

PRE VIEW MAG

ISSUE #10
10-12 OCTOBER 2025



YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE
TO ALL OF THE
WEEKEND ACTION



SHINING LIGHT

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EMIRATES
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PREVIEW**



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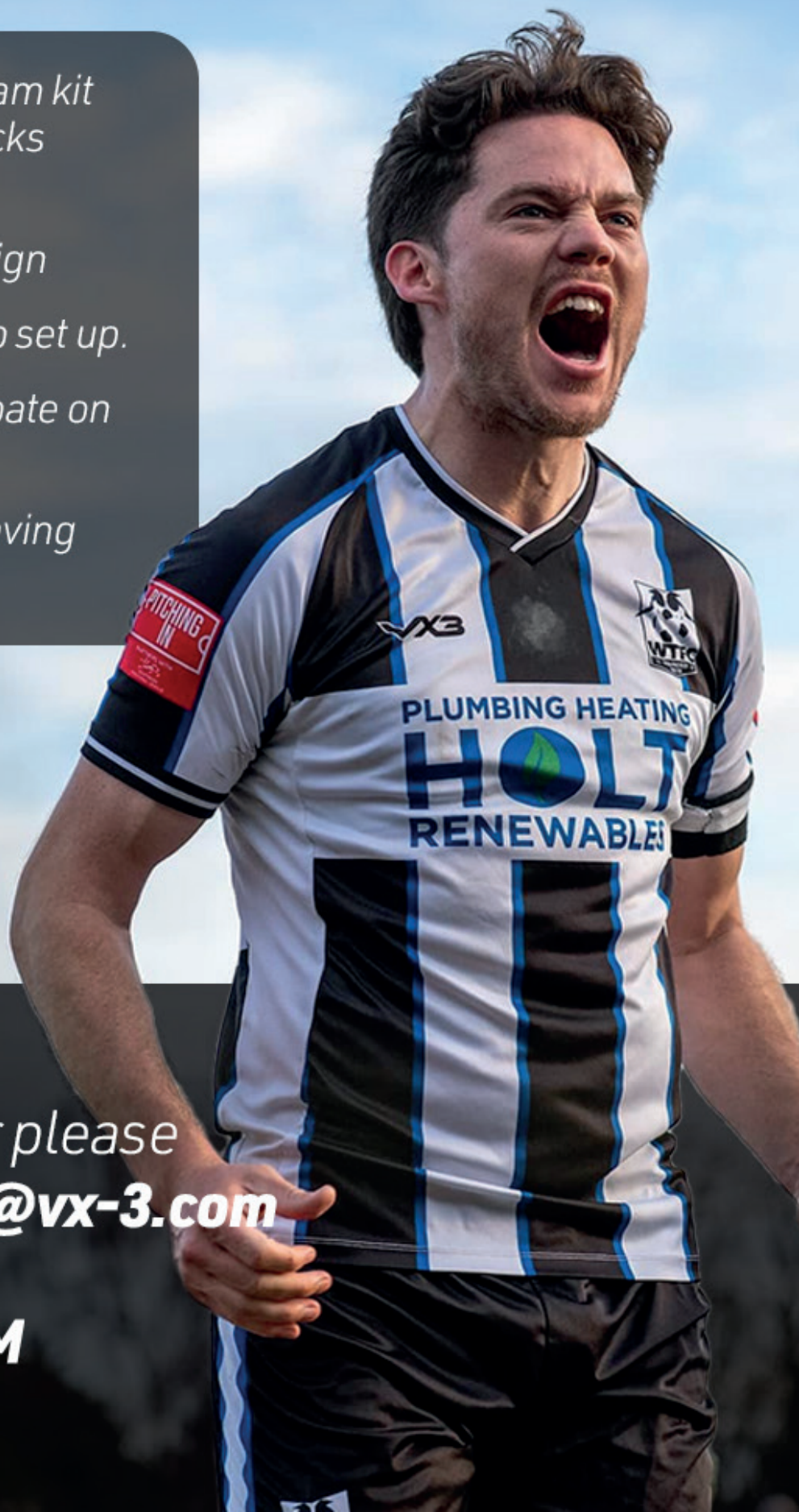
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Pitching In Southern
Football League
Preview Mag 2025/26

TRIDENT LEAGUES BACK ON CLUBBER TV

Over one hundred Southern, Northern Premier and Isthmian leagues games will be live streamed on ClubberTV this season in a new agreement that was announced this week.

