

THE MOLES



Photo: Neil Graham





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

Match Secretary: Kieran Wickham - matchdays@binfieldfc.com

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Safety Officer: Craig Gilbert - craiggilbert1@virginmedia.com

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

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TODAY'S SQUADS

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 The Metropolitan Police Football Club. This is the first time that we have played against our opponents in a league fixture here at the ICONIC stadium, so we are all looking forward to the game. We come into today's match on the back of a very hard-earned draw against Chertsey on Tuesday night. The relief around the club was a thing to behold and I thought the players stepped up on the night and proved that we are more than capable of being competitive at this level. It is worth a reminder that playing at Step 4 football is still relatively new to the Moles and indeed, to some of our younger squad members. Binfield FC are a community football club with limited resources. The Manager is challenged with building a team within an "affordable" financial framework as everything we do must be sustainable for the long-term health of the club and our place in the community. Throw in our ethos for playing





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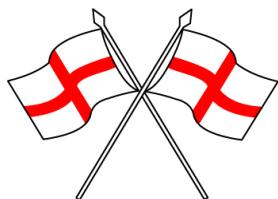
attractive football and our ambitions to be the home of aspiring young talent you can then start to appreciate that adage, “Rome was not built in a day”. The new lads that played Tuesday night all contributed to a very positive performance – I’m looking forward to a few people eating some Humble Crumble when we put this onto the new tea bar menu in a few weeks’ time.

Welcome to the new players that have arrived with this week – we look forward to welcoming you into our Football Club Family.

Back to today’s game, I’m sure it will be another great game so long as it’s not too hot out there.

To everyone associated with The Met Police Football Club – welcome to the Iconic Stadium here at Hill Farm Lane.

“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.

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The View From The Dugout Manager - Garry Haylock



Welcome to the Iconic Stadium to the players, officials, and supporters of Met Police, I hope they enjoy their time with us and have a safe journey home.

We approach today's game with just a little more optimism given that we had a fought draw with Chertsey in midweek, I thought that at times we rode our luck but when you are in the league position that we find ourselves, very often you get no luck. What I am pleased about is that we had more grit and steel about the team and this is what we need to focus on.

I have no doubt that there is enough talent and ability in this playing group to have a successful season but those qualities have never been enough for any team, the ability to compete and withstand the physical side of the game will always be of value to any team.

We have a young group who don't have a huge amount of experience at this level and so far it has been a baptism of fire and the results have reflected this. It has been made clear to all the players that in regards of the physical side of the game, Tuesday's performance is the bare minimum of what is expected.

Looking ahead to today's game, everybody I have spoken to about Met Police has suggested that they are also experiencing some teething problems at this level but that they will be a handful for any team this season. Sometimes when a team is relegated it can be difficult to adjust, especially when a number of players leave - an experience I can sympathise with!

Moving forward, I think this group will be taking steps to improve with each passing week and although every now and then there will be a backward step, my view is that when compared to the first game, there has been big strides in the right direction. However, we are still no where near where I think we should be and we will continue to work hard, in training and games to achieve our full potential

Enjoy the game

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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





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
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A VIEW FROM THE STAND

Binfield FC vs Chertsey Town FC - Match report



Binfield earned their second Isthmian League point of the season with a well-deserved draw at the Iconic Stadium.

After a quiet first half, the Moles had the best chance at the end of the first half when Troy Murray played through Jimmy Bamgbose but he was unable to get his shot away and then from the resulting corner Michael Stanic-Stewart was able to head the ball back across goal but Rechan Esprit's shot was well blocked.

Chertsey then had a golden opportunity to take the lead early into the second half when the ball was played through the Gianluca Totti but Nicholas Harvey, on his Binfield debut, did well to close down the angle and turn the ball behind for a corner.

Esprit then tested Nicholas Jupp from long range who did well to get down to his left and then on the hour mark, Dontaye Whittaker was played through and bought down in the area with referee Stephen Hawkes pointing to the spot. Whittaker picked himself up and sent Jupp the wrong way to give the Moles the lead.

Then they had a couple of opportunities to double their lead but Murray's shot was blocked and Ben Stallard's effort was straight at Jupp.

Chertsey got their equaliser with ten minutes to go when Toby Little's free kick was nodded in by Liam Flanigan. They thought they had won it when Gareth Chendlik headed in six minutes later but linesman Ricky Ansher had his flag up and the points were shared.

