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TAUNTON TOWN V WORTHING

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SOMERSET PREMIER CUP

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CONTACT DETAILS

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Videographer: Alex Anderson

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THE GAFFER

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Somerset Campervan Co Stadium finally for this afternoon's Vanarama National League South match with Worthing. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us today from our visitors and also to the match officials.

It has been just over a month since we took to the pitch here in the league which began our run of 3 losses and a draw which has seen us drop from 3rd to 15th in the table, however we are only 5 points outside the play-off places with games in hand on other teams. So whilst we want to get out of this recent slump in results there is plenty of time to climb up the table again.

There is no better time to turn the form around than today as Worthing join us and they currently occupy that final play-off spot in 7th place so it will be a very difficult task ahead, but one myself and the team are relishing.

We would like to thank you for your continued unwavering support throughout and please ensure you are in full voice today.

Up The Peacocks!!

Rob

Rob Dray
Head of Football, Taunton Town FC

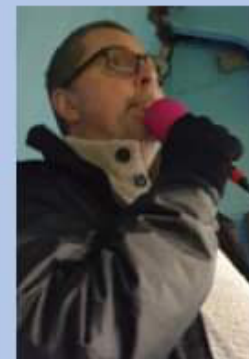


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THE AWAY END



WORTHING

The early years were spent playing friendlies and competing in the Sussex Senior Cup, in which our first tie on November 27th 1886 resulted in a 1-0 home win over Brighton Hornets.

Worthing reached their 1st Senior Cup final in 1891-92 (losing 5-3 to Brighton Hornets) before winning the 1892-93 final 2-1 against Eastbourne at the County Ground, Hove. This was the first of a record 21 Senior Cup wins, the most recent being in 1999.

Worthing were founder members of the West Sussex Senior League in 1896, along with their local rivals Worthing Athletic (founded 1891). The first of 7 championships was won in 1898-99, qualifying Worthing to play the East Sussex League champions Brighton Athletic in the Sussex Charity Cup donated by the Royal Irish Rifles. This match was lost 2-1, but we went on to win the RUR Cup (as it became known) 13 times (including twice jointly with Horsham).

In 1899-00 the name "Association" was dropped and we entered the FA Cup and FA Amateur Cup for the first time.

In May 1900 Worthing and Worthing Athletic merged and in 1901 the Club moved to its current home, then known as the Sports Ground, now as Woodside Road.

The team of 1903-04 contained 3 players who would become full internationals; S.S. Harris and E.G.D. Wright for England and Charlie Webb for Ireland. Harris played for England while still a player for Worthing.

Worthing withdrew from the West Sussex League for the 1904-05 season, so as not to be in competition with the newly promoted Worthing Rovers (founded 1901). We rejoined the League in 1905 after merging with Rovers during the summer.

In 1907-08 Worthing reached the quarter-finals of the FA Amateur Cup, where we drew 1-1 away to the eventual winners Depot Battalion Royal Engineers, before losing the replay 1-0 before a then record crowd of over 3,100.

Barry Lloyd was appointed manager in 1981 and the Division 2 title was won in 1981-82, with prolific goal-scorer Micky Edmonds scoring 53 goals. In 1982-83 we won the Division 1 title and reached the 2nd Round of the FA Cup, losing 4-0 at Oxford United. The next 2 seasons saw Worthing finish as runners-up in the Premier Division to Harrow Borough and Sutton United, respectively.

At the end of 1984-85 the Club's main stand burnt down. In 1985-86 we reached the last 16 of the FA Trophy; then Barry Lloyd left to join Brighton & Hove Albion and the following year Worthing were relegated from the Premier Division. Four years later we had a disastrous season, finishing bottom of Division 1 with only 10 points and having conceded 157 goals.

Former Northern Ireland international Gerry Armstrong was appointed manager in 1991-92 and the following season Worthing became the first club to win Division 2 for a second time.

