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*Always Making Memories Together*

**INSIDE TODAY...**



## OUR PEOPLE

**Hon Chairman** - Alan Salmon  
**Hon Vice Chairman** - Adrian Farley  
**Hon General Secretary** - Justin Salmon  
**Hon Treasurer** - Darren Salmon  
**Match Secretary** - Scott Wallage  
**Youth Secretary** - Mark Hargreaves  
**Welfare Officer** - Darren Brown

### Management & Board:

Gary Brigden, Steve Casserley Francois Gabbidon, Charlie Hands, Val Roots, Mick Murfet  
Alan Reed, Sharon Streets

**1st Team Joint Manager** - Darren Salmon  
**1st Team Joint Manager** - Sam Morgan  
**Coach** - Liam Joyce  
**Physio** - Geoff Moxey  
**Kit & Equipment Manager** - Tony Williams  
**Stadium Emergency 1st Aid** - Brent Wallage  
**Matchday Media** - Gary Brigden

### Photographs courtesy of:

Gary Brigden Photography and Stuart Tree.

Match Graphics courtesy of **Football Web Pages**

**Sutton Common Rovers Football Club are an unincorporated members club run by volunteers.**  
**Club officials & management committee are elected annually at the clubs AGM.**



## OUR HONOURS

### LEAGUE HONOURS

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

### CUP HONOURS

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

## OUR SOCIALS

 [info@suttoncommonrovers.com](mailto:info@suttoncommonrovers.com)  
 [www.suttoncommonrovers.com](http://www.suttoncommonrovers.com)  
 [@official\\_scrfc](https://twitter.com/@official_scrfc)  
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**Sutton Common  
Rovers F.C**

**VS**



**Crawley Down  
Gatwick F.C.**

## WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman, wishing you a warm SCR welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports Centre for today's Inter-League Step 4/5 Play off fixture.

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

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, although unfortunately at the time of going to print we do not have their names, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.



# WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

We welcome Crawley Down Gatwick, runner up in the Step 5 Southern Combination Premier division, and let's be honest, given our performances and results against Step 5 sides this season we will more than likely be wishing them a safe journey home as a Step 4 side.

Crawley Down Gatwick finished their league campaign with an impressive 84 points from 38 games, and finished just three points behind champions Broadbridge Heath. They are used to winning, so today will be a tough tough encounter.

For a game of such importance for both sides, it is appalling that we (along with all the other play off sides) did not find out our opponents until Wednesday evening, and pretty much sums up the FA attitude to lower league football. The excuse of needing to wait until all step 5 promotion places had been completed and then needing to listen to Step 4 appeals doesn't wash. I am pretty sure you could sort the fixtures with XYZ Step 4 will host either Team A / B from a Step 5 league. It wouldn't be the perfect set of fixtures but everybody would know where they stand, in plenty of time.

Whilst the argument is you would have to have a game anyway so why does it matter when you find out - the FA need to realise and understand that at our level we are all volunteers who do things for the love of the club. We also have work commitments, family commitments meaning we cannot get on with things at the drop of a hat. This programme was finally completed on Thursday morning, having already been up until 3am working on it. I am sure Justin and the Crawley Down secretary really appreciated having to rush around to get this game arranged as well.

For me today's game feels a bit like a free hit. To all intent and purposes after that twelve game losing streak to even be in a play off place is something of a miracle. I think most of us were anticipating some pressureless games in April, knowing that we were already down, not having the hell that we went through last week, and will no doubt go through this week.

That we are not down is testament to the lads who have come in, and were not part of those "dark days". Whatever happens the last couple of months have been some of our most enjoyable at Step 4.

Moving away from today for a minute and our title winning U23 side played their penultimate league fixture on Wednesday, and goals from Luke Guest, Abz Coulibaly and a first from U18 starlet Matt Hill looked to have given us the win against Spelthorne Sports, only for us to concede in the 93rd minute and draw 3-3 (almost an identical situation to the away fixture against Spelthorne).

