

ISSUE  
25



# PEACOCKS



**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**KickOff 7:45pm**





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## HONOURS

### LEAGUE HONOURS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE  
Champions 2017-18

#### WESTERN PREMIER DIVISION

Champions 1968-69, 1989-90, 1995-96,  
1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01

#### SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH

Runners-Up 2018-19, Champions 2021-22

### CUP HONOURS

#### FA VASE

Winners 2000-01

#### SOMERSET PREMIER CUP

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

## CONTACT DETAILS

Taunton Town Football Club  
Cygnets Healthcare Stadium  
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Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2HG

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Twitter: @TauntonTownFC  
Facebook: Taunton Town FC  
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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  
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 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 Danny Robinson, his Hungerford Town team and their supporters to Somerset.

A fantastic run of 4 wins in as many games before Saturday's defeat hauled us up the table and further away from the drop zone, including an away win at 2nd placed Dartford, securing the double over one of the favourites for promotion this season. The boys have been fantastic all season long. We knew it wasn't going to be a case of coming into this league and just turn up each week and take points and be well away from trouble. We knew we had to work hard for every single point and the boys have done themselves and the club proud.

Still a number of games to go for us due to falling behind with the bad weather we have suffered from this season, so there are opportunities to really finish this season on a high and take some confidence into next season and look to improve on what we have achieved this season.

Defensively we have been outstanding and currently have conceded the least amount of goals in the league this season, which is an unbelievable achievement and a testament to the boys putting their bodies on the line each and every game.

Still plenty of points to play for and still a lot of fun to be had before the conclusion to what has been a great season for Taunton Town Football Club.

Rob

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## The Away End

# HUNGERFORD TOWN

The Early Years – The first mention of forming a football club in Hungerford was in the parish magazine of November 1873 when those interested were invited to send in their names. But it was not until October 1886 that Hungerford Town Football Club was officially founded. The club has come a long way since with a vast number of volunteers, supporters and players contributing to its 134-year history. The original name was Hungerford Swifts and this link with the club's heritage is maintained to this day with a community team now playing under that name in the Hellenic League. Matches were originally played on "the Downs" (now Hungerford Common) and then subsequently on the western edge of the town, an area known locally as "the Marsh", before the club moved to its present ground in Bulpit Lane shortly after WW1. Initially the club played only friendly matches but soon became a powerful force in local football and won its first recorded trophy in 1905 when winning the Newbury Graystone Cup. Hungerford won its first league title, the Newbury & District League, in 1912/13, before all competitive football ceased between 1914 and 1918. The club picked up where they left off and was immediately successful when the Newbury League restarted in 1919 and Hungerford were league champions in both 1920 and 1921. That era saw the emergence of Reverend Denning, known locally as 'the old man', as a driving force and benefactor of the club and the team included many surnames still familiar in the town to this day. It was in 1948 when another legend of the club, Ron Tarry, attended his first game. Ron went on to fill every position at Hungerford including 1st Team Manager, Chairman and eventually Club President. He sadly passed away in 2022 but will forever be remembered as 'Mr Hungerford Town'. Hungerford Town continued playing at intermediate level with mixed fortunes in the Newbury & District and the Swindon &

Bobby Moore's Oxford City. 1982 finally brought success and a major trophy when Hungerford defeated Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 at Wokingham Town to win the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup. Promotion was again narrowly missed in 1984/85 but the club then entered a rather turbulent period when after 9 successful years as manager Jim Kelman left the club. 1988/89 saw a return to prominence under joint managers Gary Goodwin and David Dodds who guided the club to sixth place in the table and a third FA Vase Semi Final appearance. This time it was Sudbury Town who denied Hungerford its much-deserved trip to Wembley.

