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## TAUNTON TOWN V ST ALBANS CITY

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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TA1 2HG

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# THE GAFFER

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Wordsworth Drive as we host St Albans City for this afternoon's Vanarama National League South encounter. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us today from our visitors and also to the match officials.

A good result for us last Saturday with the 1-0 win against Welling United which kept us up with the early pace setters, but as we all know in football a league season is a marathon and not a sprint, so there will be some bumps in the road for every team as the season progresses. Our opponents today suffered Play-Off

Final heartbreak last season, and will be looking to go one better this time around so we know today will be a tough game against a good team. However, if we produce what I know we are capable of then there is no reason we can't get a positive result.

A busy few days for all the clubs in the league with Bank Holiday fixtures, so after today's game, we then travel to Maidstone United on Monday and it would be fantastic to see as many of you supporting the boys at that one as you really do lift us. Once again, on behalf of everyone thank you for the fantastic support home and away.

As ever.....**Up The Peacocks!!**

Rob Dray

Head of Football - Taunton Town

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## THE AWAY END



## ST ALBANS CITY

Following the formation of the club in April 1908 St Albans City were granted use of the council owned Clarence Park ground and entered the Spartan and Herts County leagues. Both were won prior to the Great War. After the war City joined the Athenian League. Winning that twice in three years was an achievement that paved the way to joining the Isthmian League in 1923. Within a year City were crowned champions of that league too. St Albans were the first club to win the Spartan, Athenian, and Isthmian League championships. By the end of the decade the club had won the Isthmian title on two further occasions. The 1920s could be seen as St Albans City's golden days with three Amateur Cup semi-final appearances also being made and a whole host of players gaining representative honours, including the record goalscorer Wilfred 'Billy' Minter (365 games, 356 goals), who gained three Amateur England caps.

City achieved just two more top two finishes before, along with Corinthian Casuals, being the first club to be relegated within the newly expanded Isthmian League in 1974. A second relegation was endured nine years later but it proved to be the spark for an upturn in fortunes. City turned to one of their former players John Mitchell – his semi-final goals took Fulham to the 1975 FA Cup Final – to be their new manager and with two promotions in three years the club was back

in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League. City, again under Mitchell, were denied promotion to the Conference in 1993 after finishing second to Chesham United. The Football Conference took exception to a 140-year-old oak tree situated within the terrace. The diseased tree was felled in 1998, clearing the way for City to join the Conference South as founder members in 2004 following a 5-4 play-off victory over Bedford Town.

Having battled against relegation for much of that first season, 2004-05, the Saints, now managed by Colin Lippiatt, gained promotion a year later with victory in the play-off final over Histon. After just one season in the Conference National St Albans were relegated back to Conference South but went down with the highest points total of any side to finish bottom of the Conference since the league added two extra Divisions. Life back in Conference South was far from easy and in 2011, following a deduction of ten points and a fine of £9,500 for financial irregularities, City were relegated to the Southern League.

After just three seasons, Graham Golds and Jimmy Gray led City back into Conference South with a play-off victory at Chesham United. Facing relegation in 2016, City turned to Ian Allinson with the former Arsenal player not only guiding the club to safety

but settling in for a six-year stint at Clarence Park. Allinson left the Saints in October 2022 with his replacement, former City player David Noble, leading the club straight into the play-offs. Victories over Chelmsford City & Dartford took City through to the promotion final where a dominant Oxford City side were triumphant, leaving the Saints to settle for another promotion pushing season in the National League South.

In addition to winning ten league championships, St Albans City have enjoyed success in 49 cup finals. The Herts Senior Cup has been won 13 times and the Herts Charity Cup 25 times. Possibly the most prestigious cup won was the London Senior Cup in 1971, a year after being beaten finalists, and the London Challenge Cup in 1995. City also hold a most unwanted record as the side to have made more Amateur Cup semi-final appearances, four, than any other club without ever going on to play in the final. In 1999 the FA Trophy was added to the list with a semi final defeat to Forest Green Rovers. The club has also lifted silverware on foreign fields winning the Victory Cup in the Channel Islands in 1926 and 1928, and in 1927 the Liege Cup was won in Belgium. St Albans have also played matches in France, Germany and Italy. The club has reached the 2nd Round of the FA Cup on six occasions and defeated two Football League clubs; Brentford in 1924 (attendance 8,825) and Forest Green Rovers in front of the BBC cameras in 2021. The record attendance at Clarence Park was for a quarter final Amateur Cup tie with Ferryhill Athletic in February 1926 that City won 4-1 in front of 9,757 spectators.