That puts the Moles two points from safety and they face 18th place Metropolitan Police at the Iconic Stadium on Saturday



MEET THE SQUAD



GARRY HAYLOCK
Manager



ROGER HERRIDGE
Coach



KEITH PENNICOTT-BOWEN
Coach



HARVEY RACKLEY-HAYES



KIERAN ROBINSON



TROY MURRAY



MAX DRAKE



ZEID HANNACHI



WILLIAM MABUKWA



KHALID SENUSSI



NOAH CHENGUN



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 (93)
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								
Tue 10	Westfield								
Sat 14	Hartley Wintney								
Sat 21	Corinthian-Casuals								
Tue 24	Ascot United								
Sat 28	South Park								
November									
Sat 11	Thatcham Town								
Sat 18	S.C.R								
Sat 25	Leatherhead								
December									
Sat 2	Marlow								
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									
Mon 1	Badshot Lea								
Sat 6	Ashford Town								
Sat 13	Guernsey								
Sat 20	Raynes Park Vale								
Sat 27	Uxbridge								

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Introducing Our Visitors

On 6th July 1829, Sir Robert Peel formed the Metropolitan Police, the first organised Police Force in the world, with an office overlooking the Thames at Whitehall known as Scotland Yard, a name that has become famous throughout the world, and also became synonymous with the Metropolitan Police.

Ninety years later, in 1919, the Metropolitan Police Football Club was formed, playing friendly matches until joining the Spartan League in 1928. Apart from the war years (1939-45), the club remained in that competition until 1960. During that time the Blues were League Champions eight times, runners-up once and League Cup winners once. In 1960 the Blues joined the Metropolitan League, winning the League Cup in 1969.

In 1977, the Blues moved to the Isthmian League, becoming one of the founder members of the restructured Division Two. A successful first season (1977/78) resulted in the club finishing runners-up to Epsom & Ewell and being promoted to Division One. In Season 1981/82 the club finished 3rd in Division One, missing promotion by just two points.

However, fortunes changed and in 1984/5, as a result of finishing third from the bottom, the Blues were relegated to Division Two (South). Ironically, in that 1984/5 season the Blues enjoyed their best run in the F.A. Cup, reaching the First Round Proper. The home tie against Dartford was subsequently featured on the BBC's "Match of the Day" programme.

Defeat against Dartford was followed by a run of defeats in the league, which saw the Blues drop into one of the four relegation places introduced that season.

Season 1994/5 saw the club celebrate its 75th Anniversary with a game against the Army and the opening of a new grandstand at Imber Court. The Blues finished in 5th position in Division Two and ended the season with a thrilling victory in the Carlsberg Trophy, defeating Collier Row in a penalty shoot-out following a 1:1 draw after extra-time.

In 2009/10 the Blues won the London Senior Cup for the first time in the club's history, beating AFC Wimbledon in an exciting final, 4:3 on penalties, after the match ended 4:4 after extra time.

The 2010/11 season proved to be the most exciting in the club's history, culminating in the club winning the Ryman League Division 1 South Championship by the narrow margin of one goal. Bognor Regis Town had a 2 point advantage during the latter stages of the season and that was the situation when the clubs lined up for the final match. Bognor were held to an unexpected draw by Chatham Town and with the Met managing to scramble a 1:0 win against Merstham, it was enough to win the title with a goal difference of 61 against Bognor's 60.

In the 2018/19 season due to FA restructuring, we were moved from the Bostik league to the Southern League which led to the departure of our long serving manager Jim Cooper, a number of players and also greatly increased travelling costs. Gavin Macpherson was appointed manager with Jon Nurse as his assistant and they gave youth a chance which they took with both hands playing outstanding football and commitment to finish 3rd in the league and then beating Salisbury and Poole Town in the play offs. The club had a tremendous run in the FA Cup reaching the 1st Round proper where we lost to AFC Newport County of League 2. The Blues also won the Surrey Senior Cup beating Tooting and Mitcham 2-0 in the final.

The seasons of 2019/20 & 2020/21 were both curtailed early due to the Covid 19 pandemic but 2021-2022 proved to be yet another enthralling campaign, eventually finishing 4th in the league, the clubs highest ever final position, and were in the hunt for the title until the final few games of the season. We were eventually beaten 2-1 A.E.T in the play-off semi-final by Farnborough who went on to be promoted after winning the final.

2022-23 was another season where the Met played good football, however with midweek away trips to the likes of Plymouth Parkway and Tiverton Town the travelling and busy schedule was likely affecting the team's ability to challenge for promotion, not to mention the costs of travelling regularly to the likes of Devon and Dorset. A reputable eighth place was achieved and silverware was sourced in the form of another win of the Surrey Senior Cup via an impressive 4-1 final win over Virginia Water, but it was apparent that the long and hard campaigns on and off the park warranted discussion.

