

PRE VIEW MAG



ISSUE #27
20-22 FEBRUARY 2026

REACHING OUT



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

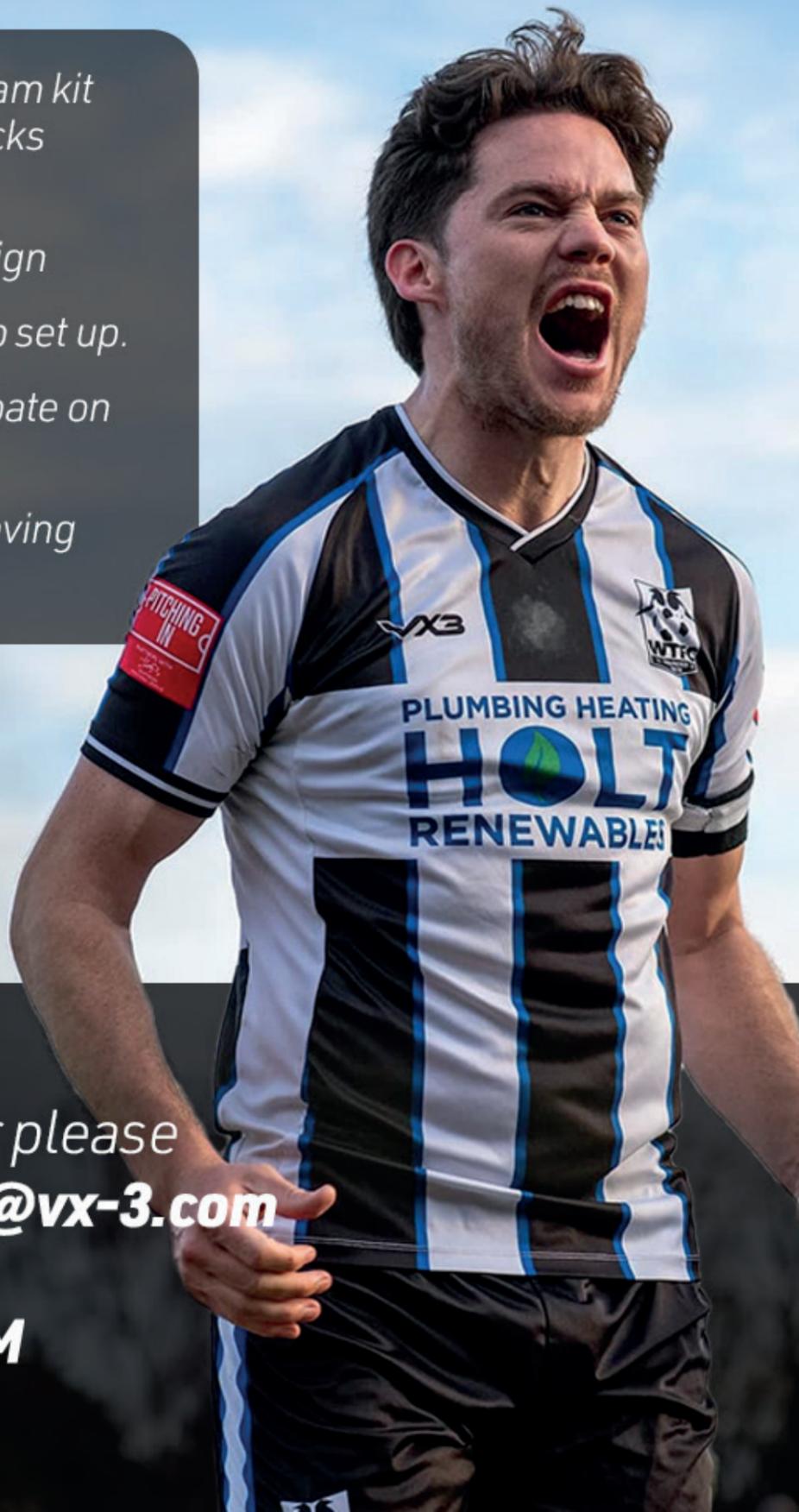
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GOALS OF THE WEEK SHOW

Each week our Goals of the Week show brings you the best of the action from across all four of our divisions.

Premiering at 7pm every Wednesday evening via our YouTube Channel, it features all of the thrills and spills from the past week

Make sure that you check it out and member clubs, don't forget to submit your goals footage each week for use on the show.

