

ISSUE #06 | 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2025



YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE  
TO ALL OF THE  
WEEKEND ACTION

# PRE VIEW MAG

# WALKING TALL



Emirates  
FA CUP

+  
EMIRATES  
FA CUP  
PREVIEW



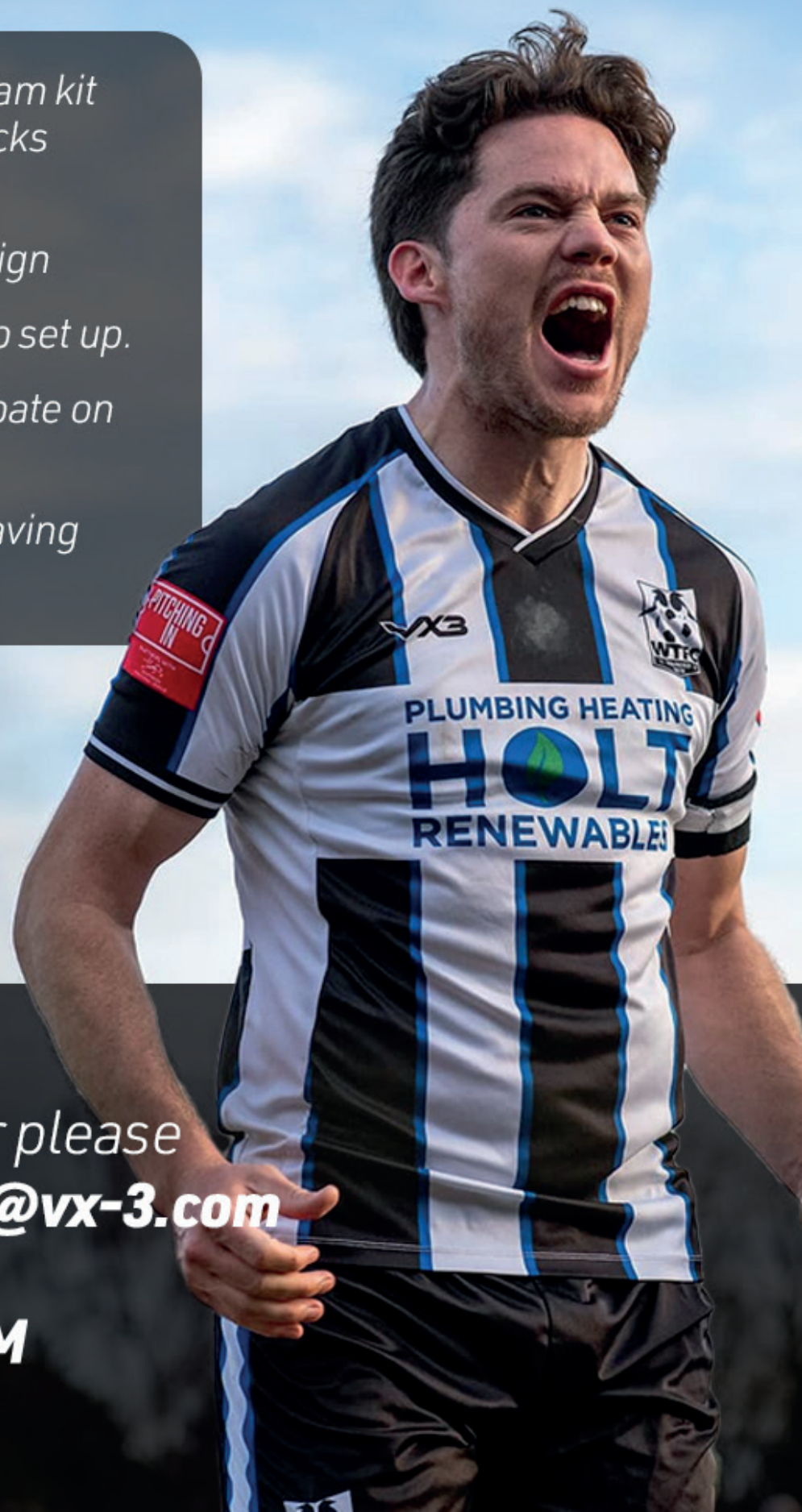


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Pitching In Southern  
Football League  
Preview Mag 2025/26

## FARNHAM TOWN WALKING TALL

There was plenty of media attention on the top of the table clash in the Pitching In Southern League Premier South last weekend.

