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**TAUNTON TOWN V  
CHIPPENHAM TOWN**

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM

**TAUNTON TOWN V  
CHELMSFORD CITY**

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024 | KICK-OFF 3:00PM



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## CONTACT DETAILS

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Mr J. Mayled, Mr P. Mayled, Mr R. Musker,  
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### FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

Head of Football: Rob Dray  
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Head Coach: Connor Sidley-Adams  
Coach: Steve Phillips  
Goalkeeping Coach: Lloyd Irish  
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# THE GAFFER

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

Following two excellent wins against Worthing and Torquay United respectively we came back down to earth with a 2-0 loss on Saturday at Eastbourne Borough and it wasn't great preparation as our journey took the best part of 6 hours. To be honest it reflected in our performance, we weren't the same team that performed in those two wins. We had a couple of glorious opportunities in the first half and if we take them, who knows what might have been.

More frustration last week with more rain meaning more postponements here, which then has a knock on effect of trying to squeeze them into an already tight schedule. Fingers crossed for some dry weather!

Still plenty of points to play for, keep the faith and as ever Peacocks, loud and proud for the boys in claret and blue.

*Rob*

Rob Dray

Head of Football, Taunton Town FC



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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 **34**

WON **9**

DRAWN **13**

LOST **12**

+/- **-13**

POINTS **40**

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

**38** PLAYED

**13** WON

**12** DRAWN

**13** LOST

**+1** +/-

**51** POINTS

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



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## THE TEAMS

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**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	○



### MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:**  
LEWIS SANDOE

**ASSISTANT REFEREE:**  
RYAN CORNELIUS

**ASSISTANT REFEREE:**  
AIDAN MADDEN

**PLAYER MANAGER:** GARY HORGAN

○ WILL HENRY (GK)
○ 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
○ CAINE BRADBURY
○ JAKE EVANS
○ ALEX BRAY
○ LUKE SPOKES
○ TOM OWEN-EVANS
○ TYREKE JOHNSON
○ MAL NICHOLLS
○ MARCEL LEWIS
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## THE AWAY END



## CHELMSFORD CITY

The original amateur Chelmsford club originated in the County town in 1878 and moved to their New Writtle Street ground in 1922, however, when that club folded after sixty years the present club was formed as a professional side in 1938. Immediately, they were admitted to the Southern League as one of five new sides that increased the membership to 23.

Under the leadership of Billy Walker, the team quickly made a mark and in that first season reached the fourth round of the FA Cup after knocking out both Darlington and Southampton before going out to Birmingham City at St Andrew's in front of 44,494 fans, but league form suffered and the Club finished in 10th place.

In the next phase of the Club's early life after reforming in 1938, Arthur Rowe would play a vital role following World War Two.

The outbreak of war meant that football was severely curtailed, however, in the Southern League's only wartime season in 1939/40, Chelmsford won the Eastern Section and drew the play-off with the Western Section winners Lovells Athletic. In that season, City also reached the final of the League Cup where they lost both legs to Worcester City.

The Club was quick to reform and under Arthur Rowe, who was later to rise to fame with Tottenham Hotspur, they won the championship in season 1945/46, pipping Hereford United to the title. City went on to complete a famous double by winning the League Cup and gaining revenge against Worcester City, thumping them 6-1 at New Writtle Street after a 3-3 away draw.

In 1955, the Club was forced to appeal to the public to raise the funds that were to keep the Clarets alive. Worcester City and the Club later met again in the 1960 final, when Chelmsford again ran out victors winning both legs by two goals to one. However, it was to be 30 years before they again lifted the trophy when Hythe Town were overcome 5-3 on aggregate in 1991.

In the FA Cup the early success was not repeated, but in 1967 Oxford United were defeated albeit by a lone goal at the third attempt after two 3-3 draws in the first round proper. After the Oxford victory, City were defeated at home in the second round by Colchester United in front of a crowd of well over 16,000 and in the 1970s they got to the proper rounds on several occasions, invariably going out to Football League opposition.

