

# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE



## SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 10 August 2024

# HAPPY NEW SEASON



The 2024/25 season got underway throughout our four divisions with plenty of early drama.

In the Premier South, Merthyr Town made their intentions clear as they hit Tiverton Town for six with Ricardo Rees and new signing, Kane Simpson, both helping themselves to hat-tricks.

There was a winning introduction to life in this League for Chertsey Town as they beat Hungerford Town 4-1, whilst fellow new-boys, Frome Town, secured an excellent away win at Gosport Borough.

It was dramatic stuff at Taunton Town as they raced into a three-goal lead against Gloucester City only to have to settle for a point in the end from a 3-3 draw.

AFC Totton began life with a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Walton & Hersham.

Over in Premier Central, Stratford Town were commanding victors over Leiston, whilst a new-look Stourbridge left it late to beat St. Ives Town as the

returning Alex Moore hit a stoppage time winner.

Spalding United got off to a winning start against Bedford Town and Biggleswade Town shared the spoils with AFC Telford United.

In Division One South, Helston Athletic's first-ever game at this level ended in a 2-1 win at Westbury United as fellow new-boys, Shaftesbury were held at home by Malvern Town.

The fancied Bristol Manor Farm couldn't find a way through Melksham Town, whilst Exmouth Town started with a solid 3-0 success against Thatcham Town.

Division One Central saw Flackwell Heath (pictured) enjoy their day as they romped to a 6-0 triumph, whilst Hadley hit five without reply against Barton Rovers.

New-boys, Real Bedford, won 2-0 as

Enfield came from behind to beat North Leigh.

## REPORTS FROM ALL GAMES | STATS | FEATURES



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**TRIDENT  
LEAGUES**  
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# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## A.F.C. Totton 1 Walton & Hersham 0

This mouth-watering encounter, which we selected as our Game of the Day in this League, came to life when Marcus Daws put the hosts ahead midway through the first half.

The home side were reduced to ten men just before the break when Josh Owers saw red and the visitors had two players booked as temperatures started to rise. In the end, it was the home side who edged it with a single-goal victory.

## Bracknell Town 0 Poole Town 0

Neither team was able to make the breakthrough in this one. It was a resilient performance from both teams as they each had spells under pressure, so a draw was probably a fair result in the end.

## Chertsey Town 4 Hungerford Town 1

The new-boys wasted little time in finding their feet as Jack Mazzone fired them in front within the opening minute. Just under ten minutes until the break and Luke Neville was able to double the hosts' lead.

A third goal came early in the second period courtesy of William Montague and then Toby Little made it 4-0 near the end as the home side enjoyed their first taste of life in this League.

A late Elis Watts penalty for the visitors was mere consolation.



## Dorchester Town 1 Havant & Waterlooville 1

The home side ended last term strongly and they picked up where they left off to take the lead on five minutes through Olaf Konzsla to give absent manager, Tom Killick, a boost as illness kept him away from the club.

An equaliser came for the visitors from Callum Kealy on the 15-minute mark and that was to be the end of the scoring as it finished with honours even.

## Marlow 1 Winchester City 1

It was the visitors who got their noses in front here when the highly-rated Trevor Caborn scored, but the visitors were able to hit back and their patience was rewarded with six minutes to go when Josh Masters equalised.

## Gosport Borough 0 Frome Town 1

The newly-promoted visitors took the lead late on through Curtis Jemmett-Hutson following a determined display against hosts who made the play-offs at this level last term.

It was an impressive start for the new-boys as they took home all three points from Hampshire against hosts who failed to spark on this occasion.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## **Plymouth Parkway 1 Basingstoke Town 3**

There was a delayed start to proceedings here as the visitors encountered traffic problems on their way in to Devon and they fell behind on 18 minutes as Mitchel Beardmore opened the scoring. But the visitors rallied and got back on level terms through Daniel Warre with 37 minutes on the clock.

