

Rovers Vs Tanners



Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

Sat 10th April 2023 | 3:00pm KICK OFF
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Always Making Memories Together

INSIDE TODAY...

OUR PEOPLE

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Youth Secretary - Mark Hargreaves
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1st Team Joint Manager - Sam Morgan
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Stadium Emergency 1st Aid - Brent Wallage
Matchday Media - Gary Brigden

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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

Leatherhead FC

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

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

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

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Jonathon Wilks and his assistants, Mr Daniel Trout and Mr Stephen Matthews, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

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Firstly, some of the info you will read was put together prior to Saturday's fixtures and hence those results have not been taken into account.

Today's opponents currently sit in 8th spot in the table, and with an outside chance of making the play offs, so they will certainly be up for the clash this afternoon.

It looked as though their hopes were going to be all but over on Tuesday when they trailed Merstham 1-0 in the 89th minute, however two late goals kept their hopes alive with a 2-1 win.

We have already met Leatherhead on a couple of occasions this seeing, being defeated on both occasions, albeit one on penalties.

In December goals from Liam Holden and Brian Testolin saw us draw 2-2 in the Velocity Cup 4th Round, unfortunately we bowed out 4-3 on penalties.

We met in the league in January and slipped to a 4-3 defeat, the only goals we scored that month, going scoreless in our next five matches, a debut goal from Zaid Ouaret Sorr, along with strikes from Shakeel Morris and Kevin Diomande. A late Dave Tarpey goal though gave the Tanners the win.

Last time out here at Whyteleafe Sports Centre we turned in one of our most complete performances of the season when beating fellow relegation strugglers Merstham 2-0, thanks to goals from Tyler Cox—we knew once he scored his first their would be no stopping him, and Conan Torpey.

We are still deep in the relegation mire, but there are now three possible outcomes, automatic relegation, a relegation play off (more on that in a minute) or survival. I guarantee if you had asked any of our supporters at the end of January what the outcome would be, there would be only one answer.

As it is, the lads form has pulled them out of the automatic spots but there is still a lot of work to do. All we can say is if we do get ourselves into the play offs, then we will at least have a fighting chance now.

There still seems to be some confusion over potential play off opponents, I have to be honest I have always thought it would be ppg based, whereby the highest ranked step 4 side on ppg plays the lowest ranked step 5 runner up, and so on. However seeing tweets from a couple of local newspapers they seemed to imply that the play off would be against the Combined Counties runner up.

So, as it stands, and looking at either scenario we could face Badshot Lea, Reading City or Winterton Rangers (from the NCEL), but who knows.

Enough from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home, and see you on the 19th for a Southern Combination Cup semi final against Balham.

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

LEATHERHEAD FC

FORMED: 1907

NICKNAME:
The Tanners



After being elected into the Isthmian League, Leatherhead made national headlines in 1974-5 when they reached the Fourth Round proper of the FA Cup, defeating League sides Colchester Utd and Brighton & Hove Albion before bowing out to First Division Leicester City 2-3. In subsequent seasons, the Tanners defeated two more Football League sides at the Grove – Cambridge United and Northampton Town.

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

In 2006-7, Leatherhead were the lowest ranked team to reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 1-2 at Football League side, Torquay United. Mick Sullivan was appointed First Team Manager in May 2009. Under Sullivan's guidance, the club had its most successful season in years, winning the Isthmian League Cup (the first major trophy for some 40 years) and finishing the season in fifth place in the League before losing a play-off semi-final.

The following season, a dramatic play-off victory against Dulwich Hamlet (4-3 after extra time), saw The Tanners return to the Premier Division for the first time since 1983. Tanners stay lasted just the one season though. In 2013-14 Tanners reached the play offs again, this time edging out Guernsey 3-2, before winning a penalty shootout at Folkestone Invicta to return to the Ryman Premier Division.

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

After a poor start to the 2021-22 season Luke Tuffs was appointed manager in January 2022. but was unable to steer the club out of the relegation places, although from a seemingly impossible position it was very close.

After an indifferent start to the new season Hayden Bird was appointed to the Fetcham Grove hot seat in October 2022.

Scan the QR code for full history.



TODAY'S OPPONENTS

LEATHERHEAD FC

SELECTED HONOURS:

Athenian League Division One Champions 1963/64

Corinthian League Champions 1962/63

Isthmian League Cup Winners 2009/10

Isthmian Charity Shield Winners: 2010/11, 2011/12

Isthmian Division One South Play-off Winners: 2010/11, 2013/14

FA Trophy Finalists 1977/78

Southern Combination Cup Winners 1989/90

Surrey Senior Cup Winners 1968/69

Surrey Senior League Cup Winners 1949/50

Surrey Senior Shield Winners 1968/69

DID YOU KNOW:

You may know that Leatherhead reached the FA Cup 4th Round back in the 1974/75 season, but could you name all the sides they beat to get their??

Well, they started in the 1st Qualifying Round with a 2-0 win at Croydon, before crushing Hornchurch 5-0 at home. Dagenham were seen off in the 3rd Qualifying Round 3-1 (after a 0-0 draw) and a 7-1 win at Walton & Hersham put them into the First Round Proper for the first time.

Bishops Stortford were beaten 2-0 (after a 0-0 draw), with both Colchester Utd (Rd 2) and Brighton & Hove Albion (Rd 3) both were beaten 1-0, before losing a thriller 3-2 against Leicester City (City went on to lose in the next round to Arsenal in a second replay)



MEET THE PLAYERS

THE TANNERS



MANAGEMENT:

HAYDEN BIRD - Experienced manager who was appointed to the Fetcham Grove hot seat in October 2022. Over the course of the last twenty years he has had successful spells as manager at Croydon Athletic, Carshalton Athletic, Merstham and Kingstonian. Achievements with the various clubs include a number of promotions, exciting runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy and a number of County Cup successes.

TUTU HENRIQUES - Tutu has a wealth of experience as both a player and coach and has worked closely with Hayden at Bromley, Merstham and Kingstonian.

THE PLAYERS:

ARCHIE BURNETT - Young midfielder on loan from Bromley. He also spent the second half of last season on loan at Fetcham Grove. Has also played for Margate.

