

Rovers Vs Moatsiders



Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

Sat 1st April 2023 | 3:00pm KICK OFF
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INSIDE TODAY...

OUR PEOPLE

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1st Team Joint Manager - Sam Morgan
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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


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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

Merstham 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 Merstham FC, we hope they enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Ciaran Fidler and his assistants, Mr Thomas Nicholls and Mr Dane Johnston, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILKOMEN



Today's opponents come to us currently sitting one place above us in the table, but are two points better off, and have two games in hand. Like us they are fighting for their Step 4 lives, and will be wanting to avoid the drop, and even get out of the relegation play off places.

This will only be the second meeting at senior level between the two sides, with the first taking place at the start of the year, when we were still in the midst of our winless run.

That night it was two ex-players who came back to haunt us with Adam Allen and Aaron Goode giving the Moatsiders a two-goal half time lead, and when Daryl Cooper-Smith was denied early in the second half, heads dropped and a third was always on the cards, and duly came through Adam Adam.

There is a certain irony in the fact that those two ex-players were such a huge part of our successes and ultimate promotion to step 4 and could now be helping send us down. Another coming back is the very popular Filip Chalupniczak, who, along with current custodian James Dillon, played a huge part in keeping us up last season.

Charlie Alexiou was with us a few seasons ago and made a couple of appearances, scoring once, whilst Merstham goalkeeper coach Ollie Ellaway was between the sticks for our Combined Counties Premier Challenge Cup win.

Our recent performances have been mixed we picked up a comfortable win against Tooting & Mitcham, where goals from Conan Torpey and Nabeel Ghanam gave us a 2-0 win.

We followed that by progressing to the Southern Combination Challenge Cup semi-final, courtesy of a shoot out win over Combined Counties South side Camberley Town, a double from the skipper, Tyler Cox, taking us to spot kicks, where we progressed 4-2.

Last time out we suffered further stoppage time heartache, this time against Chertsey Town, in a game where everything was against us. Having defended valiantly with ten men for 70 minutes after Markus Marku was dismissed, time was blown almost immediately the hosts scored.

Elsewhere, the U23's remain top of the John Bennett Development Division, sitting ahead of Frimley Green on goal difference, but we have two games in hand, and two points clear of Molesey, level on games.

For the 18's their hopes of retaining the title look to be all but over after they went down to a 2-1 defeat on Wednesday against league leaders Cray Valley PM. We went behind in the 2nd minute and levelled two minutes into the second half, only to concede a 93rd minute winner.

Enough from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home, and see you on Bank Holiday Monday when we host Leatherhead.

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

MERSTHAM FC



FORMED: 1892

NICKNAME:
The Moatsiders

HISTORY: **The Last Decade**

After just twenty games in charge Martin left the club and Antony Williams and Rob Smith took on the role as Caretaker Managers whilst the Club advertised for a new manager. On January 9th 2012, and after interviewing several candidates, the Board announced that former Bromley Town manager Hayden Bird would take up the post with immediate effect. Bird rang the changes bringing in several new players including David Graves who replaced Adam Moriarty as club captain. Merstham finished a creditable 9th place with a finishing run of seven games without a loss.

The 2012/13 season saw many changes at the club notably the loss of the Reserves, A & B Teams, the Sunday Team and the U18s; the board citing financial reasons. This was Bird's first full season in charge and it didn't quite live up to his expectations with Merstham finishing 12th and without a noticeable run in any cup completion. With a minimal budget Bird again rang the changes for the 2013/14 season bringing in more experienced players and the expectation of a play-off position.

The 2013/14 season saw Merstham attain their highest place in the club's history finishing seventh with their highest tally of points and goals since gaining promotion to the Ryman League.

It was a proverbial season of two halves for the Moatsiders.

At Christmas Merstham were languishing in 18th place with just 25 points from 21 games, however, with the return of Fabio Saraiva and the addition of the raw talent of Michael Abnett Merstham turned the tide during the wettest winter on record.

After a humiliating 1-4 defeat at home to local rivals Chipstead, Merstham went on an incredible unbeaten 13-game league run, winning on 11 occasions and finally just missing out on the play-offs, finishing seventh. Tommy Hutchings deservedly won the Players and Supporters 'Player of the Season' awards.

The 2014/15 season was to be the best in the Club's history to date gaining promotion to the Ryman Premier Division by winning the play-offs in style and being runners up in the Surrey Senior Cup. Merstham finished fourth in the Ryman League Division One South scoring 107 goals and gaining 93 points. In the Play-Off Semi-Final it was all square at 0-0 at the end of extra time Merstham won 5-4 on penalties with keeper Brannon Daly making a match-winning save.

