

COMMON

KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #12



Season 23/24



Respect

Wed 3rd January 2024 | 3:00PM KICK OFF

Pitching In | Isthmian Football League | South Central Division
Whyteleafe Sports Centre | Church Road | CR3 0AR

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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

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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



Marlow 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 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 evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports Arena for tonight's Isthmian South Central league fixture.

We would like to welcome tonight's opponents Marlow FC. We hope their players officials and supporters have a pleasant short stay with us this evening.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Zak Demetriades and his assistants Mr Philip Jones and Mr Daniel Trout, we hope they also enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

Marlow come to us currently sitting in 6th spot in the table, with 34 points from 17 games, and will be looking to get back to winning ways, after what has been by their high standards a tough last four games.

We travelled to Marlow back in August and turned in one of our most inept performances of the early season, when a second half capitulation saw us crash to a 6-1 defeat, so we will have to be at our very best to get anything out of the game.

I still think they will be there or thereabouts come seasons end, and I fancy them for promotion, be it as champions or through the play offs.

Last season the points were shared, Marlow coming from a goal behind at the break to win here 3-1 (our goal from Shakeel Morris), whilst we secured an unlikely 2-1 win at their place thanks to a Tony Halsey double.

Our Christmas period looked like being hugely successful. The point away at Chertsey being followed up with a battling 1-1 draw at home against play-off chasing Badshot Lea (our goal from Aaron Jenkins), and then a hard fought 0-0 draw away at title hopefuls Raynes Park Vale.

With three points from those games, and a trip to Guernsey to end the year, there were hopes of four, maybe even six points to end the month. These hopes though were dashed with an inept second half performance on the island.

Having led early on thanks to a well worked goal from Max Oldham, we were quickly bought level when Ross Allen levelled things up (I was going to say he always scores against us, but he always scores against everybody), and the sides went in level at the interval.

A slow start to the second half saw Guernsey strike on the hour through Matt Loaring before we looked to have earned/snatched a point depending on your viewpoint when Aaron Jenkins equalised in the 86th minute.

However, as the last two games have shown (Guernsey and us both winning in stoppage time), these matches are never done, and Allen restored the hosts lead in the 88th minute, and Samuel Murray sealed the win a minute later.

After tonight, we head off to Leatherhead on Saturday for another tough fixture.

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

Briggers

TONIGHTS OPPONENTS

MARLOW FC



FORMED: 1870

NICKNAME: The Blues

RECENT YEARS

Following the departure of Pritchard just before season 2001/02 Sweetman took over the reins and his first game in charge saw the capture of the Associate Members Trophy in a final held over from the previous season. The side finished the season in 9th position in the league – the highest for some time – before restructuring saw them move from Division Two to the newly-formed Division One North for season 2002/03 where an 11th place finish was achieved. In the F.A Trophy they progressed to the Third Round before going out at Dagenham & Redbridge.

Marlow again found themselves in new surroundings the following season having transferred to Division One South and although inconsistent form saw them finish 16th in the league they again had an excellent run in the F.A Trophy which took them to the Fourth Round for the first time in their history. Several notable victories saw them through before a strong Tamworth outfit ended their run at Oak Tree Road.

The reorganization of the non-league game saw them in different surroundings for the fourth time in four seasons with entry into The Southern League where they competed in the Western Division for season 2004/05 and finished in 13th spot. Kevin Stone had moved into the manager's seat towards the end of the season and enjoyed a great run. 2005/06 and in the same league and in more familiar surroundings seemed to suit the side and for most of the season they hovered around the play-off positions and eventually finished in 6th spot. A play-off spot was confirmed on the final day of the season and although a 1-2 defeat at Brackley Town followed the Club were pleased with the progress. Season 2006/07 in the South & West Division saw a successful run of results promise another play-off berth but a last day defeat at Winchester City saw them fall just short whilst season 2007/08 was a little more disappointing with some very good results failing to offset a poor run around February/March with a final finish just outside the play-offs resulting.

Season 2008/09 saw the Club moved yet again into the Midland Division and another inconsistent season followed finishing with a defeat to Windsor & Eton in the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup at M.K Dons stadium.