So, this is it from me, after 20 plus years with the club, in a number of roles (player, reserve team manager, goalkeeping coach, Press officer, photographer to name a few), this will be my last official game. Unfortunately this season has seen me miss a fair few games due to work and that is only going to get worse moving forward. This means I cannot devote as much time to the club as I have in the past, and as anyone who knows me knows, it has to be full commitment or nothing else. Hopefully we will get somebody in for next season. If you are interested, please let the club know.

Signing off for the final time, that's all from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home and the club hope to see you back next season wherever we find ourselves.

**Briggers**



# TODAY'S OPPONENTS

## CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK



**FORMED: 1993**

**NICKNAME:**  
**The Anvils**

**Crawley Down Gatwick FC** have made a remarkable rise from parks football to the Ryman League in less than 20 years. The club was only formed in 1993 but have enjoyed the type of success many could only hope for in their short history.

In 2011 Sussex County League title success and promotion to Step 4 Football was followed by an appearance at the AMEX in the Sussex Senior Cup Final in 2012.

### **1983-95**

Delving back into the history books to **1983**, Crawley Down United could be found nestled in Division Six of the Mid Sussex League. By **1988** the club had risen to Div One, winning three league titles and finishing runners up on two occasions.

After three seasons in Div One they won promotion to the Premier Division as runners up to Lindfield.

**1993/94** culminated in a merger of four local sides and adopting the name Crawley Down Village they finished third in the following season.

**1994/5** they claimed their first Premier Division title by a massive margin of ten points from 2nd placed Wealden.

### **1995-2003**

In **1995** the Anvils joined the Sussex County League Division Three.

In the first season they finished second and found themselves making an even swifter move into Senior Football.

They also reached the final of the Intermediate Cup. The first two seasons in Division Two provided much sought after consolidation but in the **1998-99** season they finished in a promotion position but only to be denied a place in Division One because they could not persuade Mid Sussex District Council to allow the installation of floodlights in time.

The following season they thought they had finished in a promotion spot again only to be thwarted by a late decision to award Lancing three extra points after Mile Oak had fielded an illegible player.

The next four seasons were not so easy for the club with changes of management and they finished no higher than 11th in that period.

The **2004-07** era was better as they finished tenth and fifth and In the Division Two Cup, they reached the semi-final stage two years running.

**2006-07** was a struggle only staying up after an outstanding finish to the season losing just two of the last 14 matches.

Cup form that season saw the club make the Q/F of the Sussex RUR Cup and the Div Two Cup.



## 2010-11

Proved to be the most successful season in the club's history as the Anvils won the County League Division One and promotion to the Ryman League by a margin of 15 points as well as winning the RUR Cup. They reached the semi-finals of both the John O'Hara and the Sussex Senior Cups where they lost to Blue Square prem side Eastbourne Borough.

## 2011-14

Saw the Club compete in the Ryman Isthmian South for the first time and the Club set about building a team to compete at this level, finishing in 15th place and also getting to the Sussex Senior Cup Final at the AMEX, losing out in the last minute to Ryman South Champions Whitehawk. A name change to Crawley Down Gatwick FC was approved highlighting the wider area to which the Club is now associated.

## 2012/13

Season started remarkably well with the team topping the Ryman South table through to November but finally finishing in 13th position. Forced Manager changes meant a massive dip in form in **2013/14**, which saw the Anvils plummet from the top of the table to 19th Place by the end of Jan and finally end up second to bottom and relegation back to the Sussex County League.

## 2014/15

The Club decided after rejoining the County League to go back to its roots and use local players, unfortunately this did not work out and the Club were in the relegation zone by Xmas. The team finally ended 2nd to bottom and further relegation followed to the newly named Southern Combination League Div 1.

## 2015/17

Saw the revival of the side under Paul Cooper as the rebuilt Anvils challenged at the top all season, finally finishing in 2nd place behind Haywards Heath Town and 14 points clear of 3rd placed Oakwood to gain promotion back to the Southern Combination Premier Division.

## 2017-22

Back in the Southern Combination League Premier the side continued its improvement finishing in a mid-table position and reached the RUR Cup Final in that first year. The following season they achieved a midtable finish and a PB cup Semi final.

James Day took over the side from **2018-19** and did well in his first season as the side finished in 9th place with 57 points.