In front of a crowd of 1465 Merstham gained promotion at Folkestone beating the home side 3-0 with goals from Taurean Roberts, Tutu Henriques and skipper Fabio Saraiva. Just four days later a tired looking Merstham lost 2-0 in the final of the Surrey Senior Cup to Metropolitan Police. A disappointment, yes, but their ultimate aim had been achieved.

The 2015/16 season was to be yet another record breaking season for Merstham attaining their highest position in the 'Football Pyramid' finishing a very creditable 10th in their first Season in The Ryman Isthmian Premier League.

This was helped by 20 goals from Charlie Penny and 14 from Fabio Saraiva who were both promptly offered a position at National League side Woking. The season finished on another high when they trounced Godalming Town 4-1 in the final of the Surrey Senior Cup. Another very successful season for Manager Hayden Bird and his team.

So we come to Merstham's second season in the Ryman Premier League and what a season this is turning out to be with the Moatsiders reaching the 'First Round Proper' of the FA Cup for the first time in their history. They achieved this with some of the finest football ever seen at the Moatside; They beat East Preston (4-1), Colliers Wood Utd (2-1 in a replay), Thamesmead Town (5-1) and Ebbsfleet Utd (2-1) on the way to end up facing SkyBET League One side Oxford Utd.

The loss of skipper Fabio Saraiva and Charlie Penny in the close season to National League side Woking was an

obvious blow to Merstham but Manager Hayden Bird was determined to build on the success of the previous season. He brought in experience goalkeeper Phil Wilson who early in his career was at Oxford United. Hayden also signed Dan Bennett, Alex Addai and Xavier Vidal; Tom Kavanagh was given the skipper's armband.

Prolific goalscorer Charlie Penny returned to the Moatside after not getting regular football at Woking and scored twice in his first game back for Merstham. However an injury during the FA Cup game at home to Ebbsfleet United kept him side-lined for the rest of the season. The obvious highlight of the season was facing Oxford United in the first proper which saw a record breaking crowd of 1920 watching Merstham at the Moatside on 5th November 2016. Unfortunately Merstham were no match for Oxford losing 5-0; a scoreline that somewhat flattered the League One side.

After the euphoria of the cup run Merstham's season took a downward trend losing games they should have easily won and the season finished with the Club escaping relegation by the skin of their teeth.



MEET TODAY'S OPPONENTS

This was not helped by the loss of three points for fielding an eligible player earlier in the season.

During the close season Manager Hayden Bird made whole sale changes to his squad; Assistant Manager Mick Sullivan, who left the club, was replaced by Merstham player/coach Tutu Henriques. 2017/18 saw us celebrate our 125th anniversary, finish 12th in the league and for the second time in four years win the Specsavers Surrey Senior Cup, beating Leatherhead 3-1 at Sutton United's Gander Green Lane.

The 2018/19 season saw big changes at the club. The club's most successful Manager to date, Hayden Bird, after guiding the club to the play-off finals decided that he had taken the club as far as he could and made the decision to move on to local rivals Kingstonian FC. Former Tooting and Mitcham Manager Frank Wilson was appointed in June 2019 and having been left with no players set about building his own team including former Moatsiders Omar Folkes and Peter Wedgeworth.

No one could predict the events that affected all football throughout the world as the 2019/20 season neared its conclusion. New Merstham Manager Frank Wilson had a baptism of fire as his team struggled to maintain their Premier League status and when the season was finally brought to an end, with all records being expunged, Merstham were fighting relegation and sat in 21st place. As everyone knows the devastating Covid-19 global pandemic brought all live sport to an abrupt end and left Merstham and many other grass roots clubs pondering their future.

For the full Merstham history scan the QR Code

HONOURS

Redhill & District League: Division Two Champions 1927

East Surrey Junior Cup: Winners 1930

Redhill & District League: Premier Division Champions 1934-35, 1935-36, 1949-50, 1950-51

Surrey Intermediate League: Champions 1952-53

Surrey Senior Charity Cup: Winners 1976-77

London Spartan Challenge Cup: Winners 1979-80

East Surrey Charities Cup: Winners 1980-81, 1998-99, 2004-05, 2006-07

Dan Air Class Elite Cup: Winners 1989-90

Surrey Veterans County Cup: Winners 1995-96

Premier Challenge Cup: Winners 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08 Runners-Up 2005-06

Combined Counties Premier Division: Champions 2007-08

Surrey Senior Cup: Winners 2007-08, 2015-16, 2017-18

Ryman League Division One South Fair Play Award: Winners 2010-11

Ryman League South Play-Off: Winners 2014-15





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SPOT THE BALL



Action from the Tooting game and Antonio Simeone wins a header against former Rover Shawn Lyle, but where is the ball...

