

# PRE VIEWMAG



ISSUE #26  
13-15 FEBRUARY 2026

## ONE LOVE



FOOTBALL  
U  
HOMOPHOBIA

FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

**DESIGNATED  
MATCHDAY**

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



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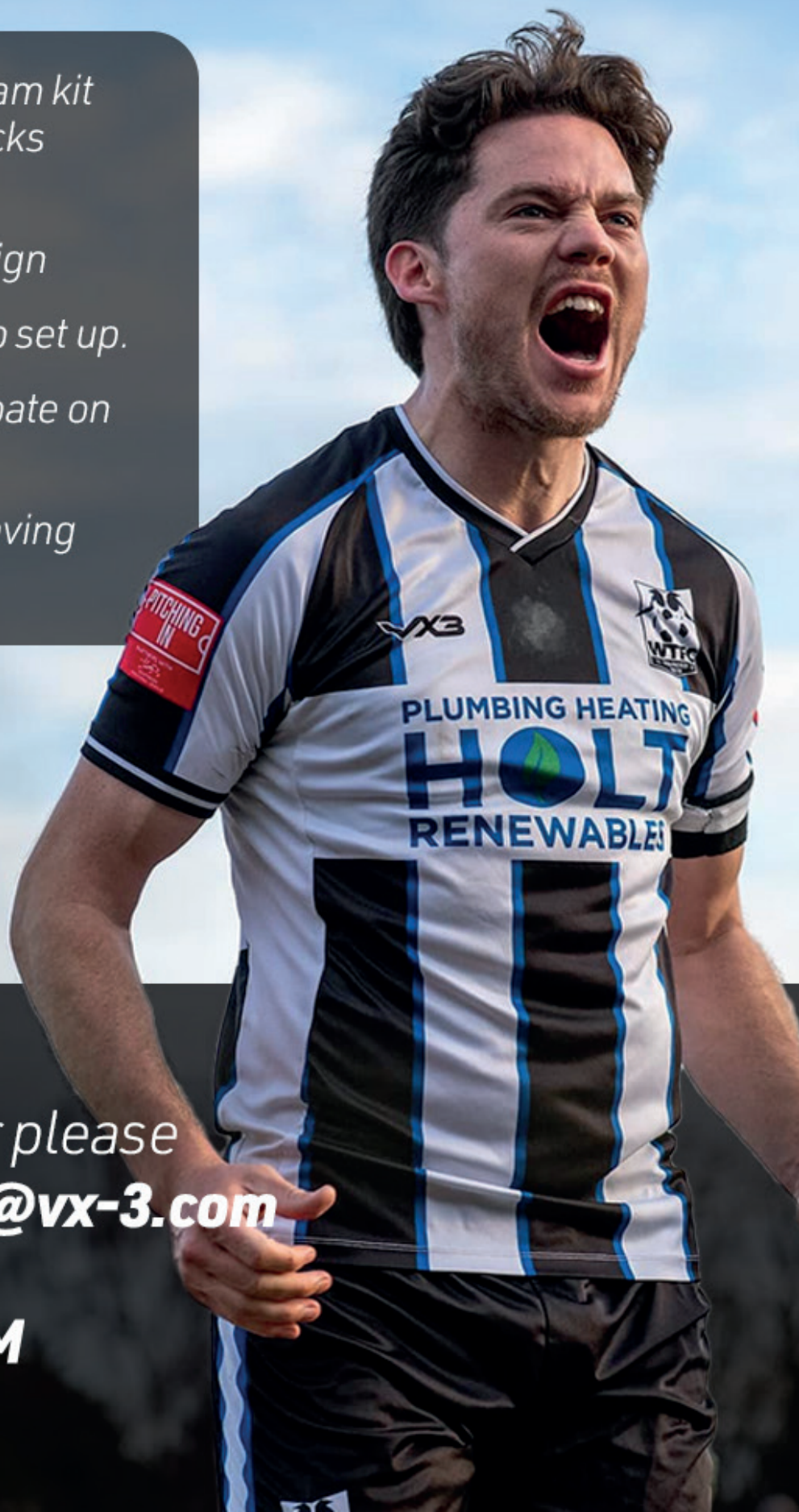


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## FOOTBALL v HOMOPHOBIA DESIGNATED MATCHDAY

Throughout our four divisions this weekend, clubs will be giving their support and showcasing the fantastic work of the Football v Homophobia campaign.

