

= 1924 ? 25 Nelson F.C. season =

The 1924 ? 25 season was the 44th in the history of Nelson Football Club , and their fourth as a professional team in the Football League . The campaign saw the team return to the Third Division North , having finished in the relegation zone of the Second Division in 1923 ? 24 . Despite losing only one match all season at Seedhill , Nelson 's home ground , the team struggled in away matches . Nelson ended the campaign on 53 points , with a record of 23 wins , 7 draws and 12 losses , and finished as runners @-@ up to Darlington in the league table . Nelson reached the Sixth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup , beating non @-@ League Winsford United before being knocked out of the competition by Coventry City . The team progressed past the first round of the Lancashire Senior Cup with a win against Wigan Borough , but were defeated in the following round by Blackburn Rovers .

A total of 23 different players were used by Nelson during their 44 competitive matches , less than half of whom had played for the club in previous campaigns . Goalkeeper Harry Abbott and half @-@ back Ernie Braidwood were the two ever @-@ presents for Nelson during 1924 ? 25 . Centre forward Joe Eddleston scored 26 goals in 43 games to become the team 's top goalscorer for the fourth consecutive season . Two Nelson records were set during the campaign , although one was later broken ; the seven @-@ goal winning margin against Crewe Alexandra was never bettered in Football League matches , while the attendance of 13 @,@ 500 for the visit of Darlington in April 1925 was the largest ever seen at Seedhill at that time .

= = Background = =

The 1924 ? 25 season marked Nelson 's return to the Football League Third Division North following their relegation from the Second Division at the end of the previous campaign . It was the club 's fourth season in the Football League , having previously competed in the Central League . Former Scotland international defender David Wilson retired from his player @-@ manager role in the summer of 1924 in order to take up the managerial post full @-@ time . Thomas Jacques , who had played for Nelson during their inaugural season in the Football League , was hired as the assistant coach and groundsman . Unlike the previous summer , when Nelson had embarked on a pre @-@ season tour of Spain , the team did not play any friendly matches during the build @-@ up to the campaign . The club strip remained unchanged from the previous season ; a blue jersey , white shorts and black socks with white and blue trim .

While there were several changes to the playing staff , the core of the team that had played in the Second Division remained intact . Centre forward Joe Eddleston , Nelson 's top goalscorer in each of the previous three seasons , was retained along with captain Clem Rigg , Welsh half @-@ back Jack Newnes and goalkeeper Harry Abbott . The two most senior squad members , David Wilson and goalkeeper Joseph Birds , retired from professional football aged 40 and 36 respectively . Inside forward Dick Crawshaw , who had been the team 's second @-@ highest scorer in 1923 ? 24 with five goals , moved to Stalybridge Celtic . Scottish forward Mike McCulloch ended his two @-@ year association with the club by joining Chesterfield on a free transfer , while half @-@ back Leigh Collins signed for New Brighton . Other players , including William Lammus and Ernest Gillibrand , left Nelson having failed to establish themselves in the first @-@ team during their time with the club . Manager Wilson spent a total of £ 750 (£ 35 @,@ 000 as of 2011) on new players in the summer of 1924 . Billy Bottrill and Bill Ellerington arrived from Middlesbrough , while Barrow full @-@ back James Phizacklea was signed to bolster the defensive line . Several young players were acquired from local non @-@ League football during the close season , including Ambrose Harris from Briercliffe and Billy Harper , formerly of Fenisowles . The Nelson squad was considered by the local newspaper to be stronger than the one which had won the Third Division North two seasons earlier .

= = = Transfers = = =

= = Football League Third Division North = =

Nelson began their league campaign on 30 August 1924 with an away match at Southport , who had ended the previous season in seventh position . New signings Billy Bottrill , Bill Ellerington and Joseph O 'Beirne went straight into the starting line @-@ up but they could not prevent Southport winning by a single goal from Jack Barber , giving them their first ever League win against Nelson . A week later , Nelson played their first home game of the season , in which James Phizacklea made his debut for the club . A crowd of around 6 @, @ 000 saw Ashington beaten 4 ? 0 thanks to goals from Bottrill , Joe Eddleston , Jack Newnes and Sid Hoad . Three days later , Eddleston scored twice as Doncaster Rovers were defeated by three goals to nil in the first midweek match of the campaign . However , Nelson could not continue their winning streak as they lost 0 ? 2 against Accrington Stanley at Peel Park in the following fixture . On 16 September , Nelson achieved their biggest victory in the Football League at that time with a 7 ? 1 win over Durham City at Seedhill . The game saw Eddleston score his first hat @-@ trick since the 3 ? 0 victory away at Rochdale in January 1923 , and O 'Beirne and Eddie Cameron score their first goals of the season . Four days later , Nelson suffered their third consecutive defeat away from home , losing 0 ? 3 to Barrow at Holker Street . The team continued their good home form the following week with a narrow win against Lincoln City . Nelson named the same team for the seventh game in succession for the trip to Tranmere Rovers on 4 October , but the side were beaten for the fourth straight away match thanks to goals from Dixie Dean and Jimmy Moreton .

