

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF TAUNTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



PEACOCKS



Saturday 6th August 2022 - KickOff 3:00pm



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1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH
Runners-Up 2018-19, Champions 2021-22

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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You Tube: Peacocks TV
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Chief Executive: Kevin Sturmey
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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
Performance Analyst: David Cohen
Sports Therapists: Anthony Cornish
Sports Masseur: Paul Edwards
Kit Manager: Karl Lindsay
Club Doctor: Dr Tim Norbury

Head Groundsman: Kevin Sturmey
Safety Officer: Roger Conway
Head Steward: Mike Parsons
Matchday Co-Ordinator: Rob Wenham
Welfare Officer: Neil White
Turnstile Manager: Jason Mayled
Stadium Announcer: Nick Rickards
Club Shop Manager: Lee Derrick
Club Shop Assistant: Catherine Herbert
Club Photographers: Colin Andrews, Ashley Harris,
Debbie Gould
Media Team: Daniel Howell, Andy Power, Josh Perkins,
Darren Harris

The Gaffer

ROB DRAY



Good afternoon and welcome back to the Cygnet Healthcare Stadium for our very first game in the National League South, which is also our first ever game at this level of non-league football, which is a fantastic achievement for this club and a testament for all of those involved on and off the pitch who have made this possible.

This is an all new experience for the club as a whole and a challenge we are very much looking forward to and will embrace this season and each and every game.

We have had a positive pre-season with a number of good results, but those don't mean anything if we don't turn up and look for a positive opening day result today as we welcome Warren Feeney and his Welling United team to Somerset.

Warren was a late season replacement at Welling as he was brought in to take over from former England Manager Peter Taylor and he managed to turn around their fortunes with a number of important results to keep them in the National League South. We know that they will be coming here today to prove that they are better than their league position last season, so we will need to do the simple things and take any chances that come our way.

With this being the 75th season for the club and the first at this step of the pyramid there are many things to celebrate, so let's begin those celebrations with three points today. Please enjoy the season and keep the faith throughout and back the boys 100%

Up the Peacocks!

Rob

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The Away End

WELLING UNITED

Welling United Football Club were founded in 1963. An incredible journey in the early years has seen the club rise from an under-15 Sunday youth team to the heights of the Football Conference where the Wings remained for a remarkable 14 years. History has proved this to be one of the most astonishing journeys in the modern football era.

The Wings are now in their eighth season in the Nationwide Conference South, now named the Blue Square Bet South, following that unbroken spell in the original Conference between 1986-2000. Originally formed in 1963 with just one youth team playing in local league football on a nearby park pitch, the club expanded its youth system before embarking on a period of Saturday football in the London Spartan League. Membership of the Athenian League and Southern League (South) followed. For the first fifteen years Welling played on a sports ground at nearby Butterfly Lane, Eltham, before taking their present ground at Park View Road, after the demise of Bexley United who at the time were members of the Southern League.

After progressing from park football to senior football in a relatively short space of time, success was to continue with three promotions within five years. Initially winning the Spartan League and then after three more seasons in the Athenian League, progression and election to Southern League rounded off a marvellous period of success. This continued after just one more season when promotion to the Southern League Premier Division was secured after the league was re-organised. In the Fifth season in this division the Wings romped to the title by a record 23 points after an incredibly exciting season and

were promptly promoted to the Conference.

Welling found life in the Conference much more of a challenge and although they were one of the most consistent sides during their fourteen year spell in non-league's top flight success in the Conference was limited to four County cup wins. Cup football produced many of the highlights during the late 80's and early 90's with six successive First Round FA cup appearances, and a Third Round appearance on one occasion at Park View Road, when Welling went out of the Cup by losing 0-1 to Blackburn Rovers.

The Wings dropped out of the top flight when they were relegated on the last day of the season in 1999/2000. After four years back in the Southern League Premier, Welling finished just high enough to qualify for the inaugural season of the newly formed Conference South with the FA restructuring the leagues so that two fed into the Conference which became Conference National.

