

PRE VIEW MAG



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SOUTHERN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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INNER STRENGTH

YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE TO ALL
OF THE WEEKEND ACTION

TRIDENT  LEAGUES

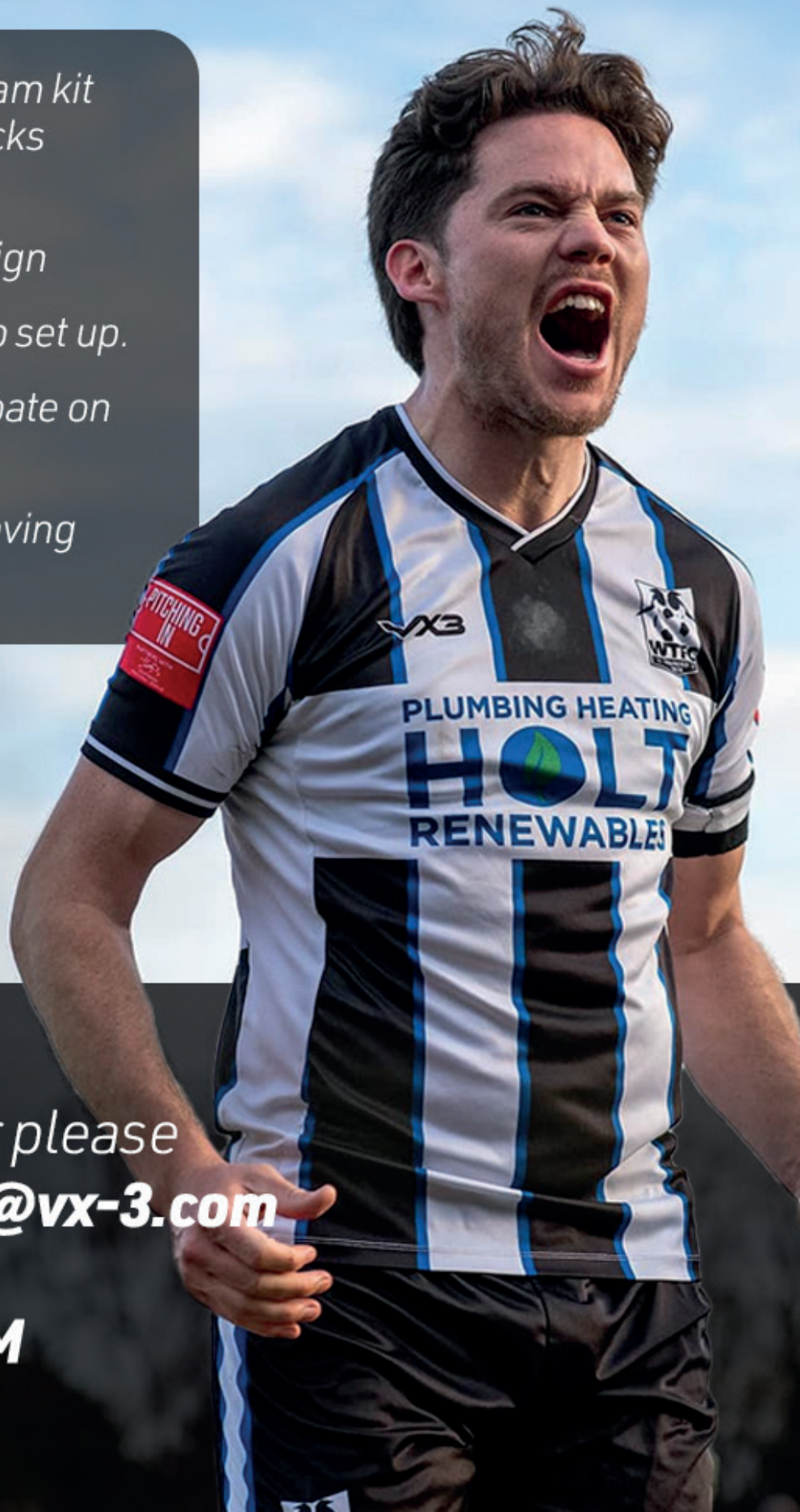
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IN MEMORIAM COLIN BROOKES

The Southern League are devastated to hear of the passing of Halesowen Town FC President, Colin Brookes, at Tuesday evening's Pitching In Southern League Premier Central game at Stratford Town.