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FROM THE GAFFER



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

GB: Safe to say there have been some ups and downs over the last few weeks. What have you been able to take the most positives from, and conversely, the most negatives from?

DS: Hi Gary, both Sam & I knew that matches were running out and that dropped points would make it all that bit tougher. I could sit here and talk about how things haven't gone our way (and best I don't get started in truth) but sometimes its easier to look inward, so for me its been injuries and illness along with work and childcare that's hurt us the most.

GB: Since our last home game you have introduced a couple of new players to the squad for the final push, in Antonio Simeone and Tom Unsworth, what do they both bring to the table?

DS: Yes we felt that due to much off the above we needed to add a little defensively, Simmo is very experienced as we saw against Tooting and Tom is an exciting young full back that had a spell with Leatherhead and made his Rovers debut last week against 11 man Chertsey, he certainly didn't look phased and for me will embrace whatever minutes he gets.

GB: It is crunch time in the season, and you must be pleased that we are still in the hunt and still able to fight for our survival. That twelve game run obviously left us with a mountain to climb, but the lads have responded well since we came out of that.

DS: Yes G, all you can ask is that in the closing stages it stays in your own hands. Whether there are enough games left to drag ourselves out of the bottom 4 remains to be seen, but the picture will be clearer today at 4:45. The only real devastating outcome at this stage would be a bottom 2 auto relegation, that would really hurt with the group we are finishing the season with.

























GB: It's another tough one today as we host an in-form Merstham. Obviously we expect another stiff test, but we have to keep being positive and keep the faith.

DS: Yes, when we played them away, with a very different group in truth, we were way below our best and played the occasion not the game for me.

Today we know will be another good test, lets be real there are very few games at step 4 or 5 that aren't , but what I hope for is that we give our best and that there are minimal controversial decisions...

MATCH REPORT:

THATCHAM TOWN

Sutton Common Rovers			Saturday 11th March 2023		Thatcham Town			
1	James Dillon		Sutton Common Rovers	2		1	Toby Fisher	
2	Danny Divine					2	Issiaga Kaba	
3	Matthew Tanton					3	Ramarni Medford-S...	
4	Courtney Swaby		Thatcham Town	2		4	Callum Willmouth	
5	Bertie Lloyd					5	Noah Coates	
6	Joshua Okpolokpo					6	Oliver Bourne	
7	Hermann Tehe		Isthmian League - South Central Division			7	Muhamadou Ceesay	
8	Marcus Marku		Attendance: 51			8	Kiye Martin	
9	Conan Torpey	 	Kick-off: 3pm			9	Harry Williams	
10	Zaid Ouaret Sorr		<div>Info</div> <div>Videos</div>			10	Jordan Alves	
11	Maxwell Oldham					11	Nathan Jones	
			Match Information			12	Cameron Rohart-Brown	
12	Tyler Cox	 	Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 2-2 Thatcham Town			14	Dan Smith	 
14	Gabriel Odunaiké		Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-1 Thatcham Town			15	Ornildo Shehu	
15	Nabeel Ghannam	 				16	Ashley Howell	
16	Liam Holden					18	Simeon Weekes	
17	Ryan Stedman-Hoyte							

If a front-foot start was what was required, today was the day that saw it happen. From an early press Rovers win a corner on our left. Max Oldham curling his cross to the far right post, and Bertie Lloyd heading back across the six yard box, finding Danny Divine whose strike, taking a deflection, found the back of the net. 1 0 up in 3mins – a dream start.

From a foul by Matt Tanton in our far right corner, Jordan Alves’ free-kick evades everyone in the box and skims off the right hand post. Moments later a headed clearance from Tanton finds Oldham breaking quickly. His pass to Conan Torpey deftly flicked on to Hermann Tehe, but the Thatcham defence were equal to it.

Unfortunately, Rovers’ one goal advantage was short-lived as, on 12mins, after a moment’s hesitation and miscommunication at the back, allowed Muhamadou Ceesay to slip past Dillon and stroke the ball home for an easy equaliser.

The game swung from end to end with both teams carving out chances, but good defending denying any meaningful finish. A long clearance from James Dillon drops nicely for Conan Torpey, but he was unable to get a decent shot away.

Thatcham’s Alves and Harry Williams were a handful all game and caused problems for us on the break, but quality defending from Josh Okpolokpo and Bertie Lloyd denying any threat so far.



Around the half-hour mark, a chance to restore our lead was chalked off by the referee for an alleged handball. A break by Thatcham's no9 Harry Williams needed a brilliant interception for Okpolokpo, his pass setting Swaby away, but he was pulled down. From the Swaby free-kick just inside the Thatcham half, the ball floated into the penalty area for Okpolokpo to bring down and tap home. Quite how this was adjudged handball will remain with the officials.

