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THE GAFFER

Good evening everyone as we welcome Slough Town to Wordsworth Drive for tonight's Vanarama National League South game. My welcome extends to the fans and also the match officials.

I have lost count as to whether this is the fourth or fifth attempt at getting this fixture played this season. It is no secret how much rain has fallen in this part of the country which has really impacted on the playing surface, which I may add has been completely out of the hands of our ground staff. This has also impacted on the amount of games we are now having to play in a short space of time with a very thin squad, but one thing you can be sure of we will not give up until the final whistle of the last game of the season.

We picked up a good point at the weekend against play-off hopefuls Hampton & Richmond Borough, but as the games go by we need more than just draws if we are to remain in this division.

Another tough game tonight against a very good team.

Be loud and get behind the team tonight and be the 12th man.

As always, UP THE PEACOCKS!

Rob

Rob Dray

Head of Football, Taunton Town FC



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THE AWAY END



SLOUGH TOWN

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

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

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

name of Slough Town F.C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TWO TO WATCH



MATTHEW LENCH

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

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



NATHAN MINHAS

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

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

WWW.SLOUGHTOWNFC.NET

THIS SEASON AT A GLANCE



PLAYED	41	42	PLAYED
WON	9	15	WON
DRAWN	15	13	DRAWN
LOST	17	14	LOST
+/-	-22	+7	+/-
POINTS	42	58	POINTS
LGE POS	22ND	12TH	LGE POS

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OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

HAMPTON & RICHMOND I TAUNTON TOWN I

64.2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 752

A valuable point on the road stopped the rot for the Peacocks after a run of six successive defeats. The home side, aiming for victory to cement their place in the play-offs, were boosted by a goal inside the opening quarter hour as they bossed the majority of the first half before Town began to find their feet, Callum Dolman levelling with his first goal for the club seconds before the interval whistle, and then taking the game to their hosts after the break.

The visitors showed two changes from the one which had pushed another promotion chasing side in Maidstone close three days earlier, goalkeeper Dan Lavercombe returning after a spell out injured while Nat Jarvis replaced Seb Bolton up front. At least the rain was absent for a change, but the sides had to contend with another meteorological nuisance in the shape of a strong wind rattling down the Beveree Stadium pitch, but this didn't deter the Beavers from making a busy start.

There was an early glimpse for Town when a Lloyd James' cross deflected off a defender to keeper Adam Desbois as Ross Stearn eyed up an opportunity, however Hampton were showing they meant business as they pursued their first league win in five attempts. A Jordan Thomas cross fell loose for a shot which was

blocked, and Mason Bloomfield planted a header over the top before the deadlock was broken after 12 minutes, a diagonal ball in from the left by Isaac Pitblado being deftly flicked beyond Lavercombe at his near post by the head of former Exeter City striker Ben Seymour.

The Peacocks counted their blessings three minutes later when a flicked header gave Ruaridh Donaldson a gilt-edged chance to double the lead but with the whole target in front of him he blazed his shot over the bar. Seymour's low cross was then cleared to Dom Revan whose strike was fumbled wide for a corner by Lavercombe as Hampton continued to keep Town pegged back, with another opening coming and going when Revan's cross fell for Bloomfield who saw his effort blocked by Lavercombe and then from the rebound he hooked his shot wide. It is fair to say at this point the Town goal was living something of a charmed life.

Donaldson's cross dropped to no-one at the far post while Lavercombe clutched Gray's high centre as the Beavers maintained the pressure without crucially being able to find the net again and this cost them as Town at last began to ask some questions during the final stages of the half. Ollie Chamberlain's touch found Jarvis who evaded two defenders for a

sight of goal but dragged his shot out for a throw before a first corner was won, James delivering for Dan Ball to head wide.

George Hunt's challenge on Rabby Tabu Minzamba then put Ben Acey centre stage but his free kick from just outside the box struck the wall before the Peacocks snatched an equaliser two minutes into added time. A curling cross from James to the far post was retrieved by Minzamba and when the ball dropped for Dolman ten yards out he personified composure as he slotted a side-footed finish into the far corner much to the delight of the travelling support.

