

PREVIEW MAG



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FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE TO ALL
OF THE WEEKEND ACTION



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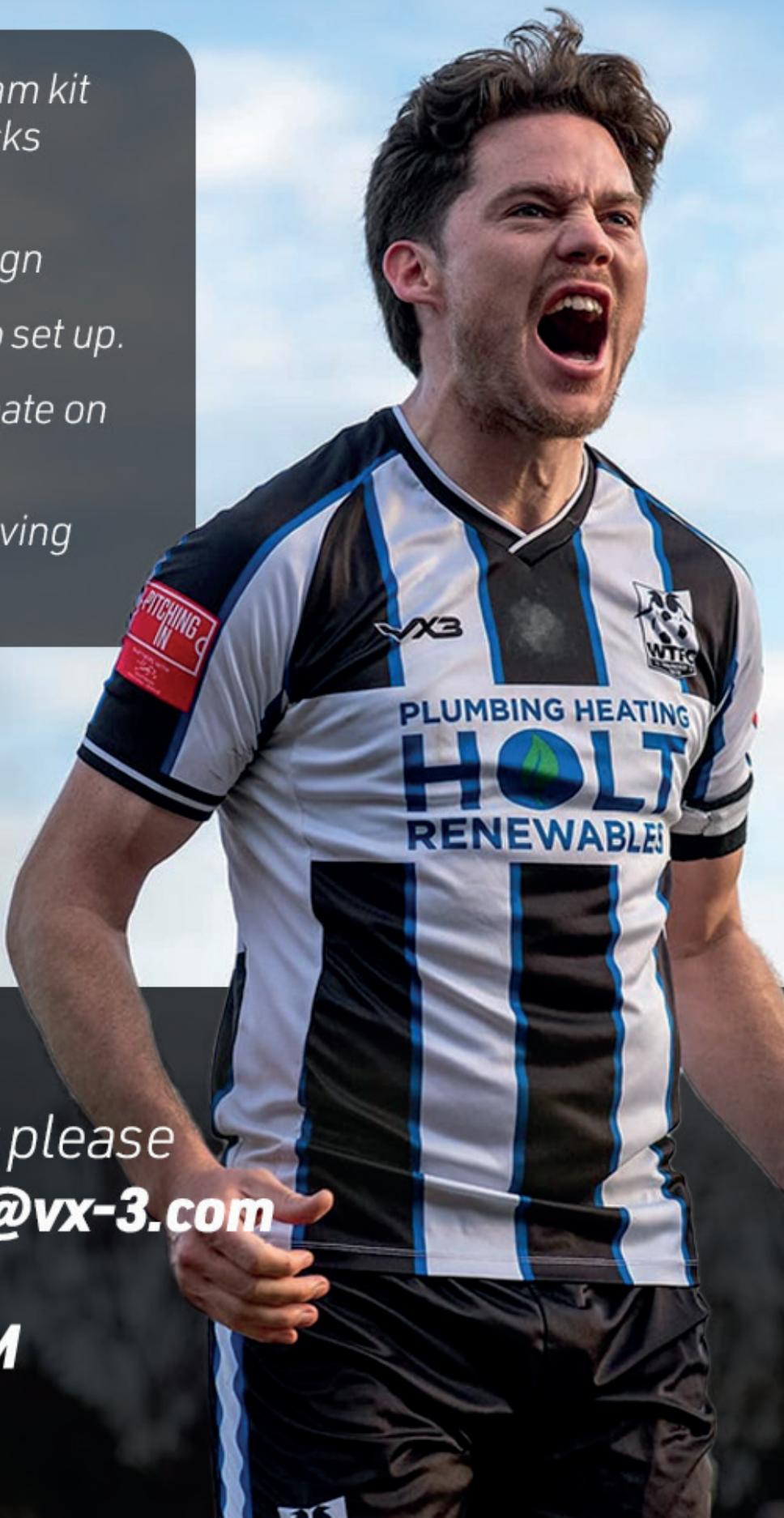
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Over 100 Southern, Northern Premier and Isthmian leagues games will be live streamed on ClubberTV platform this season, with subscribers paying £12.99 for a weekly pass, and £29.99 for a monthly pass.