The game was becoming increasingly ragged towards the end of the first half. Callum Wellmouth picking up a yellow card for a challenge on Tehe, and a levelling up yellow for Divine.

So, all square heading into the break., but Thatcham finishing with far more possession.

After a quiet start to the second half it was Thatcham who went close on the hour, ex SCR man Martin linked up with Ceesay who sprung our defence, and he bought a great save out of Dillon. From the corner, Tanton cleared to Tehe, who set Oldham off on the right, his cross finding Marcus Marku, but his shot was narrowly over the bar.

60mins in, Thatcham's Medford-Smith played in Ceesay, from the left side, who slotted the ball past Dillon, fortunately from a off-side position.

On 63mins, Tehe and Ouaret Sorr were substituted for Nabeel Ghannam and Tyler Cox. Although Tehe and Ouaret Sorr played well during their shift, the inspired double substitution paid immediate dividends. A cross-pitch pass from Tyler Cox on the left dropped nicely for Oldham, whose intricate passing exchange with Marku gave Oldham space to whip in a telling cross. The clever backheel from Torpey fell behind Nabeel Ghannam, who still had a lot to do, but showed great composure to turn 180, take a touch to tee-up and fire top right, leaving the keeper Toby Fisher no chance, and to restore our one goal advantage.

Thatcham upped the pressure, continuing to press hard, resulting in a succession of corners, and throw-ins deep in our half; Rovers desperately trying to hold their advantage. On 80mins Okpolokpo did well to head clear from a Martin cross into the box.

A challenge on Torpey gives Rovers' a free kick at a dangerous distance. Oldham and Marku poised ready to take, but Oldham's kick punched well clear by Fisher.

With the clock running down, and with an air of inevitability Thatcham struck a killer blow. As Rovers defended on the left, conscious of not giving away a free-kick, Alves somehow lofted the ball to the head of the completely unmarked Issiaga Kaba in the centre of our penalty area. Kaba's header was guided simply to the right of Dillon's outstretched arm, to bring the score level at 2-2. A bitter pill to swallow at this point in the game and two points dropped.

PICS: THATCHAM TOWN



Top: Danny Divine with a superb challenge on ex SCR man Kiye Martin;

Inset: Max Oldham and Josh Okpolokpo;

Below: Nabeel Ghannam puts us 2-1 ahead.



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MATCH REPORT: TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD

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')		5 Jesse Okpolokpo	↺
4 Jayden Hutchings	↺	Nabeel Ghannam (63')		6 Antonio Simeone	
8 Dillon Gordon				7 Tyler Cox	
9 Shawn Lyle		Isthmian League - South Central Division		8 Courtney Swaby	
10 Ryan Lopes		Attendance: 202		9 Conan Torpey	⚽ ↺
7 Anuar Ceesay	↺	Kick-off: 3pm		10 Nabeel Ghannam	⚽
12 Elias Bagdonavicius		Referee: Fadi Mansour		11 Maxwell Oldham	↺
16 Baye Ndiaye	↺	Venue: Imperial Fields		12 Marcus Marku	↺
13 Dan Purdue				14 Gabriel Odunaike	↺
11 Manu Oke-William	↺			15 Hermann Tehe	
14 Jaiden Chang				16 Zaid Ouaret Sorr	
15 Raees Bangura-Will...	↺			17 Shakeel Morris	↺

Info Videos

Match Information

Full-time: Tooting & Mitcham United 0-2 Sutton Common Rovers
Half-time: Tooting & Mitcham United 0-1 Sutton Common Rovers

Rovers secured a first ever win at Imperial Fields on Saturday when goals from Conan Torpey and Nabeel Ghannam gave them a 2-0 win over Tooting & Mitcham Utd.

Tooting started brightly and a dangerous cross from Anuar Ceesay in the opening minutes was well claimed by James Dillon. Rovers gradually grew back into the game and struck the opening goal on seven minutes. Danny Divine was fouled on the right, and from Courtney Swaby's whipped in cross, Torpey met with a flying header to give Sam Nabbad in the Tooting goal no chance.

Rovers should have increased their lead on ten minutes, a lightning break by Tyler Cox, after we had cleared a Tooting free kick, saw him pick out Max Oldham but he was denied by last gasp defending by Alex Filipe and Isaac Charles. Back at the other end and a weaving run by Elias Bagdonavicius ended with a shot high over the crossbar.