The address to send your footage to, by 7pm each Tuesday evening, is: thesouthernfootballleague@gmail.com

A big thank you to David Square who puts the show together on our behalf each week.



Image | Rob Bazley

The Round Up

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TRIDENT LEAGUES

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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 | 29 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 16 | 42 | 67 |
| 2 | Poole Town | 30 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 36 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 27 | 20 | 27 | 58 |
| 3 | Gloucester City | 30 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 40 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 58 |
| 4 | Farnham Town | 25 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 32 | 14 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 21 | 30 | 49 |
| 5 | Sholing | 29 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 35 | 22 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 47 |
| 6 | Gosport Borough | 30 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 28 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 24 | 2 | 47 |
| 7 | Chertsey Town | 29 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 25 | 17 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 9 | 45 |
| 8 | Berkhamsted | 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 45 |
| 9 | Havant & Waterlooville | 29 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 29 | 23 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 26 | 4 | 41 |
| 10 | Bracknell Town | 30 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 35 | 28 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 22 | -3 | 41 |
| 11 | Wimborne Town | 26 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 29 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 37 |
| 12 | Uxbridge | 31 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 27 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 28 | -10 | 37 |
| 13 | Evesham United | 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 27 | 0 | 36 |
| 14 | Basingstoke Town | 30 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 27 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 17 | 19 | -6 | 36 |
| 15 | Yate Town | 29 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 32 | -7 | 34 |
| 16 | Hungerford Town | 30 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 25 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 36 | -22 | 32 |
| 17 | Weymouth | 31 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 34 | -20 | 31 |
| 18 | Hanwell Town | 27 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 20 | 27 | -9 | 30 |
| 19 | Plymouth Parkway | 28 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 36 | -22 | 30 |
| 20 | Dorchester Town | 28 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 31 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 20 | -17 | 29 |
| 21 | Taunton Town | 27 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 24 | 32 | -11 | 26 |
| 22 | Tiverton Town | 24 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 20 | 48 | -33 | 14 |

Weekend Action

Evesham United
v Sholing

Gloucester City
v Wimborne Town

Gosport Borough
v Dorchester Town

Hanwell Town
v Bracknell Town

Havant & Waterlooville
v Tiverton Town

Plymouth Parkway
v Chertsey Town

Poole Town
v Berkhamsted

Taunton Town
v Hungerford Town

Uxbridge
v Weymouth

Walton & Hersham
v Basingstoke Town

Yate Town
v Farnham Town

Division One South

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|-------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Frome Town | 30 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 36 | 11 | 46 | 76 |
| 2 | Malvern Town | 30 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 48 | 28 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 27 | 19 | 28 | 64 |
| 3 | Portishead Town | 29 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 47 | 15 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 17 | 41 | 60 |
| 4 | Winchester City | 30 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 35 | 16 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 16 | 27 | 59 |
| 5 | Shaftesbury | 28 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 35 | 17 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 30 | 24 | 24 | 57 |
| 6 | Bishops Cleeve | 28 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 56 |
| 7 | Hartpury | 29 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 46 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 22 | 32 | 50 |
| 8 | Exmouth Town | 30 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 38 | 22 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 30 | 3 | 47 |
| 9 | Larkhall Athletic | 29 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 36 | 26 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 19 | 27 | 2 | 46 |
| 10 | Westbury United | 28 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 19 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 18 | -1 | 43 |
| 11 | Didcot Town | 31 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 24 | 29 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 27 | -16 | 36 |
| 12 | Sporting Club Inkberrow | 26 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 30 | -8 | 35 |
| 13 | Mousehole | 27 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 21 | -1 | 32 |
| 14 | Bideford | 28 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 28 | -18 | 30 |
| 15 | Swindon Supermarine | 27 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 25 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 19 | -2 | 29 |
| 16 | Melksham Town | 29 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 24 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 25 | -18 | 27 |
| 17 | Bristol Manor Farm | 27 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 19 | 38 | -23 | 26 |
| 18 | Falmouth Town | 24 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 18 | 35 | -8 | 25 |
| 19 | Willand Rovers | 27 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 37 | -22 | 23 |
| 20 | Brixham | 27 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 18 | 28 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 40 | -35 | 22 |
| 21 | Bashley | 29 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 31 | -27 | 16 |
| 22 | Tavistock AFC | 25 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 40 | -42 | 11 |

