vauxhall games for many years, and we enjoy watching the matches. We very rarely miss home games and also visit the majority of away games.

## WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OR MEMORIES OF SUPPORTING THE MOTORS?

I love away games and visiting new grounds and that's probably what I'm most looking forward to ahead of the new season. In our two years in the North West Counties Premier Division, we've visited the majority of the grounds in the league, so now we're in the Northern Premier League Division One West, there's a whole host of new grounds which we can visit. Another stand out for me is the game against Hartlepool United in the Emirates FA Cup. The away game was something special for sure!

## FAVOURITE ALL TIME PLAYER [AND WHY?]

My favourite all time players are probably Leighton McGivern or Paul Taylor. Both players played in the early 2000s, and they were both natural goalscorers, born to score goals. We've watched the team for many, many years, and have seen hundreds of very talented players pass through, some of which have gone to play in the Football League, however no one would quite compare to the talent of Leighton and Paul.

## FAVOURITE CURRENT TIME PLAYER [AND WHY?]

The current squad, especially those who won the North West Counties Premier Division last season and reached the Cheshire Senior Cup Final the year before are a special group. However, at the moment, I think that my favourite at the minute has to be Michael Burkey. He was quiet when he first arrived however last season he was by far the best player in the league.

## WHY DO YOU LOVE VAUXHALLS?

I love Vauxhalls because it's my local team, with me living just around the corner in Ellesmere Port. It's great, affordable football and it's nice to see all of the same faces down every week - from the same fans and spectators to the staff and the players - it definitely makes you feel a part of something and in way which you don't get in the higher-tier football such as the Premier League, so I really enjoy it!

## FAVOURITE EVER MOTORS SHIRT?

The yellow kit below from the 2011-12 season is my favourite of all time!





# VMFC V THE ALEX MATCH SPONSORS



LK-Geomatics, are a Houston, Texas based company, an Oil and Gas Consultancy, moving into renewables, primarily the Offshore Wind Sector, undertaken site characteristics to a variety of companies globally.

About the Owner: Trevor Hughes, Principal at LK-Geomatics, is a Crewe Supporter from the age of 7, attending his first game in 1968. Now living in Houston, Texas, it's 7570km for a home game!







# PLAYED FOR BOTH

**SAM BOOTH**

In this issue of 'Played for Both', we spoke to Goalkeeper, Sam Booth, who joined the Motors last season, and was released from Crewe in 2022.

How are you enjoying your time at VMFC so far?

I can't complain playing 9 games and winning a league title! Right as I stepped in the changing rooms, everyone has been quality. It's a great set up that the club has got and I have really enjoyed my time playing here so far.

Could you detail your time at Crewe?

I joined Crewe's Academy aged 10, and played all the way through until aged 16, before being offered a 2-year scholarship. At 18, I was released however 2 months later, I was offered a non-contract to come back with the First Team. I was a pro for 3 years until I was released at the end of the 21-22 season.

**Time in the First Team**

I never managed to play any games for the First Team, however I did sit on the bench a few times. It is always hard as a goalkeeper to break into First Teams unless there's an injury, as there's only one position that you can play.

**Memories at Crewe Alexandra**

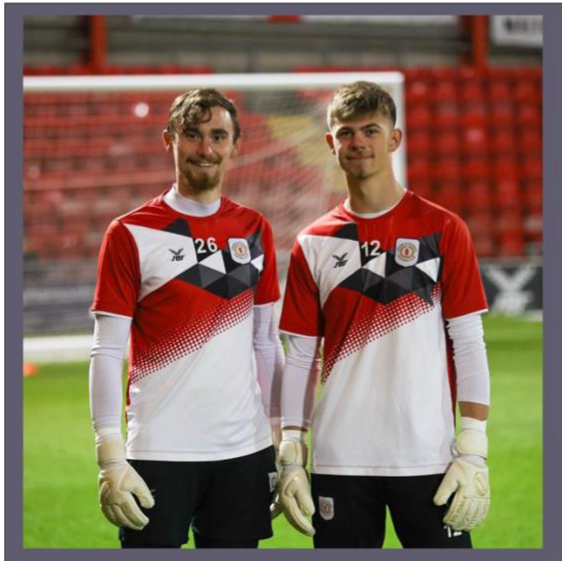
My favourite memory whilst playing for Crewe was in my first season as a professional, being part of the team that won promotion up to Sky Bet League One. Unfortunately, we didn't get to celebrate as much as we wanted too because it was when the season was cut short due to COVID.

