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**TAUNTON TOWN V  
MAIDSTONE UNITED**

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM

**TAUNTON TOWN V  
CHIPPENHAM TOWN**

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM





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## CONTACT DETAILS

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# THE GAFFER

Welcome to Wordsworth Drive for our next two home fixtures as we host Maidstone United and Chippenham Town. My welcome extends to the officials, management, players and supporters joining us and also to the match officials for both matches.

Firstly I would like to begin by congratulating George and his Maidstone team for their fantastic FA Cup run this season.

We came up against a very good St Albans side on Saturday and it was a huge learning curve for our young squad of players, which obviously wasn't helped with three of our more experienced players sidelined with injury. I cannot fault the players efforts in recent games, it certainly isn't through a lack of trying.

The games continue to come thick and fast for us and I am sure we will be patching up players wherever we possibly can to get them out on the pitch to give us the best possible chance to pick up any available points that we can in our quest to stay away from the relegation zone.

As I say each week, please do get right behind the boys in claret & blue.

Up The Peacocks!!

Rob Dray  
Head of Football, Taunton Town FC



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## THE AWAY END



## MAIDSTONE UNITED

Maidstone United Football Club was founded in 1897. Following the demise of the Football League side in 1992, the club was reborn as Maidstone Invicta and joined the Kent County League Division Four for the 1993/94 season. They won the title at the first attempt and also picked up the West Kent Challenge Shield and the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup.

Following a restructuring of the league, they were promoted to Division Two and won the title again as well as lifting the Kent Junior Cup. After three seasons in Division One, the Stones finally earned promotion to the Kent County League Premier Division with former player turned manager Jason Lillis at the helm. Lillis has a place in Stones' history as the only player to appear in Maidstone United's first and last games in the Football League.

In their second season in the Kent County League Premier Division – during which Maidstone United were awarded senior status – the Stones finished as runners-up to Bearsted and duly earned promotion.

The club returned to the Kent League for the 2001/2002 season and played their home games at Central Park in Sittingbourne. There were several highlights during the campaign, including their first ever match in the FA Vase in which the Stones defeated Hellenic League Carterton Town 4-1.

Maidstone became league champions on the last day of the season when they defeated Deal Town at the Charles Sports Ground. The following week the Stones completed the Kent

League and Cup double after defeating Whitstable Town 2-0 at Folkestone Invicta's Cheriton Road.

The highlight of the 2002/2003 season was the club's return to the FA Cup. With the added attraction of being chosen by the BBC for The Road To Cardiff, the Stones started their cup trail at Ramsgate and on the way defeated Tonbridge Angels and Newport (IoW) before losing to Boreham Wood in the Second Qualifying Round in front of a home crowd of 937.

In the league the club led the table for almost the entire season but following the late resignation of Faversham Town, the League Management Committee decided the title would be awarded to the club with the highest points earned per match average. The Stones lost the league title by 0.14 points! Silverware was forthcoming though, as the club won the Kent Senior Trophy for the first time with a 3-0 victory over Cray Wanderers at Chatham Town FC.

The Stones were crowned Kent League champions in 2006 for the second time and secured the league and cup double, with the title being won on the last day of the season with a resounding 4-1 win away to Sevenoaks Town. The Kent League Cup was also won again with a 4-1 hammering of VCD Athletic at Folkestone Invicta's Cheriton Road ground. Promotion to Ryman League Division One South was confirmed at the end of the season.

The Stones repeated their championship victory

for a second successive season when, yet again on the last day of the campaign, they travelled to Walton Casuals and secured the Ryman League Division One South title with a 2-1 win.

Following another promotion the club spent five years in the Ryman League Premier Division with little in the way of playing success. An eight-year groundshare agreement with Sittingbourne ended and for two seasons the Stones moved to The Homelands in Ashford.

The Chairman of 19 years, Paul Bowden-Brown, stepped down in October 2010 and with the club in dire financial straits Oliver Ash and Terry Casey took over as joint chairman and owners. The 2010/11 season ended in disappointment as the Stones were relegated for the first time in their history to Ryman League Division One South but off the field the exciting stadium plans were taking shape.

Construction work started during the 2011/12 season. Although the Stones missed out on the play-offs at the end of that campaign, the £2.6million Gallagher Stadium was completed and 2,226 watched first match between Maidstone and Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday 14 July.

The first season back in the county town ended in a massive celebration when the Stones won promotion to the Ryman Premier Division beating Faversham Town 3-0 in the play-off final.

At the end of the 2013/14 campaign Maidstone missed out on a play-off place by two points but silverware came in the form of the Robert Dyas League Cup.

The following season was one to remember; the Stones made it to the second round proper of the FA Cup, beating League Two Stevenage Town in a first round replay in front of BT Sport cameras and a capacity crowd. The season ended in style with the Ryman Premier Division title and with

it promotion to the Vanarama National League South.

