

THE MOLES



Photo: Neil Graham

Binfield vs Badshot Lea

Saturday 28th October 2023 KO 3pm

The Pitching In Isthmian League

South Central Division





CLUB INFORMATION

Binfield FC is a FC Charter Standard Community Club committed to providing football for all ages, male and female players. Starting at Soccer School and on to our Senior Team who play in the Isthmian League South Central Division. The club runs over 36 teams and is a great place to enjoy your football.

CLUB OFFICIALS/CONTACTS

Chairman: Andy Cotton - chairman@binfieldfc.com

Club Secretary: Glenn Duggleby - clubsecretary@binfieldfc.com

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Club Welfare Officer: Bob Chapple - rfjchapple@gmail.com

Equality and Diversity Officer: As Welfare Officer

Clubhouse Manager: Angela Knightley - Angelaknightley@binfieldfc.com

In accordance with the Football Association Rule 2.13 Publication of Ownership in relation to Step to Step 6 Clubs in the Football Pyramid, we hereby confirm that the legal status of Binfield Football Club as an Unincorporate Association (Members Club).

Vat Registration: 25825964

Registered Office: 4 Symnodson Mews, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 5TE

CONTENTS

03.

WELCOME TO
BINFIELD FC

07.

A VIEW FROM THE
DUGOUT

12.

MEET THE TEAM

21.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
ROUND-UP

31.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

05.

BINFIELD FC
HISTORY

11.

YOUNG MOLES
WATCH

17.

MEET OUR VISITORS:
BADSHOT LEA

27.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

BACK PAGE

TODAY'S SQUADS

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

ON TIME
ON BUDGET
ON BRIEF

GUARANTEED

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WELCOME TO BINFIELD FC

From Our Chairman, Andy Cotton



Binfield FC offer a very warm welcome to everyone here at the ICONIC Stadium for today's Pitching In Isthmian South Central League game against Badshot Lea Football Club.

We come into today's game looking to put some much-welcomed points on the board. Following on from a club statement that was issued last week, I would like to remind everyone that whilst we are all acutely aware that our current league position is far from ideal, 11 games into the season, there is a significant amount of work going on both on the training ground and also in the background trying to strengthen the squad. The Club Executive is steadfast in its decision to support Team Management so long as they are able to display continued progress moving into the winter months.

Our first competitive fixture against Corinthian Casuals last weekend ended in a non-scoring draw. We had a few wonderful chances to take all 3-points, but we came away from the game being content in the end that we managed to keep a clean sheet, which was our first of the season and something to cherish I'm told.

A bright start in our midweek game against Ascot where we played some great football and created a few good chances was undone by a couple of very basic errors, which in truth took the wind out of our sails. A subsequent early second half "gifted" goal to Ascot effectively ended the contest with 40 minutes left to play. As credit to the boys, we showed some real character for the remainder of the game and thanks to an inspired penalty save of real quality, we stopped conceding anymore goals and actually created some good chances.

As well as welcoming the Badshot Lea management team, players, supporters and officials to the Iconic Stadium, I'd like to afford a special welcome to Steve Griffiths who's attending the game today. Steve has been a friend of our club for many years and his help on the BBQ at our junior summer tournament is a thing of "legend" and we are always pleased to see him at Binfield Football Club.

I hope today's game is another great advert for the league and I look forward to catching up with everyone again.

"C'mon you Moles"

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BINFIELD FC HISTORY

Binfield FC first played in 1892, during the reign of Queen Victoria, making us one of the oldest Association Football clubs in the world! The team comprised young men from the local brickworks and those who worked on the land around Binfield. The club's early years were spent in the Ascot and District League, where we enjoyed many successful seasons winning the Fielden Cup for the first time in 1924 and on eleven further occasions since.

During the 2nd World War, we joined the Great Western Combination League, winning the championship in 1947.