**Playing against my brother!**

I still see a couple of the Crewe lads from time to time as an Academy Coach at the club so I'm sure that there will be a few words said! It will be the first time that I've played against Tom, my brother. We were supposed to play against each other last season when I was at Leek Town and he was on loan at Kidsgrove. However, he got sent off the game before and I fell ill, so it wasn't meant to be. I'll be looking forward to it of course and it will be an exciting time in the Booth household. I'll be making him take his own car, I'm not going with him this time!

Enjoy the game,

**SAM BOOTH**



Sam and brother Tom pictured playing for Crewe





# FIXTURE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABILITY

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## MATCH SPONSORSHIP

### Benefits include:

- Social Media Advertising in the week leading up to match
- Full Page Advertisement in Match Programme
  - Website Advertising
  - Pre-Match Refreshments
  - Half Time Hospitality
    - 4 Pin Badges
  - 4 Match Programmes
  - 4 Match Tickets

From just £100!

Now available to purchase for each home 2023-24 game!

## MATCH BALL SPONSORSHIP

### Benefits include:

- Social Media Advertising in the week leading up to match
- Half Page Advertisement in Match Programme
  - Website Advertising
  - Pre-Match Refreshments
  - Half Time Hospitality
    - 2 Pin Badges
  - 2 Match Programmes
  - 2 Match Tickets

From just £50!

Contact [commercial@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk](mailto:commercial@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk) to enquire!



# PIE AND A PINT

TOM MATHERS - AWAYDAY FOOD REVIEWS



**W**e spoke to Committee Member, Tom Mathers, who did his weekly 'Pie and a Pint', in this issue looking at our trip to Avro for their famous 'FootyScran', on the final away trip of the 2022-23 NWCFL Premier Division season.

## THE JOURNEY



The journey up to Avro was a chilled one, with tensions low as come 3pm, there was nothing competitive to play for apart from our pride, with the league title already secured. I travelled up on the team minibus, and the way there was relaxed. The way back however was full of beer with a point against second place, knowing a week from then, the trophy would be back home.

Rating: 5 Stars

## THE PINT



I started the day up at Avro with a nice cold San Miguel on a warm day in Manchester.

It was nice, and the price was decent, so we don't mind it! Hopefully more like that in the Northern Premier League Division One West this season!

Rating: 5 Stars



## THE SCRAN



I had the famous Avro Salt and Pepper Steak and Chips from 'Macie's at Avro', as featured numerous times for their specialities on FootyScran on Twitter.

For such a low price, the food was unbelievable and I can't wait to visit the Vestacare Stadium again later this season!

Rating: 5 Stars



## THE FOOTIE



A bit of a bleak game, with Avro properly going for the win which would almost secure them a second place finish in the NWCFL Premier Division.

An early Conor Harwood goal was equalled out later in the game, with the fixture finishing as a 1-1 draw.

Rating: 3 Stars





# NEXT UP



CONGLETON TOWN  
SATURDAY 22ND | KO TBC



COLWYN BAY  
TUESDAY 25TH | KO TBC



MARINE AFC  
1894

MARINE AFC  
TUESDAY 1ST | KO TBC



NORTHERN  
PREMIER LEAGUE

OPENING DAY  
12TH AUGUST 2023



Emirates  
FA CUP

EXTRA PRELIM. ROUND  
5TH AUGUST 2023





“

**ANYONE WHO ENTERS THE PITCH WITHOUT PERMISSION AND THOSE CARRYING OR USING SMOKE BOMBS OR PYROS WILL NOW RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC CLUB BAN.**

”

