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Issue #10

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# INSIDE TODAY...

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**Hon Chairman** - Alan Salmon  
**Hon Vice Chairman** - VACANT  
**Hon General Secretary** - Justin Salmon  
**Hon Treasurer** - Darren Salmon  
**Match Secretary** - VACANT  
**Youth Secretary** - Blake Tann-Salmon  
**Welfare Officer** - Darren Salmon

### Management & Board:

Gary Brigden, Steve Casserley Val Roots, Mick Murfet, Alan Reed, Sharon Streets, Kaz Salmon

**1st Team Manager** - Sam Morgan  
**1st Team Asst Manager** - Reece Turner  
**Coach** - Liam Joyce  
**Physio** - Geoff Moxey & Elizabeth Raji  
**Kit & Equipment Manager** - Tony Williams  
**Stadium Emergency 1st Aid** - Brent Wallage  
**Matchday Media** - Blake Tann-Salmon & Georgia Soper

### Photographs courtesy of:

Gary Brigden Photography

Match Graphics courtesy of **Football Web Pages**

## OUR HONOURS

### LEAGUE HONOURS

**Combined Counties League Premier Division:**  
Runners-up: 2018–19  
**Combined Counties League Division One:**  
Champions 2009–10; Runners-up: 2012–13

### CUP HONOURS

**Combined Counties League Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup:**  
Winners: 2018–19  
**Combined Counties League Division One Cup:**  
Runners-up: 2008–09  
**Middlesex County League Premier Division Cup:** Runners-up: 2007–08  
**Southern Combination Challenge Cup:**  
Winners: 2016–17; Runners up: 2018–19  
**Surrey Premier Cup:**  
Runners-up: 2009–10

## OUR SOCIALS

 [info@suttoncommonrovers.com](mailto:info@suttoncommonrovers.com)  
 [www.suttoncommonrovers.com](http://www.suttoncommonrovers.com)  
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**Sutton Common Rovers Football Club are an unincorporated members club run by volunteers. Club officials & management committee are elected annually at the clubs AGM.**

# GAME DAY



**Sutton Common  
Rovers F.C**



**Vs**



**Thatcham  
Town F.C**

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.



# WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports Arena for today's Isthmian South Central league fixture.

We would like to welcome today's opponent Thatcham Town FC. We hope their players, officials and supporters have a pleasant short stay with us this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Thomas Baines and his assistants Mr Benjamin Maskery and Mr Bogdan Caraghin, we hope they also enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

Today's opponents come to us currently sitting in 12th spot in the table, three points ahead of ourselves and with a game in hand on us.

They have been in good form of late, going unbeaten in their last four league outings, including draws with Hanworth Villa and Raynes Park Vale, alongside wins over Binfield and Ascot Utd.

They will definitely provide tough opposition for Sam and the lads today and we will have to be at our very best if we are to get back to winning.

Last season we picked up four points from our games against Thatcham. On the road, we secured a 2-1 win courtesy of a late Shawn Lyle header, although the game will most be remembered for a bizarre equaliser for Thatcham, where our then keeper Endurance Johnson (now at Merstham), somehow sliced a clearance straight to the prolific David Nyarko.

In the game here at the Arena, Danny Divine and Nabeel Ghannam looked to have given us all three points as we led going into stoppage time, but a great header by Issiaga Kaba levelled things up.

Last time out we slipped to a 2-1 defeat against an in-form Hanworth Villa side. Leading midway through the first half thanks to Aaron Jenkins, injuries and uncharacteristic mistakes saw us trail early in the second half, and despite a late rally we were unable to force an equaliser.

We mentioned in the Hanworth Villa programme that the 18's were in action against reigning champions Cray Valley PM last Thursday. The lads turned in probably their best performance of the season, on the way to a 2-0 win, goal from Yuto Ouen and Kodai Fujita sealing the result. It was even more impressive considering the last home league defeat for Cray Valley was in March 2022, also against our lads.

Next week we head off to league leaders Chertsey Town, before our final home league game of 2023 sees us host Badshot Lea.

Don't forget to scan the QR codes within the programme for more information.

Enough from me, enjoy the game and have safe trips home.

**Briggers**

# TODAY'S OPPONENTS

## THATCHAM TOWN



**FORMED: 1894**

**NICKNAME: The Kingfishers**

Thatcham Town Football Club was founded in 1894. The club were originally known just as Thatcham, with Town being added to its name in 1974. In the early years Thatcham played at The Marsh on Dunston Green, Brownsfield (home of the Cricket Club) and Station Road, before moving to Lancaster Close in 1949. Floodlights were erected in January 1983 with Fulham FC visiting for a commemorative friendly match. To provide improved facilities, the club moved to Waterside Park in 1992/93, with the ground becoming known as The Stacatruc Stadium from August 2019, then the Mettal Stadium from August 2023.

The club joined the **Reading Temperance League** in 1896, winning the Division Two title in 1905/06. In 1953 Thatcham became founder members of the **Hellenic League**, winning promotion to the Premier Division as Division One champions in 1958/59, 1964/65 & 1972/73, then claiming the Premier Division title in 1974/75. Following spells in the **Athenian** and **London Spartan Leagues**, Thatcham joined the newly formed **Wessex League** in 1986 and won the title in 1995/96. After finishing second in 2005/06, ground requirements were met and promotion to step four was achieved.