LOUIS COLLINS – November signing from Kingstonian. Louis is a full back who was an integral part of the Walton & Hersham side that gained promotion to the Isthmian League in 2022 having progressed through the Swans youth team. Has also appeared for South Park.

JAKE EALES - Former QPR youngster who has spent the last six seasons with Wingate & Finchley. Also had a spell on loan at Welwyn Garden City. A local lad, Jake signed for his home town team in September 2022.

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MICHAEL ELECHI - a Manchester United Youth graduate, having come through the ranks at Old Trafford. Michael started his youth career at Manchester United, joining their Academy in 2016, but was released in 2018. He subsequently joined Oxford United and signed his first professional contract in December 2018, lasting until summer 2022. Had been playing for Salisbury.

BEN FREMPAH - Experienced central defender currently on loan from Cheshunt. Has previous experience with Cray Wanderers, Ross County, Ebbsfleet Utd, Wycombe Wanderers and Hayes & Yeading.

DAN HECTOR – The speedy forward was an integral part of the Merstham and Kingstonian teams who enjoyed exceptional FA Cup campaigns. Dan is a former Leatherhead player, having appeared for a short spell under Nicky Bull. More recently, he has played for Carshalton Athletic and Sevenoaks Town.

MEET TODAY'S OPPONENTS

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MO KONTE - Young defender who had spells in the youth and academy set ups at Brentford and Barnet before joining Wealdstone. Spent the last two seasons at Enfield Borough and Tower Hamlets

ROB MCGOWAN – Defender signed from Southern Premier Met Police. Hayden knows Rob, having elevated the young defender into the First Team Squad at Kingstonian last season.

MAX MULLINS – Young full back on loan from Aldershot Town. Also spent time at Fetcham Grove last season on loan from the Shots.

HARRY OSBORNE – A versatile defender Harry signed from Horsesham having also played for both Merstham and Kingstonian under Hayden Bird. After excelling Injuries have restricted his appearances in the last couple of seasons.

RHYS PAUL - The experienced central defender has featured for Millwall, Watford and Fulham at youth level, as well as AFC Hayes, Enfield Town, Marlow, Maidenhead United, Hitchin Town, Thurrock, Eastbourne United, Egham Town, Molesey and Salisbury City.

LEWIS PEARCH - Lewis is a young winger who was with Hayden at both Merstham and Kingstonian. He arrived from Chipstead in October 2022.

LUKE PHAIR – Youngster who came through the youth and Academy ranks at Aldershot Town and Woking.

JERRY PUOMO – Centre back signed in December from Sittingbourne. Previous clubs include Cheshunt, Kingstonian, Bognor Regis and Farnborough

DAVE TARPEY - Experienced striker who began his career at Henley Town before joining Basingstoke Town, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Walton & Hersham, Chertsey Town and Farnborough. Tarps joined Maidenhead United in 2014. His goals helped Maidenhead win the National League South title before he signed for Barnet in 2017. Injury curtailed his time with the Bees and he reunited with former manager Alan Dowson at Woking. Last season he joined Bracknell Town helping them to promotion from Isthmian Division One South Central before signing for Tanners in June 2022. In all Tarps has scored close to 200 career goals. A prolific striker who adds real firepower to our frontline.

BACKROOM STAFF:

ELLIOT MINTO – Coach

KEITH BENJAMIN – Goalkeeping Coach

OLIVIA BOULTON – Physio

MARK ALLEN – Kitman





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SPOT THE BALL

11



Action from the Merstham game and Max Oldham gets a shot away in the second half, but where is the ball...

Sutton Common Rovers FC

Supporters Player of the Season 2022/23

My choices for this award are:-

1st

2nd

Please Note: Only ONE vote is permitted per person

Please return this form direct to Sharon Streeter by

Saturday April 15th 2023

Name:

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Thank you for your valued support



FROM THE GAFFER



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

GB: Last time out was an absolutely massive win against Merstham, a result that has given us a real hope of avoiding automatic relegation. You must have been ecstatic with the result?

DS: Hi Gary, we have a compact group now that show real courage and commitment. No one is getting away with ourselves and to coin a well known footy phrase we'll take it 1 game at a time but the application from the players and the game plan from my management team was spot on, on this occasion and keeps things super interesting.

GB: We look a different animal defensively at the minute, how frustrating is it that you haven't been able to put a line up of Divine, Simeone, Lloyd and Tanton all season?

DS: Injuries, suspensions, holidays, family commitments etc have been a huge frustration to us as we haven't once in the past 2 months had a full deck to select from, but that shows that even with a smaller group you can have competition for places and when called on players have stepped up!

GB: We have had two players sent off in the last couple of games, Markus, whilst other incidents in the game need further discussions, can have no complaints, but how frustrating was it seeing the oppo player manager getting involved in Nabeel's last week.

DS: Great question G, but honestly I prefer to look inward and think what we could have done differently as we can only control those elements—Markus was unlucky and there will always be the 'do you allow the goal scoring opportunity and retain 11 or take the sending off, reduced to 10 men but be 0-0' for me that early I would have preferred 11 men on the pitch.

Nabeel was a silly boy and allowed his reactions to be manipulated by others, he is young and will learn.

GB: I guess what we all want to know, as we hit the real crunch time, is, how glued to Football Web Pages are you?

Tuesday was like watching the old Ceefax system, and let to a couple of loud expletives in yours truly's household.

DS: :-) I get that and tbh G Webpages is a blessing and a curse as you get real time hope and pain in seconds at times, but it is by far and away the most used app on my phone and I just hope I don't burn it out!

Cheers pal, enjoy the game!

MATCH REPORT: CAMBERLEY TOWN

Rovers progressed to the Southern Combination Challenge Cup semi-final, courtesy of a penalty shoot out win over Combined Counties South side Camberley Town

Darren and Sam made a raft of changes from the side that had beaten Tooting & Mitcham Utd the previous Saturday, resting some players, giving others some much needed game time and missing a couple of injured players.

to the bench were Nabeel Ghannam, Conan Torpey and Tyler Cox.

