

# **PEACOCKS**







Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 KickOff 3:00pm







Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 KickOff 7:45pm









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**HONOURS** 

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WESTERN PREMIER DIVISION

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SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH Runners-Up 2018-19, Champions 2021-22

#### **CUP HONOURS**

FA VASE Winners 2000-01

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

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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#### STAFF DIRECTORY

President: Tom Harris Life Vice President: Harold Needs Chairman: Kevin Sturmey Chief Executive: Kevin Sturmey 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 Sturmey 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, Media Team: Daniel Howell, Andy Power, Josh Perkins, Darren Harris, Jake Crump, Paul Smith



Good afternoon and evening and welcome to the Cygnet Health Care Stadium for our Vanarama National League South games against Dover Athletic and Eastbourne Borough.

I was very pleased with our second half performance on Tuesday against Oxford City and probably created enough chances in the second 45 minutes to win the game. If we had played the full 90 like that then I feel we would have won the game comfortably.

Don't expect to see the starting line-up two games on the trot now for the remainder of the season as we are playing so often in a short space of time we need to rotate the squad and not having the biggest of squads we really do need to manage things carefully, especially to prevent small knocks developing into long term injuries.

Two big games now here at home and we know what we have to do and that is to pick up points on our own turf. We just need to ensure we do the basics properly in all the remaining games and do it for the full 90 minutes.

With plenty of games to play and points to play for we will need your support more than ever before.

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



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## The Away End

## DOVERATHLETIC

Dover Athletic F.C. was formed in 1983 after the town's previous club, Dover, folded due to its debts. The new club took Dover's place in the Southern League Southern Division, with former Dover player Alan Jones as manager and a team consisting mainly of reserve players from the old club Initially Athletic struggled, finishing second from bottom of the table in the 1984-85 season. In November 1985 Steve McRae, who had succeeded Jones a year earlier, was sacked and replaced by Chris Kinnear.

Under Kinnear the club's fortunes turned round, with two top-five finishes followed by the Southern Division championship, and with it promotion, in the 1987-88 season. The team started strongly in the Premier Division, finishing in sixth place at the first attempt, and then winning the championship in the 1989-90 season. The club was denied promotion to the Football Conference, however, as the Crabble Athletic Ground did not meet the standard required for that league. After finishing fourth and second in the subsequent two seasons, Dover won the title again in the 1992-93 season and this time were admitted to the Conference.

Although Dover finished in eighth place in their first season in the Conference, the following season saw the club struggling against relegation, and Kinnear was dismissed due to a combination of the team's poor performances and his own personal problems. John Ryan was appointed as the club's new manager, but

his reign was a short one and he was dismissed when the club lost seven of its first eight matches in the 1995-96 season. The club then appointed former England international Peter Taylor as manager, but he was unable to steer the team away from the foot of the table, and Dover held onto their place in the Conference only because Northern Premier League runners-up Boston United failed to submit their application for promotion before the required deadline.

Bill Williams took over as manager in 1997 and led the club to the FA Trophy semifinals in the 1997-98 season and a best league finish to date of sixth place in the 1999-2000 season. Williams left the club to take a senior position with Conference rivals Kingstonian in May 2001. By now the club was in severe financial difficulties, with a number of directors resigning and debts exceeding £100,000. Amid the crisis the entire board of directors resigned, forcing the club's Supporters' Trust to take over the running of the club, and manager Gary Bellamy was sacked after just six months in the job. Former Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall took over but was dismissed just three months later, with Clive Walker taking over in March 2002 with the club rooted to the foot of the table. The club finished the season bottom of the Conference and was relegated back to the Southern League Premier Division. The club's ongoing financial problems led to it entering a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA), a process by which insolvent companies offset their debts against future profits, due to debts

that were now estimated at £400,000.

In Dover's first season back in the Southern League Premier Division the Whites finished in third place, albeit 17 points adrift of Tamworth, who claimed the one promotion place available that season. A poor start to the following season saw Walker replaced by Richard Langley. Dover finished the season in 19th place, before being switched to the Isthmian League Premier Division in the summer of 2004 following a reorganisation of the English football league system. The new season started with six successive defeats, which saw Langley sacked, and the financial problems continued, with the club coming within two months of being closed down. Dover were relegated to the Isthmian League Division One at the end of the season, but were saved from possible extinction in January 2005 when former director Jim Parmenter returned to head up a consortium that took over the club. Parmenter quickly sacked manager Steve Browne and convinced Clive Walker to return to the club to replace him, and also arranged for the club's outstanding CVA debts to be cleared, putting the club on a firm financial footing for the first time in many years.