In the summer of 2023 the Club held a number of internal discussions, Manager Gavin MacPherson had departed for Enfield and with FA League Committee Deadlines approaching, the club decided to apply for relegation to Step 4 and a return to the Isthmian League. Confirmation from the FA Leagues Committee followed and a new chapter for The Blues was turned. A number of players departed the club, seeking Step 2 & 3 football but with the new Management Team of Suj Singh Khara and Scott Kemp in place a new-look Met Squad has been assembled with a number of players progressing from the Development Squad, bolstered by key signings and one or two familiar faces returning to the club.



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YOUNG MOLES WATCH:

Our U23s development side managed an emphatic 10-0 home win over Woodley United on Saturday 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 ther 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		
Sat 21	Westwood Wanderers	H		
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		

South Central Division 2023-24

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

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	Apps	Goals
Ismail Amiri	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
Jimmy Bamgbose	Sep 23 Southall	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Flynn Bolton	Aug 23 Ashford Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Monty Brady	Aug 23 Ashford Town	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
George Brough	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liam Campbell	Aug 23 Ashford Town	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	8	0	4	0	4	0	8	0
Noah Chengun	Aug 23 Ashford Town	2	1	3	0	4	0	4	3	7	3	3	0	4	3	7	3
Max Drake	Aug 23 Ashford Town	4	1	5	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	5	0	1	0	6	0
Rechan Esprit	Aug 23 Ashford Town	5	0	5	0	4	0	4	0	9	0	5	0	4	0	9	0
Jake Fisher	Oct 22 Basingstoke Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	5	0
Janaid Forrester	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Zeid Hannachi	Aug 23 Ashford Town	1	1	2	0	3	2	5	0	7	0	2	0	5	0	7	0
Finn Harvey	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	3	1	4	0	4	1	5	0	9	0	4	0	5	0	9	0
Thomas Henry	Sep 23 Hanworth Villa	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Connor Jeanes	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	1	1	2	0	1	2	3	0	5	0	2	0	3	0	5	0
Tyrone Knight	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	3	2	5	0	1	1	2	0	7	0	5	0	2	0	7	0
Ben Lewis	Aug 23 Ashford Town	6	0	6	0	4	0	4	1	10	1	6	0	4	1	10	1
William Mabukwa	Oct 22 Basingstoke Town	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	5	0	3	0	8	0
Harrison Marquez	Sep 23 Southall	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Troy Murray	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	5	0	5	0	3	2	5	0	10	0	5	0	5	0	10	0
David Nelligwa	Aug 23 Badshot Lea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Harvey Nicholas	Oct 23 Chetsey Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Tristan Noel	Sep 23 Southall	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Harvey Rackley-Hayes	Aug 21 Harefield United	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	10	0	35	0	6	0	41	0
Kieran Robinson	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
Josh Selby	—	0	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	0
Vote Singa	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Stallard	Aug 23 Ashford Town	5	0	5	0	3	1	4	1	9	1	5	0	4	1	9	1
Michak Stanic-Stewart	Aug 23 Ashford Town	6	0	6	0	4	0	4	0	10	0	6	0	4	0	10	0
Dontaye Whittaker	Aug 23 Wokingham & Em.	5	0	5	2	4	0	4	0	9	2	5	2	4	0	9	2
Bradley Worsfold	Aug 23 Ashford United	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

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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Carshalton Athletic welcomed Cray Valley PM and five hundred and forty three fans to the Steve McKimm derby, the Robins boss from last season bringing his Millers to Colston Avenue. Both sides had started the campaign in superb fashion, the visitors unbeaten in all competitions and full of confidence- and it showed as the Millers took only two minutes to go ahead, Arthur Lee with the opener. The Robins were level ten minutes before the break, Aaron Lamont with the equaliser, and they got the next goal, too, Paris Hamilton Downes making it two-one five minutes into the second half. Fifteen minutes later the hosts were three-one up, Bradley Williams with that one, but a Kyrell Lisbie goal quickly brought it back to three-two. Two minutes from time a penalty was awarded to the Millers, and Adam Coombes held his nerve to make it three-three- and the two sides will have to meet again in midweek, before meeting again next weekend in the FA Trophy!

