

JACQUES WELSH (captain)

Jacques is in his second full season as captain after being caretaker skipper for much of 2024-25, when he led the side to the Cheshire Senior Cup.

The inspirational midfielder has served Linnets in two spells separated by a brief interlude at Bootle and last season spent time in central defence.

He originally arrived at Runcorn from Flint Town United, having previously been at Bolton Wanderers and on professional forms with Tranmere Rovers.

PETER WYLIE (vice-captain)

A calming influence in defence, Peter's association with Linnets goes back to the start of their first NPL season in 2018-19, although he had a year out with City of Liverpool.

Starting this season just one appearance short of his 250th for Linnets, Peter was the fans' choice as Supporters Club Player of the Year in 2024-25.

Club captain during his initial spell with the club, Peter was an FA Youth Cup finalist with Blackburn Rovers in 2012 and has played in National League North for Stalybridge Celtic.

KIAN BELL

Left back Kian arrived in the summer from North West Counties League Premier Division club Burscough, where all but two of his 49 appearances last season were starts.

Kian scored six goals and bagged five man-of-the-match awards, also standing in as captain at the start of the campaign.

He had previously played for Skelmersdale United, AFC Liverpool and Ashton Town.

LEWIS BELL

Primarily a right winger but capable on either flank, Lewis spent last season at Marine.

No relation to fellow summer recruit Kian Bell, he had previously been on loan with the Mariners and played in 27 games overall for the National League North club, mostly as a substitute, and scored two goals.

Lewis learned his trade in Blackburn Rovers Academy, rising through the youth system to play in Premier League Under 18s and for the U21s in Premier League 2.

LEWIS BUCKLEY

Centre forward Lewis joined his hometown club in summer 2026 from Lower Breck.

He scored 20 goals, including one penalty, in 43 appearances for the Anfield club last season with six assists and four star-man displays.

Lewis's overall tally for Breck was 50 in 119 matches.

He has also played for Runcorn Town, Prescot Cables, Vauxhall Motors, Widnes and in Wales for Airbus UK Broughton, Newi Cefn Druids and Llandudno.

CONNOR DAY

Connor signed for the club early in the 2026-27 season from Stoke City.

He had featured for the EFL club's Under 18s and U21s sides.

Connor, who first played for the Potters at U9s level, is comfortable receiving the ball on either foot and has an eye for a goal as well as an assist

FRANKLIN DENISON

Frank put pen to paper in the summer after being involved in all six warm-up games as a trialist.

A former Academy player at Bradford City, he had a spell at Guiseley before moving to Glossop North End at the beginning of 2026.

Frank is a holding midfield player, who has impressed with confident and composed displays in front of the back four.

EDEN GUMBS

Versatile fans favourite Eden has played at left back, central midfield, out wide and even up front for his local club.

Eden's strength, athleticism and game awareness make him a difficult opponent.

He started in the club's Under 21s but broke into the first team in 2021-22. Eden is continuing to recover after suffering a broken leg last season, when he took his career aggregate to 174 appearances with 16 goals.

CALVIN HARE

A summer capture from Vauxhall Motors, Calvin had signed for the Motormen in January 2026 from Prescott Cables, where he made 54 consecutive appearances.

The talented and experienced 'keeper initially honed his skills as an Academy player with Wigan Athletic before stints at Burscough, AFC Fylde, Droylsden, Witton Albion and Marine.

In 2023-24, he helped City of Liverpool to finals of the Liverpool Senior Cup and The Pitching In Northern Premier League West Division Play-Offs.

CONOR HARWOOD

Chester-born Conor, a frontman with pace and an ability to wrongfoot defences, spent his early career in Wales before coming to England four years ago.

After two spells at Connah's Quay Nomads and also representing Flint Town and Rhyl 1879, he crossed the border for a short stint at City of Liverpool.

Conor joined us in the summer after a second spell at Vauxhall Motors and prior to that 18 months at Bootle, where 56 appearances yielded six goals.

SCOTT HOLDING

Scott joined from Warrington Rylands in the summer after a loan spell with their NPL Premier Division rivals Ashton United at the end of last season.

This 6ft 1in centre back started at Manchester United before graduating from the Academy at Stockport County to sign professional forms and captain the Under 23s.

Scott transferred to EFL Championship club Watford in May 2022. After loan stints at Stalybridge Celtic, Cheshunt and Dover Athletic (where he made 25 National League South outings in 2022-23), he joined Macclesfield in July 2024 and Rylands in October of the same year.

TOBY JONES

Toby was signed in pre-season from Vauxhall Motors, where he won manager's and fans' Player of the Year awards in 2025-26.

The 6ft 2in centre back had joined the Motormen in July 2025 on the expiry of his contract at Marine, having spent time with the Ellesmere Port club in loan.

Toby scored for Vauxhall against Linnets in last season's 2-2 at APEC Taxis Stadium.

CALLUM LEIGH

Callum moved to APEC Taxis Stadium in late August after three substitute appearances for Lancaster City, who he had joined in the summer after spells at Leek Town and Warrington Rylands.

A Rochdale Academy product, he has also featured for The New Saints, Mossley, Bamber Bridge and Buxton.

Callum has a good passing range, can score from distance, has good energy and enjoys taking possession.

