

# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE



## SATURDAY EVENING E-NEWSPAPER

Saturday 7 September 2024

# COMEBACK KINGS



The Pitching In Southern League Premier South sees Walton & Hershaw on top after they battled out a 2-1 victory away at Plymouth Parkway.

It was their fifth win from six League games as they leapfrogged AFC Totton who played out an entertaining 2-2 draw with Basingstoke Town, a result which leaves both clubs' unbeaten League records intact.

There were commanding home victories for Dorchester Town, Gosport Borough and Merthyr Town, but it was a particularly good day for Swindon Supermarine who hit five without reply against Poole Town, whilst Conor Lee (pictured) was the star for Chertsey Town as his hat-trick saw them come back from three goals down to draw 3-3 with Winchester City.

Over in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central, the top five now all sit on 13 points after Stamford lost 1-0 at Banbury United following a late goal for the hosts.

Redditch United came from behind to win at Harborough Town, whilst AFC Telford United made the long trip to Lowestoft Town and came home 2-1 victors.

AFC Sudbury enjoyed a good 3-0 away win at Spalding United, whilst both Bromsgrove Sporting and Alvechurch also brought home three points from their travels at Biggleswade Town and Hitchin Town respectively.

There was also Isuzu FA Trophy first round qualifying action this afternoon.

Notable results include Yate Town winning 5-0 away at Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Flackwell Heath getting a 2-1 triumph at Farnham Town, Leverstock Green beating Bury Town and Real Bedford getting a 2-1 win at Walthamstow.

Congratulations to all of the winners, a round-up of all the results is inside.

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.

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Please visit  
[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

## **AFC Totton 2 Basingstoke Town 2**

It was lucky seven for Charlie Austin as that's how long it took for him to open the scoring for the home side in the seventh minute.

The evergreen Scott Rendell had doubled the lead within three minutes later, but within a minute of that, Liam Ferdinand had reduced the arrears as this game burst to life.

The scores were levelled at 2-2 on 18 minutes when Ferdinand slotted home his second and that is how it remained.

## **Bracknell Town 1 Havant & Waterlooville 1**

It's been quite a week of change for the home club and it looked like it would end on a losing note when a late goal from Ryan Seager gave the visitors the lead.

But the home side showed their resolve and were able to grab a point as Ethan Burden scored a stoppage time leveller.

## **Chertsey Town 3 Winchester City 3**

The visitors were able to get their noses in front in the opening exchanges as Tom Wright found the net.

The day got better for the visitors when Daniel Jones was able to extend their lead midway through the first half and then on the half-hour mark, Oliver Balmer made it three.

There was a lifeline for the home team when Conor Lee reduced the arrears five minutes from the of the first half and then he added another in the opening exchanges of the second period.

This game had a dramatic ended when Lee completed his hat-trick to earn a draw in stoppage time.



## **Dorchester Town 4 Frome Town 0**

The home side came out of the blocks with real purpose, and they were rewarded with an opening goal in the fifth minute through Jordan Ngalo. It didn't take the hosts long to double their advantage as Shaquille Gwengwe made it 2-0 soon afterwards.

There was a flashpoint right at the end of the opening period which resulted in Ngalo seeing red for the hosts and Alex Monks following him for an early bath from the visitors.

Matt Buse made it 3-0 just past the hour-mark and then late on Sam Heal was sent off for a professional foul as the visitors went down to nine men on an afternoon to forget.

There was still time for Wayne Robinson to rub salt into the wounds with a fourth goal at the death.

## **Gosport Borough 3 Tiverton Town 0**

It took just under ten minutes for Alfie Stanley to give the home side the lead here and then Brad Tarbuck made it 2-0 before the 20-minute mark. The scoring was complete in the final minute when Stanley weighed in with his second and the home side's third to complete a commanding victory.

