

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME TAUNTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



8.3.22 - 7:45pm



Premier South



THE
PEACOCKS
vs Merthyr Town

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Champions 2017-18

WESTERN PREMIER DIVISION
Champions 1968-69, 1989-90, 1995-96,
1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH
Runners-Up 2018-19

CUP HONOURS

FA VASE
Winners 2000-01

SOMERSET PREMIER CUP
Winners 2002-03, 2005-06, 2013-14,
2014-15, 2016-17

CONTACT DETAILS

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STAFF DIRECTORY

President: Tom Harris
Life Vice President: Harold Needs
Chairman: Kevin Sturmey
Chief Executive: Kevin Sturmey
Vice Chairman: Brian Pollard
Vice Chairman: Alan Slade
Club Secretary: To Be Appointed
Fixture Secretary: Martin Dongworth
Community Director: To Be Appointed

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr D. Budge, Mr M. Dongworth, Mrs J. Ellis, Mr T. Gibbs,
Mrs E. Harris, Mr J. Mayled, Mr P. Mayled, Mr R. Musker,
Mr H. Needs, Mrs M. Needs, Mr A. Payne

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

Head of Football: Rob Dray
Assistant Manager: Matt Villis
First Team Coach: Michael Meaker
Goalkeeping Coach: Connor Sidley-Adams
Sports Therapists: Dave Lukins, Antony Cornish
Sports Masseur: Paul Edwards
Kit Manager: Kevin Sturmey
Club Doctor: Dr Tim Norbury

Head Groundsman: Kevin Sturmey
Head Steward: Mike Parsons
Matchday Co-Ordinator: Rob Wenham
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Stadium Announcer: Nick Rickards
Club Shop Manager: Lee Derrick
Club Shop Assistant: Catherine Herbert

Club Photographers: Colin Andrews, Ashley Harris
Media Team: Daniel Howell, Andy Power, Josh Perkins,
Darren Harris

COVID 19 Lead: Rob Wenham
COVID19 Support Team: Catherine Herbert,
Rachael Coles



THE GAFFER

Rob Dray

Good evening everyone and welcome back to the Cygnet Healthcare Stadium, as we welcome Dean Clarke and his Merthyr Town team to Taunton for tonight's league fixture as we continue to pursue those teams above us in the league table.

We hit a bump in the road last Saturday, losing 3-2 at Harrow Borough and weren't given the opportunity to bounce back on Tuesday here against Yate Town due to the bad weather.

Saturday at Salisbury we got back to winning ways with a 2-1 road win in Wiltshire. We showed plenty of character and togetherness at a very difficult place to go in not the most pleasant of conditions.

Tonight, Merthyr come to Taunton scrapping for their lives at the wrong end of the table for them, so we know we will be in for a tough game. There are no easy games in this league that is for sure and we have Hayes & Yeading to welcome on Saturday too.

Up The Peacocks!

Rob

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THE AWAY END

Merthyr Town

Merthyr Town F.C. came into existence when it became obvious to a loyal band of supporters that Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C., a club with a long and distinguished history in non-league football, would not be able to overcome the financial problems that had beset it over the previous few seasons.

Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. was formed in 1945 following a series of public meetings in the town. After spending the 1945-46 season in the Welsh League, the Club was elected to the Southern League in the summer of 1946. The team embarked on a spell of success that is unlikely ever to be bettered in non-league football as over the next eight seasons the Club went on to capture 5 Southern League Championships, 2 Southern League Cups, 2 Welsh Cups, 3 South Wales and Mon Cups, 3 Welsh League Championships and 3 Welsh League Cups.

The 50's, 60's and 70's marked turbulent time in the club's history, and in the first half of the 1980's were dark days at Penydarren Park as the team drifted along in the Southern League Midland Division. However, the appointment of Lyn Jones as manager in 1985 would prove to be the catalyst for another golden era in the history of Merthyr Tydfil Football Club. In the summer of 1986 a new syndicate headed by local businessman John Reddy took control at Penydarren Park. The team finished in third place in the Midland Division after being defeated by eventual champions V.S. Rugby in a 'winner takes all' final match of the season at Penydarren Park. The same season saw the Martyrs win the Welsh Cup when they defeated Newport County by a goal to nil in a replay after the two teams had drawn 2-2 a few days previously.