## 2019/21

Covid dominated and the League was abandoned twice with CDG in 6th Pos.

## 2021-22

First full season back after Covid the team again ended mid table but did well to get through to R3 of the FA Vase.

Generally a season of many injuries meaning causing a multitude of changes each week.



# TODAY'S OPPONENTS

## CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK

### HONOURS:

Southern Combination Division One champions 2010–11

Mid-Sussex League Premier Division champions 1994–95

Sussex RUR Cup Winners: 2010–11

### RECORDS:

Best FA Cup performance:  
First qualifying round, 2009–10, 2011–12, 2020–21

Best FA Trophy performance:  
First qualifying round, 2012–13, 2013–14

Best FA Vase best performance:  
Second round, 2007–08, 2014–15

Record attendance:  
404 vs East Grinstead Town, 1996

### DID YOU KNOW:

Crawley Down is a village in the Mid Sussex district of West Sussex, England. There is one church and one school. It lies seven miles from Gatwick Airport and six miles from where your programme editor lives.

Until 1967 the village was served by Grange Road railway station on the Three Bridges to Tunbridge Wells Central Line which closed as a result of the Beeching Axe in 1967. The old track bed has been revitalised as a linear Country Park called the Worth Way which now offers a haven for wildlife and valued trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

In the 19th century, Crawley Down was known as a centre for prize-fighting. The illegal sport was attracted by the proximity to London, combined with a secluded location. Large and boisterous crowds were attracted to the matches, and local law enforcement turned a blind eye as the prize-fights were a useful source of income for the village.





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# SPOT THE BALL



Action from the Westfield game, and Courtney Swaby challenges Andy Crossley in the middle of the park, 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: Firstly how frustrating is it that we didn't find out our opponents until the middle of the week (and obviously this will also be hugely frustrating to Crawley Down Gatwick). To my mind it sums up the FA attitude to the non-league game—yes they might have had to wait for all Step 5 leagues to finish, but some kind of message acknowledging this would have been nice.

DS: Honestly G we have said it before but the lack of consideration to lower non league clubs is astounding and simply wouldn't wash higher up the pyramid!

GB: We have said it before but to even be in a play off match represents some kind of success for us, considering the changes and upheavals this season. It was touch and go for a while last week, with Bedfont leading and us level. How were the nerves?

DS: For me not bad in all honesty pal, I always felt we could win and we knew that irrespective of whatever happened else were a win would set this game up.

GB: Last week we rewarded some of the players who have done a lot for us this season. It was important to do that, but why last week and not after today, which will finally be our last game of the season.

DS: The decision was taken last week to 'celebrate' the successes of the season and individual milestones etc plus the volunteers. You never know what today will bring so I am glad we did it whilst on the 'high' of last weeks win

GB: Would you agree that, irrespective of today's result, we will have learnt a lot from the last couple of seasons and will come back stronger next year

DS: Whatever happens today we are stronger and better placed for coming challenges G, obviously we'll give our best and hopefully that will be enough after 90 plus mins or spot kicks...

GB: Enjoy your break

DS: Cheers pal and you

# MATCH REPORT:

## BALHAM

Sutton Common Rovers		Wednesday 19th April 2023		Balham	
1 James Dillon		Sutton Common Rovers	0	1 Haydn Read	
2 Liam Holden				2 Louis Farquharson	
3 Matthew Tanton		Balham	3	3 Kojo Kyei	
4 Daniel Uzor		Tom Read (15')		4 Dan David	
5 Bertie Lloyd		Tom Read (19')		5 Mark Palmer	
6 Antonio Simeone		Alec Fiddes (89')		6 Jake Henry	
7 Nabeel Ghannam		Southern Combination Cup Semi Final		7 Alec Fiddes	
8 Marcus Marku		Kick-off: 7.45pm		18 Jack Haire	
9 Gabriel Odunaiké		Info Videos		9 Tom Read	
10 Maxwell Oldham		Match Information		10 James Anderson	
11 Shakeel Morris		Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 0-3 Balham		11 Thomasz Wocial	
12 Conan Torpey		Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 0-2 Balham		12 Ray Moore	
14 Tyler Cox				14 Jamal Bartley	
15 Danny Divine				15 Andre Cruz Rosa	
16 Siao Blackwood				16 Ali Haddadji	
17 Courtney Swaby				23 Jack Gordon	

Rovers bowed out of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup at the semi final stage when a tepid performance saw them comfortably beaten by Combined Counties South side Balham.

