

Rovers Vs Sparks



Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

Sat 18th February 2023

3:00pm KICK OFF

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Always Making Memories Together

INSIDE TODAY...

OUR PEOPLE

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

Management & Board:

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

1st Team Manager - Darren Salmon
1st Team Asst Manager - Sam Morgan
Head Coach: Cornelius Nwadior
Coach - Liam Joyce
Physio - Iona Ruhomon and Geoff Moxey
Kit & Equipment Manager - Tony Williams
Stadium Emergency 1st Aid - Brent Wallage
Matchday Media - Gary Brigden

Photographs courtesy of:

Gary Brigden Photography and Stuart Tree.

Match Graphics courtesy of **Football Web Pages**

OUR HONOURS

LEAGUE HONOURS

Combined Counties League Premier Division:

Runners-up: 2018–19

Combined Counties League Division One:

Champions 2009–10; Runners-up: 2012–13

CUP HONOURS

Combined Counties League Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup:

Winners: 2018–19

Combined Counties League Division One Cup:

Runners-up: 2008–09

Middlesex County League Premier Division

Cup: Runners-up: 2007–08

Southern Combination Challenge Cup:

Winners: 2016–17; Runners up: 2018–19

Surrey Premier Cup:


Runners-up: 2009–10

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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

**South Park
Reigate 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 South Park FC, we hope they enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Joshua Langley-Fineing and his assistants, Mr Stuart McKenzie and Mr Jamie Wells, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

Today's opponents come to us currently sitting in 7th in the table with 40 points from their 26 games.

They have picked up some good wins this season at home against Marlow 2-0, Binfield 3-1 and a resurgent Leatherhead 1-0.

On the flip side they have suffered disappointing defeats away at Chertsey, going down 4-0, a 3-1 defeat away at Ashford Town (Middx) and surprisingly both times against Thatcham 3-0 on the road and 4-2 at home.

They will certainly be looking for all three points today to help with their play off push, and will be hopeful today's game gets played to a finish after Tuesday nights fixture against Chipstead was abandoned due to fog.

When the two sides met back in October, we went down to a 1-0 defeat, thanks to an Aidan Brown goal, although the game was probably more notable for their then manager spending most of the game chirping at Darren.

Looking at the South Park Reigate squad today, it looks as though we will be welcoming four former Rovers players against us. They are Brendan Murphy-McVey, forever in our hearts after his goal against Lancing; Sam Tutt—who was unfortunate his time with us came when Tants was flying; Ryan Healy, a fans favourite for his combative nature, and Kelvin Massongo who was here for a few weeks in November. Welcome lads.

So, our last game here saw that long pointless run come to an end, when a superb Hermann Tehe double gave us all three points against Hanworth Villa, a result that saw us fightback from a goal behind at the half time break to win.

At Uxbridge we turned in a spirited performance to pick up a point in a 0-0 draw. The lads dug in deep after Matt Tanton was harshly dismissed, for an almost identical tackle to the one from Luke Paris (Uxbridge) which saw him only receive a yellow card.

Last time out we rediscovered our goalscoring form, when earning a point in a thrilling encounter with Bedfont Sports, three times coming from behind to draw 3-3. Our goals came from Matt Tanton, Bertie Lloyd and a Conan Torpey penalty.

Talking of thrilling encounters, did anyone see the Wingate & Finchley recovery against Bowers & Pitsea on Tuesday. The visitors, Bowers, led 3-0 with eight minutes remaining, only for Wingate to get back to 3-2, and then level three minutes into stoppage time through their goalkeeper Ben Goode. Amazingly they were not done, and a winner duly came six minutes into injury time to give them the most unlikely of victories.

Finally, we would all like to wish our forward Tony Halsey a swift recovery from his leg break. Work has limited Tony's availability for us, and he is on dual registration with Eastbourne Utd, unfortunately during his debut on Saturday he suffered the injury.

Enough from me, enjoy the game, have safe trips home, and see you next week at Southall.

Briggers

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

SOUTH PARK FC



FORMED: 1897

NICKNAME:
The Sparks

South Park Football Club was formed in 1897 and immediately became founder members of the Redhill & District Football League along with other local clubs Godstone, Meadvale and Reigate Priory Reserves. The club remain members of the league today.

Although the facilities were basic the early matches were played in the original sports field which was in upper South Park between Crescent Road and Church Road. In 1925 under the direction of Canon Gregory from the local church, the football club together with the village cricket club formed the South Park Sports Association with the aim of the Association to provide sport and sporting facilities for the people of South Park. Within a few years it was realised that this new concept would be better served by an improvement in facilities and playing conditions. Fortunately for both club's suitable land existed in Whitehall Lane, the clubs current home and with the co-operation of the public spirited landowner, Harold Swannack, four acres of ground were purchased there. Always strapped for cash in these early years, the money was raised for the field largely by public subscription, which included door to door collections.