A statement from the club reads:

"It's with real sadness that we have to announce the passing of our President Colin Brookes.

"He was at the match last night and was sadly taken ill and did not recover despite all the efforts of Kyle Finn and James Kellerman's mums, Stratford Town FC, our medical team and the local paramedics.

"Everyone who knew him would know that if he had chosen a way to go, it would have been watching his beloved Yeltz and a quick passing.

"Our thoughts are with Karen and the family and all their friends at this time."

The thoughts and prayers of the Southern League are with Colin's family and friends and everyone involved in Tuesday evening's tragic event.

RIP Colin, a fantastic football man and a friend to many within the game.



Colin Brookes



Brian McCarthy (right)

BRIAN McCARTHY

We are also sad to report the recent passing of former Southern League Director and Vice Chairman, Brian McCarthy.

He became a director during the summer of 2004 and gave 14 years of fantastic service.

Also giving over two decades of sterling service to Chesham United, where he is regarded as one of the most influential figures in their recent history.

The condolences of everyone here at the Southern Football League go to his family and friends at this sad time.



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

Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Harborough Town	17	6	4	0	15	4	6	1	0	14	4	21	41
2	Spalding United	19	5	1	1	19	6	7	3	2	26	17	22	40
3	Real Bedford	17	5	2	2	15	10	5	2	1	16	8	13	34
4	Redditch United	18	6	1	1	17	8	4	1	5	12	14	7	32
5	Needham Market	19	6	1	2	21	11	3	4	3	12	16	6	32
6	Quorn	19	3	2	4	13	12	6	2	2	25	15	11	31
7	Halesowen Town	18	6	1	2	16	11	2	5	2	14	11	8	30
8	Leiston	19	3	4	2	18	13	4	3	3	14	13	6	28
9	Worcester City	19	3	4	3	14	12	4	2	3	17	7	12	27
10	St Ives Town	19	4	4	2	13	11	2	2	5	12	13	1	24
11	Banbury United	18	4	2	3	16	16	3	1	5	15	15	0	24
12	Kettering Town	18	3	2	3	11	9	4	1	5	12	17	-3	24
13	Stratford Town	19	4	3	2	15	13	2	3	5	10	17	-5	24
14	Bishop`s Stortford	17	4	1	6	18	19	3	1	2	9	6	2	23
15	Barwell	18	3	1	4	12	12	3	4	3	16	15	1	23
16	Alvechurch	18	4	0	5	12	12	3	2	4	6	7	-1	23
17	Bromsgrove Sporting	19	5	1	5	17	20	2	1	5	8	16	-11	23
18	Bury Town	19	5	0	4	9	9	1	3	5	11	19	-8	21
19	Stourbridge	18	1	4	3	10	13	1	3	6	11	21	-13	13
20	Royston Town	19	1	5	4	13	20	1	2	6	6	21	-22	13
21	AFC Sudbury	17	3	2	3	9	17	0	2	7	8	26	-25	13
22	Stamford AFC	17	1	3	6	6	20	1	1	5	5	13	-22	10

