#### OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF TAUNTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB







Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 KickOff 3:00p<u>m</u>







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### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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#### LIFE MEMBERS

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#### 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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Darren Harris, Jake Crump, Paul Smith



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### **The Gaffer ROB DRAY**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Cygnet Health Care Stadium for today's Vanarama National League South game as we host Brad Quinton, his Hemel Hempstead Town team and their supporters to Somerset.

As they games go by they are becoming more and more important that we get the results we need to push ourselves up the table and away from the dreaded drop zone.

Performances have been good from us, but we aren't getting the rewards from those performances and we need to change that and start to turn the draws into much needed wins.

The good thing is that we still have some games in hand on all the teams around us and if we can win just two of those additional games then we will be in a much better position in the league, win them all and we woudn't be too far off a playoff spot, but we have to be realistic and concentrate on the most important thing and that is that we ensure we are playing National League South football again next season.

Keep doing what you have all season and really get behind the boys this afternoon, as I already stated, each game now is huge for the club and we need you on the tearraces to play your part too.

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

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### The Away End HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

The club was established in 1885 as Apslev End They joined the West Herts League in 1891 and were renamed Apsley Football Club two years later. The club were league champions in 1894-95 and 1897-98 and in 1898 they were founder members of the Hertfordshire Senior County League. They went on to win the league in its second season, 1899-1900. The league was split into two divisions in 1901, with Apsley placed in the Western Division. They were divisional champions in 1902-03 and won the championship play-off against Northern Division champions St Albans Amateurs. The club had continued playing in the West Herts League and won the title for a third time in 1904-05. After winning the Western Division of the Hertfordshire Senior County League again in 1906–07, they defeated Northern Division Champions Hitchin Union Jack 5-3 in the championship play-off.

In 1922 Apsley left the Hertfordshire Senior County League to join Division Two of the Spartan League. They were Division Two runners-up in 1923-24, after which league reorganisation saw them placed in Division Two A. They were Division Two A runners-up in 1926-27, but were demoted to Division Two West following further league reorganisation in 1928. More reorganisation in 1930 saw the club moved into Division One for the 1930-31 season. The club were Division One runnersup in 1931-32, earning promotion to the Premier Division. Although they were relegated back to Division One at the end of their first season in the Premier Division, the club were Division One champions and League Cup winners in 1933-34, earning an immediate return to the Premier Division.

Apsley were relegated to Division One again at the end of the 1935-36 season. In 1938-39 they reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 2-1 at Bromley. Following World War II the club were placed in the Western Division for the 1945-46 season and finished bottom of the table. They were subsequently placed in Division One West and the club's name was changed to Hernel Hempstead. They were Division One West runners-up in 1947-48 and again in 1950-51, after which they were promoted back to the Premier Division. However, after a single season in the Premier Division the club left to join the Delphian League.

In 1955 the club was renamed Hemel Hempstead Town. They were Delphian League runners-up in 1961-62, and when the league was dissolved in 1963, they following most other Delphian League clubs into the new Division Two of the Athenian League. They were promoted to Division One at the end of the 1964-65 seasons, and were Division One runners-up the following season, earning promotion to the Premier Division. However, after finishing bottom of the Premier Division in 1967-68, the club were relegated back to Division One. A second successive relegation followed in 1968-69 when they finished second-from-bottom of

#### Division One.

In 1971 the club merged with Hemel Hempstead United from the South Midlands League to form Hemel Hempstead Football Club. The new club took Hemel Hempstead Town's place in Division Two of the Athenian League, but moved to Hemel Hempstead United's Vauxhall Road ground. The club remained in the Athenian League until joining Division Two of the Isthmian League in 1977. League reorganisation in 1984 saw them placed in Division Two North, where they remained until further reorganisation in 1991 led to them playing in Division Two. They finished bottom of Division Two in 1996-97 and were relegated to Division Three, but won the Division Three title the following season to earn promotion back to Division Two at the first attempt.

In 1999 the club was renamed Hemel Hempstead Town for a second time. They won Division Two in 2001–02 but were denied promotion due to their ground failing to meet the necessary criteria. They were moved to Division One North in 2002, and a sixth-place finish in 2003–04 was enough to secure promotion as the creation of the Conference North and South led to many clubs moving up the leagues. At the same time the club were transferred to the Southern League and placed in its Premier Division. The following season saw the club finish in the relegation zone, resulting in relegation to Division One West. However, a fourth-place finish in 2005-06 meant the club qualified for the promotion play-offs; after beating Swindon Supermarine 3-0 in the semi-finals, they won the final against Brackley Town 3-2 to earn an immediate return to the Premier Division.

