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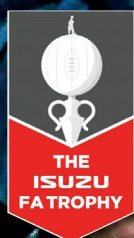
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ISSUE #19 | 12-14 DECEMBER 2025

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PREVIEW**



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

TRIDENT  LEAGUES

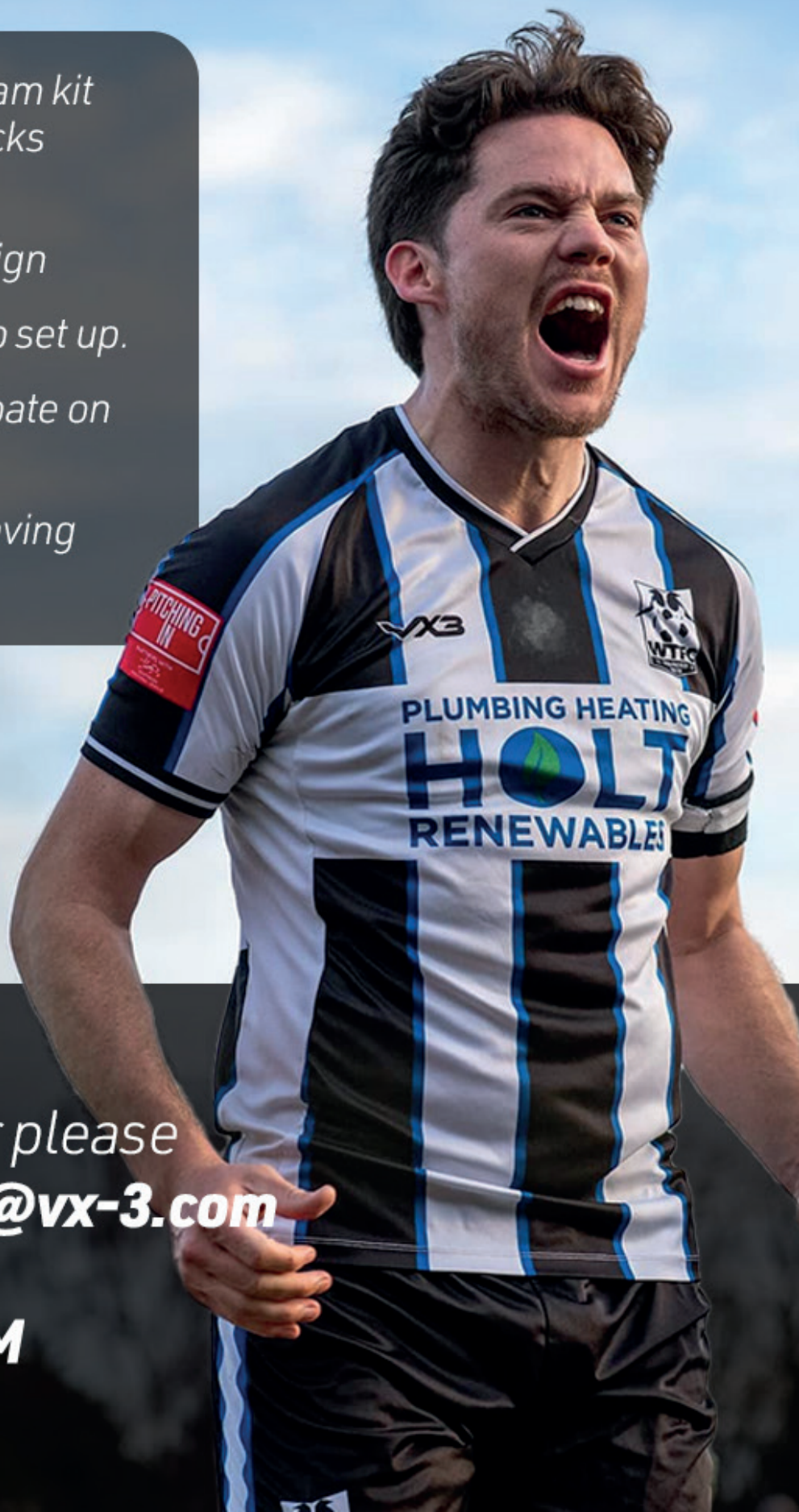
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GOALS OF THE WEEK SHOW

Each week our Goals of the Week show brings you the best of the action from across all four of our divisions.

