

PRE VIEW MAG



ISSUE #20
19 - 21 DECEMBER 2025

GOAL GETTER

YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE TO ALL
OF THE WEEKEND ACTION

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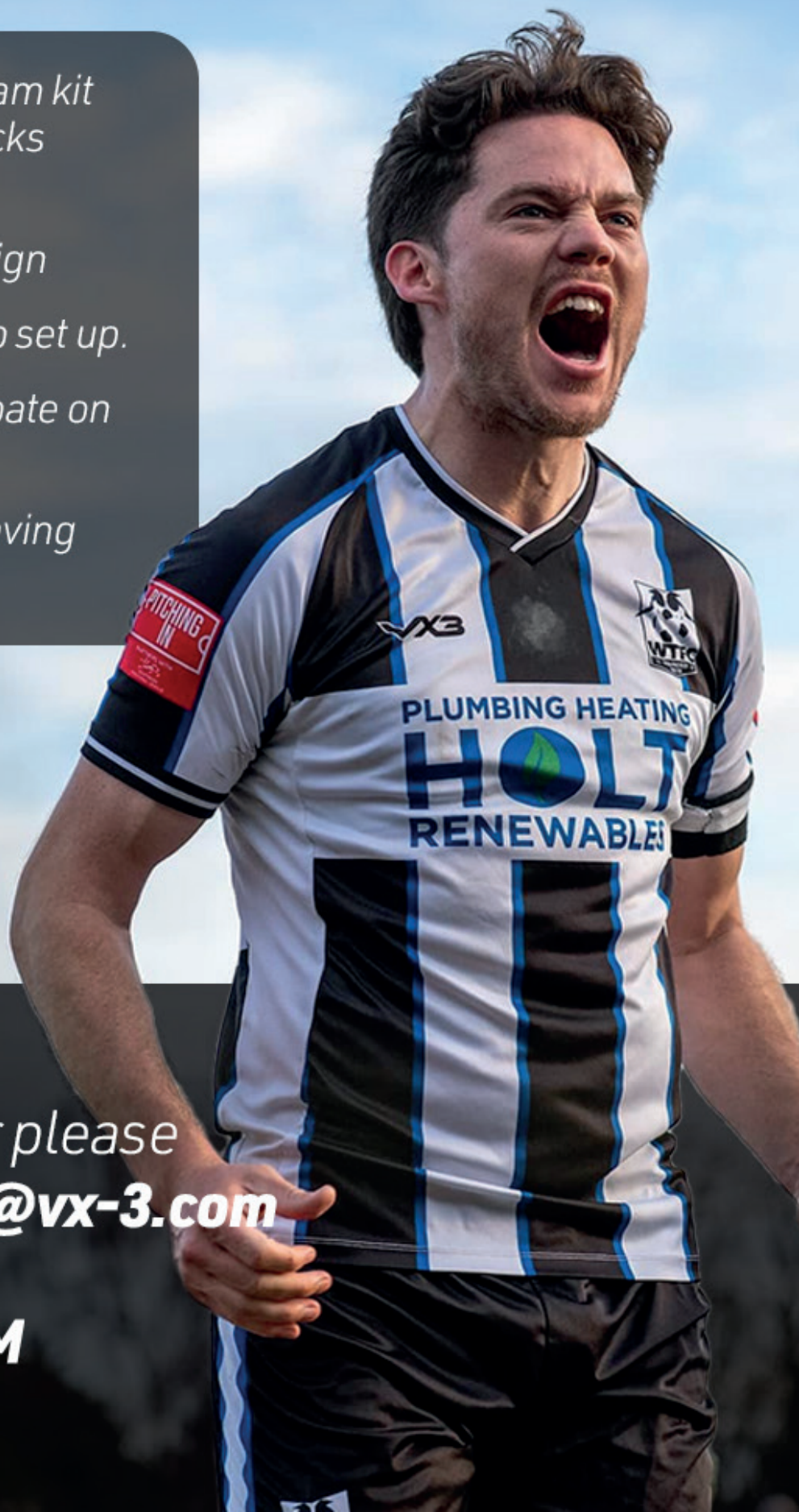
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FLYING THE FLAG

The draw for the fourth round of the Isuzu FA Trophy was made earlier this week.