Armstrong left in the summer of 1994 to be replaced by his coach John Robson. Premier Division status was regained as runners-up to Boreham Wood in his first season and the FA Cup 1st Round reached again (losing 3-1 at AFC Bournemouth after taking the lead).

Worthing finished bottom in their first season back in the Premier and Robson was replaced as manager. Others followed before Brian Donnelly became manager at Christmas 1996. Under Donnelly's leadership, Worthing staged a remarkable late season recovery, winning their last 5 games to escape relegation on the last day.

"Sammy" was to remain manager until November 2001 when Barry Lloyd returned for his second spell in charge.

In 2003-04 we finished 2nd in the league and thus regained our Premier Division place. Cup runs saw us reach the Senior Cup final and the last 32 of the FA Trophy, being beaten by eventual winners Hednesford Town.

In 2005-06 our youth team won their division and reached the 1st Round of the FA Youth Cup for the first time. Our first team had topped the Isthmian League at New Year 2006 but eventually just missed out on a play-off spot.

The following year we got relegated, but did reach the Senior Cup final for the 28th time. Our youth team were again champions and also captured the Isthmian Youth Cup for a second time. In 2007-08 they became founder-members of the Isthmian Youth League and won the Sussex FA Youth Cup for only the second time.

The management partnership of Alan Pook and Danny Bloor resigned at the end of 2008-09 and Simon Colbran took over. He lasted just one season, at the end of which we lost in the play-off semi-final for the 3rd year in a row. Colbran resigned in the close season and was replaced by Chris White.

Chris's first season, Worthing's 125th, saw us fielding a completely new squad of players and we managed to win some silverware, defeating Horsham in the last match of the season to secure the Brighton Charity Cup.

The Club's next appointment was joint-managers, Lee Brace and Kieran Collins. More mid-table mediocrity and disappointing early cup exits saw the duo depart in October 2013 and after a period of caretaker management under Mick Fogden and Jon Meeney, Adam Hinshelwood took the reigns on Christmas Day. The recently retired former Brighton & Hove Albion professional immediately went about re-building the side with young, hungry players. Coupled with the experience of Fogden and the enthusiasm of the young Meeney, hopes are high for a more settled and productive future.

The 2014-15 season was very much a one of ups and downs but, despite all the uncertainty surrounding the club's future a sixth place finish was achieved, our highest for five years. This was a

particularly impressive feat as the playing budget was scrapped after Christmas but, this only served to bring everyone at the club even closer together with all the players and Management staying and, we were one of only two teams to beat runaway Champions, Burgess Hill Town.

Former player George Dowell took control of the club at the end of the 2014/15 season.

Dowell didn't waste any time, investing heavily in not only wiping out all the clubs debts but also laying down a brand new 3G pitch, giving The Rebel's Tavern a complete makeover, converting it into The 7HQ Sports Bar and Cafe and continuing general improvements to Woodside Road.

All this coming after his own career was ended by a serious car crash in 2010, which left him confined to a wheelchair and paralysed from the chest down.

George used his compensation money wisely, setting up Worthing Football Centre to help create a real community hub at Wooside Road, with the new artificial surface available for hire to all teams and age groups seven days a week. All this coming after he had formed his own football team in the West Sussex League, Worthing Borough.

However, early on in pre-season George and his fellow new directors were already looking for a new Manager, with Hinshelwood's impressive fire-fighting skills attracting the attention of his old club, Brighton & Hove Albion and a move back into the full-time game followed, with his appointment as Assistant Manager to their Under-18's.

Jon Meeney was promoted to the role of Joint-Manager alongside new signing, Gary Elphick, who would continue his playing career. Both incumbents making their senior management bows.

Former player Matt Piper returned to the club as player-coach, complementing the experience of the evergreen Mick Fogden, while Stuart Owens became the new Goalkeeping Coach and Natalie Stenning followed Elphick from Lewes, to become our new physio.

Nobody could have predicted how the next nine months would unfold. The first team sealed promotion back to the Ryman League top flight for the first time since 2007 by winning the Division One South Play-Offs.

