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CONTACT DETAILS

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THE GAFFER

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Somerset Campervan Co Stadium finally for this Vanarama National League South match against Torquay United. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us tonight from our visitors and also to the match officials.

A disappointing result on Saturday at Havant & Waterlooville, consistency is key to be successful in this league and having beaten Farnborough here the week before with a great performance, we were hopeful of repeating the feat, but it wasn't to be. With a busy festive period in front of us we will have to find some better, more consistent form.

Tonight things don't get any easier as we welcome second place Torquay United to Taunton, we then host ninth place Tonbridge Angels before back to back games against league leading Yeovil Town, so we will need you in the stands for the next few games to be in full voice and really get behind the boys in claret and blue.

Up The Peacocks!!

Rob

Rob Dray
Head of Football, Taunton Town FC



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On the 13th January 2024, your friendly **Stadium Announcer Nick Rickards** will be completing a skydive from 15,000 feet to raise money for the MS Society



Nick has been suffering with Multiple Sclerosis for 24 years and together we have raised thousands for this cause. We would like to raise money so that people suffering with this horrible condition can access funds to support them with the things they need to live a happy, healthy life.



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THE AWAY END



TORQUAY UNITED

The history of Torquay United begins with the merging of Ellacombe, Babbacombe and Torquay Town. The elevation of Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle to the Southern League at the end of World War I prompted the emergence of a new Torquay United in 1921.

We immediately joined the Western League and finished sixth in that first season. In 1925, we reached the first round proper of the FA Cup, only losing out to Reading after two replays.

Two years later, we were crowned champions of the Western League and the club successfully applied for full membership to the Football League. Our first game was a 1-1 draw with Exeter at Plainmoor, with the players now changed from the early light and dark blue ensemble to a black and white kit similar to the famous Newcastle United strip.

Now referred to as the Magpies, United's first ever league goal was a penalty from Herbert Turner, but that credible early draw was swiftly followed by a painful 9-1 defeat at Millwall. Our first league campaign ended with United finishing bottom of Division Three (South).

Fortunately, our re-election to the league was immediately confirmed and the 1930s was a decade of quiet consolidation, with the club never finishing higher than tenth place.

When the Football League resumed after World War II, United found a goalscoring hero in the form of Sammy Collins, who helped us finally break the top-ten duck in 1949. Collins would go on to become the club's record scorer with 219 goals from 379 games.

The famous Yellow and Blue shirts we all love today became a reality in the 1954-55 season and the new-look kit played its role in a fabulous run to

the fourth round of the FA Cup. After humbling the mighty Leeds United 4-0, a record 21,908 crammed into Plainmoor for a narrow loss to Huddersfield, and that remains our highest ever attendance.

The new era of manager Eric Webber saw United come within goal difference of winning promotion to Division Two for the first time ever but we were pipped by Alf Ramsay's Ipswich Town on the final day of the 1956-57 season.

A change to the league structure and abolition of the regionalised system placed United in the newly-formed Division Four and the date of April 27, 1960 would finally see the club win promotion from the bottom league.

Players like Don Mills and the Northcott brothers of Tommy and George were the heroes of the day and we survived our first season in Division Three before dropping down the following year.

The emergence of young goalscorer Robin Stubbs kept us near the top of Division Four and 1965 paired us with the mighty Tottenham Hotspur in the third round of the FA Cup. Just over 20,000 people witnessed a stunning 3-3 draw, courtesy of a brace from Stubbs. Although the replay at White Hart Lane was a heavy loss, the episode was a fitting end to 15 years of Webber management.

Frank O'Farrell swept in as his replacement and guided the Gulls back to Division Three in 1966 and we were only denied a place in Division Two by a poor finish to the 1967-68 season. We were eventually relegated back to Division Four in 1972 and it would be 19 years before the club graced the third tier again.

The 1970s was something of a non-event but Bruce Rioch's arrival as boss coincided with another run to the fourth round of the FA Cup, where we lost out in a 3-2 thriller with Sheffield Wednesday.

