

ISSUE  
17



# PEACOCKS



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**KickOff 7:45pm**





**Cygnets Health Care** was established in 1988. Since then we have developed a wide range of hospital and residential services for young people and adults with mental health needs and learning disabilities within the UK. We are now the market leader of mental health services within the UK.

Our expert and highly dedicated care of 8800 employees empower 3000 individuals across 140 services and 11 service lines to consistently make a positive difference to their lives, through service user focused care and rehabilitation.

For more information or for job opportunities please visit  
[www.cygnethhealth.co.uk](http://www.cygnethhealth.co.uk)



## HONOURS

### LEAGUE HONOURS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE  
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

Taunton Town Football Club  
Cygnets Healthcare Stadium  
Wordsworth Drive  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2HG

Website: [www.tauntontown.com](http://www.tauntontown.com)  
Phone: (01823) 254909  
E-mail: [admin@tauntontown.com](mailto:admin@tauntontown.com)

Twitter: @TauntonTownFC  
Facebook: Taunton Town FC  
Instagram: Taunton Town FC  
You Tube: Peacocks TV  
Company Registration No: 1582031  
Limited By Guarantee

Taunton Town Football Club does not tolerate discrimination of any sort at the club, on the pitch or in the stands. If you experience any form of discrimination, help us to eliminate it from football by reporting it.



## STAFF DIRECTORY

President: Tom Harris  
Life Vice President: Harold Needs  
Chairman: Kevin Sturme  
Chief Executive: Kevin Sturme  
Vice Chairman: Brian Pollard  
Vice Chairman: Alan Slade  
Fixture Secretary: Martin Dongworth  
Retail Commercial Director: Lee Derrick  
Hospitality Manager: Catherine Herbert

### LIFE MEMBERS

Mr D. Budge, Mr M. Dongworth, Mrs J. Ellis, Mr T. Gibbs,  
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 Health Care Stadium for our Vanarama National League South game against Dulwich Hamlet.

After a frustrating period with no games due to all the inclement weather we now have football back on a regular basis and after a narrow loss to St Albans, who I think are probably the best team to visit us this season, we put in a couple of really good performances with 2-0 and 3-0 wins against Havant & Waterlooville and Eastbourne Borough respectively, which are a very valuable 6 points at this stage of the season.

From the start of this season we have been very solid defensively throughout, yet struggled to find the opposition net on a consistent basis, so I am hoping that the last two games that have seen us score 5 times will give us some much needed confidence going forward.

With our win on Saturday and the loss Dulwich suffered at Weymouth we leapfrogged them in the league table, but we know that we will have to be at our best again tonight to ensure we have a chance of continuing the good results.

The support from the Peacocks fans has been unbelievable all season both home and away and we will need that to continue as we head towards the back end of the season as we all want National League South football again next season.

Enjoy the game and.....UP THE PEACOCKS!

*Rob*

CELEBRATING  
75 YEARS  
1947-2022

## Find Your New Lease Of Life At Vanarama

Lease Your Brand  
New Car Today & Get:

- £ Lowest Price Guaranteed\*
- ✓ FREE & Fast UK Delivery
- ⊘ No Admin Fees



\*\*The Vanarama Price Promise guarantees you the best price or we'll give you a £100 reward card if you find a cheaper like-for-like quote. Excludes manufacturer quotes. For full terms and conditions please see our website. Autorama UK Ltd, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7DE who also trades as Vanarama, Vanarama Cars, Vanarama Insurance Services and Pickup Trucks Direct are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Our FCA Register number is 482841. As a FCA regulated credit broker we can introduce you to a select group of lenders, details of these lenders are available on request. All products are subject to credit acceptance. Our VAT number is 842814720. Please note calls may be monitored or recorded.

**vanarama**  
Find Your New Lease Of Life

VANARAMA.COM



## The Away End

# DULWICH HAMLET

Dulwich Hamlet Football Club has a long and distinguished history that goes back nearly one hundred and thirty years, but the past few seasons have been as eventful as any that went before.

Despite being locked out of their Champion Hill home in March 2018 in a well-publicised bitter dispute between their landlords and the local council, the club remained strong and on the field the team maintained their focus and push for promotion under long-serving manager Gavin Rose. They were rewarded two months later when Hendon were defeated in a dramatic penalty shoot-out before a 3,321 crowd at their temporary headquarters at Tooting in the Isthmian League Premier Division play-off final to secure promotion.

