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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF TAUNTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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**TAUNTON TOWN V
DOVER ATHLETIC**

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM

**TAUNTON TOWN V
SLOUGH TOWN**

TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM





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CONTACT DETAILS

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Twitter: @TauntonTownFC

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Head Coach: Connor Sidley-Adams

Coach: Steve Phillips

Goalkeeping Coach: Lloyd Irish

Sports Therapist: Anthony Cornish ITMMIF

Sports Masseur: Paul Edwards

Analysts: Jordan Barrow, Adam White

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Social Media Manager: Max Fournier

Media Officer: Darren Harris

Club Photographers: Debbie Gould, Darren Harris

Videographer: Alex Anderson

Peacocks Radio: Rich Wilcox-Smith, Jon Reed



THE GAFFER

Welcome to the Somerset Campervan Co Stadium for our next two home fixtures as we host Dover Athletic and Slough Town. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us and also to the match officials for both matches.

It is a tough time right with players coming and going, but please be assured that we are doing all that we can to turn fortunes around both on and off the pitch.

It was great to see a bumper crowd in on Tuesday and hopefully we did enough on the night to welcome any newcomers back again for these two very important league games.

We would like to thank you for your continued unwavering support and I am sure the good times will be back again very soon, we have plenty of games in hand over those below us and we know what we have to do to get the right results to see us move away from the drop zone.

As always loud and proud for the boys in claret and blue!

Up The Peacocks!!

Rob

Rob Dray
Head of Football, Taunton Town FC

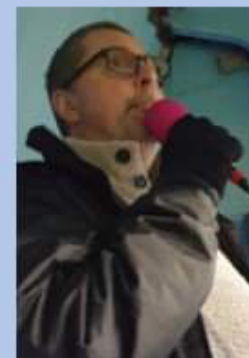


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Nick has been suffering with Multiple Sclerosis for 24 years and together we have raised thousands for this cause. We would like to raise money so that people suffering with this horrible condition can access funds to support them with the things they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



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THE AWAY END



DOVER ATHLETIC

The first football club in Dover played a few friendlies in the 1888-89 season - little is known about this club, however, as the Dover Express did not give much coverage to football. A second club was then formed in 1891. It was known as Dover Association Football Club, as there was already a Dover Football Club in existence - they are now known as the Rugby Club.

Various clubs have existed since then, all of which have been forced out of business due to financial problems. The most recent Dover Football Club was formed in 1934 as an amateur outfit, and it was re-formed in 1947 as a semi-professional club.

In 1946-47, the last season of the amateurs, the Dover side found itself rather out of its depth playing in the Kent League Division One. Despite the austerity of the immediate post-War years, it was decided to turn professional to try and compete on equal terms with the majority of clubs. Dover played in the Kent League until 1959, when the club was admitted to the Southern League. Playing in the First Division, we eventually won promotion in 1967. We then played in the Premier Division until relegation in 1978.

Despite winning the First Division (South) title the following season, we were not promoted, and spent the next three seasons in the Southern Division. The last

seasons in the Southern Division. The last season of Dover F.C. was 1982-83, when we struggled in the Southern Division, with a very young and inexperienced side. This club existed until 1983, when it was forced to close by an Inland Revenue demand for unpaid tax. Dover Athletic was then born.

Dover Athletics' highest finish in the English football league system was in the 2015-16 season, in which the team finished in fifth place in the National League, the highest level of non-league football and the fifth level overall. The Whites have made 13 appearances in the final qualifying round of the FA Cup and have progressed to the first round proper three times. In the 2010-11 season, Dover reached the third round for the first time, defeating two Football League teams Gillingham and Aldershot Town in the first two rounds before losing to Huddersfield Town of League One. It was a feat they achieved a couple of seasons later when Premier League Crystal Palace visited Crabble in the third round of the FA Cup.