Premiering at 7pm every Wednesday evening via our YouTube Channel, it features all of the thrills and spills from the past week

Make sure that you check it out and member clubs, don't forget to submit your goals footage each week for use on the show.

The address to send your footage to, by 7pm each Tuesday evening, is: **thesouthernfootballleague@gmail.com**

A big thank you to David Square who puts the show together on our behalf each week.



Image | @R_BMedia

IN MEMORIAM TONY STONE

The Southern League are sad to report the passing of Tony Stone.

Tony was the League's Ground Grading and Floodlight co-ordinator between 2017 and 2023, passing the Ground Grading baton to David Knight and becoming his assistant.

Before joining the Southern League, he was an officer with the Western League and was also a long-term officer at the Gloucestershire FA since 1970.

In June 2023, Tony was presented with an award in appreciation of his work by then Chairman, Anthony Hughes, as pictured here.

We send our sincerest condolences to Tony's 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	20	9	1	0	27	6	7	2	1	23	12	32	51
2	Gloucester City	20	9	1	1	26	13	4	3	2	19	13	19	43
3	Gosport Borough	21	8	1	2	29	19	4	3	3	17	15	12	40
4	Poole Town	20	5	4	1	21	11	6	1	3	20	15	15	38
5	Farnham Town	17	3	3	2	16	12	6	3	0	23	13	14	33
6	Sholing	20	5	3	1	24	13	3	6	2	10	9	12	33
7	Wimborne Town	18	6	4	0	24	11	2	3	3	7	6	14	31
8	Chertsey Town	21	5	3	3	19	11	3	3	4	9	11	6	30
9	Uxbridge	20	5	2	4	19	20	2	6	1	15	14	0	29
10	Berkhamsted	20	4	3	3	13	15	3	3	4	11	14	-5	27
11	Evesham United	21	4	3	3	17	10	2	3	6	13	22	-2	24
12	Yate Town	19	4	4	1	11	6	2	1	7	13	24	-6	23
13	Basingstoke Town	20	4	1	5	14	19	2	2	6	12	16	-9	21
14	Bracknell Town	20	4	3	4	22	21	1	3	5	6	17	-10	21
15	Dorchester Town	20	3	4	4	15	20	1	4	4	9	15	-11	20
16	Hanwell Town	18	3	2	3	9	10	2	2	6	12	15	-4	19
17	Taunton Town	19	2	3	5	12	16	3	1	5	17	18	-5	19
18	Hungerford Town	19	2	5	2	11	13	2	2	6	13	19	-8	19
19	Plymouth Parkway	18	4	2	3	10	12	0	4	5	12	19	-9	18
20	Weymouth	21	2	4	4	11	14	2	2	7	11	28	-20	18
21	Havant & Waterlooville	17	2	2	4	11	15	2	1	6	12	19	-11	15
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	Spalding United	21	6	1	1	23	7	8	3	2	33	17	32	46
2	Harborough Town	18	6	4	0	15	4	6	2	0	15	5	21	42
3	Quorn	22	5	2	4	19	15	7	2	2	28	15	17	40
4	Needham Market	21	7	1	3	22	14	3	4	3	12	16	4	35
5	Redditch United	21	7	1	2	19	15	4	1	6	14	17	1	35
6	Real Bedford	18	5	2	2	15	10	5	2	2	16	9	12	34
7	Halesowen Town	20	6	3	2	21	16	2	5	2	14	11	8	32
8	Leiston	21	4	4	2	19	13	4	3	4	15	17	4	31
9	Worcester City	21	4	4	3	15	12	4	2	4	18	9	12	30
10	Stratford Town	20	4	3	2	15	13	4	2	5	13	18	-3	29
11	Kettering Town	20	4	2	3	16	9	4	2	5	13	18	2	28
12	Banbury United	20	5	2	3	18	16	3	1	6	15	17	0	27
13	St Ives Town	21	5	4	2	15	12	2	2	6	13	16	0	27
14	Bishop's Stortford	18	4	1	6	18	19	3	2	2	13	10	2	24
15	Barwell	20	3	2	4	13	13	3	4	4	16	19	-3	24
16	Bury Town	21	6	0	5	14	11	1	3	6	11	19	-5	24
17	Bromsgrove Sporting	21	5	1	6	18	22	2	2	5	10	18	-12	24
18	Alvechurch	19	4	0	5	12	12	3	2	5	6	8	-2	23
19	AFC Sudbury	19	3	3	3	11	19	1	2	7	11	27	-24	17
20	Stourbridge	20	1	4	4	12	16	1	3	7	11	26	-19	13
21	Stamford AFC	19	2	3	6	8	20	1	1	6	5	15	-22	13
22	Royston Town	21	1	5	4	13	20	1	2	8	6	24	-25	13

