



RESPECT

GOOD BEHAVIOUR MAKES FOR A GREAT GAME

Issue #2



**GUERNSEY
FOOTBALL CLUB**



WED 17th AUG 2022 | 7:45pm KICK OFF

Pitching In, Isthmian League | South Central

Whyteleafe Sports Centre | Church Road | CR3 0AR





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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, Mark Bruce, Steve Casserley Francois
Gabbidon, Charlie Hands, Val Roots, Mick Murfet
Alan Reed, Sharon Streets

1st Team Joint Manager - Darren Salmon

1st Team Joint Manager - Lee Flavin

Head Coach - Liam Joyce

Goal Keeping Coach - Sheikh Ceesay

Sports Masseur - Anah Brown

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**

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

 www.suttoncommonrovers.com

 [@official_scrfc](https://twitter.com/@official_scrfc)

 facebook.com/suttoncommonrovers



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

Guernsey FC

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

Good evening ladies and gentleman, welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports Arena for this Isthmian South Central fixture, our first home league game of the season.

We would like to welcome the players, committee and supporters of Guernsey FC and hope that they had a safe flight over and enjoy their stay with us this evening.

We would also like to welcome tonight's match officials, referee Mr Adam Buckley-Jones and his assistants, Mr Owen Lawrence and Mr Kehinde Agboola.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN



We hope they also enjoy their stay with us this evening.

So after the hugely disappointing FA Cup exit at the hands of Fisher, we started our league campaign with all three points, thanks to a win in a seven goal thriller away at local rivals Chipstead.

A double from Shawn Lyle, plus one each from Bertie Lloyd and Kyron Richards doing the damage, in a game that saw the lead changes hands a couple of times, and the Chips reduced to ten men.

Earlier in the day, tonight's opponents were in action away at Thatcham Town and fighting out a 0-0 draw. Judging by the Twitter posts, sounded a really decent game, with both keepers making a string of fine saves, including a stunner from Thatcham's Jack Hopwood—who it has to be said was superb when we played them last year.

So what of tonight's opponents, well last season they did the double over us. We drew the short straw a little bit for the first game, travelling to Guernsey for their first game of the campaign, and buoyed by a large crowd they were quickly two goals up, and although we pulled one back through Dejahn Grant another goal sealed our fate.

The return fixture at Tooting was a fairly tight game, but some shambolic defending early on by us left us with a mountain to climb. To concede one was poor, but to concede a second virtually from our kick off was awful.

So, we are after picking up our first positive result against the Green Lions this evening.

Now I am going to apologise here, but it's rant time. I like to think that we always give due credit when the oppo do something well, be it on the day or in the report. Why is it though that so many people only see things through rose-tinted glasses—maybe we need to start doing it. It gets right on my ...

Scattered throughout the programme you will see some QR codes, just scan them for more information—this could be more on Guernsey or photo albums.

Finally, an apology, in the last home programme there was an image of Fisher's ground with Canary Wharf in the background, and we omitted to credit GR Tourist for the image—so sorry Thom.

Enjoy your time with us this evening, and have safe journeys home wherever you are going to. If you are an SCR fan, see you at Chipstead on Saturday.

Briggers

TONIGHT'S OPPONENTS

GUERNSEY FC

FORMED: 2011

NICKNAME:
THE GREEN LIONS



COMBINED COUNTIES

Joining the CCL for the 2011/12 season, Guernsey started their campaign against Knaphill, and ending up with just two defeat in 34 games and picking up the Division 1 title.

They followed that with a 2-0 win over Colliers Wood Utd in the Premier Challenge Cup to secure a historic double.

The following season saw more success as the side reached the semi final of the FA Vase before bowing out to Spennymoor Town.

They also finished runners up in the Premier Division earning themselves promotion to the Isthmian League.

A remarkable achievement considering they play 16 games in 30 days, including four in four over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

The club finished in 4th spot in their opening campaign in the Isthmian Division 1 South, bowing out of the play offs with a 3-2 defeat away at Leatherhead.

They also created history by being the first Channel Island side to play in the FA Cup, beating Crawley Down Gatwick in their opening game 3-1, before eventually bowing out to Conference South side Dover 3-2.

Two seasons of mid-table finishes followed, with 10th spot in 2014/15 and 13th spot in 2015/16.

2016/17 saw a first ever relegation battle and a home tie in the FA Cup, against Thamesmead Town.

