# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE

# SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 23 November 2024

# BEATING BERT



Storm Bert caused a number of postponements across our four divisions, but there was still plenty of great action to blow us all away.

None more so than in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South where Gloucester City came from four goals down to draw 4-4 at Walton & Hersham, with the equaliser arriving in stoppage time at the end. Moving into the top five are Havant & Waterlooville after they came from behind to secure a good 3-1 triumph at Winchester City, with Ryan Seager bagging a brace. Over in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central and there was more drama as leaders Kettering Town left it until stoppage time to beat in-form Leiston as Nile Ranger got the all-important goal in a 2-1 success. Harborough Town warmed up for their forthcoming Emirates FA Cup adventure by beating Banbury United 4-1, AFC Sudbury left it late to beat Bromsgrove Sporting and move closer to the top five, whilst Storm Bert provided an assist for Bishop's Stortford's winner against Barwell.

The Pitching In Southern League Division One South fixture list was particularly ravaged by the weather. In fact, only four games survived and amongst them was our Game of the Day where leaders, Yate Town, were made to work hard for their I-0 triumph over Evesham United.

Elsewhere and there were two commanding away wins as Westbury United went to Willand Rovers and secured a 4-0 success, whilst Bristol Manor Farm were 3-0 victors at Shaftesbury. The other game saw ten-man Mousehole get a point from Larkhall Athletic.

Over in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central and the top four were in action against each other.

The top two going into the afternoon, Real Bedford and Hadley, shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, whilst Berkhamsted secured a 4-2 win at Flackwell Heath in what was a highly entertaining game which swung one way then the other. That win was enough to put them top of the table.

REPORTS FROM ALL GAMES | STATS | FEATURES



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

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Southern League football clubs need your help with them.

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

Please visit

Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk

to find out more









## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

#### Basingstoke Town I Tiverton Town 3

Midway through the first half, the visitors broke the deadlock through Matthew Britton, but that goal was cancelled out in the 66th minute through Dan Warre. With just eight minutes to go, Joe Parker popped up to put the away team back in front and then with the hosts pushing up in search of a leveller, they were hit on the break in stoppage time as Kai Churchley rounded things off with a third goal to seal the victory.

#### Chertsey Town 0 Gosport Borough 2

It was the visitors who got their noses in front here when Asher Yearwood was able to convert from the penalty spot. Yearwood added a second goal with just over 20 minutes to go and that's how it remained.

#### Dorchester Town I Taunton Town I

An intelligent finish from Owen Brain gave the visitors the lead just past the quarterhour mark but the equaliser came just before the half-hour mark from Marcus Daws

Neither team was able to find a winner during the second period as the spoils were shared.

#### Poole Town I Hanwell Town 2

It was the away team who edged ahead on 25 minutes courtesy of Callum Woodcock, but that was cancelled out in the opening exchanges of the second half as Ezio Touray found the net.

The visitors regained the lead thanks to Dan Carr who drove the ball home in the 63rd minute and things went from bad to worse for the hosts when Oakley Hanger was red-carded.



#### Swindon Supermarine 3 Marlow | 1

The visitors breezed in front through Harry Hoath on the quarter-hour mark but Michael Elias-Fernandes was able to level matters on the half-hour mark.

A goal from Oliver Mehew seven minutes later saw the hosts get themselves in front before Gabriel Reivers further extended their lead and it secured the points.

#### Walton & Hersham 4 Gloucester City 4

The home side had a helping hand to get them into a fourth minute lead following an own goal from Jared Thompson.

It became 2-0 on the 20-minute mark thanks to Dawid Rogalski and then Johl Powell weighed in with a third just past the half-hour.

Within a couple of minutes of that Mason Obeng further extended the lead to put the hosts firmly in the driving seat.

Tyrone Duffus was able to pull a goal back midway through the second half and then Kieran Phillips hit another for the away side.

When Luca Robinson made it 4-3 in the 77th minute, it was game on for an exciting finale to this one and sure enough, in the second minute of stoppage time, Jadyn Crosbie made it 4-4 as it finished with honours even.

