

PREVIEW MAG

ISSUE #08 | 26-28 SEPTEMBER 2025



YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE
TO ALL OF THE
WEEKEND ACTION

LENDING A HAND



Emirates
FA CUP

+ EMIRATES
FA CUP
PREVIEW



Know your role in safeguarding.
Watch, Listen, Talk, Act.

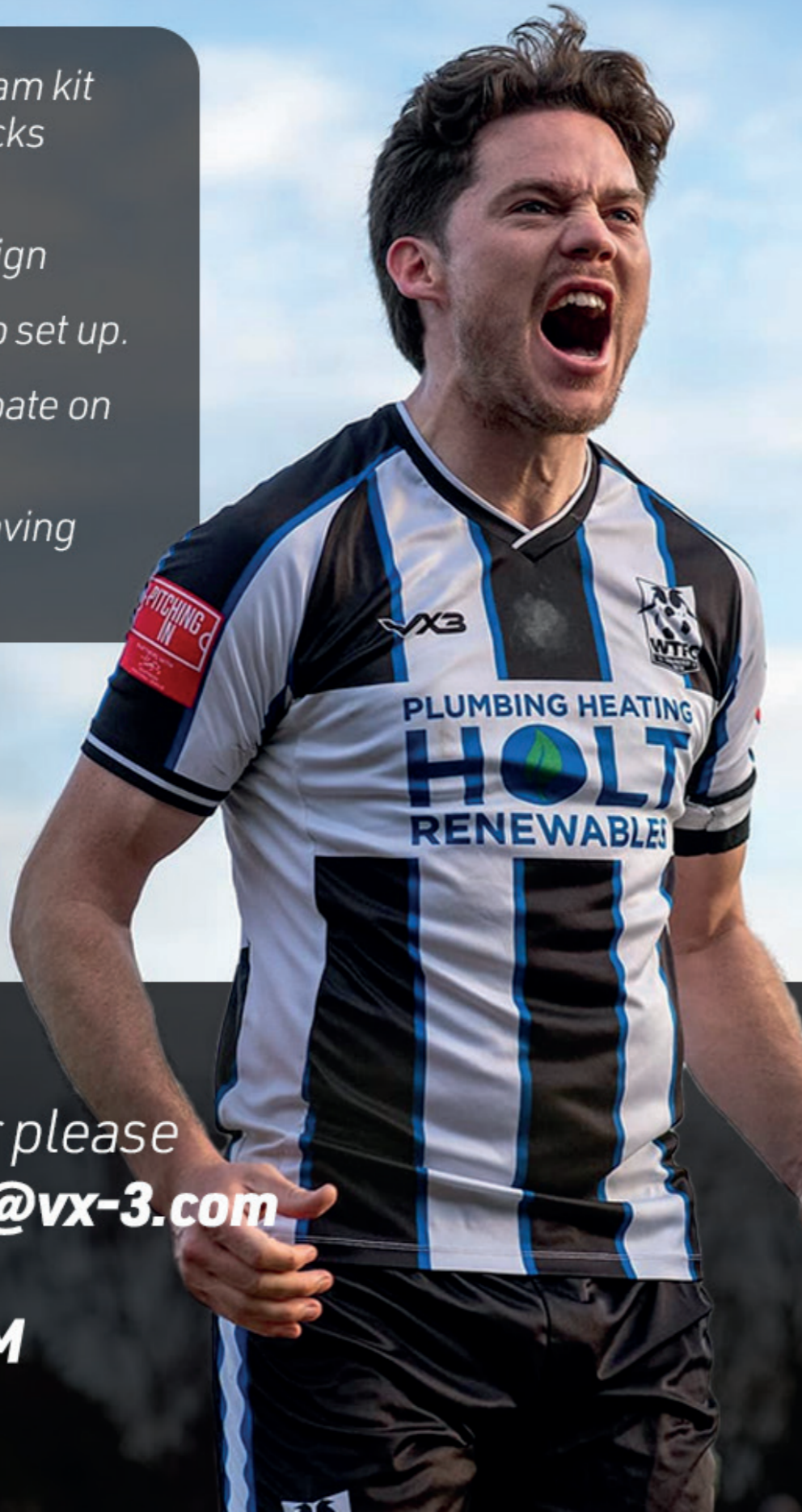




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PLAY SAFE WEEKEND 2025

This weekend, English football has once again come together to champion safeguarding across the game as part of the Play Safe Weekend, taking place on 27-28 September 2025.