In order to preserve the land as a permanent sports ground, great foresight was exercised in vesting the land and subsequent purchases of further lots of two acres and four acres making ten

acres in all in the National Playing Fields Association, now known as Fields in trust.

The land became known as the 'King Georges Field' from 1935. The changing rooms were located on the far side of the field from Whitehall Lane at the bottom of the number two football pitch. Although the facilities were an improvement on their previous home they remained basic.

The football club flourished in the years leading to the Second Great War but obviously declined during and immediately after it. A handful of stewards rallied to the cause however and quickly resurrected its fortunes. One legacy of the hostilities, the air raid shelter, became the focus of attention when it became clear that further improvements were needed to the facilities if sporting aspirations were to be advanced. Thus it was that a shower room and toilet block and a modest clubhouse were attached to this building. Funding for this was achieved through the tireless efforts of the 'Friends of South Park Sports Association' organisation. Despite these commendable efforts, the Association lived for many years on a hand to mouth basis with the management all too frequently having to put their hands into their own pockets to ensure its survival.

During this period the playing side of the football club flourished with numerous honours won in the local leagues and cups together with appearances in County Cup finals.

The club were also honoured in the fact that a number of players progressed to senior football with clubs such as Redhill and Eastbourne Town in the fifties and sixties, the heyday of non league football.


The seventies and eighties brought further improvements to the changing facilities and clubroom and the purchase of the land that is now our main pitch were made. In the early seventies the football club started the junior's section. Over the years the number of teams has increased on a regular basis and today we have boy's teams from under eight's through to under sixteen's.

In 1997 the football club celebrated its Centenary year, the highlight of which was a celebratory dinner held at Reigate Manor Hotel at which over 150 people attended. Many players both past and present attended along with guests from The Football Association and Surrey County Football Association. The club was presented with its own unique framed certificate from the Football Association to mark this occasion.

The club was once again celebrating in 1998 when Geof Thatcher was awarded a Gold Medal by the Football Association to commemorate over 50 years service to football, the whole period with our club dating back to the war years when the club only played friendly matches as there was no competitive football during the war.

2001 saw Reigate Town Football Club move to South Park and the club became known as South Park & Reigate Town Football Club.

In 2002 the club saw the formation of the first girl's team to play under the club's name and we now have four girl's teams.



The following the year saw the introduction of the youth team who are currently playing in the Southern Youth Floodlight League. The youth team played their home matches at Merstham Football Club from 2003–2007 as at the time we did not have floodlights.

For the 2003/04 season the club reverted back to its original name of South Park Football Club. In February 2004 the club became only the fifth in Surrey to be awarded the status of 'FA Charter Standard Community Club'. In 2006 the first team were promoted to the Combined Counties Football League and as our new changing facilities were being built played their home matches at Cranleigh. In their first season in the Combined Counties League the team finished in seventh place in the league. 2007 saw the completion of our new changing rooms and the erection of floodlights around our main pitch. This ensured that our first and youth teams could now play their home matches in South Park.

The 2008/09 season saw another landmark in the history of the club when we hosted Shoreham in our first ever FA Vase game. The 2009/10 season saw the club finish in their highest position (6th) since joining the Combined Counties League. The club has continued to progress and in August 2010 our stand will be erected which will give us the ground grading required for the first team to gain promotion. The 2010/11 season will see the club participate in the FA Cup for the time with an away tie against Greenwich Borough in the extra preliminary round. This game was covered by ITV Sport to start their Road to Wembley coverage as were our subsequent ties against Horsham YMCA and Cray Wanderers.

TODAY'S OPPONENTS cont...

The first team won the Surrey Premier Cup Final and the Lemon Recordings Division One Challenge Cup in addition to being promoted to the Premier Division of the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League.

The 2011/12 saw South Park finish in eighth position in their first season in the Combined Counties League Premier Division. A good run in the FA Carlsberg Vase saw us reach the Fourth Round where we were beaten by Whitley Bay, the Vase winners for the previous three seasons. Playing in the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time Park beat Ryman Premier League Kingstonian and Leatherhead before finally being knocked out in the quarter finals by Conference South Sutton Utd. Season 2012/13 saw the club reach the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup with Budweiser where we played Metropolitan Police in front of a club record attendance of 643. The team finished the season in 4th place in the league and reached the league cup final.

The 2013/14 season saw South Park win the Combined Counties League Premier Division and in doing so gain promotion to the Isthmian League Division One South. Our first season at step four saw us finish in a creditable 14th position. Each season has seen us improve on the previous season's league position with an 8th place finish in 2016/17. The 2016/17 season also saw us reach the 2nd Round of the FA Trophy where we drawn away to Tranmere Rovers. South Park finished the 2017/18 season in 13th place in the league. They also reached the semi finals of the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time.

