

PRE VIEW MAG



YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE TO ALL
OF THE WEEKEND ACTION

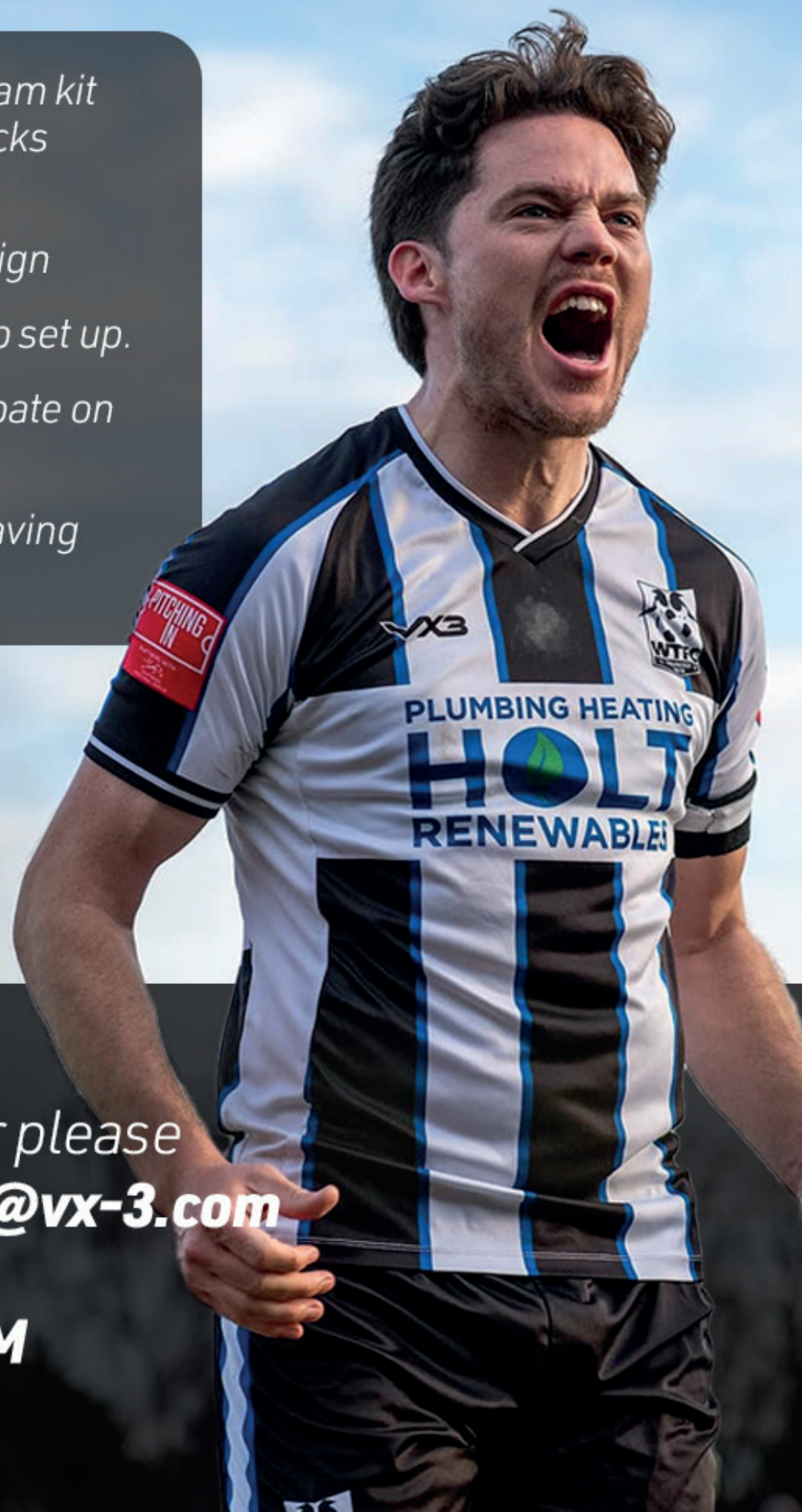


ROYAL APPROVAL



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ROYAL APPROVAL

For years, the only way to get to Pitching In Southern League Division One South outfit, Mousehole AFC, had been up a potholed, muddy road through the village of Paul. It meant winding through narrow country lanes and then squeezing through the quiet streets of a small Cornish village.

