

# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE



## SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 28 September 2024

# SIX APPEAL

There was a limited number of games in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South and Central this afternoon due to the Emirates FA Cup, but there was no less drama.

In the Premier South, leaders, Merthyr Town roared to a 6-0 victory over Wimborne Town and in doing so, reached 30 League goals for the season so far. Ricardo Rees weighed in with four of the goals this afternoon. Meanwhile Sholing had an excellent 5-1 triumph over Havant & Waterlooville to move them up to just outside the top five, as Gloucester City's 1-0 away success at Tiverton Town puts them second on 20 points.

Over in the Premier Central, Stratford Town came from 2-1 down with around five minutes to go, to win 3-2 at Halesowen Town as Lewis Wilson hit a dramatic stoppage time winner.

The local derby at Alvechurch went the way of visitors, Stourbridge, whilst Bedford Town won for the third time this week on their new surface as they moved up to second place in the early table.

There was drama in Division One South as Cinderford Town got their first points courtesy of a come-from-behind success at Westbury United.

Bristol Manor Farm hit five in a 5-1 triumph over Falmouth Town, whilst Bemerton Heath Harlequins came from 3-1 down to beat Malvern Town 4-3 and Mousehole overturned an early two-goal deficit to triumph 3-2 at Thatcham Town.

In Division One Central, Northwood got their first point with a 2-2 home draw with Leverstock Green.

At the top, Hadley remain unbeaten after they disposed of Berkhamsted 4-1 and Flackwell Heath remain on their tails following a 2-0 triumph over Kidlington.

In the Emirates FA Cup third round qualifying, Harborough Town beat Leamington of the Vanarama National League North. Bishop's Stortford also disposed of higher level opponents as they beat Hereford and Gosport Borough won at Oxford City.

There was a hard-earned draw for Bishops Cleeve but narrow losses for Larkhall Athletic and Melksham Town.



REPORTS FROM ALL GAMES | STATS | FEATURES



# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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[PitchingInvolunteers.co.uk](http://PitchingInvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



**TRIDENT  
LEAGUES**  
VOLUNTEER HUB  
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# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH & CENTRAL

## **Alvechurch 1 Stourbridge 2 (Premier Central)**

This local derby came to life when the visitors opened the scoring through Souleyman Mandey on 17 minutes but it was cancelled out moments later by Dan Sweeney who restored parity. As the half-time interval approached, Toumani Sidibe was able to put the visitors back in front and it was a lead that they were able to hold on to throughout the second period to see them return to winning ways.

## **Bedford Town 3 AFC Sudbury 1 (Premier Central)**

Having grabbed a dramatic stoppage time winner on Tuesday evening, Ekow Coker picked up where he left off early on here as he fired the hosts into a sixth minute lead. The home side have taken to their new 3G playing surface like a duck to water and Edward Gyamfi was on hand to double their lead with just under 20 minutes to go.

Joe Neal was able to pull a goal back from the penalty spot to set up a tense finale, but Ryan Blake was on hand to round things off with a third goal in the final minute to give his side a commanding win, their third at home in the space of a week.

## **Halesowen Town 2 Stratford Town 3 (Premier Central)**

The deadlock was finally broken as half-time approached when Conor Tee was able to put the home side in front.

It was cancelled out late on in the first half when last season's top scorer, Callum Ebanks, levelled for the visitors.

On 62 minutes the pendulum swung back in the hosts' favour when Kieren Donnelly put them back in front. However, Reece Styche was on hand to make it 2-2 in the 84th minute and then in dramatic fashion, Lewis Wilson scored a winner for the visitors deep into stoppage time.

You could not have written a better script for The Bards.

## **Merthyr Town 6 Wimborne Town 0 (Premier South)**

With a quarter-of-an-hour on the clock, Ricardo Rees added to his tally by opening the scoring for the hosts.

The lead was doubled midway through the opening period when Lewys Twamley found the net and then a commanding opening period was complete when Rees notched his second of the afternoon to make it 3-0. The second half was only five minutes old when the visitors' day got worse as Matt Burrows was red-carded leaving them to play out the final 40 minutes with ten men.