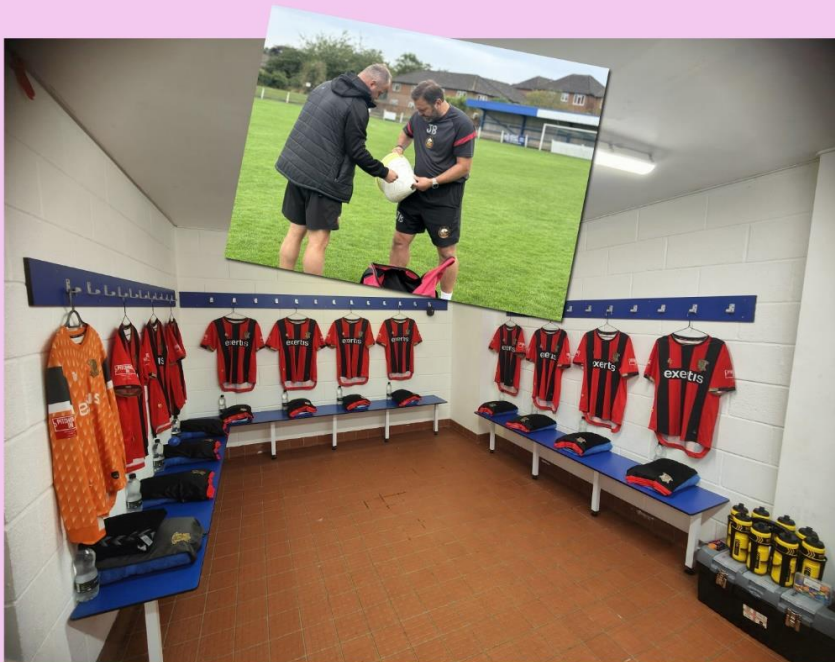
## **Marlow 1 Gloucester City 2**

Nothing separated the teams at the interval as they went in goalless, but Joe Hanks put the visitors ahead within five minutes of the start of the second period.

The scores were brought back level with just over 20 minutes to go when Chris Ovenden saw his effort beat the 'keeper.

From the euphoria of that, it wasn't long before the home side were facing the prospect of playing the final 20 minutes with ten men when Rhys Harper was sent off.

The visitors took advantage when Brandon Smalley fired them back in front with five minutes to go and they saw it out to take home all three points.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

## **Merthyr Town 3 Sholing 0**

The home side managed to get their noses in front when Matt Harris found the net on 20 minutes before Keiran Evans doubled their advantage with just over ten minutes to go until the break.

The second half started with Evans adding to the hosts' lead and that's how it stayed as the Welsh club played the rest of the game out without too many problems to get the win.

## **Plymouth Parkway 1 Walton & Hersham 2**

Having taken the Club of the Month award for August, the visitors took the lead in this one during the opening period through Dawid Rogalski.

Shane White was able to level matters from the penalty spot with just under ten minutes to go until the interval.

Right on the stroke of half-time, Rogalski restored the visitors lead and it proved to be the winning goal as there was no further scoring.

## **Swindon Supermarine 5 Poole Town 0**

The opening goal came on the ten-minute mark when David Sims-Burgess was in the right place, at the right time, to break the deadlock for the hosts.

The same player was then able to double the hosts' lead on the hour and then ten minutes later, Michael Elias-Fernandes chipped in with a third and Harry Williams netted a fourth soon afterwards.

On 81 minutes Williams hit a fifth goal for the home team who were showing no signs of letting up as the clock ticked down.

## **Taunton Town 3 Hanwell Town 3**

An early Archie Ferris strike put the hosts ahead but soon afterwards, Jordan Edwards had levelled matters and then Dwayne Duncan turned the scoreline on its head.

With ten minutes to go until the break, Jacob Hodgson equalised for the hosts but in first half stoppage time, Edwards curled home from a free-kick for his second of the afternoon to put the away team back in front.

Parity was restored just past the hour-mark when Tom Smith found the net to make it 3-3 and that's how it remained.

## **Wimborne Town 2 Hungerford Town 1**

The deadlock was broken on nine minutes when Will Fletcher fired home for the home team but Jacob Bancroft was able to restore parity just past the quarter-hour mark.

It was the hosts who went back in front on 66 minutes courtesy of Cameron Munn and they managed to hold on to their lead to secure a welcome three points.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## Banbury United 1 Stamford 0

This game ebbed and flowed with both sides having chances, but the winning goal came right at the end when Harry Reilly was on hand to turn the ball home following a neat move for his first goal since returning to the club.

It gave the hosts a big three points against opponents who have also started the season well.

## Biggleswade Town 0 Bromsgrove Sporting 1

The opening goal went to the visitors as James Meddows was able to add to his tally with 18 minutes on the clock and it was to prove to be the only goal of the game.