In the 1997-98 season the Whites reached the semi-finals of the FA Trophy but missed out on an appearance at Wembley, losing to Cheltenham Town. The largest number of points the team has accrued is 104 in the 2008-09 season, and the highest total number of goals scored in a season is 89,

scored in 40 matches in the 1985-86 season. The team's biggest ever win was an 8-0 defeat of East Preston in September 2009, and the heaviest defeat was by six goals when they lost 7-1 to Poole Town in April 1984 and 6-0 to Grimsby Town in October 2021.

The club were cruelly deducted points after failing to complete the 2020/21 season, following the return to action from Covid. The following season saw a 12 point deduction and a £40,000 fine, culminating in relegation from the National League at

the end of 2021/22.

The record appearance holder for Dover Athletic is Jason Bartlett, who played in 539 matches, and the all-time top goal scorer is Lennie Lee, with 160 goals. The club's record signing is Dave Leworthy, who joined the club from Farnborough Town in 1993 for £50,000, which at the time was the highest transfer fee ever paid between non-league clubs. The highest confirmed fee received by the club was also £50,000, paid by Brentford in 1997 for Ricky Reina.





TWO TO WATCH



GEORGE NIKAJ

George Nikaj came through the academy and had a successful loan spell at Ashford United last campaign. The young forward will be looking at adding goals to his game this season as the Whites use their new look squad. Scored a hat-trick after coming off the bench against Deal Town in a pre-season fixture.



JAMES DUNNE

Dunne started his career at Wimbledon's youth academy, before moving to Arsenal in 2004. He was loaned to Nottingham Forest in 2008. He joined Exeter City in July 2009 after his release from Arsenal, and went on to make over 100 appearances for the club over three seasons. In May 2012, Dunne joined League One club Stevenage. He was loaned to Scottish Premier League side St Johnstone in 2014, where he won the Scottish Cup.

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THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **23**

WON **7**

DRAWN **8**

LOST **8**

+/- **-6**

POINTS **29**

LGE POS **19TH**



26 PLAYED

2 WON

11 DRAWN

13 LOST

-20 +/-

17 POINTS

24TH LGE POS



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SCAN ME

THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM



V



HEAD OF FOOTBALL: ROB DRAY

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK) 1
ZAC BELL 2
NICK GRIMES 4
DAN BALL 5
AUSTEN BOOTH 6
OLLIE CHAMBERLAIN 7
LLOYD JAMES 8
NAT JARVIS 9
RABBY TABU MINZAMBA 12
ROSS STEARN 13
PHIL MENDONCA 15
ZAC SMITH 16
CAMERON EVANS 17
MARCUS DAY 18
CALLUM DOLMAN 19
LLOYD IRISH (GK) 21
MARLEY ROSE 22
LOUIE SLOUGH 23
EVANDER GRUBB 32



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
JOSH CROFTS

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
THOMAS GREEN

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
DANIEL SPYER

MANAGER: JAKE LEBERL

3 ROMAN CHARLES-COOK
4 PETER OJEMEN
6 JAMES DUNNE
9 ZIDAN SUTHERLAND
10 GEORGE NIKAJ
11 IFEANYI ALLEN
12 BAILEY AKEHURST
14 GEORGE WILKINSON
15 CHARLIE NAYLOR
16 JACOB MENSAH
17 ARCHIE HATCHER
18 HENRY YOUNG
19 MATTY HOLNESS
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DAVE WEBSTER

View from the stands

TAUNTON TOWN 0 YEOVIL TOWN 1
Vanarama National League South



We all knew from the Boxing Day encounter what Yeovil are made of. We knew they are a club with skill in abundance, and we knew that they would come at us from the whistle. Everything we knew proved to be correct.

No club in the division have conceded less goals, so we also knew that their rear-guard would be very difficult to breach. Rob had a plan, of playing a defensive game, and hoping that his players could catch Yeovil on the counter-attack, with the possibility of picking up either a corner, free kick or even a penalty. And by christ, for around an hour it worked.

It was a very even first half, with Taunton giving as good as they got, albeit with neither keeper really having to make a save of note. An hour before the kick off, Taunton fans were hit with the news that our outstanding defender Austen Booth had downed tools, and refused to play. The reason being that Torquay had made an offer for him, and so he was not psychologically up for the game.

