

ISSUE
19



PEACOCKS



Tuesday 21st February 2023

KickOff 7:45pm



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CUP HONOURS

FA VASE
Winners 2000-01

SOMERSET PREMIER CUP
Winners 2002-03, 2005-06, 2013-14,
2014-15, 2016-17

CONTACT DETAILS

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Company Registration No: 1582031
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LIFE MEMBERS

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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

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Safety Officer: Roger Conway
Head Steward: Mike Parsons
Welfare Officer: Neil White
Turnstile Manager: Jason Mayled
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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 Ross Jenkins, his Oxford City team and their supporters to Somerset.

We are in a tough run of games having played and lost (3-2) at 3rd placed Havant & Waterlooville on Saturday and tonight we welcome 4th placed Oxford City. There are no easy games in this league, but playing those teams up at the top of the table back to back with 3 days apart is tough, especially with a small squad, but we will roll up our sleeves and give it 100% as we have always done.

I thought we were very good in defeat to Havant on Saturday and it just goes to show although we are a small club in this league we can certainly mix it with the bigger teams and it showed at the final whistle with how they celebrated.

We now have 3 home games on the trot with tonight followed by Saturday against Dover Athletic and then again next Tuesday when we entertain Eastbourne Borough, games that we know we are capable of getting results in and we must be looking at gaining as many points here at the Cygnet as possible to ensure National League South football again in 2023/24.

Your support as ever means so much to myself, the management team and the players, so keep on doing what you have since the beginning of the season and get behind the team.

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

Rob

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The Away End

OXFORD CITY

Oxford City Football Club was formed in 1884, serving as a 'representative club' comprised of players from multiple teams within the city including, but not limited to Oxford Cygnets, Oxford United College Servants, and Oxford Wanderers. The club initially played friendlies against other local sides, but gradually expanded to take on more prestigious sides from further afield.

For a number of reasons, the representative model proved unworkable and, in 1896, the club was restructured and relaunched in its present form at the beginning of the 1897 season.

Winning the Oxfordshire County Cup (now the Senior Cup) in 1900 was the first real success, as well as appearing at the 1st Round stage of both major FA competitions in 1901/02. The FA Cup run took them to the final 32, equivalent to today's 4th Round, and saw the club take 2nd Division Lincoln City to a replay – an achievement which, to this day ranks among the club's greatest moments.

This was the start of a golden era, with Amateur Cup Final appearances in 1903, 1906 and 1913 the first and last ending in defeat after replays. 1906 was the pinnacle of success, with City beating Bishop Auckland 3-0 in a snowstorm. In the following season, City again reached the First Round of the FA Cup, losing 3-0 at home to 1st Division side Bury.

City were invited to join the Isthmian League in 1907, finishing runners-up in 1934/35 and again in 1945/46, and made a further FA Cup First Round appearance in 1933/34, losing 5-1 at home to Gillingham, then in League Division 3 (South). In most respects, though, the inter-war years were rather unremarkable.

During World War Two, the Hoops built up a strong team competing in the Great Western Combination under the captaincy of Percy James, and for a few years after the war produced some excellent results. Several of this side joined the ranks of the professionals and, through the '50s, City's fortunes went into decline with them finishing near the bottom of the League on several occasions and even being warned that their performances would need to improve if they were to remain members of the League.

In the 1960s the Club's fortunes turned the corner and they enjoyed a sustained run of FA Cup success: reaching the 1st Round five years running, making it to the 2nd Round in 1969/70, and forcing replays against Bristol Rovers and Bournemouth along the way. The Quarter-Final stage of the Amateur Cup was also reached in 1950/51 and 1967/68, City losing out to Pegasus and Chesham United respectively, and the Oxfordshire Senior Cup was won several times during this era.

During the 1970s and 1980s, however, success eluded the club, despite the glamour of Bobby Moore and Harry Redknapp as the managerial team in 1980-81. There was relegation into Division 1 of the Isthmian League twice, and in 1988 came the undignified and undeserved eviction from the White House Ground, City's home since 1900, on a legal technicality.

Dedicated officials and supporters kept the Club's name alive and from 1989 a team was rebuilt, moving steadily up the Pyramid from park football to the South Midlands League.

