

ISSUE
18



PEACOCKS



Tuesday 14th February 2023

KickOff 7:45pm



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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
Cynet Healthcare Stadium
Wordsworth Drive
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2HG

Website: www.tauntontown.com
Phone: (01823) 254909
E-mail: admin@tauntontown.com

Twitter: @TauntonTownFC
Facebook: Taunton Town FC
Instagram: Taunton Town FC
You Tube: Peacocks TV
Company Registration No: 1582031
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President: Tom Harris
Life Vice President: Harold Needs
Chairman: Kevin Sturmeay
Chief Executive: Kevin Sturmeay
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 Willis
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 Sturmeay
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 tonight's Vanarama National League South game as we host Spencer Day, his Farnborough team and their supporters.

We are certainly no strangers to each other as we have done battle in recent years in the Southern League but with us both gaining promotion last season we are able to do it all over again at a higher level.

Farnborough took the points in the corresponding fixture earlier this season by a 1-0 scoreline so hopefully we can redress the balance tonight. If statistics are anything to go by I wouldn't be expecting a goal-fest this evening though, with Farnborough having conceded 25 goals in 25 games and ourselves letting in just 20 goals in 23 games, the League's number one and number two teams defensively.

As we were not in action at the weekend, our last outing was here this time last week when we extended our unbeaten run to three games, coming from behind to draw 1-1 with Dulwich Hamlet. The last three results have shown that we can hold our own in the National League against established sides.

Get behind the lads tonight as they really do appreciate and feed off the positive energy coming from the terraces.

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

Rob

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The Away End

FARNBOROUGH

Farnborough Football Club is the re-birth of Farnborough Town FC that was liquidated on 25 July 2007.

Farnborough Football Club started life in season 2007/08 in the Southern League Division One South & West and it was a season that turned to glory as the club won the Championship and with it promotion to the Southern League Premier Division. The League title was secured under manager Andy Clement with 89 points and an impressive 120 goals being scored in the process that underlined a fantastic achievement for the club's new beginnings.

Despite the success, the club and Andy Clement mutually agreed that due to the extra demands in the next step up a change of manager would be made and former Crawley Town and Basingstoke Town manager Francis Vines took up the reigns in the summer of 2008, assisted by former Reading and Basingstoke Town midfielder Steve Richardson.

Farnborough's Cherrywood Road ground had a large face-lift and investment was being put into a number of areas under the leadership of former Chairman Simon Hollis and the Board of Directors.

Boro almost made it back-to-back promotions, just missing out in the BGB Southern Premier play-off final, losing 1-0 to Gloucester City. That came after Vines' men had led the way for six months of the

campaign, before losing the title to Corby Town in the final game of the season.

In the summer of 2009, it was announced that Vines would not remain as manager, with Steve King replacing him as first team boss. Justin Skinner also arrived as assistant manager, with both signing full-time deals. Season 2009-10 saw Farnborough go on to win the Southern League and with it promotion to the Blue Square South.

Season 2010-11 saw 'Boro for the second time in their short history follow up a Championship with a second place finish, and after accounting for Woking in a two legged play-off semi-final, fell again at the last hurdle, Ebbsfleet United winning promotion to the Blue Square Premier in front of a record Rushmoor Community Stadium crowd exceeding 4,000.

Steve King left the club in May 2011, replaced by former Hayes & Yeading manager Garry Haylock, and the club declared that it was transferring to full time status.

Following a poor run of results, Haylock's tenure as manager came to an end in November 2011, and his replacement came in the guise of Chertsey Town manager Spencer Day, and a return to part time football.

With the change of manager came an upturn of fortunes, and a run of six successive league wins spanning January through March pulled Boro away from the

danger zone, although a five point deduction imposed by the Football Conference took the club back into trouble, but Blue Square South football was secured on the penultimate Saturday with a solitary goal victory over Havant & Waterlooville.

In 2012/13 the club enjoyed a relatively successful season on the pitch, playing a good brand of football, resulting in a 14th place finish.

Season 2013/14 saw Boro secure a major sponsorship deal with well known bookmakers Paddy Power and retained their status in the Football Conference South.