2017/18 saw an 18th placed finished, before a last gasp goal on the final day of the season secured survival in the 2018/19 season.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

2019/20 saw a bright start, despite seven away games to start the season, and the club were shaping up for a play off push, then COVID happened.

Travel restrictions led to the club withdrawing from the 2020/21 season, but players were still able to play in the Priaulx league.

The Isthmian League were understandably sympathetic to the situation and reinstated the side into the fold for the 2021/22 season although they were moved to the Isthmian South Central.

A mid-table finish followed, and the club now look to push on for the 2022/23 season.

DID YOU KNOW:

Guernsey is the second largest channel island, and covers an area of roughly 27 sq miles.

The capital is St Peter Port, and the population of the island is (according to the 2019 census) 62,000.

Guernsey participates in the Island Games, and in the Commonwealth Games, and who can forget the excellent bronze medal in the hurdles for Alastair Chalmers.



ROSS ALLEN...

Talismanic striker with a ridiculous goals to game record (who scores 271 goals in 281 games—just remarkable). Allen joined Guernsey when the club was formed, and proved a nightmare for defenders up and down the Combined Counties League, and then followed that by tormenting sides in the Isthmian League.

We were fortunate enough to avoid coming across him during our CCL days, due to Guernsey's promotion and our relegation, but he wasted no time in finding the net when we did finally play the Green Lions, notching a brace as we slipped to a 3-1 defeat.

He struck in the return fixture just for good measure.



SPOT THE BALL



Action from our opening league game at Chipstead. Tony Halsey challenges a Chipstead defender for the ball, but where is it...

Gary Brigden Professional Photographer

Various photography jobs undertaken:

- ◆ Birthday Parties (Adult & Children)
- ◆ Graduation
- ◆ Pets
- ◆ Photo Shoot
- ◆ Portraits & Family Photos
- ◆ Property
- ◆ Commercial
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FROM THE GAFFER



Good evening Darren, and thanks for taking the time to talk to me.

GB: Firstly we bowed out of the FA Cup a week ago, what were your thoughts on that game?

DS: Obviously it is massively disappointing to go out of the FA Cup at such an early stage, it is such a prestigious competition. We did slightly aggrieved having to be in their at the extra-peliminary stage, but understand numerically that a number of clubs have to, and if criteria was based on last years finishing position then so be it.

To have gone on Saturday and battled out a hard fought and deserved draw at Fisher we would have expected to see more from the lads at Wednesday night at home.

Fisher rightly deserved their victory on the night though, they created more, looked more likely to score and limited us to very little in the way of opportunities. There was a feeling when we did concede that we would not get back into the game even with 10/15 minutes remaining.

GB: So how did you pick the lads up for the opening game of the season?

Saturday away at Chipstead was doubly difficult as we didn't have a session before the game, which highlights one of the challenges with playing home games on a Wednesday. We don't get that time with the lads to pick them up or keep them on an even keel depending on the result

We needed an early meet on the Saturday to pick the lads up and the mood in the group was good.

GB: It was a thrilling encounter up at High Road, but I bet you and Lee went through the ringer?

DS: We wanted a competitive start so to concede within 2/3 minutes was not ideal, but if you want a reaction and response, then to be 2-1 up inside 18 minutes is exactly what you would be looking for.



I thought we were brighter, had more purpose, showed more ingenuity and look more of a threat than in either of the FA Cup games. We felt we had to shuffle the pack because it wasn't good enough, and we had hard conversations with players - even up to Saturday. We needed to make a strong statement and that helped forge the response that we got from the players.

We are obviously thrilled to start the season with three points but disappointed to concede three goals as thought we were more robust than that (Ed:In fairness we had looked that way in pre-season and the FA Cup), but two were avoidable which gives us confidence that we are going the right way, we just need to cut our errors.

GB: Another tough game tonight?

DS: We are looking forward to pitting ourselves against Guernsey tonight, I don't feel we have given a good account of ourselves against them yet, so hopefully we can do that tonight.

