

Rovers Vs Moles



Pitching In
Isthmian League
South Central Division



RESPECT

GOOD BEHAVIOUR MAKES FOR A GREAT GAME

Binfield
=FC=
1892



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| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 04 | Welcome to Binfield FC |
| 06 | Binfield history |
| 11 | Spot The Ball |
| 12 | From the Gaffer |
| 14 | Report v Bedfont Sports |
| 18 | Report v South Park Reigate |
| 20 | Report v Southall |
| 23 | Career records |
| 24 | Latest results |
| 25 | League table & Today's Fixtures |
| 26 | SCR Results |
| 27 | Non League Paper Column |
| 28 | Guest Article |
| 30 | League round up |
| 32 | SCR History |
| 34 | Spot the ball answer |
| 36 | Team lists |



3



Always Making Memories Together

INSIDE TODAY...

OUR PEOPLE

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Hon Vice Chairman - Adrian Farley
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Hon Treasurer - Darren Salmon
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Welfare Officer - Darren Brown

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1st Team Joint Manager - Sam Morgan
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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


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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.



Pitching In
Isthmian League
South Central Division

**Sutton Common
Rovers F.C**



Pitching In
Isthmian League
South Central Division

Binfield FC

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman, wishing you a warm SCR welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports centre for this todays Isthmian South Central fixture.

We would like to welcome the players, committee and supporters of Binfield FC, we hope they enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Peter Dingle and his assistants, Mr Owen Lawrence and Mr Darren Eaton, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

Binfield come to us currently sitting in sixth spot in the table, four points outside the play off zone but with a game in hand on Chertsey Town.

They have been in mixed form of late, which has seen them drop from play off certainties into playing catch up, and will no doubt be desperate to return to winning ways to bolster their chances.

We obviously need the points for purely different reasons.

The sides have met on a couple of occasions already this season, with both recording a win. Back in October, Binfield picked up all three points in an exciting fixture at Hill Farm Lane. Taylor Morgan fired them ahead early on, with Jephthe Tanga responding quickly for us, before Brad Pagliaroli fired the hosts back ahead just before the break.

A Liam Gavin own goal early in the second half levelled things up, with Johnny Efedje capitalising on a mistake by our then keeper Dan Purdue to give the Moles all three points.

In a foggy Velocity Cup tie, also at Hill Farm Lane, an early second half strike by Tyrese Sutherland was enough to send us through to the next round, where we were eventually beaten on penalties by Leatherhead.

Our last game here saw a Conan Torpey inspired side defeat high flying South Park Reigate by 4-0. It was an excellent performance by the lads especially in the second half when we were virtually unplayable. The first half had seen us hang in after a bright South Park Reigate start. Our other goal was a glorious strike by Shakeel Morris.

Last time out and we picked up a hard fought point away at draw specialists Southall. Torpey continued his rich vein of scoring form by putting us ahead, and although Southall levelled, a fierce Zaid Ouaret Sorr strike put us ahead at the break.

We had chances early in the second half to increase our lead but as time ticked on Southall upped the pressure and we finally cracked a minute from time to end up drawing 2-2.

Whilst avoiding the drop is going to be tough, purely based on the number of games we have played and that horrible 12 game losing streak, the lads are now playing with confidence and look capable of picking up points in every game. February was an unbeaten month, and we are on our best ever run at Step 4.

Keep getting behind them, and they might just pull off that miracle.

In other news, the U18's were due to be in Surrey County Cup action on Wednesday, but unfortunately one of their opponents officials was involved in an accident on the day, and understandably the game was postponed.

Enough from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home, and see you next week when we entertain in-form Thatcham Town.

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

BINFIELD FC



FORMED: 1892

NICKNAME:
The Moles

Binfield FC first played in 1892, during the reign of Queen Victoria, making us one of the oldest Association Football clubs in the world! The team comprised young men from the local brickworks and those who worked on the land around Binfield.

The club's early years were spent in the Ascot and District League, where we enjoyed many successful seasons winning the Fielden Cup for the first time in 1924 and on eleven further occasions since.

During the 2nd World War, we joined the Great Western Combination League, winning the championship in 1947.

During that period we also won the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup and the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup and it was not unusual to see crowds in excess of 1,000 at our Forest Road ground.

In 1950 we joined the Reading and District League, where we remained for the next forty years. In 1972 Binfield won promotion to the Premier Division for the first time and although relegated two years later we returned in 1976 as 1st Division Champions. A huge crowd, reminiscent of the 1940's, packed Forest Road to witness our promotion.

In 1980, the club made an important decision to move from Forest Road, where facilities were shared with the cricket club, to our current site in Hill Farm Lane.

Turning that field into the football ground we see today was a massive task.

Thanks to an enormous amount of physical work by the members of the club the area was levelled and drained within three years. The members then set about building the club house. This progress off the field was matched on it when in 1987 and 1988 we won Division 2 and then Division 1 of the Reading and District League.

In 1989, we joined the high-profile Charrington Chiltonian League, winning the Division 1 title at the first attempt – a feat we repeated in 1996 – and reaching the final of the League Cup. The following year we finished runners-up to Peppard, despite remaining unbeaten from November until the end of the campaign.

In 2001 we merged with Binfield's junior club, Binfield Forest FC, and in doing so significantly increased the membership, with over 20 teams playing every weekend – this season we will field 36 teams each week.

The junior part of the club is very important to Binfield with FA Charter status having been achieved in 2007 and in 2013 we were awarded the Berks & Bucks FA and South East Regional FA Charter Status Community Club of the Year awards, culminating in the club being invited to the FA Community Shield at Wembley in August 2013.

Since 2005, progress at the club has been swift, with the addition of floodlights and later a seated stand.

The club is tirelessly working to improve our facilities with our "continuous improvement" plan making further change to the car park, to the club house and a new stand around our Tea Bar. We constantly strive to improve all elements of the facilities from changing rooms to a playing surface we are extremely proud of, to benefit everyone from our Under 6s up to our 1st Team. We won the FTL Hellenic League Division 1 East title in 2008-09 and gained promotion to the next level of English football, where we finished runners up in the 2010/11 UHlsport Hellenic Premier Division, 3rd in 2012/13 and 5th in 2014.