## Bishop's Stortford 1 St Ives Town 0

It was the home side who edged in front just before the half-hour mark when Mark Haines found the net.

This was a hard-fought encounter between two evenly-matched teams but it was the hosts who were able to hold on to their lead to secure all three points.

## Halesowen Town 1 Leiston 1

After a goalless opening period where both teams were unable to make the breakthrough, it took just three minutes into the second half for Enock Lusiana Lokeba to open the scoring for the home team on his debut. The visitors hit back with time running out as Kyran Clements hit an equaliser and that's how it stayed as the spoils were shared.

## Harborough Town 1 Redditch United 3

The hosts went in front five minutes from the end of the first half when Freddie Robinson was on hand to tuck the ball home.

Taking a one-goal lead into the second period, it was a bad start for the hosts as Amarvir Sandhu was red-carded within five minutes of the restart and then shortly afterwards, Jordan Cranston got the visitors back on level terms.

The scoreline was turned on its head when Johnny Johnston fired the visitors ahead on the hour and then Marvellous Onabirekhanlen made the points safe with a late third goal.

## Hitchin Town 0 Alvechurch 1

It took until the hour-mark for the deadlock to be broken here and it went to the visitors when Dan Sweeney was able to find the net.

Try as they might, the hosts couldn't find a way back into the game as the visitors claimed all three points.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD**  
vs St Ives Town  
Saturday 7th September 2024. Kick-off 3pm  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Central  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3.00

Logos: Knight Group, DAB, HOST, RDA, Pellys, Pro-fit, SPORCKWORK, Respe.

Image: Bishop's Stortford players in blue kits celebrating on the pitch.



# PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL

## **Lowestoft Town 1 AFC Telford United 2**

It was the visitors who drew first blood when Byron Moore found the net within the opening five minutes to give them an early lead.

The lead was doubled through James Armson midway through the opening period as the visitors started the game well.

With quarter-of-an-hour left on the clock, Jake Reed made it an interesting finale as he reduced the arrears but the visitors managed the remainder of the game well to get the victory.

## **Royston Town 1 Kettering Town 0**

Nothing could separate the sides at the end of the opening 45 minutes, but then early into the second half, Harvey Beckett gave the hosts the initiative.

Things got worse for the visitors when goalkeeper, Dan Jezeph was dismissed for handling the ball outside of his area.

It became 10v10 when Oluwakoyejo Dawodu saw red for the home side on 77 minutes and that was to be the last of the action.

## **Spalding United 0 AFC Sudbury 3**

The deadlock was finally broken after 73 minutes when Joe Neal was able to guide the ball home to put the visitors in front. Buoyed by the goal, the away team went on to double their lead soon afterwards thanks to Callum Page, who then rounded things off with another goal right at the end to give his side a commanding victory on the road.

## **Stourbridge 0 Barwell 0 (played Friday)**

The home side, who took August's Club of the Month accolade, found the visitors in resilient mood under the lights at the War Memorial Ground. It was a third clean sheet in a row for Barwell in all competitions as they proved to be difficult to break down once more against hosts who have been amongst the goals so far this season.

In the end the spoils were shared from this goalless draw.

## **Stratford Town 1 Bedford Town 1**

It was a hard-fought opening period with both sides cancelling each other out, but it didn't take long after the restart for the visitors to get their noses in front through Gucci Soulya-Osekanongo.

The scores were levelled up late on when the ball found its way in off the unfortunate visiting defender, Josh Mullins to make it 1-1 as both sides took a share of the spoils.