Winning the Welsh Cup had earned the Club the right to compete in the European

Cup Winners Cup. The draw paired the Martyrs with Italian side Atalanta. On 20th September 1987 Merthyr shocked the football world when goals by Kevin Rogers and Ceri Williams saw the Italians humbled at Penydarren Park by two goals to one. Although the adventure ended a fortnight later with a narrow 2-0 defeat in Italy, the name Merthyr Tydfil was well and truly on the football map.

The 1987-88 season ended with the Club being crowned champions of the Southern League Midland Division. This was capped a year later when the Martyrs ran out winners of the Premier Division. Merthyr ended the 1989-90 season, their first in the Conference, in a credible ninth place. After once again finishing the 1990-91 season in ninth place, the team ended the following campaign in a very credible fourth place. During this time the standing of the Club was such that CSKA Moscow, Red Star Belgrade and Glasgow Celtic all visited Penydarren Park for friendly fixtures. The fourth place finish at the end of the 1991-92 signaled the end of the golden era at Penydarren Park. Two years later the Club only escaped relegation on a technicality. However, not even the return of Lyn Jones could prevent the Martyrs from being relegated at the end of the 1994-95 campaign.

The Martyrs endured more turbulent times after this with numerous chairmen and managers, the high point being when a Merthyr side managed by ex-Athletic Madrid Manager Colin Addison finished 2nd to Forest Green Rovers in the Southern League in the late 90s. By 2004 all supporters were naturally frustrated with events, that summer the decision was taken to set up a supporters' trust - 'Martyrs to the Cause'. As well as trying to support the Club financially the Trust decided to foster young football talent in the Borough by setting up a Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. youth team.

In 2005/06 the Club enjoyed a successful run in the F.A. Cup. In the First Round Proper of the competition they were awarded a home tie with Walsall, who at the time were managed by former Arsenal star Paul Merson. However, any hopes the Martyrs had of securing a famous giant-killing were extinguished as Walsall ran out winners by two goals to one in a game that was televised live on Sky Sports.

In 2006 newly appointed Gary Shephard and his assistant Danny Carter assembled a squad comprising of youth and locally based players, and the new players rose to the task and the Martyrs ended the 2007-08 season in a creditable sixteenth place.

The 2008-09 season was probably the most difficult in the Club's chequered history. With owner Wyn Holloway declaring he would no longer continue to put money into the Club, there was a real danger that the Martyrs would fail to complete the campaign. However, a massive effort by Merthyr supporters ensured that this would not be the case. This backs-to-the-wall spirit was replicated by the players who, despite going without wages for weeks at a time, ended the season in eighth place.

In June 2009 the Club went into Administration. In early July of that year the Supporters' Trust received the go ahead to operate the Club under license. A combination of a ten-point deduction, injuries and suspensions prevented the players from repeating their success of the previous campaign a 1-1 draw at Swindon Supermarine in the last game of the season saw the club finish in seventeenth place in the Zambaretto Premier Division.

As the season ended it became increasingly obvious to everyone connected with the club that Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. was doomed. Consequently, the Trust Board took the decision to carry on as a reformed club. However, legal problems meant that we would not be able to use Pen-y-darren Park, the home of senior football in the Borough of Merthyr Tydfil for over one hundred years. Merthyr played at Taff's Well F.C. for one season in the Western League First Division and gained immediate promotion to the Premier Division.

Merthyr Town FC returned to its spiritual home at Pen-y-darren Park for 2011/12 season. The Martyrs secured a 2nd successive promotion on their return home to go straight through Western League into the Southern League. Merthyr lost in the play-off final at Hungerford Town to finish the 2012/13 season and Cirencester Town in 2013/14. Garry Shephard & Danny Carter stood down after 7 years, and ex-Welsh international and Merthyr born Steve Jenkins took the helm assisted by another Merthyr born Welsh international Gavin Williams. Steve and Gavin led the team to the league title by 12 points, and Southern League Championship winners.

In 15/16 season the club won the Red Insure Cup for the first time in 50 years and finished a respectable 10th in their first Premier Division season. At the end of the season Steve Jenkins left the club, and ex Hereford United, Yeovil Town, West Ham United and Ipswich Town player Gavin Williams took over as manager, with Dean Clarke returning to the club as his assistant. In Gavin's first season he led the club to

the play-offs finishing 3rd but lost to Hitchin Town in the semi-final on penalties.

In 17/18 we saw an up & down season with financial issues affecting the club. The low point was 13-1 defeat at Chesham which sparked a Just Giving campaign to clear bills. The club did stabilize with management team and players remaining loyal to finish in a respectable 17th position. The club then stabilized and the 2018/19 season, started positively with the Martyrs in and around the play-off spots until the busy Christmas period, with wins against Weymouth and Taunton at home proving the Martyrs pedigree.

