

# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE



## SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 15 March 2025

# CUT AND THRUST



It's been another afternoon of cut-and-thrust across our four divisions.

In the Pitching In Southern League Premier South, the top five all won. Leaders, Merthyr Town, came from behind to win at Gosport Borough, whilst second-place AFC Totton chalked up a routine 2-0 triumph over Bracknell Town.

Below them, Walton & Hershaw overcame the challenge of Poole Town, Gloucester City swept aside Hanwell Town by five goals to nil and Dorchester Town battled out a hard-earned 1-0 away win at Chertsey Town.

There was a big away win for Tiverton Town at Winchester City in the lower reaches of the table.

Over in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central and it's Halesowen Town who now sit pretty at the top following victory at Hitchin Town as AFC Telford United are hot on their heels following victory over AFC Sudbury.

Bedford Town salvaged a point at Redditch United with a stoppage time penalty as Kettering Town failed to find a way past Lowestoft Town in a goalless stalemate. Stamford move into the top five after beating Alvechurch 1-0.

The lead at the top of the Pitching In Southern League Division One South is down to just two points after Yate Town were held to a 1-1 home draw by ten-man Melksham Town and Evesham United won 2-1 away at Falmouth Town.

Exmouth Town twice came from behind to beat Bristol Manor Farm 3-2 thanks to a stoppage time winner, whilst Mousehole also twice came from behind to hit a last-gasp leveller in a 2-2 draw at Didcot Town.

Entering the top five is Malvern Town after they battled out a 1-0 win at Cribbs and Bishops Cleeve lost at Willand Rovers.

In the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central, leaders, Real Bedford, now have over 100 League goals as they beat Northwood 5-0. Second-place Berkhamsted had to work hard to win 2-1 at Biggleswade FC.

There was a commanding victory for Flackwell Heath over play-off rivals, Hadley, as Thame United came from two goals down to triumph over Beaconsfield Town 3-2 and sit fifth on 60 points.

REPORTS FROM ALL GAMES | STATS | FEATURES



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

## **AFC Totton 2 Bracknell Town 0**

With ten minutes on the clock, Scott Rendell opened the scoring for the hosts and then Rod Collins made it 2-0 with just over 20 minutes to go to put the home side well in command.

It proved to be a deserved victory for the home team as they keep up the pressure on the leaders.

## **Chertsey Town 0 Dorchester Town 1**

The breakthrough for the away team finally arrived thanks to Shaquille Gwengwe as the interval approached.

There was no further addition to the scoring as the visitors claimed a big three points.

## **Frome Town 1 Havant & Waterlooville 1**

The home side wasted little time in getting their noses in front as Albie Hopkins found the net, however, it was cancelled out before the half-hour by Callum Kealy. There was no further addition to the scoring as it ended with the spoils shared.



## **Gloucester City 5 Hanwell Town 0**

On 25 minutes, Jacob Evans set the hosts on their way with the opening goal and then Elis Watts added a second ten minutes later.

The start of the second half saw Dayle Grubb further extend the lead and put the home side firmly in the driving seat.

A second goal of the day for Watts made it 4-0 and then Brandon Smalley got in on the act with another to complete a commanding success for his side.

## **Gosport Borough 1 Merthyr Town 3**

Just before the half-hour mark, Asher Yearwood opened the scoring for the home team from the penalty spot.

As the interval approached, Ricardo Rees was able to bring the scores level before Keiran Evans put the Welsh side ahead five minutes into the second half.

With quarter-of-an-hour to go, Rees added another to put the away team firmly in the driving seat.

A red card for Danny Hollands compounded the home team's misery.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## **Marlow 1 Taunton Town 1**

It was the visitors who drew first blood thanks to Tom Smith on 41 minutes but the second period started with an Oliver Woodhouse red card to leave them to defend their lead with ten men. Their resistance was soon broken when Momodou Jallow levelled things up and that's how it finished.