The following two seasons saw some good results against the top sides but indifferent ones against the lower teams and ended with mid-table finishes even though a bright start in 2010/11 saw them briefly at the top of the table. 2011/12 did not start at all badly but soon developed into one where victories were very hard to come by and following a string of poor results long-standing manager Stone left just after Christmas. Assistant Steve Croxford took over and although performances and results improved towards the end it was not enough to avoid relegation.

TONIGHTS OPPONENTS



Season 2012/13 found Marlow in new surroundings in the UHlsport Hellenic League with a new management team, headed by Mark Bartley, eager to recapture some of the glories of the past. This they did, winning the league championship by a 16 point margin and scoring 123 goals in 36 games to regain their previous status in the Southern League where 2013/14 season saw them consolidate their newly-regained status followed with finishes in and 17th and 11th positions respectively.

For 2015/16 Marlow found themselves moved once again – to the South & West division – which again meant increased travelling and associated costs, the loss of some key players and being deprived of several local derbies making life much more difficult than it really needed to be. In the circumstances a mid-table finish was achieved and a return to the Central Division for this season looks to be more appealing.

A return to the Central Division for 2016/17 aided a finish in 4th place (on goal difference) and achieved a play-off place, with third-placed Barton Rovers running out 2-0 victors at their ground.

Season 2017/18 ended with a mid-table finish followed by a return to the Isthmian League after a lengthy absence to take a place in the newly-formed South-Central division with a resultant reduction in travelling which is most welcome.

Season 2018/19 was a successful one and generally good results saw Marlow FC maintain a position near the top of the table throughout the season and qualify for the play-offs where they lost out 1-2 in a closely fought semi-final to eventual winners Cheshunt at their ground.

Season 2019/20 saw MFC remain in the South Central division and as expected after a successful previous season, a few players left, some to join other higher placed teams. After a reasonable start results deteriorated due principally through a serious spate of injuries to key players which took some time to recover from. Eventually things began to improve in 2020 but the Covid-19 virus pandemic caused a halt to all football games in March throughout the UK and ending the season. The 2020/21 started, but ended again after football was again halted before we had made it to Christmas.

With the worst of the pandemic looking to be behind us, the expectation was that season 2021/22 would be played to a finish. The first half of the season saw the team riding high in the table but once again, injuries to key players took their toll along with a severe dip in form, meant we finished in 7th place.

At the end of the season It was clear that change was needed. Several players moved to play at a higher level, others were released and a new squad was built for the 2022/23 season. Despite a slow start, the new squad developed well and finished a creditable third in the Isthmian South Central Division, but lost out to Hanworth Villa in the playoff semi-final. The team also made it to the County Cup final, losing out to Brackell Town.

A proposed lateral move to the Southern League for season 2023/24 was overturned on appeal.



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MATCH REPORT

▼ RAYNES PARK VALE

With the Christmas Day indulgence a long forgotten memory(!), the early start kicks off. In the first two minutes Rovers stamp an air of authority on the game. Isy Nzelo putting a great ball down our right side for Max Oldham to run on to. Oldham passes inside as he approaches the box, plays a one-two with Nabeel Ghannam, but couldn't get his shot away. Ashley Sheppard this time, picking up a Raynes Park clearance, setting Oldham off on the right wing, breezes past his man, putting a great cross into the box, but is headed away for a corner. Ghannam takes, but directed into the side-netting.

Raynes Park then go on a break, Brad Sweeney putting a through ball to Matt Drage, but his first touch is too strong and James Shaw drops on it. The hosts start growing into the game with a number of hard presses on the Rovers defence. A good exchange outside our box from Jerry O'Sullivan and Sweeney, seeks out Jordan Gallagher on the left. His decent cross into the box is headed over by Charlie Penny.

From a long ball into the Rovers' box, a defensive header from Nzelo finds Oldham on the left. Again, Oldham beats his man for pace, but the pass inside for Ghannam was just too long. Rover' build-up play at this point was good, but the game still even in terms of possession. Oldham, Sheppard and Aaron Jenkins working the triangles outside the right of the Raynes Park penalty area, the through ball for Jenkins out of reach, keeper Billy Bishop getting there first.

An Antonio Simeone free-kick is floated from just inside the opponent's half to the edge of the box and is headed on by Nzelo. Ben Holden's cross blocked by the Raynes Park defence. On 20mins, Rovers were guilty of not clearing their lines effectively, leaving James Dickson free to shoot, but just past the post.