We then hit rock-bottom in 1985, finishing at the foot of Division Four for the first time in 57 years. That campaign of misery was immediately followed by another two disastrous seasons and we were extremely fortunate to earn re-election to the Football League.

The introduction of a relegation system to the Conference was obviously a concern in the 1986-87 season and we only escaped the drop by holding Crewe to a 2-2 draw on the final day, in a match that was held up by defender Jim McNichol being bitten by a police dog named Bryn. Paul Dobson would go on to equalise for the Gulls in the time subsequently added on.

Cyril Knowles assumed the helm for the following season and steered United to the newly-created play-offs, but we lost out to Swansea 5-4 on aggregate. Among those helping the Gulls to battle away at the right end of the table was teenage winger Lee Sharpe, who was sold to Manchester United at the end of the campaign.

The Sherpa Van Trophy became familiar to the Yellow Army when Dean Edwards scored twice over a two-legged semi-final against his hometown club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, and took United to Wembley, but Bolton were too strong in the Final.

A wonderful start to the 1990-91 season took us clear at the top before Christmas but a lull in form saw John Impey introduced as manager. A finish of seventh place booked a place in the play-offs and Burnley were defeated in the semi-final.

Wembley once again beckoned and Blackpool were the opposition. Edwards and Wes Saunders scored in a 2-2 draw and goalkeeper Gareth Howells would score in the penalty shoot-out before Dave Bamber missed for the Tangerines.

A managerial merry-go-round resulted in Neil Warnock briefly taking the reins to rescue the plummeting Gulls from a double relegation out of the Football League. Unfortunately, the pattern was set and United finished bottom in 1996, only escaping relegation because Conference Champions Stevenage Borough failed to meet League ground regulations.

The Kevin Hodges era briefly stabilised the club and we even flirted with promotion after a record-breaking run of eight straight wins but a late stutter thwarted automatic promotion. Another

play-off campaign beckoned but Colchester triumphed at Wembley to deny United.

Wes Saunders came in as boss and certainly boosted the financial coffers, selling star striker Rodney to Crewe for half-a-million. On the pitch, we just missed out on the play-offs in Saunders' second season but a dip in form led to Colin Lee taking over.

The struggle continued, however, and we eventually needed a desperate last-day win at Barnet to avoid relegation. Next into the hot-seat was Leroy Rosenior and he would guide a talented young side to promotion in a thrilling 2004-05 season.

Sadly, the return to English football's third tier was brief and a period of decline for the club resulted in a disastrous campaign that saw us relegated out of the Football League in 2007, the first time in 80 years we had been a Conference outfit.

A major revamp behind the scenes rescued the club from the brink of extinction and a new consortium containing lottery winner Paul Bristow helped to stabilise a financial crisis at Plainmoor.

On the pitch, the Gulls were left disappointed at Wembley again, this time losing the FA Trophy Final to Ebbsfleet. The pain was heightened by a play-off semi-final loss to bitter rivals Exeter City, but the following year was one to savour.

Former midfielder Paul Buckle was in charge and he steered the Gulls to the fourth round of the FA Cup and a play-off final win over Cambridge. The Yellows were back in the Football League and a season of consolidation was followed by two thrilling campaigns.

The final year under Paul Buckle ended with United reaching the League 2 play-off final at Old Trafford but Stevenage proved too strong. The 2011-12 season, the first under Martin Ling, the new manager brilliantly rebuilt his squad and only missed automatic promotion on the final day before losing to Cheltenham in the play-offs.

Sadly, Martin Ling fell ill midway through last season and Alan Knill took over on a temporary basis, steering the Gulls away from relegation on the final day of a traumatic campaign. The club then parted company with Ling and installed Knill as permanent boss.

The Alan Knill era proved unsuccessful and a poor start to his permanent tenure ended with the club sacking their manager in December 2014. Chris Hargreaves was appointed boss in the January but the mountain was too much to climb, and United suffered relegation to the Conference.

