

## 700 ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE MATCHES AND COUNTING

**On Saturday 29 September 2018 Macclesfield Town celebrated their 700<sup>th</sup> English Football League Match against Forest Green Rovers. In this article we look at some of the milestones achieved over this time together with each century match.**

### **The very first match – 9 August 1997 Macclesfield Town 2 Torquay United 1**

No one will ever forget the excitement on that August day in 1997 when Efe Sodje wrote his name into the Silkmen's history scoring the Club's first Football League goal in the seventh minute. However, the joy was short lived when Charlie Oatway (actually christened Anthony, Philip, David, Terry, Frank, Donald, Stanley, Gerry, Gordon, Stephen, James after a 1970s QPR team) turned provided for Andy Gurney to equalise only two minutes later. But in the second half, striker Richard Landon rolled the ball home from close range to win the match for the Silkmen in front of a crowd of 3,379.

### **Breakdown of matches by manager**

Sammy McIlroy	118
Peter Davenport	43
Gil Prescott	35
Kevin Keen	6
David Moss	90
John Askey	23
Brian Horton	119
Paul Ince	31
Ian Brightwell	37
Keith Alexander	90
Gary Simpson	97
Glyn Chamberlain	1
Mark Yates	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>

### **Most Appearances**

The honour falls to the ever popular Darren Tinson with 263 Football League appearances, all of which came from the starting line-up. Darren was Player of the Year in 2000-01 and was the first former Conference player to reach 100 Football League appearances.

### **Most Goals**

During his three spells at the Moss Rose, Matthew Tipton scored a total of 50 Football League goals. Matthew is one of only three players to score a Football League hat-trick (the others were Ricky Lambert and Jon Parkin), his came in the 3-0 victory at the Moss Rose against Rochdale in the 2004-05 season. He was top-scorer in 2002-03 and 2003-04 and was Player of the Year for the 2003-04 season.

### **Fastest Goal**

Was scored by Ben Tomlinson in 6.4 seconds on 13 September 2011 in the home match against Morecambe. At kick-off Ben collected the ball and swiftly charged his way through the Morecambe players firmly striking the ball home. It is unknown whether this is the fastest goal scored in the history of the club as there were no historic records maintained by the club and subsequent research shows that in the media the time of many goals were not recorded with comments such as 'in the first minute', 'very early in the first half' and 'almost from the kick-off'

### **Highest Aggregate – Wycombe Wanderers 4 Macclesfield Town 5 on 2 January 2006**

The Silkmen's goals were scored by Clyde Wijnyard (2), Danny Whitaker and Jon Parkin (2). This was an exciting match with Macclesfield taking an early 3-0 lead only to see the home side then score four goals, but two second half goals from Jon Parkin in the space of four minutes secured the first away win of the season and the first league victory for 16 matches.

### **Biggest Score – Macclesfield Town 6 Stockport County 0 on Boxing Day 2005**

Stockport were reduced to 10 men in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute with the Silkmen goals scored by Clyde Wijnyard (2), Jon Parkin (2), Martin Bullock and John Miles, leaving the Stockport supporters chanting 'We want one'.

### **Longest unbeaten run**

This was achieved on two occasions with a run of eight matches, both times seven wins and one draw.

17 January 1997 to 21 February 1998

15 January 2005 to 26 February 2005.

In the 1997-98 season the Silkmen were undefeated in all home league matches, winning 19 and drawing four.

### **Longest run without a win**

In a single season, this took place in the 2011-2012 season at the end of which the team suffered relegation back to the Conference and stretched over 23 league matches from 2 January 2012 to the end of the season with 16 defeats and seven draws.

### **The most frequent opponent.**

There is no prize for guessing this one – of course it is Lincoln City with 29 Football League encounters.

### **Century Matches**

#### **100<sup>th</sup> – 18 September 1999**

**Lincoln City 1** (Barnett 82) **Macclesfield Town 1** (Barker 58): Attendance 2918: Referee T A Parkes  
**Team:** Price, Ingram, Collins, Tinson, Brown, Priest, Byrne (Whittaker 78), Durham (Whitehead 87), Davies, Ware, Barker. Subs not used: Sedgemore, Rioch, Askey

Macclesfield's third season as members of the Football League plying their trade in the Nationwide League 3 having spent the previous season in League 2 under the management of Sammy McIlroy. After a goalless first half Richie Barker, unmarked in the penalty area, chested the ball down after a cross from Kieron Durkan shooting past the Lincoln 'keeper Barrie Richardson to put the Silkmen in the lead. Former Port Vale defender Dave Barnett got Lincoln out of jail with an equaliser eight minutes from time after they had been reduced to 10 men following the dismissal of full back Terry Fleming.

Keiron Durkan made his 150<sup>th</sup> league appearance (all clubs) in this match.

#### **200<sup>th</sup> – 27 October 2001**

**York City 1** (Proctor 90) **Macclesfield Town 0**: Attendance 2253: Referee M Clattenburg  
**Team:** Wilson, Hitchen (Bullock 83) Adams, Tinson, Ridler, Abbey, Priest, Keen, Eyre, Lambert, Glover. Subs not used: Martin, O'Neill, Byrne, Whitehead.

Referee Mark Clattenburg was working his way through the referee ranks eventually becoming an elite official. He officiated at six matches in which Macclesfield were involved, one as an assistant and five as the Man in the Middle which included two at the Moss Rose.

Kevin Keen was acting manager at this time prior to the appointment of David Moss. Macclesfield's hopes of pulling themselves off the bottom of the table looked bleak throughout the match with the York forwards, Procter and Nogan, dominating proceedings although Wilson saved a penalty shot by Procter in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute. But it was Procter who had the final say when he scored in the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute to give York City all three points. Despite losing Macclesfield finished the day in 23<sup>rd</sup> position.

