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Saturday 7th January | 3pm Kick Off
Pitching In, Isthmian League
South Central Division
Whyteleafe Sports Centre
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Always Making Memories Together

INSIDE TODAY...

OUR PEOPLE

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1st Team Asst Manager - Sam Morgan
Head Coach: Cornelius Nwadiakor
Coach - Liam Joyce
Physio - Iona Ruhomon and Geoff Moxey
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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**

Vs



Pitching In
Isthmian League
South Central Division

Chipstead 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, our first home game of 2023.

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

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Joseph Dann-Pye and his assistants, Mr Luke Burford and Mr Dane Johnston, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

2022 is over, and we can hopefully put behind us some of the disappointments that we had, and look to push forward and ensure the club can stay at Step 4 for another season.

Today's opponents come to us sitting in 11th spot and are in tremendous form in the league, sitting second in the current form table, with 14 points from their last six games.

In that time, they have seen off Ashford Town, Chertsey, Hanworth Villa and Tooting, whilst drawing with Westfield and Binfield.

We have already played Chipstead this season, winning a seven goal thriller on the opening day, and giving us some cause for optimism this season.

That day saw us trail early on, lead through Bertie Lloyd and Shawn Lyle, get pegged back on the stroke of half time, only to take a half time lead thanks to Kyron Richards, before finally getting a two goal advantage thanks to Lyle's second. We did have to survive a nervy last ten though after Lewis Pearch pulled another back for a then ten man Chipstead.

There will be a couple of familiar faces in the opposition squad today, with our U18's captain from last season Ollie Hamstead now a regular in the starting line up, along with another of our current U18's Bobby Moore, who also got some game time with us earlier in the season.

Our form at the minute on paper is poor, with seven straight league defeats. However there are signs, glimpses maybe, that we might be slowly turning things around.

Against Marlow we turned in an excellent first half only to undo all our good work in the second half, whilst against Leatherhead we played well, but just did not get the breaks, so I have been told. Losing Tony Halsey to concussion was a blow, and having a couple struggling with injuries, meaning effectively we finished with ten men (albeit with 11 still on the pitch).

Unfortunately, due to my work and both my alternative reporters not attending the game, there is no report on the Leatherhead fixture on Monday.

On the playing front, we have seen four recent departures with Hugo Odogwu-Atkinson, Kyron Richards, Kevin Diomande and Brian Testolin all moving on, with some new faces joining the squad, Alexandre Stingelin, Zaid Ouaret Sorr and Charles Etumnu.

Next up for the first team is Monday's must win trip to Merstham, whilst the 23's host Spelthorne Sports at Banstead Athletic on Tuesday, and the 18's take on Chipstead, here on Wednesday.

Enough from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home, and see you on the 21st.

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

CHIPSTEAD FC



FORMED: 1906

NICKNAME:
The Chips

RECENT YEARS:

Thanks to a grant from the F.A. in 2001, the club was able to purchase additional land, which was developed into mini-soccer pitches to further enhance its youth policy.

More recently in November 2004 a 100-seater stand was installed, which was increased to 150 in March 2007. In May 2006 a covered standing area for 150 people was also erected

2006-07 was the club's 'Centenary' season, and the hope was that it would be a memorable one. On the opening day of the season, the team won their first game and went top of the table; come February, and still top, the decision was made to do the necessary work to achieve the ground upgrading. The next six weeks saw the ground transformed thanks to the incredible hard work of the committee and supporters. The team remained top and promotion to the Ryman League was achieved for the first time in 100 years

In the 2007-08 season Chipstead established themselves in the Ryman League finishing a creditable 15th. They also went on to win the Southern Combination Cup beating Ryman Premier side Ashford Town (Middlesex) in the final.

In 2008-09 Chipstead struggled in the league, but, in the FA Cup, reached the 4th qualifying round for the first time in their history, eventually losing at Torquay United.

2010-11 saw Chipstead finished 10th being their highest position ever

2012-13 was a poor season for the club with no fewer than 4 managers - Mark

Tompkins left the club after just one game; assistant Mick Read stepped in as temporary manager for a month, before the club appointed John Hamsher.

Things seemed fine until January, when results took a dip. John decided to step down in early April, with vice-chairman Mick Ford taking over the reins for the final 3 matches. In 2013-14 Chipstead started the season with a new management team - Kevin Rayner, with Roly Martin as his assistant, and Mark Elgar as technical assistant. From August until the end of October 7 games out of 21 were won in all competitions, including losing both F.A. Trophy & F.A. Cup matches within eight days. Geoff Corner stepped aside as Chairman, with Mick Ford taking up the position. Mick's first task was to appoint a new manager in Steve Baker. A mid-table finish of 13th was a great turnaround for the club. Steve left the club in 2014-15, and was replaced by Simon Colbran.

Following a poor start to the 2015/16 season, Simon resigned, and was replaced by Lyndon Buckwell. Unable to turn things around, Lyndon was himself replaced by Craig Tanner, well known to Tooting & Mitcham folk, who, with Adam Moriarty, ultimately managed to save the club from relegation with a few games to spare. Craig & Adam then left the club during the summer.

Having former club players in management gave everyone at the club a lift, and they quickly got to work, and comfortably avoided relegation.

They laid the foundations for the 2017-18 season, & remain at the same

level to this day, although the powers that be put the club in the Bostik League South Central Division for 2018/19.

This provided many new clubs in opposition, yet Chipstead held their own in the division, although Antony decided to step aside, as the season drew to a close – his two coaches, Rob Kember & Rob Smith stepped forward to take up the mantle & lead the club into the 2019/20 season in the newly-named BetVictor Isthmian League South Central Division – the club was doing well, although their last game on 10th March ended up in a 2-0 defeat to Ashford Town, but there was still a chance of reaching the playoffs, but then COVID struck...

