

PREVIEW MAG



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SPORTING CHANCE



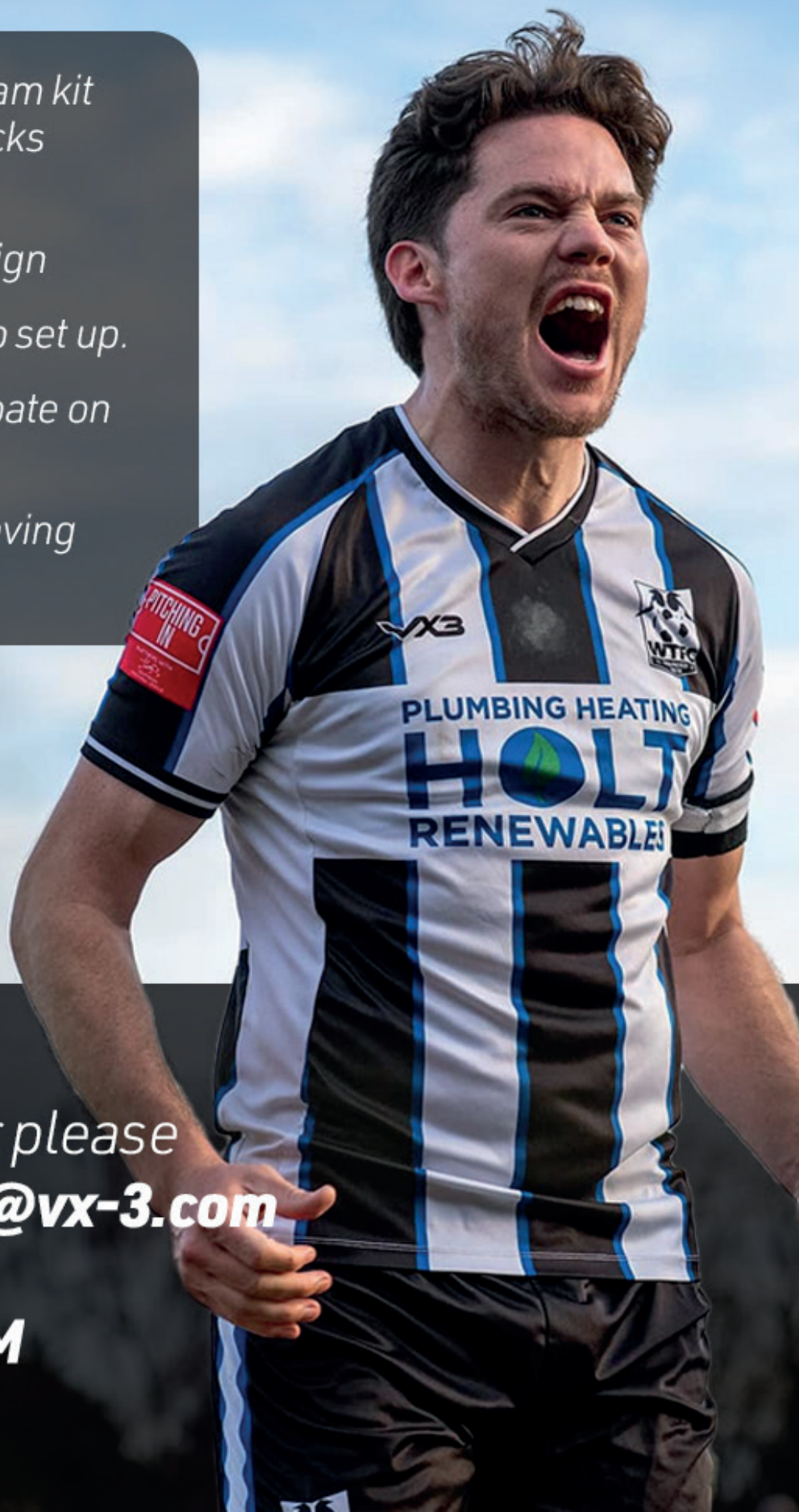
**+ ISUZU
FA TROPHY
PREVIEW**

**YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE TO ALL
OF THE WEEKEND ACTION**



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SUPPORTING THE FOOTBALL v HOMOPHOBIA CAMPAIGN

