

PREVIEW MAG

YOUR FRIDAY GUIDE
TO ALL OF THE
WEEKEND ACTION

ISSUE #07 | 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2023



PARTNERS WITH

SOUTHERN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MAGIC MOMENTS

+ ISUZU
FA TROPHY
PREVIEW



VX3

VENI VIDI VICI

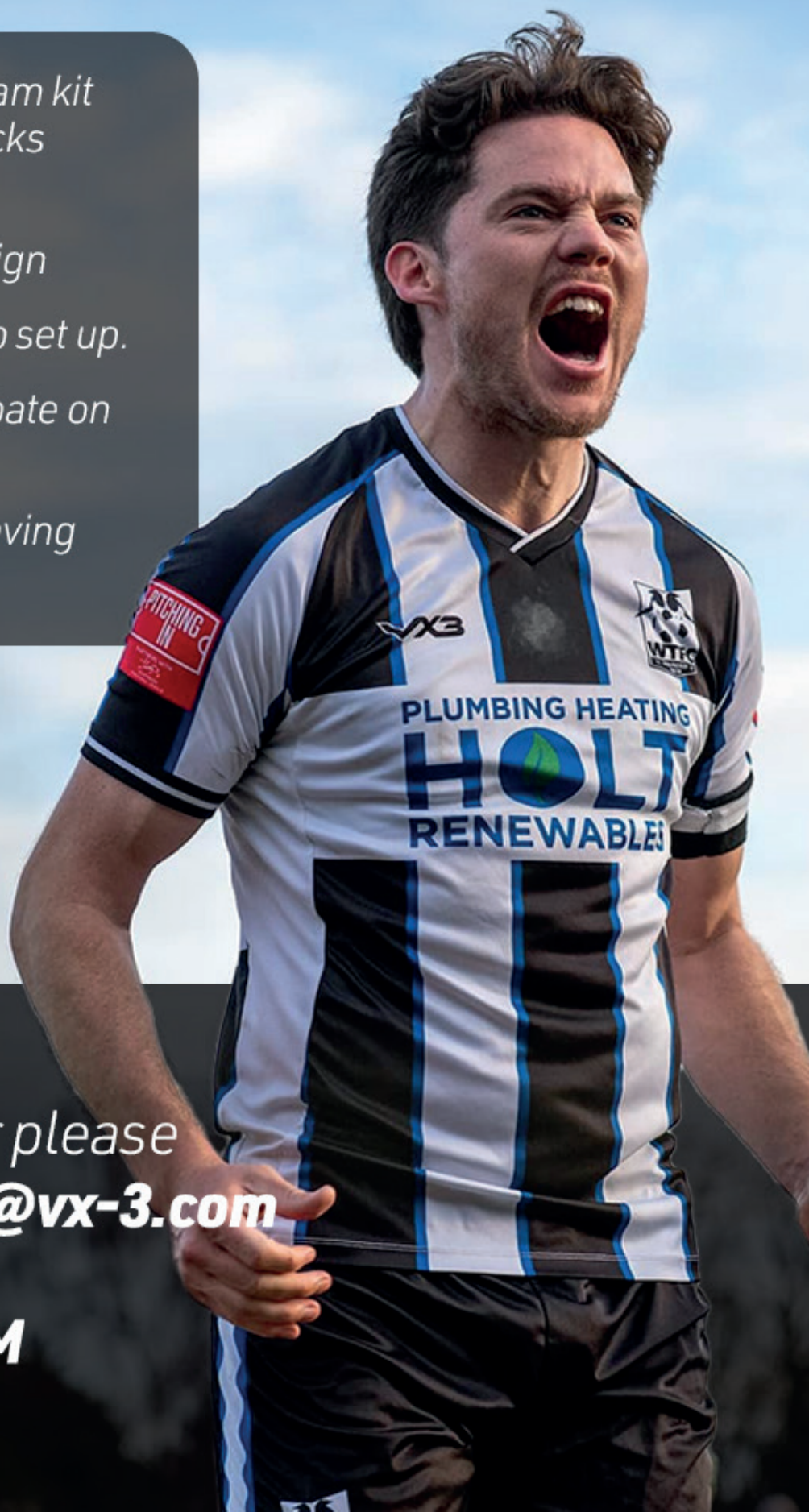
OFFICIAL KIT PARTNER OFFER

- **FREE** bespoke first team kit of 16x shirts/shorts/socks worth **£950**
- **FREE** bespoke kit design
- **FREE** online club shop set up.
- **10%** annual credit rebate on all club shop sales
- Partnership pricing saving **30-40% off** RRP



To claim this offer please
contact: **football@vx-3.com**

WWW.VX-3.COM



EMIRATES FA CUP MAGIC MOMENTS

The magic of the Emirates FA Cup was very much alive and kicking last weekend.