Welling's first foray in the league in 2004 was a struggle under the guidance of former England defender Paul Parker. With the Wings languishing near the bottom for the first three months of the season Parker left the club by mutual consent.

Adrian Pennock took charge of the struggling Wings and guided the Wings to safety in 16th place. The next season was one where it was exciting to be following Welling again with notable success in the FA Cup where they lost in the First Round away to Huddersfield Town. The FA Trophy also proved rewarding where Welling drew Woking away and after a thrilling match narrowly missed out on a place in the Fourth Round when they let a 2 goal lead slip and finally went down

3-2. The Wings spent most of the season in the play-off places but a succession of draws, and a few defeats at the end of the campaign saw Welling finish the season in ninth place.

They continued their improvement with an 8th place finish, missing out on a playoff spot by four points. In that season the Wings reached the Quarter Final of the FA Trophy, which had only been managed once before in the clubs history. Grays Athletic eventually knocked the Wings out with a win at Park View Road. The final game of the season was the last for the management team of Adrian Pennock and Phil Handford who both departed.

Neil Smith replaced Pennock as manager but struggled and Welling were once again at the wrong end of the table for the first half of the season. Smith left the club and was replaced by Andy Ford who managed to keep the Wings afloat in the league that year. Joined by Jimmy Dack 2008-2009 saw Welling United become a real force in the Blue Square South. Highlights of the season included a 1-0 defeat of AFC Wimbledon, ending the eventual champions 18 game unbeaten streak, a 4-0 win over promotion hopefuls Hampton & Richmond Borough and winning the Kent Senior Cup with a 6-1 defeat of Whitstable Town in the final, the Wings' first trophy for ten years. Ford's side finished 7th, the highest ever for the Kent side in this division.

Assistant Jimmy Dack departed in the summer of 2009 and it was a disappointing start to the 09-10 campaign, with the Wings lying in 18th position after 12 games. Andy Ford then resigned from his position as 1st Team Manager on Monday 12th October 2009.

Former Welling United player Jamie Day was appointed First Team Manager in November 2009. Day selected another former Welling player Barry Ashby as his Assistant, with Dean Frost also joining from VCD Athletic as First Team Coach. The midfielder, who took charge as a Player-Manager, not only helped the Wings avoid relegation but steered them to a final position of

9th in the Blue Square South table including a 5-0 away win over bitter rivals Woking FC.

At the start of the 2010-11 season, the Wings were rocked by the news of a winding up order by HRMC on the 12th August. Given 14 weeks to pay the outstanding debt the Wings' fans showed their devotion to the club raising almost all the £60,000 needed to avoid the club going bust. Despite this they were still deducted five points by the Conference and were handed a transfer embargo lasting until March 2011.

Against all the odds, Jamie Day's side held a place in the playoff positions for the majority of the season playing wonderful attacking football. A fantastic run of results against the Wings' main rivals looked to have secured their place in the top five. However fatigue eventually caught up on the small squad and dropped points at the end of the season proved costly as the Wings missed out on the playoffs by one point. They still finished sixth, their highest position in the Conference South ever and their highest league position for ten years.

2011/12 saw the Wings climb to their highest league position for 26 years finishing third in the table and earning their first ever (and so far only) venture into post-season football. After reaching the playoff final with a 2-1 aggregate win over Sutton United, the Wings were defeated by their arch rivals Dartford by a score of 1-0 at Princes Park meaning another year in the Conference South.

That Season saw Welling United finally regain their place in the Conference Premier after Jamie Day's team set a new Conference South league record of 12 consecutive wins and overcame a 10 point deficit by runaway leaders Salisbury City to win the league by four clear points.

In their first season back the enjoyed a comfortable season and would have finished higher had they not had a poor run at the end of the season with safety already guaranteed.