During the 2015/16 season the club again qualified for the first round proper of the FA Cup where they narrowly lost 1-0 at home to League Two side Yeovil Town in front of a record-breaking crowd of 2,811. After finishing third in the league the Stones faced Ebbsfleet United in the Promotion Final at Stonebridge Road. The match finished 2-2 after extra time and Maidstone won the resulting penalty shoot-out 4-3 to win promotion to the Vanarama National League.

The first season back in non-league's top flight ended with a 14<sup>th</sup> place finish and a further expansion of the Gallagher Stadium. The opening of the Genco Stand in March 2017 saw capacity rise to 4,200 and just shy of that figure watched the fifth anniversary game against Crystal Palace that summer.

The Stones' three-year stay in the National League came to an end in April 2019 but a return to non-league's top flight was secured in May 2022 when the Stones were crowned National League South champions in front of a capacity crowd – capping what had been a fantastic season post-Covid. That stay was to last just one season, with the Stones now in their third stint in the South in 2023/24 campaign.







# TWO TO WATCH



**LAMAR REYNOLDS**

The talented attacker/winger signed for the Stones from Braintree Town. Known for his electrifying pace, technical prowess and exceptional ball control, he brings a wealth of experience to George Elokobi's team.



**LUCAS COVOLAN**

Formerly of Port Vale, he spent last season on loan at Chesterfield and put in a man-of-the-match performance against the Stones last September.

During his time at Vale Park, he made 21 appearances in League Two and was part of the Valiants' squad for their play-off final victory over Mansfield Town at Wembley Stadium.

His footballing career began in his native Brazil.

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# THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **29**

WON **7**

DRAWN **12**

LOST **10**

+/- **-14**

POINTS **33**

LGE POS **20<sup>TH</sup>**



**32** PLAYED

**15** WON

**9** DRAWN

**8** LOST

**+7** +/-

**54** POINTS

**4<sup>TH</sup>** LGE POS



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- 7 JACOB BERKELEY-AYGEPONG
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- 9 SOL WANJAU-SMITH
- 10 LAMAR REYNOLDS
- 12 HARLEY EARLE (GK)
- 14 HARRY KYPRIANOU
- 15 SAM BONE
- 16 LIAM SOLE
- 17 JEPHTE TANGA
- 18 BIVESH GURUNG
- 19 PERRI IANDOLO
- 20 CONOR KELLY
- MATT RUSH
- PAUL APPIAH
- MO FAAL
- MANNY DUKU
- RILEY COURT
- SAM SMITH

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK)	1	🟦
ZAC BELL	2	🟦
NICK GRIMES	4	🟦
DAN BALL	5	🟦
OLLIE CHAMBERLAIN	7	🟦
LLOYD JAMES	8	🟦
NAT JARVIS	9	🟦
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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	🟦

**REFEREE:**  
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## DAVE WEBSTER

### *View from the stands*

**ST ALBANS CITY 6 TAUNTON TOWN 0**  
**Vanarama National League South**



This was painful to watch, with every emotion in my body hurting. Never in all my years of following TTFC have I seen our club ripped apart, by a far superior club of the same level. Ebbsfleet was bad enough last season, witnessing us lose 5-0. But this game was far worse, given the age of the Taunton team participating.

Some fans have described it as embarrassing. I would not call it that at all. Expected maybe, but embarrassing? Certainly not! Our team gave it everything, they performed to the best of their ability, but were no match for the raging inferno of St Albans. There was no mercy, as they clinically dissected our beloved team second by second, minute by minute. The writing was on the wall, upon arrival at Clarence Park and hearing that 3 players that had began the midweek match verses Truro, had picked up injuries, and were absent today.

The plan to keep the score at 0-0 for as long as possible, was blown apart as early as the 4th minute, when striker extraordinaire Shaun Jeffers scored his first of three. We knew he was good, we knew he was dangerous, and so it was proven. Oh yes, Taunton had chances! Rabby had an effort cleared off the line! There was an handball, for which Taunton were denied a penalty, and Cam Evans forced keeper Johnson into a save with a deft header. But our best chance fell to young Marley Rose, who at last, was given a start. Marley got hold of a loose ball after intercepting a bad pass from a Saints defender. A more experienced player would have walloped the ball past the stricken keeper, but Marley took a touch too much, and ran into a wall. Chance gone! We also had free kicks awarded in our favour, which came to nothing. Going in 3-0 down at halftime, the travelling fans feared the worse. And so the worse, became reality!!!

All Taunton subs available were used, with Taunton fielding 8 players aged 22 or younger. We huffed and puffed, but the pressure from the Saints was relentless. Our best chance in the 2nd half fell to Evander Grubb, who from an acute angle, saw his effort well saved. Jeffers was to complete his hat-trick from the penalty spot. The rout continued with an og from Bell, and then a 6th goal, just minutes before the finish.