An extraordinary semi-final at Woodside Road saw Hythe Town demolished 7-0, before a crowd of nearly 2,000 witnessed an equally decisive 3-0 triumph over Faversham Town in the Final, also played on The Rebel's 3G surface.

Three members of the squad, Will Hendon, Brannon O'Neill and Omar Bugiel were subsequently named in the Divisional Team of The Year.

The only disappointment coming in The Sussex Senior Cup Final, where Eastbourne Borough went home with a narrow 1-0 verdict. Although nobody could forget the semi-final penalty shoot-out win over the holders, Whitehawk.

The Under-21's stormed to success not only as South Division Champions of The Ryman Under-21 League but also as overall winners, with a nail biting triumph on penalties against The North Division Champions, Billericay Town at The Harlow Arena. Jazz Rance won the golden boot as top scorer in both the South Division and the League as a whole. Only a 2-1 defeat to Lewes in the Final of The Sussex Intermediate Cup at SCFA HQ prevented them walking away with a clean sweep of trophies.

Not to be outdone, the youth team had several of their own make it into the first team, finished runners-up in the South Division of the Ryman Youth League and enjoyed an epic run all the way to the third round proper of The FA Youth Cup. After tense wins at Sutton United and Biggleswade Town, the Young Rebel's adventure was eventually ended by the number one ranked youth team in the country, Middlesbrough, in front of a crowd of over 1,100 at what has now become The Bibby Financial Services Stadium.

The 2019-20 campaign was unprecedented, as Coronavirus spread around the world and ended all football in mid-March.

Many thousands lost their lives and our national sport concluded with a mixture of null and void and points-per-game.

Our own Isthmian League went for the first of those options early and so we'll never truly know whether we'd have held on to become Champions or competed in the Play-Offs for a place in National South.

Only an extra time defeat to the Brighton and Hove

Albion denied us an appearance in the final of The Sussex Senior Cup, too.

Once again, one of our number progressed to the professional ranks as seventeen-year-old Fin Stevens moved to Championship side Brentford.

Covid-19 also put paid to the following league campaign, in October, after just eight league games. Worthing held a narrow two point advantage over Cheshunt at the time.

On the final day of the month though, we crashed straight out of the FA Trophy at the end of a tense penalty shoot-out at now Southern Premier (Central) side, Leiston. Spot-Kicks accounted for the end of our interest in the FA Cup as well at East Grinstead Town, from the division below.

Our final competitive fixture on 3rd November resulted in another early cup defeat at Three Bridges (Isthmian South East), as we scored but then conceded twice in the last nine minutes to bow out of the Senior Cup at the first hurdle too.



TWO TO WATCH



JAKE ROBINSON

Proven goalscorer who comes with an impressive CV.

Announced himself to the world of professional football by becoming Brighton's youngest-ever scorer against Forest Green Rovers in 2003, just three weeks after his Riverside debut versus Middlesbrough. Two loan spells at Aldershot Town and one at Woking preceded a permanent move to The Shrews in 2009.

A brief time at Torquay United (loan) and two years at Northampton Town led to a handful of appearances for Luton Town before dropping into non-league in 2012. Put simply goals followed him wherever he went.



NICK WHEELER

Starting out in under eighteen football at Charlton Athletic, then Lewes, Nicky took a break from the game before re-emerging at Burgess Hill Town a few years later. From there he returned to Lewes before moving on to Tonbridge Angels, Dagenham & Redbridge and Billericay Town. Winning the Isthmian League Cup and Premier Division championship while also reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup during his time at New Lodge.

Two single terms at both Woking and Eastbourne Borough came next, earning elevation to the National League though the play-offs once more at the former and facing then Premier League Watford at home in the third round of the FA Cup.

