

ISSUE
11



PEACOCKS



Tuesday 8th November 2022 - KickOff 7:45pm



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1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01

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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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President: Tom Harris
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Hospitality Manager: Catherine Herbert

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 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 evening and welcome to the Cygnet Healthcare Stadium for tonight's Vanarama National League South match against our visitors from Havant & Waterlooville, my welcome extends to Paul Doswell, his players, management and supporters who join us from the Hawks tonight.

Well what a couple of weeks that was for us, last Saturday we found our scoring touch with a comprehensive victory over Tonbridge Angels 4-1 here. We then had a full week of training ahead of our Emirates FA Cup 1st Round tie at Milton Keynes Dons of SkyBet League 1, but alas we were unable to cause an upset and exited the competition with a 6-0 defeat, but it was a great day and thank you to everyone that made the long journey to support us and really get behind the team on the day.

Focus is now fully on league matters as we look to reproduce what we did against Tonbridge, get some wins on the board and start to climb the National League South table in order to consolidate our status in this league.

Please get behind the boys as you always do tonight and be in full voice for the team in claret and blue and enjoy the game.....Oh and one last thing, Up the Peacocks!

Rob

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The Away End

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE

Local football can be traced as far back as 1883 in the Borough of Havant, when Havant FC was formed, playing in the Portsmouth Football League. In the 1950's Bobby Tambling made the large jump from playing for Havant FC (youth team) to join Chelsea, followed by International recognition with England. On retirement Bobby returned to the Havant area opening a local sports shop. In 1969 Havant FC merged with local side Leigh Park United winning the Portsmouth Football League at their first attempt.

This witnessed a boom time in the Club's history as they joined the 4th Division of the Hampshire League. Between 1970-1977 the team progressed through to the 1st Division of the Hampshire League. This meant their home ground at Front Lawn would be unsuitable if the Club was to progress any further. The current home of Westleigh Park was acquired in 1980 and after two years of hard work and considerable cost opened in August 1982. The new club was rebranded Havant Town FC.

1986 saw Havant Town FC as founder members of the Wessex League. They finished runners up on three occasions before finally winning the title and moving into the Southern League in 1991.

Meanwhile Waterloooville Football Club, who were established in 1905, had become firm fixtures in the Southern League since 1971.

They too had slowly progressed from humble beginnings moving through Waterloooville District, Portsmouth and Hampshire League Divisions.

With the formation of the National Conference, the Southern League re-organised themselves. In 1981 the side from Jubilee Park nearly won the Championship but narrowly failed despite going 31 matches without defeat. Waterloooville then spent a lot of years proving too good for the Southern League but not quite up to the grade of the Premier one. 1993 witnessed an 11th place finish in the Premier, their highest ever placing.

Relegation and rising costs meant that the Club struggled to remain competitive and the talk of a merger with their fierce rivals was first mooted. Havant Town FC had their own problems as well. In 1997 Club Manager Tony Mount had left unexpectedly, taking the core of his talented squad with him. June 1998 saw the two rivals join forces. Jubilee Park was sold and the newly renamed Havant & Waterloooville FC was created.

On the 22nd August 1998, the new look team beat Chelmsford City 2-0 to begin a new era in the Club's history. The team duly won the Southern League Southern Division, earning promotion to the Premier Division at their first attempt. With success came more financial backing and £500K was spent to

Bring the ground up to Conference standard. The Club had now improved both their Stadium and fan-base as the local community flocked to see their local heroes in action.

In 2004 the Club were part of the new restructuring of the Conference South. They have remained in the Division ever since.

Season 2006-2007 witnessed the highest placing for the Club, earning a play-off spot. A hard fought Semi-final against Braintree Town ended with the Hawks remaining in the Division.

Season 2011-2012 witnessed excitement of a different kind as the Hawks escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth, an extra time 93rd minute goal was badly needed to ensure that Conference football remained at Westleigh Park.

