

ISSUE
21



PEACOCKS



Tuesday 7th March 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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Somerset
TA1 2HG

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Twitter: @TauntonTownFC
Facebook: Taunton Town FC
Instagram: Taunton Town FC
You Tube: Peacocks TV
Company Registration No: 1582031
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STAFF DIRECTORY

President: Tom Harris
Life Vice President: Harold Needs
Chairman: Kevin Sturme
Chief Executive: Kevin Sturme
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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 Sturme
Safety Officer: Roger Conway
Head Steward: Mike Parsons
Welfare Officer: Neil White
Turnstile Manager: Jason Mayled
Stadium Announcer: Nick Rickards
Club Shop Manager: Lee Derrick
Club Photographers: Colin Andrews, Ashley Harris,
Debbie Gould
Media Team: Daniel Howell, Andy Power, Josh Perkins,
Darren Harris, Jake Crump, Paul Smith

The Gaffer

ROB DRAY

Good evening and welcome to the Cygnet Health Care Stadium for tonight's Vanarama National League South game as we host Mel Gwinnett, his Hampton & Richmond Borough team and their supporters to Somerset.

Tonight is a big for both teams as we are looking to pull away further from the drop zone, so there is plenty to play for.

Saturday at Tonbridge Angels we showed great character to come from behind twice to win the game 3-2 with two goals in four second half minutes, three very valuable points and we still have four and five games on teams around us in the league table.

The games will still be coming thick and fast as we move through March, playing catch up on our fixtures, so we will need to rotate the squad to ensure we don't pick up too many injuries and manage the games one by one.

We are still in a great position to achieve our goal that we set ourselves at the beginning of the season which was to maintain our status in the Vanarama National League South, but to achieve this, we will need good performances, our share of luck and also you guys in the stands who really drive us on when things aren't going our way. So keep up the good work on the terraces and we will play our part on the pitch.

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

Rob

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The Away End

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Hampton FC were formed in 1921 (changing their name to Hampton & Richmond Borough FC in 1999). The club are the only Senior Football Team in the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, an area dominated by Rugby Clubs. Hampton's early years were spent in Junior Football competing in the Kingston & District and the South West Middlesex Leagues until 1959 (Hampton's main honours during that period were four KDFL Championships between 1929 and 1933). Having secured a lease on Beveree, Hampton made the move into Senior Football, joining the Surrey Senior League.

The Beavers (no one can quite recall how or why the club acquired its nickname!) won the Surrey Senior League Championship in 1964 and were then invited to join the Spartan League (there was no progression though a pyramid in those days). Hampton won three Spartan League and Cup doubles during their stay in the Spartan League. In October 1967 Hampton made their best ever signing when they persuaded Alan Simpson OBE to take the role of Club President (Mr Simpson, in partnership with Ray Galton wrote comedy classics, Hancock Half Hour and Steptoe & Son). Alan Simpson OBE would remain Club President for 50 years until his death in 2017, his funeral was held on the Beveree pitch.

The Club's first floodlights were installed in 1967 and after a short stay in the Athenian League, joined the Isthmian League in 1973. The Beavers played in various divisions, at one stage sinking down to Division 3 before a surge up the league saw them gain a place in the Premier Division in 1998. At the end of the 2002/03 season the Beavers were relegated but shortly after the signing of Alan Devonshire (ex-England & West Ham United) as Manager saw a resurgence in fortune which saw them gain the Isthmian League Championship in 2007. The Beavers would spend five seasons in the Football Conference South, twice narrowly missing out on promotion to the apex of Non-League, losing two play-off finals in 2008 and 2009.

The Beavers found themselves back in the Isthmian League for the start of the 2012/13 season, a season after Alan Devonshire had moved on. The following two seasons saw disappointing finishes of 13 and 12th, one month into season 2014/15 joint managers Paul Barry and Darren Powell resigned and ex-Kingstonian Manager, Alan Dowson, was appointed.