In 1980, the club made an important decision to move from Forest Road, where facilities were shared with the cricket club, to our current site in Hill Farm Lane. Turning that field into the football ground we see today was a massive task. Thanks to an enormous amount of physical work by the members of the club the area was levelled and drained within three years. The members then set about building the club house. This progress off the field was matched on it when in 1987 and 1988 we won Division 2 and then Division 1 of the Reading and District League. In 1989, we joined the high-profile Charrington Chiltonian League, winning the Division 1 title at the first attempt.

In 2001 we merged with Binfield's junior club, Binfield Forest FC, and in doing so significantly increased the member-ship, with over 20 teams playing every weekend – this season we will field 36 teams each week.

We constantly strive to improve all elements of the facilities from changing rooms to a playing surface we are extremely proud of, to benefit everyone from our Under 6s up to our 1st Team. Binfield entered the FA Vase for the first time in season 2008-09 and enjoyed three rounds, before reaching the 4th round (last 32) in 2011/12 in an incredible season of cup success. The 2011/12 team is the most successful in our history, winning both the Berks & Bucks FA Senior Trophy and the AM Print & Copy Floodlit Cup in five glorious April 2012 days. We also reached the final of the Hellenic Challenge Cup.

In the two Covid disrupted seasons, the first team were sitting in second place in the Hellenic Premier. Positions when used to calculate points per game resulted in promotion to the Isthmian League South Centre, our 1st season ever at Step 4. However the 2020/21 season will, of course, be remembered for our amazing run in the Buildbase FA Vase when playing every game behind closed doors bar one and all away from home we reached the Final at Wembley where we came up against a very good Warrington Rylands side and narrowly lost 3-2.



Respect



"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162)

The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

Lose Respect
Lose the game

TheFA.com/Respect

THE VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT

Manager - Garry Haylock



Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Badshot Lea, it is a club I know well as I helped out with coaching duties a couple of seasons ago. It is no surprise to me that they have started the season well, I hope they enjoy their short stay with us.

Our stuttering start continues with a dogged performance last week not yielding the 3 points we deserved and then despite playing well on Tuesday, we suffered another heavy defeat.

All supporters have their own idea of what constitutes a good player and while for some it might be the technically gifted or the ruthless finisher, but successful teams are those that blend every players attributes and come up with a team who's value is greater than the sum of its parts.

At the moment we are failing at this and seem incapable of completing games without errors in the two most important areas, our penalty area and the opposition area.

Making errors in either of these areas never bodes well for a team and right now, we are not taking our chances and we are not scoring goals.

However, there are always positives and I remain of the belief that we continue to improve and we will take the opportunity afforded us by the forthcoming 2 week break to work and improve and be ready to win games - hopefully starting today

Enjoy the game

Garry



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BINFIELD FC - A SHORT FILM

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022

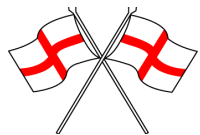
**FA CUP 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND
BINFIELD V TONBRIDGE**

Binfield FC are delighted to release our short film, highlighting our emphatic 4-0 victory over Tonbridge Angels in the 2022/23 FA Cup 2nd Qualifying round. In the film, we hear from club chairman Andy Cotton, before going behind the scenes in the changing room before the match on the 17th September 2022. During this time, you hear from then manager Carl Withers, who rallies his team ahead of the match. You also hear his half-time team talk with the scores level before you see all four goals from the historic win.

SCAN TO WATCH



PHOTOS FROM THE ICONIC STADIUM



JUBILEE BUILDING SUPPLIES
The Builders Merchants

YOUNG MOLES WATCH

Our U23s development side managed an emphatic 10-0 home win over Woodley United on Saturday 30th September in the Thames Valley league division 1.

The Moles goals coming from Connor Gonzalez, Lewis Lancaster and Sam Applegarth, who grabbed two each. With Raf Fernández, Taran Sohi, Reegan Artman, Jake Fisher (pen) each grabbing one each to secure the win.