Following their tremendous 4-1 victory over Sutton United, Premier South high-flyers, Walton & Hersham have been handed another home tie, this time against National League outfit, Brackley Town.

Having beaten National League South high-flyers, Worthing, on penalties, Gloucester City will be heading north to take on Marine. Their shoot-out success was the third time in this competition that they have won this way.

There was similar drama at Alvechurch on Saturday where they came from two goals down to draw with National League North side, Alfreton Town, before going through on penalties.

They now face a trip to Yeovil Town of The National League.

"We're just enjoying the ride," said manager, Kyle Storer. "At this stage of the competition, they are all tough opponents. Obviously it would have been nice to have had home advantage, but we'll go there, apply ourselves the right way and see where it takes us."



"I was really pleased with the character and resilience we showed at the weekend. Going in at the break two goals down, there were some home truths spoken, but the players responded superbly well."

"We were magnificent in the second half and really exciting to watch. It became a proper cup tie in the end and we could have won it in the 90 minutes such was our dominance after the break against higher level opponents."

The fourth round ties will be played on the weekend of January 10th 2026.

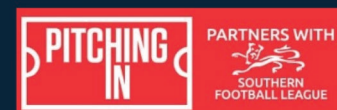
Congratulations to the teams still flying the Southern League flag and commiserations to those that went out last weekend.

The Round Up

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Premier Division South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Walton & Hersham	20	9	1	0	27	6	7	2	1	23	12	32	51
2	Gloucester City	20	9	1	1	26	13	4	3	2	19	13	19	43
3	Poole Town	21	6	4	1	24	12	6	1	3	20	15	17	41
4	Gosport Borough	21	8	1	2	29	19	4	3	3	17	15	12	40
5	Farnham Town	18	4	3	2	21	12	6	3	0	23	13	19	36
6	Sholing	21	6	3	1	26	14	3	6	2	10	9	13	36
7	Chertsey Town	22	5	3	3	19	11	4	3	4	10	11	7	33
8	Wimborne Town	19	6	4	0	24	11	2	3	4	9	9	13	31
9	Berkhamsted	21	4	3	3	13	15	4	3	4	12	14	-4	30
10	Uxbridge	21	5	2	4	19	20	2	6	2	16	17	-2	29
11	Evesham United	22	5	3	3	20	10	2	3	6	13	22	1	27
12	Bracknell Town	21	5	3	4	25	23	1	3	5	6	17	-9	24
13	Yate Town	20	4	4	2	12	8	2	1	7	13	24	-7	23
14	Hungerford Town	21	2	5	3	11	14	3	2	6	16	20	-7	22
15	Basingstoke Town	20	4	1	5	14	19	2	2	6	12	16	-9	21
16	Dorchester Town	21	3	4	4	15	20	1	4	5	10	17	-12	20
17	Hanwell Town	19	3	2	4	10	13	2	2	6	12	15	-6	19
18	Taunton Town	20	2	3	5	12	16	3	1	6	17	21	-8	19
19	Plymouth Parkway	18	4	2	3	10	12	0	4	5	12	19	-9	18
20	Havant & Waterlooville	18	2	2	4	11	15	3	1	6	14	20	-10	18
21	Weymouth	22	2	4	5	11	15	2	2	7	11	28	-21	18
22	Tiverton Town	18	1	1	5	6	10	1	1	9	13	38	-29	8

Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Spalding United	22	6	2	1	25	9	8	3	2	33	17	32	47
2	Harborough Town	19	6	4	0	15	4	6	2	1	16	7	20	42
3	Quorn	22	5	2	4	19	15	7	2	2	28	15	17	40
4	Redditch United	22	8	1	2	21	15	4	1	6	14	17	3	38
5	Needham Market	22	7	1	3	22	14	3	5	3	12	16	4	36
6	Real Bedford	18	5	2	2	15	10	5	2	2	16	9	12	34
7	Halesowen Town	21	6	3	2	21	16	2	6	2	19	16	8	33
8	Stratford Town	21	5	3	2	21	14	4	2	5	13	18	2	32
9	Worcester City	22	4	4	3	15	12	4	3	4	20	11	12	31
10	Leiston	21	4	4	2	19	13	4	3	4	15	17	4	31
11	Kettering Town	21	4	3	3	19	12	4	2	5	13	18	2	29
12	Bishop's Stortford	20	5	1	6	20	20	3	3	2	14	11	3	28
13	Banbury United	22	5	3	3	18	16	3	1	7	15	18	-1	28
14	Barwell	22	4	2	4	14	13	3	4	5	17	21	-3	27
15	St Ives Town	22	5	4	2	15	12	2	2	7	14	22	-5	27
16	Bury Town	22	6	0	5	14	11	1	4	6	14	22	-5	25
17	Alvechurch	20	4	1	5	13	13	3	2	5	6	8	-2	24
18	Bromsgrove Sporting	21	5	1	6	18	22	2	2	5	10	18	-12	24
19	Stourbridge	22	2	4	4	14	17	2	3	7	14	28	-17	19
20	AFC Sudbury	20	3	4	3	16	24	1	2	7	11	27	-24	18
21	Stamford AFC	20	2	3	6	8	20	1	1	7	5	17	-24	13
22	Royston Town	22	1	5	5	15	23	1	2	8	6	24	-26	13

Weekend Action

Basingstoke Town
v Evesham United

Berkhamsted
v Chertsey Town

Farnham Town
v Gosport Borough

Gloucester City
v Hungerford Town

Havant & Waterlooville
v Wimborne Town

Poole Town
v Sholing

Tiverton Town
v Dorchester Town

Uxbridge
v Bracknell Town

Walton & Hersham
v Hanwell Town

Weymouth
v Plymouth Parkway

Yate Town
v Taunton Town

Weekend Action

Alvechurch
v Stamford

Banbury United
v Stratford Town

Bishop's Stortford
v Bromsgrove Sporting

Bury Town
v Stourbridge

Halesowen Town
v Leiston

Kettering Town
v Royston Town

Needham Market
v Harborough Town

Quorn
v Worcester City

Redditch United
v AFC Sudbury

Spalding United
v Real Bedford

St Ives Town
v Barwell

Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Frome Town	21	8	2	1	22	8	8	1	1	25	4	35	51
2	Portishead Town	21	9	1	1	37	8	7	0	3	24	15	38	49
3	Shaftesbury	20	10	0	1	26	11	5	1	3	22	12	25	46
4	Malvern Town	21	8	0	3	28	19	7	1	2	21	14	16	46
5	Winchester City	21	8	3	0	27	10	5	2	3	19	13	23	44
6	Bishops Cleeve	19	8	2	0	24	7	5	2	2	19	17	19	43
7	Exmouth Town	22	7	2	2	26	17	3	3	5	11	23	-3	35
8	Westbury United	19	7	0	3	15	10	3	2	4	7	11	1	32
9	Hartpury	20	6	2	2	33	12	3	1	6	14	15	20	30
10	Larkhall Athletic	21	6	3	2	28	21	2	0	8	13	21	-1	27
11	Sporting Club Inkberrow	19	5	1	3	13	9	2	3	5	11	20	-5	25
12	Bristol Manor Farm	21	5	3	3	15	15	2	1	7	15	26	-11	25
13	Mousehole	21	3	2	6	13	16	3	4	3	17	15	-1	24
14	Bideford	22	3	3	5	13	16	3	2	6	9	20	-14	23
15	Falmouth Town	19	3	3	2	15	9	2	3	6	15	25	-4	21
16	Swindon Supermarine	20	4	0	5	17	17	2	3	6	12	16	-4	21
17	Didcot Town	21	1	4	6	14	27	4	1	5	11	16	-18	20
18	Melksham Town	21	3	4	3	13	13	1	3	7	8	22	-14	19
19	Bashley	23	1	3	7	7	17	3	1	8	13	21	-18	16
20	Willand Rovers	20	2	2	5	9	13	1	4	6	12	28	-20	15
21	Brixham	21	3	1	7	15	27	1	2	7	10	29	-31	15
22	Tavistock	19	2	0	6	5	15	1	1	9	9	32	-33	10