The second half consequently developed into far more of a level playing field for the Peacocks, whose renewed belief forced the hosts into defending for lengthy spells. An early James cross found Cameron Evans whose header at goal was punched clear by Desbois, the referee cutting the threat short after deeming a foul had occurred. Gray's corner at the opposite end was then cleared to Hunt who sent a half volley high over the top before James and Evans combined again, a free kick being won by Evans' header, but Chamberlain just failed to connect with the knockdown at the post.

Marcus Day replaced Acey ten minutes in and his presence proved the extra spur that Town needed as they tried to eke out an opening, however the Beavers remained a real threat on the break, Minzamba heading out Revan's cross for a corner following one such foray. Town were also getting plenty of ball into the box, the Hampton defence similarly dealing with it although not convincingly at times, Day diddling Thomas on the right and seeing his cross sliced by Pitblado to his keeper Desbois.

Both teams had opportunities during the final stages to grab the winner although the clearer openings went Hampton's way. A case in point came with 15 minutes left, a cross from the left reaching Donaldson alone at the far post but after controlling the ball he promptly blasted over the bar. Another offshoot from a cross fell for Sam Deadfield to fire over before a Town break saw Day's strike deflect off a defender for a corner from which the hosts broke the length of the pitch, Seymour delivering into the box resulting in an effort being blocked by Bell.

A goal of the season contender for Town was then thwarted when Day embarked on a brilliant run, jinking past a number of Beavers to reach the edge of the box but then seeing his strike either hit a defender or Jarvis (answers on a postcard). Stearn beat his man on the right but saw his attempted cross to Jarvis cut out for another corner before a late surge from the hosts during four minutes of added time was repelled by the Peacocks who were cut open for Seymour to see his shot blocked by Lavercombe. The visitors were in no mood to see their point snatched away though, with a last gasp shot from Chamberlain going wide to conclude the afternoon's entertainment. A fine result was tempered by the fact rivals elsewhere had secured victories, however the Peacocks' destiny is still in their own hands. Onwards to Braintree!



OLLIE
CHAMBERLAIN

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This week, 35 years ago, we were treated to the greatest ever April's Fools Day joke of all time.

It featured on the front cover of Shoot magazine and depicted Liverpool's top striker pictured in the blue of their big city rivals accompanied by the headline 'World exclusive: Rush signs for Everton'.

No PR teams involved and his fists clenched in sheer delight, Rush played along with the gag with a smile of his face. His team wore an Adidas kit, he wore Nike boots and yet he donned an Umbro shirt just for the fun of it.

Unsurprisingly, the red half of Merseyside went into meltdown, I mean, could you imagine Mo Salah slipping on an Everton shirt without so much of a fuss today?

While none will ever quite have the same impact as that Rushy's fake transfer in 1989, the new digital age has allowed football clubs to continue the Fool's Day tradition with a more tongue-in-cheek approach – and it usually makes for some pretty humorous reading come April 1st.

This year was no exception.

One of my favourites came from Northwich Victoria, who gave a light-hearted take of the fiercely unpopular decision to move the club into the Midland

League last summer by announcing they had been switched to the Southern Combination League for the 2024-25 season.

"While this decision has come as a shock to us, we are excited about the opportunity to get acquainted with all the service stations down the M40," the Cheshire club quipped in a statement.

Southern Counties East League side Fisher FC, meanwhile, revealed how the club had teamed up with FOLLS, who are leading the way in sporting artificial intelligence to generate the world's first A.I football manager.

The FOLLS Pro A.I system would analyse all of manager Ajay Ashanike's selection, formation and tactics for the rest of this season with the aim of replicating those in future games.

Isthmian League Ascot United went down a similar path, announcing they had hired a brand new Referee Analyst, called Anna Lytics, to help the club keep ahead of the game in influencing officials.