The Southern League has 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 LGBTQ+ community. February is LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ - 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);

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

We thank those member clubs who are spreading this very important message at their games, not only over the course of this weekend but also on an ongoing basis.

### 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	27	12	2	1	38	9	8	2	2	25	15	39	64
2	Gloucester City	29	12	2	1	40	18	5	4	5	23	21	24	57
3	Poole Town	29	8	5	2	36	16	8	2	4	25	19	26	55
4	Gosport Borough	30	9	2	4	34	28	5	3	7	20	24	2	47
5	Farnham Town	24	6	4	2	28	13	7	3	2	33	21	27	46
6	Sholing	28	7	5	2	31	20	4	6	4	16	17	10	44
7	Chertsey Town	28	6	3	4	23	15	6	5	4	16	15	9	44
8	Berkhamsted	29	6	4	4	19	18	5	5	5	17	18	0	42
9	Havant & Waterlooville	28	7	3	5	29	23	4	2	7	23	26	3	38
10	Bracknell Town	29	7	4	5	32	28	3	4	6	12	22	-6	38
11	Uxbridge	30	6	2	7	24	27	3	8	4	20	24	-7	37
12	Evesham United	29	7	4	4	24	13	2	5	7	16	26	1	36
13	Basingstoke Town	29	7	2	6	22	25	3	4	7	17	19	-5	36
14	Wimborne Town	25	6	6	1	26	15	2	4	6	11	16	6	34
15	Yate Town	28	6	4	4	21	13	3	3	8	17	29	-4	34
16	Weymouth	30	4	5	6	18	19	4	2	9	16	34	-19	31
17	Hanwell Town	26	4	4	4	14	16	4	2	8	20	24	-6	30
18	Plymouth Parkway	26	5	2	5	14	16	3	4	7	18	32	-16	30
19	Hungerford Town	29	4	5	5	17	25	3	3	9	21	36	-23	29
20	Taunton Town	26	3	4	5	16	19	4	1	9	22	29	-10	26
21	Dorchester Town	27	4	4	7	21	31	2	4	6	12	20	-18	26
22	Tiverton Town	24	2	1	6	8	13	2	1	12	20	48	-33	14

Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Spalding United	30	9	4	2	40	17	10	3	2	38	20	41	64
2	Harborough Town	26	10	4	0	27	8	8	2	2	23	12	30	60
3	Real Bedford	25	7	2	3	22	14	8	3	3	26	14	20	50
4	Quorn	29	6	2	7	26	24	8	3	3	32	23	11	47
5	Redditch United	29	9	2	4	26	22	5	2	7	16	19	1	46
6	Halesowen Town	27	8	3	3	26	19	4	6	3	26	20	13	45
7	Needham Market	28	9	1	5	29	22	4	5	4	13	17	3	45
8	Leiston	30	5	7	3	27	19	6	4	5	23	24	7	44
9	Stratford Town	26	8	3	2	28	16	4	2	7	13	20	5	41
10	Banbury United	27	7	3	3	21	17	5	2	7	19	20	3	41
11	Worcester City	28	5	4	6	17	16	6	3	4	28	14	15	40
12	Bury Town	29	6	3	5	17	14	5	4	6	24	24	3	40
13	Kettering Town	26	5	3	3	22	12	6	2	7	21	27	4	38
14	Bishop`s Stortford	27	6	1	7	23	23	4	5	4	20	19	1	36
15	St Ives Town	28	5	6	4	19	21	3	2	8	18	25	-7	32
16	Bromsgrove Sporting	28	6	2	6	20	23	2	4	8	15	28	-16	30
17	Barwell	29	4	3	6	18	20	3	5	8	18	28	-12	29
18	Alvechurch	24	4	1	6	14	16	4	3	6	11	13	-4	28
19	Stourbridge	28	3	5	5	20	19	2	5	8	15	32	-16	25
20	Stamford AFC	27	4	4	6	14	24	2	1	10	6	24	-28	23
21	AFC Sudbury	29	3	4	8	18	36	2	2	10	18	39	-39	21
22	Royston Town	30	2	5	8	19	30	1	4	11	11	33	-33	18

