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## CLUB HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Season 2010/11</b>	<i>Promoted to The Midland Combination Division One</i>
<b>Season 2011/12</b>	<i>Promoted to The Midland Combination Premier Division</i>
<b>Season 2011/12</b>	<i>Finalists - The Evesham Hospital Junior Cup</i>
<b>Season 2012/13</b>	<i>Champions - The Midland Combination Reserves Division Two</i>
<b>Season 2012/13</b>	<i>Winners - The Worcestershire Football Association Youth Cup</i>
<b>Season 2013/14</b>	<i>Runners-up - The Midland Combination Premier Division</i>
<b>Season 2013/14</b>	<i>Winners - The Smedley Crooke Memorial Challenge Cup</i>
<b>Season 2014/15</b>	<i>Runners-up - The Midland Football League Division One</i>
<b>Season 2014/15</b>	<i>Winners - The Les James Challenge Cup</i>
<b>Season 2015/16</b>	<i>Finalists - The Worcestershire Senior Invitation Urn</i>
<b>Season 2015/16</b>	<i>Finalists - The Smedley Crooke Memorial Challenge Cup</i>
<b>Season 2015/16</b>	<i>Runners-up - The Midland Football League Division One</i>
<b>Season 2016/17</b>	<i>Semi-Finalists - The FA Vase</i>
<b>Season 2016/17</b>	<i>Winners - The Worcs Football Association Senior Invitation Urn</i>
<b>Season 2016/17</b>	<i>Winners - The Worcs Football Association Saturday Under 18s Cup</i>
<b>Season 2016/17</b>	<i>Champions - The Midland Football League Division One</i>
<b>Season 2017/18</b>	<i>Winners - The Worcs Football Association Senior Invitation Urn</i>
<b>Season 2017/18</b>	<i>Champions - The Midland Football League Premier Division</i>
<b>Season 2018/19</b>	<i>Runners-up - The Southern League Division One Central</i>
<b>Season 2018/19</b>	<i>Winners - The Southern League Division One Central Play-off Final</i>
<b>Season 2019/20</b>	<i>Joint Winners - The Worcs Football Association Senior Invitation Cup</i>
<b>Season 2019/20</b>	<i>Joint Winners - The Worcestershire Football Association Youth Cup</i>

## BROMSGROVE SPORTING MANAGERS

<b>Myles Day</b>	<i>2010</i>
<b>Stewart Brighton</b>	<i>2010 - 12</i>
<b>Keith Draper Snr</b>	<i>2012-13</i>
<b>Graham Scott</b>	<i>2013</i>
<b>Adrian Mander</b>	<i>2013 - 14</i>
<b>Les Palmer</b>	<i>2014</i>
<b>Paul Smith</b>	<i>2014 - 18</i>
<b>Brendan Kelly</b>	<i>2018 - 21</i>
<b>Gavin Hurren</b>	<i>2021 - 22</i>
<b>Thomas Baillie</b>	<i>2022</i>
<b>Mike McGrath</b>	<i>2022 -2024</i>
<b>Tim Flowers</b>	<i>2024</i>
<b>Paul Smith</b>	<i>2024</i>
<b>Scott Adey-Linfirth</b>	<i>2024 -</i>

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<b>Jon Prescott</b>	<i>2015 - 16</i>
<b>Jeff Rea</b>	<i>2016</i>
<b>Mike Burke</b>	<i>2016 - 2023</i>
<b>Brian Seymour-Smith</b>	<i>2023</i>
<b>Graham Scott</b>	<i>2023</i>
<b>Rod Brown</b>	<i>2023 -</i>

## From the Boardroom - Rod Brown, Chairman



Sorry but Rod has been unavailable to do his column this week.