Various clubs also used their links to the world of celebrity to fool their fans.

Former US Open golf champion and Ryder Cup star Justin Rose announced he had signed for his beloved Aldershot Town for

the rest of the season, prompting the Shots to respond they were changing their formation to fore-fore-two.

Top comedian and Chesham United director Alex Horne revealed he had signed for the Southern League Premier South champions, while former Watford legend Troy Deeney posed in a Kidlington FC training kit on being unveiled as a Greens player until the rest of the season.

Harlow Town got in on the act too. They revealed that Manchester United and England star Harry Maguire had regretted not signing for the club in 2019.

"If I could turn back the clock, I'd choose Harlow over Manchester," Maguire was quoted. "There was something special about the club and I regret my decision hugely."

National League South Farnborough – home to the world famous air show – announced that they would have to play future evening games under red light bulbs following new legislation from the Civil Aviation Authority, who had informed the club their floodlights had been distracting pilots flying into nearby Farnborough Airport.

Wimborne Town went down a similar route. The Magpies said they had introduced E-seats, which incorporated a pedal-powered dynamo system with a wi-fi connection to a mini generator which powers the floodlights at the New Cuthbury.

Elsewhere, Herefordshire-based Westfields FC revealed they had been accepted into the Welsh Pyramid for next season, while one team who genuinely were, back in 2019, Colwyn Bay, claimed they will now officially be known as

Bayern Colwyn as part of a partnership with the Bavarian Tourist Authority.

Both Skelmersdale United and Didcot Town revealed unique new kit designs but, perhaps unsurprisingly, there was a reoccurring theme in April Fools' Day pranks this year involving the effects of the great British weather.

Alnwick Town announced their St James' Park ground would be covered by a giant canopy – a "first in world sport" to prevent games from being called off, while the South West Peninsula League's official X account revealed how a survey of groundsmen and fixtures' secretaries across the south west had welcomed the recent climate changes as "a positive move that has seen extra productivity and a welcome rise in the winter water table levels".

And even poor Taunton Town faced a wrath by announcing that their Bank Holiday game against Bath City at rain-sodden Wordsworth Drive was ON following a pitch inspection.

Now, that would be just as bizarre as Ian Rush joining Everton! Only kidding Taunton.



OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT

BRAINTREE TOWN 0 TAUNTON TOWN 0

9.4.2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | ATT: 709

The Peacocks made the long, Tuesday night journey to Essex seeking the all-important three points in their "Great Escape" from the Vanarama National League South relegation zone.

The Peacocks made just the one change from their 1-1 draw with Hampton & Richmond at the weekend, Marcus Day making his return to the starting eleven after a good run of form off the bench. And indeed it was Day who looked to impart the first blow on confirmed play-off contenders Braintree, escaping his man in the third minute and trying to play a ball through to Ollie Chamberlain on the overlap, but unfortunately the ball ran out of play.

The home side also looked to start brightly through former Ipswich bagsman Freddie Sears who in the 8th minute tried an audacious lob over the head of Dan Lavercombe whose punch behind gave Braintree the first corner of the evening. Cam Evans cleared the corner, and a lob was played to Nat Jarvis who took the ball into the box and was fouled by the Braintree keeper Jack Sims, the referee pointed to the spot and handed Taunton a major lifeline in their survival hopes! Ross Stearn stepped up to take the penalty, but Sims made up for his mistake and dived the right way to deny the visitors an

early opener.

Braintree were very nearly stung early by the dogged Claret and Blues but, as you would expect from a team whose participation in the play-offs was already confirmed, they fought back into the game with ferocious long balls and vicious crosses from the onset as Taunton shrank away after the failed penalty conversion.

A block off the line by Lloyd James from Sears' shot in the 17th minute, a tame effort from range caught by Lavercombe in the 18th minute, a Callum Dolman clearance in the 32nd minute and an absolutely sublime fingertip save from Lavercombe from Aaron Blair three minutes before half time denied Braintree the first half opener they were searching for. Taunton meanwhile found chances difficult to come across in the first half and with Braintree unable to convert the chances they had created, the sides went into the break level.