With a crucial relegation battle at the weekend, their were numerous changes to the line up that had picked up an unlikely point at Westfield the previous week-end.

Coming into the starting line up were Liam Holden, Gabriel Odunaiké, Tobe Uzor, Markus Marku and Shakeel Morris, dropping to the bench were Danny Divine, Conan Torpey, Siao Blackwood, Courtney Swaby and Tyler Cox.

The visitors started really brightly and it was no surprise that they were able to take advantage of a somewhat disjointed Rovers line up, and on the quarter hour a mazy run by Tom Read saw his drift beyond three would be challenges before curling a ball into the the bottom corner for 1-0.

Rovers responded positively but after a run from full back Holden could only fire an effort wide of the right hand post. Marku and Oldham then combined to set up Nabeel Ghannam but his cross shot was comfortable for Haydn Read.



It was 2-0 on 20 minutes, and again Rovers were masters of their own downfall, although there is no denying the quality of the strike. Losing possession in the middle of the park, the ball dropped to Read, some 40 yards out, and he hammered the ball home.

15

Rovers survived a couple of dodgy moments as the half ran out, with the usually secure James Dillon spilling a harmless ball into the area, before recovering at the hands of 7 and Antonio Simeone looking slightly fortunate to survive a handball shout.

Oldham fired over the bar and neat link up between Matt Tanton and Morris ended with a shot from Marku being comfortably gathered by Read.

Balham took a deserved lead into the half time break.

Early in the second half and neat link up between Swaby and Morris ended with a shot deflected behind for a corner and from the delivery Ghannam went down in the area but play continued on, with little SCR protest.

Kyei slipped to let in Oldham he clipped the ball over the keeper but a defender hooked the ball off the line.

With 20 minutes remaining Rovers had their best chance to get back into the game but Oldham saw his effort superbly blocked by 3, and from the corner Bert Lloyd saw his effort cleared.

Rovers twice went close in the closing stages, once through Ghannam and another when Cox saw his effort beat Read but drift wide of the left hand post.

Balham sealed the win late on when Alex Fiddes raced clear after a Rovers corner was cleared and calmly lobbed the advancing Dillon.



# PICS: **BALHAM**



Top: Max Oldham

Inset: Siao Blackwood and Shakeel Morris

Below: Gabriel Odunaiké





# ROVERS MERCHANDISE



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the 2nd half kick-off**



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Thank you

# MATCH REPORT:

## ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)

Sutton Common Rovers		Saturday 22nd April 2023		Ashford Town (Middx)	
1	James Dillon	Sutton Common Rovers	1	1	Paul McCarthy
2	Danny Divine	Maxwell Oldham (61')		2	Jaden Edwards
3	Matthew Tanton	Ashford Town (Middx)	0	3	Isy Nzelo
4	Siao Blackwood	Isthmian League - South Central Division		4	Chad Goulter
5	Bertie Lloyd	Attendance: 91		5	Dale Burnham
6	Liam Holden	Kick-off: 3pm		6	Ben Peden
7	Tyler Cox	<div>InfoVideos</div>		7	Daniel Brown
8	Courtney Swaby	Match Information		8	Mohammed Hassan
9	Conan Torpey	Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-0 Ashford Town (Middx)		9	Tomasz Siemieniczuk
10	Maxwell Oldham	Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 0-0 Ashford Town (Middx)		10	Ricky Johnson
11	Nabeel Ghannam			11	Lindell Stewart
12	Marcus Marku			12	Danyaal Iqbal
14	Josh Uzon			13	Alfie McMaster
15	Aaron Hunt			14	Nash Doukoure
16	Shakeel Morris			15	Reuel Powell-Downey
17	Zaid Ouaret Sorr			16	Nathaniel Kenlock

Rovers picked up a vital win on Saturday to secure a relegation play off fixture, on a day when any other result would have seen them automatically slip out of the division.