In 1972/73, City almost recreated the successful FA Cup run of the '30s. A series of home draws enabled the Clarets to dispose of Hillingdon Borough (2-0) and Telford United (5-0) before Ipswich Town were entertained at New Writtle Street. 15,557 spectators saw the tie which the visitors won by three goals to one.

The Southern League title did not return to New Writtle Street until 1968 but was then repeated four years later, however, there then followed a steady decline in City's fortunes and their first-ever relegation came in 1977 despite having a side that included a budding Nigel Spink in goal and a not-so-young Jimmy Greaves in attack.

There was not another appearance in the FA Cup proper until 1994, when City went out to Wycombe Wanderers (0-4), again reaching that stage in 1999/2000 before losing by the same scoreline at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park and later going out to Aldershot Town after a replay in 2006.

Off the field, the idea of using City's stadium for greyhound racing was soon diffused when the Council demanded alterations to be made to the ground to meet safety standards, costs which were far more than City would have earned in the long run. In 1974, a £500,000 re-development of New Writtle Street to include 8,500 square feet of offices was then rejected by Council planners.

The following year, plans to include squash courts at the ground were also thrown out as City were desperately seeking money to ease a financial crisis.

City reclaimed a place in the Premier Division as a consequence of the re-organisation which followed the formation of the Alliance (now the National League) and in 1986 they were almost elevated to join that elite group but finished as runners-up behind Welling United.

The '80s saw another cup run as City twice met Gillingham away, with the results being 6-1 and 2-0. Relegation returned in 1988 but the Club's stay in the Southern Division was short-lived and the Clarets were promoted back as champions a year later. In 1993, a supporters' group, led by Trevor Wright, stepped in to take over the Club at the last minute following the resignation of Dennis Wakeling due to a fruitless High Court battle that effectively left Chelmsford City without a future.

Subsequent life in the Premier Division became uncomfortable and after just avoiding the drop in four consecutive seasons, City finished bottom in 1997, despite remaining one of the best-supported sides both home and away. Since August 1997, the Club's history has taken further new twists but none so major as the loss of the famous old New Writtle Street ground, which was sold by the official receiver.

Help, in the form of ground-sharing arrangements, came from Chelmsford's neighbours Maldon Town and subsequently at Billericay Town – both 10 miles out of Chelmsford. In May 1998, City thought that they had achieved their immediate ambition of a return to the Premier Division when they finished 2nd to Weymouth. However, a seating technicality meant promotion was refused.

This was especially frustrating as hosts Billericay were promoted to the Premier Division of the adjacent Ryman League with no such problems. In April 2000, however, New Lodge finally received an 'A' grading from the Dr Marten's League that would allow promotion to the Premier Division. A constant push for a return to the Premier Division finally bore fruit in 2000/01 and Chelmsford then spent most of the next season consolidating in mid-table, until a late slump in form saw City finish one place above the drop zone.

A reversal of that end-of-season form the following year saw the Club finish a very respectable 9th, while a rare piece of silverware came City's way that March when they lifted the Essex Senior Cup for the first time in a decade after hammering Aveley by a 5-0 margin at Southend United's Roots Hall ground.

Paul Parker's departure as Manager at the end of that season led to his replacement by former player Steve Mosely, who endured some of the most difficult years of the club's exile, missing out on a place in the new Conference South set-up in a play-off final at Tiverton

Town. He was eventually succeeded by Craig Edwards as boss, who injected life back into the squad with his brand of hard-working players who had performed well for him at previous clubs.

Edwards was proud to lead the Clarets out in their first game back in Chelmsford at a reformed Melbourne Community Stadium where a capacity crowd on 2nd January 2006 saw the culmination of the club's toil to secure a home under the chairmanship of Paul Hopkins, a loyal Board of Directors, and with the assistance of the Council.

