

ISSUE
2



PEACOCKS



Saturday 20th August 2022 - KickOff 3:00pm



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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, 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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Company Registration No: 1582031
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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 Sturme
Safety Officer: Roger Conway
Head Steward: Mike Parsons
Welfare Officer: Neil White
Turnstile Manager: Jason Mayled
Stadium Announcer: Nick Rickards
Club Shop Manager: Lee Derrick
Club Photographers: Colin Andrews, Ashley Harris,
Debbie Gould
Media Team: Daniel Howell, Andy Power, Josh Perkins,
Darren Harris, Jake Crump, Paul Smith

The Gaffer

ROB DRAY



Good afternoon and welcome to the Cygnet Healthcare Stadium to all the noisy Peacock fans and to our visiting fans, officials, management and players of one of the fancied teams for promotion this season, Dartford. We hope you enjoy your time with us in Somerset today.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to establish just where we are at present and how we shape up with some of the better teams at this level. We know we will be in for a stiff test today, but nothing that we haven't come across previously.

We started life in the National League South with a point at home, with a goalless draw here against Welling United and followed that up with back to back 1-0 defeats. Obviously this isn't exactly how we had wanted to start the season, but we are new to this level of football and we are learning to adapt to this level as we go along. We haven't been blown out of the water in any of the games and have been very much in every game so far, we just need to be better and more clinical in the final third as we are coming up against very experienced players that have played at the level for many years and we are still adapting.

It certainly doesn't get any easier with the visit of Dartford today followed by another lengthy journey to St. Albans next Saturday.

Your support so far this season has been unbelievable, please continue that support and we will give you something to cheer about.

Up the Peacocks!

Rob

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The Away End

DARTFORD

Dartford Football Club was formed in 1888 by members of the Dartford Working Men's Club, initially playing only friendlies. The club soon was entering cup competitions, reaching the final of the Kent Senior Cup in 1894. Following this, Dartford were founder members of the Kent League for the 1894-95 season, and entered the FA Cup for the first time the season after.

Two seasons later, Dartford became founder members of the Southern League Division Two, winning the Championship at the first attempt. The club moved between the Southern and Kent Leagues several times over the following seasons, dropping to the West Kent League in the 1900s, following financial difficulties. Around the same time the club found its first permanent home ground, Summers Meadow in Lowfield Street, obtained on a long lease.

In 1908-09 Dartford won the West Kent League and Cup 'double' and rejoined the Kent League where they remained until the outbreak of the First World War. In 1913 Dartford undertook a short tour of Norway culminating in a 6-1 win over a Norway XI.

Darts continued their association with the Kent League, winning the league cup in 1923-24, before switching to the Southern League in time for the 1926-27 season. At the start of the 1930s the Dartford Board appointed the successful Kettering Town manager, Bill Collier, as manager. The Scot continued his pattern of success with Dartford and won trophies by the shoal during the decade leading up to the 1939-45 war.

Dartford won the Southern League Eastern section title in 1930-31 and 1931-32 (missing a hat-

trick by just one point the season after) and the overall Championship of the League was won with victories over the Western Section winners Exeter City Reserves 7-2 away and Yeovil & Petters United 2-1 at home respectively. In county football Dartford won the Kent Senior Cup four times in five seasons and the Kent Senior Shield three times.

In addition Dartford gained a reputation nationally by becoming the first club outside the Football League to reach the FA Cup Third Round Proper in successive seasons. In 1935-36 Dartford lost to a star-studded Derby County (then second in Division One) by 3-2 at the Baseball Ground having at one time led by 2-0. Leading player Fred Dell was transferred to West Ham United for a reported £2,000 immediately after the game. The following season saw Dartford lose 0-1 at home to Darlington at the same stage. Towards the end of the decade Mr Collier, who had brought a distinctive Scottish flavour to Dartford, resigned to take over a business in Scotland and the period was seen out in a comparatively quiet vein.