The last 16 years have seen the Club consolidate as an established member of the Blue Square South. With the game of football changing in the past few years, mainly due to financial matters being tightened up at all levels, the business side of all Clubs has become paramount. Fortunately the Club has been very prudent in this area and any money that has been made has been carefully re-invested in the Club as a whole; not just on the playing staff.

The Club can now boast a public house, The Westleigh, situated next to the ground. The stadium still retains its Conference 'A' Standard and is often viewed jealousy by visiting directors. The Club is working towards making the Club fully self funding with long-term security the ultimate aim.

The philosophy of the playing squad has changed over the past couple of seasons. Younger talent was sought out, backed up by some quality experienced Older heads to help establish growth of the squad year on year. 2005-2006 saw the Club Launch its Academy in conjunction with South Downs College.

In the 2006-07 season, the Hawks qualified for the promotion play-offs but were beaten in the semi-final by Braintree Town. The club met a Football League club in a competitive match for the first time in the 2006-07 competition, losing 2-1 to Millwall in a 'home' match which was played at Fratton Park.

Baird resigned as manager on 1 October 2007 and was replaced by Shaun Gale. In the 2007-08 FA Cup, the Hawks beat Bognor Regis, Fleet Town, Leighton Town, Conference Premier team York City and League Two club Notts County, before causing an even bigger upset by defeating League One side Swansea City 4-2 in a third round replay. In the fourth round, they played Premier League Liverpool at Anfield and

caused a sensation by leading twice before eventually losing 5-2. Havant & Waterlooville player Alfie Potter, on loan at the time from Peterborough United, was voted 'Player of the Round'.

The Hawks were involved in a relegation battle in the 2008-09 season despite being among the favourites to win the league at the start of the season, but ultimately secured Conference South survival with three games remaining.

In 2009-10, Havant & Waterlooville made a late run that almost got them to the playoffs but Woking pipped them.

In July 2011, the club played a "once in a lifetime" game against La Liga side Real Betis, losing 7-0, after the Spanish club's original friendly opponents (Portsmouth) found themselves unable to play the game.

The 2011-12 season was a poor one for Havant & Waterlooville, and after dropping to second from bottom in the league following a defeat at Basingstoke Town, Shaun Gale was sacked on 1 April. Assistant manager Steve Johnson and stadium manager/fitness coach Adrian Aymes were placed in charge on a caretaker basis. In a tense finale, the Hawks avoided relegation with literally the last kick by a Havant & Waterlooville player in the entire season.

On 8 May 2012, the Hawks appointed Stuart Ritchie as manager and Sean New as his assistant, the combination having been very successful at AFC Totton.

On 9 October 2012, Lee Bradbury was appointed manager, leading the club to 10th place at the end of that 2012-13 season. He remained in charge until 22 April 2019, when

it was confirmed Lee Bradbury had left by mutual consent. On 29 April, it was announced that former Sutton United manager Paul Doswell had signed a three-year contract.

In 2019-20 National League South the Hawks switched to morning training, three days a week. As a result, the squad was transformed with only three players remaining from that which completed the previous season. The new look Hawks challenged at the top of the division until the season was curtailed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At first it appeared as though the League would only promote the leading club, given the extraordinary circumstances. As the Hawks stood second in the division they, along with the similarly placed York City of the National League North, started the #promote2 campaign for play-offs to take place or the second place club to be promoted. Eventually play-offs did take place but H&W lost 2-1 to Dartford in their home semi-final.

A similar situation in the 2020-21 season with the season coming to a premature end due to the ongoing Covi-19 pandemic after just 14 games.

Finally there was a completed season in 2021-22, with the Hawks missing the play-offs by just two points, finishing in 8th position, some 30 points behind eventual champions Maidstone United.

The Hawks have started this season well losing just one of our first 13 games and sitting in the 3rd place in the Vanarama National League South table.



ONES TO WATCH



Billy Clifford

Creative midfielder Clifford joined the Hawks in 2020 after spending the 19/20 campaign at Wealdstone.

The 28 year old, who came through the ranks at Chelsea has plenty of football league experience having played for Colchester United, Walsall and Crawley Town respectively.