Darren Salmon and Sam Morgan made one change from the side that had drawn against Westfield in the previous league game, with Liam Holden coming in for Antonio Simeone (missing as he finished his preparation for the London Marathon.

Rovers made a bright start and in the opening minute Conan Torpey was bundled over just outside the Ashford area but Courtney Swaby's free kick was straight into the wall and the follow up cleared to safety. Lindell Stewart then did well on the left for the visitors but his run was ended by a combination of Bert Lloyd and Danny Divine.

The game settled and with a lot on the line for both sides, there was very little to worry either goalkeeper. Ricky Johnson should have opened the scoring on 13 minutes but when left one-on-one with James Dillon he fired wide, and a minute later after a foul by Divine on Stewart, a half cleared free kick was deflected wide by Torpey.

Our first chance fell to Max Oldham on 16 minutes but having turned Jaden Edwards inside and out he was denied by a good save by Paul McCarthy.



Swaby saw a long range shot blocked, and Mohammed Hassan put a free kick wide of Dillons right hand post. Just before the half hour and Dale Burnham headed a corner goalwards but we defended well and the chance went begging.

Oldham lobbed McCarthy but his effort drifted just wide of the right hand post and two minutes later neat link up between Oldham and Swaby ended with Torpey bringing a good save out of McCarthy.

Daniel Brown did well on 40 minutes but having evaded Matt Tanton his cross was well, and bravely defended by Holden, truly he loves the club!!

Rovers almost grabbed a precious lead on the stroke of half time, Ghannam and Divine combined to release Torpey, his return pass found Ghannam but his shot was deflected wide.

Half time came with the scores level, Rovers sitting in the automatic relegation spot.

Rovers should have taken the lead in the opening seconds of the half, Ghannam rounded McCarthy, but the keeper got a good hand on the ball to push the Rovers man wide, however his cross reached Torpey, but somehow he headed against the bar from close range. Ten minutes into the half and good work between Cox and Oldham caused some confusion in the Ashford area but the visitors smuggled the ball clear.

Rovers were now on top, and after Holden whipped a ball in from the right Oldham saw his header saved by McCarthy and Rovers thought they had a good case for a penalty when Torpey was bundled over by Burnham. However they didn't have long to wait until the only goal of the game came along. On the hour Torpey fed Ghannam, he beat one man and fired a shot goalwards only to see it blocked by Isy Nzelo, the ball fell kindly to Oldham who fired home for the only goal of the game.

Ben Peden saw a header deflected behind for a corner as Ashford looked for an immediate response, and from the corner it was all hands to the pump as Rovers scrambled the ball clear.

Both sides were going for it, and Cox saw an effort blocked for Rovers. With just unde 15 minutes remaining another huge scramble in the Rovers area ended with Nzelo firing an effort wide. Cox got beyond Edwards on 81 minutes but his low cross was superbly defended by Peden.

Man of the Match Oldham made way for the lively Shakeel Morris as Rovers looked to eat up some valuable seconds and Rovers survived a last gasp scramble to pick up the win, and a play off place.



**PICS: ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)**



Top: Nabeel Ghannam

Inset: Tyler Cox and James Dillon

Below: Conan Torpey



# CAREER RECORDS

2022/23 Season						Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
COX, Tyler	34	4	3	7	0	38	3
LLOYD, Bertie	33	1	3	2	0	34	3
SWABY, Courtney	25	5	0	3	1	30	0
HOLDEN, Liam	16	5	2	5	0	381	108
TANTON, Matt	16	4	1	2	2	169	6
DIVINE, Danny	16	0	1	3	0	16	1
DILLON, James	14	0	0	2	0	23	0
BLACKWOOD, Siao	13	5	0	3	0	18	0
OUARET SORR, Zaid	11	3	2	2	0	14	2
TORPEY, Conan	12	1	7	8	0	13	7
MORRIS, Shakeel	10	5	3	0	0	15	3
MARKU, Markus	10	4	0	2	1	14	0
OKPOLOKPO, Joshua	9	1	0	2	1	10	0
GHANNAM, Nabeel	7	4	3	4	1	11	3
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	6	3	0	2	0	12	0
TEHE, Hermann	5	4	2	0	0	17	2
OLDHAM, Max	6	0	1	1	0	6	1
ROBINSON, Malachi	4	0	0	0	0	96	3
UZOR, Tobe	3	4	0	1	0	14	0
MACFOY-JOHNSTON, Dion	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
SIMEONE, Antonio	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
ODUNAIKE, Gabriel	2	5	0	0	0	7	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
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
OWUSU, George	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
UZON, Josh	0	2	0	0	0	14	6
COULIBALY, Abdoulaye	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
UNSWORTH, Tom	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
GUEST, Luke	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
ERNE, John	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

# FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1.	Basingstoke Town	38	29	2	7	89	37	52	89
2.	Walton & Hersham	38	28	3	7	102	41	61	87
3.	Marlow	38	19	10	9	64	45	19	67
4.	Hanworth Villa	38	19	9	10	58	50	8	66
5.	Northwood	38	20	3	15	54	45	9	63
6.	Binfield	38	16	9	13	63	51	12	57
7.	Leatherhead	38	16	9	13	47	45	2	57
8.	Chertsey Town	38	16	8	14	67	52	15	56
9.	South Park (Reigate)	38	16	7	15	50	61	-11	55
10.	Southall	38	13	13	12	50	48	2	52
11.	Chipstead	38	14	9	15	52	54	-2	51
12.	Westfield	38	12	13	13	54	50	4	49
13.	Thatcham Town	38	12	12	14	56	57	-1	48
14.	Uxbridge	38	11	11	16	53	55	-2	44
15.	Guernsey	38	10	10	18	42	73	-31	40
16.	Ashford Town (Middx)	38	11	5	22	46	91	-45	38
17.	Sutton Common Rovers	38	10	7	21	45	71	-26	37
18.	Merstham	38	7	15	16	43	66	-23	36
19.	Bedfont Sports	38	7	14	17	50	62	-12	35
20.	Tooting & Mitcham United	38	5	9	24	34	65	-31	24



Rovers Round-Up (Fixtures & Results)

23

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	0	1 0	3	68
11th Mar	ILSC	H	THATCHAM TOWN	1	1 2	2 Divine, Ghannam	51
18th Mar	ILSC	A	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	1	0 2	0 Torpey, Ghannam	202
22nd Mar	SCC QF	H	CAMBERLEY TOWN	0	1 2	2 Cox 2 (SCR win 4-2 on pens)	68
25th Mar	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town	0	0 0	1	
1st Apr	ILSC	H	MERSTHAM	1	0 2	0 Cox, Torpey (p)	142
10th Apr	ILSC	H	LEATHERHEAD	1	1 1	1 Oldham	197
15th Apr	ILSC	A	Westfield	0	1 2	2 Holden (p), Ghannam	91
19th Apr	SCC SF	H	BALHAM	0	2 0	3	53
22nd Apr	ILSC	H	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)	0	0 1	0 Oldham	91
29th Apr	ILS4/5 PO	H	CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK				

# The Untold Game

## Goals win Games, but Points win Prizes

'Attack wins you games, defence wins you titles.' When Sir Alex Ferguson tells you how to win a league championship, it's probably in your interest to sit up and listen. We usually think of great champions as dominant, free-flowing attacking sides, scoring goals for fun and, if possible, high on the entertainment factor. But really, it doesn't matter if you score the most goals, or have the meanest defence, or 98% possession. It's all about the points on the board, and however you accumulate them, in the end, the name on the trophy is all that anybody remembers. That's what Swedish side AIK realised in 1997-98, when they not only failed to score the most goals on their way to winning the Allsvenskan title; they scored the least.

In the middle of the 1990s, AIK were in a bit of a rut. One of Sweden's most successful clubs, their Allsvenskan titles had all come before the war, except for one in 1983. They had more consistent success in the Swedish Cup, winning it in both 1996 and 1997, as well as embarking on a run to the quarter finals of the Cup Winners Cup where they faced Barcelona. But that European run was to prove a double-edged sword. Success saw the poaching of AIK's prized talent: Magnus Hedman moved to Coventry, Gary Lundgren to Zaragoza, and both forwards ended their time in Sweden – one for Norway, the other for retirement. They retained Johan Mjallby, and placed a lot of faith in teenage defender Olof Mellberg, but in 1997 they finished a lowly eighth, far closer to the relegation zone in the 14 team league than was comfortable.