The FA Play Safe campaign is endorsed by the NSPCC and has been supported this weekend across every level of English football, including the Premier League, EFL, Barclays Women's Super League, Barclays WSL2, National League and across the grassroots game.

This year's theme – 'Small Talk is Bigger Than You Think' – focuses on giving young people a voice. It's a call to action for every adult in football to create open conversations, ask questions, and actively listen to children.

To raise visibility of the 2025 campaign, England Football has produced a video which highlights the importance of remaining alert and aware of small changes that can go unnoticed.

The campaign film appears at first to be a studio recording of a new podcast entitled 'Eyes on the Ball', which features former Premier League player Anton Ferdinand and Sky Sports' Joe Thomlinson in conversation. The film then goes on to reveal the podcast to be not all as it seems, carrying with it a powerful message on the importance of observation.

Find out more about Play Safe via the QR Code...



SMALL TALK IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK



WATCH. LISTEN. TALK. ACT.
Give young people a voice.

SCORE PREDICTOR

Throughout the 2025/26 season we are going to pit the players against the media and supporters in our score prediction competition.

The rules are simple; each week we select a game at random from each of our four divisions and then invite representatives to make their predictions. It's three points for getting the score correct, one point for getting the right result and nothing an incorrect score/result.

To take part, email: news@southern-football-league.co.uk
Last week, Henry Snee of Stotfold triumphed for the Players with four points to beat off the challenge of Gloucester City Fan, Mark Carter, who picked up two points. Bringing up the rear was Freddie Hale of Marlow, who represented the Media and mustered a single point.

This week we are joined by Charlie Wassmer of Gosport Borough who represents the Players, Seb Hendrix, Media man at Real Bedford, and Farnham Town Fan, John Hazleworth.

WEEK EIGHT

	Wassmer	Hendrix	Hazleworth
Gloucester City v Basingstoke Town	2-0	3-0	3-1
St. Ives Town v Bishop's Stortford	1-1	1-3	0-2
Mousehole AFC v Larkhall Athletic	2-1	2-2	4-0
Leverstock Green v Leighton Town	1-0	1-2	1-2

TABLE

	Score Correct	Result Correct	Points
Players	4	10	22
Media	3	10	19
Supporters	2	7	13

LEAGUE STANDINGS

2025-26



Premier Division South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Walton & Hersham	8	3	0	0	10	5	3	1	1	11	6	10	19
2	Gloucester City	8	3	0	0	9	2	2	2	1	10	7	10	17
3	Farnham Town	9	2	3	0	11	6	2	2	0	9	6	8	17
4	Sholing	8	3	2	0	14	7	1	2	0	3	2	8	16
5	Wimborne Town	9	3	2	0	12	6	1	1	2	4	4	6	15
6	Taunton Town	9	2	2	0	7	3	2	1	2	10	11	3	15
7	Poole Town	8	2	2	0	5	3	2	1	1	6	7	1	15
8	Gosport Borough	9	2	1	1	7	6	2	1	2	9	8	2	14
9	Evesham United	9	1	2	1	4	4	2	2	1	9	7	2	13
10	Hungerford Town	9	2	1	2	7	9	2	0	2	5	5	-2	13
11	Hanwell Town	9	2	1	1	6	3	1	2	2	6	6	3	12
12	Uxbridge	9	2	2	0	6	4	0	4	1	7	10	-1	12
13	Chertsey Town	9	1	1	3	6	8	2	1	1	4	2	0	11
14	Berkhamsted	9	2	1	2	4	8	1	1	2	4	6	-6	11
15	Havant and Waterlooville	8	1	0	2	4	5	2	1	2	8	9	-2	10
16	Basingstoke Town	8	2	1	2	9	8	0	2	1	4	5	0	9
17	Tiverton Town	8	1	1	2	3	4	1	0	3	5	8	-4	7
18	Plymouth Parkway	9	1	1	2	5	7	0	2	3	8	13	-7	6
19	Dorchester Town	9	1	1	3	8	13	0	2	2	3	6	-8	6
20	Weymouth	9	0	2	3	2	9	1	1	2	5	7	-9	6
21	Yate Town	9	1	3	0	3	2	0	0	5	4	14	-9	6
22	Bracknell Town	8	1	1	3	11	13	0	1	2	1	4	-5	5