The Kingfishers spent eight seasons in the **Southern League** Division One – seven in the South & West Division and one (2012/13) in the Central. Following sixth-placed finishes in both 2006/07 & 2008/09, the club achieved its highest ever position in 2010/11... Despite being in the bottom half of the table at Christmas, Thatcham earned 38 points from the final 15 matches to finish in fifth, however the Kingfishers were beaten at Sholing in the play-off semi-final.

Once safety was assured in 2013/14, the club resigned from the **Southern League** to cut costs by playing at a lower level. Town finished twelfth in their first campaign back in the **Hellenic Premier**, then second and fourth in the following seasons. However in 2017/18 the Kingfishers embarked on an incredible 40 game unbeaten run (in all competitions), winning all but one game between the end of October and end of April. This saw Thatcham overtake long-time leaders Highworth Town and eventually pip Bracknell Town to the title in a thrilling end to the season, on goal difference.

After taking a season to re-adjust to step four football, in 2019/20 Thatcham were top of the **Southern League** Division One South table with eleven games to play. But with the club looking set to achieve its highest ever finish, and promotion to step three a real possibility, the Coronavirus pandemic struck with the season being terminated. Following the subsequent departure of the management team and many senior players, alongside being moved into the **Isthmian League** South Central Division the club faced a rebuilding job. Covid also caused the 2020/21 season to be suspended before Town finished 12th in 2021/22, then recovered from a poor start in 2022/23 to finish 13th.

Thatcham Town FC have enjoyed some memorable success in Cup competitions over the years. In 1989 the club reached the last eight of the **FA Vase** before losing to local rivals Hungerford Town. In the same competition a record attendance of 1,400 was set when Aldershot Town won 1-0 at Waterside Park in 1993/94. However in 2017/18 Thatcham went all the way and lifted the trophy at Wembley Stadium on a brilliant day for the football club...





# TODAY'S OPPONENTS



Supporters started to sense the club could be on the verge of something special after a 5th round home victory over Bromsgrove Sporting, then over 2,200 attended the quarter-final win at Melksham Town as cup fever started to spread across the town. Thatcham then defeated 1874 Northwich 1-0 (home) and 3-2 (away) in the two legged semi-final, before taking over 5,000 fans to Wembley as Northern League side Stockton Town were beaten 1-0 in the final.

The club played in the Third Round Qualifying stage of the FA Trophy for the first time in 2021/22, losing on penalties at Cinderford Town. Thatcham's best run in the FA Cup came in the 1996/97 season as they reached the Fourth Round Qualifying stage before losing at Boreham Wood. In September 2019 the FA Cup First Round Qualifying tie at home to Salisbury was streamed live by the BBC with the visitors winning 3-2.

Thatcham completed the Hellenic League and Cup double, by lifting the Hellenic First Division Cup in 1972/73 and the Premier Division Cup in 1974/75. During 2017/18 the club reached both League Cup finals, losing to Bracknell in the Challenge Cup and Binfield in the Floodlit Cup.

During the 1990s Thatcham won the Wessex League Cup on four occasions, completing the league and Cup double in 1995/96. In 1974/75 the club were beaten in the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup but were awarded the trophy following a dispute between the victors, Wycombe Wanderers, and the Berks & Bucks FA.

## MANAGEMENT

**YASHWA ROMEO** – A hugely experienced non-league striker, who represented Thatcham Town FC as a player (83 appearances, 32 goals), coach (FA Vase winner at Wembley) and Assistant Manager, before taking over as Manager in March '22.

**SHAUN ALLAWAY** – Goalkeeper who spent time with Reading and Leeds United in his youth, and represented England at Under 19 level. Enjoyed long spells with Staines Town and Slough Town, and joined Thatcham's coaching staff in 2020.

**SAM LOADES** – An experienced and passionate youth coach who works with Reading FC. Sam joined Thatcham Town's coaching staff in March '22 and the club are currently benefiting from his wisdom and insight.

**DECLAN DOWLING** – Declan is in his sixth season serving as the club's physio. Working as a physiotherapist in nearby Reading, he has footballing experience from similar roles in his native Ireland, most recently with Sligo Rovers.

**COLIN CHARLES** – Colin joined the club's backroom staff in August '21 and is an infectious character around The Mettal Stadium. He performs a number of roles at the club, from kit man, turnstile operator to player liaison officer.



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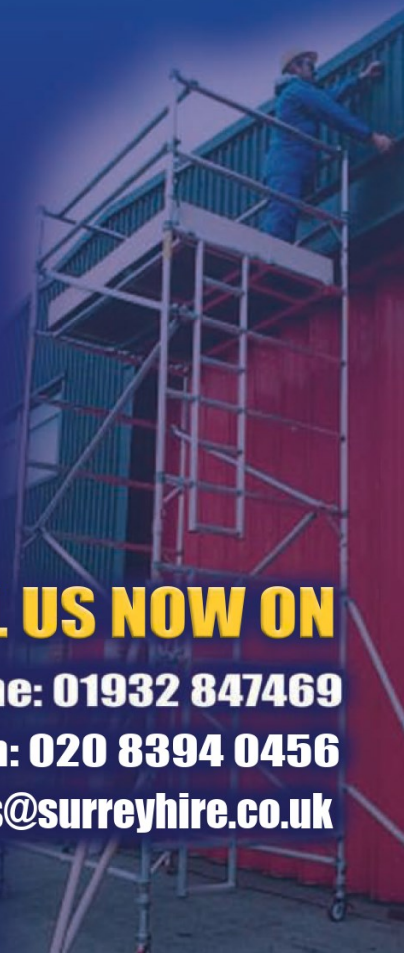
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# MATCH REPORT

## v HANWORTH VILLA



Rovers go into the game off the back of a disappointing performance against Northwood in the week, with the hope to make amends. The line-up set to achieve that are James Dillon in goal, Tariq Straker, Isy Nzelo, Antonio Simeone and Bertie Lloyd in defence, midfield Daryl Coleman, Matt Feeny-Hill, Nabeel Ghannam, Courtney Swaby, Ben Holden and Aaron Jenkins. On the bench, Max Oldham, Lindell Stewart, Noah Africa, Charlie Martin and Ashley Sheppard.