Dover Athletic narrowly missed out on an immediate return to the Premier Division in the 2005-06 season, reaching the play-offs for promotion but losing out to Tonbridge Angels. The following season Dover again reached the play-offs but lost in the semifinal to Hastings United, after which Walker did not have his contract renewed and was replaced by former Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler. In his first season in charge he led the club to the Division One South championship and promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division. The

following season Dover won a second consecutive championship and thus gained promotion to Conference South. In the 2009-10 season, Dover reached the playoffs for promotion to the Conference National, but lost at the semi-final stage to Woking. In the 2012-13 season the club again reached the play-offs, but this time lost in the final to Salisbury City.

During the following season, the team reached the second round of the FA Cup, losing 1-0 to Milton Keynes Dons. They also made the last 16 of the FA Trophy, narrowly losing 3-2 to Eastleigh, and reached the play-offs once more. A 4-1 aggregate victory over Sutton United in the semi-final set up a match with fellow Kent team Ebbsfleet United in the final. On 10 May 2014, Dover beat Ebbsfleet 1-0 at Stonebridge Road with a goal from Nathan Elder, enough to seal the club's return to the top flight of non-league football for the first time since 2002.

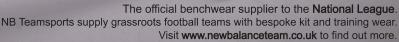
During the 2020-21 season, the team only played 15 fixtures, with none played after 30 January 2021, due to staff being furloughed because of the costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the club had all of its results expunged in March and was fined. In addition, the club was handed a 12-point deduction for the 2021-22 season. As of 29 May 2021, the club had released all but four players, who were reduced from full to part-time. The 2021-22 season saw Dover start with the points deduction and after picking up only eight points in 33 matches, a 2-0 home defeat to Yeovil Town confirmed Dover's relegation back to the National League South after eight seasons in the top flight of non-league football

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## **ONES TO WATCH**





### Luke Wanadio

Winger who signed for Dover in July 2022.

He finished last season with a short stint at Folkestone Invicta, scoring five goals in 15 appearances, including a hat-trick against Potters Bar. The former Bromley, Aldershot, Welling, and Dartford wideman initially joined Invicta on loan in January after making six starts and six substitute appearances for Dartford, a team he had three spells with, before making the move a permanent one.

#### Alfie Paxman

Attacking full-back joined the club after leaving Folkestone Invicta in June 2022. In his final season with Folkestone, Paxman won both the Supporters' and Player's Player of the Season awards as well as the Young Player of the Season award.

During his time at the Dover Academy, Paxman made one National League appearance, coming on as a second-half substitute in a 1-0 defeat against Forest Green Rovers at Crabble in April 2016.



## VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster Taunton Town 1-1 Oxford City

What an extraordinary game of football this was!!! This never say die Taunton team just do not know how to surrender in refusing to throw in the towel until the final whistle is blown.

On a rainy night at the Cygnet, the visit of 4th place Oxford City, who in their previous 8 matches had won 6 and drawn 2, looked a daunting task indeed for the Peacocks, with their form from their last 8 looking very dismal at having won 2, drawn 1 and with 5 defeats. The scene was set for a battle royale, with Oxford fighting for the play offs, and Taunton aiming to steer clear of the bottom 4.

Although i agree 100% with the slogan emblazoned in the Peacocks changing rooms, that "You're Nothing Without Each Other", there were from a Taunton perspective, 3 main protagonists in this clash, whose actions/decisions greatly affected the outcome.

Goalkeeper Jack Bycroft, scorer Dave Sims-Burgess and referee Craig Scriven!!!

In a first half, totally dominated by Oxford, it was nothing short of astonishing, that we were only losing by the single goal at the interval. Taunton just could not get into their opponents half, as the Hoops blitzed our goal relentlessly. Big Jack was called into action repeatedly, pulling off save after save. The goal came after the post had been struck, with our defence caught napping, it was left to the simple task of tapping the ball home. Towards the end of the half, we had a 5 minute flourish with Lee Lucas forcing the keeper into his only save of the half, and then again from Lee, blasting one over the bar. There is no doubt that, but for Jacks heroics, we could so easily have been going in 3 down.

The 2nd half was a different story altogether, on a par with a "Roy of the Rovers" story. A complete reverse of the first half, with the Peacocks making continuous attacks on the Oxford goal, as we went in search of a equaliser. Chambo was introduced into the game, to the roars of the Taunton supporters, and made an immediate

impact as he skipped through the Oxford defence with an elegance reminiscent of Rudolf Nureyev, to cross for Ross Stearn to blast over the bar. I'm sure Ross, did this deliberately knowing that he was offside. Guess we will never know!!!

The attacks went on, as the clock ran down. Our lads fought tooth and nail for every ball, giving it everything. Such a contrast from the first half, as the shots on goal came from all sources. The task was made even more difficult for Taunton, after Lucas was harshly sent off for a second yellow, after what looked to many as a 50/50 challenge. Referee Scriven was taking no prisoners, with his stringent handling of the game.