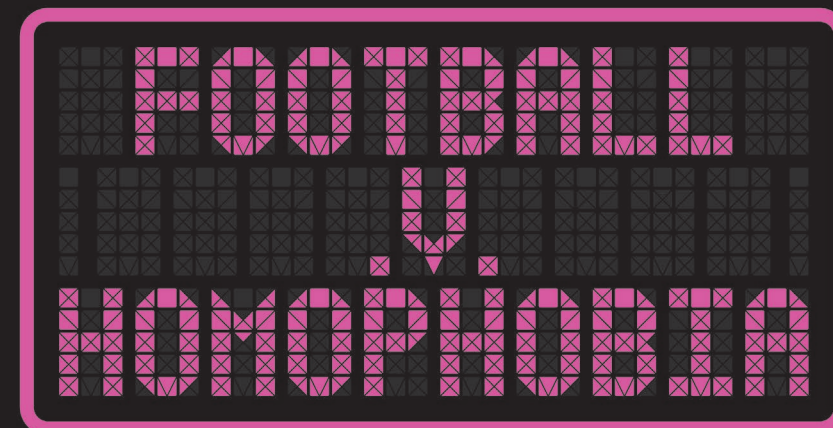
The Southern League is pleased to be supporting Football v Homophobia.

We have joined hundreds of other clubs, Leagues and organisations within the game to back this initiative, which is committed to making football more inclusive for the LGBTIQ+ community.

February is LGBTIQ+ History Month and as part of this Month of Action, events have been organised far and wide to spread the message and acknowledge the journey and progress made by the community both within football and society as a whole.

This is why it is important to back the Football v Homophobia campaign:

- Results of a 2024 survey showed 74% of respondents - all LGBTIQ+ - said they had experienced or heard anti-LGBTQ+ abuse when watching men's football. Less than a quarter of those people said they had reported the incidents, suggesting a lack of confidence or awareness of available reporting channels (Out and Out Football, 2024);
- FvH is aware of various proven charges for anti-LGBTQ+ incidents in non-league football (Steps 1 to 4) in recent seasons;
- Across Football, reports of transphobia received by Kick It Out doubled last season (KIO, 2025);



FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

The Southern League believes that LGBTIQ+ people deserve a place in football and that clubs hold the key to making football welcoming and inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people.

We have supplied our member clubs with rainbow Captain's armbands as a visual way of showing support and we are always keen to hear about other ways in which our clubs have engaged with this campaign.

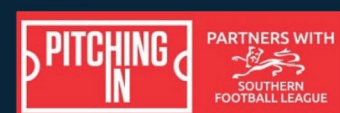
Please send details and photographs to Southern League Director Stephen Hyde, via: sfl.diversity@gmail.com.

The Round Up

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LEAGUE STANDINGS

2025-26



Premier Division South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Walton & Hersham	26	12	1	1	37	8	8	2	2	25	15	39	63
2	Poole Town	27	7	5	2	33	15	8	2	3	25	17	26	52
3	Gloucester City	26	11	2	1	37	17	4	3	5	20	20	20	50
4	Farnham Town	24	6	4	2	28	13	7	3	2	33	21	27	46
5	Gosport Borough	27	9	1	3	32	24	5	3	6	20	22	6	46
6	Sholing	27	7	4	2	30	19	4	6	4	16	17	10	43
7	Chertsey Town	27	6	3	4	23	15	6	4	4	14	13	9	43
8	Berkhamsted	26	6	3	4	18	17	5	4	4	16	15	2	40
9	Havant and Waterlooville	26	7	2	4	29	22	4	2	7	23	26	4	37
10	Wimborne Town	24	6	6	1	26	15	2	4	5	10	14	7	34
11	Basingstoke Town	27	7	1	6	21	24	3	3	7	17	19	-5	34
12	Evesham United	28	6	4	4	22	12	2	5	7	16	26	0	33
13	Bracknell Town	25	7	3	4	31	25	2	3	6	10	21	-5	33
14	Uxbridge	28	5	2	7	22	26	3	7	4	19	23	-8	33
15	Yate Town	25	5	4	3	15	10	3	2	8	16	28	-7	30
16	Weymouth	28	3	5	6	16	19	4	2	8	15	31	-19	28
17	Hanwell Town	25	4	4	4	14	16	3	2	8	16	23	-9	27
18	Taunton Town	26	3	4	5	16	19	4	1	9	22	29	-10	26
19	Hungerford Town	26	3	5	5	15	25	3	3	7	18	27	-19	26
20	Plymouth Parkway	24	4	2	5	12	16	2	4	7	16	32	-20	24
21	Dorchester Town	25	4	4	6	20	27	1	4	6	11	20	-16	23
22	Tiverton Town	23	2	1	6	8	13	2	1	11	19	46	-32	14

Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Spalding United	28	9	3	2	38	15	9	3	2	37	20	40	60
2	Harborough Town	25	9	4	0	24	8	8	2	2	23	12	27	57
3	Halesowen Town	26	8	3	3	26	19	4	6	2	25	17	15	45
4	Real Bedford	23	6	2	3	18	13	7	3	2	24	13	16	44
5	Quorn	27	5	2	6	24	23	8	3	3	32	23	10	44
6	Redditch United	28	8	2	4	23	21	5	2	7	16	19	-1	43
7	Needham Market	26	8	1	4	24	17	4	5	4	13	17	3	42
8	Stratford Town	25	8	3	2	28	16	4	2	6	13	19	6	41
9	Leiston	27	5	6	3	26	18	5	3	5	19	21	6	39
10	Banbury United	26	6	3	3	20	17	5	2	7	19	20	2	38
11	Worcester City	27	4	4	6	16	16	6	3	4	28	14	14	37
12	Kettering Town	25	5	3	3	22	12	5	2	7	18	26	2	35
13	Bishop's Stortford	26	6	1	7	23	23	4	4	4	18	17	1	35
14	Bury Town	26	6	2	5	16	13	3	4	6	20	23	0	33
15	St Ives Town	27	5	6	3	18	19	3	2	8	18	25	-8	32
16	Barwell	27	4	3	5	16	17	3	5	7	18	27	-10	29
17	Bromsgrove Sporting	27	6	2	6	20	23	2	3	8	13	26	-16	29
18	Alvechurch	23	4	1	6	14	16	3	3	6	10	13	-5	25
19	Stourbridge	27	3	5	5	20	19	2	5	7	15	29	-13	25
20	Stamford AFC	25	4	3	6	12	22	2	1	9	6	22	-26	22
21	AFC Sudbury	26	3	4	7	18	35	2	2	8	15	31	-33	21
22	Royston Town	27	2	5	6	18	26	1	3	10	9	31	-30	17

