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THE GAFFER

Good evening everyone and welcome to Wordsworth Drive as we welcome Paul Michael and his Merthyr Town team to Taunton for an Emirates FA Cup replay and an opportunity for one of us to progress to the 3rd Qualifying round. My welcome extends to the officials, players and supporters joining us from Wales tonight and also the match officials.

In the first game Merthyr showed why they are rightly at the top end of the Southern League Premier South and I am sure will go close to earning promotion this season.

It was disappointing for us to concede right near the end of the game on Friday as I think we should have sewn the game up earlier in the second half, but take nothing away from our opponents, they kept going and grabbed a late equaliser to be here tonight.

I envisage a similar closely fought game so a little extra noise from the home crowd will be very much appreciated to help the boys get the job done before heading back into league action here on Saturday with the visit of Havant & Waterlooville who will be looking to kick start their season under new manager Steve King.

Loud and proud tonight for your claret & blue Peacocks

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

Rob Dray

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THE AWAY END



MERTHYR TOWN

Merthyr Town F.C. came into existence when it became obvious to a loyal band of supporters that Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C., a club with a long and distinguished history in non-league football, would not be able to overcome the financial problems that had beset it over the previous few seasons.

Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. was formed in 1945 following a series of public meetings in the town. After spending the 1945-46 season in the Welsh League, the Club was elected to the Southern League in the summer of 1946. The team embarked on a spell of success that is unlikely ever to be bettered in non-league football as over the next eight seasons the Club went on to capture 5 Southern League Championships, 2 Southern League Cups, 2 Welsh Cups, 3 South Wales and Mon Cups, 3 Welsh League Championships and 3 Welsh League Cups.

The 50's, 60's and 70's marked turbulent time in the club's history, and in the first half of the 1980's were dark days at Penydarren Park as the team drifted along in the Southern League Midland Division. However, the appointment of Lyn Jones as manager in 1985 would prove to be the catalyst for another golden era in the history of Merthyr Tydfil Football Club. In the summer of 1986 a new syndicate headed by local businessman John Reddy took control at Penydarren Park. The team finished in third place in the Midland Division after being defeated by eventual champions V.S. Rugby in a 'winner takes all' final match of the season at Penydarren Park. The same season saw the Martyrs win the Welsh Cup when they defeated Newport County by a goal to nil in a replay after the

two teams had drawn 2-2 a few days previously.

Winning the Welsh Cup had earned the Club the right to compete in the European Cup Winners Cup. The draw paired the Martyrs with Italian side Atalanta. On 20 th September 1987 Merthyr shocked the football world when goals by Kevin Rogers and Ceri Williams saw the Italians humbled at Penydarren Park by two goals to one. Although the adventure ended a fortnight later with a narrow 2-0 defeat in Italy, the name Merthyr Tydfil was well and truly on the football map.

The 1987-88 season ended with the Club being crowned champions of the Southern League Midland Division. This was capped a year later when the Martyrs ran out winners of the Premier Division. Merthyr ended the 1989-90 season, their first in the Conference, in a credible ninth place. After once again finishing the 1990-91 season in ninth place, the team ended the following campaign in a very credible fourth place. During this time the standing of the Club was such that CSKA Moscow, Red Star Belgrade and Glasgow Celtic all visited Penydarren Park for friendly fixtures. The fourth place finish at the end of the 1991-92 signaled the end of the golden era at Penydarren Park. Two years later the Club only escaped relegation on a technicality. However, not even the return of Lyn Jones could prevent the Martyrs from being relegated at the end of the 1994-95 campaign.

The Martyrs endured more turbulent times after this with numerous chairmen and managers, the high point being when a

Merthyr side managed by ex-Athletico Madrid Manager Colin Addison finished 2 nd to Forest Green Rovers in the Southern League in the late 90s. By 2004 all supporters were naturally frustrated with events, that summer the decision was taken to set up a supporters' trust - 'Martyrs to the Cause'. As well as trying to support the Club financially the Trust decided to foster young football talent in the Borough by setting up a Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. youth team.

In 2005/06 the Club enjoyed a successful run in the F.A. Cup. In the First Round Proper of the competition they were awarded a home tie with Walsall, who at the time were managed by former Arsenal star Paul Merson. However, any hopes the Martyrs had of securing a famous giant-killing were extinguished as Walsall ran out winners by two goals to one in a game that was televised live on Sky Sports.