However, that proved to be the pinnacle. After all seemed to be moving along nicely, a vacancy arose at Ebbsfleet and Day, along with his management team of Barry Ashby and Dean Frost, found the lure too great and departed.

Jody Brown came and went, then Loui Fazakerley took over the reins. Although Welling survived that season by the skin of their teeth there was no escape the following season and they finished rock bottom.

Towards the end of that season Mark Goldberg bought into the club and also took on the role as team manager. Back in the Conference South, but now known as the National League South, Welling again struggled and Goldberg stood down to concentrate on off field affairs as he looked to re-build the whole structure of the club.

Having finished a disappointing season but safe from relegation, and with Goldberg now chairman, former player Jamie Coyle was appointed manager. Last season was a vast improvement although it tailed off towards the end and Welling missed out on a play-off position.

Following a board meeting, Coyle was relieved of his post and Steve King was invited to be the manager for what is hoped to be a new dawn for the club.

A successful season was to follow with the Wings finishing in 3rd place and top of the home form table; meaning that the club had qualified for the playoffs for only the second time in its history. In the semi-final at Park View Road, Welling defeated Chelmsford City 3-2 courtesy of a 96th minute Brendan Kiernan penalty, thus setting up a draw in the final away at Woking. The hosts won the game 1-0, which proved to be King's final game in charge as manager as he was replaced in June 2019 by Goldberg, who returned for his second spell in the dugout. Bradley Quinton became the club's new manager in January 2020.

A year later and Quinton was dismissed and replaced by former Gillingham manager Steve

Lovell with Tristan Lewis returning as his second man. In September 2020, Lovell and Lewis resigned after a poor start to the campaign and were replaced with Peter Taylor.

Taylor was announced as the new manager on the 28th September 2021, but on the 13th March 2022 after 166 days in charge of the club was relieved of his duties following a 1-1 draw against Bath City, four points above the relegation zone, with bottom club Billericay Town having a game in hand over Welling.

A day later following the departure of Taylor the club announced former Northern Ireland international Warren Feeney as the new manager. Feeney managed 5 wins and 2 draws from his 13 games in charge at the back end of last season which was enough for Welling United to retain their Vanarama National League South status for the 2022-23 season, with Billericay Town relegated to the Isthmian League.



ONES TO WATCH



Aaron Barnes

After coming up through the Arsenal academy he moved to Charlton Athletic and made one firstteam appearance. He made one appearance for Torquay United on loan before being transferred to Colchester United who sent him straight back to Torquay again on loan.

He then signed for Dulwich Hamlet before signing for Welling United before the start of the 2021/22 season and is now the club's longest serving player.



Tyrique Hyde

Former Dagenham and Redbridge and Colchester United midfielder, he impressed at Dartford on loan from the latter before re-joining them after a season at Dulwich Hamlet. He spent a short spell on loan at Hemel Hempstead Town before returning to Princes Park for the remainder of the season.



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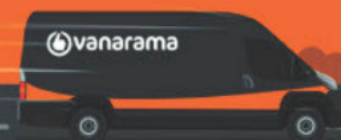
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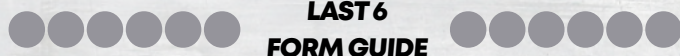
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LAST 6
FORM GUIDE

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PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY - SATURDAY 30th JULY 2022

VENUE: THE CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 321

Pre-season concluded for the Peacocks as they gained victory over their Devon visitors who will be making their debut in the Southern League this coming season.

The game, rapidly arranged on Friday due to the late withdrawal of Bristol City U23's, began openly with Jay Foulston volleying beyond the far post from Lloyd James' diagonal pass and Nick McCootie posting two efforts, glancing wide from an Ollie Chamberlain cross and an acrobatic volley also missing the target after Jake Wannell had weaved into the box. At the other end, Will Buse in the Peacocks' goal did well to hold a deflected shot from Aamir Daniels and Ben Cross fired over from range.