Weekend Action

Basingstoke Town  
v Poole Town

Berkhamsted  
v Taunton Town

Bracknell Town  
v Yate Town

Chertsey Town  
v Gloucester City

Dorchester Town  
v Evesham United

Farnham Town  
v Uxbridge

Hungerford Town  
v Walton & Hersham

Sholing  
v Plymouth Parkway

Tiverton Town  
v Gosport Borough

Weymouth  
v Havant & Waterlooville

Wimborne Town  
v Hanwell Town

Weekend Action

Redditch United  
v Barwell (playing Friday)

Banbury United  
v Bury Town

Harborough Town  
v Royston Town

Leiston  
v Bromsgrove Sporting

Needham Market  
v Halesowen Town

Quorn  
v Bishop`s Stortford

Real Bedford  
v Stratford Town

Spalding United  
v Alvechurch

St Ives Town  
v Kettering Town

Stamford  
v Stourbridge

Worcester City  
v AFC Sudbury

Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Frome Town	29	12	2	1	29	10	11	2	1	36	11	44	73
2	Malvern Town	29	12	0	3	46	26	8	3	3	27	19	28	63
3	Portishead Town	28	11	2	2	46	12	8	1	4	26	17	43	60
4	Winchester City	29	10	5	1	35	16	7	3	3	24	15	28	59
5	Bishops Cleeve	28	12	2	2	36	14	5	3	4	19	23	18	56
6	Shaftesbury	27	11	1	2	32	16	6	2	5	30	24	22	54
7	Hartpury	28	9	3	2	46	15	5	2	7	20	21	30	47
8	Exmouth Town	29	9	2	3	35	21	4	3	8	17	30	1	44
9	Larkhall Athletic	28	8	4	2	35	26	5	0	9	19	27	1	43
10	Westbury United	27	9	0	5	19	14	4	3	6	10	16	-1	42
11	Sporting Club Inkberrow	25	7	2	3	17	11	3	3	7	16	29	-7	35
12	Didcot Town	30	5	4	6	24	29	4	2	9	14	27	-18	33
13	Mousehole	26	4	3	6	17	19	4	4	5	22	21	-1	31
14	Swindon Supermarine	26	6	0	6	24	20	2	5	7	14	19	-1	29
15	Bideford AFC	27	5	3	6	18	21	3	2	8	13	28	-18	29
16	Bristol Manor Farm	26	5	4	5	18	22	2	1	9	18	35	-21	26
17	Falmouth Town	23	4	3	2	18	9	2	4	8	17	32	-6	25
18	Melksham Town	28	3	6	6	20	24	2	3	8	10	25	-19	24
19	Willand Rovers	26	3	3	5	10	13	2	4	9	15	34	-22	22
20	Brixham AFC	25	4	2	7	18	28	1	2	9	13	37	-34	19
21	Bashley	28	1	3	8	7	19	3	1	12	18	31	-25	16
22	Tavistock AFC	24	2	0	9	9	22	1	1	11	9	38	-42	10

Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leighton Town	28	11	2	0	38	10	8	5	2	30	20	38	64
2	Hitchin Town	28	9	3	3	31	14	9	4	0	34	10	41	61
3	Biggleswade FC	29	6	6	3	26	22	10	2	2	29	15	18	56
4	Hertford Town	27	10	0	5	39	23	6	3	3	27	16	27	51
5	Biggleswade Town	28	5	6	4	28	24	8	3	2	33	14	23	48
6	Thame United	26	7	2	4	28	23	8	1	4	34	20	19	48
7	Barton Rovers	28	8	2	4	26	19	5	6	3	25	23	9	47
8	Ware	28	6	4	5	28	19	7	1	5	25	24	10	44
9	Beaconsfield Town	28	6	5	4	33	22	5	4	4	23	21	13	42
10	Hadley	26	5	2	5	26	26	6	5	3	24	20	4	40
11	Milton Keynes Irish	29	6	2	7	31	39	6	2	6	21	23	-10	40
12	London Lions	29	7	2	5	30	34	5	1	9	22	26	-8	39
13	Stotfold	29	8	1	6	28	19	4	1	9	26	36	-1	38
14	Flackwell Heath	26	5	4	5	25	18	5	3	4	21	15	13	37
15	Welwyn Garden City	26	4	5	4	16	16	5	5	3	24	16	8	37
16	Marlow	29	7	1	6	29	27	4	1	10	17	35	-16	35
17	Aylesbury United	29	4	4	5	20	19	4	1	11	20	33	-12	29
18	Enfield	29	2	2	10	17	35	5	1	9	19	39	-38	24
19	Leverstock Green	26	2	5	4	17	21	2	6	7	20	32	-16	23
20	Northwood	27	2	3	8	15	31	2	7	5	19	27	-24	22
21	Rayners Lane	29	1	1	13	9	34	2	3	9	16	43	-52	13
22	AFC Dunstable	26	1	3	9	10	30	1	1	12	12	41	-49	10