Weekend Action

Bashley
v Swindon Supermarine

Bideford AFC
v Portishead Town

Bishops Cleeve
v Winchester City

Falmouth Town
v Brixham AFC

Hartpury
v Westbury United

Larkhall Athletic
v Frome Town

Melksham Town
v Malvern Town

Mousehole
v Bristol Manor Farm

Sporting Club Inkberrow
v Didcot Town

Tavistock AFC
v Shaftesbury

Willand Rovers
v Exmouth Town

Premier Division Central

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|---------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Spalding United | 31 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 43 | 17 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 38 | 20 | 44 | 67 |
| 2 | Harborough Town | 27 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 31 | 63 |
| 3 | Real Bedford | 27 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 14 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 14 | 26 | 56 |
| 4 | Quorn | 30 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 24 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 32 | 23 | 12 | 50 |
| 5 | Redditch United | 30 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 19 | 4 | 49 |
| 6 | Needham Market | 29 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 6 | 48 |
| 7 | Halesowen Town | 28 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 23 | 10 | 45 |
| 8 | Leiston | 31 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 24 | 7 | 45 |
| 9 | Banbury United | 28 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 19 | 20 | 4 | 44 |
| 10 | Worcester City | 29 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 41 |
| 11 | Kettering Town | 27 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 28 | 6 | 41 |
| 12 | Stratford Town | 27 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 21 | 4 | 41 |
| 13 | Bury Town | 30 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 25 | 2 | 40 |
| 14 | Bishop's Stortford | 29 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 23 | 28 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 20 | -5 | 36 |
| 15 | St Ives Town | 30 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 24 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 18 | 27 | -13 | 32 |
| 16 | Alvechurch | 26 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 17 | -4 | 31 |
| 16 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 30 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 29 | -19 | 31 |
| 17 | Barwell | 30 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 33 | -15 | 29 |
| 18 | Stamford AFC | 29 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 24 | -26 | 27 |
| 19 | Stourbridge | 29 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 33 | -16 | 26 |
| 21 | AFC Sudbury | 30 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 36 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 18 | 39 | -39 | 22 |
| 22 | Royston Town | 31 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 30 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 35 | -34 | 18 |

Weekend Action

AFC Sudbury
v Leiston

Alvechurch
v Redditch United

Barwell
v Stamford

Bishop's Stortford
v St Ives Town

Bromsgrove Sporting
v Worcester City

Bury Town
v Needham Market

Halesowen Town
v Quorn

Kettering Town
v Banbury United

Royston Town
v Spalding United

Stourbridge
v Real Bedford

Stratford Town
v Harborough Town

Division One Central

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Leighton Town | 29 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 38 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 35 | 21 | 42 | 67 |
| 2 | Hitchin Town | 29 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 35 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 34 | 10 | 44 | 64 |
| 3 | Biggleswade FC | 30 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 25 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 29 | 15 | 17 | 56 |
| 4 | Biggleswade Town | 29 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 38 | 14 | 28 | 53 |
| 5 | Hertford Town | 28 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 39 | 23 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 18 | 25 | 51 |
| 6 | Thame United | 27 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 32 | 26 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 20 | 20 | 51 |
| 7 | Barton Rovers | 29 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 21 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 25 | 23 | 10 | 50 |
| 8 | Hadley | 28 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 30 | 27 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 24 | 20 | 7 | 46 |
| 9 | Beaconsfield Town | 29 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 33 | 22 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 22 | 15 | 45 |
| 10 | Ware | 29 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 26 | 28 | 7 | 44 |
| 11 | Milton Keynes Irish | 30 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 31 | 39 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 25 | -9 | 43 |
| 12 | Welwyn Garden City | 28 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 28 | 20 | 8 | 40 |
| 13 | London Lions | 29 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 30 | 34 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 22 | 26 | -8 | 39 |
| 14 | Stotfold | 30 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 28 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 26 | 36 | -3 | 38 |
| 15 | Flackwell Heath | 28 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 22 | 11 | 37 |
| 16 | Marlow | 30 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 32 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 17 | 35 | -20 | 35 |
| 17 | Aylesbury United | 30 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 20 | 32 | -14 | 29 |
| 18 | Leverstock Green | 28 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 22 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 22 | 34 | -15 | 27 |
| 19 | Enfield | 30 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 17 | 35 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 21 | 42 | -39 | 24 |
| 20 | Northwood | 28 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 34 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 27 | -25 | 22 |
| 21 | Rayners Lane | 30 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 37 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 43 | -52 | 14 |
| 22 | AFC Dunstable | 26 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 41 | -49 | 10 |