The 1990s & 2000s – The club finished in the top ten of the league table in 1991, 1992 and 1993 under Gary Goodwin and later ex-Manchester United player Wilf Tranter (RIP) before a dismal start to the 1992/93 season saw the departure of Tranter at Christmas. Former Hungerford goalkeeper Jimmy Greenwood briefly returned to the club as manager and achieved Division 2 safety before ex-players Gerald (Cabbie) Smith and assistant Norman Matthews combined to keep the club ticking over in the Isthmian League for the next two seasons. 1996/97 brought the club its highest finish for several seasons but the club entered a transition phase for much of the late 1990s and although former Swindon Town legend Don Rogers took over as manager the league form was disappointing, and Rogers resigned just after the start of the 1999/00 season. Gary Ackling took over as manager and sought to change the emphasis of the club by looking for local youth talent and produced a strong mid table finish in 2002. Unfortunately for the club, the deadline for ground improvements was not met at the end of the 2001/02 season, and a relegation to the newly restructured Isthmian Division 2 followed. Despite still holding their own

the decision was taken for the long-term benefit of the club to re-join the Hellenic League for the 2003/04 season and the club stabilised once more and began the process of rebuilding on and off the pitch. Former player Tim North kept things ticking along nicely before Alan Clark was appointed manager in 2006. The league and cup form gradually improved and a push for promotion was mounted once again. The election of Nigel Warrick as Chairman in 2008 kick started a refurbishment program for the club's facilities and fresh impetus for the team. Despite a sticky start in the league the team went on a 22-match unbeaten run and won the Hellenic League title and promotion to the Southern League.

The 2010s – 2010/11 began with a new man in charge, Bobby Wilkinson, and so began the club's most successful decade in its 125-year history. Undeterred by a play-off defeat in 2012, the team finished as runners-up to Poole Town in 2013 and this time there was to be no heartache in the play-offs as Hungerford beat Paulton Rovers and Merthyr Town to win promotion to the Southern League Premier Division. The surge continued and a run of ten wins on the bounce between March and April 2014 took the club to within a point of the play-offs and a magical run to the last 16 of the F.A. Trophy evoking memories of the wonderful F.A. Vase runs of the 70s and 80s. The 2014/15 season saw another strong challenge in the league and the side hit form in the second half of the season to earn a play-off place but this time the bid for promotion was ended by defeat to eventual promotion winners Truro City. The 2015/16 season began indifferently with an early F.A. Cup exit and some inconsistent performances in the league but a run to the 2nd Round of the F.A. Trophy, only bowing out to National League side Chester, augured well for the season. A powerful second half of the campaign produced a 4<sup>th</sup>

place finish and yet another crack at the play-offs. Things looked bleak in the semi-final when the team were two goals down at Hitchin Town on the hour but came back to win 3-2 and on a never-to-be forgotten rainy Bank Holiday Monday at Bulpit Lane another great comeback saw Hungerford beat Leamington FC 2-1 to achieve promotion to the Vanarama National League South.

Hungerford's first season in the National League proved that the team could survive at this level despite "punching well above their weight" as a club. At one stage Hungerford were in the play-off places but eventually finished in 6<sup>th</sup> position and the team reached the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup for the first time in 35 years, losing narrowly to National League South champions Maidenhead United. The 2017/18 season began with much optimism but in August long serving manager Bobby Wilkinson resigned along with his entire backroom staff. Senior players Jon Boardman and Ian Herring stepped up to the plate as joint managers and steadied the ship before the departure of Chairman Nigel Warrick, and necessary cuts in the club's playing budget, forced a re-structure and Herring being handed sole charge of the team. Two seasons of fighting relegation on and off the field ensued but despite the difficulties Herring and his players kept the club in the National League against the odds with successive final day results against East Thurrock United keeping them up. In March 2019, Patrick Chambers stepped forward to become the new Chairman and together with his wife Nicky, provide a welcome boost to the club. With the team struggling at the bottom of the league, and with an albeit slim but mathematical chance of staying up yet again, the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic struck and all football in the UK was suspended. In unprecedented circumstances Hungerford were handed a reprieve and live to fight another day at their hard earned and highest high level of football.