Malcolm Porter announced that he would be stepping down as manager due to business commitments at the end of the 2017/18 season. Mick Sullivan was appointed as manager however after a poor start to the season the club accepted his resignation in mid October. Jay Lovett was appointed manager and took charge of his first game at the beginning of November. Park went into the final game of the season needing to match Molesey's result to retain their step 4 status. Park gained a 3-2 victory to secure their Step 4 status.

The Sparks made a solid start to the 2019/20 season however manager Jay Lovett resigned at the beginning of November to take up a similar position at Burgess Hill. Martin Dynan was appointed as Manager in mid November. He guided Park to the ¼ finals of the Surrey Senior Cup and maintained their mid table position before the season was abruptly halted due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

South Park renamed themselves South Park Reigate in July 2022, the decision was made by the club as they believe it will enhance their profile locally as well as in the wider football community.

It must also be noted that without the tireless efforts of the late Fred Dearmun, Geof Thatcher, Ray Wilson and Geof Arnold to name but a few, the club would not be in the position it is today.

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SPOT THE BALL



Action from the Hanworth Villa game, as Dills and Tants defend a dangerous Villa cross, but where is the ball...

Gary Brigden Professional Photographer

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FROM THE GAFFER



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

GB: So, we finally broke our long losing run when a Hermann Tehe double gave us a win over Hanworth Villa, how big a relief was that to you and the management team?

DS: Hi Gary, its funny because we have felt improvement and confidence has been steadily growing in the current group in the lead up to the Hanworth game.

We also felt we ought to have got something from Walton which was frustrating but that's history now and we have started Feb well so hopefully we can retain this despite injuries and a suspension.

GB: How concerned were you though when we went a goal down, despite having been the better side in the first half, did you think it was going to be another one of those days?

DS: This group is showing resilience and character G, obviously going 1 down and not having scored in the previous 6 games you wonder where the goal will come from, but we had belief that providing we kept creating chances something would drop for us.

GB: We followed that up with a point at Uxbridge and again that was a gutsy effort. You must have been pleased with how the lads responded to going down to ten men? Would you also say if felt like an SCR side that day?

DS: This performance felt like an old school SCR performance and of course going down to 10 with almost the entire second half to play was going to be tough. It gave the lads a huge confidence boost seeing everyone grafting for the cause.

GB: On that game we saw Courtney Swaby hit with a poor challenge by the keeper, leaving him requiring stitches. How is he?

DS: Another frustration, another injury and the keeper didn't receive anything for the challenge that's ruled Court out for 2 weeks following a concussion and cut eye that needed gluing.

GB: Big game today, and one we must win if we are to keep pushing the survival button. What are you expecting from South Park Reigate today?

DS: G right now every game is tough, but our group is toughening up and showing some genuine belief so providing that continues I am proud of the transformation over the past 3-4 weeks -

Enjoy the match...

MATCH REPORT:

HANWORTH VILLA

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Rovers two month wait for a point, and five game wait for a goal came to a dramatic end in a feisty encounter with Hanworth Villa on Saturday.

After a cagey opening it was Rovers who had the first chance when Markus Marku fired an effort well wide of the Villa goal. Rovers continued to have the better of things and on five minutes a sliced (lets call it a crossfield pass) ball by keeper James Dillon found skipper Tyler Cox, he got beyond Tom Bender and his cross was superbly defended by Guy Ansah-Palmer (not the only time the Villa defender would do something miraculous) as it headed to Shakeel Morris for a simple header home.

Villa gradually got into the game, and, as you would expect of an in-form side and started to put Rovers under pressure and from a dangerous whipped cross by Anthony Foikes, Dillon did well to get a big hand on the ball and divert it away from James Fenlon at the back post.

Sam Merson was proving a problem with his movement, giving Bertie Lloyd a few things to think about, but was also putting Rovers under pressure with his long throws, which had the Rovers backline working overtime. Rovers had a couple of long throws of their own from Matt Tanton but despite a few scrambles they came to nothing, and a lightning Villa break from one throw ended with Merson's low cross being forced behind for a corner.

Rovers should have opened the scoring on 31 minutes, Manny Tehe jinked his was passed a couple of players on the Rovers left, saw his ball into the box only half cleared, and as Rovers recycled it, Dion Macfoy-Johnston was denied from point blank range by Gary Ross.

15

Villa struck the opening goal on the stroke of half time. A long Merson throw was only half cleared, falling nicely to Gagendee Samra and he slammed the ball beyond Dillon for 1-0, and in first half stoppage time, Bender picked the ball up just inside his own half, spotted Dillon off his line and lofted his effort just over the bar. Villa took a one goal lead into the interval.

Rovers came out fired up for the second half and made a bright start, neat link up between the impressive Marku and Tanton led to the ball falling to Morris but his low strike went wide of the right hand post. Rovers should have levelled on 51 minutes, with Marku becoming more influential he threaded the ball through to Macfoy-Johnston but as keeper Ross advanced his curled effort went wide of the right hand post.