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## Meet the Rouslers (1)



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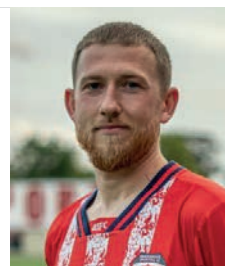


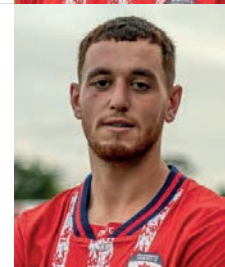

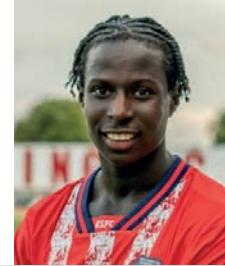



**Koby Arthur**  
Midfielder  
**Available for sponsorship**



## Meet The Rouslers (2)

	<b>Luke Benbow</b> Striker Sponsored by <b>Marc Pullen and            Edna May            Parker</b>		<b>Josh Burgess</b> Defender Available for sponsorship
	<b>Finlay Carson</b> Midfielder Available for sponsorship		<b>Ash Carter</b> Centre-back and vice-captain Sponsored by James Freeman at Smiles Turkey UK 
	<b>Nick Clayton-Phillips</b> Midfielder Sponsored by Spartan Hot Tub Hire 		<b>Romehl Critchlow</b> Midfielder Available for sponsorship
	<b>Tom Edge</b> Midfielder Sponsored by our accountant Sarah Lammass of 		<b>Josh Ezewe</b> Right-back Sponsored by Chris Curtis
	<b>George Gillon</b> Midfielder Available for sponsorship		<b>Kobe Hall</b> Forward Sponsored by JAK Projects & Services 

## Meet The Rouslers (3)

	<b>Jack Kelly</b> Defender Sponsored by the Sidewinders		<b>Jordan Lyden</b> Midfielder Available for sponsorship
	<b>Bo Morris</b> Defender Available for sponsorship		<b>Taylor Morrison</b> Defender Available for sponsorship
	<b>Jack Newell</b> Defender/Midfield Sponsored by Kevin Baggott		<b>Gus Sanches</b> Forward Available for sponsorship
	<b>Billy Shaw</b> Midfielder Sponsored by: The Fox family (Margaret, Christopher and Adrian)		<b>Aksum White</b> Defender Sponsored by Daniel Blythe and Kelly Downing
		<b>Rebel Rousler</b> Club Mascot	

## Profile:

**Tui Gustavo Macedo  
(AKA Gus) Sanches  
Forward**



Birthplace and Date of Birth?	Lisbon, Portugal, 23/2/04 (age 21)
Height, weight?	5' 10", 72 kg
Left or right footed?	Right
Previous Clubs?	Boldmere St Michaels
Biggest influence on your career?	Des Lyttle, my football coach at school
Which team do you support?	Tottenham Hotspur
Favourite all-time player?	Cristiano Ronaldo
Best player you have played against?	Dylan Williams (defender with Burton Albion)
Favourite position on the pitch:	Striker or wing
What boots do you wear?	Adidas F50s
What football law would you change?	Change throw-ins to kicks
Nickname in the changing room?	Gus
Do you play any other sports?	Badminton, squash, padel
Relationship?	In a relationship
Kids?	No kids
Pets?	A dog
Where do you live?	Wolverhampton
Job outside football?	Football coach
What car do you drive?	Volkswagen Polo
Favourite food?	Bacalhau con natas (Portuguese dish - baked cod layered with onions, diced fried potatoes and double cream, usually seasoned with nutmeg and white pepper).
Favourite drink?	Apple juice
Favourite biscuit?	Oreos
Favourite TV programme?	The Boys
Favourite Film?	Django Unchained
Favourite actor or actress?	Denzel Washington
Favourite band or singer?	50 Cent
Favourite Album or Single?	Window Shopper (50 Cent)
Guilty Pleasure?	Watching TV
Least like to sit next to on an aeroplane?	Jordan Lyden
Favourite Holiday destination?	Portugal
Top of Bucket List?	To be a top goal scorer



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## From The Archives, 3 Years Ago

The Southern League Premier Division Central - Tuesday 16th August 2022, 7.45 p.m. kick-off

### Bromsgrove Sporting 3 (0) Alvechurch (0) 1

Before the match, a one-minute period of silence was observed in memory of Bobby Hope who had recently passed away. Bobby guided Bromsgrove Rovers through their most successful in the 1990s with an appearance in the 3rd Round of the FA Cup and finishing second in what was then the Vauxhall Conference, now the National League.