Braintree were the team who came out of the gates the quickest, the hosts enjoying several chances in the first ten minutes of the second stanza which they failed to convert. The Man of the Match from the game against Hampton & Richmond Lavercombe, was looking sure to win the

award two games in a row with an incredible save in the 52nd minute to foil Charlie Wakefield.

It took Taunton until past the hour mark to have their first real chance of the second half, Rabby Tabu-Minzamba and Day linking up several times between the 60th and 70th minutes to create a number of chances, all of which the Peacocks ultimately failed to convert. The best chance of the second half fell in the 65th minute, as Chamberlain's short corner was directed to Day, a quick turn of the feet and a corker of a curling effort that had Sims beaten, but ultimately nestled itself just wide of the post.

The Peacocks felt that a goal was incoming and made an attacking substitution to try and aid their hunt for an all important goal, as Jay Murray entered the field of play for the superb Day. Taunton went close several times in the last 20 minutes of the game with Stearn triggering a press on a loose touch by a

Braintree defender in the 80th minute, but unfortunately he was let down by a dastardly combination of a heavy touch and a bobble from the pitch. In the 85th minute Murray turned his man and looked to find Jarvis in the box while Sims raced out and off his line to meet the oncoming cross; Jarvis felt that there was a foul in the passage of play, preventing him from netting his 4th goal of the season, but was instead booked for dissent.

The final five minutes summed the game up perfectly, a cagey battle with both sides launching long balls up the flank, hoping for a knock-on or a mistake in the backline, but neither of those were to come. All in all, this should be considered a fantastic point against a side that already have play-offs confirmed, but if the early penalty had been converted, the 440 mile round trip could have ultimately gone down in history as the long Tuesday Night that aided the Peacocks in their survival.





VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2023-24 LEAGUE STANDINGS

P	Team	GP	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	42	26	8	8	73	43	+30	86
2	Chelmsford City	44	23	11	10	72	42	+30	80
3	Maidstone United	44	23	11	10	66	48	+18	80
4	Worthing	44	24	6	14	96	68	+28	78
5	Braintree Town	44	22	12	10	60	38	+22	78
6	Bath City	43	19	13	11	68	49	+19	70
7	Hampton & Richmond	43	19	12	12	59	51	+8	69
8	Aveley	44	19	10	15	64	60	+4	67
9	Farnborough	43	18	12	13	71	64	+7	66
10	St Albans City	43	19	7	17	72	61	+11	64
11	Chippenham Town	43	16	13	14	60	55	+5	61
12	SLOUGH TOWN	42	15	13	14	73	66	+7	58
13	Tonbridge Angels	44	15	12	17	63	61	+2	57
14	Weston-super-Mare	42	16	7	19	61	67	-6	55
15	Weymouth	42	12	15	15	56	62	-6	51
16	Welling United	43	12	15	16	55	70	-15	51
17	Hemel Hempstead Town	44	13	10	21	53	68	-15	49
18	Torquay United (-10)	43	17	7	19	66	74	-8	48
19	Truro City	40	13	8	19	53	62	-9	47
20	Eastbourne Borough	42	12	8	22	46	71	-25	44
21	Dartford	44	11	10	23	53	71	-18	43
22	TAUNTON TOWN	41	9	15	17	42	64	-22	42
23	Havant & Waterlooville	43	10	6	27	51	85	-34	36
24	Dover Athletic	43	4	15	24	39	72	-33	27

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

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 13th April 2024

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

Tuesday 16th April 2024

- 7.45pm St Albans City v Hampton & Richmond Borough
- 7.45pm Taunton Town v Torquay United
- 7.45pm Truro City v Dover Athletic
- 7.45pm Weston-super-Mare v Eastbourne Borough

Thursday 18th April 2024

- 7.45pm Taunton Town v Weston-super-Mare
- 7.45pm Truro City v Weymouth

Saturday 20th April 2024

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

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**NEXT UP
AT HOME**

TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2024
KICK OFF - 7:45PM



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NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