In 2020/21 the club only got to play 8 league matches, & was 13th in the table, when things ground to a halt again, although Chipstead had won 3 FA Cup ties, with keeper Oliver Pain saving a penalty in each, before the road to Wembley ended at Hayes & Yeading after another penalty shootout. Last season, 2021/22, Chipstead finished 10th in the league, but went on a fine unbeaten run at the end, remaining undefeated after losing to champions Bracknell on 12th February

Scan the QR code for full history.



HONOURS:

Combined Counties League Premier Division champions:

1989–90, 2006–07

Premier Division Challenge Cup winners

1992–93, 1994–95

Challenge Trophy winners:

1986–87, 1990–91

East Surrey Charity Cup Winners

1960–61

THE GROUND:

The club play at High Road, which was originally part of the Shabden Park Farm estate owned by Lord Marshall. The ground was bought from the local council in 1998. A 100-seat stand was erected in 2004 to replace an old wooden stand. There is also covered standing for 150 installed behind one goal. The ground currently has a capacity of 2,000, of which 150 is seated and 200 covered.



TODAY'S OPPONENTS

MEET THE PLAYERS

MANAGEMENT

Manager - Rob Kember – appointed following Antony Williams' departure in April 2019, Rob has a wealth of experience to his name having played at Crystal Palace, Woking, Basingstoke, Crawley Town, Lewes, Tonbridge Angels, Eastbourne Borough, Whyteleafe & at Chipstead

Assistant manager – Rob Smith – previously assistant manager at Merstham & part of the Whyteleafe coaching team, + a player at Crystal Palace, Woking, Met Police & Whyteleafe before that
1st team coach – Dean Sammut – Academy Director of Teknika, linked to the club's under-18 set-up – previously played at Crystal Palace, Sutton Utd. & Barnet

Coach – Allan Tait – a forward with a wealth of playing experience at Deal Town, Folkestone, Crawley Town, East Grinstead, Eastbourne Borough & Dartford before Chipstead

Goalkeeping coach – David Wilkinson – provides sessions for all ages & abilities in the South London area, besides being a lorry & bus driving instructor – previously played at Crystal Palace, Forest Green Rovers, Dover Athletic, Welling Utd. & Eastleigh – is registered as the club's back-up keeper too, having played in the 2 wins over the August bank holiday weekend in 2021

1st team kitman/reserve goalkeeping coach – Tony Stone – needs no introduction to anyone at the High Road, having performed various roles, including playing in goal at Enfield Town in the Velocity Trophy in December 2017

Physio – Tiffany Jones – a welcome & very busy/necessary member of the backroom staff – surely the fastest physio in the division!

GOALKEEPER

Matt Kerbey (20) - a member of Sutton United's squad which won promotion to League 2 in May 2021 – now a full-time contracted player with Sutton, but is on a long-term loan to Chipstead for this season, after playing last term too - has also played at Sheerwater – already on good shot-stopping form in this campaign, especially behind the resolute defence at table-topping Northwood in the hard-fought 0-0 draw in the league

DEFENDERS

Zohair (Syed Irtiza-)Ali (18) – promising young centre-half, captain of Chipstead's under-18 side last season, & made his senior debut in the 3-0 win at Ashford Town (Middlesex) in March

Chris Boulter (38) an experienced centre-half, who joined from Dorking Wanderers, & is capable of forging good defensive partnerships, whoever he is paired with – has often captained the side, but saw his last season cruelly cut short, when he broke a leg, but is now hopefully well on the way back to full fitness

Arron Fray (35) – experienced defender, joined during the close season from Glebe – made his debut in the SCR home game

Ollie Hamstead (19) – rejoins the club, having been a prominent member of the under-18s' side – has since played in the Sutton Common Rovers first team last season

Tyreese Heslop (19) promising defender, who joined from Dulwich Hamlet in the close season, & made his debut in the Tunbridge Wells FA Cup game

Charlie Kennett (19) attacking left-back, who signed from Tooting Bec during last season, made a promising debut in the league at Chertsey Town in January, & then spent some time on trial in Lithuania – scored the 1st goal v. Waltham Abbey in the 4-2 FA Trophy win, but sustained a bad back injury at Heybridge Swifts in the next round – good to see him back as fit & tenacious as ever

Jerry O'Sullivan (32) pacy right-back, recently signed from Leatherhead, formerly with South Park, Dorking Wanderers, Horsham & Tonbridge Angels – made his debut in the 1-1 home league draw with Merstham, & scored the 3rd goal in the 4-1 league win at Ashford Town (Middlesex)

Daniel Pappoe (28) defender signed from Carshalton Athletic during the close season – has previously played at Dulwich Hamlet too – scored the 1st goal in the 4-1 league win at Ashford Town (Middlesex)

Teddy Perkins (22) an imposing central defender, who was on Watford's books as a young player, & now re-joins the club from Concord Rangers, having also played for Welling Utd., Tonbridge Angels & Canvey Island, as well as a loan spell at the High Road early in the 2021/22 season

Michak Stanic-Stewart (24) dependable defender, whether asked to play at full-back or centre-half – he likes to get forward & go for goal too – will be hoping to avoid the injury woes of last season

Peter Wedgeworth (29) a reliable full-back or wing-back, down the left flank, joined from Glebe last season, but was previously at Tooting & Mitcham too – made his debut away at Sutton Common Rovers in the league in December 2021

MIDFIELDERS:

Thompson Adeyemi (22) signed recently from Bedworth Utd., & made his debut as sub in the 2-1 home league defeat to Guernsey – has previously played at Grays Athletic too