This Trident partnership represents their first venture in the UK. "We are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to show case as many games as possible over the next three seasons in the Trident league," said Jimmy Doyle, Founder and CEO of ClubberTV. "We believe there are excellent clubs with exciting games to be elevated at this level in the UK pyramid.

"We are looking forward to working closely with everyone involved so we ensure we get the right tone and voice to amplify these great games to more people in both the UK and anywhere in the world where fans exist.



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The Round Up

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TRIDENT LEAGUES

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TRIDENT LEAGUES

You can watch Trident Leagues on Clubber TV at:

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or on our iOS & Android apps, where you'll find the full list of games to be live streamed.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

20

Premier Division South

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Walton & Hersham | 23 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 34 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 12 | 40 | 60 |
| 2 | Poole Town | 25 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 25 | 48 |
| 3 | Gloucester City | 23 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 34 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 23 | 47 |
| 4 | Gosport Borough | 25 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 29 | 23 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 |
| 5 | Farnham Town | 22 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 26 | 19 | 22 | 42 |
| 6 | Sholing | 25 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 42 |
| 7 | Chertsey Town | 26 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 23 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 42 |
| 8 | Havant & Waterlooville | 24 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 22 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 2 | 34 |
| 9 | Basingstoke Town | 25 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 20 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 18 | -3 | 34 |
| 10 | Wimborne Town | 23 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 7 | 33 |
| 11 | Uxbridge | 25 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 21 | 24 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 19 | 18 | -2 | 33 |
| 12 | Berkhamsted | 23 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 14 | -2 | 33 |
| 13 | Evesham United | 26 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 25 | 0 | 31 |
| 14 | Bracknell Town | 24 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 21 | -7 | 30 |
| 15 | Taunton Town | 25 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 21 | 26 | -8 | 26 |
| 16 | Yate Town | 23 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 26 | -9 | 26 |
| 17 | Hungerford Town | 24 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 26 | -14 | 25 |
| 18 | Weymouth | 26 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 30 | -22 | 22 |
| 19 | Hanwell Town | 23 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 23 | -12 | 21 |
| 20 | Plymouth Parkway | 23 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 31 | -21 | 21 |
| 21 | Dorchester Town | 24 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 20 | -17 | 20 |
| 22 | Tiverton Town | 21 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 18 | 43 | -28 | 14 |

Premier Division Central

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|---------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Spalding United | 26 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 37 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 17 | 40 | 57 |
| 2 | Harborough Town | 23 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 24 | 51 |
| 3 | Quorn | 25 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 30 | 22 | 10 | 41 |
| 4 | Halesowen Town | 24 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 19 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 17 | 10 | 39 |
| 5 | Needham Market | 24 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 3 | 39 |
| 6 | Redditch United | 26 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 19 | -2 | 39 |
| 7 | Real Bedford | 21 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 38 |
| 8 | Stratford Town | 23 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 18 | 4 | 38 |
| 9 | Worcester City | 26 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 37 |
| 10 | Leiston | 24 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 23 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 7 | 37 |
| 11 | Bishop's Stortford | 23 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 22 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 34 |
| 12 | Kettering Town | 24 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 26 | 0 | 32 |
| 13 | Banbury United | 24 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 19 | 0 | 32 |
| 14 | St Ives Town | 25 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 18 | 23 | -3 | 32 |
| 15 | Bury Town | 24 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 22 | -2 | 29 |
| 16 | Barwell | 25 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 25 | -6 | 29 |
| 17 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 24 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 19 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 23 | -15 | 25 |
| 18 | Alvechurch | 21 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 10 | -3 | 24 |
| 19 | Stourbridge | 25 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 18 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 29 | -12 | 24 |
| 20 | AFC Sudbury | 24 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 28 | -30 | 21 |
| 21 | Royston Town | 25 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 29 | -28 | 17 |
| 22 | Stamford AFC | 22 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 22 | -29 | 13 |