Now i have often been critical of the standard of officialdom at non-league level, and Mr Scriven has usually bore the brunt of my condemnation. But throughout this game i applaud his firmness! Although not getting every decision correct, [Who does?]. Five minutes after the Lucas dismissal and into added on time, he evened the game up by sending off an Oxford player, who like Lee was already on a yellow, for trying to time waste by kicking the ball away. Oh how i wish more referees reacted this way to time wasters and cheats!

The drama was far from over as we approached the 5th and final minute of injury time. Ross was brought down on the now slippery surface just outside the left hand side of the box. With time running out, the free kick was quickly fired into the packed goalmouth, which included Jack Bycroft, such was the determination in this Taunton team. Amid the ensuing melee, there was Sims-Burgess to stab the ball home, with what turned out to be the last real action of this amazing game. The crowd went nuts. This was a well earned, deserved point clutched from the jaws of defeat. To many of us it felt like victory, as we left the stadium with happy faces.

Next up are Dover, sitting one place, yet 4 points above us. The lads know what is needed. This match coincides with Former Players Day. Lets give the Taunton old boys a day to remember.



## **HEAD 2 HEAD**



26
GAMES PLAYED

**32**GAMES PLAYED

8 WON

9 WON

9 DRAWN vanaramali.

10 DRAWN

9 LOST

13 LOST

33 POINTS 37 POINTS



LAST 6
FORM GUIDE



## 75 YEARS

## **MEET THE TEAMS**

Saturday 25th February 2023 - KickOff 3:00pm







Head of Football: Rob Dray

Jack Bycroft (GK) 1

Joe Budd 2

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

Ross Staley 18

Dave Sims-Burgess 20

**Match Officials** 

Referee: Liam Corbett

Asst Referee: George Enever

Asst Referee: Nathaniel Wormleighton

Lloyd Irish - GK 21

Dylan Morgan 22 Lee Lucas 31

e Lucas 31

#### Manager: Mitch Brundle

1 Stuart Nelson (GK)

2 Myles Judd

3 Alfie Paxman

5 Will Moses

6 Jake Goodman

7 Mitch Brundle

8 Jordan Higgs

10 Luke Wanadio

11 Lee Martin

12 Alex Green

14 George Wilkinson

15 Archie Hatcher

16 Tyrone Sterling

18 Harry Sikirwayi

19 Noah Carney

20 Kieron Agbebi

21 George Nikaj

22 Luke Baptiste

24 Harrison Byford26 Harry Earls (GK)

28 Freddie Oliver

20 Joshua Aigyi

29 Joshua Ajayi

30 Jack Paxman

31 David Boateng

H

#### VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH



Something very special is unfolding right before our eyes in the National League - and it's likely to raise the bar for many years to come.

For the last few weeks at NLP Towers, we've cautiously held off talking about a "two-horse race" for the title but gripping late drama on Saturday felt like a decisive moment.

The first twist in the tale came at Huish Park where, held 1-1 by Yeovil Town, Notts County appeared to be struggling in pursuit of a sixth straight National League victory.

But, with five minutes to go, the ruthless league leaders managed to find a way through, courtesy of Ruben Rodrigues, and then clicked through the gears in stoppage-time with top scorer Macaulay Langstaff adding two more to complete a rather comfortable - if not flattering - 4-1 victory.

It was the same also at Aldershot Town's EBB Stadium where Notts' title rivals Wrexham were similarly not having things their own way.

Two-nil and 3-1 leads were quickly cancelled out by the stubborn Shots but the Hollywood finish was pure box office - a 96th-minute winner from substitute Sam Dalby helping the Red Dragons to a dramatic 4-3 victory.

Defeat for Woking at Altrincham and Chesterfield's failure to beat Solihull Moors meant that the gap between second and third was extended to a mind-boggling 17 points and, given the form of these two big guns, it would take a huge turnaround in order for that deficit to be clawed back

Saturday's finale also put the National League statisticians on red alert.

As it stands, no fewer than FOUR long-lasting league records could potentially be broken this season - and maybe even by a team who could still be playing Non-League football next vear!

With only one automatic place up for grabs, it is still very much all to play for. Failure to finish on top of the summit will not only mean that the runners-up will have a psychological setback to recover from, but also a gruelling two-legged play-off semi-final and final to overcome if they are to, at long last, fulfil their promotion aspirations.

The first major National League record in sight of the top two is for Most Points in a Season.

Crawley Town's best of 105, set in 2010-11, is in grave danger of being surpassed by both Notts and Wrexham, who are closing on three figures with a quarter of the season still left to play.

As it stands, County led the way with 83 points from 34 matches, while Wrexham trail by five with two games more to play.

They are still a way off but on current points-per-game ratio both would end the season on 112 points.

The last time the top two ended on the same points was way back in 1991-92, while no two teams have ever finished the season with 100+ points. History may well be beckening.

Another long-standing record under serious threat is most Wins in a Season.