Again, Sheppard wins his midfield battle and drives forward, passing on to Ghannam. The tricky number 10 works himself some space, his shot drawing a great save from Bishop. On the half hour, a ball over the top from Bishop, leaves Tariq Straker wide open, and with no real choice, giving away a free kick on the left. Gallagher takes, but is majestically headed away by Simeone. The loose ball is fired back into the box, but Straker clears it away.

In the 33rd minute, Rovers are awarded a free-kick. From distance, Ghannam floats a great ball in, but is headed out by the Raynes Park defence. Falling to Simeone, his fierce shot is deflected out for a corner. Ghannam floats his corner kick into the goal-mouth, but is headed out by O'Sullivan. Simeone picks up the loose ball feeding it to Jenkins, who wins a throw. Holden's long throw reaches Bertie Lloyd, heading it back to Holden. The square ball finds Ghannam, but his shot is well block at point blank range.

1	James Shaw	
2	Tariq Straker	
5	Antonio Simeone	
6	Bertie Lloyd	
7	Maxwell Oldham	🔄
10	Nabeel Ghannam	
12	Lindell Stewart	🟡🔄
13	Isy Nzelo	
14	Aaron Jenkins	
17	Ben Holden	🟡
19	Ashley Sheppard	🔄
3	Matthew Tanton	
8	Matthew Feeny-Hill	
15	Noah Africa	🔄
16	Charlie Martin	🔄
18	Samuel Williams	🔄🟡

Two minutes on and a potential game changing moment. Ghannam is taken out from behind by Gallagher. Perhaps seeking retribution for an infringement on him moments earlier, and uncharacteristic from what we know of the Raynes Park number 10, he's given a straight red. It clearly seemed harsh by the Raynes Park faithful, and it may have been, but I guess it's about what angle you viewed it from.

With 5 minutes left on the clock, Ghannam is caught out in midfield, leading to a break for Raynes Park. With players chasing back, the ball is ushered out for a Raynes Park corner. The kick is lofted onto the 6yd box, and punched clear by Shaw, but the ball bounced badly for Oldham and he was adjudged to have controlled it with his arm. The free kick from 20yds is blasted over the bar by Penny.

As the second half draws to a close, a great interception by Holden in the middle of the park puts Jenkins through. Oldham is then brought down in the 18yd box, as he stretches to reach Jenkins' onward pass, with claims for a penalty, but waved away by the Referee. From the goal kick, Nathan Lewis is free on their left, breaking into the Rovers half. As he reaches the 18yd area, his cross is bravely headed out by Sheppard.

The restart saw substitutions for both sides, Jermaine Green replacing Louie Downey for our hosts, Noah Africa replacing the injured Sheppard for Rovers. Young Africa got in the mix immediately with a good through ball to Jenkins approaching the Raynes Park penalty area. Jenkins lays off to Africa on the overlap, but his cross is deflected out for a corner. Ghannam's corner kick is headed out, but Stewart's return cross wasn't accurate.

A free kick on Ghannam is floated to the edge of the 18yd box by Oldham, and Ghannam's shot is headed away. Straker picks up the loose ball but his cross is blocked allowing Aaron Lamont to break. Last man Lloyd excellently slides the ball away from Lamont, Africa clearing the ball away. Shortly after, a handball is awarded to Raynes Park just outside the penalty area, a cheeky flick from Jermaine Green glancing up onto Straker's arm. Lamont takes the free kick well, but Drage blasts the rebound wide.

Leading up to 70mins, Raynes Park substitute James Dickson for Jake Gallagher and Charlie Martin replaces Stewart. Although a man down, it was still nip and tuck with Raynes Park still able to put Rovers on the back foot. A great build up move, with a pass from Africa finding Holden, who slides the ball through for Oldham, but is cut out by a Raynes Park defender. Rovers have the possession, but unable to find a way through. In the 78th minute Holden is cautioned for throw-in debacle, that really should have gone to both players involved. With 10 minutes to go Samuel Williams is brought on for Oldham.

Again, enterprising play from Charlie Martin, Africa, Nzelo and Ghannam create opportunities, but nothing in the final third. Raynes Park still creating their own chances, a nice cross from O'Sullivan is just out of reach for Penny, but so close. On 81mins Palace Francis replaces O'Sullivan. A free kick by our keeper Shaw doesn't quite reach Martin, and Raynes Park catch us on the break, only another crucial tackle by Lloyd spares Rovers' blushes.