Despite the changes, Rovers made a bright start and in the early exchanges a dangerous Morris cross was headed goalwards by Odunaike and headed over the bar by Camberley's Brad Passfield.

After that the game settled, and Rovers play lost a lot of it's early fluidity and gradually Camberley started to gain more and more of a foothold in the contest, without really troubling James Dillon. Courtney Swaby saw a low drive comfortably gathered by Owen Crawford on 17 minutes and Liam Holden volleyed an effort wide on 20 minutes.

Camberley's first real chance came on 24 minutes, a rare mistake by Danny Divine let Gianluca Zanzi Botti through on goal, but the covering Holden was able to get across make a block and force the ball off, via the Camberley man for a goalkick.

The visitors took the lead on 26 minutes, a deep corner from the left saw Cavan Atkinson rise highest to thump home a header. We responded positively with both Marku and Divine seeing shots go off target.

On the half hour, having broken quickly from a Rovers attack, Zanzi Botti forced a really good save out of Dillon low to his left. A minute later and McFoy-Johnston gifts possession back to Zanzi Botti and again he is thwarted by Dillon.

Dillon was proving the Rovers hero and ten minutes before the break a whipped in cross by Jacob Wheeler was deflected goalwards, and somehow the Rovers keeper was down to make the save.

Rovers thought they had a shout for a penalty five minutes before the break, when Odunaike looked to be bundled over in the area, but play continued. Dillon saved well from Charlie Oakley and after a mazy run, Tehe was forced wide and his effort was comfortable for Crawford and Camberley took a lead into the half time interval.

Changes were made at half time with Tyler Cox and Siao Blackwood replacing McFoy-Johnston and Tehe, and these were to have an impact within five minutes. Morris picked up the ball on the right after good work by Zaid Ouaret Sarr, Swaby and Odunaike, and his low cross found Cox, who cut inside Luke Benton and fired into the bottom corner for 1-1.

MATCH REPORT: Continued

Changes were made at half time with Tyler Cox and Siao Blackwood replacing McFoy-Johnston and Tehe, and these were to have an impact within five minutes. Morris picked up the ball on the right after good work by Zaid Ouaret Sorr, Swaby and Odunaiké, and his low cross found Cox, who cut inside Luke Benton and fired into the bottom corner for 1-1.

Rovers were now on top, and a Cox header found Odunaiké who outmuscled Brad Passfield but saw his lob just drift wide of the right hand post and a minute later Rovers somehow failed to score from a goalmouth scramble. Cox's cross should have been headed home but as the ball dropped, Marku and Odunaiké were both unable to get decent connections and Crawford saved.

Camberley retook the lead midway through the half when a low cross from the left was turned goalwards, Dillon half saved the effort but Jack Selby was on hand to force home the loose ball to give the visitors a 2-1 lead.

Rovers response was immediate, and again the skipper was involved, cutting inside from the left Cox drilled a shot goalwards which took a deflection off Steve Lee to bring the scores level.

Odunaiké should have given Rovers the lead with 15 minutes remaining, a superb Divine cross found the forward but from six yards he was somehow denied by a superb Crawford save. Swaby was then denied low to his right by the impressive young Camberley keeper.

Ghannam fired an effort over the bar with five minutes remaining, before Camberley were given a guilt edged chance to win the match. A drive into the area was handled by a Rovers player, giving the visitors a penalty. Zanre Botti's effort was well struck, but Dillon pulled off a remarkable save away to his left, and that was the end of the chances and the sides finished locked at 2-2.

And so to a shoot out.

SCR 1-0 – Torpey smashes the ball beyond Crawford

CT 1-1 – Zanre Botti atones for his miss in normal time firing low to Dillon's left

SCR 1-1 – Swaby see's his poor spot kick comfortably saved low to his right by Crawford

CT 1-1 – Calvin Camara with the worst penalty seen for a long time, effectively a 12 yard back pass to Dillon

SCR 2-1 – either a great or slightly fortunate penalty, lets go great, as Blackwoods effort goes in off the post

CT 2-2 – Mason Taylor fires low to Dillons right

SCR 3-2 – never in doubt as Nabeel Ghannam converts

CT 3-2 – Brad Passfield hits the roof of the Whyteleafe stand to leave Rovers on the brink

SCR 4-2 – fittingly, it's the two goal hero, skipper Tyler Cox who sends Crawford the wrong way to put Rovers through

PICS: CAMBERLEY TOWN



Top: Shoot out scorers, Conan Siao, Nabeel and Tyler;

Inset: Hermann Tehe and Zaid Ouaret Sorr;

Below: Dills worldie stop in the shoot out.



ROVERS MERCHANDISE



Pin Badge selection



All official "Rovers" merchandise is now available @ 1st team home match days until the 2nd half kick-off

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Thank you

MATCH REPORT:

CHERTSEY TOWN

Tooting & Mitcham United		Saturday 18th March 2023		Sutton Common Rovers	
1	Sam Nabbad	Tooting & Mitcham United	0	1	James Dillon
2	Abraham Henao Ena...			2	Danny Divine
3	Alex Filipe	Sutton Common Rovers	2	3	Matthew Tanton
5	Nikolai Krokhin			4	Liam Holden
6	Issac Charles	Conan Torpey (7') Nabeel Ghannam (63')			
4	Jayden Hutchings	Isthmian League - South Central Division			
8	Dillon Gordon	Attendance: 202			
9	Shawn Lyle	Kick-off: 3pm			
10	Ryan Lopes	Referee: Fadi Mansour			
7	Anuar Ceessay	Venue: Imperial Fields			
12	Elijas Bagdonavicius	<div>InfoVideos</div>			
		Match Information			
16	Baye Ndiaye	Full-time: Tooting & Mitcham United 0-2 Sutton Common Rovers			
13	Dan Purdue	Half-time: Tooting & Mitcham United 0-1 Sutton Common Rovers			
11	Manu Oke-William				
14	Jaiden Chang				
15	Raees Bangura-Will...				

With 10 men for the majority of the game, Rovers were less than a minute away from rescuing a point, but a stoppage time strike gave Chertsey all three points.