Rovers get off to a good solid start, playing considered and entertaining football. After good build up from Ben Holden, Daryl Coleman and Isy Nzelo, Courtney Swaby chips a pass over the top for Aaron Jenkins to run on to, but was flagged just offside. A poor throw-in by Villa is intercepted by Coleman, providing Jenkins with a chance to shoot from distance, the rebound fell to Swaby, but his shot was easy for the keeper Tyla Dickinson.

On the counter, a mistake in the Rovers back line opens a chance for Villa, but Kyen Nicholas blasts over the bar. A long throw by Villa's Sam Merson is headed out by Holden and falls to Nzelo, who feeds through to Nabeel Ghannam, but his shot is blocked. The clearance by Villa is headed on by Gagendeeep Samra to Nicholas with his back to goal, he shoots on the turn but hits the side netting. Chances building for both sides, but Rovers just have the edge.

In the 19th minute, Villa's Samra gives away a free kick just in their half. Coleman floats his effort perfectly across to the left finding Bertie Lloyd. His trademark header across goal is met by Jenkins, who steers his glancing header just inside the right hand post. Rovers a goal to the good, and not against the run of play.

Rovers continue to press with great runs into the channels from Matt Feeny-Hill, Nzelo and Jenkins. Pinning back Villa with a spate of throw-ins from Holden, increasing the Rovers' lead looked a likely outcome, but the finish was just eluding them. A short throw this time to Coleman gives him time to pick out Lloyd with a great cross, but Dickinson claims the header.

Around 25 minutes, with Villa seeking an opening, Seanen McKillop feeds Kyron Richards to the byline who gets round our defence, thankfully Lloyd was able to head his cross out for a corner. From the kick a powerful header from Rayan Djouadj just scrapes the top of the crossbar, James Dillon having it covered. As Dillon went to ground he sustained a leg injury, leaving him unable to take the goalkick, and an injury that was to stay with him for the rest of the game. How much would this cost Rovers, not able to pass back to their keeper.

1	James Dillon	
2	Tariq Straker	
4	Daryl Coleman	↻
5	Antonio Simeone	
6	Bertie Lloyd	
8	Matthew Feeny-Hill	↻
10	Nabeel Ghannam	
11	Courtney Swaby	
13	Isy Nzelo	
14	Aaron Jenkins	⚽
17	Ben Holden	🟡
7	Maxwell Oldham	
12	Lindell Stewart	
15	Noah Africa	
16	Charlie Martin	↻
19	Ashley Sheppard	↻



With the tide beginning to turn and our keeper carrying an injury, only good defending by Antonio Simeone, Nzelo Lloyd and Tariq Straker kept the Villians at bay. On the break, from a Coleman headed clearance, Swaby sweeps the ball through to Ghannam, who skips round his defender, but his pass for Jenkins is short, and the chance had gone.

On 42mins, after a smart move from Swaby and Feeney-Hill breaks down, Aston Nunn breaks out of the Villa defence at pace, and plays inside to Merson.

Bursting into the box, Merson calmly slots past Dillon to level the score. Hanworth had the chance to go ahead late in the half after a long clearance from Dickinson is headed down by Merson to Nicholas, but his shot is well saved by Dillon. Into the break with one apiece.

The second half started with Rovers pressing the Villa final third. After a throw-in is recycled back to Holden, a great cross is aimed for Lloyd, but the tall centre back couldn't get under it. From the break Nicholas charges into the Rovers half, passing wide to Nunn, his shot rattling the right post. From the rebound Dillon makes a terrific save from the follow-up shot by McKillop.

With Hanworth clearly in the ascendency, Dillon is again called upon, tipping a great shot from Merson out for a corner. The delivery again from Merson is headed over by Nicholas. Rovers continue to make ground on the Villa half, but with no end product in and around the box.

Just after the hour mark, a long throw from Merson is headed back across the Rover's penalty area for Nicholas to head home, a carbon copy of the goal Jenkins' scored for Rovers in the first half. Villa take the lead, with Rover's searching for a reply.

A great delivery from Coleman, from a free kick just outside the area, Jenkins was a whisker away, his shot skewing out for a corner. Swaby takes high into the box, with Lloyd challenging the keeper, but was judged unfairly. At 66mins Rovers make a tactical change, replacing Feeny-Hill with Ashley Sheppard. Immediately, Sheppard and Jenkins combine well outside the Villa box, culminating in a strike from Sheppard, but is deflected out for a corner. Swaby's delivery is enticing for Lloyd, but harmlessly headed over.