Everyone that loves this club were absolutely devastated, with many fans venting their frustrations. It got too much for me as I made my way to the tunnel to applaud our team leaving the field. This is as hard a game to write about, as it was to watch. The big question now, is how will the players react? It will be a real test of resolve, to see how our mainly young team pick themselves up verses Torquay on Tuesday. We, as supporters, must get right behind them. Torquay are not having a good time themselves right now, so the game has fallen at the right time for the Peacocks. I would hope that the tactics will be, to attack Torquay from the off, go for the jugular, and draw first blood. We will see!!!

It wasn't all doom and gloom for me personally, as I, and indeed many other Taunton fans grabbed "Selfies" with former Spurs legend, and former England boss Glenn Hoddle. What a nice fella he is!! He was at the game to watch his nephew George Hoddle. But even that could not ease the pain of this crushing defeat.

We must now put this game behind us, with full focus on maybe, just maybe, beating Torquay. Which truly is very doable. Win, lose or draw, let's all get behind our team. UTP

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## THE AWAY END



## CHIPPENHAM TOWN

Chippenham Town Football Club has been in existence since 1873.

After building a firm foundation for the modern game during the 1980s with many capital projects, the present structure was formed in 1996. A historic cup run saw the club appear in the last FA Vase game at the old Wembley Stadium in May 2000 and although the Bluebirds failed to lift the trophy in front of over 20,000 supporters, this acted as a springboard for both on and off field growth.

Season 2005/2006 saw a change of managers and almost a new team but despite this the Club had an unprecedented season reaching the first-round proper of the FA Cup for the first time since 1951. Although the replay with Worcester City was lost and a chance to entertain Huddersfield at home in the second round with TV rights guaranteed, the Bluebirds still attracted a capacity crowd of over 2,800 most of whom were home supporters. Once again, the side was in the top five of the League all year and only denied promotion to the Conference South by a last-minute goal in the play-off final.

Although the Club encountered a few hurdles in the 2006/2007 season, the next saw a very young side again reach the play-offs only to lose once more by the odd goal this time to Halesowen after the original tie was abandoned due to the wet conditions with the Bluebirds leading 3-2. In season 2009-2010, a superb end of season run (including a final day victory over champions Farnborough) saw the Bluebirds finish third. A 2-0 play off semi-final victory over Hednesford Town saw yet another final play-off, this time at Nuneaton. The Bluebirds took a 1-0 lead but the hosts equalised from a wrongly awarded corner. Extra time saw Nuneaton grab a 2-1 victory in front of over 3,000 fans. Thus, Chippenham Town had reached the play-offs four times in six seasons but had yet to win promotion to the then Conference South. In 2010-2011, the Bluebirds finished seventh whilst in 2011-2012, a

disappointing eleventh place was achieved.

The 2013-14 season began disappointingly with manager, Nathan Rudge, resigning after defeats in the first two games. Steve Winter took charge. However, as results did not improve, the Board decided to seek a new manager and, in November 2013, appointed Mark Collier with Tom Jones as his assistant. From then on, the team settled down with Mark making various changes but, after such a very difficult start, it was hard to pick up desperately needed points and the Bluebirds always hovered just above the relegation zone. Matters were made even worse when Rob Dean suffered a horrific knee injury at Hungerford Town towards the end of the season. Thankfully, the Club managed to retain its place in the Premier Division.

Season 2014-15 saw further rebuilding of the Bluebirds' squad and, later in the season, the return of past Club favourite, Charlie Griffin, marking his third spell with the Club. A series of player injuries affected league position in the first half of the season but a better second half meant an eventual eleventh place finish, a considerable improvement on the previous two seasons when relegation threatened.

Season 2015-2016 saw another improvement with League Two side Newport County's skipper Andy Sandell joining the Bluebirds in close season. Sandell went on to become the Southern Premier Division's golden boot winner and was joined up front mid-season by the returning Alan Griffin. The Bluebirds recorded an early morale boosting victory at eventual champions Poole Town and their good form continued into the New Year heading the table. The Bluebirds also reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA cup where they went out 0-2 at home to Maidstone United who went on to win promotion from Conference South. However, a very poor March where they only picked up three points from six games saw them fade away to eighth place, albeit another improvement on

the previous season.

The 2016-2017 season saw most of the previous year's squad retained and manager Mark Collier and his assistant Tom Jones spent a very busy close season adding some impressive additions with the aim of finishing in a play-off position. A superb run of twenty-three unbeaten games from November to Easter saw the Bluebirds crowned champions on Good Friday without kicking a ball as rivals Leamington failed to win at Biggleswade. The following day, Easter Saturday, saw 1146 fans celebrate promotion to National League (South) after sixteen seasons in the Southern League, fifteen in the Premier Division. Sandell was the Southern Premier Division's golden boot winner for the second successive season.