In September 2020, The Martyrs took the decision to 'Mothball' for the season after consulting with the governing bodies & the southern league. This meant that the squad was disbanded, and Gavin Williams left his managerial role after just under 5 years in charge. 2021/22 saw Dean Clarke take over in the dug-out and almost a completely new squad to start the Southern League Premier Campaign.

Dean Clarke & Steve Williams were relieved of their roles in February 2022, with current player Matthew Harris being appointed as Interim Player/Manager, with the help of Craig Reddy as assistant manager.



MEET THE OPPO

Merthyr Town

JAIMIE COGMAN – Australian born Jaimie, joined the Martyrs in September 2021 following his release from Cardiff City. Cogman started out in Australia and played for local side Brisbane City before linking up with the academy at Brisbane Roar. He then moved over to the UK two years later and signed for Cardiff City.

ADAM DAVIES – Merthyr born Adam came through Cardiff City's academy. He joined Llanelli after his release, then he moved to Monmouth Town before joining Merthyr Town in summer 2014. Adam won all the major player of the year awards in 2015/16 season. He left the club briefly two seasons ago to join Hereford but returned in December 2017. Ahead of the 2020/21 season, Adam was made Club Captain.

ISMAIL YAKUBU – Yak signed for the Martyrs initially on a 6-month loan deal from Hayes & Yeading during the 2019/20 season. Yak made the move permanent during the summer of 2020. During his time with Barnet, AFC Wimbledon, Newport County and Cambridge United, Yak made close to

400 football league appearances. He has been capped for the England semi-professional team on five occasions. Yakubu also had a brief spell at Penybont FC before rejoining the Martyrs in 2021.

KERRY MORGAN – Merthyr born, Kerry, is now in his 6th season at the Martyrs. Kerry was with Swansea City as a youngster and has also played for Neath, Port Talbot, Bath City, Newport County and Mangotsfield Town, as well as enjoying spells in Sweden & Spain.

MATTHEW HARRIS – Matty rejoined in 2021, after spending 2 years at Penybont FC. Matty has made over 300 appearances for the Martyrs, winning the Southern League Cup & various promotions, Harris brings a wealth of experience to the side ahead of the 2021/22 season. Matthew Was appointed Interim Player/Manager in February 2022.

KIERAN EVANS – The 22-year-old is a graduate of Swansea City's academy where he was on the books from the age of 6, signing his first professional

contract in April 2016. He progressed through to the under-23s and made one first-team appearance from the bench in the EFL Trophy against Charlton Athletic. Joined the Martyrs from Vanarama National League North side Gloucester City in November 2021.

OWEN EVANS – Owen signed for the Martyrs in August 2021. Owen who is originally from Neath, was at Swansea City for most of his youth career, before signing for Salford City in 2019. After two seasons at the League two club, Owen was released in July 2021. The attacking full back also spent a short pre-season stint at the Martyrs in 2018/19.

KEYON REFFELL – Keyon rejoined the Martyrs in October 2021 after a lengthy spell out of the game due to injury. Keyon was at the club from 2015-2017, before signing for Hereford and later, Barry Town United. Keyon also had a spell at Kidderminster harriers before joining the Martyrs in 2015.

CURTIS JEMMET-HUTSON – Curtis signed for the Martyrs in November 2021 from Redditch United. Curtis, who is a full Barbados International, has played for Barry Town & Penybont in the Cymru Premier, followed by a spell at Redditch United most recently.

ELI PHIPPS – Eli initially signed ahead of the 2020/21 season, however due to the mothball decision, he left to join

Cardiff City. Dean Clarke then resigned the striker in July 2021. Eli has also spent time at Cardiff City, Colchester United, Welling United, Weston Super Mare, Barry Town United & Penybont FC.

ALEX JOHN – Alex joined the Martyrs during the pre-season of 2021, after his release from Yeovil Town. Alex, who is originally from the Cynon Valley, spent 3 years at Yeovil, including a loan spell during that period at EFL Championship team, Hull City. Also had a brief spell with Gosport Borough on loan in 2019/20.

LEWIS POWELL – Striker, Lewis, signed for the Martyrs in November 2021. Joined from Larkhall Athletic. Has a large amount of experience in the Southern League with spells at Mangotsfield United, Weston Super Mare, Taunton Town & Chippenham Town.