Dulwich had worked extremely hard for their promotion after an incredible one hundred and eleven seasons as members of the Isthmian League. Four play-off final defeats in seven seasons, including the last two in succession, had stiffened the Hamlet's resolve and backed by impressive crowds, few begrudged them their chance to have a crack at Step 2 football.

The first season in the Vanarama National League South was tough going, especially the first half of the campaign when continuing to ground-share. But, thankfully, they were allowed to return to Champion Hill in December 2018 and not only were the team able to secure their position in the National League South with a 14<sup>th</sup>-place finish, but the near 3,000 crowds that have attended matches regularly since their return home make them one of the best-supported clubs in Non-League Football.

League results in season 2019/20 failed to live up

to expectations and the team were hovering around the relegation zone when Coronavirus brought the campaign to a premature halt in mid-March. The highlight of the season was the club's FA Cup run which culminated in a First-Round clash with Carlisle United in front of a full house at Champion Hill, the tie being televised live on BBC's Match of the Day. Hamlet may have lost 1-4 but they gave a commendable performance against the League Two outfit. In 2020/21 the Coronavirus pandemic caused further disruption. The season began late, in October, but with the majority of matches played behind closed doors, clubs were placed in financial difficulties which gradually worsened. It came as little surprise when clubs eventually voted to curtail the National League South season, which was declared 'null and void'. Thankfully, last season was played to a conclusion and Gavin Rose's side achieved their highest placing (10<sup>th</sup>) so far in the National League South. But it could have been so much better. A play-off place beckoned for much of the campaign, but injuries and a loss of form combined to produce a disappointing second half of the season. Despite that, the team played in front of several capacity crowds at Champion Hill.

The Dulwich Hamlet story began way back in 1893, during the closing years of Queen Victoria's long reign. Towards the end of the summer that year, Lorraine Wilson was handed the princely sum of one shilling and eight pence (less than 10p in today's coinage) by a couple of keen young footballers and asked to start a Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. 'Pa', as Mr Wilson was affectionately known, tackled the task with great relish and over the next thirty years he helped to build Dulwich Hamlet into a powerful force in the world of amateur football.

Life in the early days was difficult. The club's original ground in Woodwarde Road had no changing facilities. On match days the players used to walk half a mile through the streets of Dulwich Village to get from their dressing room to the pitch. Usually they had to carry the goalposts, crossbars and corner flags with them. One consolation was that the players' route took them through the gardens of the local inn where no doubt they paused on their return journey for a post-match drink or two!

Dulwich made their debut in competitive soccer when they joined the local Camberwell League in 1894/95. The following season the championship of that League's 'B' Division became the first entry on what has proved to be a long list of honours. Achieving senior status in 1900, the club proceeded from strength to strength and in 1904/05 they won the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time. They have now won the Surrey Cup a record 16 times, most recently in 1974/75. In 1907 Dulwich gained election to the Isthmian League.

During the First World War, the legendary Edgar Kail joined Dulwich. In his brilliant fourteen-year career with the Hamlet after that war, Kail scored 427 goals (including a club record of 53 goals in the 1925/26 season). He also played three times for the FULL England International side, scoring twice on his debut against France. Kail helped Dulwich to the Isthmian League championship in 1919/20, 1925/26 and 1932/33, two FA Amateur Cup triumphs in 1919/20 and 1931/32, and the London Senior Cup in 1924/25. Another Hamlet legend of that era was goalkeeper Bert Coleman who gained a FULL England cap in 1921, keeping a clean sheet against Wales. Dulwich's other major successes during their heyday between the wars were two more FA Amateur Cup wins in 1933/34 and 1936/37, and another London Senior Cup victory in 1938/39; they were also runners-up in the Isthmian League five times. Incidentally, their 7-1 win over Marine (Liverpool) in 1931/32 equalled the record score for an FA Amateur Cup Final.