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SCAN ME

THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **16**

WON **6**

DRAWN **6**

LOST **4**

+/- **0**

POINTS **24**

LGE POS **15TH**

HOME POINTS% **67%**



PLAYED **17**

WON **9**

DRAWN **2**

LOST **6**

+/- **+7**

POINTS **29**

LGE POS **7TH**

AWAY POINTS% **52%**



LAST TIME WE MET

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DAVE WEBSTER

View from the stands

WELLING UNITED 2 TAUNTON TOWN 2
Welling win 8-7 on penalties
Isuzu FA Trophy - 2nd Round



Well, we asked for a good performance from Taunton, and we got one, Suffice to say, all hopes of a trip to Wembley are now off, due to the cruellest of exits, in the form of the dreaded penalty shootout. After failing to hit the net in over 400 hours of league football, our patched up team, missing 3 regulars, began the game with much zest, as they set out to end the goal drought.

Birthday boy and captain for the night Dan Ball, had a effort hit the bar within the first couple of minutes. The game was going from end to end, as the two equally matched clubs attacked each others goals with ferocity. Our best chance of the first half fell to Ross Stearn from a free kick just outside the box, it was hell of a strike, unfortunately Pitterson in the Welling goal made the save look easy, as he failed to grasp the ball the first time, but safely collected the bounce.

We had another half-chance, when Jarvis did well to beat 2 defenders, and put in a cross that McCootie just failed to get on the end of. No one i am sure would disagree, it was a action-packed first 45, with Taunton although giving good accounts of themselves, we just could not get the damned ball in the net. Just minutes before the half time whistle went, Welling went 1-0 up. Oh how we could have done with VAR!! From a long ball, number 12 Kain Adom seemed to control the ball with his hand before smashing the ball past both Dans, with the rest of the defence caught napping.

The second half turned out to be even more exciting than the first as the Taunton attacks rose. We were getting more shots in than a night at Zinc, unfortunately most went wide. Malachi came on for Nat, as we went in search of that equaliser. And it came in the shape of a penalty. Welling could have no arguments over this one, as Pitterson deliberately brought Chambo to the ground. No hesitation whatsoever from the firm but fair referee Nicholas Dunn, as he pointed to the spot. Cometh the man, cometh the hour as our spot kick king Stearn stepped up and hammered it home. Boy, did we need this one.

The travelling fans, 11 plus one, were ecstatic. If the tempo of the game was tiring our players, then it certainly didn't show, as we threw everything bar the kitchen sink at Welling. We smelt blood and went for it.

Ross was damned brilliant tonight, and would have got my vote for man of the match. He almost pulled off what would have been the goal of the season, as he jinked his way through 3/4 players only to be out-crowded before he could get a decent shot in.

The introduction of Linton certainly added spice to our attack, he was giving the Welling rear guard all kinds of problems. Just as we were beginning to take control, disaster struck, with Welling being awarded a penalty of their own very late in the game. There did not seem to be any complaints from our team, so i must assume the ref also got this decision correct. 2-1 down and rapidly running out of time, Malachi Linton turned out to be our ace in the hole, as he made it 2-2 tapping the ball home from short distance with the keeper once again unable to get a firm grip.

And so it ended Even Stephens. Not so long ago, this would have meant extra time, which i am convinced Taunton would have gone on and won, judging by the way we raised our game in the 2nd half, alas, rules change and so it was down to penalties. After strikes from Stearn, Linton, McCootie and Morgan had all beat the keeper, up stepped Jay, who went for power rather than direction, our hearts stopped as the ball went over the bar. Even the best, Messi, Ronaldo and Shearer have missed from the spot, so no shame there Jay. And so it was down to Wellings last of the 5 to score and win the game. Lavercombe saved brilliantly to put the game into sudden death. Further strikes from Zac, Chambo and Ball, kept the match on a knife-edge, as Welling matched our every penalty with precision. Then it was the turn of Austen Booth, who in all fairness hit it well, Pitterson broke our hearts as he replicated Lavercombes save. Austen looked devastated, as sub Rob Howards penalty won the game for Welling, and end Tauntons trophy hopes for 2023/24.