Historical financial debt problems inevitably left the manager with no choice but to implement a reduced player budget in season 2014/15. The consequences of this long term handicap finally came home to roost when Boro finished 20th in the Vanarama Conference South suffering relegation to the Isthmian Premier League, and a further relegation the following season. A re-defining of the league's geographical borders also resulted in a sideways move to the Southern League.

Off the pitch, things were beginning to look a little brighter, thanks to the hard work of the owners and the club was debt free for the first time in many years!

2016/17 season got off to a good start, with Farnborough briefly leading the charge before dropping back to the second position behind Royston Town. A season long chase ensued, waiting for Royston to slip up, a slip that never materialised, and the Boro had to settle for second place and home draw in the playoffs. The team stayed stable throughout the season, based on the

successful late season squad from the previous year with a few local favourites in the guise of Nic Ciardini, Josh Huggins and Perry Coles added. The start of the season saw us graced by the presence of former Norwich/Reading/Bristol Rovers star, Jamie Cureton, before he departed for higher level football at Eastleigh. On the coaching side, long time assistant coach, Leigh Dynan, left to pursue a manager's role at Whyteleafe, but Spencer wasted no time in bringing in Jon Reed whose knowledge of the Southern league proved to be invaluable.

A late season run by Egham Town saw them arrive at The Rushmoor Community Stadium as playoff semi final opponents but Farnborough were also a team in form, and having secured the services of Cureton again, along with former favourite, Scott Donnelly, were just too strong, coming out on top with a 4-0 winning scoreline.

Onto the playoff final, and in front of 1000 plus Boro supporters, the Yellow secured a nervous, but comfortable 2-0 victory over Barton Rovers to signify their return to the Southern Premier League.

The 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons were to be seasons of consolidation.

Onto the eventful 2019/2020 season, the season that never was! An up and down season on many fronts.

An opening day loss to a fancied Poole Town was one of several lows, which included 0-7 and 0-5 home defeats to Tiverton and Wealdstone, the latter sending Boro crashing out of the FA cup. The passing of club stalwart, Chris Cook who lost his fight with cancer.

In contrast, several highs also, 4-0 home victories against Taunton, Yate and Hendon,

and an impressive 1-3 away victory at Weston-super-Mare. The high flying Boro squad making their way to Truro, LHR to NQY return!

Alas it was all in vain, with the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus, the league was suspended in March and declared Null and Void.

With the outlook for season 2020/21 pretty bleak again due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Farnborough decided to "risk" a low budget approach for the start of the season, and it proved to be the correct decision when the season faltered after just 8 matches.

Season 2021/22 started well. Spencer assembled an exciting squad with many promising signings, most notable Sam Deering and Ricky Holmes making the weekly journey from Essex to spearhead the Boro challenge.

Despite an opening day draw at home to Walton Casuals, Farnborough followed up with impressive victories away to Chesham and Poole and at home to Hendon. A small stutter was soon forgotten by an 11 match run of victories in all competitions which saw the Yellows take a healthy lead at the head of the division. Top at Christmas, followed up with a 9 game unbeaten run in January emphasised the desire of this squad to gain promotion, although with chasers, Hayes and Yeading United, falling behind in fixtures, the lead was never mathematically safe.

Despite the "small" distraction of a Hampshire Cup run ending in victory in the Final at Eastleigh, a battle ensued in the league, and as Hayes played out each game in hand, the chase for the title became tighter and tighter. A draw between the two

teams in March added to the tension with still no clear winner.

Then all of a sudden, there was a third horse in the race. A revitalised Taunton Town came on a fantastic run which would see them hurdle both of the long term leaders, and the race went down to the last game of the season, with any one of the three able to claim the title. At the final whistle, Taunton were champions, Hayes 2nd and Farnborough in a slightly disappointing third.

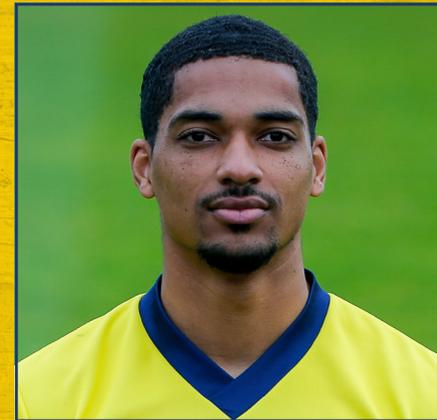
On to the playoffs, with Farnborough earning a home fixture against Metropolitan Police, a team that had solidly been top 4 all season.

