

“Common Knowledge”

Wed 10th Oct 2023 | 7:45PM KICK OFF

Pitching In | Isthmian Football League | South Central Division

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Runners-up: 2018–19
Combined Counties League Division One:
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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

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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



Leatherhead FC

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 opponent Leatherhead 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 Neil Morrison and his assistants Mr Shkumbin Sherifi and Mr Sebastian Frazer, we hope they also enjoy their stay with us tonight.

It's been over a month since our last home game, and who can forget that dramatic 2-1 win over Guernsey, with Nabeel Ghannam and Ashley Sheppard both scoring deep into stoppage time to give us the win.

We have progressed for the first time, and been knocked out of the FA Trophy, with wins over Merstham (goals from Courtney Swaby, Antonio Simeone and Gabriel Odunaike) and a loss to Badshot Lea (report on that one later in the programme).

Whilst we have been unbeaten in the league during the month, with two wins and a draw. After the Guernsey win our other league win saw us crush a struggling Corinthian Casuals 5-0 (Simeone, Odunaike, Ghannam, Charlie Martin and Swaby on the scoresheet).

Last weekend we made our first ever trip to Ascot Utd, and an excellent performance saw us pick up a 1-1 draw, with Conan Torpey on the scoresheet. The fact that Ascot's supporters voted their keeper Hugo Sobte as man of the match says it all really.

Onto tonight's opponents, and they were most people's pre-season tip for the title, and in fairness have started their campaign in strong form, currently sitting in second spot in the table, having 13 points from 5 games—the only points dropped being a 0-0 draw against Westfield. In fact, should they win tonight they will move top of the table.

Last season the sides met on three occasions, Leatherhead winning a thrilling first game of 2023 at Fetcham Grove by 4-3, a late Dave Tarpey strike giving them the points, whilst in the return a Max Oldham goal gave us a share of the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

There was also an entertaining 2-2 draw (goals from Liam Holden and Brian Testolin) in the Velocity Cup, with Leatherhead progressing on penalties.

We would also like to give a warm welcome back last season's skipper Tyler Cox, who now plys his trade with Leatherhead.

In other news, the U18's started their league campaign with a 4-2 win over Maidstone Utd, but have mainly been playing FA Youth Cup matches, they have since our last game here seen off Phoenix Sports 4-2 and Lewes 6-4 and were in action yesterday against Croydon. Fingers crossed they got the job done.

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

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

LEATHERHEAD

FORMED: 1871

NICKNAME:
The Tanners



LEATHERHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB can trace its history back to the formation of Leatherhead Rose in 1907. Rose were crowned Champions of the Dorking & District League in 1910 and 1919 before joining the Kingston and District League where they won the League title three times, the last in 1938-39. Leatherhead United were formed in 1924 and, in 1925-6, won Division One of the Sutton and District League. In the early 1930s, United joined the Surrey Junior League becoming Champions in 1933-4

After the War, officials of the two clubs met and in May 1946, Leatherhead Football Club was officially formed at a public meeting. United's Fetcham Grove ground was to be used as the home ground. The Tanners went on to win four consecutive Surrey Senior League Championships before spells in the Metropolitan, Delphian and Corinthian Leagues. Tanners were Corinthian League champions in 1963 before moving into the Athenian League. Leatherhead won promotion from Division One at the end of the first season and inaugurated their floodlights with a match against a Fulham side. Leatherhead won the Surrey Senior Cup for the first, and to date, only time in 1969. After being elected into the Isthmian League, Leatherhead made national headlines in 1974-5 when they reached the Fourth Round proper of the FA Cup, defeating League sides Colchester Utd and Brighton & Hove Albion before bowing out to First Division Leicester City 2-3. In subsequent seasons, the Tanners defeated two more Football League sides at the Grove – Cambridge United and Northampton Town.

After the disappointment of defeat in FA Amateur Cup semi-finals in 1971 and 1974, the Tanners finally reached Wembley Stadium in 1978 but were beaten in the FA Trophy Final. The Club then entered a period of decline and were relegated in 1983 and in 1990, slipped down into Division Two South but were back in Division One in 1997. Finances were a problem and in the summer of 2000, the club was within a few days of folding but was saved by its supporters who took over following a crisis meeting.