Dulwich were quickly into their stride after the Second World War and in 1948/49 they were

Isthmian League champions for a fourth time. In 1949/50 they lifted the London Senior Cup again, and it was in the same season that full-back Reg Merritt embarked upon a long career with the Hamlet during which he made a club record 576 appearances. One of the most popular players of the immediate post-war period was flying left-winger Tommy Jover whose career goals tally for Dulwich has only been bettered by Edgar Kail. Tommy completed more than seventy years magnificent service to the club, as player, official and latterly club President from 1985 until his death at the grand age of 91 in 2008. The club's main stand is now named in his honour.

Dulwich were runners-up to Wimbledon in the Isthmian League in 1958/59, but then went through a very lean spell which, apart from three good seasons in the mid 1970s, culminated in relegation from the top division. However, they bounced straight back under manager Alan Smith (who later managed Crystal Palace), winning the Division One championship at the first attempt in 1977/78. Midfield dynamo Chris Lewington was an ever-present that season and he repeated the feat in each of the next four seasons to complete a remarkable 290 consecutive appearances – another club record.

Since the phasing out of amateur football and the end of the FA Amateur Cup in 1974, Dulwich have been a semi-professional club and competed in the FA Trophy. Twice they have reached the quarter-finals, losing to Boston United in a replay in 1979/80, then to Macclesfield Town, again in a replay, in 2016/17.

After their return to the Premier Division in 1978, Dulwich were soon challenging for honours once more and in season 1979/80 they finished third. However, as the 1980s progressed, the club fell on hard times again and despite a London Senior Cup success in 1984 they struggled in the Isthmian League, being relegated to Division One at the end of 1989/90. This time it took them two years to get back to the top flight – an exciting finale to the 1991/92 campaign saw the Hamlet win their last seven league games to pip Boreham Wood



for a promotion place on the final day of the season.

An even higher spot seemed likely in 1996/97, but after Murphy resigned in February 1997 the team slipped down to mid-table and another lean spell followed. During his spell as manager, Dave Garland briefly raised spirits with some long overdue cup success in 1998/99. He guided the team to the first-round proper of the FA Cup for the first time in exactly fifty years (and the fourteenth time overall), before bowing out to an own goal at the hands of Southport. Then, at the season's end, the club celebrated a 2-1 victory over Uxbridge at Charlton Athletic in the final of the London Challenge Cup.

Dulwich finished bottom of the Premier Division in 2000/01 and there followed a long spell in Division One. During his period as chairman/manager, Martin Eede brought some stability back to the club and in 2003/04 they came within a coat of paint of regaining a Premier Division spot when they lost 4-5 on penalties to Wealdstone in a promotion play-off. Somehow, after such a heartbreaking experience, the team raised themselves just three days later to win the London Senior Cup, when two goals from Omari Coleman gave them a 2-0 victory over old rivals Tooting & Mitcham United at Hendon. The following season was generally disappointing, but veteran defender Lee Akers joined a select band of players who have reached 500 appearances for the Hamlet. In 2005/06, goalkeeper Paul Seuke became the first player since the late 1980s to appear in every First Team game, although that record was nearly snatched from his grasp until a late substitute appearance in the final fixture, as a forward!

Wayne Burnett succeeded Eede as manager and took Dulwich to the top of Division One South during 2006/07 but after prolific marksman Chris Dickson was sold to Charlton Athletic the goals dried up and the team even failed to make the play-offs. It was all-change at Champion Hill during the summer of 2007. Jack Payne replaced Eede as chairman and Craig Edwards took over as manager. Edwards had two seasons as

manager, narrowly missing a play-off spot in 2007/08, before being replaced by Gavin Rose and his assistant Junior Kadi, both former Hamlet players.

For much of the 2010/11 campaign, Dulwich appeared to be drifting towards a third successive mid-table finish, but during the closing weeks they won eight and drew one of their last eleven games to surge up the table and claim the final play-off spot. In the play-off semi-finals, fifth-placed Hamlet upset the form book with an impressive 3-1 win away to second-placed Bognor Regis Town, who had finished a mere 31 points above them! In the final, away to Leatherhead, Gavin Rose's team were within touching distance of promotion to the Premier Division when they led 3-1 with only minutes remaining; unfortunately, the home side produced a storming finish to draw level deep into stoppage time and then run out 4-3 winners in extra-time.