Weekend Action

Basingstoke Town
v Uxbridge

Berkhamsted
v Yate Town

Bracknell Town
v Plymouth Parkway

Chertsey Town
v Taunton Town

Dorchester Town
v Hanwell Town

Farnham Town
v Havant & Waterlooville

Hungerford Town
v Gosport Borough

Sholing
v Gloucester City

Tiverton Town
v Evesham United

Weymouth
v Poole Town

Weekend Action

Banbury United
v Barwell

Harborough Town
v Stourbridge

Leiston
v Royston Town

Needham Market
v Kettering Town

Quorn
v Alvechurch

Real Bedford
v AFC Sudbury

Redditch United
v Halesowen Town

Spalding United
v Bishop's Stortford

St Ives Town
v Bury Town

Stamford
v Bromsgrove Sporting

Worcester City
v Stratford Town

Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Frome Town	28	11	2	1	28	10	11	2	1	36	11	43	70
2	Malvern Town	27	11	0	3	39	23	8	2	3	26	18	24	59
3	Winchester City	28	10	4	1	34	15	7	3	3	24	15	28	58
4	Portishead Town	27	10	2	2	40	11	8	1	4	26	17	38	57
5	Shaftesbury	25	11	1	1	32	14	6	2	4	30	21	27	54
6	Bishop's Cleeve	26	11	2	2	34	14	5	2	4	19	23	16	52
7	Hartpury	27	9	3	2	46	15	4	2	7	18	21	28	44
8	Larkhall Athletic	27	8	3	2	34	25	5	0	9	19	27	1	42
9	Exmouth Town	27	8	2	3	31	21	4	3	7	17	29	-2	41
10	Westbury United	26	8	0	5	18	14	4	3	6	10	16	-2	39
11	Sporting Club Inkberrow	24	7	2	3	17	11	3	3	6	15	26	-5	35
12	Mousehole	26	4	3	6	17	19	4	4	5	22	21	-1	31
13	Bideford	27	5	3	6	18	21	3	2	8	13	28	-18	29
14	Didcot Town	28	4	4	6	21	29	4	1	9	13	26	-21	29
15	Bristol Manor Farm	25	5	4	5	18	22	2	1	8	17	29	-16	26
16	Falmouth Town	22	4	3	2	18	9	2	4	7	17	29	-3	25
17	Swindon Supermarine	24	4	0	6	18	19	2	5	7	14	19	-6	23
18	Melksham Town	27	3	5	6	20	24	2	3	8	10	25	-19	23
19	Willand Rovers	25	3	3	5	10	13	2	4	8	15	33	-21	22
20	Brixham	24	4	2	7	18	28	1	2	8	10	30	-30	19
21	Bashley	27	1	3	8	7	19	3	1	11	18	29	-23	16
22	Tavistock AFC	23	2	0	9	9	22	1	1	10	9	34	-38	10

Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hitchin Town	27	9	3	2	31	13	9	4	0	34	10	42	61
2	Leighton Town	27	11	2	0	38	10	7	5	2	28	19	37	61
3	Biggleswade	27	5	6	3	24	21	9	2	2	28	15	16	50
4	Hertford Town	26	9	0	5	36	23	6	3	3	27	16	24	48
5	Biggleswade Town	27	5	6	3	27	22	8	3	2	33	14	24	48
6	Barton Rovers	27	8	2	4	26	19	5	5	3	24	22	9	46
7	Thame United	24	7	1	4	27	22	7	1	4	29	19	15	44
8	Ware	27	6	3	5	28	19	7	1	5	25	24	10	43
9	Hadley	25	5	2	5	26	26	6	5	2	23	16	7	40
10	Beaconsfield Town	27	5	5	4	29	21	5	4	4	23	21	10	39
11	Stotfold	28	8	1	5	27	17	4	1	9	26	36	0	38
12	Flackwell Heath	26	5	4	5	25	18	5	3	4	21	15	13	37
13	Milton Keynes Irish	28	5	2	7	26	39	6	2	6	21	23	-15	37
14	Welwyn Garden City	25	4	5	4	16	16	5	4	3	24	16	8	36
15	London Lions	27	7	2	4	29	29	4	1	9	19	26	-7	36
16	Marlow	28	7	1	6	29	27	3	1	10	14	34	-18	32
17	Aylesbury United	27	4	4	4	20	16	4	1	10	19	31	-8	29
18	Leverstock Green	26	2	6	3	17	18	2	6	7	20	32	-13	24
19	Northwood	27	2	3	8	15	31	2	7	5	19	27	-24	22
20	Enfield	28	2	2	10	17	35	4	1	9	17	38	-39	21
21	Rayners Lane	27	1	1	12	8	31	2	3	8	16	40	-47	13
22	AFC Dunstable	25	1	3	9	10	30	1	1	11	12	36	-44	10

Weekend Action

Bashley
v Sporting Club Inkberrow

Bideford AFC
v Winchester City

Exmouth Town
v Tavistock AFC

Frome Town
v Willand Rovers

Larkhall Athletic
v Didcot Town

Malvern Town
v Brixham AFC

Melksham Town
v Bishops Cleeve

Mousehole
v Westbury United

Portishead Town
v Bristol Manor Farm

Shaftesbury
v Hartpury

Swindon Supermarine
v Falmouth Town

Weekend Action

Aylesbury United
v London Lions

Beaconsfield Town
v Hadley

Biggleswade Town
v Leighton Town

Hitchin Town
v Biggleswade FC

Leverstock Green
v Hertford Town

Milton Keynes Irish
v AFC Dunstable

Northwood
v Flackwell Heath

Rayners Lane
v Marlow

Stotfold
v Enfield

Thame United
v Barton Rovers

Ware
v Welwyn Garden City

Featured Match

BRACKNELL TOWN v PLYMOUTH PARKWAY

The turnaround continues at Bracknell Town where Wednesday's 1-0 away win at Havant & Waterlooville thrust them into the Premier South top ten.