A record crowd of over 2,100 gathered at Farnham Town to see them play out an enthralling 2-2 draw with fellow high-flyers, Sholing, in the Surrey sunshine.

If that was not enough, amongst the mascots leading out the teams ahead of the game was a certain Peter Crouch!

"It came as a result of him agreeing to do a forfeit for finishing bottom of his Fantasy Football League on his Podcast," revealed Farnham Town Chairman, Harry Hugo. "An EFL club had agreed to host the forfeit but pulled out about a month ago.

"It was around this time that I got a call from Pete whilst I was minding my own business on the golf course. He asked if they could do the forfeit with us at Farnham Town. For me, it was a no-brainer and the wheels were set in motion there and then.



"Obviously I was slightly sceptical of it actually happening as there is so much that can change in Pete's calendar at a drop of a hat - but true to his word - he made it happen and, to be honest, it couldn't have gone much better!"

We congratulate all involved at both clubs for making the day such a success with the eyes of the national media firmly fixed on them.



# SCORE PREDICTOR

Throughout the 2025/26 season we are going to pit the players against the media and supporters in our score prediction competition.

The rules are simple; each week we select a game at random from each of our four divisions and then invite representatives to make their predictions. It's three points

for getting the score correct, one point for getting the right result and nothing an incorrect score/result.

To take part, email: **news@southern-football-league.co.uk**

Last week the honours were shared as Real Bedford Player, Brett Longden, and Malvern Town Media Man, Will Neville,

both scored five points, with Stamford AFC Fan, Richard Curtis, not too far behind on four points

This week we are joined by Malvern Town goalkeeper, Seth Locke, who represents the Players against Sam Yapp of Hartpury FC, who represents the Media, and Chertsey Town Fan, Jake Warner.

WEEK SIX	Locke	Yapp	Warner	TABLE	Score Correct	Result Correct	Points
Alvechurch v Leamington (FA Cup)	2-1	2-3	1-3	Players	3	7	16
Taunton Town v Weston Super Mare (FA Cup)	0-3	1-1	2-3	Media	2	8	14
Didcot Town v Exmouth Town	1-4	1-2	0-3	Supporters	2	4	10
Stotfold v Marlow	1-1	0-2	1-2				



# LEAGUE STANDINGS 2025-26



## Premier Division South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Poole Town	7	2	2	0	5	3	2	0	1	6	7	1	14
2	Gloucester City	6	3	0	0	9	2	1	1	1	4	4	7	13
3	Walton & Hersham	6	3	0	0	10	5	1	1	1	5	4	6	13
4	Farnham Town	7	1	2	0	4	3	2	2	0	9	6	4	13
5	Sholing	6	2	1	0	10	6	1	2	0	3	2	5	12
6	Taunton Town	7	2	2	0	7	3	1	1	1	6	6	4	12
7	Hungerford Town	7	2	0	1	6	4	2	0	2	5	5	2	12
8	Wimborne Town	7	2	1	0	8	3	1	1	2	4	4	5	11
9	Uxbridge	7	2	2	0	6	4	0	3	0	6	6	2	11
10	Berkhamsted	7	2	0	1	2	3	1	1	2	4	6	-3	10
11	Evesham United	7	1	2	1	4	4	1	1	1	5	4	1	9
12	Chertsey Town	7	0	1	2	3	5	2	1	1	4	2	0	8
13	Hanwell Town	7	2	1	1	6	3	0	1	2	0	4	-1	8
14	Gosport Borough	7	2	1	1	7	6	0	1	2	4	7	-2	8
15	Havant and Waterlooville	6	1	0	2	4	5	1	1	1	5	6	-2	7
16	Basingstoke Town	6	1	1	1	4	3	0	2	1	4	5	0	6
17	Tiverton Town	7	1	0	2	2	3	1	0	3	5	8	-4	6
18	Weymouth	7	0	2	1	2	4	1	1	2	5	7	-4	6
19	Yate Town	7	1	3	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	8	-5	6
20	Bracknell Town	6	1	1	1	7	7	0	1	2	1	4	-3	5
21	Plymouth Parkway	7	1	1	2	5	7	0	1	2	4	8	-6	5
22	Dorchester Town	7	0	1	2	5	9	0	2	2	3	6	-7	3