## **Plymouth Parkway 0 Hungerford Town 2**

The visitors seized the initiative in this one when Gerson Da Costa Ramos opened the scoring midway through the opening period. A second goal for Ramos late on gave the visitors a two-goal cushion before some of the gloss was taken off the day when Louis McGrory saw red for a second yellow card late on.

## **Sholing 2 Basingstoke Town 2**

It was Jack Ball who set the ball rolling here with an early opening for the away team but that was soon cancelled out when Harry Taylor levelled matters. Taylor turned the scoreline on its head as he fired the hosts in front with 20 minutes left on the clock but within minutes, James Clark levelled from the penalty spot and that's how it remained.

## **Swindon Supermarine 0 Wimborne Town 0**

There was nothing to separate these two teams as they cancelled each other out with this goalless draw where the spoils were shared.

## **Walton & Hersham 2 Poole Town 0**

A goal from Bobby Taylor put the home side in front on 20 minutes and it was added to late on when Dawid Rogalski converted from the spot. Our Game of the Day ended with a deserved three points for the hosts to strengthen their position amongst the leading pack.

## **Winchester City 0 Tiverton Town 2**

This one was something of a cagey affair with neither side able to take the initiative. An own goal from Robert Jamison provided the visitors with a lead that they were able to add to right at the end through Joe Parker to secure an important three points.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## **AFC Telford United 2 AFC Sudbury 0**

It was in first half stoppage time that Harry Hawkins put the home team ahead and just like in the opening period, the hosts hit a goal in stoppage time at the end when Matty Stenson was able to confirm the three points.

## **Banbury United 1 Royston Town 0**

After a goalless first half, it took the home team just two minutes after the restart to take the lead thanks to Harry Reilly.

The hosts were able to see the rest of the game out to secure the victory and a clean sheet to add to their impressive defensive record.



## **Biggleswade Town 3 Spalding United 4**

There was an early goal for the visitors from Jack Roberts and they followed it up with a second on seven minutes through Joseph Nyahwema. Midway through the first half and it was 3-0 when Dan Lawlor was able to add his name to the scoresheet.

The day got worse for the home side as Patrick Staszewski put through his own net before the break.

Just a couple of minutes into the second half and Callum Wilson reduced the arrears and it wasn't long before he grabbed another goal.

A late Josh Steele goal pulled it back to 4-3 but the hosts ran out of time to get the leveller in what was an entertaining encounter.

## **Harborough Town 3 Stratford Town 1**

An early penalty from Ben Stephens set the hosts on their way here and Luis Rose extended the lead with 24 minutes gone.

Stephens rounded off an impressive first half showing by making it 3-0 in stoppage time.

Midway through the second half and Callum Ebanks gave the visitors a lifeline by pulling a goal back but it proved to be a mere consolation.

## **Hitchin Town 1 Halesowen Town 2**

After a goalless opening period, our Game of the Day burst to life at the start of the second half when Conor Tee gave the away side the lead.

Buoyed by the opener, Kieren Donnelly soon made it 2-0 and despite Brad Bell pulling a goal back late on, the away team were able to see out the three points.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Leiston 3 Barwell 4

The experienced Brady Hickey was calm to set the away team on their way from the penalty spot and shortly afterwards, Ashley Chambers doubled the lead.

The day got worse for the hosts when Seb Dunbar was red-carded as Hickey fired home another spot-kick to make it 3-0. A goal from George Quantrell saw the home team reduced the arrears late on and then the same player hit another to make it interesting.

However, Leroy Lita was able to hit a fourth for the away team and even though Jamar Loza pulled another goal back at the death, it was too little, too late for the hosts.

## Lowestoft Town 0 Kettering Town 0

This was a game of few chances at either end as both defences remained on top. In the end a draw was a fair result in what was a goalless stalemate.

## Redditch United 1 Bedford Town 1

This game was finely balanced until Anthony Dwyer opened the scoring with a goal for the hosts just past the hour-mark. There was late drama in this one when deep into stoppage time, the visitors were awarded a penalty and in a situation like this it needed top scorer, Leon Lobjoit, to step up and level matters.