Merthyr Town, in third place in Pitching In Southern Premier South, were the long distance hosts for Sheppey United. Town had lost only twice this season- although both of those defeats had come at home- and they went ahead on eighteen minutes, but it took only three minutes for the unbeaten Ites to hit back through Josh Wisson. The visitors then went ahead, Richard Hamill giving them the lead with twenty minutes left, and four minutes from time Danny Leonard surely ensured a giant killing, making it three-one. The Ites then sent their fans wild with a fourth, Oscar Housego plunging most of the nine hundred and eighty nine watching on into utter dismay.

Ramsgate have been scintillating at times this season, and played their youth team in the Kent Cup in midweek (they lost seven-one) to ensure they had a full squad to pick from for the visit of Frome Town. The Rams had already slayed two giants in the FA Cup, Cray Wanderers and Chatham Town, so they won't have been afraid of Pitching In Southern League Division One South side Frome Town- but also had to guard against taking them lightly, as the visitors brought with them a nine match unbeaten run and are in fine form. The Rams broke the deadlock just after the restart, Benni Bioletti with the goal, and doubled their advantage with fifteen minutes remaining, Jack Parter making it two-nil. The visitors got one back late on, but it mattered little.

Gorleston were the sole surviving North Division side in the FA Cup. They had their biggest test yet, National League South side Hemel Hempstead Town heading to Great Yarmouth. After a goalless first half the visitors took control after the break, going ahead on fifty five minutes and quickly making it two-nil soon afterwards. That was that, but the Greens have done themselves- and the League- proud.

We had something of a grudge match at Aveley, where the- these days National League South- Millers welcomed our very own Hornchurch. It isn't long since the two sides were meeting in our Play Off Final- the third of three meetings last season, each won by Aveley- and there was no doubt that our high-flying Urchins would very much have welcome some revenge- but the opening goal went to the hosts, just before the half hour, and they were two up by the break. The Urchins hit back on the hour, Liam Nash giving them hope, and that hope was realised when Tommie Hoban levelled in the very last minute

West Ham missed an open goal in the first minute ... then eight weeks into lockdown I'm starting to wonder how this will all end? I haven't seen any of my football family for an equal amount of time. Phone calls, e-mails and messages are very nice, but not the same as human contact. It seems Haringey Borough on a Monday night is essential for good relations and well-being. The football may not be greatly important.

During this enforced lay-off, I've been selecting imaginary cricket teams, football teams and naming my favourite pieces of music. I have an eclectic taste, many wouldn't understand, but I have surprised myself discriminating between what is good and what it bad.

The last few weeks have tested my resolve and today's musical item was 'She's a Rainbow', by the Rolling Stones. I can't believe anyone has produced a backing track, so I won't attempt a rendition. However, I am contemplating Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber joining me on the piano later this week. A duet of Memory from Cats could be a lifelong dream, if only Sir Andrew gets all the right notes in the right order. As Trigger once said, "you've put a bit of music on Dave". Did I tell you about my new guitar?

Sorry and I'm rambling, but I live in hope. Yes, I am missing football and hoping to plot my way back into service, but where and when is simply unknown? Then, I spied some 2020-21 fixtures on the South West Peninsula League's website and hastily prepared a new spreadsheet and entered the details.

I hope this finds you well. Life is precious, don't waste it and if life is getting you down and you need a miracle, look no further than a few lines from my match report from Guernsey a few years ago.

Before the game, I met Fabrice Muamba. The former Bolton Wanderers player was at Footes Lane to officially

unveil Guernsey's first-ever outdoor 24/7 public-access defibrillator. Muamba, became a household name, when he collapsed on the pitch during an FA Cup match against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane. His heart stopped beating for 78 minutes and eventually Muamba pulled through. He received a standing ovation from everyone within the ground at Guernsey and I'm certain hospitality second to none. I shook hands with him and said "I thought you were dead mate".

See you around, somewhere ...

PMW

THEY'RE WEARING CRICKET PADS UP IN HEAVEN

Remembering Norman Hunter

"Why are you putting on cricket pads?"

says God to old Saint Pete.

"Cos Norman Hunter's coming up and he's dangerous with his feet.

We've put him on Cloud number
Six

where he can hang his England
Caps on pegs
the cloud is already christened as
'Norman Bites Yer legs.'

Despite his reputation God," says
Pete

"he's liked by all the lads,
but I strongly recommend to you
that you put on your cricket pads."

FORGIVE the self-indulgence, but some of my best memories of this job will be covering the FA Cup — more specifically, the FA Cup shocks.