With the total of 31, first achieved by Aldershot Town in 2007-08, has stood for 15 years. Crawley, in 2010-11 and Fleetwood, in 2011-12, both took a share, but it has never been surpassed.

County, currently with 25, need just seven wins from 12 games to take the record outright, while Wrexham need eight from 14.

With wins and points come goals - and that is another area which separates these two from the rest.

A hat-trick at Huish Park on Saturday and two more against Southend United on Tuesday night, took Langstaff's tally for the season to 32 - an incredible feat for a striker enjoying his first season in the top-flight since joining from Gateshead in National League North in the summer.

Closest rival Paul Mullin followed up his brace for Wrexham at Aldershot on Saturday with two more against Scunthorpe United on Tuesday night, taking his league tally for the season to 26, although the 28-year-old former Cambridge United hitman has bagged eight more in the FA Cup.

Both are in pursuit of Ricky Miller's incredible total of 40 for Dover Athletic back in 2016/17. Langstaff needs eight goals from 12 games, Mullin a goal a game from Wrexham's remaining 14.

With these two hitman, and others, on fire, it's no surprise to see both Notts County and Wrexham chasing the team goal totals too.

This is the record which stands longest of all with no one able to topple the total of 103 set by Barnet in 1990-91 and equalled by Hereford in 2003-04.

However, with Notts County currently on 88 and Wrexham on 83, this the one mark most likely to be toppled.

It's been almost a decade since any side hit the 100-goal mark but, at the current goals-pergame ratio, both Notts and Wrexham would bag 119!

It's fair to say both of these big guns have given the National League plenty in the way of entertainment this season – but their lasting legacy to the Non-League game may offer English football's fifth tier a whole new dimension for the future.

## **Last Time Out**

# TAUNTON TOWN OXFORD CITY

# 1

## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2023 VENUE: CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 521

Late drama at the Cygnet Health Care Stadium saw the Peacocks grab a fully deserved stoppage time equaliser to halt the visitor's run of five successive National League wins. Fourth placed City arrived in Somerset as a team in form and it showed in the first half as they were comfortably the better side, taking a single goal advantage into the break. However Town turned the contest on its head in the second half to dominate and gained their just reward albeit later than they would have wanted.

Lee Lucas came back into the home side in place of loanee Ollie Tomlinson, the only planned change from the weekend visit to Havant. However with Nat Jarvis tweaking his hamstring in the prematch

warm-up, he was replaced in the starting line-up by the returning Nick McCootie. In front of the lowest League crowd of the season at the Cygnet, City imposed themselves from the off, winning two corners inside the first couple of minutes. Aaron Williams-Bushell also drilled a centre across the face of goal before Peacocks' keeper Jack Bycroft made his first contribution of the evening when he dived to palm away Josh Ashby's free kick just past the quarter hour.

Oxford continued to boss possession, Bycroft catching Lewis Miccio's cross following another raid down the left before Zac Smith posted Town's first attempt, his blocked shot sparking another

City break from Zac McEachran who found Josh Parker on the right edge of the box and his strike stung Bycroft's gloves as he parried away. Williams-Bushell then narrowly failed to connect with Ashby's deep free kick before a probing City broke the stalemate on 26 minutes. Parker laid a pass off to Ashby and when his sidefooted effort from 18 yards evaded the reach of Bycroft to hit the post, the rebound fell nicely for Alfie Potter to tuck into an empty net.

The sum total of the home side's efforts in the first 35 minutes amounted to McCootie finding keeper Adnan Kanuric with a tame cross plus Smith's blocked shot but the omens marginally improved eight minutes before the interval when a poor clearance from City reached Dylan Morgan who found McCootie. His pass deflected to Lucas who saw his drive from just outside the box punched over by Kanuric for a Jay Foulston corner, cleared as far as Lucas again who this time skimmed a half volley wide of the far post. City had the last say though of the half, McEachran lofting a pass to Lewis Coyle whose fierce strike from a tight angle could not beat that man Bycroft.

Home spirits at half time were in need of a kick up the proverbial, not helped by the thick drizzle now shrouding the Cygnet Stadium. Another half time readjustment did the trick. The Peacocks emerged with some verve, some belief and most importantly some threat. Three minutes in and a Lucas free kick from the right reached Jake

Wannell who couldn't get enough venom in his shot as he scooped it to Kanuric. Sims-Burgess then headed wide from Wannell's cross before the Town No 20 tried his luck from the narrowest of angles to volley well wide.

A Foulston corner was then knocked on to Grimes at the far post, his header being nodded off the line by Coyle. Two more corners followed in quick succession for Town who were now well and truly on the front foot. Morgan, fresh from his wonder strike at Havant, aimed to repeat the feat when he darted forward, skipping past a couple of opponents on the edge of the box but just missing the target with his low shot.