Weekend Action

Bashley  
v Didcot Town

Bideford AFC  
v Tavistock AFC

Exmouth Town  
v Falmouth Town

Frome Town  
v Brixham AFC

Larkhall Athletic  
v Sporting Club Inkberrow

Malvern Town  
v Westbury United

Melksham Town  
v Winchester City

Mousehole  
v Willand Rovers

Portishead Town  
v Hartpury

Shaftesbury  
v Bristol Manor Farm

Swindon Supermarine  
v Bishops Cleeve

Weekend Action

AFC Dunstable  
v London Lions

Aylesbury United  
v Beaconsfield Town

Barton Rovers  
v Enfield

Biggleswade FC  
v Welwyn Garden City

Hadley  
v Hertford Town

Hitchin Town  
v Ware

Marlow  
v Leighton Town

Northwood  
v Milton Keynes Irish

Rayners Lane  
v Leverstock Green

Stotfold  
v Biggleswade Town

Thame United  
v Flackwell Heath



## Featured Match

# SHOLING v PLYMOUTH PARKWAY

**Plymouth Parkway made it a hat-trick of wins last Saturday to move out of the Premier South relegation zone.**

A 2-0 victory over Berhamsted saw Carlo Garside amongst the scorers as the Parkway ground staff were rewarded for their immense efforts in being able to get the game on amidst all of the wet weather.

"It was a huge win last Saturday to make it three on the spin," Garside told us. "The performance was top class from the team. The grit and desire we showed throughout the game is what has been creating the success in the last few weeks.

"Personally it's a rare but brilliant feeling to get a goal, it makes the three points a little bit sweeter for me personally!

"These past few games have been a huge turning point in our season. As a group, we know our position in the League is not where we want to be, however, the last few games have seen us beat strong teams.

"Bracknell Town and Berkhamstead were top of the form table going into the games against us, so that makes the wins even

better.

"We now need to take confidence from the fact we have beaten both of them with a clean sheet as well.

"The games will be coming thick and fast over the next few weeks. There are a number of home games within this run of matches and we need to make them count.

"In terms of the season as a whole, it's been very up and down. We started very slowly and found ourselves in a difficult position in the table.

"It's no excuse but we have struggled with a few injuries to key players like Shane White and some more experienced players at the beginning of the season. Having these players back now and a fully fit and competitive squad has made such a difference.

"The standards improve when we are all fighting for the shirt and it's really shown over the last few weeks.

"For me personally it was also a bit of a slow start to the season; a few injuries here and there didn't help me get any consistency.



Carlo Garside got his name on the scoresheet last time out and is hungry for more.

"Thankfully with some work off the pitch I've come back fitter than I have been for a long time and it's really starting to show on the pitch in the last few months.

"I've been able to deliver much more consistent performances and that comes down to the support and trust of the staff and the team around me.

"Hopefully now we can finish the season on a high. The Premier South is very competitive this season, as always. It's interesting to see some of the results come in on a Saturday afternoon; the table is so tight that one result changes everything.

"That said, it's important that we stay focused on what we are doing rather than what the table is doing. If we take care of our results, then the table will reflect that. It's not uncommon to see the top teams being beaten by the lower end of the table teams, so we go into every game expecting three points and nothing less.

