



The  West Cheshire  
Association Football League



## EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR RUNCORN?

Following a satisfactory ground grading visit last month, the Management Committee of the North West Counties Football League (Vodkat League) have confirmed that they have received an application from Runcorn Town to join the league next season.

Along with Runcorn, West Lancashire League side, AFC Darwen, and Manchester League side, West Didsbury & Chorlton have also applied to make the step up to level 6. Should all three sides be elected, the Vodkat League would still be short by two teams.

**The league's website reports that Runcorn have met the basic ground grading criteria required by the League, apart from some minor improvements which need to be made before a deadline set at 31 March 2010.**

Runcorn Town secretary, Martin Fallon feels that the decision is a reward for all the hard work that has gone in at the club over recent years.

He said,

***"This is the third year in a row we have applied to join the League, although in truth we were pretty sure we wouldn't get in the first time as we didn't have floodlights which***



*we knew were mandatory. However, we applied anyway, as we felt it was worthwhile to get a checklist of things we needed to do and, at the same time, introduce ourselves to the League representatives and let them know that we **were serious.**"*



***"Last year we missed out again but we could see we were moving in the right direction and the list of jobs we had to do was a lot less than in the previous year but we still had the problem of no floodlights."***

Runcorn experienced some difficulties with rulings that exist with regard to getting funding from the Football Foundation and felt that they would be better served by investigating that source at a later stage. As a result the club has put in years of very hard work to raise the money needed. Martin says it was very much a team effort from everyone at the club.

***"We have an active committee of around 15 people, who are there week in and week out supporting the club and working to make sure all the necessary jobs get done. . . . With everyone pulling together we have raised all the money needed ourselves."***

So we now have to wait and see. Certainly if hard work and dedication mean anything, Runcorn should be playing their football at level 6 in August.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Players, coaches and the grassroots football workforce throughout Cheshire can have their say on the future of the game locally by taking part in **The FA's new online survey.**

The Cheshire County FA is targeting their grassroots stakeholders to voice their opinions on **subjects such as The FA's work at a local level** and how to implement the highly publicised Respect programme.

County FA Chief Executive, Maureen Dunford commented:

***"Once again, we're listening for the voice of local football people to tell us how we're doing and what still needs to be done to keep the grassroots game heading in a positive direction.***

***"The National Game Strategy has seen increased participation in many areas, particularly refereeing and coaching and it is crucial that stakeholders take part in the survey to ensure that we as a County FA go from strength to strength providing quality football opportunities for all."***

The survey can be accessed at [www.cheshirefa.com](http://www.cheshirefa.com) whilst hard copies of the survey are also available by contacting 01606 871155.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Get into Football 



## THERE'S 'SNOW' STOPPING MARSHALLS!



*I am again indebted to one of our clubs for supplying me with an update. On this occasion it is **Marshall's who, despite the weather, have** made sure that some football took place. Ken Wagner sent in the following:*

With yet another game postponed last weekend the players from Marshall's FC were determined not to let the elements make their weekend completely devoid of football, and so they embarked on a training session, outdoors on the Mystery Park.

It was proper jumpers for goal posts stuff as 16 members of the first team squad wrapped up warm to brave the cold and have a



game. Marshalls, who before Christmas embarked on a 10 match winning run which propelled them into 3rd in the league and the quarter finals of two cup competitions, trained for 90 minutes and the game was settled when Manager, Steve Grace, buried a diving header which remarkably was captured on film (see below).

Steve who was the brains behind the session said,

*"I was delighted by the turn out of the lads but not surprised at all, we've a fantastic set of lads, who are always prepared to graft and work for each other, this just highlights the fantastic attitude of the players and hopefully we can continue our good run and end up with some silverware and promotion."*





## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

*Our Secretary, Arthur Green, received the following from Ian Moffat in Edinburgh:*

I am presently tracing my family tree who originated in the Wirral.

I recently found a gold medal and chain in my **Grandfather's belongings. The medal had the Wirral District Football Association on the front and on the reverse it had Junior Rally winners 1897/98.** I now wonder if my Granddad was a player at that time.

His name was James Moffat and he ran a bakers shop in Hamilton Street through the first World War. I wondered if the Wirral District Football Association



had any archives that might shed some light on the possible involvement of my Granddad and the Association.

*Arthur sent the information to Frank Robinson, amongst others, who was able to add the following:*



---

From the 1898-99 Wirral League Annual Cup holders for the Junior Cup, not Rally, for 1897-98 was Wirral Railway. Our present DFA Junior Cup did not commence until 1910.

This final would have been staged at the Parade Ground (now Birkenhead Tunnel Entrance). The Birkenhead News archive for first three months of 1899 reflect all cup finals in great detail, such was the interest.

Are there anymore pieces of our football history out there?

WHERE IN THE WEST CHESHIRE WORLD?

**So to the December issue's teaser. I asked you which club has the Latin motto on their badge which, when translated into English means:**

*There is no reward without effort*

I win! Not one correct answer was received. In fact, not one wrong answer came in either! Perhaps I need to stick with pictures in future? For the record **you will find 'palma non sine pulvere' on the old Runcorn Town badge.**

So I will give you one last chance to redeem yourselves. Which member club has the Latin motto on their badge which, when translated into English means:

Strength united is greater

Answers to me in the usual way please.



For up-to the minute news and fixture changes, visit the League's newly revamped website at:

[www.west-cheshire.org.uk](http://www.west-cheshire.org.uk)

In addition you can visit the FA's 'Full-Time' website for all the fixtures, results, tables and goal scorers. From your PC's internet browser go to:

<http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?league=9014877>

or from your mobile phone go to:

<http://full-time.thefa.com/pda/Table.do?league=9014877>

*The Carlsberg West Cheshire AFL Newsletter is issued every month throughout the season by the League. It is free of charge.*

*You can make sure of a copy every month by contacting your club secretary; Allen Price (contact details below); or any League representative.*

*If you have ANY information that you feel should be in the newsletter, do get in touch. Items for inclusion in future newsletters should be forwarded to Allen Price:*

*Email: [allen.price@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allen.price@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Telephone: (0151) 630 4056*

*Mobile: 07917 835 237*

*Views expressed in this newsletter may not reflect the **views held by the League or the League's officers.***

*©2010 West Cheshire Association Football League.*