There were a number of giant-killing acts from our member clubs. Alvechurch were inspired by the on-loan Jose Marquez as he bagged a hat-trick in their 3-0 triumph over Leamington, whilst Harborough Town came from two goals down to knock out another National League North outfit in Worksop Town courtesy of a 3-2 victory, with the winner arriving in stoppage time at the end.

It was a special day all-round for Spalding United as they opened their new, revamped facilities with a commanding 3-0 victory over Alfreton Town in what was their first home action of the season. Wimborne Town were 2-1 winners against Bath City of The National League South, whilst Westbury United hit the headlines as they turned a two-goal deficit around to beat Oxford City 3-2 thanks to a last minute winner from super sub, Ali Sen.

"My emotions are all over the place," Sen told us. "It's the best feeling I've ever had in football so far. To come on and score the winner in such a massive FA Cup game means everything to me personally and the club.

"When I come on, the Gaffer just asked me to get myself about and play off seconds, so that's what I tried to do and luckily it paid off.

"The performance of the whole team was absolutely unreal from start to finish; everyone worked their socks off and showed true character to come from behind to make it through."

Taking their place in the third round qualifying for the first time in 77 years, a home tie against Farnborough of The National League South awaits next weekend.

Elsewhere, Leiston will face a home clash with Banbury United, whilst Quorn head to Enfield Town. There will be a home tie for Needham Market against Witham Town, whilst here's an interesting match-up at Harborough Town as they welcome Phil Brown's Peterborough Sports.



Alvechurch's reward is a home encounter with Chelmsford City, Spalding United have been drawn at their new-look home to face Dagenham & Redbridge, whilst Royston Town will host King's Lynn Town.

After their replay triumph, Evesham United will go to AFC Telford United and Halesowen Town host Aveley. Stamford AFC head to Sutton Coldfield Town, whilst Wimborne Town will have home advantage against Worthing. Premier South rivals, Farnham Town and Dorchester Town, lock horns as Hungerford Town go to Whitstable Town.

It's home advantage for Sholing against Eastbourne Borough in what is sure to be a keenly-contested tie, Poole Town welcome Weston super Mare as Frome Town go to AFC Totton. Division One Central Flackwell Heath welcome Bracknell Town of the Premier South and finally, Walton & Hersham entertain Chippenhams Town.

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 it was victory for Hartpury FC's Media Man, Sam Yapp, who scored four points to beat off the challenge of Malvern Town goalkeeper, Seth Locke, who secured two points. With one point to his name was Chertsey Town Fan, Jake Warner.

This week we are joined by Stotfold striker, Henry Snee, who takes on Freddie Hale, Social Media Manager at Marlow, and Gloucester City Fan, Mark Carter.

WEEK SEVEN

	Snee	Hale	Carter
Bracknell Town v Walton & Hersham	0-2	2-2	1-2
Redditch United v Stourbridge	1-1	1-1	2-2
Frome Town v Mousehole AFC	1-0	3-1	3-1
Hertford Town v Northwood	2-0	2-0	1-0

TABLE

	Score Correct	Result Correct	Points
Players	3	9	18
Media	3	9	18
Supporters	2	5	11

LEAGUE STANDINGS

20

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

Weekend Action

Basingstoke Town
v Havant & Waterlooville
Berkhamsted
v Plymouth Parkway
Bracknell Town
v Walton & Hersham
Chertsey Town
v Gosport Borough
Dorchester Town
v Yate Town
Farnham Town
v Taunton Town
Hungerford Town
v Poole Town
Sholing
v Hanwell Town
Tiverton Town
v Uxbridge
Weymouth
v Gloucester City
Wimborne Town
v Evesham United

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

AFC Sudbury
v Stratford Town
Banbury United
v Spalding United
Barwell
v Bromsgrove Sporting
Bury Town
v Alvechurch
Halesowen Town
v St Ives Town
Kettering Town
v Bishop's Stortford
Leiston
v Harborough Town
Needham Market
v Stamford
Quorn
v Royston Town
Redditch United
v Stourbridge
Worcester City
v Real Bedford

Division One South

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

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

Weekend Action

Didcot Town
v Bashley

Exmouth Town
v Brixham AFC

Frome Town
v Mousehole

Isuzu FA Trophy second round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...



