

= 1922 ? 23 Nelson F.C. season =

The 1922 ? 23 season was the 42nd season in the history of Nelson F.C. and their second as a professional club in the Football League . After finishing 16th in their inaugural Third Division North campaign in 1921 ? 22 , the team performed well above expectations under the guidance of player @-@ manager David Wilson and went on to win the league title . The championship was secured with a 2 ? 0 win over Wrexham on 24 April 1923 . Nelson ended the season on 51 points , with a record of 24 wins , three draws and 11 defeats in 38 matches .

Nelson entered the FA Cup in the Fourth Qualifying Round , in which they defeated Rochdale . However , they were knocked out by Stalybridge Celtic in the next round . A total of 19 players were used by Nelson in their 40 first @-@ team matches , only six of whom had played for the club in the previous season . Bob Hutchinson and Ernie Braidwood , both new signings , played every league and cup match . With 23 goals in 36 appearances , Joe Eddleston was the team 's top goalscorer for the second season in succession . The highest attendance of the season at the club 's Seedhill stadium was 12 @,@ 000 on two occasions , the first of these the win over Chesterfield on 10 March 1923 .

= = Background = =

In the 1921 ? 22 season , Nelson had played as a professional club in the Football League for the first time , following the restructuring of the league to introduce North and South divisions . Former Scotland international David Wilson remained player @-@ manager of the first @-@ team for the second consecutive season after guiding them to a 16th @-@ placed finish in the previous campaign . Prior to the start of the season , the team did not play any friendly matches , meaning that the team 's last competitive match was the 0 ? 0 draw with Tranmere Rovers on 6 May 1921 . The only warm @-@ up for the campaign was a practice match between two teams made up of Nelson players . The Nelson Leader reported that this match was satisfying , and hoped that it could be " the precursor of fine sport in the coming season " . Before the 1922 ? 23 season , Nelson 's only previous title @-@ winning campaign was their Lancashire League championship in 1895 ? 96 .

There were a number of first @-@ team personnel changes from the previous campaign , with only six first @-@ team players staying at the club . Centre forward Joe Eddleston , Nelson 's top scorer in 1921 ? 22 with 16 league goals , remained along with Clement Rigg , Sid Hoad and Bob Lilley . Scottish defenders John Steel and James Price also continued to play for Nelson . Among those who left the club were Harold Andrews , who joined Bury , and Irish international inside forward Billy Halligan , who retired from professional football . Goalkeepers Harry Heyes and Robert Bruce both moved on in the close season , so Stockport County custodian Joseph Birds was signed as a replacement in June 1922 . In an attempt to improve the attacking prowess at the club , Wilson signed experienced inside forward Arthur Wolstenholme on a free transfer from Darlington in May 1922 , and Scottish forward Mike McCulloch arrived from Heart of Midlothian for a transfer fee of £ 150 . Wilson also added to the defensive ranks with the signings of his former Oldham Athletic team @-@ mate Ernie Braidwood , and of Jimmy Broadhead on a free transfer from Scunthorpe & Lindsey United .

= = = Transfers = = =

= = Football League Third Division North = =

Nelson 's league campaign started on 26 August 1922 with an away fixture at Bradford Park Avenue , who had been relegated from the Football League Second Division in the previous season . In the highest scoring match of the day , Nelson lost the match 2 ? 6 before a crowd of 10 @,@ 000 who witnessed Joe Eddleston score his first goal of the season . Bradford Park Avenue were

again the opponents the following week for Nelson 's first home game of the campaign and the match was won 1 ? 0 by the host side courtesy of a Mike McCulloch goal . Eddleston 's second goal of the campaign secured another 1 ? 0 victory , this time against Stalybridge Celtic , at Seedhill on 9 September 1922 to send the team seventh in the table after three matches . A third successive home fixture saw Nelson win 2 ? 0 against Halifax Town with two goals from Eddleston . Nelson could not follow up their earlier victory over Stalybridge Celtic , falling to a 0 ? 2 loss before attaining a fourth win of the campaign against Southport a week later . Another win against Southport , Nelson 's fourth since joining the league in 1921 , meant September ended as it had started with a 1 ? 0 win which marked Nelson 's fifth victory and clean sheet of the month .

October began with a 1 ? 3 defeat away at Ashington , although new signing Arthur Wolstenholme scored his first goal of the campaign , and Nelson 's first ever league goal against the Northumberland club . A 2 ? 0 win in the return match with goals from Eddleston and McCulloch took Nelson to the top of the league for the first time in the season the following week , overtaking Wigan Borough at the summit . The month ended with a pair of wins over Tranmere Rovers ; the first a 2 ? 0 win on 21 October , and the second a 1 ? 0 success a week later thanks to John Black 's first goal in a Nelson jersey . The team failed to score for only the second time in the season in the 0 ? 1 away defeat to Barrow on 4 November . Despite conceding at Seedhill for the first time in the campaign , Nelson atoned for the loss seven days later with a 2 ? 1 victory as a result of strikes from Eddleston and Wolstenholme . Nelson did not play another league match for two weeks , when they faced Rochdale at home . A first Nelson goal for defender Ernie Braidwood could not prevent the side succumbing to a 1 ? 2 reverse , not helped by first @-@ team regulars Wilson and Wolstenholme missing the match due to injury , forcing inexperienced inside @-@ right William Bennett to make his league debut .