Rees completed his hat-trick on the hour-mark and then Kane Simpson got in on the scoring act with a fifth goal with a quarter-an-hour to go. There was still time for Rees to add another as the Welsh outfit made it six of the best.

## **Sholing 5 Havant & Waterlooville 1 (Premier South)**

Midway through the first half the hosts went ahead when Brad Targett found the net and the advantage was doubled on the hour when Charlie Gunson fired home from the penalty spot to double the advantage for the home team.

The visitors hit back through Harvey Bradbury, but the home team's response was instant as the two goalscorers combined for Gunson to lash home and make it 3-1.

The game was put to bed late on when George Milner-Smith weighed in with a fourth goal for the hosts, who then added further gloss in stoppage time through Jordan Chiedozie to make it a five-star showing.

## **Tiverton Town 0 Gloucester City 1 (Premier South)**

The deadlock was broken with 64 minutes on the clock when Joe Hanks was able to add to his tally to put the visitors in front.

It was a lead that they were able to hold on to.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Bashley 2 Didcot Town 1**

The hosts' cause was not helped when Steve Walker was shown a red card five minutes from the interval.

With 51 minutes on the clock, the visitors were able to take advantage of having an extra man as Jenson Wright fired them ahead.

The home side were able to get back on level terms on 82 minutes when Luke Delaney found the net and then Scott Bungay gave them the lead four minutes later with time running out as the ten men secured the points.

## **Bemerton Heath Harlequins 4 Malvern Town 3**

The home side drew first blood as Josh Moore fired them ahead within the opening three minutes.

The lead didn't last long, though, as the visitors hit back moments later through Lewis Spurrier.

As half-time approached, the visitors were able to turn the scoreline on its head when Josh Allen latched onto a neat through-ball before firing home.

Within seconds of the start of the second half, Spurrier had his second goal of the day to extend the visitors' lead.

Recent arrival, Leighton Thomas threw the home team a lifeline as he pulled a goal back on the hour-mark and then George Higgins levelled the scores in the 71st minute.

This game had a final twist when Ionel Lolot was able to put the home side back in front late on to take the points.

## **Bideford AFC 2 Evesham United 1**

After the visitors had been denied by a couple of smart saves by Mike Searle in the home goal, it was the hosts who broke the deadlock here just before the half-hour mark as Finn Roberts volleyed home sweetly.

Boosted by the goal, a second soon arrived as Jack Winsor made it 2-0.

With just over 20 minutes to go, the visitors pulled a goal back from Levi Steele but they were unable to get anything out of the game as the home team held on to get the victory.

## **Bristol Manor Farm 5 Falmouth Town AFC 1**

The home side were sharp out of the blocks and got their reward in the third minute when Daniel Dodimead found the net to open the scoring. The lead was doubled with 18 minutes on the clock thanks to a goal from Josh Bissett, before Cameron Hutchinson reduced the arrears ten minutes from the interval.

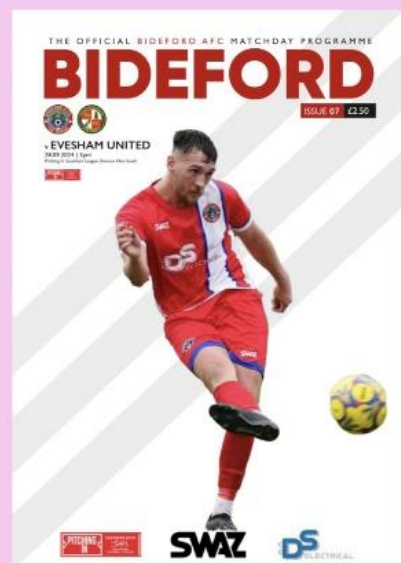
A third goal arrived for the hosts just past the hour from Louis Britton, who then went on to notch a fourth as the clock ticked down.

The home side were in unforgiving mood as Dylan Tate made it 5-1 and complete the scoring.

## **Cribbs 1 Shaftesbury 0**

A goal from Bailey Croome in the opening exchanges gave the advantage to the home side.