Under Alan Dowson the club won the Isthmian League Championship once again in 2015-16, seeing promotion to the National League South. The club also won the

Isthmian League Charity Shield in August 2016. Gary McCann took over as Manager in the summer of 2018.

The club have appeared in the FA Cup 1st Round Proper on three occasions (losing 2-1 at Barnet in 2000; 3-0 at home to Dagenham & Redbridge in 2007 and most recently narrowly losing 2-1 at home to Oldham Athletic after leading for most of the game). In the FA Trophy the Beavers reached the last 16 in 2012. In County Cups the Beavers have won the Middlesex Senior Cup in 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014 & 2017. The

club have also won the Middlesex Charity Cup in 1970, 1996, 1998 & 1999.

The Club have over the years improved Beveree to a state where it now has a ground capacity of 3,500 (including 750 seats) without losing the 'country' and 'village' feel of the place and has a reputation as a welcoming and friendly club. The club has its own Football Academy as well as a large youth set up. The Club remain fully committed to the local community having been part of life in Hampton Village for a century.





ONESTO WATCH



Dean Inman

After spells at Farnborough and Hayes & Yeading United, Dean was part of a title-winning team at Maidenhead, before moving to Billericay for a club record fee. Another successful season followed, as Ricay won the treble, including the Isthmian League, securing promotion to the National League South. Following this Dean returned to Hampton via Kingstonian.



Connor Kurran-Browne

Watford-born Connor arrived from AFC Bournemouth in June 2022, with glowing endorsements from former coaches. The 20 year old has already experienced a number of highs in football. Having started his career at Watford, Kurran-Browne moved to Bournemouth, where he remained in their academy until the summer of 2022, including a two year professional contract.

www.hrbfc.co.uk

VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster

Tonbridge Angels 2-3 Taunton Town

Many of us would seriously confess, its been a frustrating, disappointing and indeed difficult month following our beloved club. In a nutshell, February had been a "Bummer" of a month. But the motley crew that follow the Peacocks everywhere, of which i am proudly one, were rewarded with this colossal victory against a very in-form Tonbridge Angels. Not many gave Taunton hope, indeed in our Peacocks prediction league, only 4 of 21, went for the Taunton win. The pressure our players must have been under must have been immense, after losing 4 and drawing 2 from the previous 6!!!

We asked our team for 100% determination, conviction and effort. And the lads did exactly that, stepping up to the plate magnificently. We honestly could not have asked for more. There were outstanding performances all over the pitch. The game once again began at a 100 mph pace. The thing that stands out about these 3g surfaces, is the speed at which the ball travels at. Much of the action was in the middle of the field, where it soon became the key as to which team would win or lose. It was a battle the Taunton mid-fielders were to take a hold of as the game progressed.

The Angels broke the deadlock around the 20 minute mark, when our defence opened up like a can of baked beans, and allowed Greenidge to blast the ball past Lloyd. The game continued to switch from end to end, and 15 minutes later The Peacocks were back in it, when Sims-Burgess and Jay Foulston linked up, ending with Jay smashing in a 25 yarder. Superb!!! Our joy was to be short lived, when just before half time, an opportunist strike from Aransibia from the edge of the box caught Lloyd flat footed. Lloyd was to redeem himself many times over in a 2nd half of much incident.

Taunton made it crystal clear that they were in it to win it, as we came out for the 2nd 45, attacking straight from the off. Wannell hit the post, after the ball had slipped from the keepers fingers. The speed at which we attacked was like something we have rarely witnessed this season. It paid off handsomely just after the hour, when Zac was brought down to win us a stonewall penalty. Up steps Rossi, as cool as you like to send the keeper the wrong way. The

handful of travelling fans behind the goal, all 10 of us!!! went nuts. The joy blatantly obvious. Would we have taken the 2-2? You bet we would! But we didn't bargain on our team of lions wanting more! Ross, Jay, Guesty, Zac, Chambo, Jake in fact the entire team, could now smell the 3 points as we went for the jugular.