Paul Rooney

Rooney started his career in Ireland with St Patrick's Athletic before travelling to England to sign for Millwall in 2016.

The holding midfielder player who can also play in defence, has since had spells with Colchester and most recently Dover Athletic.

www.havantandwaterloovillefc.co.uk



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HEAD 2 HEAD



THIS SEASON
AT A GLANCE



14
GAMES PLAYED

4
WON

5
DRAWN

5
LOST

17
POINTS

16
GAMES PLAYED

11
WON

3
DRAWN

2
LOST

36
POINTS



LAST 6
FORM GUIDE



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Last Time Out

MILTON KEYNES DONS TAUNTON TOWN

6
0

EMIRATES FA CUP, 1st ROUND - SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2022

VENUE: STADIUM MK - ATTENDANCE: 2,739

There was to be no November 5th fireworks from the Peacocks as they suffered a comprehensive defeat at Stadium MK to end their FA Cup aspirations for another year. The League One side were in the driving seat from the moment they grabbed the lead after just six minutes and from then on it was an uphill battle for Town to cope with the quality of football displayed by the full timers.

Head of Football Rob Dray made just the one change from the previous match against Tonbridge, Nick McCootie replacing Dave Sims-Burgess up front. Town were actually the first to encroach in the opposition half, a foul on Ollie Chamberlain presenting Lloyd James with a free kick which was swung in but comfortably cleared. It very soon became evident though that the Dons were a class or two above the usual opposition faced on a Saturday afternoon. A good interception by Chamberlain averted danger when Louie Barry threatened before MK took an early lead on six minutes. Will Grigg was brought down by Joe Guest just outside the area on the left side and the Town wall failed to do its job as Dawson Devoy fired through it to beat Jack Bycroft at his right-hand post.

Livewire Aston Villa loanee Barry saw a shot blocked and Bycroft came out to gather ahead of the incoming Daniel Harvie as the home side gave no time for Town to regroup which produced a second goal after 12 minutes, Lewington finding

Harvie whose low cross from the left was almost nonchalantly stroked past Bycroft from six yards by former Wigan and Sunderland striker Will Grigg.

A Nick Grimes surge into the Dons' half had promise but he opted to shoot rather than find Chamberlain free out wide and his effort travelled wide while Jay Foulston looped a free kick in which fell to Grimes on the right, however his attempted cross back ricocheted off him for a goal kick. Opportunities for Town proved rare though as the hosts dominated, retaining possession with ease, and constantly looking for gaps which unfortunately they found too regularly.

Bycroft made a fantastic touchover from Devoy's strike although the flag was already raised while Barry beat two men to drill across goal for Dan Ball to clear. Another cross from Darragh Burns was cleared as far as Devoy who fired over the target, Barry turned to shoot just wide from 20 yards and Grimes intervened to thwart Grigg from profiting from a Devoy cross as the Peacocks were forced to mainly defend, their only relief coming when Guest released Chamberlain whose shot took a slight deflection to drift benignly to home keeper Franco Ravizzoli. His opposite number Bycroft then did superbly well to deny Barry who had skipped clear just before the break, his pace taking him into the box, but Bycroft spread his body to get something on the effort to divert it over the bar. The first half ended with Town just about clinging on to the game, two goals

down but needing a big improvement at both ends if any ideas of a comeback were to bear fruit.

Those hopes crumbled three minutes after the break when MK added a third, Devoy's excellent pass over the defence finding Burns who took the ball down before firing past the exposed Bycroft into the corner of the net. It nearly got worse a minute later when Jack Tucker's diagonal ball reached Barry on the left and he cut in to see his strike touched onto a post by Bycroft, with Harvie's follow-up blocked. As the afternoon turned increasingly dank and chillier, it became a case of damage limitation from the visitors who were given no breathing space by a home side now on cruise control. Henry Lawrence moved inside with ease to thread a pass through which Grigg lashed wide while Bycroft again came to the rescue, blocking a close range cross from Barry before foiling Grigg who had got his head on Lawrence's delivery into the mix.

