

PREVIEW MAG

ISSUE #09
03-05 OCTOBER 2025



YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE
TO ALL OF THE
WEEKEND ACTION

THUMBS UP!

+ ISUZU
FA TROPHY
PREVIEW

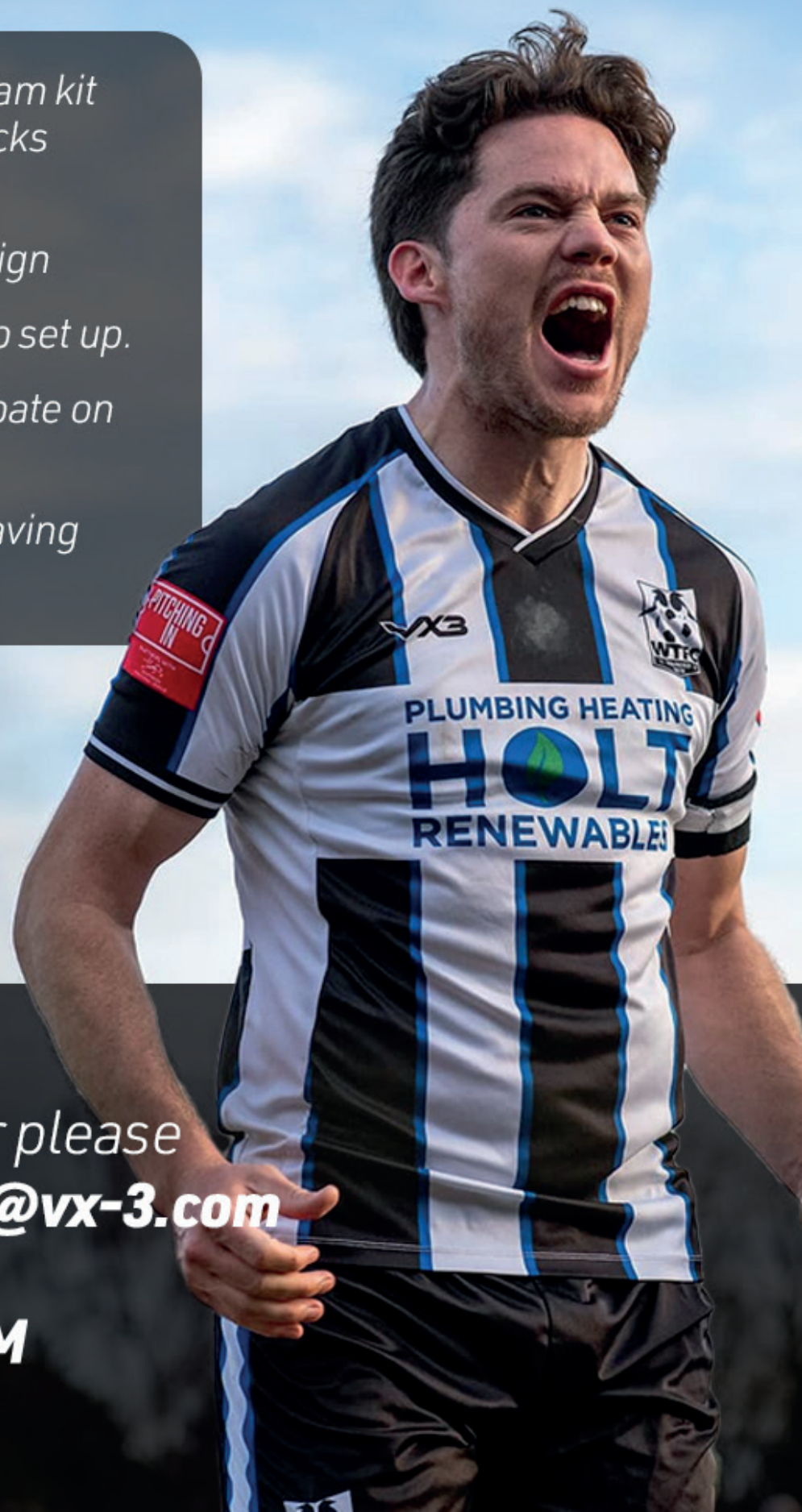


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GOALS OF THE WEEK SHOW



The Goals of the Week Show is a key component in our weekly media output.