August 15th 2009 will long be remembered as Binfield's first game in the legendary FA Cup – and we have enjoyed some good runs reaching the 1st Qualifying round in each of the last two seasons with 400 supporters enjoying the visit of Margate in 2010 and a trip to Slough Town and narrow defeat in 2011. In 2013 the side reached the 2nd Qualifying round, losing to a 96th minute free kick as Leatherhead came from behind. Binfield entered the FA Vase for the first time in season 2008-09 and enjoyed three rounds, before reaching the 4th round (last 32) in 2011/12 in an incredible season of cup success. The 2011/12 team is the most successful in our history, winning both the Berks & Bucks FA Senior Trophy and the AM Print & Copy Floodlit Cup in five glorious April 2012 days. We also reached the final of the Hellenic Challenge Cup.

In the last two disruptive seasons, during the pandemic the first team were sitting in second place in the Hellenic Premier Positions when used to calculate points per game resulted in promotion to the Isthmian League South Centre. Our 1st season ever at Step 4.



Last season in the Isthmian South Central we finished 8th after a good start. Disappointing FACup but a very good run in the Trophy, winning at North Leigh, Herne Bay before a homewin vs Chippenham and finally bowing out against Truro, missing a last minute penalty.

FA Vase 2020/21:

Binfield reached the FA Vase final this season, getting through seven rounds, having started in round 2, and winning four of their ties on penalties. Not a single game of their historic run was played at home.

In Round 2 they saw off our good friends from the Southern Combination Premier Newhaven 4-1 on penalties after a 2-2 draw, in front of 129 fans, before a thumping 4-1 win away on the Kent coast, against former FA Vase winners Deal Town from the Southern Counties East league.

Highly fancied Eastern Counties Division 1 side Fakenham Town, and their impressive home record at the time, were next to fall, again Binfield progressing 4-1 on penalties after a 2-2 draw. Round Five saw them see off our Fourth Round conquerors Hadley, winning 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

The Quarter Final saw their biggest win, when they hammered Long Eaton Utd from the United Counties League 5-0, setting up a semi final away at Wessex League Division 1 side US Portsmouth. Another tense battle followed, with Binfield securing a 4-3 win on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The final was a thriller in front of 3,000 at Wembley, but despite a Liam Ferdinand double, they finished runners up to a strong Warrington Rylands side, going down 3-2.

MEET TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Chris Grace -Experienced Goalkeeper in his second season with the club. Had spells with Hendon and Ascot United

Harrison Bayley -Experienced midfielder player in his second spell at the club Recently at Hungerford Town and Hartley Wintney

Liam Gavin—Centre half who has been with the club for 4 years - Strong in the air

Brad Pagliaroli—Versatile forward recently returned to the club after spells at Royal Wootton Bassett and Aylesbury

Lewis Pegg—Talented young Centre half who joined last season from Slough Town and Bedford Sports

Johnny Denton -Experienced midfielder signed from Ascot United . last season—Chips in with the odd goal or two/Tireless worker.

Kian Duncan—Young midfielder signed from Burnham where he was captain . In his second full season with Binfield

Taylor Morgan—Experienced Striker who joined in the summer from Ascot United. Former clubs include....Falkirk, Airdrie and Toronto FC !

James Beauchamps—Young lively striker who joined last season from Hartley Wintney and has found his feet quickly Lively with an eye for a goal.

Massimo Giamattei—Midfielder recently joined the club from Hanwell Town . Local lad who had a spell at Bracknell Town

Connor Holland—Energetic Midfielder who despite his young age is much travelled whose previous clubs include Ashford Town, Wokingham , Knaphill and Fimley Green

Joe Gater—Centre half who joined this season after spells with Hartley Wintney .Another leader on the pitch

Kia Hobbs - Young full back with a good future . Played in the successful Camberley Town Youth team

Harvey Harry -Another young player who joined the club in the summer. Talented wide player who is very good on the ball. Joins from Thatcham Town

EVA HENDLE

We had some wonderful news during the week concerning one of our former Colts players. Young Eva Hendle who was with us from the age of 5 until 12, made her England U15 debut during the week (against Wales) and only went a scored.

Eva was coached at the club by Jon Osborn and Darren Wilkinson, before moving to Chelsea.

Everyone at the club is extremely proud of the progress she has made





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SPOT THE BALL



Action from the Southall game and Bert Lloyd gets a shot away, but where is the ball...

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FROM THE GAFFER



We caught up with Darren Salmon as he looks back on the last couple of weeks.

GB: Well, what a February that was, unbeaten, nine points, and our best ever run at Step 4. Given the previous month, what do you put the change in form down to?

DS: **Hi G, in essence a consistent squad to select from and a couple of key tweaks of personnel in both the defensive and attacking thirds**

GB: There is a resilience and spirit about the side that was missing for a chunk of the season, and whilst you have not made wholesale changes, you have bought in a couple of big players at either end, thinking specifically of James Dillon and Conan Torpey. How important have they been?

DS: **The group has got closer as we've thinned it and that has definitely improved the harmony. The above named players have bought experience and cutting edge which has added superbly to our current group.**

GB: Also we have several players who are playing the best they have played for the club. Siao Blackwood and Danny Divine arguably struggled when the first came to us but are two of our most consistent players at the minute, what do you put that down to?

DS: **Again I think all of the above brings a confidence to the group which has allowed players a freedom to express themselves without our fear of making mistakes that have proven costly in earlier matches**

GB: Last week was hugely disappointing, a point gained, but given the last gasp equaliser you must have been gutted with the result?

DS: **The least I say about last week the better G in all honesty pal. Every point won takes us closer to our target (and no I won't at this stage say what that is!) but yes it felt like a loss and we have to take collective responsibility in managing all phases of games.**























GB: Binfield today, and another tough game in store. There have been two good competitive games between the sides this season (and last season to be fair), are you expecting more of the same today?