With what can only be described as dubious pitch conditions (groundstaff forking the surface for a good 45mins before kick-off), the game commenced in front of a typical Chertsey turn-out.

An early free-kick just outside our penalty area was smartly delivered by Sam Murphy to the far post, headed back to the six yard box, and slotted home by Troy Walters. Fortunately for Rovers the move was given as off-side. Rovers' response was immediate, with Tyler Cox on the left pinging a ball across to Nabeel Ghannam on the edge of the Chertsey penalty area, whose cross is half cleared, Matt Tanton intercepts, and the ball is scrambled away for a throw-in. From Tanton's long throw (which is something of a feat in itself, as there is literally no run-up at this ground), Conan Torpey gets a good head on it, but was judged to have fouled their defender.

Murphy then made good use of a long ball from the Chertsey keeper Nicholas Jupp, firing a shot goalbound, but James Dillon was equal to it, palming the ball away. Opening exchanges were pretty even between the two sides, and the game looked promising.

Tanton then found Ghannam from a cross-pitch ball, who skipped past two defenders, and managed to win a corner.



Courtney Swaby stepped up to take, his delivery causing chaos in the box, the ball finally hoofed clear setting Chertsey off with Marcus Marku in pursuit.



It was at this point, with only 21mins gone, our fortunes took a turn for the worse. With the slightest of touches the Chertsey forward went down easily, apparently denying a goalscoring opportunity (from 20yards out) and Marku saw red.

The free-kick from Murphy, with 5 in the Rovers' wall, drew a brilliant save from James Dillon, diving far to his left managing to get a strong hand on it, to deny Chertsey their opener. Cox then gets a yellow card for a push, as frustrations begin to creep in.

On the half hour, a foul on Tanton gave Rovers a free-kick just outside the Chertsey penalty area. Swaby takes, looping the ball over the defensive line, headed clear but Divine was able to recycle, his cross from the right, just out of Torpey's reach. A Chertsey break by Quincy Rowe, releases Murphy on their left flank, cutting inside he passes to Walters whose shot was well saved by Dillon. Chertsey now with their tails up, Murphy plays in William Montague, requiring a brilliant sliding tackle for Siao Blackwood to snuff out the threat.

A tactical change for Rovers' during the break, gave Tom Unsworth the chance to strengthen midfield, replacing Ouaret Sorr. The second half started with a break by Tanton on the left touchline, playing in Torpey, who was put under pressure immediately, with two claims for a foul from the Rovers striker, neither given. The loose ball was picked up by Sam Murphy making a bee-line for our 18yard box, his first shot blocked by Tanton, his second from the rebound well saved by Dillon.

After a period of half chances for both teams, on 58mins Chertsey make their final change substituting Robinson for Jonathan Hippolyte. Hippolyte's introduction had an visible impact on Chertsey's play, as he stamped his authority on midfield. On 65mins Unsworth goes into the book for dissent (I believe), as the pressure on Rovers grows. Wave after wave of Chertsey pressure soaked up by 10 men behind the ball, all wary of giving away a free-kick, but somehow miraculously keeping them at bay.

A brilliant through ball from Hippolyte to Chertsey's Walters sets up a 50:50 with the Rovers' keeper, Dillon bravely claiming the ball at Walter's feet. On 75mins Rovers' introduce fresh legs replacing Cox, who had worked hard all game, with Hermann Tehe.

On 78mins again it was Dillon that kept us level, with an outstanding block at his right-hand post. A great cross from Mason Welch-Turner, deflected out to Scott Day whose ferocious shot for all the world looked goal-bound, but Dillon managed to block with his right leg. Torpey, who had taken his fair share of punishment for 80mins, was then replaced by Ryan Stedman-Hoyte.

4mins into injury time, from a corner, Walters looked to have controlled the ball with his arm, and poked the ball past Dillon putting Chertsey in front, with huge appeals from Dillon and surrounding Rovers players. The referee was not interested. Earlier in the game, Rovers had at least two (ball against hand) decisions go against them. Immediately after the restart, the ref blew for full time.

The Rovers defence were outstanding all game, but particularly Dillon, who kept our hopes alive.

MATCH REPORT:

MERSTHAM

Sutton Common Rovers	Saturday 1st April 2023	Merstham
<div>1 James Dillon</div> <div>2 Ryan Stedman-Hoyte</div> <div>3 Matthew Tanton</div> <div>4 Siao Blackwood</div> <div>5 Bertie Lloyd</div> <div>6 Antonio Simeone</div> <div>7 Tyler Cox</div> <div>8 Courtney Swaby</div> <div>9 Conan Torpey</div> <div>10 Nabeel Ghannam</div> <div>11 Maxwell Oldham</div> <div>12 Thomas Unsworth</div> <div>14 Gabriel Odunaïke</div> <div>15 Liam Holden</div> <div>16 Daniel Uzor</div> <div>17 George Owusu</div>	<div>Sutton Common Rovers</div> <div>2</div> <div>Tyler Cox (45')</div> <div>Conan Torpey (47' pen)</div> <div>Merstham</div> <div>0</div> <div>Isthmian League - South Central Division</div> <div>Attendance: 142</div> <div>Kick-off: 3pm</div> <div>InfoVideos</div> <div>Match Information</div> <div>Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 2-0 Merstham</div> <div>Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-0 Merstham</div>	<div>1 Filip Chalupniczak</div> <div>4 Luke Read</div> <div>2 Aaron Goode</div> <div>6 Charlie Alexiou</div> <div>18 Aziz Sankoh</div> <div>3 Cameron Lewis-Brown</div> <div>16 Adam Allen</div> <div>7 Peter Adeniyi</div> <div>8 Jordan Wilson</div> <div>20 Bryan Zepo</div> <div>9 Reece Deakin</div> <div>19 Mario Quiaassaca</div> <div>11 Adam Adam</div> <div>17 Jean-Pascale Masik...</div> <div>14 David Bangurah</div> <div>12 Ayman Gharbaoui</div>

Another Saturday, another crucial survival fixture, this time against fellow relegation candidates, Merstham. A real six-pointer in every sense.