Season 2017-2018, the first in the National League South, was about consolidation as the side adjusted to a markedly different pace and quality of football. Changes in the management team also ensued and having hovered around the lower positions for some weeks, a late run of form meant the Bluebirds finished their first season in a creditable thirteenth place. In the Wilts County FA Senior Cup, performances ensured an appearance in the final of the competition against Highworth Town. The game, played at the Swindon Town FC's County Ground, saw the Bluebirds lift a second piece of silverware in successive seasons, courtesy of a 3-0 win.

Season 2018-2019 was the Bluebirds second season in the National League South with consolidation and avoiding 'second season syndrome' the main aim. Things were not helped with injuries or unavailability to eight key players, several of them long term but despite that we again finished thirteenth in the League with one more point than our inaugural season. The biggest disappointment occurred in the FA Cup. Having held National League side Maidenhead United to a 1-1 fourth qualifying round draw, we lost the replay in Berkshire 1-0 after seeing two goals harshly ruled out for offside and being reduced to ten players. Hence, we also missed out on a lucrative televised home tie against high flying Portsmouth in the First Round Proper.

The 2019/2020 season saw our one hundredth season at the Thornbury Surfacing Ltd Stadium Hardenhuish Park, having first kicked off here on 20 September 1919 when we played Spencer Moulton, the game ending in a 2-2 draw with gate receipts of £10! Despite a good run to the First Round Proper in the 2019/20 Emirates FA Cup where a 3-0 home defeat against Northampton Town ended the Club's interest, ongoing League performance was worrying with the Bluebirds

hovering just above the relegation positions. It was decided a change of management was due and in early 2020, Mark Collier, who had managed the side for some six years, was replaced by Mike Cook and his team. This change injected a new impetus and after a shaky first couple of games under the new manager, the Bluebirds went on an unbeaten seven game run lifting them to twelfth place before the season prematurely ended on 16 March due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the last game of the season turning out to be a creditable single goal home draw against the eventual National League South champions, Wealdstone.

Season 2021/22 witnessed the return of a full league programme and culminated in the Club's highest ever place, finishing seventh in the National League South and clinching the final play-off place in the last game of the season. But before that happened, a change of management with a handful of games to go saw the departure of Mike Cook and his assistants. Ex-Bluebird, Gary Horgan, was invited to take over as manager and Matt Coupe was subsequently appointed his assistant. A tough run-in lay ahead with the Bluebirds having to play virtually all the sides in the play-off positions. To secure their own play-off finals place, they needed to win at Havant & Waterlooville while the home team needed a minimum of a draw. A 0-2 victory for the Bluebirds saw them justifiably steal seventh place to earn an away play-off Eliminator at Dartford. On a Thursday evening, a tight game with no score at ninety minutes and still goalless after extra time, went to penalties which the Bluebirds eventually won 2-3. No respite, though, as three days later they were back to Kent for the play-off Semi Final at Ebbsfleet Utd. Another heroic performance saw the goals once again remain stubbornly absent at ninety minutes and another extra time loomed. This time, however, the lottery of the penalties was avoided as Ebbsfleet, in the first half of extra time, scored the only goal of the game to earn themselves a place in the play-off Final. So, a hugely successful season for the Bluebirds was over but this was one for which they could be justifiably proud.







# TWO TO WATCH



**TYREKE JOHNSON**

A former Southampton Academy player, he made his first team debut for the Saints as a late substitute in a 3-2 Premier League win over Arsenal on 16 December 2018.

Tyreke signed for Gillingham in 2021 before making a move to Woking where he spent 2 seasons. He had loan spells at Dag & Red and also most recently with Chelmsford City in the National League South in the 2022/23 season when The Clarets reached the 2022/23 play-offs.



**TOM OWEN-EVANS**

Tom started his career with Newport County making over 50 appearances in the Football League. He then headed across the border to sign for Falkirk in 2018 before returning to England to sign for National League North side Hereford where he spent 3 seasons.

For the 2022/23 season Tom signed for Kidderminster Harriers playing a key part in their campaign which ended with Kiddy getting promoted via the play-offs.

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# THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **29**

WON **7**

DRAWN **12**

LOST **10**

+/- **-14**

POINTS **33**

LGE POS **20<sup>TH</sup>**



**32** PLAYED

**10** WON

**11** DRAWN

**11** LOST

**-2** +/-

**41** POINTS

**15<sup>TH</sup>** LGE POS

## THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM



V



HEAD OF FOOTBALL: ROB DRAY

DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK)	1	○
ZAC BELL	2	○
NICK GRIMES	4	○
DAN BALL	5	○
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	○



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PLAYER MANAGER: GARY HORGAN

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○ JOEL MANNING (GK)
○ ALEX AVENELL (GK)
○ EDDIE JONES
○ SAM HEAL
○ LEIGHTON TUODOLO
○ AARON AMADI-HOLLOWAY
○ FREDDIE GRANT
○ LUKE HAINES
○ NATHANIEL WILLIAMS
○ DAN ELLISON
○ WILL KING
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○ JAKE EVANS
○ ALEX BRAY
○ LUKE SPOKES
○ TOM OWEN-EVANS
○ TYREKE JOHNSON
○ MAL NICHOLLS
○ MARCEL LEWIS
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# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

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It's fifth round weekend in both the Isuzu FA Trophy and FA Vase and those Wembley dreams are drawing ever closer to reality.