## Premier Division Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Harborough Town	7	3	2	0	9	2	2	0	0	4	1	10	17
2	Spalding United	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	15	9	6	14
3	Quorn	7	1	1	1	6	4	3	0	1	8	3	7	13
4	Alvechurch	7	2	0	2	5	4	2	1	0	5	1	5	13
5	Kettering Town	7	2	0	2	7	6	2	1	0	7	4	4	13
6	Bishop's Stortford	6	3	0	2	9	3	1	0	0	2	0	8	12
7	St Ives Town	7	2	2	0	5	2	1	0	2	6	5	4	11
8	Redditch United	7	2	1	0	6	2	1	1	2	3	5	2	11
9	Leiston	7	1	1	1	6	5	2	1	1	4	5	0	11
10	Bury Town	7	2	0	1	3	3	1	1	2	4	6	-2	10
11	Stourbridge	7	1	1	1	4	3	1	2	1	6	6	1	9
12	Banbury United	7	1	2	0	5	4	1	1	2	6	7	0	9
13	Halesowen Town	7	2	0	1	6	6	0	3	1	4	5	-1	9
14	Needham Market	7	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	5	6	-1	9
15	Real Bedford	7	2	0	2	4	5	0	2	1	2	3	-2	8
16	Worcester City	7	0	2	1	3	4	1	2	1	6	4	1	7
17	Stratford Town	6	1	1	1	6	6	1	0	2	4	7	-3	7
18	Barwell	7	1	1	1	5	5	1	0	3	4	9	-5	7
19	Bromsgrove Sporting	7	1	0	4	5	12	1	0	1	2	4	-9	6
20	AFC Sudbury	7	2	0	1	4	5	0	0	4	1	11	-11	6
21	Royston Town	7	0	2	2	6	10	0	1	2	2	5	-7	3
22	Stamford	7	0	3	2	2	7	0	0	2	0	2	-7	3

### Weekend Action

Emirates FA Cup Second Round Qualifying fixtures take place this weekend...

### Weekend Action

Emirates FA Cup Second Round Qualifying fixtures take place this weekend...

## Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Malvern Town	5	3	0	0	7	1	1	1	0	4	2	8	13
2	Bishop's Cleeve	4	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	9	3	10	12
3	Shaftesbury	4	2	0	0	7	1	1	0	1	6	3	9	9
4	Portishead Town	3	1	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	5	2	9	9
5	Frome Town	3	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	4	1	6	9
6	Winchester City	4	2	0	0	5	2	1	0	1	3	2	4	9
7	Hartpury	4	2	1	0	13	3	0	0	1	1	2	9	7
8	Mousehole	3	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	6
9	Swindon Supermarine	4	2	0	0	7	2	0	0	2	1	4	2	6
10	Westbury United	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	6
11	Brixham	4	1	0	1	4	7	1	0	1	4	4	-3	6
12	Melksham Town	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	5	-1	5
13	Exmouth Town	4	1	0	1	6	3	0	1	1	2	4	1	4
14	Bristol Manor Farm	4	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	7	-4	4
15	Larkhall Athletic	4	1	0	1	3	4	0	0	2	2	4	-3	3
16	Sporting Club Inkberrow	4	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	5	-5	3
17	Tavistock	4	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	2	0	6	-8	3
18	Falmouth Town	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	2
19	Willand Rovers	5	0	2	1	2	4	0	0	2	0	11	-13	2
20	Bashley	3	0	0	2	1	5	0	1	0	2	2	-4	1
21	Didcot Town	4	0	0	2	4	10	0	1	1	1	7	-12	1
22	Bideford	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	7	-8	0