Between 11th October and the Play-Off final, selected Step 3-4 matches will be streamed on the ClubberTV platform to subscribers paying £12.99 for a weekly pass, and £29.99 for a monthly pass.

This follows a successful pilot when all of last season's play-off semis and finals were streamed via ClubberTV. The first games to be live streamed this season are on Saturday afternoon and feature Walton & Hershaw v Wimborne Town, and Poole Town v Weymouth in the Southern League, plus Guiseley v Ilkeston Town in the Northern Premier League.

"We have chosen 11th October because it's an international week, so UEFA Article 48 does not apply, and kick-offs do not have to be moved," said a joint statement from the Trident leagues. "Each league has consulted with its member clubs, who have nominated midweek, other international break dates for streaming along with some Saturday games which will see kick-off times moved – with the agreement of both clubs – to either Friday nights, Saturdays at 12.30 or 5.30pm."

"We hope more clubs will opt into the programme once they see the immediate financial benefits and the other commercial opportunities from streaming overseas. The end-of-season Play-Off semis and Promotion Finals in each Step 3 division will also be live streamed. It's the first time that streaming has come to this level of the game, other than via the small number of clubs currently streaming their games, so we are all excited about the potential benefits to our clubs and the Leagues in terms of profile."

The Trident Leagues have again partnered with Ireland-based ClubberTV, for whom the Trident partnership represents their first venture in the UK.



TRIDENT LEAGUES

Jimmy Doyle, Founder and CEO of ClubberTV, said: "We are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to show case as many games as possible over the next three seasons in the Trident league. We believe there are excellent clubs with exciting games to be elevated at this level in the UK pyramid."

"We are looking forward to working closely with everyone involved so we ensure we get the right tone and voice to amplify these great games to more people in both the UK and anywhere in the world where fans exist."

"We have also recently announced the launch of our UK Champ Rugby broadcasts and hope to add more sports shortly. This gives added value to fans who can consume multiple sports with their subscriptions."

For matches that are streamed, a four-figure rights fee is shared, with the home club receiving 75% and the away club 25%. You can watch Trident Leagues on Clubber TV at: clubbertv.co.uk or on our iOS & Android apps, where you'll find the full list of games to be live streamed.

MATCHES THIS WEEKEND ON clubber TV

SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE SOUTH	
Walton & Hershaw	Wimborne Town
Saturday - October 11th 3:00 pm	
SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE NORTH	
Poole Town	Weymouth
Saturday - October 11th 3:00 pm	
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE	
Guiseley AFC	Ilkeston Town
Saturday - October 11th 3:00 pm	

WATCH LIVE AT
www.clubbertv.co.uk

LEAGUE STANDINGS

2025-26



Premier Division South

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

Premier Division Central

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

Weekend Action

Evesham United
v Tiverton Town

Gloucester City
v Sholing

Gosport Borough
v Hungerford Town

Hanwell Town
v Dorchester Town

Plymouth Parkway
v Bracknell Town

Poole Town
v Weymouth

Taunton Town
v Chertsey Town

Uxbridge
v Basingstoke Town

Walton & Hersham
v Wimborne Town

Yate Town
v Berkhamsted

Weekend Action

Alvechurch
v Kettering Town

Bishop's Stortford
v Redditch United

Bromsgrove Sporting
v Bury Town

Real Bedford
v Barwell

Royston Town
v Halesowen Town

Stourbridge
v Leiston

Stratford Town
v AFC Sudbury

Division One South

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

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

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

Weekend Action

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

Featured Match

POOLE TOWN v WEYMOUTH

There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever who was the inspiration behind Portishead Town's 5-1 Saturday's Dorset derby pits two local rivals together who have experienced contrasting starts to the current campaign.

Having found themselves battling it out at the wrong end of the table last term, Poole Town have come out fighting this time around with just one defeat from their opening nine Pitching In Southern League Premier South encounters.

In contrast, Saturday's visitors, Weymouth, have tasted victory on just two occasions from their opening ten League games following their relegation out of The National League South at the end of last season.

In the wake of their disappointing Isuzu FA Trophy exit at the hands of another Dorset club, Wimborne Town, last weekend, it has been a week of turmoil off the pitch for the Terras.

It's been a much more positive story 27 miles away where Poole Town have this week launched a new partnership with specialist education and training provider, SWRAC, that aims to enable young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to access careers in the football world.