In 2006 newly appointed Gary Shephard and his assistant Danny Carter assembled a squad comprising of youth and locally based players, and the new players rose to the task and the Martyrs ended the 2007-08 season in a creditable sixteenth place.

The 2008-09 season was probably the most difficult in the Club's chequered history. With owner Wyn Holloway declaring he would no longer continue to put money into the Club, there was a real danger that the Martyrs would fail to complete the campaign. However, a massive effort by Merthyr supporters ensured that this would not be the case. This backs-to-the-wall spirit was replicated by the players who, despite going without wages for weeks at a time, ended the season in eighth place.

In June 2009 the Club went into Administration. In early July of that year the Supporters' Trust received the go ahead to operate the Club under license. A combination of a ten-point deduction, injuries and suspensions prevented the players from repeating their success of the previous campaign a 1-1 draw at Swindon Supermarine in the last game of the season saw the club finish in seventeenth place in the Zamaretto

Premier Division.

As the season drew to a close it became increasingly obvious to everyone connected with the club that Merthyr Tydfil A.F.C. was doomed. Consequently, the Trust Board took the decision to carry on as a reformed club. However, legal problems meant that we would not be able to use Penydarren Park, the home of senior football in the Borough of Merthyr Tydfil for over one hundred years. Merthyr played at Taff's Well F.C. for one season in the Western League First Division and gained immediate promotion to the Premier Division.

Merthyr Town FC returned to its spiritual home at Penydarren Park for 2011/12 season. The Martyrs secured a 2 nd successive promotion on their return home to go straight through Western League into the Southern League. Merthyr lost in the play-off final at Hungerford Town to finish the 2012/13 season and Cirencester Town in 2013/14. Garry Shephard & Danny Carter stood down after 7 years, and ex-Welsh international and Merthyr born Steve Jenkins took the helm assisted by another Merthyr born Welsh international Gavin Williams. Steve and Gavin led the team to the league title by 12 points, and Southern League Championship winners.

In 15/16 season the club won the Red Insure Cup for the first time in 50 years and finished a respectable 10 th in their first Premier Division season. At the end of the season Steve Jenkins left the club, and ex Hereford United, Yeovil Town, West Ham United and Ipswich Town player Gavin Williams took over as manager, with Dean Clarke returning to the club as his assistant. In Gavin's first season he led the club to the play-offs finishing 3rd , but lost to Hitchin Town in the semi-final on penalties.

In 17/18 we saw an up & down season with financial issues affecting the club. The low point was 13-1 defeat at Chesham which sparked a Just Giving campaign to clear bills. The club did stabilize with management team and players remaining loyal to finish in a respectable 17th position. The club then

stabilized and the 2018/19 season, started positively with the Martyrs in and around the play-off spots until the busy Christmas period, with wins against Weymouth and Taunton at home proving the Martyrs pedigree.

In September 2020, The Martyrs took the decision to 'Mothball' for the season after consulting with the governing bodies & the southern league. This meant that the squad was disbanded and Gavin Williams left his managerial role after just under 5 years in charge. 2021/22 saw Dean Clarke take over in the dug-out and almost a completely new squad to start the Southern League Premier Campaign. Dean Clarke and Steve Williams were relieved of their roles in February 2022, with player, Matthew Harris, taking over as player-manager, along with the help of former player, Craig Reddy. During the summer of 2022, Paul Michael was appointed as the club's new first team manager, with Andrew Smith joining him as his assistant. Craig Reddy was also appointed as first team

coach, with Matthew Harris returning to his playing duties. The 2022/23 season saw Paul Michael lead his team to the First Round of the FA Cup for the first time in 17 years, where the Martyrs would fall to National League North side Buxton FC. A league position of 9th at the end of the season, left Martyrs fans excited for the 2023/24 season.



TWO TO WATCH



GETHYN HILL

Rejoined the Martyrs in 2022, after a two-year spell at Taunton Town, enjoying success in their title win for the 2021/22 season. Over 300 appearances in Non-League with Cinderford Town, Hereford, Weston Super Mare and Taunton. Geth had a brief spell with the Martyrs during the 2019/20 season, making 21 appearances. His knee injury ruled him out for the whole of the 2022/23 season.