The 2020s – In the close season of 2020, with the pandemic causing worldwide chaos, Ian Herring departed as manager and the club moved swiftly to appoint former Thatcham Town Manager



Danny Robinson. Robinson had won the Hellenic League title and F.A. Vase double in 2018/19 and Thatcham were leading Division one South of the Southern League when the season was curtailed. Despite the usual predictions of relegation from those outside the club, and there being no supporters allowed into games, the Crusaders quickly began to surprise many and were in a healthy 7<sup>th</sup> position in the table when the season was again ended by the pandemic. With recent ground improvements completed, including new

changing rooms and the completion of a 400-seater stand in 2021, the team quickly took up where they had left off and were once again challenging for a play-off place before fading towards the end of last season and eventually finishing 12<sup>th</sup> in the table. As this 'small but mighty' club head into their 7<sup>th</sup> season at this level of football hopes are high that Hungerford Town can once again defy the odds and continue this remarkable journey. The story continues .....



# ONES TO WATCH



**Curtis Angell**

Curtis joined Hungerford from Thatcham Town in the summer of 2020 having won the FA Vase with Danny Robinson in 2018. He is improving all the time and has become a favourite at Bulpit Lane. He has also maintained the 'family' link with Hungerford with dad Warren and uncles Craig and Darren having played for the club.



**Rhys Tyler**

The Crusaders welcomed this popular full-back back for his 2<sup>nd</sup> spell with the club in October 2020. In between Rhys played for Wealdstone and Chippenham Town in National League South and was formerly a professional in Germany where he played for Rot Weiss Oberhausen and Rot Weiss Erfurt.

[www.hungerfordtown.com](http://www.hungerfordtown.com)



## VIEW FROM THE STANDS - by Dave Webster

### Dulwich Hamlet 2-0 Taunton Town

So in this penultimate away match of the season with the strangest and most non-atmospheric surroundings, I personally have ever witnessed, we see Tauntons 4 match winning spree come to an end. Playing in front of our biggest gate of the season, of 3,291. (Bigger than both our aways at Yeovil and MK Dons), against a club fighting for their National Southern League survival, it was only natural that Dulwich would come out fighting. Yes, defeat is always difficult to digest. We would not be proper supporters if we accepted defeat graciously.

But let's put this into perspective! This was our 7th game in just 14 days. Even the fittest of Premiership players would be unable to cope with that amount of games in such a short period. The lads will be feeling the pain, that is a nailed on certainty! Our safety in this division now guaranteed. No one should be shocked, surprised, or angry about this score-line. It was to be expected.

We are playing for pride now, of which there is an abundance of at TTFC. We are most certainly NOT going to lose our final 4 games of the season. Be sure of that!

This was another stadium, along with Hampton & Richmond, and soon to be promoted, Weston Super Mare, only 3 grounds I have visited in my entire lifetime, where cash is as useless as an ashtray on a motorbike. I have made my feelings pretty clear on this subject, so I won't mention it again in my review.

There really is not much to say about this match, a 90 minutes where the planes flying overhead gave me more excitement. Dulwich came out all guns blazing, it didn't take a genius to work out who needed the points most. They promptly put the ball in the Taunton net at around the 10 minute mark. Their goal coming from a corner, after some pin-ball like defending, with I believe their first 2 efforts being denied by our defence. But still the vast majority of those amongst the three thousand plus crowd, did not celebrate. I suspect most of them unable to name 4 players on the Dulwich team sheet! The half plodded on, with Taunton failing to get a worthwhile attempt on target, or even be awarded a corner.

The man of the match for Dulwich, the referee, was having a party, in giving every major decision his teams way. We have seen some real dodgy officials at this level, this guy is in the top 2. He was to really excel in the 2nd half. Oh yes!!!

