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Pitching In Southern Football League Preview Mag 2025/26

SUBBUTEO PASSION

There's an increasing number of Southern League clubs becoming immortalised with Subbuteo teams thanks to the hard work and dedication of Paul Lloyd.

He received his first Subbuteo set for Christmas at the age of nine and it began a lifelong passion that is just as strong 55 years later

Over the past two decades he has been producing Subbuteo teams to order, which includes over 60 of our member clubs.

"I do the teams in batches from 10-18 per day, dependent on the kits," Paul told us. "I'd say that I've done over 20,000 different teams, from local leagues, international teams and

professional clubs from all over the world. I do a combination of retro and modern kits.

"The Southern League is well represented, of course. The Malvern Town kit is a lovely one that I really like, same with Gloucester City, which is really colourful and vibrant. Weymouth's kits are always interesting, so too is the current Bideford AFC kit—I used to live there and went to watch the club regularly. I also like the Stratford Town kit, which has a retro feel to it and a great colour scheme

"I'll be working on a Worcester City set soon, which I am looking forward to.

"My requests come in from fans of the clubs as well as Subbuteo enthusiasts. I have a shop on eBay and I sell them there and I also have a Facebook page, Paul Lloyd's Santiago Teams, where memories are shared from the halcyon days of the 1970s and 1980s.

"There's still plenty of love for Subbuteo but sadly since the actual Subbuteo firm was dissolved 25 years ago, the number of youngsters getting interested has dropped dramatically.

"There is so much else to grab their attention these days, but for fans of a certain age, there are so many memories wrapped up in Subbuteo. I really enjoy getting orders for teams and I like nothing more than replicating their kits on the figures. It's a lifelong passion."





TRIDENT LEAGUES

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Premier Division South

	Cilion Division													
#	Team	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Walton & Hersham	11	6	0	0	15	6	3	1	1	11	6	14	28
2	Gloucester City	11	5	0	0	13	4	3	2	1	12	7	14	26
3	Poole Town	11	4	2	0	13	3	3	1	1	8	8	10	24
4	Wimborne Town	11	4	2	0	16	7	1	1	3	4	5	8	18
5	Uxbridge	11	4	2	0	11	6	0	4	1	7	10	2	18
6	Farnham Town	9	2	3	0	11	6	2	2	0	9	6	8	17
7	Gosport Borough	10	3	1	1	10	8	2	1	2	9	8	3	17
8	Evesham United	11	2	2	1	9	4	2	2	2	10	10	5	16
9	Sholing	10	3	2	0	14	7	1	2	2	4	6	5	16
10	Taunton Town	11	2	2	1	7	5	2	1	3	11	13	0	15
11	Berkhamsted	11	3	1	2	7	9	1	2	2	4	6	-4	15
12	Chertsey Town	11	1	1	3	6	8	3	1	2	7	4	1	14
13	Hungerford Town	11	2	1	2	7	9	2	0	4	8	11	-5	13
14	Hanwell Town	10	2	1	2	6	5	1	2	2	6	6	1	12
15	Basingstoke Town	11	3	1	2	11	9	0	2	3	6	9	-1	12
16	Plymouth Parkway	12	3	1	2	8	8	0	2	4	9	15	-6	12
17	Havant and Waterlooville	9	1	0	2	4	5	2	1	3	9	11	-3	10
18	Yate Town	12	2	4	0	5	3	0	0	6	5	18	-11	10
19	Dorchester Town	11	1	1	3	8	13	1	2	3	5	8	-8	9
20	Weymouth	11	1	2	3	6	10	1	1	3	5	13	-12	9
21	Tiverton Town	11	1	1	3	4	6	1	0	5	6	17	-13	7
22	Bracknell Town	10	1	1	4	11	15	0	1	3	1	5	-8	5

Weekend Action

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

Premier Division Central

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

Weekend Action

ting

v Walton & Hersham

Banbury United
v Halesowen Town
Harborough Town
v Bromsgrove Spor
Leiston
v Barwell
Needham Market
v Stourbridge
Quorn
v Bury Town
Real Bedford
v Royston Town
Redditch United
v Kettering Town
Spalding United
v AFC Sudbury
St Ives Town
v Alvechurch
Stamford
v Stratford Town