Ross Stearn replaced McCootie on the hour while Peacocks' supporters were cheered to see the figure of Ollie Chamberlain enter the field of play two minutes later, having been out of action for three weeks, taking over from Cameron Evans who seconds earlier had flicked a header over the top from a Lucas cross. Chamberlain was soon making his presence felt, cutting inside and finding Stearn who volleyed over the bar. Initially regarded as a missed opportunity but the flag was up so no harm done.

Stearn had another shot blocked as Town kept on the offensive, with Oxford looking a shadow of their first half selves. In fact they barely got out of their own half for the first half of the second half (if you follow). It took them until the 74 th minute to launch their opening attack which won them a corner. Suddenly they began to wake up and started to pose some questions for the Town defence who had had a quiet second half up until that point. A City break five minutes from time saw Parker gain enough space past Grimes to deliver a shot from the left which Bycroft got down well to parry and eventually claim the ball ahead of Ashby.

The final minutes of the evening proved eventful in more ways than one. Lucas, already booked at the end of the first half, picked up a second caution for a challenge on Reece Fleet and departed the action with three minutes left.

Numbers were then evened up on the 90 minutes when Parker kicked the ball away after the whistle and received his second yellow of the night to leave it 10 v 10 for the five minutes of stoppage time.

It came down to the last throw of the dice with play already into the sixth extra minute due to more added time. Stearn was pushed over on the right to earn a free kick and Town flooded the box with claret and green, with keeper Bycroft also venturing upfield. Foulston swung in the free kick, Grimes got his head on it at the far post and Sims-Burgess was there inside the six yard box to drive home into the roof of the net to the elation of the Showtime Attraction End terrace and leave City with the same sense of feeling robbed as the Peacocks experienced in the reverse fixture in October when a suspect penalty decision in added time had condemned them to defeat. A well-earned point in retrospect but had the second half performance been replicated over 90 minutes then who knows....





### The Away End

# EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

Langney Football Club was founded in 1964 and entered the Eastbourne & District Football League, competing in Division 2. Prior to season 1968/69 there was a change of name from Football Club to Sports Club when the club affiliated to the Langney Community Association and at the same time a 2<sup>nd</sup> team was introduced. At this time the club was playing on local recreation grounds before moving to Prince's Park near the Eastbourne seafront. At the end of season 1973/74 the club won promotion to the Premier Division of the Eastbourne & Hastings League and with it elevation to Intermediate status. The following nine years saw Langney Sports recognised as the most progressive club in the Eastbourne area.

In 1983 Languey Sports were elected as a founder member of Division 3 of the Sussex County League, and swiftly moved up through the divisions, rarely finishing outside the top four in Division One, and respected as a force to be reckoned with. Finally, after some close run campaigns, the 1999/00 season, under management duo Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood, saw the Sports take the Sussex County League title, gaining promotion to the Dr. Martens League (Eastern Division) where after a season of consolidation at the higher level, the Club finished a creditable ninth in the table.

Meanwhile, off the field, the Sports were laying sound physical foundations too. From those itinerant early years on local parks pitches, the club had always had the vision of a more permanent home, and audaciously they had approached the local council with the improbable project of turning Priory Lane - then a mere expanse of empty marshland - into a proper stadium. The County League years saw those plans beginning to be realised. Then during 2000/01 the club received a £117,000 grant from the Football Foundation to go towards further development of Priory Lane. At the end of the season the Football Committee made one of the most crucial decisions in the club's history: the change of name to Eastbourne Borough FC.

Stalwarts had their reservations, but the new name reflected the club's status as ambassadors for the town, and not only the original Langney. But to loyal supporters, we are and always will be still The Sports! Season 2002 saw the club win the Sussex Senior Cup for the first time, beating the holders Lewes 2-1, and within two seasons there was further promotion to the Dr Martens Premier Division. Within another year Borough were elevated to the newly inaugurated Conference South. 2004/05 proved to be a most successful season as Eastbourne Borough reached the Play-Off Final

Over 1,000 Borough supporters made the 500-mile round trip to Stoke City for the

North v South Final against Altrincham, but it wasn't to be, losing 2-1 in an exciting encounter. The following campaign was disappointing, but the Club achieved another milestone reaching the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup for the first time, with the reward of a home tie against League Two club Oxford United. Cheered on by a record crowd of 3,770, and in front of the Match of the Day cameras, Borough dramatically forced a 1-1 draw with a twicetaken last minute penalty. Storybook stuff! The replay, though, was lost 3-0 at the Kassam Stadium.