The South West Regional Assessment Centre – SWRAC – has college sites across Dorset, supporting young people aged 16-30 with life skills, training, work experience, and internships.



Ik Hill and Shaquille Gwengwe are loving life so far this season at Poole Town

For the next two seasons its #SayYESToSEN campaign boards will feature inside Poole Town FC's BlackGold Stadium and media advertising.

The Dolphins have also joined a growing number of businesses offering SWRAC students regular work experience and internship opportunities; Young people from the college will work across all areas of the club, from retail and grounds-keeping positions, to hospitality and marketing roles.

Adrian Gunner, MD of SWRAC explained: "Poole Town FC is a football club at the very heart of its community, which prides itself on being fully inclusive.

"This shines through in everything it does and makes it a perfect partner for SWRAC and the young people we work with."

SWRAC's Lead Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor Daniel Kerley agreed: "Two of our students from our Boscombe College site, Owen and Yamen came down with Adrian and I to see the ground and meet Ben Edgell the Commercial Manager. They left inspired and already thinking about just how much they can learn here through weekly work experience and assisting on match days.

"In the coming weeks, more students will be coming for tours and to explore the possibilities open to them.

"We hope our partnership at the ground will support the club in its own expansion plans, and together with the presence of our students, will prompt other businesses to see the value of supporting young people with SEND."

"I am delighted to announce our new partnership with SWRAC," said Bradley Williams, Commercial Director Poole Town FC "This collaboration is more than football - it's about supporting the incredible work SWRAC does with young people in our community.

"Together, we're looking forward to creating opportunities,

building confidence and inspiring the next generation working with the brilliant people/teams at Poole Town FC."

Since starting in 1996, the organisation now supports around 200 young adults annually, you can find out more about the services they offer via: swrac.co.uk

Amidst the partnership launch, Poole Town also found time to head to Tiverton Town on Tuesday evening and secure a hard-earned 2-1 victory on the road.

Getting his name on the scoresheet was Ik Hill, who has been in sparkling form since making the switch from Winchester City.

"It was great to get the win over the line," he told us. "We were excellent during the first half and we made our chances count, whilst after the break we showed another side to us by digging in and seeing the game out.

"It's always nice to get a goal, but I am just happy that we won and now we need to take this into Saturday's game.

"It will be a different type of challenge, but it will also be another tough one that we need to be ready for.

"As a team we've started the season really positively; we're still learning as a group and as the weeks go on we're understanding our roles and responsibilities better.

"I just want to continue making a contribution and enjoying my football. Every year this League gets tougher; there are so many strong sides now plying their trade at this level and we know that as a group we have to prepare correctly for each and every game regardless who the opposition are.

"We have our own aspirations and we know what we would like to achieve this season, but for now our focus is firmly fixed on how we can add to our points tally on Saturday."

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Leaders, Walton & Hersham, return to League business with a home game against a Wimborne Town outfit who themselves are in amongst the leading pack having lost just two of their nine League games so far. It means that a hard-fought encounter is in prospect here.

There's also home advantage for second-placed Gloucester City as they tackle a Sholing outfit who are currently fifth and on the back of just one defeat from nine in the League so another mouth-watering match-up is in prospect.

Having made a change at the helm this week with Josh Gallagher being replaced by Toby Little, Chertsey Town start their new era at a Taunton Town side who have 15 points to their name from nine games, whilst Gosport Borough and Hungerford Town, separated by just a point, go head-to-head.

It's been a solid start to life back at this level for Evesham United and they host a Tiverton Town outfit eager to bounce back from home defeat in their last outing and pull themselves away from the lower reaches of the table.

Also hoping for a kick-start are bottom of the table Bracknell Town, who will be drawing from the inspiration of last weekend's 6-3 Isuzu FA Trophy success as they travel to Plymouth Parkway, who are just two places and one point above them.

Somewhat surprisingly, Dorchester Town sit one off the bottom in the early League table and they lock horns with Hanwell Town in the wake of a commanding 4-0 Isuzu FA Trophy win in their last outing.

The remaining action sees Uxbridge host Basingstoke Town and two new-boys, Yate Town and Berkhamsted, battle it out.



With a new manager at the helm, Chertsey Town will be hoping to start on the right foot at the weekend

Featured Match

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v REDDITCH UNITED

Redditch United have this week announced a new partnership with Heart of Worcestershire College, who will take the lead in delivering the club's full-time education and football development programme from September 2026.