"The aim for us now as a team is to continue this run of form right through until the end of the season. We need to continue training hard and grinding out the results like we have been.

"We are trying not to look too far ahead and take it game by game and hopefully we will end up in a more positive position in the table come the end.

"For me personally, I want to maintain this level of fitness and consistency over the weeks ahead. Fingers crossed I can stay injury-free and maybe even pop up with another few goals and assists before the season ends.

"But, as I say, the most important thing is that as a team we start climbing that table and finish in a strong position so we can build for next season in a strong form."

The latest test for the Devon outfit comes in the shape of an away trip to play-off hopefuls, Sholing.

They go into the game one place and two points adrift of the top five. Having seen their game at Hanwell Town postponed last weekend, they are eager to get back into action after their last outing saw them concede a stoppage time equaliser to draw 1-1 with Gloucester City.

## THE REST OF THE ACTION



Dorchester Town will be hoping that last weekend's away win will be the start of a purple patch for them.

**Top of the table, Walton & Hersham, had to settle for a share of the spoils in their last game as Bracknell Town grabbed an equaliser deep into stoppage time. They still lead the way by seven points as they head to Hungerford Town at the weekend. Their hosts are desperate for the points to pull themselves out of the bottom four.**

Currently occupying second place is Gloucester City who had to be patient to overcome the challenge of Weymouth in their last game and now head to face a Chertsey Town outfit who still have ambitions of making the top five as they go into the game just two points adrift.

It's an away assignment for third-placed Poole Town as they go to mid-table Basingstoke Town, whilst Gosport Borough head to bottom of the table Tiverton Town. Making up the top five, Farnham Town currently hold the final play-off spot and they are in home action as they welcome Uxbridge.

At the bottom, there have been changes at the helm of Dorchester Town and they had the desired effect last weekend as they won 1-0 at Yate Town. They will be looking to follow this up on home soil when they take on Evesham United. There have been changes amongst the playing staff at Taunton Town as they look to escape the clutches of the bottom four. They head to Berkhamsted this weekend.

Meanwhile of the teams that teeter just above the trap-door, Hanwell Town go to Wimborne Town, whilst Weymouth return to home action for what is sure to be a keenly-contested clash with Havant & Waterlooville.

Elsewhere, Bracknell Town entertain Yate Town. The hosts will be eager to keep their play-off hopes alive following an impressive recent run of form, whilst their opponents still sit too close for comfort to the bottom four as they aim for mid-table safety.



## Featured Match

# REDDITCH UNITED v BARWELL

**It's Friday night lights at Redditch United as they stage their first Friday night Pitching In Southern League Premier Central fixture with the visit of Barwell**

Both teams go into the game desperate for the points for different reasons. For the hosts it's an opportunity to strengthen their place in the top five with only ten points separating the teams from third down to 12th. They currently sit in the final play-off spot.

The visitors meanwhile are only four points away from the bottom four and arrive on the back of a deflating 3-2 home loss at the hands of Leiston in their last outing where their opponents snatched the victory with virtually the last kick of the game.

So, it all adds to the occasion in a game that is also being streamed live by ClubberTV.

"We've been looking at the possibility of doing something on a Friday night for a while now," admitted Redditch United Chairman, David Faulkner. "As a club we are known for doing

things a little bit differently and thinking outside the box.

"We're trying to get a different group of supporters to come along and see what we're about to add to what we already have. We also have the added bonus that it moves the game away from Valentine's Day and I am sure that there will be a few couples who will thank us for that!

"In terms of attendances, we're on track to beat our average again this season, which is fantastic. The team has responded with some good home form and there have been some really entertaining games here over the course of the season.

"This is another important game for us. We go into it just inside the play-off zone and we want to be able to push on as far as we can go. There are still a large number of clubs who fancy their chances of making it into the top five so it's going to be a competitive run-in to the end of the season.

"Like always, we need that extra support to help drive us on and hopefully our fans will grab a mate and bring them along for a good Friday night out with us.



It's Friday night under the lights for play-off hopefuls, Redditch.

"We need to get the stadium pumping; the game is also being streamed live on ClubberTV, so we want to show the viewers all around the world what we're all about and the atmosphere that we are able to generate at The Valley Stadium.