## ‘LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME’

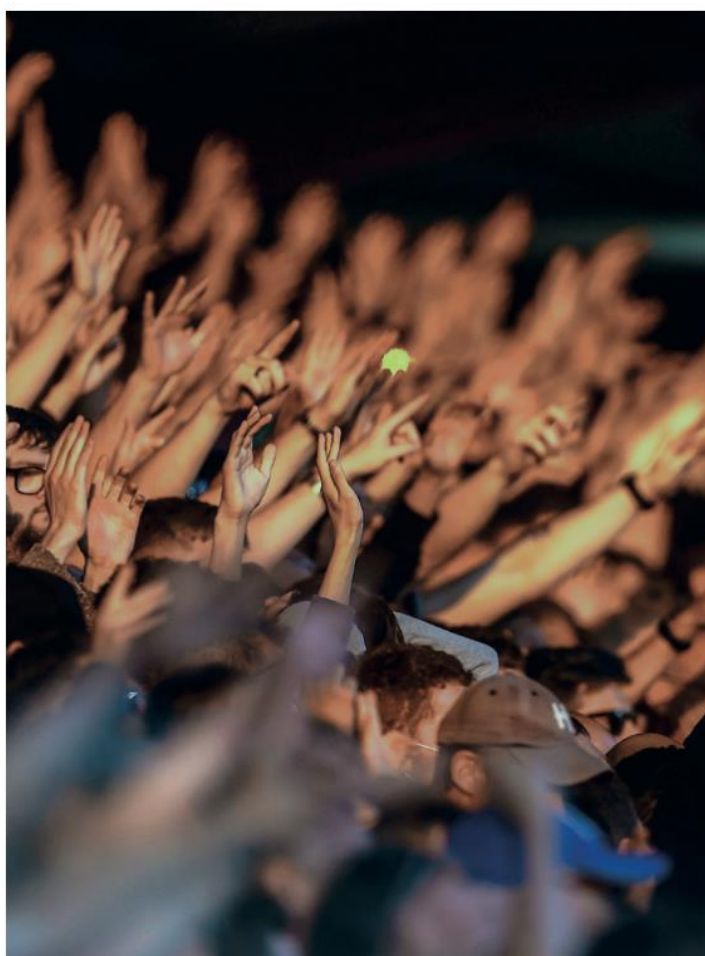
### A message about anti-social and criminal behaviour

To mark the new season, we want to make you aware of new measures being taken across all of football to ensure everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience. We are supporting strong action from the FA, Premier League and EFL to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviours that put all of us at risk.

This reflects the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause lifechanging injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials.

We know those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

#LoveFootball #ProtectTheGame





# THE MOTORS MEDIA TEAM

**G**ood Evening and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for this evening's Friendly Match between Vauxhall Motors and Crewe Alexandra.

We're delighted to welcome you back to our home in Ellesmere Port for the second time in the new campaign, where we embark on a new adventure in the Northern Premier League Division One West.

As progression is evident on the pitch, with player retentions, new signings and further trialists, it is also evident to see that the football club is going in the right direction off the pitch too.

Work has been ongoing all summer long, including the installation of our new Media Towers, as seen around the ground, which are permanent structures which will aid our Media Output, creating new angles on content as well as the ability to live stream fixtures when permitted by UEFA and the FA, as well as the refurb of our Club Shop building, which will be open to purchase all of your Vauxhall Motors FC Merchandise, from shirts

to scarves, bobble hats, caps, pin badges and Match Programmes over the years, plus the installation of two brand new offices, and after months in planning, our new Snack Bar is open!

This is something which the club has lacked over the years following the closure of the old Tea Bar, replaced by now the buildings of Everton Football College, and hopefully the new snack bar, located just to the right of the turnstile at the side of the Sports and Social Club, will avenge your hunger, with burgers, chips, pies and much more on sale, as well as drinks being able to be served out of the hatch.

Things are looking good here at Vauxhall Motors, and we can not wait for the kick off of the new campaign, with a new league, new adventures, new stadiums and meeting new people, all of whom have the same love of football and non-league, supporting their local non-league club.

Enjoy the game, and we hope to see you around the ground!