# ISUZU FA TROPHY FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING

AFC Croydon Athletic 1 Beaconsfield Town 0  
AFC Dunstable 2 Berkhamsted 2 (Berkhamsted win 3-2 on pens)  
Barton Rovers 1 Waltham Abbey 1 (Barton Rovers win 4-2 on pens)  
Bashley 1 Mousehole 1 (Bashley win 7-6 on pens)  
Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0 Yate Town 5  
Bideford AFC 2 Malvern Town 0  
Bristol Manor Farm 2 Westbury United 0  
Enfield FC 2 Biggleswade FC 0  
Exmouth Town 4 Kidlington 1  
Falmouth Town AFC 3 Cinderford Town 0  
Farnham Town 1 Flackwell Heath 2  
Hadley 2 Grays Athletic 1  
Helston Athletic 1 Melksham Town 1 (Melksham Town win 3-2 on pens)  
Herne Bay 1 Northwood 0  
Leighton Town 0 Stotfold 0 (Leighton Town win 4-3 on pens)  
Leverstock Green 1 Bury Town 0  
Shaftesbury 0 North Leigh 1  
Steyning Town Community 0 Thame United 5  
Tavistock AFC 3 Larkhall Athletic 2  
Thatcham Town 2 Evesham United 4  
Tilbury 1 Welwyn Garden City 1 (Tilbury win 6-5 on pens)  
Walthamstow 1 Real Bedford 2  
Ware 2 Newmarket Town 2 (Newmarket Town win 4-2 on pens)  
Willand Rovers 0 Bishops Cleeve 2  
Wroxham 0 Aylesbury United 0 (Wroxham win 4-3 on pens)

Cambridge City v King's Langley (playing Sunday)

**Congratulations to all of the winners, the draw for the next round will take place on Monday.**



# LOUD AND PROUD

**No-one expected Real Bedford to come quietly into the Pitching In Southern League.**

They are a club that don't care what others think; they have their own style and swagger, which has seen them win four of their five Division One Central games so far, scoring 17 goals in the process. Chalking up the biggest victory of the season so far across all four of our divisions – an 8-0 romp against North Leigh – their backstory is one that has fascinated many.

In the wake of relegation from the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division in 2022, Bitcoin Podcaster, Peter McCormack, took over as Chairman promising to take the club on a journey and just two years down the line, he has certainly delivered. Step 4 football and big American investment earlier this year mean that this is just the start of the story.

"I had always wondered why Bedford never had a team in The Football League and why Bedford Town had never managed to reach that level," McCormack told us. "Growing up as a Liverpool supporter, I eventually felt the pull to support a local team. I started attending Bedford Town matches and quickly realised that football success is rooted in the business side of the sport. "For a club to succeed, it must be a sound business that can compete for top players and managers. I saw opportunities for Bedford Town to grow both internationally, and commercially at a local level. I approached the club with a proposal, but when my initial offer was turned down, I turned to their neighbors, Bedford FC, made an offer, and took control of the club."

The club changed its name to Real Bedford ahead of the 2022/23 season, McCormack's



**JOURNEY | This is just the start of the journey for Peter McCormack**

first major mark, and it led to a double of promotion and the Bedfordshire Senior Trophy.

"At Real Bedford Football Club, we have a relentless desire to win, but we wish to do so by playing attractive and entertaining football," continued McCormack. "Winning matches is important to us, but we believe a football club should be more than just a sports team; it should be a voice for its community, creating positive change off the pitch.

"We have five pillars:

1. **Opportunity:** We are committed to fostering skill development for boys and girls of all ages, rejecting equality of outcome in favor of building strong, resilient young people who value discipline, hard work, and fairness.
2. **Fairness:** Real Bedford champions economic fairness and supports those combating corruption and authoritarianism. We are dedicated to promoting human rights and liberty for all.
3. **Advocacy:** We promote free speech and oppose excessive taxation and government interference. We advocate for smaller government, lower taxes, and fostering entrepreneurship and free markets.
4. **Bitcoin:** This is central to our identity and financial strategy. With its fixed supply, Bitcoin protects against inflation and preserves wealth. As a decentralised peer-to-peer network, it resists censorship and protects privacy, a cornerstone of democracy. It is also a tool for activists fighting dictatorships worldwide.



5. Ethics: We oppose the ownership of football clubs by regimes with egregious human rights records. Premier League club owners should pass a fit and proper person test.

“Real Bedford Football Club believes that the goals and interests of football clubs should never come before human rights, the fight against corruption, and the prevention of government overreach. We are committed to making these values integral to our club's identity.

“I couldn't be happier with where we're at as a club; the progress has been unreal – back-to-back promotions for the men, now playing at Step 4, and a treble for our women's team in their inaugural season. “Off the pitch, I'd like to be further ahead, but building the right infrastructure takes time. I'm also quickly learning how fast things can change and am having to adapt to the higher leagues and the challenges that come with them.

“I'm loving these early days in the Southern League. Five games in, and we're sitting just off top spot with four wins, but I'm aware there are other strong clubs; Aylesbury United, Berkhamsted and Flackwell Heath have had great starts. If we're still up there challenging at the end of the season, I'll be a happy chairman.