Prior to the abolition of the Amateur England side in 1974, five St Albans players were capped by England; Barrie King (5 caps), Wilfred Minter (3), Ernest Grimsdell (2), Fred

Fayers (1) and H.E. (Ted) Miller (1). Other international caps have been gained by Paddy Roche (Northern Ireland, 1), Geoff Anthony (Wales, 3), Lee Clarke (Northern Ireland U21, 1), Dave Webb (England Youth, 3), James Comley (England C (1) and Montserrat (2)), and Anton Blackwood (Antigua & Barbuda, 1).

City's all time leading appearance maker is Phil Wood who played in 900 games between 1962-84. In addition to being City's highest goal scorer, Wilfred Minter also holds the record for scoring most goals (7) in an F.A. Cup tie and finishing on the losing side as City went down 8-7 at Dulwich Hamlet on 22nd November 1922. Seventy-two years later Steve Clark, City's second highest goalscorer and appearance maker, became the second City player to score a double hat-trick in the F.A. Cup as the Saints beat Hillingdon Borough 11-1.

The club can boast of several players to have progressed through them to the Football League, these include; Arthur Grimsdell moved from the Saints to Watford and then Tottenham Hotspur, leading them to victory in the 1921 FA Cup Final. Dean Austin also went to Spurs via Southend United, earning City £90,000 in transfer fees along the way. Other players to have moved from City to League sides include Junior Morias (Peterborough United), Tony Kelly (Stoke City), Harold Miller (Charlton Athletic, Chelsea), Allan Cockram (Brentford), Dean Williams (Brentford) and Michael Danzey (Peterborough United), George Edmonds (Wolverhampton Wanderers via Watford). Grimsdell and Edmonds faced each other in the 1921 FA Cup Final. During the 2022-23 season defenders Alex Lankshear and Riccardo di Trolio signed for Blackpool and Coventry City respectively.



# TWO TO WATCH



**GIORGIO RASULO**

Midfielder Giorgio Rasulo joined St Albans City from having spent five seasons with Banbury United, playing a part in their 21/22 promotion campaign to The National League North.

Starting his career with MK Dons, Rasulo was a highly fancied prospect of the academy, making his first-team debut for the club aged just 15.

25 first-team appearances followed for The Dons between 2012-2018, with spells spent out on loan around the EFL and National League.



**RYAN BLACKMAN**

Central Midfielder Ryan Blackman may only have been at the club since January 2023, but has already concentered himself as a fan favourite thanks to his tireless workrate and visible passion for the club.

A coach at Tottenham Hotspur, Blackman has spent playing spells with Enfield Town, Waltham Abbey, Welling United, Concord Rangers and even a brief stint on the wrong side of the A414 with Hemel Hempstead Town.

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SCAN ME



# THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **4**

WON **2**

DRAWN **1**

LOST **1**

+/- **-1**

POINTS **7**

LGE POS **9<sup>TH</sup>**

HOME POINTS% **86%**



PLAYED **4**

WON **2**

DRAWN **0**

LOST **2**

+/- **0**

POINTS **6**

LGE POS **12<sup>TH</sup>**

AWAY POINTS% **50%**



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## DAVE WEBSTER *View from the stands*

**TAUNTON TOWN 1 WELLING UNITED 0**  
**Vanarama National League South**

If football was compared to works of art, then this game would be in the realms of those children's paintings we used to see on the tv programme "Vision On", in comparison to the previous home game verses Braintree which without doubt would be a Rembrandt! Or in poetry terms, comparing a Thomas Hardy to Eric Cantona's rant about trawlers, fish and sea gulls.