In 2006-07 Hemel Hempstead finished fifth in the Southern League Premier Division, qualifying for the play-offs, in which they lost 3-1 to Team Bath. Another fifth-place finish in 2008-09 led to another play-off campaign that saw them lose 4-3 on penalties to Farnborough in the semi-finals. The club finished fourth in 2012-13: in the play-offs they won 2-0 against Chesham United in the semi-finals, before losing 5-4 on penalties to Gosport Borough in the final The following season saw the club win the Southern League Premier Division title, earning promotion to the Conference South. In 2014-15 they reached the first round of the FA Cup, eventually losing 3-1 at Bury. A fifth-place finish in 2017-18 saw the club qualify for the play-offs. However, they were beaten 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out by Braintree Town in the qualifying round..

The 2018/19 season proved to be by far the most disappointing during our time in the National League south. The season started well but my mid-September the management team of Dean Brennan and Stuart Maynard had moved on to the Glen Tamplin revolution at Billericay Town. Hemel players Jordan Parkes and Darren Ward took the team temporarily whilst the club looked for a new permanent manager. At the beginning of November Joe Deeney was appointed to the position of manager, Joe was formerly assistant manager at NLS

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rivals Oxford City. Joe started very well with three League victories in November winning away at Bath City, East Thurrock and at home to Gloucester City. There were very few memorable points during the remainder of the season as it petered out with the Tudors finishing a very disappointing 16<sup>th</sup> at the end of the season. This was the worst finishing position in the League since being promoted to National League South in 2014.

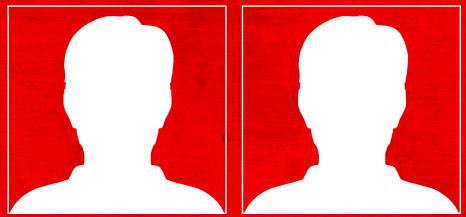
The summer of 2019 saw one of the biggest overhauls at Vauxhall Road for some time, with Concord Rovers manager Sammy Moore departing our NLS rivals to join us at Hemel. Moore set about rebuilding the squad, releasing almost all of the previous squad and assembling a group of experienced players in an attempt to turn around the club's dip in form. Hemel got off to a flying start and by October were placed second in the league and enjoying the type of form you'd expect from promotion candidates. However, lengthy spells without a win followed; The Tudors remained "thereabouts" in the league thanks to the good string of results earlier in the season but the club was often placed at the bottom end of the current form table from November through to March, then the season was brought to a premature end by the global coronavirus pandemic. By this time, Hemel were placed 11th in the league table having played 34 games, six points below the play-off positions and nine points above relegation. One could only speculate how the season may have finished, but three wins and four clean sheets in the last five league games Hemel played had instilled some optimism at Vauxhall Road. However, during the summer of 2020, Tudors Chairman Dave Boggins made the decision not to renew Moore's contract.

The management team of Lee Bircham and Steve Bateman, a partnership that impressed at neighbours Berkhamsted. were appointed at Vauxhall Road for the 2020/21 season: the summer of 2020 saw the introduction of artificial grass to Vauxhall Road, with FIFA-Pro standard all weather playing surface adding to the continually improving on and off field facilities at Vauxhall Road. Bircham and Bateman and remained in charge for the duration of another season affected by the Covid pandemic and abandoned, but lasted just a few games in to 2021/22; a poor run of form saw another change, with former Barnet Academy Manager Mark Jones taking the reins at Hemel. Jones set about strengthening the squad and as the season progressed there was a stage where The Tudors were knocking on the doors of the play-off's, albeit the season culminated in a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish.





## **ONESTO WATCH**



### **Charlee Hughes**

Charlee is a 25 year old striker who joined from Maldon & Tiptree in December 2021. He scored 29 goals during the 2019/20 season earning a move to Wealdstone. He played 17 times in the National League for Wealdstone during the 2020/21 season. The target man then rejoined Maldon & Tiptree for the 2020/21 season. Charlee started his football journey in the Academy at Leyton Orient.