In spite of suffering their second defeat of November , Nelson remained top of the league going into December . Their first fixture of the month was a home match against mid @-@ table Darlington on 9 December . Nelson won a close match 3 ? 2 thanks to another Braidwood strike , followed by Eddleston 's 10th and 11th goals of the campaign . A hat @-@ trick from inside @-@ forward Wolstenholme gave Nelson a 3 ? 0 victory against the same team on 23 December in front of a season @-@ low attendance of 3 @,@ 000 at Seedhill . Nelson started the Christmas period with an away game against Halifax Town . Braidwood and Wolstenholme both got on the scoresheet to help the team to a 2 ? 2 draw in front of 18 @,@ 000 supporters at The Shay . On 26 December , Nelson faced Hartlepool United , to whom they had conceded 10 goals in two matches in the previous season . Wolstenholme netted for the third game in succession as Nelson claimed their first ever win against the club . However , in the first match of 1923 , Hartlepool United won the return fixture 5 ? 1 . Nelson achieved their first win of the new year on 13 January , a 3 ? 0 triumph against Rochdale courtesy of an Eddleston hat @-@ trick . Nelson lost 0 ? 1 to Lincoln City the following week , the first time they had failed to score in a league fixture for over two months . January came to a conclusion with a 2 ? 1 win over the same team , goals from Eddleston and McCulloch giving Nelson the victory .

Nelson attained a first ever win against Durham City on 3 February 1923 , and this was followed by a 4 ? 0 win over the same side . The win saw Sid Hoad and Bob Hutchinson each net their first of the campaign , and striker Eddleston increase his tally for the season to 19 . A goal by Black was not enough to prevent Nelson 's winning streak come to an end on 17 February with a 1 ? 3 defeat away at Wigan Borough . Nelson made up for the loss the following week , exacting a 1 ? 0 win over Wigan , with new signing Dick Crawshaw scoring on his Nelson debut . At the beginning of March , Nelson achieved back @-@ to @-@ back victories against Chesterfield , the second a 4 ? 0 win which saw a second goal in three games for Crawshaw and two goals from utility man Black , who was playing in an unfamiliar centre @-@ forward role . Nelson took only one point from the next two matches against Crewe Alexandra . The team failed to score in both games , the only time in the season they did so in successive matches . Entering the Easter period , Eddleston 's 20th league goal of the campaign earned Nelson a 1 ? 1 draw with Grimsby Town at Seedhill on 31 March .

Nelson 's winless streak extended to four games when they lost 1 ? 2 away to Wrexham at the start of April , although Crawshaw continued his good vein of goalscoring form , netting his third in seven

games . Wolstenholme and Braidwood scored to give Nelson a 2 ? 0 win over Grimsby on 7 April , before beating local rivals Accrington Stanley 2 ? 1 at Seedhill . After another win against Accrington the following weekend , Nelson went into the home match against Wrexham on 24 April requiring a win to secure the Third Division North championship . Several mill @-@ owners in the town closed their factories early so that supporters could attend the match on time . Over 12 @,@ 000 spectators attended Seedhill and saw Nelson achieve a 2 ? 0 victory thanks to first @-@ half strikes from Crawshaw and Eddleston . Player @-@ manager David Wilson claimed he was " the happiest man in Nelson " as his side gained promotion to the Second Division for the first time in their history . The win was followed by a team procession around the town , and the celebrations continued into the next match as the team claimed a third consecutive clean sheet with a 3 ? 0 win at home to Walsall . However , the season ended disappointingly for Nelson as they suffered their heaviest defeat of the season , a 0 ? 5 loss to Walsall , on 5 May 1923 .

= = = Match results = = =

Key
Results

= = = Final league position = = =

= = FA Cup = =

Along with all the clubs in the Third Division North , Nelson entered the FA Cup in the Fourth Qualifying Round for the 1922 ? 23 season . For their first match on 18 November 1922 , Nelson were drawn away at league rivals Rochdale , who they had beaten 3 ? 2 in the Fifth Qualifying Round the previous season . Nelson emerged from the match with a 1 ? 0 victory courtesy of an Eddleston goal , putting them into the Fifth Qualifying Round for only the fourth time since they first competed in the FA Cup in 1894 . For the next round , Nelson were drawn against Stalybridge Celtic at Bower Fold , where they had been beaten 0 ? 2 in the league on 16 September . In their first ever cup tie against Stalybridge , Nelson were defeated 1 ? 0 before a crowd of 6 @,@ 000 spectators .

= = = Match results = = =

Key
Results

= = Player statistics = =

David Wilson used a total of 19 players during the 1922 ? 23 season and there were nine different goalscorers . The team played in a 2 ? 3 ? 5 formation (the standard formation at the time) throughout the campaign , with two fullbacks , three halfbacks , two outside forwards , two inside forwards and a centre forward . Both Ernie Braidwood and Bob Hutchinson played in every league and cup game , while Nelson 's record appearance holder Clement Rigg missed just one match , the defeat to Ashington on 7 October . The team scored a total of 62 goals in 40 competitive matches . With 22 league goals and 1 in the FA Cup , Joe Eddleston surpassed his 1921 ? 22 total of 17 to become the team 's top goalscorer for the second consecutive season . New signing Arthur Wolstenholme was the second highest scorer with 13 goals , while Braidwood notched the most goals of all the defenders with his total of six .

Key to positions
Statistics