Tooting should have levelled on 17 minutes, a great ping by Nabbad found Ceesay, his cross was only half cleared to ex Rovers man Shawn Lyle, but Josh Okpolokpo came from nowhere to block his effort. From the corner Torpey cleared from Krokhin with Ceesay hammering the loose ball over the bar.



Torpey poked an effort wide of the right hand post on 19 minutes and Rovers should have increased their lead on 25 minutes but after Liam Holden had picked out Max Oldham, his low cross was just behind the on-rushing Torpey and Swaby. Tooting broke quickly and Lyle shanked an effort wide of the left hand post.

Rovers continued to press and some hands to the pump defending from Tooting was required to keep Rovers at bay. Tooting was almost back in the game on the half hour, Rovers were caught overplaying and a quick break by Bagdonavicius ended with a shot over the crossbar.

Nabbad gathered a dangerous low Cox cross at his near post on 38 minutes and having been on the back foot for much of the first half Tooting thought they had levelled five minutes before the break. A free kick by Ceesay was deflected high off the Rovers wall and bundled home by Ryan Lopes. However an eagle eyed assistant had spotted a foul on James Dillon and the goal chalked off.

Rovers went in at the break one goal to the good, knowing they had dominated but all too aware of how that single goal lead could easily be wiped out.

Early in the second half and it should have been 2-0, a low Cox cross found Oldham at the back post but rather than drilling his effort goalbound, he daltied on the ball and his attempted lob was cleared off the line by Charles. Torpey found his way into the book on 50 minutes for a foul.

Tooting were definitely inspired by a stern half time talking to, and were pushing hard for an equaliser but our defence was holding firm and Dillon was relatively untroubled and shortly before the hour Rovers should have increased their lead but after good work by Cox, Torpey was unable to get a shot away.

Divine saw an effort held by Nabbad, and on 63 minutes Rovers made their first change with Torpey making way for Gabriel Odunaike. It proved to be an inspired substitution, a long throw by Divine found Odunaike and his set up let Nabeel Ghannam drive home number two and finally give Rovers some breathing space.

Tooting were lucky to stay with all eleven men on the pitch after a shocking tackle by Dillon Gordon on Cox, and with 15 minutes remaining Cox bought a tidy save out of Nabbad low to his right. Five minutes from time and substitute Markus Marku found Odunaike but his lob went just over the crossbar, and a minute later Ghannam tried his luck but saw his effort drift over the bar as well.

Deep into stoppage time and Tooting almost forced a consolation but a low drive by Raaes Bangura-Williams was superbly saved low down to his left by Dillon, and that was that.

PICS: TOOTING & MITCHAM



Top: A flying Conan Torpey puts us 1-0 up;

Inset: Matt Tanton and
debutant Antonio Simeone;

Below: Liam Holden holds up
the Tooting attacker.



CAREER RECORDS

21

2022/23 Season						Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
COX, Tyler	31	4	2	5	0	35	2
LLOYD, Bertie	30	1	3	2	0	31	3
SWABY, Courtney	22	5	0	3	1	27	0
HOLDEN, Liam	16	3	1	5	0	379	107
DIVINE, Danny	14	0	1	3	0	14	1
TANTON, Matt	13	4	1	2	2	166	6
OUARET SORR, Zaid	11	3	2	2	0	14	2
DILLON, James	11	0	0	0	0	20	0
BLACKWOOD, Siao	10	5	0	3	0	15	0
MORRIS, Shakeel	10	4	3	0	0	14	3
MARKU, Markus	10	4	0	2	1	14	0
OKPOLOKPO, Joshua	9	1	0	2	1	10	0
TORPEY, Conan	9	1	6	5	0	10	6
GHANNAM, Nabeel	5	4	2	2	0	9	2
TEHE, Hermann	5	3	2	0	0	16	2
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	5	3	0	2	0	11	0
ROBINSON, Malachi	4	0	0	0	0	96	3
OLDHAM, Max	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
MACFOY-JOHNSTON, Dion	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
UZOR, Tobe	2	3	0	1	0	12	0
ODUNAIKE, Gabriel	2	2	0	0	0	4	0
CREED, Ollie	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
OKPOLOKPO, Jesse	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
STINGELIN, Alexandre	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
O'DONOVAN, Daniel	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
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
SIMEONE, Antonio	1	0	0	0	0	1	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	1	0	1	0	1	0
GUEST, Luke	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
ERNE, John	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

LATEST RESULTS

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH

SOUTH-CENTRAL

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

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH

SOUTH CENTRAL

Guernsey 4-1 Southall

TUESDAY 28TH MARCH

SOUTH CENTRAL

Binfield 4-2 South Park Reigate

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

YOUTH EAST

Glebe P-P K Sports
Sutton Common Rovers 1-2 Cray Valley PM

LEAGUE TABLE (as at 28.3.23)