KEIRAN EVANS

Keiran is a graduate of Swansea City's academy where he was on the books from the age of 6, signing his first professional contract in April 2016. He progressed through to the under-23s and made one first-team appearance from the bench in the EFL Trophy against Charlton Athletic. Joined the Martyrs from Vanarama National League North side Gloucester City in November 2021.

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THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **9**

WON **5**

DRAWN **3**

LOST **1**

+/- **+4**

POINTS **18**

LGE POS **5TH**

HOME POINTS% **67%**



PLAYED **7**

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+/- **+12**

POINTS **18**

LGE POS **3RD**

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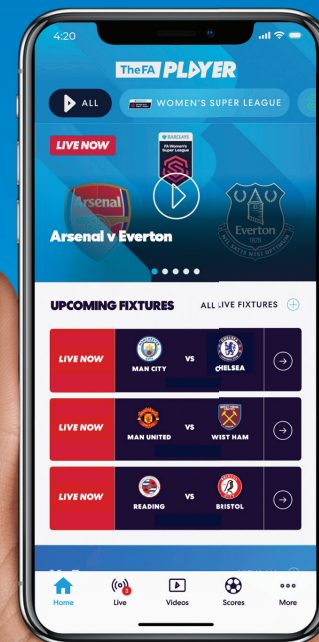
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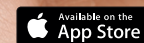
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DAVE WEBSTER *View from the stands*

MERTHYR TOWN 1 TAUNTON TOWN 1 Emirates FA Cup Second Qualifying Round

On arrival at Pen-y-Darren Park, 45 minutes before kick off, we were instantly struck by the masses queuing for entry. It was a parking nightmare trying to find somewhere to leave the car.

Eventually finding a spot a good mile from the stadium. The game was delayed for 5/10 minutes whilst spectators got through the turnstiles. This is a grand old stadium, that has no doubt witnessed many battles over the years, if the terraces could talk, I suspect there would be many epic story's of this club's 115 year old history.

The game kicked off at a ferocious pace, with Merthyr having the bulk of the attack, although unable to penetrate our brick wall defence. For all their dominance, Dan Lavercombe had very little to do. The first goalscoring attempt fell to Austen Booth, who after seeing the opposition keeper off his line, had the audacity to shoot for goal from well within his own half. With Cogman in the Merthyr goal, back peddling faster than a gerbil that had mistakenly entered a nest of vipers, he somehow managed to get his fingertips to the ball to concede a corner! Remarkable effort from Austen producing a remarkable save.

Taunton's only other real goalscoring attempt in the first half, again saw heroics from Cogman, when, with Sims-Burgess bursting through for a 50/50 ball, the keeper read the situation perfectly in beating Simmo to the loose ball and clearing.

The game was stopped for a few minutes by referee Craig Scriven, when a fan from the Merthyr end, constantly aimed a laser beam at Taunton players. Suffice to say, the situation was hastily resolved. And so that was it, as both teams went in at half time with the score level at 0-0.

The 2nd half began at very much the same

tempo, again with Merthyr attacking, though it has to be said, the finishing woeful with many shots off target. Around about the hour mark, Rob made a double substitution which proved decisive. Stearn and Guest were brought on at the expense of Lucas and Simmo. Within minutes, Ross had played a major role in seeing Taunton go one up, as he laid the ball on to Nat Jarvis who hit a thunderbolt into the top corner. A very good goal, it has to be said.

We almost went two up, when Ross from a awkward angle attempted a "cheeky" flick that skimmed the crossbar. Taunton could now smell blood, as the Peacocks attacks increased. Morgan tried one, that for the umpteenth time produced a save from the keeper, on a par with the flexibility of an octopus. Make no mistake, Cogman although of small stature, is a excellent keeper.

Just as it looked like we had the game in the bag, with just 2 minutes left on the clock, Merthyr equalised, catching the Taunton defence off guard as their top goalscorer Ricardo Rees hammered the ball home, after breaking through the middle. No one can argue, Merthyr did not deserve another bite at the cherry. Many agreeing that the 1-1 result was a fair reflection of the game.

On this form, I would more than say the Welsh team could more than hold their own should they make it to the National South. Tuesdays replay will, I am sure be another tight contest between these two evenly matched clubs. Don't you just love the FA cup!!!!