After three points on the road, Bromsgrove Sporting returned to the Victoria Ground to face local rivals Alvechurch. Thomas Baillie's side went into this game full of optimism after a tough weekend battle against Needham Market.

One big change though to Sporting's line up was the absence of in-form Dan Sweeney who picked up an injury in the Needham game; Rouslers legend Mikey Taylor took his place.

The game started in Alvechurch's favour with Sporting keeper Ollie Taylor being called upon a few times in the opening 15 minutes. However, after a slow start to the game, Bromsgrove became more and more confident thanks to good performances from full-backs Kieron Dawes and Ammar Dyer.

Just as the second half started Sporting started on the front foot and opened the scoring through Mikey Taylor. Moments after this, Dawes scored a fabulous which is arguably already in the running for goal of the season.

Sporting though dropped off after this and Alvechurch scored through Tyrell Skeen-Hamilton on the 83rd minute and shortly after the re-start, Alvechurch could have equalised but for Ollie Taylor pulling off a candidate for save of the season for the Rouslers. With this momentum in hand, sporting took back control of the game and scored their third in added time thanks to a Ryan Edmunds goal.

The game ended 3-1 and each Sporting player could have been given the Man of the Match award an incredible performance in heavy rain.

Sporting: Ollie Taylor, Kieron Dawes (Lewis Wright 68 mins), Ammar Dyer, George Forsyth, Jack Byrne, Mike McGrath (Capt.), Callum King-Harmes (Joe Curtis 74 mins), James Fry, Mikey Taylor (Matt Barnes-Homer 79 mins), Harvey Gregson, Ryan Edmunds. Subs not used: Dom Perkins, Charlie Shaw.

Alvechurch: Leon Phillips, Ben Cassidy (Stan Asomugha 80 mins), Ethan Sephton (Maxwell Ngbeken Itota 64 mins), Peter Taylor, Jamie Willets (Capt), Ash Carter, Jedrael Abbey (Leon Brown 64 mins), Tom Edge, Dan Waldron, Jack Concannon, Tyrell Skeen-Hamilton. Subs not used: Dan Jezeph, Ellis Jones

Referee: Mr B Scaife (Walsall)

Crowd: 617

Sporting Man of the Match: Ollie Taylor

Report: Shaunna-Grace Murphy

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## Jack Grealish and co - the players caught in football's gilded trap

### Footballers stuck in a career limbo fear drop in status over wage reduction

It will, in the end, be Jack Grealish's call. A few days before Manchester City's squad flew to the United States for the Club World Cup, Grealish met with the club to work out what to do with his summer. He had been a peripheral figure for months. He had started just one Premier League game this year. With his team a goal down in the FA Cup final, Pep Guardiola had sent on a 19-year-old Argentinean debutant instead.

In that characteristically effusive manner, Guardiola said the meeting was "honest" on both sides, full of "incredible love and respect". Its final result, though, was that Grealish would not join up with his teammates in Florida. Instead, he remained behind. He would have a surfeit of time to consider his options for next season.

The general expectation — certainly outside the club and his immediate entourage — was that his absence from City's brief stay in the United States drew the curtain. It was taken as a sign he would surely leave. Offers have duly arrived. Grealish turned down the chance to move to one of Turkey's superpowers. A proposal from Napoli remains on the table.

There has, though, been no great rush of suitors to his door. That is not because of any shortage of clubs who would like to employ Grealish. It is only a couple of years, after all, since he was a central figure in Manchester City's triumphal march to the Treble; it is only four since he became the Premier League's first £100 million player. He is only 29. He is not yet in the autumn of his career. Grealish remains an elite.

There are, though, barely a handful who could conceive of paying him even half of the salary he earns at the Etihad Stadium, which is thought to stand in the region of £18 million a year, before tax. Even those that could pay tend to be well stocked in his favoured roles, and would generally reserve the sort of investment necessary to sign him for players who are younger.