In 2011/12, Hamlet enjoyed their best season for many a year and were in pole position with three games remaining. Unfortunately, a rare home defeat at the hands of eventual champions Whitehawk proved crucial and they had to settle for a final placing of third. In the play-offs, they defeated Folkestone Invicta 2-1 in the semi-finals, but lost by the only goal in the final away to Bognor Regis Town where a missed penalty sealed their fate.

After the heartbreak of defeat in successive play-off finals, Gavin Rose and his squad had another crack at promotion in 2012/13 and this time they displayed real mental strength, pipping a well-supported and talented Maidstone United outfit to the Division One South title. In an exciting finale to the season, Dulwich drew 1-1 with Burgess Hill Town to finish top of the table, one point clear of rivals Maidstone. The team also reached the League Cup Final, but for the second time in three years fell at the final hurdle, losing 2-3 in extra-time to Concord Rangers.



# ONES TO WATCH



**Joe Felix**

23-year-old utility player who played for Torquay United last season. A former Fulham youth, his other previous clubs include Maidstone United, Woking and Billericay Town. Has played consistently well for Dulwich this season and is an ever-present so far.



**Kreshnic Krasniqi**

Signed in the off-season after a year with Ebbsfleet United. Born in Kosova, he began his football career in Cyprus where he progressed to playing in the First Division there for Ethnikos Achna. He moved to England where he enjoyed two seasons with Heybridge Swifts. He then had spells with Concord Rangers, Wealdstone and Maidstone United before joining Ebbsfleet.



## VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster

### Eastbourne Borough 0-3 Taunton Town

Don't think anyone saw this result coming, against a very good and in form Eastbourne team abundant with talent. In the words of the great Bruce Forsyth "Didn't We Do Well".

I really do not have a clue what Rob is putting in the players coffee, but we have seen a flair and gusto in the last 2 games, that we have not seen since the final game of last season! It would be totally unfair to the other players to signal out just one player, to heap praise onto, as the entire team played so well yesterday. But i am going to anyway!!!

Jack Bycroft has become somewhat of a colossus between the sticks for Taunton, to a point where i regularly hear opponents supporters uttering what a great keeper we have. We could have so easily gone in 2-0 down at half time yesterday, but for Jack's heroics. There is no doubt whatsoever that this lad's goalkeeping has won us many points this season! The stats don't lie when they show 15 clean sheets in all competitions this season, that is pretty impressive by anyones standards! With just 19 league goals conceded, it is by far less than any other club in the division. The nearest being Farnborough, who have conceded 25!!!! This speaks volumes, not only for Jack, but for our entire defence, who have been nothing short of superb during this campaign.

This game kicked off at a fast and furious pace, with the ball travelling at a much faster speed on the 3g pitch. Eastbourne probably had more of the ball, and as i have said, had the better chances of opening the scoring. Ross came closest for us, bringing out a good save from Worgan in the Eastbourne goal. Taunton had new lad Cam Evans making his debut, who fitted into his defending role effectively. With the scores at 0-0 as the half time whistle went, us travelling fans were quite happy with that, and would have been contented to go home with a point. Our team had much higher aspirations, as the 2nd 45 were to prove!

On 50 minutes the game turned when we were awarded a penalty out of nothing. Ross once again causing havoc in the Eastbourne goalmouth whipped in a cross, that struck their man, and went out for what many believed to be a corner! The ref saw something that i most definitely did not, and pointed to the spot. Lady luck was with us here, with just our 2nd league penalty awarded, when other more blatant pens have been turned down. Talk about swings and roundabouts!! Ross stood up to take the kick which was calmly put away. We went wild behind the goal, apologies to the ginger lad that was slightly crushed during the celebrations!!

We knew it was coming, but Eastbourne upped their attacks in their hunt for an equaliser, forcing all hands to the pumps in the Taunton rear-guard, with Ball, Grimes and Foulston working overtime. Morgan came on for new lad Evans, and did what he had to do. Now i, just as so many other fans do, like Dylan, he adds something to our attacks in the same way Danny Sullivan did. A real live-wire. Within 15 minutes he had put us 0-2 up with a cracking goal of real quality, blasting into the top right corner. It was only another few minutes before the score was 0-3 with a 2nd courtesy of Ross Stearn, with a low shot from close range. Great stuff indeed from the little bald headed chap, who was having the game of his life. In fact he could well have got his hat trick, when again from close range Ross somehow blasted over the bar!!