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The Untold Game

The Other Upton Park

Upton Park is inextricably linked to the Olympics. Mention the old ground to any West Ham fan and you'll likely be met with a wistful look of nostalgic remembrance, glorious memories lost to the relentless march of property speculation in the capital. A move to the London Stadium following the 2012 Olympics may have made business sense, but to fans, it made little football sense, and there is still a sense of mourning for the history that was abandoned. But they are not the first side from the area to have their history connected to the Olympics. In 1900, when football was making its debut at the hallowed international exhibition of sporting excellence, the FA needed a team to represent the nation. They turned to the amateur side from London; Upton Park.

Upton Park were formed in 1866 as an amateur side, a status they fiercely maintained and one that gave them a ticket to the olympics in Paris some three and a half decades later. They were participants in the first FA Cup in the 1871-2 season, and conceded the very first goal scored in the competition, at their coincidentally named West Ham Park ground, a strike from Jarvis Kenrick that gave Clapham a 3-0 win. The club regularly attracted impressive crowds to their games, and have been cited as a possible influence in Thames Ironworks, who would become West Ham United,

moving to the area.

Despite their amateur status, Upton Park would be one of the key drivers of the professionalisation of English football, following an FA Cup tie in 1884. The club made a complaint to the FA about possible illegal payments to players by their opponents Preston North End. They were thrown out of the competition, but the FA were forced to confront the issue, and when the illegally professional clubs threatened to break away and form their own league, the legislators relented.

Despite being wound up in 1887, the club were reformed in 1891 and were founder members of the Southern Alliance, a league system that was set up for clubs in southern England, the most notable of which was Tottenham Hotspur (Arsenal were banned from the competition having recently professionalised). Upton Park finished the first season bottom of the league, but more concerning was the general failure of the competition. The Southern Alliance was wound up after that single season, with clubs having to find their places in other leagues.

And so, having spent most of their time bouncing around amateur football with limited success, it was something of a surprise when the FA asked Upton Park to represent the nation at the 1900 Olympics.

The squad would comprise of the players registered to the club, with the addition of William Gosling from Chelmsford City (who had beaten Upton Park 7-1 that season), Alfred Chalk from Ilford, Jack Zeally from Bridport, and Richard Turner from the excellently named Crouch End Vampires. With the squad sorted, the team made the relatively short journey to Paris.

Only four teams entered the football competition, Upton Park, a representative XI from France, a Swiss team, and a group of students from Belgium that included one Englishman (Eric Thornton) and a Dutchman, and who were only there because Racing Brussels had pulled out. Before the tournament started, the Swiss team also withdrew, leaving just the three sides.

The slightly chaotic nature of these Olympics meant that Upton Park had to play just one game, against the French XI (who also had to play the side from Belgium, in the Belgian's only fixture). Although no medals were awarded, the International Olympic Committee have attempted to reconcile the early competition with our modern competition, and have designated the game between Upton Park and the French XI as the 'gold

medal' match.

Taking advantage of a slight breeze, the French chose which way to kick in the final match in Vincennes, but it was no real advantage at all. Upton Park raced into a two goal lead, John Nicholas and Richard Turner with the early goals. They then sought to control the game, slowing down the play due to the hot weather. Gosling went off injured in the second half, but the British side couldn't be contained, and Nicholas got a third before Zealley completed the rout.

The players raced from the final back to England for an FA Cup tie against, of all sides, Olympic, which they lost 5-0, and then back to France to complete their touring duties. Despite not getting medals in the Olympics themselves, the FA awarded them commemorative medals at the end of the following season.

Upton Park wound up in 1911, and apart from a trophy named after them in the Channel Islands, that was that. Until West Ham vacated the Boleyn Ground. Upton Park were reformed in 2016, and played the final game at West Ham's old ground, against Royal Engineers. Most of all, though, they are remembered as the very first World Champions.