A triple substitution on the hour from the hosts would hopefully quieten things down. No such luck. One of the new faces Nathan Holland was soon involved, evading a number of yellow shirts down the left to see his effort from a tight angle palmed away by Bycroft. The Peacocks then made a double swap of their own, with Dylan Morgan and Sims-Burgess replacing Lee Lucas and McCootie. Although this freshened things up going forward, Morgan beating his man before the home defence cleared, Dons were always probing for inlets through the Town backline and found one again, Mo Eisa finding space to slant an effort narrowly wide of the far post.

A Holland miskick then released Eisa who had his shot blocked but there was no denying the MK sub who scored the fourth goal after 74 minutes. Conor Grant who had only been on the pitch for two minutes made ground to find Eisa on the left and the Dons' striker moved inside to deliver a peach of a finish into the far corner from 25 yards. There was no respite as straight afterwards Eisa fed Holland whose drive was parried by Bycroft, the only candidate for Town's Man Of The Match

award, who then got his body behind a shot from Tennai Watson and although unable to hold the ball was eventually cleared.

Joe Budd replaced James ahead of the final ten minutes which produced another two goals to embellish the scoreline. Another defence splitting pass, this time from Lawrence, reached an unmarked Grant who had breached the defence and it was all too easy for him to slot past Bycroft on 81 minutes. After Town had made their final two substitutions, five being allowed from this stage of the FA Cup, Grant added his second of the contest and his team's sixth three minutes later, Devoy slipping a pass through to him on the edge of the box and despite Bycroft getting a hand to the shot there was too much power on it to keep it out.

The best attempt of the game for the Peacocks came in the final minute when an unconvincing clearance from Ravizzoli was picked up by Zac Smith to find Ross Stearn who drilled a strike inches over from distance. That was as good as it got as the whistle brought an end to Town's Cup campaign. Not the result Town wanted, and the margin of defeat was certainly more than might have been envisaged at 3pm but a memorable day out nevertheless, with the fantastic Peacock contingent unrelenting in their support during the game and comfortably winning the singing competition against the muted home fans. On the pitch though it was a different matter as the visitors were ultimately outclassed by their senior opponents.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS
 as at 6th November 2022

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Dartford	18	13	1	4	38	17	+21	40
2	Ebbsfleet United	15	12	3	0	38	12	+26	39
3	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	16	11	3	2	35	19	+16	36
4	Chelmsford City	15	10	3	2	24	9	+15	33
5	Braintree Town	16	9	2	5	31	23	+8	29
6	Bath City	17	8	4	5	30	24	+6	28
7	St Albans City	17	7	5	5	24	15	+9	26
8	Worthing	16	6	8	2	23	16	+7	26
9	Oxford City	15	7	3	5	23	19	+4	24
10	Tonbridge Angels	16	7	2	7	24	27	-3	23
11	Welling United	16	6	5	5	24	27	-3	23
12	Dover Athletic	15	6	3	6	22	22	0	21
13	Eastbourne Borough	15	6	1	8	28	27	+1	19
14	Hemel Hempstead Town	16	5	4	7	15	21	-6	19
15	Hampton & Richmond Borough	16	5	3	8	21	28	-7	18
16	Slough Town	16	5	3	8	19	30	-11	18
17	TAUNTON TOWN	14	4	5	5	13	15	-2	17
18	Dulwich Hamlet	15	5	2	8	21	24	-3	17
19	Farnborough	14	5	2	7	13	16	-3	17
20	Chippenham Town	14	4	3	7	9	17	-8	15
21	Concord Rangers	15	4	2	9	14	26	-12	14
22	Hungerford Town	17	2	3	12	9	22	-13	9
23	Cheshunt	16	3	0	13	17	37	-20	9
24	Weymouth	14	1	2	11	10	32	-22	5