From that point, the Clarets have gone from strength to strength and consolidation in the top half of the Ryman League Premier Division during that campaign was followed by the arrival of former Canvey Island supremo Jeff King as Manager for the start of 2006/07. King brought a number of his talented players and backroom staff with him from Canvey, a club that had emerged from the Essex Senior League to establish itself at the top level of non-league football.

His side just missed out on promotion via the play-offs in his first season but the Ryman League championship was secured the second time around in comfortable fashion after overcoming a challenge from AFC Wimbledon. At this stage, Peter Webb had become the new Chairman at Melbourne and, despite racing to a commanding lead by the New Year in their first Blue Square South season, Chelmsford fell away and succumbed in the play-offs once more, this time to Hampton & Richmond Borough. They did, however, secure another Essex Senior Cup crown.

2009/10 saw the club take stock of its position, place an even higher value on youth and community work within the Borough and, with new Chairman Mansell Wallace and his Board were keen to progress and appointed Glenn Pennyfather in charge of first-team activities. Several flirtations with the play-offs proved exciting and frustrating in equal measure, but there have been plenty of positives from each campaign.

In November 2012, Colchester United were beaten 3-1 in an FA Cup first round tie, the first time the Club had beaten a Football League side since 1967. Although the Club lost at Crawley Town in the second round, it was the second season in a row that that particular round had been reached.







# TWO TO WATCH



**CHARLIE RUFF**

Charlie joins from Isthmian Premier side Hornchurch, who he joined from Potters Bar in October 2020. He had a successful spell at the Urchins, winning the FA Trophy in 2021, and then reaching the playoff final last season. He also played a significant impact in Hornchurch's FA Trophy final win v Hereford. After coming on as a substitute in the 59th minute, he scored the equalising goal from close range in the 75th minute and then he produced an outrageous piece of skill on the touchline to play a part in setting up Liam Nash's 86th minute go-ahead goal in an eventual 3-1 win.



**DAVE WINFIELD**

Experienced central defender who re-joined the Clarets in July 2021 after a previous spell between October and December 2019. Winfield started with hometown club Aldershot where he won promotion to the Football League in 2008 and then moved to Wycombe Wanderers in 2010 where he won promotion to League One in 2011. After spells at York, Shrewsbury, and Wimbledon in the Football League he joined Ebbsfleet United and led them to playoff victory from the National League South in 2017 including scoring the equalising goal against the Clarets in the Playoff Final.

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# THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED **34**

WON **9**

DRAWN **13**

LOST **12**

+/- **-13**

POINTS **40**

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



**40** PLAYED

**21** WON

**10** DRAWN

**9** LOST

**+27** +/-

**73** POINTS

**2<sup>ND</sup>** LGE POS

## THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | SATURDAY 23 MARCH 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



MATCH OFFICIALS

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PHILLIP EDDIE

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2 CAMERON JAMES  
3 BEN BROOKES  
4 ANTHONY WORDSWORTH  
5 DAVE WINFIELD  
7 JERMAINE FRANCIS  
8 LOUIS DUNNE  
9 GEORGE ALEXANDER  
10 SAMIR CARRUTHERS  
11 FINLEY BARBROOK  
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13 HENRY GRAY  
14 CALLUM JONES  
16 CHARLIE RUFF  
17 JAZZI BARNUM-BOBB  
18 ODY ALFA  
19 FREDDIE HOCKEY  
20 FINN WILKES  
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# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

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Postponements are tiresome. Late postponements even more so.

It doesn't take long to learn the tweet 'Game definitely on' doesn't always mean the game is definitely on.

And even when the match kicks off, it doesn't necessarily mean it will definitely finish.

This year feels particularly wet but we probably say the same most seasons.

Everyone shares the same frustration when the weather beats the football – especially for the fans who may have already set off on a long journey or even arrived at the ground.

Over at NLP HQ on a Saturday, chaos tends to fill the air as we put tentative plans together for redrawing the paper, only for a late call off to mean tearing up the idea to start again. Sometimes one game being postponed causes a domino effect you usually see for club allocations in the summer.