Weekend Action

Basingstoke Town
v Walton & Hersham

Berkhamsted
v Poole Town

Bracknell Town
v Hanwell Town

Chertsey Town
v Plymouth Parkway

Dorchester Town
v Gosport Borough

Farnham Town
v Yate Town

Hungerford Town
v Taunton Town

Sholing
v Evesham United

Tiverton Town
v Havant & Waterlooville

Weymouth
v Uxbridge

Wimborne Town
v Gloucester City

Weekend Action

AFC Sudbury
v Bromsgrove Sporting

Banbury United
v Stamford

Barwell
v Harborough Town

Bury Town
v Stratford Town

Halesowen Town
v Bishop`s Stortford

Kettering Town
v Stourbridge

Leiston
v Real Bedford

Needham Market
v Alvechurch

Quorn
v St Ives Town

Redditch United
v Spalding United

Worcester City
v Royston Town

Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Portishead Town	18	8	1	1	33	6	6	0	2	18	11	34	43
2	Winchester City	19	7	3	0	25	9	5	1	3	19	13	22	40
3	Frome Town	17	6	2	1	17	6	6	1	1	19	4	26	39
4	Shaftesbury	17	8	0	1	20	9	4	1	3	19	11	19	37
5	Malvern Town	18	7	0	3	23	18	5	1	2	15	11	9	37
6	Bishops Cleeve	15	7	2	0	23	7	4	1	1	13	10	19	36
7	Exmouth Town	19	6	2	1	21	11	3	3	4	11	22	-1	32
8	Westbury United	17	6	0	2	12	7	3	2	4	7	11	1	29
9	Larkhall Athletic	18	6	1	2	21	14	2	0	7	11	17	1	25
10	Mousehole	18	3	2	4	12	13	3	3	3	17	15	1	23
11	Swindon Supermarine	17	4	0	5	17	17	2	3	3	8	8	0	21
12	Sporting Club Inkberrow	16	4	0	3	9	8	2	3	4	10	18	-7	21
14	Bristol Manor Farm	18	4	2	3	12	13	2	1	6	15	23	-9	21
13	Hartpury	16	4	1	2	25	10	2	1	6	12	14	13	20
15	Falmouth Town	17	3	3	2	15	9	1	2	6	9	21	-6	17
16	Didcot Town	18	1	4	4	14	21	3	1	5	9	16	-14	17
17	Bashley	18	1	3	4	5	10	3	1	6	10	16	-11	16
18	Brixham	19	3	1	6	15	25	1	2	6	10	27	-27	15
19	Melksham Town	18	3	3	3	13	13	0	2	7	6	21	-15	14
20	Bideford	18	2	3	4	9	12	1	2	6	4	18	-17	14
21	Willand Rovers	17	2	2	4	7	10	1	3	5	10	25	-18	14
22	Tavistock AFC	16	2	0	5	5	11	1	1	7	7	21	-20	10

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

Bashley
v Melksham Town

Didcot Town
v Frome Town

Exmouth Town
v Malvern Town

Hartpury
v Swindon Supermarine

Larkhall Athletic
v Falmouth Town

Mousehole
v Bishops Cleeve

Shaftesbury
v Portishead Town

Sporting Club Inkberrow
v Bristol Manor Farm

Tavistock AFC
v Winchester City

Westbury United
v Brixham AFC

Willand Rovers
v Bideford AFC

Weekend Action

Biggleswade FC
v Hertford Town *(playing Friday)*

Beaconsfield Town
v AFC Dunstable

Enfield
v Flackwell Heath

Hitchin Town
v Leighton Town

Leverstock Green
v Biggleswade Town

London Lions
v Barton Rovers

Marlow
v Stotfold

Northwood
v Aylesbury United

Thame United
v Hadley

Ware
v Milton Keynes Irish

Welwyn Garden City
v Rayners Lane

Featured Match

FARNHAM TOWN v YATE TOWN

The sheer strength, love and support of the Football Family should never be underestimated.

It has once more come to the fore after Yate Town FC were touched by tragedy with the sudden passing at just five weeks old of Ezra Guest, beloved son of captain, Joe Guest, and his partner, Jodie.

"It's been a tough time, but the resilience and togetherness of this group has really shone through," said team-mate, Josh Bennett. "We've been there for Joe and Jodie and will continue to give them all of the love and support that they need."