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In 2006-7, Leatherhead were the lowest ranked team to reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 1-2 at Football League side, Torquay United. Mick Sullivan was appointed First Team Manager in May 2009. Under Sullivan's guidance, the club had its most successful season in years, winning the Isthmian League Cup (the first major trophy for some 40 years) and finishing the season in fifth place in the League before losing a play-off semi-final. The following season, a dramatic play-off victory against Dulwich Hamlet (4-3 after extra time), saw The Tanners return to the Premier Division for the first time since 1983. Tanners stay lasted just the one season though. In 2013-14 Tanners reached the play offs again, this time edging out Guernsey 3-2, before winning a penalty shootout at Folkestone Invicta to return to the Ryman Premier Division.

Sammy Moore was appointed in the summer of 2017. In his first managerial job Sammy steered Tanners to the second round of the FA Cup, a County Cup Final and a top eight finish in the League before departing for Concord Rangers along with the majority of the team. He was replaced by former Margate boss Nikki Bull who, despite having to rebuild the squad, took the team to an 8th place finish narrowly missing out on the play-offs.

After a poor start to the 2021-22 season Luke Tuffs was appointed to the Fetcham Grove hot seat in January 2022, and his team very nearly escaped relegation after a number of battling performances. However, the Tanners missed out by one point, and were relegated on the final of the season on a points per game calculation.

The 22/23 season started slowly for the Tanners and after a dozen game, Luke Tuffs decided to step down, and he was replaced by Hayden Bird and results improved, taking the team from 17th place to 7th. only missing a play-off position by one point.



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INSIDE MORGAN'S MIND

Evening all

It's always nice playing a game under the lights and tonight will be a real test. Leatherhead will give us a real opportunity to see where we can be aiming this season. We have had a start to the season which we know we can still improve on but find ourselves where we want to be come the end of the season.

With a mixed bag of performances against Badshot Lea it was important we bounced back with a good performance. Ascot was always going to be a tricky game away from home but I felt we probably edge the tie but came away with a point.

Now to tonight , Leatherhead fixtures always bring entertainment, so sit back enjoy and hopefully we can show our quality and keep all 3 points in Whyteleafe.

MATCH REPORT

▼ BADSHOT LEA (FA TROPHY)

Before anyone had got comfortable in their seats, Badshot were a goal to the good. In the third minute, after conceding a corner, Steven Sylla takes the uncontested delivery on the 6yd box for the easiest of tap-ins. Did time stand still for Rovers' at that point?

Rovers fight back will a good throw-in from Isy Nzelo to Gabriel Odunaiké, who fends off a heavy challenge from the Badshot defence, turns and feeds his pass to Charlie Martin. Martin's shot is deflected out for a corner. Courtney Swaby delivers on cue, Bertie Lloyd heading back across goal, but keeper Harry Cawdrón claims.

After a great piece of foot work from Aaron Jenkins as he approaches the Badshot 18yd box, one on one with Cawdrón, the keeper denies the chance, and his distribution sets up Sylla, who plays out wide to Lamin Ceesay, his left foot strike demanding a great save by James Dillon.

Nabeel Ghannam sweeps the ball into the path of Odunaiké who is now has only the keeper to beat, but Cawdrón gets a hand on it. Swaby is there to pick up the loose ball and shoots from outside the penalty area, Cawdrón tipping it out. Swaby drills the corner hard toward the penalty spot, where Nzelo executes as good a header as your likely to see, finding the lower right hand corner. Back on equal terms.

Jordan Wilson picked up a caution for a late challenge mid-way through the fist half, just as the game was levelling up. A succession of Badshot corners then put Rovers under pressure. Reece Robins takes quickly to Kai Allsopp, who gives straight back, Robins cross finding Sylla. His header looked nailed on, but Dillon steered it past the post.