The second 45 began in the same mode as the first 45, with the tired Taunton team confined to their own half. And so the frustration continued. At round 4-30 we were awarded our first (And only) corner. Nothing was to come of it. We did manage to get a couple of efforts on target, which were safely gathered by the Dulwich keeper. With around 10 minutes remaining, things went from bad to worse when the home team were awarded a penalty (Surprise, surprise!) which was calmly slotted past Jack.

There was still time for Nick McCootie to get himself a red card in the dying moments. Like we really need that with our team depleted enough as it is. I can only assume Nick must have said something to the Dulwich man in black.

And that was that. The Taunton team came over to us fans thanking us for being there, which is always nice. At the same time, the Dulwich players went to their supposed fans, where unfortunately for the players, most had already dispersed as fast as a caterpillar in an ants nest. Tell ya what, I bet most didn't even have a clue what the final score was!

The most astonishing aspect, is why is a club like Dulwich Hamlet, who so obviously must be bathing in cash, at the bottom end of the division?

As for us, we are almost over the final hurdle. I have enjoyed our first season at this level immensely. Yes, there have been blips along the way, but we have survived. Many new fans have come on board, though not as many as we thought would. Many have even jumped ship. Fact is, we do need more bodies through the turnstiles in order to continue, or even progress from this level.

Really hoping the home attendances pick up with the next 3 games being played at the Cygnet. Let's give our team the support they so thoroughly deserve. See you all on Tuesday, where we have the chance to get double number 3 verses Hungerford. UTP.

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# HEAD 2 HEAD



**42**  
GAMES PLAYED

**15**  
WON

**10**  
DRAWN

**17**  
LOST

**55**  
POINTS



**42**  
GAMES PLAYED

**9**  
WON

**9**  
DRAWN

**24**  
LOST

**36**  
POINTS



LAST 6  
FORM GUIDE



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## Last Time Out

# DULWICH HAMLET TAUNTON TOWN

# 2 0

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH - SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

**VENUE: CHAMPION HILL - ATTENDANCE: 3,291**

It proved a frustrating afternoon for the Peacocks as they saw their four game winning sequence ended in a disjointed encounter. After their well-executed victory at Dartford which had been completed 41 hours earlier, Town were unable to replicate that performance against the South London side still hovering nervously one place above the relegation zone but with results elsewhere, the Peacocks are now 100% assured of National League South football next season whilst Hamlet's chances have also improved markedly.

The visitors showed one change to their starting line-up, Zac Smith replacing Ollie Chamberlain who only played the first half at Dartford due to a tight hamstring. Although on paper Town were more than capable of getting a result, those hopes never evolved into reality in the 90 minutes that followed in a game which had few redeeming features from a claret and blue perspective. The early exchanges passed by with nothing of consequence until Hamlet won the opening corner of the game after 10 minutes. Conor Lawless delivered to the far post where Danny Mills climbed to head goalwards and after Jack Bycroft had blocked two initial attempts from close range, George Porter eventually forced it over the line to give the home side the early advantage.

Smith fed Dylan Morgan who saw his effort blocked as the Peacocks looked to respond in

front of a packed 3,291 crowd, the largest attendance they had played in front of this season whilst also being the most unconventional footballing environment. After Nick Grimes had been yellow carded for halting a Dulwich breakaway, the hosts had another opening when Quade Taylor's ball over the top found Porter who fired wide of the target. Town meanwhile had gradually found their feet after a slow start, but chances were scarce. Smith's cross was punched away by Hamlet keeper Aaron Jones who also clutched two Morgan deliveries from the right. Mills planted a header well over from a Sanchez Ming cross at the opposite end before another home counter led to Ming out on the right seeing his effort deflect to Kristian Campbell whose shot found the side netting.