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

Tonight's Other Fixtures - Tuesday 8th November

7.45pm	Bath City v Dulwich Hamlet
7.45pm	Cheshunt v Chippenham Town
7.45pm	Concord Rangers v Tonbridge Angels
7.45pm	Farnborough v Eastbourne Borough
7.45pm	Hampton & Richmond Borough v Ebbsfleet United
7.45pm	Hemel Hempstead Town v Hungerford Town
7.45pm	St Albans City v Weymouth
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Havant & Waterlooville
7.45pm	Welling United v Slough Town
7.45pm	Worthing v Oxford City

Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 12th November

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



NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium



Saturday 12th November 2022
 Kick Off 3:00pm



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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

You never forget your first time! Wembley had that same impact on me as it has, and does, for many others.

Mine was an FA Vase final between Guisley and Gresley Rovers in 1991. My main memories are being slightly late and running up the steps inside as the national anthems were playing! Mainly it was seeing that famous patch of grass – and how green it looked. It wasn't an ordinary pitch. There was something about it. The goals were different too, the famous tunnel way behind the goal all capturing my imagination.

Of course, the game probably helped. A 4-4 thriller between the two sides – in those days the final went to a replay – but the six-year-old me was hooked in.

Over the years I was lucky enough to see many more FA Vase finals at the famous ground. Diss Town winning in 1994, Tiverton Town's back-to-back success a few years later.

Since working at the paper I've only missed one – Newport Pagnell Town's most recent win with a decent excuse of having a five-day old baby.

From the Northern League domination and the evolution to the fixture becoming part of Non-League Finals Day, the only real low point was watching Hebburn and Consett play their game out in front of an empty stadium because of Covid.

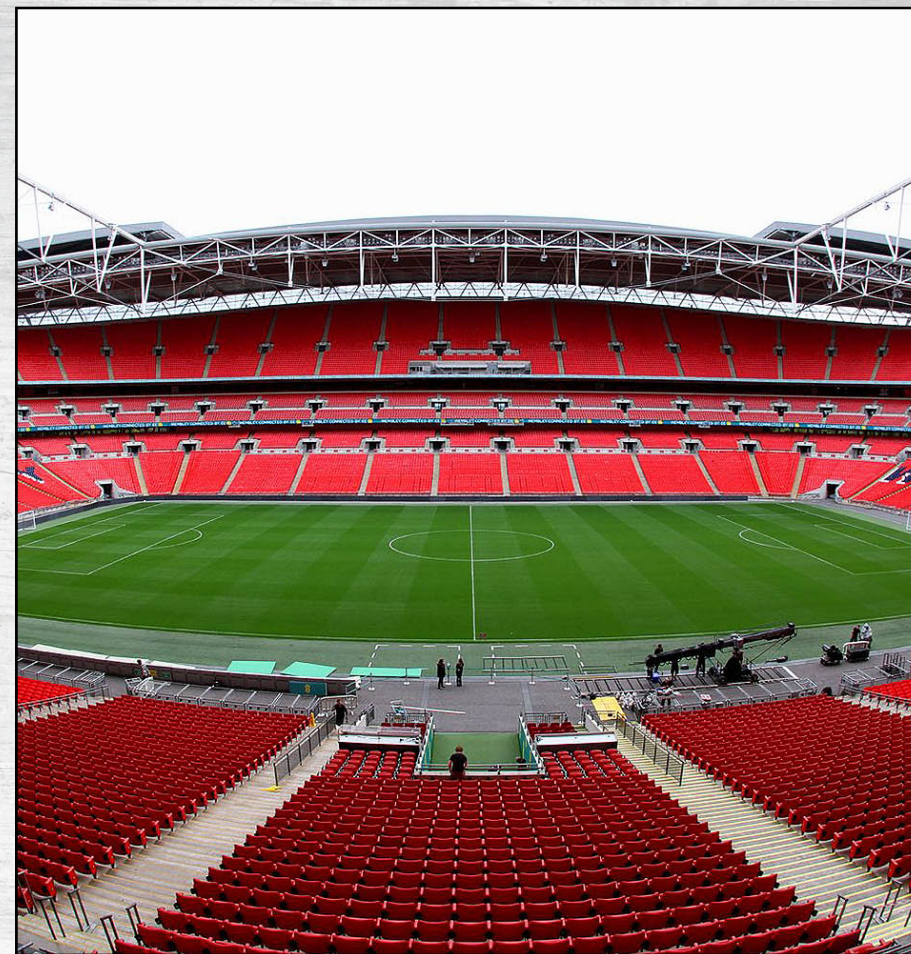
It was right, however, the players got their chance to play on that pristine surface.