Grealish finds himself, in effect, in a gilded trap: the teams that might want him cannot afford him, and the majority of the teams that can afford him do not want him.

He is not the only one caught in such a dilemma. He might find empathy for his situation among plenty of his peers. Of the England squad that reached the European Championship final in 2021 alone, for example, there are six players - including Grealish - who have spent much of this summer trying to pick their way out of it.

Some have come closer to a solution than others. Marcus Rashford has, apparently, always wanted to play for Barcelona. That deal comes with caveats, though. Barcelona cannot afford to sign him permanently, and so he is joining on an initial season-long loan. The Spanish champions are covering his salary, but he has had to forgo some bonuses. And he cannot yet be certain that he will be able to play in La Liga; Barcelona missed out on their primary target this summer, Nico Williams, because they could not guarantee that their financial situation would allow them to register him.

Juventus have been exploring the possibility of signing Jadon Sancho, his former Manchester United team-mate, on a similar basis, though quite how far that particular investigation has gone is unclear. Nottingham Forest are also thought to be willing to offer Sancho - who spent last season on loan at Chelsea - an escape route.

And then there are those whose careers seem to be in stasis. Ben Chilwell and Raheem Sterling both returned to Chelsea this summer after anticlimactic loan spells at Crystal Palace and

Arsenal respectively; neither features in Enzo Maresca's plans for this coming season, and yet neither has been inundated with offers of alternative employment. Wherever Calvin Phillips plays this year, it will not be at Manchester City.

The phenomenon is not, of course, limited to English players: Axel Disasi and Antony all have much the same problem this summer. But it is not a coincidence that Grealish, Sterling and the rest should be among that number. It is an issue that disproportionately affects English clubs.

When Manchester United departed on their pre-season tour to the United States, they left a "bomb squad" of five players behind in Manchester. It serves both as an admittedly brutal practical measure - Ruben Amorim wanted to work with as small a group as possible so as to make his training sessions more effective - and as a powerful piece of symbolism, even if subsequently Amorim talked about the possibility of their return to the main squad if they weren't sold.

Last year, in Maresca's first summer at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea did much the same. Indeed, that case might have been even more extreme: the club had been so active in the transfer market that the changing room at their training facility in Cobham was no longer large enough to accommodate everyone. Chilwell and Sterling were among those excommunicated on that occasion. (Guardiola, for his part, has not indicated whether this is a fate that awaits either Grealish or Phillips.)

The reason that such drastic action has been deemed necessary, in both cases, is that the Premier League's gargantuan wealth is wholly anomalous to European football as a whole. English football continues to grow richer; on the continent, with three or four exceptions, margins have been winnowing. The traditional mechanics of the game's transfer market are, in effect, broken.

In previous eras, a whole class of aspirational French or middle-class Spanish clubs might have provided refuge for those deemed surplus to requirements. Now, the finances make that impossible. For a while, Serie A was the exception, thanks to a tax break offered to players from outside the European Union; its abolition, almost two years ago, dulled that fleeting edge.

Moving within the Premier League is increasingly difficult, too. Those players who have spent their careers competing for trophies find a drop in status almost more disheartening than a reduction in wages; as the league has grown smarter, more savvy, even the clubs who might once have been seen as the natural destinations for cast-offs tend to prefer players on their way up, rather than on their way down.

The result is a form of stasis: a series of loans, perhaps, loveless marriages of convenience, taken in the desperate hope that one might spark something real; or remaining stubbornly in place, hoping that a manager might change their mind.

In early July, after a month or so fielding offers, Grealish and Guardiola both attended one of Oasis's homecoming gigs at Heaton Park. They were not there together - Guardiola was with his family, Grealish had at least one well-oiled conversation with a member of the general public - but their paths did cross in a VIP area.

The two men spoke briefly, and warmly. So warmly, in fact, that Grealish came away from the conversation wondering if the best place to be might well be where he is now, contemplating whether his future might lie at Manchester City after all.