It ended with honours even here in front of a large crowd who all gained free entry.

## St Ives Town 2 Bromsgrove Sporting 3

It was lucky seventh minute for the visitors when they edged in front through Carter Lycett and then Theo Robinson doubled the advantage on the quarter-hour mark.

Josh Allen put the hosts back into it as he pulled a goal back just before the half-hour and then Will Glennon completed the comeback in the opening exchanges of the second half.

There was drama at the death when Lycett grabbed a late winner to give the away team the points.

## Stamford 1 Alvechurch 0

It was a positive start for the home side and Elliot Durrell in particular as he opened the scoring nine minutes into his debut for the club.

This proved to be the only goal of a closely-fought match.

## Stourbridge 1 Bishop's Stortford 1

Towards the end of the opening period, Alex Jones made it advantage to the hosts with the opening goal of the afternoon.

A penalty for the visitors on 86 minutes saw Cole Dasilva stay cool to convert and level matters as the spoils were shared.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## **Bashley 2 Helston Athletic 2**

Lewis Ross set the home side on their way here as he opened the scoring just before the half-hour mark.

The second half was only a few minutes old when Luke Holmes was dismissed for the hosts but they were able to go on and double their lead through Connor Dunesby-Bent.

A goal from Craig Duff gave hope to the visitors for the final ten minutes and they snatched a stoppage time equaliser through youngster, Olly Redd.

## **Cribbs 0 Malvern Town 1**

Five minutes from the interval and the away side took the lead courtesy of a goal from Sam Clark.

This was a keenly-contested game with both teams giving their all and it was the visitors who were able to see it out to add to their impressive form.

## **Didcot Town 2 Mousehole 2**

A goal from Dan Warre saw the hosts take the lead just before the quarter-hour mark and then the same player doubled the advantage with 53 minutes on the clock.

The visitors pulled one back on the hour through Morgan Lewis before Ross Derham grabbed a stoppage time equaliser to make it honours even.

## **Exmouth Town 3 Bristol Manor Farm 2**

It was first blood to the away team as Louis Britton opened the scoring and then Jacob Spence doubled the lead just before the interval.

A goal from Ben Griffith reduced the arrears just before the hour-mark and then Callum Shipton made it 2-2.

As it looked like heading for a draw, Shipton stepped up to grab a stoppage time winner for the home side.

## **Falmouth Town AFC 1 Evesham United 2**

The visitors broke the deadlock courtesy of Levi Steele who cut through the home defence in the 22nd minute.

Shortly afterwards Steele added a second from the penalty spot, but then the hosts had a spot-kick of their own which Rubin Wilson converted.

Despite their best efforts, the hosts were unable to find another goal as the visitors managed the game well to take home a big three points.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH

## Larkhall Athletic 2 Bideford AFC 1

A penalty from Finn Roberts broke the deadlock here just past the hour as the away team took the lead.

The equaliser eventually came in the 83rd minute and it was Max Williams who got it before Harlee Vozza turned the scoreline on its head with a second goal just a couple of minutes later and this proved to be the winner.

## Shaftesbury 5 Westbury United 2

The home team broke the deadlock when Remus Nixon was able to find the net in the opening exchanges.

A Charlie Wooding penalty as half-time loomed restored parity here but the hosts were able to regain the lead just before the hour-mark through Alefe Santos.

Parity was restored when Stephen Hulbert converted from the spot to make it 2-2, but the game swung back into the home side's favour as Moss Collis found the net.

Gabriel Rogers then made the game safe with a fourth goal late on for the hosts as Jack Hoey rounded things off with a fifth.

## Tavistock AFC 4 Cinderford Town 0

Right on the stroke of half-time, the in-form hosts took the lead as Liam Prynne was able to beat the 'keeper.

A second goal at the start of the second half from Luke Mortimore doubled the advantage for the home team.

With 77 minutes on the clock, Prynne weighed in with his second to extend the hosts' lead before Mortimore added another to give his side a richly-deserved victory.