There was a red card for George Kellow just before the half-hour mark, leaving them to have to see the game out with a man less, but they managed to hold on to their lead to claim three points.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Tavistock AFC 0 Exmouth Town 1**

This local derby was a cagey affair during the first half with neither side able to make the breakthrough.

There was a key moment in stoppage time at the end of the opening period when Reuben Kane was sent off for the home side following a foul.

The breakthrough finally came for the visitors with ten minutes to go when Michael Landricombe gave them the lead and it prove to be the decisive goal.

## **Thatcham Town 2 Mousehole 3**

It was the home side who got their noses in front when Oliver Bourne found the net in the seventh minute.

The hosts doubled their advantage within the opening quarter-of-an hour when Shamar Moore added his name to the scoresheet.

A penalty early in the second half put the visitors back in it as Torin Ntege found the net to reduce the arrears and sure enough, just past the hour, the evergreen Mark Goldsworthy levelled matters.

Within minutes of that goal, Goldsworthy struck again to put his side ahead for the first time in the proceedings and it was enough to earn the Cornish club a come-from-behind win.

## **Westbury United 1 Cinderford Town 2**

The home side made their advantage tell in the 22nd minute when Will Taylor was on hand to give them the lead.

In stoppage time at the end of the opening period, the visitors were able to restore parity when Josh Searle was in the right place, at the right time, to score.

The turnaround for the visitors saw Joe Keeping put them ahead with just five minutes to go and they were able to see the rest of the game out to claim their first points of the season.

## **Willand Rovers 1 Yate Town 1**

This hard-fought encounter saw both sides unable to break each other down until the 78th minute when a moment of quality from James Taylor saw the visitors get their noses in front.

The hosts responded and Josh Baker was able to restore parity with around four minutes to go as it ended with honours even here.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## **Kings Langley 0 Thame United 2** (played Friday)

The visitors edged in front just after the half-hour mark when a free-kick rebounded to Harry Alexander who was able to volley home to continue his scoring streak.

Within two minutes of the opener, the visitors won a penalty when Alexander was brought down and picked himself up to despatch from the spot.

Despite their best efforts to get back into the game after the break, the hosts were unable to find a way through.

## **AFC Dunstable 3 North Leigh 2**

The home side started brightly and got their reward when Sean Duodu guided the ball home with nine minutes on the clock. Shortly after seeing an effort cleared off the line for what would have been a second goal, the hosts were reduced to ten men with just over five minutes of the opening period remaining as Stanley Georgiou saw red.

However, Russell Berko was able to double the lead early in the second half before shortly afterwards, Duodu grabbed his second of the afternoon to put the hosts firmly in the driving seat.

The visitors were given hope when Calvin Njoroge pulled a goal back and then he hit another with just under 20 minutes to go to make it 3-2 but it was not enough.

## **Flackwell Heath 2 Kidlington 0**

Lewis Pegg held the visitors out to dry as he fired the home side in front just past the half-hour mark and then a minute later, Michael Harding added a second goal.

This quickfire two-goal burst was enough to give the hosts another three points as their impressive start to the season continues.

## **Hadley 4 Berkhamsted 1**

The deadlock was broken on 19 minutes when Isaac Stones added to his tally for the home side.

It took the visitors just four minutes into the second half to level matters as Luke Andrews found the net.

The advantage went back with the hosts when Billy Hayes fired them ahead with just over 15 minutes left on the clock.

In stoppage time, goals from Luke Alfano and Toby Gould made it 4-1 to complete another good day at the office for the hosts.

## **Hertford Town 2 Barton Rovers 2**

There were a number of changes for the home side going into this game and after a goalless opening period, they wasted little time in grabbing the lead after the restart as Tariq Bakkali got his name on the scoresheet.

Things changed pretty quickly, though, as firstly Taylor Rhiney stayed cool to level from the penalty spot and then Christian Swaby was able to put the visitors ahead just past the hour-mark.

In what was an end-to-end encounter, Billy Mardell-Smith made it 2-2 and in the wake of that goal, Lucas Kirkpatrick was shown a red card for the visitors.