A week later Eddleston took his tally of goals to eight , scoring twice as Nelson overcame Walsall 2 ? 1 at Seedhill . He scored again in the next match as the team gained their first point of the season away from home , drawing 1 ? 1 at Wigan Borough , who had been Nelson 's first ever opponents in the Football League over three years previously . Half @-@ back Ernie Braidwood scored his first goal of the campaign in the 2 ? 1 win against Halifax Town . Eddie Cameron also scored for the home side , and Walter Moore made his senior debut in the match . November began badly for Nelson as they suffered their heaviest defeat of the season , a 0 ? 5 loss away at New Brighton . Allan Mathieson and Joe Wilcox scored two goals each as New Brighton won the first ever competitive meeting between the two sides . Nelson moved up to sixth place in the league following the next match , a 1 ? 0 win at home to Grimsby Town . However , the team continued their poor form away from Seedhill , losing 1 ? 3 to table @-@ topping Darlington on 15 November . Seven days later , Bottrill scored the only goal of the match as Nelson beat Rochdale to record their eighth consecutive home win .

In the first game of December , Nelson failed to win at Seedhill for the first time in the season . Despite a tenth goal of the campaign from Eddleston and a penalty kick scored by captain Clem Rigg , the team could only draw with Bradford Park Avenue . After a two @-@ week break from League football because of the FA Cup , Nelson returned to action with a 4 ? 1 home win over Rotherham County in the only match ever played between the two sides at Seedhill . On Christmas Day , half @-@ back Ambrose Harris made his first appearance for Nelson as the side beat Chesterfield 1 ? 0 thanks to Bill Ellerington 's first goal for the club . The same team was defeated by the same scoreline the following day in the reverse fixture at Saltergate . Inside forward Arthur Wolstenholme scored the only goal of the match as Nelson recorded their first away victory of the season in the final fixture of 1924 .

Nelson started the new year with a 1 ? 1 draw at Ashington ; Ellerington scored for the second time in three matches but it was cancelled out by a goal from Bill Watson . A week later , half @-@ back Ernie Braidwood netted his first of the season as the team secured another 1 ? 1 draw away at Wrexham 's Racecourse Ground . In the first home match of the new year , on 17 January 1925 , Nelson atoned for their defeat to Accrington Stanley earlier in the season with a 4 ? 1 win thanks to two goals from Eddleston , one from Chadwick , and a first goal in almost three months for Cameron . Clem Rigg scored two penalties the following week as the side beat Barrow to move above Bradford Park Avenue into fifth position in the Third Division North . On 7 February Nelson won their third consecutive home fixture , beating Tranmere Rovers by four goals to one . Left @-@ half

Herbert Butterworth made his senior debut for the club against Tranmere , despite signing from Wolverhampton Wanderers almost two years previously , while Chadwick scored twice in one game for the first time . A trip to Walsall seven days later brought a first away victory of 1925 for the team as goals from Chadwick and Hoad gave Nelson a 2 ? 1 win , which elevated them to third place in the league . A narrow win against Wigan Borough at Seedhill on 21 February lifted Nelson further up the table into second position , behind only Darlington . The team ended a successful February with a fourth victory of the month , beating Halifax Town 4 ? 2 before a crowd of 10 @, @ 000 spectators at The Shay .

Nelson carried their good form into March ; Bottrill scored for the first time in over two months to help the team defeat New Brighton by five clear goals . This seventh straight win closed the gap between Nelson and Darlington to five points , with the league leaders having played three more matches . In an attempt to push for the title the Nelson directors invested in two new players in March ; inside forward John Stevenson arrived from Second Division side Bury for a fee of £ 500 , while Fred Laycock joined Nelson from Barrow . However , the team suffered their first loss of 1925 in of the following match away at Grimsby Town as goals from Joe Cooper and Frank McKenna gave the home side a 2 ? 0 win . This was followed by another defeat four days later ; a goal on debut for Stevenson could not prevent Lincoln City winning by two goals to one . On 21 March Nelson returned to winning ways with a 2 ? 0 defeat of Hartlepoons United at Seedhill , and later the same week Eddleston scored his second hat @-@ trick of the campaign as struggling Hartlepoons were beaten 4 ? 2 in the reverse fixture . A first goal in Nelson colours for Laycock secured a third successive win away at Rochdale on 28 March .