## Division One Central

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Biggleswade	5	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	7	2	7	13
2	Leighton Town	3	2	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	9
3	Welwyn Garden City	5	1	0	2	1	3	2	0	0	5	2	1	9
4	Flackwell Heath	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	3	1	6	7
5	Beaconsfield Town	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	6	2	3	7
6	Barton Rovers	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	2	3	7
7	Hitchin Town	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	4	0	3	7
8	Hadley	4	1	0	1	4	4	1	1	0	3	1	2	7
9	Biggleswade Town	3	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	7
10	Leverstock Green	4	1	0	1	3	3	1	1	0	3	2	1	7
11	Hertford Town	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	6
12	Ware	4	1	0	1	5	6	1	0	1	4	4	-1	6
13	AFC Dunstable	5	0	2	1	4	5	1	0	1	3	5	-3	5
14	Aylesbury United	4	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	4	4	-2	4
15	Enfield	3	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	3
16	Marlow	3	1	0	1	5	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
17	London Lions	4	1	0	1	5	4	0	0	2	0	5	-4	3
18	Rayners Lane	4	0	0	2	1	4	1	0	1	5	7	-5	3
19	Milton Keynes Irish	5	0	0	3	4	11	1	0	1	2	2	-7	3
20	Northwood	3	0	0	2	2	6	0	1	0	2	2	-4	1
21	Thame United	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	2	1	4	-6	0
22	Stotfold	4	0	0	2	2	6	0	0	2	6	9	-7	0

### Division One South Weekend Action

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Bideford AFC  
v Melksham Town

Didcot Town  
v Exmouth Town

Hartpury  
v Sporting Club Inkberrow

Larkhall Athletic  
v Tavistock AFC

Malvern Town  
v Bristol Manor Farm

Willand Rovers  
v Bashley

Winchester City  
v Portishead Town

### Division One Central Weekend Action

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

AFC Dunstable  
v Beaconsfield Town

Barton Rovers  
v London Lions

Biggleswade Town  
v Leverstock Green

Hadley  
v Thame United

Milton Keynes Irish  
v Ware

Rayners Lane  
v Welwyn Garden City

Stotfold  
v Marlow



# EMIRATES FA CUP SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH



## Featured Match

# HUNGERFORD TOWN v SWINDON SUPERMARINE

There's extra spice added to Hungerford Town's Emirates FA Cup second round qualifying clash with neighbours, Swindon Supermarine, for front-runner, Harry Williams, as he comes up against his former club.

Williams finished top scorer for Supermarine last season as well as walking away with the Player's Player of the Season award.

His goals were not enough for them to escape the clutches of relegation as they went down on the final day of the season before seeing a big turnover of players during the summer as they prepared for life in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South.

Due to his exploits in front of goal despite his side's struggles,

there were a number of suitors offering Williams the chance to stay at Step 3 and in the end it was Hungerford Town who won the race for his signature.

He has already been amongst the goals this term amidst a solid start to the season that sees them sitting seventh in the early Premier South table.

"We started the season with our first two games against two of the favourites for promotion in Farnham Town, who we met on the opening day, and then Gloucester City.

"We lost both games narrowly and on each occasion we felt that we were more than worthy of a point, so it was an indication that we could mix it with the best that this League has to offer.

"We've since gone on to beat Tiverton Town, Havant & Waterlooville, Yate Town and Basingstoke Town before Tuesday's narrow 2-1 loss at Evesham United, so it's been a solid start and winning is a good habit to get in to.

"We also had a commanding 3-0 victory over AFC Stoneham in the previous round of the FA Cup to set up Saturday's tie.

"It's one that I am looking forward to; it will be nice to see some familiar faces on Saturday, although there have been a lot of changes amongst the team since last season.

"I have some good memories of my time at Supermarine and I wish the club every success in their attempts to bounce back straight away. It's a good club with some good people involved behind-the-scenes and loyal supporters.

"On Saturday, though, my focus will be firmly fixed on helping Hungerford get back into winning ways and make it into the next round of this fantastic competition.

"The lads have displayed plenty of character already this season and we've had to show different sides to our game in order to get results, so we will need to be prepared to do what we have to do to get through on Saturday."

We asked Williams what his aims and targets were for the campaign ahead, both personally and for the team as a whole.

"The Premier South is getting stronger all of the time and there are so many teams capable of doing well that it's becoming increasingly difficult to predict," he added. "I am sure that with the quality we've got, we'll be up there fighting towards the right end of the table.