It builds on an existing partnership that the two organisations have for higher education provision.

The exciting collaboration will offer young footballers aged 16-19 the opportunity to pursue college qualifications in sport whilst training and competing at a high level within a professional football environment, utilising the 3G facilities at Valley Stadium.

As part of the HoW student community, academy players

will also gain access to the Learning Resource Centres, mental health and wellbeing services, and a full student enrichment programme.

"Working with Redditch United Football Club to deliver this programme is a really fantastic way to showcase how education and sport can be blended together," said Michelle Dowse, Principal and CEO of HoW College, "We want to offer students access to first class learning and tutoring whilst in a professional football setting."

"It's a great opportunity for young people to develop their skills, gain qualifications, and take the next steps towards their dream career."



There's plenty for Mike Fowler to be pleased about on and off the pitch for Redditch United

David Faulkner, Chairman at Redditch United FC, added: "Partnering with HoW College is such an exciting step towards young people receiving a quality education alongside their football development."

"Together, we're offering a solid pathway towards a career in football as well as ensuring students are prepared for lifelong success, whatever direction they choose to take."

Meanwhile on the pitch, the club came home from their 316-mile round trip to Cleethorpes Town victorious last weekend after making it through to the first round proper of the Isuzu FA Trophy via a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

It has set up a home tie against Gainsborough Trinity later this month, but before that they have important League business to attend to, starting on Saturday when Mike Fowler's side head to Bishop's Stortford, who sit just a couple of points above them in fifth place.

Saturday's away trip is the first of two in quick succession against teams just above them as they look to get themselves up into the leading pack. A much shorter journey to Halesowen Town is on the agenda for Tuesday evening.

"Last Saturday was a long, tough away day," Dexter Dudley-Toole told us. "The game went all the way, but we managed to get the job done in the end, which was pleasing and made the journey home a lot better than it would have been."

"We were poor during the first half, we know that, but things improved after the break, although not as much as we were hoping for."

"For us to be in the first round proper is a massive achievement and we want to get as far as we can and really make an impact."

"It's been a season of ups and downs so far but overall it's been steady and we're well positioned just inside the top ten and with a couple of games coming up at teams who are just above us, so it's a chance to move up the table."

"These are still early days, of course, and there's a lot of football to be played over the months ahead, but our aim is the play-offs, that's what we are targeting this season after the club found itself in the lower reaches of the table last season."

"This is a tough League; there are a lot of threats from all teams regardless where they are in the table and we know that we're in for a tough test at the weekend against a Bishop's Stortford side who have started well this time around."

"We'll hit the road with plenty of belief and hopefully the coach will be buzzing on the way back again as it was last weekend!"

Hosts, Bishop's Stortford, are also in the Isuzu FA Trophy first round following a convincing 4-0 triumph over Cray Wanderers last weekend. They head to Billericay Town later this month.

The club's positive start to the season was rewarded this week when they were announced as the PST Sport Club of the Month winners for August 2025.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

There's a reduced League programme this weekend with a number of clubs involved in the quest to make it into the Emirates FA Cup first round proper and, of course, we wish each of them well in their endeavours.

It's second against third as Kettering Town go to an Alvechurch side who have started the campaign well with just two defeats from their nine League outings so far. This one has all of the ingredients to be a thriller.

Real Bedford will be looking to move into the leading pack as they host Barwell, who currently sit in the lower half of the early table. Also looking to climb up the table are Bromsgrove Sporting who welcome Bury Town, who go into the game a point ahead of their hosts.

Looking to make home advantage count are Royston Town as they battle it out with Halesowen Town, whilst Stourbridge find themselves on home soil for the first time in almost a month as they entertain Leiston and AFC Sudbury head to Stratford Town.



There are plenty of smiles at Alvechurch right now as they find themselves amongst the League leaders.



Featured Match

LARKHALL ATHLETIC v WILLAND ROVERS

The Ben Watson era couldn't have got off to a better start at Willand Rovers as they became the first team to take points off Frome Town this season with a 1-0 victory last weekend.

Watson has taken over at the helm following the recent departure of the long-serving David Steele and his mission is to get the Devon outfit moving in the right direction up the Pitching In Southern League Division One South table.

"My management team and I are really looking forward to the challenge that stands before us," he told us. "We know that we have an honest and talented group of players here and they have the tools to compete on all fronts.