Weekend Action

Bracknell Town
v Wimborne Town

Evesham United
v Taunton Town

Farnham Town
v Tiverton Town

Hungerford Town
v Chertsey Town

Poole Town
v Uxbridge

Sholing
v Dorchester Town

Weymouth
v Berkhamsted

Yate Town
v Havant & Waterlooville

There are also
Isuzu FA Trophy
third round ties
taking place this
weekend.



Weekend Action

AFC Sudbury
v Halesowen Town

Banbury United
v Needham Market

Bishop's Stortford
v Barwell

Kettering Town
v Bury Town

Real Bedford
v Bromsgrove Sporting

Royston Town
v Stourbridge

Spalding United
v Worcester City

Stratford Town
v St Ives Town

There are also
Isuzu FA Trophy
third round ties
taking place this
weekend.



Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Frome Town	20	8	2	1	22	8	7	1	1	21	4	31	48
2	Portishead Town	20	9	1	1	37	8	6	0	3	20	15	34	46
3	Winchester City	20	8	3	0	27	10	5	1	3	19	13	23	43
4	Malvern Town	20	8	0	3	29	19	6	1	2	19	12	17	43
5	Bishops Cleeve	18	8	2	0	24	7	5	1	2	15	13	19	42
6	Shaftesbury	18	9	0	1	24	11	4	1	3	19	11	21	40
7	Westbury United	18	7	0	2	15	8	3	2	4	7	11	3	32
8	Exmouth Town	21	6	2	2	23	15	3	3	5	11	23	-4	32
9	Hartpury	19	6	1	2	33	12	3	1	6	14	15	20	29
10	Larkhall Athletic	20	6	2	2	24	17	2	0	8	13	21	-1	26
11	Mousehole	20	3	2	5	12	14	3	4	3	17	15	0	24
12	Sporting Club Inkberrow	18	5	0	3	12	8	2	3	5	11	20	-5	24
13	Bristol Manor Farm	20	5	2	3	14	13	2	1	7	15	26	-10	24
14	Swindon Supermarine	19	4	0	5	17	17	2	3	5	10	13	-3	21
15	Didcot Town	20	1	4	5	14	23	4	1	5	11	16	-14	20
16	Bideford	21	3	3	5	12	16	2	2	6	7	20	-17	20
17	Falmouth Town	18	3	3	2	15	9	1	3	6	12	24	-6	18
18	Melksham Town	20	3	4	3	13	13	1	2	7	7	21	-14	18
19	Bashley	21	1	3	5	5	11	3	1	8	12	21	-15	16
20	Brixham	20	3	1	7	15	27	1	2	6	10	27	-29	15
21	Willand Rovers	19	2	2	5	9	13	1	3	6	11	27	-20	14
22	Tavistock AFC	18	2	0	5	5	11	1	1	9	9	33	-30	10

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

Bashley
v Falmouth Town

Bristol Manor Farm
v Willand Rovers

Didcot Town
v Portishead Town

Exmouth Town
v Swindon Supermarine

Hartpury
v Winchester City

Larkhall Athletic
v Bishops Cleeve

Mousehole
v Malvern Town

Shaftesbury
v Brixham AFC

Sporting Club Inkberrow
v Melksham Town

Tavistock AF
v Frome Town

Westbury United
v Bideford AFC

Weekend Action

Aylesbury United
v Rayners Lane

Biggleswade Town
v Hertford Town

Enfield
v Milton Keynes Irish

Hadley
v London Lions

Hitchin Town
v Flackwell Heath

Leighton Town
v AFC Dunstable

Leverstock Green
v Beaconsfield Town

Marlow
v Biggleswade FC

Northwood
v Stotfold

Ware
v Thame United

Welwyn Garden City
v Barton Rovers

Featured Match

SHOLING v DORCHESTER TOWN

Having made the Premier South play-offs at the end of last season thanks to a fifth-place finish, it's fair to say that the current campaign hasn't quite started as Dorchester Town would have hoped.

They have found themselves in and around the bottom four, but recent results have suggested movement in the right direction as they now look to turn some of the draws into wins.

