



Peterborough Sports FC

Club History

Early Days

Peterborough Sports Football Club was founded in 1908 and were initially known as Brotherhoods Engineering Works. This was a non-competitive factory side for the company that was founded by Peter Brotherhood in 1867 and manufactured Steam Turbines.

The club honours its heritage to this day with the turbine engine featuring in the club badge and 'The Turbines' as the club nickname. Peterborough Sports were called Bearings Direct in the 1990s before being changed to Peterborough Sports all at the same Lincoln Road ground which has undergone major revamp since 2012, accelerated by current owner Tim Woodward.

The club started competitive life in the Northants League in 1919 which became the UCL in 1934. They won the title in that first season before joining the Peterborough League in 1923. The club once entertained Tottenham Hotspur at Lincoln Road before WW2 in front of a crowd of 4,000 at the time.

Without doubt the clubs most famous player is Victor Watson who played in the Northants League title winning team of 1919/20 before moving onto West Ham United for £50 in March 1920. He remains the Hammers record goal scorer with 326 goals from 505 appearances. Watson played 5 times for England, scoring 4 times and played in the first FA Cup Final at Wembley in front of 200,000 fans vs Bolton.

Difficult Times

Much of the club's early years were notably unsuccessful. The Northants League win in 1920 was only followed 6 years later with a Peterborough League Division 3 title in 1926 before an even longer wait for Peterborough Football Association Minor Cup win in 1940. The barren spell of success continued right up until 1976 when the Peterborough Division 3 title was secured again, which was repeated in 1981.



Improvement

The club enjoyed a brief golden period at the start of the 1990's with promotion secured back to the Peterborough Premier Division and 2 Northants Lower Junior Cups being landed in 1994 & 1995 under the management of Stephen "Tommy" Cooper.

The club's 1st season at UCL level started well but ultimately ended in a disappointing 16th placed finish with then manager Shay Morgan replaced by former QPR & England Under 21 manager Chris Plummer in January. The following season 2014/15 saw the side challenging for promotion right to the end of the season, but a run of 7 away games to finish, saw them eventually finish in 5th.

Historic Success

At the end of that season Plummer stood aside and his assistant Jimmy Dean took the reins for the 2015/16 campaign. In his first year the club won the title at a canter by a huge 21 points, helped by winning their first 23 games. The side also picked up the UCL League Cup, becoming the first side from Division 1 to ever do so, after a penalty shoot-out triumph against Premier Division Holbeach United. The side also added the Northants Junior Cup for a 2nd time and the prestigious Hinchingsbrooke Cup for the 1st time and were to be forever dubbed the 'Fourmidables'.

That success was continued into the 2016/17 as the team won the UCL Premier Division with a league record points tally of 112 and were the top scorers in the top 11 levels of English football with 150 in the league and 205 in all competitions. The Hinchingsbrooke Cup was also retained with a 2-1 victory over 2nd placed Deeping Rangers and the side had its best ever run in the FA Vase reaching the 4th round.

The side entered the Northern Premier League for the 2017/18 season and initially found the going tough. The side went into 2018 bottom of the table before a dramatic turnaround saw the Turbines finish a most respectable 12th with that summer seeing the side transfer across to the Southern League, with Grant Biddle replacing Tom Cooper as Chairman and Paul Venters joining as Vice Chairman.

A Step 4 league was implemented for the 2018/19 and Sports were moved into the Southern League to play in the Division 1 Central Section where the side duly won their 3rd title in 4 years under Dean. The side only lost 3 games all season (which included twice to runners up Bromsgrove Sporting) which was a mark of their consistency. The side also had possibly the best win in its history when beating National League North and former football league side Boston United 2-0 away in the FA Cup 2nd qualifying round.



Their reward was a home tie with unbeaten National League North side Chorley with the game screened on BBC which attracted a peak viewing figure of 240,000 and a club record 404 in attendance.

Unfortunately, Sports went out 3-0 on a horrible day weather wise, which was replaced with the glorious weather at Easter and the raising of the Championship. This was secured on the Saturday with a 2-0 win away at Kidlington with the trophy presented on the Monday before the derby win over Cambridge City. We then went onto beat the Southern title winners Blackfield & Langley 5-1 in the Championship Match.

Stepping Up

Season 2019/20 was to be spent in the Central Premier Division at Step 3 for the first time in the clubs centenary year and Sports were leading the way when the league for declared null and void due to COVID-19. The 2020/21 season was again greatly affected by COVID-19 but this did not stop Sports progressing well in both the FA Cup (reaching 3rd Qualifying Round) and the FA Trophy (reaching 5th Round).

The 2021/22 season was to become another landmark season for the club as we reached Step 2 of the Non-League pyramid, the National League North, finishing second in the league and gaining promotion by winning the play-offs, beating Coalville Town 2-0 in the final.

In our inaugural season at National League North level, Peterborough Sports finished a pleasing 14th, with many people writing them off as relegation favourites at the start of play. Another landmark moment came for the club at the backend of the 2022/23 season when Chairman and Owner Grant Biddle stood down from his roles and the club was taken over by local businessman, Tim Woodward. Woodward came into the club with ambition and has recently helped the club complete a significant amount of impressive groundwork, changed the club colours and renamed our stadium to PIMS Park.

Fresh Ambition

The appointment of Tim and management from Luke Steele and Michael Gash steadied the ship with The Turbines finishing 15th in the 2023/24 Season. Going into the 2024/25 Season, Peterborough Sports look to build on their solidified place in the National League North but set their sights on National League status. Promising new signings mean The Turbines look stronger than ever to mount a charge.