"This is a proud football club that sits at the very heart of its community and we will be challenging the players accordingly.

"As soon as I met the Board of Directors, I felt a connection to the place. This is a club that does things properly on and off the pitch and our values very much aligned.

"Saturday was a great start; we went into it with a game plan, which the players implemented throughout.

"That ability to listen and follow instructions will determine how far we go as a team; it was a fantastic result against solid opposition of tremendous quality, who we more than matched to get what was a deserved victory.

"Having previously played in this League, I know how competitive every game is and there will be no rest-bite for us. We have to make sure that the players are prepared mentally as well as physically, week in, week out.

"If we are to achieve anything this season, it can only be done with a collective effort."

We asked Watson about his coaching philosophies and what qualities he feels that he will bring to the club.

"I'm open, honest and hard-working," he responded. "I want the players and management team to mirror these traits. I want my teams to be fit, play a brand of football that is adaptable and attractive and a winning mentality that strives for perfection in all elements of the game.

"My first task will be to connect with the club on and off the pitch and start imbedding my philosophy throughout the club.



Ben Watson made a winning start at the Willand Rovers helm

Image | Gerry Hunt

"We aim to improve and compete on all fronts. We will take one game at a time with the aim to gain the three points at stake. I am confident in the players and the club and if we show what we're capable of, then the sky's the limit."

One of the experienced heads in Watson's team is River Allen, who also weighed in with the all-important winning goal last Saturday.

"It was a good performance and one we have needed," Allen admitted to us. "As players we know that we haven't been anywhere near it in the last couple of months.

"That's our first win at home and although it wasn't pretty, it gives us something to build on going forward.

"It was an enjoyable first game under the new Gaffer. We were unlucky in our previous game at Shaftesbury, but our performance levels were good, so there is plenty of reason to be optimistic that we can start moving forward.

"We know that we have much more to give. I can't sit here and say I've done enough so far this season given the start we've had, but there's a real determination now to move forward.

"Personally, I just want to continue affecting games; I like being on the ball as much as possible and that's something the new Gaffer can help me with.

"As a team we'll take things a game at a time. I've played in this League a few times now and on each occasion it has been different. There's so much change each season, but we know that if you can get on a bit of a run, it can make a big difference.

"We'll be looking to put a few performances together, continuing at Larkhall Athletic on Saturday. We have some good footballers here, so hopefully the tide can turn and we can continue adding to our points tally."

As they head to Larkhall Athletic, they face opponents whose last two games sum up the very nature of Division One South this season. Having beaten in-form Hartpury 3-1, they then went to Didcot Town and slipped to a 2-0 reverse in their last outing.

They have eight points from their nine League games to date and as such sit just a point and a couple of places above Willand Rovers ahead of Saturday's game.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Westbury United are in good form right now

Image | Martin Pearce

There's a mouth-watering match-up at third-place Malvern Town as they play host to leaders, Winchester City. The hosts will be determined to bounce back from a late defeat in their last League game at the hands of local rivals, Bishops Cleeve, who sit in between the two teams in second place.

For Bishops Cleeve, they go to mid-table Bashley, whilst Exmouth Town, who are now fourth, host an upwardly-mobile Westbury United who arrive in Devon in good form. Having suffered their first loss last weekend, Frome Town entertain Falmouth Town.

Hartpury make the long trip down to face a stuttering

Mousehole in what is a pay what you want fixture. In managerial career that has spanned over two decades, Sean Joyce comes up against Sporting Club Inkberrow for the first-ever time as he looks to guide his Bideford AFC side off the bottom of the table.

There has been a change at the helm of Melksham Town and they will be hoping for a reaction as they host Tavistock AFC, whilst new-boys, Portishead Town and Brixham AFC battle it out. Meanwhile an inspired Didcot Town go to Shaftesbury and Swindon Supermarine welcome Bristol Manor Farm.

Featured Match

BIGGLESWADE TOWN v HADLEY

There's an intriguing tussle taking place amongst the leading pack as Biggleswade Town, who currently sit in pole position, undefeated in eight Division One Central games, lock horns with a Hadley outfit who have just one defeat in seven in the League as well as progress in the Isuzu FA Trophy.

The home side go into this one buoyed by scoring seven at London Lions in their last outing in a 7-2 success that saw Harrison Rookard help himself to four of the goals, whilst opponents, Hadley, are riding the crest of a wave having come from behind to beat higher level Dartford in the Isuzu FA Trophy last weekend.