Last Saturday saw them recover from conceding an early goal to beat Hungerford Town 2-1 and the aim now is to build on this during the busy schedule that lies ahead, starting with Saturday's trip to Sholing.

"After conceding so early in the last game, I thought the lads reacted well," said the versatile Jack Dickson. "We knew before the game that they were going to be a massive threat from set-pieces and corners, so to go a goal down so early was disappointing.

"But we were able to get our passing game together and we moved the ball well to create some good chances.

"We probably should have put the game to bed during the second half with the opportunities that came our way, so it made for a nervy final ten minutes as we held on to our lead amidst pressure from a big, powerful side.

"We defended the balls coming into our box brilliantly and in the end it was a deserved and hard-earned victory."

Dickson is hoping that there will be an upturn in fortunes for himself and the team during the second half of the campaign.

"It's been a disappointing season for myself so far, mainly down to injury," he admitted. "I missed pre-season with an ankle injury, then I came back for maybe four games and was out for eight weeks with my MCL.

"It's fair to say we've massively underperformed this season with



Dorchester Town are looking to make it a Happy Christmas following a slow start to the season

the squad we have. We've been unfortunate with injuries, which hasn't helped. Losing Wes [Fogden] for the rest of the season is a massive blow and what he offers is irreplaceable, if I'm being honest.

"We know we've got a lot more to offer and just need to stick together and work hard as a group and the results will come. The amount of draws that we have had recently suggests that we are a difficult side to beat now, we just have to be able to start turning some of those draws into victories.

"The Premier South is a funny one this year; going into the season I thought there would be four or five very strong teams that underperformed last season that would be competing for the play-offs. Normally you have at least one or two teams that have a very strong squad and a notch above the rest, but I don't think that's the case this year and I believe the play-offs is up for grabs for a lot of teams.

"From our own point of view, first and foremost we just need to put some results together and climb the table. It would be nice to distance ourselves from the relegation zone, that's our focus right now and we'll see where we are after the busy festive period.

"We've had a poor start, we know that and we can't change that now, but what we can do is ensure that we can get ourselves on a positive run for the second half of the season."

Saturday sees them head to a Sholing outfit who go into the game just outside the top five on goal difference.

They were held to a 1-1 draw at Wimborne Town in their last game to make it five matches unbeaten as they look to make their mark amongst the leading pack.

THE REST OF THE ACTION FROM THE PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH

A dramatic late winner saw Walton & Hersham break through the 50-point barrier at the top of the table as they came home from Uxbridge 3-2 victors. This weekend sees them and second-place Gloucester City both on Isuzu FA Trophy duty, whilst third-place Gosport Borough are also without a game as their scheduled opponents, Plymouth Parkway, are also in Isuzu FA Trophy action.

It means that Poole Town have the opportunity to close the gap on the teams above them as they host Uxbridge, whilst Farnham Town will be looking to make home advantage count as they take on bottom of the table, Tiverton Town.

Sitting just outside the top five, Wimborne Town travel to Bracknell Town, who are starting to climb towards the middle of the table. Chertsey Town meanwhile travel to a Hungerford Town outfit who, somewhat surprisingly, find themselves just one place outside the bottom four.

Talking of the bottom four, Havant & Waterlooville go to Yate Town on the back of a 3-0 home loss at the hands of Poole Town in their last outing. Weymouth are also looking to respond to a disappointing defeat last time out, as they fell by four goals to nil at Chertsey Town, as they play host to Berkhamsted.

Finally, Evesham United have their sights set on the top ten as they take on Taunton Town, who are searching for a spark to get them moving in the right direction once again

THE ISUZU FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND



The Isuzu FA Trophy reaches the third round stage this weekend and Plymouth Parkway hit the road for Chatham Town. There's also a mouth-watering trip for Hanwell Town and their manager, Chris Moore, to look forward to as they head to his former club, Dagenham & Redbridge.

It's a home tie for Gloucester City as they take on National League South high-flyers, Worthing, whilst Walton & Hersham also have an intriguing home tie as they host Sutton United.



It will be a return to his former club in the Isuzu FA Trophy for Hanwell Town manager, Chris Moore, this afternoon

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION CENTRAL



Featured Match

BANBURY UNITED v NEEDHAM MARKET

Needham Market are eager to bounce back in the right way following last weekend's disappointing home reverse at the hands of fellow high-flyers, Quorn.