Premiering at 7pm each Wednesday evening, it features all of the latest goal action from across our four divisions.

The show can be found on the Southern League YouTube Channel and is produced on behalf of the League by David Square.

If you haven't already watched the show, why not take a look? Previous episodes can be viewed on YouTube, @SouthernFootballLeague1894, and don't forget to subscribe to the channel.

Member clubs are encouraged to send in your goals footage each week. The show is only as good as the footage that we receive, so please email your weekend goals by 7pm on Tuesday evening to: **thesouthernfootballleague@gmail.com**



Image | Walton & Hersham FC

SCORE PREDICTOR

Throughout the 2025/26 season we are going to pit the players against the media and supporters in our score prediction competition.

The rules are simple; each week we select a game at random from each of our four divisions and then invite representatives to make their predictions. It's three points for getting the score correct, one point for getting the right result and nothing an incorrect score/result.

To take part, email: news@southern-football-league.co.uk

Last week, Gosport Borough's Charlie Wassmer stormed to victory for the Players with an impressive seven points, in second place was Farnham Town Fan, John Hazleworth, with two points to beat off the challenge of Real Bedford's Seb Hendrix, who claimed a point for the Media.

This week we are joined by Tavistock AFC's Jack Crago, who represents the Players, Avril Lancaster, Press Officer at Shaftesbury, who is our Media Representative, and Gosport Borough Fan, Rich Langley.

| WEEK NINE | Crago | Lancaster | Langley |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Westbury United v Mousehole | 2-1 | 2-2 | 1-1 |
| London Lions v Biggleswade Town | 3-0 | 0-2 | 0-2 |
| Bishops Cleeve v Sholing (FAT) | 1-3 | 3-1 | 0-3 |
| Thame United v Banbury United (FAT) | 0-2 | 0-2 | 3-0 |

| TABLE | Score Correct | Result Correct | Points |
|------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Players | 6 | 11 | 29 |
| Media | 3 | 11 | 20 |
| Supporters | 2 | 9 | 15 |

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 | Farnham Town | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 17 |
| 4 | Sholing | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 16 |
| 5 | Wimborne Town | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 |
| 6 | Taunton Town | 9 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 15 |
| 7 | Poole Town | 8 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 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 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 12 | -7 | 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

Isuzu FA Trophy third round qualifying fixtures take place this weekend...



Weekend Action

Isuzu FA Trophy third round qualifying fixtures take place this weekend...



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 | Frome Town | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 15 |
| 5 | Hartpury | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 13 |
| 6 | Exmouth Town | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 13 |
| 7 | Shaftesbury | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 12 |
| 8 | Portishead Town | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 12 |
| 9 | Mousehole | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 10 | Melksham Town | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | -1 | 8 |
| 11 | Falmouth Town | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | -3 | 8 |
| 12 | Bashley | 7 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 | -3 | 8 |
| 13 | Westbury United | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 14 | Larkhall Athletic | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | -2 | 7 |
| 15 | Tavistock | 7 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | -7 | 7 |
| 16 | Swindon Supermarine | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | -2 | 6 |
| 17 | Brixham | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 | -7 | 6 |
| 18 | Sporting Club Inkberrow | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 13 | -10 | 6 |
| 19 | Bristol Manor Farm | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 13 | -9 | 5 |
| 20 | Willand Rovers | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 15 | -14 | 5 |
| 21 | Bideford | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | -7 | 4 |
| 22 | Didcot Town | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | -13 | 4 |

Division One Central

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

Weekend Action

Bristol Manor Farm
v Portishead Town

Brixham AFC
v Bashley

Didcot Town
v Larkhall Athletic

Falmouth Town
v Swindon Supermarine

Tavistock AFC
v Exmouth Town

Westbury United
v Mousehole

Willand Rovers
v Frome Town

Isuzu FA Trophy third round qualifying fixtures also take place this weekend...