This was an enjoyable day all round, at a stadium Taunton have never previously played at. And a nice, friendly little club Eastbourne are too. I hope they do make the play offs. They are certainly a decent club that have the skill to finish in the top 6.

As for Taunton, we are simply getting better and better. A lot of games to play yet, but hey, we will be fine. With Jake and Chambo to return, and also our 2nd new lad Tomlinson to play. UTP.

# REPORT IT. KICK IT OUT OF FOOTBALL.

**KICK IT OUT**  
TACKLING RACISM & DISCRIMINATION



## DOWNLOAD OUR FREE REPORTING APP



FACEBOOK/KICKITOUTOFFICIAL



@KICKITOUT  
@KICKITOUTREPORT



@KICKITOUT



REPORT@KICKITOUT.ORG



0800 169 9414



# HEAD 2 HEAD



THIS SEASON  
AT A GLANCE



**22**  
GAMES PLAYED

**8**  
WON

**7**  
DRAWN

**7**  
LOST

**31**  
POINTS



**27**  
GAMES PLAYED

**9**  
WON

**4**  
DRAWN

**14**  
LOST

**31**  
POINTS



LAST 6  
FORM GUIDE



# WE GOT NOW

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



**team sports**

The official benchwear supplier to the **National League**.  
NB Teamsports supply grassroots football teams with bespoke kit and training wear.  
Visit [www.newbalanceteam.co.uk](http://www.newbalanceteam.co.uk) to find out more.



YOU ARE  
NOTHING



WITHOUT  
EACH OTHER



## Last Time Out

# EASTBOURNE BOROUGH TAUNTON TOWN

# 0 3

**VANARAM NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**VENUE: PRIORY LANE STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 1,013**

Hot on the heels of their most impressive home win in the National League this season, the Peacocks secured their best result on the road to date with a conclusive victory on the East Sussex coast. Any half time predictions for the final score would probably not have come up with such a margin, with the hosts enjoying the best of the first half but being denied by Town keeper Jack Bycroft. The second half was a different affair as the visitors benefitted from a controversial penalty award to grab the lead and go on to add two more goals to round off a thoroughly professional performance.

With such a demanding schedule of fixtures ahead, the Peacocks line-up was again rotated from the Havant game. Nick McCootie and Lee Lucas dropped to the bench to allow Lloyd James and Nat Jarvis to take over while Ollie Chamberlain was rested due to a sore hamstring and was replaced by debutant Cameron Evans in the right wing-back role. Borough, sitting just outside the play-offs in 8<sup>th</sup> spot at kick-off, made a bright start attacking down the left flank. Leone Gravata moved inside to see his shot blocked while Gravata's cross found AFC Wimbledon loanee Alfie Bendle who blazed over the top. The Peacocks only had one incursion of note in the opening quarter, Dave Sims-Burgess embarking on a good run from halfway but over running the ball for a goal kick.

The first real opening came just before the

quarter hour for the hosts, Shiloh Remy playing in Luke Pearce whose angled strike from the right side of the box was parried away by Bycroft, beginning an afternoon of defiance from the Town keeper against anything Eastbourne could throw at him. Opposite number Lee Worgan then had his first real touch of the ball when he safely held a whipped cross in from Evans before the Borough keeper was called into action as the Peacocks posted their first effort at goal. After some skills from Sims-Burgess on the left, a clearance was threaded forwards by James to find Ross Stearn on the edge of the box and his shot was palmed away.

Although both sides were finding their way into the final third, Eastbourne were looking the likelier side to break the deadlock as the half progressed which saw the Peacocks tweak their formation to try and counter. A sustained spell of pressure on the Town goal ended with Kai Innocent's strike deflecting narrowly over the bar whereas opportunities were more limited for Town, Stearn firing a free kick over and their first corner on the half hour being held by Worgan. The home side were quick to close down the Peacocks when they gained possession while offensively they continued to ask questions. A neat 1-2 between Gravata and Remy saw the former tee up Pearce eight yards out but Bycroft pushed the shot away. However his best save came in first half stoppage time when a deep corner from Bendle was met by Mitch Dickenson running in at the back post,

only for Bycroft to produce a terrific block from the close range header.