In 1993 the Hoops deservedly achieved both promotion back into the Isthmian League and the

acquisition of the new Court Place Farm stadium, a superb joint effort by committee, supporters, sponsors, and landlords Oxford City Council. City's first match on the new pitch was a 3-1 win over neighbours Oxford United in front of 1,800 spectators.

The 1994/95 season was doubly successful, with the club making history by reaching the final of the FA Vase at Wembley Stadium. They lost 2-1, but were consoled by promotion into Division 1 of the Isthmian League. The 1995/96 season saw a gripping finale as they pipped Heybridge Swifts to the Championship, and so City had regained a place in the top flight of the League after 16 years.

This success lasted just two years before relegation to Division 1 in 1998. There they stayed until the Pyramid restructuring in 2004 took them into the Southern League Division 1. Finding adjustment difficult, City were relegated into the Spartan South Midlands League, but showed great determination in bouncing back at the first attempt. Further progress was made in 2008 as they achieved promotion via the play-offs into the Premier Division of the Southern League, following victory over local adversaries Didcot Town in the Semi-Final (on penalties) and Uxbridge in the Final (1-0).

During this time City again reached the 1st Round of the FA Cup, in 1999/2000, against old Isthmian League rivals Wycombe Wanderers, now risen to League 2. After two sensational draws, the second abandoned just before the newly established penalty shoot-out after an electrical fire, the Hoops narrowly lost the unique third encounter at Oxford United's Manor Ground, before more than 4,000 fans. In 2009/10 another exciting cup run eventually saw them lose in the dying seconds of the match by the odd goal in five at League 2 Burton Albion.

The First Round was reached again in 2011/12, but City lost to Isthmian League Redbridge in Oxford after a draw in East London. However, the season did see manager Mike Ford take the Club to its

highest level in the Pyramid as they disposed of Cambridge City and AFC Totton in the play-offs to claim a place at Step Two. City were placed in Conference North providing plenty of novel opponents...and some long journeys.

The Hoops adjusted well to life at Step 2, finishing 10th in their first season. Despite this success, the long journeys took their toll on the squad and a summer of departures followed.

The 2013/14 season proved to be a rollercoaster for the fans with long winless streaks in the league being contrasted by a number of good results in cup competitions, plus an invaluable run of three wins and a draw in one extremely busy week. The club eventually avoided relegation by the finest of margins, finishing 20th but being spared from the drop by Vauxhall Motors' resignation from the league.

City's final season in the Conference North was also their best as a late season surge came just too late to break into the playoffs, missing out by a point despite an unbeaten April. The reward was a transfer to the South where the Hoops once again finished their debut season in a safe, mid-table position.

Whilst recent history suggested that the next season should have been a relegation battle, this was not the case as a seemingly unremarkable league campaign resulted in a 14th place finish. The real story, however, was far more complex as the tragic passing of long-serving managing director Colin Taylor during pre-season threw the club into emotional and financial turmoil. Whilst manager Justin Merritt was initially able to hold things together on the pitch, the experienced businessman stepped out of the dugout midway through the season to focus on ensuring the club's financial future behind the scenes, allowing current manager Mark Jones to take the helm.

Jones' first full season in charge, 2017-18, saw City finish 16th in the National League South, however he was able to guide his side to history in the FA Cup. Victory in the First Round Proper against Colchester United, the first time the club had ever

beaten Football League opposition competitively, earned a Second-Round place for only the second time since 1969/70. It ended in heartbreak however with a last-gasp equaliser at Notts County denied City a first ever appearance in the Third-Round draw. The campaign ended with the Oxfordshire Senior Cup returning to Marsh Lane for the first time since 2003, thanks to a 5-3 final victory against Kidlington.

A 33rd title would follow in just the next season, as the Hoops beat old rivals Banbury United 4-3 in the final to claim back-to-back titles

The 2019/20 campaign saw a change at the helm for City, with Justin Merritt and Andy Ballard taking temporary charge, before David Oldfield was appointed to the position in March 2020.

His start, however, was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic after just two matches, and so it wasn't until October 2020 before he really was able to put his mark on the team. However, in just his first season, he guided the Hoops to only their third appearance in the FA Cup Second Round, beating League One Northampton in the process, before also taking the Hoops to the Quarter-finals of the FA Trophy for the first time in their history.

