

# PRE VIEW MAG

YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE  
TO ALL OF THE  
WEEKEND ACTION

ISSUE #03 | 22-26 AUGUST 2025



# BANK HOLIDAY!

PREMIER  
DIVISION  
SOUTH

PREMIER  
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CENTRAL

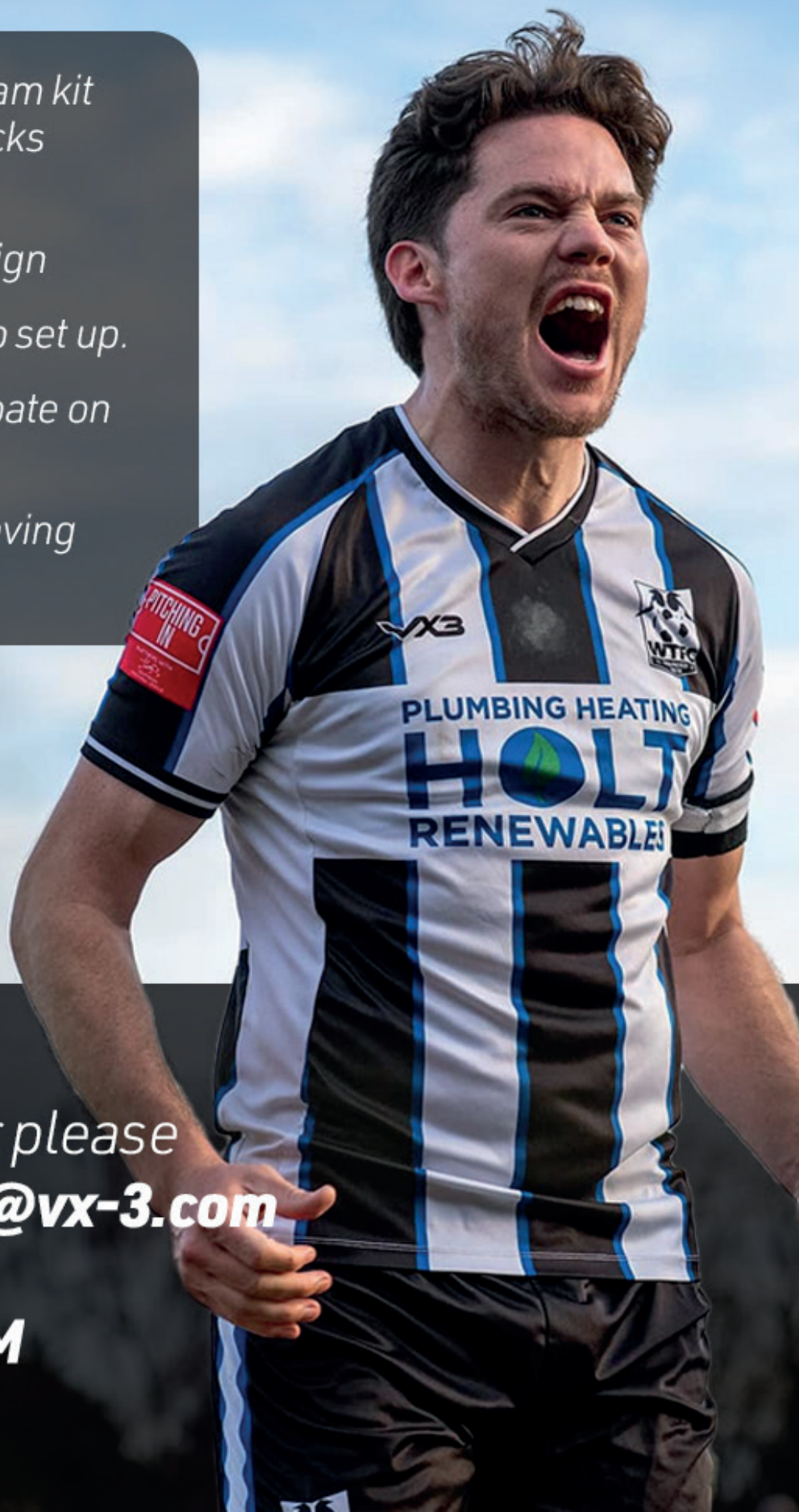
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## A BUSY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND AHEAD



The August Bank Holiday weekend is here and that means plenty of action with games taking place across our four divisions on Saturday and Monday.

It's not only the battle for League points either, as the Isuzu FA Trophy also gets underway with a number of our member clubs involved in the Preliminary Round action, which takes place on Saturday.

There's an all Division One South contest at Bashley as they host Frome Town. Meanwhile Barton Rovers make the trip to Brightlingsea Regent. Division One Central high-

flyers, Leighton Town, welcome Gorleston as Marlow have home advantage for the visit of Three Bridges.

It's a home tie also for Northwood as they battle it out with Hanworth Villa of the Isthmian League, whilst the final tie sees Division One South rivals, Westbury United and Falmouth Town, go head-to-head.