A 3-0 loss saw them fall five points behind their opponents who sit one place above them in third spot.

This weekend, manager, Tom Rothery, takes his side to Banbury United where he is hoping for a better start.

"The message before last weekend's game was that we needed to start well," he said. "We didn't want to allow them to get a hold of the game early on, but that's what happened and whilst I don't think that's what ultimately cost us, it certainly put us on the back foot against a team who are very good in transition.

"Falling behind within the opening ten minutes meant that we were always up against it and we don't want to let that happen again as we head to Banbury at the weekend.

"After changing our shape, I felt that we managed to get ourselves on top after that initial opening but then got hit with a sucker-punch just before the break which saw us go in at half-time two goals down from a couple of mistakes.

"We can't defend the way we did; if we do then it will make it very tough to win football matches. I said to the players after the game that they have to understand that possession alone doesn't win you games, it's what you do in both boxes and we have to be better in that respect.



Needham Market are looking to respond to last weekend's result in the right way

"The simple fact of the matter was that on this occasion, we weren't good enough in both boxes and we didn't do the basics well enough. It's something that has cost us more than one game this season and it's something we need to improve upon going forward.

"That said, we need to keep perspective; we're still up there in the leading pack but we do need to be able to turn up for what are deemed as the 'big' games. Last Saturday's result doesn't automatically make us a bad team. You have to be able to keep a level head, not get too high or too low.

"Now we have the chance to right the wrongs of our last game in what will be another tough test for us, but one that we are looking forward to and will tackle with relish and determination."

The first half of the season has seen The Marketmen secure ten

victories from their 21 Premier Central games as they look to bounce back from relegation at the end of last term in the right way.

Off the pitch, they have also opened a new Main Stand at their Bloomfields home. "It's quite a building and one we are very proud of obviously," added Chairman, Keith Nunn. "We are very much a community club; we own all our own facilities, so it makes sense if you own things to spend money and invest."

Saturday's hosts, Banbury United, go into the game sat in the middle of the table. They went down to a 2-0 reverse at Redditch United last weekend, but have three successive victories at home, which has helped them to climb the table following a stuttering start.

THE REST OF THE ACTION FROM THE PREMIER DIVISION CENTRAL

With Harborough Town on Isuzu FA Trophy duty this weekend, Spalding United will be looking to extend their lead at the top as they play host to a Worcester City outfit who are looking to get back into another run of form. The Tulips already hold a four-point advantage at the top.

Quorn have had a good week with two wins, but are without a game on Saturday, likewise Redditch United also sit it out.

It means that Real Bedford have the chance to make up ground as they host a Bromsgrove Sporting side who saw manager, Scott Adey-Linforth, depart on Wednesday. Tim Flowers will take the helm as from next week, with club captain Ash Carter and U21 manager Stuart Carson in charge for Saturday's game, aided by Director of Football Iain Queen.

There is also a chance for Halesowen Town to get closer to the top five as they travel to AFC Sudbury, who find themselves in the bottom four.

Two of the bottom four meet as Royston Town play host to Stourbridge, whilst Stamford AFC are without a game.

The remaining action sees Bishop's Stortford welcome Barwell, with both clubs locked together on 24 points, so a close encounter is expected. Kettering Town will be looking to make home advantage count as they host a Bury Town outfit who are fresh from a 4-0 triumph over Barwell. Finally, Stratford Town entertain St. Ives Town.



Scott Adey-Linforth departed Bromsgrove Sporting this week with Tim Flowers to return as manager

THE ISUZU FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND

There's a home tie for new Alvechurch manager, Kyle Storer, as he pits his wits against Alfreton Town of The National League North.

Also handed a home draw are high-flying Harborough Town who face a mouth-watering clash against Mark Hughes' Carlisle United, who were relegated from the EFL into The National League at the end of last season. We spoke to goalkeeper, Elliott Taylor, in the build-up to the game and the article can be found on the Southern League website.



The stage is set for a mouth-watering Isuzu FA Trophy tie at Harborough Town on Saturday

Image | @R_BMedia

SPORTING CLUB IKBERROW v MELKSHAM TOWN

There's a lot to love about the Sporting Club Inkberrow story. A rapid rise from Step 7 to 4, players who have climbed the levels with them and a manager who has just overseen his 100th game at the helm – having only just turned 31 years of age!