The 2006/07 season saw the squad adopt a change in direction with Garry Wilson placing an emphasis on "quality" not "quantity" and finished in 7th place, 4 points off a play-off berth. Buoyed by the previous league season the club started the 2007/2008 season in high spirits and it was to prove a most successful campaign with Eastbourne Borough beating Hampton & Richmond Borough 2-0 in the Play-Off Final at Stevenage. The triumphant night had completed a remarkable rise from recreation ground football to the pinnacle of non-league, the Conference Premier. The 2008/2009 season was another step into the unknown for the club, with the opening Premier fixture a home game with Rushden & Diamonds. Any doubts re: competitiveness of the squad, infrastructure of the club, the

approach to only segregate when deemed appropriate, or the support of the Eastbourne public were dispelled by the end of the day. Notable results during the season included a double over Forest Green Rovers. a home win over ex-league club York City. success over Wrexham and an incredible 4-0 win at Woking. The season proved to be most rewarding with an impressive midtable finish, amongst the 'giants' of the nonleague game.

2009/10 was a tough season after a bright start. AFC Wimbledon and eventual FA Trophy winners Barrow were defeated at Priory Lane. But a three and a half months drought for a league victory left the Sports needing victory over champions Oxford United in the final game of the campaign. With 6 minutes to go and the scores level at 0-0, and results going against them elsewhere, Borough appeared to be heading for the drop. Then a final minute penalty, coolly converted by Simon Weatherstone, sparked wild scenes and another season in the Premier was secured.

The Sports' third season at National Conference level finally proved too much for the side and the club suffered its first ever relegation. Back in Conference South the Sports had the honour of kicking off the first ever match at the Amex Stadi-um, against Brighton and Hove Albion in a held-over Sussex Senior Cup Final. The 9.500

21

attendance remains the biggest crowd that the club has played in front of.

There was much optimism for the 2011/2012 season, but after a bright start the season became a struggle, and after only one league win in 12 outings the club parted company with Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood. The decision for the club was difficult and painful. The decade (plus) of their tenure had seen unprecedented success but the decision was made, and Tommy Widdrington took the reins. Widdrington was to oversee a new phase.

He remained at the club for five seasons until April 2017 – a phase of mid-table stability in the National South. Equally important, the club's infrastructure was strengthening, with conversion to a Community Interest Club, the opening of an Academy, and a splendid new 3G pitch installed at Priory Lane. We have spent half a century building – building teams, building facilities, building friendships – and our proudest achievement of 2017/18 was the National League award as Community Club of the Year. On the pitch, Tommy moved on and Jamie Howell was appointed manager

ahead of the 2017/18 season.

Howell left the club in February 2019 on the back of a poor run of form after a good start to the 2018/19 season, and Mark McGhee was appointed as interim manager. Under the former Scotland Assistant Manager, the Sports secured their National League South status. The Sports entered 2019/20 with a new figure at the helm, with former Havant & Waterlooville boss Lee Bradbury named the new manager at Priory Lane. However, he departed the Lane in November and was replaced by former assistant Danny Bloor, who alongside Sergio Torres.

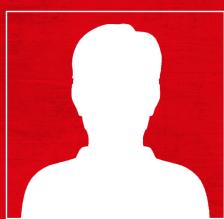
After the 2019/20 season was curtailed, the Sports had a great 2020/21 campaign, although it was in front of empty stadiums and the National League South was eventually declared null and void with the Sports sitting third in the table. On top of that, the club reached the Second Round of the FA Cup where they entertained League One side Blackpool in front of the BT Sport cameras. Although losing 3-0, the Sports could hold their heads up high on a memorable day for the club.





## **ONESTO WATCH**





#### Mitchell Dickenson

Signed on for his second season at the Lane after a year at Hemel Hempstead where he played over twenty times in the 2019/20 campaign as the Tudors finished mid-table. He started his career at Gillingham, where he progressed through the youth system at the Football League club and made his debut in 2016 against Luton Town. Mitch had enjoyed a short loan spell at fellow Sussex side Hastings United in 2016/17, before spending two years at Hythe Town after his release from the Gills.

### **Chris Whelpdale**

Experienced and powerful playmaker Whelpdale will be playing at Priory Lane this season after relocating to the south coast having played the last two seasons at Chelmsford City. Prior to his arrival at the Melbourne Stadium, Whelpdale notched up over 300 Football League appearances for Peterborough, Gillingham, Stevenage and AFC Wimbledon, scoring over 50 goals in the process.