Tom Annetts (17) another product of the Chipstead under-18s, a promising right-sided full-back or wing-back, who will be looking to avoid any more injuries, & make his mark in the 1st team this term – scored from distance in the FA Trophy win at Hashtag Utd. last season

Josh Burr (17) – another player progressing from the Chipstead under-18s – likes to play up front too + go for goal

Warren Colman (18) made his debut coming on as sub at Hashtag Utd. in the FA Trophy win last season, having arrived from Chessington & Hook, & scored the fourth goal in the 4-2 league win at Chertsey Town in March – he is now dual-registered with Redhill to get more game time

Jenson Grant (31) joined from Three Bridges a few seasons back – shows his strength in both penalty areas, & can play in midfield or defence – another hoping to remain injury-free in this new campaign – scored the 3rd goal in the 4-2 FA Trophy win over Waltham Abbey & the equaliser in the 2-1 league win over Uxbridge

Kieran Lavery (32) great to see him back at the High Road, predominantly playing wide on the left, & looking to get forward, when he can – he has also previously played at Horsham & South Park – regularly on the scoresheet last term, & was undefeated as club captain in the unbeaten run in the last few months of the season.

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

MEET THE PLAYERS cont...

Armani-Jordan Martin (20) athletic winger, who likes to get forward down either flank & has rejoined the club from Bromley, after 2 short loan stays at the High Road last season, scoring a cracking goal in the Guernsey away game

Bobby Moore (17) promising midfielder, who has recently signed from Sutton Common Rovers, where he was part of their under-18 league-winning team last season – he had also signed first team forms with Tonbridge Angels & Carshalton Athletic

Tom Smith (18) grandson of Crystal Palace's former manager, Alan Smith – another product of the Teknika Pro under-18 set-up at the High Road – has also played for Whyteleafe Youth – made his league debut in the 3-0 home win over Westfield last season – scored his 1st league goal in the 1-1 home draw v. Binfield

Leon Starkey-Dyer (17) another promising young player who starred with the club's under-18 side last season, now looking to make his mark in the 1st team

FORWARDS

Sam Bell (31) a proven goalscorer at this level, whether as centre-forward or pushed wider on the right, who will hope to quickly recover from injury & contend for the golden boot again this season – previously played for Lingfield Town, Stafford Rangers, Sutton Coldfield & Brocton

Michael Dixon (30) joined during the close season from Tooting & Mitcham, a proven goalscorer, who scored the goal in the 2-1 FA Cup defeat to Tunbridge Wells, the 4th in the 4-2 FA Trophy win over Waltham Abbey, the 1st in the 3-2

league win at Leatherhead, the goal in the 2-1 home league defeat to Guernsey, the penalty to seal the 5-2 league win at Hanworth Villa, the 3rd goal in the 3-3 league draw at Westfield & the match-clinching 2nd in the 2-0 home league win over Tooting & Mitcham from wide on the right

Jonathan Hood (31) has now received international clearance to begin his career at the High Road, arriving from Barry Town United FC in Wales – has also played for Aegir in Iceland, Port Talbot, Cobham & Briton Ferry Llansawel – trained pre-season with Kingstonian too – scored the 2nd goal in the 4-2 FA Trophy win over Waltham Abbey, the goal in the 2-1 FA Trophy defeat at Heybridge Swifts, the late winner in the 2-1 home league win v. Uxbridge, the winning goal in the 3-2 league victory at Leatherhead, the 4th goal in the 4-1 league win at Ashford Town (Middlesex), the 1st in the 2-0 home league win over Chertsey Town & the 2nd goal in the 3-3 league draw at Westfield

Andy (Kabuiku) Somo (23) a bustling centre-forward, who joined from Croydon FC during the 2021/22 close season, & took the division by storm, scoring over 20 goals, claiming the club Golden Boot & player of the season awards – everyone at the club is delighted he has signed up for the new season, & he has started back on the goal trail again, netting the 2nd in the 4-3 home league defeat to Sutton Common Rovers, the 2nd in the 3-2 league win at Leatherhead, the 2nd in the 4-1 league win at Ashford Town (Middlesex), the 2nd in the 2-0 home league win over Chertsey Town, the 1st four (!) in the 5-2 league win at Hanworth Villa, the 1st goal in the 3-3 league draw at Westfield & the opener in the 2-0 home league win over Tooting & Mitcham

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SPOT THE BALL



Action from the our final home game of 2022 and Shakeel Morris challenges the Marlow defender, but where is the ball...

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FROM THE GAFFER



We caught up with Darren Salmon as he looks forward to the New Year and the challenges that lie ahead.

GB: The end of 2022 was tough as we had a run of seven defeats in nine games. It has left us precariously placed near the relegation zone. How do you plan to steer the lads clear of danger?

DS: Hi Gary, thanks for reminding me "lol" but tbh we are only half way through this season and there will no doubt be changes of personnel and style. Football is a confidence thing and I still firmly believe we know what it takes to navigate through these choppy waters...

GB: After Lee's departure you have moved quickly to secure the services of the experienced Sam Morgan, coming in as assistant manager. What does Sam bring to the group.

DS: Honestly we are still finding our feet so its early to tell his absolute strengths, but I have known Sam a long time and he knows the club, the culture, the family etc so I believe given a few weeks he will bring a renewed positivity and fresh ideas that MAY be just what the group need right now -

GB: We have 18 games left starting with today, what realistically do you see as a points total that will see us safe?

DS: 1 more than the 4 clubs below us...

GB: There have been some further tweaks to the squad, with young keeper Dan O'Donovan and wideman Zaid Ourret Sorr coming on board. What do they add to the squad.

DS: As I said G and I am not dodging these, but it's early doors and we are tinkering where we feel we need to, I don't think anyone would argue that some players have looked jaded and we need to freshen as appropriate pal

GB: Finally, Chipstead come to us today in a good run of form. They will provide a tough test, but also show the lads what can happen if you get on a run. What are you expecting from them today?