Manager Chris Hargreaves was placed on gardening leave and ex-Eastwood and Mansfield manager Paul Cox was put in charge of 1st team duties with a reduced playing budget for the coming season.

United started the season with a 1-0 win over Macclesfield but further wins were hard to come by and Cox resigned from his post in September 2015.

The Board of Directors appointed former player Kevin Nicholson to turn the season around and save the club from relegation.

At one point United were twelve points from safety but with the addition of some canny signings, Kevin Nicholson and his squad were able to avoid relegation from the National League. 'The Great Escape' was celebrated with a 2-0 win away to Bromley.

Just like the season before, Kevin Nicholson and his coaching team were able to turn the season around and stay in the National League.

The summer of 2016/17 was a season of change at the Club. Kevin Nicholson signed fourteen new players to revamp the playing squad.

After three defeats in the first four games, Kevin Nicholson and the Club parted ways. Assistant manager Robbie Herrera took the reins and led the team for the next six games picking up two points.

After an extensive search for a new management team, the Club appointed Bath City manager Gary Owers as Head Coach, and former Reading U23 coach Martin Kuhl as his Assistant on September 13th 2017.

Despite strengthening United's squad with a number of signings, Owers was unable to lift United out of the relegation places, and despite a brief upturn in results and performances, United's fate was sealed following a 1-1 draw away to Hartlepool, as the club was relegated to National League South.

United's board and management insisted that

their stay in the sixth tier would be a brief one, and Owers was immediately given the funds to put together a side capable of bouncing back at the first attempt.

Eleven new faces were named in the Gulls squad that opened up with a 0-0 draw against Chelmsford, and this was followed up with successive wins over Bath City and Hemel Hempstead. However, one win in the next six games, culminating in a 1-0 home defeat by Chippenham, signalled the departure of Owers, and within 24 hours, former Yeovil Town and Bristol City manager Gary Johnson was announced as his replacement.

There was surprise and delight in equal measure amongst United's fan base at the appointment, and Johnson's impact was immediate. Three wins and three draws preceded a record-breaking ten match winning streak, which lifted the club up from 14th into 1st place. What seemed like a season-long battle for top spot ensued, with United, aided by the goals of reinvigorated striker Jamie Reid, fighting it out with Woking for pole position on a weekly basis. As the season entered its final stages though, it was Johnson's men who held their nerve as Woking faltered. A late equaliser in the match between the two sides looked to be vital, and sure enough, a 2-0 victory over Eastbourne the following weekend secured the club's first championship title since 1927, and with it, promotion back to the National League at the first attempt.

Two years later, despite playing almost the entirety of the 2020/21 campaign behind closed doors, Johnson's men went agonisingly close to securing a return to the Football League with a 2nd-placed finish, before a memorable 4-2 Play-Off Semi-Final over Notts County at a raucous Plainmoor set the stage for a Promotion Final against Hartlepool United at Ashton Gate.

Once again, The Gulls' never-say-die spirit was on full display in front of a national TV audience, as goalkeeper Lucas Covolan's last-gasp header sealed a 1-1 draw, to send the match into extra time. Sadly, penalty kicks would eventually deny United of the victory many felt they deserved.

With the club now in better shape than it has been for many years on and off the field though, Torquay United's loyal band of supporters can finally look ahead to the future with optimism once again.



TWO TO WATCH



AARON JARVIS

24-year-old centre-forward Aaron Jarvis spent 2021/22 at League Two side Scunthorpe United.

With his goalscoring exploits for non-league Basingstoke Town prompting Luton Town to pay an undisclosed fee for the 6ft 2in striker back in 2017, Jarvis went on to represent The Hatters in both their League Two and League One promotion successes, as well as leading the line during loan spells as The Gulls' National League rivals Boreham Wood and Scottish Championship side Falkirk. After departing Kenilworth Road, another spell in English football's fifth tier for Sutton sealed a return to the Football League with Scunthorpe, with the striker spending the next two seasons at Glanford Park.