For a decade and a half following the 1939-1945 war, Dartford had little to show for its efforts except for a sparkling win over Bromley in Kent Senior Cup in 1947. At the time, Bromley vied with Bishop Auckland as the premier amateur club in the land and the Lillywhites look a 2-0 lead in the final before Dartford struck back with three goals to lift the trophy. Included in the Dartford line-up that day was Ted Croker, later to become the Secretary of the Football Association. Soon after this win Dartford transferred Riley Cullum and Fred Alexander to Charlton Athletic for £6,000, which wiped out the club's debts entirely.

Dartford's first post-war manager had been Warney Cresswell (ex-Everton and England) but poor results led to him being rapidly replaced by Bill Moss who gradually put some stability into the club's playing performances. In the late 1950s the Southern League was totally reorganised and Dartford spent most of the ensuing twenty seasons in the Premier Division. The key managers of the era were George Green, Alf Ackerman and Ernie Morgan, each of whom bring extensive Football League experience to the club resulting in a reasonable level of respectability to the playing side affairs.

In the early 1970s Dartford appeared in four successive Kent Senior Cup finals, winning the first and the last. Around this time, the club acquired the services of ex-Bolton Wanderers and England winger Doug Holden as manager. Doug laid down the foundations of the team, which won the Southern League Championship in 1973-74, though they failed to gain election to the Football League. This is their most recent serious attempt to gain Football League status.

Holden left before the start of that season and was replaced by Ernie Morgan who grafted three or four quality players on to Holden's squad and steered the Darts to the Southern League title and a place in the FA Trophy final at Wembley. For the next few seasons Dartford drifted along and just failed to clinch a spot in the newly formed Alliance Premier League (now the Football Conference). Even though the period was barren by Dartford's standards, the club did win the Southern League Cup for the first time in 1976-77.

Then came the 1980s, a period dominated by two managers with contrasting styles: John Still and Peter Taylor. By winning the Southern Division of the Southern League in 1980-81 Dartford had gained a short-lived place in the Alliance Premier League. Relegated after just one season but having tasted life at the top of the semi-professional game Dartford wanted more. John Still who had led Leytonstone/Ilford to a clean sweep of trophies, was the man for the job, in 1983-84 he steered Dartford to a fourth Southern

League Championship and a resultant return to the Alliance Premier League. This time Darts stayed two seasons finishing third in 1984-85. Another periodic crisis was looming, and with Still departing in February 1986, Dartford were relegated once again.

In summer 1986 former Tottenham and England winger Peter Taylor took charge of the club. In the four seasons of his reign Dartford were never out of the top four in the Southern League Premier Division, won the Southern Cup twice (and were denied a unique hat-trick by VS Rugby in the 1989-90 final), the Southern League Championship Trophy twice, the Kent Senior Cup twice and reached the FA Trophy semi-finals twice. In each of his four seasons at Dartford the team scored over one hundred goals - a feat unmatched before or since. In addition Taylor saw average attendances rise from around 450 to almost 1,000.

In the wake of the Bradford City stadium fire and the Hillsborough disaster, Dartford, like so many clubs, needed to either relocate or upgrade their current facilities with the Board going for the latter option. Large sums of money were spent on planning and design fees, which burdened a manageable financial deficit with crippling interest charges.

At the same time Maidstone United, who had sold their own ground, needed a suitable home to launch the ill-fated foray into the Football League and the Dartford board agreed to let Maidstone ground-share at Watling Street, the rent income providing a welcome boost for finances. The ground share began at the start of the 1988-89 season, at the end of which Maidstone reached the Football League as Football Conference champions.

However, Maidstone United went bankrupt and had to resign from the league in August 1992, most of their cash being taken up to gain the eagerly sought Football League place. Ground improvements, which Maidstone United had paid for, were sold to Dartford at a cost (around

£500,000), which pushed Darts' debts beyond manageable proportions. Watling Street was sold to pay off creditors and Dartford withdrew from the Southern League four games into the 1992-93 season.