The opening goal arrived on 12 minutes, Foulston's pass finding Dylan Morgan who nicely rounded keeper Josh Oak to slot into the

empty net. After James had struck the post with a free kick, Town doubled their lead on 24 minutes when Morgan found Harry Warwick and he cut inside the defender from the right to drill home a great finish beyond Oak for his 6th goal of pre-season. Warwick then twisted, turned, and twisted again to get in a shot which forced the Lambs' keeper into a diving save.

The visitors were playing some decent stuff going forward themselves and after Buse had held a shot from Liam Prynn, they reduced the deficit on 36 minutes through Josh Grant who made space on the left to rifle his effort across Buse and into the net via the post. The Peacocks replied quickly by adding to their lead four minutes before half time. Nick McCootie's chipped cross from the left came off the bar and Luke Ward returned

the ball into the middle from the opposite side for Morgan to tuck home for his second goal of the afternoon.

Tavistock again pulled a goal back two minutes into the second half when a hooked ball over the top caught the Town defence out and Alex Battle ran forward to curl a fine finish into the corner. The visitors continued to ask questions as they looked to cut through, Buse having to field shots from Joe O'Connor and Prynn before the Peacocks hit the woodwork for the second time, Nat Jarvis getting on the end of Will

Tunnickliff's cross but finding the crossbar. Jared Lewington also dragged a shot wide as play became less fluent following substitutions and tactical changes.

A dangerous run from Prynn saw the Lambs' striker fire narrowly over before two goals in the final stages from Lewington saw Town home. Ross Staley's cross from the left was headed in on 84 minutes and after the Peacocks' striker had prodded wide from another Staley cross, he got ahead of his man to convert Chamberlain's ball at the near post.





SOUTHERN LEAGUE - PREMIER SOUTH 2021-22 FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	TAUNTON TOWN	42	28	7	7	83	42	+41	91
2	Hayes & Yeading United	42	26	8	8	100	39	+61	86
3	Farnborough	42	26	7	9	73	44	+29	85
4	Metropolitan Police	42	24	9	9	72	46	+26	81
5	Weston-super-Mare	42	23	9	10	72	41	+31	78
6	Chesham United	42	22	11	9	80	50	+30	77
7	Yate Town	42	21	9	12	66	48	+18	72
8	Truro City	42	20	10	12	62	54	+8	70
9	Gosport Borough	42	19	9	14	65	56	+9	66
10	Poole Town	42	19	7	16	74	69	+5	64
11	Walton Casuals	42	16	10	16	53	61	-8	58
12	Swindon Supermarine	42	16	9	17	63	63	0	57
13	Tiverton Town	42	15	8	19	61	63	-2	53
14	Harrow Borough	42	15	7	20	62	77	-15	52
15	Salisbury	42	13	9	20	49	75	-26	48
16	Hendon	42	14	5	23	58	70	-12	47
17	Beaconsfield Town	42	13	7	22	70	92	-22	46
18	Hartley Wintney	42	13	5	24	56	75	-19	44
19	Dorchester Town	42	12	5	25	41	58	-17	41
20	Kings Langley	42	9	10	23	49	68	-19	37
21	Merthyr Town	42	6	8	28	47	94	-47	26
22	Wimborne Town	42	4	7	31	35	106	-71	19