In the FA Trophy, five former winners remain, the most recent being Bromley, the 2021-22 winners. They take on National League South side Aveley, who will equal their best ever run in the competition with victory.

Kidderminster Harriers are enjoying a revival under new manager Phil Brown and they be looking to take the Trophy back to Aggborough for the first time since they beat Burton Albion after a replay at The Hawthorns in 1987. They take on National League North side Peterborough Sports, managed by their former striker Michael Gash.

Sports' league rivals Bishop's Stortford won the FA Trophy in 1980-81 and they face a Coalville Town side enjoying a club record run in the competition.

Arguably, the tie of the round sees Wealdstone, victors in 1984-85, take on local rivals Hendon in a crunch north-west London derby.

Hendon are three-times FA Amateur Cup winners in the FA Trophy's former guise, but have never lifted the silverware as we know it today.

Talking of guises, Macclesfield FC are competing in only their second ever FA Trophy since re-forming, but have twice previously enjoyed success in the competition/ The Silkmen won the first ever FA Trophy, against Telford United, in 1969-70 and then again in 1995-96 when they beat Northwich Victoria.

They make the trip to National League South high-fliers Hampton & Richmond Borough, who are already on a best ever run.

Gateshead missed out at the final hurdle to FC Halifax Town in last year's Wembley showdown, but they will be looking to go one better when they make the trip to Hereford FC, finalists themselves as recently as 2020-21.

Barnet were finalists in only the third ever FA Trophy final, going down to Stafford Rangers, and they will be looking to finally add the FA Trophy to their list of honours, starting with victory over two-time quarter-finalists Welling United, while 1995-96 semi-finalists Chorley host quarter-finalists of two years ago, Solihull Moors, in the final tie.

Clubs in the last 16 in the FA Vase have progressed through six rounds to get this far with the road to Wembley getting underway on August 26, 2023.

With holders Ascot United moving up to the Isthmian League and Newport Pagnell Town, finalists for the past two seasons, having crashed out to Fakenham Town in the second round, two new teams will proudly walk out onto the hallowed turf on Saturday May 11.

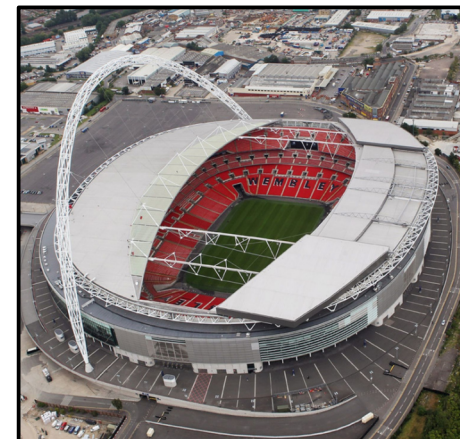
Indeed, every one of the eight fifth round ties this afternoon involves at least one club for whom victory would mean a record run for the club in the competition. That includes Emley AFC, who claim to be a continuation of the original Emley club, so their tie against 1980-81 winners Whickham may be the exception.

Whickham - one of two former Vase winners left in this year's competition - will be looking to avenge a 2-0 defeat by the original Emley club in the fourth round 27 years ago.

The other club to have lifted the Vase still standing is Southern Counties East League side Deal Town, winners of the Vase in 1999-2000. They travel to Bridgwater United, who themselves have equalled their best Vase run for the second successive season.

Jersey Bulls are also equalling their best run in the Vase this season, set just last year, and they host Falmouth Town for whom victory would mean equalling their club best Vase run. Jersey Bulls are one of three Combined Counties clubs still involved in this season's competition, the highest representation of any of the Step 5 leagues.

Another club also equalling their best run in the Vase this season is Great Wakering Rovers, although it is 22 years since the club last made it this far. However, the Essex Senior League side has only had four Vase campaigns in that time. They



travel to Highworth Town, semi-finalists in 2014-15.

The Worcestershire derby between Stourport Swifts and Worcester City will result in one of those two clubs setting a new personal best run in the competition. This is also the case for Tilbury v North Greenford United, both already on club record-breaking Vase runs.

A third tie will also result in a club record Vase run as Hilltop FC host Romford. Hilltop had only ever gone as far as the first round in the past and have the least Vase experienced of the final 16.

The last of the eight ties is the only one that has happened before in the competition as Hallam FC host Lincoln United 34 years after the visitors won 2-1 in an extra preliminary round replay. A repeat win for Lincoln United would equal their best Vase run, whilst Hallam are already matching their best Vase run this season, last set 43 years ago.