The local residents found it increasingly frustrating particularly as the club started to rise through the levels and for a long time, a solution to make things better for everyone was sought. Temporary solutions came and went until a neighbour offered a slice of his land so that a new connecting road could be built.

The only catch was the cost to build something permanent and functional; close to quarter of a million pounds.

A Crowdfunding campaign failed to raise enough money and in a last-ditch bid to salvage the situation, the club's media man, Kevin Bishop, managed to convince The Observer to run a full-page article on their plight.

One particularly interested reader of said article was HRH Prince William. He reached out, wanting to help and so a plan was put into action. Working closely with Martin Riley, a local businessman,

all of the pieces started to come together with contractors donating their time, labour and materials free of charge.

It all culminated with the project being completed earlier this season and being the football fan that he is, Prince William wanted to go along to go along to Interiora Trundle Parc in person to see the new road for himself and also meet the people that make the club tick.

So, on a foggy Cornish day last week, Prince William paid a visit to officially open the new road. He was fascinated to find out more about the club and spent a long time talking to players, supporters, staff and volunteers... as well as being photographed reading the club's Matchday Programme in his thirst for information on The Seagulls!

"Thank you to everyone in Mousehole for an incredible visit and to all those who made the new road to this football club possible," said HRH Prince William. "You are a shining example of what can happen when people and businesses come together to create a team to help a community."



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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	15	8	0	0	25	6	5	1	1	15	8	26	40
2	Gloucester City	16	7	1	0	22	11	4	2	2	17	11	17	36
3	Wimborne Town	15	6	2	0	21	8	2	2	3	6	5	14	28
4	Uxbridge	16	5	2	1	16	12	2	5	1	15	14	5	28
5	Poole Town	15	4	2	1	13	4	4	1	3	15	14	10	27
6	Gosport Borough	16	4	1	2	19	13	4	2	3	15	13	8	27
7	Farnham Town	14	3	3	2	16	12	4	2	0	15	8	11	26
8	Sholing	16	4	3	1	21	13	2	4	2	6	7	7	25
9	Chertsey Town	17	3	3	3	14	11	3	2	3	8	8	3	23
10	Berkhamsted	16	4	2	2	9	10	2	3	3	9	11	-3	23
11	Basingstoke Town	17	4	1	4	14	16	2	2	4	12	14	-4	21
12	Evesham United	17	3	2	3	12	8	2	3	4	13	18	-1	20
13	Hanwell Town	15	3	1	3	8	9	2	2	4	10	11	-2	18
14	Taunton Town	16	2	2	4	10	13	3	1	4	15	15	-3	18
15	Hungerford Town	16	2	5	2	11	13	2	0	5	11	16	-7	17
16	Plymouth Parkway	16	4	1	3	9	11	0	4	4	12	18	-8	17
17	Yate Town	16	2	4	1	6	5	2	1	6	13	23	-9	17
18	Weymouth	17	2	3	4	11	14	2	2	4	8	19	-14	17
19	Dorchester Town	16	2	3	4	11	17	1	3	3	7	10	-9	15
20	Bracknell Town	15	2	2	4	16	17	1	2	4	4	12	-9	13
21	Havant & Waterlooville	14	1	1	3	9	11	2	1	6	12	19	-9	11
22	Tiverton Town	15	1	1	5	6	10	1	0	7	6	25	-23	7

Premier Division Central

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

Weekend Action

Evesham United
v Dorchester Town
Gloucester City
v Chertsey Town
Gosport Borough
v Tiverton Town
Hanwell Town
v Wimborne Town
Havant & Waterlooville
v Weymouth
Plymouth Parkway
v Sholing
Poole Town
v Basingstoke Town
Taunton Town
v Berkhamsted
Uxbridge
v Farnham Town
Walton & Hersham
v Hungerford Town
Yate Town
v Bracknell Town

