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THE GAFFER

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Wordsworth Drive for this afternoon's Vanarama National League South match with Farnborough. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us today from our visitors and also to the match officials.

Following back to back league defeats we earned a good point in Essex last weekend with a goalless draw at Chelmsford City, a point that keeps us in and around the mix at the top of the league table.

It is another tough game today as our opponents sit three places higher than us in the league in 4th place with just a superior goal difference being the only advantage for them, which shows just how tight things are in the league this year.

As always we need your vocal support in the stands today to make a difference and get behind the team and get us back on the winning trail once again.

Up The Peacocks!!

Rob

Rob Dray
Head of Football, Taunton Town FC

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THE AWAY END



FARNBOROUGH

Farnborough Football Club is the re-birth of Farnborough Town FC that was liquidated on 25 July 2007.

Farnborough Football Club started life in season 2007/08 in the Southern League Division One South & West and it was a season that turned to glory as the club won the Championship and with it promotion to the Southern League Premier Division. The League title was secured under manager Andy Clement with 89 points and an impressive 120 goals being scored in the process that underlined a fantastic achievement for the club's new beginnings.

Despite the success, the club and Andy Clement mutually agreed that due to the extra demands in the next step up a change of manager would be made and former Crawley Town and Basingstoke Town manager Francis Vines took up the reigns in the summer of 2008, assisted by former Reading and Basingstoke Town midfielder Steve Richardson.

Farnborough's Cherrywood Road ground had a large face-lift and investment was being put into a number of areas under the leadership of former Chairman Simon Hollis and the Board of Directors.

Boro almost made it back-to-back promotions, just missing out in the BGB Southern Premier play-off final, losing 1-0 to Gloucester City. That came after Vines' men had led the way for six months of the campaign, before losing the title to Corby Town in the final game of the season.

In the summer of 2009, it was announced that

Vines would not remain as manager, with Steve King replacing him as first team boss. Justin Skinner also arrived as assistant manager, with both signing full-time deals. Season 2009-10 saw Farnborough go onto win the Southern League and with it promotion to the Blue Square South.

Season 2010-11 saw 'Boro for the second time in their short history follow up a Championship with a second place finish, and after accounting for Woking in a two legged play-off semi-final, fell again at the last hurdle, Ebbsfleet United winning promotion to the Blue Square Premier in front of a record Rushmoor Community Stadium crowd exceeding 4,000.

Steve King left the club in May 2011, replaced by former Hayes & Yeading manager Garry Haylock, and the club declared that it was transferring to full time status.

Following a poor run of results, Haylock's tenure as manager came to an end in November 2011, and his replacement came in the guise of Chertsey Town manager Spencer Day, and a return to part time football. With the change of manager came an upturn of fortunes, and a run of six successive league wins spanning January through March pulled Boro away from the danger zone, although a five point deduction imposed by the Football Conference took the club back into trouble, but Blue Square South football was secured on the penultimate Saturday with a solitary goal victory over Havant & Waterlooville.

In 2012/13 the club enjoyed a relatively successful season on the pitch, playing a good

brand of football, resulting in a 14th place finish.

Historical financial debt problems inevitably left the manager with no choice but to implement a reduced player budget in season 2014/15. The consequences of this long term handicap finally came home to roost when Boro finished 20 th in the Vanarama Conference South suffering relegation to the Isthmian Premier League, and a further relegation the following season. A re-defining of the league's geographical borders also resulted in a sideways move to the Southern League.

2016/17 season got off to a good start, with Farnborough briefly leading the charge before dropping back to the second position behind Royston Town. A season long chase ensued, waiting for Royston to slip up, a slip that never materialised, and the Boro had to settle for second place and home draw in the playoffs. The team stayed stable throughout the season, based on the successful late season squad from the previous year with a few local favourites in the guise of Nic Ciardini, Josh Huggins and Perry Coles added. The start of the season saw us graced by the presence of former Norwich/Reading/Bristol Rovers star, Jamie Cureton, before he departed for higher level football at Eastleigh. On the coaching side, long time assistant coach, Leigh Dynan, left to pursue a manager's role at Whyteleafe, but Spencer wasted no time in bringing in Jon Reed whose knowledge of the Southern league proved to be invaluable.