For every long trip to Huddersfield Town — where they stuck two past Dover Athletic inside the opening eight minutes before playing out a 2-0 win — there's been an enjoyable drive back from Burnley or Torquay.

Lincoln City's run of 2016-17 stands out the most, largely because I was fortunate enough to be there for most of the ride.

Ipswich Town away in early January brought a 2-2 draw for the Imps but who could predict what would come with a journey that catapulted the club and its then managers — Danny and assistant Nicky Cowley — into another stratosphere.

Ipswich were finished off in the third round replay — I watched on TV — before Brighton & Hove Albion were turned over in the fourth round.

Out of the hat came Burnley where Sean Raggett's late goal won an incredible tie. Sitting in the press room after I felt I had to check over and over again that Lincoln City had reached the quarter-finals before writing into the match report.

Before we knew it, we were at Danny Cowley's house with the FA Cup for a special pre-Arsenal feature.

The Premier League Gunners were next but Arsene Wenger's side were in no mood to be part of any more history, seeing off the Imps 5-0 — not that the 10,000 travelling supporters ever lost their voice.

When Crawley Town went to Manchester United in 2011 it was a much closer encounter, striker Richard Brodie just inches away from a late equaliser only for the woodwork to intervene.

My in-person north-west record is pretty good. Macclesfield seeing off Cardiff City with two goals from Matthew Barnes-Homer.

Then I was there when Salford City beat Notts County 2-0 on a Friday night in November 2015. The next day legendary FA Cup giant killers Altrincham dumped out League One Barnsley 1-0, immediately justifying The NLP's hotel bill for my overnight stay!

But it hasn't just been the upsets or the near-misses. A privilege of the job is being able to tell the stories in the build-up or be at a club when it's all eyes on them. Paulton Rovers may have been turned over by Norwich City, but the buzz around the club through the week was heightened even more on match day as FA Cup fever swept through the small village. We're inching closer to this season's FA Cup first round proper with the fourth round qualifying games just around the corner.

The exciting thing about the FA Cup is this year's stories are just waiting to be written. Experiencing them in person is definitely a job perk!



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Today's Fixtures

South Central Division 2023-24

ALL 3PM KICK OFF'S

Chertsey Town v Uxbridge

Marlow v Raynes Park Vale

Northwood v Chipstead

Sutton Common Rovers v Southall

Thatcham Town v Guernsey



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October 10, 2023	 	Westfield vs Binfield	7:45 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Woking Park
October 14, 2023	 	Binfield vs Hartley Wintney FC	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Hill Farm Lane
October 21, 2023	 	Corinthian-Casuals vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	United Business Group Stadium
October 24, 2023	 	Ascot United vs Binfield	7:45 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Racecourse Ground
October 28, 2023	 	Binfield vs South Park	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Hill Farm Lane
November 11, 2023	 	Binfield vs Thatcham Town	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Hill Farm Lane
November 18, 2023	 	Sutton Common Rovers vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Church Road, Whyteleaf
November 25, 2023	 	Binfield vs Leatherhead	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Hill Farm Lane
December 2, 2023	 	Marlow vs Binfield	3:00 pm	Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division One	Alfred Davis Memorial Ground

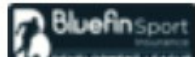
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TODAY'S SQUADS



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THOMAS HENRY ●
MAX DRAKE ●
LIAM CAMPBELL ●
KIERAN ROBINSON ●
CONNOR JEANES ●
DANIEL LEWIS ●
BEN STALLARD ●
TROY MURRAY ●
TYRONE KNIGHT ●
NOAH CHENGUN ●
FINN HARVEY ●
DONTAYE WHITTAKER ●
MONTY BRADY ●
RECHAN ESPRIT ●
ISMAIL AMIRI ●
HARRISON MARQUEZ ●
TRISTAN NOEL ●
JIMMY BAMGBOSE ●

● LIAM BEACH
● JULLIEN SAKA
● ALFIE WALTERS
● LAURENCE ERNEST
● KYNAN KIRLEW-WRIGHT
● ISAAC NKOSI
● LIAM MONTAGUE
● MASON GALLOWAY
● ELIJAH WILLIAMS
● LOUIS DEGAND
● ADAM GREEN
● BAYLEY MUMMERY
● SHEKINAH REID
● CHARLIE BROWN
● ELI NICHOLS
● DANIEL STEWART
● KAREEM AKINNIBI
● ALEX BODY

ASSITSTANT

EDWARD HALL

REFEREE

JOHN PERRY

ASSISTANT

GULAM DAMJI