A few squad changes since out last trip out, Antonio Simeone, Bertie Lloyd, Max Oldham and Ryan Stedman-Hoyte all start, while Danny Divine Is not available, Marcus Marku suspended, Liam Holden starts on the bench, and Zaid Ouaret Sorr misses out

Early exchanges in the game were cagey and cautious, both sides conscious of any error that may give advantage to the opposition. On 10mins, playing out from defence Matt Tanton passes up the line to Tyler, who sets off in typical style on the left, his cut inside finding Conan Torpey, who flicks on to Nabeel Ghannam, but his shot was off-target. Moments later, Ghannam intercepts a midfield Merstham pass, wriggles past two players, the referee playing on for a possible trip. Ghannam then lays off to Torpey whose shot was on target, but deflected from a Merstham head safely in to the arms of keeper Filip Chalupniczak.

A well worked short corner from Merstham’s Jordan Wilson, combining with Reece Deakin, gave Wilson room to shoot, but James Dillon was quick to block, giving Merstham a second chance.

From the corner Bertie Lloyd headed forward finding Torpey, who won a free kick from a push just inside the opposition’s half. Courney Swaby’s free kick put Merstham on the back foot Aaron Goode heading out for a corner, which didn’t amount to anything.



On 34mins a very late challenge by Deakin on Tanton earned him a caution.



Just prior to half time, a long ball from Lloyd sailed over the Merstham defence, dropping nicely for Cox, who guided his shot just inside the right post, out of Chalupniczak's reach. It had taken a while coming, but Rovers' go into the break one goal to the good. A great time to score.

2 minutes into the second half a long ball by Antonio Simeone into the path of Torpey forced the defender to concede a throw-in. From the throw Tanton picked out Torpey in the Merstham penalty area, who shielded the ball with his back to goal, inviting a push from behind, which duly game – penalty to rovers. Torpey stepped up and placed his kick low to the keeper's right, no mistake.

On 52mins Ghannam picked up a needless yellow card, having been giving the Merstham defence all sorts of problems. Wilson soon followed for a foul on Ghannam, and it was clear that the temperature was rising. Deakin later dragged Ghannam back, but Ghannam's response was unwise, as he picked up a second yellow. Rovers down to 10 again with half an hour to go.

Another yellow on 61min this time for Dillon, for alleged timewasting. A flurry of substitutions for both sides, saw Tobe Uzor and Gabriel Odunaike replace Torpey and Swaby, and for Merstham Adam Adam replace Masikini. Immediate respose from Merstham, with Aaron Goode pinging a long ball from a deep right position, across the pitch to Adam Adam on the left of the Rovers penalty area. His shot was goalbound, but the ever reliable Dillon was there, diving to his left to palm away .

A great through ball from Uzor to the right, gave Oldham opportunity to run at the Merstham defence, but his shot was blocked out for a corner. Oldham then stepped up for the corner, finding Lloyd at the far post, but his header was way too high.

With the time running down only a series of spectacular saves from Dillon kept the score at 2-0 to the home side, as playing with 9 outfield players was beginning to tell. On 84mins further substitutions saw Deakin replaced by Mario Quiassaca, and our own Oldham by Tom Unsworth.

A final charge from a Rovers' clearance saw Cox on his way on the left, outpacing his defender for speed, even at this stage of the game, stops, checks back and crosses to Unsworth, whose shot was just wide of the left post.

In the final minutes Quiassaca receives a red card, leaving he and the 142 onlookers bewildered, struggling to find a reason.

A worthy and important win in the end, and again finishing with only 10. Our next game will see us without Ghannam and Marku. Can your nerves handle it?

PICS: MERSTHAM



Top: Skipper Tyler Cox with the all important opener;

Inset: Tom Unsworth and Siao Blackwood;

Below: Conan Torpey puts us 2-0 up from the spot.





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In advance,

THANK YOU

CAREER RECORDS

2022/23 Season						Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
COX, Tyler	32	4	3	5	0	36	3
LLOYD, Bertie	31	1	3	2	0	32	3
SWABY, Courtney	23	5	0	3	1	28	0
HOLDEN, Liam	16	3	1	5	0	379	107
TANTON, Matt	14	4	1	2	2	167	6
DIVINE, Danny	14	0	1	3	0	14	1
DILLON, James	12	0	0	1	0	21	0
BLACKWOOD, Siao	11	5	0	3	0	16	0
OUARET SORR, Zaid	11	3	2	2	0	14	2
MORRIS, Shakeel	10	4	3	0	0	14	3
MARKU, Markus	10	4	0	2	1	14	0
TORPEY, Conan	10	1	7	6	0	11	7
OKPOLOKPO, Joshua	9	1	0	2	1	10	0
GHANNAM, Nabeel	6	4	2	4	1	10	2
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	6	3	0	2	0	12	0
TEHE, Hermann	5	3	2	0	0	16	2
ROBINSON, Malachi	4	0	0	0	0	96	3
OLDHAM, Max	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
MACFOY-JOHNSTON, Dion	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
UZOR, Tobe	2	4	0	1	0	13	0
ODUNAIKE, Gabriel	2	3	0	0	0	5	0
CREED, Ollie	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
OKPOLOKPO, Jesse	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
STINGELIN, Alexandre	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
O'DONOVAN, Daniel	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
SIMEONE, Antonio	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
ETUMNU, Charles	1	2	0	0	0	3	0
COOPER-SMITH, Daryl	1	0	0	0	0	102	62
HUNT, Aaron	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
EMOVON, Onome	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
OWUSU, George	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
UZON, Josh	0	2	0	0	0	14	6
COULIBALY, Abdoulaye	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
UNSWORTH, Tom	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
GUEST, Luke	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
ERNE, John	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

LEAGUE TABLE (as at 4.4.23)