Let the Road to Wembley commence.

Facts courtesy of @FAVaseFactfile



## OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

# ST ALBANS CITY 6 TAUNTON TOWN 0

10.2.2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 1,663

My pre-match premonition of a 6-0 drubbing was brutally enacted for real at Clarence Park as City swept aside the Peacocks with a confidence befitting a team on a run of one defeat in eleven. To be honest had Taunton fielded the same side that had snatched a late winner to beat the Saints in the earlier fixture in August then they would have faced a stiff task but with the well-documented personnel changes since then the current Town side were no match on the day.

As if the current flimsiness of the squad wasn't of enough concern, Town were without Ollie Chamberlain, recovering from the effects of an X-rated tackle against Truro, and Zac Smith who was away while Nat Jarvis was named as a substitute despite carrying a knock. Down to the bare bones, the visitors made the worst possible start. Mitchell Weiss' pass came off the head of Cameron Evans and fell to City's leading scorer Shaun Jeffers who dinked his finish past Dan Lavercombe after just four minutes. Initial hopes that the goal wouldn't count with an assistant's flag being raised for offside were soon extinguished following a brief consultation.

The home side maintained their early dominance with Jack James getting on the end of Aidan Francis-Clarke's cross to

see his far post shot blocked before the Peacocks won their first corner following good work by Zac Bell. The flag kick came to nothing, and St Albans resumed their offensive, a slick move ending with Lavercombe claiming a driven James cross. The second goal duly arrived after 14 minutes, James again finding room on the right to centre for Jeffers to notch his second of the afternoon from close range.

Two behind inside the opening quarter hour, Town managed to partially stabilise and penetrate the hosts' area. An Evans' header on the run from Lloyd James' free kick proved an easy hold for City keeper Michael Johnson while some sloppy home defending allowed Ross Stearn to collect, round the Saints' keeper on the right and lay across for Rabby Tabu Minzamba whose effort hit a defender.

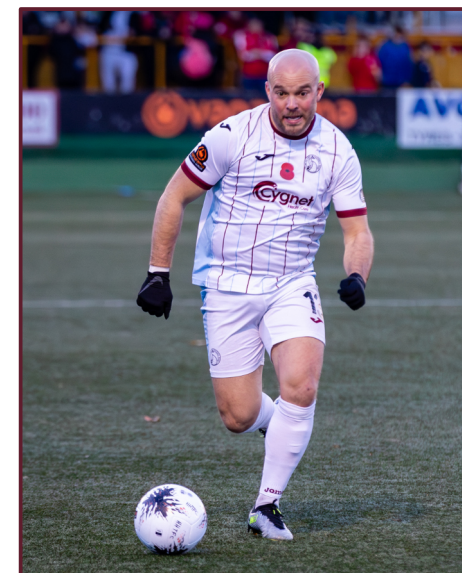
Those were in reality token gestures from Town who were playing second fiddle to a City team comfortable in possession and capable of upping a gear at short notice with some crisp passing dissecting the Town defence with only the final ball lacking, one such instance coming when Ben Smith found James out wide and his low cross was claimed by Lavercombe who then had to be quick off his line to foil the incoming Jeffers as he tried to reach Zane Banton's knock through. Conversely

whenever City had the odd lapse at the back the visitors were unable to take advantage. Marley Rose, making his first start for the Peacocks, picked up a poor pass from home defender Michael Clark and had a clear run at goal. However a heavy touch saw the ball overrun to Johnson and the opportunity had gone. To kick dirt in Town's eye, the hosts then added a third a minute before the break to kill the game. Giorgio Rasulo found it rather too easy to plough forward, moving the ball from right to left across the edge of the box to find Banton and his shot took a deflection to pick out the bottom corner of the net.

When the brow-beaten Peacocks emerged for the second half Marcus Day had replaced captain Nick Grimes who retired after tweaking his hamstring and for the opening quarter hour or so the contest almost became a training routine for the hosts who played it around without threatening. Town did manage to carve out an opening when Stearn got in behind, but Johnson was equal to his effort to block with his leg although an offside flag meant it wouldn't have counted anyway. City finally raised the tempo just before the hour when Jeffers' ball into Rasulo on the left side of the box saw the latter take a touch and see his angled drive touched over by Lavercombe. Weiss then fired over when he connected with a Jeffers cross before the hosts added a fourth on 69 minutes. George Hoddle, on a season-long loan from Cambridge United and second cousin of former England manager Glenn who was among the crowd, was brought down by Evans and despite Lavercombe's brave attempt to keep it out Jeffers' penalty had just about enough to find the corner and secure him his hat trick.