The club's Supporters' Association, around 400 strong, came to the rescue. A private limited liability company was incorporated in November 1992 to manage affairs which meant, primarily, keeping the Youth team operating, an action which was rewarded when the Youth team beat Maidstone Invicta (the club rising out of the ashes of the old United Club) in the final of the John Ullman cup by 2-0 at Gravesend & Northfleet before a gate of 562. The contributing existence of the Youth team enabled Dartford to maintain both its Senior status and Full Membership of the Football Association. In February 1993 former player Tony Burman was appointed Manager and with the club being offered a ground-share arrangement by Cray Wanderers Dartford were able to make a successful application for membership of the Kent League. Spurred on by an average attendance of well over 300 Dartford finished that first season in sixth position.

With a view to the future, Dartford negotiated a ground-share with Erith and Belvedere and played home games at the Park View ground from the 1994-95 season. The club finished mid-table, but did reach the final of the Kent League Cup.

The following season saw Dartford involved in a season-long battle with Furness for the Division One title. Dartford lost only one league game all season. It came at the last fixture of the season - away to Furness - to decide which of the two teams would win promotion. The home side held on to a 1-1 draw to deny Dartford the title on goal difference. Dartford were winners of the Kent Senior Trophy, having beaten Chatham Town 3-0 at Welling United's ground, whilst the newly formed reserves team carried off a (South London Federation) League and Cup 'double' under the guidance of former Dart Gary Julians.

In May 1996, Dartford gained promotion to the Southern League, exactly one hundred years after the club first entered that competition. Manager Tony Burman was forced to resign in December due to business commitments but the club quickly promoted reserve team manager Gary Julians to the role.

In September 1997 a disastrous fire at Erith & Belvedere's Park View ground put the club's future and standing with the Southern League into serious doubt. A new ground sharing arrangement was made with Purfleet in time for the 1998-99 season. The season saw the Youth team, under the guidance of Grant Spelling and Simon Halsey, win the Northern Section title after a play-off penalty shoot-out with Welling United and reach the finals of the Kent Youth League Cup and Kent County Cup.

The 1999-2000 season saw the Darts reach the semi-final of the Kent Senior Cup and the reserves reach the same stage of the Kent Intermediate cup. The club remained in the Southern League for the following three seasons, with the best performance in 1999-2000 when the club finished eighth.

The club moved closer to the borough with a new arrangement to play home matches at Gravesend & Northfleet's (now Ebbsfleet United) Stonebridge Road ground from the 2000-2001 season. In November 2001, the club parted company with Manager Gary Julians and Coach Micky Crower. Former manager and player Tony Burman returned to the club as caretaker manager to be assisted by former captain and player Paul Sawyer. With Dartford languishing in the relegation zone, Tommy Sampson, who had played over 200 games for Dartford during the five-year period 1975-80, was appointed as the new manager the following month. He was assisted by Martin Farnie and Paul Sawyer. In early 2002 long time Dartford favourite Steve Robinson returned to the club as reserve team player manager. Many changes were to follow on the playing front and by the end of the season Dartford had finished in a very creditable eighth

position and in doing so were the highest-placed Kent club in the Dr Martens Eastern Division. The reserves too had a very good season, winning the Northern section of Kent League Division One. In a play-off for the overall winners of Division One, the Darts missed out on the title by losing after extra time to Dover Athletic Reserves.

The ground-sharing agreement at Gravesend & Northfleet, coupled with an upturn in performances on the field, saw a significant increase in attendances to help the financial position of the club. Season 2002-03 saw a further expansion of the playing side with the addition of an Under-16 side in the Kent Youth League, thus making the progression of players from Under-16 level to the senior squad possible. The decision paid off as the team achieved a league and cup double. The Under-18 team were runners-up in the Central Division.

Season 2003-04 saw the first team finish in 16th position in the Eastern Division but the news that everybody had been waiting for came on 10 April 2004 when Dartford Borough Council announced it would provide funding and a site for the building of a stadium in Dartford in time for the 2006-07 season. Construction work began on 14 November 2005.