25

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1.	Walton & Hersham	34	26	1	7	91	39	52	79
2.	Basingstoke Town	34	25	2	7	80	34	46	77
3.	Marlow	34	18	9	7	60	38	22	63
4.	Northwood	35	19	3	13	49	39	10	60
5.	Hanworth Villa	33	15	9	9	49	47	2	54
6.	Binfield	34	15	8	11	57	44	13	53
7.	Chertsey Town	34	14	8	12	62	46	16	50
8.	Leatherhead	34	14	7	13	42	42	0	49
9.	South Park (Reigate)	34	14	6	14	41	54	-13	48
10.	Southall	33	11	13	9	43	39	4	46
11.	Thatcham Town	34	12	10	12	50	47	3	46
12.	Westfield	34	11	11	12	45	44	1	44
13.	Chipstead	33	12	8	13	44	48	-4	44
14.	Uxbridge	34	10	10	14	47	45	2	40
15.	Guernsey	33	10	8	15	38	59	-21	38
16.	Ashford Town (Middx)	33	10	4	19	40	78	-38	34
17.	Sutton Common Rovers	35	9	5	21	41	68	-27	32
18.	Merstham	34	6	13	15	38	56	-18	31
19.	Bedfont Sports	34	5	13	16	39	57	-18	28
20.	Tooting & Mitcham United	33	4	8	21	26	58	-32	20

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

Rovers Round-Up (Fixtures & Results)

DATE	COMP	H/A	OPPONENTS	H/T	F/T	SCORER(S)	ATT
2022							
6th Aug	FAC EP	A	Fisher	0	0 0	0	168
10th Aug	FAC EP Rep	H	FISHER	0	0 0	1	114
13th Aug	ILSC	A	Chipstead	3	2 4	3 Lyle 2 (1p), Lloyd, Richards	115
27th Aug	ILSC	H	CHERTSEY TOWN	0	1 0	5	78
29th Aug	ILSC	A	Marlow	2	0 2	1 Halsey 2	190
3rd Sep	ILSC	H	GUERNSEY	0	0 0	1	68
10th Sep	FAT	A	East Thurrock Utd	0	0 1	3 Diomande	185
21st Sep	ILSC	H	BEDFONT SPORTS	0	1 0	3	64
24th Apr	ILSC	A	Northwood	0	2 1	2 Mampolo	162
1st Oct	ILSC	H	SOUTHALL	1	1 1	1 Lyle (p)	47
4th Oct	ILSC	A	Binfield	1	2 2	3 Dougan, OG	104
8th Oct	ILSC	A	South Park (Reigate)	0	0 0	1	137
15th Oct	ILSC	A	Thatcham Town	1	0 2	1 OG, Lyle	116
18th Oct	VT R2	A	Three Bridges	1	1 2	2 Dougan, Surmon (SCR win 4-3 on pens)	65
22nd Oct	ILSC	H	TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD	2	0 3	0 Richards, OG, Tanga	96
5th Nov	ILSC	A	Basingstoke Town	1	1 1	2 Surmon	402
12th Nov	ILSC	H	WALTON & HERSHAM	1	0 1	0 Lyle (p)	114
15th Nov	SCC	A	Abbey Rangers	4	2 4	4 Sutherland, Baker, Tanga, Uzor (SCR 9-8 on pens)	
19th Nov	ILSC	A	Hanworth Villa	1	2 1	3 Halsey	122
23rd Nov	ILSC	H	UXBRIDGE	0	1 0	2	81
26th Nov	ILSC	A	Ashford Town (Middx)	0	0 1	2 Lloyd	67
29th Nov	VT R3	A	Binfield	0	0 1	0 Sutherland	92
3rd Dec	ILSC	H	WESTFIELD	0	2 0	2	56
6th Dec	SSC	A	Egham Town	0	1 0	3	
10th Dec	ILSC	H	NORTHWOOD	0	1 1	5 Testolin	65
21st Dec	VT R4	H	LEATHERHEAD	1	2 2	2 Holden, Testolin (L win 4-3 on pens)	84
28th Dec	ILSC	H	MARLOW	1	0 1	3 Morris	101
2023							
2nd Jan	ILSC	A	Leatherhead	2	1 3	4 Sorr, Morris, Diomande	365
7th Jan	ILSC	H	CHIPSTEAD	0	0 0	1	82
9th Jan	ILSC	A	Merstham	0	2 0	3	222
14th Jan	ILSC	A	Guernsey	0	1 0	1	489
21st Jan	ILSC	H	BASINGSTOKE TOWN	0	2 0	5	135
28th Jan	ILSC	A	Walton & Hersham	0	0 0	2	342
4th Feb	ILSC	H	HANWORTH VILLA	0	1 2	1 Tehe	58
11th Feb	ILSC	A	Uxbridge	0	0 0	0	78
15th Feb	ILSC	A	Bedfont Sports	1	1 3	3 Tanton, Lloyd, Torpey (p)	91
18th Feb	ILSC	H	SOUTH PARK (REIGATE)	1	0 4	0 Torpey 3, Morris	71
25th Feb	ILSC	A	Southall	2	1 2	2 Torpey, Ouaret Sorr	70
4th Mar	ILSC	H	BINFIELD	0	1 0	3	68
11th Mar	ILSC	H	THATCHAM TOWN	1	1 2	2 Divine, Ghannam	51
18th Mar	ILSC	A	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	1	0 2	0 Torpey, Ghannam	202
22nd Mar	SCC QF	H	CAMBERLEY TOWN	0	1 2	2 Cox 2 (SCR win 4-2 on pens)	68
25th Mar	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town	0	0 0	1	
1st Apr	ILSC	H	MERSTHAM	1	0 2	0 Cox, Torpey (p)	142
10th Apr	ILSC	H	LEATHERHEAD				
15th Apr	ILSC	A	Westfield				
19th Apr	SCC SF	H	BALHAM				
22nd Apr	ILSC	H	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)				

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The Untold Game

Gundi: The Bulgarian Hero

At first it seems a simple question. Who is the greatest Bulgarian to have ever played the game? The nation boasts just one Ballon d'Or winner, and that man, Hristo Stoichkov, became a legend both for his country and for Barcelona, one of the giants of the European game. He is rightly regarded as one of the finest footballers of his generation. So why is it that if you ask the question in Bulgaria, you'll likely get a different answer?

Georgi Asparuhov – Gundi – was born in the middle of the Second World War, in Sofia, and spent most of his childhood in the post-war chaos demonstrating his prodigious talent in the city's youth league. As he turned 15 in the late 1950s, he was invited for a trial at city heavyweights Levski Sofia, and duly taken on as a member of their under 16 side. It wasn't long before he made his mark there as well, with his manager Konstantin Georgiev reporting to the first team that 'there is nothing we can do with him' to make him better. 'The boy is a born footballer.'