Damn it, when it rains, it pours. Here was the Taunton man that scored his first and only goal for Taunton in the Boxing Day clash, refusing to play. But hey ho, the show goes on! There really could not have been many, if indeed any, that truly felt that Taunton would get anything from the game. Many fans were actually talking of our team getting played off the park!!!

The people of Taunton turned up in their droves, regardless of the sub-zero temperatures. It was a awesome turn out, 3001 to be exact. Own up, who was that one? We were loud, and we were up for it. The news of our 2 new signings of Zac Bell and Marley Rose, boosted confidence no end. Zac began the game, Rose was on the bench. I suddenly found myself on Bell watch, this lad is damned good, not putting a foot wrong all evening, his tackles, of which there were many, precise and fair.

For an hour, our heroic defence kept the Yeovil strike force at bay. Bell alongside Grimes, Ball, Chamberlain and Lloyd James fought like trojans. And then 5/10 minutes into the second half, Yeovil found the gap through the middle, a slick pass to Nouble, who from a

tricky angle hammered it home. Now Taunton had to attack if we were to salvage anything from this game. Marcus Day put in a run down the wing, his cross just failing to be met by Ross Stearn by a nanosecond, under pressure from the keeper, Ross's effort on goal went wide of the post.

We had numerous free kicks from relatively dangerous positions that amounted to nothing. Yeovil had a glorious chance to go 2 up, but for an outstanding save from Lavercombe who parried the effort onto the crossbar. But in all honesty, neither keeper was called into action that often. I do not recall Joe Day in the Yeovil goal having to make one serious save. This speaks volumes for both defences. Substitutions were made, with Jarvis, Rabby, [who it has to be said, played brilliantly tonight!] and Stearn, being replaced with Rose, Slough and Grubb.

We were to get one more attempt on goal before the final whistle was blown, when new lad Slough hit a diving header, that unfortunately went the wrong side of the post. And that was it, Taunton's 2nd home league defeat of the season. But i will say this, we should all be very proud of our team after this. Sometimes it was almost impossible to differentiate between which club was the full time club, and which was the part time club. Or to put it into more perspective, [If rumours are correct!] which was the club with a weekly wage bill of £36,000, and which club has a weekly wage bill of just £6,000.

And so onward to Saturday and the visit of bogey team Dover, who just happen to be bottom of the league. There is no way to dress this up, it just has to be a Taunton win. Not even a draw good enough! Taunton are currently sitting in 19th position, with only Weymouth, Eastbourne, Welling, Havant & Waterlooville and Dover below them.

All eyes and ears will be focused on these teams results. But one thing is for sure, we must have the 3 points in the bag come 5 o'clock Saturday. If we get just half of the attendance we had for Yeovil, it would be amazing. I do hope that many of those present, enjoyed what they saw and that it prompts them to return. TTFC need you. UTP.

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THE AWAY END



SLOUGH TOWN

The history of the club began in 1890 when three teams Swifts, Slough Albion and Young Men's Friendly Society formed a new club, Slough F.C., between them. The team initially played in the Southern Alliance alongside the likes of Tottenham Hotspur and Windsor & Eton before later moving on to the Great Western Suburban League. In 1921, it attempted to join the Isthmian League but lost out to Wycombe Wanderers in the voting. Instead Slough chose to join the Spartan League.

In 1936, the owners of the club's ground, The Godolphin Stadium, sold up to a greyhound racing consortium, which ordered the football club to vacate the stadium three years later. After being forced to groundshare with Maidenhead United for several years, the club agreed to a merge with Slough Centre F.C. to return to a ground in their home town. The new club took the name Slough United F.C.

After The Second World War Slough Utd was reluctant to rejoin the Spartan League and led a breakaway movement to form a new league, which became the Corinthian League. It was from this that the club derived its nickname of "The Rebels". Shortly after this the two clubs which had merged to form Slough United separated once again, with the former Slough F.C. continuing under the new

name of Slough Town F.C.