A nail-bitingly close match ensued, with the police taking an 85th minute lead, only for Boro to get an injury time equaliser, and an extra time winner.

So a showdown against our season long rivals, Hayes and Yeading was set, and what a day it turned out to be. A master game plan to thwart the effectiveness of the attack minded Hayes team was to eventually bare fruit, despite going a goal down early on. A first half injury time equaliser by club favourite Reggie Young, and a late winner by Sam Deering saw the Boro celebrating at the final whistle, and finally, promotion back to step 2, the National League South!



ONES TO WATCH



Mason Bloomfield

Bloomfield started his career with Dagenham & Redbridge back in 2014, before dipping into Non-League with the likes of Chelmsford City, Billericay Town, Grays Athletic, Witham Town, Brentwood Town and Aveley. The striker secured a move to North East Hampshire in January 2023, after his departure from Bromley.



CJ Feam

A product of the Farnborough Youth Academy, CJ has a first class attitude and is eager to learn and progress in the game. A talented and hardworking defender/midfielder, was Young Player of the Season in 2013/14 and supporters' Player of the Season in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2017/2018.

www.farnboroughfc.co.uk

VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster

Taunton Town 1-1 Dulwich Hamlet

The biggest mystery about this encounter was, how in the name of Rumpelstiltskin, did we not come away with ALL 3 points? Dulwich Hamlet were there for the taking, probably the worse team we have played all season!!!

After a very dull first half, with our best efforts coming from Dave Sims-Burgess, with an effort brushing the woodwork, and a second shot on goal hitting the side netting, we just about had the edge on the well below average opposition. And yet, we went in at half time 0-1 down. Their goal came about after Jay had put in a decent corner, giving Ross Stearn the opportunity to blast the ball home through the packed defence. But it was stopped on the line by the defender. Shouts went up, and arms were raised that there was a handball, but the referee waved play on, as Hamlet surged up the field to score at the second attempt, after Jack had initially saved the first shot. Their goal came totally against the run of play, and certainly did not reflect the game at all. With still a hour to play, our opponents began time-wasting tactics. Their intentions hell bent on causing frustration amongst the Peacocks ranks. I cannot recall our keeper making another note-worthy save for the remainder of the game!!!

The 2nd half was a different story altogether, as we threw everything bar the kitchen sink at Dulwich in our quest for the 3 points. Twice more, we were to hit the woodwork, first from a Jay Foulston volley, and then from a deft flick from Nat Jarvis. Finally we got our equaliser, when Simmo blasted the ball home, much to the delight of the many Taunton fans behind the goal. And still the attacks continued. We had another couple of half-hearted penalty appeals turned down. Another effort from Ross was well saved by the keeper. The attacking formation was then changed with Dylan Morgan coming on for Ross, and Nick McCootie for Jarvis. With Nick also having a good effort saved. I kid you not, on another day it could have been a 4-1, even 5-1 victory for the Peacocks. The actions of the

Dulwich players with their constant pushing, shoving and holding, infuriated the Town supporters no end, as their cheating tactics were repeatedly ignored by the officials.

This result leaves us just ahead of Dulwich on goal difference in the division, where we sit in 16th place. Which is a very much false position, given our games in hand. Despite many feeling we were cheated out of maximum points last night, we really cannot grumble after winning 7 points from a possible 9 from our last 3 games.

Our next opponents are Farnborough next Tuesday, who we know much about. Like us, they have a very stubborn defence, which will be a key factor on the outcome of this game. We lost at their ground at the beginning of the season, and so will seek revenge. They currently sit in 11th position, 7 points above us, so are not to be underestimated. Its sure to be a tight one, but i feel this team we have right now are more than worthy of securing maximum points.

Let's do it. UTP.



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HEAD 2 HEAD



23
GAMES PLAYED

8
WON

8
DRAWN

7
LOST

32
POINTS

26
GAMES PLAYED

12
WON

6
DRAWN

8
LOST

42
POINTS



LAST 6
FORM GUIDE



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**NICK
MCCOOTIE**
#10

Last Time Out

TAUNTON TOWN DULWICH HAMLET

1
1

VANARAM NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2023

VENUE: CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 687

It was a tale of two halves for the Peacocks as Hamlet became the sixth side this season to leave the Cygnet Health Care Stadium with an addition to their points tally. A lacklustre opening 45 minutes from the hosts saw them trail at the interval before they emerged for the second half with far greater purpose and quality, drawing level through Dave Sims-Burgess but frustratingly not able to translate their superiority over the visitors into further goals.