ELIOT RICHARDS – Eliot re-joined the Martyrs for his third spell in December 2021. Eliot has previously had two spells at the club making over 100 appearances. Eliot left Barnet in the summer of 2021 due to injury. Has experience right through the English pyramid with Bristol Rovers, Tranmere Rovers, Weston Super Mare & Hereford FC.

FRAZER THOMAS – Thomas, 18, was released by Cardiff at the end of the

2020/21 season. Thomas joined Cardiff as a youngster and rose through the academy sides. Thomas, who is an attacking midfielder, spent pre-season with the Martyrs before signing in August 2021.

ELLIS HIBBERT - Ellis Hibbert was a product of the Swansea City academy system before departing in 2021. After a successful trial at the Martyrs during the pre-season of 2021, the young player signed on August 31st 2021. An exciting prospect for Martyrs fans to keep an eye on.

JOE WOODIWISS - Joined in January 2022 on loan until end of season from Newport County. Young ball playing centre-back who signed his first pro-contract with Newport County in June 2021.

KARNELL CHAMBERS - The explosive forward has had spells in the National League South & North with Gloucester City & Chippenham Town respectively. As well as featuring for Yate Town & Cinderford Town. Joined in January 2022.

JAMES PARRY - Fullback, Parry, began his career at Newport County AFC before going on to make over 150 Welsh League appearances, including spells at Port Talbot Town, Carmarthen, Goytre FC (Gwent), Afan Lido, Llanelli and Goytre United.

LUKE CUMMINGS - Cummings began his career at Cardiff City as a teenager, before featuring for several topflight Welsh Premier League clubs including Neath, Carmarthen Town and Barry Town United. Signed on loan in January 2022.

JACK EVANS - Signed March 2022. Wales U21 International (14 Caps) who left Swansea City in 2020, before joining Newport County. Had a brief spell playing Cyprus, before joining Penybont in the Cymru Premier for the first part of the 2021/22 season.





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HEAD 2 HEAD



THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE

GAMES
PLAYED

32

32

GAMES
PLAYED

WON

20

3

WON

DRAWN

6

7

DRAWN

LOST

6

22

LOST

POINTS

66

16

POINTS



LEAGUE POSITION - 4th

FORM (Last 6 matches) - P 6, W 5, D 0, L 1, F 15, A 6, GD +9, PTS 15

FORM (Last 4 at home) - P 4, W 4, D 0, L 0, F 10, A 3, GD +7, PTS 12

HOME & AWAY POINTS % - HOME 61%, AWAY 39%

Taunton Town are ranked 2nd in the league in scoring having scored sixty-six goals so far this season and are ranked 4th in defending, having conceded thirty-three goals so far in the 2021/22 season.

MERTHYR
TOWN FC

LEAGUE POSITION - 21st

FORM (Last 6 matches) - P 6, W 1, D 1, L 4, F 4, A 10, GD -6, PTS 4

FORM (Last 4 away) - P 4, W 1, D 1, L 2, F 4, A 6, GD -2, PTS 4

HOME & AWAY POINTS % - HOME 31%, AWAY 69%

Merthyr Town are ranked 21st in the league in scoring having scored thirty-one goals so far this season and are ranked 21st in defending, having conceded seventy-one goals so far in the 2021/22 season.

Statistics courtesy of www.soccerstats.com



MATCH REPORT

SALISBURY TAUNTON TOWN

Half Time: 0 **1**

Half Time: 0 **2**

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE, PREMIER SOUTH - SATURDAY 5th MARCH 2022

VENUE: THE RAYMOND McENHILL STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 588

It was a good day all round as the Peacocks recorded their first ever win at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium. FA Cup meetings in 1997 and 2003 against predecessors Salisbury City had seen Town beaten which had been the same outcome in three of their four visits in the Southern League since 2016, with just a single point gained in 2018. However that hoodoo was finally put to rest as they battled to a crucial albeit ugly victory in the race for promotion to the National League South.

Jared Lewington returned to the starting line-up in place of Dan Sullivan, the only change from the previous game at Harrow which had signalled the end of the Peacocks' superb run of twelve successive competitive victories. Getting back into the winning groove was therefore important to maintain hopes of Step 2 football next season although the early action on a chilly

afternoon in Wiltshire was mundane with nothing much happening at all. A Calvin Brooks' cross was met by Josh Fawole's overhead attempt which Will Buse punched clear in the home side's first real attack while it was 16 minutes before Town posted something at the other end, Lewington turning on the edge of the box, but his shot lacked power and was easily gathered by keeper Patrick O'Flaherty.