MATCH REPORT: FISHER

Sutton Common Rovers	Wednesday 10th August 2022	Fisher
<div>1</div> Endurance Johnson	<div>Sutton Common Rovers</div> 0 <div></div>	<div>Fisher</div> 1 <div></div>
<div>2</div> Rhamar Garrett-Dougl...	Joshua Montella (83')	
<div>3</div> Matthew Tanton	Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay	
<div>4</div> Ryan Dacres-Smith	Attendance: 113	
<div>5</div> Bertie Lloyd	Kick-off: 7.45pm	
<div>6</div> Hugo Odogwu-Atkins...	Venue: VBS Community Stadium	
<div>7</div> Arnaud Akmel	<div>Info</div> <div>Videos</div>	
<div>8</div> Kyron Richards	<div>Match Information</div>	
<div>9</div> Tony Halsey	Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 0-1 Fisher	
<div>10</div> Shawn Lyle	Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 0-0 Fisher	
<div>11</div> Jake Riddington	72' Adeniyi Gbolahan replaced Tony Halsey	
<div>12</div> Ryan Stedman-Hoyte	83' Joshua Montella scores	
<div>14</div> Oliver Creed	84' Oliver Creed replaced Ryan Dacres-Smith	
<div>15</div> Jamal Brimah	86' Bobby Moore replaced Jake Riddington	
<div>16</div> Matthew Surmon		
<div>17</div> Bobby Moore		
<div>18</div> Adeniyi Gbolahan		
<div>20</div> Nathan Boamah		

Line-up not found

Rovers flirtation with this seasons FA Cup ended in ignominious defeat, against lower ranked opposition, in the Extra Preliminary Round.

Having forced a replay following a goalless draw at Fisher's St Pauls Stadium, Rovers fans might have hoped that home advantage would see their side through, but it was not too be.

Darren Salmon and Lee Flavin made a couple of changes from the first game with the experienced Matt Tanton back in the starting line up in place of Ryan Stedman-Hoyte, and youngster Jake Riddington given a first start in place of the injured Brian Testolin.

In a first half that was, lets be generous and say "disappointing", neither side were able to dominate, although you could make the case that we had marginally the better of it.

The first chance did fall to the visitors five minutes in, when they forced a corner on the right, but after a goalmouth scramble Matt Tanton cleared the danger. We broke quickly, and from a low Rhamar Garrett-Douglas cross, Fisher keeper Samuel Amedu got down well to gather the ball. Hugo Odogwu-Atkinson made a good block as Joshua Montella went to strike on 15 minutes and Shawn Lyle fired an effort way wide just after.

It was generally a very scrappy game, with little in the way of good play from either side. The only real moment of note came towards the end of the half when the visitors were lucky not to be reduced to ten men, when Luke Thomas hit Matt Tanton with a horrendous challenge, somehow only earning the offender a yellow.

We had a couple of half chances towards the end of the half, a deep Tanton cross was heading towards Jake Riddington only for a superb clearing header by Foday Jaiteh diverting the ball for a corner, from the corner Lyle headed over the bar.

Early in the second half good play by Darnelle Bailey-King set up Oseman Usifoh but he fired high over the crossbar, and on the hour Fidan Fejzi jinked passed a couple of players and then fired high over the crossbar. Montella then saw an effort blocked behind by Bertie Lloyd as Fisher started to dominate.

Riddington and Rhamar Garrett-Douglas linked up well on the right and a fizzed cross was well defended by Joseph Adewunmi at the near post. We then survived a huge scare when a quick Fisher break saw an underhit backpass find Montella but his effort was well saved by Endurance Johnson.

Fejzi saw an effort chalked off for offside, and with just over 15 minutes remaining we replaced Tony Halsey with Ade Gbolohan. Fejzi who was becoming more influential crashed a superb effort just over the bar and almost immediately Fisher took him off, which at the time looked good for us.

We almost took the lead on 81 minutes, a great move on the right saw Stephane Akmel fire in a dangerous cross which was superbly defended by Sam Fitzgerald, with Lyle poised to pounce. Fisher launched the ball forward where a couple of poor defensive headers led to the ball falling at the feet of Montella. Johnson saved well from his low drive but the ball was recycled to Montella and this time he made no mistake.

The game ended in fractious circumstances with a melee by the dug out after a Fisher official delayed us getting the ball for a restart, but after last years exploits, our cup run ended this year rather earlier than hoped.