### **Kaylen Hinds**

Kaylen signed for the Turdors in January 2023. He moved to Arsenal from the Leyton Orient Academy in 2016. He then followed his Academy manager to Germany to sign for Wolfsburg. A change of manager saw him return to England and sign for Watford. Kaylens other clubs include Aldershot Town and Welling United

### www.hemelfc.com

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### VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster Chippenham Town 3-1 Taunton Town

Its pretty damned tough being a TTFC supporter right now, where the patience and mind-set of the most true diehard is being tested to the limit! We have just played three "six-pointers" against clubs at the wrong end of the division, and came out of it with just one solitary point. By any standards, that is abysmal form. But hey, the writing has been on the wall since the season began.

The first 3 games of the campaign saw us lose 2 and draw 1. Scoring no goals in 4 and a half hours of football. If that was not an indication of where the problem lay, then what was? And so the lack of goalscoring has been permitted to continue! Thats all well and good, when we were picking up points due to having a solid defence, but over the last couple of months, even that aspect of the club has faltered. The momentum of the club, the grinding out of narrow wins has now evaporated like a hot summer lake!

We have recently had much media coverage over that supposed privilege, namely "Free Speech". Where sadly, we are living in an era where many are so easily offended. So although i will not go as far as to name individuals, i will say this. There are players in this current Taunton team that simply are not good enough to be playing at National Southern League level. My honest opinion, of which i know is also an opinion of many Peacocks fans, is that we only have 5, possibly 6 players that are worthy of wearing the Claret n Blue. Yes, that is a harsh statement, but that is the way the majority of fans are feeling right now!

Of course the players have it tough, with having full time jobs, families to look after, playing 2 games per week with a limited squad. And why do we have such a limited sauad? Its that old chestnut....Cash. or rather lack of it!

The supporters are a important factor of all clubs, particularly at non league level. Here at Taunton, attendances have dropped like a housefly wearing a "Jim'll Fix It" medallion!!!! Quite honestly i will be amazed if over 500 turn up for Saturdays home match verses Hemel. We will see!!!

And so the game itself. We got off to the perfect start, after a blunder of massive proportion, when

Ross intercepted a pass-back from the defender to goalkeeper, tucking the ball just inside the far post. Lady Luck was certainly with us throughout the first half. A half which saw our goal under a siege of attacks. Jack, yet again bailing us out time and time again.

The woodwork was to be our saviour repeatedly, i counted 3 Chippenham attempts crashing against the woodwork. Also an effort cleared off the line by Evans, a lad i cannot fault at all. We were under the cosh throughout, yet amazingly the half time score read 1-1.

Not for the first time this season, the opposition came out all guns blazing for the 2nd half. We knew the goal was coming, and sure enough it did. The put upon Taunton defence simply could not handle the ferocity of the Chippenham attacks. It was clear they wanted the 3 points far more than we did. Before one could blink an eyelid we were 3-1 down. Gutted, frustrated and even depressed is an under-statement.

Anger began to take over amongst the travelling Taunton support, which incidentally was the highest we have seen for some time. The substitutions of Jarvis and Simmo for McCootie and Morgan came way too late to salvage anything from this game. Many of us totally bewildered why Dylan did not feature at 7-45. The last 15 minutes saw Taunton change formation as we at last showed what we are capable of. Dylan hit the post, Ross hammered a free kick just inches wide. And for the first time, the Chippenham keeper was being called into action.

So where does this defeat leave us now? One look at the league table will show Taunton at the lowest they have been for the entire season. In 20th place, just one point off the bottom 4. Yes, we have 2 and even 3 games in hand over many of our rivals at the bottom. But on this current form, we WILL go down.

The joyful scenes of that historic final match of last season, which gave me personally my best ever football memory, will be replaced with feelings of utter sadness should we be relegated. I really pray that the winning momentum is back by Saturday evening.

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### Last Time Out

### CHIPPENHAM TOWN TAUNTON TOWN

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2023 VENUE: THORNBURY SURFACING STADIUM - ATTENDANCE: 612

An ultimately conclusive defeat at the Thornbury Surfacing Stadium saw the Peacocks edge nearer to the National League South trapdoor. Despite gaining the advantage through Ross Stearn's early goal, the visitors could not contain a lively Bluebirds side who went on to overhaul the lead and would have added to their tally had it not been for Town keeper Jack Bycroft whilst there was little attacking threat in response.