HARRY McGEE

The first signing of Michael Ellison's second stint as manager, Harry made a big impact with his eye for spectacular goals. After arriving at Linnets in January 2026, he netted nine times in 20 outings, conjuring up the Goal of the Season from near the halfway line.

Harry played for our manager Michael Ellison at Widnes in their NPL West Division title run in 2024-25 before signing for Lower Breck in summer 2025.

While being schooled in Wigan Athletic's Academy, Harry was loaned to FC United of Manchester and after being released in May 2022 he initially represented Witton Albion.

SEAN MILLER

Pitching In NPL West Player of the Year in 2024-25, Sean moved to Linnets as a Northern Premier League West title winner in that season.

Sean is a double NPL champion, having in 2017-18 helped Altrincham to promotion from the Premier Division.

He gained National League experience with the Robins, Chester and Curzon Ashton, The mercurial player's other former clubs include Warrington Town and Connah's Quay Nomads, where he was Welsh Premier League Young Player of the Season in 2015.

ELLIOT MORRIS

This highly-rated forward swapped the Yellow & Blue of Warrington Town for Runcorn's Yellow & Green in June 2026 with a reputation as a goalscorer and creator.

Elliot first rose to prominence in 2021-22 as joint Player of the Season in the North West Counties League Premier Division after bagging 24 goals for Skelmersdale United.

After his being named in 2022-23's NPL West Team of the Season, he had a short stint at FC United of Manchester before rekindling his best form at City of Liverpool, where he netted 26 times in a 12-month stay.

BRENDAN O'BRIEN

Signed late last season, Brendan made a Linnets debut delayed by injury as a substitute in Good Friday's victory at Trafford and started at centre half in the last five games of the campaign.

The versatile player was with Blackpool as a youngster, appearing in the FA Youth Cup semi-finals.

Brendan is another player to have featured in Widnes's NPL West title success two seasons ago. He has since had a second spell with FC St Helens, having also served Ashton Town and Runcorn Town.

MATTY RAIN

Talented left back Matty chalked up more than 100 appearances for title-winning Widnes before linking up with Linnets in the 2025-26 pre-season and completing a half century of outings.

Named in the 2024-25 NPL West Team of the Year, after helping the Black and Whites to the West Division championship, Matty had launched his career as a trainee at Liverpool before moving to Burnley in 2018.

His senior career started at FC United of Manchester before a switch to National League North with Curzon Ashton and in 2022-23 a brief spell with our West Division rivals Bootle.

NOAH ROBERTS

Noah signed in March 2026 from Marine, where he had been a standout performer in their Academy and advanced to the first-team squad.

He had netted ten goals in his first ten outings in National League U19 Alliance Division On. Noah made 10 Linnets appearances last season, scoring twice.

Only 16-years-old at the time of his Linnets debut, Noah has made a smooth transition into senior football through ability and confidence to take on defences.

NICK RUSHTON

Nick topped the scoring charts at Vauxhall Motors in each of the last two seasons.

He spent eight years at Wrexham, enjoying 100 appearances at youth and reserves level with 38 goals, and had 24 first-team outings for the then Conference Premier club between 2012 and 2015, scoring five times.

Nick has played 296 games (with 86 goals) in Cymru Premier League for Newtown, Airbus UK Broughton and Colwyn Bay, appearing 51 times (with 15 goals) in Conference North on loan at Hednesford Town and Barrow.

FINLEY RYAN

Fin was promoted to the first-team squad after impressing in pre-season friendlies.

The young Widnesian joined our Under 21s midway through last season to play in attack - although Michael Ellison has utilised him at left back after spotting his potential at training.

The player spent three years in the youth ranks at Vauxhall Motors (from the age of 15) and last season played in open-age football for hometown team Parklands in the Cheshire League.

OLLIE SOUTHERN

A right back or central defender, Ollie arrived in pre-season from Trafford, where he was Management Team Player of the Year in 2025-26.

The ex-Crewe Alexandra scholar has played top-flight football in Wales with Bala Town, featuring in the qualifying stage of UEFA Europa Conference League on the back of League Cup success.

His other former clubs include Curzon Ashton, Hereford, Prescot Cables plus hometown outfits Warrington Town and Warrington Rylands.

MATTHEW WHITTINGHAM

Attacking midfielder Matty arrived at APEC Taxis Stadium with an impressive CV after representing Manchester City Under 18s and Wolverhampton Wanderers U21s.

Eight years with the Citizens culminated in an Under 18s Premier League winner's medal with seven goals and 11 assists in 17 appearances. before a switch to Wolves in September 2023.

He trained with the All Gold first team and was a substitute for the FA Premier League match against Arsenal at the end of the year.

OSCAR WRIGHT

Oscar is an exciting 18-year-old striker, who joined in September 2026 on a short-term loan from Enterprise National League North club Morecambe, going straight into the starting XI for the Isuzu FA Trophy tie at Hallam.

He came through the ranks in the Shrimps Academy to earn his debut in the top tier of non-league football, aged 17 - as a late substitute at Aldershot Town in August 2025.

Oscar made two further senior appearances at the end of last season, a home debut off the bench against Boreham Wood being followed by a first start at Forest Green. He has previous loan experience at Step 5 with Kendal Town and Longridge Town.