SNAPSHOTS: FISHER



Top: Bertie Lloyd; Left:
Arnaud Akmel; Right:
Jake Riddington;
Bottom: Matt Tanton





PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



















PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MATCH REPORT:

CHIPSTEAD

Chipstead		Saturday 13th August 2022		Sutton Common Rovers	
1	Matt Kerbey	Chipstead	3	1	Endurance Johnson
2	Jonathan GJoshe	Kofi Anokye-Boadi (3')		2	Rhamar Garrett-Doug...
3	Charlie Kennett	Andy Kabuikusomo (44')		3	Ryan Stedman-Hoyte
4	Michak Stanic-Stewart	Lewis Pearch (77')		4	Matthew Surmon
5	Zohair Ali	Sutton Common Rovers	4	5	Bertie Lloyd 
6	Arron Fray 	Bertie Lloyd (12')		6	Hugo Odogwu-Atkins...
7	Jensen Grant	Shawn Lyle (18')		7	Arnaud Akmel 
8	Kofi Anokye-Boadi 	Kyron Richards (45')		8	Kyron Richards 
9	Andy Kabuikusomo...  	Shawn Lyle (63' pen)		9	Shawn Lyle   
10	Lewis Pearch 	Isthmian League - South Central Division		10	Tony Halsey
11	Gabriel Odunaiké	Attendance: 115		11	Courtney Swaby
12	Tobi Adaje 	Kick-off: 3pm		12	Oliver Creed
14	Peter Wedgeworth	Referee: Bruno Marques		14	Ryan Dacres-Smith
15	Joshua Burr	Venue: High Road		15	Bobby Moore 
16	Tyrese Heslop			16	Adeniyi Gbolahan 
17	David Wilkinson			20	Nathan Boamah

Info Videos

Match Information

Full-time: Chipstead 3-4 Sutton Common Rovers
Half-time: Chipstead 2-3 Sutton Common Rovers

Darren and Lee made three changes from the side that lost at Fisher. Ryan Stedman-Hoyte returned to the line up, whilst their was a first start for Matt Surmon and a debut for Courtney Swaby. Matt Tanton, Ryan Dacres-Smith and Jake Riddington all made way.

Having failed to trouble the keeper on Wednesday the last thing we wanted in our opening league game was to concede an early goal. However that's exactly what happened as we conceded the first goal of the Isthmian South Central cmpaign.

A long free kick was headed down by Andy Kabuikusomo to Anokye-Boadi and he fired beyond Endurance Johnson for 1-0. Our response though was positive, and we were level on 12 minutes. Rhamar Garrett-Douglas was fouled by Gabriel Odunaiké. From the free kick debutant Courtney Swaby swung in the delivery and Bertie Lloyd rose highest to glance the ball beyond Matt Kerbey for 1-1.

Five minutes later and it was 2-1, Swaby saw his curled free kick superbly saved by Kerbey, but from the corner Lloyd flicked the ball on and Shawn Lyle poked home from close range - didn't celebrate to the camera though!

Chipstead should have been level midway through the half, a high hanging free kick was met by Kabuikusomo and bounced across the face of goal.

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Five minutes later and neat link up between Stephane Akmel and Tony Halsey eventually led to the ball falling to Kyron Richards but his effort went just wide of the left hand post.

Rovers were now playing with a level of confidence not seen so far this season, moving the ball nicely around the park and looking dangerous on every attack. However despite this it was Chipstead who struck on the stroke of half time. A hopeful ball forward led to a mix up between Johnson and Odogwu-Atkinson, and the ever dangerous Kabuikusomo fired home from a tight angle.

Unbelievably though Rovers retook the lead before half time. A corner on the right was swung in by Swaby and powerfully headed home by Richards for 3-2.

Chipstead started the second half brightly, and Michak Stanic-Stewart fired wide from distance early in the half, and the hosts dominated the opening exchanges. Kabuikusomo did well to break on the left, but superb defending by Garrett-Douglas kept him at bay. Shortly after and Kabuikusomo fired over the bar.

Having weathered the storm, we gave ourselves some breathing space on 65 minutes. A quick break by Akmel saw a neat interchange of passes between him and Halsey, only ending when Akmel was hauled down by 6. From the spot kick Lyle sent Kerbey the wrong way for 4-2.

With 15 minutes to go Chipstead were reduced to ten men. A poor challenge by Odogwu-Atkinson on Kabuikusomo, which led to him receiving a yellow, saw Kabuikusomo lash out and pick up a straight red.

As often happens, the ten men were fired up, and almost immediately a stunning crossfield ball by Zohair Ali found Lewis Pearch and his early strike nestled into the bottom left corner for 4-3.