On 28mins, as Rovers soak up the pressure from Badshot, a poorly struck backpass from Matt Tanton puts Dillon under pressure, the 50:50 challenge with Sylla sees the tall no9 go down in the box. Sylla then duly dispatches the penalty, restoring Badshot's lead. A minute later a telling cross from Baback Dehgani is headed over by L.Ceesay. Could have been three.

With half-time looming Holden again clears our lines, with a great ball to Swaby who tries to jinx his way through the Badshot defence, laying off to Charlie Martin. His cross gets through to Odunaiké, but the ball didn't fall kindly and his shot went wide.

Just before the break Swaby, who was clearly frustrated by the decisions going against us, was taken aside by the Ref for a chat, with Tanton in attendance. Nothing given, but a warning nonetheless.

As the half came to a close, during the break, Rovers will need to settle and find another gear.

3 minutes from the restart, great work from Badshot's Kai Allsopp, driving 25yds down the right, his low cross into the penalty area is met by Tanton, who turns and fires the ball point-blank into Holden, L.Ceesay slotting the loose ball over Dillon.

	James Dillon	
	Isy Nzelo	 
	Ben Holden	
	Bertie Lloyd	
	Matthew Tanton	
	Garfield Wilson	
	Nabeel Ghannam	
	Courtney Swaby	 
	Aaron Jenkins	
	Gabriel Odunaiké	
	Charlie Martin	
	Danny Divine	
	Maxwell Oldham	 
	Siao Blackwood	
	Conan Torpey	 
	Ashley Sheppard	

Nothing either of the two Rovers defenders could do – just unfortunate. Badshot restore their two goal lead. After 53 minutes Rovers make the first of two double substitutions. Danny Divine replacing Nzelo, and Ashley Sheppard replacing Ghannam.

A long throw from Tanton finds Odunaiké, who shields the ball well, turns and slides a pass through to Swaby. Swaby's shot is pushed away by the Badshot keeper, and their defender checks it back to Cawdron – for all the world looking like a back-pass but nothing given. Wishful thinking may be.

The second Rovers double substitution on 66mins sees Conan Torpey replacing Jenkins and Max Oldham replacing Martin. The impact was an immediate threat to Badshot, with Swaby twisting and turning their defence, pushing the ball out wide to Max Oldham. Oldham's cross was pin-point to Conan Torpey, but the header was just wide.

Around the hour mark, our defence was given a hard job to contain Badshot's pressure. Tanton blocks an absolute screamer of a shot from L.Ceesay, and then Sylla on the follow-up. Rovers then create a chance for Wilson, after a good move from Torpey putting Wilson within shooting distance, but a deflection puts the ball out for a corner. Badshot then get back on the break from the corner kick, Sylla, both Ceesay's and Dehgani, 4 against 3, but Tanton heads the danger clear.

On 67mins Sylla lays the ball out to L.Ceesay, whose shot hits the cross bar, Sylla latches onto the rebound, but his shot is blocked. Another close call. Three minutes later, a great ball from Holden out to Danny Divine on the right, wins a corner, which Divine takes quickly finding Oldham on the edge of box. Oldham's floats his cross to Torpey, who heads past the keeper, 3-2.

Short-lived though, on 75mins A.Ceesay works himself some space out on their left, cuts into the edge of the 18yd box and whips in a shot into the bottom right corner. Restoring the deficit 4-2. Dillon picked up a caution, as he felt there was an infringement in the build-up, and expressed it so with more passion than the Ref felt appropriate.

Badshot then make their first substitution, Billy Oram replacing Reece Robins, on 77mins. Shortly followed by Rovers final change Siao Blackwood replacing Wilson. Good play from Odunaiké playing Torpey through into the box, but his shot is deflected out for a corner. Swaby takes to the near post, setting up a header for Holden, which just squeaks over.

At 80mins it was clear that Rovers were becoming rattled, and frustrations running high. The normally ever-smiling Swaby was cautioned for reacting to a challenge he was alleged to have made, and would need to put this behind him. After two minutes a great quick long throw from Tanton on the left puts Odunaiké in space on the 18yd box, his shot parried by the keeper, Oldham on the follow-up slots home. 4-3. We're still in this.