Weekend Action

Alvechurch
v Banbury United
Bishop's Stortford
v Bury Town
Bromsgrove Sporting
v Kettering Town
Real Bedford
v Quorn
Royston Town
v Barwell
Spalding United
v Needham Market
St Ives Town
v Redditch United
Stamford
v AFC Sudbury
Stourbridge
v Halesowen Town
Stratford Town
v Leiston
Worcester City
v Harborough Town

Division One South

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

Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leighton Town	17	6	2	0	18	5	6	3	0	22	8	27	41
2	Hitchin Town	16	4	2	2	11	9	5	3	0	19	6	15	32
3	Hertford Town	16	5	0	3	18	12	5	1	2	17	10	13	31
4	Biggleswade FC	15	2	4	0	10	7	6	2	1	20	11	12	30
5	Ware	16	4	2	2	18	12	5	1	2	19	17	8	30
6	Barton Rovers	16	4	2	1	15	8	4	3	2	14	11	10	29
7	Biggleswade Town	16	3	3	2	18	10	5	1	2	23	11	20	28
8	Stotfold	17	5	0	3	18	10	4	0	5	20	22	6	27
9	Hadley	16	4	1	2	21	17	3	4	2	13	11	6	26
10	Welwyn Garden City	17	3	3	3	10	11	3	3	2	14	12	1	24
11	Beaconsfield Town	16	2	4	3	15	14	3	3	1	13	10	4	22
12	Thame United	15	4	1	4	15	18	3	0	3	11	9	-1	22
13	Milton Keynes Irish	16	2	1	5	15	24	4	1	3	14	13	-8	20
14	Marlow	15	4	0	3	16	14	2	1	5	9	19	-8	19
15	London Lions	17	4	1	4	18	23	1	1	6	12	18	-11	17
16	Flackwell Heath	14	2	2	4	13	12	2	2	2	8	6	3	16
17	Leverstock Green	16	1	4	3	14	17	1	4	3	11	15	-7	14
18	Aylesbury United	17	0	4	4	7	14	3	1	5	15	22	-14	14
19	Northwood	16	1	2	7	11	27	1	5	0	10	9	-15	13
20	AFC Dunstable	16	1	3	3	7	11	1	1	7	9	21	-16	10
21	Enfield	15	1	1	6	11	22	1	1	5	9	14	-16	8
22	Rayners Lane	13	1	0	5	3	12	1	1	5	7	27	-29	7

Weekend Action

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

Weekend Action

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

Featured Match

GLOUCESTER CITY v CHERTSEY TOWN

After 120 days on the sidelines through injury, Conor Lee made his long-awaited return to action for Chertsey Town last Saturday and what an explosive return to was!

He played his part in a scintillating start for the Curfews which saw them race into a four-goal lead against Evesham United within the opening 16 minutes, as Lee helped himself to the fourth goal. It finished in a 4-0 victory and Lee was delighted to have been involved.

"This has been a long time coming," he told us. "It was extremely frustrating because the injury was seemingly nothing at the time but it has ended up keep me out of action for four months.

"There's nothing worse than having to watch from the sidelines, desperate to be involved in the action.

"I had a hernia in the groin, so obviously having to have an operation to sort it out puts you out for a while. As I say, it was one of those injuries that come from nothing really.

"All I wanted to do ahead of last weekend's game was come in and make an impact. Given that we were four up after quarter-of-an-hour and I got amongst the goals suggests that I was able to do that!

"As a group, we're in a good place at the moment; we're playing some nice football and everything has come together over the past couple of games with two wins as we followed up Saturday's win with a 2-1 victory over Hanwell Town.

"We've thoroughly deserved the six points that we have taken and it has moved us up the table.

"I think that other than Walton & Hersham and Gloucester City – who we face on Saturday – every other position is up for grabs. This is probably the most open that I have seen the Premier South for quite a few years.

"As a team always want to finish as high as we can. Things are starting to click now, but we're probably between seven and ten points below where we should be.

"Some of the football that we're now playing is really entertaining and we have to be able to back this up by taking the chances that come our way. If you don't at this level, you will get punished, it's as simple as that.

"Even when things weren't going so well earlier in the season, watching from the sidelines I could see the quality we have and I knew it was only a matter of time before things started to come together.