It's the start of a competition that is sure to produce plenty of thrills and spills as the season goes on and we wish all of our member clubs the very best of luck.



## SCORE PREDICTOR

Throughout the 2025/26 season we are going to pit the players against the media and supporters in our score prediction competition.

The rules are simple; each week we select a game at random from each of our four divisions and then invite representatives to make their predictions. It's three points for getting the score correct, one point for getting the right result and nothing an incorrect score/result.

To take part, email: [news@southern-football-league.co.uk](mailto:news@southern-football-league.co.uk)

Last week, Royston Town's Adam Murray won it for the Players with five points, beating Andy Poole who got a point for the Media and David Mounce who was unable to add to the scoring for the Fans.

This week we are joined by Bishop's Stortford's Luka Chalwell, who takes on Willand Rovers' media man, David 'Dumper' Cork, and Poole Town supporter, Henry Fealty.

WEEK THREE	Luka Chalwell	David Cork	Henry Fealty
Uxbridge v Gosport Borough	2-3	0-2	1-3
Worcester City v Bury Town	1-2	3-1	2-2
Melksham Town v Exmouth Town	2-2	1-1	2-1
Biggleswade FC v Enfield	2-1	0-2	3-1

LEADER BOARD	Score Correct	Result Correct	Points
Players	2	2	8
Media	1	2	5
Supporters	0	0	0



# LEAGUE STANDINGS 2025-26



## Premier Division South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Sholing	3	2	0	0	7	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	7
2	Taunton Town	3	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	3	2	2	7
3	Farnham Town	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	3	2	7
4	Hanwell Town	3	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	6
5	Gloucester City	3	1	0	0	4	2	1	0	1	3	3	2	6
6	Berkhamsted Town	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	6
7	Poole Town	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	5	7	-1	6
8	Basingstoke Town	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	5
9	Walton & Hersham	3	1	0	0	6	3	0	1	1	3	4	2	4
10	Evesham United	3	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	4
11	Gosport Borough	3	1	1	0	6	4	0	0	1	2	4	0	4
12	Wimborne Town	3	1	1	0	5	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	4
13	Uxbridge	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	3
14	Chertsey Town	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
15	Weymouth	3	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	4	3	-1	3
16	Tiverton Town	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	4	3	-1	3
17	Hungerford Town	3	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	-1	3
18	Havant & Waterlooville	3	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	-2	3
19	Plymouth Parkway	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	3	6	-4	3
20	Dorchester Town	3	0	1	1	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	-2	2
21	Bracknell Town	3	0	1	1	4	5	0	0	1	0	1	-2	1
22	Yate Town	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	-4	1

## Weekend Action

### Saturday 23rd August

Basingstoke Town v Plymouth Parkway  
Berkhamsted Town v Dorchester Town  
Farnham Town v Wimborne Town  
Gloucester City v Hanwell Town  
Havant & Waterlooville v Hungerford Town  
Poole Town v Evesham United  
Tiverton Town v Sholing  
Uxbridge v Gosport Borough  
Walton & Hersham v Taunton Town  
Weymouth v Bracknell Town  
Yate Town v Chertsey Town

### Monday 25th August

Bracknell Town v Basingstoke Town  
Chertsey Town v Uxbridge  
Dorchester Town v Farnham Town  
Evesham United v Gloucester City  
Gosport Borough v Walton & Hersham  
Hanwell Town v Berkhamsted Town  
Hungerford Town v Yate Town  
Plymouth Parkway v Poole Town  
Sholing v Havant & Waterlooville  
Taunton Town v Tiverton Town  
Wimborne Town v Weymouth

## Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Shaftesbury	2	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	5	1	8	6
2	Portishead Town	2	1	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	3	2	7	6
3	Bishops Cleeve	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	7	3	5	6
4	Frome Town	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	1	5	6
5	Malvern Town	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	5	6
6	Westbury United	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	6
7	Melksham Town	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
8	Hartpury	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	3
9	Swindon Supermarine	2	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
10	Bristol Manor Farm	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
11	Mousehole	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3
12	Winchester City	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
13	Sporting Club Inkberrow	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	-1	3
14	Tavistock AFC	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	-2	3
15	Falmouth Town	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	-1	1
16	Bashley	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	2	2	-2	1
17	Willand Rovers	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2	1
18	Exmouth Town	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	4	-3	0
19	Larkhall Athletic	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	-3	0
20	Bideford AFC	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	4	-5	0
21	Brixham AFC	2	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	1	0	3	-7	0
22	Didcot Town	2	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	1	0	6	-10	0

## Weekend Action

### Saturday 23rd August

Bishops Cleeve v Tavistock AFC  
Bristol Manor Farm v Didcot Town  
Brixham AFC v Larkhall Athletic  
Malvern Town v Shaftesbury  
Melksham Town v Exmouth Town  
Swindon Supermarine v Willand Rovers  
Winchester City v Sporting Club Inkberrow