Slough Town won the Corinthian League in 1950–51 but in 1964 the league folded and Slough, along with many other former Corinthian clubs, joined an expanded Athenian League. The Rebels were champions of this league on three occasions, with the third win earning promotion to the Isthmian League in 1973. During the 1980s, they were league champions on two occasions, the second of which brought promotion to the Football Conference. Slough lasted four seasons at this level, were relegated back to the Isthmian League, bounced back at the first attempt, and then played three more seasons of Conference football. In 1998, the consortium which had bought the club out of receivership seven years earlier decided that they were not prepared to pay for ground improvements required to remain in the Conference, and so the club was demoted back to the Isthmian League despite having finished in 8th place.

Further relegation to the Isthmian League Division One followed in 2000–01 but the club regained its Premier Division status in 2003–04 and remained there until the end of the 2006–07 season, when they finished bottom and conceded over 120 goals. In the 2004–05 season, Slough knocked Walsall of Football League One out of the

FA Cup. Highlights of the game were shown on Match of the Day, though because of the team sharing the Stag Meadow ground at the time, the programme showed overhead shots of Windsor instead of Slough when introducing the rarely featured team. Slough transferred over to the Southern Football League Division One South & West for the 2007–08 season, where they finished 21st out of 22 teams. Although initially relegated (for the second year running), they were one of the teams given a provisional reprieve after Halifax Town went into administration.

In the season of 2004–05, Slough Town beat Walsall to reach the 2nd round of the FA Cup however they then lost to Yeading. Slough Town were also the Isthmian League Cup winners in 2004–05 after they beat Hampton & Richmond Borough 3–1 in the final with 2 goals from Ian Hodges and 1 from Josias Carbon to help them secure the win and the silverware.

Over the next two seasons, and now playing in the Southern Football League Division One Midlands, Slough's performance continued to improve. In the 2009–10 season, Slough Town finish 5th in the table, qualifying the team for the promotion play-off matches. Having beaten second-placed Hitchin Town 2–1 in the play-off semi-final, Slough lost 4–0 to Chesham United in the final, meaning they had to remain in the same division for the 2010–11 season. Once again they finished 5th in the 2010–11 season, but lost to Hitchin Town in the play-off semi-final 4–1.

Having come close to promotion to the Premier Division in the last few seasons, including two play-off final defeats, Slough parted company with manager

Steve Bateman following the 2012–13 season after four years at the helm, the last of which saw them miss out on the play-offs by a solitary point. The club looked to take a new direction in 2013–14 and appointed Neil Baker and Jon Underwood, the management duo who had taken league rivals Godalming Town to the play-offs in the previous season. With Godalming forced to relocate to the South & West Division following their failure to win the play-offs, the majority of their squad decided to follow Baker and Underwood to Slough. In their very first season, the new management team steered the club to promotion via the play-offs. Slough claimed a 3–0 victory at Rugby Town in the semi-final before winning the play-off final against Kettering Town in front of 2,331 at Kettering's home of Latimer Park on 5 May 2014. Slough trailed 0–2 at half-time before staging a second half comeback. Two goals from Johnnie Dyer brought the Rebels level before James McClurg scored the goal that ultimately returned Slough Town to the third tier of non-league football after several years away.

The 2017–18 season was one of their best for many years. In December, they reached the second round of the FA Cup against Rochdale at home. The game was televised by BT Sport and Slough lost 4–0. With records broken for points attained and goals scored they went on to finish 3rd in the league. Slough were in play off action again. After a home 3–1 win against Kettering Town, they played away to King's Lynn Town in the final. By virtue of an 89th-minute winner from Manny Williams, they won 2–1 and thus secured promotion to the National League South for the forthcoming season.



TWO TO WATCH



MATTHEW LENCH

Slough secured the signature of Matthew Lench from Southern League Premier Division side Hitchin Town in June 2017.

Now 31, 'Lenchy' can play in a variety of midfield positions and gives excellent attacking options. He is technically very good, works hard and has a real eye for goal. He spent four seasons with Hitchin and scored 16 goals in the 2016/17 season - including the Canaries' goal in the playoff final against Leamington.