The village club, located in the Worcestershire countryside with a population of less than 2,000, sit in the middle of the Division One South table having won seven of their 18 games so far and with just one defeat from their last five outings.

"It's a learning curve for us all," manager, Umit Eminoglu, admitted to us. "We've been on quite a journey over the past few years and there is no sign of it ending any time soon.

"To reach 100 games as a manager is a nice achievement for me personally. Having only just turned 31 I am still young in terms of being a manager, but I have gained so much experience and knowledge as we have moved through the levels.

"The first seven or eight games at this level were certainly an eye-opener. It took us all a couple of months to get to grips with things and establish ourselves.

"Don't forget that a lot of these lads were operating at Steps 7/8 only a few years ago, so it was always going to take time for them to find their feet, but things have started to click into place and we firmly believe that the second half of the season can see us challenging for the top half of the table.

"I was an attacking player when I played, so I think that in those early games of the season we were punished through my naivety. I've come to realise how important it is at this level to have a solid defensive base from which to build.

"It sounds so obvious, but when you have an attacking mindset, as I do, you only instinctively think about scoring goals and that side of the game.

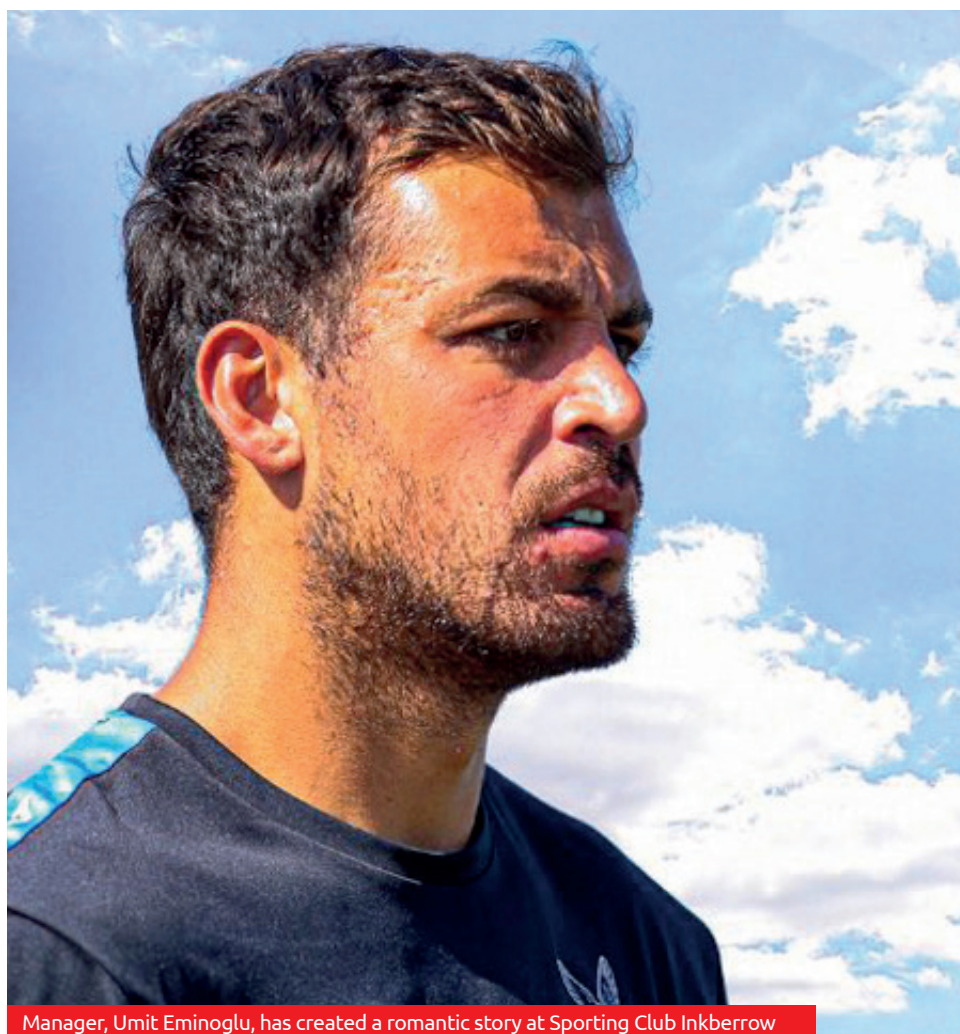
"As I say, it's been a big learning curve, but we are starting to get the balance right now. Our last home game against Bristol Manor

Farm was one of our best performances of the season, especially during the first half.