“I expect things to be much more challenging, both on and off the pitch, at this level. We are now starting to face bigger clubs with long histories, clubs that are well accustomed to this level. Our manager [Rob Sinclair] is one of the best in non-League football, with a proven track record, and I believe he has built a squad capable of competing. Off the pitch, there is far more administration, which we are gradually getting used to. I am fortunate to have such a great team around me.”

We asked McCormack how the skills that he has learned and developed in business have transferred into running a football club.

“I think my experience has been really beneficial,” he added. “Knowing how to run a company, read a balance sheet, and understand a P&L statement helps with the challenges of running a football club, but my career in advertising and marketing has probably been the most valuable.

“To sell merchandise, attract fans to games,

and secure sponsors, you need to get the brand and message out there, which is something I have focused on heavily. Football, however, is unique; in every other business, the aim is to grow sales and deliver a profit, but in football, we are simply trying to get as close to breaking even as possible.

“There are definitely downsides, like the outdated misogynistic attitudes that persist towards the women's game, the bureaucracy of football administration, and operating within what is essentially a dictatorial monopoly, but overall, I really can't complain.

“Football brings out both the best and the worst in people. I've had to have a word with myself sometimes as the passion has got ahead of me. One specific game I was particularly rude to a referee, it was a reality check. I wrote to him and apologised and have tried to be more stoic since. Football is full of characters and I've met incredible individuals doing remarkable things in their communities, but I've also come across some real bad apples too.”

So, what are the short and long-term ambitions for the club?

“In the short term, our goal is to challenge for the league again with both our men's and women's sides” McCormack responded. “In the long term, we aim for the men's team to reach The Football League and, eventually, the Premier League, while the women's team targets the Women's Super League.

“Of course, I get laughed at for these ambitions, and understandably so, but we have won every league we've competed in as Real Bedford, and while it's still early in the season, both our teams are currently top of the league, so I hope we'll be in the mix by the end of it.

“As for the Premier League and WSL aspirations, we now have billionaire co-owners, Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, who have made their first investment in the club – \$4.5 million - the largest ever investment in a non-League football club. They share my vision for Real Bedford and are ready to support it.”

We were keen to find out the biggest influences on McCormack, in business, football and life.

“My biggest influence has always been punk rock,” he said without hesitation. “I grew up on bands that couldn't give a \*\*\*\* about what society thinks, bands that stood fiercely for their values and called out the status quo without hesitation. I have no time for assumed authority or for people who tell us how things 'should' be done.

“At Real Bedford, we don't care what others think; we're here to do things our way. If that means standing up against what we disagree with, then so be it. This isn't arrogance as some might perceive it; it's about rejecting the herd mentality and challenging the complacency that has dragged society into decline.

“I have a particular disdain for the government and the media—both rife with liars and grifters, pitting people against each other; the latter, quietly looting the wealth of hardworking citizens with their moronic economic policies.

“I also make it a point to spread awareness about the dangers of socialism, which I know often comes from a place of good intentions but is rooted in a flawed framework that lacks a basic understanding of economics. In the end, it tends to worsen the very problems it claims to solve, stifling innovation, freedom, and individual responsibility in the process.”

Life will certainly never be dull at Real Bedford. Today they take their place in the Isuzu FA Trophy for the first time with a first round qualifying tie at Walthamstow.

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## GOSPORT BOROUGH | MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

After falling at the play-off hurdle last season, Gosport Borough will be looking to kick-start their season this afternoon when they return to Pitching In Southern League Premier South action at home to Tiverton Town.

Just one win from their opening five League games has left them in the lower reaches of the embryonic League table, but summer signing, Asher Yearwood, isn't concerned as he knows that it's only a matter of time before things start to click into place.

The attacking midfielder shone in the Premier South for Beaconsfield Town last term and has already weighed in with three League goals this term, impressing many at the Hampshire club with his dynamic style.

"It was clear to see when I first arrived at the club how much the ending to last season hurt," he told us. "Right from the first day of pre-season there was determination to put things right and that was reflected in what was a strong and enjoyable pre-season.

"Going into the season I felt in a really good place. The early results, for one reason or another, haven't quite gone the way we would have hoped, but some of the performances have been encouraging and the feeling is that we are warming up now.