Evander Grubb replaced Stearn with just under twenty minutes to go and the new introduction soon had Town's only real chance of the half. Bell's cross was headed out for a corner from which Louie Slough flicked on to find Day and his pass put Grubb clear on the left but his attempt from the angle was blocked by Johnson at his near post. City substitute Ibbi Akanbi then conspired to add further misery for the Peacocks during the final minutes. After having a goal disallowed for offside, his cross from the left was diverted into his own goal by Town centre half Dan Ball with three minutes remaining and then fellow sub Jake Burger clipped a deft pass through for Akanbi who slotted home past Lavercombe to complete the half dozen a minute from full time.

A painful afternoon for the Peacocks then as their winless run extends to 11 games and it is hard to see the situation getting better until various off-field issues are resolved.





## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	31	21	6	4	61	33	+28	69
2	Worthing	32	18	5	9	72	48	+24	59
3	Chelmsford City	31	15	9	7	46	30	+16	54
<b>4</b>	<b>MAIDSTONE UNITED</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>54</b>
5	St Albans City	32	16	4	12	58	45	+13	52
6	Bath City	30	14	8	8	49	33	+16	50
7	Hampton & Richmond	30	14	8	8	45	39	+6	50
8	Braintree Town	30	13	8	9	45	33	+12	47
9	Slough Town	32	13	7	12	58	51	+7	46
10	Aveley	31	13	7	11	46	42	+4	46
11	Torquay United	31	14	3	14	52	54	-2	45
12	Tonbridge Angels	33	12	8	13	47	47	0	44
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	33	12	8	13	43	47	-4	44
14	Weymouth	31	10	11	10	42	44	-2	41
<b>15</b>	<b>CHIPPENHAM TOWN</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>41</b>
16	Farnborough	30	10	9	11	48	51	-3	39
17	Weston-super-Mare	30	11	6	13	46	50	-4	39
18	Truro City	27	10	5	12	37	40	-3	35
19	Dartford	31	9	7	15	41	46	-5	34
<b>20</b>	<b>TAUNTON TOWN</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>33</b>
21	Welling United	30	6	10	14	34	54	-20	28
22	Eastbourne Borough	31	7	6	18	35	57	-22	27
23	Havant & Waterlooville	31	7	3	21	38	64	-26	24
24	Dover Athletic	32	3	12	17	33	59	-26	21

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

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

- 7.45pm Bath City v Braintree Town
- 7.45pm Farnborough v Chelmsford City
- 7.45pm Hampton & Richmond v Havant & Waterlooville
- 7.45pm Taunton Town v Weston-super-Mare
- 7.45pm Truro City v Torquay United

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

- 3pm Chelmsford City v Aveley
- 3pm Chippenham Town v Weston-super-Mare
- 3pm Dartford v Worthing
- 3pm Dover Athletic v Maidstone United
- 3pm Farnborough v Yeovil Town
- 3pm Hemel Hempstead v Havant & Waterlooville
- 3pm Slough Town v Bath City
- 3pm St Albans City v Hampton & Richmond Borough
- 3pm Tonbridge Angels v Eastbourne Borough
- 7.45pm Truro City v Taunton Town
- 3pm Welling United v Braintree Town
- 3pm Weymouth v Torquay United

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- 7.45pm Aveley v Yeovil Town
- 7.45pm Chelmsford City v Worthing

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- 7.45pm Farnborough v Welling United
- 7.45pm Hampton & Richmond v Eastbourne Borough
- 7.45pm Maidstone United v Bath City
- 7.45pm Taunton Town v Slough Town

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# NEXT UP AT HOME

TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

KICK OFF - 7:45PM



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# The Untold Game

## Con Artist Career

Fans all across the world dream of a career in football. To make our living playing the game, enjoying the perks of the lifestyle and mixing with our heroes and idols. But most of us have never had the talent to get close to that dream. Filtered out of the system at school, or Sunday League, or if you were especially talented, in the lower ages of professional youth teams. The 0.01% that make it professionally have a talent most of us could never imagine, even if we hurl abuse at them on a Saturday afternoon. But for one man, the lack of ability was simply a detail, an obstacle to be overcome. 13 years, 12 transfers, and precisely zero appearances. Carlos Henrique Raposo coned his way into a footballing career.

Raposo, nicknamed Carlos Kaiser for his resemblance to Franz Beckenbauer, didn't start that career from scratch. Physically impressive, he had enough ability to join the academy at Botofogo, and then Flamengo. He was fit and athletic, which was enough to make up for his lack of technical ability. At the age of 16, in 1979, he was signed by Mexican side Puebla. But, months later, without having made the grade, they released him. He made his way back to Brazil with his tail between

his legs, footballing dreams in tatters.

Back in Rio de Janeiro, Raposo made use of his most impressive ability, his charm. 'Life', he would say, 'is marketing'. He schmoozed his way through Rio's nightlife, making friends in high places. Among them were the likes of Romario and Bebeto. And thus, the scam was born.