The U18's Allied Counties side bounced back from penalty shoot-out disappointment in the FA Youth Cup last week as they ran out 4-1 winners when they faced a league trip to Burnham on Monday last week.

Three goals from Jake Cook and one from Harry Pawsey was enough to put another three points on the Allied Counties league table for the Young Moles.

The win means that they moved to the top of their table, securing wins in both their central division games they have played so far.

So, it's been an exciting week on the pitch for the Young Moles, can both sides keep it up throughout the season?

Make sure you keep up to date with all things Young Moles on our social media channels.

2023/24 SEASON

DATE	Opposition	@	Result	Scorers
September				
Sat 02	Newbury	A	2-3	Edwards, Samuel-Fisher
Sat 09	Maidenhead Town	A	3-0	Applegarth, Gonzalez, Edwards
Sat 16	Burghfield	H	3-5	Gonzalez x2, Jamie-Reid
Sat 30	Woodley United	H	10-0	Gonzalez x2, Lancaster x2, Applegarth x2, Fernandez, Sohi, Artman, Fisher
October				
Sat 07	Reading YMCA Rapids	A	4-0	Applegarth, Gonzalez x2, Lancaster
Sat 21	Westwood Wanderers	H	1-3	Singh Sohi
November				
Sat 04	Goring United	H		
Sat 11	Burghfield Reserves	A		
Sat 18	Reading YMCA Rapids	H		
Sat 25	Tadley Calleva	A		
December				
Sat 02	Westwood Wanderers	A		
Sat 09	Woodley United	A		