Weekend Action

Gloucester City
v Basingstoke Town
Weymouth
v Tiverton Town
Yate Town
v Plymouth Parkway

Emirates FA Cup third round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...



Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Malvern Town	6	3	1	0	10	4	1	1	0	4	2	8	14
2	Bishop's Cleeve	4	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	9	3	10	12
3	Winchester City	5	3	0	0	9	2	1	0	1	3	2	8	12
4	Frome Town	4	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	4	1	7	12
5	Hartpury	6	3	1	0	16	4	0	0	2	3	5	10	10
6	Exmouth Town	6	2	0	1	10	4	1	1	1	3	4	5	10
7	Shaftesbury	4	2	0	0	7	1	1	0	1	6	3	9	9
8	Portishead Town	4	1	0	0	6	0	2	0	1	5	6	5	9
9	Bashley	5	0	0	2	1	5	2	1	0	7	4	-1	7
10	Swindon Supermarine	4	2	0	0	7	2	0	0	2	1	4	2	6
11	Mousehole	4	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	4	2	6
12	Westbury United	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	6
13	Brixham	5	1	0	1	4	7	1	0	2	5	8	-6	6
14	Falmouth Town	4	1	1	0	5	4	0	1	1	2	3	0	5
15	Melksham Town	6	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	2	7	-3	5
16	Bristol Manor Farm	5	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	6	10	-4	5
17	Larkhall Athletic	5	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	2	2	4	-3	4
18	Tavistock	5	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	2	0	6	-8	4
19	Bideford	4	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	2	0	7	-6	3
20	Sporting Club Inkberrow	5	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	2	8	-7	3
21	Willand Rovers	6	0	2	2	3	6	0	0	2	0	11	-14	2
22	Didcot Town	6	0	0	4	5	14	0	1	1	1	7	-15	1

Weekend Action

Bashley
v Hartpury
Bishops Cleeve
v Bideford AFC
Bristol Manor Farm
v Winchester City
Exmouth Town
v Shaftesbury
Melksham Town
v Falmouth Town
Mousehole
v Larkhall Athletic
Sporting Club Inkberrow
v Brixham AFC
Swindon Supermarine
v Malvern Town
Tavistock AFC
v Willand Rovers

Emirates FA Cup third round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...

Premier Division Central

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

Weekend Action

Barwell
v Stourbridge (playing Friday)
St Ives Town
v Bishop's Stortford

Emirates FA Cup third round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...



Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Biggleswade	5	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	7	2	7	13
2	Welwyn Garden City	6	1	0	2	1	3	3	0	0	7	3	2	12
3	Biggleswade Town	5	2	1	0	7	4	1	1	0	3	2	4	11
4	Barton Rovers	5	2	1	0	5	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	11
5	Hadley	5	2	0	1	8	7	1	1	0	3	1	3	10
6	Leighton Town	3	2	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	9
7	Flackwell Heath	5	1	2	0	6	2	1	1	0	3	1	6	9
8	Ware	5	1	0	1	5	6	2	0	1	8	7	0	9
9	Beaconsfield Town	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	7	3	3	8
10	Leverstock Green	6	1	0	1	3	3	1	2	1	7	8	-1	8
11	Hitchin Town	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	4	0	3	7
12	Hertford Town	3	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	3	6
13	AFC Dunstable	6	0	3	1	5	6	1	0	1	3	5	-3	6
14	Aylesbury United	5	0	2	1	2	4	1	0	1	4	4	-2	5
15	Northwood	5	0	0	2	2	6	1	2	0	6	5	-3	5
16	Enfield	4	1	0	0	5	2	0	1	2	2	5	0	4
17	Marlow	4	1	0	1	5	3	0	0	2	0	4	-2	3
18	Stotfold	5	1	0	2	4	6	0	0	2	6	9	-5	3
19	London Lions	5	1	0	1	5	4	0	0	3	0	6	-5	3
20	Rayners Lane	5	0	0	3	2	6	1	0	1	5	7	-6	3
21	Milton Keynes Irish	6	0	0	4	7	15	1	0	1	2	2	-8	3
22	Thame United	4	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	3	4	8	-7	0