On a finishing note, and something I very rarely do, I will applaud referee Scriven, who did an excellent job in keeping the game flowing. As far as I saw, only one card shown, with Lee Lucas being the recipient of a yellow!!!! Very good Mr Scriven.



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Ground Crew

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



Last week, I had the pleasure of speaking to a young man whose life had been turned upside down due to one innocuous moment on the football field.

"I went in for a 50/50 ball, nothing at all sinister, and ended up with his shin wrapped around his leg" Ashford United winger said Adem Ramadan speaking of the incident which occurred during the Nuts & Bolts' Bank Holiday Monday derby clash with Hythe Town.

"I went to get up and my leg just folded. It was just one of those things - an unlucky accident."

Sadly for Adem, that 'unlucky accident' had far-reaching consequences. The 27-year-old was taken to hospital with a horrific double leg break - an injury has now ruled him out of football for up to a year but, more importantly, forced him out of work, as a self-employed electrician, for the next six months.

Thankfully for Adem, an Isthmian League insurance policy through his club - coupled with a GoFundMe page set up by family and friends - Adem won't suffer too much in the way of undue financial hardship during his long period of recovery. It's hard for him to comprehend at the moment, but he is actually one of the lucky ones.

Adem told me of one of his teammates at Ashford who has just bought his first family home for his new wife and two

young children. What if it was he whose leg buckled over and wasn't quite so lucky?

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing," Ramadan, the former Margate and Folkestone Invicta midfielder said. "You always think 'it won't happen to me', but it could, so easily.

"It makes you realise just how important it is for players of any level really to get protected. There are personal insurances out there for between £7 and £10 a month. In hindsight, I'd have definitely paid that knowing what I know now.

"I'm a single man so, as a result, I don't have to worry too much about paying the bills while I'm off work. It's a huge weight off my shoulders.

"But if the same happens to my teammate it might be a different story and that's why I would urge players to get some advice and at least look into getting insured and protecting themselves.

"Paying £7-£10 a month, or whatever, is nothing compared to the risk of losing your house. It could be the best money you've ever spent."

One man who knows just how Adem is feeling right now is Francis Duku.

Then at Gravesend & Northfleet, the 24-year-old had just been part of their 2001-02 Isthmian Premier title win and

his performances were getting noticed.

"I was getting a lot of attention and, maybe, going back into the pro game," our old friend Duku told The NLP back in March. "But I broke my leg in pre-season at Weymouth. I had no idea it was broken. It was an attempt at an overhead clearance - it was hot and I didn't want to keep running so I thought I could hook it away and take a breather!"

An X-ray back in London showed a broken ankle and he was booked in for an op. "The guy who did it, fixed me as if I was a non-athlete - put pins in my ankle, which created loads of scar tissue and my ankle was never the same again. To this day you can see the difference. I still did alright, but I wasn't the level I was before."

Duku was able to use private medical care through his work in the city but it set the cogs whirring for Our Game Football, a membership service created to ensure that UK football has access to a minimum level of care and support.

For as little as £1 to register, members have access to affordable insurance policies as well as a whole network of benefits - and clubs can benefit too.

"There's a real motive to provide a route for change who want it," Duku says. "We've spoken to people time and again, they look at me and say, 'I get it, I get it'. But they don't want to do anything; players, chairmen, managers.

"For me, it's crazy. You know if you're playing football, you're going to get injured. You see GoFundMe pages from someone who is self-employed and needs to be on their feet to work, maybe they've got a young family. Everyone has shortfalls to cover. Rather than put

structures in place, people choose to go that fundraising route.

"I am not here to lecture. But clearly there is a better route and that's what Our Game has built."

Our Game have also also launch Project 250 where if every member club can get 250 people to register as part as your community, a digital infrastructure is in place to help them create insurance benefits to cover costs of wages, contract liabilities or medical expenses when players are injured.

Whatever your financial position and whatever level you play, firms like Our Game can prove a lifeline to sportspeople everywhere in their hour of need. Don't delay, get yourself covered. As Adem says, it could be the best money you've ever spent.