DS: We have shown recently we can compete in spells within matches, this one is about competing for 90+ minutes and taking chances, coupled with less individual errors I think it could be a very close game...

Enjoy the match cheers -

MATCH REPORT:

LEATHERHEAD (VELOCITY)

Sutton Common Rovers	Wednesday 21st December 2022	Leatherhead
<div>1</div> Endurance Johnson <div>2</div> Rhamar Garrett-Doug... <div>3</div> Kelvin Manuel Maba... <div>4</div> Kyron Richards <div>5</div> Liam Holden <div>6</div> Hugo Odogwu-Atkins... <div>7</div> Tyrese Sutherland <div>8</div> Shawn Lyle <div>9</div> Connor French <div>10</div> Shakeel Morris <div>11</div> Tyler Cox <div>12</div> Chibuikem Nzeh <div>14</div> Ryan Stedman-Hoyte <div>15</div> Brian Testolin <div>20</div> Daniel O'Donovan <div>16</div> Courtney Swaby	<div>Sutton Common Rovers 2</div> <div>Leatherhead 2</div> <div>Leatherhead win 4-3 on penalties</div> <div>Velocity Cup Fourth Round</div> <div>Attendance: 84</div> <div>Kick-off: 7.45pm</div> <div>Info Videos</div> <div>Match Information</div> <div>Leatherhead win 4-3 on penalties</div> <div>Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 2-2 Leatherhead</div> <div>Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-2 Leatherhead</div>	<div>1</div> Slavomir Huk <div>2</div> Maxwell Mullins <div>3</div> Louis Collins <div>4</div> Chikanele Elechi <div>5</div> Harry Osborne <div>6</div> Oliver Allen <div>7</div> Adam Neal <div>8</div> Keane Anderson <div>9</div> Fikayo Atewologun <div>10</div> Omarr Lawson <div>11</div> Archie Burnett <div>12</div> Luke Phair <div>14</div> Robert McGowan <div>15</div> Jake Eales <div>16</div> Lewis Peach <div>17</div> Toby McKimm

Rovers bowed out of the Velocity Cup on Wednesday night when going down on penalties to Leatherhead after the sides had played out an entertaining 2-2 draw.

Rovers struck first, early in the game when Liam Holden turned home a low Tyler Cox free kick and side-footed home a neat finish. Rovers were enjoying a strong opening and just before the quarter hour good work by Connor French saw him set up Cox on the left but he was denied by a timely challenge by Maxwell Mullins.

Leatherhead were getting back into the game and on 18 minutes a delightful ball round the corner by Fikayo Atewologun found Adam Neal but his effort washed straight at endurance Johnson. A minute later and the scores were level, Neal beat Kelvin Mabango and the ball into the area was fired home by Keane Anderson to bring the scores level.

It was all Leatherhead now and Omarr Lawson saw a goalbound effort well saved by Johnson. Shawn Lyle saw a left footed effort for Rovers deflected behind for a corner but it was Leatherhead who struck next.

With the half approaching injury time, we fell behind. Having failed to clear a corner, the follow up shot came in and struck the post, and Lawson was on hand to poke the ball home.

The second half was a more cagey affair with neither side able to find another goal. We made a succession of changes with Courtney Swaby, Franklin Nzeh, Brian Testolin and Ryan Stedman-Hoyte entering proceedings.

The changes seemed to have the desired effect, with just over 20 minutes remaining a dangerous Swaby free kick was well defended by Oliver Allen, as we pushed for an equaliser.

Chances came at both ends and a dangerous Archie Burnett free kick struck our bar and from the clearance and break, Rovers debutant Shakeel Morris was denied by a great save by Leatherhead keeper Slavomir Huk.

From the the corner Huk spilt the ball and substitute Testolin forced the ball home for 2-2.

Full time came with the scores level and the sides went to penalties.

Leatherhead struck first and we levelled through Swaby, Leatherhead retook the lead and Testolin's effort his effort saved by Huk to leave the visitors 2-1 to the good.

The visitors increased it to 3-1, before Rhamar Garrett-Douglas made it 3-2. Leatherhead made it 4-2, before Hugo Odogwu-Atkinson reduced the arrears to 4-3.

With a chance to win the game, Leatherhead skied their penalty over the bar, but Rovers were unable to take advantage, Huk saving Kyron Richards' spot kick to put the visitors through.

MATCH REPORT:

MARLOW

Sutton Common Rovers	Wednesday 28th December 2022	Marlow
<div>1 Daniel O'Donovan</div> <div>2 Rhamar Garrett-Doug...</div> <div>3 Ryan Stedman-Hoyte</div> <div>4 Liam Holden</div> <div>5 Zak Brown</div> <div>6 Hugo Odogwu-Atkins...</div> <div>7 Shakeel Morris</div> <div>8 Siao Blackwood</div> <div>9 Brian Testolin</div> <div>10 Courtney Swaby</div> <div>11 Tyler Cox</div> <div>12 Kevin Diomande</div> <div>14 Kelvin Manuel Mabango</div> <div>15 Kyron Richards</div> <div>16 Tyrese Sutherland</div> <div>20 Endurance Johnson</div>	<div>Sutton Common Rovers 1</div> <div>Shakeel Morris (39')</div> <div>Marlow 3</div> <div>Toby Raggett (47')</div> <div>Aaron McLeish-White (51')</div> <div>Nawaf Naheer-Omar (90')</div> <div>Isthmian League - South Central Division</div> <div>Attendance: 101</div> <div>Kick-off: 7.45pm</div> <div>Info Videos</div> <div>Match Information</div> <div>Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-3 Marlow</div> <div>Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-0 Marlow</div>	<div>1 Aaron Watkins</div> <div>3 Elijah Oladunjoye</div> <div>17 Curtis Chapple</div> <div>4 Louis Rogers</div> <div>6 Alex Salmon</div> <div>16 Benjamin Mulley</div> <div>2 Junaid Bell</div> <div>14 Toby Raggett</div> <div>12 Joshua Boorn</div> <div>10 Aaron McLeish-Wh...</div> <div>11 Nawaf Naheer-Omar</div> <div>18 Adam Green</div> <div>9 Charles Samuel</div> <div>15 Tristan Campbell</div> <div>8 Haziz Kone</div> <div>19 Kenny Watson</div>

Rovers slumped to a sixth straight league defeat when they suffered a case of post-Christmas blues against high flying Marlow.

