

# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE



## SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 24 August 2024

# REAL ROUT

The Pitching In Southern League Premier South sees AFC Totton, many people's pre-season favourites, sitting pretty on top as they won for the fourth game in a row with a 3-1 triumph over Hungerford Town as Tony Lee weighed in with a brace.

Late goals denied Basingstoke Town victory at Gosport Borough as they had to settle for a share of the spoils in the end from an entertaining 3-3 draw, whilst Walton & Hersham were amongst the goals once more, hitting four without replay at Wimborne Town.

There were first wins of the season for Dorchester Town, who had Tom Killick back in the dug-out after illness, and Winchester City.

Over in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central, no team has a 100% record after Stamford were held to a 2-2 draw at Bishop's Stortford, although they had to come from two goals down to earn their point.

Our Game of the Day saw Redditch United secure a 2-1 win at local rivals, Stratford Town. It was a result which moved the Reds up to second place just ahead of Stourbridge who beat AFC Sudbury 2-0.



A 2-1 victory gave Harborough Town their first Step 3 success as they overcame the challenge of Bedford Town. In the Pitching In Southern League Division One South, Mousehole and Yate Town remain with 100% records. The Cornish club had goalkeeper, Olly Chenoweth to thank as he put in a Man of the Match display in their hard-earned 2-1 victory over Malvern Town.

Meanwhile Yate Town left it late to secure the same scoreline at Bashley, who were playing at home for the first time. Lucas Tomlinson was the hero with the winner.

There were dramatic 3-3 draws at both Falmouth Town and Melksham Town with goals and red cards aplenty. In the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central, Real Bedford run riot against North Leigh, securing an 8-0 triumph, whilst Flackwell Heath won for the fourth game in a row as they brushed aside Leighton Town by three goals to nil.

Our Game of the Day at Berkhamsted lived up to its billing as they beat Welwyn Garden City 4-3.

There was also some Isuzu FA Trophy Preliminary Round action today, we have details inside.

REPORTS FROM ALL GAMES | STATS | FEATURES



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# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## **AFC Totton 3 Hungerford Town 1**

Tony-James Lee got himself back on the scoresheet with an early goal to set the hosts on their way.

With the interval approaching, Declan Rose was able to weigh in with a second goal for the home team.

As Lee found his stride, he made it 3-0 just past the hour-mark, whilst Jacob Bancroft hit a late consolation for the away team.

## **Bracknell Town 2 Tiverton Town 0**

After no goals during the first half, Jordan Esprit soon brought things to life at the start of the second period when last season's top scorer fired the home team ahead.

Esprit then got his second of the afternoon with 20 minutes to go and that's how it remained

## **Chertsey Town 1 Frome Town 1**

Midway through the opening period and Marcus Day was able to put the away team in front only for Conor Lee to level matters from the spot as the interval approached.

There was no further scoring after the break as it ended with honours even.

## **Dorchester Town 1 Gloucester City 0**

The deadlock was broken late in the opening period as Luke Pardoe was able to beat the 'keeper to put the home side ahead.

A red card for Will Spetch left the home side down to ten men for the final 25 minutes, but they held on to claim the win as manager, Tom Killick, returned to the dug-out after recent illness.

## **Gosport Borough 3 Basingstoke Town 3**

The visitors started the game with real purpose and they were rewarded when Nnamdi Nwachuku opened the scoring early on from the penalty spot.

George Reid added a second just before the half-hour mark before Alfie Stanley got the home side back in it in the closing stages of the first half.

The second period started with Nwachuku adding a third for the visitors as he notched his second of the game.

As the home side rallied, Dan Wooden made it 3-2 with just under 15 minutes to go and then Stanley earned a share of the spoils with a late leveller.

## **Marlow 1 Poole Town 2**

A penalty from Dave Tarpey put the home side ahead on 22 minutes only for the visitors to level through Tyrique Clarke on the half-hour mark.

Seven minutes later and the away team were in front thanks to Toby Holmes and that's how the scoreline remained.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## **Merthyr Town 2 Hanwell Town 1**

An own goal from Noah Smerdon gave the visitors the advantage on 41 minutes, but it was cancelled out with just under 20 minutes to go when Cole Jarvis restored parity.