There is winning ugly, and then there is WINNING UGLY, this game, where Taunton used every "Get out of jail" card they could lay their hands on, most certainly falls into the capital letters category!!! But for some woeful finishing from the inept Welling forward line, some magnificent goal keeping from Dan Lavercombe, and superb defending, we so easily could have conceded 4 or 5.

That said, and i really do not like to slate the men in black, that have a difficult task in dealing with the relentless cheating the modern game incurs, this referee Liam Corbett comes very close to being one of the worse i have had the displeasure of seeing. Ronnie Corbett would have done a better task! He set his cards on the table in the first 10 minutes, giving 3 Taunton men yellows, for petty offences. Well done Marcus Day who kept his composure in having to play 93 minutes with a yellow card over his head. Every major decision was going Wellings way!!

On the 11th minute, the ball was in the net, it was an individual effort from Nick McCootie, and not too shabby a goal either. A loose ball fell to his feet in the goal area, with 2 defenders and the keeper to get through, twice he lost the ball, and twice Nicks long dangle legs won it back, as he slotted the ball home.

Nicks determination and persistence paid off handsomely. Did the crowd enjoy this one? You bet we did. As it happened this was to be our only real effort on target for the rest of the game, with much of the 95 minutes played in the Taunton half. We did

see a Nick Grimes header smash against the crossbar, but Mr Corbett had already blown his whistle. What for? Only he knows!

As the first half approached the half way mark. Welling were awarded a very controversial penalty, i spoke to many that got a good view of the incident, that informed me it was never a penalty. Justice was done with the penalty duly saved by Dan.

The 2nd half continued with Welling bombarding the Taunton goal. Austen Booth, was playing a blinder at the back, surely along with Dan Lavercombe, the only real candidates for the man of the match champs. Saying that, we did witness McCooties finest hour in a Taunton shirt as he rolled back the years, the man pushed himself into cardiac arrest mode, and thoroughly deserved the applause he received on leaving the field for Guesty.

Evander Grubb came on to the field late in the 2nd half for Dylan Morgan, and did his bit in stemming the Welling attacks.

I lost count of the yellow cards Taunton received, as i did with the amount of Welling efforts that whizzed over the Taunton crossbar. Apart from their very often pitiful finishing, Welling are a good side, who will come good, of that i am sure. It's been said regularly just how small the margins are in this division, proven again yesterday by unbeaten Weston Super Mare going down 0-3 to Slough Town who had lost their previous three matches.

No game is easy in the National Southern Division. Next up are St Albans, now this will be tough. Scrape a 1-0 win in this one and we will all be very happy Peacocks indeed. 4 games played, 9th in the league, just 2 points behind the leaders Worthing.

Winning ugly or not, we have to be pleased with this start to the 2023/24 campaign. Keep it going lads, grind out those wins, pretty or not. UTP.



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# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



A sunny weekday morning, a little before 9.30am and a corner kick away from Wembley Stadium, Hanwell Town are opening up their ground for assessment.

It's part of the intensive drive to look in depth at all Step 3-6 grounds in the National League System by the end of October, with National League clubs to get the same treatment later in the season.

The NLP has been invited along to see what we'd traditionally know as a ground grading in action.

Launched at the end of July, the FA and Premier League have joined forces to launch the Stadium Accreditation Programme.

For the first time since ground grading was introduced over 15 years ago, the process has been digitalised with a new tool called StadiumPower.

Think of this process as a giant audit of Non-League grounds to essentially answer the questions: What have we got? Where are the challenges and areas of need? And, crucially, how can funding be best utilised?

"Up until now, although many will be surprised at this, there has been no central database capturing not just facility information but also the nuances around it," Mark Harris, chairman of The FA's Stadium Accreditation sub-

committee, tells The NLP.

"So digitalisation will give us a central database of facilities. It will allow us to identify areas of non-compliance but, more importantly, look at common areas of non-compliance.

"It's about identifying big issues that can then be linked to funding. I don't want to set any hares running but, as an example, if we found there were high numbers of perimeter fencing not compliant for whatever reason, that enables a business case to be put together to talk to funding partners like the Premier League Stadium Fund and say: There is a common need here. Let's look at whether we should focus some funding on the bigger problems club face.

"It is not there as a bigger stick to beat clubs with. It's to bring transparency and also ensure impartiality."