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

Bideford AFC
v Larkhall Athletic

Bishops Cleeve
v Willand Rovers

Bristol Manor Farm
v Westbury United

Falmouth Town
v Sporting Club Inkberrow

Frome Town
v Exmouth Town

Malvern Town
v Didcot Town

Melksham Town
v Hartpury

Portishead Town
v Mousehole

Swindon Supermarine
v Tavistock AFC

Winchester City
v Shaftesbury

Weekend Action

Aylesbury United
v Milton Keynes Irish

Biggleswade Town
v Barton Rovers

Enfield
v Biggleswade FC

Hadley
v AFC Dunstable

Hitchin Town
v Rayners Lane

Leighton Town
v Flackwell Heath

Leverstock Green
v Stotfold

Marlow
v Thame United

Northwood
v Hertford Town

Ware
v London Lions

Welwyn Garden City
v Beaconsfield Town

Featured Match

BERKHAMSTED v CHERTSEY TOWN

It's fair to say that last Saturday couldn't have gone any better for Berkhamsted manager, Chris Devane.

If a last-gasp winner at Weymouth in his 200th game at the helm wasn't enough, it was also his Birthday!

"I am so proud to have chalked up 200 games in charge of this fantastic football club," he told us. "And to do it by my 35th Birthday, it's a huge achievement for me.

"I think between the three clubs I have managed, that makes it over 300 games now and plenty more to come... I hope!

"Such long service is becoming increasing rare these days. It works both ways; there has to be loyalty and trust, which, of course, we have here but it's not necessarily the case elsewhere."

So what does his feel is the secret behind his own longevity?

"I have a determination for success, this is what keeps me motivated," he responded. "The club allow me to do my job and, as I say, trust me to make the footballing decisions.

"It is a recipe that has brought success. Last season we were able to bounce back from relegation in the best possible way.

"We were able to reach the play-off final and then to win that game 5-0 in front of a record crowd of over 2,000 says everything about the character of the players.

"What a day it was, certainly one of the standout moments of my 200 games here.

"The thing I have learned the most during my time at the helm is to be honest. I have mentioned about the trust in me from those above, but there also has to be trust between players and management too, it's huge.

"I really live by the saying; 'Give bad news well'."

The club has come a long way since Devane's first competitive game at the helm. On that occasion, in September 2020, it took a stoppage time equaliser to earn them a share of the spoils from a home game against North Leigh.

Now they sit just inside the top ten in the Premier South, with 30 points to their name from the opening 21 League games.



Chris Devane's Christmases all came at once last weekend

"It's been a very positive start to the season," he added. "We've come a long way since August, let alone from when I first took over. We are growing all of the time as a group and I'd say that we are ahead of schedule as we get ready to go into the busy festive period.

"This is a hard League. You have to be so tactically smart and you need to be so well organised to have a chance at winning. There is no easy game whatsoever; you have to be switched on at all times.

"Yes, we're inside the top ten at the moment but our main aim is still to stay in this division. I want to be able to establish Berkhamsted as a Step 3 side. We'll be able to re-evaluate things

in the summer and see where our next step will take us."

Saturday's challenge sees them play host to a Chertsey Town outfit who are just two places and three points above them.

They too go into the game on the back of a hard-earned 1-0 away win in their last outing at Hungerford Town last weekend as Brad Wilson hit the winner from the penalty spot early in the second half.

It was their third straight win as they set their sights on challenging for a top five place.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Farnham Town will need to have their head on the game this weekend as they host fellow high-flyers, Gosport Borough

The top two are both at home on this pre-Christmas weekend. Leaders, Walton & Hersham play host to Hanwell Town on the back of their Isuzu FA Trophy antics last weekend. They face opponents who are looking to pick themselves up after losing at home to Hungerford Town on Tuesday evening.

That result gave Hungerford their first victory in three months and they will take the glow of that into Saturday's trip to second-placed Gloucester City. They too made Isuzu FA Trophy progress last weekend with a penalty shoot-out victory over National League South high-flyers, Worthing.

Sitting in third place are Poole Town and they face a tricky home encounter against Sholing, who go into the game just outside the top five. Poole were 3-1 victors over Uxbridge in their last outing, whilst Sholing fought of the challenge of Dorchester Town to claim a 2-1 success.

Making up the rest of the top five are Farnham Town and Gosport Borough who meet in what promises to be an enthralling contest. Hosts Farnham are four points behind their opponents, but with games in hand. They warmed up with a 5-0 victory over bottom of the table Tiverton Town in their last game, whilst Gosport were without a game last weekend.

At the bottom, Tiverton Town are hoping to play their first home game since mid-October as they host Dorchester Town. Ten points above them are Weymouth and Plymouth Parkway who both lock horns with vital points up for grabs.