Ricardo Rees was able to turn the scoreline on its head as the game entered the final ten minutes and they were able to battle out a hard-earned victory.

## **Plymouth Parkway 0 Winchester City 3**

The visitors soon got into their stride as Thomas Wright put them ahead with five minutes on the clock.

By the 20th minute it was 2-0 when Luka Chalwell was able to double the advantage for City before Wright added a third before even 25 minutes had been played. There was to be no further addition to the scores as the visitors got the job done early on.

## **Swindon Supermarine 1 Havant & Waterlooville 1**

The deadlock was broken when Harvey Bradbury stayed cool to convert from the penalty spot late in the first half for the visitors.

It looked like that is how it would stay until the hosts pulled a leveller out of the bag in stoppage time at the end through Gabriel Reivers.

## **Taunton Town 1 Sholing 1**

The early action saw Dan Mason give the visitors the lead as he guided the ball home.

The scores were levelled when Alfie Moulden found the net with a long-range strike ten minutes from the break and that's how it ended with the points shared.

## **Wimborne Town 0 Walton & Hersham 4**

The home side edged in front with a penalty, which was coolly converted by the in-form Nana Owusu.

Right on the stroke of half-time, Anis Nuur was able to make it two for the visitors to put them firmly in the driving seat for the second period.

The second half started in a similar vein and seven minutes in, Dawid Rogalski added a third goal before Cameron Thompson rounded the scoring off late on.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Banbury United 1 Leiston 0

With ten minutes on the clock, Prince Henry crowned a bright start for the hosts with the opening goal.

It was to prove to be the only goal of the game as the home side secured the three points.

## Biggleswade Town 2 Barwell 2

The deadlock was broken when the experienced Brady Hickey found the net for the visitors on 23 minutes.

An equaliser arrived early in the second half from Cyrus Babaie- Gumbs but it only acted to bring the visitors to life as Hickey put them back ahead moments later. Back came the home team and soon it was 2-2 thanks to Theophilus Ofori.

The drama continued when the visitors were reduced to ten men on the hour following a red card for Jiah Medrano but there was no further addition to the scoreline as the points were shared.

## Bishop's Stortford 2 Stamford 2

The home side went in front against their unbeaten opponents through Jack Roberts and then just three minutes later, on the half-hour mark, Brad Russell was able to double their lead.

It proved to be a game of two halves as after the break, the visitors started to get into their stride and Tobias Liversidge pulled a goal back before ten minutes later, Tom Siddons earned a share of the spoils.

## Halesowen Town 1 St Ives Town 0

Things were finely balanced at the interval, but within six minutes of the start of the second period, Conor Tee had given the home team the lead. It proved to be the all-important goal that settled this contest.

## Harborough Town 2 Bedford Town 1

After a goalless first half, Ben Stephens wasted little time after the restart before firing the home side ahead but Ryan Blake was on hand to level the scores with 20 minutes to go.

On 87 minutes, Ben Williams put the home side back in front and they were able to see it out to get the three points and a first Step 3 win.

## Hitchin Town 0 Kettering Town 3

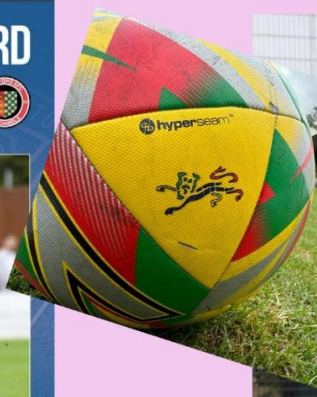
The visitors broke the deadlock when Dan Jarvis was able to turn the ball home in the 12th minute.

It was 2-0 with just under 20 minutes to go when Luca Miller hit the back of the net and then Jarvis complete the scoring right at the end.

A matchday programme cover for Bishop's Stortford vs Stamford AFC. The cover features a photograph of two players in action on a football pitch. The text on the cover includes the club name, opponent, date, time, and pitch location. There are also logos for sponsors and the matchday programme price.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD**  
vs Stamford AFC  
Saturday 24th August 2024. Kick off 3pm  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Central  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3.00

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# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Lowestoft Town 3 Bromsgrove Sporting 0

It was lucky 13 for the home team as Harvey Sayer put them ahead with 13 minutes on the clock and then Jake Reed doubled the advantage shortly afterwards. The second half saw the hosts remain in control and they were able to add a third through Reed to secure a deserved victory.