It's testament to the work that Carl Davies and Sean Miles have put in since taking over at the helm in October when the club was bottom of the table and reeling from a very poor start to the season on and off the pitch.

"Since coming in, Sean and I have focused on putting clear standards in place and giving the team a defined identity," said Davies, who is in his second spell as manager, having previously held the role in 2018 as they secured promotion from the Hellenic League. "I think we've made good progress — performances are more consistent, the group is better organised, and there's a stronger culture around training and accountability.

"We're working within the realities of the club, but the players have bought into what we're building and the direction of travel is positive.

"It's been demanding but rewarding opening few months. We knew the challenge coming in, particularly given the League and the circumstances, but the honesty of the group and the willingness to work have probably exceeded expectations.

"The club itself has come a long way since I was here last, it's moved ground and has fantastic facilities in place. The lads are well looked after on and off the pitch, so that gave us a foundation to work from.

"It was initially about building a togetherness amongst the squad as I felt that was really lacking. Confidence was understandably also an issue within the group. I think bringing Sean [Miles] in as assistant manager was a real positive. He's fantastic with the lads in training and on game days; he's also Welsh (like me) which helps.

"Between us I feel like we've created a culture that is more fitting to a non-League football club than that which we inherited."

Just one defeat from their last ten games has left them ten points away from a place in the play-off positions, a far cry from the opening months of the campaign.

"It's a very competitive League with fine margins," continued Davies. "Every game is tough; there are no easy fixtures, and consistency is key. You have to be organised, physically prepared, and mentally strong every week to pick up points.

"Every team seems to have a player capable of game winning moments so you really have to be on your mettle at all times."

So, what is the secret behind the success that Davies and the team has had up to now?

"Hard work, honesty and accountability," was his reply. "We have built a team that is organised, competitive and play with intensity, with a possession-based philosophy.

"In simpler terms; 'it's our ball!' So if we lose possession, we have to get it back as soon as possible.

"The main aim between now and the end of the season is to continue building consistency, keep improving performances and finish the season as strongly as possible.

"Obviously, given the position the team was in when we took over, avoiding relegation was the ultimate target, anything above that is a bonus.

"If you had to squeeze an individual aim out of me I'd say that a top half finish would equate to an excellent finish to the season from where we were."

A return to home action awaits at the weekend where they face a Plymouth Parkway outfit who are desperate to escape the bottom four.

They have seen their last two scheduled games fall victim of the weather as they look to build upon a good 2-1 away victory at Uxbridge in their last outing.

That win came on the back of four straight losses for the Devon outfit, including a heavy 7-0 loss at Poole Town and a home set-back at the hands of Tiverton Town.



It's a Welsh revolution at Bracknell Town

THE REST OF THE ACTION

With leaders, Walton & Hersham, in Isuzu FA Trophy action this weekend, it gives the teams below them the chance to reduce the gap.

Second-place Poole Town are in good form and they face a mouth-watering local derby against Weymouth, who have also seen a recent upturn in fortunes as they look to move away from relegation danger.

Sitting in third-place is Gloucester City who went down to defeat at Walton & Hersham on Tuesday evening. They face another tricky road trip as they head to Sholing, who go into the game one place out of the play-off places.

Also in the top five, Farnham Town welcome a Havant & Waterlooville side who have lost twice this week, following up a 4-3 reverse at Dorchester Town last weekend with a 1-0 home loss at the hands of Bracknell Town on Wednesday evening. Just below them, Gosport Borough are also looking to bounce back after they lost at Hanwell Town in their last outing.

At the bottom of the table, Tiverton Town will be looking to make home advantage count when they face Evesham United. Two teams who had good wins over high-flying opponents last weekend, Dorchester Town and Hanwell Town, go head-to-head on Saturday with three more big points on offer.

Just inside the bottom four is Hungerford Town, who are at home to Gosport Borough, so important points are up for grabs at both ends of the table here.



Can Sholing edge further towards the top five at the weekend?