Recent arrival, James Ollis, agreed: "It's a times like this when you really see how strong the group is. There has been plenty of love for Joe and his family and we will continue to be there for him. Everyone involved with the club has joined together and tragic events like this really do put things into perspective."

A run of five Premier South games without defeat, including four wins, has seen the club begin climbing the table as they get to grips with the added demands at this level following promotion at the end of last season.

"We're working hard for each other and the confidence is flowing through us all," added Bennett. "The fans have been really supportive too and they have played their part in creating an atmosphere where we have been able to thrive together."

"Personally, I am trying to do the basics well, be consistent and help the team as much as I can."

"I've been to made so welcome from the moment I first arrived at the club. Everyone has been so friendly and made me feel comfortable and part of things. This togetherness is a key ingredient for us and from our equaliser deep into stoppage time at Weymouth at the beginning of November, things have just ramped up

"This was when we all really gelled together and things have progressed in the weeks since then as the bond has grown stronger and stronger."

Returning to the club at the end of October, James Ollis has also been able to hit the ground running.

"Everyone here has made it so easy for me to settle in," he added. "I'm loving my football again and enjoying being part of this group. I'm more motivated than ever and that's due to the people around me and the style of football that we are playing. Coming back here was a no-brainer."

With six wins from their 18 League games so far, the Bluebells have their sights set on making it into the top half of the table.

"The jump from the level below to this one is massive," continued Bennett, who was snapped up from Melksham Town. "The Premier South is a tough League, I had a taste of it with Taunton Town last year, so I had an idea what I was coming in to here."

"To be given the chance to be part of things here at Yate is an opportunity that I have grabbed with both hands. You come up against some extremely talented players and teams, but I think that I am getting to grips with it as each game passes."



The Yate Town FC Family has joined together in support of their skipper

"This League is so tight at the moment that it only takes a couple of wins and you are right up there, but at the same time, a couple of poor results and you're looking over your shoulder again. There are no easy games in this League, that's for sure."

"For us to be in amongst the top half of the table would be a great achievement."

Ollis agrees about the strength of the Premier South.

"This has always been a tough League and it's getting tougher year on year," he said. "Clubs are getting bigger budgets each season and it only attracts better quality players."

"It's happening across the whole League and, as you can see, there are not many points separating those in the play-off positions and those towards the bottom four. Anyone can beat each other."

"We are building some momentum now and I want to contribute to this continuing. Things are going well for us on the pitch but we have to be realistic; the first season back at this level for any club is always about consolidation."

"Of course, we want to finish as high as we possibly can and for me personally I want to score more goals than last season, getting into double digits at least."

The challenge for Bennett, Ollis and their team-mates on Saturday will be a tough one. They head to fellow Premier South new-boys, Farnham Town, who go into the game with the glow of becoming the first team to win at Gloucester City in the League this season following their 2-1 triumph on Tuesday evening.

They have lost just two of their 16 League games so far, sitting fourth and playing some exciting football along the way.

This one has all of the ingredients to be quite a battle between two in-form sides.

If you would like to contribute to the GoFundMe page which has been set up in honour of Ezra Guest, to help ease the financial burden and provide comfort to Joe and Jodie as they navigate this heart-breaking journey, you can do so by scanning the QR or by visiting: gofund.me/f1817c267

The thoughts of the Southern League remain with them at this most difficult of times.



THE REST OF THE ACTION



The Sholing FC faithful will be looking for more to cheer about as they return to home action on Saturday

Leaders, Walton & Hersham, were rocked this week with the news that manager, Billy Rowley, has moved up into The National League with Yeovil Town. They will be hoping that the transition to a new man at the helm will be a smooth one as they head to Basingstoke Town. They face hosts who are looking to pull themselves up into the top half of the table.