That and consistency are key. Previously, grading at Steps 1-4 was handled centrally by The FA, with Steps 5 and 6 overseen by leagues themselves.

Naturally, and understandably, that has led to a variation across the country.

Stadium Accreditation assessors – 25 of them all trained together – are now undertaking the mammoth task to visit around 820 individual National League System grounds.

As part of this year one assessment, at least 400 individual items at each stadium are being recorded – of those, 160 linked to the ground grading criteria for 2023-24.

There are nine sections to be filled in by the assessor, accompanied by a league observer.

It starts with general information like ground details and who uses the pitch. Then entrances and exits, clubhouse details, how big is the clubhouse and how many can it hold. Spectator information and capacities, standing and seating.

Others areas include Medical & Safety, Pitch & Floodlights, Transport & Parking, Media & Broadcast.

With the app, photos and videos can now be taken and instantly uploaded to give a literal picture of what each ground has.

A key part of this fact-finding information will link into those extras. The FA can get an idea of suitable ground stock for England youth games as well as to aid the exploding growth of women's football to help clubs get permanent bases. Likewise, it will help the FA Competitions team at Wembley HQ with their planning.

Women's Super League games require an anti-doping room. Is there one available? It all goes into the app.

An important note, nothing in respect to the actual grading criteria has changed. But the in-depth collection of data will be reviewed by The FA's now monthly-meeting Stadium Accreditation Sub Committee.

"It may well be that arising from this first round of inspections that it actually highlights some changes we may need to think about making to criteria going forward," Harris says.

StadiumPower will allow clubs to keep tabs on their own improvements, give transparency on other clubs and there will be a public-facing element so the everyday fan can see what facilities they may attend.

Another feature of the app will be a stadium simulation tool where a club can, at the click of a button, see what work is required should they be promoted to the level above.

"This is about trying to move the mindset from compliance to opportunity," Harris says.

Nearly three hours on and there are still areas to be looked at, measured and photographed. But it's another one ticked off the list with the vision for a stronger Non-League game at the end of it.





# OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

## TAUNTON TOWN 1 WELLING UNITED 0

19.8.2023 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 727

Welling will no doubt have spent much of their eastward journey returning to Kent wondering how they failed to claim some reward from a game they dominated for the most part. After scoring early on through Nick McCootie, the Peacocks were forced to defend for long periods and were indebted to goalkeeper Dan Lavercombe and the woodwork for maintaining the single goal advantage until the final whistle.

Season 2023-24 is fast becoming a replica of last year as far as injuries are concerned, with the Town side again showing changes from the previous match at Weymouth. Already minus Dan Ball and Jay Foulston, Ollie Chamberlain and Nat Jarvis were added to the list due to hamstring complaints while loan striker Malachi Linton is likely to be out of action for several weeks after suffering ligament damage at Aveley, meaning McCootie started up front while there was a first start for summer recruit Marcus Day.

The opening exchanges were only notable for a flurry of yellow cards to the home side and bench as referee Corbett eagerly applied the new diktat from the FA before the Peacocks broke the

deadlock after ten minutes. A long clearance reached McCootie on the edge of the box and he managed to wriggle free from the attentions of Wings' centre half Taofiq Olomowewe and the nearby Jack Burchell to get free and slot the ball into the right-hand corner of Ben Winterbottom's net.

Having arrived at Wordsworth Drive with three defeats from three, it soon became clear that the visitors were in no mood to make it four. Right winger Jephthe Tanga was proving a challenge to control and from his chipped cross, Antony Papadopoulos headed goalwards and when the ball was scrambled clear it fell to Cameron Green to fire over. The Peacocks meanwhile were finding opportunities scarce at the opposite end. Dylan Morgan robbed Lachlan Byrd to scamper away, but Byrd recovered with an excellent tackle while Ross Stearn battled to collect a goal kick but scuffed his 18 yard effort to Winterbottom. Impressive work from McCootie then earned a corner from which Lloyd James delivered and Nick Grimes headed against the bar. Nothing to see here though as the flag was already up.