For me, the FA Vase is a hidden gem in our footballing calendar. At the moment it's early days, but as the rounds tick on over the coming weeks and months, the dreams and aspiration will begin to grow.

There's a rawness about the competition. In the latter stages teams from the other end of the country are drawn against each other – modern technology means scouting has become easier and there are always contacts for managers to draw on for information.

But quite often it is football in its purest form, two teams who know very little about each other trying to win a game of football on a given day and aiming to take another step on the road to Wembley.

The FA deserve credit for how Non-League Day already has that feel of an important date in



the annual fixture list.

Attendances have been huge over the years – some big teams have made it there of course – and the next challenge will be to increase the neutral support on the day.

So why not this year? The FA Vase final is usually an action-packed spectacle. Even if you're side aren't in the competition, try and get along. Especially if you haven't been before.

www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com

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	2-1 W	743
27th	AWAY	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	0-0 D	766
29th	HOME	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3-1 W	1,148

SEPTEMBER '22

3rd	AWAY	HUNGERFORD TOWN	VNLS	0-1 W	377
13th	AWAY	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	1-0 L	452
17th	HOME	LAVERSTOCK & FORD	FAC 2Q	1-0 W	645
24th	HOME	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	0-0 D	928
27th	HOME	BATH CITY	VNLS	1-1 D	958

OCTOBER '22

1st	HOME	WALTON & HERSHAM	FAC 3Q	1-0 W	731
4th	HOME	ODD DOWN	SPC	7-0 W	184
8th	AWAY	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	5-0 L	1,474
15th	AWAY	YEOVIL TOWN	FAC 4Q	0-0 D	3,093
18th	HOME	YEOVIL TOWN	FAC 4QR	1-0 W	2,347
22nd	AWAY	WORTHING	VNLS	1-1 D	1,295
25th	AWAY	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	2-1 L	374
29th	HOME	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	4-1 W	872

NOVEMBER '22

5th	AWAY	MILTON KEYNES DONS	FAC 1	6-0 L	2,739
8th	HOME	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	7:45pm	-
12th	HOME	CHESHUNT	VNLS	3:00pm	-
15th	AWAY	YEOVIL TOWN	SPC	7:45pm	-
19th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	FAT 2	3:00pm	-
22nd	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	7:45pm	-
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

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	-
TBC	AWAY	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	TBC	-
TBC	HOME	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	TBC	-



THE UNTOLD GAME

- When Michel Platini played for Kuwait -

When we talk about the greatest players to have ever played the game, some names stand out. One of them, the Frenchman with three back to back Ballon d'Ors, who had led France to the European Championship in 1984 and Juventus to the European Cup in 1985, was Michel Platini. Now famous for his role in the administration of football for UEFA and FIFA, and allegedly for his involvement in corruption at the highest levels of the game, his ability was beyond doubt. His retirement from football in 1987 left a chasm in the French national team that arguably wouldn't be filled until the emergence of Zinedine Zidane a decade later, so there was excitement when he decided to reverse that decision. Excitement turned to confusion, however, when he announced that he would be making his comeback not for France, but for Kuwait.