But it does allow me to stretch back into my chair and say, 'Did I ever tell you about the time I went to Albania?'

Rewind to October 2012 and England C were off on another adventure, The NLP fortunate enough to bag a seat on the

plane to cover Non-League's Three Lions breaking new ground.

The Tirana weather was....pretty good actually. In fact, the day before the game we even made the most of some downtime in the schedule to sit out on the hotel's sun deck overlooking the ocean. This was why I got into journalism!

The day of the match was good too. Players went through set-pieces in shorts and t-shirts and an anticipation slowly built through the day.

During the final meeting at the hotel before jumping on the bus, it started raining. Driving towards the stadium, the rain continued. And got heavier. And heavier. The puddles got larger. The streets started to become streams.

The first sign of concern was seeing the stadium's adjacent 3G pitch – trained on just hours earlier – with large puddles.

Inside the stadium, the running track began to look more like a moat. Word came up from the dressing rooms that they too were slowly filling with water, the cables for the TV stations like electric eels swimming around.

By now the game had been called off. Brian Lee, the late former Football Conference chairman, wondered if

anyone could find a sports hall to at least get some sort of action!

The car park was now a lake and it was time to man the lifeboats as players, still in full kit, waded to the coach – interrupted by a SUV driving up to the main door and sending a tidal wave of water back into foyer.

All that way for a game that never was. Some of the squad missed out in the future because of their age, never to be capped. If we hadn't travelled so far it would have been comical.

Funnily enough, England's senior game in Poland later that night was also rained off after the stadium roof wasn't closed in time. England 0-2 Weather.





## OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

# EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 2 TAUNTON TOWN 0

16.3.2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 1337

It was a case of after the Lord Mayor's Show for the Peacocks as they dipped to defeat on the East Sussex coast. The midweek win at Torquay and the proficient manner in which Town went about it had renewed confidence both on and off the pitch but frustratingly that level of performance was absent in this game, and it was the hosts who enhanced their own hopes of escaping the drop with a goal at the end of each half.

Making their second visit to Priory Lane this season after the first match was abandoned due to fog in December, the Town side showed one change from midweek, with club stalwart Lloyd Irish making his 388th appearance in goal due to Dan Lavercombe having sustained a hairline leg fracture against the Gulls. Trying to shake off the effects of a tortuous six hour coach journey, the Peacocks were first to show with a Lloyd James free kick which Nick Grimes flicked on but too far for Cameron Evans to connect at the back post. An open start to the game then provided Borough with a half-chance, Sam Beard breaking down the left to see his cross volleyed wide by Decarrey Sheriff.

Play continued to ebb and flow, with Irish claiming after Siya Ligendza had threatened to latch onto keeper Harrison

Foulkes' long kick while Grimes fired a free kick narrowly over at the other end, but clear openings were not forthcoming until midway through the half, with both sides seeing a chance within a minute of each other. Borough skipper Brad Barry got on the end of Alfie Bendle's corner to see his header just clutched by Irish on his line before the visitors had an even better opportunity. Zac Bell's cross deflected to Nat Jarvis who would have hoped to find the net but saw his first time effort strike the post and rebound off fellow striker Seb Bolton and over. Then came Eastbourne's turn to hit the woodwork, Beard finding Jack Clarke whose deflected shot from the edge of the area looped beyond Irish but thankfully off his right-hand post while teammate Ligendza was considerably further away with a strike which he blasted out of the arena.

The final stages of the half proved pivotal to the outcome of the contest. Another chance went begging for the Peacocks ten minutes before the break when a poor home pass gave Zac Smith daylight to break to find Chamberlain and his lay-off to the overlapping Marcus Day produced a low centre, locating Bolton who looked odds on to convert at the far post, only to see Foulkes react well to block on the line. Eastbourne substitute David Sesay then

tried his luck from distance to pick out the side netting, but Town failed to heed the warning and found themselves trailing after 42 minutes when Sesay found space on the left to curl an excellent finish beyond Irish and into the far corner.