## Royston Town 0 Alvechurch 2

The deadlock was broken by Kieran Wakefield for the visiting team and their lead was soon doubled through the evergreen Tyrone Barnett. There was to be no further scoring as the visitors headed home with the three points.

## Spalding United 0 AFC Telford United 1

The deadlock was finally broken as the home side, who parted company with their manager on the eve of the game, fell behind to a Ricardo Dinanga effort. Despite their best efforts, there was no back for the hosts.

## Stourbridge 2 AFC Sudbury 0

A penalty from Alex Bradley set the home team on their way ten minutes before the interval and they were able to add a second through another summer arrival, Toumani Sidibe, on 66 minutes, although the ball seemed to take a deflection off visiting defender, James Bradbrook, on its way in. It saw the home side make a return to winning ways following last weekend's first defeat.

## Stratford Town 1 Redditch United 2

This hard-fought local derby saw the pendulum swing in the favour of the visitors when Johnny Johnston was able to put them in front with just over five minutes to go until the interval.

More joy was soon to follow for the travelling contingent when Alex Cameron added another goal.

A penalty deep into stoppage time at the end from Callum Ebanks proved to be too little, too late as the visitors claimed a good three points.



The Official Stourbridge FC Matchday Programme 2024/25 | 63

# GLASSBOYS REVIEW

**vs**  
**AFC SUDBURY**  
Saturday 24th August 2024  
Kick-off 3pm  
Pitching In Southern League  
Premier Division Central

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# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Bashley 1 Yate Town 2**

The hosts' first home game of the season started off on the wrong foot as Will Larvin gave the visitors the lead on ten minutes.

The leveller arrived just before the hour-mark as Conor Whiteley turned the ball home but his day turned sour when he was red-carded towards the end.

Things got worse for the hosts when Lucas Tomlinson bagged a late winner for the visitors.

## **Bishops Cleeve 1 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0**

This game finally came to life on 81 minutes when Jay Malshanskyj put the home side in front in what had been a hard-fought contest with little to choose between the two teams.

In the end, just one goal settled it.

## **Bristol Manor Farm 4 Bideford AFC 1**

It was the visitors who drew first blood with a goal from Jordan Ewing who headed home on 11 minutes.

A debut goal from Dylan Tate restored parity with just over five minutes to go until the break.

The home side started the second half as they ended the first and went ahead through Louis Britton soon after the restart and moments later, Tate added to the score with his second to make it 3-1. Things were rounded off right at the death as Britton popped up with his second and a fourth for the home side.



## **Falmouth Town AFC 3 Willand Rovers 3**

An early red card for Owen Howe saw the visitors reduced to ten men and it didn't take long for the home team to take advantage when Luke Barner put them ahead.

This feisty encounter saw Thomas Annear put the home team two goals to the good late in the opening period before another goal in first half stoppage time, and a second of the afternoon for Barner, made it 3-0 going into the break.

Finley Rooke pulled one back for the visitors early in the second period and then things got interesting as River Allen further reduced the arrears just past the hour.

Sure enough, two minutes later Rooke levelled the scores at 3-3 and that's how this breathless game finished.

## **Melksham Town 3 Exmouth Town 3**

This was our pick of Game of the Day and the first incident came within the opening exchanges when Mark Cooper was shown a red card for the hosts for a foul inside the area. The resulting spot-kick was saved.

The visitors did eventually take the lead in the closing stages of the first half when Louis Morison fired home.

It wasn't long into the second period when Ralph Graham evened things up as he fired home and then in the wake of the goal, Theodore Lynden was able to turn the scoreline on its head.

Jake Andrews then made it 3-1 but within minutes Morison has reduced the arrears for the Devon outfit and he then proceeded to equalise for his hat-trick as the clock ticked down.

More drama followed late on when Andrews was dismissed for the hosts, leaving them with nine men, but they held on to get a point.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## Mousehole 2 Malvern Town 1

Hayden Turner, who made his 150th appearance for the club in midweek, was on hand to put the home side ahead just past the half-hour mark.

As the interval approached, the in-form Jack Watts added another goal to his tally to level the scores.