DS: **Of course pal, they are off the back of a poor run but we know that won't last, we just need to try and ensure that today is not their turning point and we take our Feb form into March!**

Enjoy the game cheers

MATCH REPORT:

BEDFONT SPORTS

| Bedfont Sports | | Wednesday 15th February 2023 | | Sutton Common Rovers | |
|----------------|--|--|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Joe Ringer | Bedfont Sports | 3 | 1 | James Dillon |
| 2 | William Wickham | Sam Evans (6') |  | 2 | Danny Divine  |
| 3 | Dom Pires | Kevat Serbonij (50') | | 3 | Matthew Tanton  |
| 4 | Seanan McKillop | Sam Evans (68' pen) | | 4 | Siao Blackwood |
| 5 | Ethan Kaiser | Sutton Common Rovers | 3 | 5 | Bertie Lloyd  |
| 6 | Cerny Ando | Matt Tanton (40) |  | 6 | Joshua Okpolokpo |
| 7 | Kofi Anoyke-Boadi  | Bertie Lloyd (52') | | 7 | Tyler Cox  |
| 8 | Kevat Serbonij   | Conan Torpey (79' pen) | | 8 | Marcus Marku  |
| 9 | Sam Evans   | Isthmian League - South Central Division | | 9 | Conan Torpey  |
| 10 | Aidan Brown  | Attendance: 91 | | 10 | Jesse Okpolokpo  |
| 11 | Reyon Dillon | Kick-off: 7.45pm | | 11 | Hermann Tehe |
| 12 | Abel Vendrells  | Referee: Vladyslav Bakulin | | 12 | Ryan Stedman-Hoyte |
| 14 | Jonathan Stoop  | Info Videos | | 14 | Shakeel Morris  |
| 15 | Troy Silvera | Match Information | | 15 | Zaid Ouaret Sorr  |
| 16 | Marco Figueiredo | Full-time: Bedfont Sports 3-3 Sutton Common Rovers | | 16 | Nabeel Ghan...   |
| 17 | Steve Ngunga  | Half-time: Bedfont Sports 1-1 Sutton Common Rovers | | 17 | Tyrese Sutherland |

The game got off to a pacy but even start with both sides testing out the opposition's defensive lines, but it was Rovers who seemed on the front foot. Tyler Cox linking well with Jesse Okpolokpo just out side the Bedfont penalty area, but Okpolokpo's shot didn't trouble the Bedfont keeper Joe Ringer. A long clearance from James Dillon found Siao Blackwood, who controlled the high ball brilliantly, executing a give and go with Cox, but Blackwood's shot from distance was palmed away by Ringer.

Kofi Anoyke-Boadi and Kevat Serbonij for Bedfont were an early threat on their left side, but our defence were equal to them. Against the run of play at this point, a high ball into Rovers' box was not dealt with, allowing Sam Evans to turn and fire past Dillon on 6mins. Too early to concede, but heads didn't drop.

A long throw from Matt Tanton was headed away by Bedfont, but only as far as Hermann Tehe, who squeezed past the defence, his shot close but just past the post. Further assaults on the Bedfont goal from Cox, Tehe and Conan Torpey kept the hope alive, as Rovers' go looking for an equaliser.

On 32mins Bedfont were forced into their first substitution, as the dangerous Anoyke-Boadi sustained an injury and was replaced by Steve Ngunga. Danny Devine neatly cut out a Bedfont pass, pushing the ball for Cox to run on to but run was ushered out by the left back Dom Pires.

A period of sustained pressure from Rovers resulted in a series of fouls and free-kicks in our favour. At 40mins, with a free-kick to Rovers about 35yards out on our right, Cox floated the ball over the Bedfont defence finding Lloyd, who was unable to convert, but kept possession recycling to Torpey who managed to draw yet another free-kick just outside the D. Tanton and Marcus Marku line up to take, but it's Marku's cross that again finds Lloyd, heading back across the penalty area. Bedfont's attempts to clear only go as far as Tanton on the edge of the area, who unleashes a left-foot screamer into the bottom right corner. 1-1

Level going into the break, but Rovers' finishing the half in the ascendancy, shrugging off Bedfont counters and maintaining serious pressure going forward.

Jesse Okpolokpo was replaced by Zaid Ouaret Sorr for the start of the second half, and Rovers' went looking for a chance to take the lead. From a succession of corners, Cox found both Devine and Lloyd but their chances were well defended by Ringer. It was Bedfont who took their first chance 5mins into the half with a clearance on their right side finding Serbonij, who turned inside firing a shot just inside the left post.

Not to be shaken, the reply was swift and clinical. From a Cox free-kick at some distance, the Bedfont defence failed to clear, with the ball finding Lloyd who headed home. Nothing less than his dominant aerial performance deserved.

Cox was replaced by Shakeel Morris after 63mins, and following the referee overruling an offside decision against Bedfont, a free-kick was given in their favour. Fortunately for Rovers, Ngunga blasts his chance over the bar. On 68, Aidan Brown took the ball deep into our penalty area trying to turn Josh Okpolokpo. In his attempt to shrug off the defender, Okpolokpo fell over the ball shielding it as best he could. With appeals for hand-ball initially waved away, Brown then fell over the prostrate Okpolokpo, and a penalty was given. Evans stepped up to restore Bedfont's one goal advantage from the spot.

For the last 20mins every tackle was considered an infringement, and free-kicks were issues like they were going out of fashion. If this was supposed to demonstrate authority and calm, it was having the opposite effect. The game was becoming fractious. Sam Morgan issued with a red card.

With Rovers hungry to get back in the game, the Bedfont half was peppered with long throws from Devine and Tanton, with all but Dillon in the Bedfont half. From a throw into the box on the left, Morris drew a foul from the Bedfont defence, and a penalty awarded to Rovers. Torpey (picture above on Saturday) duly dispatched the spot-kick, levelling the score once again.

The pressure was up by Rovers, Devine launching a free-kick from just inside our half into a crowded penalty area. Bedfont head the ball away, but only as far as Ghannam who does well to recycle back into the box, Lloyd just wide with the header. 3-3 the final score.

By Jon Tanton

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MATCH REPORT:

SOUTH PARK REIGATE

| Sutton Common Rovers | | Saturday 18th February 2023 | | South Park | | |
|----------------------|--|--|---|------------|---|--|
| 1 | James Dillon | Sutton Common Rovers | 4 | 1 | Roan Strong | |
| 2 | Danny Divine | | | 2 | Tom Drinkwater | |
| 3 | Temiloluwa Oladejo | | | 3 | Sam Tutt | |
| 4 | Siao Blackwood | | | 4 | Ryan Healy | |
| 5 | Bertie Lloyd | South Park | 0 | 5 | Matthew Faithorn | |
| 6 | Joshua Okpolokpo | | | 6 | Joe Bell | |
| 7 | Tyler Cox | | | 7 | James McElligott | |
| 8 | Nabeel Ghannam | | | 8 | Sam King | |
| 9 | Conan Tor...     | Isthmian League - South Central Division | | 9 | Finlay Johnson | |
| 10 | Zaid Ouaret Sorr  | Attendance: 72 | | 10 | Brendan Murphy-McV... | |
| 11 | Hermann Tehe  | Kick-off: 3pm | | 11 | Nathan Hogan  | |
| | | <div>Info</div> <div>Videos</div> | | 12 | Jayden Edwards | |
| | | Match Information | | 14 | Balai Dembele  | |
| 12 | Ryan Stedman-Hoyte | Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 4-0 South Park | | 15 | Ethan Ford  | |
| 14 | Shakeel Morris   | Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-0 South Park | | 16 | Craig McGee | |
| 15 | Marcus Marku  | | | 17 | Kelvin Manuel Massan... | |
| 16 | Jesse Okpolokpo  | | | | | |
| 17 | Aaron Okpolokpo | | | | | |

An early South Park attack found Sam King beating the offside trap, but was only able to turn the ball wide of the left post. James McElligott then found King on the right, who turns and shoots inside the right post, but James Dillon at full stretch was able to turn the ball away. Brendan Murphy-McVey delivers a great ball from the resulting corner for the tall South Park no5 Matthew Faithorn to head over the bar. Worrying early signs for Rovers.