Worcester City

v Bishop's Stortford

Division One South

#	Team	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Malvern Town	10	4	1	1	15	7	3	1	0	8	3	13	23
2	Frome Town	8	4	0	0	9	2	3	0	1	8	2	13	21
3	Bishop's Cleeve	8	2	2	0	6	2	4	0	0	12	4	12	20
4	Winchester City	9	3	1	0	10	3	3	0	2	11	7	11	19
5	Exmouth Town	10	4	0	1	13	5	2	1	2	5	10	3	19
6	Shaftesbury	8	4	0	0	12	4	2	0	2	10	5	13	18
7	Portishead Town	8	3	0	1	13	2	3	0	1	8	7	12	18
8	Hartpury	10	3	1	1	17	7	2	0	3	9	8	11	16
9	Westbury United	8	2	0	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	13
10	Falmouth Town	9	2	2	0	10	4	1	1	3	5	11	0	12
11	Swindon Supermarine	9	3	0	2	12	9	0	2	2	2	5	0	11
12	Larkhall Athletic	10	2	2	1	8	7	1	0	4	5	9	-3	11
13	Bashley	9	0	1	4	1	8	3	1	0	9	5	-3	11
14	Melksham Town	10	2	2	1	9	5	0	2	3	3	8	-1	10
15	Mousehole	9	3	0	2	8	6	0	1	3	1	6	-3	10
16	Willand Rovers	11	1	3	2	4	6	1	1	3	6	17	-13	10
17	Bideford	8	1	1	2	5	5	1	1	2	3	8	-5	8
18	Tavistock	10	1	0	4	4	10	1	2	2	3	7	-10	8
19	Sporting Club Inkberrow	9	2	0	2	3	4	0	1	4	4	14	-11	7
20	Didcot Town	9	1	0	4	7	14	1	1	2	5	10	-12	7
21	Brixham	9	1	0	3	5	13	1	0	4	5	11	-14	6
22	Bristol Manor Farm	9	0	1	2	1	8	1	1	4	9	16	-14	5

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

Bashley v Mousehole Bideford AFC v Malvern Town

Bishops Cleeve v Shaftesbury

Brixham AFC

v Swindon Supermarine

Falmouth Town v Didcot Town

Frome Town

v Winchester City

Hartpury v Exmouth Town

Larkhall Athletic

v Westbury United Melksham Town

v Bristol Manor Farm Portishead Town

v Willand Rovers

Sporting Club Inkberrow v Tavistock AFC

Weekend Action

Barton Rovers v Stotfold

Biggleswade FC v Flackwell Heath

Hadley

v Milton Keynes Irish

Hertford Town

v Aylesbury United London Lions

v Leighton Town Marlow

v Biggleswade Town

Northwood v Leverstock Green

Rayners Lane

v AFC Dunstable Thame United

v Hitchin Town

Ware

v Beaconsfield Town

Welwyn Garden City v Enfield

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH



Featured Match

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE v UXBRIDGE

Kyle Bailey's birthday wishes were answered on Tuesday evening as he played his part in a commanding victory for Uxbridge.

Their 3-1 triumph over Hungerford Town moved the Premier South new-boys into the top five with just one defeat from their 11 League games following promotion at the end of last term.

Commanding defender Bailey has adapted well to the added demands of Step 3 having joined the club over the summer from Westfield, taking his chance when called upon.

"I couldn't have asked for a better birthday present than three points and a good performance personally," the likeable Bailey told us. "I felt that I worked hard on and off the ball and gave a good account of myself overall.

"I've had to be patient and be ready to take my chance when it comes along so far. I am pleased with my contribution to Tuesday's game and the victory over Basingstoke Town in our previous game.

"I'm using these games as building blocks to make sure that I can keep my place in the team and make a telling contribution to our continued progress.

"We've got a great bunch of players here and a coaching staff that know how to get the best out of us. Week in, week out we're showing what we can do and proving to be an extremely difficult team to undo and beat.

"We want to keep pushing on and moving forward. Tuesday's win came against a strong team at this level, who were right up there amongst the leading pack last season, so it does send out a message of what we are all about.

"The boys showed plenty of grit and determination and it's clear to see how hard everyone is working to ensure that we put

UXBRIDGE

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ourselves into the best possible position in the table."