MEET THE SQUAD



GARRY HAYLOCK
Manager



ROGER HERRIDGE
Coach



KEITH PENNICOTT-BOWEN
Coach



HARVEY RACKLEY-HAYES



NICK HARVEY



TROY MURRAY



MAX DRAKE



BLESK EKPENYONG



KIERAN ROBINSON



JOHNATHAN KAMARA



HARRISON MARQUEZ



TYRONE KNIGHT



MICHAK STANIC-STEWART



MONTY BRADY



JAKE FISHER



LIAM CAMPBELL



DONTAYE WITTAKER



FLYNN BOLTON



BEN STALLARD



JOSHUA SELBY



DANIEL LEWIS



VOTE SINGA



THOMAS HENRY



RECHAN ESPRIT



CONNOR JEANES



ISMAIL AMIRI



DAVID NELIGWA

The Moles' Season Breakdown

Caution

August		F-A	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sat 12	Ashford Town	0-6	104	Rackley-Hayes	Drake	Winser	Bolton (35)	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Fri 18	Wokingham & Em.*	2-0	604	Rackley-Hayes	Drake	Campbell	Winser	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Tue 22	Badshot Lea**	0-6	104	Rackley-Hayes	Neligwa	Senussi	Harvey (62)	Jeanes	Robinson
Sat 26	Chipstead	1-1	112	Rackley-Hayes	Drake (61)	Campbell	Robinson (60)	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Mon 28	Northwood	1-4	224	Rackley-Hayes	Murray	Campbell	Winser	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
September									
Sat 2	Northwood*	2-2	127	Rackley-Hayes	Murray	Campbell	Winser	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Tue 5	Northwood*	0-1	212	Rackley-Hayes	Murray	Campbell	Winser	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Sun 10	Ashford United***	1-7	90	Rackley-Hayes	Murray	Campbell	Esprit	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Sat 23	Hanworth Villa	0-3	110	Rackley-Hayes (78)	Drake	Jeanes	Esprit (45)	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Sat 30	Southall	0-8	86	Rackley-Hayes	Murray	Marquez (56)	Noel (82)	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
October									
Tue 3	Chertsey Town	1-1	119	Harvey	Drake (68)	Knight (35)	Noel	Lewis	Stanic-Stewart
Sat 7	Met. Police	1-1	95	Harvey	Drake	Campbell	Noel	Lewis	Jeanes
Tue 10	Westfield	2-7	85	Harvey	Drake	Marquez	Noel	Lewis	Campbell
Sat 14	Hartley Wintney	2-5	119	Harvey	Drake	Knight	Noel (77)	Lewis	Jeanes
Sat 21	Corinthian-Casuals	0-0	208	Harvey	Drake	Campbell	Noel	Lewis	Jeanes
Tue 24	Ascot United	0-4	227	Harvey	Stanic-Stewart (86)	Campbell	Noel	Lewis	Jeanes
Sat 28	Badshot Lea								
November									
Sat 11	Thatcham Town								
Sat 18	S.C.R								
Sat 25	Leatherhead								
December									
Sat 2	Marlow								
Tue 5	South Park								
Sat 9	Uxbridge								
Sat 16	Raynes Park Vale								
Sat 23	Guernsey								
Tue 26	Badshot Lea								
Sat 30	Chertsey Town								
January									
Mon 1	Northwood								
Sat 6	Hanworth Villa								
Sat 13	Ascot United								
Sat 20	Met. Police								
Sat 27	Southall								
Tue 30	Westfield								
February									
Sat 3	Hartley Wintney								
Sat 10	Corinthian-Casuals								
Sat 17	South Park								
March									
Sat 2	S.C.R								
Sat 9	Thatcham Town								
Sat 16	Marlow								
Sat 23	Leatherhead								
Sat 30	Chipstead								
April									
Sat 6	Ashford Town								
Sat 13	Guernsey								
Sat 20	Raynes Park Vale								
Sat 27	Uxbridge								



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INTRODUCING OUR VISITORS

Early history suggests that the village football club was formed in 1904, after a meeting at the local village hall. They initially played friendly matches before deciding that they affiliate to the Surrey County Football Association in 1907. They began life in the junior leagues before gradually progressing through the leagues. The most recent history shows the Lea playing in the Aldershot leagues and progressing through the various divisions, eventually obtaining promotion to the Surrey Intermediate League Western in 1978.

Progress through the three divisions saw the Lea eventually promoted to the Surrey Premier League in 1986. This was for one year only as we obtained the dubious distinction of being relegated with the highest points total ever achieved by a side being relegated.






















Season 1988 saw us again in the Surrey Intermediate League Western. The ensuing years saw the ups and downs that one experiences until season 2002/03 which saw eventual promotion to Senior Football via The Hellenic League. This was not without its problems as The FA at Soho Square tried to block the move. It was only the determination of the committee and the full backing of The Hellenic League that eventually saw us given the green light along with London APSA (Essex Senior League) and Sporting Bengal (Kent League). In our first season we took time to adjust to Senior Football eventually finishing 4th from bottom under the guidance of manager Maurice Gregory.

In 1997 the first Youth Team joined the Club and this saw the beginning of the very successful Youth and Colts section of the Club. We increased from one team to over 20 and were given extra facility to accommodate this success.

For season 2017/18 we started a groundshare arrangement at Camberley Town whilst our new ground is under construction. In October 2017, Michael Charles resigned and we turned to ex-manager Mark Thomas who successfully led us to immediate promotion back to the Premier Division at the end of the 2017/18 season. Sadly, Mark had to resign his duties and after an extensive search and interview process, we appointed the successful Keith Hills, from fellow Premier Division team, Knaphill to lead us back into the Premier Division for season 2018/19.

In December 2018 we appointed a management team of Gav Smith/Dave Ford as Joint Manager's along with Paul Harkness as coach and Dan Bailey as assistant. They galvanised the squad and finished in an excellent 9th place.