The visitors produced one last thrust prior to the whistle, Bolton flicking on a Grimes' cross which reached Evans, but his header was easy pickings for Foulkes. That constituted Bolton's last contribution with Ross Stearn taking over when the sides resumed after the interval, with Town knowing they needed to sharpen up all round if they were to maintain their recent revival. Borough were the side though who began the brighter, Sesay nearly doubling their lead when Sheriff's cross found him unmarked at the far post but Irish got down well to hold the header.

Taunton enjoyed a spell without creating a chance, one short free kick routine promising more until Smith's cross was claimed by Foulkes at his near post before Town lost possession soon after, a Borough break culminating in Yahya Bamba bursting into the box but Irish did brilliantly to deny his attempt at goal. The second half was becoming difficult for Town who huffed and puffed without any clear product. Day's shot from the edge of the box deflected to Foulkes after the hosts had failed to clear their lines before the Town man was replaced by Jaden Brown, making his Peacocks debut, with 20 minutes to go.

The one meaningful effort from the Peacocks in the second half came nine minutes from time via Jarvis whose powerful strike appeared destined for the top corner until Foulkes palmed away at the expense of a corner. However, the

latter stages of the game belonged to the Sussex outfit. Well-travelled striker and new signing for Borough Matt Green backheeled wide from Sesay's cross before Bamba missed a sitter, somehow skewing wide of an open goal from Finn Ballard McBride's cross.

That might have proved costly during five minutes of added time but despite some intent towards the home goal the Peacocks were unable to carve out anything and Borough rubbed it in by adding a second goal three minutes into stoppage. Clarke's clearance found Bamba and he made amends for his earlier failure in some style, scorching away from halfway into the area where he slotted home past Irish to secure his side's seventh point from nine. Defeat for the Peacocks dropped them down to 20th and they will need to show much more in the final dozen games of the season to ensure they retain their National League membership.





## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	39	24	8	7	68	40	+28	80
<b>2</b>	<b>CHELMSFORD CITY</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>73</b>
3	Braintree Town	38	19	10	9	56	37	+19	67
4	Hampton & Richmond	37	19	9	9	57	45	+12	66
5	Worthing	39	20	5	14	82	63	+19	65
6	Maidstone United	38	18	10	10	55	46	+9	64
7	St Albans City	39	19	6	14	69	55	+14	63
8	Bath City	38	17	10	11	61	45	+16	61
9	Aveley	40	17	9	14	56	53	+3	60
10	Farnborough	39	15	12	12	63	61	+2	57
11	Slough Town	38	15	10	13	67	59	+8	55
12	Tonbridge Angels	40	14	10	16	59	57	+2	52
<b>13</b>	<b>CHIPPENHAM TOWN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>51</b>
14	Weston-super-Mare	36	14	6	16	52	58	-6	48
15	Weymouth	37	11	13	13	51	57	-6	46
16	Hemel Hempstead Town	39	12	8	19	46	60	-14	44
17	Welling United	38	10	13	15	50	64	-14	43
18	Torquay United (-10)	38	15	6	17	60	66	-6	41
19	Truro City	33	12	5	16	47	53	-6	41
<b>20</b>	<b>TAUNTON TOWN</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>40</b>
21	Dartford	38	10	8	20	48	61	-13	38
22	Eastbourne Borough	38	10	7	21	41	65	-24	37
23	Havant & Waterlooville	39	9	6	24	46	73	-27	33
24	Dover Athletic	39	3	14	22	36	67	-31	23

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

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

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

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

3pm	Worthing v Bath City
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### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

7.45pm	Taunton Town v Slough Town
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### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

7.45pm	Truro City v Dartford
7.45pm	Weston-super-Mare v Farnborough

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

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MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