In second place, Gloucester City were rocked by a rare home defeat on Tuesday as they went down 2-1 at the hands of Farnham Town. Another tough test stands ahead for the Tigers as they go to Wimborne Town, who sit just outside the top five having lost just three times so far this term. They have had quite a week themselves as their team coach was involved in an accident on their way down to Plymouth Parkway on Tuesday. Thankfully no-one was hurt and the game was postponed.

Following a dramatic 4-3 victory over local rivals, Weymouth, on Wednesday evening, Gosport Borough are now third ahead of their trip to face another derby at Dorchester Town. The home club remain in the bottom four, although they did pick up a point from their midweek trip to Taunton Town.

Sitting just inside the top five are Poole Town and they were

involved in an amazing game with Tiverton Town on Tuesday, which ended in a 5-5 draw, with nine of the goals coming in the first half! Will there be as much entertainment when Poole head to Berkhamsted or when bottom of the table Tiverton get back into home action for the visit of a Havant & Waterlooville outfit who sit just a couple of places above them? Probably not, but both sides face two big games at either end of the table.

Sholing enjoyed a good 2-0 away win at Uxbridge during the week to leapfrog their opponents on the fringes of the play-off places. On Saturday, Sholing host Evesham United, who are just five points behind them, whilst Uxbridge will be eager to respond in the right way as they go to Weymouth, who continue to teeter just above the relegation zone.

Talking of the bottom four, Bracknell Town will be seeking more vital points as they look to get their season on track as they welcome Hanwell Town, who sit just below the midway point in the table.

The remaining action sees Chertsey Town host Plymouth Parkway, whilst Hungerford Town will be looking to make home advantage count against Taunton Town.

Featured Match

AFC SUDBURY v BROMSGROVE SPORTING

There was a special landmark for Bromsgrove Sporting manager, Scott Adey-Linforth, last weekend as he took charge of his 50th game.

The team responded with a commanding 3-0 victory over Kettering Town following an impressive all-round display, however, things were brought back down to earth somewhat following Tuesday's heavy 5-1 home reverse at the hands of Quorn, in a game that was streamed live on ClubberTV.

Despite this Adey-Linforth has achieved much since taking over at the helm, including guiding the Rouslers to their highest-ever finish and points total at Step 3 last season.

"To reach 50 games as manager makes me very proud," he told us. "I've been in the job for about a year and it's gone so quickly. There's been lots of challenges but I've loved every minute of it.

"I'll be honest; I didn't realise it was my 50th game last weekend until I was told after the game! But, it was a great way to mark it. I felt the game against Kettering was everything I epitomise as a manager; it was a performance of hard work, grit and a bit of quality to secure a deserved three points.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to back it up on Tuesday against a strong Quorn side where we didn't defend well enough and

were punished. It just shows the up and down nature of being a manager, though; there are so many highs and lows that you have to face along the way."

We asked Adey-Linforth what he has learned most during his time in the dug-out.

"I've learned a lot," he responded without hesitation. "I think the biggest thing for me is learning how to switch off.

"The job is so demanding and especially early on in my managerial career, I would carry things home with me. Although it's difficult, I feel it's important to disconnect when and where possible."

Sitting just a couple of places above the bottom four, Saturday sees the Worcestershire outfit head to AFC Sudbury, who find themselves one place off the bottom of the table and ten points adrift of their weekend opponents.

"I think our season has been okay so far," added Adey-Linforth. "We obviously had a very poor start but we've improved massively since then.

"Of course, Tuesday's performance shows that we're nowhere near where I want us to be at the moment, but that said, we're making small steps towards it.



Scott Adey-Linforth is loving life in the dug-out as he rides the ups and downs of management

"Our home form has been generally good and my biggest challenge now is to replicate that form away from home. Saturday is a big game for us and it would be nice to come home with the three points and respond in the right way to Tuesday's disappointment.