Welling continued to patiently play out

from the back as they looked for an avenue through. Papadopoulos fired well wide and the dangerous Tanga outwitted two men down the right, only to see his cross boot away before the visitors upped the ante as half time approached and were handed a golden opportunity to restore parity on 40 minutes. Grimes was deemed to have hauled down Olomowewe challenging for a corner and a penalty was awarded. Lavercombe was equal to the spot kick from Papadopoulos though as he got down superbly to palm away to his left, with the loose ball being bundled wide by Tanga. A strong run in from the right by Papadopoulos also came close to an equaliser as he drilled a 20 yard strike off the bar before the same player was denied at the near post during four minutes of added time, seeing his effort blocked following a Tanga cross.

The second half saw the Wings dominate even more in terms of possession and attempts at goal. The hosts began well enough, enjoying an early spell of pressure which saw McCootie battering through the Welling backline to see his centre blocked while a James free kick from the right was played square to Lee Lucas whose shot caused more anxiety for the refreshment vans than Winterbottom as it sailed skywards into the car park. Winterbottom could quite easily have got himself a chair for the final half hour as he had virtually nothing to do. Joe Guest replaced McCootie just past the hour to help shore up the centre, however the tide remained firmly towards the Town goal. Burchell navigated rather too easily into the danger zone to see his effort saved by

Lavercombe who then stood firm to deny David Kamara after Papadopoulos had played him in, the rebound being put wide by Kamara.

With Town confined to quarters with no real outlet up top, defence became the norm for the final stages. However, the Town rearguard were not to be beaten. Sub Lewis White cut in from the left to see his strike held low down by Lavercombe, Kain Adom ventured across the edge of the box to rifle wide, and White planted a shot into the trees before five more minutes of stoppage were negotiated, White providing the only effort when he again troubled the greenery. One last attack was rebuffed and the whistle brought matters to an end. Maybe fortunate and definitely a real grind to ensure victory, but three points are three points





## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Worthing	4	3	0	0	9	3	+6	9
2	Aveley	4	3	0	0	8	3	+5	9
3	Weston-super-Mare	4	3	0	0	8	5	+3	9
4	Chelmsford City	4	2	2	2	5	3	+2	8
5	Weymouth	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1	7
6	Yeovil Town	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1	7
7	Bath City	4	2	1	1	10	10	0	7
8	Maidstone United	4	2	1	1	5	6	-1	7
9	<b>TAUNTON TOWN</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>7</b>
10	Torquay United	4	2	1	1	5	6	-1	7
11	Chippenham Town	4	2	0	0	7	6	+1	6
12	<b>ST ALBANS CITY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	4	2	0	0	4	4	0	6
14	Tonbridge Angels	4	2	0	0	3	3	0	6
15	Dover Athletic	4	1	2	2	5	5	0	5
16	Farnborough	4	1	2	2	4	4	0	5
17	Hampton & Richmond	4	1	2	2	4	4	0	5
18	Braintree Town	4	1	1	1	6	7	-1	4
19	Eastbourne Borough	4	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
20	Truro City	4	1	0	0	9	9	0	3
21	Dartford	4	0	3	3	5	6	-1	3
22	Slough Town	4	1	0	0	6	8	-2	3
23	Havant & Waterlooville	4	0	1	1	4	8	-4	1
24	Welling United	4	0	0	0	3	9	-6	0

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

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### Saturday 26th August 2023

3pm	Aveley v Dartford
3pm	Bath City v Hampton & Richmond Borough
3pm	Braintree Town v Chippenham Town
3pm	Dover Athletic v Worthing
3pm	Eastbourne Borough v Truro City
3pm	Farnborough v Weston-super-Mare
3pm	Hemel Hempstead Town v Maidstone United
3pm	Slough Town v Torquay United
3pm	Taunton Town v St Albans City
3pm	Welling United v Havant & Waterlooville
3pm	Weymouth v Chelmsford City
3pm	Yeovil Town v Tonbridge Angels