Borough continued on the front foot after the interval, an early break seeing Remy find Charlie Walker whose 18 yard shot fizzed just wide of the far post. However the outlook suddenly changed three minutes in. Sims-Burgess won the ball and found Stearn on the right and when his attempted cross struck Innocent, the referee deemed it handball and awarded a penalty. After the appeals had died down, Stearn calmly stepped up to send Worgan the wrong way from the spot five minutes in.

The home side quickly went about trying to right the perceived apparent wrong. Remy's shot glanced off a Town body to earn another corner while another effort from James Hammond deflected to Bycroft. Dylan Morgan replaced Evans near the hour mark before Eastbourne caught Town on the break, Walker latching onto a long ball and rifling narrowly past the upright. Innocent and Gravata linked up well again down the left, Bycroft acrobatically palming away Gravata's swerving strike although nothing would have counted due to a raised flag for offside. Another well-constructed move down the right started by Crystal Palace loan defender Ryan Bartley then ended with Remy sliding the ball wide of the far post.

The Peacocks showed the hosts how it should be done after 72 minutes. After Jay Foulston's corner had been punched clear, James' shot diverted out to Morgan on the left and after he had controlled, he made space to lance a wonderful effort into the far corner past the rooted Worgan from the edge of the area. Things you love to see

The second Peacocks' goal visibly deflated the hosts, with the visitors peppering themselves up after McCootie replaced Jarvis for the final 15 minutes and the Town sub soon made his presence felt. Zac Smith who had another fine game in yellow fed Sims-Burgess down the right and his low centre was dummied by McCootie to reach Stearn who fired into the bottom corner

from 12 yards for a 3-0 lead after 78 minutes. The Town No 13 though knows that he should have been travelling home with the match ball but somehow he missed a straightforward chance for his hat trick three minutes later. Sims-Burgess' ball over the top saw McCootie outmuscle Jack Burchell and find the unmarked Stearn in the middle. However he ballooned his attempt over the top.

New loan signing Ollie Tomlinson took over from Grimes as Town comfortably saw out the rest of the game. To their credit Eastbourne continued to create openings but were unable to beat the Town defence or that man Bycroft who again pulled off an excellent block to deny Pearce who had swiveled onto Gravata's cross from close range. Jaden Perez drifted a shot wide and Bendle drilled another strike just over before the whistle brought the contest to an end.

A very satisfactory afternoon for the Peacocks on their first ever visit to Priory Lane, the result lifting them up two places to 16<sup>th</sup> and a second successive clean sheet against top ten opposition meaning only 19 goals conceded in 22 League outings.







## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS

as at 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	29	21	3	5	67	30	+37	66
2	Dartford	30	18	4	8	60	34	+26	58
3	Havant & Waterlooville	28	16	5	7	57	39	+18	53
4	Oxford City	31	14	10	7	53	41	+12	52
5	Worthing	30	14	10	6	52	40	+12	52
6	St Albans City	28	14	6	8	45	27	+18	48
7	Chelmsford City	29	14	6	9	36	27	+9	48
8	Braintree Town	29	12	9	8	43	37	+6	45
9	Eastbourne Borough	30	14	3	13	50	47	+3	45
10	Tonbridge Angels	30	13	5	12	46	47	-1	44
11	Farnborough	25	11	6	8	30	25	+5	39
12	Bath City	28	10	8	10	39	37	+2	38
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	29	10	8	11	33	37	-4	38
14	Welling United	27	9	9	9	38	43	-5	36
15	Dover Athletic	30	8	9	13	32	43	-11	33
16	TAUNTON TOWN	22	8	7	7	23	19	+4	31
17	DULWICH HAMLET	27	9	4	14	42	52	-10	31
18	Slough Town	28	7	9	12	36	53	-17	30
19	Cheshunt	28	7	5	16	32	50	-18	26
20	Hampton & Richmond Borough	27	6	7	14	33	46	-13	25
21	Chippenham Town	25	6	7	12	23	36	-13	25
22	Weymouth	27	7	3	17	31	53	-22	24
23	Concord Rangers	25	6	5	14	24	43	-19	23
24	Hungerford Town	28	4	6	18	22	41	-19	18