"I think the League has been tough this season, just as I expected it to be going into the season. There's a lot of very strong teams all with similar aims. It's great for a neutral and makes the League really exciting.

"My targets haven't changed; first and foremost, we must finish higher than we did last year. Our challenge is to keep improving every week, if we can do this who knows where we can end up?"

On the subject of managers, AFC Sudbury have this week confirmed the permanent appointment of Tom Austin as Head Coach.

Having guided Brantham Athletic to the Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division title last year, Austin made the switch to AFC Sudbury during the summer as assistant manager under Danny Laws and has been in interim charge since Laws stepped down.

"I would like to thank the board for putting their trust in me to lead the team at this great football club," Austin said earlier this week. "I'm really excited for the challenge ahead. We know we have a mountain to climb as a squad but I have real confidence in the group to pull us through.

"I ask the fans to get behind us, as they always do, because we're going to need this ongoing support for the battles ahead, starting with the visit of Bromsgrove Sporting on Saturday."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Spalding United have made home advantage count this week

Harborough Town remain unbeaten having come through two tough tests this week. They won at in-form Worcester City last weekend before beating fellow high-flyers, Redditch United, on Tuesday. This weekend sees them on the road to mid-table Barwell who played out a goalless draw at Stourbridge on Wednesday evening.

It was a case of making home advantage count for second-place Spalding United this week as they followed up their commanding 3-0 triumph over Needham Market with a hard-earned 2-1 success against a determined Bury Town on Tuesday. They hit the road for a mouth-watering trip to Redditch United on Saturday.

Also amongst the top five are Real Bedford, who got back into winning ways during the week as they beat Banbury United 3-1 having been held to a draw by Quorn in their previous outing. A trip to Leiston is on the agenda for them on Saturday, as Quorn, hot on the heels of hitting five at Bromsgrove Sporting, host St. Ives Town.

A last-gasp winner gave Needham Market a good 2-1 away win

at Bishop's Stortford on Tuesday and it means that they go into their home game with Alvechurch in good heart, but so too do their opponents as they beat Worcester City on Tuesday, just days after manager, Tim Flowers, stepped down from his position at the helm.

At the bottom of the table, Stamford go into their game at Banbury United buoyed by only their second win of the season as they beat Kettering Town 2-1 during the week. Just above them, Royston Town hit the road as they head to Sixways Stadium to face a Worcester City outfit who are eager to bounce back from two straight defeats which have put an end to their impressive recent run of form. Also in the bottom four are Stourbridge and they go to Kettering Town, where former manager, Liam McDonald, is now at the helm.

The rest of the action sees Bury Town host Stratford Town and Halesowen Town host Bishop's Stortford in what will be an emotional occasion following the passing of Club President and all-round legend, Colin Brookes, whilst attending Tuesday's game at Stratford Town.

Featured Match

BASHLEY v MELKSHAM TOWN

Bashley finally ended their home hoodoo last weekend as they secured a hard-earned 2-0 victory over Willand Rovers, at the eighth time of asking.

A second half brace from Conor Whiteley was enough to give Bash a precious three points and their fourth Pitching In Southern League Division One South win of the season.

"Better late than never," said Harvey Bertrand. "I am happy for the team and especially the Gaffer and his coaching staff because they have worked extremely hard for that.

"The supporters also deserve massive credit for the way in which they keep turning up and giving us outstanding backing. It was nice to give them something to cheer about on Saturday, especially as the conditions were horrible.

"I am surprised that the game went ahead, to be honest, given the amount of rain we had, but we went out there with a plan and stuck rigidly to it.

"The overall performance wasn't our prettiest by any means but to come away with three points and a clean sheet was a real

boost for us. We knew it would be a scrappy affair, but we got the job done!

"We have to be able to build on this now, especially at home because a solid home record is vital. We need to get some momentum going because in this League, things are so close that anything can happen if you are able to string a few results together.