The 2004-05 season saw the restructuring of non-league football. Dartford remained in the Southern League in a division made up of largely teams from the Isthmian League. The season as a whole was disappointing with the Darts on the edge of the relegation zone for much of the season. Manager Tommy Sampson left the club towards the end of January and director and former player and manager Tony Burman took over on a caretaker basis. An early upsurge in results pulled the Darts away from the relegation zone to retain their Southern League status. Meanwhile, the Reserves under the managership of Bob Pittaway improved on the previous season's poor performances. An influx of players previously under Bob's guidance at Tonbridge Angels and several youth team players from the previous season's Under-18s helped the team

achieve a creditable mid-table position.

Dartford finished the 2005-06 season in seventh place. Following the second stage of restructuring the non-league football system, the club moved into the Isthmian League Division One South.

Dartford played their first game at new stadium Princes Park on 11 November 2006, less than 12 months after building work began. They beat Horsham YMCA 4-2 in front of an all ticket capacity crowd of 4,097.

On 20 July 2007 Dartford hosted Crystal Palace in a friendly match at Princes Park as part of Dave Martin's transfer to the Eagles. The game ended in Crystal Palace winning 3-0 in front of a sold-out crowd of 4,097, exactly the same attendance as the first game played at Princes Park. After a strong season, including an undefeated run of twenty-one matches, they finished as champions, securing automatic promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division.

Dartford finished their first season back in the Isthmian Premier (2008-09) in 8th position thanks to a 90th-minute strike by Richard O'Reilly. The following season the "Darts" won the title on 10 April 2010 when they beat Kingstonian, who were at that point the team in second place, 6-2 away. They won the title with six games to spare & began the 2010-11 season in the Conference South.

In the 2010-11 season, Dartford finished tenth in the league after a turbulent Christmas which saw them in the relegation zone. They won the Kent Senior Cup for the tenth time against Bromley at Princes Park after a coin-toss decided the venue of the final. It ended 4-1, with Bradbrook, Hayes, Harris and an own goal giving them victory.

The 2011-12 season saw Darts hovering around the top 5 up until Christmas, being 14 points behind leaders Woking. Starting with the new year victory over Welling, The Darts amassed 49 points from 21 games (15 wins, 4 draws, 2 defeats) at one stage closing the gap on Woking to only 5

points, eventually finishing on 88 points, 9 short of the Champions. They then played Basingstoke Town over two legs in the Play Off semi final, winning both games, 1-0 and 2-1.

On Sunday 13 May 2012, Dartford beat Welling United 1-0 at Princes Park in the Conference South league play-off in front of a sell out crowd of 4,088, and returned to the Conference Premier for 2012/13.

The 2012/13 season saw Dartford surprise many of the top full-time clubs, recording wins against Champions to be Mansfield Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Wrexham, Newport County, Grimsby Town, Hereford United, and a memorable double over Luton Town. Despite this, the Darts failed to perform well against the bottom half sides, losing to 10 of the 16 teams that finished below them, therefore finishing 8th in their return to the Conference Premier. Dartford had a poor 2013-14 season and finished 22nd, relegating them to the Conference South after two years. However, Salisbury City were demoted to the Conference South on 13 June 2014 after missing a deadline for paying their debts. With Hereford United having already been expelled from the Football Conference for the same reason, Dartford therefore became the second team (alongside Chester) to be reprieved from relegation.

But after a season drifting in and out of the bottom four, Dartford got relegated to the renamed National League South.

In the 2017/18 season, Dartford narrowly missed out on automatic promotion via goal difference to Havant & Waterlooville. They played Braintree Town in the Playoff Semi-Final and lost 1-0. It was announced after the playoff that Tony Burman and his management team would step down from their managerial positions. A few days later ex-players Adam Flanagan and Jamie Coyle were confirmed as the new Dartford joint-managers.