Opportunities remained scarce as the game plodded along. Ross Stearn found Toby Holmes out wide but the ball into the middle picked out no yellow shirt while the Whites were similarly restricted. Fawole lifted an effort forward which was collected by Buse and a tricky run from Antonio Diaz past a couple of men ended with a blocked shot before Devon Arnold was found in space on the right, his cross being safely held by Buse.

The Peacocks then provided the best two efforts of the first period as the interval beckoned. Stearn's knockdown was curled agonizingly wide by Jay Foulston's half-volley and then Lewington fired a shot against the post from 12 yards four minutes before the break after Nick Grimes' driven cross had been cleared to him. Fawole headed wide from a Charlie Davis cross on a late Salisbury break to conclude a forgettable first half.

Stearn fired well wide from distance when the action resumed before Town grabbed the lead after 56 minutes. A Lloyd James free kick was delivered in from the left, Jake Wannell glanced his header off the post and the ball rebounded into the net off Fawole under pressure from Ben Adelsbury. A scrappy goal but they all count and just the tonic Town needed. However the celebrations were short lived when the Whites were awarded a dubious penalty just three minutes later. Diaz won a challenge with Zac Smith before falling down in the box akin to a ballet dancer being hit by a lettuce leaf. Referee Harris pointed to the spot and Davis rifled home down the middle to bring the sides level.

Backed by a vocal travelling support who outsang the home crowd, the Peacocks wasted no time in regaining the advantage. Appeals for a handball from Lewington's header were ignored while Holmes' effort was blocked before defensive rock Wannell became the hero at the other end with the winner from another set piece, a James corner from the left being buried by his header at the far post on 63 minutes.

Dan Sullivan immediately replaced Holmes as Town dug in to make sure there would be no more alarms. A spell of pressure from the hosts featured Darren Mullings whose shot was parried by Buse, then Mullings again made progress in the box, but his effort hit a body. The visitors were defending well though and might have added to their lead at the opposite end. One attack ended with a succession of efforts being blocked before Joe Budd, who had replaced Stearn, was brought down, Foulston striking the free kick over the top. James' curling ball in from the right then found Lewington who knocked it past the defender but sliced the wrong side of the post. The Whites had one last throw of the dice in stoppage time when Sam Heal's cross was cleared to Brooks whose strike was deflected over for a corner which the Peacocks' dealt with to confirm the victory. It wasn't pretty but results are king as the business end of the season well and truly starts to ramp up, and with both Hayes & Yeading and Metropolitan Police losing, it proved a satisfying start to the month.





SOUTHERN LEAGUE - PREMIER SOUTH

| P | Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | +/- | PTS |
|----|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Hayes & Yeading United | 34 | 22 | 5 | 7 | 83 | 32 | +51 | 71 |
| 2 | Metropolitan Police | 35 | 21 | 7 | 7 | 60 | 37 | +23 | 70 |
| 3 | Farnborough | 32 | 21 | 5 | 6 | 63 | 38 | +25 | 68 |
| 4 | TAUNTON TOWN | 32 | 20 | 6 | 6 | 66 | 33 | +33 | 66 |
| 5 | Chesham United | 34 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 62 | 40 | +22 | 61 |
| 6 | Gosport Borough | 35 | 16 | 8 | 11 | 57 | 46 | +11 | 56 |
| 7 | Weston-super-Mare | 31 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 46 | 30 | +16 | 55 |
| 8 | Yate Town | 30 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 48 | 33 | +15 | 53 |
| 9 | Truro City | 31 | 15 | 7 | 9 | 51 | 41 | +10 | 52 |
| 10 | Poole Town | 34 | 15 | 7 | 12 | 58 | 56 | +2 | 52 |
| 11 | Walton Casuals | 34 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 46 | 50 | -4 | 50 |
| 12 | Beaconsfield Town | 35 | 13 | 5 | 17 | 58 | 71 | -13 | 44 |
| 13 | Harrow Borough | 33 | 13 | 3 | 17 | 52 | 66 | -14 | 42 |
| 14 | Hendon | 35 | 12 | 5 | 18 | 47 | 54 | -7 | 41 |
| 15 | Swindon Supermarine | 33 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 45 | 54 | -9 | 38 |
| 16 | Salisbury | 31 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 44 | 58 | -14 | 38 |
| 17 | Tiverton Town | 31 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 42 | 47 | -5 | 35 |
| 18 | Hartley Wintney | 33 | 10 | 4 | 19 | 42 | 61 | -19 | 34 |
| 19 | Kings Langley | 35 | 7 | 8 | 20 | 40 | 59 | -19 | 29 |
| 20 | Dorchester Town | 34 | 8 | 4 | 22 | 33 | 53 | -20 | 28 |
| 21 | MERTHYR TOWN | 32 | 3 | 7 | 22 | 31 | 71 | -40 | 16 |
| 22 | Wimborne Town | 30 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 27 | 71 | -44 | 15 |