## THE MOTORS MEDIA TEAM







VAUXHALL MOTORS FC

# CLUB HISTORY

## FORMATION OF THE CLUB

Vauxhall Motors FC were formed back in 1963, following the opening of the brand new Vauxhalls Car Plant just across the other side of the motorway. The plant is still visible from the Rivacre Road Pitch on the left hand side of the current main arena.

## EARLY HISTORY

The club initially played in the Ellesmere Port League and the Wirral Combination League, but soon grew too strong for these leagues. We played at company-owned, Hooton Park, but moved to current home, Rivacre Park, in 1987 - opened by former England Manager, Bobby Robson. On the pitch, the club also found some success, winning our first West Cheshire League title in 1985. Motors first joined the North West Counties Football League in 1977, and won promotion from Division Two to Division One in our first season.

## THE METEORIC RISE

In the 1998-99 season, Motors achieved success, reaching the fifth round of the FA Vase, as well as winning the NWC Cup and achieving promotion to the Northern Premier League. In the years after, the club achieved lots of success in the Northern Premier League, winning promotion to the NPL Premier Division in the first season in the division, before finishing second place in the NPL Prem. Motors also completed a historic FA Cup Run to the Second Round Proper in this time, beating Queens Park Rangers in the process. In 2004, boss Owen Brown led VMFC to promotion to the Conference North.



## MODERN MOTORS

In 2014, Motors were forced to resign from the Conference North due to financial issues, and Karl Bell was appointed manager when Motors dropped back down to the West Cheshire League. Once promotion to the North West Counties Football League was achieved, current boss, Mick McGraa

was appointed in 2018.

Since then, McGraa finished second in the NWCFL Division 1 on Points Per Game, before being denied promotion due to COVID. An eventual promotion

followed by last year's title sees us playing in the NPL D1 West.



Welcome to



# VAN EUPEN ARENA

HOME OF VAUXHALL MOTORS FC



FROM THE

# AWAY END



We spoke to the host of the Railwaymen, a Crewe Alexandra FC Fan Podcast, about his history with his local club and about his support for the club.

## WHY CREWE?

The good fortune to be born there!

The good fortune to be born there! Everyone should know the joy of supporting the club that represents their town of birth, which I feel with Crewe Alexandra FC.



## WHEN DID YOU START SUPPORTING THE CLUB?

Early 1990's

I initially started supporting the club when I realised what football supporting meant. I started going to the matches in the early 90s, and started seriously supporting the club in the mid-late 1990s.



## WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEW SEASON, AND WHAT CLUBS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING?

We seem to be building something

I'm not actually sure of what to expect ahead of the upcoming season. It all depends on Summer Recruitment, however, that doesn't seem to have started yet for the Alex. Lee Bell seems to be building something, and it's going to be a very tough League Two this season.



## WHICH ALEX PLAYERS SHOULD MOTORS FANS LOOK OUT FOR TODAY?

Joel Tabiner, Charlie Finney and Mateus Holicek

Who knows at this stage who to look out for! Football is a funny old game. However, as ever with Crewe, it seems a good bet to focus on the youth players. Some players to look out for this evening include Joel Tabiner, Charlie Finney and Metus Holicek.

## HAVE YOU EVER VISITED THE VANEUPEN ARENA BEFORE?

No

No, I haven't visited the VanEupen Arena before, I can't say I've had the pleasure.

I'm looking forward to kicking off the aways this season with a trip to the VanEupen, so I hope to see you there - I can't wait!

## WHAT'S YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE 5-A-SIDE TEAM FOR CREWE ALEXANDRA?

Clayton Ince  
Steve Foster  
David Vaughan  
Kenny Lunt  
Dean Ashton









# HEAD TO HEAD



- Vauxhall Motors look to continue their hard work within their preparations for the new Northern Premier League Division One West campaign here this evening, hopeful of a win over higher opposition, Crewe Alexandra.

- If both are selected, Motors goalkeeper, Sam Booth, could play against his brother for the very first time this evening. Tom Booth, also a goalkeeper, could feature for Crewe today.