Jonathan Efedje then put them in front for the first time and Rudy Appiah-Allen added a third at the death in what was a game of two halves.

## **Swindon Supermarine 1 Sholing 2**

It was the hosts who went in front here as Toby Holland was able to find the net but that was cancelled out just past the hour by Jake Hesketh.

Charlie Gunson fired home to turn the scoreline on its head in favour of the away team who managed to see the job through and take home the points.

## **Wimborne Town 1 Hanwell Town 0**

Having secured promotion back into this level with the Division One South title at the end of last term, Cameron Munn gave them the lead with just over 20 minutes to go and they were able to see the game out after that, despite the visitors pushing hard for a leveller.

## **Merthyr Town 6 Tiverton Town 0**

There was a familiar name on the scoresheet to break the deadlock here as Ricardo Rees gave the home side the lead just past the 30-minute mark. Summer signing, Kane Simpson was on hand to double the lead as half-time approached and then weighed in with his second of the afternoon in the opening exchanges of the second half.

Rees soon notched his second before completing his hat-trick with just under 20 minutes to go.

Not to be outdone, Simpson then secured his third of the afternoon to complete big win for the Welshmen.

## **Taunton Town 3 Gloucester City 3**

These two sides both suffered relegation at the end of last term and it was first-blood to the new-look hosts with an early goal from Archie Ferris. Their lead was doubled when Evander Grubb found the net within the opening 15 minutes and he weighed in with his second on the half-hour to put his side well in command.

A Joe Hanks penalty reduced the arrears and shortly afterwards a goal from Harry Burns made things interesting before Hanks brought it back to 3-3 with 20 minutes to go and that's how it remained.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Banbury United 1 A.F.C. Sudbury 1

The home side took the lead from the penalty spot when summer signing, AJ George, stayed cool to convert five minutes from the break. It didn't take the visitors long after the restart to level through Myles Cowling and that is how it remained as the spoils were shared.

## Biggleswade Town 1 A.F.C. Telford United 1

The deadlock was broken by the visitors on the stroke of half-time as Matt Stenson found the net. But the hosts, who secured promotion into this level as Division One Central champions at the end of last term, were able to level through Cyrus Babaie-Gumbs and that's how it finished up.

## Bishop's Stortford 2 Alvechurch 1

It was a bright start from the home team as they got into their stride early on and deservedly took the lead through Jack Roberts. Ten minutes later and Brad Russell doubled the advantage for the hosts to put smiles on the faces of their fans. Omari Sterling-James pulled one back for the visitors but it proved to be just a consolation effort.

## Halesowen Town 2 Kettering Town 1

Summer signing Reece Flanagan opened the scoring for the hosts as he tucked home from the penalty spot. As half-time loomed, McKauley Manning was able to add to the hosts' lead. The second half saw Dan Jarvis pull one back to make a game of it but the home side were able to play out a winning start.

## Harborough Town 0 Stamford 1

The opening goal eventually arrived for the visitors as Jack Duffy was in the right place at the right time to score with just over 20 minutes left on the clock. There was more woe for the home side as Paul Malone was dismissed late on in the game as it ended in defeat for them.

## Hitchin Town 1 Bromsgrove Sporting 3

The deadlock was broken with 17 minutes on the clock by Shay Palmer for the visitors but the home side soon hit back to level matters through Rio Deall. The visitors regained the lead late in the first half through James Meddows and then Charlie Wragg gave them some breathing space with a third.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Lowestoft Town 0 Redditch United 1

After a long trip, the visitors, who made the play-offs last term, were able to get their noses in front in the opening exchanges through Musa Ceesay. There was no further additions to the scoreline as Tim Flowers got off to a winning start in his tenure with the Reds.

## Royston Town 3 Barwell 2

The home side struck first when Edward Asafu-Adjaye found the net on 21 minutes but it was cancelled out when the ever-reliable Brady Hickey levelled matters early in the second period. It wasn't long until Ben Weyman restored the hosts' lead as he found the net and soon afterwards, Oluwakoyejo Dawodu added another. Hickey's late goal proved to be too little, too late.