Weekend Action

Barton Rovers
v Rayners Lane

Flackwell Heath
v Stotfold

Hertford Town
v Milton Keynes Irish

Leighton Tow
v Beaconsfield Town

London Lions
v Biggleswade Town

Marlow
v Hitchin Town

Northwood
v Enfield

Welwyn Garden City
v Leverstock Green

Isuzu FA Trophy third round qualifying fixtures also take place this weekend...



ISUZU FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH AND DIVISION ONE SOUTH



Featured Match

YATE TOWN v POOLE TOWN

Yate Town go into the tie against their Premier South rivals on the back of only their second win from ten League games at the weekend as they left it until deep into stoppage time to secure a 2-1 triumph over Plymouth Parkway.

Playing his part in the triumph off the substitutes' bench was Chris Zebroski, the 38 year-old veteran of a 20-year playing career that has seen him grace the EFL for the likes of Millwall, Wycombe Wanderers, Torquay United, Bristol Rovers and Cheltenham Town.

"I enjoyed Saturday's game, it was a big win for us," Zebroski told us. "We've been doing well at home and it's nice to see our performances are now being rewarded with points.

"The hope is that we can continue where we left off into this weekend's game and get ourselves into the next round. There's a long way to go, but any competition with a Wembley final at the end of it has to be treated with respect.

"I'm enjoying playing at this level; it's very competitive and there are some strong teams and fan bases.

"As a new team coming up, it was always going to be tough at first but, as I say, our performances, especially at home, are warranting results. We need to start picking up our away form, but the signs are that things are moving in the right direction.

"I've got a few goals and assists to my name so far and I am desperate for more. My aim is to stay fit and just generally use my experience to help the younger lads around me.

"We have the chance to get another win under our belts on Saturday if we continue to do the right things. Poole Town have started well this season with just one defeat in eight in the League, so we know that they will be a tough nut to crack, but we're ready to face the challenge that they will present."

Joining the club to add his Step 3 know-how in the wake of their promotion at the end of last season is defender, Dan Ball.



Oli Jenkins heads home a last minute winner on Saturday

Sadly, injury ruled him out for six weeks, but now he is back and determined to make up for lost time.

"It's been a frustrating time," he admitted. "But I'm back now and playing catch-up. It was nice to be involved last weekend and help the lad get the win.

"Just like the team has to build upon our performance levels, I am hoping to build my fitness levels and match sharpness as we go along.

"Saturday's game was a tight affair, but we battled all of the way and stuck at it to get our reward at the death.

"It was a big win; we're looking strong at home and need to take this onto the road now. If we can do that, the momentum and confidence will really start to build.

"I know what it takes to do well at this level. You have to turn up on the day or else you won't get anything. We have the tools here to do the job and this weekend will be a good gauge for us as we take on opponents who have started really well.

"It's FA Trophy progress at stake, of course, rather than League points, but it will be good to see where we're at and hopefully make it through into the next round."

Whilst Poole Town are flying high in the Premier South, they go into this tie on the back of Emirates FA Cup exit at the hands of Weston super Mare in their last outing as they fell to a 2-0 loss.

"It was frustrating," said co-manager, Pat Suraci. "I felt like it was a game where we just needed a little bit extra.

"The effort of the lads can't be faulted; we were dominant in the second half, without hurting them enough and in the end, their extra quality came through.

"They are second in the League above, so they're obviously a good side, but we gave them a good run and now we're looking to get some joy in the FA Trophy in what will be another tough tie for us."