We can take much from this game, it was full of positives. Disappointing of course to lose in such a manner. But it showed once again that this club of ours have plenty of fight in them, and will battle to the end. All our lads out there went up a gear tonight, so come on Peacocks, less of the negativity and spur them on to victory over high flying Worthing on Saturday. We CAN do this. UTP.

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Several years ago, whilst living in Oxford, I invited a couple of friends to watch the mighty U's in action.

Chris Wilder was in charge at the time and promotion to the Football League was finally on the horizon. James Constable was scoring for fun.

I'd hoped to show them that Non-League football wasn't the sporting wasteland of popular portrayal. That for the princely sum of £20 (twenty quid!) a ticket, they would be handsomely entertained by inventive football and skilful players.

It backfired. Oxford's opponents that day were Kettering, who even by the standards of the day were a brutally direct outfit. The ball spent more time in orbit than the International Space Station and the game was - to this day - one of the worst I've ever paid to watch.

Needless to say, neither of my guests were in a desperate hurry to ditch their season tickets at Newcastle.

Truth be told, though, that was a true reflection of Non-League football back then. For every Oxford, there were ten or 20 Kettering Towns, with a hefty unit up top, a couple of headcases at full-back and a midfield that spent the 90 minutes making tackles or watching the ball sail overhead.

And why wouldn't that be the case? Attitudes remained old school. Players still enjoyed a beer, or ten. English clubs weren't yet producing the abundance of talent available today and with only a couple of nights to train every week, it was unrealistic to expect anything else.

Which is why watching Step 3 Horsham go blow for blow with League One Barnsley in the FA Cup last weekend was to be reminded of the incredible progress made by Non-League sides over the last decade.

Whenever an underdog triumphs - and a 3-3 draw at Oakwell was most certainly that - it is tempting to talk about grit and heroism and manning the trenches. To assume that only by outworking and outfighting a preening Goliath can an artisan like David ever hope to prosper.

Yet any such suggestion would do Horsham and their manager Dom Di Paola a massive disservice.

Horsham grafted alright. Over the course of the night, they repelled 24 shots. But they never once looked ragged or desperate.

From the first whistle to the last, they adhered to a clear strategy and carried it out with discipline and intelligence.

In transition - a word nobody even used 15 years ago - the Hornets were magnificent, snapping from a back five to a front five with a speed that would have made Pep Guardiola proud. All three of Horsham's goals resulted from rapid overloads on the counter.

What this tactic demonstrated was that Di Paola had analysed Barnsley and recognised that their high defensive line was vulnerable to quick breaks and balls in behind.

It also showed that Horsham's part-time players were smart enough and fit enough to carry out a gameplan that, even for elite professional sides, is physically and mentally demanding.

Frankly, this sort of precision and planning would hardly have happened in the National Premier a decade ago, let alone at Step 3 - and it cuts to the heart of why Non-League football has improved so rapidly.

Back in 2011, AFC Wimbledon keeper Seb Brown was hailed as a visionary for using YouTube to research the preferences of Luton's penalty takers prior to his match-winning performance in the play-off final shoot-out.

Brown did that off his own back. He had to - only the very biggest clubs could afford access to meaningful data in those days, meaning someone like Di Paola couldn't have hoped to study Barnsley without actually visiting Oakwell.

Today, nobody needs YouTube. Clubs far below Horsham's level have access to GPS, scouting and analytics, and enough data to forensically examine the prevalence of backpasses in Timbuktu.

Players, in turn, don't require physical training time to understand a gameplan. They can view clips online, analyse their own performance or understand how an opponent plays.

Tactical intelligence is no longer the preserve of full-time pros, and nor are professional standards.

Non-League football may still be about having a post-match beer with punters in the clubhouse - and long may that continue - but the vast majority of semi-pro players (many of whom have come through the academy system) now live the lifestyle of an elite athlete.

These improvements - combined with an influx of overseas players at the highest level forcing domestic talent downwards - have changed Non-League football beyond all recognition, and the preponderance of upsets in this year's FA Cup only reinforces the point.

My old mates have had their fingers burned. But anyone introduced to the Non-League game by Horsham last weekend could not fail to be converted.