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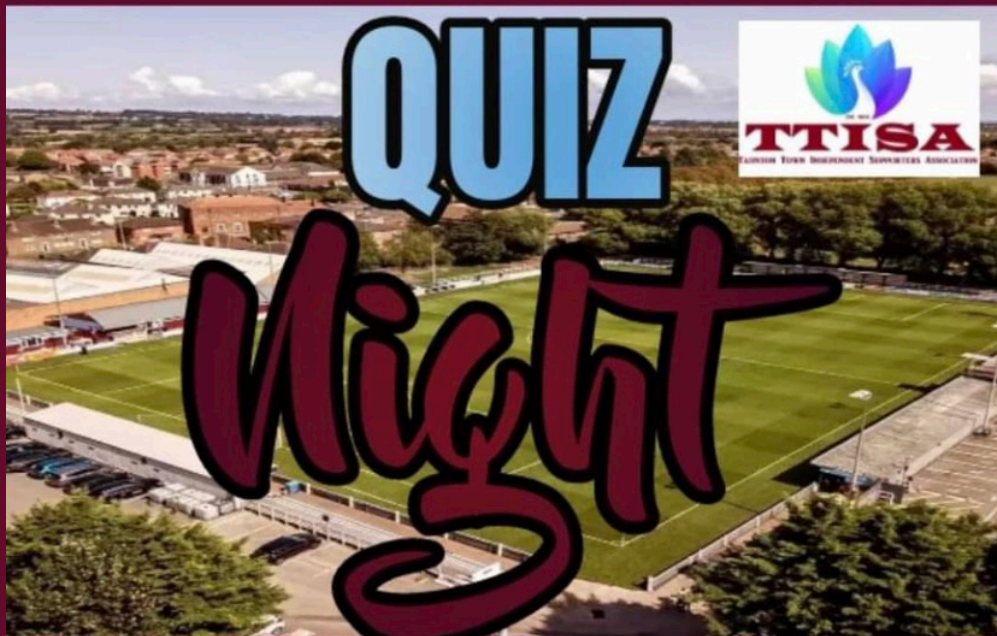
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# The Untold Game

## Superstars of the Subcontinent

One of football's great mysteries is the struggle of the subcontinent to make an impact on the global game. India now has the biggest population in the world, nearly 1.5 billion people, and yet the nation has been unable to find 11 individuals to get them to a level where they can even take part in a World Cup, let alone compete for one. Of course, football fights a losing battle for popularity with cricket in India, but perennial underachievement didn't have to be the expectation. There was a time when the future of Indian football looked bright, and they reached the summit of their continent's elite.

The Asian nation had shown promise in the previous decade, taking on France in an infamous barefooted performance at the 1948 Olympics and losing by a single goal. The appointment of Syed Abdul Rahim brought a focus on tactics rather than endurance. As the 1950s progressed, he adopted the successful Hungarian style that brought them so close to the World Cup in 1954, and saw his team grow in stature.

India reached the semi-finals of the 1960 Olympics with impressive victories against Hungary and France. But the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta were nearly missed altogether. The Indian government almost didn't provide the finances for the team to travel to Indonesia, and then, under

pressure from some countries, the Indonesian government refused to provide visas for Israeli and Taiwanese athletes. Guru Dutt Sondhi, the Indian member of the International Olympic Committee, suggested the games be renamed the Jakarta games, if not every nation in Asia were able to compete. There was uproar.

India's team arrived in Indonesia to jeers that would continue throughout the tournament. Players had to sit on the floor of the team bus to avoid missiles. The offices of the Indian High Commission were ransacked by baying mobs. Not the best preparation for a talented team.

And the team was talented. Peter Thangaraj had been voted the best goalkeeper in Asia just a few years before. Jarnail Singh was a powerful centre-back who had won international acclaim in the Olympics. Yusuf Khan was a beautifully versatile midfielder who gave the team whatever they needed. And Chuni Goswami, the best footballer India has ever produced, and a prolific inside-forward. He turned down a trial with Tottenham to stay at home, such was his talent. The omens were promising.

But the atmosphere was not. India wilted under the Indonesian pressure in their first game, against South Korea, who they had

never beaten. They slumped to a disappointing 2-0 defeat, with nobody doing themselves any credit. The only superstar who avoided criticism was Thangaraj; the goalkeeper was absent with 'flu.