Joe Guest headed wide from a Cam Evans cross to end an opening half as uncomfortable to endure as the stop-start crawl into the London suburbs from the M25. Unfortunately the outlook remained unchanged after the break. Dulwich did come close to adding to their tally four minutes in when Porter set up Lawless for a curling strike which went narrowly wide of the far post before Campbell had another effort blocked as the home side looked to increase their lead. Two substitutions for the visitors in the space of five minutes, Nick McCootie replacing Dave Sims-Burgess and Ross Stearn taking over from Morgan, failed to improve any luck in the final third where despite plenty of intent nothing would fall and it

was Hamlet who were nearest to success as they exploited space down the right flank, Bycroft parrying Ming's cross-shot at his near post with the follow-up from Lawless also hitting a Town body.

A miskick from Jones fell to McCootie whose shot was blocked before penalty appeals after both Stearn and Smith went down in the box were dismissed by referee Laffin whose decision-making in the latter stages was to Town's detriment. Chamberlain replaced Grimes with 15 minutes to go after the Town skipper had received treatment but within five minutes Hamlet had scored their second to effectively settle affairs. Moments after Stearn had had his close range finish chalked out for offside, a Dulwich break ended with Porter being clipped from behind by a Town player unknown and Ming sent Bycroft the wrong way from the spot with eleven minutes to play.

The Peacocks were then reduced to ten men after 81 minutes when McCootie was shown a straight red card for allegedly adopting an aggressive attitude. Irritation further increased when Lloyd James was also booked after he had appeared to be the victim of some infringements, not the other way round. The last ten minutes plus five minutes of stoppage produced no real opportunities for Town to get on the scoresheet. A low cross from Nat Jarvis was cleared while good work from Smith paved the way for Chamberlain to pull the trigger. However he mishit the attempt, symptomatic of an afternoon in which the Peacocks never got into the groove on the pitch to match the pre-game disco classics being played over the PA. Nevertheless with four games remaining the mission to remain at Step 2 is complete.







## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2022-23 LEAGUE STANDINGS

as at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Ebbsfleet United	44	31	7	6	103	44	+59	100
2	Dartford	43	24	7	12	78	46	+32	79
3	Oxford City	44	21	14	9	81	53	+28	77
4	Chelmsford City	43	22	8	13	64	46	+18	74
5	St Albans City	44	21	9	14	69	49	+20	72
6	Braintree Town	44	19	13	12	63	54	+9	70
7	Worthing	42	19	12	11	84	68	+16	69
8	Eastbourne Borough	44	21	5	18	72	63	+9	68
9	Havant & Waterlooville	43	18	11	14	75	63	+12	65
10	Farnborough	42	18	9	15	55	47	+8	63
11	Tonbridge Angels	43	18	9	16	63	66	-3	63
12	Bath City	43	17	10	16	59	53	+6	61
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	44	15	14	15	48	54	-6	59
14	Chippenham Town	44	14	16	14	54	64	-10	58
15	TAUNTON TOWN	42	15	10	17	44	46	-2	55
16	Hampton & Richmond Borough	43	15	8	20	59	66	-7	53
17	Slough Town	44	13	11	20	57	75	-18	50
18	Welling United (-1)	43	12	14	17	48	61	-13	49
19	Dover Athletic	43	12	12	19	42	62	-20	48
20	Dulwich Hamlet	43	13	7	23	60	87	-27	46
21	Cheshunt	42	10	10	22	45	68	-23	40
22	Weymouth	43	11	6	26	52	77	-25	39
23	HUNGERFORD TOWN	42	9	9	24	43	64	-21	36
24	Concord Rangers	40	9	7	24	35	77	-42	34

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

### Tonight's Other Fixtures - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

7.45pm	Cheshunt v Chelmsford City
7.45pm	Concord Rangers v Dover Athletic
7.45pm	Farnborough v Worthing
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Hungerford Town

### Upcoming Fixtures - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April

7.45pm	Concord Rangers v Dartford
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### Upcoming Fixtures - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

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

### Upcoming Fixtures - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

7.45pm	Dulwich Hamlet v Concord Rangers
7.45pm	Farnborough v Tonbridge Angels
7.45pm	Hungerford Town v Bath City
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Weymouth
7.45pm	Welling United v Hampton & Richmond Borough