Conor Lee is full of smiles as he returns to action

"Now we prepare for what will be a big test at Gloucester on Saturday. Hopefully we can kick-on and it should be an entertaining game. We are aware of their threats, but we also have threats of our own and we're looking forward to the challenge that we face."

They meet at Gloucester City side who are buoyed from their 2-0 victory at Basingstoke Town on Tuesday evening where Kane Simpson continued his impressive scoring run by scoring both of the goals, including an audacious long-range effort.

"After a bit of a tussle with the defender, it gave me a chance to look up as I was getting back to my feet," Simpson explained. "The other defender dropped off and with my rich run of form at the moment, I fancied myself to beat the 'keeper from there and the risk paid off!

"It was nice to see the ball sail into the net for our crucial second goal. I feel like I've been getting back up to speed these last couple of weeks; it felt good out there on Tuesday evening and I was happy with my performance and, of course, the two goals.

"We know the ability we have in the changing room and the key thing is to be able to maintain the high standards that we have set and follow the game plan that is set out for us.

"If we can do that, I'm sure we will be where we want to come the end of the season."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Image | Mike Felstead

Wimborne Town are up to third and looking to keep in touch with the top two

After the frustration of seeing their game at Sholing abandoned on Tuesday evening due to floodlight failure with them 4-1 up, Walton & Hersham will be looking to take out their frustration on Hungerford Town at the weekend. They take on opponents who had an equally frustrating night as they let a three-goal lead slip to draw 3-3 with Evesham United.

Beyond the top two, Wimborne Town are third following a narrow 1-0 victory over Gosport Borough and they will be looking to keep on the shirt-tails of the two clubs above them as they head to Hanwell Town who went from Isuzu FA Trophy joy to defeat at Chertsey Town in the space of just a few days.

There was a rare defeat for Uxbridge last weekend when three goals in the final eight minutes from visitors, Yate Town, saw them slip to a 3-1 reverse. They will be looking for the right response as they host Farnham Town, another team who have adapted well to the added demands of this level having secured promotion at the end of last season. Farnham left it late to beat Poole Town in midweek as they snatched a stoppage time winner in a 2-1 triumph.

Talking of Poole Town, they are at home to a Basingstoke Town outfit who also suffered defeat in their last outing. Meanwhile, Gosport Borough will be eager to get back into winning ways when they host a Tiverton Town side who find themselves bottom of the table with just seven points to their name.

Just above them, Havant & Waterlooville are now under new management following the appointment of Aaron Martin and he is thrust straight into a big battle with Weymouth who are also desperate for the points to pull themselves away from the lower reaches of the table.

Bracknell Town are starting to find their stride and they had a commanding 3-0 victory over the aforementioned Havant & Waterlooville on Monday with goalkeeper, Zaki Nazih Oualah, telling us about the positive vibes that are now in and around the club following a difficult start to the campaign. They head to Yate Town who are also looking to move up the table.

Sat just inside the bottom four are Dorchester Town who head to Evesham United, whilst the remainder of the action sees Plymouth Parkway host Sholing and Taunton Town welcome Berkhamsted.

Featured Match

WORCESTER CITY v HARBOROUGH TOWN

Worcester City are starting to find their feet in the Premier Central. Tuesday's 3-2 victory over Stourbridge, which they achieved by playing with ten men for just over half-an-hour, was their third win in a row and seventh game without defeat.

On Saturday they will have a big test of their credentials when they welcome unbeaten Harborough Town to Sixways Stadium. The visitors are 15 League games unbeaten so far as they live up to their billing as pre-season favourites for promotion.

It's a challenge that Dan Sweeney, scorer of two goals in City's last outing, is looking forward to.

"We are on the crest of a wave at the moment," he told us. "We're going into every game full of confidence, especially when the

back line has been as good as they have for the last seven or eight games.

"We don't look like conceding chances or goals at all, so then it's up to the attacking players like myself to do the business at the other end of the pitch and play our part.

"I don't think there's any secret behind winning football matches and the run we're on. Momentum is huge in football, and we are carrying that at the moment.