South Central Division 2023-24

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Raynes Park Vale	10	8	0	2	22	13	+9	24
	2 Southall	10	7	2	1	28	11	+17	23
	3 Chertsey Town	10	7	2	1	20	9	+11	23
	4 Marlow	9	7	0	2	22	11	+11	21
	5 Leatherhead	9	6	2	1	14	4	+10	20
	6 South Park (Reigate)	10	6	0	4	20	13	+7	18
	7 Chipstead	10	5	2	3	21	18	+3	17
	8 Uxbridge	9	5	1	3	20	12	+8	16
	9 Badshot Lea	8	5	0	3	14	12	+2	15
	10 Hartley Wintney	10	5	0	5	21	21	0	15
	11 Westfield	9	4	2	3	18	14	+4	14
	12 Ashford Town (Middx)	10	4	2	4	14	12	+2	14
	13 Hanworth Villa	9	3	3	3	19	18	+1	12
	14 Ascot United	9	3	1	5	14	11	+3	10
	15 Sutton Common Rovers	10	3	1	6	16	18	-2	10
	16 Thatcham Town	9	3	0	6	10	18	-8	9
	17 Northwood	10	2	1	7	15	19	-4	7
	18 Corinthian-Casuals	10	2	1	7	7	26	-19	7
	19 Metropolitan Police	10	1	3	6	10	19	-9	6
	20 Guernsey	10	1	1	8	11	25	-14	4
	21 Binfield	11	0	4	7	8	40	-32	4

The Moles Roll Call

Player	Moles Debut	2023/24 Season									Moles' Career					
		Isthmian League				Cup				Total	League		Cups		Overall	
		Starts	As Sub	Total	Goals	Starts	As Sub	Total	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Goals
Valentino Alanezi	Oct 23 Corinthian Casuals	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ismail Amiri	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4
Jimmy Bamgbose	Sep 23 Southall	6	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	7
Flynn Bolton	Aug 23 Ashford Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Monty Brady	Aug 23 Ashford Town	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
George Brough	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liam Campbell	Aug 23 Ashford Town	8	0	8	0	4	0	4	0	12	0	8	0	4	0	12
Noah Chengun	Aug 23 Ashford Town	2	1	3	0	4	0	4	3	7	3	3	0	4	3	7
Max Drake	Aug 23 Ashford Town	7	1	8	0	1	0	1	0	9	0	8	0	1	0	9
Blesk Ekpenyong	Oct 23 Met. Police	4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	5	1	0	0	5
Rechan Esprit	Aug 23 Ashford Town	10	0	10	0	4	0	4	0	14	0	10	0	4	0	14
Jake Fisher	Oct 22 Basingstoke Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
Janaid Forrester	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Zeid Hannachi	Aug 23 Ashford Town	1	1	2	0	3	2	5	0	7	0	2	0	5	0	7
Finn Harvey	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	3	1	4	0	4	1	5	0	9	0	4	0	5	0	9
Nicholas Harvey	Oct 23 Chetsey Town	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	6
Thomas Henry	Sep 23 Hanworth Villa	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Connor Jeanes	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	5	1	6	1	1	2	3	0	9	1	6	1	3	0	9
Johnathan Kamara	Oct 23 Met. Police	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Tyrene Knight	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	4	5	9	0	1	1	2	0	11	0	9	0	2	0	11
Dan Lewis	Aug 23 Ashford Town	11	0	11	0	4	0	4	1	15	1	11	0	4	1	15
William Mabukwa	Oct 22 Basingstoke Town	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	5	0	3	0	8
Harrison Marquez	Sep 23 Southall	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Troy Murray	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	10	0	10	0	3	2	5	0	15	0	10	0	5	0	15
David Neligwa	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tristan Noel	Sep 23 Southall	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	7
Harvey Rackley-Hayes	Aug 21 Harefield United	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	10	0	35	0	6	0	41
Kieran Robinson	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4
Daniel Roth	Oct 23 Hartley Wintney	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Josh Selby	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khalid Senussi	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vote Singa	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Stallard	Aug 23 Ashford Town	6	2	8	0	3	1	4	1	12	1	8	0	4	1	12
Michak Stanic-Stewart	Aug 23 Ashford Town	8	0	8	0	4	0	4	0	12	0	8	0	4	0	12
Dontaye Whittaker	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	10	0	10	6	4	0	4	0	14	6	10	6	4	0	14
Bradley Worsfold	Aug 23 Ashford United	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2