### Monday 25th August

Bashley v Portishead Tow  
Didcot Town v Winchester City  
Exmouth Town v Bristol Manor Farm  
Hartpury v Malvern Town  
Larkhall Athletic v Melksham Town  
Mousehole v Bideford AFC  
Shaftesbury v Swindon Supermarine  
Sporting Club Inkberrow v Bishops Cleeve  
Tavistock AFC v Brixham AFC  
Westbury United v Frome Town  
Willand Rovers v Falmouth Town

## Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bishop's Stortford	3	2	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	2	0	8	9
2	Kettering Town	3	2	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	4	3	5	9
3	Harborough Town	3	1	1	0	5	1	1	0	0	3	1	6	7
4	Quorn	3	1	1	0	6	3	1	0	0	1	0	4	7
5	Halesowen Town	3	2	0	0	6	3	0	1	0	2	2	3	7
6	Banbury United	3	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	3	5
7	Stourbridge	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	3	2	5
8	Alvechurch	3	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	4
9	Spalding United	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	4
10	St Ives Town	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	4
11	Real Bedford	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	4
12	Redditch United	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	-1	4
13	Needham Market	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	-3	4
14	Barwell	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	2	5	-2	3
15	Bromsgrove Sporting	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	4	4	-2	3
16	Bury Town	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	2	-3	3
17	AFC Sudbury	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	8	-5	3
18	Leiston	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	2
19	Royston Town	3	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	1	2	3	-2	1
20	Worcester City	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	-2	1
21	Stamford AFC	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	-2	1
22	Stratford Town	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	6	-7	0

## Weekend Action

### Saturday 23rd August

AFC Sudbury v Quorn  
Barwell v Alvechurch  
Bromsgrove Sporting v Needham Market  
Harborough Town v St Ives Town  
Leiston v Redditch United  
Real Bedford v Kettering Town  
Royston Town v Banbury United  
Stamford AFC v Halesowen Town  
Stourbridge v Spalding United  
Stratford Town v Bishop's Stortford  
Worcester v Bury Town

### Monday 25th August

Alvechurch v Stratford Town  
Banbury United v Stourbridge  
Bishop's Stortford v Royston Town  
Bury Town v AFC Sudbury  
Halesowen Town v Worcester City  
Kettering Town v Harborough Town  
Needham Market v Leiston  
Quorn v Barwell  
Redditch United v Bromsgrove Sportin  
Spalding United v Stamford AFC  
St Ives Town v Real Bedford

## Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leighton Town	2	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	1	6	6
2	Biggleswade FC	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
3	Barton Rovers	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	6
4	Biggleswade Town	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	6
5	Flackwell Heath	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	4
6	Beaconsfield Town	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	4
7	AFC Dunstable	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
8	Hertford Town	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
9	Welwyn Garden City	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	2	1	3
10	Marlow	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
11	Hitchin Town	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	3
12	London Lions	2	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	3
13	Hadley	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
14	Ware	2	1	0	0	5	4	0	0	1	1	4	-2	3
15	Leverstock Green	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	-1	1
16	Northwood	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	-2	1
17	Aylesbury United	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	-3	1
18	Enfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
19	Stotfold	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	4	5	-4	0
20	Milton Keynes Irish	2	0	0	2	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	-4	0
21	Rayners Lane	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	-5	0
22	Thame United	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	-5	0

## Weekend Action

### Saturday 23rd August

AFC Dunstable v Hadley  
Beaconsfield Town v Welwyn Garden City  
Biggleswade FC v Enfield  
London Lions v Ware  
Milton Keynes Irish v Aylesbury United  
Rayners Lane v Hitchin Town  
Stotfold v Leverstock Green

### Monday 25th August

Biggleswade Town v Biggleswade FC  
Enfield v AFC Dunstable  
Hadley v Stotfold  
Hitchin Town v Barton Rovers  
Leighton Town v Milton Keynes Irish  
Leverstock Green v Thame United  
Marlow v Beaconsfield Town  
Northwood v Rayners Lane  
Ware v Hertford Town  
Welwyn Garden City v London Lions

### Tuesday 26th August

Aylesbury United v Flackwell Heath



Saturday's Featured Match

## FARNHAM TOWN v WIMBORNE TOWN

**The Bank Holiday weekend always brings some mouth-watering match-ups with local derbies played in front of large and expectant crowds.**

There'll be a packed house at Farnham Town on Saturday as they look to continue their bright start to life at Step 3 that has yielded two wins and a draw from their opening three games, including a breathless 3-3 draw at Gosport Borough.

"That performance at Gosport was packed full of character because we had a lot against us on the night," said Sam Evans, who got his name on the scoresheet late on. "To come back from 3-1 down shows the belief and togetherness we have here as a squad.

"I was happy to contribute a goal as we kept pushing right until the end and whilst we know only too well that there are areas

in which we need to improve, we can be proud of the spirit that we have displayed in our opening games.