Weekend Action

Biggleswade FC
v Barton Rovers (playing Friday)
Beaconsfield Town
v Milton Keynes Irish
Enfield
v Aylesbury United
Hitchin Town
v AFC Dunstable
Leverstock Green
v Leighton Town
London Lions
v Hertford Town
Marlow
v Hadley
Northwood
v Biggleswade Town
Thame United
v Stotfold
Ware
v Rayners Lane

Emirates FA Cup third round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...

Featured Match

WEYMOUTH v TIVERTON TOWN

Many hands make light work. That's the mantra at Weymouth FC where volunteers in The Monday Club look after the upkeep and maintenance of the club's impressive Bob Lucas Stadium home.

Set up in 2019 by John Rawles, Ricky Young and the late Peter Pavay, it offers vital off-the-field help and support to the Pitching In Southern League Premier South club, whilst also giving its members an outlet through which to make new friends, meet up and share their passion for the club.

Current members have a wide-range of skillsets and have been responsible for a whole host of projects that have taken place in recent years.

"We decided to set the group up in the summer of 2019," recalled Ricky Young, one of the founding members, who makes an 80-mile round trip each Monday to participate. "John [Rawles] was already cleaning up the stadium after games, which was a big job, so along with Peter [Pavey], who sadly passed away late last year, and myself, we decided to form a club to not only share the workload but also for the social aspect too and so The Monday Club was born.

"Since then we've been able to get new members to come on board and I think that over the past five or six years we've paved everything in sight in and around the ground, from the railings, to crash barriers and even the toilet floors!

"We take great pride in how the stadium looks and it's always nice to receive complimentary comments from home and away fans.

"I come from a background in road haulage, so I have no practical experience to draw upon, but I've rolled my sleeves up and got stuck in, just like the other members."

One such member is Martin, who got involved after he retired.

"I knew a couple of members and after I retired from work, they suggested I come along and have a look," he said. "That was two years ago and I am still here and loving every minute of it!

"The tasks are endless; there is so much to be done in and around the ground. A stadium this size needs a lot of love and attention.

"Volunteers are vital at all clubs and we're lucky to have so many dedicate people who give up a lot of their time, not only amongst The Monday Club, but on matchdays and throughout the week."



The Monday Club. Back row, from the left: Andy, Keith, Steve, Martin. Front row, from the left: Dave, Ricky, Malcolm, Dave T, Trevor.

The camaraderie amongst the group is an important ingredient to them working so effectively.

"We all get on and enjoy other's company," added Dave T. "I think I've cleaned every seat in the stadium and then as soon as you finish, it's time to start all over again.

"Being around like-minded people who are the lifeblood of clubs like ours make coming along each Monday a pleasure, not a chore."

Andy, who has recently completed a project to revamp the Club Shop, agrees.

"It's a brilliant place to come along and have good times with good people who have the club's best interests at heart," he told us. "I find it very rewarding and fulfilling. There's a good mix of personalities within the group; there's the dry humour and those who don't hold back!

"As I say, through all the personalities lies a shared passion for Weymouth FC. Having one of the biggest stadiums at this level does mean that the list of tasks for its upkeep never ends, though.

"I make sure that The Monday Club runs smoothly... I also have the massive responsibility of taking the lunch orders each week; that's something I dare not get wrong!"

"This is a great hub for community interaction," added Steve. "We go out of our way to do what we can whilst we're here and ensure that the hours we spend at the ground are used effectively.

"Dave T and Trevor are always on the case to ensure standards are high in everything we do."

Lending his expertise in electronics from a career spent in the RAF and as an Ultra Electronics Engineer is Malcolm.