"These are exciting times for the club, on and off the pitch. We've made good, positive strides over recent years and we are determined for that to continue."

The Reds have been given a boost with Finn Howell returning to action following a nasty shoulder injury.

"The worst part of football is being injured," he added. "I think most players would say the same. I just had to keep motivated whilst I was sidelined, working hard every day to come back in

good shape and ready to hit the ground running.

"It's important not let injury get you down too much. Now I am excited for the run-in; we are certainly more than capable of being right up there come the end of the season.

"It's a very unpredictable League but also very enjoyable to play in. It's tight at the top, which makes it even better as it's competitive every single week.

"We are looking to keep moving in the right direction. Our aim is to finish as high as possible and hopefully that will mean being involved in the end of season shake-up."

## THE REST OF THE ACTION



Real Bedford have six straight wins in their sights on Saturday.

**Spalding United currently hold a four-point lead at the top of the table. They are at home this weekend as they face an Alvechurch side who sit just outside of the bottom four, so this will be an encounter which affects both ends of the table.**

Sitting one place below Spalding and with games in hand are Harborough Town, who saw a late postponement of their game at Bishops Stortford on Tuesday evening. They will be hoping to beat the weather at the weekend as they host bottom of the table Royston Town.

Below the top two it's shaping up to be a real battle to make the top five. Currently holding third spot on 50 points is Real Bedford. They host one of the clubs in the mix, Stratford Town, on Saturday. In fourth place are Quorn and they will be aiming to make home advantage count against Bishop's Stortford.

Amongst the other chasing clubs, Halesowen Town and Needham Market, who sit level on points, meet, with Needham Market having home advantage. Leiston, who left it late to win at Barwell

in their last outing, host Bromsgrove Sporting outfit who are battling to move away from the bottom four.

Banbury United welcome Bury Town, who picked up an away win at Royston Town on Tuesday, and sit just one place and one point below their hosts, whilst Worcester City take on AFC Sudbury in a game that will showcase and support the work of the Midland Air Ambulance Charity.

With the bottom two facing tough away assignments, the other two clubs in the relegation places meet as Stamford AFC play host to Stourbridge in what is a big game for both clubs.

Elsewhere, St. Ives Town and Kettering Town lock horns. For the hosts, their intention is to get into mid-table safety, whilst the visitors still carry hopes of making a late push for play-off contention.





## Featured Match

# SWINDON SUPERMARINE v BISHOPS CLEEVE

**Paul Collicutt is a real breath of fresh air. Positive, determined and resolute, he is Bishops Cleeve born and bred and has played such an influential role in the outstanding progress that the football club has made both on and off the pitch.**

Last weekend's 2-0 victory over Bashley not only saw them move back into the Division One South play-off positions, but it was also significant because it was Colly's 350th Southern League game at the helm, a tremendous achievement.

"It's something I'm immensely proud of on a personal level," he told us. "Football has been a major part of my life since I was a young boy; to have been involved in the game for so long as both a player and a manager is something that means an awful lot.

"A lot of things have changed in and around football during this time, but the one thing that still remains is that fire I have inside and I've still got the same drive to succeed as I did as that little boy starting out."

Things have come a long way since his first Southern League game as manager, 20 years ago.

"I can still remember it," he said with a smile. "It ended in a 1-0 home defeat against Chasetown in 2006! Not the fondest of memories, but we put things right the following game away at Willenhall Town and ran out 2-0 winners for the club's first-ever Southern League victory.

"As you can imagine, there have been some incredible highs, alongside some bitter disappointments over the past two decades, but it's part and parcel of football and why we all love it so much.

"In terms of the most memorable moments, though, the victory over Torquay United in the FA Cup is right up there. To see the ground absolutely packed with a sea of green was something I'll always remember, and the fans storming the pitch afterwards to celebrate will stay with me forever.

"It still gives me goose bumps now thinking back to it! What a day that was for our village football club against opponents with such a strong Football League history.

"The whole club is unrecognisable since I first took on role. It was the typical one man and his dog supporting from the sidelines, with a grass pitch that was mostly mud, or waterlogged with the slightest bit of rain.

"I remember once going around ten weeks without a home match, and I'd go to the ground each time with a squeegee trying to soak the water off the pitch to get the games on!