NATHAN MINHAS

Nathan has proven to be a prolific goalscorer in the Southern League Premier South since joining the Beaconsfield Town in the summer of 2021, notching 25 league goals last season and 27 the season before.

Previously at Maidenhead United, he moved to Ascot United in 2018 where his performances earned him a move to Billericay Town in National League South before spells at Bracknell Town and Hampton & Richmond Borough.

WWW.SLOUGHTOWNFC.NET

THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **23**

WON **7**

DRAWN **8**

LOST **8**

+/- **-6**

POINTS **29**

LGE POS **19TH**



25 PLAYED

10 WON

6 DRAWN

9 LOST

+9 +/-

36 POINTS

13TH LGE POS

THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM



V



HEAD OF FOOTBALL: ROB DRAY

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK)	1
ZAC BELL	2
NICK GRIMES	4
DAN BALL	5
AUSTEN BOOTH	6
OLLIE CHAMBERLAIN	7
LLOYD JAMES	8
NAT JARVIS	9
RABBY TABU MINZAMBA	12
ROSS STEARN	13
PHIL MENDONCA	15
ZAC SMITH	16
CAMERON EVANS	17
MARCUS DAY	18
CALLUM DOLMAN	19
LLOYD IRISH (GK)	21
MARLEY ROSE	22
LOUIE SLOUGH	23
EVANDER GRUBB	32



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
CALLUM FISK

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
NATHANIEL WORMLEIGHTON

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
ADAM WILSON

PLAYER MANAGER: SCOTT DAVIES

1	DAN LINCOLN (GK)
2	JOSH JACKMAN
4	JOE DANDY
5	DAN BAYLISS
6	JEANMAL PROSPER
7	GARY ABISOGUN
8	MATTHEW LENCH
9	NATHAN MINHAS
10	JOHNNY GODDARD
11	DOMINIC HUTCHINSON
12	LEON CHAMBERS-PARILLON
14	SCOTT DAVIES
15	STEVEN BALA
16	TEMI EWEKA
17	TYRESE DYCE
18	MUNASHE SUNDIRE
19	MICKEL PLATT
23	DAVID OGBONNA
26	OLIVER SPICER
31	KIAN AUSTIN
32	HARRISON MARQUEZ
37	JOSH STRANKS
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From Yeovil Town setting a new National League South record to Bury FC doing the same in the North West Counties League, thousands ticked through the turnstiles over the festive period.

Non-League football has seen a real boom in crowds in recent seasons.

Whether it's the product of post-covid where many fans discovered their local club or the increasing turn-off from VAR-powered top level football, it's been heartening to see such good attendances.

And it was no different on Boxing Day and New Year's Day – as well as in between – this season.

Credit to the excellent @NonLeagueCrowd account on X for a full rundown of who pulled in the big numbers – definitely worth a follow if social media is your thing.

On Boxing Day in the National League, 7,909 were at Roots Hall as Southend United ushered in a new era.

Contracts were exchanged on the takeover led by Australian businessman Justin Rees just a few days earlier. But Barnet spoilt the party with a 2-0 win.

Aldershot Town welcomed their biggest crowd for 15 years for the local derby with

Woking.

The travelling Cards made up 902 of the 5,970 crowd for the tense 0-0 encounter.

Yeovil Town set a new National League South high again, the 6,301 for their win over Taunton Town surpassing the 6,289 for October's midweek derby with Weymouth.

The next highest at Step 2 came in the National League North where 4,468 watched on as Scunthorpe United beat Farsley Celtic 2-0.

St Albans City claimed their second highest National League South attendance for their 2-1 defeat to Hemel Hempstead – 3,589 packing into Clarence Park on December 26.

At Step 3, Macclesfield Town's crowd boo continued with 4,201 watching a 0-0 draw with Hyde United.

Ramsgate are flying in Isthmian Division One South East – they beat Herne Bay 3-1 in front of a 1,625 crowd.

That was only topped at Step 4 by Mossley, who had 1,765 through the gate for their 2-0 victory against Stalybridge Celtic.