Just inside the bottom four are Havant & Waterlooville who are at home to Wimborne Town, whilst managerless Taunton Town teeter just above the drop zone and they hit the road for a trip to Yate Town on Saturday.

The remaining action sees Basingstoke Town entertain Evesham United and Uxbridge take on Bracknell Town as they look to find their form from earlier in the season against opponents who have been edging up the table in recent weeks.



Featured Match

HALESOWEN TOWN v LEISTON

20 goals in all competitions by the end of November. You could say that things are going well for Halesowen Town hot-shot, Jason Cowley.

Joining the Premier Central club from Hereford during the summer, he was able to hit the ground running with his all-action goalscoring displays playing a key role in the Yeltz's quest to make the top five.

"It's the best start to a season I've had for a while," he told us with a smile. "I've been playing regularly and have been consistent in my performances, which is pleasing.

"My confidence is high; I feel that whenever an opportunity comes my way, I'm going to score. I've got faith in my own ability but I wasn't expecting to be on 21 goals after my first 26 games of the season!

"It's a record that I am extremely proud of and I want to be able to maintain this ratio into the second half of the season too.

"I'm feeling good, I'm enjoying my football and that's what it's all about. As a team we've put ourselves into a strong position going into the festive period, where the games come thick and fast and there are plenty of points up for grabs.



Jason Cowley has been amongst the goals this term

"It would be nice to be able to turn some of the draws into wins, but we're proving hard to beat as just four defeats from our 21 League games suggests.

"We started the season a little slower than we would have liked, but we're finding our form and gelling as a team."

There has been sadness around the club in recent weeks following the passing of well-respected Club President, Colin Brookes.

"Colin's passing was such a devastating loss to the club," added Cowley. "It was a pleasure to have known him, even if it was only for a short time.

"He made his mark on me with his banter and the way he talked to the lads on the coach journey's to away games. He had such passion for his hometown club and we all want to do well in our of him and his family.

"We're all focussed on doing him proud."

Having scored an impressive 29 goals for arch rivals, Stourbridge, in 2022/23 and also gracing Bromsgrove Sporting, Cowley knows exactly what is required to be successful at this level.

"Coming back into the Premier Central this season, it has

surprised me how much the standard has improved," he admitted. "There is so much quality throughout the League with some very good players at all clubs.

"The League is the toughest I have ever seen it, but I relish the challenge. My target is to keep myself fit and playing to a high level week in, week out so that I can help the team push on up the table.

"Last weekend's game at AFC Sudbury was mental. I was frustrated not to be playing having picked up a slight knock, so to see the goals flying in at both ends, I just wanted to be involved. As the 5-5 scoreline would suggest, it was an end-to-end game with plenty of entertainment for the neutral!"

Halesowen go into the game just three points off the top five and face opponents who go into the game just two points below them.

For Leiston it will be their first action in a fortnight as they look to bounce back from a 4-1 loss at leaders, Spalding United, on that occasion, a result which ended a two-game winning run.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



The players of Stourbridge and Harborough Town pay their respects to former Glassboys' player, Ethan McLeod, who tragically lost his life in a car accident on Tuesday evening. May he rest in peace.

There was a boost for leaders, Spalding United, on Wednesday evening when they saw second-place Harborough Town fall to their first defeat of the season with a 2-1 loss at a resurgent Stourbridge. Spalding host a Real Bedford outfit who sit just outside the top five on Saturday in what promises to be a hard-fought encounter, whilst Harborough will be seeking the right response as they head to fifth-place Needham Market.

Quorn will be looking to maintain their challenge at the top as they host a Worcester City outfit who secured promotion with them from the Northern Premier League Midland Division at the end of last term. Also in the top five are Redditch United, who will be looking to make home advantage count against opponents who need points for different reasons as they host AFC Sudbury.

At the foot of the table, Royston Town hit bottom spot as they fell at home to fellow strugglers, Stourbridge, last weekend. A tricky trip to Kettering Town awaits them on Saturday. Alvechurch will be hoping to channel their Isuzu FA Trophy form as they look to pull further clear of the relegation zone against Stamford AFC.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge, who are feeling the glow of successive victories following Wednesday night's exploits, go to a Bury Town outfit who, like Alvechurch, are part of a group of clubs that sit just above the bottom four.