"As I say, when you have a solid back-line it gives you the foundation on which to go and get results. It's half the battle and we have to make sure that we are clinical with the chances that come our way at the opposite end of the pitch.

"I'd say that the season for myself personally has started slowly. I haven't scored as many as I'd have liked and I haven't performed as well as I'd have liked, but when you have the staff and players that constantly encourage you, I have no doubt I'll eventually repay them with goals and performances.

"In terms of the season as a whole so far, it's a typical a non-League season, full of ups and downs and it's still only November! There's a long, long way to go and many more twists and turns still ahead of us, but we're in a good place at the moment and long may that continue.

"The one thing that has really impressed me this season is the level of support that we are getting. Obviously I know what a big club City is, but the number of fans that travel home and away and the noise they create is outstanding for this level of football.



Dan Sweeney is riding the crest of a wave at Worcester City

"It certainly doesn't go unnoticed by the players and it helps to get us over the line when we just need that extra push.

"Confidence is high throughout the club right now. We've earned the right to be going into games full of confidence too and we believe that on our day, we can beat anybody in this League.

"I know it's a cliché, but personally I've been in and out of this level almost ten years and dressing rooms change each season, I get that, but from what I'm seeing week in, week out here, when we have to dig in and see a game out, or find a bit of quality that can be the difference between a point and all three, we are more than capable of doing this.

"We have a big test on Saturday against opponents who everyone thinks will be one of the two sides that will win the League, so it will be a good gauge for us.

"We go into every game looking to win regardless of who we are up against."

Harborough Town arrive in Worcestershire on the back of a hard-earned 1-0 win at Quorn on Tuesday evening where Connor Kennedy's goal on the hour-mark proved to be the difference in front of a packed house.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Image | Pete Muscutt

It was a four-some performance from Anthony Dwyer for Barwell on Monday

With the leaders, Harborough Town, facing a tough away trip, second-placed Spalding United have a tough home encounter against an upwardly-mobile Needham Market who it Royston Town for six on Tuesday to move up into the top four. Spalding meanwhile were 2-0 victors over Kettering Town in their last outings, so it will be two teams full of confidence going head-to-head.

There's another mouth-watering clash taking place between two more high-flying teams as Real Bedford, fresh from a 1-0 victory at Bury Town courtesy of a wonder-goal from Conor Tee, host Quorn, who sit just a couple of places and a couple of points outside the top five.

Also making good progress are Redditch United and they will be looking to continue their solid form as they go to mid-table St. Ives Town having grabbed a last-gasp winner in their last outing against Bury Town last weekend.

It's the 'Number 9' derby at Stourbridge as they play host to bitter rivals, Halesowen Town. Most people look upon this as the biggest local derby in the country at this tier of football and a

packed house is guaranteed for what will be quite a battle as the home side look for the points to pull themselves closer to those teams outside of the bottom four, whilst the Yeltz have their sights set on the play-off places.

Two of the bottom four meet as Stamford AFC, rooted to the foot of the table, host AFC Sudbury, who sit two places and five points above them. It's a big game already for both of these clubs. Also in the lower reaches of the table are Royston Town, who will be aiming to bounce back from a heavy weekend defeat as they host Barwell, who beat Stratford Town 5-2 on Monday with a masterclass from experienced front-man, Anthony Dwyer, who was on fire in front of goal as he helped himself to four of the goals.

Action elsewhere includes Alvechurch, who are trying to find their early season form, playing host to a Banbury United outfit who are seeing their fortunes take an upturn after a slow start to the campaign. Bishop's Stortford will be looking to make home advantage count as they take on a Bury Town side who are teetering just above the bottom four, whilst Bromsgrove Sporting welcome Liam McDonald's Kettering Town.

Featured Match

MELKSHAM TOWN v BIDEFORD AFC

A new era gets underway for Melksham Town on Saturday as Stuart Fleetwood takes charge of his first game with the visit of Bideford.

It was a watching brief for Fleetwood and his assistant, Dan Gillespie, last weekend as the team suffered its tenth defeat of the season with a 4-0 reverse at Frome Town.

The result leaves the Wiltshire outfit just one point and one place off the foot of the Pitching In Southern League Division One South table ahead of a game against opponents who themselves sit just one place out of the bottom four.