## Thattham Town 1 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 2

A goal from Joe Smith put the visitors ahead on the half-hour mark and then the same player made it 2-0 early in the second period.

The home side were given a lifeline just past the hour courtesy of Harvey Flippance but the visitors were able to see it out to claim the win.

## Willand Rovers 2 Bishops Cleeve 1

Our Game of the Day saw the home team grab the lead when the ever-reliable Ryan Guppy open the scoring on the quarter-hour mark.

Right at the end of the opening period, Harvey Dorothy weighed in with a second goal for the hosts.

The away side wasted little time after the break to pull a goal back through Ben McLean but they were unable to find a way back into it as the home side held on to a big and much-needed three points.

## Yate Town 1 Melksham Town 1

The visitors went down to ten men on 20 minutes following a red card for Robbie James, but it failed to knock them off their stride as Henry Sady put them ahead six minutes later.

The equaliser came from Nick McCootie just past the hour-mark and there was no further addition to the scoring as both sides claimed a point apiece.





# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## **AFC Dunstable 3 Hertford Town 2**

There was a quarter-of-an-hour gone when Ryan Palomeque Bernal guided the ball home to give the visitors the lead.

Ten minutes from the break, Oliver Spicer was able to level matters, but early in the second half the away team regained the lead thanks to Riley Carr who drove the ball home.

Sean Duodu added to his tally with an equaliser for the hosts before Harry Riley won it right at the death for the home team.

## **Biggleswade FC 1 Berkhamsted 2**

With ten minutes of the first half to go, Matt Bateman was able to put the visitors in front.

The second half started with an early red card for Rayan Clarke to leave the away team with ten men and the hosts were soon able to take advantage when Sonny Coughlin-Brown levelled matters.

The home side went down to ten men with 20 minutes to go as Adam Hunt saw red and Dan Newton wasted little time in restoring the visitors' advantage as they held on for a hard-earned triumph.



## **Enfield 1 Leverstock Green 4**

The home side went ahead on 37 minutes thanks to a goal from Kieran Southgate but the visitors levelled on the hour when Dan Pett was able to stroke the ball home.

Two minutes after the equaliser and Luke Beckwith was able to put the away team ahead and then Jeffrey Sekyere added another.

In stoppage time at the end, Beckwith rounded things off with a fourth goal to make it an away day to remember for his team.

## **Flackwell Heath 4 Hadley 1**

The deadlock was broken just after the 20-minute mark when Callum Mapley found his way to goal for the hosts but it wasn't long before Cameron Ferguson restored parity.

A penalty from Wiktor Makowski saw the home team restore their lead early in the second half as Michael Harding weighed in with a third and fourth goal in quick succession to kill off the visitors.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

## **Kidlington 1 Ware 1**

The visitors forged ahead ten minutes into the second half when Theophilus Ofori got his name on the scoresheet.

An equaliser came towards the end from Joseph Aust and that's how it remained with the spoils shared.

## **Kings Langley 0 Leighton Town 1**

This one looked like heading for a goalless draw until Godlove Oppong popped up with three minutes remaining to put the in-form visitors ahead.

It was to be the only goal of the game as the away team continued their impressive run of results since the turn of the year.

## **Real Bedford 5 Northwood 0**

There were just two minutes on the clock when Josh Setchell set the hosts on their way.

The lead was doubled on the 20-minute mark as Archie Jones found the net and then Joey Evans added a third from the penalty spot soon afterwards to make it 100 League goals for the season.

It became four before the interval with a second goal of the afternoon from Jones before Setchell notched his second to make it 5-0 and complete another convincing win for the leaders.

## **Thame United 3 Beaconsfield Town 2**

With just under ten minutes to go until the break, Matt Harriot put the visitors ahead and then Josh Marcon doubled the advantage on 61 minutes.

The hosts needed a quick response and they got it as Gregory Hackett pulled a goal back and then Ethan Lack levelled with 20 minutes to go. Another goal from Hackett saw the home team go ahead and this was to prove to be the winner.