In the closing minutes the game descends into chaos as frustrations rise, yellow cards brandished to Benjamin Dyson, Jake Gallagher and Samuel Williams for Raynes Park. In added time, there were still chances for both sides; Rovers' with a free kick blasted over the bar, Raynes Park with a corner punched clear by Shaw. Not the prettiest game of football to watch, to be sure, and for the travelling support a sense of relief when the Referee brought it to a close.



INSIDE MORGAN'S MIND

Happy New Year all

Not your traditional New Year's Day game today, after a tough December of fixtures the additional days to recover were welcome.

Clearly fixtures don't get any easier as tonight's opponents are always a tough match. Mark always sets his teams out well and that got us on bank holiday where I would say it's one of the worse performances I've seen from my squad.

We're looking for redemption and know we can compete against the top sides, so there is every reason to have the belief today.

With a few recent results not going our way it is important we start to build some momentum and move away from any danger.

It's going to be even more important now that everyone gets behind the boys and if you can bring a friend along to boost that it would go a long way!

Morgs

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ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL

			P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Chertsey Town (-1)	3-1	20	15	4	1	54	16	+38	48
2	Southall		20	14	3	3	49	22	+27	45
3	Raynes Park Vale		19	13	4	2	37	16	+21	43
4	Leatherhead	0-3	20	13	3	4	30	14	+16	42
5	Westfield	3-0	20	11	4	5	38	28	+10	37
6	Marlow		17	11	1	5	46	24	+22	34
7	Hanworth Villa	0-1	20	9	6	5	42	32	+10	33
8	Hartley Wintney	1-3	19	10	2	7	40	30	+10	32
9	South Park (Reigate)	1-1	20	9	5	6	36	26	+10	32
10	Thatcham Town	4-1	21	9	4	8	35	32	+3	31
11	Badshot Lea	1-3	18	9	3	6	32	29	+3	30
12	Uxbridge	1-4	21	9	2	10	39	35	+4	29
13	Ascot United	3-1	21	7	2	12	29	31	-2	23
14	Sutton Common Rovers		21	5	5	11	31	42	-11	20
15	Metropolitan Police	1-0	20	5	5	10	24	37	-13	20
16	Chipstead	1-0	20	6	2	12	30	45	-15	20
17	Ashford Town (Middx)		19	5	4	10	22	30	-8	19
18	Guernsey	1-1	21	4	5	12	26	41	-15	17
19	Northwood		18	5	1	12	26	33	-7	16
20	Corinthian-Casuals	0-1	22	3	3	16	16	56	-40	12
21	Binfield		19	0	4	15	14	77	-63	4

LATEST LEAGUE RESULTS



Monday 1st January 2024

Ascot United 3-1 Badshot Lea
Corinthian-Casuals 0-1 Chipstead
Hanworth Villa 0-1 Metropolitan Police
Hartley Wintney 1-3 Chertsey Town
South Park (Reigate) 1-1 Guernsey
Thatcham Town 4-1 Uxbridge
Westfield 3-0 Leatherhead



Saturday 30th December

Ashford Town (Middx) 0-3 Hartley Wintney
Badshot Lea 2-2 Thatcham Town
Chertsey Town 9-0 Binfield
Guernsey 4-2 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Leatherhead 1-0 Ascot United
Marlow 1-2 Southall
Metropolitan Police 3-0 Corinthian-Casuals
Raynes Park Vale 1-1 South Park (Reigate)
Uxbridge 1-2 Westfield

Wednesday 27th December

Metropolitan Police 0-3 Westfield

Tuesday 26th December

Ashford Town (Middx) 3-5 Hanworth Villa
Chertsey Town 2-2 Thatcham Town
Chipstead 1-4 South Park (Reigate)
Leatherhead 1-0 Corinthian-Casuals
Marlow 2-3 Hartley Wintney
Northwood 1-2 Southall
Raynes Park Vale 0-0 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Uxbridge 1-1 Ascot United