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

### Today's Other Fixtures - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

7.45pm	Bath City v Hampton & Richmond Borough
7.45pm	Cheshunt v Welling United
7.45pm	Hungerford Town v St Albans City
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Dulwich Hamlet
7.45pm	Weymouth v Concord Rangers

### Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

### Upcoming Fixtures - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

7.45pm	Chelmsford City v Slough Town
--------	-------------------------------

### Upcoming Fixtures - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

7.45pm	Braintree Town	v	Dulwich Hamlet
7.45pm	Chippenham Town	v	Ebbsfleet United
7.45pm	Taunton Town	v	Farnborough



## NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
Kick Off 7.45pm

PLEASE COME AND VISIT THE



## CLUB SHOP

TODAY

Catch the match highlights



# TAUNTON TOWN TV

FIND US ON  
YouTube



# IT'S SELFIE TIME





# 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	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
12th	HOME	CHESHUNT	VNLS	1-0 W	720
19th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	FAT 2	2-1 W	661
26th	AWAY	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	VNLS	1-1 D	452

## DECEMBER '22

3rd	HOME	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	0-0 D	624
6th	AWAY	YEOVIL TOWN	SPC	2-1 L	441
20th	AWAY	SLOUGH TOWN	FAT 3	0-1 W	299
26th	AWAY	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	1-3 W	1,488

## JANUARY '23

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
10th	AWAY	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	1-0 L	502
17th	AWAY	TORQUAY UNITED	FAT 4	4-2 L	1,411
28th	HOME	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	0-1 L	807
31st	HOME	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	2-0 W	551

## FEBRUARY '23

4th	AWAY	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	0-3 W	1,013
7th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	7:45pm	-
14th	HOME	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
18th	AWAY	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	3:00pm	-
21st	HOME	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	7:45pm	-
25th	HOME	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	3:00pm	-
28th	HOME	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-

## 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	-
21st	AWAY	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	7:45pm	-
25th	AWAY	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
28th	AWAY	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-

## APRIL '23

1st	HOME	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	3:00pm	-
4th	HOME	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	7:45pm	-
7th	AWAY	BATH CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-
10th	HOME	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	3:00pm	-
13th	AWAY	DARTFORD	VNLS	7:45pm	-
15th	AWAY	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	3:00pm	-
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	-
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-





# THE UNTOLD GAME

## - The American Dream -

When we think of football in the United States - and not the Super Bowl kind - we tend to think of it as a fairly modern invention. The North American Soccer League of the 1970s and 80s that attracted the likes of Pele, George Best, Johann Cruyff and, in a slightly bizarre turn of events, a young Peter Beardsley. After its demise, the MLS' faltering start and thus far successful revival after David Beckham's move to LA Galaxy. But soccer has a long history in the USA, and the first national league created was earlier than some of the top European leagues. The inaugural season of the American Soccer League kicked off in 1921.

Football in the USA goes back to the nineteenth century. In 1869, the representatives of Princeton and Rutgers Universities took part in one of the more pivotal games in sporting history. It has gone down as the first gridiron game in history. But the laws used that day were the FA's Laws of the Game, and there was definitely spherical ball. This was a game of European football.

Football in the United States then filtered its way down to the working classes, exploding in popularity, especially among European immigrants. Teams started to spring up in American cities. By 1884 an American Football Association had been formed, just in time to prevent the formation of what would have been the first league, backed by the owners of Major League Baseball teams to give their players something to do in the winter. The AFA, even at this early stage, was unwilling to

They did, however, set up a cup for teams to compete in. This first organised competition drew teams from factory towns, usually made up of factory workers and often sponsored by the company. The first three were won by Clark ONT, owned by the Clark Thread Company. But then it was dominated by Fall River Rovers, who won six of the next seven. They were the only team to win both the American Cup and the later Challenge Cup, although the struggles of their parent company forced Rovers to withdraw by the start of the twentieth century.

Turmoil, it seemed, was catching. When the AFA applied for FIFA membership in 1912, a breakaway organisation (The American Amateur Football Association) applied at the same time. FIFA rejected both, needing just one governing body. The delay in FIFA affiliation did little to hurt the growth of the sport, but did not stop teams from as far afield as Third Lanark in Scotland and Hakoah Wien in Austria to embark on lucrative tours. Third Lanark won 24 of their 25 games in the United States, eventually drawing the last against Fall River Rovers. Hakoah Wien, full of exciting central European talent drew record-breaking crowds and at least one of their players chose not to return to Austria at the end of the tour, finding the life of celebrity and riches too enticing to give up.