23

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Basingstoke Town	33	25	2	6	79	29	+50	77
	2 Walton & Hersham	33	25	1	7	86	38	+48	76
	3 Marlow	33	17	9	7	57	36	+21	60
	4 Northwood	34	19	2	13	49	39	+10	59
	5 Binfield	33	15	7	11	57	44	+13	52
	6 Hanworth Villa	32	14	9	9	47	47	0	51
	7 Chertsey Town	33	14	8	11	61	44	+17	50
	8 Southall	32	11	13	8	43	37	+6	46
	9 South Park	33	13	6	14	39	53	-14	45
	10 Westfield	33	11	11	11	43	41	+2	44
	11 Chipstead	33	12	8	13	44	48	-4	44
	12 Thatcham Town	33	11	10	12	48	46	+2	43
	13 Leatherhead	32	12	7	13	39	41	-2	43
	14 Uxbridge	33	10	10	13	46	43	+3	40
	15 Guernsey	33	10	8	15	38	59	-21	38
	16 Ashford Town (Middx)	33	10	4	19	40	78	-38	34
	17 Merstham	32	6	13	13	37	52	-15	31
	18 Sutton Common Rovers	34	8	5	21	39	68	-29	29
	19 Bedfont Sports	33	5	13	15	39	56	-17	28
	20 Tooting & Mitcham United	33	4	8	21	26	58	-32	20

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

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				
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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EVERY SO often in Non-League football something will spark a new major talking point.

Last week it was the revelation from the PFA warning players about changes to player contracts from July 1 that they say they can't support. However, the PFA don't have an agreement in place to represent Non-League footballers.

In case you missed it, here's the rundown.

The FA is introducing a document that National League System clubs wanting to place players on contract must now sign. It comes into effect this summer, specifically from July 1.

Minimum conditions will apply to all new contracts, as well as renewed ones – including extensions.

In a statement, the FA explained it has updated the arrangement 'to better reflect current employment legislation and to provide each party with greater certainty.'

The NLP understands that the existing contract, which has been used for some time, no longer complies with UK employment law.

Lawyers hired by the game's governing body, in addition to others consulted for a second and separate opinion, both concluded that it needed amending to protect against legal challenges.

The big focus has been on injured players. Under the new contract, if a player suffers an injury while playing, they will only receive their full wages for 12 weeks at Step 1, and six weeks if playing at Step 2 or below.

If the player is still ill or injured after this initial period on full wages, the club can reduce their wages to Statutory Sick Pay – a little over £99 per week – until they are fit again.

In addition, a contract can be terminated, with three months' notice, if in the opinion of a club-instructed medic the player is unable to play for a period of four months.

Every contracted player will also be entitled to receive holiday pay, awarded pro-rata if they are not engaged for a full calendar year. Those on a 39-week deal would be entitled the equivalent of four weeks' leave.

A lot of the focus has been on the injury aspect of the new contract. A reminder, clubs must conform to the minimum standards when they sign a player on contract.

National League players have quickly mobilised, impressively so. Yeovil Town captain Josh Staunton gathered the 24 Step 1 captains into a WhatsApp group and they've released a statement calling for talks on the situation.

Their stance has garnered support from their peers and, on social media, fans seem to have their backs.



Staunton told us: "In the League we'd have the PFA. Unfortunately we don't have anyone so we had to make sure we had togetherness or else it would get dismissed really quickly and we'd be bowing down to something we don't believe in. Ultimately, as a person, you have to stand up for what you believe in, don't you?"

So, what are the likely consequences? One immediate and obvious impact is on clubs' wage bills – well, those with contracted players who are now entitled to holiday pay.

The more players they have on deals, the more money they must find. It remains to be seen if that leads to fewer contracts being offered.

Ironically, should that happen, there would be an increase in non-contract players who have even fewer rights and benefits.

Competitions that make up the National League System, together with the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), were consulted by the governing body on the changes.

It means officials have been able to warn clubs they were coming, and to prepare.

Northern Premier League chairman Mark Harris has urged clubs to think carefully before deciding how they will adjust to changes in the contracts. He said: "We can help by passing on information, but we can't give legal advice. Like any businesses, clubs have to seek their own. And that's how it should be; every player is different, and so is every negotiation.

"The PFA was closely involved in discussions up to the point of launch, and it's since made its position clear. "It remains to be seen how many clubs use the discretion they have to go above and beyond the minimum standards attached to the new contract."

It seems this story will run for a while yet.