THE REST OF THE ISUZU FA TROPHY ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH AND DIVISION ONE SOUTH CLUBS

Heading off on their travels are Taunton Town as they take on AFC Portchester, members of the Isthmian League South Central, whilst Malvern Town also face an away tie as they make their way to AFC Rushden & Diamonds of the Northern Premier League Midlands Division.

There are Premier South against Division One South showdowns at Basingstoke Town, where they take on Shaftesbury, Bishops Cleeve, who host Sholing, Dorchester Town who take on Bideford AFC and Hartpury where they face a mouth-watering local derby against Gloucester City.

Still reeling from their Emirates FA Cup exit, Bracknell Town, face League rivals, Hungerford Town. Home advantage is with Chertsey Town as the welcome Tilbury, whilst Farnham Town

head to Chichester City and Berkhamsted go to Cray Valley PM.

It's a home tie for Evesham United as they take on Northern Premier League Premier Division outfit, Ilkeston Town, and Hanwell Town who entertain Grays Athletic, whilst Havant & Waterlooville and Tiverton Town go head-to-head.

There's a tricky away assignment for Premier South leaders, Walton & Hersham, who go to a Hayes & Yeading United side who are in a rich vein of form with seven straight wins.

Another all Premier South clash sees Plymouth Parkway host Gosport Borough, whilst Wimborne Town take on Weymouth in what is sure to be a hard-fought encounter. Finally, Uxbridge go to Stanway Rovers.



Hartpury face a mouth-watering local derby against Gloucester City



ISUZU FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL AND DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Featured Match

WORCESTER CITY v RUGBY TOWN

They may be waiting for a spark to ignite their season after just one win from their opening nine Premier Central games, but there has been marked progress both on and off the pitch for Worcester City over the past few years.

Not only have they secured back-to-back promotions, the club has also moved in to the impressive Sixways Stadium where they now play to four-figure home crowds.

Their team is made up of a nucleus of local lads who know exactly what it means to represent the club. One of which is

midfield man, Kyle Belmonte, who joined his hometown club early in the 2023/24 season and has become a firm favourite amongst the fans.

"This club had reached a dead end," he admitted as he looked back to 2017 when the club took voluntary relegation out of The National League North (Step 2) into the Midland Football League (Step 5). "As a local lad it was painful to watch the club voluntarily go down and then fail to find the right manager and players to get them moving again as they sank further and almost fell out of Step 5.

"Things started to turn around when the Gaffer [Chris Cornes] and owner [Simon Lancaster] came in and the journey we've been on over the past two years has been fantastic.

"For someone who lives just down the road, to be able to give something back to the club has been a dream come true and to pull on the shirt and represent the club means so much to me.

"We've been spoilt with what we've achieved over the last two years and now we've reached a level where we have to work extra hard to be able to establish ourselves. The fact that so many of us are local, we know what it means and we have that connection to the fans.

"We've managed to get ourselves back to just one level below where the club was, but on top of that we're now playing at a fantastic stadium back in the city with crowds rising all of the time as well as a thriving youth section that is engaging with and nurturing local talent.

"Being based at Sixways and taken things to a whole



Local lad, Kyle Belmonte, is looking to spark Worcester City into life on Saturday

new level off the pitch. It's what the club needed to be able to keep moving forward. It's also an inspiring venue to play at, even though give me a grass pitch all day long!

"As a group, our career paths have all brought us to this point. We've done the hard yards, gone to other clubs and then come here to get this fantastic club back up to where it belongs. 90% of us here now are local lads who have grown up together or work together. The bond we have as a team is strong.

"It's makes the journey that we're all on even more special. It's an unbelievable feeling to get the club to where it is today and there's a real determination to keep moving forward and overcoming the obstacles that stand in our way.

"We know that we've started the season slower than we would have liked in an ideal world, but we're not far away from where we want to be and we know that with time and patience, things will come together and the momentum will build.

"It's about finding our feet; this level is unforgiving, mistakes are punished more regularly and you need to have that cutting edge when opportunities come our way.