## Spalding United 1 Bedford Town 0

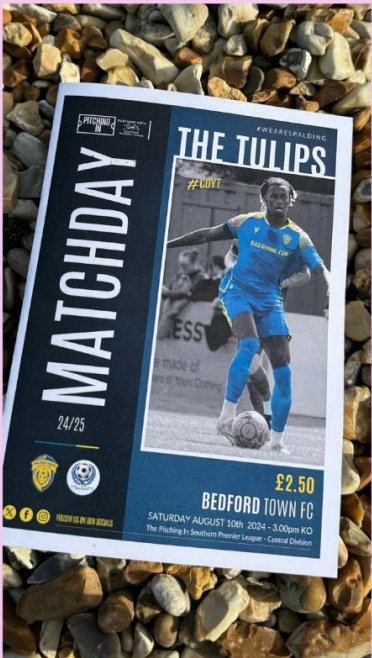
In this battle of two new teams in this League, it was Sam Bennett who put the hosts in front just past the quarter-hour mark. That's how the scoreline remained as the home side held on to the three points despite seeing Joe Burgess sent off late on.

## Stourbridge 1 St Ives Town 0

This one went right down to the wire as the new-look hosts edged it thanks to a stoppage time winner from Alex Moore, who returned to the club over the summer. The visitors, who were regulars on the scoresheet last term, just couldn't find a way through the home back-line.

## Stratford Town 3 Leiston 0

The home side edged in front when Callum Ebanks, who was so prolific last term, opened his account for the new campaign early on and it wasn't long before he added a second to double the advantage. A goal from Daniel Lafferty completed a solid opening period for the hosts. There was no further scoring as the Bards killed the game off in the first half to make a winning start.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Bashley P Falmouth Town P**

This game was postponed on Thursday after it was deemed that the pitch was unplayable.

Therefore, it means that the Cornish visitors must wait to get their season at this level underway, whilst the home team's new manager, Dave Lewis, has a delayed start to his tenure.

## **Bishops Cleeve 0 Bideford AFC 1**

There was very little in this one between two sides who just missed out on the play-offs last term.

It looked like it was going to end in stalemate until Alexander Moyse stayed calm to convert a late penalty for the visitors and see the points head down to north Devon.

## **Bristol Manor Farm 0 Melksham Town 0**

This one ended in a goalless stalemate as the much-fancied hosts were unable to find a way through well-organised and hard-working opponents. We selected it as our Game of the Day in this League but sadly neither team were able to get their names on the scoresheet.

## **Cinderford Town 1 Cribbs 2**

A much-changed visitors line-up took the lead at hosts who have returned to this level as Thomas Symons broke the deadlock on the half-hour mark. The opening exchanges of the second period saw the home team muster an equaliser through Drew Heffernan, but then Dale Evans saw red to leave the hosts a man down.

The away side took advantage as Owen Punselie put them back in the lead and that's how it stayed.

## **Didcot Town 1 Larkhall Athletic 0**

In what was a tight affair, Josh Davis finally opened the scoring for the home side with just over 15 minutes to go and that's how it stayed as the home side were able to secure three hard-earned points in their first game in this League against well-drilled opponents who just missed out on the play-offs last term.

## **Exmouth Town 3 Thatcham Town 0**

A first half strike from Josh Cann set the hosts on their way and then an own goal from James Sharlott with 20 minutes to go doubled the advantage.

Jack Thorne was able to convert following a goalmouth scramble for a third goal as the hosts claimed the three points against opponents having their first taste of this League following their summer switch.



## **The Railwaymen**



10th August  
KO 3PM

Pitching in Southern League  
Division One South

ISSUE NO. 01



SINCE 1907



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Mousehole 1 Evesham United 0**

The hosts, who made the play-offs last term, took the lead when the experienced Mark Goldsworthy was able to turn the ball home.