Weekend Action

Barton Rovers
v Biggleswade Town

Flackwell Heath
v Leverstock Green

Hertford Town
v Northwood

Isuzu FA Trophy second round
qualifying fixtures also take
place this weekend...



Featured Match

DORCHESTER TOWN v YATE TOWN

Have gloves will travel, that's been the mantra for recent Dorchester Town arrival, Joe Besant.

After leaving academy football at AFC Bournemouth, the talented goalkeeper spent two years playing in Portugal for C.D. Nacional, C.C. Mafra and FC Alverca before moving to Northern Ireland with Larne, where he was part of their UEFA Conference League squad last season.

"To have the opportunity to live in different places through football has been an unbelievable experience for me," he told us. "I've managed to see places, experience different cultures and be part of different football environments, all thanks to my involvement in the game.

"It has helped me grow as a player and as a person and also appreciate that there is more to the game than what we see here in England, it has really opened my eyes.

"The players are very technically gifted in Portugal, whilst during my time in Northern Ireland I got to experience being involved in European football, which has been the best experience in my career to date.

"Now I am back from injury, the opportunity to establish myself here at Dorchester is something that I am really looking forward to. I am determined to bounce back from being out so long and I want to be able to give a good account of myself and establish a regular place in the team here.

"I've played at this level before, so I know how competitive it is and the standard is only getting better season-on-season. You always have to be switched on and one thing is certain; there's nowhere else in the world where you would find a seventh tier with the same quality and level of support.

"I just want to get regular game time here and build up a level of consistency. I want to become a presence in the side; someone who is looked upon as a reliable last line of defence and will give the team a solid foundation.

"As a group we're looking to start climbing the table and build some momentum. We need to get back to where we left off last season and start challenging for those play-off places once more.

"Football can change so quickly, particularly at this stage of the



It's a case of have gloves will travel for Joe Besant

season, and a couple of positive results, starting on Saturday, can make a big difference and get things moving in the right direction."

Besant and his Dorchester Town side come up against opponents who are fresh from their first League win of the season in their last Premier South outing.

Having secured the Division One South title last term, Yate Town have found the early going tough at the higher level, but their 2-1 victory over Tiverton Town has given hope that their fortunes can start to change sooner rather than later.

Amongst the scorers in their first win was Jack Karadogan, another player who has recently returned to these shores following a spell playing abroad.

The Welshman spent last season turning out for Turkish outfit, Sanliurfaspor.

"It was a massive learning curve for me over there," he admitted. "I didn't play as regularly as I would have liked, but I gained

plenty of experience and I am all the better for doing it.

"Now I'm back here and eager to get a regular run of games. It was my first start against Tiverton, so to get my second goal of the season and help the team achieve a winning result was all I could ask for.

"It was a good game; that first win has been coming for a few weeks now, so now we've got it, the hope is that more can follow and we can start moving in the right direction up the table.

"Against Tiverton we stuck to our game plan and whilst we had to absorb a lot of pressure late on, we managed the game well to get a deserved three points."

Karadogan learned his trade at Swansea City before spending a year as a professional at Newport County. He has his sights set on adding more goals to his tally, but on Saturday has Joe Besant standing in his way.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

It's been a positive start to the season for Poole Town with just one defeat from their seven League games so far. That record will be tested as they travel to a Hungerford Town outfit who sit inside the leading pack, just a couple of points behind their opponents.

Gloucester City are on their travels as they take on a Weymouth side who are looking to kick-start their season following Steve Claridge's appointment into the hot-seat. Also up there are Walton & Hersham who go to a Bracknell Town outfit who are up-and-running with their first win of the season now under their belt.

There's an entertaining encounter in prospect at Farnham Town as they take on Taunton Town, whilst Sholing go head-to-head

with Hanwell Town. After their Emirates FA Cup exploits last weekend, Wimborne Town are back on home soil for the visit of Evesham United.

Unbeaten Uxbridge, who have five draws to their name from the opening seven games, head to face Tiverton Town who are yet to play out a draw this season. What price honours even here? Meanwhile, Berkhamsted play host to Plymouth Parkway and Chertsey Town welcome Gosport Borough with both teams level on eight points going into the game.