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



VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2021-22 FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Maidstone United	40	27	6	7	80	38	+42	87
2	Dorking Wanderers	40	25	6	9	101	53	+48	81
3	Ebbsfleet United	40	24	4	12	78	53	+25	76
4	Dartford	40	21	11	8	75	42	+33	74
5	Oxford City	40	19	12	9	71	46	+25	69
6	Eastbourne Borough	40	17	9	14	73	67	+6	60
7	Chippenham Town	40	16	11	13	61	50	+11	59
8	Havant & Waterlooville	40	15	12	13	58	55	+3	57
9	St Albans City	40	15	7	18	55	58	-3	52
10	Dulwich Hamlet	40	13	12	15	63	60	+3	51
11	Hampton & Richmond Borough	40	14	9	17	56	56	0	51
12	Hungerford Town	40	15	4	21	59	68	-9	49
13	Slough Town	40	12	13	15	51	69	-18	49
14	Concord Rangers	40	13	10	17	53	72	-19	49
15	Hemel Hempstead Town	40	13	9	18	49	72	-23	48
16	Tonbridge Angels	40	11	12	17	43	53	-10	45
17	Braintree Town	40	11	12	17	38	54	-16	45
18	Bath City	40	13	6	21	45	68	-23	45
19	Chelmsford City	40	9	14	17	46	53	-7	41
20	WELLING UNITED	40	10	8	22	46	87	-41	38
21	Billericay Town	40	9	9	22	41	68	-27	36

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

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

From the very moment Leah Williamson proudly held aloft the Euro 2022 trophy for England in front of a packed-out Wembley crowd on Sunday, the 'L' word has captured the imagination of young people throughout the grass roots game.

The 'Lionesses' stole the hearts of a nation after their nerve-jangling 2-1 victory over Germany ended England's 56-year wait for a major trophy, watched by an estimated TV audience of 20 million.

But it's another 'L' word, Legacy, which has taken the euphoria of victory to a whole new level and ignited interest in the women's game like never before.

Just hours after England's victory parade at London's Trafalgar Square on Monday, in front of thousands of joyous fans, new figures revealed unprecedented increases in young Brits looking to get involved.

Analysis of Google search data revealed that searches for 'football lessons' exploded by 665% in the United Kingdom, while searches for 'Girl's football team' rose by 3.167%.

"The Lionesses' historic win has undoubtedly uplifted and inspired the nation, which is only further confirmed by these findings," said a spokesman for sports and fitness experts BarBend.

"The sport, which is beloved by the British public, not only improves our technical capabilities but is also one of the most enjoyable sports to play, reliant on team bonding and communication. With support and admiration for the Lionesses appearing to not die down any time soon, it will be incredibly interesting to see if these figures translate into sign-ups for football lessons up and down the country."

With the growth of the women's game escalated to these new heights, all eyes will naturally be on local non-League clubs to help provide the platform for this new legacy to take hold.

Undoubtedly, Non-League football's most successful women's team is Lewes, whose first team currently play in the Women's Championship.

The women's affiliate of the Isthmian League club, which prides itself on its 100% fan and community ownership, was established in 2002 and is growing by the year, thanks to their

Elite Pathway schemes.

Lewes hit the headlines nationally in 2017 when they became the first professional or semi-professional football club to pay its women's team the same as its men's team as part of their Equality FC initiative. To this day, they remain the only club to issue equal pay.

In last week's NLP, we told how National League club Bromley were leading the support for the Lionesses with their extensive community programme.

Including the youth section and academy, the Ravens have around 200 women and girls playing each week, starting from the 4-11 year-olds Wildcats, the 12-16 year olds in The Squad, and the Bromley Belles, a fun recreational women's side which has seen a growth in participants from 12 to 50.

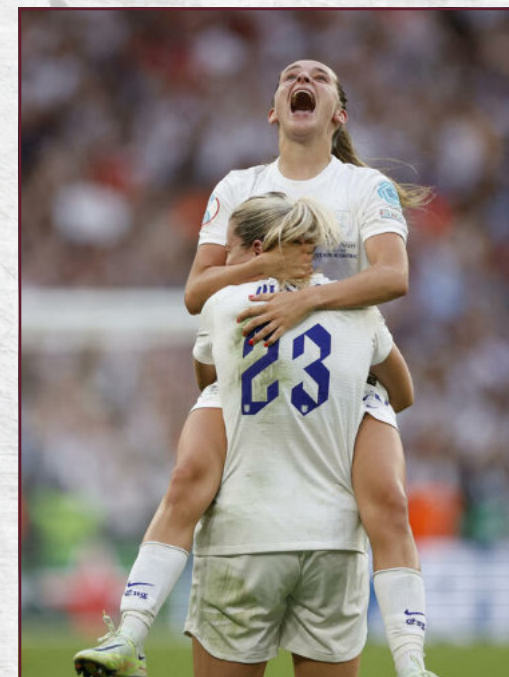
"I hope it has given people the taste and changed attitudes towards women playing football," said the club's a full-time women and girls' development officer, Andrea Ellis.