ASA HALL

Hall brings a wealth of experience to the squad having made over 300 first team appearances turning out for teams such as Luton Town, Oxford United, Shrewsbury Town, and Cheltenham Town. He was part of Gary Johnson's squad that earned the Robins a return to the Football League in 2016, prior to being reunited with his former manager again in 2018. Asa's calming presence, not to mention important goals, helped steer United towards the National League South summit last season, and he was recognised for his influential performances by being named in the 2018/19 National League South 'Team of the Season'. United's captain will now be hoping that history repeats itself once again as he leads his team once again in 2022/23.

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SCAN ME

THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **19**

WON **7**

DRAWN **7**

LOST **5**

+/- **+1**

POINTS **28**

LGE POS **16TH**

HOME POINTS% **71%**



22

13

1

8

+8

40

2ND

32%

PLAYED

WON

DRAWN

LOST

+/-

POINTS

LGE POS

AWAY POINTS%



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DAVE WEBSTER

View from the stands

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE 3 TAUNTON TOWN 0
Vanarama National League South



Where to start with this one!!!! The packed mini bus was full of joy and optimism of coming home with 3 points as we arrived in Hampshire, with not a negative vibe in the air. This was mainly down to the manner in which our team demolished Farnborough the previous Saturday.

But within the first 15 minutes, with H&W leading 1-0, all heads dropped, on and off the field. We were literally being taken apart with the precision of a scientist dissecting a frog in a laboratory. We were ripped apart in every department by a revamped club, that pushed title winners Ebbsfleet all the way last season.

The mystery of this first half was how in the name of Conway Twitty were we only losing by the solitary goal by half time? Because quite honestly, but for some good saves from Dan, and awful misses from the opposition, we could so easily have been 4-0 down by the interval. The reality was, that but for a 5 minute spell, Taunton Town were played off the pitch. There is an old saying of do not change a winning team. This line up was changed to all supporters present, bewilderment's!!

Our tactics were also changed massively in comparison to the previous Saturday, with the long, high ball back in favour. Which again baffled the fans, as H&W had 2 giants playing at numbers 5 and 6, who won just about everything in the air!!! Our only real efforts in the first half came from a Austen Booth header, which was easily caught by the keeper, and a Ross Stearn free kick that ended up on the roof of the net.

As we came out for the 2nd half, Taunton despite a chaotic first half were still in it. We

huffed and puffed but were getting nowhere. Warner in goal, was at last tested. First by Dylan and then by Zac, which resulted in top class saves. This was indeed our only real efforts of note on goal, in a very lacklustre display. Substitutions were made with Ross and Nat Jarvis taken off for Mal and Cam, and then Nick McCootie for Lloyd James, all to no avail. H&W were on fire and nothing was going to stop them from winning 3 on the bounce, as they went 2-0 up from a Grimes own goal, and then 3-0 up from a goal where our defence opened up like Moses dividing the Red Sea!!! Kai Innocent, who had been a thorn in our backsides all afternoon cut through our rear-guard like a knife through butter.

This was a very demoralised Taunton team, where issues off the field are clearly creating a negative response. In all the time on 20 years of following this club, there has never been a time where derision and division has been so evident as is clearly being shown at this current time, where rumours are rife. Not a happy club at all right now, many are sensing!!!

And so on to Tuesday. Its a tough one, but Taunton really do need to play out of their skins, to get this latest defeat out of our thoughts. Can we do this? Damned right we can. Up the Peacocks.



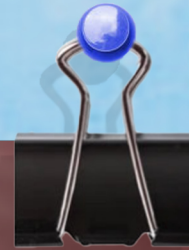
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And then there were three. Maybe six.

The FA Cup third round proper is fast approaching and Non-League will be represented by at least a trio of clubs — you wouldn't bet against it being more.

Maidstone United were the first to confirm their place last Saturday afternoon and it with the typical heartwarming FA Cup story of academy graduate turned hero with Bivesh Gurung's brilliant strike lighting up the Gallagher Stadium as the Stones beat League Two Barrow.

It's their first trip to third round stage of the competition since reforming in 1992 and manager George Elokobi was, almost, lost for words.