Just a point separates Basingstoke Town and Havant & Waterlooville as they go head-to-head to complete the weekend action.



Poole Town are keen to build on their positive start to the season

Featured Match

LEISTON v HARBOROUGH TOWN

Harborough Town are at it again! Having enjoyed an Emirates FA Cup adventure which took them to the second round proper last season and an entertaining defeat at the hands of Reading, they have created more drama in this year's competition.

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Central high-flyers found themselves two goals down at the hands of National League North opponents, Worksop Town, last weekend only to turn the scoreline on its head as they grabbed a stoppage time winner to go through 3-2.

Putting in a Man of the Match display was Paul Malone, who was part of the club's run last time out.

"I am proud of everyone in that changing room," he told us. "We knew we were still in the game at half-time and then after the break it was one-way traffic as we took control of the tie.

"You can't beat a late winner in the FA Cup against higher level opponents and we certainly deserved it!

"Personally I felt that I did well during the game; I started in defence then went up top. I did everything I could for the lads and we all pulled together after what was a horrible start.

"The art of digging deep and going into the trenches together is something that the Gaffer has created here since he has been at the club and we have proven time and time again how important these qualities are.

"The boys have been brilliant so far this season and I don't think that we've really got out of second gear yet, to be honest. We've adapted well to set-backs in the team, whether that be injuries or suspensions, and showed that we have strength in depth.



Paul Malone is playing his part in another exciting story for The Bees

"We're on the right track; we can certainly do more, we know that, but the objective from day one has been promotion, particularly having come so close last season.

"We've been able to add plenty of quality to the talent already here and personally I want to be able to keep my standards high and contribute whatever way needed, whether that's in defence or in attack.

"I'm no spring chicken anymore, but I still have so much to give and I know that I can play my part in a successful season for the club."

Lining up against Malone on Saturday will be another player who, it's fair to say, is at the mature end of his playing career.

Ryan Jarvis has appeared at the highest levels of the game during a career that has spanned over two decades having made his senior debut in the Championship for Norwich City at the age of just 16.

"Yes, I have great footballing memories over the last 20 years or so," he told his club's media this week. "Aside from obviously making my England youth appearances and debuts in the Championship and Premier League, one of my biggest highlights was winning back-to-back promotions with King's Lynn, from

Step 3 in the Southern League Premier Central to The National League.

"It's something I'd love to replicate here at Leiston. I am absolutely loving my football here; as much as I enjoy supporting the younger players in the group, I still have the desire and buzz to play whenever called upon.

"The club has such a close-knit feel about it, so many good people, staff and great fans contributing off the field to support the exciting work that goes on the field from the youngsters through the pathway all the way to the first team.

"There's a good mix of youth and experience here, which is serving us well.

"I'm now 39 but the hunger is still there, whether I'm in the starting line-up or on the coaching staff for the day, the excitement of game day is something that's hard to replicate and one I can't imagine not being a part of.

"I'd love to be able to play at 40 years old if the manager feels I'm contributing to the team; that's my goal, but I'm not looking too far ahead at this stage, just taking it game by game."

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Having made explosive starts to the season, both Kettering Town and Bishop's Cleeve have slipped just short of those early high standards recently. They meet at the weekend with both teams eager to strengthen their place amongst the leading pack.

It's been a positive start to life at the higher level for Quorn following promotion at the end of last season and they host a Royston Town outfit who are still searching for their first League triumph. Meanwhile, Alvechurch will be in high spirits following their Emirates FA Cup success last weekend as they host Bury Town.

These are heady days for Spalding United who have started the season well despite playing all of their League games away from home. They are on their travels again this weekend as they head to Banbury United. Starting the season in solid fashion, St. Ives Town welcome Halesowen Town, fresh from their Emirates FA Cup replay romp on Tuesday.

There's a local derby at Redditch United as they take on Stourbridge with only a couple of points separating the two teams. Flattering to deceive so far are Needham Market and Stamford AFC; they will be looking to kick-start their respective campaigns, whilst newly-promoted duo Worcester City and Real Bedford have made similar starts and they meet at Sixways Stadium. The game has been designated as Youth Day with each of City's 400+ junior players invited to attend.