2023-24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
AUGUST					
Sat 5th	League	BRAINTREE TOWN (H)	2-1 W	801	4th
Sat 12th	League	Aveley (A)	4-1 L	372	15th
Tues 15th	League	Weymouth (A)	1-1 D	1,252	14th
Sat 19th	League	WELLING UNITED (H)	1-0 W	727	9th
Sat 26th	League	ST ALBANS CITY (H)	3-2 W	642	5th
Mon 28th	League	Maidstone United (A)	1-1 D	2,014	6th
SEPTEMBER					
Sat 2nd	League	DARTFORD (H)	1-0 W	902	5th
Tues 5th	League	Chippenham Town (A)	3-3 D	634	6th
Sat 9th	League	Tonbridge Angels (A)	0-3 W	852	5th
Fri 15th	FAC 2Q	Merthyr Town (A)	1-1 D	1,583	N/A
Tue 19th	FAC 2QR	MERTHYR TOWN (H)	1-2 L	774	N/A
Sat 23rd	League	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE (H)	0-0 D	877	4th
Sat 30th	League	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH (H)	2-1 W	670	3rd
OCTOBER					
Tue 3rd	SPC1	PORTISHEAD TOWN (H)	5-2 W	273	N/A
Sat 7th	League	Dover Athletic (A)	2-2 D	617	2nd
Sat 21st	League	HAMPTON & RICHMOND (H)	0-1 L	843	3rd
Tues 24th	League	Bath City (A)	3-0 L	1,537	5th
Sat 28th	League	Chelmsford City (A)	0-0 D	645	5th
NOVEMBER					
Tues 7th	SPC2	STREET (H)	2-2 (4-3W Pens)	298	N/A
Sat 11th	League	Hemel Hempstead Town (A)	1-0 L	491	13th
Tues 21st	League	Truro City (A)	2-2 (8-7L Pens)	-	15th
Sat 25th	League	WORTHING (H)	1-1 D	765	15th

Date	Competition	Opponents	KO/Score	Att	Lge Pos
DECEMBER					
Sat 2nd	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	A-A	N/A	15th
Sat 9th	League	FARNBOROUGH (H)	4-0 W	680	14th
Sat 16th	League	Havant & Waterlooville (A)	3-0 L	766	16th
Sat 23rd	League	TONBRIDGE ANGELS (H)	2-2 D	768	17th
Tues 26th	League	Yeovil Town (A)	4-1 L	6,301	19th
JANUARY					
Sat 6th	League	Slough Town (A)	3-0 L	947	19th
Tue 9th	League	YEOVIL TOWN (H)	0-1 L	3,001	19th
Sat 13th	League	DOVER ATHLETIC (H)	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
FEBRUARY					
Sat 3rd	League	Welling United (A)	0-0 D	484	20 th
Tues 6th	League	TRURO CITY (H)	0-0 D	489	20 th
Sat 10th	League	St Albans City (A)	0-6 L	1,663	20 th
Sat 24th	League	Dartford (A)	1-1 D	1,018	20 th
MARCH					
Sat 2nd	League	Truro City (A)	2-0 L	198	21 st
Sat 9th	League	Worthing (A)	1-3 W	1350	21 st
Tues 12th	League	Torquay United (A)	0-3 W	2238	18 th
Sat 16th	League	Eastbourne Borough (A)	2-0 L	1337	20 th
Wed 20th	League	CHIPPENHAM TOWN (H)	1-2 L	669	20 th
Sat 23rd	League	CHELMSFORD CITY (H)	2-3 L	1371	20 th
Fri 29th	League	Weston-Super-Mare (A)	4-0 L	1436	20 th
APRIL					
Mon 1st	League	BATH CITY (H)	0-2 L	1059	21 st
Wed 3rd	League	MAIDSTONE UNITED (H)	0-1 L	126	21 st
Sat 6th	League	Hampton & Richmond (A)	1-1 D	752	22 nd
Tue 9th	League	Braintree Town (A)	0-0 D	709	22 nd
Thu 11th	League	SLOUGH TOWN (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 13th	League	Farnborough (A)	3:00pm	-	-
Tue 16th	League	TORQUAY UNITED (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Thu 18th	League	WESTON-SUPER-MARE (H)	7:45pm	-	-
Sat 20th	League	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (H)	3:00pm	-	-