Weekend Action

Berkhamsted v Basingstoke Town

Bracknell Town v Sholing

Chertsey Town v Dorchester Town

Farnham Town v Evesham United

Gosport Borough v Taunton Town

Havant & Waterlooville v Gloucester City

Poole Town v Yate Town

Tiverton Town v Hanwell Town

Uxbridge v Plymouth Parkway

Weymouth v Walton & Hersham

Wimborne Town v Hungerford Town

Weekend Action

AFC Sudbury v Harborough Town

Banbury United v St Ives Town

Barwell v Real Bedford

Bury Town v Bromsgrove Sporting

Halesowen Town v Royston Town

Kettering Town v Alvechurch

Leiston v Stourbridge

Needham Market v Stratford Town

Quorn v Spalding United

Redditch United v Bishop's Stortford

Worcester City v Stamford

Division One South

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|-------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Frome Town | 26 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 9 | 41 | 64 |
| 2 | Portishead Town | 25 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 40 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 26 | 16 | 39 | 56 |
| 3 | Winchester City | 26 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 14 | 28 | 56 |
| 4 | Malvern Town | 25 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 39 | 23 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 15 | 23 | 56 |
| 5 | Shaftesbury | 24 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 17 | 26 | 51 |
| 6 | Bishops Cleeve | 24 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 23 | 16 | 49 |
| 7 | Exmouth Town | 26 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 26 | -1 | 41 |
| 8 | Larkhall Athletic | 25 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 31 | 23 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 19 | 22 | 5 | 39 |
| 9 | Hartpury | 25 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 39 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 38 |
| 10 | Westbury United | 23 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 13 | -2 | 33 |
| 11 | Mousehole | 25 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 19 | 0 | 31 |
| 12 | Sporting Club Inkberrow | 22 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 26 | -7 | 29 |
| 13 | Bristol Manor Farm | 24 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 17 | 29 | -15 | 26 |
| 14 | Didcot Town | 25 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 29 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 22 | -19 | 26 |
| 15 | Bideford | 26 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 28 | -20 | 26 |
| 16 | Falmouth Town | 22 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 17 | 29 | -3 | 25 |
| 17 | Melksham Town | 25 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 23 | -16 | 23 |
| 18 | Willand Rovers | 25 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 33 | -21 | 22 |
| 19 | Swindon Supermarine | 21 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 17 | -5 | 21 |
| 20 | Brixham | 23 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 17 | 27 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 30 | -30 | 18 |
| 21 | Bashley | 26 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 17 | 27 | -22 | 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 | Leighton Town | 25 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 36 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 26 | 17 | 36 | 58 |
| 2 | Hitchin Town | 25 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 8 | 39 | 55 |
| 3 | Hertford Town | 24 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 34 | 20 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 13 | 26 | 48 |
| 4 | Biggleswade | 25 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 21 | 19 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 16 | 47 |
| 4 | Biggleswade Town | 24 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 26 | 22 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 13 | 23 | 43 |
| 5 | Ware | 25 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 25 | 24 | 12 | 43 |
| 6 | Barton Rovers | 25 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 25 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 20 | 21 | 8 | 43 |
| 8 | Thame United | 23 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 25 | 21 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 18 | 9 | 38 |
| 9 | Beaconsfield Town | 25 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 19 | 10 | 37 |
| 10 | Hadley | 23 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 14 | 7 | 37 |
| 11 | Stotfold | 25 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 25 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 23 | 32 | 3 | 37 |
| 12 | Welwyn Garden City | 24 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 16 | 8 | 35 |
| 13 | London Lions | 24 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 27 | 27 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 16 | 24 | -8 | 32 |
| 14 | Flackwell Heath | 23 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 30 |
| 15 | Milton Keynes Irish | 25 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 37 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 22 | -18 | 30 |
| 16 | Marlow | 25 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 27 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 32 | -14 | 29 |
| 17 | Aylesbury United | 25 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 18 | 29 | -13 | 26 |
| 18 | Northwood | 25 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 31 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 19 | 24 | -21 | 22 |
| 19 | Leverstock Green | 24 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 19 | 32 | -14 | 20 |
| 20 | Enfield | 25 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 15 | 32 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 16 | 38 | -39 | 15 |
| 21 | Rayners Lane | 25 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 27 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 38 | -44 | 12 |
| 22 | AFC Dunstable | 23 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 30 | -33 | 10 |

Weekend Action

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

Weekend Action

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

Featured Match

WEYMOUTH v WALTON & HERSHAM

Things couldn't be going much better for Walton & Hersham right now.