Finally, AFC Sudbury host Stratford Town and Bromsgrove Sporting head to Barwell with all four clubs looking to pull themselves away from the lower reaches of the table.



Worcester City will be celebrating and showcasing their thriving youth development section on Saturday

Featured Match

DIDCOT TOWN v BASHLEY

Skipper, Lewis Ross, displayed nerves of steel to step up and convert a stoppage time penalty to give Bashley their first Division One South win of the season as they secured a 2-1 triumph at Willand Rovers last weekend.

It was a result which stands them in good stead amidst a summer of much change off the field at the club and now the challenge is to add to it as they head to a so far winless Didcot Town on Saturday.

"There was a great sense of relief when the ball hit the back of the net," Ross told us. "It's always a great feeling to score, but when it's the winner with virtually the last kick of the game, it makes it that extra bit special.

"I felt immense pressure as I stepped up. The lads had put so much hard work in over the previous 92 minutes and I didn't want to let them down.

"I've taken more than my fair share of penalties over the years, so that helped me manage the situation, but it doesn't stop the nerves or the sheer relief when it goes in!

"I was involved in both of our goals, so I was pleased with my own personal contribution, but the main thing was getting that first three points on the board. It was deserved; everyone gave their all, we had a few new lads involved plus a few returning from injury who were not quite 100% fit.

"It was a real collective effort. We started the game fast, grabbed an early lead and then stayed on the front-foot for most of the first half. We were forced to make changes after the break and it changed our team dynamic, but even when the momentum shifted in our hosts' favour, we dug in and gave everything to get the win.

"There's no escaping the fact that it's been an up-and-down start for us this season, on the pitch as well as off it. We actually had a good pre-season and recruited well, but the stuttering start was not what we expected.

"In addition, we've seen the departure of the Chairman, which was a shame, but there's been plenty of hard work going on behind-the-scenes and now there's plenty of positivity surrounding the club's future and the direction we are now moving in.

"Hopefully this can be reflected in more positive results now we



Lewis Ross got his angles right to grab a late winner last weekend

have got that first win out of the way.

"This has always been an interesting League and this season is shaping up to be no different. Each year it's tough to call and anyone is more than capable of beating each other.

"Even in these early weeks there have been some interesting results, particularly from the new teams that have joined us this season and I am looking forward to seeing at first-hand the quality that they bring to the League."

So, what are the aims and targets for Ross and the team?

"As a defensive midfielder my aim is to keep the ball out of my goal as much as possible," he responded. "I also want to contribute at the other end of the pitch, so I'll be looking to have a good return of goals and assists too.

"For the team as a whole, there is no reason why we can't be challenging for promotion. Our target will be the play-offs and then taking things from there.

"We believe we have what it takes; we've got a strong squad and management team and an amazing fan base that sticks with us through thick and thin, which is all that you can ask for."

Didcot Town go into the game on the back of a narrow 1-0 home reverse at the hands of Exmouth Town last weekend, their fourth defeat from their opening five League games.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

With this being Isuzu FA Trophy weekend, it means that there are only two more games taking place in Division One South on Saturday.

There's a Devon derby at Exmouth Town as the home side look to build on the aforementioned 1-0 victory at Didcot Town last

weekend as they host a Brixham AFC outfit who have started to find their feet after a slow start to the campaign.

The remaining fixture sees Frome Town, with three wins out of three to their name, host a Mousehole AFC side who have two wins and a defeat from their three outings to date.



ISUZU FA TROPHY SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH



Featured Match

SPORTING CLUB INKBERROW v STAFFORD RANGERS

More history was made for Sporting Club Inkberrow earlier this month when they played their first-ever game in the Isuzu FA Trophy.

Their first round qualifying encounter with St. Neots Town ended in a goalless draw before they prospered in the subsequent penalty shoot-out, helped by a hat-trick of saves from goalkeeper, Gabriel Bajrami.

It saw the Worcestershire village club land a home tie against Stafford Rangers, winners of the competition in 1972 and 1979 and runners-up in 1976.

"It's a great draw," beamed defender, Syrus Warren-Paul, who played his part in their first round qualifying success. "We're at home against opponents who are still a big name in non-League football, so it will be a tie that really captures the imagination.

"I was really proud to be part of a bit of history being made in the previous round and there's no better feeling than helping the club progress and create more special moments.

"We had to battle hard against St. Neots; we did well against what were well-organised opponents and I was pleased with my own contribution.