"It's four unbeaten now in all competitions since the defeat at Hungerford Town as we look to get in amongst the leading pack, as we were for much of last season.

"Coming into the team since the summer, I have really enjoyed it. Working with Pat [Suraci] and Joe [Lea], I am learning all of the time and I feel that I have done okay, but my main focus is on helping the team win games.

"It's a strange League; everyone beats everyone and momentum is so important. It's an even stronger competition than last season, and with a few full-time teams in there too, there are a lot of clubs wanting promotion.

"I feel that it's always good to set targets at the beginning of each season and then assess them as you go along. I have a goals tally in mind and as a team we have targets in terms of points, but ultimately, it's about winning promotion, that's everyone's ambition."

Yearwood has certainly been a welcome addition to the team, impressing with his high energy and running both on and off the ball.

"I just want to be involved with goals, be that scoring them or assisting," he concluded. "I love getting on the ball and trying to be exciting and make things happen."

On that score, it's definitely been a case of so far, so good.

## STOURBRIDGE | BUS WORD

Having opened his scoring account for the season with a goal in Stourbridge's commanding 5-0 Emirates FA Cup victory over Dudley Town last weekend, Ethan Freemantle is hoping that more goals will now follow.

The former Kidderminster Harriers man returned to the Glassboys over the summer on a permanent basis having had a successful loan spell at the club last season.

"I am hoping it will be like buses," he told us. "You wait a while for one to arrive and then when it does, more follow close behind!"

"It was nice to finally get off the mark; as a striker you are judged on goals and going into the season, I set myself a target of getting over 20, so we're up-and-running on that now.

"Despite so many new faces coming in over the summer, we've already started to show what we are capable of. It's a credit to the Gaffer and his management team that we have gelled so quickly.

"They have brought in lads who are all of the same mentality; extremely focused, hard-working and, ultimately, winners. They have been big on the team bonding sessions and it's already paying dividends with the way that we have hit the ground running this season.

"Even in the game that we lost at Stamford, we were the better side, and it's certainly been a case of so far, so good, but we know that we have a lot more to offer and we're looking forward to the journey that stands before us.

"I think before the season started, a few people questioned our credentials considering it was a totally new team with so many changes on and off the field and also over the past few seasons the club has found itself stuck in the middle of the table, but we've started well and it was nice to make progress in the FA Cup at the weekend too.

"The Premier Central is a good standard, it's a strong League and there are some big clubs involved and a lot of local derbies, which is great for the fans. There's nothing to scare us; as I say, Stamford are the early leaders but we had the better of our game there and were made to pay for not taking our chances.

"As a team we're taking things one game at a time. There are a lot of positive things happening at the club and the bond that exists between the fans and the players is going to be so important as we move on through the season.

"The supporters here are fantastic and turn up in such good numbers. For our recent game at Redditch United, they really were our 12th man and got us over the line. I couldn't believe the noise that they made! They have such passion and I can't wait to see the War Memorial Ground rocking in the same way!"

The Glassboys were held to a goalless draw on Friday evening by Barwell in front of a crowd of 950.



## INFLUENCER

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

### DAWID REGULA (HUNGERFORD TOWN) > KAKA

The player that inspired me growing up was Kaka. I just loved how he always played with a smile on his face and how he went passed players, with ease, scored goals and created chances for others.

## WESTBURY UNITED | HOT CROSS FUN

It was one of the results of the Emirates FA Cup first round qualifying as Westbury United of the Pitching In Southern League Division One South beat Premier South high-flyers, AFC Totton 3-1.

Bevan Cross set them on their way with the opening goal right on the stroke of half-time and there was no looking back as they ran out worthy winners following a determined second half display which summed up exactly what the FA Cup is all about.

“It was the perfect team performance,” Cross told us. “We knew that we had to be excellent defensively, which we were, and then we’d have to take what few chances came our way, which we managed to do.

“We scored three really good goals and defended resolutely to secure a deserved win, something that we will remember for a long time.

“There was no secret to our success here, it was simply a case of everyone doing their job and working their socks off. After a disappointing 3-2 loss at Larkhall Athletic in the League on the previous Wednesday, it gave us extra motivation to get a result here.

“It’s the first time that the club has reached this stage of the competition in over 20 years, so to be part of that is incredible, everyone is absolutely buzzing. Now the aim is to transfer this into our League performances and use the confidence to get us moving up the table.