"Whatever my emotions that I've shown today are the emotions that stand with the whole of the Maidstone community."

The third round draw perhaps hasn't provided the big Premier League giant any Non-League club would be hoping for. But it has provided opportunity.

The National League South side will now host the winners of the replay between Stevenage and Port Vale, who will know a very tricky task lies ahead should they get through.

On Sunday afternoon it was the turn of

Eastleigh and Chesterfield.

The latter are threatening to run away with the National League title and they've shown what a good side they are by dumping out two League One sides in the last two rounds.

After the scalp of Portsmouth came the 1-0 upset of Leyton Orient. Paul Cook's side travel to Championship club Watford next.

There aren't many better inside National League boxes than Paul McCallum and the Eastleigh forward bagged two as Richard Hill's Spitfires beat Reading on live telly.

Like in so many dramatic upsets, the winner came deep in stoppage-time and gave the League One Royals — beset by problems off the pitch — no time to come back.

Their third round opposition is still TBC. Could we be set for a National League showdown? If Barnet, who scored a late equaliser at Newport County through Danny Collinge, click again in Tuesday's replay then they are going to cause problems for the League Two side. Bees v Spitfires would be huge in round three. We'll see.

As we will for National League North Alfreton Town. They had the

disappointment last Saturday of their live TV game with Walsall being postponed just minutes before kick-off because of a frozen pitch.

They tried again on Tuesday night and shared a 0-0 draw so it's back to the League Two outfit for the right to play Southampton away.

A trip to a Championship club is also on offer for Aldershot Town when they face Stockport County again following a 2-2 draw at home — Josh Stokes, a summer signing from AFC Sudbury, continued to show why he's one of Non-League's most talked about talents with two goals.

Three in round three has a nice ring to it. But we'd prefer six. Good luck everyone!



OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE 3 TAUNTON TOWN 0

16.12.2023 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 766

The Peacocks capitulated to a conclusive defeat against the National League South bottom markers who in turn made it three wins on the bounce. It is hard to remember a more disheartening afternoon in recent seasons, with such a deficient performance coming against the backdrop of more important off-field issues which need to be resolved.

The Taunton side showed one change from that which had dismantled Farnborough seven days earlier, with Nat Jarvis returning from suspension to replace Nick McCootie. My word, what a difference a week makes. As clinical and efficient as Town had been against Farnborough, they were as sloppy and lacklustre in equal measure against another Hampshire side who had escaped with a point in the earlier meeting between the sides at the Somerset Campervan Co Stadium thanks to a late missed penalty. The Hawks were on the front foot from the off and the Peacocks had no real answer. Harry Jewitt-White and Devante Stanley had already drilled strikes narrowly wide for Havant before they took the lead after six minutes. Another Jewitt-White shot was deflected for a corner from which Joe McNerney flicked a header against the post and fellow centre half Ben Morgan reacted to prod into the net.

This early setback failed to muster a meaningful response from the visitors as they struggled to create a chance of note. Dylan Morgan got a faint touch on a Jarvis cross, with Hawks' keeper Ross Worner claiming ahead of Ross Stearn while Austen Booth's header from a Lloyd James free kick was going wide anyway although Worner made sure by clutching it. The purposeful football was coming from the home side and after Ryan Seager had turned onto a Phillips' centre to see his effort held by Town shotstopper Dan Lavercombe, Havant missed a fine opportunity to double their lead on the quarter hour when Jake McCarthy's drive deflected to Phillips who had plenty to aim at but fired wide of the target from 10 yards.

The remainder of the half saw more of the same, with Havant dominant going forward. Lavercombe pulled off a fine stop to turn wide a strike from James Roberts before a Roberts' cross found McCarthy free, but he could only direct his header straight at the keeper. The Peacocks eventually won their first corner of the game on 41 minutes which resulted in an upward headed clearance falling for Morgan who aimed a header at goal but without enough power to beat Worner who caught comfortably. Stearn's free kick deflected off the wall to land on the roof

of the net, the last vestiges of action from a half in which Town had been distinctly second best.