"Each of the games have challenged us in different ways; but we've been able to show quality and resilience to get something from each of them.

"These early tests don't always define your season, but it's always good to have a positive start to build from."

Having become the club's first-ever recruit for a transfer fee when he arrived from Slough Town in March of this year, Evans has experienced life at this level before.

"From being in this League a few seasons ago to now, you can see how competitive it's become," he added. "There are some big clubs involved, so it's going to be very tough as we go through the season.

"Consistency will be key if we want to

achieve our objective and challenge towards the top end of the table.

"There's no reason why we can't be up there in the mix and chasing promotion once again. We're taking it a game at a time and see where it takes us. Everyone knows how big momentum is in football and we have plenty of it.

"I'd love to hit 20+ goals this season and contribute with assists along the way, so let's see!"

They welcome a Wimborne Town outfit who have taken a win, draw and defeat from their opening three games as they look to build upon what was a positive return to this level last season.

The Dorset outfit face a big weekend as hot on the heels of this encounter, they then host local rivals, Weymouth, on Monday.



Farnham Town

## The Rest of the Action

**The busy weekend gets underway on Saturday as Basingstoke Town, undefeated so far, host a Plymouth Parkway outfit who won for the first time in their last outing, so will arrive with a spring in their step. Berkhamsted have made a bright start to life back at Step 3 having won in the play-offs last term. They host a Dorchester Town side who are aiming to kick-start their season, having made the play-offs last time out.**

Both Gloucester City and Hanwell Town sit just inside the early top five and it's sure to be competitive when they meet, likewise at the other end of the table, Havant & Waterlooville and Hungerford Town will battle it out with both sides having taken three points from their first three games.

With a win, draw and defeat from their first three games back at this level, Evesham United make the trip down to Poole Town. A tip to Tiverton Town is on the agenda

for the early leaders, Sholing as draw specialists, Uxbridge, welcome Gosport Borough. It will be an interesting match-up at Walton & Hersham as two fancied sides come up against each other with the visit of Taunton Town.

Finally, Weymouth welcome Bracknell Town and Yate Town, yet to taste victory since claiming the Division One South title at the end of last season, host Chertsey Town.

Monday's Featured Match

## SHOLING v HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE

**Something is special is happening at Sholing FC. The club is making great strides both on and off the pitch with plenty to look forward to as they continue to grow their presence both locally and further afield.**

On Monday they face a mouth-watering local derby against Havant & Waterlooville as they look to build upon a start that has seen them take seven points from the first three games.

"The start we've made this season is very positive, but we're only three games in," insisted Harry Taylor. "We've given ourselves something to build upon, that's for sure.



Harry Taylor

"We were disappointed with our result at Yate, but respected the clean sheet and away point. We were dominant in the 4-1 victory over Poole Town, but it was frustrating to concede with the last kick, however, that game set the standard.

"If we can get anywhere near the levels we reached that day then we will be a difficult side to beat.

"We took the confidence into our game against Weymouth where we found ourselves down to ten men after 20 minutes and then 2-1 behind at half-time. But our character and attitude really shone through in the second half; we didn't go out there thinking; 'how can we get a point out of this?', we went out there to find a way to win it, which is exactly what we did!

"It was an absolute worldie from Reece Wylie and then a great header from the skipper [Byron Mason] which turned the scoreline around in our favour and that result sent out a big statement about us and what we are capable of.

"As I say, we're only three games in, though, so we're not getting too carried away just yet, but there are some very good early signs and this is a club that's moving in the right direct both on and off the pitch.

"Our fan base is growing all of the time and the improvements around the ground are going hand-in-hand with what we're doing on the pitch.

"A few of the players travel a fair distance to be here because we want to be part of this and the enjoyable environment that has been created. There's not much more a player can ask for; we also play a good style of football which is enjoyable to be part of.

"We're looking forward to the games over the Bank Holiday weekend. Tiverton Town away on Saturday will be tough as its never an easy place to go to and then we have the local derby against Havant & Waterlooville on Monday.

"They have a lot of quality within their ranks, but we'll be full of confidence after the start we've made and hopefully we can emerge from the Bank Holiday weekend with our unbeaten record intact.

"This is probably the toughest I've ever seen the Premier South. It's already proven that everyone can beat each other and there are 10+ teams who are seriously looking at winning the title, let alone get in the play-offs!

"As a team we are just focussing on getting as many points as we can and build on what was a positive season last time out. Hopefully I can play my part with consistent performances that will help us keep clean sheets."

Sholing FC have teamed up with Pizza Express to bring supporters attending the game on Monday the ultimate matchday feast. Make sure you get along for a 'pizza' the action!

## The Rest of the Action

**There's a local flavour to most of the fixtures on Bank Holiday Monday. Bracknell Town go into the weekend action still searching for their first taste of victory and they host a Basingstoke Town outfit who are yet to taste defeat after a win and two draws. Also unbeaten are new-boys, Uxbridge, who have drawn all three of their opening games and they go to a Chertsey Town outfit who also have three points to their name.**

Dorchester Town have made a slower start than they or many expected and they host a Farnham Town outfit who have built on the momentum that has thrust them into this level. Also promoted at the end of last

season were Evesham United and they welcome a Gloucester City side who have won two and lost one of their opening three games.