## NEXT UP

At The Cygnet Healthcare Stadium

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023  
Kick Off 3:00pm

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# 2022-23 FIXTURES & RESULTS

## AUGUST '22

Date	Venue	Opposition	Competition	KickOff/Score	Attendance
6th	HOME	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	0-0 D	813
13th	AWAY	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	1-0 L	285
16th	AWAY	FARNBOROUGH	VNLS	1-0 L	501
20th	HOME	DARTFORD	VNLS	2-1 W	743
27th	AWAY	ST ALBANS CITY	VNLS	0-0 D	766
29th	HOME	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3-1 W	1,148

## SEPTEMBER '22

3rd	AWAY	HUNGERFORD TOWN	VNLS	0-1 W	377
13th	AWAY	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	1-0 L	452
17th	HOME	LAVERSTOCK & FORD	FAC 2Q	1-0 W	645
24th	HOME	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	0-0 D	928
27th	HOME	BATH CITY	VNLS	1-1 D	958

## OCTOBER '22

1st	HOME	WALTON & HERSHAM	FAC 3Q	1-0 W	731
4th	HOME	ODD DOWN	SPC	7-0 W	184
8th	AWAY	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	5-0 L	1,474
15th	AWAY	YEOVIL TOWN	FAC 4Q	0-0 D	3,093
18th	HOME	YEOVIL TOWN	FAC 4QR	1-0 W	2,347
22nd	AWAY	WORTHING	VNLS	1-1 D	1,295
25th	AWAY	OXFORD CITY	VNLS	2-1 L	374
29th	HOME	TONBRIDGE ANGELS	VNLS	4-1 W	872

## NOVEMBER '22

5th	AWAY	MILTON KEYNES DONS	FAC 1	6-0 L	2,739
12th	HOME	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	1-2 L	456
11th	AWAY	CHESHUNT	VNLS	0-0 D	431
14th	AWAY	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	VNLS	3-1 L	612
18th	HOME	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	VNLS	1-2 L	718
21st	AWAY	WELLING UNITED	VNLS	0-1 W	485
25th	AWAY	BRAINTREE TOWN	VNLS	0-2 W	820
28th	AWAY	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	VNLS	3-1 L	433

## APRIL '23

1st	HOME	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNLS	0-1 L	958
4th	HOME	CONCORD RANGERS	VNLS	1-0 W	665
7th	AWAY	BATH CITY	VNLS	0-2 W	1,590
10th	HOME	SLOUGH TOWN	VNLS	2-1 W	908
13th	AWAY	DARTFORD	VNLS	0-1 W	877
15th	AWAY	DULWICH HAMLET	VNLS	2-0 L	3,291
18th	HOME	HUNGERFORD	VNLS	7:45pm	-
22nd	HOME	WORTHING	VNLS	3:00pm	-
25th	HOME	WEYMOUTH	VNLS	7:45pm	-
29th	AWAY	CHELMSFORD CITY	VNLS	3:00pm	-





# THE UNTOLD GAME

## - Italy's First Giants -

Italian football is home to some huge names. Milan, Inter, and Juventus epitomise what was once the dominant nation in Europe, and between them have a history beyond imagination. But among the storied names, among the memorable feats, sits a club who haven't seen anything remotely like glory in over a century, and whose chances of seeing any soon are remote in the extreme. Nestled just above Roma, Napoli and Fiorentina in the table of Italian success, with as many titles as all of them put together, are the unlikely heroes of Italian football: Pro Vercelli.

Situated equidistant between Milan and Turin, in the crowded footballing corner of northwest Italy, the small town of Vercelli seems an unlikely place for a generation of champions to have sprung up. The area is more famous for the growing of rice, an industry that dates back centuries, and for once being the home of the oldest public university in the world. It is not the kind of place you expect to find a team with seven league titles to their name; only six clubs in Italy have more.