- This is the first meeting between the two sides, and Mick McGraa's team and his players will look to get another positive result against a strong EFL side after the Tranmere goalless draw last week.

- Should Ben Holmes manage to get on the scoresheet at the VanEupen Arena this afternoon, he will be the first player to reach 50 goals for the Motormen since our reformation in 2017.

- Leo Riley, Joe Heath and Joe Brandon could all return to the First Team this afternoon following lengthy spells on the sidelines, of which covered the majority of the 2022-23 title-winning season.



## WIN, LOSE OR DRAW?

0%

0%



## 5 OF THE BEST V EFL SIDES

2021-22 | Stockport County 5-0 Vauxhall Motors | Edgeley Park  
2021-22 | Tranmere Rovers 0-2 Vauxhall Motors | Prenton Park  
2010-11 | Vauxhall Motors 0-0 Hartlepool United | VanEupen Arena  
2002-03 | Macclesfield Town 2-0 Vauxhall Motors | Moss Rose  
2002-03 | Vauxhall Motors 1-1 Queens Park Rangers | Loftus Road





# A DEEPER LOOK...



## BREAKING NEWS IN BRIEF

A busy few months for Lee Bell's side in the transfer market recently, including the signings of midfielder, Jack Powell, right-back, Ryan Cooney and attacking midfielder, Shilow Tracey, as well as the services of Liverpool goalkeeper of Harvey Davies on loan until the end of the 2023-24 season.

## A MAN TO WATCH:

Charlie Finney is a 19-year-old midfielder who will look to kickstart his professional career in the upcoming season. After spending the season on loan at Chorley, Finney will want to become a regular starter for the Alex this season.



## KEY INFORMATION:

**Founded:** 1877

**Home Ground:** Gresty Road

**Capacity:** 10,153

**Last season Finish:**

15th in Sky Bet League Two

**All-time top goalscorer:**

Herbert Swindells, 126 goals

**Nicknames:** The Alex, The Railwaymen

**Address:** Gresty Road Stadium, Gresty Road, Crewe, CW2 6EB

**Player of the Season 2022-23:**

Dan Agyei

**Last 5 Managers:**

Lee Bell - 2022-Present

Alex Morris - 2022-2022

David Artell - 2017-2022

Steve Davis - 2011-2017

Dario Gradi - 2009-2011

**Did You Know?**

A football club formed in Crewe after a successful cricket team. They take the name 'Alexandra' after Princess Alexandra.

**Distance to The VanEupen Arena:**

The trip from Gresty Road to the VanEupen Arena is approximately 33.1 miles, and takes just shy of 50 minutes in normal conditions.







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## MATCH

# REPORT

0 VAUXHALL MOTORS

0 TRANMERE ROVERS

Vauxhall Motors played out a goalless draw with League Two Tranmere Rovers on Saturday afternoon as they continued their preparations for the 2023-24 season.

Vauxhalls' defence stood firm when it had to and it was the Motormen that got the closest to opening the scoreline when Sean Smith forced Luke McGee into making a great save before half time.

Mick McGraa's side had previously beaten Ruthin Town and Winsford United at the VanEupen Arena thus it was great to continue the unbeaten run against EFL opposition.

The hosts made a quick start to the match as newly recruited Tranmere goalkeeper, Luke McGee, was forced into making two quick stops.

Motors were forced into an early change as new signing, Bobbie Beaumont, was involved in a nasty collision meaning he made way for Ben Dufton-Kelly within 15 minutes.

The press from Vauxhall continued when Mick McGraa's side sent a free kick into the box in which Rovers defender, Tom Davies, cleared out for a corner, taking a knock in the process.



Preventing the hosts from moving up the pitch, Ian Dawes' young full back, Mikey Davies, who in the summer signed his first professional contract, slid in with a perfectly timed challenge to applause from the visiting fans.

Tensions boiled over slightly on the pitch after a poor challenge from the Whites' playmaker Paul Lewis on winger Michael Burkey brought a break in play, forcing the player to be substituted off.

The greatest moment of the game came when Luke McGee was called into action to make an acrobatic save, following a shot by new Motors signing, Sean Smith, to tip the ball behind.