Club Honours:

Fielden Cup:

- 1924: Winner

Great Western Combination

- 1946/47: Champions

Reading & District League

- 1975/76 + 1987/88: Division One Champions
- 1986/87: Division Two Champions

Chiltonian League:

- 1989/90: Division One Champions
- 1995/96: Premier Division Champions

Hellenic League

- 2008/09: Division One East Champions
- 2011/12 + 2017/18: Floodlit Cup Winners

Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy

- 2011/12: Winners

Best FA Vase Performance

- 2020/21: Runners Up



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ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE



Rogalski, Baxter and Matthew take the headlines as Marlow, Westfield and Ascot triumph, and South Park also win to go sixth. Badshot Lea see a Ceesay hat trick in the Velocity Cup.

Fifth place Marlow, having won six of their previous seven matches in the League, made that seven wins in eight with a hard-fought victory at Met Police. Dawid Rogalski has been Marlow's star this season, and the number nine was the star once more, opening the scoring on eight minutes and then getting the winner sixteen minutes from time after Alex Body had equalised for the boys in blue. Marlow climbed to fourth- and that's fifteen goals already for Rogalski.

South Park Reigate were in fine form in front of goal on Saturday, hitting five- but prior to last night the Sparks had followed every league victory this season with an immediate league defeat! That run came to an end as the Sparks triumphed once more, moving up to sixth with victory over Corinthian-Casuals. The hosts got a goal at the end of each half, Ethan Ford scoring on forty five minutes, Deondre Date on ninety. Michael Samson saw red for Casuals nineteen minutes from time.

Westfield saw a six match winning streak in League and Cups come to an end against Southall at the weekend, but the Woking side bounced back in style at Hartley Wintney. The game was as good as over by half time as Westfield ran riot in a sixteen minute period during the first half- Jake Baxter (pictured courtesy of the club) scoring an eight minute hat trick. Baxter opened the scoring on twenty six minutes, made it two from the spot six minutes later, and took only two more minutes to make it three-nil, completing his second hat trick of the season. Once Baxter was finished, Andrew Crossley took over, adding the fourth three minutes before half time, and his side are up to eleventh- a point behind their hosts with a game in hand.

Ascot United welcomed Binfield with both sides looking for a change of fortune. The Yellas had gone five league matches without a win, but they put that right in style, burying the Moles under a cascade of goals. George Lock opened the scoring on sixteen minutes, and Binfield's hopes departed in the two minute period just before the break, Sean McCormack making it two and Brendan Matthew adding a third.

Matthew has been deadly in front of goal this season, and took his tally to seventeen, adding his sides fourth soon after the restart. That was that, United up to fourteenth, the Moles remaining at the bottom.

The Velocity Cup saw Northwood welcome Badshot Lea. The visitors only defeat in their previous nine matches had come in a penalty shootout, but they didn't need a shootout in this one, a hat trick from Anuar Ceesay easing them to a three-nil victory. The goals arrived on twenty eight, forty and seventy two minutes- and the Woods have now gone eleven matches in League and Cups without a win.

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My first experience of Ystrad Mynach was good, but my second had to wait until July 2021. During the intervening years, North Wales was earmarked for three visits. Holidays in January in the UK are not generally a good idea. The previous time I attempted it, I chose Newcastle upon Tyne as my destination. One storm after another took away any chance of football. I must be the only person to have had a good day out in Sunderland on a wet day. This is not about Ystrad Mynach, this is about the intervening years.