"You've got to see it to believe it. Now we know young girls are seeing it. There are men wearing shirts with women's names on the back – Williamson on the back, or [Millie] Bright. That fills my heart with joy, it's amazing.

"The Euros has ignited something. I'd like to think people will be actively seeking to get on the pitch. That has a knock-on effect – more women get involved, become coaches, more teams. It has a massive domino effect on the whole game."

It's clear the 'L' word is the driving force behind a new community phenomenon about to sweep the nation.

'Love', 'Lionesses' or 'Legacy', take your pick, but one thing's for sure it's provided the perfect fillip to the start 2022-23 season at all levels of the game – and Non-League clubs can take full advantage.



2022-23 FIXTURES & RESULTS

AUGUST '22

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
6th	HOME	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	3:00pm	-
13th	AWAY	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	3:00pm	-
16th	AWAY	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
20th	HOME	DARTFORD	VNLS	3:00pm	-
27th	AWAY	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-
29th	HOME	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	7:45pm	-

SEPTEMBER '22

3rd	AWAY	HUNGERFORD TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
10th	HOME	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	3:00pm	-
13th	AWAY	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	7:45pm	-
24th	HOME	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-
27th	HOME	BATH CITY	VNLS	7:45pm	-

OCTOBER '22

8th	AWAY	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	3:00pm	-
15th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	3:00pm	-
22nd	AWAY	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	-
25th	AWAY	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	7:45pm	-
29th	HOME	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	3:00pm	-

NOVEMBER '22

5th	AWAY	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	3:00pm	-
8th	HOME	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	7:45pm	-
12th	HOME	CHESHUNT	VNLS	3:00pm	-
26th	AWAY	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-

DECEMBER '22

3rd	HOME	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
6th	AWAY	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
10th	AWAY	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	3:00pm	-
13th	HOME	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
26th	HOME	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	3:00pm	-

JANUARY '23

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
1st	AWAY	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	3:00pm	-
7th	HOME	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	3:00pm	-
14th	AWAY	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
21st	AWAY	DARTFORD	VNLS	3:00pm	-
28th	HOME	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-

FEBRUARY '23

4th	AWAY	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	3:00pm	-
11th	HOME	HUNGERFORD TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
18th	AWAY	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	3:00pm	-
21st	HOME	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	7:45pm	-
25th	HOME	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	3:00pm	-

MARCH '23

4th	AWAY	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	3:00pm	-
7th	HOME	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
11th	AWAY	CHESHUNT	VNLS	3:00pm	-
18th	HOME	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
25th	AWAY	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-

APRIL '23

1st	HOME	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	3:00pm	-
7th	AWAY	BATH CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-
10th	HOME	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
15th	AWAY	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	3:00pm	-
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	-
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-



THE UNTOLD GAME

- Eternal Hope -

Hope. It is the word that makes most sense of the beautiful game, of why we spend hours and days and weeks of our existence obsessing over something that, for the vast majority of us, if we're being really honest with ourselves, has little impact on our lives. And the beginning of a new season is where the hope is at it's highest. Old heroes have moved on, the failures and successes of last year are in the past, and now we look forward. New players to deify, new trophies to be chased, new records to be set. Each and every one of us knows, right up until kick off on the opening weekend of the season, that this is going to be our year. And, depending on whom you support, that knowledge can last anywhere from 60 seconds to 60 matches into the campaign. But, however it goes, every summer we reset, we get excited, and we believe again. There's comfort in that.