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

### Monday 28th August 2023

3pm	Aveley v Hampton & Richmond Borough
3pm	Chelmsford City v Eastbourne Borough
3pm	Chippenham Town v Slough Town
3pm	Dartford v Dover Athletic
3pm	Havant & Waterlooville v Yeovil Town
3pm	Maidstone United v Taunton Town
3pm	St Albans City v Bath City
3pm	Tonbridge Angels v Welling United
3pm	Torquay United v Braintree Town
3pm	Truro City v Farnborough
3pm	Weston-super-Mare v Hemel Hempstead
3pm	Worthing v Weymouth



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## NEXT UP AT HOME

SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023  
KICK OFF - 3:00PM



VANARAMA  
NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

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# It is selfie time again





# The Untold Game

## Better Than Cruyff

Johan Cruyff is a legend. Everybody knows that. He is revered in his home country and across the globe for both his ability on the pitch, and his genius off it. The Dutchman is undoubtedly one of the greatest of all time, with a tiny handful of players that can claim to have played the game better. But Cruyff himself only ever conceded that one man was better than him, one man that most have never heard of. Willy Dullens.

Dullens was born in the final months of the Second World War, in the Dutch village of Broeksittard, surviving a conflict-induced famine in his early months. Rarely without a ball at his feet, Dullens trained for six hours each day, and spent every night reading Voetballen Doe Je Zo, 'This is How you Play Football'. He was quickly a master with the ball at his feet. Returning from the pit one day, his father asked young Willy how many keepie uppies he had managed that day. The answer - 3500 - was astonishing. When he reached 6000, he stopped. Nobody, he believed, would ever beat that.

He played for his local amateur side, using his brother's birth certificate to

trick authorities when he was just 14. He shone against fully grown adults. It didn't take long for the professionals to take notice, and he was snapped up by local second tier side Sittardia, along with his two brothers.

Dullens could not have been more different to Cruyff. While the mercurial Total Footballer represented rebellious youth in the capital, the Sittardia midfielder embodied the working class and strict Christian values of Broeksittard. He never smoked, he never drank. After playing poorly in one game, he realised he had gone to bed too late and set himself a bedtime. He was quiet, and let his feet do the talking.

18 goals in his debut season saw Sittardia promoted. Although he wasn't able to keep the minnows in the top flight, his talent was noticed. He started to get called up to the national youth teams, where he first encountered Cruyff. They would eventually become friends, but Dullens couldn't believe how much the Ajax man smoked. To treat his body that way was inconceivable. He noted how talented Cruyff was though, but never felt

inferior to him. He would later recall that they never lost a match they played together.

Despite relegation, a series of wonder goals ensured that he was not forgotten. Whilst playing in the second tier, he got his first Oranje senior call up, and mesmerised an experienced Belgian defence at De Kuip. The day after his debut, Dullens was the second coming, around whom Dutch football should be built. Two weeks later, he did the same to Scotland.

Despite playing in the second tier, Dullens was named Dutch player of the year. Ahead of Cruyff. This would be his greatest accolade, and his undoing. Feyenoord spent the summer trying to sign the young man that could have them challenging Ajax once again, but he lined up for Sittardia once more.

In a friendly before the season opener, with his side 4-1 up, his teammates relaxed. But not Dullens. He demanded nothing less than perfection, and there was a crowd to entertain. Dribble after mazy dribble frustrated the Vitesse defence, until finally one challenge came in too late, and snapped his knee. The referee didn't even stop the game, and it was barely reported. Nobody understood the seriousness of the incident, except Dullens himself.

The Sittardia doctor told him to go home and rest, despite his insistence that he should go to the hospital. He sat on the sidelines for four weeks, as his side started poorly. When he came back, he was in pain. Ice didn't help, and his manager had no sympathy, needing him for a relegation battle. He

even received two more caps for the Netherlands, but it wasn't the same player.

Travelling to the best knee doctor in Europe didn't help, and after an eight hour surgery the worst was confirmed. Dullens retired in 1969, at the age of 22, but not before one final swansong. Cruyff and his former teammates arranged a friendly, as a way of supporting him. In front of 55,000 fans, the great Dutch hope limped out onto the pitch at the Amsterdam Arena. He knew, deep down, that this would be his last time in a stadium for a long time. The pain of not playing the game was too much. He is one of footballs great what ifs.