STADIUM RULES & REGULATIONS

Persons entering this stadium must abide by the Stadium Regulations as printed in the matchday programme and displayed on posters inside the stadium. Failure to do so may result in ejection from the premises, a ban from attending any future events and also be the subject of a football banning order. Admission to and the right remain within the stadium is strictly on condition that any person attending will adhere to the Stadium Regulations as detailed below.

1. All persons must comply with any directions given by a Steward, Club Official or Police Officer
2. Encroachment onto the playing area, sterile area, or its adjoining parts is prohibited.
3. Climbing on any building, wall, fence or any other structure is prohibited.
4. Persons must not throw any object onto the pitch or within the spectator areas.
5. Persons must not be in possession of, and/or lighting any firework or flare.
6. Chanting or singing of an obscene, indecent, discriminatory or offensive nature is not permitted.
7. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening language.
8. Persons must not use obscene, indecent, discriminatory, offensive or threatening gestures.
9. Persons must not damage or deface Club and Stadium property.
10. Persons must not damage, deface or obstruct any notice or advertisement.
11. Alcohol must not be brought into the stadium.
12. Persons must not consume alcohol that has not been purchased at Taunton Town FC.
13. Persons must not consume alcohol in any alcohol free designated areas.
14. There will be zero tolerance to alcohol abuse/misuse.
15. There will be zero tolerance to drug possession, use and abuse.
16. Smoking is permitted in the stadium except in areas designated as a No Smoking area.
17. Umbrellas are permitted within the stadium but must not be used if obstructing the view of other spectators.

Spectators must also note the following:

- A) The Club does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss or damage to vehicles or their contents, or any other personal property brought onto the Clubs premises and stadium.
- B) The Club is unable to accept any additional responsibility for minors attending matches beyond those matters covered by the Stadium Regulations.
- C) Photography and use of video including CCTV is in operation at all matches and events and may be used in any of our media channels as well as press releases.
- D) Dogs on a lead are permitted in the Stadium but they remain the sole responsibility of their owner at all times.

THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT PERSONAL SECURITY SEARCHES AND/OR REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANY PERSON AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

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

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Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**



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THE TEAMS

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024 | KICK-OFF 7:45PM



HEAD OF FOOTBALL: ROB DRAY

- DAN LAVERCOMBE (GK) 1
- ZAC BELL 2
- NICK GRIMES 4
- DAN BALL 5
- JAY MURRAY 6
- OLLIE CHAMBERLAIN 7
- LLOYD JAMES 8
- NAT JARVIS 9
- BEN ACEY 11
- 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
- LOUIE SLOUGH 23
- SEB BOLTON 27
- JADEN BROWN 31
- EVANDER GRUBB 32



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
CONSTANTINE HATZIDAKIS

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
THOMAS HALES

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
BAILEY WALKER

PLAYER/MANAGER: SCOTT DAVIES

- 1 DAN LINCOLN (GK)
- 2 JOSH JACKMAN
- 3 GABE GEORGE
- 4 JOE DANDY
- 5 DAN BAYLISS
- 6 JEANMAL PROSPER
- 7 GARY ABISOGUN
- 8 MATT LENCH
- 9 NATHAN MINHAS
- 10 JOHNNY GODDARD
- 11 CHRISTIE WARD
- 12 LEON CHAMBERS-PARILLON
- 14 SCOTT DAVIES
- 16 TEMI EWEKA
- 17 TYRESE DYCE
- 19 TRAE COOK- APPIAH
- 23 DAVID OGBONNA
- 24 SLAVI SPASOV
- 26 OLLIE SPICER