

# LANCASHIRE AMATEUR LEAGUE

# V

# LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE AFL

## The John Howard Trophy



## SPECIAL 100th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 20th April 2022 7.30pm ko

### The LFA County Ground, Leyland

### Admission £4

### Concessions £2

# Welcome

*On behalf of the Lancashire Amateur League I should like to welcome the Lancashire and Cheshire AFL to this Centenary match between our two leagues. The fixture is a superb advert for both of these historic and prestigious real grass roots football leagues. We believe the record is 38 wins to the LAL, 32 to the L&C and 16 draws and I'm sure we all look forward to another quality and competitive football match.*

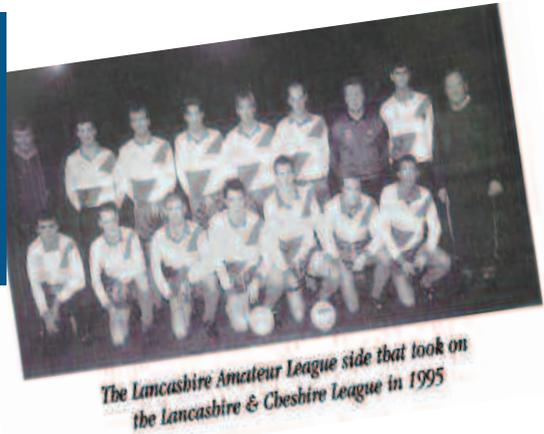
*The LAL was founded in 1899 and the L&C in 1909. The opening game between our two leagues was played on Good Friday 1921 at the Chorlton-cum-Hardy ground and resulted in a 2-2 draw. Tonight's game celebrates 100 years of those games between two leagues that retain the same ethos and belief in our game at the amateur level.*

## **Simon Lord**

Chairman of the Lancashire Amateur League.

# The Lancashire Amateur League

On 5th May 1899, nine gentlemen, meeting in the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool, unanimously carried a resolution 'that a League be formed under the title of the Lancashire Amateur League'. In September that year, the League haltingly got underway, with just seven teams. Entry was tightly controlled in the early years - the committee sought applications from clubs it wished to see join, often being rebuffed, and in turn often turned down unwanted applicants. The membership, as a consequence, grew slowly.



There was relatively little expansion of membership right up to the First World War. The minutes of the meeting of 4th August 1914 have a bleak look; after a list of those present, there is the simple message: 'The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.' For a long time, it was extremely difficult to run a smooth League. But unbeknown to anyone involved in those stuttering times, a period of stability and eventually controlled expansion was being born. In 1929, the Northern Section of the LAL

# Inter League Match.

BOXING DAY December 26th 1927.  
On South Manchester Ground  
WITHINGTON.

## Representative Teams —

### LANCASHIRE AMATEUR LEAGUE.

#### Team.

W. ECKERSALL (Stand).  
W. H. COUPE (Bolton Wyresdale).  
W. THOMAS (Blackburn Technical).  
R. C. LOCKE (Heaton Chapel).  
F. STOTT (Bury Amateurs).  
J. WOOD, Capt. (Heaton Chapel).  
C. HALSTEAD (Bury Amateurs).  
H. MOSS (Old Boltonians).  
F. BROMLEY (Bolton Wyresdale).  
J. P. BATES (Bolton Wyresdale).  
B. D. GAUTHERY (Old Manonians).

### LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE LEAGUE.

#### Team.

N. JONES (Aldersmore).  
T. E. ELLIS, Capt. (Davenport).  
R. H. MITCHESON (South Manchester).  
A. ASHTON (Hoyon Amateurs).  
J. ROBINSON (West Didsbury).  
L. STALKER (South Salford).  
J. McCULLOCH (South Salford).  
F. SMITH (South Salford).  
T. BRIBLEY (West Didsbury).  
A. HOLMES (West Didsbury).  
E. TUNSTALL (South Salford).

Referee: F. TAYLOR (Oldham).

#### Linesmen:

W. PIMBLOTT and G. GODDARD.

After protracted discussions and much debate as to the right formula, the whole League combined its first and second elevens into four divisions and reserves for the start of season 1974-1975, leading with the Premier Division. The lower teams remained separately constituted into North and South, and operated with several different distributions for many years thereafter, but on the same principle. The 4 major divisions became three, each with reserves, in 1976-1977.