There was to be no festive cheer for the travelling support after the break either. The Hawks carried on from where they had left off, Roberts seeing two shots blocked while Stearn suffered the same fate at the other end after Morgan had gotten in the way of his strike. Town's hopes plummeted akin to Santa falling down the chimney when the hosts broke away to add a second goal on the hour, Devante Stanley finding acres of room down the right to play in Phillips and his attempted cross to locate Seager was diverted into his own net by Nick Grimes. Town's continued inclination to launch long balls forward was being mopped up by twin centre halves McNerney and Morgan so in an effort to change fortunes, Cameron Evans and Malachi Linton replaced Stearn and Jarvis with 25 to go.

Worner at last was forced into extending himself when he got a touch to turn

Morgan's shot wide and with McCootie coming on for James with just over ten minutes remaining were there still some sprinklings of hope? Zac Smith found space to switch feet and test Worner from the edge of the box as he palmed away at the expense of a corner but the underlying malaise of this match was never far away from rearing its head and after Lavercombe had done brilliantly to deny Seager from close range following a Roberts cross, the three points were rubberstamped for the hosts five minutes from time. Whether it was sensational skill from Havant left back Kai Innocent or a Christmas gift from the Peacocks' backline is open to debate but whatever it was game over as the Hawks' player embarked on a run from midfield and danced past numerous yellow shirts to reach the box where he planted his finish beyond Lavercombe. The referee made Town fans endure five further minutes of added time before the relief of the final whistle. No further comment on a day to forget.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	22	14	5	3	42	26	+16	47
2	TORQUAY UNITED	22	13	1	8	41	33	+8	40
3	Hampton & Richmond	22	11	6	5	34	27	+7	39
4	Maidstone United	22	11	6	5	33	28	+5	39
5	Worthing	22	11	4	7	44	35	+9	37
6	Aveley	23	10	5	8	34	28	+6	35
7	Braintree Town	22	9	7	6	35	23	+12	34
8	Bath City	22	9	7	6	39	28	+11	34
9	Tonbridge Angels	23	9	6	8	35	30	+5	33
10	Chelmsford City	22	8	8	6	30	25	+5	32
11	Farnborough	23	7	9	7	39	40	-1	30
12	Weston-super-Mare	21	9	3	9	32	34	-2	30
13	Dartford	22	8	5	9	35	33	+2	29
14	Chippenham Town	22	7	8	7	32	32	0	29
15	St Albans City	22	9	2	11	32	37	-5	29
16	TAUNTON TOWN	19	7	7	5	25	24	+1	28
17	Hemel Hempstead Town	22	7	7	8	25	29	-4	28
18	Truro City	20	7	4	9	30	32	-2	25
19	Weymouth	22	5	9	8	24	32	-8	24
20	Slough Town	19	6	5	8	35	33	+2	23
21	Eastbourne Borough	23	6	5	12	29	41	-12	23
22	Welling United	22	4	8	10	28	42	-14	20
23	Havant & Waterlooville	23	4	3	16	28	51	-23	15
24	Dover Athletic	22	1	10	11	22	40	-18	13