The game ended with honours even.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## Leighton Town 3 Beaconsfield Town 0

It was the hosts who took the lead courtesy of Louie Barrett's goal in the opening exchanges.

The advantage was finally doubled with nine minutes to go when Kyle Boyce gave the hosts some breathing space with a second goal and then same player added a third goal late on to seal the victory following an impressive display from the home side.

## Northwood 2 Leverstock Green 2

After a goalless first half, it was the home side who took the lead just on the hour-mark thanks to a goal from Gabriel Ipanga-Mbambo.

The goal was soon cancelled out as Guiseppe Delgaudio notched an equaliser. Things went back in favour of the hosts when Ipanga-Mbambo weighed in with his second of the afternoon with just over 20 minutes to go.

A second goal for Delgaudio within the final ten minutes brought the game level again and that is how it remained as the hosts secured their first point of the campaign.

## Real Bedford 1 Ware 1

The visitors drew first blood here thanks to Jon Clements' goal on the quarter-hour mark but within ten minutes, Shaheim Ward had brought the scores level.

The second period saw both teams have chances to nick it, but it ended with the scores level.

## Stotfold 1 Aylesbury United 0

The deadlock was finally broken with 53 minutes on the clock when Haroon Meriai was able to guide the ball home to put the hosts ahead and it proved to be the all-important goal as the home team walked away with all three points.

## Welwyn Garden City 0 Enfield 0

Despite the scoreline ending goalless, this was a good battle between two committed and well-organised sides.

With neither back-line able to be breached, both sides had to settle for a point apiece.





# EMIRATES FA CUP THIRD ROUND QUALIFYING

**Biggleswade FC v Canvey Island (playing Sunday)**  
**Biggleswade Town v Alfreton Town (playing Tuesday)**  
**Bishop's Stortford 3 Hereford 2**  
**Bishops Cleeve 0 Chesham United 0**  
**Boreham Wood 2 Larkhall Athletic 1**  
**Carshalton Athletic 3 Melksham Town 2**  
**Chelmsford City 2 Bromsgrove Sporting 1**  
**Chertsey Town 3 Ashford United 2**  
**Harborough Town 1 Leamington 0**  
**Haringey Borough 3 Lowestoft Town 3**  
**Leiston 1 Hornchurch 1**  
**Oxford City 2 Gosport Borough 3**  
**Royston Town 0 Peterborough Sports 0**  
**Sittingbourne 0 Plymouth Parkway 3**  
**St Ives Town 0 Kettering Town 3**  
**Taunton Town 2 Amersham Town 1**  
**Tonbridge Angels 2 Walton & Hersham 1**  
**Winchester City 2 Weymouth 2**





# FAMILY VALUES

It's been quite a journey already for Bedford Town this season following their promotion back into the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central.

Forced to play and train away from their Eyrie home whilst redevelopment works took place on the pitch and floodlights to give them a community facility to be proud of, they have nevertheless made a solid start to life at the higher level with four wins from their opening nine League games to leave them sitting in seventh place in the early table.

Two of those victories have come over the past week in what has been a successful return to home action both on and off the pitch.

Last Saturday a crowd of almost 1,000 gathered to see them celebrate their homecoming with a 2-0 victory over a Redditch United outfit that made the play-offs last term and they followed it up with a dramatic 4-3 triumph over Leiston on Tuesday evening.

On that occasion, they recovered from conceding a last minute equaliser to go on and win the game in the 96th minute on a night of high drama with red cards, a penalty and plenty of talking points.

The early weeks of the season have also brought tragedy with popular striker, Leon Lobjoit's baby daughter, Marnie Jaz Mae, passing away as the club and football community came together to offer its support.

It's at a time like this when the family ethos that manager, Lee Bircham, has installed into the club really comes to the fore. "It's been an incredibly difficult and emotional time for everyone at the club," Bircham told us. "Things like this put football and life firmly into perspective. I am extremely close to Leon and have felt the pain with him and for him.



**AT THE HELM | Bedford Town manager, Lee Bircham**

"To see how the club and football community in general has come together to support him and his family has been truly humbling. It hits hard, especially as a parent myself, but it shows the strength of character that Leon has that he has played in our last two games.