Onto the playoff final, and in front of 1000 plus Boro supporters, the Yellows secured a nervous, but comfortable 2-0 victory over Barton Rovers to signify their return to the Southern Premier League.

An opening day loss to a fancied Poole Town was one of several lows, which included 0-7 and 0-5 home defeats to Tiverton and Wealdstone, the latter sending Boro crashing out of the FA cup. The passing of club stalwart, Chris Cook who lost his fight with cancer.

In contrast, several highs also, 4-0 home victories against Taunton, Yate and Hendon, and an impressive 1-3 away victory at Weston-super-Mare. The high flying Boro squad making their way to Truro, LHR to NQY return!

Season 2021/22 started well. Spencer assembled an exciting squad with many

promising signings, most notable Sam Deering and Ricky Holmes making the weekly journey from Essex to spearhead the Boro challenge.

Despite an opening day draw at home to Walton Casuals, Farnborough followed up with impressive victories away to Chesham and Poole and at home to Hendon. A small stutter was soon forgotten by an 11 match run of victories in all competitions which saw the Yellows take a healthy lead at the head of the division. Top at Christmas, followed up with a 9 game unbeaten run in January emphasised the desire of this squad to gain promotion, although with chasers, Hayes and Yeading United, falling behind in fixtures, the lead was never mathematically safe.

Despite the "small" distraction of a Hampshire Cup run ending in victory in the Final at Eastleigh, a battle ensued in the league, and as Hayes played out each game in hand, the chase for the title became tighter and tighter. A draw between the two teams in March added to the tension with still no clear winner. Then all of a sudden, there was a third horse in the race. A revitalised Taunton Town came on a fantastic run which would see them hurdle both of the long term leaders, and the race went down to the last game of the season, with any one of the three able to claim the title. At the final whistle, Taunton were champions, Hayes 2nd and Farnborough in a slightly disappointing third.

On to the playoffs, with Farnborough earning a home fixture against Metropolitan Police, a team that had solidly been top 4 all season.

A nail-bitingly close match ensued, with the police taking an 85th minute lead, only for Boro to get an injury time equaliser, and an extra time winner. So a showdown against our season long rivals, Hayes and Yeading was set, and what a day it turned out to be. A master game plan to thwart the effectiveness of the attack minded Hayes team was to eventually bare fruit, despite going a goal down early on. A first half injury time equaliser by club favourite Reggie Young, and a late winner by Sam Deering saw the Boro celebrating at the final whistle, and finally, promotion back to step 2, the National League South!



TWO TO WATCH



MICHAEL FOLIVI

Having started out his career at Watford, Michael took on loan spells with Coventry City, Boreham Wood and AFC Wimbledon (twice) throughout the following years, before signing for League Two Colchester United in the 2020/21 season. Injury resulted in Folivi departing Colchester City for National League South Chelmsford City in February 2023, where the 25- year-old netted 6 goals in 14 appearances for The Clarets... including two against Boro, who he signed for in July 2023.



REGGIE YOUNG

Reggie is currently in his third spell at the Club having returned ahead of the 2021/22 season from National League South outfit Hemel Hempstead Town, where he bagged 7 assists in a 2020/21 season cut short. Comfortable on the left and right, Young is fast becoming a firm club favourite and scored the vital equaliser in the play off final last season.

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SCAN ME

THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED	15	15	PLAYED
WON	6	6	WON
DRAWN	6	6	DRAWN
LOST	3	3	LOST
+/-	+1	+8	+/-
POINTS	24	24	POINTS
LGE POS	7TH	4TH	LGE POS
HOME POINTS%	67%	17%	AWAY POINTS%



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DAVE WEBSTER *View from the stands*

CHELMSFORD CITY 0 TAUNTON TOWN 0
Vanarama National League South



In the great scheme of things, all considered, to come away from Essex with this solitary point, is a big achievement! Chelmsford, I very much suspect will be there, or thereabouts when the play-off places are filled, come the end of the campaign. Some will no doubt view this game, along with the other 5 drawn league games so far played, as 12 points lost! Far from it, I see it as 6 points won, particularly as 5 of these points were picked up at away stadiums.