Chances continued to come for both sides, Stanic-Stewart headed wide when well placed and the impressive Surmon went agonisingly close with an effort from just inside our half. Halsey then had a chance to seal the game latching onto a huge Johnson clearance but Kerbey saved bravely at his feet and the chance went begging. However we had secured our first three points of the season.

SNAPSHOTS: **CHIPSTEAD**



Top: Steph Akmel; Left:
Courtney Swaby; Right:
Endurance Johnson;
Bottom: Shawn Lyle



SKIPPERS NOTES

My name is Rhamar Garrett Douglas and I am this years club captain. I've been playing football for as long as I can remember, always been a defender tried to play upfront but could never put the ball in the net. I am an old school defender in a sense where as I take pride in winning my 1vs1 defensively.



However I have adapted my game to fit the modern day full back and love starting attacks down my side and linking up with my winger. I am a winner in and out and it's an honour to where the badge and leaf such an excellent group of lads.

Saturday was a big big result and after coming out of the FA cup exactly the turn around and reaction we needed to kick start our season. Coming out the FA Cup is one thing but in the manor it happened was unacceptable. As a team we all knew this and it hurt us all. The only response that would heal that pain was a big 3 points away from home first game of the season. The lads were fantastic gking a goal down within 5 minutes we could of dropped our heads but we kept fighting and gave 110% for ourselves but more importantly the badge and I believe that's what got us the points.

As a team we are still growing and learning one another's games but we are moving in the right direction and all pulling the same way which is important.

Just a side note big shout out to the management team for believing in this squad and getting some real quality together. They have created an environment that it's safe to make a mistake but to always try and do your best.

LATEST RESULTS

Ashford Town (Middx) 0-1 Binfield
Basingstoke Town 0-0 Bedfont Sports
Chertsey Town 4-0 South Park (Reigate)
Chipstead 3-4 Sutton Common Rovers
Leatherhead 0-4 Westfield
Marlow 4-3 Walton & Hersham
Merstham 1-2 Southall
Northwood 3-2 Tooting & Mitcham United
Thatcham Town 0-0 Guernsey
Uxbridge 1-1 Hanworth Villa

THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

SOUTH-CENTRAL

Chipstead v South Park (Reigate)

FA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND

Ashford Town (Middx) v Northwood
Hanworth Villa v Chertsey Town
Hassocks v Uxbridge
Kidlington v Binfield
Leatherhead v Haywards Heath Town
Lymington Town v Basingstoke Town
Marlow v Thame United
Merstham v Sevenoaks Town
Punjab United v Westfield
Southall v Peacehaven & Telscombe
Tooting & Mitcham United v VCD Athletic
Walton & Hersham v Littlehampton Town

Rovers Round-Up (Fixtures & Results)

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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
17th Aug	ILSC	H	GUERNSEY				
27th AUG	ILSC	H	CHERTSEY TOWN				
29th Aug	ILSC	A	Marlow				
10th Sep	FAT	A	East Thurrock Utd				
17th Sep	ILSC	A	Binfield				
21st Sep	ILSC	H	BEDFONT SPORTS				
1st Oct	ILSC	H	SOUTHALL				
8th Oct	ILSC	A	South Park (Reigate)				
15th Oct	ILSC	A	Thatcham Town				
22nd Oct	ILSC	H	TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD				
29th Oct	ILSC	H	UXBRIDGE				
5th Nov	ILSC	A	Basingstoke Town				
12th Nov	ILSC	H	WALTON & HERSHAM				
19th Nov	ILSC	A	Hanworth Villa				
26th Nov	ILSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)				
3rd Dec	ILSC	H	WESTFIELD				
10th Dec	ILSC	H	NORTHWOOD				
17th Dec	ILSC	A	Merstham				
26th Dec	ILSC	H	MARLOW				
2023							
2nd Jan	ILSC	A	Leatherhead				
7th Jan	ILSC	H	CHIPSTEAD				
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				
8th Apr	ILSC	A	Northwood				
10th Apr	ILSC	H	LEATHERHEAD				
15th Apr	ILSC	A	Westfield				
22nd Apr	ILSC	H	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)				



GUEST ARTICLE:

The Tea Boy Who Created a Dynasty

Manchester United are (notwithstanding their recent difficulties) one of the most successful football clubs in Europe, and one of the biggest sporting brands in the world. When the story of their success is written, certain obvious names leap off of the page. Sir Matt Busby, Sir Alex Ferguson, Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes. This list goes on and on. But before all of them, and the man without whom Manchester United simply wouldn't be what they are today, was an Italian immigrant who snuck in to watch Newton Heath. It was the beginning of a lifelong relationship.