"Being out there on the pitch is his release, his freedom, and to see him score the second goal against Redditch was emotional. He is so brave; I can't praise him enough and it shows how much he and his family are loved around the place.

"A close bond exists between everyone here and it's this which sees us through the bad times and makes the good times even more special because we are sharing them with people who mean so much to us.



## BEDFORD TOWN | LEE BIRCHAM

“Last Saturday was a special day; to be back at home meant so much. Since pre-season we’ve played at different venues and for training we’ve also had no fixed abode, grabbing facilities as and where we can to be able to put on sessions.

“It’s been very much a case of living week by week, but it’s that sense of togetherness and team spirit that has seen us through.

“The supporters have also stayed with us and last Saturday’s performance was for them. To see so many people inside the ground, including the Mayor and other local dignitaries, it really did bring a lump to the throat.

“Looking around and seeing what a fantastic facility we now have and how it can impact the lives of so many people, it just makes me extremely proud to be manager of this football club.

“This investment in the infrastructure is not just for now, it’s for future generations to benefit from and seeing so many youngsters affiliated to the club through our various youth teams and attending first-team matches to cheer us on, it all bodes well for the future.

“The 3G surface will allow all of our affiliated teams to have somewhere to call home, it will bring them even closer to the club and the benefits will be massive. That’s why the club has made this investment; it extends our reach into the local community and it’s the correct way to go about things to give us a sustainable and exciting future.



**PITCH PERFECT | Two wins from two on the new surface**



“The season so far has been amazing. It’s been well-documented that we have a bottom three budget here and our target is to finish the season fifth from bottom, but fair play to the players because they have made a pleasing start in what is a tough League.

“We knew the standard would be high, you have to be right at it in every game to stand any chance because there is quality in every team that we come up against, both on the pitch and in the dug-out.

“The jump from Step 4 to Step 3 is huge; you saw it throughout the Leagues last season where a large proportion of the teams that got promoted out of Step 4 went straight back down again. The Premier Central is tougher than it has been for a while but we are loving it.” Bircham’s side were back in home action again this afternoon as they played host to AFC Sudbury.



# NEWS ROUND-UP

## LEISTON | MILESTONE FOR SKIPPER

When Seb Dunbar led Leiston out at Bedford Town for their Pitching In Southern League Premier Central encounter on Tuesday evening, it was his 400th appearance for the club. Spread over three spells since he first arrived in 2012, he has given the club sterling service and whilst they slipped to a stoppage time defeat in their last outing, the 32 year-old believes that both he and the team are starting to get into their stride following a frustrating start to the current campaign.

"I am very proud to reach this milestone," he told us. "I've played around 40 games a season, which at any level, is a good achievement.

"To still be playing regularly at Step 3 level is something that I am definitely pleased about.

"If I'm being honest, when I made my debut for the club 12 years ago I didn't think that I would go on to make so many appearances for one club. I hoped that I would go on to have a decent career, of course, but players making this number of appearances for a single club is becoming increasingly rare in the modern game.

"I can remember my debut being fast and aggressive with the tackles flying in. As a young player fresh out of Academy football [with Ipswich Town], it was a shock to the system.

"My game has certainly improved in a lot of areas since then. I'd like to think that I've played to a high level throughout my time at Leiston and always given my all.

"The club has always overachieved and pushed on a lot, which is great. For such a small area and budget compared to most that we come up against in this League, we have done extremely well.

"This season has started slowly for me. I missed games at the start through injury, but I am back playing again and happy with my contribution so far. With more game time I'll get my match fitness levels back up to where they need to be and I'll keep improving.

"I think that as a team we are starting to find some rhythm now. We had a poor start, but results have started to pick up over the past month. There's a lot more to come from us and we will be up there at the right end of the table.

"I do think that the Premier Central is the weakest it's been for a few years this season; a lot of the big clubs with big budgets have gone and it does make things more competitive with more teams have the chance to do well and make an impact.

"We are targeting a place in the play-offs and we'll be doing all we can to achieve that objective."