"Going into the penalty shoot-out, Man of the Match Gabs [Gabriel Bajrami] showed the level he's at with penalties and I couldn't be happier for him and the rest of my team-mates that we're in the next round and facing what is another big game at the weekend.

"It's been a tough start to the season generally where we've been playing well but just not getting the results to go along with our performances.

"This is a harsh level and our mistakes have been capitalised upon, so we're working hard to iron this out and, as we saw against St. Neots, when everyone does their job and works hard for each other, we can achieve things.

"We went into this level with our eyes wide open, but we're confident in our own ability to compete and we've shown in parts what we can do. Hopefully we can start doing it on a more regular basis and the results will start coming in.



Syrus Warren-Paul will play his part in more history for Sporting Club Inkberrow at the weekend

"My targets will be the same as the club's aims in that I hope to have a good, consistent season and push as high as we can.

"I've come into a team that know how to get promotion, so there's no reason why we can't aim for it again but there's no pressure on us and we will just play our football and see where we are at come the end of the season.

"We're enjoying the adventure."

THE REST OF THE ISUZU FA TROPHY ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH CLUBS

Division One South leaders, Malvern Town, face a long trip up to Lincoln United, whilst Tavistock AFC are also on their travels as they head to AFC Portchester.

Bishops Cleeve face an away tie at Fareham Town as Division One South rivals, Swindon Supermarine and Bideford AFC, plus

Hartpury and Portishead Town, and Shaftesbury and Falmouth Town, will all battle it out against each other.

Finally, Winchester City go to Thame United of Division One Central as they look to continue their impressive start to the campaign.

Featured Match

FLACKWELL HEATH v LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Leverstock Green are walking the walk this season in more ways than one.

A solid start to the campaign sees them with two wins and a draw to their name from their opening five Pitching In Southern League Premier Central encounters, whilst Chair, Emma Smart, is participating in the Walk 30 Miles in September challenge to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK.

"We've all lost people to cancer or know people who have been affected by cancer," she told us. "I've lost grandparents, family members and friends to it but my main motivation for doing this challenge is my mum.

"I lost mum to secondary breast cancer in 2009, she was 47 and I was 20. It's hard to imagine a life without that person at such a young age and this is just me trying to give something back so that others don't have to go through what my family and I did.

"I'm 19 miles down now, so 65% through as it stands. It's going okay and is a great motivation to get out and get moving. It's become part of my daily routine now; I'm where I need to be and look forward to completing the challenge by the end of September.

"I'm so grateful to everyone who has supported me and donated, it's given me even more motivation to do this for such a wonderful and worthwhile cause."

As well as her charity challenge, life at the club has also been keeping her busy in these early weeks and months of the season.

"We had a tough pre-season," said admitted. "Over half of our team which got us promotion and kept us at Step 4 last season have either moved abroad or gone to push themselves at higher levels.

"We've done some strong recruiting and we're happy with the way we have started on the pitch so far.

"Off the pitch we managed to get everything completed that was needed to remain at Step 4, so it's been a hugely positive result.

"This year, with not having to worry about ground grading and things like that, it's given us a chance to focus on sponsorships and ultimately enjoy the football a bit more.

"We continue to improve ourselves as a club every day. We've got a great group of players and management in place, an ever-expanding pathway from U18s, reserves into the first-team.

"Things are going to be interesting in Division One Central this season; there are a number of teams who will be fighting it out for



Emma Smart is putting her best foot forward for charity and her club

the play-off positions. It's going to be even more competitive this year than it was last season.

"Once again our main aim is to maintain our Step 4 status. Hopefully we won't leave it until the last game of the season this season!

"A healthy mid-table season would be ideal and to just enjoy it. The longer term aim is always to strive to be the best we can be in all aspects.

"At present we are happy to be at Step 4 and want to establish ourselves at this level as we grow.

"I've been at the club for 19 years and the amount it's changed in that time is incredible. In the seven years since I became Chair, we've achieved more than I could have imagined, so if we can just keep pushing on and making Leverstock Green FC a name everyone knows, then I know I'm doing it right!"

You can donate to Emma's fund-raising effort here: fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/emmas-giving-page-326817936

Saturday sees Leverstock Green head to a Flackwell Heath outfit who are unbeaten in their three League games so far with two wins and a draw.

They reached the play-offs last season in what was their first campaign with us in the Southern League and will be keen to go one better after getting well beaten by Berkhamsted in the Final.