"It was a strong summer of recruitment for the club and the opportunity is there for us to build on last season's



Harry Williams is looking forward to taking on his former club on Saturday

seventh place finish and challenge for the play-offs; that has to be the aim.

"As a striker I just want to try and find the net in every game I'm involved in. I never really set specific targets because I just want to score as many goals as possible."

Williams will be joined by a number of players for the home side who have connections with the visitors as they arrive on the back of a mixed bag of results in the League and a commanding 4-1 success at Tavistock AFC to make it through to this stage of the competition.

Their Chairman, Jez Webb, has already announced that this season will be his last after over a decade at the helm.

He admitted that the calibre of applicants for the vacant manager's job over the summer was 'head spinning'.

"The number of applications that we received and the calibre of those interested really was head spinning," he told us. "The quality of the candidates who wanted to come here really uplifted us and reiterated exactly what a strong reputation this club has within the non-League game.

"In the end we went for Bobby Wilkinson, who brings a successful and experienced team with him and we are all very excited to see what the campaign ahead holds in store for us.

"The playing squad has been totally rebuilt with over half of them having played at higher levels. Again, the credentials of those who have arrived reflect very positively on the management team we now have in place and the facilities that we are able to offer here.

"It's been a positive summer so far with plenty of progress made. Not only are we building a strong playing squad, but for the tenth consecutive season we have been able to invest heavily in the playing surface.

"We've also replaced the 3G playing surface in our indoor facility, which is known as The Swindome. There's a strong order book here and the revenue from this helps with the maintenance of the whole site.

"This is also a key factor in attracting players who know that they will have a top-class surface on which to perform as well as excellent training facilities.

"We're proud of our facilities and we're also proud of the many volunteers who help keep the club ticking over. It's because of their hard work and dedication why people want to have a piece of the Supermarine cake and see us as a good place to be.

"We have a healthy budget this season, certainly a top six budget. There are always teams who surprise every season, but I am determined that we will be right up there challenging for a prompt return to Step 3.

"We want to make 2025/26 a season to remember for all of the right reasons; a first-class experience for the supporters and a team on the pitch that plays the game the right way and with the right attitude.

"As a club we will continue to do things the right way; I have made it known that this will be my final season as Chairman and the task of finding the right person/people to take over the reins is well underway.

"Whether that is as investors or an outright purchase remains to be seen, but until then I will give it my full attention and make sure that the club is fully secure for the long-term.

"We own the ten acres our operations work out of; it's an amazing position just two miles from Swindon centre and with the recent reset on the playing side of things, we are excited by the road that this club is now on and the direction in which it is heading."

## THE REST OF THE EMIRATES FA CUP ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER SOUTH CLUBS

There's an away trip for Berkhamsted to a Billericay Town outfit who will be hoping to benefit from a new manager 'bounce'. Bracknell Town host the conquerors of Weymouth in the previous round, Tadley Calleva, whilst Dorchester Town head to Brixham AFC of Division One South.

It's an away draw for Farnham Town as they take on Burgess Hill Town in a tie that has been switched to their home ground as they look to make it through to the next round for the first-ever time. Fellow Premier South high-flyers, Sholing, head to Fareham Town, whilst Gloucester City will be hoping to make home advantage count against Chippenham Town.

Two Premier South clubs battle it out as Gosport Borough host Poole Town, whilst Hanwell Town welcomes Bedfont Sports. There's a mouth-watering tie for Taunton Town against Weston super Mare as Walton & Hersham head to Whitehawk and Wimborne Town also entertain higher-level opposition in Bath City. It's a short trip for Evesham United as they go to Racing Club Warwick.



The Taunton Town fans have Weston super Mare in their sights



# EMIRATES FA CUP SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION CENTRAL



## Featured Match

# BURY TOWN v WOODFORD TOWN

Bury Town's four-game unbeaten run in all competitions came to an end on Tuesday evening when they slipped to a 2-0 defeat at fellow Pitching In Southern League Premier Central new-boys, Real Bedford.

During those unbeaten games, summer signing, George Quantrell, went on a run of scoring in four successive games to take his tally for the season so far up to five goals, further emphasising his value to the team.