That was how the scoreline stayed as the visitors saw Aaron Heap dismissed late on.

## **Shaftesbury 1 Malvern Town 1**

The new-boys, playing at this level for the first-ever time, opened the scoring through Remus Nixon.

It was a lead they held until just past the hour-mark when summer signing, Joseph Tumelty, restored parity for the visitors as both sides shared the spoils.

## **Westbury United 1 Helston Athletic 2**

In their first-ever game at this level, the Cornish visitors took the lead just past the hour thanks to a strike from Jordan Copp. Soon afterwards, Aaron Bentley was able to double their advantage and although Marcel Lewis pulled one back late on, it was the visitors who were triumphant.



## **Tavistock AFC 0 Yate Town 1**

This game was decided by a strike from Lucas Tomlinson for the visitors just past the hour-mark.

There was very little in it for the most part and a late rally from the hosts failed to yield them any reward as they found the opposition back-line in stubborn mood.

## **Willand Rovers 2 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 2**

Fresh from bagging a brace last weekend, summer signing, Harvey Dorothy wasted little time in putting the hosts ahead as he found the net in the opening two minutes.

The lead didn't last long, though, as Dan Young levelled matters, but a frantic opening quarter-of-an-hour saw the experienced Jamie Richards restore the hosts' lead.

A penalty from Young levelled the scores once more as the interval approached and there was no further scoring after the break as both sides cancelled each other out.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## **Berkhamsted 4 Stotfold 0**

The home side were given a rather fortuitous lead when Alex Coppin's own goal put them in front just before the break.

A goal from Luke Andrews early in the second period put the hosts in the driving seat at two goals to the good and the same player was on hand to hit a third as the hour-mark approached.

Late on Roger James added further gloss to the scoreline with a fourth goal to complete a deserved win for his side.

## **Biggleswade FC 0 Aylesbury United 3**

This hard-fought contest saw both sides cancel themselves out until Morrison Hashii gave the visitors the lead with around 20 minutes to go and then Morrison Hashii weighed in with a second. A late penalty from Hashii added further gloss on a good afternoon's work from his side.

## **Enfield 2 North Leigh 1**

The new-boys were rocked just past the quarter-hour mark when Riley Cotter was able to find space to open the scoring for the visitors.

It was the home side who levelled matters just past the hour through Ernest Okoh before Matt Hurley put the hosts ahead late on to take the points.



## **Flackwell Heath 6 A.F.C. Dunstable 0**

The new-boys got off to the best possible start when Wiktor Makowski guided the ball home to give them a seventh minute lead.

The same player was able to double the advantage for the hosts midway through the opening period and then Michael Harding made it three on the half-hour as the day just got better.

Harding added a fourth in the opening exchanges of the second half and then Ed Lee and Matt Ayres completed a memorable day for the home side as they hit six.

## **Hadley 5 Barton Rovers 0**

Having been a regular on the scoresheet last term, Isaac Stones picked up from where he left off to find the net on 20 minutes for the home side.

Stones then doubled the lead with a goal just past the half-hour mark before Finley Aldridge grabbed a third and within a minute of that, Stones had his hat-trick to give his team a four-goal advantage at the break.

Just five minutes after the restart, Aldridge made it 5-0 and that's how it remained.

## **Kidlington 0 Kings Langley 1**

The opening goal arrived ten minutes into the second half when Declan Phillips gave the visitors the lead and it proved to be the only goal of the game as the away team took all three points back home with them.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## Leverstock Green 1 Welwyn Garden City 3

The new-boys drew first blood as Ademide Baruwa fired home in the opening exchanges only for Bradley Wadkins to bring the sides level towards the end of the opening period.

There was still time for Aiden Read to see red for the visitors before the break, but they were able to edge in front in the opening exchanges of the second period through Bailey Stevenson.