- P - Position GP - Games Played W - Won L - Lost D - Drawn F - For A - Against PTS - Points -

Results - Saturday 5th March 2022

Beaconsfield Town 1-2 Farnborough
 Chesham United 4-1 Metropolitan Police
 Dorchester Town 1-3 Merthyr Town
 Gosport Borough 1-1 Hendon
 Harrow Borough 2-2 Swindon Supermarine
 Hartley Wintney 2-1 Kings Langley
 Hayes & Yeading United 0-1 Walton Casuals
 Salisbury 1-2 Taunton Town
 Truro City 2-1 Wimborne Town
 Weston-super-Mare 0-0 Poole Town
 Yate Town 1-2 Tiverton Town

Tonight's Fixtures - Tuesday 8th March 2022

7.45pm Salisbury v Tiverton Town
 7.45pm Taunton Town v Merthyr Town
 7.45pm Weston-super-Mare v Swindon Supermarine
 7.30pm Wimborne Town v Yate Town

Pitching In Southern Premier South - Top 10 Goalscorers

| Player Name | Club | Goals |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------|
| Moses Emmanuel | Hayes & Yeading United | 27 |
| Tony-James Lee | Poole Town | 25 |
| James Ewington | Harrow Borough | 22 |
| Nathan Minhas | Beaconsfield Town | 21 |
| Bradley Clayton | Chesham United | 19 |
| Francis Amartey | Hayes & Yeading United | 19 |
| Liam Ferdinand | Metropolitan Police | 18 |
| Tyler Harvey | Truro City | 17 |
| Toby Holmes | Taunton Town | 14 |
| Paul Hodges | Farnborough | 14 |

NEXT UP

At the
Cygnnet Healthcare Stadium



Saturday 12th March 2022
Kick Off 3:00pm



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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

C O L U M N

If you caught any of the the League Cup final from Wembley, you will already know the story well.

Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy had a fantastic game against Liverpool but with a few minutes of extra-time to go, the TV cameras had already picked up on Thomas Tuchel's masterplan for the penalty shoot-out.

Readying himself on the bench was stopper Kepa Arrizabalaga, who then came on before time ran out with the theory his penalty saving record would tip the balance in the Blues' favour.

Of course, we are familiar with strikers coming off the bench in the final minutes of games to specifically take a spot-kick. As England found out in the European Championship final, it doesn't always work.

And, as events would have it, the move also backfired for Chelsea. Kepa couldn't keep out any of Liverpool's 11 penalties and then blazed his over the bar to hand Jurgen Klopp's team victory.

It seemed, with the hindsight factor we all love to ignore, a crazy decision. Who knows... Mendy staying on may have yielded the same result. But the decision was a big post-match talking point.

We've seen managers try it a few times over the years. There was even a moment in this season's FA Vase when it worked to perfection for Wallingford.

Lawrie Aitchison is usually a defender by trade but had to pull on the gloves in the second round qualifying when regular stopper Sam Baldock was ruled out in the warm-up as a precautionary measure while still feeling the effects of a suspected concussion in a previous game.

After a 4-4 thriller with Bishops Cleeve, Aitchison saved two penalty shoot-out kicks and his side advanced.

It set the cogs whirring in boss Lee Matthews brain. So when the 21-year-old centre-back woke up on the morning of their first round game against Ascot United, he had a message from the gaffer telling him to bring his gloves. And not to tell anyone!

Now this story wouldn't be told if the game had ended with one side winning after the 90 minutes. Again, Wallingford staged a comeback to draw 2-2 and send the game to penalty kicks.

Aitchison swapped his outfield jersey for a spare keeper's one and got ready to stare down his opponents.

And he went even better for the Step 6 outfit, saving three times to help his side continue their Vase run.

So thinking differently and trying to be clever can work. Not that it will help Chelsea fans feel any better!