Both Gosport Borough and Walton & Hersham went into the weekend locked together on four points, so it's sure to be a close encounter when they meet. Likewise, Hanwell Town and Berkhamsted are both on six points, so this promises to be an intriguing battle between two sides who can be pleased with the starts they have made.

In the lower reaches of the embryonic table, Hungerford Town and Yate Town will be hoping to be able to kick-start their respective campaigns when they meet.

Having got their first win of the season last weekend, Plymouth Parkway will be in high spirits when they tackle a Poole Town outfit who have started with purpose this time out.

One of the fancied sides going into the season Taunton Town, have started well and they will be hoping to maintain the high standards that they have set when they face Tiverton Town. Three points from their first three games has seen Weymouth make a stuttering start to life back at this level and they go to neighbours, Wimborne Town, in front of what is sure to be a packed house and a cracking Bank Holiday Monday atmosphere.



Saturday's Featured Match

## REAL BEDFORD v KETTERING TOWN

**Real Bedford front-runner, Joey Evans, just loves scoring goals!**

He did it regularly last season to help his side claim the Division One Central title and now he's continuing in much the same vein at the higher level, starting the season with an opening day brace in the 2-1 victory over Spalding United and also finding the net against Halesowen Town.

"It was nice to get off the mark straight away," he told us. "Particularly as it came against one of the favourites for promotion.

"Spalding have got quality in every position and there was a noticeable big step up in standard from last season, so to beat them and for me to get both goals was fantastic.

I just love scoring goals!

"We believe in how the Gaffer wants us to play and we are fully invested in what we are trying to do here. We know that we're not going to have things all of our own way, as has been the case in recent seasons, but we're prepared to work hard, never give up and hopefully compete in each game we face.

"There are no easy matches in this League, you can't switch off for a second and I love that. Personal and team preparation is key, if we don't do that then we will quickly get found out.

"I've played in this league before as a winger, so I know it's a very competitive League where everyone can beat each

other. This makes it more exciting for us as players and for spectators.

"The games are coming thick and fast with no let-up and just like our last home game against Spalding United, on Saturday we face another opponent who many expect to challenge, Kettering Town.

"They reached the play-offs at the end of last season and are a big and established club, so we're looking forward to going toe-to-toe with them in front of what is sure to be a large and vocal crowd.

"As a team, our aim is to win as many games as we can and personally I just want to score as many goals as I can."



Image | Real Bedford FC  
Joey Evans

## The Rest of the Action

**It's been a solid start to the season for new-boys, Quorn, with two wins and a draw from their opening three games. On Saturday they go to AFC Sudbury for their latest challenge. Barwell play host to Alvechurch and will be looking to follow up their opening day victory in their last home outing.**

Hoping to make home advantage count are Bromsgrove Sporting who welcome a

Needham Market outfit who have a win, draw and defeat on their name so far, just like St. Ives Town who go to Harborough Town, and Redditch United who head to a Leiston side eager to get up and running with their first win.

Royston Town welcome Banbury United searched for their first win, as do Stamford AFC who go head-to-head with an unbeaten Halesowen Town. One of

seven teams unbeaten in the Premier Central are Stourbridge and they will be hoping to keep the run going at home to Spalding United.

The early leaders, Bishop's Stortford, go to the early occupiers of bottom spot, Stratford Town, as two new-boys meet at Sixways Stadium with Worcester City eyeing their first victory against Bury Town.

Monday's Featured Match

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD v ROYSTON TOWN

**The early Pitching In Southern League Premier Central table makes particularly pleasant reading for Bishop's Stortford.**

They are one of only two teams who have a 100% record after three games to sit in pole position thanks to the fact that they have scored nine times and conceded just once in their outings so far.

On Bank Holiday Monday they return to home soil for the visit of a Royston Town outfit who went into the weekend still searching for their first victory after a draw and two losses.

"It's been a very positive start," said Cole Dasilva. "It gives us so much to build on; if I'm being totally honest, I don't think we've performed anywhere near what we're

capable of so far, so to have maximum points from the opening three games bodes well.

"The fact that we're winning games well whilst not being at our best is a good trait to have and we're looking forward to getting better and better with each new game.

"It's a very similar story with my own performances and I have no doubt that there is a lot more to come from me.

"We're in a good place on and off the pitch here. There's a lot of positivity around the club and that can only be a good thing.

"The Bank Holiday weekend is always fun and with two games to look forward to, hopefully we can continue our momentum and emerge from it with our 100% record still intact.

"There are a couple of exciting, but winnable, games for this over the course of the weekend and it will be nice to get back onto home soil on Monday and hopefully put on a performance for our fans.