## **Welwyn Garden City 0 Stotfold 2**

A goal from Haroon Meriai gave the visitors the lead on 24 minutes and then Mitchell Gooch made it 2-0 on the half-hour.

There was no further scoring after the break as the away team saw the game out to claim all three points.



# NEWS ROUND-UP

## ST. IVES TOWN | HAPPY MUNDAY

It's certainly been a Happy Munday for St. Ives Town. Since signing teenage front-runner, George Munday, on loan from Cambridge United at the beginning of February, the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central outfit have embarked upon a run of seven League games without defeat.

Having scored the winner on his debut, Munday has gone on to bag six goals, including a dramatic late brace at the weekend to secure an impressive 3-2 victory at Kettering Town.

The impact of youngster is being felt throughout the team. "George has been outstanding," popular goalkeeper, Dan Wilks told us. "He's still a teenager and learning his trade, but since joining, he's led the line like a seasoned pro - converting when called upon and making a real difference for us.

"He's a young striker with all-around ability, versatile footwork, excellent hold-up play and the pace to get in behind. Initially, I was really impressed with his work-rate and his determination not to give up on lost causes, which has always benefited us.

"If he continues on this path, he will be an asset to any club, but we are able to reap the benefits at the moment."

Wilks is also a player who learned his trade within the professional ranks having been with Watford before heading north of the border to join St. Mirren.

He then served Colchester United before embarking upon a successful career in the non-League game with the likes of Welling United, Dartford and Billericay Town, for whom he kept 18 clean sheets last season before joining St. Ives Town ahead of the current campaign.

Establishing himself between the posts, Wilks has watched the team grow as the season has progressed.

"At the start of the season we were naïve and didn't know how to close out games or stay in them to give ourselves a chance of earning a point or three," he admitted. "After a tough spell over the festive period, things have started to click into place since then and we've become hard to beat.

"The Gaffer has always supported us and believed that we could come out the other side and so it has proved.

"With a few tweaks here and there, we've become a much tougher team to face, both defensively and in terms of character when it comes to making comebacks.

"We've drawn a lot of games recently, but as the saying goes, if you don't win, you don't lose and we've managed to do that.

"We're a very young side, which can be our undoing at times, but there is so much talent and ability throughout the team. I'd like to think that I've brought some stability and experience from the back - organising, managing the game and being there when called upon, whether by making saves or controlling the box and the space behind the back-line.

"This is my first season playing in this League, and it's exactly what I expected; physical, with a 'whatever it takes to win' mentality. It's less about tippy-tappy football and more about doing what's necessary to win. I've played in teams where we've tried to play pretty but haven't been effective; in this league, it's all about being effective to win.

"It's as unpredictable as any League I've played in. No team has been the same the second time we've faced them, and no team has managed to do the double over us, which is something to take pride in.

"We're unbeaten in our last seven games, and now we just need to convert those draws into wins to secure our spot for next season."

A home game against Bromsgrove Sporting took place earlier today.

## POOLE TOWN | PITCH BATTLE

There aren't many player-groundsman operating in football, but we have one in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South where Poole Town's Josh Staunton combines cutting a solid figure in the heart of the back-line with cutting the grass.

The 29 year-old joined the Dolphins midway through last season, bringing with him the experience of over 200 games at National League level with the likes of Dagenham & Redbridge, Woking, FC Halifax Town, Yeovil Town and Boreham Wood.

"I can't imagine there's many player-groundsman in football generally, it's not really a particularly popular crossover," Staunton told us. "Loads of the other boys do different trades but I'm yet to come across anyone who looks after their own pitch they play on!

"After stepping away from full-time football, I was fortunate to look after a couple of other sports venues with my business and after discussions with the club they decided to give me a go here at Poole Town alongside my playing role.

"The pitch is doing well now. When I took over in September it wasn't in the best shape, and required plenty of hard work and attention, but I'm pleased to say it is still looking pretty good after coming through a very dull winter.

"We haven't had a game called off due to pitch this year, which after last year is a huge bonus and a massive step in the right direction for the club.