As Villa make their substitutions, Sam Mead replacing Nicholas and Ben Merson replacing Nunn, Rovers continue playing with a high line, in danger of being caught on the break, but looking for the elusive equaliser. Whatever Rovers' had, Villa were equal to it, defending in numbers protecting their lead. Charlie Martin replaces Coleman, late on to add to the Rovers' attack, hoping for inspiration in the closing minutes.

In the dying seconds, after a surging run from Swaby is bundled out by Villa, a last ditch throw from Holden is launched into the box, with everyone up looking for the equaliser. As the throw comes over, huge appeals for a handball against Villa were waved away, and a great strike from Simeone is on target, but Dickinson saves. The final whistle brings the game to an end, with a jubilant Villa, and a despondent Rovers, the mist descending around the ground along with their hopes of salvaging a point.



# INSIDE MORGAN'S MIND

Hi all

Back to back home games has been a while. We will be looking to bounce back from disappointment from last week. although I believe similar efforts will be rewarded this week.

With an concerning first half Injury to James it was also going to take a big effort and I felt we deserved at least a draw.

This week we go up against Thatcham who've had some ups and downs this season and another team in the league that has seen plenty of change to personnel in the Summer.

With a run of games coming up it's going to be a good test for the boys. we are 1 point ahead of where the club was at the end of January so will be hoping to build on that and be in a better place to push up the table.

*Morgs*



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		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Chertsey Town (-1)	15	12	2	1	38	12	+26	37
	2 Raynes Park Vale	15	12	1	2	31	14	+17	37
	3 Leatherhead	16	11	2	3	27	10	+17	35
	4 Marlow	13	11	0	2	39	14	+25	33
	5 Southall	16	10	3	3	40	19	+21	33
	6 Badshot Lea	15	9	1	5	28	23	+5	28
	7 Hanworth Villa	16	7	5	4	33	26	+7	26
	8 Hartley Wintney	14	8	1	5	32	22	+10	25
	9 Uxbridge	16	8	1	7	30	25	+5	25
	10 Westfield	14	7	2	5	26	24	+2	23
	11 South Park (Reigate)	14	6	2	6	22	20	+2	20
	12 Thatcham Town	15	6	2	7	21	24	-3	20
	13 Sutton Common Rovers	16	5	2	9	27	34	-7	17
	14 Chipstead	16	5	2	9	27	35	-8	17
	15 Ashford Town (Middx)	15	4	3	8	17	21	-4	15
	16 Ascot United	14	4	1	9	17	20	-3	13
	17 Northwood	14	4	1	9	23	27	-4	13
	18 Metropolitan Police	15	2	5	8	16	29	-13	11
	19 Corinthian-Casuals	16	3	2	11	14	43	-29	11
	20 Guernsey	17	2	4	11	18	35	-17	10
	21 Binfield	16	0	4	12	13	62	-49	4

# LATEST LEAGUE RESULTS



## Tuesday 5th December 2023

Badshot Lea P-P Westfield  
Hartley Wintney P-P Ascot United  
Leatherhead P-P Raynes Park Vale



## Saturday 2nd December

Corinthian-Casuals 0-6 Chertsey Town  
Leatherhead 1-0 Guernsey  
Marlow 8-1 Binfield  
South Park (Reigate) A-A Ashford Town (Middx) - FOG  
Southall 0-1 Raynes Park Vale  
Sutton Common Rovers 1-2 Hanworth Villa  
Uxbridge 2-1 Chipstead  
Westfield 1-0 Ascot United

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Ascot United v Northwood  
Ashford Town (Middx) v Metropolitan Police  
Badshot Lea v Chertsey Town  
Binfield v Uxbridge  
Chipstead v Southall  
Corinthian-Casuals v Westfield  
Guernsey v Raynes Park Vale  
Hanworth Villa v Marlow  
Hartley Wintney v Leatherhead

# CAREER RECORDS

	SEASON RECORD				CAREER RECORDS		
	Apps	Subs	Goals	YC	RC	Apps	Goals
Bertie LLOYD	22	0	1	1	0	59	3
James DILLON	22	0	0	4	0	48	0
Nabeel GHANNAM	20	2	9	2	0	36	12
Courtney SWABY	18	0	3	4	1	51	3
Antonio SIMEONE	18	0	4	6	0	23	4
Ben HOLDEN	16	3	0	6	1	19	0
Aaron JENKINS	15	7	8	1	0	22	8
Matt TANTON	13	0	0	4	0	186	6
Max OLDHAM	11	6	1	1	0	25	3
Danny DIVINE *	11	1	1	2	0	31	2
Isy NZELO	10	4	1	2	0	14	1
Charlie MARTIN	9	7	5	2	0	16	5
Jordan WILSON	9	2	0	3	0	11	0
Gabriel ODUNAIKE *	8	3	2	1	0	19	2
Conan TORPEY	8	2	2	4	1	25	10
Daryl COLEMAN	8	1	1	3	0	9	0
Ashley SHEPPARD	5	5	1	0	0	10	1
Matt FEENEY-HILL	5	4	1	0	0	9	1
Tariq STRAKER	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
Rylan JOHN	3	0	0	1	0	3	0
Lindell STEWART	2	2	0	0	0	4	0
Anthony OGBANUJE	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
Siao BLACKWOOD *	1	6	0	1	0	27	0
Noah AFRICA	1	5	0	0	0	6	0
Mack REILLY *	1	2	0	0	0	3	0
Harrison ABU	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Tom JONES	0	1	0	0	0	1	0