CAREER RECORDS

	SEASON RECORD					CAREER RECORDS		
	Apps	Subs	Goals	YC	RC	Apps	Goals	Goals
Bertie LLOYD	27	0	1	1	0	64	3	3
Nabeel GHANNAM	25	2	9	2	0	41	12	12
Antonio SIMEONE	23	0	4	6	0	28	4	4
James DILLON	22	0	0	4	0	48	0	0
Aaron JENKINS	20	7	10	1	0	27	10	10
Ben HOLDEN	20	4	0	9	1	24	0	0
Max OLDHAM	15	7	5	2	0	30	5	5
Isy NZELO	13	5	1	3	0	18	1	1
Matt TANTON	13	0	0	4	0	186	6	6
Daryl COLEMAN	11	1	1	4	0	12	0	0
Charlie MARTIN	10	9	5	2	0	19	5	5
Ashley SHEPPARD	9	5	1	1	0	14	1	1
Jordan WILSON	9	2	0	3	0	11	0	0
Conan TORPEY	8	2	2	4	1	25	10	10
Tariq STRAKER	8	0	0	1	1	8	0	0
Matt FEENEY-HILL	6	7	1	0	0	13	1	1
Lindell STEWART	6	2	0	1	0	8	0	0
Rylan JOHN	4	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
Oshane BROWN	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Anthony OGBANUFE	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Noah AFRICA	1	6	0	0	0	7	0	0
James SHAW	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Christopher ALHASSAN	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Samuel WILLIAMS	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Tom JONES	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

FIRST TEAM RESULTS



DATE	COMP	H/A	OPPONENTS	H/T	F/T	SCORER(S)	ATT		
2023									
5th Aug	FAC EP	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN	0	1	1	1	Martin	84
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
26th AUG	ILSC	H	UXBRIDGE	1	1	1	2	Jenkins	83
28th Aug	ILSC	A	Marlow	0	2	1	6	Jenkins	179
2nd Sep	ILSC	H	GUERNSEY	0	1	2	1	Ghannam, Sheppard	72
9th Sep	FAT1stQ	A	Merstham	0	0	3	0	Swaby, Simeone, Odunaiké	116
16th Sep	ILSC	A	Corinthian Casuals	2	0	5	0	Simeone, Odunaiké, 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
4th Oct	ILSC	H	LEATHERHEAD	0	1	0	1		136
7th Oct	ILSC	H	SOUTHALL	1	0	1	2	Ghannam	81
10th Oct	ILSC	A	South Park (Reigate)	0	0	1	2	OG	90
14th Oct	ILSC	H	WESTFIELD	0	2	0	3		91
24th Oct	SCCC	A	Horley Town	2	1	2	3	Ghannam 2	78
28th Oct	ILSC	H	HARTLEY WINTNEY	1	2	1	5	Jenkins	71
11th Nov	ILSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)	1	0	1	1	Simeone	68
18th Nov	ILSC	H	BINFIELD	0	0	4	1	Lloyd, Ghannam, Feeney-Hill, Jenkins	77
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
2nd Dec	ILSC	H	HANWORTH VILLA	1	1	1	2	Jenkins	82
9th Dec	ILSC	H	THATCHAM TOWN	0	2	1	3	Oldham	81
16th Dec	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town	0	0	0	0		648
23rd Dec	ILSC	H	BADSHOT LEA	0	1	1	1	Jenkins	74
26th Dec	ILSC	A	Raynes Park Vale	0	0	0	0		302
30th Dec	ILSC	A	Guernsey	1	1	2	4	Oldham, Jenkins	758
2024									
3rd Jan	ILSC	H	MARLOW						
6th Jan	ILSC	A	Leatherhead						
13th Jan	ILSC	H	CORINTHIAN CASUALS						
20th Jan	ILSC	A	Southall						
27th Jan	ILSC	H	ASCOT UTD						
31st Jan	ILSC	H	SOUTH PARK (REIGATE)						
3rd Feb	ILSC	A	Westfield						
17th Feb	ILSC	A	Hartley Wintney						
24th Feb	ILSC	H	NORTHWOOD						
2nd Mar	ILSC	A	Binfield						
9th Mar	ILSC	H	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)						
16th Mar	ILSC	A	Hanworth Villa						
23rd Mar	ILSC	H	CHIPSTEAD						
30th Mar	ILSC	A	Uxbridge						
1st Apr	ILSC	H	RAYNES PARK VALE						
6th Apr	ILSC	H	MET POLICE						
13th Apr	ILSC	A	Badshot Lea						
20th Apr	ILSC	H	CHERTSEY TOWN						
27th Apr	ILSC	A	Thatcham Town						
TBC	SSC	H	CHERTSEY TOWN						



Click on the QR codes to view our match reports

SOUTH CENTRAL REVIEW (31/12)

NINE FOR THE CURFEWS!