"I spend about ten hours a week on the pitch and each week looks very different; some weeks there is a lot of divoting and I always double cut for the nice chequered pattern for a matchday.

"Fortunately, not many of the players probably know I do the pitch (until now!) and they probably wonder why I am repairing divots mid-game, but it makes my job slightly easier doing them as I go, in real-time, rather than doing it all afterwards!

"One thing I will say, all the travelling teams have been extremely respectful doing the start of their warm-ups off the pitch, which goes a long way towards maintaining the playing surface and I'm very grateful for that!"

There was much-needed joy on the pitch at the weekend where Poole Town ended a run of eight League games without a win with a dramatic 3-2 triumph over a Winchester City outfit that sit just above them in the table.

"The result on Saturday was huge for us," added Staunton. "It wasn't just the three points, but the manner in which we got them; scoring three goals and coming from behind whilst down to ten men is a real injection of belief and confidence in the group, which will be enormous for us in the run-in.

"We played really well during the first half and had it not been for a few good saves, we could have gone in at the break more than just one goal up. We then had a wobbly ten minutes at the start of the second half where we conceded twice to fall behind, but responded by showing the kind of intensity and level of performance that we need to get us out of the situation that we are in.

"We have to be honest about the position we find ourselves in; the season has been majorly disappointing and we now have to find some consistent form to ensure that we can move out of the relegation places.

"Whilst the season has been disappointing, I have full belief in the squad and staff to steer the ship to safety and maintain our status in this League. We have been unfortunate at times, been on the wrong side of small details, which have cost us and knocked confidence as a result, and it's probably what has resulted in us finding ourselves where we are, but the last couple of results have been enormous for the club and I can really see the fire in the boys' eyes for the run in.

"The Premier South is very competitive. There are some fantastic players plying their trade at this level and some really good teams. I am regularly astonished by the commitment the players have alongside full-time jobs and the quality they display each week.

"Coming out of full-time football, it's a different world. Playing part-time I would say is trickier in some ways with the work-life-football balance and there are some terrific footballers at this level, which makes for good viewing and some fascinating games every week!

"I am not setting any targets for anything personal between now and the end of the season, the only thing that matters is the 18 boys in that dressing room find enough points to ensure that Poole Town retains its Step 3 status.

"That is the sole focus of myself and the group; amass enough points in the next eight games to finish outside of the bottom four, whatever it takes we will drive one another to achieve our goal."

Poole Town were at Walton & Hersham earlier today.

# INFLUENCER

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

## LIAM FERDINAND (BASINGSTOKE TOWN) > RONALDINHO & RONALDO (R9)

From a young age I've been a fan of Brazilian footballers because of the way they always want to express their talent and play with a smile on their face. So for me growing up I loved Ronaldinho and Ronaldo (R9).

## CINDERFORD TOWN | PIECES OF EIGHT

It takes a special kind of commitment to do a near 450-mile round trip on a Tuesday evening, even more so when you are bottom of the table.

But to then chalk up a resounding 8-2 away win makes it extra special.

That was the case for Cinderford Town as they secured a morale-boosting victory at Helston Athletic, with leading scorer, Alex Bonthron, helping himself to five of the goals.

The Foresters remain bottom of the Pitching In Southern League Division One South table, but with games in hand over those clubs above them and further games against teams in and around them in the table coming up, they have given themselves a lifeline with this impressive result.

"It was a long day, but the performance and three points made it all worthwhile," Bonthron told us. "It took us over four hours to get there and then we absolutely worked our socks off for the full 90 minutes, so credit to the lads.

"It made the journey home far more pleasant, although we were exhausted as we gave everything out there!

"It's always nice to get a few goals to help the team win, but to score five was a real bonus; I certainly enjoyed it out there and didn't want the game to end!

"The result will give us a massive boost for the run-in and fingers crossed we can build on it now. At this stage of the season it's all about picking up points, by whatever means. We know that we're not going to score eight every game, of course, but we have to use this to get on a run of positive results.