Elsewhere, there is a mid-table battle between Basingstoke Town and Uxbridge, whilst Berkhamsted will be looking to keep their play-off hopes alive as they host Yate Town. It's a similar story for Chertsey Town as they take on a Taunton Town outfit who sit precariously above the bottom four.

THE ISUZU FA TROPHY FIFTH ROUND



Walton & Hersham will fly the Southern League flag in the fifth round of the Isuzu FA Trophy this weekend as they play host to Woking.

Having beaten National League side, Brackley Town, in the previous round, the Premier South leaders will be looking to claim another Step 1 scalp on Saturday.

For goalkeeper, Jos Barker, it will be an extra special occasion.

"I'm ecstatic with the draw," he told us. "I live in Woking, so growing up my dad would always take me to Woking games and as I got older, I spent a lot of weekends standing in the KRE with my mates.

"I'm really looking forward to the tie and will be fully focussed on helping us create more history and continue our journey in the competition. I'm really enjoying my football and playing for this club is an absolute pleasure."



Featured Match

STAMFORD AFC v BROMSGROVE SPORTING

Players at this level of the game regularly come and go. Aaron Roberts is no different. He is now in his fifth spell at Bromsgrove Sporting, but recently he chalked up his 350th for the Premier Central club.

Roberts actually played in the Rouslers' first-ever game after they emerged from the ashes of Bromsgrove Rovers, who graced the non-League's top-flight during the 1980s and 1990s.

"The club has been a big part of my life," Roberts told us. "I've had a few different spells at the club, but each time I've returned I've felt even closer to the club, it's my home.

"To get to 350 appearances is a huge milestone at any level of the game. I don't think a player goes out to set a number of games played target, but it has crept up over the years and only when team-mates, other teams and supporters praise me, do I realise how well I have done and I am extremely proud to have played this many games.

"It was a lovely personal touch that my very good friend, club Vice-Chairman, Graham Scott, was chosen to give me the award ahead of last weekend's game against Barwell. I have never forgotten his guidance, or all of the free lifts to and from football, I received from him in my early days!

"As I gave a speech in the bar after Saturday's win, I got slightly emotional addressing our supporters, but I held strong!

"They know how much of a connection I have with them and I hope that will continue for many more years and, with everything that's improving off the pitch, they get what they want to see on it!"

Saturday's single-goal victory was an important one for Tim Flowers' side as they defeated one of the teams who they are battling with to avoid dropping into the bottom four.

"It's cliché to say that the win has been coming, but that was definitely the case here," added Roberts. "We've been knocking the door in every game for the last four or five weeks and all we've had to show for it has been the odd draw, but Saturday we got the job done and it was nice to keep a clean sheet too.

"In terms of confidence and League standings, it was an important result for us. This League is so competitive; there are seven or eight teams who could go down and five or six who could still win the title, so it's great neutral but as a team you can never rest or take it easy.

"Our aim is to stay at this level. Things are happening off the pitch here with potential new investment coming in, so we need to remain at Step 3.

"There is still plenty of football to be played and enough games to be played to get us safely into the middle of the table, so that's what we will be working hard to do.

"We want to be able to build on Saturday's win but we know that it will be tough against a Stamford AFC side



If the shirt fits – Aaron Roberts and his family with his special memento from the club

who have found some recent form since the turn of the year to move them off the bottom of the table.

"It will be quite a battle for the points on offer, but one that we are more than ready for."

A run of three straight victories has taken Stamford AFC off the foot of the table and given them hope that they can escape the clutches of the relegation zone.

They are now only three points off moving out of the bottom four and are targeting the group of clubs, of which Bromsgrove Sporting are part of, that sit in the lower half of the table.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Banbury United were jumping for joy last weekend – will it continue on Saturday?

Things are hotting up at the top of the table. Leaders, Spalding United, fell to a surprise home defeat at the hands of Banbury United last weekend, and they will be looking to bounce back in the right way on Saturday as they host Bishop's Cleeve. Meanwhile, just behind them, Harborough Town had to work hard to beat Leiston in their last game and return to home soil for the visit of Stourbridge, who have started to find a bit of form.

There's a mouth-watering local derby as Halesowen Town, who are third in the table, head to Redditch United, who are narrowly out of the top five. Only two points separate the two teams, so a hard-fought and close encounter is in prospect.