## **HEAD 2 HEAD**



**GAMES PLAYED** 

**GAMES PLAYED** 

WON

**15** 

9 DRAWN

DRAWN

LOST

**15** LOST

**POINTS** 

**POINTS** 



LAST 6 **FORM GUIDE** 



#### CELEBRATING **75 YEARS** 1947-2022

## MEET THE TEAMS

Tuesday 28th February 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm







Head of Football: Rob Dray

Jack Bycroft (GK) 1

Joe Budd 2

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

Ross Staley 18

Dave Sims-Burgess 20

Lloyd Irish (GK) 21

Dylan Morgan 22

Lee Lucas 31

Manager: Danny Bloor

**Brad Barry** 

**Ryan Bartley** 

Hayden Beaconsfield

Jay Beckford

Alfie Bendle

Sam Bull

**Jack Burchell** 

Mitchell Dickenson

Leone Gravata

James Hammond

Shay Hollobone (GK)

Fletcher Holman

Finlay Holter (GK)

Kai Innocent

Florin Kastrati

**Greg Luer** 

Luke Pearce Calum Pollitt

Jaden Perez

Shiloh Remy

Miquel Scarlett

James Vaughan

**Charlie Walker** 

Chris Whelpdale

Lee Worgan (GK)

**Alex Wynter** 

### **Match Officials**

Referee: Phillip Eddie Asst Referee: Mark King Asst Referee: Thomas Anstice-Mitchell



## VANARAMA NATIONALLEAGUE SOUTH 2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS

#### as at 24th February 2023

				_					
Р	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/_	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	33	24	4	5	78	34	+44	76
2	Dartford	33	20	5	8	64	35	+29	65
3	Havant & Waterlooville	31	18	5	8	63	43	+20	59
4	Oxford City	34	16	11	7	60	42	+18	59
5	Worthing	33	15	10	8	62	48	+14	55
6	Braintree Town	33	15	10	8	50	40	+10	55
7	Chelmsford City	33	16	7	10	39	30	+9	55
8	St Albans City	32	15	7	10	51	36	+15	52
9	Farnborough	29	14	6	9	38	28	+10	48
10	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	33	15	3	15	55	52	+3	48
11	Tonbridge Angels	33	14	6	13	50	51	-1	48
12	Bath City	32	12	9	11	45	42	+3	45
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	32	11	9	12	36	42	-6	42
14	Welling United	31	10	10	11	42	49	-7	40
15	DOVER ATHLETIC	32	9	10	13	34	44	-10	37
16	TAUNTON TOWN	26	8	9	9	27	26	+1	33
17	Slough Town	32	8	9	15	37	59	-22	33
18	Dulwich Hamlet	32	9	5	18	47	66	-19	32
19	Hampton & Richmond Borough	31	7	8	16	39	56	-17	29
20	Chippenham Town	29	6	10	13	28	43	-15	28
21	Cheshunt	32	7	7	18	37	59	-22	28
22	Hungerford Town	31	7	6	18	29	41	-12	27
23	Concord Rangers	28	7	6	15	28	47	-19	27
24	Weymouth	31	7	4	20	34	60	-26	25

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

### Today's Other Fixtures - Saturday 25th February

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

#### **Upcoming Fixtures - Tuesday 28th February**

opoon	mig i Medico i docuda y 20 i obiodi y
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
3 3/20	

7.45pm Taunton Town v Eastbourne Borough7.45pm Welling United v Hemel Hempstead Town









# ITS SELFIE TIME





## 2022-23 FIXTURES & RESULTS

AUGU	ST '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	2-1W	743
27th	AWAY	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	0-0 D	766
29th	HOME	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3-1 W	1,148
SEPTE	MBER '22				
3rd	AWAY	HUNGERFORD TOWN	VNLS	0-1W	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	1-1D	958
осто	BER '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	1-0W	2,347
22nd	AWAY	WORTHING	VNLS	1-1D	1,295
25th	AWAY	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	2-1L	374
29th	HOME	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	4-1 W	872
NOVE	MBER '22				
Fals	AVAVA	A WITCH LITTLY HER DOLLO	EAC1	4.01	2720

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	1-1D	452

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

#### **JANUARY '23**

venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOπ/Score	Attendance
AWAY	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	1-0 L	502
AWAY	TORQUAY UNITED	FAT 4	4-2 L	1,411
HOME	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	0-1L	807
HOME	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	2-0 W	551
	AWAY AWAY HOME	AWAY DOVER ATHLETIC AWAY TORQUAY UNITED HOME ST ALBANS CITY HOME HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	AWAY DOVER ATHLETIC VNLS AWAY TORQUAY UNITED FAT 4 HOME ST ALBANS CITY VNLS HOME HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE VNLS	AWAY DOVER ATHLETIC VNLS 1-0 L AWAY TORQUAY UNITED FAT 4 4-2 L HOME ST ALBANS CITY VNLS 0-1 L HOME HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE VNLS 2-0 W

4th	AWAY	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	0-3 W	1.013
7th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	1-1D	687
14th	HOME	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	0-2 L	690
18th	AWAY	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	3-2 L	1,148
21st	HOME	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	1-1 D	521
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

AFRIL					
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	1
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	100



## THE UNTOLD GAME

### - Black Man with the White Face -

Sir Stanley Matthews is arguably the greatest footballer England has ever produced. The first ever winner of the Ballon d'Or, he played first division football until he was 50 - still a record - and is the only player to have been knighted whilst still playing. He is also the only player to have had an FA Cup final named after him, unfortunately for Stan Mortensen who became the first player in over half a century to score a hat-trick in the Matthews Final of 1953. But what is less well known about the Wizard of the Dribble is his work against prejudice and racism. A signatory of a letter opposing racism and defending racial equality whilst still a player, when he hung up his boots he headed for the febrile and volatile atmosphere of apartheid South Africa.