"It's nice to feel wanted and appreciated," he added. "I look forward to Mondays as it's an opportunity to get out of the house and do something that can make a small difference to people's lives.

"For example, after many years of poor quality sound, I was able to fix the PA system at the ground and to know that this has contributed to improving the supporters' experience at matches is a nice feeling. We just need similar improvements on the pitch now!"

The newest recruit, Dave, is enjoying the experience and has encouraged others to get involved.

"This is a friendly bunch who have made me feel really welcome," he said. "Amongst all of the hard work, the banter flies and I would encourage anyone who has time to spare each Monday to come along and be part of it. It's extremely rewarding and the sense of helping your local community is a nice feeling to have."

Keith, a retired postman of over 50 years, has just celebrated his first anniversary of getting involved.

"I love it," he added without hesitation. "The role of hunting for lost footballs in the undergrowth outside of the ground seems to have fallen on me as well as clearing the brambles and litter picking. It does give me a sense of pride to see things looking neat and tidy... and it also saves the club a few quid on lost balls!"

As for matters on the pitch, the group agrees that it has been a poor start following relegation from The National League South at the end of last term.

Tuesday's home reverse at the hands of Gosport Borough was their fifth defeat in the opening nine League games, in which they have tasted victory only once.

Steve Claridge has recently returned to the helm and faces a big task to turn their playing fortunes around.

"There is no escaping the fact of how poor things have been so far on the pitch," they said. "We need to find our feet pretty quickly and have some catching up to do.

"Stability on and off the pitch is important as we look to start climbing the table."

Saturday sees them back on home soil as they take on a Tiverton Town outfit who go into the game just a point above them having escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth at the end of last season.

With both teams looking for a winning spark, Saturday's encounter promises to be a hard-fought affair.

One thing is certain; the Bob Lucas Stadium will be looking its best thanks to the great efforts of The Monday Club.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

There is a reduced programme of matches across the Premier South and Premier Central this weekend due to the Emirates FA Cup third round qualifying taking place.

High-flying Gloucester City are in action as they play host to a Basingstoke Town outfit who arrive in good spirits following their 4-2 victory over Yate Town on Tuesday evening, as Brad Wilson helped himself to a hat-trick.

Meanwhile Yate Town will be looking to add to their solitary League win as they host a Plymouth Parkway side who also have just one win to their name from nine League outings so far.

Just two games take place in the Premier Central and it starts on Friday evening as Barwell entertain Stourbridge with both sides looking to move into the top half of the table with victory.

The other fixture sees St. Ives Town welcome a Bishop's Stortford side who will be in good spirits following a fine 4-0 away triumph at Needham Market during the week.



Brad Wilson was the hat-trick hero for Basingstoke Town on Tuesday, this weekend they head to Gloucester City



Featured Match

AFC TOTTON v FROME TOWN

David Duru suffered for his art in the previous round of the Emirates FA Cup as Frome Town overcame a replay and penalty shoot-out to remove their Division One South rivals, Shaftesbury, from the competition.

A head injury sustained during the original tie, which finished 1-1, required a visit to A&E and a few stitches before he was given the all-clear to figure in the replay, which also ended all square at 1-1.

The subsequent penalty shoot-out saw Duru keep his nerve to convert the fifth and final penalty to send his side through where an away tie at last season's Premier South play-off winners, AFC Totton, awaits on Saturday.

"I'm fine now," responded Duru when we asked him about the injury. "It wasn't too serious; there was no fracture or concussion, it was just a little cut that looked worse than it was until it was cleaned up. It just required a couple of stitches and I was able to leave the hospital after a couple of hours."



David Duru will be looking to play his part in an FA Cup upset on Saturday

The talented front-runner also played his part last weekend as Frome made it four wins from four in the League as he forced an own goal from visiting defender, James Ward, to give his side a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Mousehole AFC.

"It was a strong performance against a very good side," he continued. "Those are a must-win games if you want to compete at the top end of the table.

"We done our homework on them and executed our game plan perfectly to keep up our 100% League record.

"Having previously played a few seasons at this level, I have to say from what I have seen so far, it's just as competitive as it has always been.

"Every single team brings its own challenges and it makes for a tough challenge, with no easy games.