Gundi didn't stick around in the youth teams for long, and he was in the first team, at just 17, against Botev Plovdiv. Tall and imposing, the Levski coaches thought he was a natural centre back, despite Gundi's belief in his attacking talents. Grateful, however, he lined up at the back, but he couldn't contain his own talents. He quickly became known for both goalscoring and for dribbling out of defence, often embarrassing his opponents. When he was called up for Bulgaria's youth teams, and excelled. In a tournament in Austria, he jinked past two players and scored from almost the halfway line. Everyone agreed, he was an attacker, and that's where he played from then on.

National Service threatened to stall Gundi's career just as he made his breakthrough, but he was allowed to continue playing for the club nearest to where he was stationed; Botev Plovdiv. In his two seasons, he transformed them from mid-table fodder to genuine title contenders, finishing third and then second. But his heart was in Sofia, and when he was released from the military he went back to Levski. By now he had become an imposing striker. Tall, strong, fast, he was a defence's nightmare. In 1965 Levski won their first title in 12 years, with Gundi scoring 27 in 29. He then went off with the national team to a difficult World Cup qualifier against Belgium, which Bulgaria were expected to lose. In a performance described as 'divine' he scored twice to send his country to the finals, and would be nominated for the Ballon d'Or, ahead of Franz Beckenbauer and Ferenc Puskas.



With Levski in now European Cup action, it was inevitable that some European giants would come knocking. After three goals against Benfica, the Portuguese champions made an approach, with Eusebio declaring that he craved to play alongside the Bulgarian. Milan were the most persistent though, making repeated offers. Bulgaria, under strict communist control refused to let him leave the country.



The 1966 World Cup was a disappointment for Bulgaria, but Gundi flourished. In a group of death with Brazil, Portugal and Hungary (with Ballon d'Or winner Florian Albert). Gundi scored his side's only goal (above), but was unable to carry the team himself with so much talent against him. He left disappointed, but with his reputation further enhanced.

Unfortunately, his heroics just made him more of a target in what was an increasingly violent Bulgarian league. Injuries threatened to finish his career early, but it was to end in far more tragic circumstances.

Having been injured once too often, and unable to play for Levski, Gundi was invited to a celebration by Botev Plovdiv, who still loved him from his two season spell there a decade earlier. He took his international teammate Nikola Kotkov with him for the ride, and picked up a hitchhiker on the road. As he made his way down the Hemus motorway, his Alfa Romeo lost control and smashed into a truck. The car was set alight, and all three men died. Kotkov was 32, Gundi was 28.

In 1999, he was voted (ahead of Stoichkov) as Bulgaria's greatest ever player. He was placed 40th on FIFA's list of the greatest players of the twentieth century. It is impossible to guess how his reputation might have changed had he moved to Western Europe, but one suspects he might be much more readily remembered. For Gundi, though, he achieved his dream. One audacious attempt by Milan to lure him across the Iron Curtain, with the promise of \$500,000, a contract level with the highest paid player in Italy, and most importantly, safe passage out of the Communist bloc, he responded by saying 'there is a country called Bulgaria, and in this country there is a team called Levski. You may not have heard of it, but I was born there and there I shall die.' Tragically, he was right.

Enjoy the game.

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



ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

Swans deliver a massacre - and hit the summit for the first time this season

Walton win our battle of the top two in style- and take over at the top. Marlow deliver their usual comeback victory, Sparks, Kingfishers and Tanners triumph, and we've a crucial win for Rovers

Hanworth Villa blew the title race wide open with a narrow victory at leaders **BASINGSTOKE TOWN** last weekend, and Stoke had the most difficult task as they looked to bounce back- a trip to second place **WALTON & HER-SHAM**. The Swans had won their last thirteen matches, and striker Eddie Simon- this week seen starring on Sky Sports News- had scored a hat trick in each of their last four, so it was no surprise when Simon hit the scoresheet once more, breaking the deadlock on twenty two minutes. Walton added a second just before the break, Mitchal Gough with what looked to be a crucial goal, but George Reid made a match of it by pulling a goal back seven minutes after the restart. The Swans then struck a killer blow, Alex Kelly with a third seventeen minutes from time, and it got worse for Stoke as Billy Upton saw red. A penalty from Harry Mills made it four-one with eight minutes to go, and it was five three minutes from time, Jordan Adeyemi with that one. The Swans go two points clear- and the crowd was ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY ONE!

Third place **MARLOW**, nine matches unbeaten, travelled to **WESTFIELD** hoping to take a step closer to confirming their play off place- but they fell behind early on, Florian Envoudou Ada scoring for the first time since December. The visitors were quickly level, Dawid Rogalski ensuring the Westfield only enjoyed their supremacy for five minutes, but four minutes before the break Andrew Crossley restored home advantage. Again the visitors roared back, and Toby Raggett made it two-two just before the break- and the next goal also went the way of Marlow, Rogalski making it three-two with eleven minutes to go. That was that, and Marlow open up a four point gap between themselves and Northwood in the battle for play off home advantage.

CHERTSEY TOWN travelled to **THATCHAM TOWN** on the back of a run of one win in eight. The Kingfishers themselves had only one win from six, but they went ahead on the quarter hour, Josh Edwards opening the scoring. The equaliser arrived just before half time, Troy Walters with it, but the Kingfishers were ahead once more with twenty minutes left, Simeon Weekes doing the damage. That was that, Thatcham up to tenth and doing the double over their opponents.

SOUTH PARK REIGATE played host to **UXBRIDGE**. The Sparks had seen their promotion bid falter with only two wins from ten; whilst their visitors had also only won twice during the same period, so a battle of two form sides this wasn't- but the hosts went ahead eight minutes into the second half, Deondre Gate with the opener.

Ben Jordan added a second eighteen minutes from time, but the visitors made the closing stages interesting when Aaron Minhas scored with six minutes to go. The interest stopped there, and the Sparks are up to eighth.