Villa had a glorious chance to increase their lead when Kyen Nicholas drove towards the Rovers area only to be fouled by a combination of Danny Divine and Siao Blackwood, but from the free-kick Merson's effort went over the crossbar.

Merson then picked out Fenlon, and his ball into the Rovers area took a wicked deflection before being smothered by Dillon. Rovers were level on the hour. Marku again did well on the left and found Tehe, his turn destroyed Fenlon, and he raced goalwards, Ross advanced and Tehe curled a sumptuous effort beyond the keeper and into the net, ending Rovers goal drought after 542 minutes.

Rovers were now on fire, and on 74 minutes should have taken the lead. Substitute Josh Uzon and Morris linked up on the edge of the area, with Morris being fouled, Uzon curled a free kick over the wall bringing a good save out of Ross, the ball dropped to Cox who hammered the ball goalwards, only for that man Ansah-Palmer to appear from nowhere to block the ball. Rovers though recycled the ball, Marku did superbly on the right and drilled a low effort across the face of goal, Tehe collected, and with players shutting him down, curled a superb effort into the bottom corner for 2-1.

Morris was then denied by a superb tackle by Ben Geraghty as a Rovers side that had been missing for the last three months suddenly rediscovered themselves.

Tempers were fraying, tackles were flying in, and from one an altercation on the sidelines led to a long delay as the referee regained control. Once play restarted and with eleven minutes of injury time to play, it was a nervous time for Rovers, and they were almost made to pay when Merson and Nicholas linked on the left but Nicholas dragged his effort wide. The final act saw Villa swing in a corner and with everyone attacking Rovers keeper Dillon was able to claim the ball and seal the points.

MATCH PICS: **HANWORTH VILLA**



Top:
Manny Tehe levels things up on the hour

Inset:
Dion Macfoy-Johnston & Siao Blackwood

Below:
Manny Tehe curls home the winner



ROVERS MERCHANDISE



Pin Badge selection



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

OR

Email: scrclubshop@gmail.com

Thank you

MATCH REPORT:

UXBRIDGE

Uxbridge			Saturday 11th February 2023			Sutton Common Rovers		
1	Tyler Tobin		Uxbridge	0		1	James Dillon	
2	Joshua Andrew		Sutton Common Rovers	0		2	Danny Divine	
3	David Sota		Isthmian League - South Central Division			3	Matthew Tanton	
4	Luke Paris		Attendance: 77			4	Siao Blackwood	
5	Andy O'Brien		Kick-off: 3pm			5	Liam Holden	
6	Alex Witham		Referee: Ivaylo Kyosev			6	Joshua Okpolokpo	
7	Joe Jackson		Venue: Horton Road			7	Tyler Cox	
8	Alan Hedley		Info Videos			8	Marcus Marku	
9	Mark Bitmead		Match Information			9	Jesse Okpolokpo	
10	Anthony Mendy		Full-time: Uxbridge 0-0 Sutton Common Rovers			10	Conan Torpey	
11	Eitel Goueth		Half-time: Uxbridge 0-0 Sutton Common Rovers			11	Shakeel Morris	
12	Baboucarr Jarra					12	Bertie Lloyd	
14	Harry Seabrook					14	Aaron Okpolokpo	
15	Presley Evans					15	Nabeel Ghanam	
16	Lewis Patrick					16	Zaid Ouaret Sorr	
17	Jordan Ireland					17	Courtney Swaby	

Despite being reduced to ten men early in the second half, Rovers picked up a valuable point away at Uxbridge on Saturday in an occasionally feisty encounter at The Honeycroft.

It was a fairly tepid start to the encounter with the ball sticking in the middle third for much of the opening period, and the only half chance of note saw a dangerous Uxbridge free kick heading towards Anthony Mendy but a timely interception by Liam Holden cleared the danger, although the flag was up for offside.

Luke Paris went into the book for a poor challenge on Markus Marku on 15 minutes and two minutes later Eitel Goueth really should have scored but poked his effort wide of the Rovers right hand post with only James Dillon to beat. Almost immediately Mark Bitmead saw his way into the book for something he said to the official.

Mendy then broke through a hole in the Rovers defence, but again the excellent Holden was able to get back and clear the danger.

We gradually started to mount some attacks of our own, and midway through the half a glorious ball by Holden found Tyler Cox and his dangerous low cross was only half dealt with by Tyler Tobin but no Rovers player was on hand to apply a finishing touch.

A deep free kick by Josh Andrew was headed back across goal by Paris before eventually being hooked clear by Matt Tanton. Dillon gathered an Uxbridge half chance on 26 minutes and Rovers almost fashioned a chance on 32 minutes when Josh Okpolokpo almost linked up with his debutant brother Jesse but he was well marshalled by Uxbridge skipper Andy O'Brien.