This game, very much like the last 4 games in fact, has seen a pattern beginning to form, where Taunton perform so well in the first half, yet seem to allow the opposition to have the better of play in the second half. That is exactly what happened in this game!

We so easily could have been 2 up by half time, McCootie, Chambo and Jay all having efforts go inches wide of the woodwork.

Chambo having a crack at goal from a central position on the edge of the box, seeing his effort comfortably saved. And then the best chance of the half falling to Dylan Morgan, where you would have put your life's savings on him blasting it into the back of the net. Dyl may score worldies from 20 or 30 yards, but unfortunately tap ins from 2 yards, are not his bag. Mind, the alert keeper did very well in keeping the ball out. In all honesty Dan Lavercombe had a very easy first half. Apart from a couple of fine catches he had little else to do. That was to change in the second half!!!

Talk about a game of 2 halves, at times we were hanging on for dear life, as Dan was repeatedly called into action. McCootie was playing the game of his life, pushing himself to limits worthy of applause throughout, a constant threat to Chelmsford who at times had 2 or 3 players marking him. Nick was certainly mine, and indeed many other Peacock fans nod for the man of the

match champers, eventually limping from the field with about 15 minutes remaining to be replaced by Ross Stearn.

Morgan had earlier been replaced by Simmo in Taunton's quest to nick a winner, which sadly did not materialise. As the game was reaching its climax, Chelmsford were awarded a free kick in a very dangerous position, what followed was 2 saves of such quality Peter Schmeichel would have been proud of. Dan did brilliantly in keeping out the first one. But the 2nd shot with Dan's vision obscured, which also took a wicked deflection was in a nut shell, world class!

I was very impressed with the referee today, who did something I just wished other refs would follow, in showing a player a yellow card for diving in the box. He kept the game flowing as best he could, not making the game about himself, which many officials love to do.

Overall, a point apiece was the perfect reflection of this match. Both clubs had good chances to win, which would have been a cruel outcome I believe.

Next up are Farnborough next Saturday at Wordsworth Drive. A club that are cruising in 4th position right now. A club that got the double over us last season. With no victories in 4 games now, could this be the game that gets us back to winning ways? Just impossible to predict really! Anything is possible in the National League South!!!! UTP.



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RAY HENDY

1939-2023

Ray was born in Kingswood, Bristol.

Shay, Ray's eldest daughter, remembers "Dad's Mother, Myrtle wanted Dad to get a profession so would not sign the football contract for him despite successful try-outs at Bristol Rovers."

Conrad, Ray's younger son, recalls the story of how, "Myrtle knew he needed a trade or career to fall back on if his football didn't work out at Bristol Rovers so, as you did in those days, stopped the owner of a local building company in Hanham where Dad grew up and asked him if he would give her son a job. The builder was a Bristol Rovers fan, so obliged and offered him an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery at Elbrows and Son."

"Dad was a good footballer, although he always played it down. He played for many local teams like Bristol Rovers Colts, Welton Rovers, Taunton, Merthyr, Manor Farm, Clevedon Town and Bath City and also became manager for a few of the teams later in his career."

Ray's eldest son, Del, recalls how it was a "massive honour" actually playing on the same team as him for a couple of games when he was a teenager, for Glenside St Gabriels. "He was the Captain and I remember the players listened intently to his team talks; they respected him, he encouraged them. You don't often get the chance to see your parents how others see them."

Manya, Ray's youngest daughter, reminisces, "My earliest memories of Dad

were watching him play at Welton Rovers. The games were always an education, particularly in the English language! On one occasion someone in the stand behind me shouted, "Who's that dirty b*****d number 5?", to which I responded, "that's my Dad!"