Chertsey deepen the Moles misery, Southall win in Marlow, Tanners take three points and another clean sheet, Westfield and Hartley Wintney close in on the top five, whilst Guernsey and Met pick up valuable wins

It was top v bottom as Chertsey Town welcomed Binfield, so it was no surprise when the Curfews went ahead after only three minutes, Gianluca Botti making it unlucky for the Moles with his thirteenth of the campaign. The hosts had a second a few minutes later, Louis Degand doing the damage, and on twenty two minutes Botti made it three. At this point it looked a question of how many, and there was a fourth on the half hour, Oliver McCoy scoring for the merciless hosts. Half time looked to be a release for the visitors, but before it could arrive Conor Lee made it five. The sixth goal arrived just after the hour, Degand with a second, and they hadn't finished yet. Lee added a seventh with nine minutes to go, and Gareth Chendlik got the eighth on eight three minutes. A Sam Omperon goal right at the end made it nine, and kept the Curfews top on goal difference.

Southall were breathing down Chertsey Town's neck, but had a tricky match at fifth place Marlow- although their hosts had gone of the boil a little of late, losing their last two, and they went behind in this one, William Montague putting The All ahead on twenty seven minutes. Marlow were given a boost when Kevin Diomande saw red for the visitors with twenty one minutes left, but not for long, as the ten men quickly scored again, Jaden Thompson-Brissett taking his tally for the season to twenty five. Dawid Rogalski got a goal back with a minute remaining, but it was too late to make a difference to the outcome, and Southall are off the top only on goal difference.

Raynes Park Vale had slipped from the top after two successive draws, but they hoped to extend their eleven match unbeaten run as in-form South Park Reigate came to call. Vale were ahead midway through the first half, Jordan Gallagher taking his total for the season to sixteen, but the Sparks had taken ten points from a four match unbeaten run and levelled just before the hour, Sam King with the equaliser. That was that, a third draw in a row and third place for Vale, the Sparks in ninth.

Leatherhead, with six wins and a draw from their last eight matches, finally got past the Ascot United backline three minutes after the break, Jamie Splatt with the opening goal of the game. Not only was it the opening goal, it turned out to be the only goal, but it kept the Tanners three points behind the leaders and in fourth place. That's a third one-nil win in four matches for Leatherhead- the other was a one-one draw.

Uxbridge welcomed Westfield, and they went ahead five minutes before the break, Mahlondo Martin with his fourth goal in seven matches. The visitors, five unbeaten, weren't likely to take that lying down, and they levelled five minutes after half time through Jordan Alves- his second goal this week. The visitors took the points nine minutes from time, Mayowa Adaje moving into double figures for the season- a result which moved them up to sixth, only outside the top five on goal difference.

Ashford Town welcomed a Hartley Wintney side in fine form, with one defeat in seven- and the visitors broke the deadlock four minutes after half time, Adam Payce with the goal. With twelve minutes left the visitors made sure of the points, Conor Lynch making it two, and the same player then added a third with seven minutes left as the Row close to within two points of a play off spot.

Badshot Lea have been rather short of matches of late, so will have been delighted when their game against in-form Thatcham Town got the go-ahead- but the Kingfishers will have been delighted too, and even more so when they went ahead on nine minutes through David Nyarko. The Baggies weren't stunned for long, as they levelled two minutes later, George Hedley with the equaliser, but the visitors saw Nyarko restore their lead just after the half hour. The Baggies levelled for the second time on sixty four minutes, Baback Dehgani with this equaliser, and this turned out to be the final goal of the contest, the Baggies ending the year in tenth, the Kingfishers twelfth.

Sutton Common Rovers got off to a whirlwind start in Guernsey, taking the lead after only six minutes, Maxwell Oldham with the goal. Rovers had drawn their three previous matches, each against promotion chasing sides, but they held onto their lead for only four minutes before the hosts levelled, Ross Allen scoring from the spot- and thirteen minutes into the second half Matt Loaring put Guernsey ahead. Rovers levelled with four minutes to go through Aaron Jenkins and surely thought they'd saved a point- but that only awoke the hosts, and goodness those Green Lions roared. Within two minutes Allen had restored their lead, and a minute later Sam Murray made it four-two as Guernsey moved out of the bottom two.