The Untold Game

The Death of East German Football

Union Berlin's recent achievements should not be underestimated. After making it to the Bundesliga, the community club have consolidated their position and, this season, made an unexpected title bid before falling away from Bayern and Dortmund. It is increasingly likely, however, that they will be in the Champions League next season. It is a far cry from their near demise, begging supporters to come and build their stadium for them. And it is a long awaited return to competitiveness for East German football, which was swept away with communism when the Berlin Wall fell.

The collapse of the wall changed the lives of millions in Germany, and billions around the world, signalling the beginning of the end of the Cold War. It was a year earlier, however, that East Germany had opened its borders to its Western brothers. It was a victory for democracy, and started the process of reunification that had been desired by so many for so long. But it also allowed the heart of East German football to be ripped out, and realistically, Union aside, it has never recovered. RB Leipzig, the Red Bull commercial project, formed less than two decades ago, are not representative of the former DDR.

When the wall came down, West German football fans flocked east, on a footballing pilgrimage to stadia that had previously been off limits. What they found was a footballing infrastructure that mirrored the collapsing society. Dilapidated, wooden firetraps and crumbling stands. DDR clubs and fans had, unsurprisingly, found more important uses for their time and investment than football through such a difficult time. And while West German fans lamented and commiserated the decline, West German owners saw an opportunity.

Reiner Calmund, the ambitious sporting director for Bayer Leverkusen, was the first to make a move. He headed east with a bag of cash and a bag of toys, with one specific target in mind. Bayer already had a history with former DDR players, having signed Falko Gotz and Dirk Schegel, who had fled the bitter reprisals of East German socialism almost a decade before. And to them, Calmund was determined to add Andre-as Thom (pictured).

Thom was the best player, and leading goalscorer, of BFC Dynamo. Who had so dominated East German football in the 1980s that they had won ten titles in a row.

At only 24 when the borders opened, he was in his prime and had a young family to support, something that was growing increasingly difficult even for the most beloved and famous in the DDR.



His children were bribed with the bag of toys Calmund brought with him from the west, and Thom was suitably impressed by the numbers he talked about. Calmund went on to make a bid of 3.6 million German marks to BFC Dynamo, a record at the time. Cash starved and facing extinction, the East German club gratefully accepted, and Thom took his family west to their new home.

Thom was the first, but there was no shortage of exceptional talent in the east that saw the riches on offer. Thomas Doll, Ulf Kirsten and Matthias Sammer followed in the summer of 1990. BFC Dynamo, newly monied but for the first time without the support of repressive security services (Dynamo, in a German context, usually means they were linked to the police and the Stasi), replaced Thom with Heiko Schulz, who left Lok Leipzig for the East German champions for a record fee within the former DDR, 1 million marks. Calmund took him to Leverkusen as well, a couple of years later. Hansa Rostock would win the final East German title before reunification in 1991, after a season marred by violence.

Hansa were duly placed in the Bundesliga when the two countries' footballing set-ups were merged, and established themselves. They were the only ones to do so. FC Berlin, formerly BFC Dynamo, suffered financial collapse and were eventually expelled from the Bundesliga (the top two divisions) altogether, settling in the third tier. The former Lok Leipzig played a single disastrous season in the top flight before sinking through five divisions and never returning. FSV Zwickau, FC Magdeburg, and Sachsen Leipzig, all powerhouses before reunification, went out of business. Zwickau and Magdeburg have since reformed.

In many ways, East German football continues to mirror the former DDR. Despite efforts over the last three decades to bring society up to the level of former West, it lags behind in most metrics. And East German football, similarly, has never fully recovered. At least in Union Berlin, there is finally something to celebrate.

Enjoy the game.

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



ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

Hat Trick Eddie- And Away Win Villains- Close The Gap At The Top To One Point

Walton are breathing down the neck of Basingstoke, and it's a good day for most of our promotion chasers with wins for Marlow, Northwood, Villa, Curfews, Moles, Sparks, Chips and Tanners

HANWORTH VILLA enhanced their own promotion prospects- and blew the title race wide open- with a narrow victory at leaders **BASINGSTOKE TOWN**. Stoke, who had won fifteen in a row prior to this match, saw a goal from Theo Crawford immediately after the restart end that record- and more importantly from their point of view, allow their lead at the top to be cut to one point. The Villains remain in fifth spot, and most of the one thousand and twenty eight watching on went home miserable, whilst the away fans were ecstatic.

Second place **WALTON & HERSHAM** needed a Stoke slip-up, and they will be delighted with that defeat for their rivals- but the Swans still needed to do their bit if they were to capitalise. They did just that, winning their thirteenth match in a row as another Eddie Simon hat trick- that means that, rather incredibly, he has taken home a match ball from each of his last four matches (and five times this season) - gave them victory over **UXBRIDGE**. Simon's goals came in the forty ninth, fifty eighth and sixty ninth minutes, and Mark Bitmead's last consolation for the hosts made little difference. Congratulations to the Swans number nine on a magnificent feat- image from the club.