After a slow start it was Rovers who had the first chance on eight minutes when neat work by Tyler Cox saw him link up with Shakeel Morris and Courtney Swaby and set up Rhamar Garrett-Douglas but his effort was deflected wide. A minute later and a poor clearance by debutant keeper Dan O'Donovan only reached Nawaf Naheer Omar he quickly played the ball in to Josh Boorn but Ryan Stedman-Hoyte was across quickly to clear.

Marlow had a goal disallowed on 12 minutes when a low cross by Naheer-Omar found the impressive Aaron McLeish-White but he had strayed just too far forward and saw his strike ruled out for offside. We responded positively, and after neat work by Garrett-Douglas a decent Siao Blackwood cross was headed goalwards by Brian Testolin and was blocked by Louis Rogers, with more than a hint of handball.

Boorn whipped in a cross from the left on 20 minutes but McLeish-White could only guide his header against the post and a minute later McLeish-White chipped an effort over the bar after a poor O'Donovan clearance.

Rovers should have taken the lead midway through the half, Testolin saw his shot deflected away from goal, Garrett-Douglas's low cross was heading for Morris, but Rogers was able to intercept and the chance was gone (see the spot the ball).

Testolin forced a tidy save out of Aaron Watkins as Rovers had their best spell of the game. Morris was proving more and more influential and good work on the half hour saw him set up Cox but his shot was deflected behind for a corner.

Rovers took a deserved lead on 38 minutes, good work by Swaby and Cox saw them win possession on the left and find Morris. He drifted beyond Curtis Chapple and as Rogers came to challenge he fired low passed Watkins for 1-0.

Boorn forced a good save out of O'Donovan on the stroke of half time, with Benjamin Mulley's follow up going high and wide and Rovers took a one goal lead into the break.

If the first half was up their with the best performances of the season, then you would be hard pushed to find a worse half than that of the second half.

Marlow were level seconds into the second half. A long ball forward was half cleared by Stedman-Hoyte and quickly transferred out to Toby Raggett and his shot was deflected beyond O'Donovan by Hugo Odogwu-Atkinson.

Five minutes later and the game had spun on its head as Marlow took the lead. A ball down the right found the flying Naheer-Omar and his low cross was fired home by McLeish-White.

We responded positively and a powerful run by Morris saw him set up Testolin and his shot was deflected wide, although, bizarrely given as a goal kick.

Cox whipped in a free kick, which was deflected behind by Boorn, as Rovers looked to get themselves level. The corner was weak and cleared.

Naheer-Omar crashed a fierce effort against the crossbar, with O'Donovan beaten and the visitors continued to up the pressure and looked to seal the game.

Naheer-Omar hit the side netting with a low cross as he looked to catch O'Donovan out at his near post and with 15 minutes remaining he crashed another effort against the crossbar with the young Rovers keeper beaten.

Rovers pushed forward again and after neat work by substitute Tyrese Sutherland, on for Testolin, Kevin Diomande saw his well struck shot blocked and cleared away for a throw in.

It was game over as the game ticked onto 90 minutes, a dinked ball over the top by Mulley saw Naheer-Omar race clear of Liam Holden and calmly fire the ball beyond O'Donovan.

Rovers ended brightly and a late chance for skipper Garrett-Douglas saw him clip the top of the crossbar from distance, and that was that.

Rovers need to find some form from somewhere, as they continue to slide down the table.

MATCH PICS: MARLOW



Top: Shakeel Morris on his way to opening the scoring;

Inset: debutant keeper Dan O'Donovan and Liam Holden;

Below: the lads celebrate the goal.



OUR VOLUNTEERS—THANK YOU

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We are blessed at the club to have some wonderful support in the form of our fantastic volunteers, so to all of them we offer a massive thank you.

They are **Justin Salmon**, general and matchday secretary, Justin ensures that team-sheet are submitted and put onto football web pages.

More importantly he has been instrumental in liaising with the council with regards to the David Weir Leisure Centre.

Assisting Justin is **Scott Wallage**, who is responsible for sending out matchday details to the opposition.

When you visit the ground, and listen to the PA you will hear the dulcet tones of **Blake Tann-Salmon**, reading out team lists, confirming incidents and generally giving out helpful advice at the ground.

Visiting committee members are welcomed into the Boardroom by **Val Roots** and **Kaz Salmon**, readily on hand with tea/coffee/cake and biscuits, plus making sure the players all get their post game food.

Not to be left out, Val's other half, **Mick (Murfet)** is our head steward, responsible for keeping any unruly elements (Dazza excluded) in check, and ensuring player safety as they leave and enter the pitch.

Assisting Mick in this arduous task, is **Ben Streeter**, Ben has been part of the club, ever since his mum was bought on board by Darren. Ben also has the good fortune to be a Palace fan.

In the turnstiles you will meet the wonderful **Steve Casserley**, who is always ready with a smile and a chat (and a West Ham comment if at all possible), Steve came down with his grandson about seven years ago, and after Andrew stopped playing he stayed on.