#### Winchester City | Havant & Waterlooville 3

On the new 3G surface, the wet and windy weather failed to beat this game and it was the hosts who went ahead on 28 minutes through Alex Wilkie.

It didn't take the visitors long at the start of the second half to equalise as Leon Maloney got the goal and then Ryan Seager put the away team in front with just over quarter-of-an-hour to go.

A penalty from Seager further extended the visitors lead with ten minutes left on the clock and it confirmed the victory.



## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

#### AFC Sudbury | Bromsgrove Sporting 0

The opening period saw two wellorganised teams cancel each out. There was very little to report in the way of clear-cut chances as it remaining goalless at the break.

In fact, it took until stoppage time at the end for the first goal to arrive and it went to the home side as Oliver Peters found the net in dramatic fashion to grab all three points.

#### AFC Telford United 3 St Ives Town I

It was lucky seventh minute for the home side as Matty Stenson fired them ahead and he went on two add a second goal ten minutes later.

The away team were being blown away at this stage as Remi Walker added a third goal with just 25 minutes on the clock. The second period started with the visitors pulling a goal back in the opening exchanges through recent arrival, Josh Allen, but the hosts already had the game won.

#### Alvechurch | Bedford Town 0

There were 13 minutes on the clock when Archie Crowther put the hosts ahead in Tim Flowers' first game at the helm. This proved to be the only goal of the game as the home side held on to claim three much-needed points.



#### Bishop's Stortford | Barwell 0

Storm Bert provided an assist for the opening goal here when Cole Dasilva's corner found its way into the net to give the home side the lead five minutes into the second half.

There was to be no further scoring here as the home side held on to the three points.

#### Halesowen Town 3 Biggleswade Town I

The hosts finally went ahead in first half stoppage time thanks to Kieren Donnelly and then there was more woe to come for the visitors early in the second half when Liam Andrews picked up his second yellow card to leave them with ten men for the final 40 minutes of the game.

As the home side pushed for a second goal, it finally arrived from the boot of Jordan Ponticelli with just under 20 minutes to go.

With time running out, Conor Tee extended the home sides' lead from the penalty spot, whilst at the other end, Obidinma Onyeagwara hit a consolation goal.





## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

#### Harborough Town 4 Banbury United I

It was first blood to the hosts when Luis Rose put them ahead in the eighth minute. The afternoon got worse for the visitors when Alex Prosser was dismissed and then just before the break, Ben Stephens gave them some breathing space with a second goal.

An Alex Morris own goal gave the visitors hope early in the second period but Stephens was able to restore the two-goal advantage from the penalty spot for the hosts.

In stoppage time, Josh Walsh completed the scoring to give the home side a convincing win.

#### Hitchin Town 0 Stratford Town I

The opening goal arrived ten minutes from the break when Dan Rafferty guided the ball home to give the away team the lead. Despite their best efforts, the home side were unable to find a way back into this game.

#### Kettering Town 2 Leiston I

The leaders broke the deadlock in the 12th minute courtesy of Jonny Edwards but the home crowd was silenced with ten minutes to go when George Quantrell restored parity for the hard-working visitors. There was to be late drama in our Game of the Day as Isiah Noel-Williams put the hosts back in front in the final minute and it proved to be the winner against their in-form opponents.

#### Royston Town 3 Redditch United I

It was advantage to the home side with the opening goal midway through the first half from Kian Harness.

On 66 minutes, Archie Locke found the key to getting through the visitors' back-line as he made it 2-0 before Luke Johnson weighed in with a third goal.

A stoppage time strike from Jack Kelly for the visitors proved to be too little, too late.



## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

#### Larkhall Athletic | Mousehole |

There were no goals during the opening period here, but the visitors were reduced to ten men as half-time approached following the dismissal of Hayden Turner. The home side were able to make their extra man advantage count on 65 minutes when Alex Lambert put them ahead. The visitors refused to let their heads drop and they were rewarded with a late leveller from Mark Goldsworthy to earn them a share of the spoils.