The remaining action sees Banbury United host a Stratford Town side who hit St. Ives Town for six in their last game. Tim Flowers will be at the helm for the first time as Bromsgrove Sporting go to Bishop's Cleeve, whilst the aforementioned St. Ives Town play host to Barwell.

Featured Match

WINCHESTER CITY v SHAFTESBURY

What a difference a year makes for Shaftesbury.

On Tuesday evening they secured a 3-1 away win at Bashley, which took them on to 46 points from 20 League games.

It's exactly the same number of points that they ended last season on as they narrowly avoided the drop.

Now, they prepare to go into the busy festive period in third place in the Division One South table as they live up to their pre-season billing as one of the favourites for promotion thanks to a solid summer of recruitment, which has been added to as the campaign has gone on.

A key piece of the jigsaw is Sonny Pike, who has been a consistent figure since joining the club from Hamworthy Recreation.

"It was a great win on Tuesday night," he told us. "The conditions were extremely tough for both teams but we went there, dug-in and got the result."

"We knew it would be a difficult game; going to Bashley on a

Tuesday night is never easy, but we were delighted with the outcome and being able to add three more points to our tally.

"It's important that we keep building on this good run of form. Our next two games are as tough as they come at this level as we go to Winchester City on Saturday before hosting Frome Town seven days later.

"These are the type of games that you want to be involved in, though. Positive results will see us take some good momentum into the New Year, so that's what we are looking to do.

"This is a really strong League, there's absolutely no doubt about that, so to be tucked in amongst the top five is good. Things are still very tight and we know that we are surrounded by real quality. Even the teams in the lower reaches of the table provide a tough test, there are certainly no easy games, you have to be switched on at all times.

"But we've had a solid season so far and personally I am really enjoying being part of it. We've got a great group here and we



Shaftesbury are standing strong together this season

always seem to find a way to win, even when we're not at our best and that's a great quality to have, something that will stand us in good stead for the battles ahead in the second half of the season.

"Tuesday night was an example of this where we never quite reached the standards that we know we are capable of, yet we got the job done.

"As I say, Saturday will be a tough test, but we're looking forward to it. We're excited by what the year ahead holds in store for the club, on and off the pitch.

"If we keep chipping away then there is no reason why we can't be celebrating come the end of the season."

Saturday's hosts, Winchester City, go into the game two points and two places below them. They have lost just three times in their 21 League games so far as they seek to bounce straight back from relegation at the end of last term.

They are fresh from a goalless draw at Hartpury last weekend, a result which made it three games without defeat.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



There was drama aplenty in Bishops Cleeve's 4-4 draw at Larkhall Athletic last weekend

With Christmas just around the corner, Frome Town lead the way and they head into their home encounter with Exmouth Town having come home from Tavistock AFC commanding 4-0 winners last time out. Second-place Portishead Town also picked up a 4-0 away triumph from their trip to Didcot Town as the top two march boldly forward. Portishead host Mousehole on Saturday.

In fourth place, Malvern Town battled out a 2-1 away win at Mousehole and they return to home action this weekend for the visit of Didcot Town. Just outside the top five are Bishops Cleeve who played out a dramatic 4-4 draw at Larkhall Athletic, with four goals coming in a frantic final quarter-of-an-hour. Bishops Cleeve thought they had won it in the second minute of stoppage time, but there was still time for a 96th minute leveller. A home clash with Willand Rovers awaits Bishops Cleeve this weekend.

Meanwhile at the bottom, Tavistock AFC go to a Swindon Supermarine outfit who somewhat surprisingly find themselves just outside the bottom four. Brixham AFC and Bashley are both without action this weekend.

Elsewhere, Bideford AFC have found a bit of form recently and

they will be looking for that to continue as they host a Larkhall Athletic outfit who were rocked by the resignation of manager, Ollie Price, on Wednesday. Having fallen at home to the aforementioned Bideford AFC in their last game, Westbury United will be hoping to bounce back as they head Bristol Manor Farm.

Falmouth Town had a good away win last weekend and this time out they will be aiming to make home advantage count when they host Sporting Club Inkberrow. It's a return to home action for Melksham Town as they take on Hartpury to complete what is set to be another weekend of thrills and spills, which certainly beats Christmas shopping!