After switching the team up at half time, the visitors started the second half on the front foot. Striker, Kristian Dennis, latched onto a ball into the box from the left but his shot went wide of the post.

It was a game of very few chances in truth, Rovers were playing the ball around patiently waiting for any cracks to show in the Vauxhall defence.

The weather quickly took a turn for the worst as supporters at the VanEupen Arena ran for shelter, it was bouncing down with rain compounded with thunder and lightning which inevitably slowed the game down before the full time whistle blew.

Vauxhall, managed by Mick McGraa: Booth, Gouldbourne, Smith, Moscrop, Mitchell, Beaumont, Burkey, Cooper, Buckley, Deer, Harwood.

## ETHAN HOIJORD

VMFC Correspondant for Wirral Globe, Liverpool Echo, Cheshire Standard and Birkenhead News



# MINI MOTORS QUIZ...



Which Motors' midfielders are behind the blurred cover in the images here?



What local team's badge is zoomed in below?



What game is the photograph below from?



## MEDIA TEAM'S 5 QUESTION QUIZ...

1. Have Motors ever faced Crewe since reformation in 2015?
2. What are the name of the brothers who could play against each other today?
3. What score did Motors finish v QPR in 2002-03?
4. What date is the NPL opening day 2023-24?
5. How many more pre-season games do VMFC have?





**MICK MCGRAA**

MANAGER

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**ALAN MORGAN**

ASSISTANT MANAGER

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**TOM MITCHELL**

CAPTAIN, DEFENDER

SPONSORED BY

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**SAM BOOTH**

GOALKEEPER

SPONSORED BY

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**ALLY HUGHES**

GOALKEEPER

SPONSORED BY

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**SEAN SMITH**

DEFENDER

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**NIAL MORAN**

DEFENDER

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**BEN DUFTON-KELLY**

DEFENDER

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**ETHAN GOULDBOURNE**

DEFENDER

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**MARCUS JAMES**

DEFENDER

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**STE RIGBY**

MIDFIELDER

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**SEAN MOSCROP**

MIDFIELDER

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**JORDAN DEER**

DEFENDER

SPONSORED BY

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**HAYDN COOPER**

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

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**LEO RILEY**

MIDFIELDER

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**MICHAEL BURKEY**

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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**CONOR HARWOOD**

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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**BEN HOLMES**

FORWARD

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**LEWIS BUCKLEY**

FORWARD

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**BOBBIE MCDONNELL**

FORWARD

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**GEORGE NUGENT**

MIDFIELDER

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**JOE BRANDON**

FORWARD

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**KYLE SCARISBRICK**

COACH

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**NEIL MATHIESON**

COACH

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**STEVE ASPINALL**

COACH

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**SHIRLEY WHITAKER**

PHYSIO

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# VAUXHALL MOTORS V CREWE ALEXANDRA

# MATCH PREVIEW



Vauxhall Motors FC are back in pre-season friendly action this Tuesday evening as they face Crewe Alexandra at the VanEupen Arena, as their preparation for the 2023-24 Northern Premier League Division One West season continues.

The game for the Motormen comes after pre-season games this month already at home to local clubs, Ashville and Tranmere Rovers, just to name a few.

Crewe, managed by 40-year-old Lee Bell, finished 13th in League Two last season, thus provide strong opposition.

However, Mick McGraa's side will want to impress in front of another EFL side here this evening, showing a whole host of new fans who will visit the VanEupen Arena what they can produce.

However, the Alex will want to step up their new campaign prep and boost the confidence with a win today.

Crewe Alexandra FC Factfile:

Founded: 1877

**Manager:** Lee Bell was appointed in December 2022 and played for clubs such as Macclesfield, Crewe and Burton Albion.

**Top Scorer:** Dan Agyei, 16goals in 46 games

**2022-23 Final League Position:** 13th

**Playing Colours:** Red and white

**Stadium:** Gresty Road

**Recent Honours:** 2020 League Two runners up, 2013 Football League trophy winners, 2012 League two play off winners.

**Did you know?:** The club was named after Princess Alexandra and Crewe were the initial supporters who sang now Manchester City's infamous chant, Blue Moon

All support for the Motormen this afternoon is greatly appreciated - enjoy the game!