Attention turns to the Emirates FA Cup today with a third qualifying round home tie against Hornchurch.

## WINCHESTER CITY | HOMECOMING

All of the blood, sweat and tears were worth it earlier this afternoon when Winchester City stepped out at their redeveloped Charters Community Stadium home for the first time.

An extensive programme of work has taken place at the Pitching In Southern League Premier South club, with a 3G playing surface laid, new LED floodlights installed, stand redevelopment and improvements of the surrounds with new fencing dug-outs and hard standing areas.

"This is a project that has been six or seven years in the making," Club Director, Stuart Munro, told us. "The current committee has taken it on and now we are about to see it finally come to fruition with our first competitive game, which is extremely exciting.

"I am very proud of what has been achieved. There have been plenty of hurdles to overcome and we've had to jump through many hoops, but the ground grading inspection took place earlier this week and we are good to go!

"There are so many people who have played their part in getting us to this point and we are eternally grateful to them. Winchester City Council have also been extremely supportive and so too has the Football Foundation.

"This project is not just about the here-and-now, it's about building a sustainable future for the football club and reaching out to provide a first-class facility for the whole community.

"We have so many different teams affiliated to us already and we are now able to extend this even further and have an even greater reach within our local area.

"We're already up to 85% capacity; the hope is that if we bring more members of the local community into the club via the various activities and teams that we offer, they will return to watch the first-team and that secondary spend, allied to getting new sponsors on board because the stadium will be in use every day, will then allow us to invest in continuing to build and develop the infrastructure of the club.

"There is a stand that we would like to redevelop as well as improvements to our hospitality facilities, so this is very much an ongoing project, which we intend to build over time."

The club has a mouth-watering game in which to open the new facilities as they take on Vanarama National League South outfit, Weymouth, in the third round qualifying of the Emirates FA Cup.

"Today's game is the first of four in a row here," added Munro. "We've got six home matches by the end of October, so this could be a turning point for us and see us start building some momentum to get our season up-and-running.

"We finished last season in the middle of the table, in 11th position, and we are confident that we can do the same again this time around and maybe get into that top ten.

"This is an opportunity for us to really start moving forward both on and off the pitch.

We're not going to try to run before we can walk, though. It will be done in a considered, controlled and sustainable manner."



## INFLUENCER

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

### DAN SEARS (HITCHIN TOWN) > RONALDO (R9)

I'd definitely have to say Ronaldo (R9) due to primarily playing as a forward when growing up. What a player he was.



## HUNGERFORD TOWN | TURNING POINT

It was raining goals last Saturday afternoon at Hungerford Town where the home side ran out 9-3 victors over Plymouth Parkway in what was an unbelievable game in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South.

The visitors actually took an early lead from the penalty spot, but the hosts stormed back to score nine times.

"I've never been involved in a game like that before," Jacob Bancroft told us. "To go a goal down within the opening couple of minutes but then hit back and score nine, it's something that will live long in my memory.

"It was an absolutely crazy game of football, which had to be seen to be believed. I was happy to get a hat-trick of assists for the same player, which also added to the craziness of it all.

"I feel that personally I have been playing to a more consistent level this season, whether that's starting or coming off the bench.

"Saturday's performance will certainly give us all a much-needed boost and hopefully we can kick-on from here now and start adding to our points' tally.

"We have more than enough talented players to make a difference. We know that the start of the season generally hasn't been what we wanted, but football moves quickly and Saturday could be the turning point.

"I am happy with the contributions I have made so far, but I know that I have to keep working hard and not stand still.

"This is a competitive League and you have to be at it in any given game. Every team is capable of taking points off each other and it means that we have to be on our toes each time we step onto the field."

The Crusaders went on to play out a goalless draw with Frome Town on Tuesday evening.



## FLACKWELL HEATH | AIMING HIGH

Life is good for Flackwell Heath. They have taken the step up to the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central in their stride and last Saturday created some club history by reaching the third round qualifying of the Isuzu FA Trophy for the first-ever time.