There was no let up as this match turned into a classic. Our arms went up in celebration of a winner as Stearns header went a good 12 inches over the line, only for the keeper to scoop the ball out, in the blink of a eye, completely missed by the officials. Fortunately Jake Wannell was on hand to blast the ball through the packed goal area. No question about this one. Unbelievable turn around after going behind twice. This was the "never give up performance" we needed, giving us our first double of the season. Not a soul can argue we did not deserve it.

The noise from just 6 of us, of which i will name created an atmosphere badly missed at the Cygnet. Aaron Prettyjohns, Greg Galpin, Peter Taylor, Ben Loud, Harry Johnson, how bloody loud were we! We were that 12th man! Tell ya what, this was 95 minutes of pure passion and hard graft from our lads today. Bloody proud of them all. This is why we love our team, the reason why we follow them everywhere. I know many football fans are a fickle lot, but we must take the rough with the smooth. Win, lose or draw we bloody love you Peacocks.



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HEAD 2 HEAD



29
GAMES PLAYED

9
WON

9
DRAWN

11
LOST

36
POINTS



34
GAMES PLAYED

8
WON

8
DRAWN

18
LOST

32
POINTS



LAST 6
FORM GUIDE



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ZAC SMITH

#16



Last Time Out

TONBRIDGE ANGELS TAUNTON TOWN

2
3

VANARAM NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2023

VENUE: HALCYON WEALTH LONGMEAD STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 933

The stale aroma of late February was replaced by a positively fragrant start to March as Town produced a fantastic display to claim victory in Kent. The pre-match form book was only looking at one winner, with the Angels, vying for the Play-Offs, having won four of their last five games whilst the Peacocks had gleaned just two points from 18. Hopes of a turnaround during the journey up the A303 were therefore subdued by those stats and the memories of the two successive home defeats witnessed in the past week at the Cygnet Health Care Stadium. How we were proved wrong as Town battled back superbly from a half time deficit to seal victory and secure their first ever National League double.

After the midweek reverse to Eastbourne, Head of Football Rob Dray made three changes, with Joe Guest, Cam Evans and Ross Stearn coming in for Lloyd James, Dylan Morgan and Nick McCootie and the Town boss, viewing affairs from the stand due to a one game touchline ban, would have been satisfied with the start his side made on the 3G surface as they pressed the hosts from the first whistle. It was the home side though who carved out the first opening, a low Tariq Hinds ball across goal being met by Devonte Aransibia who blazed a shot over the top. The first corner of the contest followed after eight minutes which saw Jamie Fielding's soft header pass easily to Lloyd Irish, again donning the gloves in place of the injured Jack Bycroft.

The Peacocks' produced their first attempt on the quarter hour, Jay Foulston's cross being headed wide by Jake Wannell before Irish safely held a Tommy Wood drive as the hosts continued to probe for inlets through the visitors' defence. Town though were holding their own with a Tonbridge side sitting nine places above them in the table and earned another corner when an Evans strike was deflected over. However Angels drew first blood after 21 minutes when a lofted ball over the top down the right flank was misjudged and latched onto by Jordan Greenidge who took a touch inside before lashing a shot past Irish into the far corner from the edge of the six yard box.

Undeterred, the Peacocks kept at it. They were showing a far better intensity than in recent games, with the energy from the midfield trio complementing the threat on either flank as they knocked on the door. Evans set up Ollie Chamberlain who volleyed wide and Stearn engineered a yard to fire a shot over from 18 yards before Town drew level on 37 minutes. And what an equaliser it was, Dave Sims-Burgess holding the ball up and laying back to Foulston who drilled a missile strike into the far corner from 20 yards, giving Angels' keeper Jonathan Henly no chance whatsoever.