It was a big summer for Bailey as not only did he land a move to Uxbridge, but also got married. However, a red card carried over from last season meant that he was left kicking his heels on the sidelines for the opening games.

"Yes, that suspension was frustrating because I felt good and just wanted to get out there and start showing what I could do straight away," he added. "The fact that the boys that started the season did so well meant that I had to be patient to wait for my chance to come.

"I ensured that I was ready to step in and take my chance when it came along and I feel that I have done that over the past couple of games.

"The next step for me now is to find a level of consistency in my performances and keep doing the right things for the benefit of the team. I am desperate to keep my shirt.

"The team has been putting in some good performances in the League; as a newly-promoted club to only have one League defeat by mid-October is a fantastic achievement, one that we can be really proud of.

"Okay, so we've drawn a lot of games, but we're a strong unit and opponents have found that difficult to break down so far.

"As a team we will keep our feet on the ground, keep pushing

game by game and see where it takes us. This club is full of good, honest people who are effective at keeping everyone ground and focussed, which is important.

"There's still a lot of football to be played, of course, but we're enjoying life right now.

"This League is filled with strong teams and quality players and that's why you have to be switched on at all times otherwise you will be punished.

"It's exciting to be able to test yourself against them and I really am enjoying the challenge.

"The aim is to keep building and finish as high up the table as possible."

Uxbridge's latest test comes in the shape of a trip to Havant & Waterlooville. They haven't quite clicked into gear so far as ten points from their nine League outings suggests, but they have games in hand over the teams around them, so there's an opportunity for them to start moving towards the top half of the table

They go into Saturday's game on the back of two League defeats in a row as they succumbed 2-1 at Walton & Hersham in their last game having previously fell to a 2-0 loss at Chertsey Town. In between that they made Isuzu FA Trophy progress at the expense of Tiverton Town.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Leaders, Walton & Hersham, hit the road on Saturday as they make the trip to Yate Town. With just one defeat from their opening 11 League games, they will prove to be a tough test for new-boys, Yate Town, who are still trying to find their feet.

There's a mouth-watering contest in prospect at Gloucester City as it's second against third with the visit of Poole Town. Both teams have been in good recent form, so this one promises to be keenly-contested.

Building on last season's impressive return to this level, Wimborne Town are right up there again this time around and they make the short trip to face a Dorchester Town outfit who have fallen below expectations so far this term. However, there's still plenty of football to be played as plenty of opportunity for them to find a run of form.

It's been quite a start to the season for Farnham Town and hot on the heels of running National League side, Sutton United, close in the Emirates FA Cup, they now face a Weymouth outfit who have suffered contrasting fortunes since their relegation back into Step 3 at the end of last season.

Gosport Borough are right on the fringes of the leading pack as they host Basingstoke Town, whilst Evesham United have had a positive start to life at this level and they take on Hanwell Town at the weekend, with Levi Steele eager to add to his tally. We spoke to the hot-shot earlier this week after he broke through the 100 appearance mark for the club, during which time he has averaged a goal every other game.

Bottom of the table Bracknell Town have been in the news this week and they will be looking to respond to Monday's loss at the hands of Gloucester City as they take on Chertsey Town, who are now under the guidance of Toby Little, who has stepped up from his player-coach role to take over at the helm.

Tiverton Town host mid-table Berkhamsted, whilst Hungerford Town will be seeking a return to winning ways when they welcome Plymouth Parkway. Similarly, Taunton Town are eager to put their last game behind them as they get back into home action for the visit of Sholing.



There have been smiles aplenty at Farnham Town so far this season – will that continue on Saturday?

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PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION CENTRAL



Featured Match

ST. IVES TOWN v ALVECHURCH

Callum Sullivan is giving back in every sense of the word for Alvechurch this season.

The accomplished midfielder, who cut his football teeth as part of the academy at Birmingham City, has put in a string of assured displays in the engine room of the team so far this term to help the club fly high in the Premier Central.

He's also playing his part in developing and nurturing the future playing talent at the club having joined the coaching staff at the Centre of Excellence for this season.

"I'm really enjoying my coaching at the moment," the 21 yearold told us. "It's so rewarding to be able to pass on my own experiences to those that are in a similar position to where I was only a few years ago.

"This is definitely a route that I want to go down in the future and I'm immersing myself in it and taking on board as much as I can from those around me."