Third place **MARLOW'S** match with **TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD** was important at both ends of the table. Stuart Pearce was watching on as the hosts continued to impress, and strengthened their hold on third place with a two-nil win. Khalid Simmo scored for the third match in a row to give his side the lead on twenty minutes, and the Terrors hopes of snatching an equaliser were ended when Alex Filipe saw red with thirteen minutes to go. Louis Rogers almost immediately made it two, and the Terrors find themselves fourteen points from safety, nine from the possible lifeline of a relegation play off, with only five matches to go.

NORTHWOOD, in fourth, got back to winning ways with a narrow victory over **WESTFIELD**. The Woods went ahead nine minutes before the break, Shane Cojocarel with the opener, but the visitors levelled on the hour, Jake Baxter with his first goal for his new club from the spot. With fifteen minutes left Mi-cah Jackson restored home advantage, and soon afterwards both sides went down to ten men, Junior Paiva and Didi Ndombe seeing red.

The match between **CHERTSEY TOWN** and **SUTTON COMMON ROVERS** was crucial at both ends of the table. The Curfews were on their worst run of the season, seven matches without a win, but got back to winning ways- and remained a point outside the top five- with a goal right at the end, Troy Walters breaking Rovers hearts. The visitors had held on for seventy minutes with ten men, after Marcus Marku's early red card made their task even more difficult. Rovers are five points from safety with four matches to play.

The worldflow Stadium hosted another match critical at both ends, as **MERSTHAM** welcomed **BINFIELD**. The Moatsiders have closed to within three points of safety, but their seven match unbeaten run came to an end as a goal in each half gave the Moles victory. Conor Lynch scored both of them, taking his tally to eight in twelve matches. The only consolation for the hosts is that all of their closest relegation rivals lost, too.

SOUTH PARK REIGATE had won only one of their previous ten as **ASHFORD TOWN** came to call, but they picked up a valuable three points when Finlay Johnson grabbed the only goal of the game midway through the second half. The Sparks are ninth, six points short of the play offs. The Tangerines remain three points above the bottom four, but have taken only one point from their last seven matches.

CHIPSTEAD are a point behind the Sparks, a late goal giving them victory over a **BEDFONT SPORTS** side desperate for points. George Vincent gave the Chips the lead on the stroke of half time, but the visitors levelled midway through the second half, Cerny Ando with the equaliser. Right at the end a valuable point was snatched away from the second bottom visitors, Jensen Grant delighting the home faithful. Sports are six points from safety.

LEATHERHEAD did the double over **THATCHAM TOWN**, two late goals earning three points for the Tanners. Twelve minutes from time Daniel Hector finally broke through the Kingfishers defence, and with three minutes left on the clock Dave Tarpey's sixteenth of the season made quite sure.

On Sunday **GUERNSEY** turned in probably their best performance of the season when easing to a comprehensive 4-1 win over play off hopefuls **SOUTHALL**. Goals from Jacob Faillaize and Charlton Gauvain gave them a lead at the break, Samuel Murray made it three on the hour, and although Southall pulled one back through Antony O'Connor, a late William Fazakerley strike sealed the win, and all but mathematically secured safety for the Green Lions.

Tuesday night saw **BINFIELD** host **SOUTH PARK REIGATE** in a game crucial to both sides play off hopes and it was the Moles who came out on top, goals from Conor Lynch 2, Connor Holland, and George Winsor giving them a 4-2 win, Finlay Johnson replying twice for the Sparks. Binfield moved back into the play off positions

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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF:

SUTTON COMMON ROVERS

FORMED: 1978

NICKNAME:
THE COMMONERS

JUST A S...T SUNDAY SIDE

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY SUCCESS

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

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

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

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

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

IT'S A FAMILY THING

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

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

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

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

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

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



CUP GLORY (ish)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPOT THE BALL ANSWER



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

Take your match notes here...

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The 'Rovers' V The 'Moatsiders'

Saturday 1st April 2023 | 15:00 KO

Isthmian South Central

Match Officials: Ref Mr Ciaran Fidler

Assts: Mr Thomas Nicholls & Mr Dane Johnston



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

Joint Managers:

Darren Salmon & Sam Morgan

Enjoy the match!

Manager:

Peter Adeniyi



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

WHAT'S ON...



EASTER MONDAY 10th APRIL | 3PM KICK OFF

Vs LEATHERHEAD

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