"First and foremost I am blown away by the facilities here," said Fleetwood, who was previously in charge of Swindon Supermarine. "This club has so much to offer; the training pitch is just as good as the surface that the first-team plays on, so everything is geared up in that respect.

"Dan and I did a bit of a presentation earlier in the week on

everything we want the club to be and the response was good, very positive.

"We watched last weekend's game at Frome Town, it was a tough one but it gave us plenty of food for thought as to where we need to strengthen and what players we have already here can do a job for us.

"It gave us a feel for what the club is all about and I must say that I was blown away by the numbers that travelled to support us.

"This club is a sleeping giant. I am hoping that the style we'll bring and the environment that will be created here will attract even more fans to come along and be part of the journey.

"We had a good first session this week. Both Dan and I have been biding our time waiting for the right opportunity to come up. It's never nice to see people lose their jobs, but that's the nature of the game unfortunately.

"It was a no-brainer to come in here. The facilities and the stature



Stuart Fleetwood is the new man at the Melksham Town helm

of the club mean that anything is possible and we can really get this place rocking.

"Anyone who knows me and saw my Swindon Supermarine teams, will know that I like to create ball-playing teams with technical players who can manipulate the ball and play an attractive and patient style.

"The fans will have to be patient during this transitional period as the players get used to what we want and expect from them.

"We'll be looking to create an exciting team that creates chances

and scores goals. Hopefully we can start moving up the table and building momentum.

"I want the players to enjoy it and play with smiles on their faces."

For visitors, Bideford AFC, they arrive on the back of a goalless home draw with Fleetwood's former club, Swindon Supermarine, last weekend. They have just three wins from their 16 League games so far this season.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Image | Jack Davidson

It's another big game for Portishead Town at the weekend as the top two battle it out

Having fallen to defeat at the hands of Malvern Town last weekend, leaders, Portishead Town, returned to winning ways on Tuesday evening with a commanding 3-0 derby day victory over Bristol Manor Farm. They sit level on points with Winchester City at the top and the two teams go head-to-head on Saturday in what is sure to be an encounter with plenty of cut-and-thrust. Winchester go into the game having beaten Exmouth Town 3-1 in their last game.

Just behind the top two are the aforementioned Malvern Town who made the long trek down to Brixham AFC during the week and came home with a 4-1 victory, which will stand them in good stead for Saturday's trip to Bristol Manor Farm, who are just a point out of the bottom four.

Following their dismantling of Melksham Town last weekend, Frome Town take on a team that suffered relegation alongside them at the end of last season in Swindon Supermarine. Whilst Frome sit fourth having only lost twice this season, their opponents find themselves in the middle of the table.

Making up the rest of the top five are Shaftesbury who head down to face a Mousehole AFC outfit who are still basking in the glow of their recent Royal visit. On the pitch, The Seagulls

played out a 4-4 draw at Didcot Town in their last outing as they look to find some consistency to get them moving up the table. Shaftesbury meanwhile battled out a 1-0 victory over Westbury United last weekend.

At the bottom of the current table is Tavistock AFC and they will be looking to make home advantage count when they meet Larkhall Athletic on Saturday. The visitors will have other ideas as they find themselves inside the top ten.

Sitting just a couple of places off the bottom are Bashley, who lost to Larkhall Athletic last weekend and this week host the team just one place above them, Willand Rovers, who continue to find the going tough and suffered a 1-0 home reverse at the hands of Sporting Club Inkberrow in their last outing. A home clash with local rivals, Hartpury awaits for Sporting Club Inkberrow.

Elsewhere, Bishops Cleeve will be eager to get back into action having seen their game at Falmouth Town fall victim of the wet weather last weekend. They are at home to a Brixham AFC side who were well beaten by Malvern Town on Tuesday. Exmouth Town welcome Didcot Town, whilst Westbury United are at home to Falmouth Town, who go into the game just above the bottom four and in need of a spark.

Featured Match

AYLESBURY UNITED v HITCHIN TOWN

Aylesbury United will be celebrating Jack Wood breaking their appearance record at Saturday's home game against Hitchin Town.