#### Shaftesbury 0 Bristol Manor Farm 3

It took just two minutes into his return for Evander Grubb to fire the away team ahead and then just a couple of minutes later Louis Britton added a second goal. With an hour on the clock, Britton notched a third goal to give the hosts a mountain to climb.

It was a commanding away performance which was only blighted by a late red-card for Regan Lashenko.





#### Willand Rovers 0 Westbury United 4

The visitors wasted little time in taking the lead as Charlie Wilson put them ahead within the opening minute.

Walton was blowing the home side away in the opening exchanges and he added a second goal on the quarter-hour mark.

Just past the half-hour mark and Bevan Cross made it 3-0 to put the visitors well in command here.

A positive away day was rounded off in the final minute by Joe Beardwell as he hit a fourth goal.

#### Yate Town | Evesham United 0

After a rather cagey first half, the home side went ahead just before the hour-mark thanks to Joe Guest.

This tussle between two good sides failed to produce any more goals as the home side held on to claim a hard-earned victory.





## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

#### Kings Langley 2 Ware 3 (played Friday)

It was the visitors who took the lead when Gucci Soulya-Osekanongo found the net just past the quarter-hour mark.

However, the home side were able to turn the scoreline around before the break as Bradley Smith restored parity with a sweet free-kick and then Jake Anthony put them ahead in first half stoppage time.

The second period saw both sides search for the all-important next goal, which eventually feel to the visiting team with ten minutes to go as Theophilus Ofori levelled the scores.

There was still time for George Ironton to grab a dramatic stoppage time winner for the away team in what was an entertaining contest.

#### AFC Dunstable | Leighton Town 0

It was first blood to the home team when Russ Berko got his name on the scoresheet with ten minutes to go until the interval. The second half produced no further scoring as the hosts held on to get the win.

#### Biggleswade FC | Hertford Town 0

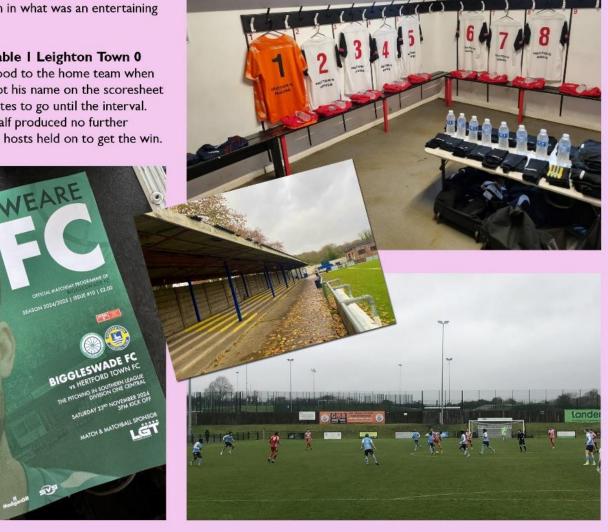
On 25 minutes Peter Holmes got the hosts' noses in front with the opening goal and it was to prove to be the deciding goal here.

#### Enfield 2 Northwood 0

The deadlock was finally broken when Myles John put in the hard yards to open the scoring for the home side with just over quarter-of-an-hour left on the watch.

In the closing stages, Sami Bessadi hit a second goal for the home team to make the points safe.

There was still time for Emmanuel Folarin to see red for the visitors at the death.



## PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

#### Flackwell Heath 2 Berkhamsted 4

The visitors took the initiative here as | Lacey fired them ahead in the tenth minute but just past the quarter-hour mark, Edward Lee levelled the scores.

The scoreline was turned on its head just before the half-hour mark when Callum Mapley found his way to goal for the hosts. An own goal from Lewis Patrick put the scores level again on 31 minutes and then shortly afterwards, the pendulum swung back in the visitors' favour when Louie Collier put them back in front.

