

AFC Knowsley CIC
Lord Derby Playing Field
Knowsley Lane
Liverpool
L36 8JB



16th December 2025

The club was formed in 1987 under the banner of Knowsley South, with teams for juniors and adults playing their games at Lord Derby Playing fields. The club achieved their community-chartered club status in 2001 with the FA and grew year on year and facilitating more teams growing us to one of the biggest clubs in Merseyside. In 2019 the club underwent a £1.4m redevelopment of the existing site removing container-based dressing rooms and toilets in exchange for a state-of-the-art pavilion including changing rooms, café and function room. With the new development the club took the decision to rebrand and renamed the club AFC Knowsley with a new badge and kit for all teams. Boasting a new site, the club grew to a footprint of 41 teams, including men, junior, girl, academy, and disability teams with over 600 registered players.

The Chairmans objective was to create a pathway to 1st team football noting the facilities and headline pitch would allow the team to compete at step 7 football. As a result, a first team manager was appointed and a team created who entered into the 2nd division of the Cheshire League. Within 3 seasons the team was promoted to the Premier Division after being crowned champions of Division 1. In 2023 the made the decision to switch to the West Cheshire league which is a feeder league to the Northwest Counties League and as I type today, we are currently occupy position of top of the league. Under the stewardships of the new first team management, the club feel the time is right to build on our current position and strive to achieve football promotion to step 6 in the NWCFL. We have now initiated conversations with key stake holders, Football Foundation, LCFA and Knowsley Borough Council informing them of our aspirations and intentions. We fully understand the application process and are looking for all key stakeholders to share and support our goals. We believe that securing promotion to Step 6 football will benefit the club for the reasons outlined below.

- With our current facilities and enhanced work needed we would represent a fantastic site for the NWCFL.
- To encourage the local community to attend semi pro football at very affordable prices. Unfortunately, not all people can attend Professional football matches, so this gives them scope to attend a well-recognised standard of football.

- With step 6 football. It allows our younger players who have been with the club for many seasons to strive to achieve semi pro football with AFC Knowsley, rather than lose them to other teams.
- With increased responsibility – The club will likely need to employ staff to cover catering costs, so we are offering part time employment to someone in the local community.
- The site is close to all main bus routes and motorway networks allowing easy transport to and from the site.
- We strongly believe with the lack of step 6 football teams in the Knowsley Borough Council, us pushing for step 6 will raise the profile for us as club but also Knowsley Council.
- The additional income the games will generate will help the club become more sustainable and provide a future for the club. For example, we benefit from the football foundation Pitch Maintenance fund which erodes every year and year 5 with to fund a substantial amount to main the pitches to a high level.
- As a member of Knowsley Chamber, it will increase our profile within their organisation and lead to favourable networking across businesses.
- With over 25,000 followers through our social media platforms, this will allow us to promote the club across the NWCFL communities and increase spectators to the pavilion.
- As a supporter of our local community we have affinities with local schools and a nursing home close by, we regularly have pupils and residents of the home watching games, We would provide a free selection of tickets to encourage them to come and watch home games free of charge
- We would also look to start a free tea and biscuit afternoon for local residents to come and socialise at the club and get a better understanding of what we do for their community but also give the residents the opportunity to meet new people in a warm and safe heaven.

With all key stake holders support and guidance, we feel we have clearly demonstrated above why we feel AFC Knowsley are ready for their next step in the football pyramid and want to progress to step 6 football and aspirations of step 5. As a club, we are strongly committed to delivering above to achieve the clubs' objectives.

Yours in Sport

Mike Gibbons

Club Chairman