"This is a tough League, it's always been that way and it's just full of so much talent, both individually and as a team. We're hoping to be in and around the leading pack throughout the season. We've given ourselves a base to build from and improve as things go on.

"Personally I have my sights set on adding to my goal and assists tally, this way I know that I will help the team challenge.

"I believe that I bring quality and leadership to the group and I want to use this to help the team. I can't wait for the battles that lie ahead."



Image | Neil Jay Photography  
Cole Dasilva

## The Rest of the Action

**As you would expect, Monday's action is packed full of local derbies and intrigue. Alvechurch and Stratford Town go head-to-head with both teams seeking a spark. There's an away trip to Banbury United for Stourbridge as both teams enter the weekend unbeaten.**

There will be a bumper crowd for Bury Town's encounter with AFC Sudbury. Both sides have identical records after three

games, so a closely-fought derby is in prospect. Another interesting local derby sees Halesowen Town welcome Worcester City, whilst two title favourites, Kettering Town and Harborough Town, slug it out.

Needham Market play host to Leiston, whilst Quorn and Barwell do battle in a Leicestershire derby. Over in Worcestershire, both Redditch United and Bromsgrove Sporting are looking for a

spark to ignite their respective campaigns and it could well come here.

Finally, St. Ives Town welcome new-boys, Real Bedford, and Stamford host a Spalding United who they battled with for a place in the play-offs last season that ultimately proved unsuccessful. Could this be their season? Nothing is sorted in August, of course, but victory would give either side an early boost.



Saturday's Featured Match

## BISHOPS CLEEVE v TAVISTOCK AFC

**After the disappointment of last season when they fell at the play-off hurdle, Bishops Cleeve have made a positive start to the new campaign with successive victories in their opening two games in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South.**

Ironically, three members of the Malvern Town team that beat them in the play-off semi-final last term, Luke Payne, Lewis Spurrier and Jack Watts, are now plying their trade with The Mitres, with determined front-man Watts, back for his second spell at the club, already having three goals to his name.

"Six points out of six and progression in the FA Cup, you can't ask for much more than that," Watts told us. "We know that as a squad there have been moments in each of these games where we could have done a little better, but the objective every time we step onto the pitch is to win and we've done that."

"Chipping in with three goals myself, it's a dream start in many ways and I would have snapped your hand off had you offered this to me over the summer. Long may this start continue for the team and myself."

"This club has come on in leaps and bounds since I was last here. I first arrived over ten years ago and there have been massive changes on and off the field since then. It's incredible progress for the club and massive credit to the management and everyone behind-the-scenes who have played their part in making it happen."

"There's no ceiling on how far we can go with the way things are moving forward."

Watts is looking forward to the Bank Holiday double header which sees the club host Tavistock AFC before making the short trip to new-boys, Sporting Club Inkberrow, on Monday.

"We all play football because we love the sport," he added. "For me, two games in

two days is brilliant; I always look forward to these Bank Holidays, but it will only be a good one if we can manage to get a decent haul of points."

"It's two tough games coming up, but we go into them with confidence, especially after scoring 12 goals from our three games so far."

This will be Watts' 13th season involved in the Southern League and he has certainly noticed a difference in that time.

"The standard is improving all of the time," he added. "You have to be right at it every single game; the standard of the teams who have dropped down to this level is high and it makes for a very competitive season ahead."

"Hopefully I can continue to make an impact; I always look to hit the 20-goal mark, that's my main personal aim and by doing that it will help the team achieve its objectives. We've got a strong squad here on paper for this level and now we have to prove it by what we do on the pitch."

"There's good pressure on each player to perform to a high standard in order to keep their shirt and this can only be a positive thing as it keeps us all on our toes and it's what's needed for us to be involved amongst the leading teams."

"You can see the hurt that was felt from losing in the play-offs last season and there's a determination to better that this time around. It would be an honour if I could help the club achieve that because there are some good people here who deserve it."

Bishops Cleeve find themselves up against opponents who have won one and lost one of their two games so far.



Jack Watts celebrates another goal

## The Rest of the Action

**The Isuzu FA Trophy means that there are seven games taking place in Division One South on Saturday.**

Didcot Town go to Bristol Manor Farm hoping to see an improvement having lost both of their opening games, conceding 13 goals in the process. Two more teams who have lost both of the opening matches are Brixham AFC and Larkhall Athletic and they meet in Devon where something has got to give for one or both

of the teams.

At the other end of the table, two teams with 100% records meet at the HDANYWHERE Community Stadium as Malvern Town host a free-scoring Shaftesbury. With a win and draw so far, Melksham Town will be eager to make home advantage count as they welcome an Exmouth Town outfit who are suffering an early season hangover from their play-off loss last term.

After losing for the first time in their last Division One South outing, Swindon Supermarine will be looking for the right response as they host a so far winless Willand Rovers, who are also searching for their first goal of the campaign.

Finally, two teams that were two levels apart last season meet at Winchester City as they greet Sporting Club Inkberrow.