When the club were placed in the Premier Central during the summer following promotion, manager, Cole Skuse, knew that he had to bring in some experience of the level they were going into.

Step forward Quantrell. The accomplished attack-minded midfielder appeared 50 times for Leiston last season, weighing in with 19 goals as they secured their place just inside the top ten.

His signature was an important bit of business for the Suffolk club and he has proved to be a key figure in the club's solid start to the campaign, which has seen them take ten points from the opening seven games, as well as progression in the Emirates FA Cup where a home tie against Woodford Town awaits on Saturday.

Having secured their first away win of the season in the previous round of this competition with a 3-2 success at Brightlingsea



There's sure to be plenty of good action at Bury Town on Saturday

Regent, they followed it up seven days later by breaking their away duck in the League with their first Step 3 victory on their travels at Stamford AFC.

"It was a good win," said Quantrell of the Stamford AFC triumph. "Any points secured away from home are precious in this League; we defended well throughout and created some good chances.

"It was just a good, solid team performance and yielded our first away League win, which was nice. On a personal level, it was also good to get my name on the scoresheet once more.

"We've started the season well all things considered. Our performances have deserved more points than what we've got at the moment, but we're happy with the position we're in after the first seven games and hopefully we can continue adding to our points tally.

"We also have an opportunity to progress in the FA Cup too. A home draw against lower level opponents is all that you can ask at this stage, although we are wary of the fact that our visitors have started their season really well and as such will come here with confidence.

"The FA Cup is littered with against the odds results, so we will be looking to avoid this particular banana skin and get the job done right.

"I'm happy with my own form so far; I've got a few goals to my name already and I'm enjoying it, which is the main thing.

"We went into the season expecting a tough campaign with a lot of travelling for the club and coming up against a number of new teams for the majority of the players here.

"It's one of those where you just have to take each game as it comes; we're confident in our own ability and believe that we can push on from here.

"As a group we want to be challenging as high up the table as we can as well as getting as far as possible in each of the cup competitions that we enter.

"We're playing with plenty of confidence right now and we're all enjoying our football, so we want this to continue."

Saturday's opponents are members of the Essex Senior League (Step 5) where they top the Premier Division table having won five of their opening six League games, although their last outing saw their 100% start come to an end as they lost at home to Romford.

Shane Baptiste's side have beaten Colney Heath, Harlow Town and Newmarket Town to reach this stage of the competition, with some thrilling contests along the way.

A 97th-minute equaliser from Marko Protic at Harlow saw them earn a replay, which they won 3-2 thanks to Alex Kozak's 117th-minute winner, before an enthralling comeback, thanks to a brace, including one in the 91st-minute, from Dimi Christou, saw them beat Step 4 side, Newmarket Town.

It has all of the ingredients to be a keenly-contested tie, which is what the Emirates FA Cup is all about.

## THE REST OF THE EMIRATES FA CUP ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER CENTRAL CLUBS

Home advantage will be with AFC Sudbury as they take on Aveley, the same too for Alvechurch as they plot the downfall of National League North outfit, Leamington. A tricky away assignment awaits Redditch United at Buxton, whilst Banbury United also face a tough hurdle as they go to Chasetown, who removed Worcester City from the competition in the previous round.

Heading north are Halesowen Town as they go to Grimsby Borough, meanwhile Harborough Town host Worksop Town. An intriguing contest stands before Bishop's Stortford as they put their positive start to the season to the test at Hemel Hempstead Town. Leiston host Hackney Wick and Needham Market are also at home as they welcome Eynesbury Rovers.

There's a big clash of two Premier Central high-flyers as Quorn play host to Kettering Town, who have scored more goals than any other team in FA Cup history. Royston Town entertain Brentwood Town as Stamford AFC go to Shepshed Dynamo. A home tie against higher-level opponents awaits Spalding United as they prepare to host Alfreton Town from The National League North.

It's an away tie for Stourbridge as they go to Sutton Coldfield Town hoping that this will be the season in which they can create some more memories in this special competition.