Michel Platini's stellar career almost stalled before it had even started, as the boyhood Metz fan, desperate to play for the club he supported, was scouted and went on trial in the eastern city. However, a breathing issue not only prompted the club to turn him down, but also led to the pronouncement that he would never make it as a top level footballer. He returned home with his tail between his legs, but fortunately for the young Platini home was Nancy, where his father Aldo was a director, and Michel found a place in the reserves. He wouldn't stay there for long. This was to be the move that made history for French football, and

although unable to stop Nancy slipping into the second tier, he led them to an immediate return and then to a French cup title. A move to French giants Saint-Etienne followed, at the time the most successful club in the country, and a league title, before a quickly moving on to Italy, where Juventus lifted him to new heights, including that 1985 European Cup, along with myriad other trophies. It was also where he became the best player in Europe (as the Ballon d'Or rewarded at that time) and led France to their first ever trophy. But after playing through injury at the World Cup in 1986, and suffering the heartbreak of a second successive semi-final defeat to West Germany (the first, in 1982, infamous for Harald Schumacher's 'tackle' on Patrick Battiston) he decided it was time to bring that part of his career to an end. Early in 1987, he announced his retirement from the beautiful game, and that was that.

While Platini was enchanting supporters in Europe, football in the Middle East was trying to find a voice. The United Arab Emirates had employed England manager Don Revie in 1977 on a lucrative contract, but it was Kuwait who dominated the nascent Gulf Cup, and it was Kuwait upon whom the hopes of enhancing the reputation of the region's football were placed. Friendlies were arranged, and ten years after Revie made his infamous move, the Soviet Union were invited to the Emirate for a friendly that would hopefully increase the popularity of the game in the Middle East.

The Kuwaiti Emir, however, didn't just invite guests from behind the iron curtain, and turned to recently retired, three-time Ballon d'Or winner Platini to join his team in an effort to make them competitive against the USSR. With a deal (and fees) agreed, Platini pulled on his boots one last time. The injuries that had begun to plague him by the end of his career meant that he was limited to just 21 minutes on the pitch, and in that time, he wasn't able to contribute much of anything, as Kuwait went down to a 2-0 defeat. He went back home, and the entire episode was nearly forgotten.

Platini's post-playing career has obviously been notable for his closeness to Sepp Blatter, his administration of Europe and then the World's governing bodies, and the investigations of corruption that have followed him around in recent years.

Kuwait's future as a footballing powerhouse also never materialised, and having won six of the first eight Gulf Cups, they have since been limited to four of the next sixteen. In a seven team tournament, that's not much to write home about.

So the brief alliance of Ballon d'Or winner and oil state didn't work out brilliantly for either. But, at the very least, it provides a nice pub quiz question.

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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TONIGHT'S TEAMS

Tuesday 8th November 2022 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Paul Doswell

Jack Bycroft - GK	1	●	●	1	Ross Worner
Joe Budd	2	●	●	2	Josh Passley
Jay Foulston	3	●	●	3	Joe Newton
Nick Grimes	4	●	●	4	Joe Oastler
Dan Ball	5	●	●	5	Joash Nembhard
Jake Wannell	6	●	●	6	Sam Magri
Ollie Chamberlain	7	●	●	7	Jake McCarthy
Lloyd James	8	●	●	8	Paul Rooney
Nat Jarvis	9	●	●	9	Jason Prior
Nick McCootie	10	●	●	10	Billy Clifford
Joe Guest	11	●	●	11	Gianni Crichlow
Harry Warwick	12	●	●	12	Benny Read
Ross Stearn	13	●	●	13	Charlie Searle
Zac Smith	16	●	●	15	Tomas Kalinauskas
Ross Staley	18	●	●	16	Jamie Collins
Dave Sims-Burgess	20	●	●	18	Oscar Gobern
Lloyd Irish - GK	21	●	●	19	Danny Wright
Dylan Morgan	22	●	●	20	Tommy Wright
Lee Lucas	31	●	●	21	James Roberts
		●	●	22	Muhamadu Faal
		●	●	24	Ethan Burnett
		●	●	25	Soek-Jae Lee
		●	●	35	Jake Andrews
		●	●	45	Max Connolly

Match Officials

Referee: Ross Martin

Assistant Referee: James Tewson

Assistant Referee: Nathanael Wormleighton