Featured Match

LEIGHTON TOWN v FLACKWELL HEATH

Flackwell Heath may have found the spark that they were looking for with the recent arrival of Juwon Akintunde.

He has already weighed in with a couple of goals as they steadily climb the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central table following a stuttering start.

"I've settled in really well so far," he told us. "Everyone at the club has been so welcoming and we have a group here, which has made it easy for me to slot in.

"I had a bit of a bump in the road with a red card a few games in, but I've been pleased to score in each of our last two games as we won both of them.

"I've been happy with the way that my performance levels have improved and I'm looking to continue building on that with so many games coming up and a chance for us to keep pushing up the table.

"We got a good win at MK Irish recently. It was an important three points as they are around us in the table. We started the game sharply and on the front-foot and even when our hosts grew into the game, we were resolute to ride it out, which is a good sign.

"Getting a goal just before half-time set us on our way and gave us a big boost for the second half, where we were able to nullify their threats and adjust how we played in and out of possession.

"I was able to get our second goal early in that second period and it helped to settle us down and gave us the confidence to play our game and see it through in what was a solid away team performance.

"Just two defeats in our last eight games is encouraging. It was disappointing that we couldn't hold on to our lead at Rayners Lane on Tuesday. We let them get back into it quickly, but it was another point towards our tally.



Juwon Akintunde has provided a spark for Flackwell Heath since his arrival

"The games are coming around quickly now and we're looking forward to a busy schedule as it gives us a chance to really build on our recent form and get some momentum. This is a competitive League and nothing is guaranteed, but we have belief to take into what are tough games.

"At this level, you have to work hard for every point that you earn. If you're not at your game, you will get punished, it's as simple as that. It's imperative that we stay focussed at all times in order to give ourselves the best possible chance.

"We want to be in and around the play-off positions over the second half of the campaign and there's no reason why we can't achieve this. I want to continue making a contribution, be it with goals or assists."

Akintunde cut his football teeth within the schoolboy ranks of both Queens Park Rangers and then Brentford.

He actually had a spell with the Flackwell Heath U18s after recovering from a broken leg before going on to Maidenhead

United and then a spell in America where he played college soccer at the NCAA D2 level for four years, winning a Conference title.

After graduating, he played two seasons in the USL 2 before moving back home at the age of 23 and embarking upon a journey that has taken in the likes of Aylesbury United, Uxbridge FC, Northwood, Royston Town, Tilbury and now Flackwell Heath.

A tough challenge stands before them at the weekend as they head to leaders, Leighton Town.

They recently had a wobble by losing two games in a row – their first defeats of the season – before normal service was resumed last Saturday as they swept aside a youthful AFC Dunstable by four goals to nil.

It means that they sit on the 50-point mark after 22 games, six points ahead of second-place.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Ware are looking to continue their pursuit of a place in the top five this weekend

The pursuit of leaders, Leighton Town, continues with Hertford Town heading into the festive period in good form having chalked up an impressive 5-0 away win at Biggleswade Town in their last outing. This weekend they go to Northwood.

Just below them, Hitchin Town are finding some momentum and they had a 2-0 triumph over an improving Flackwell Heath last time out. Saturday sees them host Rayners Lane, who are battling for the points for different reasons in the lower reaches of the table.

Making up the rest of the top five are Biggleswade Town and Barton Rovers who meet at the weekend in what is sure to be a hard-fought and close encounter. Biggleswade Town responded to a heavy home defeat last weekend by going to Leverstock Green on Tuesday and securing a convincing 3-0 success.

There is a group of teams just outside the play-off places hoping to make their move. Biggleswade FC go to Enfield, whilst Ware take on a London Lions outfit who have picked up some good results recently, including Wednesday's 3-2 triumph over Welwyn Garden City, who are also in the running to make the top five. They host Beaconsfield Town on Saturday as they look to bounce back.

The remaining action sees Aylesbury United welcome Milton Keynes Irish, whilst Hadley will be hoping to make home advantage count as they take on bottom club, AFC Dunstable. Having returned to winning ways for the first time since the end of August last weekend, Leverstock Green host Stotfold, who are still reeling from their 4-1 set-back at Marlow during the week.

The aforementioned Marlow are back on home soil for the visit of Thame United to complete what is another intriguing weekend of action.

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