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

TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

Tuesday 19th December 2023

7.45pm Slough Town v Hemel Hempstead Town

7.45pm Taunton Town v Torquay United

7.45pm Weston-super-Mare v Chippenham Town

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 23rd December 2023

3pm Aveley v Slough Town

3pm Bath City v Welling United

3pm Chelmsford City v Torquay United

3pm Dartford v St Albans City

3pm Eastbourne Borough v Yeovil Town

3pm Farnborough v Braintree Town

3pm Hampton & Richmond v Weston-super-Mare

3pm Hemel Hempstead Town v Worthing

3pm Maidstone United v Chippenham Town

3pm Taunton Town v Tonbridge Angels

3pm Truro City v Havant & Waterlooville

3pm Weymouth v Dover Athletic

Tuesday 26th December 2023

3pm Braintree Town v Chelmsford City

3pm Chippenham Town v Bath City

3pm Dover Athletic v Aveley

3pm Havant & Waterlooville v Farnborough

3pm Slough Town v Hampton & Richmond Borough

3pm St Albans City v Hemel Hempstead Town

1pm Tonbridge Angels v Maidstone United

3pm Torquay United v Truro City

1pm Welling United v Dartford

3pm Weston-super-Mare v Weymouth

3pm Worthing v Eastbourne Borough

3pm Yeovil Town v Taunton Town

WWW.THENATIONALLEAGUE.ORG.UK

NEXT UP AT HOME

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2023

KICK OFF - 3:00PM



**VANARAMA
NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**

TICKET PRICES

Adult: £14
(18-67 incl.)

Concession: £11
(State Pensioners & Students with ID)

Youth: £5
(13-18 years)

Junior: £2
(6-12 years)

Child: Free

(Under 6 with a full paying adult)



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Somerset FA has been supporting the Rainbow Laces Campaign for a number of years, to drive awareness and increase support for the LGBTQ+ communities within Somerset.

The campaign is in its 10 year this year, and to date, across the Country, over a million people have laced up to show their support to LGBTQ+ communities across the Country.

When we wear the rainbow laces, we commit to having honest conversations about the experiences of LGBTQ+ people in sport and fitness.

Football and Sport in general, is an important part of so many of our lives – it has the power to bring people together, and to improve our mental and physical health. But too many LGBTQ+ people still feel confronted with a choice between loving their sport and being their true selves.

Through this campaign, not only in Somerset, but across the Country we want to help start these conversations to ensure LGBTQ+ feel welcome in sport. We want to encourage people to speak up within their families, friends, teams and clubs because conversation matters, and every conversation helps identify new allies and people to help make football and sport a more inclusive place.

Somerset FA's vision is Football for Everyone, Everyone for Football and as a County FA we are committed to striving towards this across all aspects of the game, ensuring every person and community feels safe, welcome and supported to access the beautiful game.

For more information on the Rainbow Laces campaign, visit the Stonewall UK website: <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/rainbow-laces>

If you would like to support Somerset FA with their inclusion agenda and projects, please contact; rachael.lawler-edwards@somersetfa.com.



The Untold Game

Soviet Dominance in Europe

Sport...is war minus the shooting. Or so said George Orwell. The essayist had no great love of sport, or of football in general, but understood the tribal nature of the rivalries and how, despite FIFA's express directive, politics creeps into the game at every turn. So when the first European Championship was created in 1960, it is unsurprising that the Cold War loomed large in everybody's minds. UEFA, working across the iron curtain, wanted to unify Europe in football, but some of western Europe's giants pulled out in protest at the invitation of communist teams. Which left the way open for the worst result of all, by their reckoning; Soviet victory.

The inaugural European Championships - called the European Nations Cup - was very unlike the modern tournament. The opening rounds were played over two legs, home and away, rather than being concentrated in a single nation. 16 of UEFA's 33 members withdrew, including Italy, the 1954 World Champions West Germany and all four Home Nations, who were only just discovering the importance of the World Cup.

The Soviet team, boasting stars like Valentin Ivanov (who would share the Golden Boot at the 1962 World Cup), Igor Netto and of course Lev Yashin, kicked off their campaign in Moscow in September

1958, off the back of their first ever World Cup, against a waning Hungary side. In front of 100,000 fans, they saw off their opponents 3-1, the Hungarian goal coming from a player who hadn't even started his career when the Golden Team had reached the 1954 World Cup final. The return leg in Budapest, one day short of a whole year later, was a more sedate affair - just the 80,000 fans - and was settled by a single goal from Yuriy Voynov. This set up a tie against Spain.

The quarter finals were due to take place in December 1959 and March 1960, but Spain at the time were under the rule of fascist dictator General Franco, and competing with the communists as equals proved impossible for him. He withdrew his nation from the competition, making the Soviet Union the first team to ever qualify for the main tournament of the European Championships. They were joined by Czechoslovakia, who defeated Romania, Yugoslavia who saw off Portugal, and France, who came out on top of a pulsating, high-scoring affair against Austria.