Louis Rocca, born in 1882, was promised a beating for sneaking under the fence at his local football club, but instead was given the task of making tea for the players at half time. He dutifully and enthusiastically accepted his new position, and before long was also given the job of first-team kitman, a coveted position that made him the envy of older children in the area. Before the end of the nineteenth century, he was the club's first ever groundsman, but things were not rosy at Newton Heath.



By 1902 the club had racked up considerable debts and needed to raise funds to stay in existence. Rocca and other volunteers toured around the city for four days soliciting donations, notably taking a dog with them with a moneybox strapped to its back. It was this dog who would ultimately save the club when he escaped, setting up a fortuitous meeting with John Henry Davies, who would step in and buy the club. His vision for the team was grand, much grander than the small confines of Newton Heath. He proposed a name change, and while Manchester Celtic was considered, Rocca, just 19 at the time, is said (mostly by himself) to have suggested the name United. It stuck, and the club we know today was born.

Five years later, Rocca made the move that would shape the soul of the club, rather than just the name above the door.

He was appointed as Chief Scout, and created an extensive and inexpensive scouting network throughout Manchester, enlisting the help of priests and schoolteachers and other volunteers to report back to him any exciting youngsters found in school and youth teams. He also had the local newspapers from each Saturday night brought to him every week, and poured through the local match reports. Any name that cropped up repeatedly, he would go to watch in person. If they impressed him, he would invite the to join Manchester United. The new system, along with Davies' investment, led United to their first major trophies, the First Division title in 1908 and 1911, with the FA Cup in 1909.

Rocca dreamed of a team made up of local players, who represented the people on the terraces. A couple of decades of building followed before, in the early 1930s, United were bought out of more financial difficulty by James Gibson. The new owner shared Rocca's dream, and allowed him (and new addition Walter Crickmer) to set up the Manchester United Junior Athletic Club, what would now be understood as an academy. The system was a great success in finding and developing local players, but war in 1939 limited how the system translated into the senior team. It wasn't until after the war that the fruits of Rocca's labour could really be seen.

As the war concluded, Man United needed a new manager, and Gibson and Rocca thought they knew just the man. They had to act quickly though, as he had been offered a position in Liverpool's staff. Rocca reached out to one of his old friends quite cryptically, not wanting Liverpool to intercept the letter, and invited him to Old Trafford. That friend was Matt Busby. Busby hired Jimmy Murphy as his assistant, and Rocca watched as his friend led a team – full of the Junior Athletic Club's protégés – to the 1948 FA Cup (side pictured below).

Rocca passed away in 1950, unable to see the fruits of his work in all their glory as first the Busby Babes, and later Busby's rebuilt side after the Munich Disaster, changed the face of English football forever. But make no mistake, those sides, and the legacy of

Manchester United, could not have existed without the Italian. As Matt Busby wrote some four decades after Rocca's death, "he was a tremendous help to me in every way."

Enjoy the game.

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



CAREER RECORDS

2022/23 Season						Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
JOHNSON, Endurance	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
GARRETT-DOUGLAS, Rhamar	3	0	0	1	0	3	0
LLOYD, Bertie	3	0	1	0	0	3	1
ODOGWU-ATKINSON, Hugo	3	0	0	1	0	3	0
AKMEL, Stephane	3	0	0	1	0	7	0
RICHARDS, Kyron	3	0	1	1	0	3	1
HALSEY, Tony	3	0	0	0	0	14	4
LYLE, Shawn	3	0	2	0	0	57	16
DACRES-SMITH, Ryan	2	0	0	1	0	61	5
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
TESTOLIN, Brian	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
RIDDINGTON, Jake	1	1	0	0	0	3	0
SWABY, Courtney	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
SURMON, Matt	1	2	0	0	0	3	0
TANTON, Matt	1	0	0	0	0	151	5
GBOLOHAN, Ade	0	2	0	0	0	5	0
MOORE, Bobby	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
CREED, Ollie	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
OWUSU, George	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

As mentioned in the last programme we have an almost entirely new squad this season, and the following players have made their debuts over the last couple of games—Endurance Johnson, Rhamar Garrett-Douglas, Bertie Lloyd, Hugo Odogwu-Atkinson, Kyron Richards, Matt Surmon, Bobby Moore, Brian Testolin, Ollie Creed, George Owusu and last but not least, Courtney Swaby.