We spoke to two of the key performers from both sides, starting with hot-shot Rookard, who is enjoying life with The Waders.

"Last weekend was a great all-round performance," he told us. "The team is really starting to gel now and you can see the football improving every week.

"It was a strong, physical display against a good side that like to play football, so to come away with a result like that says a lot.

"It's always nice to get on the scoresheet a few times, and I was pleased with how I took my chances, but the main thing is that the team keeps performing and us forwards keep making the most of the opportunities that fall to us.

"The Gaffer is always telling us to be relentless, and we definitely were on Saturday!

"Scoring four goals in a game doesn't happen all too often, so this is one that will definitely stick in the memory for me. I got a couple of hat-tricks the season before last, but as for four goals, this is my first time at senior level.

"The season has gone really well so far. We're still unbeaten in the League, and that's something we want to keep going for as long as possible.

"Last Saturday was only my fourth game with the lads at Biggleswade Town, and we're improving every time. The boys have been really welcoming and the Gaffer has been class.

"Personally, it's been great to get back to playing regularly and finding the net again, and doing it at a good club with a great set of lads makes it even better. I think we'll only keep getting



Harrison Rookard is in four-midable form for Biggleswade Town.

stronger as the season goes on.

"I'm still adjusting to Division One Central, but it's definitely a fast-paced and physical League. There's a good mix of sides, some very physical, others who really try to play, which makes it competitive every week.

"There are some quality clubs with good set-ups and facilities too and the fact it's a bit more local for me is a bonus!

"I think it'll be a really tight League come the end of the season. There are a lot of strong teams all pushing for the same goal, so it'll be interesting to see how it pans out. For us, it's just about taking it game by game and focusing on our own performances.

"As a striker, I want to be able to deliver goals now that I am

getting plenty of minutes. I have to be able to take advantage of the chances that come my way and make the most of them to help the team as much as I can.

"I'd love to score four every week, who wouldn't? But realistically it's about finding a level of consistency in my performances and making sure that I contribute in each game, be that with goals or assists."

Meanwhile, over at Hadley, the popular Jordan Edwards has played his part in their solid start to the campaign after they made the play-offs at the end of last term.

He was one of the heroes that helped the club make it through to the Isuzu FA Trophy first round proper.

"The team played really well last weekend," he told us. "We showed great character to dig deep against strong opposition after going a goal down early on in what were horrible conditions.

"Games like these are massive for both the players and the club; helping us set new records and progress further in this national cup competition is exactly the kind of occasions you want to be involved in as a player.

"We move on to the first round proper now where a tough trip to Tilbury awaits towards the end of the month, so that is something we're looking forward to, but before that we have some big games to focus on, starting this weekend.

"The season overall has been going strong. We've got a versatile squad with plenty of players pushing to start each week and with the games coming thick and fast, fitness and consistency is going to play a huge role in our ambitions going forward.

"This League is always competitive – every team is capable of causing problems. So-called 'underdogs' are tough opponents, while the bigger clubs continue to strengthen. There's never a dull moment, and the unpredictability makes it a really exciting League to be involved in.

"As for aims and targets, it's always about doing our very best and pushing for the highest finish possible. From day one to the last game, including the possibility of play-offs, the aim is to give everything on the pitch."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Players and supporters join together to remember Andy Griggs – Leighton Town's greatest supporter and all-round Club Legend.

With both Biggleswade sides occupying the top two places, Biggleswade FC head to Aylesbury United on Saturday looking to maintain the pressure on their neighbours who lead the way.

Unbeaten in their six League games so far, Leighton Town hit the road to Northwood who are searching for a spark to move them from the lower reaches of the table. Two teams in contrasting form battle it out as Ware host Marlow, whilst Barton Rovers will have their credentials tested as they go to Beaconsfield Town.

Enfield will be looking to make home advantage count as they welcome Leverstock Green. Just one place and one point separates Hitchin Town and Welwyn Garden City, so a close encounter is in prospect there.

Currently at the foot of the table, Rayners Lane return to home action for the visit of mid-table Hertford Town, whilst Stotfold and AFC Dunstable battle it out with both sides looking to start climbing the table. This is another encounter where just a single point separates the two teams on show.

Finally, London Lions will be seeking a response after conceding seven goals at home in their last outing as they head to Thame United.