Weekend Action

Beaconsfield Town
v Thame United

Biggleswade Town
v Aylesbury United

Flackwell Heath
v AFC Dunstable

Hertford Town
v Barton Rovers

Leighton Town
v Stotfold

Leverstock Green
v Hitchin Town

London Lions
v Biggleswade FC

Milton Keynes Irish
v Rayners Lane

Ware
v Northwood

Welwyn Garden City
v Marlow

Featured Match

**UXBRIDGE
v WEYMOUTH**

A season of twists and turns took another unexpected turn last weekend for Weymouth FC Director of Football, Jason Matthews.

The 50 year-old was forced to don the goalkeeping gloves for the first time in a number of years after goalkeeper, Max Evans, was sent off with 78 minutes on the clock in their Pitching In Southern League Premier South encounter with Havant & Waterlooville, which ended in a 1-0 defeat.

As a player, Matthews amassed over 400 competitive appearances between the posts for the club during a ten-year stint over two spells.

He has also managed the club in over 200 matches, whilst taking on various other roles, including Goalkeeping Coach and assistant manager.

Things turned sour earlier this term when the Club Legend made the difficult decision to step away from the Dorset outfit, but he was soon back where he belongs and is now plotting a positive end to what has been a difficult campaign on and off the pitch.

"It was nice to pull on a shirt again at the weekend," he told his club's media. "I was not expecting that at all!

"As much as I enjoy the role I have at the club now, you simply can't beat the thrill of playing and I thoroughly enjoyed being back out there.

"I didn't enjoy losing, of course, but it was nice to roll back the years and get some game time.

"The lads put in a good performance; the work-rate was there for all to see, but ultimately we lacked that bit of quality, which



Jason Matthews proved that age is just a number last weekend as he donned the goalkeepers' gloves again at the age of 50

Image | Ian Middlebrook

was the difference between getting something out of the game and just falling short.

"It's been a run of five tough games against opponents at the upper end of the table. Now we go into a run of games against teams that are in and around us, so it will be important to add to our points' tally from these fixtures.

"We're out of the relegation places and we have to keep looking up the table and picking up points.

"If we play with the intensity that we did at the weekend, we'll be okay and will win more than we lose. We've just got to keep going and keep believing."

As to whether Matthews will be back between the posts, that remains to be seen!

Weymouth head to Uxbridge on Saturday sitting just a point above the bottom four having taken 31 points from their 31 games.

After three successive wins, which included victories over high-flying Walton & Hershaw and Poole Town, they have gone on to lose their last two games, so will be eager to find that winning touch once more.

They head to an Uxbridge outfit who started the season well following promotion at the end of last term. Although their recent form has dipped, they remain in the middle of the table, six points ahead of their opponents at the weekend.

Their last game saw them fall to a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Farnham Town.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Poole Town went back into second place following last weekend's dramatic late win

Sitting pretty at the top of the table are Walton & Hershaw. They had a solid 4-0 away win at Plymouth Parkway on Tuesday evening to strengthen their position ahead of Saturday's home encounter with mid-table Basingstoke Town.

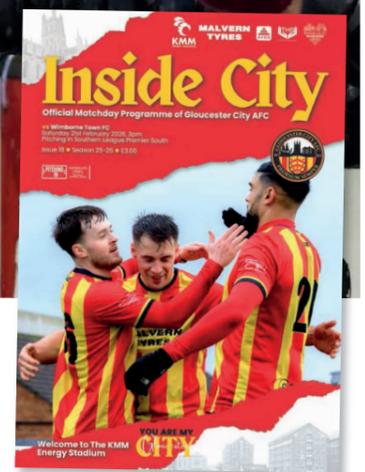
Behind them, Poole Town went back into second place last weekend following a last minute winner at Basingstoke Town, combined with Gloucester City sharing the spoils at Chertsey Town in a 2-2 draw as the home side levelled matters in stoppage time. On Saturday, Poole Town host a Berkhamsted outfit who still have play-off aspirations, whilst Gloucester City welcome mid-table Wimborne Town.