Also part of the top five, Real Bedford will be looking to make home advantage count as they take on AFC Sudbury, who need the points for different reasons in the bottom four. Meanwhile

there is another encounter that will impact both ends of the table as Quorn host Alvechurch.

In bottom position is Royston Town. They are at home to Leiston, who are inside the top ten and targeting a place in the play-offs. Elsewhere, Banbury United are steadily climbing the table and they host a Barwell outfit who are too close to the relegation places for comfort. Sitting outside the play-off places, Needham Market are in home action against mid-table Kettering Town.

Just one place and one point separates St. Ives Town and Bury Town as they go head-to-head, whilst Worcester City will be seeking a return to winning ways as they welcome Stratford Town who are still in the race for a play-off place.



Featured Match

SHAFTESBURY v HARTPURY

Four clean sheets from their last six Division One South outings has been music to the ears of Hartpury FC defender, Connor Callow.

Tuesday's 2-0 victory over Didcot Town kept the students, who are competing at this level for the first time in their history, on the shirt-tails of the top six with 44 points from their 27 League games.

"It was a scrappy game at times in tricky conditions," admitted Callow as he reflected on their latest triumph. "We got ourselves into a two-goal lead early on and it gave us the foundation to go on and get the victory and another three points towards our tally.

"That's back-to-back clean sheets for us and ten for the season so far. This is massive for us; as a back-line we take pride in keeping clean sheets and when we are able to achieve them, it's enjoyable and celebrated.

"I'm happy to be back in the team and getting a good run of games. I've been training hard because I know that I have to keep my standards high in everything that I do because there is always someone ready to step in and your place.

"It's been a good run of form for us where we've played – and beaten – some tough teams. It'll be another test for us on Saturday against Shaftesbury, who sit just inside the top five.



Connor Callow is hoping to make it a hat-trick of clean sheets on Saturday

"We played out a 3-3 home draw with them only a couple of weeks ago, so we've showed that we can go toe-to-toe with them. They are one of the fancied teams this season and they have plenty of quality in their team, but so do we.

"It's going to be a full-on game, there's no doubt about that. They have some good attacking talent in their team which will keep us on our toes. There will be plenty of balls over the top of us that we will have to deal with, but we'll be ready for it!

"I'm expecting a similar game to the one earlier this month. These are the type of tests that we enjoy facing. As a group, we've come a long way this season. It's been a learning process where we are learning about this level all of the time.

"That said, 13 wins from 27 games is a good return and we've proved that we can compete with the established teams in this League.

"There's plenty for us to be proud of and hopefully we can add to our positive run of results at the weekend and in doing so keep in touch with the teams above us."

Like a lot of teams, Shaftesbury have been left frustrated by the winter weather which has seen their last two scheduled fixtures postponed.

Their last action came a couple of weeks ago in what proved to be a crazy encounter at Melksham Town, which they won 5-4.

In fact, goals have been the name of the game in their last four outings with a total of 24 goals scored in these games.

It makes for a most intriguing encounter ahead here.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Will there be smiles from the Bristol Manor Farm fans after Saturday's local derby?

Leaders, Frome Town, boast 70 points going into the weekend action and they will be hoping to add to it as they entertain Willand Rovers, with the visitors sat just inside the bottom four. Second-placed Malvern Town also welcome opposition from Devon who are within the relegation places as they take on Brixham AFC.

In third-place, Winchester City travel to Bideford AFC, whilst Portishead Town face a mouth-watering local derby with Bristol Manor Farm in what is bound to be a hard-fought affair with no quarter given.

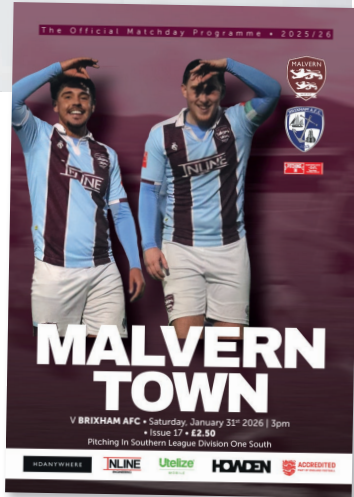
Down at the bottom, Tavistock AFC also have a local derby of their own to get stuck into as they head to neighbours, Exmouth Town, looking to add to their points tally, which currently stands at just ten points.