"To look at where we've come since those early days is incredible. The all-weather pitch has been a game changer and we now have 3,000 people using the facilities each week, with regular events on as well.

"The Cleeve Colts youth start at U5s and we have every age up to players in their 80s taking part in our walking football."



One love – Colly has been a driving force for Bishops Cleeve over 350 Southern League games.

Colly, as he prefers to be referred to, is one of the great characters of the Southern League. His passion is there for all to see on the sidelines.

"First and foremost, I demand the very best from both my players and my staff each and every match," he continued. "I like my teams to play fast, attacking football with exciting wingers that get the crowd on their feet.

"We've also been blessed with some excellent defenders and goalkeepers in recent times, which led to a club record 23 clean sheets last season.

"We're doing okay this season. There's still a lot of football to be played, of course, but we're there or thereabouts where we want to be. We had an excellent start, going undefeated for 11 games, but due to injuries, form, the number of fixtures and changes in personnel, the results haven't been quite as good in the past month or so. However, we've looked a lot sharper recently and, as I say, there's still a long way to go and plenty of points to play for.

"I must say that Division One South is certainly the strongest set of teams since I've been managing. The standard is improving each season and you'll come unstuck against any side in the League if you're not at your best.

"It's a cliché but anyone can beat anyone, which makes for an exciting league with all teams taking points off each other.

"We have a points target in mind, but I won't be revealing that! The main thing for me is that we finish the season as strong as we can, take one game at a time, and come the end of the season who knows?"

It's not only in the dug-out where Colly has shone, he also enjoyed a long playing career, which began as one of the first members of the Cleeve Colts team.

"My love of the game began at a very early age and it's been a hell of a journey since then, with more to come, I hope," he added. "I started out playing in the first-ever Cleeve Colts team

alongside Clive Rawlings and Andrew Dudfield, the club's current Chairman and Committee Member respectively, before making the move to Swindon Town Youth at the age of 14.

"Then came a move to Cheltenham Town Youth, and shortly after I made my first-team debut on Boxing Day as a 16 year-old. Trials at Southampton and QPR then followed and I remember scoring from 20 yards in a trial match, on the same pitch as players such as Alan Ball, Peter Osgood and Mick Channon.

"Channon took a liking to me when he found out I was from near Cheltenham as he was, and still is, well into his horse racing!

"I eventually signed a three-year deal with Bristol City, but it never really happened for me there, so I moved on to Trowbridge where I captained the team to promotion up to the old Gola League (today's National League).

"Cheltenham then asked me to return, and I captained them to a League title win and I still have a photo of being presented with the trophy while my arm was in a sling!

"I then had stints at Gloucester City, Forest Green Rovers and Newport County before Cheltenham legend, Dave Lewis, asked me to join Bishops Cleeve and I was back to where I started.

"After a few seasons I was talked into taking the player-manager's position, which I must say is one of the hardest roles in football trying to balance playing and managing. I then became manager and stayed until 2011 before I took up the same position for five and-a-half years and 236 League matches at Evesham United.

"I returned to manage Cleeve in 2020, and two promotions later, here we are in the Southern League Division One South."

Saturday sees a trip to face a Swindon Supermarine outfit who have started to find a bit of form with successive victories over Sporting Club Inkberrow and Falmouth Town as well as a draw away at high-flying Winchester City in their last three games.

## THE REST OF THE ACTION

**Leaders, Frome Town, will be eager to get back into action this weekend as they host Brixham AFC. Their last game fell victim of the weather as second-placed Malvern Town picked up a stoppage time point from their trip to fellow high-flyers, Winchester City, to leave the gap at ten points. Malvern Town are also at home this weekend as they welcome Westbury United.**

Third-placed Portishead Town face a mouth-watering home encounter with in-form Hartpur, who go into the game just outside the play-off places, whilst Winchester City hit the road to Melksham Town, who are desperate for the points to pull themselves away from relegation danger.

Making up the rest of the top five are Bishops Cleeve, who go to Swindon Supermarine, whilst just below them, Shaftesbury will be hoping to bounce back in the right way from their 3-0 loss at Didcot Town last weekend as they host Bristol Manor Farm.