He is also one of the nicest people you could want to meet.

Also helping on the turnstiles is **Georgia Soper**, who has been roped in by Justin to help out, Georgia also keeps on top of the social media, whenever yours truly fails to update something.

A new addition is **Jon Tanton**, who has been helping out with match reports when the media manager is missing due to work.

Finally for the seniors, **Becky** has come on board over the back end of last season and this season, and helps Blake with the club shop.

Her two boys, who are Colts members, also come out with the side on matchdays. We also need to thank former club shop manager **Mark Bruce** for his efforts, until work made it impossible for him to continue the task.

We also need to say a huge thank you to Colts secretary **Karen Farley**, for all the work she does.

If I have missed anyone, apologies, it is not deliberate.

LATEST RESULTS

MONDAY 26th DECEMBER

Bedfont Sports 2-2 Ashford Town (Middx)

Hanworth Villa 0-4 Chertsey Town

South Park (Reigate) 1-1 Merstham

Southall 1-2 Northwood

Thatcham Town 2-0 Uxbridge

Tooting & Mitcham United 1-0 Guernsey

Walton & Hersham 0-2 Leatherhead

TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER

Westfield 3-3 Chipstead

WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER

Sutton Common Rovers 1-3 Marlow

MONDAY 2nd JANUARY

Ashford Town (Middx) 1-3 Southall

Basingstoke Town 2-0 Thatcham Town

Chertsey Town 3-0 Westfield

Chipstead 2-0 Tooting & Mitcham United

Guernsey P-P South Park (Reigate)

Leatherhead 4-3 Sutton Common Rovers

Marlow 2-2 Binfield

















Merstham 3-3 Walton & Hersham

Northwood 1-4 Hanworth Villa

Uxbridge 2-3 Bedfont Sports

LEAGUE TABLE (as at 3.1.23)

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
 1 Northwood	20	13	1	6	35	25	+10	40
 2 Walton & Hersham	20	12	1	7	45	29	+16	37
 3 Marlow	19	11	4	4	35	19	+16	37
 4 Basingstoke Town	18	11	2	5	41	18	+23	35
 5 Chertsey Town	18	9	5	4	39	18	+21	32
 6 South Park	18	10	2	6	22	20	+2	32
 7 Southall	18	8	6	4	28	19	+9	30
 8 Westfield	18	8	5	5	28	19	+9	29
 9 Binfield	16	8	4	4	32	20	+12	28
 10 Hanworth Villa	18	7	6	5	28	30	-2	27
 11 Chipstead	18	7	5	6	29	27	+2	26
 12 Leatherhead	18	6	4	8	21	28	-7	22
 13 Uxbridge	17	6	3	8	21	21	0	21
 14 Ashford Town (Middx)	17	6	2	9	19	38	-19	20
 15 Thatcham Town	18	5	4	9	24	28	-4	19
 16 Bedfont Sports	19	4	7	8	22	30	-8	19
 17 Sutton Common Rovers	20	5	1	14	24	44	-20	16
 18 Tooting & Mitcham United	18	3	5	10	17	32	-15	14
 19 Merstham	19	1	8	10	20	38	-18	11
 20 Guernsey	17	2	5	10	9	36	-27	11

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Bedfont Sports v Basingstoke Town
 Hanworth Villa v Uxbridge
 South Park v Chertsey Town
 Southall v Merstham
 Tooting & Mitcham United v Northwood
 Walton & Hersham v Marlow
 Westfield v Leatherhead

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, Stedman-Hoyte	365
7th Jan	ILSC	H	CHIPSTEAD				
9th Jan	ILSC	A	Merstham				
14th Jan	ILSC	A	Guernsey				
21st Jan	ILSC	H	BASINGSTOKE TOWN				
28th Jan	ILSC	A	Walton & Hersham				
4th Feb	ILSC	A	Hanworth Villa				
11th Feb	ILSC	A	Uxbridge				
15th Feb	ILSC	A	Bedfont Sports				
18th Feb	ILSC	H	SOUTH PARK (REIGATE)				
25th Feb	ILSC	A	Southall				
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)				



CAREER RECORDS

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2022/23 Season						Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
GARRETT-DOUGLAS, Rhamar	22	2	0	5	1	24	0
LLOYD, Bertie	21	1	2	2	0	22	2
JOHNSON, Endurance	21	0	0	1	0	21	0
SURMON, Matt	19	5	2	1	0	24	2
LYLE, Shawn	18	3	5	4	0	75	19
COX, Tyler	17	3	0	1	0	20	0
DIOMANDE, Kevin	16	3	2	10	0	19	2
SWABY, Courtney	16	3	0	3	1	19	0
HALSEY, Tony	16	1	3	5	0	28	7
AKMEL, Stephane	6	3	0	1	0	13	0
HOLDEN, Liam	6	1	1	2	0	367	107
SONGOLO, Kevin	6	1	0	3	0	7	0
SUTHERLAND, Tyrese	5	4	2	0	0	9	2
TANTON, Matt	5	2	0	1	1	157	5
NZEH, Franklin	4	3	0	1	0	7	0
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	4	2	0	1	0	9	0
BROWN, Zac	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
FRENCH, Connor	3	0	0	0	0	12	5
MORRIS, Shakeel	3	0	2	0	0	3	2
UZOR, Tobe	2	3	0	1	0	12	0
CREED, Ollie	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
MABANGO, Kelvin	2	0	0	1	0	2	0
BAKER, George	1	2	1	1	0	11	2
BLACKWOOD, Siao	1	2	0	0	0	3	0
HUNT, Aaron	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
STINGELIN, Alexandre	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
ETUMNU, Charles	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
OUARET SORR, Zaid	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
O'DONOVAN, Daniel	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
MAMPOLO, Francis	0	3	1	0	0	3	1
COULIBALY, Abdoulaye	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
GUEST, Luke	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
ERNE, John	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

Stats only include players still with the club

The Untold Game

A Swedish Knight, An English Visionary

It isn't even five minutes into the 1958 World Cup final when Nils Liedholm picks up the ball. He beats the first man, and then the second. Finding himself in space, he shoots, and the net billows. The Swedish home crowd erupts, and they lead Brazil. On the touchline, at the pinnacle of a remarkable career, stands an Englishman. George Raynor may not be much remembered in his homeland, but his services to football earned him a Swedish knighthood, and he could be the most consistently successful international manager England has ever produced.