The 2019/20 season saw managers Adam Flanagan and Jamie Coyle removed from their

position. On 10 October Steve King was announced as the new manager of the club on a three-year deal. Having taken the job with the team in the bottom four, King went on to guide Dartford to the play-off final, which saw Dartford lose on penalties to Weymouth.

However King was to only remain in charge of the club until May 2022, citing recruitment, development and retention as not being the best fit for the club going forward.

A few days later the club appointed Alan Dowson as the new manager. Dowson spent 7 successful years at Kingstonian, followed by 4 years at Hampton & Richmond Borough and Woking respectively. In his first season at Woking, they finished 2nd in the National League South and were promoted to the National League after beating Welling United in the Promotion Final.

Dowson brings a wealth of experience both as a player and a manager that we are sure will be success to Dartford Football Club.



ONES TO WATCH



Alex Wall

Started at National League Maidenhead United and he went on to play over 130 games over a four year period. A loan spell at Luton Town was made permanent in 2013. Alex had two loan spells at Dartford and Bristol Rovers before joining Bromley. Following his release Alex joined Hungerford Town and then Dartford but his stay was short as he joined Concord Rangers prior to the start of the 2018/19 season. Alex then had spells at Hemel Hempstead, Woking, Concord Rangers and then Havant & Waterlooville where he made 23 appearances last season.



Tom Bonner

Central defender and captain Tom Bonner is now in his second spell with the Darts having originally joined in the summer of 2010.

Leaving in May 2013 to sign for Cambridge United Tom rejoined the Darts in June 2016 having left Ebbsfleet United after one season. Has over 400 first team appearances for the Darts.



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HEAD 2 HEAD



3
GAMES PLAYED

0
WON

1
DRAWN

2
LOST

1
POINTS

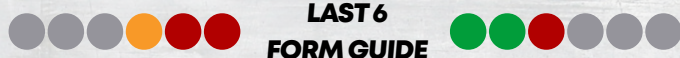
3
GAMES PLAYED

2
WON

0
DRAWN

1
LOST

6
POINTS



WE GOT NOW

4 WEEK LEAD TIME | BESPOKE DESIGNED KIT | HEAD TO TOE OFFERING





Last Time Out

FARNBOROUGH TAUNTON TOWN

1 0

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2022

VENUE: CHERRYWOOD ROAD - ATTENDANCE: 501

The Peacocks fired blanks for the third successive National League game as they suffered a narrow defeat in Hampshire. The positive to come out of the 90+7 minutes was the fact Borough keeper Jack Turner was at least kept busy, pulling off several fine saves but conversely Town keeper Jack Bycroft also earned his corn although he could do nothing about the winner midway through the second half. A draw would have been a fair result, but goals win points and prizes.

Head of Football Rob Dray made two changes from the side that had lost at Concord, Joe Guest returning in place of Lee Lucas while Nat Jarvis, having now received international clearance, made his first appearance up front instead of Nick McCootie. Thankfully, the heavy downpours that had punctuated the trip up the A303 kept away from the Easy As HGV Stadium as Town again made a solid start to the game. Jarvis won an early corner for Foulston to deliver but Turner claimed, while a Lloyd James free kick into the box was again caught by the Borough keeper. The hosts also threatened, Jake Wannell booting clear ahead of the incoming Omar Rowe

whose corner was then cleared and when the ball was returned into the middle, Town saw off attempts from Jack Ball and Tony Lee before an offside flag terminated the pressure.

The Peacocks best effort of the first half came on 19 minutes, Sam Deering's loose pass being picked up by Jay Foulston whose strike from the edge of the box was well parried by Turner who then dived to hold the follow-up from Dave Sims-Burgess. Turner was then quickly out to collect after Sims-Burgess looked to capitalise on Foulston's flick while Chamberlain's shot was blocked as Town probed to open their Step 2 goal account.