Hermann Tehe then wins a free-kick just inside the South Park half, which Temiloluwa Oladejo floats dangerously into the penalty area, Roan Strong punching clear and Tom Drinkwater sweeps out for a corner. Tyler Cox takes, but the keeper again punches clear.

Joshua Okpolokpo gave away a free-kick to South Park for a clumsy challenge just outside our penalty area, which earned him a yellow card. Nathan Hogan slammed his kick against the wall, and the second ball is lobbed over defensive wall, goal bound – but the retreating Dillon was able to tip it over the bar. The resulting corner was headed away by Bertie Lloyd.

On 18mins, a second Lloyd clearance found Cox on the right , who nodded the ball forward and skipped past the South Park defence. His cross had some pace on it, but Conan Torpey (pictured against Uxbridge) was able to get a glancing head on it to divert the ball into the left hand corner of the goal to open the scoring. Slightly against the run of possession as South Park had very much dominated the early exchanges, but a very well executed move.



South Park maintained majority possession for much of the remainder of the first half, but had nothing in the way of end product over that period. A great move by Nabeel Ghannam outside the South Park penalty area set up Tehe one on one with the keeper, but Strong was able to cut out the threat. Rovers finish the first half 1-nil to the good.

A now resurgent Rovers side kick off the second period, and begin to capitalise on each opportunity as it arose. Still allowing South Park play their slow but effective passing game, but maximising every advantage on the counter. Rovers' half-time substitution was Shakeel Morris on for Tehe.

South Park were first to threaten with McElligott turning our defender out to his right, passing back to King, whose shot was wide. On the 50mins Healy was heavily challenged in the middle of the park claiming a foul, the ball rebounding back over the South Park defence into the path of Torpey, who coolly lobbed the out-rushing keeper for his and Rovers' second.

Our opponents then made a quick change, replacing Drinkwater with Balai Dembele, who posed an immediate threat with his pace out wide on the right, forcing a corner. Murphy-McVey cross was then flicked away by Dillon for a corner on the left, which this time was unchallenged. From the goal kick Dillon found Torpey whose header reaches Zaid Ouaret-Sorr, who passes back to Torpey, his shot low and hard was turned round the left post by Strong. Lloyd heading over from the corner by Cox.

On 64mins Torpey was brought down about 40yds out. Cox's free-kick was whipped in-front of the South Park defensive line, Torpey anticipating the flight of the ball, bravely dived across their wall to head home into the right top corner. Quite the finest diving header I've seen at this . . . well, quite the finest diving header I've seen anywhere.

Almost immediately from the restart a South Park attack was intercepted by Dillon, who sent a drop-kick sailing over their defence onto the toe of Morris, who controlled the ball brilliantly and fired a rocket, from distance, past Strong for goal number 4.

South Park then make a further substitution to try and turn their game round, Hogan being replaced by Ethan Ford. On 72mins Jesse Okpolokpo replaced Torpey, who had done more than enough to impress and left the field to rapturous applause. The game went from end to end with a succession of corners and free-kicks to each side, both keepers called into action to deny any change in the scoreline. On 81mins Ouaret-Sorr was replaced by Marcus Marku.

Late on Marku wins a crucial tackle at the edge of our box and plays the ball out wide to Morris, whose return pass gives Marku the chance to run deep into South Park's half. His shot was struck well and goal bound, but Strong was equal to it.



As the clock ticked down there was just time for Healy to pick up a yellow card for dissent (well, who would have guessed that!)

Another great team effort, all players doing their bit, but with two stand-out performances – hattrick hero Conan Torpey and clean-sheet King James Dillon.

By Jon Tanton

MATCH REPORT:

SOUTHALL

| Southall | | Today's Result | | Sutton Common Rovers | |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Michael Edegebe | Southall | 2 | 1 | James Dillon |
| 2 | Alex Nolan | | | 2 | Danny Divine |
| 3 | Azeez Alabi | Jaden Thompson-Brissett (37') |  | 3 | Temiloluwa Oladejo |
| 4 | Louis Stead | Jaden Thompson-Brissett (89') | | 4 | Siao Blackwood |
| 5 | Kevin Diomande | Sutton Common Rovers | 2 | 5 | Bertie Lloyd |
| 6 | Kevin Songolo | | | 6 | Joshua Okpolokpo |
| 7 | Ryan Hope | Shakeel Morris (9') |  | 7 | Tyler Cox |
| 8 | Elliot Satorius | Zaid Ouaret Sorr (40') | | 8 | Nabeel Ghannam |
| 9 | Jamie Hanlon | Isthmian League - South Central Division | | 9 | Conan Torpey |
| 10 | Jaden Thomps... | Attendance: 70 | | 10 | Zaid Ouaret Sorr |
| 11 | Michael Bryan | Kick-off: 3pm | | 11 | Shakeel Morris |
| 12 | Carl Pearce | Referee: Colman o'meara | | 12 | Aaron Okpolokpo |
| 14 | Jake Frailing | Match Information | | 14 | Liam Holden |
| 15 | Frankie Taylor | | | 15 | Hermann Tehe |
| 16 | Darreon Mark | Full-time: Southall 2-2 Sutton Common Rovers | | 16 | Marcus Marku |
| 17 | Ryan Cassidy | Half-time: Southall 1-2 Sutton Common Rovers | | 17 | Jesse Okpolokpo |

Rovers secured another vital point in their bid to avoid relegation but will feel it was two points dropped as they conceded a late equaliser to draw specialists Southall on Saturday.