The names that spring to mind are Phil & Alan Gould, Chris Cureton, Ian Henderson, Mike Ashley. I've met a few of Dad's opponents over the years and have gone to introduce myself. The first one said, "Yes I remember your Dad, he used to kick me all over the pitch!". Another said, "I can remember your Dad, I still have his stud marks on my shins to prove it!"

In his later years Dad's full-time profession was watching football. He would park himself on the settee with a coffee, a packet of biscuits and then at half time he would cut an orange into quarters; perhaps he thought they wanted him to go on for the second half?"

Del's lasting memory is, "Watching Dad play a match at Taunton. He scored a goal from about 30 yards, catching it just right so it flew into the top right-hand corner. Typical Dad, he just stood there, smiling and laughing, young, healthy, happy and covered in mud. That's how I want to remember him."

The family would like to say a huge thank you to all the teams who have paid their respects to Ray in recent games. "Dad would have been humbled and it has meant so much to the family for him to be remembered in this way after such a long time."

RIP RAY



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Is it November already? The FA Cup first round proper is upon us, the Isuzu FA Vase is flying along and the Step 2 clubs are about to enter the Isuzu FA Trophy. Here are a few things that have caught the eye at NLP Towers recently.

FRIDAY FUNK - By the time you read this Horsham will have played their FA Cup first round proper tie at Barnsley on Friday evening.

It wasn't on telly — that was reserved for Step 4 side Sheppey United as they took on Walsall — but moved to Friday night at the request of South Yorkshire Police, who are apparently stretched resource wise.

Why the game couldn't have been played on the Sunday, Horsham don't seem to have had an answer but it's impossible not to feel for the Step 3 club on one of the biggest occasions in their 142-year history.

Having to travel to Yorkshire on a Friday night was, without doubt, a big blow. Hundreds who were planning to make the trip couldn't — including the families of players.

But it's also about the weekend as a whole. Players had to get even more time off to work, not to mention miss out on the big build-up that comes with playing in the FA Cup first round. It's not just about the result but also the experience.

"It was fait accompli and we had to accept it," secretary Jeff Barrett told The NLP at the weekend.

FARNHAM FLYING - One of the trickiest parts of writing for a Sunday publication is being in the lap of the gods when it comes to Saturday results.

We often joke about The NLP's Curse — speak to a player or manager about their team's excellent winning run and you can almost guarantee they will lose on the Saturday before the paper is out.

But there were no such worries when it came to Farnham Town's incredible start to the season — the Clarets can boast being English football's only 100 per centers.

Last weekend's 5-1 win over Epsom & Ewell made it 11 Combined Counties Premier Division South wins out of 11.

"We train once a week and if we don't have a game on a Tuesday night then we don't train at all," manager Paul Johnson told The NLP. "It helps keep us fresh and hungry and the players are keen to see each other come game day on Saturday."

The club have seen a real boom in their crowds in recent seasons and are putting themselves in a strong position for promotion. And if they do lose soon, at

least they can't blame The NLP!

HOT-SHOT - Heard about the Kendal Town striker who is making a big impression?

Having scored more than 70 goals in two seasons for West Lancashire League Division Two side Walney Island, striker James Bailey is now leading the line at the Step 5 Mintcakes.

He netted 19 goals in his first 18 games for the North West Counties Premier Division outfit and is attracting the attention of a number of clubs in leagues above.

"I think he can go higher," manager Jimmy Marshall told The NLP of his contracted

ace.

G'DAY BRUCE - Macclesfield's intentions for this season's Pitching In NPL Premier Division are clear to see.

They certainly haven't had it all their own way so far, however, and last week made a managerial change with the departure of Mark Duffy.

His replacement has now been appointed with the arrival of former Hull City and Sheffield Wednesday defender Alex Bruce, son of famous gaffer Steve.

He will be assisted by Phil Bardsley, the former Manchester United and Burnley man who recently retired.



OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

CHELMSFORD CITY 0
TAUNTON TOWN 0

28.10.2023 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 645

The Peacocks steadied the ship after two defeats on the bounce with a well-earned point at the Melbourn Community Stadium. Their first half display was particularly assured when they looked the more cohesive unit against an outfit which had reached last season's Play-Offs, but as in the previous outing at Bath, second half syndrome crept in with City gaining the upper hand. However Town dug in to share the spoils and register a second clean sheet on their league travels in 23/24.