**ETHAN HOIJORD**

VMFC Correspondant for Wirral Globe, Liverpool Echo and Chester Standard Newspapers



VAUXHALL MOTORS FC - A HISTORY...

# OVER THE YEARS...



## 4TH JULY 1997

Terry McLean returned as Manager of the Motormen, with Joe Kelly as his Assistant, while Steve Leyland returned as West Cheshire League side boss, after a year out of the game.

## 5TH JULY 1997

The club reverts to the all-white kit, originally brought in by Tony McVey, as Real Madrid fan. We won 2 North West Counties Division Two titles, the North West Counties Football League Cup and the West Cheshire title, all while wearing a full white strip.

## 6TH JULY 2019

The Motormen won 3-1 at home to Curzon Ashton in our first pre-season game of the 2019-20 season.

## 8TH JULY 2005

Lost 3-0 at home to Tranmere Rovers in our initial pre-season fixture of the 2005-06 season.

## 10TH JULY 2021

In a pre-season friendly, lost 4-1 at home to FA Cup Giant-Killers, Marine AFC, at the VanEupen Arena.

## 13TH JULY 2021

Motors planned pre-season game away to Flint Town United, members of the Welsh Leagues, was cancelled due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the home camp, in the midst of the pandemic.

## 16TH JULY 2005

Played at home to Welshpool Town, with a 2-0 win in a pre-season friendly. The goals on the day were scored by Hussain and Peter Cumiskey.

## 17TH JULY 2004

Lost 4-0 at home to Tranmere Rovers, at the time under the management of Brian Little.

## 17TH JULY 2021

Won 3-0 at home to new Northern Premier League tenants, City of Liverpool. COL, who were recently promoted to the NPL, moved into the VanEupen Arena on a groundshare agreement after leaving Bootle FC. Ben Holmes bagged a first half brace, before trialist, Joe Levey, struck a superb strike on the 81st minute to secure the win.

Reserves drew 3-3 at Corwen in topsy-turvy game, in which the Reserves equalised right at the death.





## VAUXHALL MOTORS

- SAM BOOTH (GK)
- ALLY HUGHES (GK)
- ETHAN GOULDBOURNE
- TOM MITCHELL
- ADAM HUGHES
- BEN DUFTON-KELLY
- SEAN SMITH
- NIAL MORAN
- MARCUS JAMES
- HAYDN COOPER
- STEPHEN RIGBY
- SEAN MOSCROP
- JORDAN DEER
- MICHAEL BURKEY
- CONOR HARWOOD
- LEWIS BUCKLEY
- BOBBIE MCDONNELL
- GEORGE NUGENT
- JOE BRANDON

MANAGER:  
**MICK MCGRAA**



### MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE  
**GRAEME KEARNEY**
- ASSISTANT  
**KANE SMITH**
- ASSISTANT  
**LEE BUDWORTH**

### NEXT GAME



**SATURDAY  
22ND JULY**  
VS CONGLETON  
(H) - CUP W. CUP



**TUESDAY  
25TH JULY**  
VS COLWYN  
BAY (H)



## CREWE ALEXANDRA

- TOM BOOTH (GK)
- DAVE RICHARDS (GK)
- HARVEY DAVIES (GK)
- RIO ADEBISI
- ZAC WILLIAMS
- LUKE OFFORD
- CONNOR O'RIORDAN
- BILLY SASS-DAVIES
- LEWIS BILLINGTON
- ZAK KEMPSTER-DOWN
- RYAN COONEY
- CONOR THOMAS
- REGAN GRIFFITHS
- CHARLIE COLKETT
- CHARLIE FINNEY
- MATUS HOLICEK
- JACK POWELL
- OWEN LUNT
- CHRISTOPHER LONG
- COURTNEY BAKER-RICHARDSON
- ELLIOTT NEVITT
- JOEL TABINER
- CONNOR EVANS
- SHILOW TRACEY

MANAGER:  
**LEE BELL**