A change was needed, and AIK director Stefan Soderberg set off to Japan to find it. There, managing Vissel Kobe, was Stuart Baxter, and Englishman who had played and managed in Sweden and, for tax reasons, was looking to leave the Far East. Soderberg refused to leave until he got his man, and contracts were signed. Baxter was left with a stack of Swedish football tapes and a ticket to Scandinavia.

Baxter's first job was to replace some of the talent that had set off around Europe, and in Anders Limpar he did just that. The former Arsenal man was beginning to wind down his career, but was still plenty good enough for the Allsvenskan. But more importantly, Baxter changed the way AIK played. Throughout Sweden, a flat 442 with balls down the line reigned supreme. So Baxter tried something different.



Possession football, passing through the middle, pressuring the fullbacks. Mixed early results masked some impressive performances, such as the opening 1-1 draw in which AIK produced 23 shots on goal to their opponent's, Örgryte, three. Two defeats and two draws in the opening six games led up to the big game against IFK Göteborg. Something clicked, the players played out of the skins, and recorded a 1-0 victory. That was the confidence inducing moment, and another single goal victory against Malmö the following week set out the course for the rest of the season.



Far more draws than were comfortable followed, but AIK went unbeaten from that moment to the end of the season. Baxter's system was working, producing huge numbers of chances, but the quality wasn't quite there. AIK only scored more than one goal four times over the course of the season, never scoring more than two. They only won by more than a single goal twice. But they racked up the 1-0 victories, giving them a chance going into the final day. They would need to beat 12<sup>th</sup> placed Örgryte, the team against whom their season had started, while they needed already relegated Hacken to pull off a miracle against table topping Helsingborg.

AIK did what they had done all season, with a solid performance and a 1-0 win, never really being threatened by Örgryte's struggling side. For the last 15 minutes of the match, supporters in the stand crowded around handheld radios, desperate for news from Hacken. The relegated side had gone behind, but pulled one back through Mathias Larsson. As the game ticked on, Larsson broke through, and slotted another into the net. AIK fans erupted as the final whistle went. Only 25 goals scored, just 15 conceded, and champions. It was an incredible achievement.

Baxter is insistent that his team didn't play defensively, they just so controlled the game that their opponents couldn't get at them. The following year, they conceded even fewer, 14, and finally got their shooting boots on, hitting 42 goals. But it didn't matter; Helsingborg got their revenge, and pipped AIK to the title by a single point. So, maybe, Sir Alex was right. Attack doesn't always win titles.

## Enjoy the game.

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





# ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

## Drama Galore- As A Late Thatcham Leveller Sends The Title To Basingstoke

**A last minute twist sees Walton go from champs to play off favourites- whilst Rovers and Moatsiders hold onto the relegation play off places**

We started the day with **Walton & Hersham** and **Basingstoke Town** separated only by goal difference at the top, with three sides trying to avoid automatic relegation, a fourth attempting to stay out of the bottom four, and two of those fighting relegation playing each other- it was always going to be an interesting South Central Saturday, but we could never have guessed just how interesting.

**Walton & Hersham** were at **Thatcham Town** knowing that a win would hand them the title. They fell behind just after the start of the second half, Cameron Rohart-Brown putting the Kingfishers ahead, but quickly levelled through Jordan Adeyemi and then went ahead through Mitchal Gough. Into the last minute we went, the red ribbons being attached to the trophy, and then suddenly up popped Ashley Howell to score an equaliser for Thatcham and send the title Basingstoke way! It is days like these that it is disappointing not to have an Isthmian helicopter, as off the trophy went to Winklebury!

**Basingstoke Town** welcomed **South Park Reigate** to Winklebury. All they could do was win and hope, and they played their part despite going behind- Sam Tutt for the Sparks on the half hour. Bradley Wilson levelled just before the break and put his side ahead five minutes later- both goals from the spot. George Reid added a third sixteen minutes from time. But even then, it looked as if it hadn't been enough- until news came through of that late Thatcham goal and pandemonium began! Congratulations to Stoke- whilst Walton will welcome Northwood on Wednesday.