Promotion was certainly on the cards for the

Hoops, who were climbing up the table, and sat third in the National League South table as the season was null and voided in February 2021.

However, the form would be kept up in the 2021/22 season, ending with a first ever appearance in the National League South play-offs, beating Eastbourne Borough in the eliminator before falling to eventually promoted Dorking Wanderers.

Nowadays, the Club provides a high standard of competitive youth football at all age groups from

U7's to U19's. The college programme, in association with Activate Learning and Ignite Sport, has seen great success with numerous players coming through and earning caps with the first team. The talent from the programme has seen the club break records in the FA Youth

Cup, getting to the Second and Third Round in consecutive seasons in 2015-16 and 2016-17. The club also runs Ladies and Girls sides that have had great success in the Southern Region Women's Football League. All of these helped the club to earn the prestigious FA Charter Standard Community club status in 2006. This was followed by the award of Community Club Regional Winner for the South East in 2007.



ONES TO WATCH



Klaidi Lolos

Striker Lolos joined the Hoops in the summer of 2021 from Torquay United and made an instant impact with the Hoops. Klaidi came through Crystal Palace's academy before moving to Plymouth Argyle where he made his senior debut. The Albanian striker also represented Olympiakos as a youngster.



Zac McEachran

An energetic and skilful midfielder, Zac first joined City as a 17-year-old. Brother of ex-Chelsea Josh, McEachran can play in array of positions across the frontline. Zac has asserted himself as a fans' favourite at the Velocity Stadium and has made over 100 appearances with the club.

www.oxfordcityfc.co.uk

VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster

Havant & Waterlooville 3-2 Taunton Town

Sometimes, though not as often as we would like, we witness games that have just about everything. Today was such a game! For a neutral, it would quite possibly be a 10 out of 10 game. For a Taunton fan, it left a bitter taste of real disappointment, as we made the journey back to Somerset with zero points, despite our patched up team playing the game of their life's. Football can sure be cruel at times, in the same way it can leave you buzzing for days on end. Not a soul in the stadium can honestly state we did not deserve at least a point! We can make excuses all day long, that we don't like plastic pitches, that the officials decisions were baffling at times, and that we had key players missing. But the bottom line was, both teams began with 11 players, and both teams ended with 11 players. It was always going to be a tough match against a club that have not been out of the top 3 all season. But when we saw the likes of McCootie, Chambo, Guesty, Rossi, Ball and Lucas missing from the starting line up, worry then began to kick in. This gave the chance for new signings Ollie Tomlinson and Cameron Evans to stake their claims, and boy they did not disappoint!

The game kicked off at a ferocious pace, and it was the home team that came out of the traps quickest. Seeking revenge for their 2-0 defeat at Taunton 2 weeks ago, they went for an early goal, and got it within 10 minutes, with their top scorer Mo Faal causing us all kinds of problems, as he teased our defence with his twists and turns, playing his part in a major assist for his team mate to fire home. And still the pressure on our defence persisted, as we put up the brick wall. Many of us began to think this could be another Ebbsfleet, where we endured a 5-0 defeat. But slowly but surely, the Peacocks fought their way back in. In fact the only other time our keeper was bothered in the first 45, was to make a simple catch. We were awarded a couple of free kicks on the edge of the box that came to nothing. And then our opening goal came! Sims-Burgess the provider, after some wizardry in turning his man, and putting in a fine cross which Cam Evans headed home. Make no mistake, this was Cams goal, despite the tannoy announcement that it was a og. We finished the half the better team, with H&W very fortunate to still have 11 men on the pitch, after Dylan had broken through,

when with only the keeper to beat, he was ruthlessly brought down by McCarthy. The ref then turning into jellyfish mode only producing a yellow card, when for all the stadium to witness, ought to have been a red. Oh well, we have began to get used to the incompetence of the officialdom at this level. Or indeed in football full stop!!!