At the bottom, Tavistock AFC face a Devon derby at Bideford AFC, whilst Bashley will be looking to make home advantage count as they take on mid-table Didcot Town. With Brixham AFC away at the League leaders, the rest of the bottom four is made up by Willand Rovers who make the trip down to Mousehole AFC.

Elsewhere, Exmouth Town will be looking to keep their play-off hopes alive as they entertain Falmouth Town. In the middle of the table, Larkhall Athletic take on Sporting Cub Inkberrow, who are seeking a response after they fell to a 3-1 defeat at Swindon Supermarine on Monday night.



Will Exmouth Town still be smiling come the final whistle on Saturday?



Featured Match

# THAME UNITED v FLACKWELL HEATH

**Nine games without defeat has thrust Thame United onto the fringes of the play-off places in Division One Central.**

Last weekend saw them dismantle London Lions to bring home a 5-1 away win following an impressive display to move within two points of the top five.

It's all a far cry from the start of the season, which began with four straight defeats

"We always believed that our form would pick up," admitted front-man, Harry Alexander, scorer of two goals in the last game, as he reflected on those early weeks of the campaign. "We've managed to get ourselves into some good momentum now and we're winning games convincingly.

"Those early days of the season were tough for the team and myself as I battled with injury, but thankfully they are very much in the past now and we're playing with so much confidence and belief.

"It was good to get on the scoresheet on Saturday with a couple of goals. My team-mates put me into some good positions and it was nice to see them go in.

"The team really is in a good place right now. We've gelled well and there is plenty of quality within the group. I'm felling fully up to speed now and really enjoying my football; it's one of those where you just can't wait for the next game to come around.

"We're really looking forward to the run-in and being able to play



It's smiles better for Thame United as they have recovered from a slow start to the season.

the type of football that has seen us climb the table.

"We're within a couple of points of the top five now but we have to keep taking it one game at a time. We mustn't look too far ahead; we've got ourselves into a good position, especially after the start we had, and we don't want that to go to waste by us taking our eye off the ball.

"The next game is always the most important. We have to first and foremost ensure that we keep doing the right things because we have no control over what happens elsewhere.

"This is a tough and competitive League and there will be twists and turns because every game presents its own challenges and you have to be up for the battle and prepared to work hard each and every week.

"We're in a winning habit and long may that continue. We'll

continue enjoying our football and see where it takes us.

"For me personally, I just want to help the team in whatever way I can."

This weekend's test comes in the shape of a Flackwell Heath outfit who made the play-offs at the end of last season, their first at this level. They have struggled to find the same form this time around and find themselves sat in the middle of the table.

Things have picked up in recent weeks as they have won three out of their last four games, although they were held to a 2-2 home draw by Rayners Lane in their last outing, three weeks ago.

As such, they will be eager to get back into action and try to find the form that they had at the turn of this year.

## THE REST OF THE ACTION



Welwyn Garden City have their sights set on victory at the weekend

**The winter weather has been the winner in recent weeks, but leaders, Leighton Town, will be hoping to strengthen their place in pole position as they head to Marlow, who are in the lower half of the table.**

Second-placed Hitchin Town are at home to Ware, who will be keen to keep their play-off hopes alive as they sit amongst a group of clubs just outside of the top five. Also at home are Biggleswade FC as they lock horns with Welwyn Garden City, whilst Hertford Town hit the road to Hadley.

Making up the rest of the top five, Biggleswade Town go to mid-table Stotfold as they look to keep ahead of an in-form Thame United who have made purposeful strides up the table in recent weeks.

At the bottom, AFC Dunstable host a London Lions outfit who will be a wounded animal having suffered a heavy home defeat in their last outing. Two of the bottom four meet as Rayners Lane host Leverstock Green. The home side are ten points behind their opponents so this is a chance for them to reduce the deficit.

Also inside the bottom four are Northwood and they take on an MK Irish outfit who already sit on the 40-point mark, impressive going for their first season at this level.

Elsewhere, Aylesbury United have home advantage for the visit of Beaconsfield Town, there's interest at both ends of the table as Barton Rovers, who are still in the mix for a play-off place, entertain Enfield, who are still battling to move away from the threat of relegation.



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