Stevenson went on to notch a second to seal the victory for his side.

## Northwood 0 Beaconsfield Town 2

The new-look visitors were able to force their way ahead on the stroke of half-time through Benjamin Tricker.

During the second period, Joshua Marcon was able to add to the visitors' lead and they saw the rest of the game out to make a winning start to life at this level.

## Real Bedford 2 Hertford Town 0

It didn't take the home side long to become accustomed to their new surrounding as Ben Stevens picked up from where he left off last term, by giving them a fifth minute lead. Stevens then weighed in with a second in the opening exchanges of the second half to seal a winning start to life at this level.

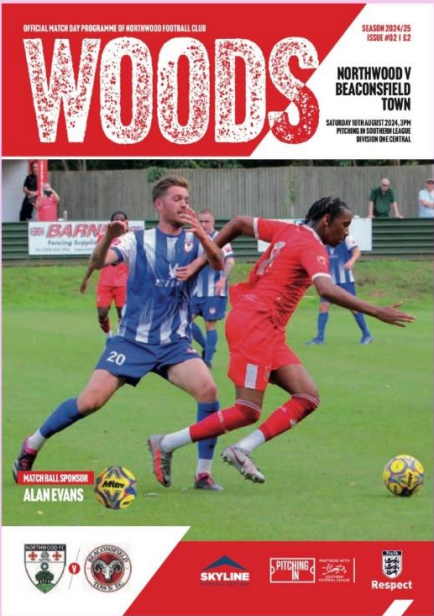


## Ware 2 Thame United 3

The first goal arrived here early in the second period and it went to the visitors as Tom Mcelroy was able to find the net but it was cancelled out on the hour by Joe Dearman.

The pendulum swung back in favour of the visitors when Finlay Murray fired home but Jon Clements was able to find another leveller for the hosts.

Reece Cameron was then able to nick it for the visitors deep into stoppage time.





# THE PENNY DROPS

One of the summer's showcase signings for the Pitching In Southern League was that of former Premier League striker, Charlie Austin.

The 35 year-old admitted that it was a 'penny dropping' moment during a family holiday that saw him agree to sign of AFC Totton of the Premier South.

Austin is no stranger to this level after turning out for the likes of Hungerford Town, Thatcham Town and Poole Town earlier in his career.

It was his goalscoring exploits for the Dolphins that earned him a move into The Football League with Swindon Town in 2009 and since then he has appeared in each of the top four leagues, serving the likes of Burnley, Queens Park Rangers, Southampton and West Bromwich Albion.

Now he is eager to help AFC Totton reach the next level after they just missed out last term in the play-offs.

"This is an opportunity that suits me and my family," said Austin. "The club initially contacted me in May and we have kept in touch over the summer.

"It was during a recent family holiday when the penny finally dropped and I contacted the club to say let's get the deal done, it really was as simple as that.

"It's important for me to be able to play football with a smile on my face and if I can do that whilst helping this club progress, I will be very happy.

"The club has shown plenty of patience and I have really appreciated that. I'll bring experience, know-how and hopefully goals.



**GOING FOR GOALS | Charlie Austin is hungry to make his mark**

"It's not about me, it's about the club progressing and I want to be able to play my part in that.

"I've watched games at this level recently, so I know what it's all about. Non-League football has improved so much over the past 15 years since I was last involved and I am looking forward to the challenge that it will present to me.

"I won't be coming here half-hearted, I am ready to play and do a job and if we can all stick together, we'll give ourselves the best possible chance of achieving our goal of promotion."



# AFC TOTTON | CHARLIE AUSTIN

The arrival of Austin at the Snows Stadium gives manager, Jimmy Ball, some mouth-watering attacking options, alongside the likes of Scott Rendell and Tony Lee.

“It will be exciting to see all of our strikers fighting tooth-and-nail to be picked, score goals and bring success to the club,” added Ball. “That’s football; you’ve got to be competitive with yourself, your team-mates and the opposition.