Head of Football Rob Dray tweaked the formation for the visit to Essex, with the strike pairing of Nat Jarvis and Ross Stearn being replaced by Nick McCootie and Dylan Morgan and for the opening 45 minutes the switch worked a treat, with the only thing missing being a crucial goal. An expansive early run from City's Ody Alfa was snuffed out before the visitors settled and began to create some openings. Only four minutes had elapsed when Morgan's cross was touched down by Zac Smith for Jay Foulston to drill narrowly over. Austen Booth's diagonal pass then found Smith again and his knockdown fell for McCootie whose instinctive effort squeezed inches above the bar while Clarets' keeper Josh Oluwayemi eventually gathered Morgan's curling cross at the second attempt.

The hosts posted their first attempt when Charlie Ruff steered a header off-target from a Jermaine Francis cross while Francis himself got on the end of Alfa's centre to prod wide, however the more purposeful play was coming from Town as they incurred deep into enemy territory down either flank. After a Lloyd James free kick had ricocheted around the box, it fell for Morgan whose strike was blocked by a City defender, with appeals for handball falling on deaf ears. A clearer opportunity arose minutes later when good work from Morgan on the left produced a cross to just beyond the far post where Ollie Chamberlain lashed it into the side netting.

The Peacocks continued to control the game up until the break but frustratingly could not find a goal some of their football merited. McCootie, a massive irritant to the Chelmsford defence all afternoon, was unceremoniously upended by former Taunton player Callum Watts who received a yellow for his troubles, with the Town No 10 then finding Booth who in turn fed Chamberlain inside, Oluwayemi diving to claim the shot. The City keeper made an even more important contribution three minutes before the break when he foiled Morgan from close range after Smith's cross found him alone at the near post. That missed chance meant it remained

goalless at the break although City did enjoy their most threatening moment of the half during the four added minutes, Francis in space to deliver towards Charlie Ruff but Lee Lucas executed a perfect interception to clear the danger for the home side's only corner of the first 45 minutes.

Rewind four days earlier and a scenario had evolved at Twerton Park with Town very much in the contest at the interval before their impetus declined in the second half while their opponents stepped up a gear as they went on to claim victory. It was a similar sort of story against the Clarets with the crucial difference being that this time the Peacocks contained their hosts who emerged with renewed intent for the second half. Lucas was caught in possession early on, allowing Callum Jones to make ground on the left before seeing his shot tipped over by keeper Dan Lavercombe. Two corners ensued which were defended before home shouts for a penalty were answered with a booking for City's Cameron James for simulation while Ben Brookes blasted an effort high over the top. Another spot kick appeal after Jones went down was also waved away.

The Peacocks weathered the Chelmsford storm and had what turned out to be their best opening of the half just before the hour. A long clearance from James saw McCootie outmuscle the defender, stride into the box but make the angle too tight and Oluwayemi was able to block his attempt at his post, the only real time the City shotstopper had to make a save of note in the second half.

Dave Sims-Burgess was introduced as the first Town sub when he took over from Morgan before McCootie chested down a Booth cross to turn and fire over the bar.

This proved his final contribution to what was an excellent performance and he limped gingerly off the pitch accompanied by his signature tune being bellowed out by the Peacock faithful.

Stearn was the new man but in truth had little opportunity to make an impression as the visitors needed to nail down the defences in the final stages. Lucas rifled a strike wide from distance, which was the last real effort of note for Town as Chelmsford pressed to avoid their third consecutive draw. Francis was brought down by Lucas in a dangerous central position, but Lavercombe safely held Samir Carruthers' free kick before Nick Grimes misjudged the ball and Ruff was suddenly through on the right to fire narrowly adrift of the far post.