It was a scrappy start to the game on a difficult bobbly pitch and neither side was able to seize the early initiative, however it was Rovers who struck the first blow on nine minutes. A long ball forward by Temi Oladejo left Conan Torpey in a battle with former SCR man Kevin Songolo. The young forward did superbly to hold off the bigger man, and his superb lobbed left keeper Michael Edegebe with no chance to and Rovers led.

Shortly after and another tussle saw Songolo bring down Torpey outside the area, and from Tyler Cox's free kick, Bert Lloyd could only scuff his effort straight at the Southall keeper. Southall had a glorious chance to level on 15 minutes, a superb cross field ball by Azeez Alabi found another ex SCR man in Kevin Diomande rampaging down the right flank, he got beyond Oladejo but saw his dangerous cross evade the on-rushing Southall forward line.

Southall were starting to grow into the game but it was Rovers who almost struck again, Zaid Ouaret Sorr intercepted the ball in the middle of the park and found Morris, he twisted left and right before seeing Diomande block his shot behind for a corner, and from that Danny Divine headed into the side netting.

Ouaret Sorr fired a free kick over the bar after Torpey had been fouled on the edge of the area and back at the other end Jamie Hanlon was fouled on the edge of our area, leading to Louis Stead firing his free kick just over the crossbar.



Nabeel Ghannam and Ouaret Sorr were becoming more and more influential with their tricky footwork often seeing them escape tight situations but unfortunately the final delivery did not quite match the build up.

Michael Bryan then did superbly on the half hour, tricking his way beyond several Rovers defenders and picking out Hanlon, but his shot was straight down James Dillon's throat. Stead then saw a cross cleared by Lloyd, and from the loose ball Alex Nolan saw his effort headed off the line by Lloyd.

The scores were level on 37 minutes, Jaden Thompson-Brissett did superbly evading three or four Rovers defenders and crashing a shot beyond Dillon for 1-1. Rovers' response though was immediate, Songolo was caught dallying on the ball and Ouaret Sorr pinched the ball off him and crashed the ball beyond Edegbe to restore Rovers' advantage and a lead at the break.

Rovers should have increased their lead early in the second half, Ghannam picked out Ouaret Sorr on the right but the Rovers man opted for a ball back into the area when a shot looked the better option.

Southall responded positively and after good work by Elliott Satorius, they won a free kick on the right and from Stead's delivery Diomande headed over at the back post. Stead then crashed an effort high and wide of the left hand post.

The hosts continued to hold the upper hand, but we were defending stoutly with Lloyd and Joshua Okpolokpo impressing again. Just after the hour and good work by Divine saw him rob Bryan and release Ouaret Sorr, but after beating a couple of challenges, his shot was tame and comfortable for Edegbe. Divine, enjoying his best game in a Rovers shirt, then did superbly to cut out a ball heading for Hanlon.

Midway through the half and Thompson-Brissett did well on the left, and his low driven cross was superbly defended by Okpolokpo as Bryan looked poised to tap home an equaliser. Rovers made a series of changes withdrawing the injured Okpolokpo, the tiring Torpey and the hardworking Morris, with Liam Holden, Manny Tehe and Markus Marku all entering the fray.

With ten minutes remaining there was a bizarre incident, a great cross by Ryan Hope was destined for Songolo but superbly defended by Lloyd at the near post. With players seemingly moving forwards for a corner, and Hope placing the ball on the quadrant, Rovers were awarded a free kick.

Diomande then found Songolo and his low driven cross-shot was superbly saved by Dillon low to his right. An altercation in the middle of the park then saw Rovers' ire as what looked like a stamp on the prostrate Tyler Cox by Alex Nolan went unpunished.

Southall were throwing people forward, and there was an air of inevitability as Rovers were dropping deeper and deeper and in one last desperate attempt Edegbe went forward to cause problems, Rovers failed to successfully deal with the first ball in and from the second Thompson-Brissett was left unmarked to fire home the equaliser.

Both sides threw people forward in an attempt to win the game and it was Rovers who went closest with both Tehe and Marku causing issues for Nolan on the left, Tehe being denied by a superb challenge by the defender, and Marku shrugging off his attempts and seeing his curled effort drift just over the crossbar.

MATCH PICS: SOUTHALL



Top: Conan Torpey opens the scoring;
Inset: Temi Oladejo and Markus Marku;
Below: Zaid Ouaret Sorr restores our lead.



CAREER RECORDS

| | 2022/23 Season | | | | | Career | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----|-------|-------|----|--------|-------|
| | Appearances | | GOALS | CARDS | | | |
| | APP | SUB | | YC | RC | Apps | Goals |
| LLOYD, Bertie | 29 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 3 |
| COX, Tyler | 27 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| SWABY, Courtney | 18 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 0 |
| HALSEY, Tony | 16 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 28 | 7 |
| HOLDEN, Liam | 12 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 375 | 107 |
| TANTON, Matt | 9 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 162 | 6 |
| MORRIS, Shakeel | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 3 |
| DIVINE, Danny | 9 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| BLACKWOOD, Siao | 8 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| OUARET SORR, Zaid | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 2 |
| MARKU, Markus | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| SUTHERLAND, Tyrese | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 |
| OKPOLOKPO, Joshua | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| DILLON, James | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| TORPEY, Conan | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| ROBINSON, Malachi | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 3 |
| TEHE, Hermann | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 |
| OLADEJO, Temi | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| UZOR, Tobe | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| GHANNAM, Nabeel | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| CREED, Ollie | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| OKPOLOKPO, Jesse | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| STINGELIN, Alexandre | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| O'DONOVAN, Daniel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| MACFOY-JOHNSTON, Dion | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| BAKER, George | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 2 |
| ETUMNU, Charles | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| COOPER-SMITH, Daryl | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 62 |
| HUNT, Aaron | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| EMOVON, Onome | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| OWOEYE, Deji | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| OWUSU, George | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| COULIBALY, Abdoulaye | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| UZON, Josh | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| GUEST, Luke | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ERNE, John | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

LATEST RESULTS

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Basingstoke Town 2-0 Leatherhead
Bedfont Sports 0-0 Thatcham Town
Binfield 1-2 Westfield
Guernsey 3-3 Chertsey Town
Hanworth Villa 0-2 Walton & Hersham
Marlow 1-1 Merstham
Northwood 3-1 Ashford Town (Middx)
South Park (Reigate) 1-1 Tooting & Mitcham United
Southall 2-2 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Uxbridge 1-0 Chipstead