# FIRST TEAM RESULTS



DATE	COMP	H/A	OPPONENTS	H/T	F/T	SCORER(S)	ATT		
<b>2023</b>									
<b>5th Aug</b>	<b>FAC EP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BURGESS HILL TOWN</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>84</b>
8th Aug	FAC EP Rep	H	Burgess Hill Town	0	1	1	2	Jenkins	264
12th Aug	ILSC	A	Met Police	0	0	4	0	Jenkins, Divine, Simeone, Ghannam	115
<b>26th AUG</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>UXBRIDGE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Jenkins</b>	<b>83</b>
28th Aug	ILSC	A	Marlow	0	2	1	6	Jenkins	179
<b>2nd Sep</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>GUERNSEY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Ghannam, Sheppard</b>	<b>72</b>
9th Sep	FAT1stQ	A	Merstham	0	0	3	0	Swaby, Simeone, Odunaika	116
16th Sep	ILSC	A	Corinthian Casuals	2	0	5	0	Simeone, Odunaika, Ghannam, Martin (p), Swaby	183
23rd Sep	FAT2ndQ	A	Badshot Lea	1	2	3	5	Nzelo, Torpey Oldham	91
30th Sep	ILSC	A	Ascot Utd	0	1	1	1	Torpey	136
<b>4th Oct</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>LEATHERHEAD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>136</b>
<b>7th Oct</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>SOUTHALL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ghannam</b>	<b>81</b>
10th Oct	ILSC	A	South Park (Reigate)	0	0	1	2	OG	90
<b>14th Oct</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>WESTFIELD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>91</b>
24th Oct	SCCC	A	Horley Town	2	1	2	3	Ghannam 2	78
<b>28th Oct</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>HARTLEY WINTNEY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Jenkins</b>	<b>71</b>
11th Nov	ILSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)	1	0	1	1	Simeone	68
<b>18th Nov</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BINFIELD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Lloyd, Ghannam, Feeney-Hill, Jenkins</b>	<b>77</b>
21st Nov	SSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)	1	0	3	0	Swaby, Ghannam, Jenkins	56
25th Nov	ILSC	A	Chipstead	1	1	3	2	Martin 3	125
28th Nov	ILSC	A	Northwood	1	3	1	5	Ghannam	105
<b>2nd Dec</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>HANWORTH VILLA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Jenkins</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>9th Dec</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>THATCHAM TOWN</b>						
16th Dec	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town						
<b>23rd Dec</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BADSHOT LEA</b>						
26th Dec	ILSC	A	Raynes Park Vale						
30th Dec	ILSC	A	Guernsey						
<b>2024</b>									
<b>3rd Jan</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>MARLOW</b>						
6th Jan	ILSC	A	Leatherhead						
<b>13th Jan</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>CORINTHIAN CASUALS</b>						
20th Jan	ILSC	A	Southall						
<b>27th Jan</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>ASCOT UTD</b>						
<b>31st Jan</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>SOUTH PARK (REIGATE)</b>						
3rd Feb	ILSC	A	Westfield						
17th Feb	ILSC	A	Hartley Wintney						
<b>24th Feb</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>NORTHWOOD</b>						
2nd Mar	ILSC	A	Binfield						
<b>9th Mar</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)</b>						
16th Mar	ILSC	A	Hanworth Villa						
<b>23rd Mar</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>CHIPSTEAD</b>						
30th Mar	ILSC	A	Uxbridge						
<b>1st Apr</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>RAYNES PARK VALE</b>						
<b>6th Apr</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>MET POLICE</b>						
13th Apr	ILSC	A	Badshot Lea						
<b>20th Apr</b>	<b>ILSC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>CHERTSEY TOWN</b>						
27th Apr	ILSC	A	Thatcham Town						

# **SOUTH CENTRAL REVIEW**

## **FOUR POINTS SEPARATE THE TOP FIVE AS CHERTSEY HIT SIX AND MARLOW EIGHT!**

### **Chertsey, Vale, Tanners and Marlow make up the top four after victory, Villa are seventh & we've wins for Uxbridge and Westfield on South Central Saturday**

Leaders Chertsey Town headed to Tolworth, to take on Corinthian-Casuals- and they started superbly, taking the lead after just five minutes- in form Oliver McCoy with his sixth in eleven matches. It was two-nil on eighteen minutes, a penalty converted by Wayne Ridgley, and after a missed penalty for the hosts the Curfews had a third five minutes before half time, Gianluca Botti with his twelfth of the season. The game looked as good as over, and the outcome was certainly confirmed when Conor Lee made it four-nil with twenty four minutes left. McCoy added a fifth with fourteen minutes remaining, and right at the end it was six-nil, Luke Robinson ending a fine afternoon for the visitors.

Our match of the day saw Southall welcome Raynes Park Vale, and we had- perhaps as expected- a tense and close encounter. The visitors broke the deadlock just before the break, Brad Sweeney scoring for the second Saturday in a row, heading home a cross from Jordan Gallagher- and that turned out to be the only goal of the game. Jaden Thompson-Brissett hit a post, but couldn't add to his twenty two goals. Vale are in second place, behind Chertsey only on goal difference.

Leatherhead welcomed Guernsey as Green took on Green, and it looked like we were heading for a goalless draw, but Ollie Cook decided otherwise, scoring for the Tanners with just eight minutes left. That was that, Leatherhead ending the day in third.