So now we come to the beginning of our new season, and we want to sustain that feeling, feed the hope, for as long as possible, before the nights close in and the points are dropped and the rain hammers down. It won't take long for most of us to be brought back down to earth, but we all know the importance of maintaining the hope for at least one more week, with a good opening day performance.

Leeds certainly know a thing or two about opening day performances, having put together a run of twenty consecutive

opening day wins, from the heady days of Howard Wilkinson's return to the top flight in 1991, to the depths (by their standards at least) of League One in 2009, where Simon Grayson oversaw a victorious start to a season that would end with promotion. That run lasted through thirteen different managers, a league title, a Champions League semi-final, two relegations and the real threat of the club going out of business, the longest in the Football League. And yet, throughout all that turmoil, they kept the opening day a safe haven where, however disastrous it had been, fans could go home believing they were on the road to recovery.

For longer runs than that, we have to look to more consistently successful teams, and we have to look beyond England. Few are more consistently successful throughout Europe than Celtic.

The Glaswegians put together a run of 23 opening day victories, beginning with a 5-0 demolition of Dunfermline in 1998, a Craig Burley hat trick doing most of the damage, and ending only last season with a last minute John Souttar winner for Hearts. For their part, Celtic went through twelve different managers on their run, securing 15 league titles and ten Scottish Cups, as well as losing the UEFA Cup final in 2003. Certainly, opening day victory augurs more success in Scotland than it does in England.

But even a run of 23 opening day victories

isn't the longest. For that we need to head to the Mediterranean, and the Old Lady, where Juventus reign supreme.

On the opening day of 1982, Juventus, complete with Dino Zoff and Michel Platini, travelled to relative upstarts Sampdoria. The home side were bolstered by a forward line of Roberto Mancini and Trevor Francis, fed by Arsenal legend Liam Brady, but it was fullback Mauro Ferroni who scored the only goal of the game in the 67th minute. That would be the last opening day that Juventus failed to win for nearly three decades, finally falling to defeat in 2010 to Bari, the single goal coming, ironically, from former Celtic player Massimo Donati. He was just 18 months old the previous time Juventus had failed to win in the first match of the season.

The Old Lady got through thirteen managers in that time, counting both

Giovanni Trapattoni and Marcello Lippi twice, and only won seven league titles in that time, with two Italian Cups. But they also counted two European Cups, a Cup Winners Cup, three UEFA Cups and an Intertoto Cup in that time, so it's not all bad.

So here's hoping for an opening day victory to kick on to success. It might not lead to Champions League glory, but we can dream.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn

Martyn Green





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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TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 6th August 2022 - KickOff 3:00pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Warren Feeney

Jack Bycroft - GK	●	●	Sam Jackson - GK
Lloyd Irish - GK	●	●	Prince Adegoke - GK
Joe Budd	●	●	Rob Howard
Jay Foulston	●	●	Chi Ezenolim
Nick Grimes	●	●	Taylor Curran
Dan Ball	●	●	Manny Parry
Jake Wannell	●	●	Taofiq Olomowewe
Ollie Chamberlain	●	●	Ashley Nzala
Lloyd James	●	●	Tyrique Hyde
Nat Jarvis	●	●	Antony Papadopolous
Nick McCootie	●	●	Medy Elito
Joe Guest	●	●	Landi Kurti
Harry Warwick	●	●	Stefan Payne
Ross Stearn	●	●	Rob Strachan
Ioan Richards	●	●	Palace Francis
Zac Smith	●	●	James Dunne
Ross Staley	●	●	Cameron Andrews
Jared Lewington	●	●	Amadou Kassarate
Dave Sims-Burgess	●	●	Taylor Maloney
Will Tunnicliff	●	●	Aaron Barnes
Lee Lucas	●	●	
	●	●	
	●	●	

Match Officials

Referee: Ross Martin

Assistant Referee: James Long Assistant Referee: Steven Swan