Since making his debut as a 17 year-old loanee from Luton Town in March 2010, Wood has worn the green and white with unmatched pride, reaching 670 club appearances, breaking the record held previously by Cliff Hercules, in their recent 2-2 draw with Welwyn Garden City.

Starting initially as a midfielder, he moved to tie down a role for himself at right-back before becoming a mainstay of the defence in a central position. That journey from midfield to centre-back reflects not only his versatility but also a willingness to serve wherever the team needed him most.

"I am very proud to beat the appearance record," Wood told us. "It's been in my sight for a while, so to finally achieve it is really special at a club that means so much to me.

"In all honesty, I didn't expect to be here for as long as I have

been. Originally I came in on a youth loan from Luton Town and then just never looked back.

"My debut came against Arlesey Town, who I'd previously served on a youth loan; we won the game 2-1, but as I came off the pitch that day, I never expected that I would chalk up 670 appearances for the club!"

Appointed captain at the tender age of 19 by then-manager Tony Joyce, Wood has been the embodiment of commitment, turning down opportunities to play at higher levels and for much better financial rewards to remain faithful to the Ducks.

His consistency has been rewarded with an extraordinary 19 end-of-season awards, a true and enduring testament to the respect he commands from managers, team-mates, and supporters alike.

Beyond the numbers, his legacy is written in decisive moments; towering headers in FA Cup ties, rallying speeches in the dressing room, and countless displays of resilience and determination on the pitch, embodied most in his fine reading of the game,



Jack Wood's long-service will be celebrated at Aylesbury United on Saturday

allowing him to make countless goal-saving challenges.

"There have been a lot of good memories over the years," he added. "The stand-out moments have probably been the promotion season in which, if my memory is correct, we actually went something like 28 games unbeaten!

"Winning a Cup Final against Hadley at Berkhamsted was another great night – there have been many more special memories from over the years, alongside some special people both on and off the pitch.

"The current campaign has not gone as well as we would have liked so far. We know that we have to be more consistent and clinical if we are to push further up the table. Hopefully I can play my part in helping us keep clean sheets and be able to chip in with

a few goals along the way too.

"As I say, this club means so much to me and I am desperate to get us moving in the right direction."

The Ducks head into Saturday's game on the back of three successive draws, including Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Hadley where they equalised in stoppage time at the end, as they sit just one place above the bottom four in the Division One Central table.

They face opponents who are second following last weekend's 3-1 victory over Hadley, a result which made it ten League games unbeaten, a run which stretches back to the end of September.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



It's top against bottom on Saturday as Enfield make the trip to Leighton Town

It's top against bottom on Saturday as unbeaten leaders, Leighton Town, play host to Enfield. Last weekend saw Leighton grab a stoppage time leveller at Ware, whilst Enfield succumbed to a 3-1 home reverse at the hands of Biggleswade Town.

Having slipped to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Marlow last weekend, Barton Rovers were able to respond in the right way on Tuesday night as they battled out a 1-0 triumph over Ware to leave them sitting third in the table. They now face a Northwood outfit who have taken four points from their last two outings this week.

Hertford Town face a home encounter with mid-table Beaconsfield Town as they look to strengthen their challenge within the top five, whilst Biggleswade FC head to an AFC Dunstable side who are battling it out in the bottom four following a 3-1 loss at Northwood in their last game.

Also in the bottom four are Rayners Lane. They chalked up an

impressive 1-0 win at Biggleswade FC last Friday but just missed out on adding to their tally on Tuesday when they fell to a 3-2 reverse at an improving Marlow.

The rest of the action sees Biggleswade Town and Ware go head-to-head as just one place and two points separate the two teams just outside the top five. A competitive encounter is sure to be in prospect there. Meanwhile Hadley and Welwyn Garden City also sit next to each other in the table and they will be battling it out on Saturday, as do MK Irish and Marlow.

Finally, Stotfold have their sights set on making an impact amongst the leading pack. They won 2-1 at Beaconsfield Town last weekend and host a London Lions side who followed up their first-ever away win in Step 4 with a home draw against Flackwell Heath in their last outing.

Another intriguing weekend of action lies ahead at both ends of the table.

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