A couple of late corners for City jangled nerves further before Dan Ball replaced Smith as six minutes of added time began. Cue candidate for save of the season..... City's new loanee from Ipswich Town Finley Barbrook let fly from the edge of the box and his shot took a wicked deflection off James but Lavercombe reacted with an outstanding tip over, pawing it away as it flew towards the top corner. Ruff managed a last ditch effort when he spun onto Zech Obiero's assist but the shot had the sting taken out of it by a deflection and Lavercombe did the rest.

A proverbial game of two halves with a draw being a fair result on the day. It's now three games without finding the net for the Peacocks though, a stat they will need to address quickly with a heavy programme upcoming in November.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	14	10	2	2	28	16	+12	32
2	Aveley	14	8	2	4	22	13	+9	26
3	Bath City	14	7	4	3	27	20	+7	25
4	FARNBOROUGH	15	6	6	3	27	19	+8	24
5	Maidstone United	14	6	6	2	19	13	+6	24
6	Hampton & Richmond	15	7	3	5	23	22	+1	24
7	TAUNTON TOWN	15	6	6	3	20	19	+1	24
8	Worthing	14	7	2	5	22	20	+2	23
9	Dartford	16	6	4	6	25	20	+5	22
10	Torquay United	14	7	1	6	25	22	+3	22
11	St Albans City	15	7	1	7	20	19	+1	22
12	Chelmsford City	14	5	6	3	18	13	+5	21
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	14	5	6	3	19	18	+1	21
14	Braintree Town	14	4	6	4	18	14	+4	18
15	Tonbridge Angels	15	5	3	7	18	23	-5	18
16	Weston-super-Mare	15	5	3	7	20	27	-7	18
17	Chippenham Town	14	4	5	5	18	20	-2	17
18	Weymouth	15	4	5	6	16	20	-4	17
19	Truro City	14	4	4	6	21	20	+1	16
20	Eastbourne Borough	15	4	4	7	20	25	-5	16
21	Slough Town	14	3	4	7	21	26	-5	13
22	Welling United	14	2	5	7	12	23	-11	11
23	Dover Athletic	14	1	7	6	16	28	-12	10
24	Havant & Waterlooville	14	1	3	10	15	30	-15	6

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

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Saturday 4th November 2023

3pm	Aveley v Weston-super-Mare
3pm	Braintree Town v Havant & Waterlooville
3pm	Chippenham Town v Eastbourne Borough
3pm	Dover Athletic v Hampton & Richmond Borough
3pm	Taunton Town v Farnborough
3pm	Tonbridge Angels v Chelmsford City
3pm	Torquay United v Bath City
3pm	Weymouth v Welling United

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday 7th November 2023

7.45pm	Braintree Town v St Albans City
7.45pm	Chippenham Town v Farnborough
7.45pm	Dartford v Chelmsford City
7.45pm	Dover Athletic v Welling United
7.45pm	Maidstone United v Eastbourne Borough
7.45pm	Slough Town v Truro City
7.45pm	Tonbridge Angels v Hampton & Richmond Boro'
7.45pm	Torquay United v Yeovil Town
7.45pm	Weymouth v Bath City
7.45pm	Worthing v Havant & Waterlooville

Saturday 11th November 2023

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

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NEXT UP AT HOME

TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2023

KICK OFF - 7:45PM



**SOMERSET
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Adult: £14
(18-67 incl.)

Concession: £11
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The Untold Game

Records. Wrecks. but No Regrets

When, in the summer of 1992, Milan broke the world transfer record, it wasn't the number or the club that caused everyone to draw breath. Alan Shearer became the most expensive player to move between English clubs, costing a cool £3.2m when he joined Blackburn Rovers, but that was a drop in the ocean compared to the bonanza that was found in Italy. Milan broke the £10m barrier to bring in Jean-Pierre Papin from Marseille, and Juventus responded with the £12m signing of Sampdoria's Gianluca Vialli. Both proven names, both with international reputations. But then Milan went again, and made a signing that, outside of Italy at least, made little sense. £13m, for Gianluigi Lentini.