With skipper Nick Grimes absent due to work commitments, Cameron Evans came in at the back whilst Lloyd James assumed the captain's armband and all seemed positive as the team in yellow made a sound start, with Nat Jarvis' header easily held by Will Henry in the home goal and Lee Lucas firing a first time strike over from Ollie Chamberlain's cross. However they had a lucky escape after ten minutes when Joe Parker latched onto a pass over the top and lobbed Bycroft, the ball coming back off the post and landing for Matt McClure whose strike was blocked by Evans.

The Peacocks recovered from that near miss to take the lead after 13 minutes. Jake Wannell's free kick forward flicked off a defender for Stearn to prod home into the far corner, cueing scenes of celebration amongst the sizeable travelling support. Their joy was not to last. The hosts were beginning to click and the Town defence were being increasingly stretched. Wannell's clearance ricocheted off McClure to land on the roof of the net, Tom Mehew's drilled shot from a low corner was blocked, as were two follow-ups while Caine Bradbury's effort from another corner went the same way. Bycroft then pulled off a fine save, pushing away McClure's close range header from an Alex Bray cross before the rebound from the same player was blocked.

With those tell-tale signs, it was no real surprise when Chippenham drew level after 36 minutes, Bradbury's corner being squeezed home inside the post by a header from home captain Will Richards. The visitors sustained no further damage up until the break and actually finished the half on a positive note, James' deep cross being headed just wide at the back post by Jay Foulston. Unfortunately few positives could be taken from what was to follow.

After a fairly open start to the second half, it didn't take long for the Bluebirds to take control of the proceedings, aided by their second goal on 52 minutes. After a shot had hit a Town body, the ball fell loose to McClure who drilled home into the net from just outside the box. A header from Dave Sims-Burgess proved a routine hold for Henry in reply but that was about it until the latter stages of the game as the hosts buzzed down the slope, some crisp football cutting through seemingly at will against a Town side lacking in cohesion. Bradbury fired another strike over while penalty appeals after Craig Fasanmade went down were waved away before McClure sent another shot

#### narrowly wide.

Dylan Morgan replaced Sims-Burgess just past the hour, but the traffic remained one way, Chippenham quickly closing down any Peacock attempts to make ground and managing the long balls whilst driving forward with energy and purpose themselves. Another batch of corners were won, one of which led to panic stations as the ball disappeared in a melee of players, with Bycroft eventually managing to clutch. He could do nothing about the third goal after 66 minutes though, Fasanmade making ground down the left before driving his finish inside the post.

The Bluebirds eased off as the match entered the final stages which saw Town at least make some inroads into the opposition area. Nick McCootie took over from Jarvis on 73 minutes and the two Taunton subs nearly combined to reduce the deficit four minutes later, McCootie powering to the byeline and seeing his low cross bundled against the near post by Morgan who was giving the home defence something to think about. He was then felled by Luke Russe to earn a free kick which Stearn fired just wide before Henry made what would be constituted as his only real save of the evening when he parried an 18 yard shot from Chamberlain while McCootie's turn and shot was blocked at close quarters. It was all too little, too late though. Five minutes of stoppage time made no difference, the only effort being a Joe Hanks' strike which Bycroft held, as the home side leapfrogged their visitors in the table.

Word on the street said it was Chippenham's most dominant performance of the season and on that evidence it is hard to argue. The Peacocks, who failed to win a corner during the 90 minutes and who now drop to 20th in the table, had been soundly beaten and similar performances over the next six weeks can only lead to one outcome.