It's a big tie at Harborough Town as they look to create more FA Cup memories



## Featured Match

# WINCHESTER CITY v PORTISHEAD TOWN

**Two sides who were two levels apart last season and have started the current campaign brightly go head-to-head in the Pitching In Southern League Division One South on Saturday.**

Winchester City are living up to their billing as one of the favourites for an immediate return to Step 3 as they have won three of their opening four League games, whilst Portishead Town, champions of the Western League Premier Division at the end of last term, have won all three of their League encounters so far.

This one has all of the ingredients to be hard-fought and competitive affair with home manager, Craig Davis, ready for this latest challenge in a managerial career that has now spanned over 650 games.

"It makes me feel old," Davis told us. "My first game as a manager came 13 years ago, I think it was for Fleet Town at home to Northwood, but I would have never expected back then that I would go on to manage in over 650 games at Step3/4 level; it's crazy to think about it!"

"I'm really proud of my record. Sadly, loyalty in football is becoming increasingly rare amongst players, managers and clubs, so I am grateful to have been involved with two clubs who have shown me loyalty and vice-versa.

"As a player I had always been captain of the clubs I played for, so it was always in the back of my mind to go into coaching and management, but not quite as early as it actually happened!



Craig Davis is ready for the latest challenge in a managerial career that has spanned over 650 games

"I was playing for Fleet Town at Step 4 when the manager was sacked and I was asked to take over as caretaker 'for a bit'. I was 30 at the time, things went well and I was asked to take on the role on a permanent basis.

"We managed to stay up at Step 4 throughout my time at Fleet with no budget and very much against-the-odds, so I was proud of that achievement.

"I then moved on Winchester City and to get the club promoted into Step 3 for the first-ever time and then stay at that level for three years is also something that gives me so much pride.

"We couldn't quite stay up last season, but the club has given me the opportunity to get us back up to that level and that's what we are working hard to achieve this season in what is a really competitive Pitching In Southern League Division One South."

We asked Davis about his coaching and managerial philosophies.

"I believe in managing the players and handling them in the same way that I wanted to be treated as a player," he said. "With that I mean by treating them with respect, being fiercely protective of them and ensuring that the camp is a happy one.

"I want to provide a platform for my players to go out and play their best football; I like to play front-footed football with pace and creativity in the opposition half.

"We study the opposition a lot so my players know exactly what to expect when they step out for each game because preparation is key.

"We had a big overhaul of players during the summer and as a result, we are still very much gelling as a group, so it's been a solid start all things considered.

"We're showing some good glimpses of what we are capable of, but there is a lot more to do. Our aim is to get in the play-offs/promoted and we will be trying our best to achieve that in what

we know will be a tough season ahead.

"Personally, I want to always carry myself in a way that represents our great club in the right manner. As I say, we are all very protective of each other here and that's something I love most about the club.

"We want to have fun along the way; it's important that we all, that's players, staff and supporters, have smiles on our faces as we work hard together to achieve our collective aims and objectives.

"Saturday's game will be a tough test as we face opponents who have won all three of their League games so far. They've recruited well over the summer and hit the ground running this season to build on the momentum that they gained during their title-winning season last time out."

Saturday's action elsewhere in Division One South sees Bideford AFC looking for their first League points as they host Melksham Town. Also searching for their first League success are Didcot Town who host an Exmouth Town outfit who are looking for a spark to kick-start their campaign.

New-boys Hartpury and Sporting Club Inkberrow go head-to-head, whilst Larkhall Athletic and Tavistock AFC, who both sit on three points after the opening four games, battle it out. Early leaders, Malvern Town, welcome a much-changed Bristol Manor Farm outfit who are still finding their feet.

There have been some recent changes behind-the-scenes at Bashley FC and on Saturday they head to Willand Rovers who are also looking to kick-start their fortunes, particularly in light of their recent heavy loss at Hartpury.

## THE REST OF THE EMIRATES FA CUP ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH CLUBS

**There are a number of Division One South clubs who are on Emirates FA Cup duty this weekend.**

Brixham AFC have a home encounter with Dorchester Town, who have started their Premier South season slowly, whilst League rivals, Shaftesbury and Frome Town, go head-to-head in what is sure to be a closely-fought match-up.

Another side with an intriguing home tie is Westbury United, who welcome Oxford City of The National League North as they look to make some more FA Cup memories.