A then @-@ record crowd of 13 @, @ 500 descended on Seedhill for the visit of Darlington on 4 April , but the top two teams in the division could not be separated as the game finished in a 1 ? 1 draw . Nelson remained second in the table going into the Easter period , during which teams played four matches in the space of five days . The first of these games ended in a 2 ? 1 defeat away at Crewe Alexandra , despite Newnes ' first goal since September . John Stevenson then scored his second Nelson goal the following day in a 1 ? 1 draw with Bradford Park Avenue . On 13 April , the team avenged their loss to Crewe with a comprehensive 7 ? 0 victory at Seedhill , their biggest winning margin in the Football League . Joe Eddleston opened the scoring and went on to net his third hat @-@ trick of the season , taking his tally of goals to 25 , a total that would never be beaten during Nelson 's time in the League . The other goals were added by Laycock , who scored twice , Chadwick and Cameron , who netted his last goal for Nelson . However , the team then took just three out of an available ten points at the end of the season , ending their hopes of returning to the Second Division . Following a 1 ? 1 draw at Doncaster Rovers , Nelson suffered their first and only home defeat of the season , losing 4 ? 2 to Wrexham . On 21 September the team achieved their final win of the campaign , beating Southport 2 ? 1 thanks to two goals from Laycock . The 1924 ? 25 season ended with consecutive away losses at Durham City and bottom @-@ of @-@ the @-@ league Rotherham County , leaving Nelson with second in the Third Division North on 53 points , ahead of third @-@ placed New Brighton on goal average .

== Match results ==

Key
Results

== Final league position ==

== Other first @-@ team matches ==

Nelson 's first match outside the league in the 1924 ? 25 season came in the Lancashire Senior Cup . The team entered the competition in the First round , and were drawn against Wigan Borough at Seedhill . Nelson progressed to the next stage of the cup with a comprehensive 4 ? 0 win and

were handed another home tie in the second round , against First Division side Blackburn Rovers . A 2 ? 1 win for the away team ended Nelson 's participation in the cup for the season .

Nelson entered the FA Cup , the foremost cup competition in England , in the Fifth Qualifying Round along with all the other teams in the Third Division North . For their first match , played on 29 November 1924 , the team was drawn to play Winsford United of the Cheshire County League at Seedhill . Nelson won the first ever meeting between the two clubs 4 ? 1 with goals from Braidwood , Eddleston , O 'Beirne and Wolstenholme , to progress to the Sixth Qualifying Round for the first time in three years . In the next round Nelson were again given a home tie , against Second Division outfit Coventry City , who would be relegated to the Third Division North at the end of the 1924 ? 25 campaign . Nelson made only one change from the side that had defeated Winsford , with Eddie Cameron replacing Arthur Wolstenholme . In front of a crowd of 7 @, @ 000 spectators , one of the highest attendances at Seedhill of the season , Coventry won 1 ? 0 to progress to the first round proper of the competition .

= = = Match results = = =

Results

= = Player details = =

Nelson used a total of 23 players during the 1924 ? 25 season and there were 13 different goalscorers . There were also four squad members who did not make a first @-@ team appearance in the campaign . The team played in a 2 ? 3 ? 5 formation (the standard formation at the time) throughout the campaign , with two full @-@ backs , three half @-@ backs , two outside forwards , two inside forwards and a centre forward . Two players , goalkeeper Harry Abbott and half @-@ back Ernie Braidwood , appeared in all 44 Third Division and FA Cup matches . Joe Eddleston missed just one game , the defeat against Durham City on 29 April , while Welsh international Jack Newnes made 42 appearances in the season . Two players played only once during the season ; Fred Smith deputised for Edgar Chadwick at inside @-@ left in the win against Southport on 21 April , and Allan Bottrill appeared in the final match of the season in place of Eddleston . Neither ever played another senior match for the club .

The team scored a total of 88 goals in all competitions . The highest scorer was Eddleston , with 26 goals , followed by Chadwick , who scored 10 goals in 20 outings . Billy Bottrill netted eight times during his first season as a Nelson player , while Fred Laycock scored seven despite only playing for the last two months of the campaign . Club captain Clem Rigg was the highest @-@ scoring defender , netting four penalties .

= = = Statistics = = =

Key to positions

Statistics