The club's football and education programme is for 16-19 yearolds, offering a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching, combining academic study with practical football development, and provides a pathway to higher education, professional play, or US scholarships.

The programme aims to help young players achieve both their athletic and academic goals.

"The club has a reputation for giving young players a chance," added Sullivan. "There's a clear pathway here and it's something that has been developed over a number of years.

"There's plenty of positivity throughout the club at the moment, on and off the pitch and across all of our affiliated teams.

"It's still only early days in the season, of course, but we are excited to see how things will go. These next few months leading up to Christmas around going to be pivotal in giving us a platform for the second half of the campaign.

"The togetherness at this club, from top to bottom, is there for all to see. We win together and we lose together. Tuesday's home defeat at the hands of Quorn was disappointing, but it shouldn't distract from what has been a good start to the season.

"We've been consistent with our performance levels. There's a



clear identity of how we play here; we still have plenty of work to do, but it gives us a structure of how we do things across the club and I am thoroughly enjoying being part of it, both from a playing and coaching perspective.

"Whilst I have been happy with my performance levels, I always strive for me and I am working hard to add more to my game in the final third and be able to chip in with more goals and assists to help the team.

"This level is extremely competitive; everyone can beat anyone and I do feel that there is a lot more quality throughout the League this year. There are no easy games, you have to be at your best individually and collectively for each game or you will quickly get found out.

"We go into Saturday's game sitting third with 20 points to our name from 11 games, but, as I say, it's still very early days and I'm not going to look too far ahead. We'll take things game by game and everything else will take care of itself.

"The main focus this weekend is proving that Tuesday's defeat was just a blip and we can get straight back into adding to our points tally."

Apart from their last outing when they conceded four goals, Alvechurch's solid start has been based on a well-organised back-line, of which Josh Dugmore has played his part.

"It's such a massive thing when you're not conceding goals," he told us. "We've already kept nine clean sheets in all competitions this season and that's an unbelievable record. It shows that Tuesday's game was really out of character for us, so hopefully we can get back to doing what we do best at St. Ives Town on

Saturday.

"The hard work that we have been putting in since the summer is clearly showing through. The recent 2-0 victory over Kettering Town made a real statement about our intentions this season. Not only was it a great win against top opponents, but the performance was superb with everyone playing their part."

Having seen his opportunities limited due to injury last season, Dugmore is glad to be back playing regularly again.

"To be playing regularly again is great," he continued. "I've already grabbed a couple of goals too, which equals my record from the previous two seasons combined!

"The boys are putting in a shift and it's a credit to what is going on here on and off the pitch that we're sat in amongst the leading back after the opening ten or 11 games.

"This is my fifth season playing at this level and the standard is improving all of the time. We're aiming high, and why not? We've proved that we can mix it with the best at this level so there's no reason why our positive start should stop any time soon."

Saturday's hosts, St. Ives Town, currently sit in the lower half of the table with three wins from their 11 League games to date.

Their last outing saw them slip to a single goal defeat at the hands of Bury Town, but prior to that they knocked Kettering Town out of the Isuzu FA Trophy.

They are seeking their first League success since early September as they look to steadily climb the table.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Leaders, Harborough Town, return to League action as look to protect their unbeaten record with a home game against a Bromsgrove Sporting outfit who have seen their fortunes pick up recently.

Just behind them, Spalding United also have home advantage as they host AFC Sudbury, who go into the game just two places off the bottom of the table.

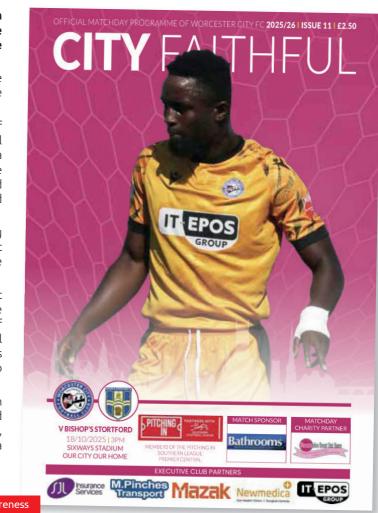
Having suffered a heavy home defeat at the hands of Spalding United on Tuesday evening, Bishop's Stortford will be looking to bounce back straight away as they head to a Worcester City side who are in need of a spark. This game has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Day and amongst the activities and fund-raising, the club has turned its Matchday Programme pink.