Marlow hadn't lost a league match for almost two months as bottom side Binfield came to call, and the hosts were ahead midway through the first half, Chris Ovenden with the opener- and it was quickly two-nil, Dawid Rogalski from the spot- his eighteenth of the season. The Moles quickly got themselves back into the match, Manuchim Oke-Williams reducing the arrears, but just before the hour Marlow reestablished their two goal lead, Dave Tarpey, who scored on his debut, making it two goals in two league matches. Rogalski quickly added a fourth, Chris Ovenden got a fifth, and Rogalski then delivered his second hat trick of the season, making it six-one with seven minutes left. There was still no mercy from the hosts, and three minutes from time Rhys Harper made it seven. The torture still wasn't over for the Moles, as Chris Ovenden still had time to add an eighth. Marlow climb to fourth- four points behind the leaders with two games in hand.

South Park (Reigate) welcomed Ashford Town and the Sparks were on fire in the early stages. Ryan Healy put them ahead from the spot on eight minutes, and ten minutes later Joe Bell made it two.

The Tangerines settled, and with twenty three minutes set themselves up for a grandstand finish, Qasim Khan getting a goal back, but that just inspired the hosts to greater heights and Bell soon made it three-one. Sadly the match was then abandoned, due to fog.

Sutton Common Rovers were ahead against Hanworth Villa after nineteen minutes, Aaron Jenkins with the opening goal, but the Villains hit back just before the break, Sam Merson moving to twelve for the season. The turnaround was complete just after the hour, Kyen Nicholas making it two-one to the visitors, and they held on to take the points.

Uxbridge, their new 3G making all the difference in this cold weather, welcomed Chipstead- and the match welcomed the first Isthmian goal of the afternoon, Jack Leahy scoring for the Chips after just two minutes. The hosts were level eighteen minutes later, Hassan Jalloh making it one-one, and soon after the restart they completed the turnaround, Mahlondo Martin and two-one. Uxbridge are up to ninth.

Westfield welcomed Ascot United as Yellow played Yella, and the shivering crowd waited eighty one minutes for something to warm them up. When it arrived most of them would have had the chance to jump up and down, as it went to the hosts, Luke Elliott heading what would prove to be the winner. Westfield are tenth.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 The three scheduled midweek fixtures all fell foul to the weather.

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# THE UNTOLD GAME

## Vasco versus Racism and Rice Powder

Vasco da Gama are one of the more successful clubs in Brazil. In a country with no long-term dominant force, their four league titles is bettered by just four teams, and just one from the Rio do Janeiro region (Flamengo).

The club that gave us Romario and the excellently named Roberto Dinamite is a fixture on the Brazilian and continental stage, winning the Copa Libertadores in 1998 and, despite some recent struggles, consistently competing at the summit of Brazilian football. But their proudest moment wasn't any of their league titles. It wasn't even their South American dominance. It was when they were kicked out of the league.



Football was a game for the elites in Brazil. It came to the country late, two decades later than it had in neighbouring Argentina and Uruguay, and reflected some of the worst attitudes of Brazilian society. They had been the last nation on the continent to abolish slavery, and carried the racism of those days into the sport, where white players were expected.

The problem for Brazilian society was that some black and dual-heritage players were simply too good to ignore. Arthur Friedenreich (pictured next page), son of a black Brazilian mother and German father, was included in the team for England's first ever match, against a touring Exeter City side. His contemporary, Carlos Alberto, forced his way into the Fluminense team that had won five of the first seven regional championships. But while Friedenreich played in his own skin, Fluminense would very literally have preferred Alberto to play out of his. They whitened his face with rice powder, and when he sweated it off and the ruse became clear, it gave Fluminense their dark, derogatory nickname: rice powder.

Vasco da Gama were a sailing club for the first decade and a half of organised football around Rio de Janeiro, fitting for a club named after the famous Portuguese explorer. They allowed members of any colour, but football has always been a booming business in Brazil and in 1921 the sailing club added football to its list of activities, and joined the Campeonato Carioca. Not without comment.

Despite the reservations of the region's other clubs, including Fluminense, Vasco continued to accept and play black players. Rio's clubs initially held their noses and allowed their new member to compete in the 14 team league, while Vasco became increasingly proud of their stand against the racism of their opponents. And then, disaster struck, at least for 12 of other clubs in the Campeonato.

Having finished the previous season 8th out of 8 in the Campeonato's Serie A, Vasco improved. And then continued to improve. The 1923 competition was, to use a phrase, a whitewash. Vasco lost just one game on the way to their first trophy, winning the league by six points - the highest margin for five years - and causing chaos among the regions clubs.



Twelve of their opponents immediately withdrew from the league in protest at the regional football association's allowances of non-white players. They broke away to form their own league, with rules they controlled, and most importantly with their own racial criteria. Vasco, as reigning champions, were invited to join, on the understanding that they would fulfil those racial criteria. Vasco, to their credit, refused. Villa Isabel followed their lead.

The 1924 season was farcical. The original league was flooded with clubs from the region, presumably to try to recreate the competitiveness that had come before. Vasco dominated once more, against teams that had previously been in Serie B, or not even included in the league the previous season.

The breakaway league contained the biggest names in Rio de Janeiro's footballing landscape - Botafogo, Flamengo, and of course Fluminense - and was far more competitive. But tainted, even as it progressed, by the absence of the champions. It was won, almost as a direct challenge to Vasco's ideals, by Rice Powder themselves, Fluminense.