For fourth-placed Farnham Town it's a trip to Yate Town, whilst Sholing, who moved up into the top five last weekend, head to an Evesham United side who are part of a group of clubs in the middle of the table. Gosport Borough are level on points with Sholing and they will have home advantage for the visit of a

galvanised Dorchester Town, who are looking to escape the clutches of the relegation zone.

At the bottom, Tiverton Town will be hoping to get some action after recent postponements as they head to Havant & Waterlooville. They are 12 points behind second-bottom Taunton Town who will be looking to make home advantage count against Hungerford Town, who themselves are only a couple of points clear of the bottom four.

Having suffered a 4-0 home reverse on Tuesday, Plymouth Parkway have another home encounter on Saturday as they take on Chertsey Town who are desperate for the points for different reasons as they chase a play-off spot. Hanwell Town find themselves level on points with Parkway and they will be looking to get back into winning ways as they face Bracknell Town.



Featured Match

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v ST. IVES TOWN

The resignation of Chairman, Paul Reason, earlier in the season prompted a restructure behind the scenes at Premier Central club, St. Ives Town.

The restructure has been led by Andrew Dunn and Mark Taylor, who stepped up from their positions on the board to become interim Co-Chairs until a suitable replacement was found.

The duo have worked hard since October to get the club on an even keel, with additional appointments made to strengthen the board, including a Director of Football and a Director of Business Development.

On the pitch, the club has continued to battle hard and whilst they find themselves in the bottom half of the table, they are five points clear of the relegation places.

This week the club has reiterated its appeal for new investment.

"Since October, a lot of work has been done on establishing new commercial partners and revenue streams," said co-Chair, Andrew Dunn. "This is all positive, and we need to continue this work together with identifying new investment for the club to ensure we have long-term financial stability.

"We have an excellent product at St Ives Town FC and since October I have been so impressed with the desire and the hard work of everyone involved. I am also constantly told by others what a friendly club we are, and what an asset to the local community it is and let us not forget that next year we will celebrate our 140th anniversary.

"In addition to the first team playing at a high standard of



Whilst Ricky Marheineke is working wonders to keep St. Ives Town competitive on the pitch, the club is keen to find new investment to help drive them forward

non-League football, we have a strong youth pathway together with a flourishing ladies and girls' set-up, so it is a fantastic opportunity for people to get involved and to help us move forward so the club remains front and centre of the local non-League scene.

"We would be delighted to hear from anyone who wants to get involved in helping us achieve this goal."

Anyone interested should in the first instance email: Andy.Dunn@stivestownfc.co.uk or Mark.Taylor@stivestownfc.co.uk for further information.

Having succumbed to a 2-0 set-back at Stamford AFC on Tuesday

evening, they face another key road trip on Saturday as they head to a Bishop's Stortford outfit who go into the encounter just one place and four points above them, so this gives them an opportunity to claw back some ground.

Their hosts suffered a heavy 5-0 home reverse at the hands of Real Bedford during the week to make it four defeats out of the last five games – with their solitary point coming from an impressive 2-2 draw at leaders, Spalding United, a game which saw them let a two-goal lead slip.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Alvechurch are eager to build on Tuesday's big derby day victory this weekend

Leaders, Spalding United enjoyed a commanding 3-0 victory over Alvechurch in their last outing and they will be hoping to build on it when they face bottom of the table, Royston Town. Despite their lowly berth, Royston made life tough for second-placed Harborough Town last weekend as they took an early lead before succumbing 2-1. This weekend, Harborough head to a Stratford Town outfit who are battling to keep their play-off dreams alive.

Third-placed Real Bedford are in good form right now, which was further emphasised on Tuesday as they ran out 5-0 winners away at Bishop's Stortford. They face a trip to Stourbridge on Saturday as the Black County outfit battle to get out of the relegation places.

Quorn have reached the 50-point mark in their first season at this level. They head to a Halesowen Town side who find themselves just outside the play-off places and five points adrift of their opponents. Currently occupying the final play-off place is Redditch

United, who chalked up an entertaining 5-2 victory in their Friday night fixture against Barwell. They go to Worcestershire rivals, Alvechurch, on Saturday. They had a morale-boosting 4-1 away win at local rivals, Bromsgrove Sporting, on Tuesday.