In 'ground-hopping' terms my friend Anders Johansen from Norway is a legend. I first met him eight years ago. He's nothing special in football terms, unless he's in Argentina, Brazil or Uruguay. Everything he does is based around two, three or four weeks stay in the United Kingdom and he attends as many games as he can.

His adventures are all done on the train and his speciality is to arrive early morning on Boxing Day, usually at Gatwick Airport and take in two games before retiring to his hotel. His onward journeys would criss-cross the country, never staying too long in any one place. Just sufficient time to take in 90 minutes in Penrith and next day you'll find him 300 miles away. How does he do it?

Anders always plans ahead and posts his proposed itinerary on the Internet on a site called Non League Matters. Part of one such trip was earmarked for the North Wales coastline, so I politely asked if I could join him. In fact, two years in a row, we spent the first week of the new year, either based in Caernarfon or Llandudno and just for starters, I joined him at Penrith of all places. That was my second visit to Penrith and it snowed both times.

On to North Wales and games were taken at Caernarfon Town, Conwy Borough (twice), Llandudno, Prestatyn Town and Llanberis. Each and everyone of them had their own individual story, but my two visits to Conwy Borough saw the home club concede 15 goals in the two games. 1-11 was not a happy scoreline for Conwy Borough.

The 'pick' just had to be Llanberis and a game I was not expecting to be played. The previous day, I had driven past the ground on my way to Pen-y-Pass. Up above the snow-line, then the car seized up on ice in the viewpoint car park. The peak of Snowdon was stark white, but the lower levels were free from snow.

Eventually, I was able to turn the car around and on my way back, I stopped at Llanberis's ground. One lone groundsman was hard at work, but with all the snow around, surely this was a thankless task, as it would only be a matter of time before the snow arrived and the game would be cancelled.

To my surprise, there had been no further snow overnight and at 2 degrees C, neither would it be frozen. The game went ahead, although I was told for Llanberis to play a home game in January was an extreme rarity. I knew all along, what the groundsman was doing? If you're local, you know your weather. Llanberis lost 0-4 to Llangefni Town, which I believe is the second largest town on the Isle of Anglesey (and that's another story).

Anders continues to get the best out of his travels and is due here again on Boxing Day. He's visited Binfield, liked it and recommends it to his friend Tom Morken.



IF THERE'S one thing that Non-League clubs do particularly well it's putting on a good old community or charity fundraiser.

Regrettably, as much as we'd like to at the Non-League Paper, we just can't give each one we hear about the publicity they absolutely deserve.

But there were two events which featured in this week's NLP – both taking place this weekend – which touched the hearts of us all.

The first paid homage to 'one of our won' – a Non-League legend having a tough time of things right now.

A treble with Yeading, a famous FA Cup third round clash against Newcastle United and play-off success at Maidenhead United, Darty Brown loved every minute of his Non-League career. Tomorrow, team-mates from his past will come together for the former midfielder to raise money in his fight against a rare form of cancer, Cardiac Sarcoma.

Maidenhead's York Road home will host an All Star team from that promotion-winning side versus Darty's All Stars, made up of players he played alongside for Yeading and Staines as well as friends.

"It will be lovely to see them all running about, sweating, thinking they can still play," Brown laughed. "We'll see. Lots of them still think they're young so they may have a shock."

Such is its rarity, there is limited research into the terminal and aggressive cancer. Money raised will go towards support for medical bills in specialised treatment centres and on-going care for the 46-year-old, who was diagnosed on March 7 last year.

"A lot of the symptoms other people who have had with it, my body is kind of defying it at the moment," Brown says, referring to the benefits of having played Non-League football for so many years."

Brown admits he misses the changing room banter, but the bonds he made will be on show tomorrow afternoon as the Non-League community pull together for one of their own.

Campbell, Francis Duku, Duane Lee, Adrian Toppin and Carl Wilson Dennis will feature for Darty's All Stars, while the likes of Bobby Behzadi, Dale Binns, Richard Pacquette, Mark Nesbit and Ashley Smith will turn out for the Magpies.