After ingratiating himself to some of the biggest stars in Brazilian football, he convinced them to add his name to any transfer negotiations. When a big club wanted to sign Romario, he would insist that his friend Carlos got a short deal. Most clubs saw three months as a risk-free option, but Raposo could pick up some wages. He always lacked fitness when the contract was signed, so would spend the three months mostly away from the first team, working on his fitness. When it came time for him to kick a ball, all of a sudden he'd writhe in agony and complain of a torn hamstring. Medical technology made it difficult to detect. That would buy him a few more months on the sideline, before he was finally released.

Botofogo, Flamengo, and Independiente were taken in over the first couple of years. Raposo's scam grew more elaborate as his name got around. He had

a doctor repeatedly make the case that he had a recurrent infection. As that ruse grew tired, he bought a toy mobile phone - the real thing was expensive and extravagant in the 1980s - and would have fake phone calls in broken English, knocking back big fictional offers from Europe, so that coaches and scouts could hear how in demand he was.

Registrations in Brazil were difficult to keep track of, so Raposo slipped through the cracks. Careers were built on word of mouth, and with his impressive array of references there was no shortage of suitors. The most audacious move came when he had the opportunity to actually move to Europe. Gazalec Ajaccio thought they had found a bargain when he was signed, and even arranged for him to be presented to the fans.

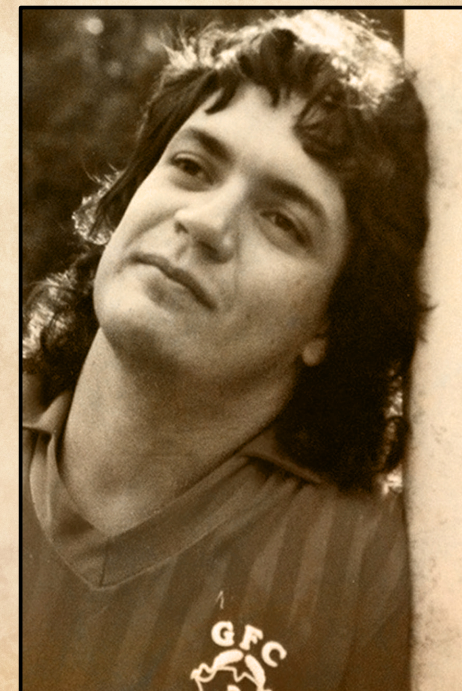
Faced with the prospect of being exposed whilst doing tricks in front of the supporters in the stand, Raposo instead decided to simply fire the balls into the crowd. When there were no more, the expected skill-based presentation became a fitness session, just as Raposo had hoped. When it came to game time, the mysterious injuries reappeared, and he didn't make an appearance for a year. He went back to Brazil and signed with Bangu.

At Bangu, the chairman grew tired of seeing him on the treatment table, and demanded he be played. With the side losing, he was sent to warm up, his fraud moments away from being exposed. But Raposo was ever an opportunist. He saw supporters abusing the players, and started a fight with them. He received a red card for his troubles, and a six-month

suspension. It should have been the end of his time at the club, but he professed a deep loyalty to the chairman who he claimed the fans were calling a thief, prompting his outburst. That ingratiated him to the board, and he was kept on through his suspension. When it was up, injuries led to his release.

As his 'career' wound down, Raposo moved between clubs more rapidly, including a short spell in the United States. His final move would be to Botofogo, where a coach spoke fluent English. He overheard Raposo on the phone and knew what he said was gibberish. The ruse was up, and Raposo retired into obscurity.

Carlos Henrique Raposo. 12 transfers, one red card, and zero appearances.







# 2023-24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
<b>AUGUST</b>					
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
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
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
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
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
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
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
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
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
<b>JANUARY</b>					
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)	1-1 D	847	20th
Tues 23rd	League	WEYMOUTH (H)	0-2 L	661	20th
Sat 27th	League	AVELEY (H)	2-2 D	766	20th
Tue 30th	SPC QF	BRIDGWATER TOWN (H)	1-1 (5-4W Pens)	579	N/A
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sat 3rd	League	Welling United (A)	0-0 D	484	20 <sup>th</sup>
Tues 6th	League	TRURO CITY (H)	0-0 D	489	20 <sup>th</sup>
Sat 10th	League	St Albans City (A)	0-6 L	1,663	20 <sup>th</sup>
Tues 20th	League	CHIPPENHAM TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 24th	League	Dartford (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 27th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sat 2nd	League	Truro City (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 5th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 9th	League	Worthing (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tues 12th	League	Torquay United (A)	7:45pm	-	-
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	-	-
<b>APRIL</b>					
Mon 1st	League	BATH CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 6th	League	Hampton & Richmond (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 9th	League	Braintree Town (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 13th	League	Farnborough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Sat 20th	League	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
TBA	League	TORQUAY UNITED (H)	TBA	-	-
TBA	League	MAIDSTONE UNITED (H)	TBA	-	-





## 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.

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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.

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- 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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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**



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