Sitting pretty at the top of the Premier South table, 12 points clear of their nearest challengers and with games in hand, they have also made club history with their exploits in the Isuzu FA Trophy where a home tie against either Woking or Macclesfield awaits.

Following the euphoria of last weekend's single-goal victory over National League Brackley Town, it's back to the battle for League points on Saturday with a trip to a Weymouth outfit who have struggled so far this term, sitting just above the relegation zone.

"I was over the moon after the win last Saturday," talented goalkeeper, Jos Barker, told us. "Going in to the game, we all had the belief that we could win and progress further in the competition.

"We knew that if we could be defensively strong, then we have the talent at the top end of the pitch to make an impact and the game plan worked.

"It was a great feeling to get the win and create history for

the club. I speak for the whole team when I say that we were all bursting with pride at the end and what we have achieved together."

The prospect of facing Woking in the round of 16 is particularly appealing for Barker. They host Emirates FA Cup giant-killers, Macclesfield, in their rearranged fourth round tie this coming Tuesday evening.

"I'm ecstatic with the draw in all honesty," he added. "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, so if Woking win on Tuesday, it would be a game I'd definitely be up for."

"If it's Macclesfield that win, well they just beat Crystal Palace, so I'd also have no complaints with that fixture as well!"

These are halcyon days for the Swans and Barker is playing his part with some reliable displays between the posts.

"The team are going strong this season," he continued. "We will be hoping to bring these performances into the second half of the season as well. We all love playing and working hard for each other.



These are halcyon days for Jos Barker and his Walton & Hersham team-mates

"It's a great environment to be in; we're putting the extra work in because we know that there is the opportunity for us to achieve something really special here."

"Personally I'm very pleased with my own performances this season. I feel I'm definitely playing the best I have ever played so far in my career with 17 clean sheets in all competitions so far."

"I'm really enjoying my football and playing for this club is an absolute pleasure. Obviously, for as well as we've done so far, the season is far from over and there is still plenty of football to be played."

"We're taking things game by game and taking nothing for granted. We just have to keep doing the right things and maintain the high standards that we have displayed so far."

"Every team provides its own challenges and our focus now is firmly fixed on Weymouth on Saturday and getting three points from this encounter. That's the way we doing things every week

regardless of who we are up against."

"We know what we want to achieve this season, but we have to keep working hard in order to achieve those goals."

"Our main aim is to take the League title and then anything else that comes with that in the FA Trophy is a bonus."

In contrast, it has been a tough campaign both on and off the pitch for Weymouth following their relegation out of The National League South at the end of last season.

They recently replaced Steve Claridge with Jamie Wells as they look to improve upon a run of just one win from their last nine League games.

This is sure to be an entertaining encounter between two sides who are desperate for the points for very different reasons.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Havant & Waterlooville are in fine form right now

The chase is on to catch leaders, Walton & Hersham, with Poole Town currently sitting in second place and they will be hoping to make home advantage count as they host Yate Town on Saturday. Meanwhile, third-placed Gloucester City have a tricky trip on their hands to an in-form Havant & Waterlooville who have quickly moved up the table with six wins and a draw from their last seven games, during which time they have hit 23 goals.

Also in the top five, Gosport Borough take on Taunton Town, whilst Farnham Town will be eager to get back into action as they face mid-table Evesham United.

Just outside of the play-off places, Sholing are sure to face a tough assignment as they go to an improving Bracknell Town. Two surprise packages meet as Chertsey Town, who find themselves

seventh after a solid season so far, play host to a Dorchester Town outfit who are just one place off the bottom of the table having been amongst the leading pack for much of last term.

At the bottom, Tiverton Town will be looking to continue their recent upturn in fortunes as they host a Hanwell Town side who are just inside the bottom four. Things are not going well for Plymouth Parkway at the moment as they travel to face Uxbridge whose own recent form has taken a dip, although they did win their last game at Dorchester Town.