Farnborough had their share of goalmouth forays too in an entertaining and generally equal opening 45 minutes. Lee headed Rowe's corner over the top and Mitch Parker drilled a strike off-target before the visitors came close when Joe Budd volleyed just wide from 18 yards. It was the home side who ended the half with a flurry though, Kevin Lokko riding several challenges to set Rowe free in the box, with his cross being cleared by one Taunton defender off

another towards goal. The danger was temporarily cleared but only to Reggie Young who won a late corner. Nothing doing from that, and the whistle blew to end a hard-fought first half.

The hosts began well when the teams re-emerged, Lee running across the edge of the box to see his half volley held by Bycroft, and Ollie Robinson's long throw leading to a couple of blocked shots in the box. Budd and Chamberlain linked up nicely for Town to set up Foulston for yet another blocked effort before Farnborough skipper Robinson limped off injured shortly afterwards, quickly followed by the Peacocks' first change with McCootie replacing Sims-Burgess. The match remained evenly poised but Town could not break through, Foulston's header being clutched high above his head by Turner and Guest curling an effort well over the angle.

A second change for the Peacocks resulted in Ross Stearn replacing Budd but four minutes later the hosts scored the only goal of the night. A free kick on the left was played short by Deering to Rowe and with the Taunton defence slow to react, the former Hayes & Yeading man jinked along the byeline to drill in a hard cross which took a deflection off a Town defender to hit the net on 67 minutes. The Peacocks responded with three corners on the spin, but all came to nothing before Turner made a solid stop, parrying Stearn's 20 yard shot which fell to Jarvis who was unable to profit. It mattered not though with the offside flag up.

Dylan Morgan took over from Jarvis with 15 minutes to go as Town kept persevering without luck while they were always prone

to the counter. Lee released Rowe whose cross was volleyed wide by Michael Fernandes at the far post before Farnborough sub Fernandes broke down the left and laid the ball across for fellow sub Hisham Kasimu to fire in a fine strike which Bycroft bettered with an even better save to push wide.

Not to be outdone, Turner preserved the points for his side four minutes from time. McCootie was brought down outside the area and when James' free kick took a deflection off the head of Kenny Davis in the wall, the Farnborough keeper reacted brilliantly to palm away. Morgan darted into the box to see his driven cross blocked before sending a snapshot into the side netting while Bycroft made another save from Fernandes as the home side managed seven minutes of stoppage time to claim their first victory of the campaign. The Peacocks meanwhile can reflect on a combative display in midfield and defence (bar the crucial switch-off for the goal), however the reality of another 90 minutes without putting the ball in the net needs to be addressed quickly to avoid further impact on Town's inaugural National League season.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS
 as at 19th August 2022

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	3	3	0	0	9	4	+5	9
2	Worthing	3	2	1	0	8	3	+5	7
3	Havant & Waterlooville	3	2	1	0	6	3	+3	7
4	Tonbridge Angels	3	2	1	0	6	3	+3	7
5	Concord Rangers	3	2	1	0	3	1	+2	7
6	DARTFORD	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6
7	Dulwich Hamlet	3	1	2	0	4	3	+1	5
8	Chelmsford City	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
9	Braintree Town	3	1	1	1	5	4	+1	4
10	Dover Athletic	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
11	Farnborough	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
12	Bath City	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
13	Welling United	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
14	Hemel Hempstead Town	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
15	Eastbourne Borough	3	1	0	2	8	8	0	3
16	Cheshunt	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
17	Oxford City	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
18	Hampton & Richmond Borough	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	2
19	St Albans City	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2
20	Hungerford Town	3	0	1	2	0	2	-2	1
21	TAUNTON TOWN	3	0	1	2	0	2	-2	1
22	Slough Town	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
23	Chippenham Town	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
24	Weymouth	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0

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

Results - Tuesday 16th August 2022

Braintree Town 3-1 Hemel Hempstead Town
 Concord Rangers 1-1 Dulwich Hamlet
 Dartford 1-2 Havant & Waterlooville
 Dover Athletic 1-2 Tonbridge Angels
 Eastbourne Borough 2-3 Ebbsfleet United
 Farnborough 1-0 Taunton Town
 Hampton & Richmond Borough 1-1 Bath City
 Slough Town 0-2 Chelmsford City
 St Albans City 0-0 Hungerford Town
 Welling United 2-1 Cheshunt
 Weymouth 0-3 Worthing