“All of the strikers will challenge each other to be better and that kind of competition is healthy. They give us plenty of high-quality options.

“To be able to add a player of the calibre of Charlie Austin is tremendous for us. It was a long process; we had to make sure that things were right for him and his family and also right for the club.

“It was a well thought out deal and he comes here full of enthusiasm and an eagerness to get stuck into the action.

“His quality and know-how is obvious;



**READY FOR ACTION | Charlie Austin is in determined mood as the new season gets underway**



**EXCITING TIMES | Jimmy Ball is looking forward to what the season holds in store**

he’s in great nick and still extremely hungry to do well. He just loves the game of football.

“The big thing for us is that he wants to be here and represent AFC Totton. He’s doing it for all of the right reasons; he’s here to do a job and hopefully help bring success to the club.

“We’ve taken a big step forward this summer in the structure and processes of how we do things here.

“It’s all very positive and we’ve also been able to bring in some talented young players who will be the future of the club and we’ll be able to nurture them via our new U23 squad.

“These are exciting times for us on many different levels.”

The Stags got their season underway this afternoon with a home game against a Walton & Hersham who themselves have made some stellar signings this summer having just missed out on a place in the play-offs last term.



# NEWS ROUND-UP

## CHERTSEY TOWN | MAKING THEIR MARK

With just one defeat from 40 League games, over a century of goals and 100 points, Chertsey Town swept to the Isthmian League South Central title last term to take their place in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South. They made their mark in more ways than one with Chairman, Mark Turner, and manager, Mark Harper, working together in harmony, just as they did when they were players for the club back in the 1990s. "I was managing in the Conference South with Hampton & Richmond Borough, but when that ended, I decided to take a bit of time out of the game to spend with my family," Mark Harper told us. "When I started to get the urge to get back involved again, I initially helped out a friend at Spelthorne Sports FC and it led to Mark [Turner] reaching out.

"We were able to rekindle the association we had at the club as players and after a memorable season last term, we look forward to the challenge that stands ahead in the Southern League Premier South. "Most of the lads have played at this level before, so they are back where they deserve to be.

"It's a tough League with clubs who have been in it for a while and from the levels above, so we will have to be 'on it' for every game.

"There are some big clubs involved but we'll be doing everything we can to compete."

Chertsey Town opened the season at home to Hungerford Town this afternoon.



## HARBOROUGH TOWN | MITCH IN TIME

If anyone has the right to term last season as a roller-coaster ride of emotions, it's Harborough Town manager, Mitch Austin.

For much of last term, his side were flying high at the top of the Pitching In Northern Premier League Division One Midlands.

All was looking good until an administration error saw them deducted six points and plunged them into the play-offs where they were able to beat Hinckley LRFC and Anstey Nomads to secure their place in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central for 2024/25.

"There was a lot of positives to come out of last season," Austin told us.

"The points deduction could have derailed us at the end, but as a group we were able to overcome the adversity and drew strength from each other to ensure that the season ended with success.

"It made our promotion even more special and now we look ahead to what the Premier Central will bring with nothing but excitement.

"The challenge will be tough, there is no doubt about that, but it's something new for us and we're relishing this opportunity.

"It's going to be a case of finding a way to win. I want my players and staff to enjoy every moment. Our main aim is to ensure that we remain in Step 3 and beyond that just give a good account of ourselves and show what we are capable of.

"It's a new adventure for us all and reward for all of the hard work and effort that we have put in to get us here."

This afternoon, Austin's side were at home to a Stamford AFC outfit who just missed out on the play-offs at the end of last term.



## INFLUENCER

We find out which players most influenced our Pitching In Southern League stars...

### CONOR TEE (HALESOWEN TOWN) > ANDRES INIESTA

I always loved watching Barcelona growing up, Iniesta in particular was someone I loved watching. He always looked in control in any situation on the pitch and what he could do with the ball was something else, so I would have to say him.