### **300<sup>th</sup> – 28 December 2003**

**Macclesfield Town 1** (Tipton 90) **Mansfield Town 1** (Christie 71): Attendance 3578: Referee M Pike  
**Team:** Wilson, Adams, Carragher, Munroe, Welch, Brackenridge (Miles 79), Priest, Whitaker, Carruthers, Little, Tipton. Subs not used: Delany, Carr, Flitcroft, Ross

John Askey was in charge for this match which was played on very cold day with a wind blowing across the pitch and whilst dry in the first half there were rain and sleet showers in the second half. Despite the weather this was an exciting match with Mansfield looking the stronger team justifying their play-off table position (Macclesfield were in 19<sup>th</sup> position). However, Macclesfield played well as a team until a long range and unnecessary back-pass by Karl Munroe put goalkeeper Steve Wilson under pressure such that he could only make a weak clearance which led to the visitor's goal. Macclesfield continued to battle and with almost the last kick of the match striker Matthew Tipton lashed the ball home from waist height to rescue a point.

In this match Chris Priest made his 300<sup>th</sup> league appearance (all clubs).

### **400<sup>th</sup> – 15 February 2006**

**Oxford United 1** (E'Beyer 26) **Macclesfield Town 1** (Sandwith 16): Attendance 4331 (including 88 Macclesfield): Referee P Armstrong

**Team:** Lee, Morley, Sandwith, Swailes, Teague, Bullock, Harsley, McIntyre, Navarro, Whitaker, Wijnhard. Subs not used: Deasy, Briscoe, Smart, Miles, Townson.

Brian Horton was in his first spell as manager for this match. Not a particularly inspiring encounter but Macclesfield took an early lead when Kevin Sandwith converted his free-kick after Clyde Wijnhard had been fouled some 25 yards out. Unfortunately Macclesfield could not hold onto the lead with Oxford equalising 10 minutes later leaving Macclesfield in 16<sup>th</sup> position in the Coca-Cola League 2.

Goalkeeper Tommy Lee made his debut and Clyde Wijnhard made his 200<sup>th</sup> career appearance in English football.

### **500<sup>th</sup> – 24 March 2008**

**Macclesfield Town 3** (Thomas 31, Ashton 41, Green 48) **Barnet 0**: Attendance 1718 (including 114 Barnet): Referee MS Pike

**Team:** Brain, Ashton (Jennings 82), Hessey, Brisley, Dunfield, Tolley, Thomas (Rooney J 90), Walker, Green (Reid I 82), Evans, Cresswell. Subs not used; Reid L, Spencer.

By now Keith Alexander had taken over as manager. It was a cold day with a 15 minute snow shower during the second half. This was the first occasion in the 2007-08 season that Macclesfield had won by more than a single goal and looked comfortable against a side which had scored five goals in their last match only days before. There were three well taken goals – a header by Danny Thomas, a free-kick by Neil Ashton which crept along the ground through a crowded penalty box and a fine shot from 20 yards by Francis Green. The total could have been more but for some fine saves by the

Barnet 'keeper and a clearance off the line. This was the Silkmen's ninth win of the season leaving them eight points above the relegation zone.

John Rooney, brother of Wayne, made his debut for MTFC and his Football League debut at the age of 17 years 3 months and 12 days.

#### **600<sup>th</sup> – 14 August 2010**

**Macclesfield Town 0 Shrewsbury Town 1** (Harold): Attendance 2303 (including 970 from Shrewsbury): Referee M Haywood

**Team:** Veiga, Reid I (Chalmers 90), Tremarco, Brisley (Bencherif 76), Brown, Bolland, Butcher (Wedgbury 61), Hamshaw, Barnett, Sinclair, Mukendi. Subs not used: Beardsley, Cudworth, Draper, Daniel.

Gary Simpson had been appointed manager following the untimely death of Keith Alexander. An early season match with Macclesfield only mustering two shots on target, one of which came from Hamza Bencherif whose shot was cleared off the line in added time. A mistake by Izak Reid allowed Shrewsbury to score an early goal, a lead which they retained to win the match.

The newly named Keith's Bar, formerly the President's Bar, was opened for the first time having been renamed in memory of Keith Alexander.

#### **700<sup>th</sup> – 29 September 2018**

**Macclesfield Town 1** (Wilson 55) **Forest Green Rovers 1** (Grubb 48): Attendance 1503 (including 135 from Forest Green Rovers): Referee G Salisbury

**Team:** O'Hara, Hodgkiss, Lowe, Kelleher, Fitzpatrick, Marsh, Arthur, Maycock, Whitaker (Vincenti 57), Wilson, Blissett. Subs not used: Taylor, Grimes, Smith, Welch-Hayes, Napa, Pearson

Forest Green Rovers came to the Moss Rose unbeaten in the current campaign but Macclesfield raised their game with manager Mark Yates including eight players in the starting line-up who were members of the Vanarama National League Championship team for the 2017-18 season. Nevertheless, the visitors took the lead from an excellently taken free-kick which sailed over the wall into the top of the net giving goalkeeper Kieran O'Hara no chance. Their lead only lasted seven minutes when Scott Wilson, top-scorer in the 2017-18 season, broke free to slot home. Whilst both sides tried to find the winning goal the match ended in a draw leaving the Silkmen at the bottom of Sky Bet League 2 without a victory after 10 matches.



**Efe Sodje scoring Macclesfield's first goal in the English Football League**