Runcorn Linnets also broke the 1,000

barrier – 1,001 saw them claim three points by beating promotion rivals Prescot Cables 2-1.

Bury FC made their welcome return to Gigg Lane this season and the crowds have rocketed ever since. They had 4,833 behind them for a win over Prestwich Heys.

There was even a four-figure gate in Step 6 on Boxing Day at Retford where 1,247 saw Retford United run out 4-1 winners.

It was a similar theme as we welcomed 2024.

Chesterfield are flying high at the top of the National League and are off to Watford this weekend in the FA Cup third round.

They had 8,898 for a thrilling 3-2 win over Solihull Moors on January 1.

And the Woking v Aldershot return saw 5,321 pack into Kingfield – this time there were goals, and a red card, as the Shots won 3-1.

York City's win over Gateshead topped 5,000 too, and there were 4,516 people for Hereford's 1-1 draw against Gloucester City.

Chatham Town have been on the rise again in recent seasons. Their opening Isthmian Premier win of the year – a 2-1 victory over Dulwich Hamlet – was witness by 2,588.

It's great to see so many enjoying their Non-League football.



OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

TAUNTON TOWN 0 YEOVIL TOWN 1

9.1.2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 3,001

A goal early in the second half proved sufficient for the visitors to claim a quickfire League double over the Peacocks and in so doing stretch their lead at the top of the table to 13 points. This contest was far removed from the Boxing Day defeat though with the Glovers, despite enjoying the majority of possession, displaying little of their attacking swagger from then against a spirited Taunton side which frustrated them at every opportunity, resulting in a muted affair with goalmouth excitement in short supply.

The Peacocks' side showed two changes from the one that had been beaten at Slough three days earlier. New loan signing Zac Bell from Bristol City slotted in at right back and Marcus Day came back into the starting eleven, with Louie Slough on the bench and centre half Austen Booth having sadly withdrawn from the squad due to a transfer approach. Not unexpectedly, the visitors began the stronger, with skipper Matt Worthington's drive into the box getting flicked on and cleared ahead of the line by Bell and then Jordan Young's cutback finding Michael Smith whose effort was gathered by Town keeper Dan Lavercombe.

Young's free kick took a bounce and travelled through to Lavercombe as Yeovil

maintained their early grip before the hosts enjoyed their first real incursion, Bell's long throw defended with the ball finding its way to Lloyd James whose shot back into the mix was blocked. The Glovers were content to play a patient passing game as they probed for a route through, but the Town rearguard was restricting them to pot shots from distance, with Courtney Senior and Worthington both sending strikes comfortably wide of the target. The Peacocks rarely glimpsed the inner sanctum of the six yard box at the other end, with a James cross safely claimed by keeper Joe Day while Ross Stearn tried one too many step overs as he shaped for a shot inside the area and lost possession. First half complete and not too much going on to get the temperature of the 3000 crowd raised on a cold evening.

Ollie Chamberlain kicked off proceedings after the break with a promising run before Yeovil scored what proved to be the crucial goal five minutes in, Worthington seizing the ball in the centre circle to thread a pass through to Frank Nouble who cantered down the left. The striker still had work to do but confidently executed a fine finish from the left side of the box for his fourth goal in as many games. The Peacocks made their first change just past the hour when another

new loanee from Bristol City, Marley Rose, made his bow off the bench replacing Nat Jarvis but Yeovil still retained the initiative. Sonny Blu Lo-Everson made inroads into the danger zone but was denied by a fine challenge from Bell, with the follow-up from Smith blocked while Glovers' sub Rhys Murphy so nearly netted a spectacular second goal when he latched onto a ball forward to see his volley tipped away at full stretch by Lavercombe onto the crossbar.

Day who had put in a solid performance gave way to Slough, making his home debut, and then Evander Grubb took over from Stearn for the final stages when the home side created their best opening. That wasn't from James who delivered a free kick out for a throw from a decent position before a quick turn from Grubb

saw his effort blocked before an opportunity came and went when a deep cross from the impressive Bell, who was a worthy winner of the MOM award, connected with Slough at the far post. His diving header alas flew wide.