For more info visit ourgamefootball.com



OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

MERTHYR TOWN 1 TAUNTON TOWN 1

15.9.2023 | EMIRTAES FA CUP SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND | ATT: 1,583

The scene was set for an upset; Friday night football under the lights, a vociferous home support, a Merthyr side riding high in the Southern League Premier and the Peacocks' historically dismal record at the old school Penydarren Park. Town sides of old may have faltered under the weight of those ingredients but not the class of 2023 who will have left South Wales with a feeling of disappointment after conceding an equaliser two minutes from the end of normal time to force a replay back at Wordsworth Drive on Tuesday evening. That's not to say a draw wasn't a fair result after the Martyrs had produced an impressive display to ask plenty of questions, but after a cracking goal from Nat Jarvis had given the visitors the lead midway through the second half their apparent progress was snatched away as the fat lady started her rehearsal.

Town brought in Lee Lucas to play against his former club, the only change from the win at Tonbridge a week earlier, to replace Callum Dolman who was carrying a knock. Once the tie got underway, the kick-off being delayed to allow the masses through the turnstiles, it was the hosts who began the brighter as they saw much of the early ball. A corner for them saw Liam Angel turn onto a loose ball but his effort proved a routine gather for keeper Dan Lavercombe and then a Noah Smerdon cross flashed across the face of goal with Ricardo Rees unable to apply a touch.

The Peacocks registered their first attempt when the ball broke loose for Ollie

Chamberlain to deliver a 25 yard shot over the top before Austen Booth so nearly scored a sensational goal, Merthyr losing possession and the Town centre half launching a strike from well inside his own half towards the Martyrs' net which Jaimie Cogman had left unguarded as he went for a stroll. He managed to save his blushes though by back-peddalling to scramble away at the expense of the Peacocks' first corner.

After the fast-paced start was suddenly halted due to a laser pen light being aimed at players from behind the goal, the action resumed with the home side on the offensive, Olly Mehew dummying Booth on the left to see his cross dealt with by Lucas who found Cameron Evans and his long pass towards Dave Sims-Burgess was snuffed out by Cogman in the nick of time. Merthyr were chiselling out avenues in behind the Taunton defence and another such occasion saw Booth forced to clear from a Rees cross while at the other end Town were unable to pose the same threat, Zac Smith sending a centre straight to Cogman and then planting a shot over the stand roof after Booth had headed down a Lucas free kick.

Lucas escaped with a yellow card after a late challenge on Keiran Evans with ten minutes left of the half despite the home support baying for blood and this fired up the Martyrs for the final stages of the opening period. Alex John fired high over following a bout of pressure while a short free kick routine saw the same player strike the wall. The

dangerous Rees then found space on the right to see his cross-shot deflect for a corner before their best chance came after Thomas Handley had seen his cross cleared, the ball finding its way back into John who turned to prod wide of the target. Five minutes of added time saw some patient play end with Smerdon drilling over for the hosts while Booth's cross was claimed by Cogman in the final activity of the half, leaving the tie evenly poised at the break but with the Peacocks knowing an extra gear was required.

The visitors were initially unable to find the gear stick for the early stages of the second half as Merthyr were firmly on the front foot. Keiran Evans fired narrowly wide, skipper Matthew Harris advanced to send a shot over and Lavercombe claimed a forward ball at the second attempt under pressure from Mehew. Rees then lanced an angled effort wide of the far post and saw another shot blocked with Dylan Morgan's deflected strike being Town's only real response for the first quarter hour.

Things eventually started to happen though. Nick Grimes got his head on a Lloyd James free kick and Cogman had to be alert to punch away and Evans found Morgan inside whose drive was parried by Cogman, an offside flag rendering any follow-up futile. Ross Stearn and Joe Guest then took over from Sims-Burgess and Lucas just past the hour as the Peacocks began to assert their National league status. Guest was soon in the thick of it, winning possession to find Morgan who rifled over before the Peacocks broke the deadlock after 68 minutes, a phase of pressure ending with Stearn playing short to Jarvis who held off his man to swivel and drill a great strike into the top left-hand corner of Cogman's net.

The work of Jarvis was done as he gave way to Nick McCootie who made his presence felt immediately, tangling with Cogman for a ball forward and winning the battle to deliver a cross which found a white rather than yellow shirt. An inswinging cross from James was then punched away by Cogman as McCootie challenged before Evans and Stearn both

sent shots over the bar, with the Peacocks having taken control since gaining the advantage. A neat passage of play nearly saw Town double their lead, Guest's ball being nicely flicked on by Chamberlain to Stearn on the right and his chip drifted off the face of the crossbar.