"It's been a frustrating start; we've had ups and downs, but anyone who watches us on a regular basis will understand that the football we have played over the course of the campaign so far doesn't replicate the results we've had or the position in the table that we currently find ourselves in.

"This League is all about who wants it the most; there is a mix of different styles from those teams who look to try and play and others whose intent is to make it as ugly as possible, so you have to be able to deal with both sides of the game.

"The travelling distances in this League doesn't help matters, but that is where you need to have the right mindset where you



It was home sweet home for Harvey Bertrand and Bashley FC on Saturday

are willing to show the commitment and focus firmly on the next challenge.

"I want to be able to contribute as much as I can with goals and assists as well as helping us keep clean sheets, as we did at the weekend. For the club, we have to just take things game by game and look to push on higher up the table.

"Like I say, you never know what can happen in this League if you start to build a bit of momentum and confidence."

Bertrand and his team-mates will be hoping that another home victory is not too far behind as they host Melksham Town on Saturday.

The Wiltshire club were able to get a victory in Stuart Fleetwood's first game at the helm on Saturday as they beat Bideford AFC 2-0 before seeing their home encounter with Willand Rovers frustratingly fall victim of the weather on Monday.

We were able to grab a word with Fleetwood following his first win.

"It's always nice to get a win on the board in the first game,"

Fleetwood told us. "We need to get some bodies through the door and the style will take a few weeks to nail down, but the players have responded well in these initial days, so that's a good start.

"It's quite a challenge that we face here. That said, Melksham Town is a sleeping giant; I haven't seen facilities like this at Step 3, let alone Step 4, and we have the core of a strong side, it just needs tweaking and some guidance, which hopefully we can bring.

"We're under no illusions that it's going to be hard work, but it's fresh, it's new and, as I say, the players have responded well so far and are buying in to what we want to do here.

"I want the players to enjoy the environment, that's the plan. I'm aware of the players and clubs at this level, but we have to focus on ourselves and what we do rather than put all of our time and energy into the opposition.

"This is a strong League and we will respect everyone we come up against."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



It was congratulations all round for Winchester City on Tuesday night as they got straight back into winning ways

Leaders, Portishead Town, will be tested to the limit this weekend as they head to Shaftesbury. Both sides were able to strengthen their position within the leading pack during the week as Portishead hit five without a reply against Exmouth Town and Shaftesbury brought home all three points from Bideford AFC courtesy of a 3-0 triumph.

In second place, Winchester City bounced back from defeat at Portishead Town last weekend with a convincing 3-0 victory over Westbury United on Tuesday evening. They make the trip to bottom of the table, Tavistock AFC, this weekend. The Devon outfit suffered a 4-1 reverse at Falmouth Town during the week and go into the game with just ten points to their name.

Having beaten Bashley 2-0 on Wednesday, Frome Town head to Didcot Town at the weekend as they look to add to their points tally against opponents who find themselves in the lower half of the table. Making up the rest of the top five, is Malvern Town, who battled out a 3-2 victory over Larkhall Athletic on Tuesday

as they got straight back into winning ways following a heavy defeat at Bristol Manor Farm last weekend. The Hillsiders head to Exmouth Town on Saturday.

Just outside the top five are Bishops Cleeve and they make the long journey down to Mousehole, who are buoyed from their 3-2 victory at Brixham AFC on Tuesday.

In the bottom four, there's a big Devon derby taking place as Willand Rovers, who sit one off the bottom, host Bideford AFC are just one place above them. Both teams sit on 14 points and are searching for a spark to ignite their respective seasons.

The rest of the action sees Hartpury host Swindon Supermarine, whilst Larkhall Athletic welcome Falmouth Town, who are determined to kick-on from Tuesday's win. Sporting Club Inkberrow and Bristol Manor Farm are locked together on 21 points each and they face-off on Saturday. Finally, Westbury United will be eager to make home advantage count as they take on Brixham AFC.