Sent to Iraq as a fitness instructor to the Ninth Army, the former footballer encouraged his sport. When Prime Minister Nuri Al-Said decided that his country needed a football team, there was one obvious candidate. Raynor became the first manager of the Iraq national side, overseeing exhibition matches against Lebanon and Syria, as well as representative teams from the British and Polish militaries.

Following the war, Raynor returned home, but his progressive style was difficult to implement. After losing his job at Aldershot, he met with another forward-thinker, Sir Stanley Rous, who suggested the Sweden needed a coach to prepare for the 1948 Olympics. Not an easy task for a country that still demanded amateur football. But Raynor was blessed, and Sweden were dripping with talent. Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm were the creative force, while Gunnar Nordahl was an unbelievably prolific striker. Under Raynor, the Swedes scored a remarkable 22 goals in their four games as the romped to the gold medal. It is still Sweden's greatest footballing triumph.

Following that success, there was clearly a lot of European interest in Raynor's players, and Gren, Liedholm and Nordahl all moved to Milan, forming the famous Gre-No-Li. Nordahl's two brothers, also integral parts of the national team, went to Italy too. Unfortunately, this was the end of their international careers, as Raynor was unable to call up professional players.

Not for the last time, Raynor had to rebuild. Committed to the improvement of Swedish football he took charge at AIK alongside his international commitments, winning the Swedish Cup twice before turning his focus to Brazil in 1950.

Such were the limitations, Raynor's World Cup squad of 22 players included 14 who hadn't been good enough to make the Olympic squad just two years earlier. But after four years in charge, Raynor had his team purring. Their first match was against Italy, the nation that had deprived them of so many players and the reigning world champions. Sweden dispatched them, 3-2. It was the Azzurri's first loss at a World Cup.

A draw with Paraguay saw them into the final group stage, but losses to Brazil and Uruguay cost them a chance at the big prize. Sweden ran out a creditable third.

Raynor (pictured right) would repeat his third place finish at the 1952 Olympics, despite ten more of his World Cup squad leaving for professional football, before the job of constantly rebuilding the side became too much. In 1954, to the dismay of Swedish football fans, he left for Juventus.



Unfortunately, his club career didn't match his international one. Quickly moved out of Turin, he initially did well to save Lazio from relegation. Sweden, catastrophically, failed to qualify for the 1954 World Cup without him, something that finally prompted the FA to consider professionalism. Suddenly a whole host of exceptional Swedish talent was available once more.

Raynor moved back to England and took charge of third division Coventry City as Sweden prepared to host the 1958 World Cup. But it was too strong a love affair, and when the Englishman was dismissed from his post in the Midlands, Scandinavia came calling again. One last shot at the big prize, with a home crowd and the cream of Swedish talent.

Raynor's Sweden looked every bit the force that surprised Europe for much of the previous decade, beating Hungary and Mexico before drawing with Wales, with qualification secured. They saw off a strong Soviet side in the quarter finals and the reigning champions, West Germany, in the semi-final, setting up an exciting tie with Brazil. Sadly, for Swedish hopes, this was merely the swansong of their golden age, while their opponents were right at the start of theirs, which would eclipse all others. Vava equalised and then gave Brazil the lead, before Pele (right) took charge as Brazil romped to their first World Cup victory. It was the last international match for Raynor, and he returned to his homeland.

Recognising his brilliance, and with English football desperately needing to evolve, the only work he could find was with non-league Skegness Town.

Enjoy the game.

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

ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

Woods Wobble!

Northwood take a Hanworth hammering, whilst Walton, Marlow and Stoke narrow the gap. Chertsey, Southall, Chipstead, Bedfont and Leatherhead also pick up three Pitching In Isthmian South Central points.

Northwood have had a fine campaign, but one of their few slips this season came against **Hanworth Villa** back in September, a three-nil Trophy defeat one of the low points of their campaign. On that note there may have been some concern amongst the home fans at the sight of the Villains appearing on the horizon yesterday- and it turned out that they would have been right to be concerned, as the visitors delivered a thumping to our leaders. Villa went ahead on eleven minutes, Kyen Nicholas opening the scoring, and George Wells made it two before the break. Five minutes after the restart Nicholas added a third, and almost immediately the visitors went four up, Jacob Erskine with that one. New signing Gareth Chendlik got one back from the spot just before the end, but it wasn't much of a consolation for the hosts.

Three points further back, **Walton & Hersham** have become terribly inconsistent. The Swans had won five and lost five of their previous ten matches as they headed to bottom side **Merstham**, and they let slip a two goal lead to take only a point from their encounter with the Moatsiders. Jordan Adeyemi put the visitors ahead just after the half hour, and they were almost immediately two goals to the good, Eddie Simon's fifteenth of the season leaving them seemingly comfortable. Comfort was an illusion, however, as first Aziz Sankoh and then Lorenzo Lewis struck back for the hosts- and although John Gilbert put the Swans ahead once more, Jordan Wilson had the last word for Merstham, equalising with fourteen minutes remaining.