Hot on the heels of their impressive away win during the week, Quorn welcome mid-table Bury Town, whilst Kettering Town, who have seen the departure of Nile Ranger this week, go to Redditch United.

Still searching for their first League win, Sramford AFC host Stratford Town, whose own fortunes have improved since the opening weeks of the campaign. Just one place off the foot of the table, Royston Town make the trip to Real Bedford, as Needham Market and Stourbridge, two teams somewhat surprisingly hovering in the lower reaches, go head-to-head.

The remaining fixtures see Banbury United host Halesowen Town and Leiston welcome Barwell, who have added a number of new faces to their ranks in recent weeks, including Anthony Dwyer, who spoke to us having bagged a brace on his debut last weekend.

Worcester City are going pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness



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PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH



Featured Match

BIDEFORD AFC v MALVERN TOWN

As one of the longest-serving managers in the game, Sean Jovce, has seen it all, but even he was left scratching his head following the contrasting performance levels of his team over their last two games.

Last weekend they laboured to a 1-1 home draw with Sporting Club Inkberrow as a late equaliser earned them what Joyce described as an undeserved share of the spoils, before going to Devon rivals, Tavistock AFC, on Tuesday and running out commanding 2-0 victors.

"Going into the last two games, we would have taken a total of four points," Joyce admitted to us. "We would have probably expected the points to have come the other way around, if we're being honest.

"But at home to Sporting Club Inkberrow last weekend we put in a really disappointing display and were lucky to come out of it with a point in the end.

"We never really got going, but to be fair to the players, they dug in and managed to get something out of the game when on the balance of play, we didn't deserve to.

"Going away on a Tuesday evening is always difficult, but we went to Tavistock AFC and

put in a completely contrasting performance to our previous game.

"The players responded well to the kick up the backside that we gave them and we could have won by a bigger margin.

"We dominated for the majority of the game, restricting our hosts to one serious effort on goal. Everyone played their part and we showed exactly what we are capable of.

"We'll need to reach these high standards again on Saturday as we take on a Malvern Town side who have started the season

They are a good team and a good club against whom we've had some hard-fought and close encounters in recent seasons.



"We'll give them respect and they'll give us respect in return, so I am looking forward to a keenly-contested game where hopefully we can pick up from where we left off in our last outing."

Malvern Town arrive in North Devon sitting pretty at the top of the Division One South table following a hard-earned 1-0 win at Westbury United on Tuesday.

They are a club who are building both on and off the pitch as earlier this month they submitted a major planning application to Malvern Hills District Council for the next phase of development at their HDANYWHERE Community Stadium home.

The application marks an important milestone in the club's longterm vision for both the club and the wider community.

The proposals include a new covered stand with stepped terracing for over 200 supporters. Positioned on the east side of the ground, it will offer one of the finest natural vistas in football, with panoramic views across to the Malvern Hills.

The Clubhouse Terrace & Canopy will transform the existing decking area into a paved terrace with bi-fold doors and a canopy. Crucially, it will include a raised wheelchair platform, finally providing accessible, dignified sightlines of the pitch.

"These developments are about more than facilities.," club Chair, Chris Pinder, told us. "They represent a promise to create a thriving, welcoming, and sustainable home for football in Malvern - one that enhances matchdays, grows hospitality, and opens up new opportunities for community use all year round."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Sitting just one point off top spot and with two games in hand are Frome Town. They face a tough test on Saturday as they welcome fourth-placed Winchester City. Both teams came down from the Premier South at the end of last season and are pushing hard for a rapid return.

Another clash involving two fancied sides sees Bishops Cleeve play host to Shaftesbury. The hosts are unbeaten after eight League games and take on opponents who are currently sixth. Meanwhile Exmouth Town will be given a stern examination as they go to Hartpury.

At the foot of the table, Brixham entertain a Swindon Supermarine side who find themselves in the middle of the table. Just one place off the bottom is another Devon club, Tavistock AFC, who made the long trip up to Sporting Inkberrow where the home side will be looking to add to their two wins at this level so far.

Bristol Manor Farm head to Melksham Town looking to respond to a 3-0 home reverse at the hands of Shaftesbury in their last outing which sent them into the bottom four, where they are also joined by Didcot Town who make the trip to Falmouth Town looking to add to their points tally.