Having secured the Combined Counties League Premier North Division title last term with just three defeats from 38 games, they have continued in a similar vein this time around, amassing five wins from their opening six League games, scoring an impressive 17 goals along the way.

They also bagged another six goals last weekend in the Isuzu FA Trophy as they brushed aside Broadbridge Heath to set up a mouth-watering home tie with Premier Central outfit, Bishop's Stortford in the next round.

There is plenty of confidence and belief running throughout the team, with the goalscoring exploits of Wiktor Makowski particularly catching the eye.

Arriving at the club midway through last term, the 21 year-old hit 15 goals in just 11 games as the club went on a nine-game winning run to secure the title.

The former Thame United and Risborough Rangers man already has six League goals to his name this time around and added two more to his tally in the Isuzu FA Trophy at the weekend.

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to the season," he told us with a smile. "Nine goals and three assists from eight games in all competitions is good going; I do critique myself a lot and I feel that I should have 12 or 13 goals to my name, but you can't score them all!

"It's been a fantastic start for the team. I did expect it, and I mean that in the humblest way, because it was clear to see at the end of last season and throughout pre-season, how much quality we have in the team.

"There is no secret to it; it's all about pure hard work, dedication and, importantly, the respect that we give to each other and our opponents. We are prepared to run and battle for each other all over the pitch. I am extremely proud of my team-mates and what we have achieved together; it really is a team effort.

"For us to start so well in the League and make history in the FA Trophy is fantastic. The club and supporters have given us so much and it's nice to be able to give back with our performances on the pitch.

"It's a journey that we are all on together and long may it continue because these are good days for us.

"We've set our sights on continuing the momentum carried over from last season. We're not slowing down, there is so much we want to achieve. Personally, somewhere between 40 and 50 goals would be nice, wouldn't it? You have to aim high and I always push myself to achieve things."

They were due to play host to Kidlington today.





# FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD

## Pitching In Southern League Premier South

**TUESDAY 01 OCT 24**

Chertsey Town v Basingstoke Town

## Pitching In Southern League Division One South

**TUESDAY 01 OCT 24**

Bashley v Melksham Town

Bishops Cleeve v Thatcham Town

Cinderford Town v Yate Town

Didcot Town v Evesham United

Mousehole v Bideford AFC

Shaftesbury v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

Westbury United v Malvern Town

**WEDNESDAY 02 OCT 24**

Exmouth Town v Cribbs

Willand Rovers v Larkhall Athletic

**SATURDAY 05 OCT 24**

Bideford AFC v Cinderford Town

Cribbs v Bashley

Didcot Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

Evesham United v Westbury United

Falmouth Town AFC v Exmouth Town

Helston Athletic v Shaftesbury

Larkhall Athletic v Bishops Cleeve

Thatcham Town v Willand Rovers

## Pitching In Southern League Division One Central

**TUESDAY 01 OCT 24**

Berkhamsted v Kings Langley

Enfield v Barton Rovers

Flackwell Heath v Thame United

Hadley v Aylesbury United

Leverstock Green v Hertford Town

Northwood v North Leigh

Real Bedford v Leighton Town

**WEDNESDAY 02 OCT 24**

Kidlington v AFC Dunstable

**SATURDAY 05 OCT 24**

AFC Dunstable v Enfield

Beaconsfield Town v Biggleswade FC

Leighton Town v Northwood

North Leigh v Leverstock Green

Stotfold v Welwyn Garden City

Any Emirates FA Cup third round qualifying replays will take place during the course of the week ahead.

Next Saturday it's also Isuzu FA Trophy third round qualifying day for some of our Member Clubs.

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

## GOALS OF THE WEEK SHOW



We are extremely proud of the Southern League Goals of the Week Show that David Square and his team work so hard to produce on our behalf each week of the season and we urge clubs to please send your goals footage for use in the show each week.

The email address to send your footage to, by 7pm each Tuesday evening, is:

[thesouthernfootballleague@gmail.com](mailto:thesouthernfootballleague@gmail.com)

The show can be viewed via our Official You Tube

Channel from 7pm every Wednesday evening.

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](http://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)



[southern-football-league.co.uk](http://southern-football-league.co.uk)



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