Dom Di Paola

OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

WELLING UNITED 2 (8) TAUNTON TOWN 2 (7)

21.11.2023 | ISUZU FA TROPHY - 2ND ROUND | ATT: 258

This Tuesday night game should have been an immense occasion at the Somerset Campervan Co. Stadium against Torquay United but instead Taunton Town made the long trip to Welling with a depleted squad that saw Nick Grimes, Cam Evans and Lee Lucas not travel due to work commitments.

With the Peacocks having not registered a league goal in around 400 hours, the team looked full of energy and eager to break the goalless streak. Dan Ball, the captain for the evening and the birthday boy, led the Peacocks out and his side came close early on when Austen Booth's header hit the bar. The two evenly matched teams fiercely attacked each other's goals as the game went from end to end. Ross Stearn had our best chance of the first half after a free kick just outside the box, Javarn Pitterson in the Welling goal saving the rebound after he had mishandled the ball the first time. We had one more half-chance when Nat Jarvis outran two defenders and put in a cross that Nick McCootie narrowly missed.

Taunton fans voiced their delight at our first half performance, which included some great attacking play and some spirited defensive performances. Unfortunately, we wouldn't be the team going into the second half the happier of

the two, with the Welling striker Kain Adom making the most of an unfortunate bounce off of Booth before striking it past Dan Lavercombe in the Taunton goal from around 25 yards on the 43rd minute.

The second half began with much of the same energy as the first, with Taunton going on the attack early, searching for an equaliser. And on the 52nd minute our goal drought ended, and the equaliser came. Ollie Chamberlain burst into the box and when he came one-on-one with the 'keeper Pitterson, he was brought down, and the referee pointed straight to the spot. Up stepped Mr. Ross Stearn, who slotted the penalty to the 'keepers left, and in his own words "The Posts Don't Move" and the 11 travelling fans went wild.

The boys smelt blood in the water and went on the hunt for the second goal. Stearn, Dylan Morgan, Jarvis and Zac Smith all went close to breaking the deadlock, but no-one could convert a chance into the Welling net. The home side went close in the 58th minute to grabbing their second goal, only an incredible last minute block from Chamberlain denying the Wings.

In the 66th minute Jarvis, who had had a much improved performance than recent, was subbed off for Malachi Linton, who

bought a different quality to our attack, and he caused a host of problems for the Welling defence. Smith and Morgan were also causing a multitude of problems down the left flank and the former went close in the 68th minute with a curling shot from distance. On the 76th minute Town went close again when some incredible footwork from McCootie beat a four man press from Welling and a lovely cross-field ping to find Chamberlain but unfortunately his cross couldn't connect with anyone in the box.

Welling went close again to a second goal in the 78th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the box saved by Lavercombe, his quick thinking started a quick counter down the right and saw Linton have a shot saved by keeper Pitterson. Linton found himself through on goal again in the 80th minute but was pulled back by a Welling defender, who strangely avoided any sort of repercussion in the form of a booking. The resulting free kick went sailing over the bar.

Unfortunately in the 83rd minute the Peacocks were bought back down to earth as our bad luck struck again. Crossley Lema burst into the box for the Wings and was brought down which resulted in the second penalty of the evening. Tristan Abrahams stepped up and blasted the penalty down the middle. Many may have thought this was the winning goal but although we may have been knocked down by the penalty, we were certainly not out.

In the 88th minute Chamberlain burst down the right and won a free kick in a dangerous position. The delivery went into the box and after multiple shots and multiple attempted clearances, up stepped the super sub Linton, who when

the ball dropped to him slammed it past the young Pitterson in the Welling goal. We were level again!

This late goal put a second wave of energy into the Taunton players, and we went in search of a late winner. Stearn slipped past the Wings' defenders and poked a shot towards goal, but Pitterson was there to make a great save. Shortly after, a low cross almost reached an untagged Chamberlain at the back post, but he was unable to make the necessary touch to put it in. Last but not least in the 90th minute when Linton found himself in a strong position but was stopped by the Welling goalkeeper. Despite so many good chances in the dying moments of the game we could not find the winner.