Met Police and Corinthian-Casuals, the latter under new management, each needed points at the wrong end of the table. It was the boys in blue who struck first, Alex Body scoring after eight minutes, and they doubled their advantage just before the hour, Jamal Andrew Sharpe with the second. It was as good as game over when Mason Galloway made it three-nil, and indeed that's how it ended, Met up to sixteenth, Casuals dropping into the relegation zone.

 There was a near full fixture list on Bank Holiday Monday, which saw away wins for Chipstead, Metropolitan Police, and league leaders Chertsey Town, whilst there was a home win for Thatcham Town.

A late goal handed Guernsey a valuable point at in-form South Park Reigate

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- RACE AND ETHNICITY
- RELIGION OR BELIEF
- SEX
- DISABILITY

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THE UNTOLD GAME

The Original Buffon

Gianluigi Buffon is one of the greatest goalkeepers the game has ever seen. A precocious teenager so talented that when he broke into Parma's first team at 16, he was told he would be his country's number one by the time he was twenty. 'Why would I wait that long?' was his confident reply. But goalkeeping was in Buffon's genes. Some three decades before Gianluigi arrived in the world, and half a century before he sat atop it, his grandfather's cousin was making his debut for Portogruaro. It wasn't long before he was on the move to Italian giants Milan, where Lorenzo Buffon would become a legend.



Lorenzo's career started in the chaos of post-war Italian football. The first national championships had been created under fascism, and with the financial struggles of football following the war, that required a restructure. Despite a mid-table finish, Portogruaro were dropped into the vast, regional, amateur fourth tier, and turned to their academy for an immediate return to Serie C. Buffon would probably not have been given such an early start in a higher division, but at that level, he was given the gloves. And so nearly, he achieved immediate success. Portogruaro struggled to score goals, but Buffon's performance in goal kept them in the title race right to the end of the season. In the end, they were massively outscored by San Dona, who took the single promotion place, but the young goalkeeper had done enough to grab the attention of the top of the tree.

Milan were in a period of rebuilding that would define them for a decade. Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm joined their Swedish compatriot Gunnar Nordahl in the famous Gre-No-Li attacking line, which meant the signing of a backup goalkeeper happened without much fanfare at all. Content to warm the bench as a profession, Buffon had to wait until January of 1950 to make his debut for the Rossoneri. He stood out in a 5-1 win, and was given a second game, then a third, a game against Juventus which was the first Serie A game to be televised live. Milan destroyed their opponents, winning 7-1, and while the super Swedes took the headlines, Buffon was now undroppable.

Despite their win, Milan failed to take the Scudetto away from Turin until the following season, when they were so dominant that they failed to win any of their final five games, and still secured the title. The power was shifting to the city, and Inter made their own claim on the Italian title, bolstered by their own young goalkeeper Giorgio Ghezzi. He and Buffon developed a rivalry both on and off the pitch.

Ghezzi went to the World Cup in 1954 as first choice, owing to Inter's back-to-back titles, but a poor showing soon had the Azzurri turning to Buffon. Ghezzi suffered a double blow. Edy Campagnoli was a catwalk model and tv star, and Ghezzi's girlfriend. But when he was dropped by the national team, she dropped him as well. In a move that could have come straight from her tv shows, she ended up in Buffon's arms. They married in 1958, and Ghezzi reportedly never recovered from the rejection.

Milan returned to title-winning form following the World Cup, and qualified for the European Cup. He saw them to another title in 1957, and Milan made the European Cup final in 1958, but without an injured Buffon in goal they conceded 3 and lost in injury time to Real Madrid.

In fact, injuries would prove to be his downfall. Following that European Cup defeat, the Milan board started to question Buffon's injury record and looking for a replacement. He played one more season for the Rossoneri before another soap-opera twist. Ghezzi, following his heartbreak, had left the city of Milan on the eve of Buffon and Campagnoli's wedding and spent a year at Genoa.

Milan made their move and brought him in. Buffon went the other way, and was unable to prevent his new side's relegation, because once again he'd spent most of the season on the injury table. But Inter had struggled to replace Ghezzi, and saw an opportunity. He joined the Nerazzurri, and resumed his rivalry with Ghezzi.