The scoring was complete in stoppage time at the end when Matt Bateman sealed a big

This top of the table clash started the way of the visitors as Jordan Edwards gave them a 12th minute lead.

was able to level things up, but nothing could separate these two teams after the break and so it ended with honours even.

#### Thame United 4 Aylesbury United 0

The deadlock was broken by the hosts with six minutes on the clock as Daniel West found the net and then just two minutes later, Harry Alexander doubled the advantage.

With just over 15 minutes remaining, the evergreen Jefferson Louis popped up with a third goal for the home side.

A fourth goal came late on as Hayden Beadle was about to make it 4-0 and complete a good day's work for his side.

#### Welwyn Garden City I Beaconsfield Town 0

After a goalless opening period, the home side wasted little time after the restart to forge ahead when Bailey Stevenson found the net.

This ultimately proved to be the deciding goal as the hosts found their opponents in stubborn mood and difficult to break down.



## SATURDAY EVENING FEATURE

# LONG SERVICE

Longevity is the name of the game at Bideford AFC. This month, manager, Sean Joyce, celebrates 26 years at the helm. Yes, that's right, in a world where clubs change their manager with increasing regularity, Joyce has been in charge of the Pitching In Southern League Division One South club for over quarter-of-a-century.

It was in November 1998 when he was asked to take charge of the team. "Nobody else wanted to do it," he said with a wry smile. "We were rock bottom of the table and as player-assistant manager at the time, I was set to leave the club too.

"But they asked me if I fancied being player-manager. I spoke to the wife and we agreed that I would give it a month and by that time anyway I'd get found out and probably be sacked.

"Well, 26 years later and I still haven't been found out and I'm still here!

"To be honest, I never wanted to be a manager; it was something that I never really thought about during my playing career. I kind of fell into it, but haven't looked back since."

So, what is the key to his longevity at the north Devon club?

"It's being around lovely people who let me get on with my job and do what I am good at," he replied without hesitation. "Too many people watch Match of the Day or whatever these days and automatically think that they can manage a football club.

"There is a lot more that goes into it than just 3pm on a Saturday. I am left to get on with what I am good at; organising a team and putting a product out there that the fans want to see.

"I get the freedom and trust to do my job and that's why I have stayed here so long. Of course, if I get enough decisions wrong, I will get the sack, but I'd like to think that I've got more decisions right over these past 26 years.



LOVING LIFE | Sean Joyce alongside his current managerial team

"Having said that, I never take anything for granted; I take things day-by-day and week-by-week, I never look too far ahead, that's the way I operate." In terms of achievements, of which there have been plenty over the years, the 57 year-old still goes back to his first season at the helm.

"Keeping the club up at the end of my first season remains the biggest achievement," he went on. "From the position we were in at the time I took over and being a novice manager, to guide us away from relegation was special.

"I had an idea of how difficult it was to be a manager from my time as assistant, but nothing prepares you for actually doing the job and to be player-manager as I was at the time means that there is even more pressure.

"There is so much to do behind-the-scenes that people don't see or realise. With a young family at the time, I was worried initially how I would be able to juggle everything, but my family have been nothing but supportive.

# **BIDEFORD AFC | SEAN JOYCE**

"I think they like being able to get me out of the way for six or seven hours every Saturday!

"Had you told me in those early days of doing the job that I would still be here doing it 26 years later, I would have said no chance, but thanks to the lovely people at the club and the support of my family, I am still here and still enjoying it!

"There have been constant battles over the years with the budget and competing with other clubs for players, but I try to put a team out there that will fight for every ball, work hard and run themselves into the ground on behalf of the club.

"If my players give 100% then that's all anyone can ask."

A proud Yorkshireman, Joyce came through the ranks at Doncaster Rovers and went on to make over 40 senior appearances for the club in The Football League.

His relationship with Devon first began in November 1986 when a couple of months after signing his first professional contract with Rovers, he was sent down to Exeter City to gain some valuable experience both on and off the pitch.