This meant that penalties were to come. Both teams scored the first four before Jay Foulston and Enoch Muwonge both missed crucial penalty number five. Three more successful penalties followed before Pitterson, made himself the home-town hero and stopped Booth's penalty down to his left before Rob Howard netted what would be the final penalty to send the Wings through to the next round.

We may not have come out on top in the shootout, but the lads can walk away from the night in Kent proud of themselves following a spirited performance.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	18	13	3	2	38	20	+18	42
2	Aveley	19	10	3	6	28	20	+8	33
3	Maidstone United	18	9	6	3	25	18	+7	33
4	Bath City	18	9	5	4	35	22	+13	32
5	Hampton & Richmond	18	9	4	5	29	24	+5	31
6	Braintree Town	19	8	6	5	33	19	+14	30
7	WORTHING	17	9	2	6	31	24	+7	29
8	Chelmsford City	19	7	8	4	25	19	+6	29
9	Torquay United	17	9	1	7	29	25	+4	28
10	Tonbridge Angels	20	7	6	7	26	27	-1	27
11	Dartford	19	7	4	8	30	27	+3	25
12	Farnborough	19	6	7	6	31	29	+2	25
13	Chippenham Town	18	6	7	5	27	26	+1	25
14	Hemel Hempstead Town	17	6	7	4	21	20	+1	25
15	TAUNTON TOWN	16	6	6	4	20	20	0	24
16	St Albans City	18	7	1	10	22	27	-5	22
17	Weymouth	19	5	7	7	21	27	-6	22
18	Weston-super-Mare	17	6	3	8	21	29	-8	21
19	Eastbourne Borough	20	5	5	10	26	36	-10	20
20	Slough Town	17	5	4	8	30	31	-1	19
21	Truro City	16	4	4	8	21	26	-5	16
22	Welling United	18	3	7	8	20	33	-13	16
23	Dover Athletic	19	1	9	9	19	35	-16	12
24	Havant & Waterlooville	18	1	3	14	17	41	-24	6

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

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Saturday 25th November 2023

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

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday 28th November 2023

7.45pm	Eastbourne Borough v Torquay United
7.45pm	Maidstone United v Havant & Waterlooville
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Farnborough

Saturday 2nd December 2023

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

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NEXT UP AT HOME

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023

KICK OFF - 7:45PM



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NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

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The Untold Game

Football in the Protectorate

At the end of the Second World War, with much of Germany reduced to rubble and global politics shaping continental Europe in ways that would define the second half of the twentieth century, football was a minor concern. But, amongst the chaos and the disorganisation, with the former Reich being carved up amongst the victorious allied powers, was the odd case of Saarland. While East Germany fell under Soviet control, and West Germany was divided between Britain, France, and the United States, the Saar stood out. West of Kaiserslautern, right on the French border, and under French control until 1935, it had been a bit of an early refuge from Nazi terror before the war, and once again fell under French control, with the aim of detaching it from the German state.

For sport, this was complicated. Saarland competed as an independent state in the 1952 Olympics, and in qualification for the 1954 World Cup (where they lost out on a place to eventual champions West Germany). Domestic football was cut off from Germany as well, having its own incredibly weak, largely propagandised puppet league set up. But local giants Saarbrücken had competed at the top of the German game right up until 1943 (when they subsumed into the military) and had won the postwar regional league in 1946. When the Saarland Ehrenliga was

set up in 1948, they were too strong and instead placed in the French second division.

There is some confusion as to what happened next. Most reports say they competed for the French Second Division title, but UEFA's official account is a little different. While Saarbrücken would indeed spend the following season playing French teams, they were unable to collect points and were essentially playing a series of competitive friendlies. What isn't in doubt is the quality of the former German side. Whether or not they were awarded points, they racked up enough wins to have won the league at a canter, much to the annoyance of their French counterparts who, understandably, didn't enjoy being beaten by what they saw as a German team, so soon after the German occupation of France had ended.