Third place **Marlow** are three points off the top- although they have a game in hand and a better goal difference than the leaders. They welcomed **Binfield** to the land where the red kites fly free, and may have been concerned about the arrival of the Moles given they'd already lost twice to them this season in cup competitions.

The visitors came close to making it three wins out of three. Taylor Morgan put them ahead on seventeen minutes, and although Nawaf Naheer-Omar equalised for the hosts just before the break Brandon Curtis restored Binfield's lead with only eleven minutes to go. Into the last minute and Aaron McLeish-White grabbed the goal that earned Marlow a point- his sixth of the campaign.

Basingstoke Town saw their five match winning streak come to an end against Walton & Hersham last time out, but quickly put that behind them against **Thatcham Town**. Both goals arrived in the six minutes immediately after the break, George Reid and Bradley Wilson earning three points and lifting his side to within five points of the leaders- with two games in hand. Eight hundred and two watched on.

Chertsey Town looked back to their best in defeating Hanworth Villa four-nil on Boxing Day, and they added three more goals to defeat **Westfield**.

The goals all arrived in the second half, and two of them arrived in the last eight minutes as Field's resistance finally evaporated. Jonathan Hippolyte opened the scoring for the Curfews just after the break, and with the visitors pushing for an equaliser William Montague delivered the killer blow eight minutes from time. Hippolyte made quite sure with the third, three minutes before the end- and his side are up to fifth.

We had a derby on the outskirts of the airport as **Ashford Town** welcomed **South-all**. The visitors have had a fine season and were in good form, with only two narrow defeats from ten matches, and were ahead on twenty minutes, Jaden Thompson-Brissett opening the scoring. The second goal arrived just after the hour and it again went to Hall, Emmanuel Williams with it- and with thirteen minutes to go Thompson-Brissett made quite sure by getting a third. An own goal gave the scoreline a little more respect just before the end, but the visitors close to within two points of the top five.

Chipstead had been excellent of late, and welcomed **Tooting & Mitcham United** to the High Road looking to defend a seven match unbeaten run. They did more than defend it, they extended it, a two-nil win with a goal in each half the outcome. Andy Kabuikusomo's tenth of the season got them underway- that's eight in his last six matches for the Chips number nine- and right at the end Michael Dixon added another. The Terrors are eighteenth, seven places and twelve points behind their hosts.

Uxbridge welcomed **Bedfont Sports**- newly reinforced with two New Years Day signings- to Honeycroft. The hosts have been distracted by their FA Trophy exploits and had only one win from their last five league matches- and by the end it was one win from six, as a fine first half performance saw the visitors home. That first half ended with Sports three goals to the good, Kofi Anoyke-Boadi, Sam Evans and Aidan Brown doing the damage- and although the hosts hit back in the second half with goals from Scott Donnelly and Alex Witham, Sports held on for three points and climbed out of the bottom four.

Leatherhead, boosted by their victory over promotion-chasing Walton & Hersham last time out, triumphed in a seven-goal thriller against **Sutton Common Rovers**. The visitors had the best of the first half and went in ahead, Zaid Oualet Sor and Shakeel Morris putting them two up before Maxwell Mullins got one back for the Tan-ners- but the hosts were quickly out of the blocks after the break, Dave Tarpey and Daniel Hector putting them in charge and three-two up. The lead lasted only a minute before Ryan Stedman-Hoyte equalised for Rovers, and it was next goal wins. Next goal went to the hosts, and it went to Tarpey, his tenth of the season arriving three minutes from time.

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.

NEW YEAR, new you? If you're anything like me, those resolutions will already be a little frayed around the edges.

But as the big clock struck midnight to bring in 2023, it's only natural to look back at the previous 12 months and look ahead to what might be in the ones ahead.

You may have caught it in last week's NLP, but each year we ask a group of people who, like us, love Non-League football and ask the same question – what would you like to see in the coming year.

My own answer, three-up, three-down from the National League into the EFL aside, centres around concussion substitutes. I really believe it's time temporary subs were allowed to give the experts time to assess any potential concussion and ensure the player is given the right care.

We saw it a couple of times in the World Cup where a player clearly played on when he shouldn't have. Allowing some time for him to go off to a quiet part of the stadium and let those in the know run through their protocols is only right. Hopefully it comes in.

Our north-east reporter Mark Carruthers is banging the drum for three-up, three-down in 2023 – it's got to happen soon enough, surely, and a sentiment echoed by BBC Surrey Sport commentator Rob Worrall, who said, 'Without doubt, an additional promotion place from the National League to the EFL. It simply HAS to happen now, with benefits to all – including those 'big' clubs that keep dropping down!'

His colleague at the NL Full Time podcast, Rich Worton, agrees but has an equally seismic change he'd like to be introduced too.

"Is it too obvious to say 'three up, three down' between the EFL and the National League? If it is, then I'd go for a different choice, and say that the implementation of the Crouch report's recommendations and the appointment of an independent regulator for football would be hugely positive, and a sign that the government does care about the national game, rather than just doing so when it is expedient."

Our executive editor Jon Couch would like to see the way games are postponed handled differently. In this current cost of living climate, clubs arriving at grounds only for the game never likely on to be called off is frustrating to say the least.

Another of our regular reporters, Andy Mitchell, is hacked off with how some approach the FA

Trophy. He says: "Stop dismissing FA Trophy. The influx of clubs from the Football League has seen the FA Trophy relegated from the non-league FA Cup to a par with the Papa John's Trophy.

It has a Wembley final and provides memories that last a lifetime – the big guns should take it seriously." Indeed.

What would you like to see changed or introduced in Non-League in 2023? As long as it's not VAR we'll all be fine!

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 taking match notes.

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