Good work from Divine on the right wins a corner late on, which Swaby takes, delivering into a sea of yellow. Divine and Torpey both get headers in as the ball is pushed back out, but the keeper saves. Was that our last chance? Badshot's final substitutions on 82mins sees Tane Caubo replace A.Ceesay and Rock Moses replace Allsopp. Almost immediately brought into the action Oram feeds a great through ball for Tane Caubo, but Dillon denies with a good save.

With Rovers' clearly distracted by a commotion ongoing in the stands and not focussed on what was happening on the pitch, Sylla again pops out of nowhere into the penalty area and pushes the ball under Dillon for his hat-trick, and Badshot's fifth. That sealed it for the Baggies. To add insult to injury Swaby then got a second yellow, along with his marching orders, following a challenge executed in frustration rather than malice. Game over.

				P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1	Raynes Park Vale	1-4	6	5	0	1	17	10	+7	15
	2	Leatherhead	5-0	5	4	1	0	10	2	+8	13
	3	Uxbridge	4-2	5	4	0	1	15	6	+9	12
	4	Sutton Common Rovers	1-1	6	3	1	2	14	10	+4	10
	5	Chertsey Town	3-0	5	3	1	1	9	5	+4	10
	6	Marlow	1-0	4	3	0	1	11	3	+8	9
	7	Hartley Wintney	3-0	5	3	0	2	12	10	+2	9
	8	South Park (Reigate)	1-2	6	3	0	3	9	8	+1	9
	9	Badshot Lea	4-1	6	3	0	3	9	10	-1	9
	10	Ashford Town (Middx)	0-3	7	2	2	3	10	8	+2	8
	11	Chipstead	0-4	6	2	2	2	13	13	0	8
	12	Southall	8-0	4	2	1	1	12	3	+9	7
	13	Ascot United	1-1	5	2	1	2	8	5	+3	7
	14	Hanworth Villa		5	2	1	2	8	7	+1	7
	15	Northwood	2-4	5	2	0	3	12	10	+2	6
	16	Thatcham Town	0-5	5	2	0	3	4	9	-5	6
	17	Westfield	2-1	5	1	2	2	3	9	-6	5
	18	Metropolitan Police	4-0	5	1	1	3	8	12	-4	4
	19	Guernsey	0-1	6	1	0	5	5	12	-7	3
	20	Corinthian-Casuals	0-3	6	1	0	5	4	21	-17	3
	21	Binfield	0-8	5	0	1	4	2	22	-20	1

Last updated: Saturday 30th September 2023 at 17:55:58

LATEST LEAGUE RESULTS



30th September

Ascot United 1-1 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Ashford Town (Middx) 0-3 Chertsey Town
Corinthian-Casuals 0-3 Hartley Wintney
Guernsey 0-1 Marlow
Leatherhead 5-0 Thatcham Town
Metropolitan Police 4-0 Chipstead
Raynes Park Vale 1-4 Badshot Lea
Southall 8-0 Binfield
Uxbridge 4-2 Northwood
Westfield 2-1 South Park (Reigate)

26th September

Hanworth Villa 2-1 Northwood

23rd September

Binfield 0-3 Hanworth Villa
Chipstead 1-4 Raynes Park Vale
Northwood 1-3 Ashford Town
(Middx)

19 September

Hartley Wintney 1-0 Ashford Town (Middx)

16th September

Ashford Town (Middx) 1-1 Chipstead
Corinthian-Casuals 0-5 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Guernsey 1-3 Badshot Lea
Raynes Park Vale 3-2 Chertsey Town
Uxbridge 1-2 South Park (Reigate)