Having arrived at Willand Rovers on Wednesday evening only to see the game eventually postponed due to traffic issues affecting the home side, Mousehole go to Bashley on Saturday where they hope to kick-start what has been a stuttering start to the season. For the home side, they are eveing a place in the top half of

The day's other games sees Larkhall Athletic entertain Westbury United and Portishead Town tackle Willand Rovers, now under the guidance of Ben Watson.

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DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Featured Match

THAME UNITED v HITCHIN TOWN



It's already been a rollercoaster of a season for Thame United.

They started the campaign with four straight Division One Central defeats to leave them anchored to the foot of the embryonic League table.

But Tuesday's excellent 4-0 away win at Barton Rovers was their fourth triumph in their last five games to leave them just outside the top ten and ready to launch their challenge for a place within the leading pack.

"It's been a bit of a bizarre start to the season, to be honest," said Curtis Brown, who was amongst the scorers in their latest win. "For whatever reason it took us a few weeks to get going; despite our best efforts we just couldn't get a win and now we're five unbeaten, a run that has included four wins.

"Football can be funny like that, but now our focus is firmly fixed on looking up the table and we want to continue climbing.

"I've managed to get three goals so far; I'm pleased with that but I'm always looking to add to my tally.

"Tuesday was a great win for us because we went to one of the fancied teams and played some great football. It was a convincing win and I think it sent out a message to the other teams who will have seen it that we're getting back to the levels that we know we're capable of.

"It may have been a bit of a hangover from just missing out on the play-offs last season, who knows?

"But, as I say, we have to put the start behind us now and look forward to what's ahead and that's a game against Hitchin Town, one of the teams that we are looking to chase down.

"They're four points above us going into the game so we can get ourselves to within a point of them, which would be quite an achievement considering they are one of the more fancied sides this season.

"This is proving to be a tough League once more; there are some strong opponents and quite a lot of teams who fancy their chances of being involved in the play-offs, ourselves included.

"We were in and around it throughout last season, so there's no reason why we can't do the same this time around."

For Saturday's opponents, Hitchin Town, they go into the game on the back of conceding a stoppage time goal at high-flying Biggleswade FC which saw them have to settle for a point rather than all three.

The result did extend their unbeaten League run to three games.

"To concede so late is always disappointing," said skipper, Ciaren Jones. "We would have probably taken a point going into the game but the way it panned out, we were disappointed to come away with just one.

"We have a targeted points tally each month which would lead to a play-off place and we're on course so far.

"We know that we have to be able to take our chances because this is an unforgiving League, but we have good strength in depth amongst the squad now and that competition for places helps to drive us on and keep standards high.

"The backing of the fans is also an important factor and we're fortunate to have such good numbers turn out home and away to support us. Of course, we're not going to get things all of our own way and we do need patience, but there are plenty of games coming up and a real chance to get the momentum building."

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Leaders, Leighton Town, will be looking to add to their unbeaten start, which has seen them win seven of their eight League games so far, as head to London Lions, who will be buoyed by their 4-1 victory over Aylesbury United on Wednesday evening.

Sitting second are Ware who play host to a Beaconsfield Town side who are one of a group of teams sitting just outside the top five.

With just one defeat from their opening ten games, Biggleswade FC take on a Flackwell Heath who are unbeaten in the League having only played six games. This one has all the ingredients to be guite a tussle.

Meanwhile Biggleswade Town hit the road to face struggling Marlow, who have seven defeats from their opening nine League games. Also tucked just inside the top five are Hertford Town and they have home advantage this weekend against Aylesbury United.

At the foot of the table, Rayners Lane, with just one win to their name this season, take on another team with just a single League victory so far, AFC Dunstable. Just one place off the bottom and also with one win to their name, Northwood, host Leverstock Green.

Looking for a repose to their disappointment in the week are Barton Rovers who hold home advantage over Stotfold, who have four wins and six defeats from their opening ten games. Hadley will be eager to make home advantage count when they face MK Irish, who sit just inside the bottom four going into the weekend action.

Finally, Welwyn Garden City welcome Enfield, who will be licking their wounds following a home defeat on Tuesday. The hosts also slipped at home, losing 3-2 to Ware.

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