Sitting one place off the foot of the table are Bashley and they will have home advantage for their clash with Sporting Club Inkberrow, who arrive safely tucked into the middle of the table in what is their first-ever season at this level.

Elsewhere, Larkhall Athletic will be looking to strengthen their

own position in the top half of the table as they take on Didcot Town, who find themselves in the bottom half. As Bishops Cleeve look to keep in touch with the top five, they are eager to respond to a home defeat at the hands of Malvern Town last weekend when they go to a Melksham Town outfit who teeter just above the drop zone.

Finally, Falmouth Town are desperate for some action. They have only played 22 League games thus far, the lowest of any team in Division One South. They are due to go to Swindon Supermarine on Saturday with both sides eying the points to move them further away from the bottom four.



Featured Match

MILTON KEYNES IRISH
v AFC DUNSTABLE

A heavy home reverse has provided MK Irish with the fuel to secure seven points from their last three games, all against opponents from within the top six of Division One Central. Since their 6-0 loss at the hands of Hitchin Town earlier this month, they have gone on to beat Hertford Town and Barton

Rovers, with a goalless draw at Biggleswade Town sandwiched in between.

"It's been a tough run of games," admitted manager, Terry Shrieves. "The defeat against Hitchin was maybe the wake-up call that we needed because we've gone on to put in three good performances since then.

"I have been pleased with our reaction; we've proved that on our day we can mix it with those teams in amongst the leading pack, but we know that inconsistency has been our downfall this season.

"Over the past couple of seasons we haven't lost many games. We knew that coming up to this level, things would change and it would be a learning curve for us.

"We've kept the majority of the team together, so a lot of these young lads are playing at this level for the first time.

"As such we have been up and down throughout the season. We're doing well, but I want us to be doing even better. As I say, it's a learning curve for all of us, but we have the right characters in our dressing room and our mentality is getting stronger all of the time.

"They are all tough games at this level. We have to be at it each week without fail and can't afford to switch off at any time.

"We're learning as we go along. It's the only way we will get the experience that we need.

"There is a mix of different styles within this League and we have to be able to deal with each one of them.

"Having got the victory at Barton Rovers last weekend, I'd say we're only a couple of wins away now from safety. The more wins we get, the more our confidence will increase.

"I am always striving for consistency; we've not had it so far, but I am hopeful that this will change and we can build on our current run."

Saturday sees Shrieves' side play host to a much-changed AFC Dunstable side who find themselves rooted to the bottom of the table.



MK Irish manager, Terry Shrieves has not been afraid to give youth its chance this season. Here he is with teenager, Harry Theakston, following his recent first start

It's been a turbulent season for them with just two wins from their 25 League games. Last weekend saw them go down to a 6-1 home defeat at the hands of in-form Thame United to follow up

their 6-0 loss at Aylesbury United in their previous outing.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Will there be smiles for Hitchin Town and Leighton Town (below) in a big weekend of action amongst the top four?

At the top, Hitchin Town and Leighton Town are neck-and-neck. This weekend sees Hitchin host fourth-placed Biggleswade FC, whilst Leighton head to third-placed Biggleswade Town so there are some big points up for grabs here amongst the top four.

The two teams directly below the play-off zone, Thame United and Barton Rovers, meet with just two points separating the teams, although Thame have three games in hand over their opponents.

Down at the bottom, Rayners Lane have home advantage as they take on Marlow, who sit in the lower half of the table. Meanwhile, Enfield have kept two clean sheets in their last three games, including a 1-0 success at Ware last time out, and they will

be hoping to continue this solid form as they head to mid-table Stotfold.

There have been changes at the helm of Northwood this week and they will be hoping that it will have the desired effect as they take on mid-table Flackwell Heath. They are one point adrift of fifth from bottom Leverstock Green.

Elsewhere, Aylesbury United welcome London Lions, further up the table, a single point separates Beaconsfield Town and Hadley who meet on Saturday. Finally, Ware are looking to get back into winning ways as they take on Welwyn Garden City who left it late to grab a point from their home game against Biggleswade Town last weekend.



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