CAREER RECORDS

	SEASON RECORD					CAREER RECORDS	
	Apps	Subs	Goals	YC	RC	Apps	Goals
	James DILLON	10	0	0	2	0	36
Bertie LLOYD	10	0	0	0	0	47	2
Antonio SIMEONE	9	0	3	2	0	14	3
Nabeel GHANNAM	9	1	3	1	0	24	6
Courtney SWABY	8	0	2	2	1	41	2
Aaron JENKINS	8	2	4	0	0	10	4
Ben HOLDEN	8	1	0	3	0	9	0
Matt TANTON	8	0	0	2	0	181	6
Danny DIVINE	7	1	1	2	0	27	2
Jordan WILSON	7	0	0	2	0	7	0
Charlie MARTIN	6	2	2	0	0	8	2
Max OLDHAM	6	3	1	1	0	17	3
Conan TORPEY	5	2	2	2	1	23	10
Gabriel ODUNAIKE	5	2	2	0	0	15	2
Isy NZELO	3	2	1	1	0	5	1
Siao BLACKWOOD	1	6	0	1	0	27	0
Ashley SHEPPARD	0	4	1	0	0	4	1
Noah AFRICA	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Matt FEENEY-HILL	0	2	0	0	0	2	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, Odunaike	116
16th Sep	ILSC	A	Corinthian Casuals	2	0 5 0	Simeone, Odunaike, 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				
7th Oct	ILSC	H	SOUTHALL				
10th Oct	ILSC	A	South Park (Reigate)				
14th Oct	ILSC	H	WESTFIELD				
28th Oct	ILSC	H	HARTLEY WINTNEY				
4th Nov	ILSC	A	Northwood				
11th Nov	ILSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)				
18th Nov	ILSC	H	BINFIELD				
25th Nov	ILSC	A	Chipstead				
2nd Dec	ILSC	H	HANWORTH VILLA				
9th Dec	ILSC	H	THATCHAM TOWN				
16th Dec	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town				
23rd Dec	ILSC	H	BADSHOT LEA				
26th Dec	ILSC	A	Raynes Park Vale				
30th Dec	ILSC	A	Guernsey				
2024							
1st 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	SCC	A	Horley Town				
TBC	SSC						

Adventures in Groundhopping

It's been a rare thing in recent years, for obvious reasons, for a trip away and a bit of groundhopping. A summer break in Cornwall broke the run and it was on a balmy August evening that myself and the boy headed off to Poltair Park, home of AFC St Austell.

The hosts went into the fixture top of the South West Peninsula West division fixture sitting top of the pile with six wins out of six and were looking to put mid-table Dobwalls to the sword, a game we termed the ice-cream derby, for reasons that will become apparent later on - see if you can spot it (and please allow an old man his moment☐)

On arrival at the ground, car parking was at a premium so we ended up parking in a side road and walking in. Admission was £6, with programmes £2, although printer problems meant none were available and badges were out of stock.

The ground itself was a quirky little affair with a huge slope from side to side and towards each end, a kind of Cornish Hartley Wintney.

The stand offered a good view and sat above the changing areas. A small up and over walkway allowed you to get passed the dugouts. A raised gazebo arrear was filled with spectators enjoying a drink. A food hatch served a variety of options.

We strolled round the pitch, stopping to retrieve balls from some errant shots and a brief chat with the young Dobwalls keeper, before the boy found himself acting as ball boy for the wayward St Austell warm up.

The game kicked off and the first half was very direct with the hosts taking the game to Dobwalls. Balls were pumped forward to the giant number 6 Adam Carter- yep the 6 was playing up top, and he proved to be an excellent option, with a great first touch, neat link up play and in Jake Miller a willing foil.

The hosts peppered the Dobwalls goal but found keeper James Morley in outstanding form with a string of superb saves. The only goal of a pretty one way first half came from St Austell skipper Neil Slateford, again Morley almost saved it, stopping a point blank effort only to see the ball fall kindly for the Lillywhites captain.

There was a glimmer of hope for the visitors when 99 (yep really) Joshua Johnson outjumped his marker at the back stick but a shove on Tom Whipp, aka Whippy saw the effort ruled out.

St Austell continued the barrage in the early stages of the second half with Miller and Carter (not the restaurant), Slateford and Liam Eddy all testing Morley.

With half an hour to go, something changed and the visitors decided to go for it. With Kaycee Ogwu Fidelis proving a thorn in the Lillywhites side.

Johnson somehow headed wide from six yards and Joe Cook the tall Dobwalls centre back, who it has to be said was magnificent repeated the feat.