"We played some great football and also looked solid and organised at the back, which was pleasing to see. The second half was a mature display where we managed the game well and didn't give them any hint of a comeback.

"Our last game at one of the promotion favourites, Frome Town, also saw us put in a performance full of positives. We deserved something out of it, so to fall to a last minute goal left us disappointed at the end, but that only further emphasises how far we have come."

So, how has Division One South compared to what Eminoglu was expecting going into the season?



Manager, Umit Eminoglu, has created a romantic story at Sporting Club Inkberrow

"To be honest, we didn't have any expectations as we didn't know much about the teams or the League," he responded. "We saw it as a free hit and a 'let's enjoy the ride' sort of mind set where we looked to create positive memories with each other.

"Our aim going into the season was just to win as many games as possible and see where it takes us rather than saying; 'let's aim for fifth place', that kind of thing.

"We just take it a game at a time. We don't look too far ahead and if you do that, you'll be okay. It's what we have always done as a club and it's worked well in the past."

Saturday sees Sporting Club Inkberrow return to home action for the visit of a Melksham Town outfit who have kept clean sheets in each of their last three games as recently-installed manager, Stuart Fleetwood, stamps his authority on the team.

After beating Bideford AFC 2-0, they grabbed a stoppage time winner at Bashley to triumph 1-0 before playing out a goalless draw with Mousehole AFC last weekend as their climb up the table continues.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Image | @Will_Chartton_

There's a lot of love around at Winchester City right now as they chase down the top two

The top of the table sees Frome Town just edge Portishead Town after they beat Swindon Supermarine 3-1 on Wednesday evening. This weekend sees Frome make the trip to bottom of the table, Tavistock AFC. Meanwhile, Portishead overturned a two-goal half-time deficit to beat Larkhall Athletic 4-2 last weekend and they hit the road for Didcot Town, who sit in the lower half of the table.

Just behind the top two, the chasing pack sees Winchester City, who had to work hard to beat Willand Rovers in their last outing, head to Hartpury, which is sure to test their credentials, whilst fourth-placed Malvern Town, who beat Tavistock AFC 5-1 in their last outing, make the long trip down to Mousehole, who are looking to improve their home form.

Tucked just inside the top five but with games in hand, Bishops Cleeve had a single-goal victory over Exmouth Town last time out and this weekend they head to Larkhall Athletic. Two points behind Bishops Cleeve and part of the leading pack who are

looking to break away from the rest are Shaftesbury. They saw their game at Falmouth Town postponed last weekend as they return to home action on Saturday for the visit of Brixham AFC, who currently occupy one of the bottom four places.

Joining them in the lower reaches of the table are fellow Devon outfit, Willand Rovers, who go to Bristol Manor Farm, who have pulled themselves up into the middle of the table pack. Bashley have had some tough decisions to make this week as they look to preserve their future amidst tough times off the pitch. They welcome Falmouth Town on Saturday, a club who sit just above the relegation places, albeit the Cornish outfit have games in hand over those around them.

The remaining action sees Exmouth Town look to make home advantage count against Swindon Supermarine and Westbury United take on a Bideford AFC side who are seeking to add to their recent victories.

Featured Match

BIGGLESWADE TOWN v HERTFORD TOWN

If anyone doubted Hertford Town's credentials as serious promotion challengers this season, last weekend's 2-1 victory over leaders, Leighton Town, sent out a real statement of intent.

The result took them through the 40-mark after 20 Division One Central games and extended their current unbeaten run to four games.

"The lads put in a great shift against strong opposition," beamed goalkeeper, James Callan. "It was a big game for us because had we lost, Leighton Town would have pulled even further clear of us, but instead we were able to claw points back on them.

"We started the game slowly but grew into it as time went on

and the second half saw us perform much better as we created multiple good opportunities.

"We had to show character when we fell behind, but managed to hit back and equalise straight away, which was important. Noah Mosanya has been in good goalscoring form since he joined the club and he took his chance well to make it 1-1.

"Then ten minutes later Herdy did what he does best from a corner and all of a sudden we have a lead to protect.

"We were under the cosh for the final 20 minutes, which was to be expected as our opponents pushed for an equaliser, but we put our bodies on the line and I was able to make a few saves when our back-line was breached, to see it out and secure an all-important three points.