The home side were able to regain the lead early in the second period when Mark Goldsworthy was able to add to his tally for the club.

Try as the visitors might, they found the home 'keeper in good form to help his side earn the victory.

## Shaftesbury 0 Evesham United 2

As half-time approached, Levi Steele, was able to turn the ball home to put the visitors into the lead.

It was Steele who bagged the second goal on the hour-mark when he was sharp inside the area to fire beyond the reach of the 'keeper and that was enough to kill off the game.

## Tavistock AFC 3 Larkhall Athletic 0

The home side edged in front when Jack Matthews scored on 19 minutes and then Charlie Elkington made it 2-0 as half-time approached.

Luke Steer was able to add a third goal before the break to really put his side in command and with no further scoring in the second half, they were able to secure a deserved three points.

## ISUZU FA TROPHY PRELIMINARY ROUND

### Cribbs 0 Thatcham Town 1 (Isuzu FA Trophy)

A goal on the hour-mark from Shamar Moore was enough to see the visitors go through. They survived a scare when the hosts had a late goal ruled out and then proceeded to miss a late penalty themselves.

### Didcot Town 1 Helston Athletic 3 (Isuzu FA Trophy)

The visitors won their first-ever game in this competition as they came from behind to secure a 3-1 win, as Reece Thomson bagged a brace.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## **Berkhamsted 4 Welwyn Garden City 3**

Our Game of the Day sprang to life early on when Josh Chamberlain fired the home team ahead.

It was a lively opening, with both teams playing with plenty of confidence following their respective bright starts to the season.

JJ Lacey weighed in with a second for the hosts just before the half-hour mark but Lewis Croucher hit back within minutes to reduce the arrears.

With quarter-of-an-hour to go, Lacey was able to notch his second to make it 3-1 and soon afterwards he completed his hat-trick to further extend the hosts' lead.

The visitors refused to let their heads drop and Bailey Stevenson was able to pull two goals back late on, but it just wasn't enough to earn his side any reward.

## **Enfield FC 0 Thame United 1**

This game was decided by a scrappy goal in the 77th minute as Harry Alexander was able to poke the ball home for the visitors following a scramble inside the area.

As they say, they all count and it was enough to earn United an away win.

## **Flackwell Heath 3 Leighton Town 0**

The opening goal arrived as half-time approached when Wiktor Makowski was able to fire the hosts in front.

The opening exchanges of the second period saw a second goal arrive courtesy of Louis Bouwers to put the home team in command.

A third goal was soon to follow from the penalty spot as Makowski made no mistake and it completed a pretty straight-forward triumph for the home side.

## **Leverstock Green 1 Beaconsfield Town 1**

It was the worst possible start for the visitors when they were reduced to ten men within the opening three minutes as Juan Gonzalez Velasco saw red for a professional foul.

They managed to hold out until a few minutes from time when Radu-Mihai Stefanoaica pounced to put the home team in front.

However, there was a sting in the tail as Germaine Dua equalised right at the death to make it honours even here.

## **Northwood 0 Aylesbury United 2**

It took the in-form visitors until the 65th minute to find a breakthrough as Kamil Zielinski opened the scoring and in doing so became the first player to score for the club this season, apart from Morison Hashii.

Seven minutes later and Zielinski was able to repeat the feat by bagging another to double his sides' lead and secure this contest.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## Real Bedford 8 North Leigh 0

The hosts made the pressure tell when Joseph Evans put the ahead midway through the first half and then doubled their lead early in the second period when Ben Stevens was able to guide the ball home.

Evans then was in the right place at the right time to add a third goal on the hour and it was followed by a fourth from Tom Hitchcock.

With 79 minutes on the clock, Evans completed his hat-trick to make it 5-0 and then Tyriq Ward added another before Eddie Corbitt and another from Hitchcock completed an 8-0 win.

## Ware 3 Barton Rovers 2

The visitors were able to take the lead just on half-time through Matt Maloney and they doubled their lead in the early exchanges of the second half as Charlie Milton headed home.

Ben Siggers pulled one back for the hosts with 20 minutes to go and Stefanos Georgiou completed the comeback with less than 15 minutes remaining.

On 84 minutes, Mitchel Hahn put the home side in front for the first time over the course of the afternoon and it was enough to secure the win.