"I have every faith that fortunes will turn in our favour sooner rather than later. Progression in the FA Trophy would provide a real boost on Saturday, something to take into our battle for League points.

"This is a national competition with a Wembley final at the end of it, so we want to be able to make our mark and see where it takes us.

"All of us want to play our part in making this an exciting season with plenty of memorable moments along the way. We're in a tough League with some well-established clubs, but we're a big club in our own right and we'll be looking to use this to our advantage."

Arriving at Sixways Stadium are a Rugby Town outfit who sit in the lower reaches of the Northern Premier League Midlands Division table, the League in which Worcester played last season, so this is a tie that potentially could kick-start the campaign of either club.

THE REST OF THE ISUZU FA TROPHY ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL AND DIVISION ONE CENTRAL CLUBS

There is home advantage for AFC Dunstable as they welcome Folkestone Invicta, whilst a competitive encounter is in prospect at AFC Sudbury as they take on League rivals, Bury Town. Hitting the road are Stourbridge, who go to Anstey Nomads.

Also on their travels are Biggleswade FC, with destination Ashford United. There's an all Premier Central clash at Barwell as once again they host Bromsgrove Sporting, as they did in the League recently.

Alvechurch's good form will be tested as they go to Basford United, whilst Bishop's Stortford welcome Cray Wanderers. Heading to Chatham Town are Needham Market, who will be looking to bounce back from a heavy home reverse in their last outing.

Heading up to Cleethorpes Town are Redditch United, whilst Hadley will be relishing their opportunity to host Dartford. Another side with home advantage are Halesowen Town, who welcome Leek Town to The Grove.

There's an intriguing match-up at Harborough Town who host a big-spending Hednesford Town outfit who are rising up through the levels once again. Leiston go to Lewes as Quorn welcome Corby Town.

An all Premier Central encounter pits Real Bedford against Stamford AFC, who are hoping their cup exploits can inspire

an upturn in League form. Royston Town face Welling United, whilst Spalding United face a tricky tie at Rushall Olympic of the Northern Premier League Premier Division.

Stratford Town go to Sporting Club Inkberrow of Division One South as another all Premier Central tie sees St. Ives Town battle it out with Kettering Town. Division One Central meets Premier Central at Thame United who entertain Banbury United.



Barwell and Bromsgrove Sporting go head-to-head once more

Featured Match

BRISTOL MANOR FARM v PORTISHEAD TOWN

There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever who was the inspiration behind Portishead Town's 5-1 victory over Sporting Club Inkberrow on Tuesday evening as they strengthened their position within the Pitching In Southern League Division One South leading pack with their fourth win out of five.

Nine year-old, Henry McFaul, who plays for the club's U10s team has been raising funds for The Grand Appeal, the charity of Bristol Children's Hospital, by running a mile each day in September.

For his final mile, he did it around the Bristol Road pitch along with his team-mates ahead of Tuesday evening's game to complete his challenge amidst the encouragement of the players, staff and supporters. The players of Portishead and visitors, Sporting Club Inkberrow, also lined up to give him a much deserved Guard of Honour.

"The last mile was my favourite," Henry told us. "I enjoyed doing the challenge and raising money for The Grand Appeal."

"When I was a baby, the doctors were worried about my eye. I had lots of appointments at the Eye Hospital and the Children's

Hospital. I was only one day old when I had my first MRI Scan.

"It was discovered that I have Fibrous Dysplasia, which means I have a little bit of extra tissue and bone in my face. It affects my eyesight and this means I still have regular eye hospital appointments today.

"The doctors and staff at the hospital have looked after me so well over the years and so I decided that I wanted to do something to help them. I've spent a lot of time in the hospital waiting room so I know that they need some new equipment to entertain the kids.

"I was wondering how I could help and then I found out about the mile a day challenge in September and decided to go for it and raise sponsorship at the same time. I was looking to raise £200 but it has gone well above that and I am so grateful to everyone who has sponsored me.

"It's been tough, but I have managed to do it and it was nice to finish the challenge at the football ground and then watch the team win 5-1!"