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Merstham 1-0 Chipstead

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY



Ashford Town (Middx) 0-3 Leatherhead
Binfield 0-1 Hanworth Villa
Northwood 1-0 Uxbridge
Tooting & Mitcham United 1-4 Walton & Hersham
Westfield 0-1 Guernsey

BERKS AND BUCKS COUNTY CUP 22-23 - QF

Hungerford Town 2-3 Marlow

LEAGUE TABLE (as at 1.3.23)



| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | +/- | Pts |
|---|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|  | 1 Basingstoke Town | 29 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 72 | 26 | +46 | 68 |
|  | 2 Walton & Hersham | 29 | 21 | 1 | 7 | 69 | 34 | +35 | 64 |
|  | 3 Northwood | 29 | 17 | 1 | 11 | 45 | 35 | +10 | 52 |
|  | 4 Marlow | 27 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 47 | 33 | +14 | 48 |
|  | 5 Chertsey Town | 29 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 56 | 36 | +20 | 46 |
|  | 6 Binfield | 28 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 47 | 37 | +10 | 42 |
|  | 7 Hanworth Villa | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 41 | 43 | -2 | 42 |
|  | 8 South Park | 28 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 35 | 42 | -7 | 41 |
|  | 9 Southall | 28 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 39 | 32 | +7 | 39 |
|  | 10 Thatcham Town | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 41 | 36 | +5 | 39 |
|  | 11 Westfield | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 38 | 34 | +4 | 39 |
|  | 12 Leatherhead | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 33 | 38 | -5 | 37 |
|  | 13 Uxbridge | 28 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 35 | 34 | +1 | 35 |
|  | 14 Chipstead | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 34 | 40 | -6 | 33 |
|  | 15 Ashford Town (Middx) | 28 | 10 | 3 | 15 | 37 | 64 | -27 | 33 |
|  | 16 Guernsey | 28 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 28 | 52 | -24 | 30 |
|  | 17 Bedfont Sports | 29 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 35 | 50 | -15 | 26 |
|  | 18 Sutton Common Rovers | 30 | 7 | 4 | 19 | 35 | 62 | -27 | 25 |
|  | 19 Merstham | 28 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 32 | 48 | -16 | 24 |
|  | 20 Tooting & Mitcham United | 28 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 25 | 48 | -23 | 20 |

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Ashford Town (Middx) v Basingstoke Town
 Chertsey Town v Northwood
 Chipstead v Marlow
 Leatherhead v Guernsey
 Merstham v Uxbridge
 Thatcham Town v Hanworth Villa
 Tooting & Mitcham United v Southall
 Walton & Hersham v South Park
 Westfield v Bedfont Sports

Rovers Round-Up (Fixtures & Results)

| DATE | COMP | H/A | OPPONENTS | H/T | F/T | SCORER(S) | ATT |
|-------------|------------|-----|----------------------------------|----------|------------|--|------------|
| 2022 | | | | | | | |
| 6th Aug | FAC EP | A | Fisher | 0 | 0 0 | 0 | 168 |
| 10th Aug | FAC EP Rep | H | FISHER | 0 | 0 0 | 1 | 114 |
| 13th Aug | ILSC | A | Chipstead | 3 | 2 4 | 3 Lyle 2 (1p), Lloyd, Richards | 115 |
| 27th AUG | ILSC | H | CHERTSEY TOWN | 0 | 1 0 | 5 | 78 |
| 29th Aug | ILSC | A | Marlow | 2 | 0 2 | 1 Halsey 2 | 190 |
| 3rd Sep | ILSC | H | GUERNSEY | 0 | 0 0 | 1 | 68 |
| 10th Sep | FAT | A | East Thurrock Utd | 0 | 0 1 | 3 Diomande | 185 |
| 21st Sep | ILSC | H | BEDFONT SPORTS | 0 | 1 0 | 3 | 64 |
| 24th Apr | ILSC | A | Northwood | 0 | 2 1 | 2 Mampolo | 162 |
| 1st Oct | ILSC | H | SOUTHALL | 1 | 1 1 | 1 Lyle (p) | 47 |
| 4th Oct | ILSC | A | Binfield | 1 | 2 2 | 3 Dougan, OG | 104 |
| 8th Oct | ILSC | A | South Park (Reigate) | 0 | 0 0 | 1 | 137 |
| 15th Oct | ILSC | A | Thatcham Town | 1 | 0 2 | 1 OG, Lyle | 116 |
| 18th Oct | VT R2 | A | Three Bridges | 1 | 1 2 | 2 Dougan, Surmon (SCR win 4-3 on pens) | 65 |
| 22nd Oct | ILSC | H | TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD | 2 | 0 3 | 0 Richards, OG, Tanga | 96 |
| 5th Nov | ILSC | A | Basingstoke Town | 1 | 1 1 | 2 Surmon | 402 |
| 12th Nov | ILSC | H | WALTON & HERSHAM | 1 | 0 1 | 0 Lyle (p) | 114 |
| 15th Nov | SCC | A | Abbey Rangers | 4 | 2 4 | 4 Sutherland, Baker, Tanga, Uzor (SCR 9-8 on pens) | |
| 19th Nov | ILSC | A | Hanworth Villa | 1 | 2 1 | 3 Halsey | 122 |
| 23rd Nov | ILSC | H | UXBRIDGE | 0 | 1 0 | 2 | 81 |
| 26th Nov | ILSC | A | Ashford Town (Middx) | 0 | 0 1 | 2 Lloyd | 67 |
| 29th Nov | VT R3 | A | Binfield | 0 | 0 1 | 0 Sutherland | 92 |
| 3rd Dec | ILSC | H | WESTFIELD | 0 | 2 0 | 2 | 56 |
| 6th Dec | SSC | A | Egham Town | 0 | 1 0 | 3 | |
| 10th Dec | ILSC | H | NORTHWOOD | 0 | 1 1 | 5 Testolin | 65 |
| 21st Dec | VT R4 | H | LEATHERHEAD | 1 | 2 2 | 2 Holden, Testolin (L win 4-3 on pens) | 84 |
| 28th Dec | ILSC | H | MARLOW | 1 | 0 1 | 3 Morris | 101 |
| 2023 | | | | | | | |
| 2nd Jan | ILSC | A | Leatherhead | 2 | 1 3 | 4 Sorr, Morris, Diomande | 365 |
| 7th Jan | ILSC | H | CHIPSTEAD | 0 | 0 0 | 1 | 82 |
| 9th Jan | ILSC | A | Merstham | 0 | 2 0 | 3 | 222 |
| 14th Jan | ILSC | A | Guernsey | 0 | 1 0 | 1 | 489 |
| 21st Jan | ILSC | H | BASINGSTOKE TOWN | 0 | 2 0 | 5 | 135 |
| 28th Jan | ILSC | A | Walton & Hersham | 0 | 0 0 | 2 | 342 |
| 4th Feb | ILSC | H | HANWORTH VILLA | 0 | 1 2 | 1 Tehe | 58 |
| 11th Feb | ILSC | A | Uxbridge | 0 | 0 0 | 0 | 78 |
| 15th Feb | ILSC | A | Bedfont Sports | 1 | 1 3 | 3 Tanton, Lloyd, Torpey (p) | 91 |
| 18th Feb | ILSC | H | SOUTH PARK (REIGATE) | 1 | 0 4 | 0 Torpey 3, Morris | 71 |
| 25th Feb | ILSC | A | Southall | 2 | 1 2 | 2 Torpey, Ouaret Sorr | 70 |
| 4th Mar | ILSC | H | BINFIELD | | | | |
| 11th Mar | ILSC | H | THATCHAM TOWN | | | | |
| 18th Mar | ILSC | A | Tooting & Mitcham Utd | | | | |
| 25th Mar | ILSC | A | Chertsey Town | | | | |
| 1st Apr | ILSC | H | MERSTHAM | | | | |
| 10th Apr | ILSC | H | LEATHERHEAD | | | | |
| 15th Apr | ILSC | A | Westfield | | | | |
| 22nd Apr | ILSC | H | ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX) | | | | |
| TBC | SCC | H | READING CITY | | | | |