This stung Tonbridge into action as they pressurized for the final stages of the half although their second goal after 41 minutes seemed to take everyone by surprise, Aransibia

collecting the ball just outside the box and his snapshot caught the wrong-footed Irish out as it looped over him into the net. Town escaped further damage when another break saw the powerful Greenidge outmuscle his man to find Wood at the far post but thankfully he fired wide of the target. Stearn had another shot kicked clear as the half ended with Town trailing but having shown enough that they could get something from the game.

And so it came to pass as a second half display of quality, tempo and passion showed what the Peacocks were capable of. They so nearly equalised again just four minutes in when Zac Smith's low cross fizzed to Stearn who couldn't keep his volley down as it sailed over. That missed opportunity did nothing to put Town off their stride as they took the game to their hosts, Stearn winning another corner which was recycled and ended with Chamberlain having a shot held by Henly. Irish gathered a shot from Ben Swift, but the momentum was definitely swinging in the Peacocks' favour, culminating in the equaliser after 64 minutes. Aransibia brought down Smith as he moved in from the right side and Stearn sent Henly the wrong way from the penalty spot before celebrating with the small yet vocal band of Town fans behind the goal.

The equaliser was fully deserved but Town weren't finished as they kept their foot on the pedal to take the lead four minutes later. Foulston's cross was headed back across by Dan Ball, finding Stearn who leaped well to direct a header inside Henly's post. The Angels' keeper scooped the ball away although it had already clearly crossed the line, confirmed by photographic evidence. However, with no immediate clarity, Wannell made sure by ramming home the loose ball to prevent any miscarriage of justice.

The home side responded, Irish holding an Aransibia shot at the second attempt before Town made their first switch, Dylan Morgan replacing Sims-Burgess. A Chamberlain free kick from the right then saw the Angels contemplate their fate, Wannell's header so nearly squeezing in

at the far post but Henly managed to block. There was only one real moment of concern for Town as the match entered the final ten minutes. Lewis Gard's free kick hit the wall, the hosts keeping possession and Hinds delivering a cross which Irish failed to hold and in his efforts to reclaim the ball a Tonbridge player went down. No offence committed said referee Norton who officiated well overall.

James and McCootie came on for Evans and Stearn in the final five minutes who had both done an excellent job in arguably Town's gutsiest display of the season. Wood headed wide from Marcel Elva-Fontaine's cross but that was it as the Peacocks safely managed five minutes of stoppage time to earn maximum points. A victory built on a terrific team performance in which everyone played a part. Man of the Match deservedly went to Joe Guest, in and out of the side in recent weeks, but back to what he does best. However, as boss Dray has stated many times, the side will not get too high as they know there are still 17 games to go and these 90 minutes will mean nothing if they don't follow it up with the same commitment over the next two months.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS

as at 5th March 2023

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	36	25	6	5	81	36	+45	81
2	Dartford	35	20	6	9	65	38	+27	66
3	Braintree Town	35	17	10	8	52	40	+12	61
4	Havant & Waterlooville	34	18	6	10	64	47	+17	60
5	Oxford City	36	16	12	8	61	44	+17	60
6	Worthing	36	16	12	8	66	51	+15	60
7	Chelmsford City	35	16	8	11	41	33	+8	56
8	Tonbridge Angels	36	16	6	14	54	54	0	54
9	St Albans City	34	15	7	12	52	39	+13	52
10	Farnborough	32	15	7	10	42	32	+10	52
11	Eastbourne Borough	36	16	4	16	59	56	+3	52
12	Bath City	35	13	10	12	48	43	+5	49
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	35	13	10	12	39	42	-3	49
14	Dover Athletic	35	11	11	13	36	44	-8	44
15	Welling United (-1)	34	10	12	12	43	51	-8	41
16	Slough Town	35	9	10	16	40	64	-24	37
17	TAUNTON TOWN	29	9	9	11	31	31	0	36
18	Dulwich Hamlet	34	10	5	19	48	68	-20	35
19	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BORO'	34	8	8	18	41	58	-17	32
20	Cheshunt	34	8	8	18	39	60	-21	32
21	Chippenham Town	32	6	13	13	32	47	-15	31
22	Weymouth	33	9	4	20	42	61	-19	31
23	Hungerford Town	33	7	7	19	30	43	-13	28
24	Concord Rangers	30	7	7	16	30	54	-24	28