They have also been first goals for the club for Bertie Lloyd and Kyron Richards.

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ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

GOALS GALORE IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL by Ian Townsend

Four goal hauls for Chertsey, Westfield, Marlow and Rovers- and a big shock for Leatherhead. It's our Pitching In Isthmian South Central round up

Relegated Leatherhead are our title favourites, but they certainly didn't start like title favourites, as Westfield taught them a lesson at Fetcham Grove. The Woking side will be absolutely delighted with their display, as they thrashed home four goals without reply to silence the home faithful. Bradley Walsh gave the Tanners something to chase as he got the opener six minutes before the break, and just before the half time whistle Nathaniel Mensah made it two. Mensah was a genius to the visiting fans when making it three on sixty three minutes, and the hosts failed to get Carter as Harry made it four ten minutes from time- although we've also seen the goal credited to Billy Oram.

Our other four-nil winners were less of a surprise, although perhaps the scale of their victory was, as Chertsey Town demolished South Park Reigate. Sam Murphy had the bells ringing for the Curfews as early as the third minute, and by the half hour mark it was three, Scott Day and Kai Hamilton Olise with the next two goals. The fourth came just before full time, Reece Cole with that one.

Marlow hosted a seven goal thriller, and somehow managed to score six of them against Walton & Hersham. Louis Rogers gave the hosts an early lead on eleven minutes, before Harry Mills equalised for the Swans on half an hour. Dawid Rogalski almost immediately restored home advantage, but an own goal drew the visitors level six minutes before half time, and the hosts went down to ten men as Jordan Brown saw red. Rogalski got another from the spot midway through the second half, before yet another own goal saw the Swans level once more- but Rogalski wasn't finished, and got his hat trick just before the end to keep all three points at Marlow's end of the Thames.

Sutton Common Rovers- who play at Whyteleafe- travelled to short distance to take on Chipstead in a local derby, and left with all three points despite falling behind after just three minutes. Ko-fi Anokye-Boadi got their early Chips goal, but the visitors were level on twelve minutes and ahead for the first time six minutes later, Bertie Lloyd and Shawn Lyle doing the damage.

ISTHMIAN ROUND UP



Andy Kabuikusomo- who was later dismissed- drew the hosts level a minute before half time, but there was still time for Kyron Richards to restore Rovers lead before the break. On sixty four minutes Shawn Lyle made it four-two, and although Lewis Pearch got one back the visitors held on to take all three points. That's seven points from nine against these opponents for Rovers.

Tooting & Mitcham United scored nine goals against Northwood last season, and they added tow more yesterday, but it didn't do them any good as the Woods got three. Enoch Ako-Adjei opened the scoring for the Terrors as early as the third minute, only for a Sydney Ibie double to give the hosts a half time lead. Ayman Dahdouh got a leveller six minutes after the break, but the visitors were level for only two minutes before Ronan Hutchins got a third for Northwood, and it was enough to earn them three points.

Southall had a fine Isthmian debut after twenty two years away, Luke Heneghan scoring twice in the first half to defeat Merstham. Raheem Sterling-Parker got one back with two minutes remaining, but the West London side held on for all three points.

Binfield picked up three points on the road at Ashford Town, a goal ten minutes from time from Joe Gater the difference between the sides.

Uxbridge and Hanworth Villa each scored a penalty to take a point apiece, Sam Merson getting the first for the Villains on sixty four minutes only for Juwon Akintunde to equalise for the hosts right at the death. Villa saw Louis Taylor see red in the last minute.

We expected Basingstoke Town v Bedfont Sports to be our match of the day, which is probably why it didn't deliver a single goal- and neither did Thatcham Town v Guernsey, which was also goalless.

The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162).The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

SPOT THE BALL ANSWER



Well done to all of you who spotted it where it was. Thought we would start the season with an easy one!!

Take your match notes here...

SCR: A BRIEF HISTORY



Chairman and Life President Alan Salmon founded SCR F.C in 1978, when the club began life as INRAD FC, based in Carshalton. The club entered a new era when Alan moved to Sutton and arranged sponsorship with his new neighbour, CENTRE 21 FC was born. This era saw the club running one Saturday side, three Sunday sides and three Youth sides. Centre 21's sponsorship continued until the club's youth players were no longer under 21 years old.