Lentini had, by that stage, made over 100 appearances for a Torino side that was challenging the old order. Fifth in 1991, third in the following season, and an array of talent unbecoming of Turin's poor neighbours. For Lentini, this would be the apex of an underwhelming career. Torino had been relegated in 1989, and while he had been phenomenal in Serie B, it hadn't earned him a call up to the 1990 World Cup squad. Italy had failed to qualify for Euro 1992, so he had no chance to explode onto the world stage as people had expected. But in Italy, he had earned a reputation as a left back's worst nightmare, and Milan added him to their

unbeaten, title-winning side. His move sparked riots in Turin.

In Milan, Lentini struggled. Flashes of brilliance were offset by his nocturnal activities. His lack of professionalism was tolerated, even celebrated, at Torino, but Fabio Capello was not a manager for whom one could do as they pleased. He picked up a Scudetto and a Coppa Italia, but disappeared in the Champions League final, which they lost. By that summer, he was more fond of the local discos than the training ground, and was engaged in a torrid affair with the wife of Juventus striker Toto Schillacci.

Speeding from Milan to Turin to meet his amore in his yellow Porche 911, Lentini blew a tire. He replaced it with the spare and set off again, apparently unaware that he was now limited to 50 miles per hour, not the 125 he had been doing. He lost control and veered across the carriageway, smashing into the barriers. A truck driver witnessed the incident and pulled him from the wreckage moments before it caught alight, saving his life. But not his career.

Lentini was put into an induced coma, and was never the player he had been. He barely played in the following three years, and scored just six goals. He did find time to marry a Swedish supermodel, but when

his contract was up Milan were glad to get him, and his astronomical wages, off the books. He moved to Atalanta, where he linked up with his former Torino boss Emiliano Mondonico.

In Bergamo, he found something like his old form. Linking up with an emerging Filippo Inzaghi he helped Atalanta to a mid-table finish, far above their usual relegation dogfight. But his time at the club would be short-lived, and he moved again, back to his spiritual home in Turin.

It was an emotional return to Torino, whose wild spending had caught up with them and seen them relegated into Serie B. Mired for a few seasons, Lentini gave them hope once more, although Torino lost the promotion playoff on penalties in his first season. Mondonico returned that summer, and in 1998 they finally returned to Serie A. This time, without the reckless purchasing power, they struggled. Relegated in 1999, Mondonico was sacked and wound up at fellow Serie B side Cosenza. Lentini followed him.

Cosenza were another side with financial

difficulties, and were eventually relegated to Serie D. Lentini stayed, because they were nice people and because he was coming to the end of a career of unbelievable highs and destructive lows. When he finally returned home, supposedly retired, a friend asked him to turn out for local amateur side Canelli. He called in a favour and another former Italy player, Diego Fuser, joined him. They played for the side until well into the 40s, and lifted them as far as Serie D.

Ironically for a player who had been beloved at Torino, and won the league title and a Champions League medal with Milan, Lentini was perhaps never more contented than after his fall from grace with Cosenza. Asked what it was like to go from the world's most expensive player to crowds of just 3000, in less than a decade, Lentini gave the answer every fan wants to hear.

Football was football, he said, regardless of where you played, and who it was against. Perhaps some of the world's most expensive players today could learn a thing or two from him.





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)	1-2 L	774	N/A
Sat 23rd	League	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE (H)	0-0 D	877	4th
Sat 30th	League	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH (H)	2-1 W	670	3rd
OCTOBER					
Tue 3rd	SPC1	PORTISHEAD TOWN (H)	5-2 W	273	N/A
Sat 7th	League	Dover Athletic (A)	2-2 D	617	2nd
Sat 21st	League	HAMPTON & RICHMOND (H)	0-1 L	843	3rd
Tues 24th	League	Bath City (A)	3-0 L	1,537	5th
Sat 28th	League	Chelmsford City (A)	0-0 D	645	5th
NOVEMBER					
Sat 4th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 7th	SPC2	STREET (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 11th	League	Hemel Hempstead Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 14th	League	Truro City (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 18th	FAT2	Welling United (A)	3:00pm	-	-
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	-	-
Tue 12th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
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	-	-



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

”

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**



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