



# The West Cheshire Association Football League



*Josh Dures keep his eyes fixed firmly on the ball as the West Cheshire representative side win 2 - 3 against the Lancashire Amateur League.*

**WE DID IT - AT LAST!**

The football gods finally turned a favourable eye on the West Cheshire representative side as they defeated the Lancashire Amateur League at **Padiham's Arbories Memorial Ground.**

West Cheshire team made sure of progression into the third round draw with a dominant display.

**On a heavy pitch that cut up easily, Steve Platt's** side imposed themselves on the game from the off.

Lancashire's 'keeper, Adam Chester had already

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been forced into to some excellent saves when, in **the 19th minute, a through ball found Willaston's** Robbie Foulkes who skilfully avoided the close attention of two home defenders, to place the ball beyond the hapless Chester, and into the goal.

It was inevitable that the Lancashire side would push for an equaliser, but West Cheshire were up to the challenge. However they were fortunate when home right winger, Gary Whiteside, having been left completely unmarked, inexplicably sent his effort on goal high and wide.

This near miss seemed to have a negative effect on the visitors and for a brief time the hosts dominated. However, the West Cheshire midfield excelled and were aware enough to respond fluidly to the assault.



*The team lines up before the kick-off at Padiham flanked by manager, Steve Platt and his assistant, Jason Williams.*



To all intents and purposes the game was settled in five minutes early in the second half.

On 50 minutes Alan Bull powered down the left wing and drove the ball across the box finding Josh Dures. Dures's firm shot was parried around the post by the goalie. However, Dures was not to be denied heading the ball home from the corner.

Just a minute later Bull and Foulkes linked together really well to leave Bull with the 'simple' task of running the ball into the net.

Game over? Lancashire had other ideas and on 55 minutes Whiteside brought the home side back into the game following some well worked passing play.

In the end the task proved too much for the home side, although Whiteside gave Lancashire an undeserved measure of respectability scoring his second in the fourth minute of added time.

West Cheshire manager, Steve Platt, was in jubilant mood after the game,

***"At last we got rid of that jinx and actually won a game in the competition. I was made up with the support we had from team managers and club committees, and to see so many of them at the game supporting their lads was great!"***

West Cheshire side: Aiden Dickenson; Nic Chambers; Dave Huyton; Danny Brookes; Chay Dysart; Paul Hughes; Josh Dures; Kevin Bimpson; Paul Casey; Alan Bull; Robbie Foulkes.



## LEW LEADS LEAGUE TO LAURELS!

Question: Which step 7 League was the first league in the country to achieve the Charter Standard Award?

Answer: The West Cheshire Association Football League. (as if you didn't know!)

League Secretary,

Arthur Green received an email from Peter Nicholls, **the Cheshire FA's Senior Development Officer**, on 3 December 2009, confirming this excellent achievement.



***The League's Welfare***  
*Officer and Chartered Standard guru, Lew Ensor.*

**Congratulations and thanks must go to the League's Welfare Officer, Lew Ensor.** As every member club that has achieved Charter Standard will know, Lew has put a huge amount of work into assisting and directing clubs in their endeavours.

Typically Lew remains modest about his involvement **and points the 'pats on the back' to the League Management Committee and the clubs themselves.**

Certainly everyone involved deserves great credit for their efforts in ensuring that the good work which goes on in the League and its member clubs has been duly recognised.

The FA Charter Standard Programme provides recognition that Clubs and Leagues are well run and



sustainable, with child protection and safety paramount. It also recognises commitment to coaching, player and coach development, and the raising of standards of behaviour.

On hearing the news, our own Dave Edmunds sent an email to Arthur and said,

***"On behalf of CCFA, can I add my congratulations on the achievement. I hope that all concerned find that it has been a useful exercise, that will benefit the League and Clubs in the future. Well done to good old Lew, and of course yourself for driving it forward."***

#### WEST CHESHIRE YOUTH PLATE

The draws for the first round, second round and semi-finals of the West Cheshire Youth Plate were made at the League Youth Meeting held at Cammell Laird on 14 December.

Cammell Laird and Marshalls both received a bye in the 1st round. The ties are:

Mersey Royal v South Liverpool

Belfry v AFC Bebington Athletic

Widnes Town v Hale

Sao Paulo v AFC Liverpool

**St Sebastian's v Mayfield**

Maghull v Mount Athletic.

The ties will be arranged for a Saturday in March 2010.



## MANAGER OF THE MONTH

It has been announced that the Manager of the Month for November is Tony Pownall of Mossley Hill Athletic.



Mossley started the month with a narrow 2 - 1 win over Ellesmere Port outfit, Grange Athletic.

Unfortunately their game at West Kirby the following week had to be abandoned following a serious injury. However it was back to winning ways at home to New Brighton, Athletic running out 2 - 0 winners.

The final game of the month saw Mossley comprehensively push aside a strong Heswall side by four goals to nil.

If you have never taken the opportunity to visit the Mossley Athletic Club, do so! It is a great advertisement for grass-roots, community football.

Established in 1924, the club provides opportunities for children and adults, male and female, aged from six-years-old up to veterans, all enjoying their chosen sport.

The club is an integral part of the community with over three-hundred people involved and many volunteers all contributing to improving life for local people.

Congratulations Tony and well done to all involved at L18!



## RAY PARKER

Older readers will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of one of this League's most popular players of the 1970's and 80's, Ray Parker.

Ray's first appearance in West Cheshire football was with Shaftesbury, who, at the time, were members of the 1st Division.

Easily recognisable by his mop of blond hair he later spent a number of successful years with Poulton Victoria and was also a stalwart of another successful outfit, Highfield, of the Birkenhead Sunday league.

Ray was a loyal clubman and his versatility as a player saw him feature in many positions.

Ray had celebrated his 60th birthday a few weeks before his untimely death.

We send our condolences to all his family and friends.

Ray Condliffe

### STOP PRESS NEWS!

The third round draw of the FA NLS Cup sees West Cheshire drawn at home to Yorkshire Old Boys.



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:*

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

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