The club again sought new a identity, SUTTON COMMON ROAD FC was formed and subsequently abbreviated to SCR FC. Since then the club has had five major sponsors whose names have been incorporated into the clubs affiliated name: SCR PLOUGH (twice), SCR GRAPES, next the club's longest sponsor SCR LITTEN TREE (7 years) & finally SCR Kingfisher, Ewell with whom we started our venture in Saturday football in 2004/05.

It was at this point that the club took the decision to revert back to using the SCR name alone, feeling that as we strive for continued promotion we needed to disassociate ourselves with the whole 'pub team' image. The club however did take sponsorship from the Fox & Hounds, Carshalton for the Sat first team in 2006/07, but the decision was made that the pub name would not be incorporated into our own, for the above reason...

The club entered yet another new era this season, with the introduction of a third Saturday side (Messers Alex Avis & Tony Williams) and the 1's moving to the Middlesex County FL (and a name change SUTTON COMMON ROVERS) in the pursuit of combined Counties football, having made an unsuccessful application from the Surrey South Eastern Combination at the end of season 2006/07 having finished joint top (3rd on goal difference... -1 goal)

A third place finish in the Middlesex County League Premier division in 07/08 meant that our promotion to the CCL was not assured but months of hard work & determination from the management team SCR eventually secured a place for the clubs 1st time in their 30 year history at the league AGM in June 2008 and the reserves moved into the CCL reserve division under the guidance of Alex Avis & Justin Salmon.

Season 08/09 saw the latest name change of the club, to form MOLE VALLEY SCR FC reflecting the area in which we played. Season 09/10 saw the club reach a Surrey Cup final, narrowly being defeated by Sutton United after a 1-1 extra time score line on penalties and in the same season compete in the FA Vase for the first time in our relatively short history. We finished Champions of Division One at the second time of asking, narrowly piping Worcester Park to the post in a fine run which saw us finish 3 points clear on the final match of the season, assuming as we believed, we were awarded the points from the postponed Coulsdon match who unfortunately were unable to field a side for our scheduled league game some weeks earlier.

The following season saw the club play at our highest level to date, and make our FA Cup debut, although this lasted just one game, and ended in a 5-0 defeat against Chertsey Town. The club managed two seasons in the Premier Division, before being relegated back to Division 1, following a start to the season that saw 12 straight league defeats. The 2012/13 season started with a rebuilt side and expectations of consolidation, however a 20 game unbeaten run propelled us into runners up spot, and a much coveted promotion back to the Premier Division.

.2013/14 started brightly, but went to the last game, and a point saw survival. It was the same the following season, and although we lost (at home to Guildford City 2-0) we still managed to survive. For the 2015/16 season, there was a change of name to Sutton Common Rovers, and after much hard work by the Salmons, a return to Sutton, and a ground share with Sutton Utd.

2016/17 saw a 12th place league finish and the capture of the Southern Combination Cup

The following season, 2017/18 we recorded our highest ever placing, finishing 3rd in the Premier Division, and reached the semi final of both the Southern Combination Cup and the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup.

2018/19 was our best ever season, finishing runners up in the Premier division behind the powerful Chertsey Town side, winning the Premier Challenge Cup and finishing runners up in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup

2019/20 saw the side a little off the pace in the league, when it was called to a halt, but with games in hand a place in the top 5 was possible.

It was in the national cup competitions that new records were set, with the side reaching the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the first time (after wins over Molesey 1-0, after a 1-1 draw; and Eastbourne Town 3-0), the FA Vase saw further success, with wins over Snodland Town 5-1, Raynes Park Vale 4-0, Lancing 1-0 (after a 3-3 draw); and Christchurch 2-1 taking us to the fifth round, where we bowed out to Western League AFC Bitton 2-1, after a disappointing performance down in Bristol.

At the end of another curtailed season and following an FA restructure the club was moved up to Step 4 and the Isthmian South Central division .Our first season in the Isthmian League saw a 17th place finish, on goal difference behind both Westfield and Tooting & Mitcham Utd, and avoidance of the relegation play offs. We also made our debut in the FA Trophy, albeit briefly, losing our only fixture away at Ramsgate.

We reached the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time, thanks to wins over Steyning Town and a shock win at Isthmian Premier Cray Wanderers, before losing after a replay to Jersey Bulls.



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Referee - Adam Buckley-Jones
Assistant #1 - Owen Lawrence
Assistant #2 - Kehinde Agboola
4th Official - N/A