## ISUZU FA TROPHY PRELIMINARY ROUND

### AFC Dunstable 2 Concord Rangers 0 (Isuzu FA Trophy)

A goal in each half from Phoenix Scholtz and Sean Duodu right at the death gave the home side a deserved victory here in what was an impressive all-round display.

### Biggleswade FC 2 Hertford Town 2 (Biggleswade FC win 5-4 on pens) (Isuzu FA Trophy)

These two League rivals played out an evenly-matched 2-2 draw after 90 minutes and so the tie went to a penalty shoot-out where the hosts prospered dramatically 5-4.





# BROTHERS IN ARMS

It's a case of brothers in arms at Bashley where Steve and Dave Lewis are leading a revolution at the Pitching In Southern League Division One South club.

Both are successful businessmen in their own right and after Steve took over as Chairman in May, Dave, a former Bashley player, soon followed as manager.

"Our mum and dad split up when I was nine years old," recalled Steve Lewis, who turns 50 in September. "Dave, who's four years older than me, was a typical big brother and looked out for me.

"He was literally the hardest kid in secondary school, so when I joined, he was in the fifth year and no-one dared touch me!

"We grew up in a working class family and really didn't have much money. I often wore hand-me-downs and there were tough times.

"Dad [Trevor Lewis] was the inspiration for both of us getting into football. He had been involved with Sholing FC in its various guises since the 1950s and is still Honorary President today.

"Both Dave and I have played for Sholing, a couple of times we were in the same team together, and when he played for Bashley, I would regularly attend games to watch him in action. I recall that during one of his spells at the club, he played under the legendary Jimmy Case.

"I looked up to Dave so much; he was the inspiration for me starting my own business at a young age. He started his own cleaning business when he was 18 and I knew from my early teens that I wanted to follow in his footsteps and start my own business.

"I built my global business empire the hard way; I had little help and support, financially or otherwise, but through sheer hard work and determination, both Dave and I have succeeded in life and business.



**VISION | Chairman, Steve Lewis, is looking to drive the club forward**

"Our passion for football has remained and our affinity to the New Forest and Bashley FC drew us back here, although, I think rather than me choosing Bashley FC, the club chose me when the Chairmanship became available towards the end of last season!

"When Paul Lucas resigned earlier this year, the Executive Committee had a duty to find a new Chairman so that the future of the football club was safeguarded, and quickly.

"At the time, I was Chairman at Wessex League club, Totton & Eling FC, and I was firmly committed to my role there. I did have a very brief conversation with Bashley FC, but the message was that I would be happy to explore my options at the end of the season, once my commitments to Totton & Eling FC had finished.

"I genuinely believe that integrity in football is the vital ingredient any club official needs; I wasn't about to abandon the guys at Totton & Eling FC, in what was a very challenging season for them, in more ways than one.

"As last season came to a close, the Bashley FC Executive Committee reached out to me again and after extremely positive discussions, it ended up being an easy decision to make to take on what is an exciting challenge here.



# BASHLEY | STEVE & DAVE LEWIS

“This is an esteemed football club with a rich history and tradition. This is the latest chapter in what has been a romantic story for the club over the years.

“As the newly-appointed Chairman, my main focus will be to invest in the infrastructure and build for the future. In the business world I am perhaps known for being a visionary and in some ways a disruptor.

“Quite often I will look at what the competition is doing and then do the opposite. My vision for Bashley Football Club is not only to be successful on the pitch, but to be successful off it, and that will require a fresh approach and ‘out the box’ thinking.

“The journey has only just begun but I am already very excited about what the future holds in store.

“It’s going to take plenty of hard work, determination and belief, with everyone pulling in the same direction for the common goal of driving this proud club forward.”

For Dave Lewis, this is an opportunity that he has already thrown himself into as he puts together a squad that can make an impact in Division One South during the campaign ahead.

“To return as manager at such an exciting time and follow in a long line of distinguished former managers, such as Frank Whitman, Barry Blankly, Jimmy Case and John Robson, is fantastic and I can’t wait to get started,” he added. “My career in the game has taken me to many different places, but I have always gravitated back to the New Forest.

“There is something really special about this area and the people; I am bursting with pride to have the opportunity to lead the club into this new era.

“I am pleased with the players that we have been able to retain and the quality of the signings that we have been able to bring in to supplement this.