Back at the other end and Andrew cut inside before his low effort went wide of the left hand post.



Conan Torpey and Paris were probably fortunate to both escape without bookings after an altercation ten minutes before the break. Shortly after and a Torpey shot was well blocked by Paris, and on 40 minutes Cox curled an effort over the bar.

Rovers ended strongly, forcing a succession of dangerous inswinging corners, which were well dealt with by Tobin, although from one Torpey did find his way into the referees book. Deep into stoppage time and Bitmead cut inside but saw his effort blocked behind by Siao Blackwood and out for a corner which was cleared, and the sides went in level at the break.

There were chances at both ends at the start of the second half, but neither side was able to get a meaningful shot on target. Ten minutes into the half and the complexion of the game changed. A challenge in the middle of the park by Tanton on Joe Jackson saw the referee brandish a red card, much to the amusement of numerous Uxbridge players, reducing us to ten men.

We made an immediate change, introducing debutant Nabeel Ghannam for the hardworking Jesse Okpolopo. Just after the hour and a hopeful cross-shot by Bitmead drifted through a crowd bringing a top drawer save from Dillon away to his left and almost immediately the in-form keeper saved superbly from a point blank shot by Mendy. Harry Seabrook then headed the follow up corner wide of the right hand post.

Blackwood found his way into the book for handball on 64 minutes. Ghannam fired goalwards on 66 minutes but saw his shot blocked by Seabrook, and minutes later Zaid Ouaret Sorr almost released Torpey but Tobin was off his line quickly to gather the ball.

Andrew almost picked out Bitmead at the back post but Danny Devine did superbly to clear the danger and from the corner Seabrook went into the book for a high hit on Dillon after the Rovers keeper had claimed the ball.

With five minutes remaining all three Rovers subs linked up on the left, but after great work by Ouaret Sorr and Ghannam the final ball into Courtney Swaby was just overhit. Three minutes from time and Presley Evans found Goueth but Marku did superbly to clear the danger.

Late in the game Rovers had a glorious chance to win the contest. Substitute Courtney Swaby went down in the area under challenge from Tobin, play continued and Tobin clattered into Ouaret Sorr with the challenge earning the keeper a yellow card (although in a whispered comment to yours truly he admitted that it was "only a yellow as it was two footed" - no comment). Unfortunately the free kick clattered into the wall and the chance was gone.

Shortly after the full time whistle blew and Rovers secured another point.

MATCH PICS: UXBRIDGE



Top:
Attacking the Uxbridge area

Inset:
Joshua Okpolokpo and Danny Divine;

Below:
Markus Marku skips passed the Uxbridge defender.



CAREER RECORDS

	2022/23 Season					Career	
	Appearances		GOALS	CARDS			
	APP	SUB		YC	RC	Apps	Goals
LLOYD, Bertie	27	1	3	2	0	28	3
COX, Tyler	25	3	0	3	0	28	0
SWABY, Courtney	18	5	0	3	1	23	0
HALSEY, Tony	16	1	3	5	0	28	7
HOLDEN, Liam	12	2	1	3	0	374	107
TANTON, Matt	9	4	1	1	2	162	6
MORRIS, Shakeel	8	0	2	0	0	8	2
DIVINE, Danny	7	0	0	2	0	7	0
MARKU, Markus	7	0	0	2	0	7	0
SUTHERLAND, Tyrese	6	6	2	0	0	12	2
BLACKWOOD, Siao	6	4	0	3	0	10	0
OUARET SORR, Zaid	6	2	1	1	0	8	1
STEDMAN-HOYTE, Ryan	5	2	0	2	0	10	0
OKPOLOKPO, Joshua	4	1	0	1	1	5	0
ROBINSON, Malachi	4	0	0	0	0	96	3
DILLON, James	4	0	0	0	0	13	0
TORPEY, Conan	3	0	1	1	0	3	1
UZOR, Tobe	2	3	0	1	0	12	0
TEHE, Hermann	2	1	2	0	0	11	2
CREED, Ollie	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
MACFOY-JOHNSTON, Dion	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
OKPOLOKPO, Jesse	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
BAKER, George	1	2	1	1	0	11	2
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
OWOEYE, Deji	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
OWUSU, George	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
COULIBALY, Abdoulaye	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
GHANNAM, Nabeel	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
UZON, Josh	0	1	0	0	0	13	6
GBOPO, Stephen	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
GUEST, Luke	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
ERNE, John	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

LATEST RESULTS

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

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

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY















Basingstoke Town 3-1 Chertsey Town
Binfield 2-2 Thatcham Town
Marlow 4-2 Ashford Town (Middx)
Northwood 1-2 Walton & Hersham
South Park (Reigate) A-A Chipstead
(Fog)
Uxbridge 1-1 Westfield