THE REST OF THE ACTION

Two teams who have made very similar starts to the season go head-to-head as Barton Rovers welcome Biggleswade Town. They have both taken ten points from their opening four League games.

Due to it also being Isuzu FA Trophy weekend, there is only one other League game taking place and it sees Hertford Town play host to a Northwood side who are still searching for their first victory of the game as they look to start moving up the table.



ISUZU FA TROPHY SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Featured Match

HADLEY v ASCOT UNITED

It's a case of making up for lost time for Tage Kennedy.

The front-runner returned to action last weekend for the first time this season having taken a year out of the game last term and he wasted little time in getting back into the swing of things as his quickfire brace early in the second half helped Hadley to a 4-2 victory over Thame United.

It was a result which put last season's play-off semi-finalists in amongst the Division One Central leaders with three wins and a draw from their five League outings so far.

"It's great to be back playing again," he told us. "I have returned refreshed and more determined than ever to make my mark.

"As an attacker, my job is to score goals and create chances for my team-mates, something I was able to do in the last game and now I can't wait for the next one to come round on Saturday as we turn our attention to making progress in the FA Trophy.

"I was pleased with my performance; there are a few things that I need to sharpen up, but that will come with the more games that I play. The important thing last weekend was that we won the game and as a team we were robust and determined to get the job done.

"The result leaves us right up there near the top, but it's still very early days and there's a lot of football to be played and plenty of twists and turns along the way for all clubs.

"I'm expecting another tough and competitive Division One Central, as it always is. It's anyone's to win; there will be no teams running away with it this time around.

"For now, though, our focus is on making it through in the FA Trophy. Ascot United are at the same level as us, in the Pitching In Isthmian League South Central, where they have won three and lost three, so it's been up and down for them so far.

"But it's about what we do and we'll be looking to continue the positives from our last game and get the job done so that we're in the draw for the next round.



Hadley won emphatically at Ware in the previous round

Image | @bushypix

"You want to do well and give a good account of yourselves in every Cup competition that you enter, particularly the ones where there is a Wembley final at the end of it!

"That said, our main aim is promotion. We got to the play-offs last time, so this time we are determined to go all the way and I want to play my part in that and help get this team promoted."

Kennedy has previously spent three seasons at Wingate & Finchley and two at Haringey Borough in the Isthmian Premier.

Having raced to the Combined Counties League Premier North Division title in 2022/23, Ascot United consolidated in their first season at the higher level, the first time that they ever played Step 4 football, with a finish just below midway.

Last term they took things forward by finishing fourth and earning a place in the play-offs where, like Hadley, they succumbed at the semi-final hurdle, losing to Hanworth Villa.

Gavin Smith's side beat Three Bridges 2-0 in the previous round of this competition, whilst Hadley were emphatic 5-1 winners at Division One Central rivals, Ware, in the last round.

THE REST OF THE ISUZU FA TROPHY ACTION FOR PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL CLUBS

The action gets underway on Friday evening with a tie that pits two sides together who have started the season brightly in Division One Central as high-flying Biggleswade FC host the much-fancied Hitchin Town.

Two more Division One Central rivals battle it out as Enfield host AFC Dunstable, whilst Thame United will be tested by

Winchester City who are making their early mark in Division One South following relegation out of Step 3 at the end of last term. There's an away trip for Leighton Town as they head for Walthamstow, whilst Welwyn Garden City will be hoping to make home advantage count as they take on Tilbury.

PITCH PARTNERS

ACHIEVING GOALS

DESIGN & BUILD SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES



PST Sport is proud to sponsor The Southern Football League '**Club of The Month**' Awards

PSTsport.com



To learn more,
scan here



DESIGN &
PLANNING

SUBBASE
CONSTRUCTION

FENCING, NETTING
& FLOODLIGHTS

SHOCK PAD &
ARTIFICIAL GRASS

PITCH TESTING &
MAINTENANCE



AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY PROGRAMME PRODUCTION

DESIGN | EDITORIAL | PRINT



Working with clubs in the Southern League
and throughout the football pyramid...

To find out more, please contact Terry Brumpton
on **07771 802 048** or email **terrybrumpton@yahoo.co.uk**

jjsportspromotions.com



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Southern League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



**TRIDENT
LEAGUES**
VOLUNTEER HUB
POWERED BY ENTAIN