Juventus won the 1961 title, but all attention was on the Milan rivalry. Buffon and Inter won the first tie, before Ghezzi and Milan won the return. But it was less about results, and more about who would get that coveted number 1 jersey at the 1962 World Cup.

Buffon suffered a blow in 1962, conceding the title to Milan and Ghezzi, but he had conceded the fewest goals. The call came, and he was off to Chile. He had won once again.

Sadly, after keeping a clean sheet in the first game, he got injured once more. Italy crashed out of the World Cup, and neither Buffon or Ghezzi would play for them again. Buffon won the Scudetto the following year, but his time was coming to an end. He retired in 1965 after short spells at Fiorentina and Ivera.

His cousin's grandson would eventually go on to surpass him, but Lorenzo will always be the original Buffon.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, *The Untold Game* (Find more at 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.



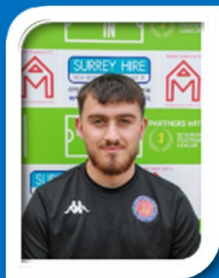
TBA

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!



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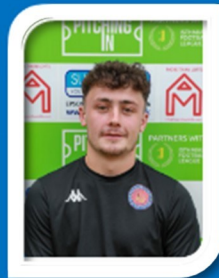
Charlie, the oldest 18 year old on the planet. Charlie is someone who has been around what feels like forever but has only been in senior football for last 2-3 years and has always known where the back of the net is. Certainly one to watch out for.



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

UKPRECLEARANCE.COM

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

FullypaidLDN

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

SPONSOR AVAILABLE

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.

TBA

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

VACANT

Tariq Straker
Info coming soon



'Pen Pic Profiles'

& Sponsors...



VACANT

Christopher Alhassan
Info coming soon

**SPONSOR
AVAILABLE**

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



ZUZU FARRIS-DOWD
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Isty'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

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.



**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



**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

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.

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Please visit
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LEAGUE

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 heartbreaking 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.

Wed 3rd Jan 2024 | 7:45pm | Pitching In, Isthmian Football League

Venue: Church Road Stadium, Whyteleafe, Surrey. CR3 0AR

SUTTON COMMON ROVERS F.C

Colours: ALL YELLOW / MINT GREEN

JAMES DILLON (GK)	
LOUIE EROTKRITOS (GK)	
OSHANE BROWN (GK)	
AARON JENKINS	
ANTONIO SIMEONE (VC)	
ASHLEY SHEPPARD	
BEN HOLDEN	
BERTIE LLOYD	
CHARLIE MARTIN	
CONAN TORPEY	
DARYL COLEMAN	
ISY NZELO	
LINDELL STEWART	
MATTY FEENEY-HILL	
MATT TANTON (C)	
MAX OLDHAM	
NABEEL GHANNAM	
NOAH AFRICA	
TARIQ STRAKER	



Manager: *Sam Morgan*

Assistant Manager: *Reece Turner*

Head Coach: *Liam Joyce*

Technical Analyst : *Andrew Martin*

Physio: *Liz Raji*

Kit Manager: *Geoff Moxey*

MARLOW F.C

Colours: ALL BLUE

AARON WATKINS	
BENJAMIN MULLEY	
BRANDON CURTIS	
CHRIS OVENDEN (C)	
DAVE TARPEY	
DAWID ROGALSKI	
ELIJAH OLODUNJOYE	
JORDAN HAMILTON-OLISE	
JOSH MASTERS	
KAI HAMILTON-OLISE	
KHALID SIMMO	
LOUIS ROGERS	
MALACHI TALENT-ARYEETAY	
NAHEER-OMAR NAWAF	
RHYS HARPER	
SEB D'AVERSA	



Manager: *Mark Bartley*

Assistant Manager: *Phil Brown*

Sports Therapist: *Anna Wright*

Coaches: *Aaron Steadman & Leon Bird*

Meet Today's Match Officials:

Referee Mr Zak Demetriades

Asst #2 Mr Philip Jones

Asst #1 Mr Daniel Trout

NEXT UP: Leatherhead AWAY Sat 6th January | 3:00pm KO
Plus Corinthian Casuals HOME Sat 13th January | 3:00pm KO