There's no action for MK Irish as they sit it out because Flackwell Heath are involved in Emirates FA Cup action and we wish them all of the very best.

FOURTH ROUND QUALIFYING



Featured Match

FARNHAM TOWN v SUTTON UNITED

Farnham Town volunteer, Clive Stewart, hopes the hard work of everyone at the club can be rewarded with a place in the FA Cup first round for the first time in its history.

Farnham face National League side Sutton United live on BBC on Saturday, where a win would be the latest achievement in a startling rise up the pyramid following new ownership under Harry Hugo.

Town have earned back-to-back promotions in the last two years to reach the seventh tier of English football and Stewart believes a chance to face Football League opposition in the FA Cup first round could create memories to last a lifetime.

"It would be crazy if we managed to get into the first round proper – who knows who we could draw," he said. "Ideally it would be a big club and a really good away day, where the boys get to play in front of more than we can hold at our ground."

"The speed at which the club has grown over the last few years has been a little bit crazy. You aim for promotions and cup runs but it doesn't always fall into place – at the moment it seems to be doing that."

"That is down to a lot of hard work from Harry and the committee, the volunteers and ultimately the players and the management team."

"It is going to be a big crowd and everyone seems to be really up for Farnham doing well in the cup this year."

"All the fans are getting behind it, the crowds have been good for the other cup games and it has been building and building, everyone is buzzing for this one."

Stewart mans the turnstiles at the Memorial Ground, having been coaxed back into the football world after previously volunteering his time at another non-league club.

He revealed the camaraderie and fulfilment he gets from helping out meant he could not stay away for too long.

"I fell out of love with football for a little bit, it was nice having my weekends back and not having to chase people all week," he said. "I did other things on a Saturday."

"My house backs onto the ground and I could watch games over my fence at the end of my garden. I knew the groundsman at the time and offered to lend a hand."



Volunteer, Clive Stewart (centre), will be up for the cup on Saturday

"I ended up watering the pitch while he was on holiday and then every summer, they have a few volunteers' days so I'd help out there."

"When they built a new turnstile, I jumped in there to help when there wasn't anyone else and it has snowballed from there. Now I do the turnstile every home game and it has gone from letting in 100 people to some games 5-600 people per turnstile."

"After a couple of years, I realised I really missed being around football people on a Saturday. All the guys at Farnham are super friendly, it's a really fun environment to be in. Everyone gets on, we all have a really good laugh."

Town's rapid rise through the non-league pyramid looks to be continuing this term, with the club fourth in the Pitching In Southern Premier Division South.

The higher level has meant more jobs to do but Stewart has been thrilled with the way the local community has rallied round to rise to the challenge.

"We put a call out at the end of last season that we needed two or three more people to jump in the turnstiles and within a

week we had people volunteer – they've been absolutely brilliant this season," he added.

"Some of the season ticket holders, the diehard fans, they help out after the game. People pick up rubbish whereas before it was just left to one person. Everyone seems to be pitching in. the volunteering side seems to grow with the club."

"If people weren't enjoying it, I don't think people would volunteer. When you're volunteering, you feel more a part of what's going on. it feels that you are more a part of the success than if you were just watching, it means a bit more. You are part of the Farnham Town family."

FIND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES NEAR YOU AT: [PITCHINGINVOLUNTEERS.CO.UK](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)

Words: James Reid

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Do Needham Market like to be beside the seaside? All will be revealed this weekend...

There are a total of seven ties involving our member clubs as they look to make it into the first round proper of the Emirates FA Cup.

Banbury United will be hoping to make home advantage count as they entertain St. Albans City of the Isthmian League Premier Division.

Alas, they and Farnham Town are the only two of our clubs who have been drawn at home, the remainder have to hit the road, with plenty of miles to clock up between them.

Both Spalding United and Stamford AFC head to National League North hosts. For Spalding it's a trek up to the north-east to take

on South Shields, whilst Stamford AFC go to Macclesfield.

A trip to the seaside is on the agenda for Needham Market as they take on Step 2 outfit, Weston super Mare, whilst Flackwell Heath, who are flying the flag for Division One, go to Maldon & Tiptree.

Meanwhile, with the memory of last season's adventure still fresh in their minds, Harborough Town make the trip to Altrincham of The National League.

We wish our remaining member clubs all the very best as they look to continue their Emirates FA Cup adventures.

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