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Bedfont Sports 3-3 **Sutton Common Rovers**
Guernsey 3-1 Hanworth Villa
Southall 1-0 Leatherhead

LEAGUE TABLE (as at 15.2.23)

23

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Basingstoke Town	26	19	2	5	65	24	+41	59
	2 Walton & Hersham	25	17	1	7	57	32	+25	52
	3 Northwood	26	15	1	10	41	33	+8	46
	4 Chertsey Town	26	13	5	8	52	30	+22	44
	5 Marlow	25	13	5	7	44	32	+12	44
	6 Binfield	24	12	6	6	45	30	+15	42
	7 South Park	26	12	4	10	34	37	-3	40
	8 Southall	25	9	11	5	37	28	+9	38
	9 Westfield	25	9	9	7	36	30	+6	36
	10 Thatcham Town	26	9	8	9	40	36	+4	35
	11 Hanworth Villa	24	9	8	7	36	39	-3	35
	12 Chipstead	23	9	6	8	32	32	0	33
	13 Leatherhead	26	9	6	11	30	36	-6	33
	14 Uxbridge	25	8	7	10	34	33	+1	31
	15 Ashford Town (Middx)	24	9	2	13	30	54	-24	29
	16 Bedfont Sports	26	5	9	12	33	45	-12	24
	17 Guernsey	24	6	5	13	20	44	-24	23
	18 Sutton Common Rovers	28	6	3	19	29	60	-31	21
	19 Merstham	24	2	10	12	29	47	-18	16
	20 Tooting & Mitcham United	24	3	6	15	21	43	-22	15

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

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)				
25th Feb	ILSC	A	Southall				
4th Mar	ILSC	H	BINFIELD				
11th Mar	ILSC	H	THATCHAM TOWN				
18th Mar	ILSC	A	Tooting & Mitcham Utd				
25th Mar	ILSC	A	Chertsey Town				
1st Apr	ILSC	H	MERSTHAM				
10th Apr	ILSC	H	LEATHERHEAD				
15th Apr	ILSC	A	Westfield				
22nd Apr	ILSC	H	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)				



WE are now, officially, in the 'Big Game' period of the 2022-23 season. Glance through any fixture list of upcoming matches and you will see them everywhere.

It's that stage of a campaign where teams still have it all to gain – and all to lose. Be it at the top of the bottom, every point really matters from here on out.

How teams deal with tricky Tuesday night away matches, fixture pile-ups (don't tell Klopp), injuries and suspensions will go a long way to decided the outcome of their season.

It will be the difference between titles and play-offs, missing out on top five – or seven in the National League – finishes or relegation and survival. In Non-League's top cup competitions, the Wembley arch is just sneaking into view too as we reach the quarter-final stages of the FA Trophy and FA Vase.

The Trophy feels as wide open as it ever as. Farsley Celtic beat Hungerford Town last weekend to make the last eight and are the only side from outside of Non-League's top flight.

Of course in recent seasons we've seen Brackley Town and Hornchurch lift the Trophy – the Urchins beating Step 2 Hereford in the final – while Concord Rangers have also made it to the final. They even needed to get past Step 4 Halesowen Town in the semis.

But seven of the final eight are from Non-League's top table. The highest ranked currently are Barnet, they're off to Maidstone United, while Farsley are away at Gateshead. York City fans are no strangers to FA Trophy glory, they welcome Altrincham while FC Halifax Town are also former winners and travel to Aldershot Town – the Shots still haven't played at Wembley.

You'd be hard pressed to find a more interesting and exciting competition than the FA Vase. The finals tend to be among the most absorbing games of the season, a unique factor being it's so often two teams pitted against each other who are from different regions of the country and know very little about each other.

Holders Newport Pagnell Town are certainly putting up a strong defence of their title they won last season by beating Littlehampton Town. They got past Jersey Bulls in round five to set-up another home date, this time with Atherstone Town.

There is an all-North West Counties League tie between Congleton Town and Bury AFC. Funnily enough, the pair played in the league just a day after being drawn together in the quarters on Monday and shared a 1-1 draw.

West Didsbury & Chorlton are also NWCFL representatives and they host Ascot United next. Ascot play in the shadow of the grandstand at the famous racecourse – look out for it next time the racing is on the tv. Completing the sixth round are Peacehaven & Telscombe, who will face Corsham Town.

All these ties will be played on Saturday, March 11 as the 16 clubs look to make another step towards Wembley. Big Games!

The Untold Game

The Bank of England Club

With the outlandish spending of Chelsea in the most recent transfer window, the worries about Newcastle's scarcely understandable level of resources, and the news of Manchester City's alleged wrongdoing over the last decade and a half, it has never felt more like money is ruining the game we all love.