Elsewhere, mid-table Berkhamsted lock horns with Basingstoke Town as just a point separates the two teams, whilst Wimborne Town have home advantage for the visit of Hungerford Town, who are looking to edge away from the bottom four.

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION CENTRAL



PARTNERS WITH
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FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Featured Match

KETTERING TOWN v ALVECHURCH

These days, clubs with no sponsor emblazoned across the front of their shirts are very much in the minority.

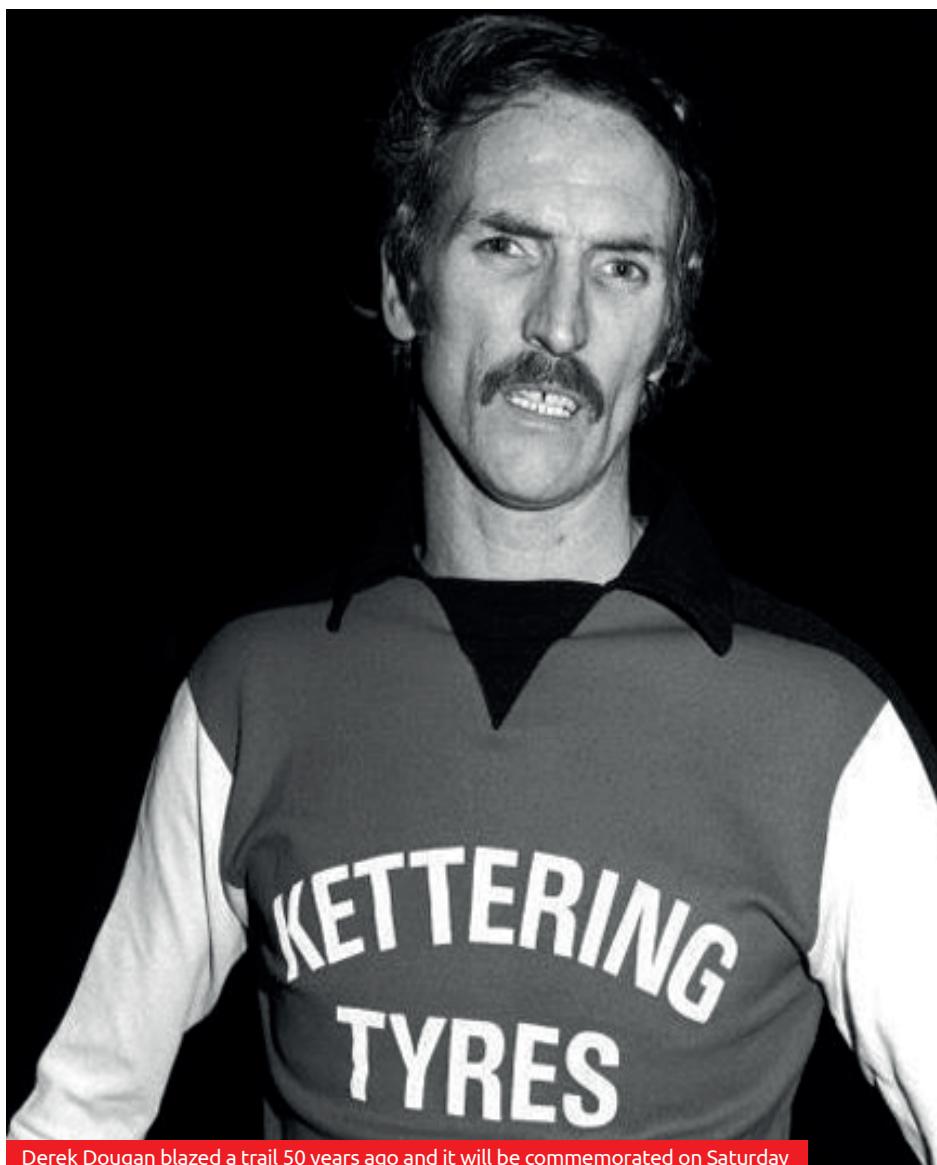
But 50 years ago it was a completely different story. On January 24th 1976 Kettering Town stepped out for their Southern League clash against Bath City with the name of Kettering Tyres on the front of their shirts.