THE BEAUTY of Non-League football – and indeed this job at The NLP – is the vast array of characters it brings together.

Preston Edwards has long become one of my favourite players to interview. From his England C debut against Portugal in 2011, to later captaining the Three Lions and winning five promotions down the years, we've talked about the lot over the last decade – even his transition from the full-time game into becoming a maths teacher.

Edwards won the Isthmian Premier play-offs with Cheshunt last season to add to his successes with Dover, Ebbsfleet (twice) and Dulwich Hamlet.

Non-League footballers may not command the largest headlines – although Edwards was one famously sent off after just ten seconds playing for Ebbsfleet against Farnborough – but they stand on a unique platform where they can really make an impact.

Our most recent chat was hardly anything to do with the ups and downs of the beautiful game. Instead it was about Edwards' determination to raise awareness of autism.

On April 23, he's running the London Marathon to raise money for the National Autistic Society, a charity close to his heart. Edwards' four-year-old son Rios has been diagnosed with autism and the Ambers stopper wants to help improve people's understanding and perceptions.

"My son is autistic – the media portrays autism that they are either really smart or they can't operate properly and people don't really know what autism means where they are kind of in the middle," Edwards tells The NLP. "My son is not extremely bright and he doesn't have things like a speech delay.

"It's just that he struggles to understand some things and socially he's awkward. I want to spread more awareness and create that inclusive environment.

"There is nothing worse than seeing people left out just for the way they are born rather than the person they actually are. My son is obviously the best thing that's ever happened to me. I just want the best for him."

He continues: "People don't understand the challenges parents have to go through with an autistic child. My son has to have a very set routine every single day. If something is not in his routine, it messes up his whole day. People don't understand that change. It has humbled me in a sense. I've had to adapt as a parent. In my head when he was born I was like, 'Right, he's going to be a footballer'.

"But you now realise that the most important thing for myself and my wife is he is independent in life. He's able to do things himself and be the best version for him."

Edwards believes there are many misconceptions around autism. Since Rios' diagnoses, he has learnt as much as he can about the lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world and even become autism coordinator at the school where he is a maths teacher.

And it's why he wants to raise money by taking on one of the world's greatest marathons.

"The National Autistic Society are the biggest autism awareness group in the country," he says.

"They do lots of things, they come to my school and make our children really aware of it. They are very good with the students. It's trying to place that in other educational groups and adults as well, because adults are not really aware. For example, if I go to a park, my son sometimes doesn't have the understanding where the sense of danger is. They feel they need to move their child away because he's dangerous. But he's not. He's just loud.

"Listen I understand. It's your son or daughter. But they're not dangerous. They are human beings."

The Untold Game

An Accountant in a Miner's Helmet

The modern game is awash with statistics. One can hardly put a match on tv without xG telling you who is supposed to be winning the game, xA telling you who has been most creative, or Shot Creating Actions telling you, well, how many actions created shots. If someone can explain what PPDA is, I'm all ears. But it's difficult to argue with the results. Brentford have extremely close ties to an analytics company and have confounded everybody, Brighton's own analytics department, augmenting their scouting network, has brought them colossal fees in recent years. It has become an unavoidably evolution of the game, and those who stick rigidly to the old ways are being left behind. But analytics are not a new invention. While the technology now allows a much deeper statistical understanding of the game, the story of football statistics begins before the Second World War, with Wing Commander Charles Reep (pictured right).

Charles Reep was not a football man. An accountant by trade, he joined the RAF in 1928, and started working his way up the ranks. His encounter with sport was by chance: Charlie Jones, a title winner with Arsenal in 1931 and 1933 decided, after the second title, to embark on a series of lectures explaining Herbert Chapman's (below) style and what might loosely be described as philosophy. Reep was fascinated, and started the process of recording this style in the way he knew best, with numbers. Unfortunately, he found his work interrupted by the war, and it would be a decade and a half before he was able to explore it.

After returning from Germany, Reep was frustrated to find that very few of Chapman's innovations had been adopted, and was particularly dismayed that wingers, so important to Arsenal's title winners, were once again marginalised. After a particular turgid half of football between Swindon and Bristol Rovers in 1950, he pulled out his notepad and pen, and spent the second half recording some of the things he saw, including passing sequences and player positions.

At may have been at the most rudimentary level, but football analytics was born. He recorded 147 Swindon attacks as they eventually found a winner, and extrapolated his findings to cover a whole game. What he discovered was that it would just take a tiny improvement in conversion rate to increase the number of goals per game by 50%, from two to three. In a sport with so few goals, that would be a huge advantage.

In 1951, he caught the attention of relegation threatened Brentford, who brought him in for the final 14 games of the season. Using his analytics, they tweaked their system and stormed easily to safety, winning 13 of those games. And then he went back to recording data, most regularly at Plymouth, where he was recognisable by the miner's helmet he wore, using the lamp to illuminate his notebook. In 1958, he even went to the World Cup to see how the very best did it, and see what that did to his findings. A decade later, he published his findings in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.