And on to the 2nd 45 [Or should i say 50!]. My word, if the first half was a slow burner for Taunton, then the second was an inferno! We attacked with more venom, with the bit well and firmly between our teeth, the belief that we could win this, now totally installed in our players mentality. And what a goal we were to witness from Dylan Morgan. This lad does not score tap ins. Picking the ball up around the half way line, he jinked himself past 2 players, before unleashing his very own Morgan "Exocet" Missile. Tell you what, this will push McCooties goal at Weymouth, all the way for goal of the season. It was an absolute corker. Us travelling Peacocks were ecstatic. Unfortunately for one of our fans, emotions got the better of him, as he was promptly ejected, for breaking the golden rule of entering the field of play. Thus joining another "Hardcore" Peacock who had received his marching orders from the stadium within 3 minutes of the kick off. Taunton were now totally in control as we went for a 3rd goal, which surely would have seen the victory we so desired. Sadly, it didn't come!!! Substitutions were made from both clubs, we brought Ross on for Simmo, and Lucas for Morgan, and the game seemed to drift away from us. With about 20 minutes remaining, the home team made it 2-2 at a period when we were pinned down in our box. As the tannoy announced there would be 5 minutes of injury time to be played, we felt sure we would be going home with a well earned point. But like our home game verses Bath and our away at Oxford, we showed again just how vulnerable we are in added on time, as H&W broke our hearts with a 91st minute winner. Now this was a hard one to take indeed. But hey, this is football, this is our drug, our fix, emotions do run high, no one can dispute this. There was an almighty row on the pitch as the game came to a firey ending, with yellow cards galore handed out. 4 i counted!!! Again, 2 could so easily have been the colour red, but the referee was again weak!!!

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HEAD 2 HEAD



THIS SEASON
AT A GLANCE



25
GAMES PLAYED

8
WON

8
DRAWN

9
LOST

32
POINTS

33
GAMES PLAYED

16
WON

10
DRAWN

?
LOST

7
POINTS



LAST 6
FORM GUIDE



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JOE
GUEST

#11

Last Time Out

TAUNTON TOWN FARNBOROUGH

0 2

VANARAM NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2023

VENUE: CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM COMMUNITY STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 690

A pedestrian performance from the Peacocks gave their fans no sense of loving on a disappointing Valentine's Day evening. It was a far cry from the Hampshire side's last visit to the Cygnet last April when they had played a supporting role in Town's epic final day victory which clinched the Southern League title. On this occasion though Borough were no bit part players and fully deserved the win which secures the League double, the first the Peacocks have conceded in the National League.

Looking to extend their unbeaten League run to four games, Town's small squad was hit further with the absence of strikers Nick McCootie and the in-form Dave Sims-Burgess through illness, further reducing the attacking options available. Skipper Nick Grimes returned at the back after resting a knock but Ollie Chamberlain was still not fit enough for selection and how his side could have done with him against a Farnborough side boasting only one defeat in the last eleven games at kick-off. And the visitors were soon into their stride, having much the better of the early exchanges. A curling cross from Ricky Holmes was headed just over by John Oyenuka before Holmes fired a diagonal effort onto the terraces. Town won their opening corner after 12 minutes which Lee Lucas sent straight over the box and out for a throw-in, epitomizing a dreary opening half hour.

Penalty appeals from Borough after Reggie Young went down in the box were ignored before Town

threatened briefly when Jay Foulston's dangerous low cross from the left was cut out by Kevin Lokko as Nat Jarvis waited to pounce. The visitors remained sharper and more efficient in possession although home keeper Jack Bycroft was only really tested once in the opening 45 minutes, comfortably parrying away a Holmes' strike from 20 yards while Selim Saied's acrobatic attempt to meet a Holmes cross was blocked by Grimes.

The clearest chance of the half for either side came seven minutes before the break when Foulston curled a free kick into the middle where Jarvis who had shaken off his marker planted a header onto the top of the crossbar, an opportunity missed to give the hosts an interval advantage. Jarvis then found the woodwork again when he connected with a Lloyd James cross to hit the post although an assistant's flag would have nullified any goal. Another home attack fizzled out as the half ended goalless, a scenario evident in 12 of Town's 24 League games played so far.

Attacking the Travis Perkins End, Farnborough resumed positively, applying some early pressure which saw Lokko's header from a Holmes cross narrowly miss the target while Swindon Town loanee Harry Parsons benefitted from some defensive hesitancy to get to the byeline and set up Saied. Grimes however was on hand to clear off the line. The Peacocks failed to heed the

warning. With 54 minutes gone Borough took the lead as the home defence were caught napping, Ronan Silva curling a ball in from the right and Parsons nipping in to volley home past the exposed Bycroft.