When he was released by Doncaster Rovers at the end of the 1987/88 season, he decided to accept an offer from Torquay United and it proved to be a life-changing move as not only did he go on to make 158 League appearances for the club and play for them at Wembley twice, he also made Devon his home and has remained in the county ever since.

"I was only a young lad of 20/21 when I was let go by Doncaster," he recalled. "During that summer, I received an offer from Torquay United, along with a good friend, Paul Holmes, who sadly recently passed away.

"We both decided to go down there and give it a go. The thinking was that we'd have a year down there, get a regular run of games and then head back up north. "Initially we both found it hard to settle, but Devon just grabs you, it's a beautiful part of the world and a great place to live and raise your kids. I have been here ever since and absolutely love it."



POSITIVE OUTLOOK | Sean Joyce is still loving life at the helm

Going into this weekend's fixtures, the Robins sit in the lower half of the able, but Joyce has been pleased with the performance levels and feels that the results will follow.

"You may not think it by looking at our results, but I am happy with the way we have been playing recently," he added. "Our performance levels have generally been good and if we can continue like this, the results will soon follow, I have no doubt about that.

"It's enjoyable this season because everyone is capable of beating each other and it makes for an exciting competition.

"As I say, my philosophy is to take things week by week. The next match is always the most important and we're ready to go to Thatcham Town at the weekend and get the three points on offer."

**IMAGES: Sean Gosling** 

## **NEWS ROUND-UP**

# REDDITCH UNITED | SLOTTING INTO PLACE

Returning Redditch United manager, Matt Clarke, has likened football to a jigsaw puzzle, as one piece moves it creates space for another to fit in and that's certainly been the case in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central over the past week.

When Tim Flowers stepped down from the Reds' helm towards the end of last week, they wasted little time in bringing back former manager Clarke, who took charge of Saturday's dramatic encounter with Stamford where his side recovered from going a goal down early on, to win it deep into stoppage time.

Meanwhile Flowers was announced as the new manager at League rivals, Alvechurch, over last weekend to replace the departing James Fry, whilst just down the road at Stratford Town, Gavin Hurren, has stepped down from his position at the helm.

"My return to Redditch came completely out of the blue and it all happened very quickly," admitted Clarke to his club media. "I always say that football is like a jigsaw puzzle, as one pieces moves it creates a space for something else to happen.

"After the first four minutes on Saturday when we fell behind to a poor goal, I wanted to be back at home on the sofa! We were poor in the first half and were fortunate to go in at the break only a goal down.

"It meant that we were still in the game and we changed our shape for the second half, which had the desired effect and we went on to dominate and deservedly get the win against a very good side, even if we did leave it a little late!

"I've watched a lot of games in this League so far this season, only one at Redditch, but it's clear that we need to add a bit of experience to what is a young squad here.

"If we can do that then the future is extremely positive for this group. Tim [Flowers] has done a great job to get them into sixth place and if we can come in and build upon that, it will stand us in good stead.

"The journey is going to be a roller-coaster; we will enjoy the ride and see where it takes us."

Clarke admits that it was an emotional afternoon at the Valley.

"I had a lump in my throat with the way that the fans welcomed me back here," he continued. "It was a special reception; the supporters know how much this club means to me.

"I came off the pitch at the end having lost my voice but those celebrations following the last minute winner, which I believe the youngsters call 'limbs', are what it's all about!"

Redditch United returned to the battle for League points at Royston Town this afternoon.

# STOURBRIDGE | PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL BOOMING

Pitching In Southern League Premier Central outfit, Stourbridge, instigated Pan-Disability football in July 2021 with the appointment of Andrew Parker and Steve Wem.

Two teams were initially registered in the Sandwell Inclusion League, a seven-a-side team in the Championship League and a five-a-side team in League 1.



Over the past three years, the League has grown and now there are four levels with teams playing in five adult divisions.

The number of clubs competing has increased and the number of teams from those clubs has also grown.

Last season Stourbridge had three teams and achieved some successes, with the team in the Premiership finishing runners-up. The club also had two teams in League 2, one finished as Champions and the other won the League Cup.