A final fling from Yeovil as the game entered seven minutes of stoppage time saw Lavercombe easily hold a Jake Hyde header following Worthington's free kick and that was that as they saw out time without any fuss. Although meriting the points, the visitors looked nothing out of the ordinary while the Peacocks can take some optimism from some individual performances on the night. However it's now only one point gleaned from the last five games which will hopefully be put right with two more home games in the coming week





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	26	18	5	3	50	27	+23	59
2	Hampton & Richmond	26	13	7	6	42	35	+7	46
3	Maidstone United	26	13	7	6	38	31	+7	46
4	Chelmsford City	26	12	8	6	41	27	+14	44
5	Worthing	26	13	4	9	53	40	+13	43
6	Bath City	27	11	8	8	46	33	+13	41
7	Aveley	27	12	5	10	40	34	+6	41
8	Torquay United	25	13	2	10	43	38	+5	41
9	Tonbridge Angels	27	10	8	9	40	36	+4	38
10	St Albans City	26	12	2	12	41	42	-1	38
11	Braintree Town	26	10	7	9	38	31	+7	37
12	Hemel Hempstead Town	27	10	7	10	34	37	-3	37
13	SLOUGH TOWN	25	10	6	9	48	39	+9	36
14	Farnborough	27	9	9	9	44	46	-2	36
15	Truro City	23	10	4	9	34	32	+2	34
16	Dartford	27	9	7	11	40	41	-1	34
17	Chippenham Town	26	8	9	9	36	37	-1	33
18	Weston-super-Mare	25	9	5	11	40	44	-4	32
19	TAUNTON TOWN	23	7	8	8	28	34	-6	29
20	Weymouth	26	6	11	9	32	40	-8	29
21	Eastbourne Borough	27	6	6	15	31	51	-20	24
22	Welling United	26	4	9	13	30	51	-21	21
23	Havant & Waterlooville	26	5	3	18	32	55	-23	18
24	DOVER ATHLETIC	26	2	11	13	26	46	-20	17

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

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Saturday 13th January 2024

3pm	Eastbourne Borough v St Albans City
3pm	Havant & Waterlooville v Maidstone United
3pm	Hemel Hempstead Town v Tonbridge Angels
3pm	Taunton Town v Dover Athletic
3pm	Truro City v Worthing
3pm	Weymouth v Slough Town

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday 16th January 2024

7.45pm	Braintree Town v Weymouth
7.45pm	Farnborough v Welling United
7.45pm	Hampton & Richmond Borough v St Albans City
7.45pm	Taunton Town v Slough Town
7.45pm	Truro City v Dartford

Saturday 20th January 2024

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

Monday 22nd January 2024

7.45pm	Chelmsford City v Welling United
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WWW.THENATIONALLEAGUE.ORG.UK

NEXT UP AT HOME

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2024
KICK OFF - 3:00PM

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NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

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It is selfie time again



The Untold Game

The dominance of Celtic and Rangers in Scotland has been a mainstay of the league since the very first days of its inception. The Glasgow giants have had a stranglehold on Scottish football for well over a century, sharing 108 titles between them, with Rangers just edging ahead of their rivals with 55 of them. The next nearest contender has just four championships. But there have been challengers from time to time, those determined to upset the established order in Scotland. At the beginning of the 1980s, two clubs came forward to challenge. One was Alex Ferguson's Aberdeen, and the other, Jim McLean's Dundee United.

McLean's playing career was limited only turning professional at the age of 27, and retiring early to join the coaching staff at Dundee, under manager John Prentice. When Prentice announced his resignation in 1971, McLean was the obvious choice to take over. But he had other ideas, taking a 200 yard stroll down to Dundee United to become their manager instead. It was a decision that would define both him and his side for a quarter of a century.

'Wee Jim' earned a reputation as a hard taskmaster, and respect for his high standards. Players wages were topped up by generous performance bonuses to encourage those standards. Given the time that would be denied modern

managers, he finally secured Dundee United's first ever silverware - the League Cup - in 1980. Ironically, he defeated Alex Ferguson and Aberdeen to win it.