"We can be pleased with the start we have made. Four wins out of four and progress in the FA Cup is a good record so far; there's always room for improvement in performances, of course, but we would have taken this start going into the season and we'll only get better as we play more games.

"The squad that we have here is capable of doing well and being right up there. We need to keep the momentum going because it's a long season and there will be plenty of twists and turns along the way.

"Personally, I'm growing more confident as the games go by. I've got a good bunch of lads around me and I'm enjoying my football again, which is important.

"We're looking forward to pitting our wits against AFC Totton. They are two levels above us this season and have started the campaign well, so it will be a good gauge for us.

"Playing in the FA Cup is always special and unexpected results can happen. Obviously we will go there as the underdogs, but it gives us the chance to play without pressure and just express ourselves.

"We've got a winning mentality here and it will be a nice atmosphere to play in front of, so bring it on!

"Our objective as a team is to keep winning games as they come. We've set our target to reach the play-offs and from a personal point of view, I was to keep scoring goals and providing assists for my team-mates."

AFC Totton will be looking to avoid a repeat of last season when they exited the Emirates FA Cup at the first hurdle following a somewhat surprising 3-1 defeat at the hands of Westbury United.

Since beating Gloucester City in the play-off final at the end of last term, they have adapted well to the demands of the higher level, sitting sixth with five wins from their nine National League South games so far.

Featured Match

ROYSTON TOWN v KING'S LYNN TOWN

Preparations for this tie have been contrasting. Whilst Royston Town secured their first League win of the season last weekend as they came from behind to win at high-flying Quorn, their National League North visitors, King's Lynn Town, have parted company with Head Coach, James Rowe.

"It was hard-fought but the lads dug deep to get the result against a good side who have come into this League and started really well," said Kian Harness, who set his side on their way with an equaliser just past the hour-mark. "We've got a really tight-knit group here and the bond is growing stronger as each game passes, and that has been reflected in our recent performances. "Last Saturday was all about finally getting our first win on the board, but personally it was also nice to get my name on the scoresheet.

"We've been unlucky so far this season with a lot of stuff going against us, but we've stuck to our beliefs and worked extremely hard.

"As I say, our displays have certainly turned a corner recently and now the hope is that our results will too.

"We've got some important games coming up, including, of course, Saturday. We're looking forward to taking on higher level opponents; we always back ourselves at home, so who knows?

"They've had a bit of disruption this week with their manager leaving despite them sitting just inside the top ten of The National League North, but they are a good side with quality players throughout the team, so it will be a big test."



Image | Tom Hanlon

There was joy for Royston Town on their travels in the rain last weekend

'Big test' is what the Premier Central can also be described as this season.

"It has most definitely got stronger and more physical in recent times," Harness admitted. "But it's a challenge that as a group we're more than up for.

"First and foremost we want to better last season's points tally, which we're more than capable of doing and putting ourselves into the frame for the play-offs.

"My job as part of this is to score goals and provide assists, something I will be giving everything I've got to achieve.

"Winning matches can become a habit and it would be nice to be able to pick up from where we left off in our last game."

THE REST OF THE ACTION

It will be a big occasion for Westbury United as they play host to Farnborough of The National League South in a tie that is being screen by the BBC on their Red Button service.

Elsewhere, Leiston face a home clash with Premier Central rivals, Banbury United, Quorn head to Enfield Town, there will be a home tie for Needham Market against Witham Town, whilst there's an interesting match-up at Harborough Town as they welcome Phil Brown's Peterborough Sports.

Alvechurch's reward for beating Leamington in the previous round is a home encounter with Chelmsford City, meanwhile Spalding United have been drawn at their new-look home to face Dagenham & Redbridge.

A trip to AFC Telford United awaits Evesham United as a home clash with Aveley awaits Halesowen Town. Stamford AFC head to Sutton Coldfield Town, who beat Stourbridge in the last round, whilst Wimborne Town will have home advantage against Worthing. Premier South rivals, Farnham Town and Dorchester Town, lock horns as Hungerford Town go to Whitstable Town.