France, the only western country to have made it to the semi-finals, were chosen as the hosts of the final tournament, to be held in the summer of 1960. France were drawn against a Czechoslovakia side containing the legendary Andrej Kvasnak,

but were undeterred. Ivanov opened the scoring just past the half hour, relishing the withdrawn role that the Soviet's adaptable WM formation allowed, him and doubled the lead ten minutes into the second half. Viktor Ponedelnik added a third, and with Yashin at his brilliant best, there was nothing their opponents could do to get back in the game.

Yugoslavia beat France in the other semi-final, avoiding the Cold War playing out on the football field, but that didn't mean that the final wasn't dripping with eastern European political tension. Tito and Stalin had ended the Second World War as firm allies, and the Communist International (Comintern), an organisation of eastern bloc countries, had based itself in Belgrade. But as early as 1948 the two leaders stopped seeing eye-to-eye. Yugoslavia were expelled from Comintern and set itself apart as an ostensibly less repressive regime, more receptive to western overtures. If George Orwell is right, and sport is just war without the shooting, then the final would be a fight for the soul of communism.

Yugoslavia started the brighter, testing Yashin throughout the first half while the Soviet team struggled to cope with the muddy pitch in Paris. They scored in the 43rd minute, but at half time everything changed. Legend has it that they wore studs for the

second half, but Netto definitely improved, beginning to dominate the midfield. Slava Metreveli scored right after half time, but the two sides cancelled each other out before entering a relatively new innovation; extra time.

The extra 30 minutes proved too much for Yugoslavia, who were not used to the added demands. The Soviet team, theoretically mostly soldiers, were fitter and started to dominate. It took until the second half of extra time, but Ponedelnik headed home on 113 minutes to secure the first ever European Championships for the Soviet Union.

The victory was tainted by the withdrawal of so many sides, but Real Madrid president Santiago Bernabeu was impressed. He made offers for five players, including Yashin, Netto and Ivanov, but all were refused. Political tensions at the time made it untenable for Soviet champions to cross the Iron Curtain. Not that it diminished their greatness in any way.

Enjoy the game.





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)	1-1 D	765	15th

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
DECEMBER					
Sat 2nd	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	A-A	N/A	15th
Tue 5th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	P-P	N/A	15th
Sat 9th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	4-0 W	680	14th
Tue 12th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	P-P	N/A	14th
Sat 16th	League	Havant & Waterlooville (A)	3-0 L	766	16th
Tue 19th	League	TORQUAY UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	TONBRIDGE ANGELS (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 26th	League	Yeovil Town (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sun 31st	League	YEOVIL TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
JANUARY					
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	-	-

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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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Over 90% of UCFB graduates find **full-time employment within 6 months** of graduating with **two thirds** of those working in football and sport



We have alumni working in each of the **20 Premier League** clubs and **49 of the 72 EFL** clubs



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

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM



HEAD OF FOOTBALL: ROB DRAY

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK) 1
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



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
LIAM CORBETT

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
MARK KING

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
CALLUM WALLER

PLAYER MANAGER: SCOTT DAVIES

1 MARK HALSTEAD (GK)
2 DYLAN CROWE
3 DAN MARTIN
4 TOM LAPSLIE
6 ROSS MARSHALL
7 RYAN HANSON
8 ASA HALL
9 AARON JARVIS
10 LEWIS COLLINS
11 BRAD ASH
14 BRETT MCGAVIN
15 FINLEY CRASKE
16 SHAUN DONNELLAN
17 DILLON DE SILVA
18 WILL JENKINSON-DAVIES
19 THEO WILLIAMS
21 DEAN MOXEY
22 RHYS LOVATT (GK)
23 OLLIE TOMLINSON
24 CALUM THOMAS
26 ARCHIE HARRIS
27 JACK STOBBS
28 KEVIN DAWSON
30 ETHON ARCHER



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