Today's Other Fixtures - Saturday 20th August 2022

3pm Bath City v Braintree Town
 3pm Chelmsford City v Weymouth
 3pm Cheshunt v St Albans City
 3pm Dulwich Hamlet v Slough Town
 3pm Ebbsfleet United v Farnborough
 3pm Havant & Waterlooville v Dover Athletic
 3pm Hemel Hempstead Town v Welling United
 3pm Hungerford Town v Eastbourne Borough
 3pm Oxford City v Concord Rangers
 3pm Tonbridge Angels v Hampton & Richmond Borough
 3pm Worthing v Chippenham Town

NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium



Tuesday 29th August 2022
 Kick Off 7:45pm



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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

There's not much that grinds my gears like the debate around the FA Cup, the magic or lack thereof.

In early January, the usual debate will be trotted out about the FA Cup and how seriously Premier League clubs take it and question whether the competition has lost its lustre.

Maybe it has, maybe it hasn't when the elite clubs join. I still like it, will always watch the final and generally buy into the idea it is a pretty special cup competition.

Perhaps that comes from many years scribbling away for The NLP and having the chance to tell so many stories.

From Lincoln City's remarkable run to the quarter-finals, to speaking to first-timers just happy to have their name in the hat at the extra preliminary round stage.

For me, it is these early rounds where the true heart of the competition really is. Where, for some clubs, just getting through a few rounds and getting, for example, a draw with a Step 2 club is reason to celebrate. Or where reaching the first round is the dream.

I spoke to former Bowers & Pitsea manager Rob Small recently. His side reached the first round proper last term after dumping out National League Aldershot Town in the fourth round qualifying.

They were drawn at Lincoln and, for them, it really was the pinnacle, a day they won't ever forget.

Last Friday night I popped along to Thetford Town and Soham Town Rangers.

Bodies desperately thrown in front of shots at goal, last ditch tackles, full-blooded challenges and a stoppage-time equaliser lashed into the top corner sparking wild celebrations.

Just 83 days after Liverpool lifted the trophy, the world's oldest competition kicked off again.

The sums of money are tiny in comparison, but still a vital £1,125 is up for grabs for the 208 winners in the extra preliminary. Indeed, even the losers at this stage take £375 - all vital pounds for Non-League clubs at the level.

Perhaps there's something to be said for Friday night football, with a healthy crowd in attendance. Fans pour through the turnstile block just before kick-off to pay their £7 - £4 for concessions - and £1 for a programme. Outside the Brecklanders' bar, the air hummed with that early season chatter of optimism and familiar faces catching up.

The game was great. Three goals in four first-half minutes before a net-busting stoppage-time equaliser from Soham's Luke Brown to set-up a replay. You could see what it meant. And we will see similar tales over the coming weeks and the competition bounces from one round to the next.

Maybe those who think the magic has gone aren't looking in the right place...



2022-23 FIXTURES & RESULTS

AUGUST '22

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
6th	HOME	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	0-0 D	813
13th	AWAY	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	1-0 L	285
16th	AWAY	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	1-0 L	501
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

- The Tea Boy who Created a Dynasty -

Manchester United are (notwithstanding their recent difficulties) one of the most successful football clubs in Europe, and one of the biggest sporting brands in the world. When the story of their success is written, certain obvious names leap off of the page. Sir Matt Busby, Sir Alex Ferguson, Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes. This list goes on and on. But before all of them, and the man without whom Manchester United simply wouldn't be what they are today, was an Italian immigrant who snuck in to watch Newton Heath. It was the beginning of a lifelong relationship.

Louis Rocca, born in 1882, was promised a beating for sneaking under the fence at his local football club, but instead was given the task of making tea for the players at half time. He dutifully and enthusiastically accepted his new position, and before long was also given the job of first-team kitman, a coveted position that made him the envy of older children in the area. Before the end of the nineteenth century, he was the club's first ever groundsman, but things were not rosy at Newton Heath.