A quick response was then ruled out after Ross Stearn fired into the net three minutes later, the whistle having already gone presumably for a Jarvis push on Lokko. Dylan Morgan was introduced on the hour to try and raise the dynamism level and home hopes were lifted when he scooted past a couple of men in the box, only to see his cross cut out. Another attack then nearly paid dividends, Lucas finding Stearn on the right whose shot was turned onto the post by Borough keeper Jack Turner who had defied everything the Peacocks could throw at him in the corresponding fixture back in August.

Whilst Town were never out of it trailing by one goal, the impetus just didn't seem to be there, mirrored in the muted crowd. The long ball approach was dealt with efficiently by the visitor's backline before Farnborough picked their moment to kill the game. They should have done it with 15 minutes to go when Parsons had acres of space down the right to find Saied in the middle who looked odds-on to score. However he took too long, and his attempt was blocked. There was no mistake about the second goal a minute later though, Jonathon Page feeding Parsons on the right and his angled drive flew past Bycroft into the far corner.

The Peacocks brought on Cameron Evans and Ollie Tomlinson for Dan Ball and Grimes for the final ten minutes or so for some fresh defensive legs but the points were already heading eastwards. Town huffed and puffed as they pressed in hope, Turner safely holding a 20 yard shot from Lucas while four minutes of stoppage time only yielded Jake Wannell's header from a Foulston corner, Turner palming the ball down for Jack Ball to hoof clear.

Apart from their defeat at Ebbsfleet, up until this game Town had not lost by more than a single

goal margin in their debut season at Step 2. Their defensive record still remains highly impressive despite a bad night at the office, it was unfortunate that the most of their team mates also had a poor evening.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS
 as at 19th February 2023

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	32	23	4	5	76	33	+43	73
2	Dartford	32	19	5	8	63	35	+28	62
3	Havant & Waterlooville	30	18	5	7	63	41	+22	59
4	OXFORD CITY	33	16	10	7	59	41	+18	58
5	St Albans City	31	15	7	9	50	34	+16	52
6	Worthing	32	14	10	8	56	48	+8	52
7	Braintree Town	32	14	10	8	48	40	+8	52
8	Chelmsford City	32	15	7	10	38	30	+8	52
9	Eastbourne Borough	32	15	3	14	53	49	+4	48
10	Tonbridge Angels	32	14	6	12	50	50	0	48
11	Farnborough	28	13	6	9	35	27	+8	45
12	Bath City	31	11	9	11	43	42	+1	42
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	31	11	8	12	35	41	-6	41
14	Welling United	30	10	10	10	42	47	-5	40
15	Dover Athletic	32	9	10	13	34	44	-10	37
16	Slough Town	31	8	9	14	37	58	-21	33
17	TAUNTON TOWN	25	8	8	9	26	25	+1	32
18	Dulwich Hamlet	31	9	5	17	47	60	-13	32
19	Cheshunt	31	7	7	17	37	58	-21	28
20	Chippenham Town	28	6	9	13	27	42	-15	27
21	Concord Rangers	28	7	6	15	28	47	-19	27
22	Hampton & Richmond Borough	30	6	8	16	36	54	-18	26
23	Weymouth	30	7	4	19	33	57	-24	25
24	Hungerford Town	30	6	6	18	28	41	-13	24

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

Tonight's Other 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	Welling United v Braintree Town
7.45pm	Worthing v Dulwich Hamlet

Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 25th February

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

Upcoming Fixtures - Tuesday 28th February

7.45pm	Chippenham Town v Worthing
7.45pm	Dover Athletic v Havant & Waterlooville
7.45pm	Dulwich Hamlet v Concord Rangers
7.45pm	Farnborough v Ebbsfleet United
7.45pm	Hampton & Richmond Borough v Tonbridge Angels
7.45pm	Slough Town v Bath City
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Eastbourne Borough
7.45pm	Welling United v Hemel Hempstead Town

NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium



Saturday 25th February 2023
 Kick Off 3:00pm



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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	1-1 D	687
14th	HOME	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	0-2 L	690
18th	AWAY	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	3-2 L	1,148
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

- An Accountant in a Miner's Helmet -

The modern game is awash with statistics. One can hardly put a match on tv without xG telling you who is supposed to be winning the game, xA telling you who has been most creative, or Shot Creating Actions telling you, well, how many actions created shots. If someone can explain what PPDA is, I'm all ears. But it's difficult to argue with the results. Brentford have extremely close ties to an analytics company and have confounded everybody, Brighton's own analytics department, augmenting their scouting network, has brought them colossal fees in recent years. It has become an unavoidably evolution of the game, and those who stick rigidly to the old ways are being left behind. But analytics are not a new invention. While the technology now allows a much deeper statistical understanding of the game, the story of football statistics begins before the Second World War, with Wing Commander Charles Reep.