Sat one place outside the top five are Needham Market who face what is sure to be a tough examination at their local rivals, Bury Town, in front of what is sure to be a large and vocal crowd.

At the bottom, AFC Sudbury battled out a goalless draw at Worcester City last weekend and they will be looking to make home advantage count this time out as they host Leiston. Meanwhile, Stamford AFC have pulled themselves off the foot of the table and now sit just two points adrift of fifth-bottom Barwell, who they face on Saturday in what is a big game for both clubs.

There's a local derby at Bromsgrove Sporting as they face Worcester City, whilst Kettering Town have home advantage as they take on Banbury United.

Featured Match

**FALMOUTH TOWN
v BRIXHAM AFC**

It was quite a night for Brixham AFC on Monday.

Heading to Swindon Supermarine for their Division One South encounter, their minibus suffered a blow out on the motorway.

It meant that they didn't arrive at their destination until 8.20pm and half-an-hour later they were thrust into action against opponents who have started to find some form.

Things went from bad to worse when they fell behind just before the half-hour mark but they rallied to turn the scoreline on its head with two goals in quick succession midway through the second half before holding on to take a precious and hard-earned three points back to Devon.

As the players arrived home in the early hours of Tuesday

morning, there was a real sense of achievement as they displayed the battling qualities that are going to be needed between now and the end of the season as they look to escape the clutches of the relegation zone.

"That performance showed our resilience and hunger for the three points," said defender, Sam Gleeson. "It was a difficult journey to get there and you start to think that it's going to be one of those days.

"But we managed to battle a burst tyre and the traffic to eventually get there and kick off at ten to nine.

"Given our position in the table, there is pressure going in to every game now as we need to get points on the board.



Brixham AFC showed the fighting qualities required on Monday evening

"As a team we are embracing the challenge and facing it head on. Our resilience and determination certainly came to the fore on Monday and it made winning the game even more enjoyable given the circumstances.

"I only arrived during the season, but it was clear for me to see straight away how focussed everyone is here on preserving the Step 4 status that the club worked so hard to achieve.

"This is a tough League with quality players and team, but everyone is capable of beating each other on their day which makes it very competitive.

"The aims and targets for us are simple as we look towards the run-in to the end of the season – to beat the drop. Monday's

result took us onto 22 points, so we need to be able to build on this now."

It's a big game on Saturday as they head to Cornwall to face a Falmouth Town side who sit just three points above them, just outside of the relegation places.

That said, the home side have only played 24 League games, so they have a busy schedule ahead.

Their last outing saw them lose 3-1 at Exmouth Town, amidst a run of three straight defeats as they look to find some momentum during what has been a stop-start time for them.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Wayne Crutcher has this week taken over as manager of Bashley FC

Last weekend saw Frome Town extend their lead at the top as they chalked up a routine 2-0 victory Brixham AFC, whilst second-placed Malvern Town were held to a 2-2 home draw by Westbury United, with their equaliser coming right at the death. Saturday sees Frome Town head to Larkhall Athletic, who sit just inside the top ten, whilst Malvern Town head to Melksham Town who need the points to aid their climb away from relegation danger.

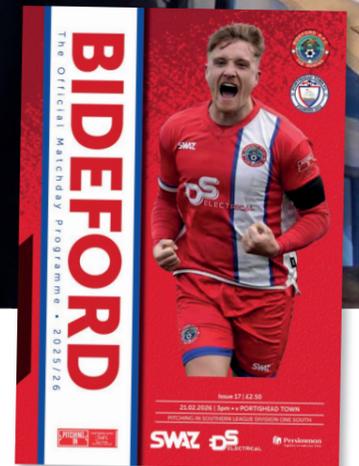
Below them, Portishead Town are looking for a response after going down to a 3-1 home defeat at the hands of in-form Hartpury in their last outing. They travel to face Bideford AFC who let a two-goal lead slip to draw 2-2 with bottom club, Tavistock AFC, in their last game.

There's a mouth-watering encounter between play-off hopefuls, Bishops Cleeve and Winchester City. The home side were left frustrated last weekend when their game was postponed as they dropped out of the top five, whilst Winchester City fell to a single-goal defeat at Melksham Town. Sandwiched in between them in

the final play-off spot are Shaftesbury, who beat Bristol Manor Farm 3-1 last time out and now go to Tavistock AFC, who sit at the foot of the table.