'Our Stan', as he was affectionately known, already had history with African football, having developed his own celebrity during the Second World War. Clean eating, never booked, the consummate gentleman, Matthews was a propagandist's dream to compare to fascism, and a series of exhibition matches were held across the empire to improve morale. From 1953, he travelled to the continent every summer to coach kids, even turning down a recall to the England squad for the 1958 World Cup so that he could. In 1956, he played an exhibition in newly independent Ghana, having been invited by President Nkrumah to aid the development of a national character, ironically, free of British influence. So when he arrived in South Africa, he knew what he was walking in to.

For perhaps the first time in his life,
Matthews disregarded the rules. Flagrantly.
Apartheid South Africa allowed the
coaching of children, but an all black team
was forbidden. Understanding the attention
that his name brought, and correctly
gambling that the South African
government would want to avoid the
international attention that arresting the
first footballing celebrity might bring, he
brought some players together in Soweto
and put them all in the same kit. Too modest
to have named them himself, they became
known as Stan's Men, and they had as big an
impact on South African football as anyone.

In order to train his team, Matthews needed to flout the rules again. White people were banned from the townships into which the black population had been forced, but that wouldn't stop him. Every week, without fail, he would make his way into Orlando township to impart the wisdom of his significant experience. But he learned also, what it was like to be black in South Africa, how the country worked, and most pertinently, what a dream it would be for his players to play against Brazil. Fortunately, the name Sir Stanley Matthews still opened a few doors, and just as importantly, attracted funding.

Black South Africans had their international travel so severely restricted that it was effectively banned, and needed a permit to move around even inside the country. But in 1975 Matthews arranged a tour of the three

times World Champions by Stan's Men.
Again, wanting to avoid an international incident, the South African government made an exception for him, though that didn't prevent high levels of anxiety. 'At the airport I was riddled with nerves...' Matthews would later write. 'Large, forbidding men in light blue suits and dark glasses with inscrutable looks on their faces watched our every move.' Some reports claim there was even a spy on the plane. But, without trouble, Sir Stanley and his young charges boarded, and became the first black team to tour outside of South Africa.

Their first game was against Gama Filho University, and was an embarrassing 8-O defeat. But that didn't really matter. A few days later, having adjusted, Stan's Men improved to a 2-2 draw. More importantly for the players were the training sessions, with Brazilian giants like Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco de Gama. They met the legendary Zico and learned from the best in the world, and enjoyed Copacabana Beach. Matthews also met the infamous Ronnie Biggs during the tour, who had found his way to South America after the Great

Train Robbery. Even the most notorious of criminal was caught in the starlight that Sir Stanley Matthews brought.

Upon returning from Brazil, the team was disbanded and the players subject to death threats by those desperate to reiterate to them the way things were at that time in South Africa. Matthews returned to England, but his stand against racism, in the only way he knew, was not forgotten. He shone a light on apartheid, while giving young black players a chance to live their dreams. He spoke of all that football had given him, and the desire to give it back, but perhaps Stan's Men captain Gilbert Malloa captured the experience better than anyone when he called Matthews 'black man with a white face'

Enjoy the game.

Martyn

**Martyn Green** 





## **CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM REGULATIONS**

Persons entering this stadium must abide by the Stadium Regulations as printed in the matchday programme and displayed on posters inside the stadium. Failure to do so may result in ejection from the premises, a ban from attending any future events and also be the subject of a football banning order. Admission to and the right remain within the stadium is strictly on condition that any person attending will adhere to the Stadium Regulations as detailed below.

- All persons must comply with any directions given by a Steward, Club Official or Police 1.
- 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.
- Persons must not throw any object onto the pitch or within the spectator areas.
- Persons must not be in possession of, and/or lighting any firework or flare.
- Chanting or singing of an obscene, indecent, discriminatory or offensive nature is not
- 7. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discrminatory, offensive or threatening language.
- Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discrminatory, 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.
- Persons must not consume alcohol that has not been purchased at Taunton Town FC. 12.
- 13. Persons must not consume alcohol in any alcohol free designated areas.
- 14. There will be zero tolorance to alcohol abuse/misuse.
- 15. There will be zero tolorance to drug possession, use and abuse.
- 16. Smoking is permitted in the stadium except in areas designated as a No Smoking area.
- Umbrellas are permitted within the stadium but must not be used if obstructing 17. the view of other spectators.

#### Spectators must also note the following:

- 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 operationat 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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