It's home advantage for Sholing against Eastbourne Borough in what is sure to be a keenly-contested tie, Poole Town host managerless, Weston super Mare, as Division One Central Flackwell Heath welcome Bracknell Town of the Premier South and finally, Premier South leaders, Walton & Hersham, entertain Chippenham Town, conquerors of Gloucester City in the previous round.

Featured Match

**SWINDON SUPERMARINE
v MALVERN TOWN**

Current Division One South leaders, Malvern Town, head to Swindon Supermarine on Saturday as two fancied sides battle it out.

The Worcestershire outfit have won four of their six League games and sit seven points ahead of their opponents having played two games more.

They are fresh from creating history in the Isuzu FA Trophy where they have reached the third round qualifying for the first-ever time following their 2-0 victory at Lincoln United last weekend.

"It was a great result for us and we're buzzing to be in the next round," summer signing, Ben Baxter, told us. "In many ways it was a game of two halves; the first half was frantic, with both teams creating some good chances, but we defended well when we had to.

"We came out after the break a lot more composed and confident. We played to our strengths more and having taken the lead, we were able to kick on and dominate the rest of the game.

"I assisted with both of our goals, so from a personal point of view, I was happy with that.

"With it being such a long journey, we were able to use it as our first proper away day of the season, which was good for summer signings such as myself as it allowed us to get to know the staff, volunteers and supporters that travelled with us better and strengthened our bonds with our team-mates.

"The coach was buzzing on the way back as we celebrated making history for the club! This is a really close-knit club with a great bunch of people who care passionately and this will stand us in good stead for the battles ahead, including Saturday's trip to a Swindon Supermarine side who are expected to do well this season.

"The club's ambition and community feel really attracted me during the summer. From my first discussion with the Gaffer, I knew that this was the place I wanted to be. I also knew a few of the lads already here and they only said good things.

"There's a clear and strong vision here and a great atmosphere around the place, something that I am thoroughly enjoying being part of.

"It's been a great start to the season; top of the League at the minute, so you can't ask for any more than that!



The Malvern Town fun bus is back on the road on Saturday

"We've still had a few disappointing results where we know we weren't good enough, but apart from that it has all been very positive.

"We are playing some really great football and playing to our strengths well. We take it game by game; there's a lot of quality within the group and strength in depth. I'm enjoying football and getting more goal contributions in recent weeks.

"Coming into a new team and system is always tough, but it's a case of so far, so good and big games such as the one on Saturday are what you want to be involved in.

"There are some strong teams operating at this level; it's my first season at this level and I am feeling really confident, so hopefully I can maintain my performance levels to help the team remain amongst the leaders."

Baxter cut his football teeth at Bristol Rovers, where he spent

eight years from the age of eight before getting a scholarship at Forest Green Rovers from the age of 16 to 18. He then had three years at Hartpury University, where he helped the football team secure back-to-back promotions to achieve Southern League status.

Successive cup exits have seen Swindon Supermarine go out of the Isuzu FA Trophy on penalties at the hands of Bideford AFC last weekend having previously saw their interest in the mirates FA Cup come to an end with a 3-0 loss at neighbours, Hungerford Town.

This will be their first League action in just over a month when they slipped to defeat at Shaftesbury, so they will be eager to get back on track this weekend in what is sure to be a keenly-contested encounter.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Believe it or not, it will be Mousehole AFC's first home Saturday League game of the season this weekend.

Bashley return to home action as they take on a Hartpury outfit who will be looking to respond in the right way to their late defeat on their long midweek trip down to Falmouth Town in their last outing.

Second-place Bishops Cleeve have home advantage as they take on a Bideford AFC side who are starting to get into their stride with players returning from injury and unavailability.

There's another good test for Bristol Manor Farm as they welcome Winchester City. The hosts scored five goals at high-flying Malvern Town recently to give them a much-needed boost.

Exmouth Town and Shaftesbury go into their game with just one place and one point separating them. The visitors are building a strong squad and will be provide a stern test for the hosts.

Two teams level on five points are Melksham Town and Falmouth Town who go head-to-head with both looking to kick-start their campaigns.

It's a rare Saturday home game for Mousehole AFC and they are looking to start some momentum as they host Larkhall Athletic, whilst fellow new-boys, Sporting Club Inkberrow and Brixham AFC, battle it out in Worcestershire.