The club was formed out of a local gym, who wanted something more competitive to do with their time than simply working out. This, it would prove, was fortuitous. Playing their first competitive match in 1903, they were made up mostly of health conscious teenagers, trying to be as fit as they could while they enjoyed themselves. Italian football, at the time, was already tending toward the more experienced end of the

spectrum, making the upstarts from Piedmont, in some cases, nearly two decades younger than their opponents. Alongside their beginnings in the gym, they outlasted their opponents repeatedly, and quickly made their way through the nascent Italian league system. By 1907, they had won their regional competition, and for the first time, were admitted to the national Italian championship.

The side was made up entirely of Italians, and mostly of Vercellians. One of them, midfielder Giuseppe Milano, made himself something of a hometown hero after his debut at the tender age of 19 in 1906, helping guide Pro Vercelli into the top flight. In 1908, he was joined in the newly promoted side by two more homegrown stars, Carlo Rampini and Guido Ara. All three would usher in an era of success that, at that time, was unprecedented in Italian football, and all three would join an Italy side under Vittorio Pozzo that was taking its first steps. Milano was his captain.

With their superior fitness, the midfield dynamos of Ara and Milano, and the rampant goalscoring of Carlo Rampini, Pro Vercelli upset the early giants of Italian football, beating Juventus in the qualification rounds and then Inter and Sampdoria (under their historic names, US Milanese and Andrea Doria) in the final group stage to lift their first Italian championship. A year later, they achieved the feat again, and looked set for a period of dominance in Italian football.

The 1909-10 season, however, saw a revamp in the league system. Rather than a number of qualifying rounds followed by a championship group, the FIGC decided that it would be best to create what is now a traditional league division, with teams competing for points over the course of a season. A hard fought campaign saw the league finish with the newly named Internazionale level on points at the top with Pro Vercelli, with an (irrelevant) inferior goal difference. A championship decider was hastily arranged, which clashed with commitments Pro Vercelli had already made. In protest, the two-time champions only sent a youth team to play the decider, which they duly lost. It was the only blip in what would become a phenomenal pre-war period.

Hurt by this turn of events, Pro Vercelli went home and prepared for their greatest period. Determined, experienced and aggrieved, Over the following three seasons they would lose only twice, securing three league titles before finally slipping just before the First World War. Five titles, the most successful club in Italian football.

Following the conflict, Guido Ara took charge of a new Pro Vercelli, leading them to two more titles in 1921 and 1922, a sparkling twilight for the old champions. But professionalisation made it difficult to compete with the bigger clubs, and slowly the large cities exerted their dominance. This was proven no more effectively than with the emergence of Silvio Piola. Pro Vercelli's record goalscorer brought with him dreams of a return to glory in the early 1930s, with the chairman of the small town club declaring that he wouldn't sell Piola for 'all the gold in the world', because it would be the death of his club. In 1934, however, the allure of Lazio became too strong. Piola

moved to the capital and became Italian football's highest ever scorer. Proving the chairman correct, Pro Vercelli were relegated at the end of that season for the first time. They have never made it back to the top flight.

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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - KickOff 7:45pm



Head of Football: Rob Dray

Manager: Danny Robinson

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	●
		●
		●
		●
		●

1	Max Evans (GK)	●
2	Louis McGrory	●
3	Curtis Angell	●
5	Fabio Lopes	●
6	Luke Delaney	●
7	Joel Rollinson	●
8	Callum Gunner	●
10	Jake Evans	●
11	Dan Roberts	●
12	Joe Boachie	●
14	Great Evans	●
16	Lesley Duru	●
17	George Smith	●
19	Michael Fernandes	●
22	Matt Berry-Hargreaves	●
23	Rhys Tyler	●
25	Jerry Gyebi	●
26	Kyle Bailey	●
27	Ryan Jones	●
		●
		●
		●
		●

## Match Officials

Referee: Ruebyn Ricardo

Asst Referee: Martin Underhay    Asst Referee: Nathanael Wormleighton

[www.tauntontown.com](http://www.tauntontown.com)