Doors open at midday for a 3pm kick off, while there will be food and drink available, raffles and auctions as well as a bouncy castle.

Duku's Our Game Community Scheme CIC has donated prizes for the auction, while Kingstonian chairman Mark Anderson is providing a coach to take people from west London to the game.

To support Brown's fundraising for treatment against Cardiac Sarcoma visit www.gofundme.com/f/dartys-hope-in-the-face-of-adversityrare-cancer.

Down in the south-west, Yeovil Town's visit of Braintree Town at Huish Park this afternoon is no ordinary game.

Dubbed 'Paint the Park Pink', the community-driven initiative has a crucial goal of raising awareness and vital funds for breast cancer research.

Moreover, it aims to raise £40,000 towards the £2.5 million target for a new breast cancer unit at Yeovil District Hospital.

The driving force behind this initiative is Yeovil commercial director Mark Robinson, who shared the very personal motivation behind the club's decision to organise this event:

"We came on board because Karina, a dedicated season ticket holder, was diagnosed with breast cancer," Robinson explained.

"Despite her own battles, she has devoted her retirement to raising money for the hospital charity. Initiatives

"I approached her with the idea of painting the stadium pink, having the players wear pink, and directing all funds towards the hospital. She was so enthusiastic about it. This is the week she'll get the call to say if she can stop her medication, or requires further treatment, exactly five years after her diagnosis."

'Paint the Park Pink' promises a host of special activities and fundraising initiatives for all ages, while the players will wear limited edition pink kits. Captain Josh Staunton has a deeply personal connection to this cause.

"Having lost a dear friend to cancer, this cause holds a special place in my heart," he told us.

"It's a privilege for our football club to shine a spotlight on this event and contribute to raising awareness for breast cancer. Hardships "Moreover, we are making a substantial impact on the lives of the people in and around Yeovil. As a father with a young family, I can't fathom experiencing the same hardships I went through when I lost my best friend. Knowing that we are playing our part in making those difficult times a bit more manageable holds great significance for everyone."

Two wonderful causes and perfect examples of the tireless voluntary work that goes on behind the scenes in Non-League football to make events such as these possible.

As always, your support is vital to keep your local football club alive and kicking but also to help it thrive as a hub of the community.



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Today's Fixtures

South Central Division 2023-24

ALL 3PM KICK OFF'S (Unless stated)

Chertsey Town Vs Chipstead

Guernsey Vs Metropolitan Police (2PM)

Marlow Vs Leatherhead

Raynes Park Vale Vs Ashford Town

Southall Vs Corinthian-Casuals

Sutton Common Rovers Vs Hartley Wintney

Thatcham Town Vs Northwood

Uxbridge Vs Hanworth Villa



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November 11, 2023	 	Binfield vs Thatcham Town	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
November 18, 2023	 	Sutton Common Rovers vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
November 25, 2023	 	Binfield vs Leatherhead	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
December 2, 2023	 	Marlow vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
December 5, 2023	 	Binfield vs South Park	7:45 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
December 9, 2023	 	Binfield vs Uxbridge	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One
December 16, 2023	 	Raynes Park Vale vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One

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TROY MURRAY ●
TYRONE KNIGHT ●
HARVEY RACKLEY-HAYES ●
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HARRISON MARQUEZ ●
TRISTAN NOEL ●
JIMMY BAMBOSE ●
BRADLEY WORSFOLD ●
BLESK EKPENYONG ●
DANIEL ROTH ●
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● CALLUM WILTSHIRE
● KOJO KYEI
● ADAM NEW
● GEORGE HEDLEY
● GEORGE FRISE
● ROCK MOSES
● CAMERON ROHART-BROWN
● BILLY ORAM
● BABACK DEGHANI
● NICK MEDCRAFT
● KANE FITZGERALD
● KAT ALLSOPP
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● REECE ROBINS
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