What Arsene Wenger described in 2005 as 'financial doping' with regards to Jose Mourinho's first spell at Chelsea has now become commonplace, even expected, among fans of elite clubs, as they compete with each other for bragging rights on Sky Sports' transfer tracker almost as much as they do on the pitch. But spending big in the hope of success is nothing new.

Arsenal, ironically, were one of the first clubs to be given the 'Bank of England' moniker, as they outspent their rivals in the 1920s and 30s, culminating in three back-to-back titles. Chelsea also earned it for a short spell in the 1930s, and Everton in the 1970s. But perhaps the most unexpected financial dopers in the history of the term. For a decade from the late 1940s, the side desperately trying to buy success were Sunderland.

In 1948, the Roker Park side kick-started a new era with the shock signing of Len Shackleton (pictured right) from rivals Newcastle United. The Clown Prince of Football, as he was known for his entertaining style, made the move for a British record fee of £20,500. Ivor Broadis joined from Carlisle for a similar fee in January 1949. He arrived just in time for Sunderland to fall to perhaps the biggest shock in FA Cup history, losing to non-league Yeovil in the fourth round (pictured bottom next page), something of an ill omen.

If anything, though, it simply highlighted the need for more spending. Tommy Wright joined, but the following season would be the biggest of all, with Welsh international Trevor Ford (pictured top next page) singing for a world record £30,000 from Aston Villa.

A third place finish in Ford's first season proved to be a false dawn. The world record signing never quite connected with his teammates, despite a scoring record that surpassed what he had achieved in the Midlands. He didn't get on with Shackleton, at one stage even declaring that he would never play in the same team as his strike partner. For Shackleton's part, he admitted later that there was never really a team at Sunderland at that time, just a collection of highly talented individuals.



Two mediocre mid-table finishes followed before the 1952-3 season finally saw some promise. Sunderland raced into an early lead playing some scintillating football, but the cracks through the squad proved too much to overcome. Shackleton, whose primary focus was always the crowd, clashed horribly with Ford. The Clown Prince had a habit of getting into space and playing short, spinning passes in the direction of his teammates that would skid off of the surface and back to him. Ford, a more professional presence, found Shackleton's crowd-pleasing antics infuriating. Eventually, a 12-game winless run in the second half of the season saw the Black Cats drop to ninth. Ford left for Cardiff later that year.



To replace him, Sunderland went big once again, spending what was at the time a colossal £70,000 to bring in England internationals Ray Daniels and Billy Eliot, as well as goalkeeper Jimmy Cowan, with an outrageous bid for Jackie Milburn blocked, but all the spending was to no avail. Sunderland struggled against relegation all season and barely survived. More spending followed in the following seasons, including £20,000 for Don Revie, but no success was forthcoming before the project came crashing down.

In January 1957, an anonymous letter to the FA alleged that Sunderland had breached financial regulations, most notably passing envelopes under the table to exceed the maximum wage limit for players. The FA took four months to investigate, issuing a £5000 fine; a paltry amount considering the level of spending over the previous decade. But they went much further too, banning the chairman and three directors for life. More devastatingly, five players at the club, along with Trevor Ford, were served with suspensions. Manager Bill Murray was issued with a fine and resigned.

Sunderland finished that season with their first ever relegation from the First Division, after nearly seven decades at the top. They returned six years later, but never spent so lavishly again. In reality, they never really recovered from the fallout.

Enjoy the game.

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



ISTHMIAN ROUND UP

Stoke Stay Seven Clear, Whilst The Swans Keep Up The Chase

Basingstoke Town made it ten wins from eleven, and it's three goals and three points for Swans and Curfews amongst the chasing pack

Our leaders, **BASINGSTOKE TOWN**, looked to have a tricky match in prospect as sixth place **MARLOW** came to call. Kick off was delayed because of an issue with the visitors kit, but the hosts went ahead nine minutes before the break, Scott Armsworth opening the scoring when heading home a corner. There will have been no chance of complacency for the hosts- when they visited the Alfred David Ground at the end of October they went in two goals to the good at half time, only to concede five after the break- and they made sure with a second goal ten minutes from time, Sam Argent with that one, another header. That's ten wins from eleven for Stoke- and a seven point lead retained.

Second place **WALTON & HERSHAM** welcomed **ASHFORD TOWN** to the Sports Hub. The Swans had won their previous three and looked to have shaken off some indifferent form, whilst the Tangerines had three wins from their last previous four, so we thought this might be close despite the Swans scoring five the last time they met. The first half was certainly close, Ricky Johnson giving the Tangerines an early lead only for Eddie Simon to level from the spot and John Gilbert to put the hosts ahead nine minutes before the break. Another Simon goal twenty minutes from time- his eighteenth of the season- gave the Swans a cushion, and they held onto it and the three points.

Long-time leaders **NORTHWOOD** got back to winning ways against Guernsey last time out, and hoped to build on that. The Woods were on the road to **CHIPSTEAD**, the Chips having seen their long unbeaten run come to an end, without a win in three- but the hosts broke the deadlock ten minutes after the restart, Jonathan Hood converting from twelve yards. That turned out to be the only goal of the game, the Chips up to twelfth.