The section continues to grow with another team entering the Championship division for the current season.

Steve Wem, Lead Coach of the Section, said: "We have had success on the field but the real success is creating an environment that enables more individuals to feel part of the club.

"In three years the club has doubled in size with 40 players registered across the four sides for this season.

"Although running and managing disability teams has been challenging, it is also extremely rewarding. With such a diverse spectrum of disability, learning to understand and deal with situations and individual vulnerabilities is essential. We not only become coaches but support workers, carers, someone the players look up to and respect. "Finding volunteers who are committed to helping is probably one of the hardest things to achieve, but fortunately so far I have had tremendous support from my fellow

"The key to our success is the support we receive from a strong grassroots football club, the admin team, social media, club directors and volunteers.

"The highlight for many of the players is the thrill of going to watch the first team, and the club are endeavouring to make this a regular event, which is fantastic." Club vice-chairman, Andy Bullingham, added: "As a community football club it is essential that we offer a football solution that is all-inclusive. This has to encompass men, women, boys, girls and pan-disability teams.

"This represents part of our diversity and inclusion ethos and therefore means that The FA class us at the highest level possible as a Charter Standard Level 3 club. "This in turn brings benefits to the club with support from our County FA with coaching and development, alongside our ability to access funding for projects and development of our ground and training facilities through The Football Foundation." The Black Country club have been supported by the Football Supporters Association and their Fans For Diversity campaign in this initiative.

# INFLUENCER

coaches.

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

#### RYAN GUPPY (WILLAND ROVERS) > PAUL SCHOLES

He was an absolute baller and horrible piece of work, a perfect combination and what a career he had at the top level of the game.

## **NEWS ROUND-UP**

#### SHAFTESBURY | FULL FORCE

There was a proud moment for Shaftesbury striker, Greg Peel, recently as he represented the UK Armed Forces against the Irish Defence Forces in Belfast.

In a hard-fought game, Peel's side battled out a narrow I-0 victory to lift the Friendship Trophy as Peel won his first cap.

"With the UK Armed Forces FA, you gain your cap for two international fixtures," he explained to us. "So, you can play friendlies throughout the season but you will only be capped for an international fixture and this was my second international fixture I had featured in. "I'm currently in the REME (Royal Mechanical Electrical Engineers), which is part of the British Army, so in football I represent the REME FA, Army FA and UK Armed Forces FA."

Peel had a delayed start to the season having suffered a broken ankle in pre-season as Shaftesbury prepared for life in Step 4 for the first time in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South.

"It wasn't the best of starts as I had to sit out the first eight or nine games because of the broken ankle," he continued. "We've had a lot of personnel changes in the team over the opening few months of the season; we're looking to find the right balance and it takes time to adapt, but we're getting there.

"The performances are improving and recent results have given us plenty to be positive about. "Going into this season, we were expecting it to be tough at the higher level with the additional travelling and step up in quality.

"We learned pretty quickly that mistakes get punished in this League and you need to take your chances when they come along and be clinical. "It wasn't quite the start we wanted, but it's a long season and we're looking forward to seeing what the weeks and months ahead bring.

"I've played for a number of clubs in the Southern League previously, but getting promotion with Shaftesbury and making history for the club by getting them to this level for the first-ever time is pretty special.

"It's a very competitive League and as has been seen over the years, if you can hit a good run of form at the right time, it can really lift you up the table. On the flip-side, the same can be said of a bad run of form too.

"We always knew that our first season at this level would be tough, but I can certainly see positive signs as we get used to the added demands. "My personal aims are to help Shaftesbury climb the table and maintain our place at this level. I also want to continue playing military football to the highest possible standard."



#### KIDLINGTON | STEPPING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

Sometimes you have to take a step back in order to move forwards and that has been the case for Powfil Raposo at Kidlington.

The 26 year-old has been in sparkling form since joining the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central club earlier this season with seven goals and two assists from his opening eight games in all competitions.

Not bad considering that he only started playing regular non-League football two years ago.