The second match required a response, and after some harsh words from Rahim, India certainly provided it. Goswami opened the scoring in a 4-1 victory, but Jarnail Singh picked up a head injury toward the end of the match. India's confidence was up, though, and they cruised to a fairly comfortable 2-1 victory over Japan in their final group game, despite a late scare.

In the semi-finals, India would have to overcome a South Vietnam side who were quietly having a very good tournament, having scored 9 and conceded just 1 in the group stages. Rahim brought Jarnail Singh back into the team after missing out against Japan, but decided to reintroduce him as a striker.

India took the lead in the 12th minute, and ran riot in the first half, hitting the post before Jarnail Singh added a second just before half time. But South Vietnam were not overawed, and came out for the second half fighting. They reduced the deficit with a penalty, and then equalised just past the hour. India responded, and upped their attack again. On 75 minutes, Goswami scored a cheeky lob to reestablish their lead. It would turn out to be the winner.

In the final, India's opponents would be South Korea once again. The night before, unable to sleep, the squad went for a walk. They encountered Rahim, smoking in the darkness. With quiet calm, he asked them to win the gold for him.

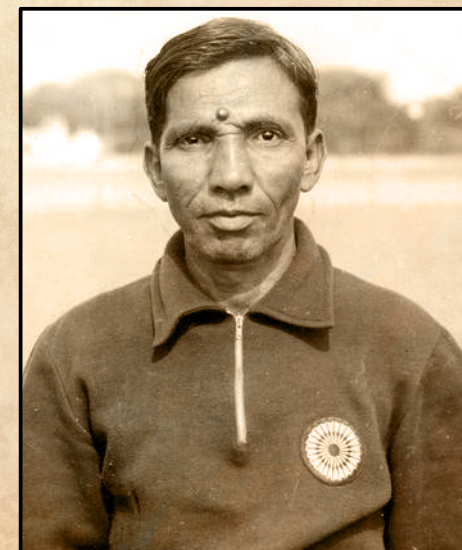
India flew out of the blocks, and on 17

minutes Goswami danced around a couple of defenders to set up PK Banejee for the lead. Three minutes later, Jarnail Singh - playing as a forward again - headed home a free kick. His move forward confounded the Koreans.

But India didn't extend their lead, and near the end of the game South Korea found a consolation. But the Indian defence held firm, and gave Rahim the gold he had wanted so desperately. As the players celebrated, and the disappointed crowd booed, they found their inspirational manager sitting quietly in the dressing room, crying with joy.

The country and the government were ecstatic, but that joy was short. Having achieved his gold, Rahim - a chain smoker - passed away from lung cancer the following year. His replacements, ever since, have focussed on the physical side of the game, to India's detriment.

As one of his players said, Rahim took Indian football with him to the grave.







# 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>
Sat 24th	League	Dartford (A)	1-1 D	1,018	20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sat 2nd	League	Truro City (A)	2-0 L	198	21 <sup>st</sup>
Sat 9th	League	Worthing (A)	1-3 W	1350	21 <sup>st</sup>
Tues 12th	League	Torquay United (A)	0-3 W	2238	18 <sup>th</sup>
Sat 16th	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	2-0 L	1337	20 <sup>th</sup>
Wed 20th	League	CHIPPENHAM TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 23rd	League	CHELMSFORD CITY (H)	3:00pm	-	-
Mon 25th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Fri 29th	League	Weston-Super-Mare (A)	3:00pm	-	-
<b>APRIL</b>					
Mon 1st	League				
Wed 3rd	League	MAIDSTONE UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 6th	League	Hampton & Richmond (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 9th	League	Braintree Town (A)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 13th	League	Farnborough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Wed 17th	League	TORQUAY UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 20th	League	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-
TBA	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (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.

1. All persons must comply with any directions given by a Steward, Club Official or Police Officer
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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.
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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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**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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