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FIXTURES

& Results

| DATE | COMP | OPPONENTS | VENUE | KO/SCORE | ATT |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| Aug 14 th | League | Wimborne Town | Away | 1-4 W | 595 |
| Aug 17 th | League | Dorchester Town | Home | 2-1 W | 526 |
| Aug 21 st | League | Metropolitan Police | Home | 0-1 L | 435 |
| Aug 28 th | League | Hayes & Yeading United | Away | 1-2 L | 253 |
| Aug 30 th | League | Truro City | Home | 2-1 W | 623 |
| Sep 4 th | FA Cup 1 st Q | Shepton Mallet | Away | 1-8 W | 362 |
| Sep 7 th | League Cup | Bideford | Away | 1-1 (2-4) W | 157 |
| Sep 11 th | League | Farnborough | Away | 3-2 L | 446 |
| Sep 14 th | League | Poole Town | Away | 2-2 D | 318 |
| Sep 18 th | FA Cup 2 nd Q | Weston-super-Mare | Away | 5-1 L | 706 |
| Sep 25 th | League | Walton Casuals | Home | 3-0 W | 331 |
| Oct 2 nd | League | Hartley Wintney | Away | 1-2 W | 175 |
| Oct 5 th | Somerset Cup | Ashton & Backwell | Home | 1-1 (4-5) L | 181 |
| Oct 9 th | League | Kings Langley | Away | 1-1 D | 285 |
| Oct 12 th | League Cup 1 st | Barnstaple Town | Home | 6-0 W | 204 |
| Oct 16 th | League | Beaconsfield Town | Home | 7-1 W | 524 |
| Oct 19 th | League | Swindon Supermarine | Away | 0-1 W | 204 |
| Oct 23 rd | League | Hendon | Away | 2-0 L | 174 |
| Oct 30 th | FAT 3 rd Q | Weston-super-Mare | Away | 3-2 L | 480 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Nov 9 th | League Cup 2 nd | Truro City | Home | 3-1 W | 317 |
| Nov 13 th | League | Yate Town | Away | 0-0 D | 295 |
| Nov 16 th | League | Weston-super-Mare | Away | 2-0 L | 691 |
| Nov 20 th | League | Gosport Borough | Home | 2-1 W | 522 |
| Nov 27 th | League | Poole Town | Home | 1-1 D | 540 |
| Nov 30 th | League Cup 3 rd | Weston-super-Mare | Away | 1-2 W | 262 |
| Dec 4 th | League | Walton Casuals | Away | 1-1 D | 165 |
| Dec 11 th | League | Hartley Wintney | Home | 2-1 W | 423 |
| Dec 18 th | League | Chesham United | Away | 1-1 D | 514 |
| Dec 21 st | League | Harrow Borough | Home | 7-1 W | 501 |
| Jan 3 rd | League | Tiverton Town | Home | 3-1 W | 1,473 |
| Jan 8 th | League | Dorchester Town | Away | 0-1 W | 389 |
| Jan 15 th | League | Wimborne Town | Home | 3-1 W | 633 |
| Jan 18 th | League Cup QF | Paulton Rovers | Home | 4-1 W | 309 |
| Jan 22 nd | League | Beaconsfield Town | Away | 0-1 W | 105 |
| Jan 29 th | League | Kings Langley | Home | 2-1 W | 619 |
| Feb 1 st | League | Salisbury | Home | 3-1 W | 507 |
| Feb 5 th | League | Merthyr Town | Away | 0-3 W | 371 |
| Feb 12 th | League | Swindon Supermarine | Home | 2-0 W | 660 |
| Feb 19 th | League | Hendon | Home | 3-1 W | 678 |
| Feb 22 nd | League Cup SF | Swindon Supermarine | Away | 1-2 W | 127 |
| Feb 26 th | League | Harrow Borough | Away | 3-2 L | 311 |
| Mar 5 th | League | Salisbury | Away | 1-2 W | 588 |
| Mar 8 th | League | Merthyr Town | Home | 7:45pm | - |
| Mar 12 th | League | Hayes & Yeading United | Home | 3:00pm | - |
| Mar 19 th | League | Chesham United | Home | 3:00pm | - |
| Mar 26 th | League | Gosport Borough | Away | 3:00pm | - |
| Apr 2 nd | League | Weston-super-Mare | Home | 3:00pm | - |
| Apr 6 th | League | Truro City | Away | 7:45pm | - |
| Apr 9 th | League | Metropolitan Police | Away | 3:00pm | - |
| Apr 18 th | League | Tiverton Town | Away | 3:00pm | - |
| Apr 23 rd | League | Farnborough | Home | 3:00pm | - |
| TBA | League | Yate Town | Home | TBA | - |



CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM REGULATIONS

Persons entering this stadium must abide by the Stadium Regulations as printed in the matchday programme and displayed on posters inside the stadium. Failure to do so may result in ejection from the premises, a ban from attending any future events and also be the subject of a football banning order. Admission to and the right remain within the stadium is strictly on condition that any person attending will adhere to the Stadium Regulations as detailed below.