Into the final five minutes and Town were managing the game effectively, stifling anything Merthyr could offer. That all changed in minute 88 when possession outside the box suddenly evolved into a lapse of concentration, the ball squeezing through and Rees was on his own to steer beyond Lavercombe into the corner as the stadium erupted. Both sides had opportunities to win outright during five minutes of stoppage time. Cogman clutched Chamberlain's curling cross as McCootie loomed ever nearer before the Peacocks survived a scare at the other end, Mehew dancing in from the left and seeing his effort deflect into the side netting. From John's corner time stood still as the ball grounded feet from the line and a poke at goal was cleared. No further clarity available, where are my binoculars when I need them.... Then it was the Peacocks' turn, a James free kick cleared as far as Morgan whose blistering strike had winner written all over it until Cogman produced an excellent save to turn over. Two corners followed which came to nothing, meaning the sides do it all again in four days' time. Be there! ⚽





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

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

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



SOUTHERN LEAGUE - PREMIER SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/_	PTS
1	Chesham United	7	7	0	0	19	6	+13	21
2	Gosport Borough	8	6	1	1	19	5	+14	19
3	MERTHYR TOWN	7	6	0	1	20	8	+12	18
4	Salisbury	8	5	3	0	13	6	+7	18
5	Walton & Hersham	7	5	1	1	23	11	+12	16
6	Basingstoke Town	8	5	1	2	22	15	+7	16
7	Poole Town	8	4	1	3	22	15	+7	13
8	Bracknell Town	8	4	1	3	20	13	+7	13
9	AFC Totton	7	4	1	2	17	10	+7	13
10	Hanwell Town	8	4	1	3	15	17	-2	13
11	Hayes & Yeading United	8	3	1	4	14	14	0	10
12	Hendon	8	1	6	1	11	12	-1	9
13	Sholing	8	3	0	5	11	17	-6	9
14	Hungerford Town	8	2	2	4	16	15	+1	8
15	Tiverton Town	8	2	2	4	16	22	-6	8
16	Dorchester Town	8	2	2	4	12	20	-8	8
17	Winchester City	6	2	1	3	9	12	-3	7
18	Harrow Borough	8	1	2	5	12	23	-11	5
19	Didcot Town	7	1	1	5	10	19	-9	4
20	Plymouth Parkway	7	1	1	5	10	20	-10	4
21	Beaconsfield Town	8	0	3	5	11	23	-12	3
22	Swindon Supermarine	8	0	1	7	10	29	-19	1

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

It is selfie time again



The Untold Game

Crook, Catalonia & Colombia

Barcelona were in a period of transition, working out how to make their way in a changing football landscape. The Spanish giants had just won the Copa del Rey, and wanted to build that success into a new era of domination against rivals close to home, and those further across the country. Choosing to ignore the various Spanish options available to them, they turned to England, and picked a man from the north east. With his impressive tactical acumen and knack for man management, he would become a legend in the city. But that man from the north east was not Bobby Robson. He would become Barcelona's longest serving manager, Jack Greenwell.

Born in Crook in 1884, Greenwell was a tricky wing-half who made his debut for his local team at the age of 17, and spent 12 years turning out for the side. Invited to play as a guest for West Auckland in 1909, he toured Europe and showcased his talents against teams from Germany and Switzerland. More importantly, he attracted the attention of Barcelona's Swiss founder Joan Gamper. Gamper approached Greenwell in 1912 to ask him to take charge of the Catalans. Greenwell,

seeking adventure, accepted the offer.

Initially a player-coach, Greenwell managed a young Barcelona team that included Philippine sensation Paulino Alcantara, who would score 395 goals, only bettered by Lionel Messi. Greenwell led the club to silverware in his first season. Owing to political disagreements with the Catalan FA, competitive games were rare. Greenwell invited his former club to play three exhibition games in Spain, two of which Barcelona drew, and one they lost. His fitness started dwindling, and he took a less active role on the pitch, before in 1917 he finally retired. He was given the manager's job full-time. The following season, Greenwell led Barcelona to the Campionat de Catalunya, losing just one game. After that, they dropped just a single point as they retained their title. A year later, they won the Copa del Rey.