A year later, McLean built on that success, winning a second League Cup, this time against near rivals Dundee, but his sights were on a greater prize. Players were given jobs cleaning and maintaining the stadium, at his request. But they were also given a team of psychologists and dieticians for peak performance. Both parts of the puzzle to prepare, he believed, for a title tilt.

As the 1982-83 season approached its climax, Dundee United were surprise challengers, along with Celtic and Aberdeen. When the Glasgow side beat Dundee United it looks as though McLean's side had blown it. But it spurred them on. They beat Celtic in a reverse fixture a few weeks later, and then put in three consecutive 4-0 victories. Going into the final day, they topped the league, with the other two snapping at their heels.

United struggled to get going in the first half, and expected a McLean roasting at half time. But it never came. Celtic were winning, Aberdeen were winning, and they were at risk of throwing away the title, but he gently reminded them of how good they were. And so it proved. Ralph

Milne, the mercurial winger, wriggled clear just inside the Dundee half and hit a glorious chip with his weaker foot from 30 yards, before Eamonn Bannon put away the rebound after his penalty was saved. A Dundee goal made it a nervy end, but as the whistle blew, Dundee United won their first and - to date - only league title. Even McLean, who never celebrated, had a little fist pump.

The following season, Aberdeen romped to the title, but The Terrors made waves in Europe. A 6-0 win against Hamrun Spartans of Malta was followed by the 4-0 defeat of Standard Liege, and then a win over Rapid Vienna. That set up a semi-final against Roma, under immense pressure to make a final they were hosting.

Dundee United won the first leg at Tannadice 2-0, to the consternation of the Italian press, who asked whether the Scottish side used performance-enhancing drugs. The second leg was a farce, with fans spending the night outside the Dundee United hotel with car horns blaring, and ultras in the ground attacking McLean's assistant Walter Smith. A controversial game saw two early Roma goals followed by a questionable penalty. The Scottish FA launched an enquiry, but it wasn't until years later that the corruption was uncovered, a £50,000 bung having been offered to the referee. It says something about how good Liverpool were at the time that even those tactics couldn't prevent defeat in the final.

Alex Ferguson left for Manchester United at the end of the following season, beginning the end of the New Firm, but McLean held on doggedly. He was offered the Newcastle job, and then the Rangers job, amongst a whole host of other, more lucrative opportunities, but turned them all down. Walter Smith left to be Graeme

Souness' assistant at Ibrox, and McLean brought through a new generation of players.

That generation had one more glorious season, running all the way to the UEFA Cup final, defeating Barcelona and Borussia Monchengladbach en route. They lost the final, against IFK Goteborg, and the team was broken up again. In the early 90s, McLean moved upstairs, and in 2000 retired, bringing a three decade relationship with the club to an end.

Alex Ferguson may have gone on to become more celebrated, but Jim McLean left his mark on Scottish football, in one glorious decade in Dundee.





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					
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 21st	League	Truro City (A)	2-2 (8-7L Pens)	-	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
Sat 9th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	4-0 W	680	14th
Sat 16th	League	Havant & Waterlooville (A)	3-0 L	766	16th
Sat 23rd	League	TONBRIDGE ANGELS (H)	2-2 D	768	17th
Tues 26th	League	Yeovil Town (A)	4-1 L	6,301	19th
JANUARY					
Sat 6th	League	Slough Town (A)	3-0 L	947	19th
Tue 9th	League	YEOVIL TOWN (H)	0-1 L	3,001	19th
Sat 13th	League	DOVER ATHLETIC (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 16th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
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	-	-
Tues 6th	League	Truro City (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 10th	League	St Albans City (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 17th	League	MAIDSTONE UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Tues 20th	League	CHIPPENHAM TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 24th	League	Dartford (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 27th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
MARCH					
Sat 2nd	League	TRURO CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 9th	League	Worthing (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Tues 12th	League	Torquay United (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 16th	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	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**



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



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