When neat link up between Gino Garside, Charlie Castlehouse and substitute Blaine Walton set up Walton only for him to drag his effort wide and you kind of new it wasn't going to be there night. The boy had decided he was firmly in the Dobwalls court, rushing to get the ball back for them.



The Lillywhites clinched victory deep into stoppage time when a whipped in free kick by Miller eluded everyone and nestled in the top corner, for a 2-0 win.

An enjoyable evening in very pleasant surroundings.

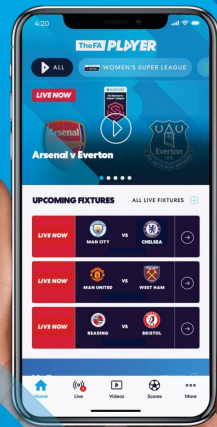


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The Untold Game

Better than Cruyff

Johan Cruyff is a legend. Everybody knows that. He is revered in his home country and across the globe for both his ability on the pitch, and his genius off it. The Dutchman is undoubtedly one of the greatest of all time, with a tiny handful of players that can claim to have played the game better. But Cruyff himself only ever conceded that one man was better than him, one man that most have never heard of. Willy Dullens.

Dullens was born in the final months of the Second World War, in the Dutch village of Broeksittard, surviving a conflict-induced famine in his early months. Rarely without a ball at his feet, Dullens trained for six hours each day, and spent every night reading Voetballen Doe Je Zo, 'This is How you Play Football'. He was quickly a master with the ball at his feet. Returning from the pit one day, his father asked young Willy how many keepie uppies he had managed that day. The answer - 3500 - was astonishing. When he reached 6000, he stopped. Nobody, he believed, would ever beat that.

He played for his local amateur side, using his brother's birth certificate to trick authorities when he was just 14. He shone against fully grown adults. It didn't take long for the professionals to take notice, and he was snapped up by local second tier side Sittardia, along with his two brothers.

Dullens could not have been more different to Cruyff. While the mercurial Total Footballer represented rebellious youth in the capital, the Sittardia midfielder embodied the working class and strict Christian values of Broeksittard. He never smoked, he never drank. After playing poorly in one game, he realised he had gone to bed too late and set himself a bedtime. He was quiet, and let his feet do the talking.

18 goals in his debut season saw Sittardia promoted. Although he wasn't able to keep the minnows in the top flight, his talent was noticed. He started to get called up to the national youth teams, where he first encountered Cruyff. They would eventually become friends, but Dullens couldn't believe how much the Ajax man smoked.

To treat his body that way was inconceivable. He noted how talented Cruyff was though, but never felt inferior to him. He would later recall that they never lost a match they played together.



Despite relegation, a series of wonder goals ensured that he was not forgotten. Whilst playing in the second tier, he got his first Oranje senior call up, and mesmerised an experienced Belgian defence at De Kuip. The day after his debut, Dullens was the second coming, around whom Dutch football should be built. Two weeks later, he did the same to Scotland.



Despite playing in the second tier, Dullens was named Dutch player of the year.

Ahead of Cruyff. This would be his greatest accolade, and his undoing. Feyenoord spent the summer trying to sign the young man that could have them challenging Ajax once again, but he lined up for Sittardia once more.

In a friendly before the season opener, with his side 4-1 up, his teammates relaxed. But not Dullens. He demanded nothing less than perfection, and there was a crowd to entertain. Dribble after mazy dribble frustrated the Vitesse defence, until finally one challenge came in too late, and snapped his knee. The referee didn't even stop the game, and it was barely reported. Nobody understood the seriousness of the incident, except Dullens himself.

The Sittardia doctor told him to go home and rest, despite his insistence that he should go to the hospital. He sat on the sidelines for four weeks, as his side started poorly. When he came back, he was in pain. Ice didn't help, and his manager had no sympathy, needing him for a relegation battle. He even received two more caps for the Netherlands, but it wasn't the same player.