Monday's Featured Match

## LARKHALL ATHLETIC v MELKSHAM TOWN

**Good things are happening at Melksham Town.**

The appointment of Kevin Bush and Adam Young as co-Chairmen during the summer has been well received, whilst work has continued at a pace on and off the pitch to ensure that the 2025/26 campaign is one to remember for all of the right reasons.

It's been a solid start on the pitch with four points from their opening two games ahead of a Bank Holiday weekend that sees them host Exmouth Town on Saturday before making the trip to a Larkhall Athletic side who have lost both of their opening fixtures.

Off the pitch the club were able to announce a number of key commercial deals, including a major sponsorship deal

with local company, Meads of Melksham, which includes stadium naming rights for their impressive home.

"These are exciting times," enthused Kevin Bush, who has been associated with the club for the past eight seasons, going from supporter to secretary via sometime Kit Man and regular Ball Boy! "I've always had great passion for non-League football and have been involved in the game for a long time prior to coming here, initially as a fan, and thoroughly enjoying the experience."

"Joining forces with Adam as co-Chairmen is exciting. We are both like-minded in our progressive thinking, but in a sustainable and measured way."

"The long-term goal is to offer the local football community a safe and enjoyable

environment in which to watch sport, whilst in the shorter-term we are looking to organically build the fan base and reach out to local people to make them aware what we have here."

"We already have over 600 youth players signed to the club and

we want to be able to build on that and strengthen the pathway through the youth ranks and into the first-team."

"Last season we had two 16 year-olds playing first-team football here at Step 4 and it's something we are extremely proud of as a club."

"You only have to look around the place to see how fantastic the facilities are that we have at our disposal here. We're quite rightly extremely proud of them and the volunteers do a fantastic job in looking after them and enhancing them for the benefit of the community."

"It takes a great team effort from everyone in all departments of the club and with the developments over the summer, both in terms of the team that is being put together and all of the off-field activities, we are excited by what the future holds in store."

"We hosted a successful two-day music festival over the summer, which shows how we are looking to be commercially sustainable, and from this platform we can hopefully take the club forward."

Last season finished with an eighth-place berth and hopes are high that this can be built upon this time around, whilst for Monday's hosts, Larkhall Athletic, they sailed a little too close to the wind last season as they narrowly avoided the drop and they are determined to avoid a repeat of that this time around.



There's plenty to cheer about at Melksham Town

## The Rest of the Action

**There is some exciting Bank Holiday Monday action on the cards, which will hopefully be viewed by some good crowds.**

New-boys, Portishead Town, have started extremely well and they will be tested as they make the trip to Bashley who have a draw and defeat to their name so far. Didcot Town are hoping for an upturn in fortunes as they host Winchester City who are coming to terms with life at this level following relegation at the end of last season.

After reaching the play-offs against the

odds last season, Exmouth Town are looking to make their mark again this time around. They have started slowly but it's still very early days yet and they host a much-changed Bristol Manor Farm outfit.

There's a local derby for Hartpury, fresh from their first victory at this level, as they host a Malvern Town side who went into the weekend with a 100% League record despite falling to lower level opponents in the Emirates FA Cup last weekend.

Down in deepest Cornwall, Mousehole are staging a Family and Sponsors Day for their encounter with Bideford AFC as they look

to strengthen their connection to the local community. Quite a tussle is in prospect at in-form Shaftesbury as they host Swindon Supermarine, whilst Sporting Club Inkberrow will be tested by another outfit in a rich vein of form, Bishops Cleeve.

A Devon derby takes place at Tavistock AFC where new-boys, Brixham AFC provide the opposition as Westbury United and Frome Town, two teams with perfect starts, lock horns in Wiltshire. Finally, Willand Rovers, without a goal so far and just one point to their name, play host to Falmouth Town, who are also chasing their first win going into the weekend.



Saturday's Featured Match

## LONDON LIONS v WARE

**When London Lions fell behind within the opening seconds of their first home game in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central against Rayners Lane recently, they would have been forgiven for fearing the worst.**

Having secured promotion to this level for the first-ever time following play-off success in the Spartan South Midlands League at the end of last term, they were given a sobering introduction to life at Step 4 on the opening day of the season as they went down to a 4-0 loss at Flackwell Heath, who spent much of last season amongst the leading pack.

But first-team coach, Darren Yarlett, a veteran of 14 years with the club and a key component in the journey that has taken them from Step 7, could not have been more proud of the response from the players as they turned the early deficit into a fantastic 5-1 win.

"It's never ideal to concede after just ten seconds, whatever level of football you play at," he admitted to us. "After we equalised, I thought we looked comfortable and we managed to turn the scoreline on its head to go in front by the 20th minute.

"The second half was an excellent performance from us; we worked hard and scored some good quality goals against what we know is a very good Rayners Lane side.

"Winning by this margin against such opposition builds our confidence tremendously. It's just a pity we didn't have a game on the following weekend to build on it, but now we can't wait to get back out there on Saturday for our latest challenge against Ware.