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

Tonight's Other Fixtures - Tuesday 7th March

7.45pm	Bath City v Hemel Hempstead Town
7.45pm	Concord Rangers v Slough Town
7.45pm	Dover Athletic v Cheshunt
7.45pm	Eastbourne Borough v Tonbridge Angels
7.45pm	Ebbsfleet United v Worthing
7.45pm	Farnborough v Welling United
7.45pm	Hungerford Town v Dartford
7.45pm	Oxford City v Braintree Town
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Hampton & Richmond Borough
7.45pm	Weymouth v Chippenham Town

Upcoming Fixtures - Wednesday 8th March

7.45pm	Havant & Waterlooville v St Albans City
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Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 11th March

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



NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium

Saturday 18th March 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	1-1 D	521
25th	HOME	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	0-1 L	787
28th	HOME	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	1-2 L	510

MARCH '23

4th	AWAY	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	2-3 W	933
7th	HOME	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
11th	AWAY	CHESHUNT	VNLS	3:00pm	-
14th	AWAY	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	7:45pm	-
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	-
18th	HOME	HUNGERFORD	VNLS	7:45pm	-
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	-
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-



THE UNTOLD GAME

- Playing For The Enemy -

Johan Cruyff was perhaps the most influential footballer of the twentieth century. His playing career, taking on a talismanic role for both Ajax and Barcelona, and the Dutch national team, saw the development of Total Football, from which possession football became the standard, beating the previously unstoppable Italian catenaccio. As a manager of the same clubs, he developed his style yet further, ingraining it into the young players at both clubs, including a fascinated Pep Guardiola. But lesser known about the enigmatic genius is his time playing for the enemy. With his second spell in Amsterdam coming to an end, but not willing to call time on his playing career, Cruyff made the move no Ajax fan could countenance; he moved to arch-rivals Feyenoord.

Johan Cruyff was on a high in the summer of 1983. Heading into the swansong of a glittering career, he had just helped his boyhood club to a league and cup double, and was looking forward to a final farewell season to round off his time on the pitch. After leaving for Barcelona a decade earlier, and having spent a few years bouncing around the United States, he was home, and he was settled. It was something of a shock, then, when the club informed him that they no longer had a place for him. He had served his purpose, he had won them everything they wanted, and he was being put out to pasture.

At least, that's what his employers in Amsterdam thought. Cruyff was never one

to go alone with anybody else's plan. He had missed the 1978 World Cup, which the Netherlands had been huge favourites to win, with rumours that he refused to play in front of the Argentinian military junta. Without him, they lost the final to the hosts. With him, who knows what might have been. So, when his club, for whom he was a legend, for whom he had won everything up to and including the European Cup, tried to end his career early, he moved 35 miles to Rotterdam, and signed for their biggest rivals.

Feyenoord were not the same team that had won the European Cup in 1970. Ajax had far surpassed them, and the likes of PSV and AZ Alkmaar were threatening their position, while they spent the first years of the 1980s recording mid-table positions. Not that this encouraged fans, or the staff, that Cruyff should be joining. The press conference announcing the signing was a tepid affair, with Cruyff, his new manager, and the chairman all looking like they wondered if it was a mistake. The Feyenoord supporters certainly believed so, providing the hostile atmosphere at De Kuip that Cruyff had become used to as an Ajax player, when he ran out as a home player for the first time. 'Feyenoord Forever, Cruyff Never' read the banner some fans hung, and that was on the softer side of the abuse he received.