There's a Devonderbyat Tavistock AFC as they take on Willand Rovers who recently saw their long-serving manager, David Steele, depart. Both clubs are in the lower reaches of the table after slow starts.

Featured Match

NORTHWOOD v BIGGLESWADE TOWN

Northwood secured a first Division One Central win of the season at the fifth time of asking in their last outing as they came home from previously-unbeaten Hertford Town 2-1 victors.

Finding themselves a goal behind in the opening exchanges, they were able to turn things around to get a hard-fought win.

"We needed that," defender, Chama Torisello, told us. "It was so important to get that first victory under our belts; the whole team put in a strong shift and it was a deserved win in the end.

"Everyone worked hard for each other; we looked solid as a unit and that was the most pleasing aspect for me.

"There's no escaping the fact that it's been a mixed start to the season. We've performed well at times, but haven't got the points on the board to reflect this.

"As a group we're showing real signs of progress and hopefully this result will be the spark that we have been looking for.

"Finally getting that first win is massive for our confidence;

there's no doubt that we've got quality here, so now it's about being able to string a few results together on the back of this and climbing the table.

"We know what we are capable of; going into the season we knew that this League would be tough. Every game is competitive and physical, so you have to be at your best each week.

"That's what you want as a player – to test yourself at a good level and keep improving. It's certainly what I aiming to do and make as big an impact on the team as I can.

"We're looking up the table rather than down and if we keep working hard, there's no reason why we can't go on to have a really strong campaign."

Fellow defender, Mack Miskin, agrees. "There have been a lot of new arrivals into the team this season, myself included, so we're taking it game-by-game," he said. "But we're learning about each other all of the time and as a result becoming a hard team to come up against.



There was long-awaited joy for Northwood last weekend

Image | @jamesbrown333

"That first win was a relief and we've noticed in recent weeks that things are starting to click into place for us.

"Winning breeds momentum and we'll be looking to build from here now.

"This is my first time in this division, I'm completely new to it, so these early games have been about getting used to my surroundings and ensuring that I can make a telling contribution.

"Last Saturday's performance by the whole team was very pleasing. Going away from home and then conceding early is never great, but we showed character to stay in the game and then get ourselves level just before the break.

"We ended the opening period strongly and spoke during the interval about being able to take it into the second half, which we did. We battled well and deserved the win. As Chama says, there

is a lot of talent and quality here and we know that we can be tough opposition for anyone. We just have to find a level of consistency and make the most of the times when we are on top in games.

"The fans and management have been great and as players we want to be able to give them something to cheer about."

A run of home games starts this weekend as they entertain Biggleswade Town, another opponent who go into the game unbeaten in League action so far with three wins and two draws.

They were installed as one of the favourites for an immediate return to Step 3 at the outset of the campaign and go into the game on the back of a hard-fought 2-2 draw at Barton Rovers in their last outing last weekend.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Marlow will be keen to kick-start their season on Saturday as they are back in home action

Leaders, Biggleswade FC, take to the field on Friday evening as they welcome a Barton Rovers outfit who arrive in fourth place and, like their hosts, unbeaten in the League so far. A mouth-watering contest is in prospect here.

Beaconsfield Town will be hoping to make home advantage count as they take on MK Irish, whilst Enfield and Aylesbury United will be battling it out in a bid to kick-start their respective campaigns.

Having only played four League games so far, Hitchin Town, are looking to get into their stride as they host AFC Dunstable. Playing one game less are Leighton Town who have won three out of three and head to a Leverstock Green outfit who have made a solid start to their campaign.

London Lions will be looking to add to their solitary victory so

far as they lock horns with Hertford Town who will be eager to bounce back from their first defeat last time out at the hands of Northwood.

It's been a slow start for Marlow following their relegation at the end of last term and they welcome Hadley on Saturday. Talking of slow starts, Thame United have four defeats out of four so far and they will be eager to break their duck against a Stofold side who won for the first time in their last outing as they beat Marlow 2-0.

Finally, Ware hold home advantage as they take on Raynes Lane who have a record of one win from five going into the game.

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