From the start of the 2003-4 season a limited 'ladder system' came into operation; reserves divisions as such were abolished.

came into being, in 1936 the Southern; in the next 30 years, neither looked back.

The organisation had been kept going on a skeletal basis throughout the second World War; some clubs had even managed some unofficial football. Later there were three sections, North, South and Central. First Central and Southern merged, before an eventual merger of both sections.



Above: 2019 LAL squad

The LAL, now an FA Accredited League following the refresh of the old Charter Standard - currently comprises six divisions with over seventy teams, and despite a difficult season coping with the demands of covid (congratulations to our fixtures and referees secretaries for coping so admirably!) we are close to completing the league calendar and have enjoyed competitive football in all of our divisions.



The LAL team that played the Lancashire & Cheshire League on Boxing Day, 1946

# A short history of the Lancashire and Cheshire Amateur Football League

In 1909 an Amateur League of high quality for players who pay to play their sport was formed, which encouraged competition against similar Leagues to the mutual benefit of the amateur game.

Eleven teams registered in that first season and embarked on a journey that has seen many twists and turns over the 113 years. At no time has the dream of the founder members ever been altered by the many serving officers since.

Of the League's current membership, Aldermere joined in 1912, South Manchester in 1914, Old Stretfordians in 1928, Stoconians in 1929.



Representative Team v L.A.L., Boxing Day 1988

Clubs still playing, who have moved on to other leagues include, West Didsbury & Chorlton in 1920, Cheadle Heath

Nomads joining in 1921, Denton Town in 1922, Monton Amateurs in 1924, Stockport Georgians in 1931, Stockport Sports known as Woodley Athletic, Wythenshawe Amateurs in 1954, Poynton in 1966, New Mills in 1968.

The standard of football played in the League has been of the highest quality and has continued to attract new members to such an extent that total team membership currently stands at 86, with games spread over eight divisions enjoyed by 3,000 registered players.

The League has always been able to call on dedicated club members and referees to join the management committee and conduct the business of the League. This is no mean feat as the administration of an organisation this size takes the time of many officials acting in a voluntary capacity.

In addition to the eight divisional competitions, teams compete for 4 knock out cup competitions the first played for in 1912, donated by founder member WH Rhodes and the Wray, Whitehead and Hellawell Shield for the lower divisions.

Since inception the League have met

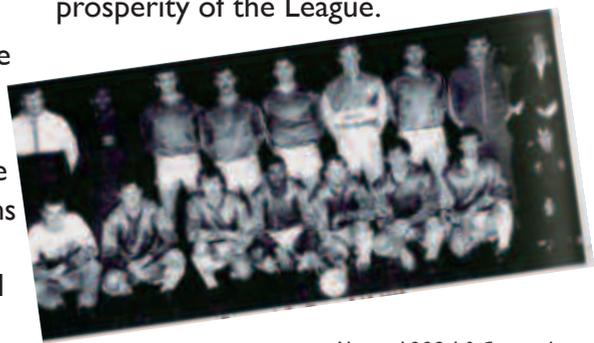


Representative team v LAL Boxing Day 1927

the ambition of their founders by competing against other Leagues, the first games being against the Leeds District League in 1912 and the Belfast Alliance in 1913. Since then, the League team have competed on more than 350 occasions against 24 different leagues selecting 2000+ players over this period. The longest association has been with the Lancashire Amateur League having played 86 games and jointly will be celebrating 100 years of Inter League football in 2022. The record is 38 wins to the LAL, 32 to the L&C and 16 draws. In 2009 a trophy was donated by the LAL, and named after the L&C's John Howard, the keenest advocate of the Inter League team, as

a dedication to his outstanding work for the league(s) over more than 60 years. Sadly, this incredible man passed away in 2021 at the age of 85, while still serving on the league committee.

The league was one of the first to join the FA Respect (2007) and League Charter Standard programmes, setting admirable behaviour standards for the enjoyment of all participants. The journey has been long, but the words of the League's founders have never been far from the thoughts of committee members and their continued dedication has ensured the prosperity of the League.



Above: 1992 L&C squad

Below: 2019 L&C squad





# In memory of John Howard

It was with tremendous sadness that the L & C announced the death of our former League Secretary John Howard at the age of 85.

John's contribution to the league, its reputation and what it has become today cannot be measured and is "most unlikely to ever be surpassed."

The outpouring of love and affection since news of his passing confirms as much, with messages from committee members, football clubs, the Lancashire Amateur League and Manchester FA emphasising the regard he was held in.