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

as at 15th March 2023

Ρ	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	А	+/_	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	38	26	7	5	89	39	+50	85
2	Dartford	37	21	7	9	69	40	+29	70
3	Oxford City	38	17	13	8	66	46	+20	64
4	Braintree Town	38	17	13	8	55	43	+12	64
5	Chelmsford City	38	18	8	12	49	37	+12	62
6	Havant & Waterlooville	37	18	7	12	68	53	+15	61
7	Worthing	38	16	12	10	70	61	+9	60
8	Bath City	38	16	10	12	54	46	+8	58
9	Tonbridge Angels	38	17	7	14	57	56	+1	58
10	St Albans City	36	16	7	13	56	43	+13	55
11	Eastbourne Borough	38	17	4	17	63	60	+3	55
12	Farnborough	35	15	9	11	45	37	+8	54
13	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	38	13	11	14	40	47	-7	50
14	Dover Athletic	37	11	11	15	37	50	-13	44
15	Slough Town	37	11	10	16	46	64	-18	43
16	Welling United (-1)	36	10	13	13	43	52	-9	42
17	Hampton & Richmond Borough	37	11	8	18	48	61	-13	41
18	Chippenham Town	35	9	13	13	39	49	-10	40
19	Dulwich Hamlet	37	11	5	21	52	76	-24	38
20	TAUNTON TOWN	32	9	10	13	33	37	-4	37
21	Cheshunt	37	9	9	19	43	62	-19	36
22	Hungerford Town	36	8	8	20	36	50	-14	32
23	Weymouth	36	9	5	22	44	67	-23	32
24	Concord Rangers	33	8	7	18	32	58	-26	31

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

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### Today's Other Fixtures - Saturday 18th March

3pm	Bath City v St Albans City	1/
3pm	Chelmsford City v Worthing	A . T
3pm	Concord Rangers v Dartford	At T
3pm	Dover Athletic v Hampton & Richmond Borough	100
3pm	Eastbourne Borough v Slough Town	
3pm	Ebbsfleet United v Dulwich Hamlet	
3pm	Farnborough v Chippenham Town	1
3pm	Havant & Waterlooville v Tonbridge Angels	
3pm	Hungerford Town v Braintree Town	
3pm	Oxford City v Cheshunt	
3pm	Taunton Town v Hemel Hempstead Town	
3pm	Weymouth v Welling United	
Upcon	ning Fixtures - Tuesday 21st March	1.11
7.45pm	Chippenham Town v Weymouth	
7.45pm	Farnborough v Slough Town	DI
7.45pm	St Albans City v Cheshunt	PL
7.45pm	Welling United v Taunton Town	
Upcon	ning Fixtures - Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> - March	
3pm	Braintree Town v Taunton Town	1 E
3pm	Cheshunt v Weymouth	
3pm	Chippenham Town v Eastbourne Borough	
3pm	Dartford v Chelmsford City	
3pm	Dulwich Hamlet v Oxford City	
3pm	Hampton & Richmond Borough v Farnborough	
3pm	Hemel Hempstead Town v Concord Rangers	
12.30pm	Slough Town v Ebbsfleet United	A A
3pm	St Albans City v Dover Athletic	
3pm	Tonbridge Angels v Hungerford Town	
3pm	Welling United v Bath City	
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Worthing v Havant & Waterlooville

3pm







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### 2022-23 FIXTURES & RESULTS

#### AUGUST '22

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
óth	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
SEPTE/	<b>MBER '22</b>				
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	1-1D	958
осто	<b>BER '22</b>				
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
NOVEN	<b>ABER '22</b>				
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
DECEN	<b>IBER '22</b>				
3rd	HOME	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	0-0 D	624
óth	AWAY	YEOVIL TOWN	SPC	2-1L	441
20th	AWAY	SLOUGH TOWN	FAT 3	0-1 W	299
26th	AWAY	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	1-3 W	1,488

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

### JANUARY '23

JANU	ART 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	0-1L	807
31st	HOME	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	2-0 W	551
FEBRU	ARY '23				
4th	AWAY	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	0-3 W	1.013
7th	HOME	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	1-1D	687
14th	HOME	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	0-2L	690
18th	AWAY	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE	VNLS	3-2L	1,148
21st	HOME	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	1-1D	521
25th	HOME	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNLS	0-1L	787
28th	HOME	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VNLS	1-2 L	510
MARC	H '23				
4th	AWAY	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	2-3 W	933
7th	HOME	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	1-2 L	456
11th	AWAY	CHESHUNT	VNLS	0-0 D	431
14th	AWAY	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3-1L	612
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	I VNLS	7:45pm	
APRIL	<b>'23</b>				
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	The second
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	
25th	HOME	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	7:45pm	and the for
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	3 Tot



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS 1947-2022

### THE UNTOLD GAME - The First Oriundo-

Commissioner Marone, as the new Torino President liked to style himself, was not a natural leader of the sport he had invested in. He was heir to a colossal alcoholic fortune, and would later become the Count Cinzano, but in the mid-1920s he took charge of his hometown club and decided that he would play a part in Mussolini's pursuit of nationalistic pride. Nobody thought much of it when he visited Buenos Aires on a business trip, he was just absent from the boardroom for a few months. But when he disembarked from a steamer. back on home soil, he brought with him two footballers. One became ill and soon went back home, but the other was Julio Libonatti, who would dominate Italian football, before becoming it's first oriundo, and a national hero.