Talking of the bottom four, there has been a change at the Bashley helm this week and they face a big home game against Swindon Supermarine, whose home loss at the hands of Brixham AFC, keeps them still in threat of the relegation places. Willand Rovers have a Devon derby against Exmouth Town, who are looking to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Elsewhere, Hartpury will be looking to continue their fine form as they welcome Westbury United, who gave a good account of themselves in their last game at Malvern Town. Hoping for home comforts are Mousehole AFC who entertain Bristol Manor Farm, whilst Sporting Club Inkberrow will be eager to make home advantage count as they lock horns with Didcot Town.



Featured Match

**HERTFORD TOWN
 v BARTON ROVERS**

An Albie Hall hat-trick drew praise from all quarters last weekend as Barton Rovers picked up an important three points from a hard-earned 3-2 victory over Enfield to keep them very much in the race for a play-off place.

The win took them onto the 50-point mark as the run-in to the end of the season shapes up to be an entertaining one in Division One Central.

"It wasn't the prettiest team performance, but we'll absolutely take it at this point in the season," Hall told us. "As for myself, I was delighted to get back amongst the goals after a bit of a dry spell.

"It's always nice to score a hat-trick, especially if you're taking a ball home too. It's what you live for as a striker; that's two for the season now, my last coming in October against Stotfold."

Hall now has an impressive 27 goals to his name this term.

"I've scored 27 goals in 29 games in the league, so it's been a great season for me so far," he added. "But I have to stay focused on finishing the season even stronger.

"As for the team, we're well placed, in and around those play-off places, so plenty to play for. We'll aim to win as many games as we can and see where it takes us.

"There's bound to be plenty of twists and turns for all teams



Image | Duncan Jack Photo

Albie Hall was back amongst the goals last weekend as he fired home a hat-trick

DUNCAN JACK PHOTO

between now and the end of the season. I imagine it'll be a hectic end as always with rescheduled games needing to be played, but I thrive on the Saturday-Tuesday turn around so I'm excited personally.

"It's been a competitive one this year with no team exceptionally better than the rest. It's made for a good watch for the neutral and it'll be interesting to see how it all finishes up come April/May."

We asked Hall about his aims and targets for the rest of the season.

"I want to continue enjoying playing week in week out, score as many goals as possible and see where it takes us," he said. "To finish in the play-offs again would be a great achievement and it's something we're pushing for.

"There are a number of teams involved in the race for the top five and hopefully we can draw on the experience we had last season and learn from it."

Barton Rovers are only one point adrift of the top five. Their form has been up and down since the turn of the year and they will be looking to build some momentum in these big weeks ahead.

On Saturday they face a mouth-watering trip to the team that currently holds the final play-off spot, Hertford Town.

They too have had an inconsistent recent run and are fresh from a 2-0 reverse at Hadley last weekend.

This one has all of the ingredients to be an intriguing encounter.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Can Beaconsfield Town end Thame United's unbeaten run this weekend?

Fresh from a convincing 5-1 away win last weekend, leaders, Leighton Town, return to home action on Saturday as they welcome mid-table, Stotfold. Their nearest challengers, Hitchin Town, who had a commanding win of their own, beating Ware 4-1, are on their travels as they head to Leverstock Green, who are desperate for the points for different reasons at the other end of the table.

The pack behind them is headed by Biggleswade FC, who go to London Lions, who are part of the mid-table group of clubs. Fourth-placed Biggleswade Town will be looking to make home advantage count as they play host to Aylesbury United.

With Hertford Town and Barton Rovers playing each other,

Thame United will be hoping to further extend their unbeaten run as they go to Beaconsfield Town, who themselves will be looking to keep in the play-off race. Similarly, Hadley are still in touch. They have to wait until Sunday for their action as they go to Enfield.

At the bottom, AFC Dunstable go to Flackwell Heath, whilst Rayners Lane are also on their travels as they head to MK Irish. Meanwhile Northwood, who go into the weekend third from bottom, face a tricky challenge at Ware.

Elsewhere, Welwyn Garden City, who chalked up a good win at Biggleswade FC last time out, are at home to Marlow, who have gradually pulled themselves away from relegation threat.

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