"The less said about our opening League game at Flackwell Heath, the better! Everything that could have gone wrong, did go wrong, but in football these moments can help you and it taught us all a lesson that we will hopefully learn from to benefit us going forward.

"We have to understand that we are not in Step 5 anymore and we can't get away with lapses in concentration or not being right at it.

"We've had some productive training and video sessions in preparation for Saturday's game. This is a learning process for us all at what is a tough level full of quality. We're relishing the task that stand before us,

though and will face it head-on.

"Our main target is to stay in this League and if we can play some good, attractive football whilst doing it, I will be a happy man!"

Yarlett bursts with pride as he talks about the club that he has served so diligently for the past 14 years.

"We're fortunate to have such a good facility here," he continues as he talks about the club's Rowley Lane home, which is set in 54 acres. "We host a lot of professional clubs when they want a pitch to use for training if they are down in these parts.

"It's an amazing facility that we are extremely proud of and is very much part of the progression that the club has made over the years.

"We've had a lot of success in local Cup competitions as well as a fair few promotions, but this is a different kind of challenge for us.

"From the youth section right up to the veterans who represent us on a Sunday, the philosophy here is always the same; to play football the right way because it's called the beautiful game for a reason."



Image | London Lions FC  
Rowley Lane

## The Rest of the Action

**The Isuzu FA Trophy means that there are seven games taking place in Division One Central on Saturday.**

AFC Dunstable, who have aspirations of making the play-offs this season, host a team that made the play-offs last term, Hadley. After taking four points out of

their opening two games, Beaconsfield Town entertain Welwyn Garden City, whilst Biggleswade FC will put their perfect start to the test at home to Enfield.

Two teams searching for a first win are MK Irish and Aylesbury United as they go head-to-head. Raynes Lane, also eager to get

off the mark, face a tricky challenge with the visit of a Hitchin Town side who have won one and lost one of their opening two games. Meanwhile Stotfold will be seeking their first points of the campaign as they welcome Leverstock Green.

Monday's Featured Match

## BIGGLESWADE TOWN v BIGGLESWADE FC

**There's an all Biggleswade encounter on Monday afternoon as both teams renew acquaintances.**

Extra spice is added to the occasion with both clubs going into the game with 100% records from their two Pitching In Southern League Division One Central games so far.

Hosts Biggleswade Town have responded well to relegation last term, but it is the form of Biggleswade FC that is making people sit up and take notice.

Having finished eighth last time out, they have started the current campaign with away games at new-boys, Rayners Lane and MK Irish, both of which they have

come through with flying colours.

"The difference between the start we have made this year compared to last is that we've dug deep to get the points on the board," Ethan Kessel told us. "Last time we were performing well enough but not getting our reward in terms of points, but that has changed so far this season.

"We've been resilient, determined and have taken the chances that have come our way. We needed to add a ruthless streak to our game and it's a case of so far, so good, but it's still very early days.

"I've got a goal and two assists already, so I am happy with that, but I'm not resting on

my laurels and I'm constantly demanding more from myself.

"Having back-to-back games this weekend is great for us because it gives us the opportunity to build on our early season momentum. We've kept pretty much the same group of players as last season and we are growing together.

"The foundations are already firmly in place and that counts for a lot. We know what is expected of us and we're ready to go out there and deliver. There's a good mix of teams in this League; there's the young footballing sides and then you have the teams that are more physical and direct.

"I'd like to think that we can adapt to both styles of play and can mix things up when we need to.

"We have the leaders within the group and a good attitude which can take us a long way.

"We're looking forward to Saturday's home game against Enfield, but, of course, Monday at Biggleswade Town is one of the first fixtures you look for on fixture release day. As I say, we're playing with plenty of confidence and belief, so we say bring these games on!"



Image | Biggleswade FC

## The Rest of the Action

**Having only played one game going into the weekend due to the abandonment of their clash with Hertford Town due to a serious player injury, Enfield will be hoping to get off the mark at home as they host AFC Dunstable. With a win and defeat to their name so far, Hadley welcome a Stotfold side that were pointless after two games.**

It will be a good test for the much-fancied Hitchin Town as they take on Barton Rovers, who have a 100% record after their opening two outings. High-flying

Leighton Town entertain an MK Irish side who are finding their Step 4 feet following promotion.

Levestock Green and Thame United meet with both sides going into the weekend winless, whilst Marlow and Beaconsfield Town both have a win each to their name. Another new team who have found the early going tricky is Rayners Lane. They have suffered successive defeats and head to Northwood on Monday hoping to get something on the board.

A win and a defeat has been the order of the day for Ware as they host a Hertford Town outfit who went into the weekend having won their one and only League game of the season. Lion Lions are roaring after securing their first Step 4 success and they head to Welwyn Garden City full of confidence and ready for the tough challenge that they will face.

There's a game on Tuesday evening as Aylesbury United play host to Flackwell Heath.



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