“The goal was my first of the season; it’s a bit disappointing that it’s taken this long to arrive, but what a way to open my account!

“I know from last season how tough and unpredictable Division One South is, but we have showed here what are capable of. Last season was disappointing for the club, but we have strengthened the team and if we can get ourselves on a bit of a run of form, you never know what can happen.

“It would be nice if I can go on and get into double digits in terms of goals now, using this as motivation to really push

on. We have a couple of tough games coming up, at Bristol Manor Farm in the FA Trophy today and then away at Mousehole in the League, so that will be another test of our credentials.”



## WARE | FOUR-MIDABLE CLEMENTS

Scoring four goals in a 5-1 away win at local rivals is a pretty special feat. That’s exactly what Jon Clements did on Bank Holiday Monday as Ware romped home at Hertford Town.

“It was a massive result for the club and fans,” he told us. “It’s always one of those games on the schedule that you look out for; the Gaffer lets us know in the week leading up to the game how much it means to him, the club, the locals and fans, so to come away with a significant win, three points and loads of goals for the fans to celebrate is brilliant!

“Naturally I was over the moon to be able to weigh in with four of the goals. The pick of the bunch was the first with my head. It was great play from Jonny [Allotey] who has been fantastic since he came to the club, he delivered the ball perfectly and it was a proper strikers’ finish.

“It set the tone for the other goals that followed and whilst I will get the plaudits for scoring four times, every single player on our team, from back to front, was fantastic and played their part to make it a massive six-point weekend.”

Clements didn’t quite beat his record goalscoring haul as a couple of seasons ago he hit all five in a 5-2 Southern League victory for Ware over FC Romania. “Unfortunately, I’ve not beaten my personal best, but a hat-trick plus one is a great day for any striker and one that I will remember for a long time, especially scoring in front of the travelling Ware fans and you’ll see that in my celebrations!

“To be as clinical as we were in a local derby on Monday bodes well. The dressing room has seen a lot of changes over the past few months, but we’ve recruited some really hungry and talented individuals.

“We’re still growing as a team, but overall a great group of lads, and pleasure to play with.

“I love this League and the new teams that have joined us over the summer. There are one or two whom I expect to be leading the charge, but there is an extremely tight pack behind them battling it out for the play-off places.

“It’s difficult to judge early on with so many teams beating one another but I know if we continue performing as we are, we’ll be right in there amongst it all.

“Making the play-offs is a minimum target for a club such as Ware who have been up there for the past three seasons and missed out so narrowly. This is engrained into the boys from the outset and if I can reach 25 League goals, that is always the target I set myself.”

# PST SPORT CLUB OF THE MONTH AWARDS | AUGUST 2024

## The PST Sport Club of the Month Awards for August 2024 have been announced.

In the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central, it is Stourbridge who have taken the first honour of the season following an impressive opening month of the campaign for Liam McDonald and his new-look side.

They left it late to overcome the challenge of St. Ives Town in their opening game as Alex Moore netted a stoppage time winner before going to AFC Telford United and securing a 5-1 success.

A narrow 1-0 reverse followed at fellow high-flyers, Stamford, before they bounced back with a commanding 2-0 triumph over AFC Sudbury in their next outing. There was derby day delight on Bank Holiday Monday as goals from Alex Bradley, Dom Lewis and Toumani Sidibe gave them a 3-1 away win at Redditch United.

They brought the month to a close with a 5-0 away Emirates FA Cup success at neighbours, Dudley Town.

Over in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South, Walton & Hersham have taken the accolade on goal difference.

The Swans recovered from a narrow opening day loss at AFC Totton to dispose of Marlow by three goals to nil in their next game.

A hat-trick from Nana Owusu and further strikes from Mason Obeng and Dawid Rogalski saw them hit five past a previously-unbeaten Merthyr Town outfit in their next game, on the way to a 5-2 win.

More goals followed at Wimborne Town as they ran out convincing 4-0 victors with Owusu and Rogalski joined on the scoresheet by Anis Nuur and Cameron Thompson. They had to dig deep to overcome the challenge of Chertsey Town 3-2 on Bank Holiday Monday.

The month ended with a 3-3 Emirates FA Cup draw at Hanworth Villa, but they were to be victorious in the subsequent replay.

The Pitching In Southern League Division One Central prize goes to Berkhamsted.