It was the very first time that a British club had taken to the field with the name of a sponsor on their shirts.

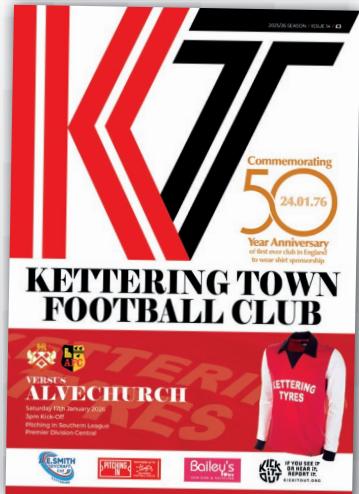
A visionary on the pitch for Wolves and Northern Ireland, Derek

Dougan hit upon the idea as he sought to raise additional funds for his club having taken on the role of player-manager towards the end of the previous year.

He is reported to have agreed a 'four-figure' deal with the local tyre firm,



Derek Dougan blazed a trail 50 years ago and it will be commemorated on Saturday



but The FA immediately stepped in and ordered the name to be removed for their next game as it went against the rules.

Dougan hit back, citing that there was nothing written down in the rule book to back this up.

"I find it inconceivable that petty-minded bureaucrats have only this to bother about," he complained at the time.

In an attempt to find a way around the issue, the wording was changed to 'Kettering T', with Dougan claiming that the 'T' stood for Town.

The FA were having none of it and with a potential £1,000 fine hanging over them, Kettering Town relented. However, with the bit between their teeth and with support from the likes of Bolton Wanderers and Derby County, they lobbied The FA and in the summer of 1977, the shirt sponsorship ban was lifted.

There were limitations on the size of sponsors' names, plus the issue of not falling foul of the BBC's rules about advertising messages appearing during its broadcasts had to be overcome, but Kettering Town's endeavours opened up a whole new realm of marketing and sponsorship opportunities for clubs at all levels.

In 1979, Liverpool agreed a shirt sponsorship deal with Hitachi and things spiralled from there, but it must never be forgotten where it all started and on Saturday, for their Premier Central clash with

Alvechurch, Kettering will be celebrating their special place in football culture.

There will be special guests in attendance, including players who were involved in that seminal game on a chilly winter afternoon half-a-century ago, and various events taking place ahead of kick-off.

On to the here and now and Liam McDonald's side are looking to bounce back from a 4-1 defeat at Leiston in their last game, a result which leaves them sat in the middle of the table.

It will be their first home game since before Christmas as they

face opponents who did themselves proud at Yeovil Town in the Isuzu FA Trophy last weekend, holding The National League club to a goalless draw before succumbing on penalties, but sit precariously just above the bottom four.

They have games in hand over those teams around them, but without a League win since November, they will be eager to get up and running again having made a bright start to the campaign and finding themselves amongst the leading pack early on.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Having won the top of the table clash last weekend, Spalding United sit pretty six points clear but having played three games more than their nearest rivals. They hit the road on Saturday to face Quorn who, despite sitting third, are reeling from a heavy 5-0 defeat at Stourbridge on Wednesday evening.

Second-place Harborough Town are on the road as they head to an AFC Sudbury outfit who need the points for very different reasons at the wrong end of the table. There's another top against bottom encounter at Halesowen Town where the fourth-placed Yeltz entertain Royston Town, who are just one off the foot of the table.

Making up the top five is Needham Market and having been without a game for the past three weeks due to the winter weather, they host a Stratford Town side who are chasing them down as they sit just outside the play-off places on the back of a six-game winning run.

Also sat just outside the top five are Redditch United, who welcome Bishop's Stortford, and Real Bedford, who will be looking to follow up Tuesday's 3-1 triumph at AFC Sudbury as they go to Barwell.

Down at the bottom, Stamford AFC will be hoping that the recent changes they have made within their squad will start to bear fruit as they go to a Worcester City outfit who fell at home to Banbury United last weekend.