“We know what we’re up against during the season ahead. There’ll be no surprises for us as we aim to be the best version of ourselves that we possibly can be. We will go into each game with a winning mindset



**PRIDE | Dave Lewis is proud to be back as manager of the club**

and the right attitude, if we can do that, it will take us a long way.

“This club has a history of playing an attacking brand of football and we will be looking to be on the front-foot and give our supporters the entertainment that they deserve.

“I have taken so much from all of the managers and coaches that I have worked with over the years and it has helped to shape me. The things that I have learned resonate with me still; I am a massive believer in that you are only as good as the people around you and I have surrounded myself with an extremely talented backroom staff with a wide range of skillsets.

“To be able to work closely on this project with Steve is going to be great and we have already thrown ourselves into it. We’ve always been very close and share the same work ethic and desire to succeed.

“Hopefully our combined business and football knowledge will be able to take this club forward into exciting times and a journey that will create many happy and positive memories.”

Bashley had a delayed start to the season due to drainage works on their pitch, but they made a winning start to their League campaign, coming from behind to win at Cinderford Town and today they face their first home game, against Yate Town.





# NEWS ROUND-UP

## AYLESBURY UNITED | RISING HIGH

From the Land of the Rising Sun has emerged a real rising star of the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central. 23 year-old Japanese striker, Morison Hashii, has been a driving force behind Aylesbury United's impressive start to their League campaign as he followed up his hat-trick in the opening day 3-0 win at Biggleswade FC with the only goal in the 1-0 triumph over Leverstock Green.

As a football mad youngster growing up in Japan, his talent was obvious and at 16 he headed to America on a University scholarship. Two years later and he embarked upon his professional career, which began in Dubai and then continued in Singapore before he came to the UK. "When I first came to England, I played for a Step 6 team called London Samurai Rovers," he told us. "They gave me a platform to show what I was capable of and I really enjoyed my football there.

"The goals flowed freely; I scored 75 in 40 games during my first season and it landed me a move to Basingstoke Town before I returned to Samurai and the goals continued.

"Now I have the chance to make my mark on Step 4 and I am really pleased with how things have started for me and team.

"We've made the perfect start in the League with two wins in a row and no goals conceded. There are some talented players in this team who have the potential to really push on and do well in the game. "This is a good level; there are some strong teams and good players throughout the League. Our target is to win the title; you have to aim high and I want to make the supporters, my team-mates and the coach happy.

"From a personal point of view, I want to be the top scorer in this League. I am playing with a lot of confidence right now and four goals from two games is a good start!

"There is a long way to go, of course, but I am looking forward to what lies ahead this season."

A trip to Northwood was on the cards today before they host Flackwell Heath on Tuesday evening.

## STAMFORD | FEET ON THE GROUND

The disappointment of just missing out on the play-offs on the final day of last season has given Stamford added determination going into the new campaign.

It has led to them becoming the only team in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central with a 100% record after three games.

Their latest victory came at the weekend as a penalty coolly converted by skipper, Rob Morgan, proved to be the difference against a buoyant Stourbridge, who themselves went into the game unbeaten.

"The lads have a lot more confidence and determination going into this season having just missed out on the play-offs last season," Morgan admitted to us. "We have made some great additions over the summer and as a group, we have learned a lot from the past season.

"Three wins from three – and three clean sheets – is a great start and we couldn't be happier. That said, our feet will remain firmly on the ground moving forward and our focus is on the next match.

"Saturday was a tough game and it was nice that I was able to get what proved to be the winner. At this level, you have to take what chances come your way because in games like this they can be few and far between.

"I was certainly happy, and relieved, to see that penalty hit the back of the net!

"I think this League is going to be very similar to last year where it comes down to fine margins and every point is crucial.

"We want to be amongst the front-runners, but it's important we just take it week-by-week. We worked hard during pre-season, playing some tough opponents, and it is standing us in good stead.

"We learned a lot, particularly from a defensive perspective, so we were confident coming into the new season that we had a very solid base on which to build from."

A trip to Bishop's Stortford awaits was on the agenda today.



## INFLUENCER

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

### SAM WHITTALL (AFC TELFORD UNITED) > FRANK LAMPARD

For me it has to be Frank Lampard. I just always loved the way he played and the goals he scored from midfield. He was also the complete professional and an icon in his own right.