Libonatti had already been making a name for himself in South America. Born to a poor immigrant family, he had a natural talent for goalscoring. When he was old enough, he went along to what is now one of Argentina's great clubs - Newell's Old Boys who had been founded two years after he had been born, and showed what he could do. The coaches were impressed, and signed him up there and then. He was just fifteen years old, and within a couple of years he was in the first team, continuing to do what he did best.

Football was booming in Argentina in the early 1920s, as a fierce rivalry with Uruguay drove both sides on to greatness; by the end of the decade, Uruguay were two times World Champions, beating Argentina in both finals. So Libonatti's undoubted talent was difficult to miss. Over seven years to 1925, he played 141 games and scored 78 goals, delighting supported with his flair and trickery, along with his unerring accuracy. Nobody quite knows how Marone involved himself with Libonatti, but one can imagine that he took notice when he arrived in Argentina. Contracts were signed, and both made their way back to Italy.

In Turin, he was as much of a sensation as he had been in Buenos Aires. His agility and trickery earned him the nickname Matador, and it was well deserved. Not only did he improve his scoring rate, scoring 106 goals in his first 109 games, he also developed a reputation for laying on goals for his strike partners. The full package, unsurprisingly Torino's tactics in this period could be described as 'give it to Julio'. And his didn't disappoint, leading his side to two national titles (one of which was revoked) and a final which was lost.

As fascism really embedded itself into Italian lives, Benito Mussolini understood the value of sport in unifying a country. It is a tactic that has been used ever since, by historical heroes and villains, but in the 1920s, the rapid professionalisation and nationalisation of the game required an added element; Italianness. Foreign players were banned from the league, with the exception of the oriundi, those who were able to trace their heritage back to an Italian ancestry. Fortunately for Libonatti, he

#### could do just that.

Despite having made 15 appearances for Argentina before leaving the country (scoring at his customary rate of one in two), FIFA rules allowed players to change nationality as required; because moving around the world was a difficult thing to do, and because two world wars made borders and nationalities both fluid and dangerous. The great Alfredo di Stefano, for example, played for three different teams. So when Libonatti got his Italian passport, he also made himself available for the Italian national side. Augusto Rangone was the man in charge of the national side and called him up. And so he became the first oriundo.

Rangone may have been in charge when Libonatti first got the call, but before long it was the legendary Vittorio Pozzo who had been charged by Mussolini personally to bring the national team success on the world stage which he did, in both 1934 and 1938. Libonatti's career wouldn't last to that zenith, but he did lay the groundwork, scoring 15 goals in 18 games for Italy. Sadly, they refused to travel for the first iteration of the World Cup, so he didn't get to show his skills at the inaugural competition, and by the 1934 edition in his adopted homeland, he had dropped into the Second Division with Genoa, where age had slightly slowed his scoring.

The idea of oriundi is a tradition that continued throughout the twentieth century, and in the twenty first, with modern travel a much expanded international game, player for the country of one's ancestors has become commonplace. But in Italy at least, Julio Libonatti was the first oriundo.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS 1947-2022



### **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. 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, discrminatory, offensive or threatening language.
- Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discrminatory, offensive or threatening gestures. 8.
- 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.
- 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:

- The Club does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss or damage to A) 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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#### TAUNTON TOWN vs HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - KickOff 3:00pm



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 Lee Lucas 31



•



#### Manager: Brad Quuinton

1 Craig King (GK) 2 Montel McKenzie **Josh Williams** 3 4 Josh Hill 5 Jack Westbrook 6 Kyle O'Connor-Ajayi 7 **George Williams** 8 **Bayley Brown** 9 Luke Holness 10 Josh Castiglione 11 Nana Owusu 12 Kory Roberts 14 Charlee Hughes 15 Dominic Morgan-Griffiths 16 Kane Lewis 17 Godfrev Poku 18 Jeremie Mukendi 19 Andrew Eleftheriou 20 Kaylen Hinds

### **Match Officials**

Referee: Robert Ablitt Asst Referee: Sean Jenkins Asst Referee: Andrew Glanville

### www.tauntontown.com