Having romped to a five-goal victory on Wednesday evening, Stourbridge are plotting a route out of the bottom four. They face a tough away assignment at Leiston on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Banbury United and St. Ives Town are locked together on 32 points and they meet with the opportunity to push into the top half of the table at stake. Just a couple of places separate Bury Town and Bromsgrove Sporting in what promises to be another close-fought encounter.



Tom Edge was the man of the moment on Wednesday as he hit four of Stourbridge's five goals on his debut

Featured Match

LARKHALL ATHLETIC v EXMOUTH TOWN

New Year, new start for Larkhall Athletic with the appointment of John Durbin into the managerial hot-seat earlier this month.

Durbin takes over a team sat inside the top ten of Division One South and is looking forward to the challenge that stands before him.

"Larkhall is a fantastic club with a brilliant reputation and it's an honour to be the manager," he told us. "I've been around the lads for six months prior to my appointment as assistant manager, but when the opportunity arose to step up, it was one I couldn't turn down and I have grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

"I don't have a coaching philosophy as such, it's more about winning games of football! My aim is to give clear and simple instructions in a way that the lads can easily take on board what's needed from them each game and put it into practice.

"I always expect the team to work hard and I know each player will need a different style of management in order to get the

best out of them, so it's my job to work out what that is."

The team is on a four-game winning streak, with the latest success coming at Westbury United last weekend where Dawid Regula's goal just before the hour-mark proved to be the difference.

"It was the perfect away performance really," added Durbin. "The boys worked very hard and once we got the goal, we had something to fight for.

"Naturally we come under a bit of pressure towards the end but we stood up tall and managed to see the game out to pick up another three hard-earned points.

"This is an extremely competitive division. There are no easy games and as we've seen already this season, everyone is capable of beating everyone. I know a lot of people say this, but it's completely true."

So, what are the aims and targets for the rest of the season, both on and off the pitch?



John Durbin is leading Larkhall Athletic into exciting times

"Naturally, we want to finish as high up the table as we can to give us a platform to build on for when we start to look towards next season," he continued. "Off the pitch the club have ambitions to grow as well, with some exciting projects in the pipeline. These are really positive times to be involved with the club and we look forward to driving things forward."

Director of Football, Andy Gilbert, is equally as excited.

"Durbs has made a significant impact since joining the club at the start of the season as assistant manager," he added. "During the recruitment process, Durbs stepped in to lead the team, and I have been fortunate to work closely with him throughout this period.

"I have been extremely impressed with the way the team has been set up and structured, which has played a key role in the positive results and performances we have seen in recent weeks.

"Those results and performances have given the football

leadership team the time needed to review all available options carefully, ensuring we appointed the best candidate for the role.

"I would like to thank the players for their response, attitude, and commitment over the last few weeks, and I look forward to seeing how the team continues to progress under John's leadership."

A home game against Exmouth Town awaits at the weekend. The Devon club sit just one place and two points above their opponents so a close and hard-fought encounter is in prospect.

A 1-0 home reverse at the hands of Hartpury last weekend brought a two-game winning run to an end as Kevin Hill's side look to keep in touch with the play-off places having secured a top five finish last term.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



In-form Malvern Town head to the League leaders, Frome Town, on Saturday

Leaders, Frome Town, will face a stern test as they host in-form Malvern Town, who arrive in joint second place in the table, one of three clubs on 56 points. Both teams go into the game full of confidence, so an entertaining game is in prospect.

Having been held to a goalless draw by Willand Rovers in their last outing, Portishead Town get back into home action for the visit of a Swindon Supermarine outfit who slipped into the bottom four earlier this week on the back of Willand's away win at Melksham Town.

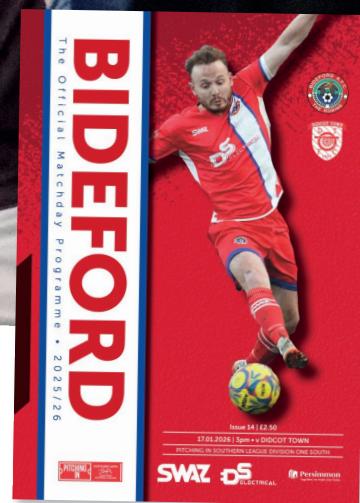
A second trip to Devon in the space of a few days is on the agenda for Winchester City. They battled out a victory at Tavistock AFC on Wednesday evening and now head to Brixham AFC, who are also in the bottom four.