## BARTON ROVERS | UP AND RUNNING

Barton Rovers are up-and-running after securing their first points of the season last weekend in a 2-0 triumph at North Leigh in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central.

As was the case for much of last season, they had Taylor Rhiney to thank for both of the goals.

“We needed that,” Rhiney told us. “We didn’t have the best of starts in the opening couple of games, so we knew that we needed to get a result here to start things moving in the right direction.

“The main thing was to get the three points, but I was buzzing to score both of the goals and for us to also keep a clean sheet was also just as important.

“It was a real team effort and the hope now is that we can take it step by step and continue moving up the table.

“We set some good standards at the weekend and we need to reach them if we are to challenge for the play-off places, which I believe that we are more than capable of.

“From a personal point of view, I was to be our top scorer again and help this club achieve its objectives and make a positive impact.”

A trip to Ware was in store for Rhiney and his team-mates this afternoon.



## DORCHESTER TOWN | AIMING HIGH

Experienced manager, Tom Killick, was expected to be back in the Dorchester Town dug-out today after missing the opening games due to illness which required a hospital stay.

Killick arrived at The Avenue Stadium in September following 20 years at the Poole Town helm and quickly stamped his authority on the team, using a tried and tested formula.

“I’m an old-fashioned manager who believes that, at this level of football, good recruitment and creating the right environment for the players to thrive in is by far the biggest factor in being successful,” he told us. “Moving to Dorchester invigorated me, there is no doubt about that, and I am desperate to build on what we did last season and be successful for the players, supporters and those that run the club.

“The fans here have not had much to enjoy for a long time and I am determined to change that. I am realistic and know that I’ve not got lots of time left as a manager, so I want to make the most of it.

“Our target this season is promotion. If that’s not the aim then it’s pointless; I realise that people will say you should shy away from putting yourself and the players under pressure, but I’m not interested in that.

“It will be difficult, but we have to have ambition and I have a strong belief in this group of players.

“The League will be extremely competitive, with not much between the teams at the top and bottom.

“There are a lot of teams throwing huge resources at trying to achieve promotion and ultimately there are only two that can achieve it, so there will be a lot of disappointed teams and disgruntled owners!

“We finished last season strongly and I feel that we have recruited well, so hopefully we can be very competitive.”

A home game against Gloucester City this afternoon is followed by Wednesday’s trip to Winchester City.





# FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD

## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

Monday 26 Aug 24

Basingstoke Town v Bracknell Town  
Frome Town v Taunton Town  
Gloucester City v Merthyr Town  
Hanwell Town v Marlow  
Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Totton  
Hungerford Town v Swindon Supermarine  
Poole Town v Wimborne Town  
Sholing v Gosport Borough  
Tiverton Town v Plymouth Parkway  
Walton & Hersham v Chertsey Town

Wednesday 28 Aug 24

Winchester City v Dorchester Town

## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

Monday 26 Aug 24

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

## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Monday 26 Aug 24

Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Didcot Town  
Bideford AFC v Tavistock AFC  
Cribbs v Bristol Manor Farm  
Evesham United v Cinderford Town  
Helston Athletic v Mousehole  
Malvern Town v Bishops Cleeve  
Melksham Town v Shaftesbury  
Thatcham Town v Bashley  
Yate Town v Exmouth Town

Wednesday 28 Aug 24

Larkhall Athletic v Westbury United

Saturday 31 Aug 24

Bashley v Falmouth Town AFC  
Cinderford Town v Helston Athletic

## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

Monday 26 Aug 24

AFC Dunstable v Biggleswade FC  
Barton Rovers v Leverstock Green  
Beaconsfield Town v Berkhamsted  
Hertford Town v Ware  
Kings Langley v Hadley  
Leighton Town v Enfield FC  
Stotfold v Real Bedford  
Thame United v Kidlington  
Welwyn Garden City v Northwood

Tuesday 27 Aug 24

Aylesbury United v Flackwell Heath

Saturday 31 Aug 24

Aylesbury United v North Leigh  
Kidlington v Hertford Town  
Leighton Town v Ware  
Northwood v Hadley  
Welwyn Garden City v Barton Rovers

*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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