The Town side showed two changes from the trip to Eastbourne, Jake Wannell slotting back in after his ban in place of skipper Nick Grimes who was rested with a knock while Lee Lucas returned and Cameron Evans dropped to the bench. Going into the game after two highly impressive results, there might have been hope that the crowd would have surpassed the 687 in attendance but obviously a chilly night, the new series of Waterloo Road (surely not) or some other excuse for the football fans of Taunton took higher priority. The early exchanges were pretty bland, Hamlet winning the first corner of the evening after five minutes from which Cameron Thompson glanced a header well wide of the target while a deep cross from Wannell was played back in by Sims-Burgess, but Joe Guest couldn't capitalise at the other end.

Stearn, hoping to continue his goal habit from Saturday's trip to Sussex, steered a header comfortably wide from Wannell's cross while

Thompson deposited a shot into the food outlets behind the goal, summing up a tedious first quarter with neither side able to conjure up anything meaningful. Play continued in the same vein for a time, a Zac Smith ball in from the right evading a claret shirt before Peacocks' keeper Jack Bycroft palmed away a cross-shot from Nana Owusu. Town then had appeals for a penalty dismissed after Jay Foulston's corner had been prodded at goal by Dan Ball but blocked on the line. No handball decreed the referee.

Two minutes later Dulwich were ahead. Thompson played in Owusu who got there just ahead of Bycroft to prod against the post and when the ball came back to him he found George Porter in the middle who had the relatively simple job of scooping the ball into an empty net on 35 minutes. A sluggish Town attempted to find a quick response, with Sims-Burgess at the forefront of most of the home side's initiatives. He got the better of Quade Taylor on the left but fired into the side netting when a pass to a team mate might have been the more productive option and a Lucas cross was too high for Stearn at the back post before Guest found Sims-Burgess on the inside right and his powerful strike skimmed the angle of the bar as it flew over. Hamlet had the last say of the half when Thompson's 20 yard shot was safely held by Bycroft, with Town leaving the field knowing they needed to do an awful lot more.

Thankfully the Peacocks emerged with a new

shape and a new desire after the break. The formation in the first half along with a distinct lack of tempo became a thing of the past, well 15 minutes ago, with Town reverting to their more familiar three at the back. The visitors did post the opening effort of the half, Will Wood shooting well wide, but from then on Town took control as they pressed the visitors back as Smith and Foulston began to profit out wide. Stearn's 20 yard shot was parried by Charlie Grainger in the Hamlet goal and gathered before Sims-Burgess could get there but the Dulwich keeper was an onlooker as the home side hit the woodwork for the second time five minutes in. Stearn's cross in from the left was cleared as far as Foulston on the edge of the box and his first-time volley struck the base of the post as the static Grainger glanced nervously sideways.

Whilst that was bad luck, the next opportunity will go down as bad finishing (sorry Ross). Lucas' effort deflected into the path of the unmarked Stearn but after controlling the ball and with just Grainger to beat he sent his shot the wrong side of the post. Stearn then broke down the right to send a cross straight to the Hamlet keeper before a revitalised Town drew level on 58 minutes. Smith did the donkey work down the right after receiving a throw-in, getting to the byeline to find Sims-Burgess at the near post. The Town striker did the rest, turning neatly to drill home into the opposite corner for his 7th goal of the campaign.

The Peacocks were left cursing the woodwork again three minutes later when a Lucas cross from the right saw Jarvis lunge to connect and send the ball against the crossbar from close range. Two substitutions within the space of three minutes added some fresh legs for the final twenty minutes or so, with Dylan Morgan replacing Stearn and Nick McCootie taking over from Jarvis. Morgan nearly had an assist to his name soon after coming on, a clearance falling to him and from his chipped ball forward, Wannell met the ball sweetly on the volley, only for Grainger to deny him with a fine reaction save as he tipped over the bar.