Travelling to the best knee doctor in Europe didn't help, and after an eight hour surgery the worst was confirmed. Dullens retired in 1969, at the age of 22, but not before one final swansong. Cruyff and his former teammates arranged a friendly, as a way of supporting him. In front of 55,000 fans, the great Dutch hope limped out onto the pitch at the Amsterdam Arena. He knew, deep down, that this would be his last time in a stadium for a long time. The pain of not playing the game was too much. He is one of footballs great what ifs.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game (Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk and on social media, [@TheUntoldGame](https://www.instagram.com/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.

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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.

SPONSOR AVAILABLE



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



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.

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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.

SPONSOR AVAILABLE



Danny who came in with the current manager from Haywards Heath. A player favourite who's come in and puts in consistent performances, but who also wants to grow up being a Gary Neville.

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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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**DILLON
TRANSORMIT Ltd**

Gabs, a strong experienced player came in and really helped the team in the final months of last season. He has attributes that can help us achieve our goals and will play a big part in doing so.

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

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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.



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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.



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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.

**SPONSOR
AVAILABLE**

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...



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Info awaited

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Ryan has been with the club several years, working his way into 1st team plans from the 23s. Injuries have plagued his game time but with key starts under his belt he shows a massive potential if he can stay fit



'Pen Pic Profiles'

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Siao, another retained player from last year has started to show his qualities and has adapted to a deeper role and is getting better each game as he will start to win back possession he has no right to.



**SPONSOR
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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...



ZUZU FARRIS-DOWD
Burnout Retail Design Ltd

Izy'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



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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
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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



**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.



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Shak who was also retained from last season we have seen a glimpse of his qualities and hope if he can have an injury free season we will see more of his qualities.



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.



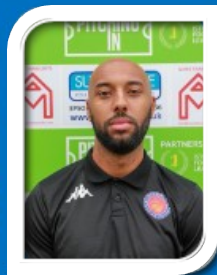
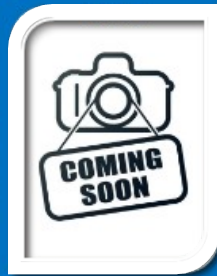
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Reece joins Sam's staff as assistant manager. He has proven to be a calming influence in the dugout during Sam's sabbatical. Reece was previously at Raynes Park Vale and Tooting Bec



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.

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

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
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ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
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 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.

Wed 4th Oct 2023 | 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)	
AARON JENKINS	
ANTONIO SIMEONE (VC)	
ASHLEY SHEPPARD	
BEN HOLDEN	
BERTIE LLOYD	
CHARLIE MARTIN	
CONAN TORPEY	
COURTNEY SWABY	
DANNY DIVINE	
DARYL COLEMAN	
GABRIEL ODUNAIKE	
ISY NZELO	
JORDAN WILSON	
MACK REILLY	
MATTY FEENEY-HILL	
MATT TANTON (C)	
MAX OLDHAM	
NABEEL GHANNAM	
NOAH AFRICA	
SIAO BLACKWOOD	



LEATHERHEAD F.C

Colours: GREEN & WHITE

FIKAYO ATEWOLOGUN	
KALANI BARTON	
KENNY BEANEY	
OLLIE COOK	
TYLER COX	
ALPHA DIALLO	
MICHAEL ELECHI	
DAN HECTOR	
OMARR LAWSON	
BRADLEY MANNING	
TREY MASIKINI	
TOBY McKIMM	
BRIAN OKONKWO	
LUKE PHAIR	
JERRY PUOMO	
TREVAN ROBINSON	
SERINE SANNEH	
FABIO SARAIVA	
JUNIOR SAVANE	
GUS SOW	
JAMIE SPLATT	
LUTHER WILLIAMS	

Manager: **Sam Morgan**
 Assistant Manager: **Reece Turner**

Manager: **Haydon Bird**
 Assistant Manager: **Tutu Henriques**

Meet Today's Match Officials:

Referee Mr Neil Morrison

Asst #2 Mr Shkumbin Sherifi
 Asst #1 Mr Sobastian Frazer

NEXT UP: Southall HOME Sat 7th October | 3pm KO
Plus South Park AWAY Tues 10th October | 7:45pm KO