The way to win fans over, as Cruyff well knew, was playing well. Feyenoord started the season on fire, winning five of their first

six games, as Cruyff got to know his new teammates, including a 21 year old Ruud Gullit. It was another shock, then, when they went to Amsterdam. A hostile atmosphere, with a game marred by crowd trouble, saw the hosts run out massive 8-2 winners. But Cruyff was tenacious, and he carried a grudge. He used the defeat as motivation, as Feyenoord responded with a 15 game unbeaten spell. They slipped to defeat against Groningen, not long before the return fixture against their nemeses.

Ajax travelled to De Kuip still hopeful that another win could derail Feyenoord's title bid. But this time, things were different. An early goal from Gullit, and then a lovely finish by Cruyff, set the league leaders on their way. Ajax couldn't get near them, and fell to a 4-1 defeat. Feyenoord wouldn't lose again to the end of the season, wrapping up the title.

Just to add the icing to the cake, Cruyff also led his team through the ponderous rounds for the Dutch Cup. Having won the double with Ajax, and been told that his time with the club was over, he led their faltering arch-rivals to the same achievement. And then, on his own terms, he left the field of play. His influence and his legacy have

continued for the forty years since, but his playing days were over. Ajax travelled to De Kuip still hopeful that another win could derail Feyenoord's title bid. But this time, things were different. An early goal from Gullit, and then a lovely finish by Cruyff, set the league leaders on their way. Ajax couldn't get near them, and fell to a 4-1 defeat. Feyenoord wouldn't lose again to the end of the season, wrapping up the title.

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Enjoy the game.

Martyn

Martyn Green





CYGNET HEALTHCARE STADIUM REGULATIONS

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

1. All persons must comply with any directions given by a Steward, Club Official or Police Officer.
2. Encroachment onto the playing area, sterile area, or its adjoining parts is prohibited.
3. Climbing on any building, wall, fence or any other structure is prohibited.
4. Persons must not throw any object onto the pitch or within the spectator areas.
5. Persons must not be in possession of, and/or lighting any firework or flare.
6. Chanting or singing of an obscene, indecent, discriminatory or offensive nature is not permitted.
7. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening language.
8. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening gestures.
9. Persons must not damage or deface Club and Stadium property.
10. Persons must not damage, deface or obstruct any notice or advertisement.
11. Alcohol must not be brought into the stadium.
12. Persons must not consume alcohol that has not been purchased at Taunton Town FC.
13. Persons must not consume alcohol in any alcohol free designated areas.
14. There will be zero tolerance to alcohol abuse/misuse.
15. There will be zero tolerance to drug possession, use and abuse.
16. Smoking is permitted in the stadium except in areas designated as a No Smoking area.
17. Umbrellas are permitted within the stadium but must not be used if obstructing the view of other spectators.

Spectators must also note the following:

- A) The Club does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss or damage to vehicles or their contents, or any other personal property brought onto the Clubs premises and stadium.
- B) The Club is unable to accept any additional responsibility for minors attending matches beyond those matters covered by the Stadium Regulations.
- C) Photography and use of video including CCTV is in operation at all matches and events and may be used in any of our media channels as well as press releases.
- D) Dogs on a lead are permitted in the Stadium but they remain the sole responsibility of their owner at all times.

THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT PERSONAL SECURITY SEARCHES AND/OR REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANY PERSON AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

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MEET THE TEAMS

Tuesday 7th March 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Mel Gwinnett

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	●
		●
		●
		●

●	Alan Julian (GK)
●	Matteo Salamon (GK)
●	Endurance Johnson (GK)
●	Ollie Davies (GK)
●	Ruaridh Donaldson
●	Luis Fernandez
●	Dean Inman
●	Redor Omar-Anintah
●	Dan Wishart
●	Tommy Davis
●	Brandon Barzey
●	Shane Dunne
●	Jake Gray
●	Stefan Ilić
●	Alfy Whittingham
●	Charlie George
●	Sam Deadfield
●	Callum O'Keeffe
●	Connor Kurran-Browne
●	Tommy Wood
●	Daniel Rowe

Match Officials

Referee: Farai Hallam

Asst Referee: Steven Swan Asst Referee: Mark Hickson

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