Westbury United will be hoping to point the way into the next round as they host Oxford City



## Featured Match

# HADLEY v THAME UNITED

### Could the events of last Saturday prove to be a turning point in Thame United's season?

Having suffered a hangover from the end of last season when they were narrowly pipped to the play-off places, the Oxfordshire club has gone on to lose each of their opening three Pitching In Southern League Division One Central games so far this term.

It looked as though their interest in the Izusu FA Trophy was also coming to an end as they trailed Moneyfields 2-1 seven days ago. Then up popped Lance Williams with a last minute equaliser to take the tie to a penalty shoot-out where goalkeeper, Matthew Crowther, emerged as the hero saving the crucial spot-kick in a 5-4 victory.

"We played well in spells, but started to find our feet as the game went on," Crowther told us. "Even though we were the better side overall, it looked like being another one of those days as we trailed going into the closing stages.

"We were able to get the late leveller and that gave our confidence a big boost going into the shoot-out, as was shown by the way in which we converted all five of our penalties.

"It's always nice to make a contribution, so I was happy to make a save to help us get through to the next round and achieve our objective.

"It was nice to finally have something to celebrate at the end



Thame United are hoping for an upturn in fortunes

and now we have to be able to take this into our League games, starting on Saturday in what will be a tough one at Hadley.

"The start to the season has been difficult for us, there is no escaping that fact. Knowing what we have in the dressing room, we expected a lot more from ourselves, but it's still very early days and we're working hard to build on what we did last season.

"Obviously to just miss out on making the play-offs was tough to take, but it has only made us even more determined to go one better this time around.

"There have been positive aspects to take from each of our recent games; we've seen more of what we recognise from last season and more of what will get us moving in the right direction up the table towards where we want to be.

"This is a tough and competitive League; there are a lot of teams aiming high and who expect to be right up there when it counts.

"We are one of those teams and as much as it's a cliché, we really are going to be taking it one game at a time as we look to build a run of positive results.

"Everything will have to be earned this season because of the sheer number of teams who believe that they can make the play-offs and challenge for promotion.

"I want to be as consistent as I can be in my own performance levels and hopefully this can be replicated by the team. Confidence is a big thing in football and we gave ours a real boost with last weekend's results.

"There is a lot of belief amongst this group and we know that the results and momentum will come."

On Saturday, Crowther and his team-mates travel to face a Hadley outfit who did make the play-offs at the end of last term only to succumb to a heavy defeat at the hands of Berkhamsted at the semi-final stage.

They have won two of their four League games as well as securing

an impressive 5-1 away win at Ware in their last outing as they made Izusu FA Trophy progress themselves.

Elsewhere in Division One Central on Saturday, AFC Dunstable play host to Beaconsfield Town, unbeaten Barton Rovers welcome a London Lions outfit who are hoping to build upon their first win of the season, whilst another unbeaten team, Biggleswade Town, host a Leverstock Green side who have started the campaign brightly.

Fresh from their first success of the season in the League, MK Irish welcomes Ware.

"Getting our first win of the season was an amazing feeling," defender, Matt Haworth, told us. "Life at this level is a totally new experience for me having come up from Step 7 last season.

"I feel that I am adapting well, so too have some of the other lads who are playing at this level for the first time, and our performance levels as a group have been improving all of the time.

"We've definitely got the quality here and now we're off the mark in terms of points on the board, hopefully there will be more to follow.

"Our focus is fixed on kicking on from here; personally I want to establish myself in the team and help us keep clean sheets. We can definitely survive in this League and take things on from there."

Meanwhile, Rayners Lane entertain a Welwyn Garden City outfit who have won three of their opening five League fixtures. Finally, Stotfold, on the back of four straight defeats will be hoping to get their first points on the board when they take on Marlow.

## THE REST OF THE EMIRATES FA CUP ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL CLUBS

An away trip to Chelmsford City is the task that stands before the young Hertford Town team, whilst Enfield host Enfield Town in what is sure to be a tie full of thrills and spills.

A home clash for Hitchin Town sees them play host to St. Albans City, whilst it is a step into the unknown for Flackwell Heath as they head to the lowest-ranked team left in the competition, Soul Tower Hamlets.



The drinks are on Flackwell Heath as they head into unknown territory on Saturday



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