## FLACKWELL HEATH | FRESH AYRES

It's been quite a journey for Flackwell Heath manager, Chris Ayres, as he prepares for life in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central.

"To achieve promotion at the end of only my third season managing at this level makes me extremely proud," he told us. "Last season was amazing; to win the Combined Counties League Premier North Division title ahead of the much-fancied Rayners Lane, was an unbelievable achievement.

"We went into the campaign looking to get into the play-offs, but we made some key signings over the course of the season and we were able to come out on top.

"Our crowds went up massively, and it culminated in an attendance of over 600 for our final home game. It was a privilege to manage this group of players, who gave me everything, and now we look forward to what the season ahead holds in store for us."

Ayres has been a full-time coach at the FAB Academy, based at The National Sports Centre in Bisham Abbey, for the past 14 years. He also took on the coaching of the Flackwell Heath Minors team during this time and hasn't looked back since.

"I just love coaching," he continued. "I always try to help improve and develop players individually; it's important to create a good coaching environment for the players and I have been able to do that at Flackwell Heath.

"It started with the Minors and I am proud to say that seven of those plays have stayed on the journey with me and have progressed to play in the first-team here.

"We have progressed together and whilst we know that the season ahead will be a tough challenge, we are looking forward to it.

"As is always the way, we've lost a couple of players and we're looking to make a couple more additions to help bolster the group.

"Last season we competed well against Step 4 clubs in the FA Cup, so hopefully that will give us the belief for the campaign ahead. We've got a number of players who have played at this level before and I am sure that they will more than hold their own.

"I'm certainly not going to make any predictions at this stage, particularly with the amount of quality sides in this League.

"As a collective we want to keep improving and moving in the right direction. We want to play the type of football that the fans will enjoy watching and which also brings us results.

"I hope that the crowds stay healthy as I know that it really inspires the boys, both home and away. We have set targets internally but first and foremost the aim is to stay in the League; we won't be getting too far ahead of ourselves." Ayres' side opened the season earlier today with a home game against last season's play-off semi-finalists, AFC Dunstable.

## SHAFTESBURY | A WHOLE NEW WORLD

It's going to be a 'whole new world' for Shaftesbury as began life in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South this afternoon at home to Malvern Town.

Success in the play-offs saw them gain promotion from the Wessex League Premier Division at the end of last term and in doing so reach the highest level in the club's history.

"I can't wait for the challenge ahead," manager, James Milligan told us. "My new co-manager, Pat McManus, the players, supporters and everyone connected to the club is really looking forward to this.

"It's going to be a whole new world for us. We'll be up against a host of new teams and we are expecting a very tough and long season against some of the talented squads in this division.

"We have been keen to stress to the players over the summer how much work we have to do in order to get something from the season.

"Like every club, I think our ambition and bar has to be set high, so for us, reaching the play offs in the first season would be a massive achievement, but at the same time, we also want everyone to come and enjoy their football without too much pressure.

"Last season covered a huge array of emotions. We started off with high expectations and one goal, which was to get promotion.

"As a club we invested quite heavily in both the club structure and player budget and it was nice to see us achieve our main objective as well as breaking a few club records along the way.

"For me it's all about positive football and we'll be working hard to produce a creative and attacking side at this level.

"My passion for the game is there for all to see. I love working with the players and also developing the club off-the-pitch through my other roles here.

"The season ahead will be a new challenge and a new adventure. Both Pat and I go into this season with no previous Southern League experience, but what we do bring is a combined wealth of many years in coaching and managing.

"We're going to enjoy the experience and want to see smiles on everyone's face around the club. Some of the players have previously played at Steps 3 and 4, so there's no reason why we can't aim for a place in that top five.

"We relish the challenge ahead and whatever happens, we will just go out there, give it our all and enjoy operating at this level."





# FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD

**Monday, August 12th, 2024**

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL**

Barwell v. Banbury United  
Redditch United v. Halesowen Town  
St Ives Town v. Lowestoft Town

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIV ONE SOUTH**

Melksham Town v. Cinderford Town

**Tuesday, August 13th, 2024**

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL**

A.F.C. Sudbury v. Biggleswade Town  
A.F.C. Telford United v. Stourbridge  
Alvechurch v. Harborough Town  
Bedford Town v. Royston Town  
Bromsgrove Sporting v. Stratford Town  
Kettering Town v. Spalding United  
Leiston v. Bishop's Stortford  
Stamford v. Hitchin Town

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH**

Basingstoke Town v. Swindon Supermarine  
Frome Town v. Merthyr Town  
Gloucester City v. Plymouth Parkway  
Hanwell Town v. Bracknell Town  
Hungerford Town v. Gosport Borough  
Poole Town v. Taunton Town  
Sholing v. A.F.C. Totton  
Tiverton Town v. Dorchester Town  
Walton & Hersham v. Marlow

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIV ONE CENTRAL**

A.F.C. Dunstable v. Northwood  
Aylesbury United v. Leverstock Green  
Barton Rovers v. Real Bedford  
Beaconsfield Town v. Kidlington  
Hertford Town v. Hadley  
Kings Langley v. Enfield  
Leighton Town v. Biggleswade FC  
North Leigh v. Flackwell Heath  
Stotfold v. Ware

Thame United v. Berkhamsted

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIV ONE SOUTH**

Bashley v Larkhall Athletic  
Bemerton Heath Harlequins v. Westbury United  
Bideford AFC v. Exmouth Town  
Cribbs v. Mousehole  
Evesham United v. Bristol Manor Farm  
Falmouth Town v. Tavistock AFC  
Helston Athletic v. Willand Rovers  
Malvern Town v. Didcot Town  
Thatcham Town v. Shaftesbury  
Yate Town v. Bishops Cleeve

**Wednesday, August 14th, 2024**

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH**

Havant & Waterlooville v. Chertsey Town  
Winchester City v. Wimborne Town

**Saturday, August 17th, 2024**

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL**

A.F.C. Sudbury v. Royston Town  
A.F.C. Telford United v. Hitchin Town  
Alvechurch v. Biggleswade Town  
Barwell v. Lowestoft Town  
Bromsgrove Sporting v. Spalding United  
Halesowen Town v. Bedford Town  
Kettering Town v. Stratford Town  
Leiston v. Harborough Town  
Redditch United v. Bishop's Stortford  
St Ives Town v. Banbury United  
Stamford v. Stourbridge

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH**

Basingstoke Town v. Dorchester Town  
Frome Town v. Bracknell Town  
Gloucester City v. Wimborne Town  
Hanwell Town v. Swindon Supermarine  
Havant & Waterlooville v. Plymouth Parkway  
Hungerford Town v. Taunton Town  
Poole Town v. A.F.C. Totton  
Sholing v. Marlow  
Tiverton Town v. Chertsey Town  
Walton & Hersham v. Merthyr Town

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH**

Cinderford Town v. Bashley

**PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL**

Flackwell Heath v. Hertford Town  
Real Bedford v. Welwyn Garden City

*Fixtures are subject to change. Compiled in association with Atos.*

**There is plenty of great action coming up throughout the Pitching In Southern League. Please show your support wherever possible and if you are interested in getting more involved and finding out about volunteer opportunities, check out the Pitching In Volunteer Hub via: [southern-football-league.co.uk/Pitching-In-Volunteer-Hub](https://southern-football-league.co.uk/Pitching-In-Volunteer-Hub)**

**We hope that you enjoyed this edition as we look to showcase all that is good within the Pitching In Southern League. Feedback is always welcome, please email: [news@southern-football-league.co.uk](mailto:news@southern-football-league.co.uk)**

**Enjoy the rest of your weekend...**

**Andy Poole (Editor)**



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