CHERTSEY TOWN travelled to **LEATHERHEAD**. The Curfews had lost three of their last five and knew that any further slip up could see them lose their place in the top five, but they quickly got back to winning ways. A header from Trevan Robinson opened the scoring seven minutes after the break, and Town got a second just after the hour, William Montague with that one, Robinson assisting. Another from Robinson ended the contest thirteen minutes from time, although the Tanners then made a match of it, Dave Tarpey getting one back. That was as good as it got for the hosts, who are thirteenth.

BINFIELD climbed back into the top five with victory over Uxbridge in midweek, and had lost only one of their previous ten- but were undone by three goals in six minutes in **GUERNSEY**. The Green Lions went ahead on thirty nine minutes, Jacob Fallaize with the opener, and added two more before the break, Matt Loaring and Ross Allen making things rather comfortable. Conor Lynch scored a second half goal for the Moles, but that was that. The two sides will meet again on 21st February.

SOUTH PARK REIGATE also had a chance of ending the weekend in the top five, but they needed to win at **SOUTHALL** to do it- not an easy task as their hosts, one place and five points behind them, had lost only five matches this season. The hosts went ahead courtesy of an own goal six minutes before the break, but immediately after the restart the visitors levelled through Finlay Johnson and six minutes later they were ahead, Sam King making it two-one. Southall levelled with fifteen minutes left, Kevin Songolo, on from the bench, making a speedy impact- and that turned out to be that, Hall's eleventh draw of the season confirmed.

We had tenth v ninth as **WESTFIELD**, now managerless after Simon Lane's departure to Kingstonian yesterday, travelled to face one of our form sides, **THATCHAM TOWN**. Field went ahead after just thirteen minutes, Ali Mansaray with the goal, but the Kingfishers were level just before the break through Harry Williams, who scored from distance. It was advantage Westfield once more on fifty six minutes, Luke Elliott heading home a second, but once more the hosts hit back, Jordan Alves making it two-two with a fabulous finish. That's how it ended, Field remaining ninth, Town down to eleventh despite only one defeat in eleven.

HANWORTH VILLA welcomed **MERSTHAM**. Villa had been in mixed form, with only three wins from their previous ten matches but only three defeats, too, and they fell behind when Jordan Wilson opened the scoring for the Moatsiders on just ten minutes- but the hosts levelled from the spot on twenty six minutes through Sam Merson and went ahead just after the break, Jordan Ellis forcing the ball past Filip Chalupniczak. That turned out to be the last goal action of the match, the Villains up to tenth, Merstham seven points from safety.

SUTTON COMMON ROVERS ended a run of twelve consecutive defeats with victory over Hanworth Villa last time out, but they made their lives difficult at **UXBRIDGE** when Matthew Tanton saw red just after the restart. The ten men showed resilience and took a point, but they slip to eighteenth, three points from safety.

Finally, five from bottom **BEDFONT SPORTS** welcomed bottom side **TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD**. Eight points separated the two at start of play, and it was the same at full time, neither side managing a goal.

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.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

U23's

There was no game for the U23's this week, but action did continue in both the John Bennett Development Division, and the John Bennett Development Division Challenge Cup.

In the league, Molesey leapfrogged us into top spot when they picked up a point away at CB Hounslow Utd on Monday night.

They now sit a point ahead of us, although we do have a game in hand. For CB they remain bottom of the division, although they have closed the gap to second bottom Redhill to two points (CB are on 4 and Redhill 6).

In the cup, which is being played as a league, Frimley Green moved to the top of the table, leapfrogging both CB and Molesey, thanks to a 4-0 thumping away at Spelthorne Sports.

For Spelthorne it was their first game in the competition, and they sit in bottom spot in the table behind Redhill on goal difference.

Next up for the 23's is Monday nights clash with Spelthorne Sport, in the Development Division Cup.

U18's

The Isthmian Youth East division is turning into an absolute cracker this season, with twists and turns seemingly on a weekly basis.

We looked to have put ourselves into pole position, but after this weeks results we now might find ourselves struggling to even finish runners up.

On Monday night we made the long journey to 3rd placed Sheppey Utd, and were on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline. A goal just before the break gave Sheppey the lead, and a second just after the hour left us with a mountain to climb.

Another goal made it 3-0 before the bang in form Matty Hill pulled one back for us.

Cray Valley PM picked up a stonking 5-1 win away at Tonbridge Angels, which now means both Cray and Sheppey can move above us should they win their games in hand.

Next up for the lads is Wednesday nights home fixture with a struggling Glebe, and hopefully a chance to put our title challenge back on track.



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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 frame with a light gray border, intended for match notes.

Take your match notes here...

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