The Peacocks were left cursing the woodwork again three minutes later when a Lucas cross from the right saw Jarvis lunge to connect and send the ball against the crossbar from close range. Two substitutions within the space of three minutes added some fresh legs for the final twenty minutes or so, with Dylan Morgan replacing Stearn and Nick McCootie taking over from Jarvis. Morgan nearly had an assist to his name soon after coming on, a clearance falling to him and from his chipped ball forward, Wannell met the ball sweetly on the volley, only for Grainger to deny him with a fine reaction save as he tipped over the bar.

The one way traffic continued into the final ten minutes as Town looked the only likely winner. Whilst they managed to make inroads into the Dulwich box, they just couldn't produce that clear opening as Hamlet hung on, taking every opportunity to waste precious seconds to help avoid a fifth successive League defeat. McCootie's low strike from distance was clutched at the second attempt by Grainger while a Lucas shot deflected for a corner during five minutes of stoppage time. Dulwich might even have snatched an unlikely winner when Frankie Raymond's free kick was flicked on by Porter and just missed a touch at the far post. However an offside flag would have cancelled it out.

Seven points from nine is not a bad return for the Peacocks from their last three games but they will know it should have been nine from nine against a Hamlet side that were nothing out of the ordinary. The point keeps Town in 16th place but with ample scope to climb much further up the table if it falls into place in front of goal as they start eating their way through their backlog of games.





**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS**

as at 12th February 2023

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	30	22	3	5	70	31	+39	69
2	Dartford	31	19	4	8	62	34	+28	61
3	Havant & Waterlooville	29	17	5	7	60	39	+21	56
4	Oxford City	32	15	10	7	56	41	+15	55
5	Worthing	31	14	10	7	56	45	+11	52
6	St Albans City	30	15	6	9	50	34	+16	51
7	Braintree Town	30	13	9	8	44	37	+7	48
8	Chelmsford City	30	14	6	10	36	30	+6	48
9	Tonbridge Angels	31	14	5	12	48	48	0	47
10	Eastbourne Borough	31	14	3	14	51	49	+2	45
11	FARNBOROUGH	26	12	6	8	33	25	+8	42
12	Hemel Hempstead Town	30	11	8	11	35	38	-3	41
13	Bath City	30	10	9	11	41	41	0	39
14	Welling United	29	9	10	10	39	47	-8	37
15	Dover Athletic	31	9	9	13	34	44	-10	36
16	Slough Town	29	8	9	12	37	53	-16	33
17	TAUNTON TOWN	23	8	8	7	24	20	+4	32
18	Dulwich Hamlet	29	9	5	15	44	55	-11	32
19	Cheshunt	30	7	6	17	33	54	-21	27
20	Hampton & Richmond Borough	29	6	8	15	34	48	-14	26
21	Concord Rangers	27	7	5	15	26	45	-19	26
22	Chippenham Town	26	6	7	13	23	38	-15	25
23	Weymouth	29	7	3	19	33	57	-24	24
24	Hungerford Town	29	5	6	18	25	41	-16	21

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

Tonight's Other Fixtures - Tuesday 14th February

- 7.45pm Braintree Town v Dulwich Hamlet
- 7.45pm Chippenham Town v Ebbsfleet United

Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 18th February

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

Upcoming Fixtures - Monday 20th February

- 7.45pm Chelmsford City v Tonbridge Angels

Upcoming Fixtures - Tuesday 21st February

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

NEXT UP
At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium

Tuesday 21st February 2023
Kick Off 7.45pm

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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	CESHUNT	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	1-1 D	687
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	CESHUNT	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 Bank of England Club -

With the outlandish spending of Chelsea in the most recent transfer window, the worries about Newcastle's scarcely understandable level of resources, and the news of Manchester City's alleged wrongdoing over the last decade and a half, it has never felt more like money is ruining the game we all love. What Arsene Wenger described in 2005 as 'financial doping' with regards to Jose Mourinho's first spell at Chelsea has now become commonplace, even expected, among fans of elite clubs, as they compete with each other for bragging rights on Sky Sports' transfer tracker almost as much as they do on the pitch. But spending big in the hope of success is nothing new.