# 2023-24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sat 5th	League	BRAINTREE TOWN (H)	2-1 W	801	4th
Sat 12th	League	Aveley (A)	4-1 L	372	15th
Tues 15th	League	Weymouth (A)	1-1 D	1,252	14th
Sat 19th	League	WELLING UNITED (H)	1-0 W	727	9th
Sat 26th	League	ST ALBANS CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Mon 28th	League	Maidstone United (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Sat 2nd	League	DARTFORD (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 5th	League	Chippenham Town (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 9th	League	Tonbridge Angels (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE (H)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Sat 7th	League	Dover Athletic (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 14th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 21st	League	HAMPTON & RICHMOND (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 24th	League	Bath City (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 28th	League	Chelmsford City (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Sat 4th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 7th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 11th	League	Hemel Hempstead Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 14th	League	Truro City (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Tues 21st	League	TORQUAY UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 25th	League	WORTHING (H)	3:00pm	-	-

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat 2nd	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 16th	League	Havant & Waterlooville (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	TONBRIDGE ANGELS (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 26th	League	Yeovil Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Tues 1st	League	YEOVIL TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 6th	League	Slough Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 13th	League	DOVER ATHLETIC (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 20th	League	Braintree Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 23rd	League	WEYMOUTH (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 27th	League	AVELEY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sat 3rd	League	Welling United (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 10th	League	St Albans City (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 17th	League	MAIDSTONE UNITED (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 20th	League	CHIPPENHAM TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 24th	League	Dartford (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sat 2nd	League	TRURO CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 9th	League	Worthing (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 12th	League	Torquay United (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 16th	League	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	CHELMSFORD CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Fri 29th	League	Weston-Super-Mare (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>APRIL</b>					
Mon 1st	League	BATH CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 6th	League	Hampton & Richmond (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 13th	League	Farnborough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 20th	League	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-



Emirates  
FA CUP







## STADIUM RULES & 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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**Mya Graham,**  
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**

“

I really enjoyed my time at GIS where I gained valuable analysis knowledge and additional coaching experience. This is definitely the place to go if working in football is your long term aim.

**Dene Field**  
GIS graduate, First Team Analyst and Coaching Assistant at **Watford FC Women**



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# THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023 | KICK-OFF 3PM



**HEAD OF FOOTBALL:** ROB DRAY

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK)	1	○
JAY FOULSTON	3	○
NICK GRIMES	4	○
DAN BALL	5	○
AUSTEN BOOTH	6	○
OLLIE CHAMBERLAIN	7	○
LLOYD JAMES	8	○
NAT JARVIS	9	○
NICK MCCOOTIE	10	○
JOE GUEST	11	○
RABBY TABU MINZAMBA	12	○
ROSS STEARN	13	○
PHIL MENDONCA	15	○
ZAC SMITH	16	○
CAMERON EVANS	17	○
MARCUS DAY	18	○
CALLUM DOLMAN	19	○
DAVE SIMS-BURGESS	20	○
LLOYD IRISH (GK)	21	○
DYLAN MORGAN	22	○
MALACHI LINTON	27	○
LEE LUCAS	31	○
EVANDER GRUBB	32	○
		○
		○
		○



## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:  
NEIL PRATT

ASSISTANT REFEREE:  
IMRAN KHAN

ASSISTANT REFEREE:  
DANIEL MALYON

**MANAGER:** DAVID NOBLE

○ 1	MICHAEL JOHNSON
○ 2	JACK JAMES
○ 3	SAM BROWN
○ 4	BEN SMITH
○ 5	DANIEL BOWRY
○ 6	MICHAEL CLARK
○ 7	RYAN BLACKMAN
○ 8	GIORGIO RASULO
○ 9	SHAUN JEFFERS
○ 10	BOBBY DUNN
○ 11	ZANE BANTON
○ 12	MITCHELL WEISS
○ 13	SAM BENTLY (GK)
○ 17	GEORGE MORRALL
○ 18	ANDRONICOS GEORGIU
○ 20	CHARLIE McDONALD
○ 21	DYLAN FAGE
○ 22	NATHAN CARLYLE
○ 23	BEN WYATT
○ 26	RAUL DA SILVA
○ 28	GEORGE HODDLE
○	
○	
○	
○	

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