Portishead Town manager, Kye Mountford, was full of praise for the youngster and his achievement.



Henry McFaul has proved to be an inspiration for everyone at Portishead Town

"What an inspiration," he said. "We are so proud of Henry and his quest to raise money for the Children's Hospital and Eye Hospital, who have had such a profound influence on his young life.

"For Henry to think of this idea himself and push it through is both impressive and heart-warming in the same measure.

"It was an honour to have him with us on Tuesday to finish off his challenge. His family can be extremely proud of him, as indeed we all are."

Moutford's team have adapted well to the demands of Division One South following their promotion from the Western League Premier Division as champions at the end of last term.

On Saturday they face a mouth-watering local derby encounter with Bristol Manor Farm, a game that they are looking forward to.

Aron Robbins is one of a number of players now in their ranks who have previously turned out for Saturday's hosts.

"It's good to be a tough and hard-fought game," he told us. "We will go there full of confidence, particularly after Tuesday's performance, and hopefully we can bring home the three points.

"This is a tough and competitive League, each opponent brings their own challenges and we are well aware of threats that Bristol Manor Farm possess, but at the same time, we've shown what we are capable of so far this season.

"We've started the campaign well in the League; not so in the cup competitions, but the League is our bread-and-butter and there's no reason why we can't be right up there this season.

"We've got a winning mentality here and plenty of momentum, so that will stand us in good stead.

"I joined the club to be pushing for promotion and that's the intention."

There was also a special word of praise reserved for Henry McFaul.

"What that kid has achieved is fantastic. He's shown such determination and resilience, not only in his fund-raising challenge, but also in his football and life in general.

"He's a special part of the Portishead Town FC Family; the players and I are full of respect for him."

You can still contribute towards Henry's fund-raising effort here: https://www.justgiving.com/page/kieron-mcfaul-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Having seen a complete overhaul of their playing staff during the summer, it's been a mixed start to the campaign for hosts, Bristol Manor Farm.

This was further emphasised when they followed up their 5-3 away win at League leaders, Malvern Town, with a 4-0 home reverse at the hands of Winchester City in their next game before becoming the first team to take points off Frome Town this season on Wednesday evening.

They are yet to taste victory on home soil this season, so Saturday's local derby would certainly be the ideal time for them to start.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

There is a reduced programme of League matches this week due to a number of clubs still being involved in the Isuzu FA Trophy.

Just a couple of points separate Brixham AFC and Bashley who lock horns in Devon, whilst Larkhall Athletic, buoyed by their midweek victory over in-form Hartpury, head to Didcot Town, who themselves will be galvanised by victory at Melksham Town in their last outing, as they look to move off the foot of the table.

Having chalked up an away win on Tuesday, Falmouth Town return to home action for the visit of a Swindon Supermarine outfit who are in need of a spark following a run of three straight 3-1 League defeats.

There's a Devon derby at Tavistock AFC as they entertain Exmouth Town. For the hosts, Jack Crago, who played his 500th game for the club last weekend, hit both goals in their 2-0 away win at Mousehole AFC during the week, whilst the visitors sit fifth in the early table and are fresh from a good 2-1 victory over Shaftesbury in their last game.

With only four League games to their name so far due to their exploits in the Emirates FA Cup, Westbury United will be looking to add to their points tally as they take on Mousehole AFC. Meanwhile Willand Rovers, now under the guidance of new manager, Ben Watson, take on a Frome Town outfit who were held to a 2-2 draw by Bristol Manor Farm on Wednesday as their 100% League start came to an end.



There is Devon derby action for Tavistock AFC on Saturday as they host Exmouth Town

Featured Match

MARLOW v HITCHIN TOWN

There was a much-needed return to winning ways for Marlow on Tuesday evening as they secured a 2-1 triumph at Northwood for only their second Division One Central success of the season.