Arsenal, ironically, were one of the first clubs to be given the 'Bank of England' moniker, as they outspent their rivals in the 1920s and 30s, culminating in three back-to-back titles. Chelsea also earned it for a short spell in the 1930s, and Everton in the 1970s. But perhaps the most unexpected financial dopers in the history of the term. For a decade from the late 1940s, the side desperately trying to buy success were Sunderland.

In 1948, the Roker Park side kick-started a new era with the shock signing of Len Shackleton from rivals Newcastle United. The Clown Prince of Football, as he was known for his entertaining style, made the move for a British record fee of £20,500. Ivor Broadis joined from Carlisle for a similar fee in January 1949. He arrived just in time

for Sunderland to fall to perhaps the biggest shock in FA Cup history, losing to non-league Yeovil in the fourth round, something of an ill omen. If anything, though, it simply highlighted the need for more spending. Tommy Wright joined, but the following season would be the biggest of all, with Welsh international Trevor Ford singing for a world record £30,000 from Aston Villa.

A third place finish in Ford's first season proved to be a false dawn. The world record signing never quite connected with his teammates, despite a scoring record that surpassed what he had achieved in the Midlands. He didn't get on with Shackleton, at one stage even declaring that he would never play in the same team as his strike partner. For Shackleton's part, he admitted later that there was never really a team at Sunderland at that time, just a collection of highly talented individuals.

Two mediocre mid-table finishes followed before the 1952-3 season finally saw some promise. Sunderland raced into an early lead playing some scintillating football, but the cracks through the squad proved too much to overcome. Shackleton, whose primary focus was always the crowd, clashed horribly with Ford. The Clown Prince had a habit of getting into space and playing short, spinning passes in the direction of his teammates that would skid off of the surface and back to him. Ford, a more professional presence, found Shackleton's crowd-pleasing antics infuriating. Eventually, a 12-game winless run

in the second half of the season saw the Black Cats drop to ninth. Ford left for Cardiff later that year.

To replace him, Sunderland went big once again, spending what was at the time a colossal £70,000 to bring in England internationals Ray Daniels and Billy Eliot, as well as goalkeeper Jimmy Cowan, with an outrageous bid for Jackie Milburn blocked, but all the spending was to no avail. Sunderland struggled against relegation all season and barely survived. More spending followed in the following seasons, including £20,000 for Don Revie, but no success was forthcoming before the project came crashing down.

In January 1957, an anonymous letter to the FA alleged that Sunderland had breached financial regulations, most notably passing envelopes under the table to exceed the maximum wage limit for players. The FA took four months to investigate, issuing a

£5000 fine, a paltry amount considering the level of spending over the previous decade. But they went much further too, banning the chairman and three directors for life. More devastatingly, five players at the club, along with Trevor Ford, were served with suspensions. Manager Bill Murray was issued with a fine and resigned.

Sunderland finished that season with their first ever relegation from the First Division, after nearly seven decades at the top. They returned six years later, but never spent so lavishly again. In reality, they never really recovered from the fallout.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn

Martyn Green



Trevor Ford



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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MEET THE TEAMS

Tuesday 14th February 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Spencer Day

Jack Bycroft - GK	1	●	●	Jack Turner - GK
Jay Foulston	3	●	●	Kevin Lokko
Nick Grimes	4	●	●	Adeoye Olumuyiwa
Dan Ball	5	●	●	Jack Ball
Jake Wannell	6	●	●	Ollie Robinson
Ollie Chamberlain	7	●	●	Jordan Norville-Williams
Lloyd James	8	●	●	Freddie Grant
Nat Jarvis	9	●	●	Courtney Fearn
Nick McCootie	10	●	●	Kenny Davis
Joe Guest	11	●	●	Jonathan Page
Ross Stearn	13	●	●	Omar Rowe
Zac Smith	16	●	●	Michael Fernandes
Cameron Evans	17	●	●	Reggie Young
Dave Sims-Burgess	20	●	●	Mitch Parker
Lloyd Irish - GK	21	●	●	Hisham Kasimu
Dylan Morgan	22	●	●	Liam Ferdinand
Ollie Tomlinson	25	●	●	Tony Lee
Lee Lucas	31	●	●	Ricky Holmes
		●	●	John Oyenuga
		●	●	

Match Officials

Referee: Tom Ellsmore
Asst Referee: Jake Woolley
Asst Referee: John Duffy

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