Another big match came from Whyteleafe, as **SUTTON COMMON ROVERS**, third from bottom, welcomed the side one place and two points ahead of them, **MERSTHAM**. The Moatsiders defeat to Binfield last time out was only their second in ten matches, and they remained three points behind sixteenth place Ashford Town with a game in hand and a significantly better goal difference. Rovers had also been in good form, only three defeats from ten, and they went ahead on the stroke of half time, Tyler Cox opening the scoring. Immediately after the restart the hosts had a penalty, Conan Torpey converting to give them a two-nil lead, but Rovers then went down to ten men, Nabeel Ghannam seeing red. The Moatsiders also finished with ten, Mario Quissaca seeing red- and fell to eighteenth, a point behind their hosts, who are two points from safety.



Second bottom **BEDFONT SPORTS** were fighting for a play off spot this time last season, but found themselves six points from safety as they welcomed **LEATHERHEAD**. Just before the break the Tanners saw Javaun Platt dismissed, but it was the ten men who broke the deadlock with seventeen minutes to go, Alpha Diallo with the opening goal. That turned out to be the only goal, and it leaves Leatherhead in eleventh, whilst Sports stay six points from safety with only four matches left to play.

Just three games on Tuesday, with **HANWORTH VILLA** gaining the most, their 2-0 win over **SOUTHALL** effectively ended the visitors play off hopes, whilst strengthening their own.

BINFIELD dropped out of the play off zone, despite a creditable 0-0 draw with one time leaders **NORTHWOOD**.

However the drama was at **LEATHERHEAD**, where the hosts scored twice in the last minute to not only pull **MERSTHAM** back into the relegation zone, but back behind ourselves. With a minute to go, the Moatsiders led 1-0 and were on their way out of danger, only for Leatherhead to win 2-1.

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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF:

SUTTON COMMON ROVERS

FORMED: 1978

NICKNAME:
THE COMMONERS

JUST A S...T SUNDAY SIDE

Ah, the cry from the Eastbourne Town fans back in the day as they romped to a 2-0 lead in the Vase, before we struck back to win 3-2.

Well, truth be told that's where it all started back in 1978, when INRAD FC took to the field, the club being founded by current Chairman Alan Salmon. Not long after Centre 21 came about following a sponsorship deal with a local youth centre.

Once players left having reached 21, a new name came about: Sutton Common Rovers FC, which quickly abbreviated to SCR followed by whichever public house sponsored the team.

Seasons followed in the Leatherhead & District, Mitcham & District, and Croydon & District Sunday league, with varying degrees of success before Darren Salmon took the plunge and moved the team into Saturday football.

SATURDAY SUCCESS

The 2004/5 season saw that Saturday move. After a couple of seasons in the Surrey South East Combination and the Middlesex County League we took our place in the Combined Counties League for the 2008/09 season.

Darren made the bold statement that he wanted to be an Isthmian side within five seasons. Well, it took a bit longer but we eventually got there.

Our time in the CCL was full of ups and downs. Missing out on promotion in our opening season on goal difference, by 1 goal (as it turned out a missed penalty against Dorking in our penultimate game was key as it meant they had a 1 goal better goal difference than us).

Promotion followed the next season, and two seasons in the Premier culminated with relegation back to Division 1 in 2011/12. We bounced back up immediately, but then spent three seasons struggling in the Premier division before a change in fortunes in 2016/17 saw a mid-table finish.

It was all upwards after that, missing out on promotion with 3rd and 2nd finishes by one place in consecutive seasons. However, we finished top on PPG after two abandoned seasons to finally move to the Isthmian League.

IT'S A FAMILY THING

As said, chairman Alan Salmon founded the side back in 1978, and his boys, Darren and Justin, both played for the club once they were old enough.

Darren progressed to First Team manager, in around 2000 while we were still a Sunday side, something he has continued to the present day.

Justin has since been co-manager of the First team with Darren and reserve team manager, all alongside managing the Sunday sides. He is now the club secretary.

We were also ahead of the game in terms of getting ladies involved in the club. Alan's daughter Tracy joined the fun when the SCR Colts were formed and quickly established herself behind the tea bar counter.

For good measure her other half Mark became youth secretary, a role that he held until the start of this season.

Throw into that that all Alan's grandchildren (Sam: #forever7, forever missed; Tyler, Reece and Blake, and Ethan) all played for the club, with Blake and Reece now involved on matchdays. As you see, we are truly a family club.



CUP GLORY (ish)

We have a proud cup-fighting tradition, often getting the better of higher ranked sides.

It's not all been glory though as we suffered heartbreak twice in finals, losing 1-0 to Staines Lammas in the CCL Division 1 final in the 2008/09 season, and the following year we lost to Sutton Utd Reserves in the Surrey Premier Cup Final, 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The 2016/17 season saw the club secure it's first Saturday trophy with a 4-1 win over Camberley Town in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.

Semi final defeats followed the next season in the Southern Combination Cup and the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup, which saw a heart-breaking 97th minute goal against Worcester Park to lose 3-2.

In 2018/19 we reached two cup finals, with defeat after extra time against Walton Casuals 4-2 in the Southern Combination Cup. The club finally secured the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup. An 84th minute strike by Matt Farrell securing a 1-0 win over CB Hounslow Utd.

There has been some success in the FA Vase, with the 5th Round reached in the 2019/20 season, but it ended in disappointment away at Western League Bitton AFC when we lost 2-1.

The FA Cup has been hit and miss with exits in the Extra-Preliminary Round before the 2021/22 season saw us reach the 2nd Qualifying Round for the first time.

SPOT THE BALL ANSWER



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

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

Take your match notes here...

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The 'Rovers' V The 'Tanners'

Monday 10th April 2023 | 15:00 KO

Isthmian South Central

Match Officials: Ref Mr Jonathon Wilks
Assts: Mr Daniel Trout & Mr Stephen Matthews



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

Joint Managers:

Darren Salmon & Sam Morgan

Enjoy the match!

Manager:

Hayden Bird



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

WHAT'S ON...



WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL | 7:45PM KICK OFF

v/s BALHAM (SCOM Semi Final)



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