"I think that anyone who wasn't taking our credentials seriously before last weekend certainly are now. We want to win this League; that is what we are focussed on and whilst we know that it's no easy target, that is what we are aiming for.

"There's great quality throughout the team and we have the togetherness that all successful teams need. As a group we work hard on and off the pitch; we all get on and enjoy our football together.

"The Gaffer has created such a positive environment here and that is what has enabled us to put together a string of results, which has put us in this fantastic position as we go into the festive period.

"This togetherness and focus really are key ingredients. We know that there is still a long way to go and plenty of football to be played, but we have plenty of confidence and belief in our ability.

"We'll take it a game at a time and look to perform to the best of our ability each time we step out onto the field.

"There is a lot that goes into building an environment like this. It takes time, patience and belief in what we are trying to achieve. That comes from everyone involved with the club, at all levels.

"The Gaffer brought in some talented young players over the summer and they have fitted in really well to what we already had here. Furthermore, we've had Dave, Alf and Scully come in as part of the management group working with Herdy and they have been brilliant.



Promotion is very much in the sights of Hertford Town goalkeeper, James Callan

"The club ethos is to develop players and that is exactly what the management group are doing. This is a young group, but it is complimented by the fact that there are a few of us, myself included, who have played at higher levels.

"We know what it takes to go up, so that helps the management group in terms of putting across the message of working hard and the commitment needed.

"I can't speak highly enough about Hertford Town as a club and how the commitment from everyone helps us. That goes right from the top through to the staff, volunteers and fans, absolutely everyone here is on the same page. We all have the same objectives and help each other to push towards them.

"It's long-term progression done in the right way. To see smiles on faces after a victory means so much and we want to keep seeing those smiles.

"The season has started well, but we know that there are areas on which we need to improve. We're always striving to be better and that will continue with everyone's encouragement we can go from strength-to-strength, I've no doubt about that.

"This League is so tight. There are not many points separating the top half, so it makes for an exciting second half of the season.

"I think it will come down to whoever is the most consistent and handles the pressure the best. Any team is capable of producing on their day. Results are unpredictable; teams will drop points so it's important to take each game as it comes and look to reach the standards we know that we're capable of.

"Right from our very first session in the summer when we sat down and talked about our targets. Achieving promotion was the main aim and we are determined to fight tooth and nail to achieve that goal.

"We've been right up there for most of the first half of the season and we intend to stay there now for the remainder of the campaign."

Having taken on and beaten the League leaders last weekend, the latest challenge comes in the shape of a trip to fifth-place Biggleswade Town.

The Waders scored two late goals to turn a 2-1 deficit into a hard-earned 3-2 victory at Beaconsfield Town in their last game to make it seven League games unbeaten.

They go into Saturday's encounter just three points behind their opponents, so an enthralling encounter is in prospect.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



The Thame United mascots prepare for action last Saturday as their team went on to score six

Having had a wobble with two recent defeats, leaders, Leighton Town, will be looking to bounce back as they host a youthful AFC Dunstable side who find themselves just one place off the bottom of the table.

There's a tricky trip for third-place Barton Rovers as they head to Welwyn Garden City, who sit just outside the top five. Barton Rovers had a single-goal victory over Aylesbury United in their last game, whilst Welwyn Garden City shared the spoils at in-form Stotfold.

Also sitting in amongst the top five are Hitchin Town who breezed past lowly Enfield by six goals to nil on Tuesday evening. They travel to Flackwell Heath on Saturday where they face hosts who are buoyed from a good 3-0 away win at Milton Keynes Irish during the week.

Of the group of teams sitting just outside the play-off places, Ware take on Thame United, who hit six past Northwood last weekend in a 6-3 win, whilst Biggleswade FC, who scored two stoppage time goals to draw 2-2 against Hadley in their last outing, go to Marlow. The aforementioned Stotfold make the trip to a Northwood outfit who are just inside the bottom four.

Talking of the lower reaches of the table, bottom club, Rayners Lane, go to Aylesbury United, whilst Enfield, who followed up their win at Rayners Lane last weekend with a heavy defeat at Hitchin Town on Tuesday, host MK Irish.

The remaining action sees Hadley welcome London Lions, whilst Leverstock Green, who sit just above the bottom four, will be hoping to make home advantage count against Beaconsfield Town.

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