He has been described as "influential," "dedicated," "a gentleman," "mentor," "a special man," a man for whom respect came naturally, from people who enjoyed his company, passion and love for the game and the

advancement of the L & C and grass-roots football.

His knowledge of our league was unrivalled and he penned the most significant piece of history that exists about the L & C - a comprehensive history of our first 100 years. It is typical of John's nature that, in more than 250 pages, he only recounts his own time in the L & C in less than a page, not even detailing his time as League Secretary, instead thanking his devoted wife Doreen and also preferring to focus on his contemporaries and their contributions.

That says a great deal about the man, considering the L & C is a labour of love. His involvement in the league began in 1953 when he began playing for the Manchester Town Clerks and City Treasurers (Mantact) Football Club. John progressed all the way through Mantact's administration, onto refereeing, time as the Discipline Secretary, and membership of the League Management Committee. In later years, John enjoyed a three-year spell as League Secretary,

succeeded by current incumbent, Brian Davies. Brian is unequivocal about his predecessor's influence, both on a personal and professional level, a man described as "the life and soul" of the L & C.

Brian said: "My first interaction with John was going to discipline meetings because the club I was with had discipline problems at the time so I used to have to go to John Howard. He was feared for his power as a disciplinarian but was always very fair and everybody came out of those meetings with a massive amount of respect. Everything was accepted because he was so good at it."

Fiercely protective of grassroots football, John was a great advocate of the L & C vs LAL Interleague Trophy, and maintaining the relationship between the two leagues, along with the ongoing annual games. The two leagues have always been friendly and helped each other where possible. It is a mark of John's influence here that

the Interleague trophy is named after him, leaving a legacy that he can be proud of.

Peter Duffy, Secretary of the LAL, described John as "iconic" with "limitless knowledge."

John's loyalty to the league meant he protected its traditions, but he also embraced change and was a representative for the league on a body that is committed to improving equality and diversity. Even during the Covid pandemic, he was looking to the future, keen to continue developing grassroots football and was responsible for the collation and publication of L & C match sheets as recently as the end of the 2020/21 season.

It is an incredible legacy to leave and whilst we will miss our dear friend immeasurably, we are eternally grateful for his contribution and his indelible mark on the L & C will always be remembered.



# Tonight's Officials

Referee Jonny Entwistle  
Assistants Haider Ali  
& Steve Burston  
4th Official Paul Kershaw

## Lancashire Amateur League

Colours: red and white shirts, red shorts and red socks

Cameron McCulloch - Little Lever SC  
Craig Bingham - Little Lever SC  
Leon Farrimond - Little Lever SC  
Ryan Talbot - Little Lever SC  
Billy Darcy Little Lever SC  
Nick Holt - Old Boltonians  
Gil Nanau - Old Boltonians  
Rhys Singleton - Old Boltonians  
Lucas Gaynor - Old Boltonians  
Jonathan Sankey - Old Boltonians  
Jake Milne - Old Boltonians  
Joe Raynor - Bolton Wyresdale  
Josh Stanicliffe - Chaddertonians  
Sam Johnson - Rochdale St Clements  
Ben Crompton - Rochdale St Clements  
Onouche Byidyke - Old Mancunians  
Levi Adams - Old Mancunians

Manager - Steve Eccleshare  
Assistants - Stewart Williams  
& Callum Eccleshare

## Lancashire & Cheshire AFL

Colours - yellow shirts, blue socks and shorts.

Victor Reventos - Stretford Paddock  
Kieron Molloy - Stretford Paddock  
Cameron Watters - Stretford Paddock  
Omar Sinclair - Stretford Paddock  
James Oatt - Stretford Paddock  
Luke Mason - Moston Brook  
Taylor Melting - Moston Brook  
Jack Bostock - Moston Brook  
Connor Berry - Moston Brook  
Kealan Stevenson - Moston Brook  
Jack Ward - Moston Brook  
Paul Carey - Abacus Media  
Lewis Henderson - Abacus Media  
Luke Durcan - Abacus Media  
Harry Kingham - Abacus Media  
Sheldon Casey - Shaw Athletic

Manager - David Haughton  
Assistant - Mike Treanor

**A minute's silence will be held before the game  
in memory of John Howard  
PRESENTATIONS TO BE MADE  
IN THE TOM FINNEY SUITE AFTER THE GAME**