As the AAFA gained the upper hand over their rival federation, it changed its name to the USFA and, before eventually turning its attention to a league. The American Soccer

League claimed to be a national competition, but because of travel difficulties in reality it was limited to the northeast. Not that this impacted on popularity. Football was never as popular as baseball, but it was very lucrative, and those riches were used to attract European players, much to European chagrin. As a result, early crowds in the tens of thousands threatened to make soccer America's second sport, ahead of gridiron.

Sadly, as so often with football in America, it wasn't to be. The ASL fell out with the USFA when the latter tried to impose new rules to boost popularity even further. These American innovations included end of season playoffs and a league table sorted by winning percentage rather than points. Also, interestingly, the USFA wanted substitutions. The ASL conceded this and introduced them in 1926; the World Cup didn't allow substitutes until 1970.

In the end, the ASL initiated a boycott of the USFA's challenge cup. Three teams went against the boycott and were kicked out of the league, but the courts found in their favour. Rancour and disharmony within the sport smashed headlong into the collapsing American economy, and fans decided against spending what little they had watching football. By 1932, amid falling crowds and financial problems, the league eventually folded. But not before it sent a team to the first World Cup, to finish third, still the best finish for a team outside of Europe and South America.

Enjoy the game.

*Martyn*

Martyn Green



Fall River Rovers





## 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.**

**CELEBRATING  
75 YEARS  
1947-2022**

## Find Your New Lease Of Life At Vanarama

### Lease Your Brand New Electric Car Today & Get

- ⚡ **FREE Home Charge Point\***
- ✓ **FREE & Fast UK Delivery**
- £ **Lowest Price Guaranteed\*\***



**vanarama**  
Find Your New Lease Of Life

\*The free Home Charge Point offer applies to all new leases on battery electric vans & cars from 09/07/20 onwards. Terms and conditions apply. \*\*The Vanarama Price Promise guarantees you the best price or we'll give you a £100 reward card if you find a cheaper like-for-like quote. Excludes manufacturer quotes. For full terms and conditions please see our website.

Autorama UK Ltd Registered in England and Wales with registered number 05137709. Registered office: Autorama UK Ltd, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7DE, United Kingdom. Vanarama, Vanarama Cars, Vanarama Short Term leasing, Vanarama Insurance Services and Pickup Trucks Direct are trading styles of Autorama UK Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Our FCA Register number is 630748. We are registered with the ICO (ICO Registration Number Z9535254. VAT number GB842814720. Autorama UK Ltd is a Credit Broker not a Lender, we can introduce you to a selected group of Lenders. All products are subject to credit acceptance. We do not currently deliver to Northern Ireland.



# MEET THE TEAMS

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Paul Barnes

Jack Bycroft - GK	1	●
Jay Foulston	3	●
Nick Grimes	4	●
Dan Ball	5	●
Jake Wannell	6	●
Ollie Chamberlain	7	●
Lloyd James	8	●
Nat Jarvis	9	●
Nick McCootie	10	●
Joe Guest	11	●
Ross Stearn	13	●
Zac Smith	16	●
Cameron Evans	17	●
Dave Sims-Burgess	20	●
Lloyd Irish - GK	21	●
Dylan Morgan	22	●
Ollie Tomlinson	25	●
Lee Lucas	31	●
		●
		●

1	Charlie Grainger - GK
2	Sanchez Ming
3	Will Wood
4	James Comley
5	Josh Hill
6	Jack Holland
7	Kalvin Kalala
8	Frankie Raymond
9	Danny Mills
11	Nana Owusu
13	Aaron Jones - GK
15	Quade Taylor
16	Andre Blackman
18	George Porter
19	Dan Smith
20	Jamie Splatt
23	Joe Felix
24	Johl Powell
25	Ronnie Vint
26	Kreshnic Krasniqi

## Match Officials

Referee: Daniel Lamport

Asst Referee: Mark Senior

Asst Referee: James Gould

[www.tauntontown.com](http://www.tauntontown.com)