"I played grassroots football up to the age of 16," he told us. "I kind of drifted away from playing regularly until two years ago when I joined MK Irish.

"It was there that I came under the wing of Terry Shrieves and he really helped to develop my game and get me on the right track.

"It was a good club to be involved with but after just over a year, I decided to drop down to Step 6 with Wellingborough Whitworths in order to play regularly up front. "That move did me the power of good and I would recommend to any player who is not getting regular game time to drop down a level or play for the reserves because nothing beats having the opportunity to play week in, week out.

"You learn a lot about yourself and the player you are in doing so, and it earned me a move back into Step 5 with Sileby Rangers, from where I was spotted by Craig McKay earlier this season and he brought me into Step 4 at Kidlington, where things have started really well.

"I am excited to see where this season takes us; the club is in safe hands off the pitch and there's a talented group of players on the pitch who are starting to show what they are capable of, as Saturday's 3-1 victory over Enfield demonstrates.

"I'm really enjoying my football at the minute and it was nice to contribute with two goals at the weekend to help us get the win.

"We haven't started the season as well as we would have liked, but recent results have showed that we are heading in the right direction.

"The fans have been unreal; they have given me and the team such fantastic backing. You see the same faces home and away and they really motivate us to give extra effort; their passion for the club is infectious.

"To be able to celebrate victories with them, as we did after the final whistle on Saturday, is what it's all about.

"Going into the game, we knew that it wasn't going to be easy, but the Gaffer and his staff gave us a tremendous amount of information and they also do the extra individual bits to make sure that everyone understands what they need to do.

"When everyone does their bit, coaching staff, players and fans, we can be more than a match for anyone in this League.

"It's a very strong and competitive division; every week you see surprising results, which make it even more exciting!

"I've recently come up from Step 5 and you instantly see the difference in the intensity and physicality of this League. You simply can't take your foot off the gas at any time or else you will get punished and that's whether you are playing opponents near the top of in the lower reaches of the table."

# **FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD**

Pitching In Southern League Premier South

TUESDAY 26 NOV 24 Chertsey Town v Merthyr Town

WEDNESDAY 27 NOV 24
Gosport Borough v Bracknell Town

SATURDAY 30 NOV 24
AFC Totton v Swindon Supermarine
Bracknell Town v Merthyr Town
Gloucester City v Poole Town
Gosport Borough v Plymouth Parkway
Hanwell Town v Hungerford Town
Havant & Waterlooville v Basingstoke Town
Marlow v Frome Town
Sholing v Winchester City
Taunton Town v Chertsey Town
Tiverton Town v Walton & Hersham
Wimborne Town v Dorchester Town

Pitching In Southern League Premier Central

TUESDAY 26 NOV 24 Biggleswade Town v Royston Town

SATURDAY 30 NOV 24
Banbury United v Lowestoft Town
Barwell v AFC Sudbury
Bedford Town v Biggleswade Town
Bromsgrove Sporting v Alvechurch
Leiston v AFC Telford United
Redditch United v Spalding United
St Ives Town v Hitchin Town
Stamford v Royston Town
Stourbridge v Halesowen Town
Stratford Town v Bishop's Stortford

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

TUESDAY 26 NOV 24 Bashley v Tavistock AFC

WEDNESDAY 27 NOV 24 Larkhall Athletic v Melksham Town Pitching In Southern League Division One South

**SATURDAY 30 NOV 24** 

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

Pitching In Southern League Division One Central

TUESDAY 26 NOV 24
AFC Dunstable v Flackwell Heath
Northwood v North Leigh

SATURDAY 30 NOV 24
Barton Rovers v North Leigh
Beaconsfield Town v Thame United
Berkhamsted v Biggleswade FC
Hadley v Flackwell Heath
Hertford Town v AFC Dunstable
Leighton Town v Kings Langley
Leverstock Green v Enfield
Northwood v Real Bedford

Ware v Kidlington

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

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

Enjoy the rest of your weekend...

Andy Poole (Editor)



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