"Every game becomes bigger than the last and I am really looking forward to the run-in. On our day we can be more than a match for anyone in this League, so it's about digging deep and doing all we can to keep this club at Step 4."

Bonthron arrived 12 games into the season having swapped life in the JD Cymru South, where he was a regular on the scoresheet and a Golden Boot winner, and despite the team's struggles at the foot of the table, he has contributed with a regular flow of goals.

"When I first arrived, I knew it was going to be a tough challenge," he admitted. "But I settled in quickly here and the goals soon followed.

"However, it counts for very little if we can't get the job done and move out of the relegation places.

"As I say, we know that we're good enough, we just have to be able to put a run together and prove it on a consistent basis rather than a game here and there.

"Getting five goals on Tuesday has given me an added boost and I'll be looking to take that into Saturday's game, which is another massive one away at a Tavistock AFC outfit who are down there battling with us and have also seen a bit of an upturn in their recent fortunes.

"After that we're at home to Thatcham Town, who are currently one place above us, so these next couple of matches are going to have a big say in the direction we are heading."



## LEIGHTON TOWN | HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025 has certainly been a good year so far for Leighton Town.

It began with an emphatic 5-1 away win at Enfield on New Year's Day and since then they have only suffered one defeat from their 12 games, including a current run of five straight victories. It's the kind of form that has seen them surge up the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central table with their sights set firmly on making the play-off places.

Hitting three goals in the last four games, including the opener in Tuesday's 2-1 triumph over Kidlington, is Kyal Williams and the talented front-runner is excited for the run-in to the end of the season.

"This is always an exciting time of the season, but even more so with the form that we are in," he told us. "The intensity is ramping up with each week that passes and every match becomes more important than the last.

"We've put ourselves into a good position with the run that we have been on and we want to make sure that we finish the season strongly.

"There is a lot of motivation within the squad to make sure that we give everything we have in this final stretch having done so well since the turn of the year.

"I think this run of form can be attributed to a combination of hard work, team cohesion and an attention to detail.

"Everyone in the squad has been performing to their best and there's a strong sense of unity on and off the pitch, which counts for so much.

"We've been staying focused on our game plan and making sure we're fully prepared for each match. Confidence is growing with every win, and we're just taking it one game at a time.

"From a personal point of view, I'm definitely happy with how things have been going lately. I've managed to get a few goals along the way and also seven goal assists from the last 12 games, so I am happy with those stats, but there is always room for improvement.

"I've been focusing on my individual role and doing everything I can to contribute to the overall success of the team.

"There have been ups and downs since I arrived in late November, but things have been going well and moving in the right direction, which is what it's all about.

"We're in a really competitive League and there is quality in every team. It's challenging but at the same time exciting. All we can do is control what we are able to control and take it one step at a time.

"We're can't change what is happening elsewhere, so we just have to ensure that our own house is in order and see where it takes us.

"The main aim is to maintain these high standards that we've set and just keep performing well and giving a good account of ourselves.

"We have our targets and we'll continue to strive to achieve them in these final weeks of the season. Hopefully I can stay consistent in my performances and as a team we all stay aligned to continue this run that we are on."

The latest test came with a trip to Kings Langley earlier today.



# FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD

## Pitching In Southern League Premier South

### SATURDAY 22 MAR 25

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

## Pitching In Southern League Premier Central

### TUESDAY 18 MAR 25

Alvechurch v Kettering Town  
Biggleswade Town v Leiston

### SATURDAY 22 MAR 25

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

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.



## Pitching In Southern League Division One South

### TUESDAY 18 MAR 25

Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Bishops Cleeve  
Falmouth Town AFC v Helston Athletic  
Westbury United v Yate Town

### SATURDAY 22 MAR 25

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

## Pitching In Southern League Division One Central

### TUESDAY 18 MAR 25

AFC Dunstable v Kings Langley  
Berkhamsted v Beaconsfield Town  
Flackwell Heath v Aylesbury United  
Leverstock Green v Hadley  
Northwood v Ware

### SATURDAY 22 MAR 25

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

*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](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)



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