Having found the net in the previous game – an unfortunate 3-2 last-gasp loss at the hands of Hadley – Kwesi Ntim continued his impressive recent form.

“Tuesday was a good continuation on the previous game for myself and the team,” Ntim told us. “I was happy with my performance, helping to keep Northwood pinned back in their half as they made it compact and hard for us to create clear-cut chances.

“We’ve been improving as a team in recent weeks, so it was good to get the three points over the line this time.

“We’ll definitely be looking to build on this because like I said, we’ve been unlucky with results this season so it’s a good chance to pick up momentum and get some points on the board during what is a busy month of fixtures ahead.

“This is a new group of players and we expected some challenges early on, but we’re moving in the right direction. Personally I’ve added more consistency and reliability to my game; getting on the scoresheet against Hadley and then helping us win our last game has given me plenty of belief.

“It’s my first time playing in this League, so every game is a new challenge for me. I’m enjoying it, especially with the help and support of the management and what is a good group of team-mates. The Gaffer has put his trust in me to perform and I want to repay that faith.

“The aim is to climb the table and be amongst the leading pack. With the quality we have, it’s possible, but we have to find a level of consistency that all successful teams have.

“Saturday’s game will be a good test for us against opponents who were also relegated into this League at the end of last season and have been tipped by many to make an immediate return. They too have found the early going tough as they find their feet at this level.”



Marlow are gelling together and setting their sights on moving up the table

Also settling into the team having arrived over the summer is midfielder, Jacob Wilson.

“There are definite signs that we are starting to click,” he told us. “With so many new faces it’s always hard gelling straight away, but we’re learning more about each other and what the Gaffer expects from us.

“It’s good that the games are coming thick and fast now because it gives us an opportunity to get some momentum and use it to build on our performances week in, week out.

“Tuesday was a good night for us. We started well and controlled the early flow of the game; everyone battled well and won our duels across the pitch. We scored two excellent goals from our wingers and then dug deep when we needed to in the latter stages of the game to see it out.

“There were a lot of positives to come from the performance, the main one being that it yielded three points and our first League win since the middle of August.

“We can’t afford to sit back, though, we have to be ready to go again on Saturday. The competitive nature of this League means that there is no let-up. It’s a constant battle and Saturday will be no different.”

Marlow host a Hitchin Town team who have won three of their six League games thus far but fell to a 3-1 home reverse at the hands of Hertford Town in their last outing on Tuesday evening.

The Canaries have also exited both the Emirates FA Cup and Isuzu FA Trophy in recent weeks so will be setting their sights on making the expected impact in the League and plotting a return to the Step 3 status that they lost at the end of last season.

THE REST OF THE ACTION



Beaconsfield Town will be hoping for more joy from their mouth-watering encounter with Leighton Town

There is a reduced programme of League matches this week due to a number of clubs still being involved in the Isuzu FA Trophy.

Sitting just outside the top five, Barton Rovers will be hoping that they can make home advantage count and get back into winning ways when they welcome bottom of the table Rayners Lane. A disappointing 2-0 reverse at MK Irish on Tuesday saw them fall well below the standards that they have set

Fresh from their Emirates FA Cup exploits on Tuesday, Flackwell Heath are playing catch-up in the League and they welcome a Stotfold outfit who will be buoyed by their 3-1 victory over high-flying and previously unbeaten Biggleswade FC during the week. Two sides who had excellent midweek results meet as Hertford

Town – 3-1 victors at Hitchin Town – lock horns with an MK Irish side who secured a commanding and deserved 2-0 triumph over Barton Rovers.

Undefeated Leighton Town will have their record tested by a Beaconsfield Town outfit who have lost just once in seven League outings, whilst London Lions play host to Biggleswade Town. Having lost at home to Marlow on Tuesday, Northwood will be seeking a response as they take on an Enfield side who went down 4-0 at home to Ware on Wednesday.

Finally, Welwyn Garden City and Leverstock Green go head to head as both clubs look to strengthen their position in the top half of the early table.

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