Vasco issued a statement saying they would not sacrifice the twelve non-white players who had helped them to win their first trophy, and would continue to play competitive (or uncompetitive) football to the values they had always held. They won the public relations battle, being seen as the future of Brazilian football, and the breakaway clubs eventually folded. Vasco were admitted for the 1925 season.



They lost their title in a close fought campaign to Flamengo, but they had already won the real battle. They forced the door open a little bit wider for non-white players, and without their stand against racism who can say what talent might have been lost to the game. All the titles in the world can't add up to the impact of actually changing the sport.

**Enjoy the game.**

**Martyn Green, *The Untold Game* (Find more at [TheUntoldGame.co.uk](http://TheUntoldGame.co.uk) and on social media, @TheUntoldGame)**



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## CONSTANTINE & Co JEWELLERS

AJ's shown he could be a real force in pre-season but has also notched up some vital goals early on the season. He had a very impressive season at Lingfield putting up 17+ goals before joining an impressive Colliers Wood side.



## A&J Building Services

It would be hard for you not to have come across Simmo in the non-league world with an impressive record on promotions and titles he knows how to get the job done. Not sure if he tries to be Cannavaro or Steve Bruce but he is Mr reliable at the back.



## SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Ashley Joins from Corinthian & before that he was at Sheppy. Ash who plays anywhere in the middle of the park can do it all and we are all looking forward to the performances he has put in over the last few seasons.



## Jean Stenson

Ben who may end up taking the mantle of having a Holden in an SCR squad is a familiar face to some who joins us also from Haywards Heath is a young talented player who has shown his versatility during pre-season playing across the back and in midfield is one to watch for sure.



## TBA

Bertie had a lot of interest during last season and in the summer but stayed with us and we are delighted. The human giraffe and gentle giant that's Bertie, is one of only a small few that played all last season. Bertie puts it all on the line and was instrumental in our survival. One of the first names on the sheet!



## Destiny Performance

[www.destiny-performance.co.uk](http://www.destiny-performance.co.uk)



Charlie, the oldest 18 year old on the planet. Charlie is someone who has been around what feels like forever but has only been in senior football for last 2-3 years and has always known where the back of the net is. Certainly one to watch out for.



## Steve Casserley

Co'nan our CF and certainly a barbarian, the expression run through brick walls couldn't be wasted on Conan, but with all his bravery he still knows how to put the ball in the onion bag and was last years top scorer having only joined us in January. From Dorking Wanderers

A truly great lad with a big future



## HCS BAKERY

'General' Swaby , small in stature but a giant on the field. Courtney has really matured in his time at the club and certainly a character that's loved at the club. His ability on the ball has no ceiling. If you blink he is gone.



## VACANT

Anthony Ogbunufe  
Info coming spon



## SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Rooney's everyone's favourite uncle. He joins us with real pedigree and has fitted straight into the squad straight away. His experience is shining through with the players really leaning on him when needed.





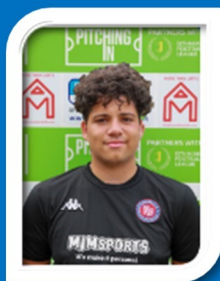
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**VACANT**

Rylan John  
Info coming soon

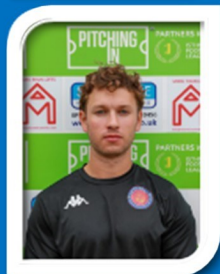


Louie, last years clubman due in the main to his amazing attitude joined us from Crawley youth and has come in and shown his quality along with patience, He is a young keeper with a bright future



**UKPRECLEARANCE.COM**

James is an experienced keeper with higher level app's under his belt. He's been fantastic for the club since coming in and was vital in our survival last year. Off the field he has shown leadership skills that have helped shape a great changing room



Max, who is one of the senior squad members, is a player with real quality and maturity. Max is also part of the Half Turn platform helping those involved with Mental Health which is something to look out for.



**VACANT**

Harrison Abu  
Info coming soon



We are sure 'Nabs' has a chance to be seen up the leagues. He frustrates opposition with his quick feet and at times you will see a moment of magic. Still a very young player with loads to learn but a big future ahead of him too.



**SPONSOR AVAILABLE**

Jordan ex K's and Merstham player who joins us with plenty of experience. We had a chance to add him to the squad joining us from Merstham who showed he has the fight and desire to play a big role in our season.



Noah our not so secret weapon. Since joining in the summer from Cobham Noah showed throughout pre season some serious potential. A very young talent who we feel is one who'll blossom this year so watch this space...



**VACANT**

Lindell Stewart  
Info coming soon



Tariq Straker  
Info coming soon

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COMING SOON

VACANT

SPONSOR AVAILABLE



COMING SOON

Tom is another former Royal Russell / SCR u18 player of couple of seasons ago. Tom also assisted coaching of last years U18s before showing real maturity during pre season and pushing himself into this years squad. "It's not unusual" to see him across the backline winning his duels.



**LAMICK**  
Floor Machines  
PLUS  
Mick & Val

The skipper and one of the longest serving players in the squad. "Tants" when he isn't on holiday is a tireless fullback who has stepped up into his role and responsibilities. Sam was very pleased to retain him after Tants was considering retiring last summer...