Charles Reep was not a football man. An accountant by trade, he joined the RAF in 1928, and started working his way up the ranks. His encounter with sport was by chance: Charlie Jones, a title winner with Arsenal in 1931 and 1933 decided, after the second title, to embark on a series of lectures explaining Herbert Chapman's style and what might loosely be described as philosophy. Reep was fascinated, and started the process of recording this style in the way he knew best, with numbers. Unfortunately, he found his work interrupted by the war, and it would be a decade and a

half before he was able to explore it.

After returning from Germany, Reep was frustrated to find that very few of Chapman's innovations had been adopted, and was particularly dismayed that wingers, so important to Arsenal's title winners, were once again marginalised. After a particular turgid half of football between Swindon and Bristol Rovers in 1950, he pulled out his notepad and pen, and spent the second half recording some of the things he saw, including passing sequences and player positions. At may have been at the most rudimentary level, but football analytics was born. He recorded 147 Swindon attacks as they eventually found a winner, and extrapolated his findings to cover a whole game. What he discovered was that it would just take a tiny improvement in conversion rate to increase the number of goals per game by 50%, from two to three. In a sport with so few goals, that would be a huge advantage.

In 1951, he caught the attention of relegation threatened Brentford, who brought him in for the final 14 games of the season. Using his analytics, they tweaked their system and stormed easily to safety, winning 13 of those games. And then he went back to recording data, most regularly at Plymouth, where he was recognisable by the miner's helmet he wore, using the lamp to illuminate his notebook. In 1958, he even went to the World Cup to see how the very best did it, and see what that did to his findings. A decade later, he published his findings in the Journal of the

Royal Statistical Society.

Not that his findings have been without controversy. Reep concluded that the best chance of scoring a goal was with the fewest passes in the move. Essentially, if he is the father of football analytics, he is the uncle of the long ball. With all of the data and technology on offer today, it seems that the orthodoxy is instead to make lots of short passes rather than a few long ones, and his ideas have been criticised. Some even claim that Reep's own data was misinterpreted, and that a proper analysis of what he recorded suggested it was far better to make four or more passes. Notable gaps in the data included set pieces, and he was unable to record the fatigue that came from the defending team chasing the ball.

Reep's ideas may have ended up creating Crazy Gang Wimbledon rather than Manchester City or Brentford or Brighton, a physical, long ball side who understood the

value of getting the ball in the box and dismissed the value of possession. But even so, to dismiss the Wing Commander would be unfair. Half a century after he first started recording data, mistakes were still being made; Alex Ferguson famously sold Jaap Stam after his recorded tackles declined, not understanding that in conjunction with his increasing interceptions, he was actually improving as a player. Who is to say that ten years from now, the algorithms won't realise that today's number crunchers have got it wrong? Whatever his errors, he was a frustrated accountant in a miner's helmet, and he changed football.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn

Martyn Green



Charles Reep



Herbert Chapman



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 21st February 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

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	●
		●
		●

Manager: Spencer Day

●	Adnan Kanuric - GK
●	Alex Grantham - GK
●	Lewis Miccio
●	Aaron Williams-Bushell
●	Andre Burley
●	Tom Harrison
●	Charlie Rowan
●	Canice Carroll
●	Josh Ashby
●	Lewis Coyle
●	Reece Fleet
●	Zac McEachran
●	Latrell Humphrey-Ewers
●	Jayden Carbon
●	Alfie Potter
●	Klaidi Lolos
●	Gerald Muchchetera
●	Joe Iacofano
●	Josh Parker

Match Officials

Referee: Craig Scriven
Asst Referee: Colin Hubbard
Asst Referee: Martin Underhay

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