By 1902 the club had racked up considerable debts and needed to raise funds to stay in existence. Rocca and other volunteers toured around the city for four days soliciting donations, notably taking a dog with them with a moneybox strapped to its back. It was this dog who would

ultimately save the club when he escaped, setting up a fortuitous meeting with John Henry Davies, who would step in and buy the club. His vision for the team was grand, much grander than the small confines of Newton Heath. He proposed a name change, and while Manchester Celtic was considered, Rocca, just 19 at the time, is said (mostly by himself) to have suggested the name United. It stuck, and the club we know today was born.

Five years later, Rocca made the move that would shape the soul of the club, rather than just the name above the door. He was appointed as Chief Scout, and created an extensive and inexpensive scouting network throughout Manchester, enlisting the help of priests and schoolteachers and other volunteers to report back to him any exciting youngsters found in school and youth teams. He also had the local newspapers from each Saturday night brought to him every week, and poured through the local match reports. Any name that cropped up repeatedly, he would go to watch in person. If they impressed him, he would invite the to join Manchester United. The new system, along with Davies' investment, led United to their first major trophies, the First Division title in 1908 and 1911, with the FA Cup in 1909.

Rocca dreamed of a team made up of local players, who represented the people on the terraces. A couple of decades of building

followed before, in the early 1930s, United were bought out of more financial difficulty by James Gibson. The new owner shared Rocca's dream, and allowed him (and new addition Walter Crickmer) to set up the Manchester United Junior Athletic Club, what would now be understood as an academy. The system was a great success in finding and developing local players, but war in 1939 limited how the system translated into the senior team. It wasn't until after the war that the fruits of Rocca's labour could really be seen.

As the war concluded, Man United needed a new manager, and Gibson and Rocca thought they knew just the man. They had to act quickly though, as he had been offered a position in Liverpool's staff. Rocca reached out to one of his old friends quite cryptically, not wanting Liverpool to intercept the letter, and invited him to Old Trafford. That friend was Matt Busby. Busby hired Jimmy Murphy

as his assistant, and Rocca watched as his friend led a team - full of the Junior Athletic Club's protégés - to the 1948 FA Cup.

Rocca passed away in 1950, unable to see the fruits of his work in all their glory as first the Busby Babes, and later Busby's rebuilt side after the Munich Disaster, changed the face of English football forever. But make no mistake, those sides, and the legacy of Manchester United, could not have existed without the Italian. As Matt Busby wrote some four decades after Rocca's death, "he was a tremendous help to me in every way."

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 20th August 2022 - KickOff 3:00pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Alan Dowson

Jack Bycroft - GK	●	●	Dan Wilks - GK
Lloyd Irish - GK	●	●	Jordan Wynter
Joe Budd	●	●	Kristian Campbell
Jay Foulston	●	●	Samir Carruthers
Nick Grimes	●	●	Connor Essom
Dan Ball	●	●	Tom Bonner
Jake Wannell	●	●	Luke Coulson
Ollie Chamberlain	●	●	Luke Allen
Lloyd James	●	●	Alex Wall
Nat Jarvis	●	●	Keiran Murtagh
Nick McCootie	●	●	Davide Rodari
Joe Guest	●	●	Maxwell Statham
Harry Warwick	●	●	Tom Wray - GK
Ross Stearn	●	●	Pierre Fonkeu
Zac Smith	●	●	Dan Roberts
Ross Staley	●	●	Cameron Brodie
Jared Lewington	●	●	Charlie Sheringham
Dave Sims-Burgess	●	●	Sam Odaudu
Will Tunnicliff	●	●	Marvin Hershel
Lee Lucas	●	●	
Luke Ward	●	●	
Dylan Morgan	●	●	
	●	●	

Match Officials

Referee: Liam Corbett

Assistant Referee: Andrew Dunn Assistant Referee: Jake Woolley