VACANT

VACANT



COMING SOON



**ZUZU FARRIS-DOWD**  
Burnout Retail Design Ltd

Ily's certainly the light in the changing room, a face that has been around the circuit a while and knows a few in the changing room already.

He is another consistent performing full back on both flanks with bundles of energy

**HARD HITZ**  
[www.hardhitz.co.uk](http://www.hardhitz.co.uk)

Sam, the first person in the seat for 29 years after Darren stepped into a new position (no Pressure). Sam was part of the staff that helped guide the team to safety last year and is hoping to build on from that this season.



COMING SOON

SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Matty a former Royal Russell / SCR u18 player who stood out last season breaking into the 23s regularly. He has rightfully earned a spot in the squad with an impressive pre season and campaign last season. Currently on loan and finds himself already top scorer in the southern combination league.

SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Reece joins Sam's staff as assistant manager. He has proven to be a calming influence in the dugout during Sam's sabbatical. Reece was previously at Raynes Park Vale and Tooting Bec



COMING SOON

SPONSOR AVAILABLE

Aaron centre mid of centre back was last year's u23 captain. He has stepped up during the summer and hasn't looked out of place. He has also joined Forest Row to help his development into senior football

**LMJ Coaching Ltd**  
[lmj-coaching.class4kids.co.uk](http://lmj-coaching.class4kids.co.uk)

Liam who is part of the foundations at SCR stays for another season. Liam's passion for the club and relationship with the squad doesn't go unnoticed whilst also playing a part at Chelseas foundation academies.







# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian 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.

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# **A BRIEF HISTORY OF:**

## **SUTTON COMMON ROVERS**

**FORMED: 1978**

**NICKNAME:**  
**THE COMMONERS**

### **JUST A S..T SUNDAY SIDE**

Ah, the cry from the Eastbourne Town fans back in the day as they romped to a 2-0 lead in the Vase, before we struck back to win 3-2.

Well, truth be told that's where it all started back in 1978, when INRAD FC took to the field, the club being founded by current Chairman Alan Salmon. Not long after Centre 21 came about following a sponsorship deal with a local youth centre.

Once players left having reached 21, a new name came about: Sutton Common Rovers FC, which quickly abbreviated to SCR followed by whichever public house sponsored the team.

Seasons followed in the Leatherhead & District, Mitcham & District, and Croydon & District Sunday league, with varying degrees of success before Darren Salmon took the plunge and moved the team into Saturday football.

### **SATURDAY SUCCESS**

The 2004/5 season saw that Saturday move. After a couple of seasons in the Surrey South East Combination and the Middlesex County League we took our place in the Combined Counties League for the 2008/09 season.

Darren made the bold statement that he wanted to be an Isthmian side within five seasons. Well, it took a bit longer but we eventually got there.

Our time in the CCL was full of ups and downs. Missing out on promotion in our opening season on goal difference, by 1 goal (as it turned out a missed penalty against Dorking in our penultimate game was key as it meant they had a 1 goal better goal difference than us).

Promotion followed the next season, and two seasons in the Premier culminated with relegation back to Division 1 in 2011/12. We bounced back up immediately, but then spent three seasons struggling in the Premier division before a change in fortunes in 2016/17 saw a mid-table finish.

It was all upwards after that, missing out on promotion with 3rd and 2nd finishes by one place in consecutive seasons. However, we finished top on PPG after two abandoned seasons to finally move to the Isthmian League.

## IT'S A FAMILY THING

As said, chairman Alan Salmon founded the side back in 1978, and his boys, Darren and Justin, both played for the club once they were old enough.

Darren progressed to First Team manager, in around 2000 while we were still a Sunday side, something he has continued to the present day.

Justin has since been co-manager of the First team with Darren and reserve team manager, all alongside managing the Sunday sides. He is now the club secretary.

We were also ahead of the game in terms of getting ladies involved in the club. Alan's daughter Tracy joined the fun when the SCR Colts were formed and quickly established herself behind the tea bar counter.

For good measure her other half Mark became youth secretary, a role that he held until the start of this season.

Throw into that that all Alan's grandchildren (Sam: #forever7, forever missed; Tyler, Reece and Blake, and Ethan) all played for the club, with Blake and Reece now involved on matchdays. As you see, we are truly a family club.



## CUP GLORY (ish)

We have a proud cup-fighting tradition, often getting the better of higher ranked sides.

It's not all been glory though as we suffered heartbreak twice in finals, losing 1-0 to Staines Lammas in the CCL Division 1 final in the 2008/09 season, and the following year we lost to Sutton Utd Reserves in the Surrey Premier Cup Final, 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The 2016/17 season saw the club secure it's first Saturday trophy with a 4-1 win over Camberley Town in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.

Semi final defeats followed the next season in the Southern Combination Cup and the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup, which saw a heart-breaking 97th minute goal against Worcester Park to lose 3-2.

In 2018/19 we reached two cup finals, with defeat after extra time against Walton Casuals 4-2 in the Southern Combination Cup. The club finally secured the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup. An 84th minute strike by Matt Farrell securing a 1-0 win over CB Hounslow Utd.

There has been some success in the FA Vase, with the 5th Round reached in the 2019/20 season, but it ended in disappointment away at Western League Bitton AFC when we lost 2-1.

The FA Cup has been hit and miss with exits in the Extra-Preliminary Round before the 2021/22 season saw us reach the 2nd Qualifying Round for the first time.