With such dominance, it was only natural for Saarbrücken to apply to join the French First Division, with the support of French Football Federation President Jules Rimet, but there were some obvious problems. The anti-German sentiment was stronger in France than anywhere else west of the Iron Curtain, and nobody wanted to reward them for success with a promotion. Strasbourg in particular, who had been forced to play in the German league under the Nazi occupation, were

vehemently opposed to Saarbrücken in the same league as them. Additionally, nobody in France wanted to run the risk of German champions in their own league. The application was denied, and Saarbrücken withdrew from the French league altogether. Rimet resigned.

Instead, Saarbrücken embarked on a series of friendly games, including setting up the Saarland International Cup in 1949. Seen by some as a precursor to the European Cup that would follow a few years later, the first edition included teams from all around central Europe, and a number of French teams. Saarbrücken won the competition, seeing off French side Rennes in the final, but interest in the cup diminished in the second season. Jules Rimet's Red Star, the small Parisian side, joined the 23 team competition, but it was made up mostly of German sides. This would prove a sign of things to come, and the cup was never completed as it was agreed that Saarland's football system would be reintegrated into West Germany's in 1952.

Which should, really, have brought an end to the curious case of Saarbrücken. Back in the German leagues, and with Saarland increasingly pushing toward rejoining West Germany politically as well as in footballing terms. But the Saar wouldn't achieve that goal until 1957, after rejecting an offer of complete independence. That meant, as an independent protectorate with its own UEFA membership, there was still time for Saarbrücken to sneak into the first ever European Cup.

Travelling to an impressive Milan side in the first round, a Milan side containing superstars like Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm, nobody gave Saarbrücken any chance at all. Not that the Saarlanders were overawed by their illustrious opponents. They took the lead after five minutes, before Milan got into their rhythm and scored three before half-time. But Saarbrücken responded like a freight train, scoring three of their own to take a 4-3 lead back to West Germany. Beating Milan a second time would prove a step too far, however, and they lost the second leg 4-1, ending their brief time in the European sun.

Saarbrücken reached the national final on their return to the German football system, losing to Stuttgart, and continued to be a strong presence in their regional league. Upon the creation of the Bundesliga in 1963, they were included; albeit controversially. They finished bottom, and spent the next 30 years bouncing between the divisions, before finally slipping into the fourth tier in 2006. But they will always have France, and Milan, and a curious chapter in the story of postwar football.





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)	P-P	N/A	11th
Tues 7th	SPC2	STREET (H)	2-2 (4-3W Pens)	298	N/A
Sat 11th	League	Hemel Hempstead Town (A)	1-0 L	491	13th
Tues 14th	League	Truro City (A)	P-P	-	15th
Tues 21st	FAT2	Welling United (A)	2-2 (8-7L Pens)	258	15th
Sat 25th	League	WORTHING (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 28th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	7:45pm	-	-

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
DECEMBER					
Sat 2nd	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 5th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Tue 12th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Tue 19th	League	TORQUAY UNITED (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	-	-





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.

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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 25 NOVEMBER 2023 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM



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:
SAMUEL READ

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
MARTIN UNDERHAY

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
WILLIAM PAYNE

MANAGER: ADAM HINSHELWOOD

- 1 ROCCO REES (GK)
○ 2 JOEL COLBRAN
○ 3 CAMERON TUTT
○ 4 KANE WILLS
○ 6 JOE RYE
○ 7 GREG LUER
○ 8 MICHAEL KLASS
○ 9 JAKE ROBINSON
○ 10 OLLIE PEARCE
○ 11 NICK WHEELER
○ 14 ODEI SORONDO
○ 16 JESSE STARKEY
○ 20 RICKY AGUIAR
○ 21 JOAN LUQUE
○ 22 BAILEY SMITH
○ 23 JOE FELIX
○ 25 JORDAN ADEYEMI
○ 28 DANNY CASHMAN
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