The rest of our drama was at the other end of the table, where **Ashford Town** survived despite defeat- because **Merstham** could only draw.

The Tangerines fell by the only goal of the game at **Sutton Common Rovers**, who needed that victory to take a relegation play off place. Max Oldham scored it on the hour, and lifted his side to seventeenth, so they await news of their opponents in the second chance saloon.

**Merstham** join Rovers in the relegation play off places, coming from two down to earn a point against **Westfield**. Didi Ndombe and Jake Baxter put the visitors two up at the break, but in the second half a Reece Deakin penalty and a Bryan Zero goal brought it back to two-two. One more goal for the Moatsiders could have kept them up on goal difference, but it didn't come despite a red card for the visitors Jonathan Sanchez near the end.

**Bedfont Sports** had to win and hope that other results went their way, but Sports went down despite hitting **Guernsey** for six. A Nathan Hogan double and a third from Jake Beck-Nardoni made them comfortable at the break, and the last three came right at the end, Kofi Anoyke-Boadi with a double and Sam Evans with the sixth. That was that- by far their best result of the season, but sadly for the home fans, too little, too late.

**Marlow**, secure in third place, travelled to fifth place **Northwood**- and the Woods delivered a morale-boosting three-one win. Ricardo Alexander-Greenway put them ahead early on, Shane Co-jocarel made it two just after the half hour, and despite a Kai Hamilton-Olise goal for the visitors Greenaway made sure of three points with a third just before the end.



Northwood will travel to Walton & Hersham on Wednesday, whilst Marlow will welcome **Hanworth Villa**, two-nil winners at **Chipstead**. Ben Geraghty put the Villains ahead nine minutes before half time, and Jordan Ellis made it two thirteen minutes before the end.

**Southall** welcomed **Chertsey Town** to West London and got back to winning ways with four first half goals. Emmanuel Williams got the first two, Anthony O'Connor the third, and Caden Thompson-Brissett made it four on thirty four minutes. The All then eased up, and William Montague was able to get one back for the Curfews with sixteen minutes left, but it didn't make much difference. Southall end their campaign in eighth, Southall in tenth.

**Leatherhead** went eight unbeaten, but were only able to take a point against **Binfield**. Omar Lawson opened the scoring for the Tanners early on, Liam Gavin levelled for the Moles just after the break, and although Dave Tarpey looked to have given the hosts the points with thirteen minutes left it wasn't to be, Gavin levelling right at the end.

**Uxbridge** played host as we wave a sad goodbye to our longest serving members, **Tooting & Mitcham United**- and the Terrors finally turned in a performance, winning four-nil. Elias Bagdonavicius topped and tailed with first and fourth, Nikolai Krokhin and Ryan Lopes got the two in the middle.

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

Take your match notes here...

# PITCHING IN

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in your community

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# The 'Rovers' V The 'Anvils'

Saturday 29th April 2023 | 15:00 KO

Inter-League Step 4/5 Play Off

Match Officials: Ref & Asst Ref

Unfortunately not known at time of going to print



No.	Player	Goal	Caution	Sent Off	No.	Player	Goal	Caution	Sent Off
	Antonio Simeone								
	Bertie Lloyd								
	Conan Torpey								
	Courtney Swaby								
	Danny Devine								
	Gabriel Odunaike								
	Hermann Tehe								
	James Dillon								
	Liam Holden								
	Louie Erotokritos								
	Matt Tanton (VC)								
	Max Oldham								
	Ryan Stedman Hoyte								
	Shakeel Morris								
	Siao Blackwood								
	Tobe Uzor								
	Tom Unsworth								
	Tyler Cox (C)								
	Zaid Ouaret Sorr								

Joint Managers:

**Darren Salmon & Sam Morgan**

*Enjoy the match*

Manager:

**James Day**



**WELCOME TO WHYTELEAFE SPORT CENTRE  
SUTTON COMMON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**WHAT'S ON...**



**TBC by 5pm Today...**