Not that his findings have been without controversy. Reep concluded that the best chance of scoring a goal was with the fewest passes in the move. Essentially, if he is the father of football analytics, he is the uncle of the long ball. With all of the data and technology on offer today, it seems that the orthodoxy is instead to make lots of short passes rather than a few long ones, and his ideas have been criticised.

Some even claim that Reep's own data was misinterpreted, and that a proper analysis of what he recorded suggested it was far better to make four or more passes. Notable gaps in the data included set pieces, and he was unable to record the fatigue that came from the defending team chasing the ball.

Reep's ideas may have ended up creating Crazy Gang Wimbledon rather than Manchester City or Brentford or Brighton, a physical, long ball side who understood the value of getting the ball in the box and dismissed the value of possession. But even so, to dismiss the Wing Commander would be unfair.

Half a century after he first started recording data, mistakes were still being made; Alex Ferguson famously sold Jaap Stam after his recorded tackles declined, not understanding that in conjunction with his increasing interceptions, he was actually improving as a player. Who is to say that ten years from now, the algorithms won't realise that today's number crunchers have got it wrong? Whatever his errors, he was a frustrated accountant in a miner's helmet, and he changed football.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game (Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk and on social media, @TheUntoldGame)

ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

Twelve In A Row For Table-Topping Stoke

Basingstoke stay seven clear, Walton make it eight in a row, Woods go third, and we've wins for Westfield and Uxbridge on a day of draws

After eleven consecutive victories it was no wonder that **BASINGSTOKE TOWN** sat at the top of the pile, and they looked to be on the road to win twelve as Paul Hodges put them ahead against **LEATHERHEAD** on ten minutes, to the delight of most of the seven hundred and fifty three watching on. The Tanners chances of a comeback were reduced when Jerry Puemo saw red with twenty minutes to go, and the hosts made sure when Brody Peart made it two just before the end.

Many months ago we suggested that anyone finishing above **WALTON & HERSHAM** would be promoted. The Swans will still be focused on ensuring that nobody finishes above them, but our second place side had a tough trip to **HANWORTH VILLA**. Having won their last seven, Walton were flying- but the Villains are always difficult to defeat and it took seventy one minutes for the opener to arrive, Eddie Simon giving the Swans the lead. John Gilbert made things rather more secure with a second for his side nine minutes from time, and that was that. Walton remain seven points behind the leaders with a game in hand- and our image is courtesy of the club.

MARLOW had climbed to third place after winning their last two, and wanted to make that three in a row as second bottom **MERSTHAM** came to call. It was the visitors who went ahead, Jordan Wilson with the goal on thirty two minutes, but the hosts levelled with ten minutes left, Toby Raggett with the equaliser. Marlow are very good at winning from losing positions, but they couldn't do it this time, the Moatsiders recording their twelfth draw of the season and staying six points from safety.

Long-time leaders **NORTHWOOD** had slipped to fourth after a run which had seen them lose five of their previous six- but they took the lead against **ASHFORD TOWN** nine minutes before the break, and quickly added another. Gareth Chendlik got the first and Dan Williams the second, and Williams made it three-nil with twenty minutes left to end the contest- although Lindell Stewart got a late consolation for the Tangerines. Northwood are up to third.

CHERTSEY TOWN were on the road, then the plane, then the road, as they travelled to the Channel Islands to take on a buoyant **GUERNSEY**. The Green Lions finally climbed out of the bottom four in midweek with a win at Binfield, and hoped to stay there- but they had to come from behind three times to take a point. That man Ross Allen was- as usual- responsible for their success, scoring a hat trick, the last of his trio coming right at the end to earn his side a share of the spoils. Jonathan Hippolyte opened the scoring for the Curfews on twenty one minutes, but five minutes later Allen got his first of the afternoon, from the spot. Bryan Taylor very quickly restored away advantage, before that man Allen did it again ten minutes after the break. Just after the hour Glenn Yala put the visitors ahead for a third time, and this time it looked as if they'd hold onto it, until Allen decided otherwise.

BINFIELD, three points away from the top five and a little out of sorts, welcomed a **WESTFIELD** side who were under new management- and Ian Selley would have been delighted when Didi Ndombe put his side ahead on thirty six minutes. He'd have been even more delighted when the same player made it two immediately after the restart, and although James Beauchamp got one back for the hosts right at the end, that was that.

SOUTH PARK REIGATE welcomed bottom side **TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD**, and must have thought they'd taken three points when Joe Bell scored in the last minute. They hadn't, as the Terrors hit back through Ryan Lopes to take a point.

Our other draw specialists, **SOUTHALL**- eleven draws so far this season- played host to third bottom **SUTTON COMMON ROVERS**. Hall had lost their last two, whilst Rovers were in their best form of the season, four unbeaten, and went ahead on nine minutes, Shakeel Morris scoring for the second Saturday in a row. Hall levelled eight minutes before half time, Jaden Thompson-Brissett with the goal- but they were almost immediately behind again as Zaid Ouaret Sorr restored Rovers advantage. Right at the end the hosts took yet another draw, Thompson-Brissett scoring again.

THATCHAM TOWN took their fine form to a side searching for some of that, **BEDFONT SPORTS**. Neither side could find a goal, and the Kingfishers remain ninth, their hosts still a point from safety.

UXBRIDGE and **CHIPSTEAD** met at Honeycroft, only a point and two places between them at kick off. It took only three minutes for the opening goal to arrive, and it went to the hosts, Anthony Mendy with his fourth since his return to the club. That turned out to be that so we hope there weren't any late arrivals, and Uxbridge are up to twelfth.

On Monday a late first half goal by Bryan Zepo gave **MERSTHAM** a 1-0 win over **CHIPSTEAD**.

Tuesday night saw five games **WALTON & HERSHAM** came from a goal down to score four in the last 15 minutes and see off 10 man **TOOTING & MITCHAM** 4-1.

LEATHERHEAD increased the pressure on **ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)** with a 3-0 win, whilst their were 1-0 wins for **HANWORTH VILLA** at **BINFIELD**, **GUERNSEY** at **WESTFIELD** and **NORTHWOOD** at home to **UXBRIDGE**.

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.

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.

SPOT THE BALL ANSWER



Well done to all of you who spotted it where it was

A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray border, intended for match notes.

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