Featured Match

MARLOW v STOTFOLD

Five straight wins amidst a run of just one defeat from their last eight Division One Central games has left Stotfold sat just outside the top five.

It's a run that continued on Tuesday evening as they beat Ware 3-0 following a free-flowing display.

"First and foremost, we defended really well to get our second clean sheet in a row," said manager, Eddie McLoughlin. "When

you do that, it always gives you a chance and we were able to combine it by looking positive out wide and effective from set-pieces.

"In our previous game last weekend, we had to battle it out in extremely tough conditions. We had to grind that one out, but on Tuesday we were able to take the shackles off a bit more and the players enjoyed it.

"They were chomping at the bit to get back to our free-flowing style and we took our goals well to run out 3-0 winners. The goals came at the right times and we were able to stand up well to the test that they presented to us.

"We're looking strong aerially in defence now and the back-line is giving us a solid platform on which to build and it's so important to have that.

"The boys are working relentlessly and really coming together well. They are buzzing with the run that we're on and you can feel the energy from them.

"We had a difficult start to the season, but since that we've had a taste of victory and it has only made us even more determined to continue this winning run. We're not taking anything for granted; our preparation has to be spot-on each time and we must be prepared to take each game as it comes.

"Our momentum is good and that's so important in football. We'll keep getting the ball down and try to play as much as we can, but there will be occasions, such as last Saturday, where we have to show a different side of our game and grind it out.



Manager, Eddie McLoughlin, has overseen five wins in a row for Stotfold as their march up the table continues

"There's no limit to what we can go on to achieve, to be honest. We've beaten quite a few sides that are in and around us within the leading pack and it shows that we deserve to be here and compete with anyone at this level if we're at it.

"We want to keep churning out the wins. That's five in a row now, but can we make it six? We're taking it game by game and we know that Marlow will present us with challenges. We've prepared right, as we always do, and now we have to go out there and get those three points to add to our tally."

Their opponents, Marlow, have started to climb away from the

bottom four in recent weeks but their form remains inconsistent. They lost 2-0 at Aylesbury United in their latest outing on Wednesday to leave them with 22 points to their name from 18 games.

It is interesting to note that in the combined total of 37 games that both teams have played so far this season, only one of them has ended in a draw, so what price honours ending even here on Saturday?

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Barton Rovers are making moves following a couple of commanding home wins this week

Leighton Town's march continues as they made it 19 games without defeat as they beat Thame United 3-1 on Tuesday. Should they taste victory again on Saturday it was take them to the 50-point mark by the end of November, which is good going by any standards! They will be pushed all of the way, though, as they go to Hitchin Town, who sit fourth.

Moving into second place is Barton Rovers who enjoyed two solid home victories this week. They hit the road on Saturday as they travel to London Lions who tasted victory on their travels for the second time this season following a 2-1 triumph at Rayners Lane.

It was a case of seventh heaven for Hertford Town as they dismantled Enfield 7-0 on Tuesday. It was a sparkling performance as they won for the 12th time this season, and head to Biggleswade FC on Friday evening in good heart. Their hosts go into the game two places and four points below them, so hard-fought clash is in prospect.

Looking to get into the top five are Biggleswade Town. They currently sit seventh and head to a Leverstock Green outfit who sit just outside the bottom four.

Sitting at the bottom, Enfield are looking to make home advantage count as they host Flackwell Heath, who have struggled to get into their stride so far, although Tuesday's 3-1 triumph over Beaconsfield Town has given them a timely boost.

Also amongst the bottom four are Rayners Lane who head to Welwyn Garden City, whilst level on points with them, AFC Dunstable, are also on the road as they go to Beaconsfield Town. Making up the bottom four is Northwood and they entertain an Aylesbury United side who are just a couple of points ahead of them, so it's an opportunity for a big three points for both sides.

The rest of the action sees Thame United take on Hadley, as both sides go into the game next to each other in the table, and Ware welcome MK Irish.

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