Making up the rest of the top five are Shaftesbury who go to

Melksham Town having shared six goals with Hartpury in their last outing. They hold a two-point advantage over Bishops Cleeve who host Westbury United.

The bottom two meet as Bashley play host to Tavistock AFC, who find themselves six points adrift of their opponents going into the game, so they will be keen not to lose any more ground.

Elsewhere, Bideford AFC welcomes Didcot Town with both clubs level on 26 points going into the game. Only a point separates Falmouth Town and Bristol Manor Farm ahead of their meeting, whilst two points is the difference between Sporting Club Inkberrow and Mousehole AFC. Some close encounters are expected here.



PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
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Featured Match

THAME UNITED v BIGGLESWADE FC

Bradley Bell is enjoying his football again and the proof is there for all to see with his performances for Biggleswade FC since joining the club in mid-November.

His non-stop running and goal at the weekend helped secure a 3-1 victory over Northwood for his side, their second successive win, to leave them fourth in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central table having lost just four of their 25 outings this term.

"As a team we played really well on Saturday," Bell told us. "We got off to a strong start with an early goal and that settled us down.

"It allowed us to go on and control the majority of the game to secure a deserved three points.

"I am always happy to contribute and I'm enjoying playing deeper in midfield and then arriving late to get goals.



Bradley Bell is enjoying his football at Biggleswade FC

"I've settled in really well here. The last couple of years have been something of a roller-coaster for me, but I have found me feet here and I am playing with a smile on my face."

"Having a great group of lads around me and an adaptive management team certainly helps and I am determined to kick-on."

"We're sitting fourth in what is a really competitive League where everyone is capable of beating each other."

"As we edge nearer to the business end of the season, it's just important to take each game as it comes and keep ticking along and picking up points."

"I want to get as many minutes as I can and continue to enjoy my football, as that's where you get the best out of me."

"With this team, I do feel that we can be a surprise package this season."

Joint manager, Dave Northfield, has admitted that Bell's availability was an opportunity that was too good to turn down.

"We weren't necessarily looking to add to what is already a strong squad here," he said. "When we found out that he was

available and keen to come here, it was an opportunity that we just couldn't turn down."

"He has played most of his football at Step 3, so his experience has already been an important ingredient and will be even more so as the season goes on."

"His presence also provides further competition for places and the other lads can learn from the way he goes about his business."

Biggleswade FC head to Thame United on Saturday as they look to extend their winning run. They face opponents who are part of a group of clubs just outside the top five, with their sights set firmly on the play-off places.

This will be their first action of 2026 having ended the previous year on the back of a five-game unbeaten run that included four wins.

As such, they will be hoping that the break in action will not interrupt their momentum and they can pick up where they left off.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Hertford Town and their flag-tastic fans hit the road on Saturday as they look to strengthen their position amongst the leading pack

The battle at the top is hotting up. Leighton Town are in pole position right now and they go to Beaconsfield Town, who sit just outside of the top five. Meanwhile, Hitchin Town are in fantastic form and are now just two points behind. They are at home to Marlow on Saturday.

Third-placed Hertford Town hit the road with a trip to MK Irish, whilst Biggleswade Town make up the rest of the top five and they will be tested to the limit against a London Lions outfit who are full of confidence and have embraced the step up that they have made this season.

Lurking with intent just out of the top five are Ware who will be

looking to make home advantage count as they take on Hadley, whilst Barton Rovers will be looking to respond in the right way to last weekend's heavy home loss at the hands of Hadley when they go to Rayners Lane.

Amongst the bottom four, managerless AFC Dunstable find themselves at the foot of the table as they head to Aylesbury United. It's a home encounter for Enfield against a Northwood outfit, who sit just outside the bottom four. Meanwhile Leverstock Green are at home to Welwyn Garden City.

Elsewhere, Stotfold and Flackwell Heath battle it out in the middle of the table.

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