1. All persons must comply with any directions given by a Steward, Club Official or Police Officer.
2. Encroachment onto the playing area, sterile area, or its adjoining parts is prohibited.
3. Climbing on any building, wall, fence or any other structure is prohibited.
4. Persons must not throw any object onto the pitch or within the spectator areas.
5. Persons must not be in possession of, and/or lighting any firework or flare.
6. Chanting or singing of an obscene, indecent, discriminatory or offensive nature is not permitted.
7. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening language.
8. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening gestures.
9. Persons must not damage or deface Club and Stadium property.
10. Persons must not damage, deface or obstruct any notice or advertisement.
11. Alcohol must not be brought into the stadium.
12. Persons must not consume alcohol that has not been purchased at Taunton Town FC.
13. Persons must not consume alcohol in any alcohol free designated areas.
14. There will be zero tolerance to alcohol abuse/misuse.
15. There will be zero tolerance to drug possession, use and abuse.
16. Smoking is permitted in the stadium except in areas designated as a No Smoking area.
17. Umbrellas are permitted within the stadium but must not be used if obstructing the view of other spectators.

Spectators must also note the following:

- A) The Club does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss or damage to vehicles or their contents, or any other personal property brought onto the Clubs premises and stadium.
- B) The Club is unable to accept any additional responsibility for minors attending matches beyond those matters covered by the Stadium Regulations.
- C) Photography and use of video including CCTV is in operation at all matches and events and may be used in any of our media channels as well as press releases.
- D) Dogs on a lead are permitted in the Stadium but they remain the sole responsibility of their owner at all times.

**THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT PERSONAL
SECURITY SEARCHES AND/OR REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANY
PERSON AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT EXPLANATION.**

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ULTIMATCH

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TONIGHT'S TEAMS

Tuesday 8th March 2022 - 7:45pm Kick-Off



Head of Football
Rob DRAY



Premier South



Manager
Dean CLARKE

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| ● Will BUSE - GK | ● ● ● | ● Jaimie COGMAN - GK | ● ● ● |
| ● Joe BUDD | ● ● ● | ● Adam DAVIES | ● ● ● |
| ● Jay FOULSTON | ● ● ● | ● James PARRY | ● ● ● |
| ● Ben ADELSBURY | ● ● ● | ● Ismail YAKUBU | ● ● ● |
| ● Nick GRIMES | ● ● ● | ● Luke CUMMINGS | ● ● ● |
| ● Jake WANNELL | ● ● ● | ● Matthew HARRIS | ● ● ● |
| ● Toby HOLMES | ● ● ● | ● Alex JOHN | ● ● ● |
| ● Dan SULLIVAN | ● ● ● | ● Kerry MORGAN | ● ● ● |
| ● Joe GUEST | ● ● ● | ● Karnell CHAMBERS | ● ● ● |
| ● Ross STEARN | ● ● ● | ● Kieran EVANS | ● ● ● |
| ● Gethyn HILL | ● ● ● | ● Curtis JEMMETT-HUTSON | ● ● ● |
| ● Zac SMITH | ● ● ● | ● Keyon REFFELL | ● ● ● |
| ● Prince HENRY | ● ● ● | ● Frazer THOMAS | ● ● ● |
| ● Ross STALEY | ● ● ● | ● Eli PHIPPS | ● ● ● |
| ● Jared LEWINGTON | ● ● ● | ● Eliot RICHARDS | ● ● ● |
| ● Ioan RICHARDS | ● ● ● | ● Owen EVANS | ● ● ● |
| ● Lloyd JAMES | ● ● ● | ● Joe WOODIWISS | ● ● ● |
| ● | ● ● ● | ● Ellis HIBBERT | ● ● ● |
| ● | ● ● ● | ● Jack EVANS | ● ● ● |
| ● | ● ● ● | ● Lewis POWELL | ● ● ● |

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Benjamin DUFFILL

Assistant Referee: Jack BROMHAM

Assistant Referee: David MIDDLETON

www.tauntontown.com