The Copa del Rey win prompted the purchase of some land for a new ground, which was hastily put up, and opened with a friendly against St. Mirren, but Greenwell's time at the club was coming to a close. They lost the Campionat in the season that followed,

but won the Copa del Rey again in 1922. For Greenwell, it was the right time to go out on a high. After a decade at the club, he resigned, and started a tour of Spain.

First was a stop just down the road, where he helped newly formed UE Sants to the Campionat, beating his former club, before heading to CD Castellon, where he finished second, twice, in the Campeonato Regional de Valencia. Espanyol, Gijon, another short stint at Barcelona, and Real Sociedad followed, before the Spanish Civil War broke out. Fearing for his family's future, Greenwell fled the country. He struggled to find work in his home country, but accepted an offer to take charge of Universitario de Deportes, who he led to the Peruvian championship in his first season. With the South American Championship that summer, he was invited to take charge of the national team.

Peru were technically brilliant when Greenwell arrived, but lacked experience. Due to withdrawals they would have to beat Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and favourites Uruguay. Greenwell decided to make the most of his attacking talents, just as he had done at Barcelona, and set up a very attacking 2-3-5 formation. Peru breezed past debutants Ecuador in the first game, and saw off bitter rivals Chile 3-1. A 3-0 victory over Paraguay set up a thrilling final encounter against Uruguay, who had also won all three games.

In front of 40,000, Peru took an early lead, and doubled it just before half

time. Uruguay were one of the best teams in the world at the time, and wouldn't go down without a fight. They pulled one back in the second half, but Peru held on for their first ever South American Championship.

His time in Peru would prove to be short, however. Irregular pay and difficult living conditions meant that when an offer came to aid Colombia in the Central American games, he took it. The games were delayed, however, and he took charge of Independiente Santa Fe. The short term appointment nearly yielded immediate success, as Independiente lost in the final of the Torneo di Cundinamarca, but Greenwell wouldn't get the chance to go one better. He died of a heart attack that summer, driving to a training session.

He remains the only Englishman to have won the South American Championship.





2023-24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
AUGUST					
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)	3-2 W	642	5th
Mon 28th	League	Maidstone United (A)	1-1 D	2,014	6th
SEPTEMBER					
Sat 2nd	League	DARTFORD (H)	1-0 W	902	5th
Tues 5th	League	Chippenham Town (A)	3-3 D	634	6th
Sat 9th	League	Tonbridge Angels (A)	0-3 W	852	5th
Fri 15th	FAC 2Q	Merthyr Town (A)	1-1 D	1,583	N/A
Tue 19th	FAC 2QR	MERTHYR TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE (H)	3:00pm	-	-
OCTOBER					
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	-	-
NOVEMBER					
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
DECEMBER					
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	-	-
JANUARY					
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	-	-
FEBRUARY					
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	-	-
MARCH					
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	-	-
APRIL					
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	-	-





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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They say if you have a job that you love you'll never work a day in your life and I genuinely feel like that.

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**



Scan here for more information and how to apply, or visit **UCFB.ac.uk**



THE TEAMS

EMIRATES FA CUP SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND REPLAY | TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM



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 ○
-
-
-



**Emirates
FA CUP**

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

ROSS MARTIN

ASSISTANT REFEREE:

NATHANAEL WORMLEIGHTON

ASSISTANT REFEREE:

ADAM WILSON

MANAGER: PAUL MICHAEL

- 1 JAIMIE COGMAN (GK)
- 2 CALLUM RYAN-PHILLIPS
- 3 TOM HANDLEY
- 4 ANEURIN LIVERMORE
- 5 LIAM ANGEL
- 6 JACK EVANS
- 7 FRAZER THOMAS
- 8 ALEX JOHN
- 9 OLLY MEHEW
- 10 RICARDO REES
- 11 JOE KEEPING
- 12 THOMAS HILLMAN
- 13 WILL FULLER (GK)
- 14 GETHYN HILL
- 15 NOAH SMERDON
- 16 MATTHEW HARRIS
- 17 THOMAS STOKES
- 18 NICK RHODES
- 19 KEIRAN EVANS
- 20 JOE WOODIWISS
- 21 ISMAIL YAKUBU
- 22 LEWIS POWELL
-
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