Hitting the ground running following relegation at the end of last term, they swept aside Stotfold in their opening game by four goals to nil, including a brace from Luke Andrews, before winning by the same scoreline in their first away excursion to Thame United, with JJ Lacey this time hitting a double.

There were another four goals at Little Oakley in the Emirates FA Cup as they prospered 4-1 before four more against Welwyn

Garden City in a 4-3 triumph that included a hat-trick from Lacey and a further effort from Josh Chamberlain.

The month came to a close with a Bank Holiday away win at Beaconsfield Town as they secured a 2-1 victory thanks to a Roger James double before going to higher-level Hitchin Town in the Emirates FA Cup and winning 2-0.

Finally, in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South it's Yate Town who are celebrating after bursting out of the blocks.

A 2-0 Emirates FA Cup victory over Holyport set the tone as they went on to secure a 1-0 away win at Tavistock AFC on the opening day of the League campaign thanks to a Lucas Tomlinson strike.

Tomlinson was on the scoresheet again in their next outing as they beat Bishops Cleeve 2-1 and it was followed by a convincing 4-0 away win at Kidlington in the Emirates FA Cup.

A late goal from that man Tomlinson gave them a hard-earned 2-1 triumph at Bashley before the experienced Marlon Jackson grabbed the all-important goal that saw them overcome the challenge of an Exmouth Town outfit who had the month ended with a narrow 1-0 reverse at higher-level Hungerford Town in the Emirates FA Cup.

We congratulate the four winners:

**Premier Central: Stourbridge 2.500ppg | Premier South: Walton & Hersham 2.167ppg (win on superior goal difference)**

**Division One Central: Berkhamsted 3.000ppg | Division One South: Yate Town 2.571ppg**

*Please note that each club needs to have played at least three games in a qualifying competition (League, Emirates FA Cup or Isuzu FA Trophy) during the course of the month to be eligible for the award.*

## ABOUT THE PST SPORT CLUB OF THE MONTH AWARDS

In each division, the club with the best average points per game is declared the winner. Clubs must have played a minimum of three games during the month in either a league, League Cup, FA Cup or FA Trophy match to be considered. Should more than one club have the same best average points per game, then the winner shall be declared as the club with the best goal difference (in League matches) and if that is equal the club scoring the most goals.

PST Sport are the sponsors of the Southern Football League's club of the month awards for the four divisions. Each winner receives an engraved glass memento along with a voucher for use with the company. PST Sport design and build state-of-the-art artificial grass pitches, from full-size pitches to training areas, that stand up to the challenges of all sporting codes.

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# FIXTURES | THE WEEK AHEAD

## Pitching In Southern League Premier South

Tuesday 10 Sep 24

AFC Totton v Wimborne Town  
Frome Town v Tiverton Town  
Gloucester City v Hungerford Town  
Marlow v Bracknell Town  
Plymouth Parkway v Taunton Town  
Swindon Supermarine v Merthyr Town  
Walton & Hersham v Hanwell Town

Saturday 14 Sep 24

Dorchester Town v AFC Totton

## Pitching In Southern League Premier Central

Monday 09 Sep 24

Redditch United v Alvechurch  
St Ives Town v Kettering Town

Tuesday 10 Sep 24

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

Saturday 14 Sep 24

AFC Sudbury v Stamford  
Alvechurch v Halesowen Town

## Pitching In Southern League Division One South

Saturday 14 Sep 24

Cinderford Town v Bristol Manor Farm  
Didcot Town v Cribbs  
Evesham United v Bemerton Heath Harlequins  
Exmouth Town v Yate Town  
Falmouth Town AFC v Thatcham Town  
Helston Athletic v Bideford AFC  
Shaftesbury v Bashley

## Pitching In Southern League Division One Central

Saturday 14 Sep 24

Aylesbury United v Hertford Town  
Barton Rovers v Leighton Town  
Beaconsfield Town v Stotfold  
Enfield FC v Flackwell Heath  
Leverstock Green v Real Bedford  
North Leigh v Kings Langley  
Thame United v Welwyn Garden City  
Ware v Hadley

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



It's Emirates FA Cup second round qualifying weekend next week. There are some intriguing ties, including Bishops Cleeve at home to Torquay United.

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

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

Enjoy the rest of your weekend...

Andy Poole (Editor)

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