*Courtesy of Rory Smith, Football Correspondent, The (Sunday) Observer*





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## Season 2025/26

### The Pitching In Southern League - Premier Division Central Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Bishop's Stortford	2	2	0	0	8	1	+7	6
2	Kettering Town	2	2	0	0	7	3	+4	6
3	Harborough Town	2	1	1	0	5	1	+4	4
4	Banbury United	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4
5	Halesowen Town	2	1	1	0	5	3	+2	4
6	Stourbridge	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
7	Quorn	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
8	Real Bedford	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
9	St Ives Town	2	1	0	1	3	3	-	3
10	Barwell	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
11	Bromsgrove Sporting	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
12	Bury Town	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
13	Redditch United	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
14	AFC Sudbury	2	1	0	1	3	6	-3	3
15	Spalding United	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
16	Alvechurch	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
17	Worcester City	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
18	Stamford AFC	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
19	Leiston	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	1
20	Needham Market	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	1
21	Royston Town	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0
22	Stratford Town	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0

Table as at Tuesday 12th August 2025

## Bromsgrove Sporting - Fixtures and Results - Season 2025/26

Day	Date	K/O	V	Opponents	Competition	Result	Att	Pts	Lgue Pos	MoM
Tue	08-Jul	7:45 PM	A	Romulus	Friendly	W 2 - 0	~85	-	-	-
Fri	11-Jul	7:45 PM	A	Stourport Swifts	Friendly	W 4 - 1	~130	-	-	-
Tue	15-Jul	7:45 PM	A	Coleshill Town	Friendly	L 0 - 3	88	-	-	-
Sat	19-Jul	3:00 PM	A	Sporting Khalsa	Friendly	L 1 - 4	~100	-	-	-
Tue	22-Jul	7:45 PM	H	Birmingham City U21	Friendly	L 1 - 3	330	-	-	-
Sat	26-Jul	3:00 PM	H	WBA U21	Friendly	L 0 - 1	~300	-	-	-
Tue	29-Jul	7:45 PM	H	Solihull Moors	Friendly	W 4 - 1	~230	-	-	-
Sat	02-Aug	3:00 PM	H	Hungerford Town	Friendly	W 4 - 1	~280	-	-	-
Sat	09-Aug	3:00 PM	H	Bishop's Stortford	Southern League	L 0 - 2	551	0	18	Adam Harrison
Tue	12-Aug	7:45 PM	A	Alvechurch	Southern League	W 2 - 1	482	3	11	Jack Kelly
Sat	16-Aug	3:00 PM	H	Spalding United	Southern League					
Sat	23-Aug	3:00 PM	H	Needham Market	Southern League					
Mon	25-Aug	3:00 PM	A	Redditch United	Southern League					
Sat	30-Aug	3:00 PM			FA Cup Q1					
Sat	06-Sep	3:00 PM	H	St Ives Town	Southern League					
Tue	09-Sep	7:45 PM	H	Banbury United	Southern League					
Sat	13-Sep	3:00 PM			FA Cup Q2					
Sat	20-Sep	3:00 PM	A	Barwell	Southern League					
Tue	23-Sep	7:45 PM	A	Quorn	Southern League					
Sat	27-Sep	3:00 PM			FA Cup Q3					
Sat	04-Oct	3:00 PM			FA Trophy Q3					
Sat	11-Oct	3:00 PM	H	Bury Town	Southern League					
Tue	14-Oct	7:45 PM	H	Stamford	Southern League					
Sat	18-Oct	3:00 PM	A	Harborough Town	Southern League					
Tue	21-Oct	7:45 PM	A	Worcester City	Southern League					
Sat	25-Oct	3:00 PM			FA Trophy R1					
Sat	01-Nov	3:00 PM	H	Leiston	Southern League					
Sat	08-Nov	3:00 PM	H	Royston Town	Southern League					
Sat	15-Nov	3:00 PM	A	Stourbridge	Southern League					
Tue	18-Nov	7:45 PM	A	Banbury United	Southern League					
Sat	22-Nov	3:00 PM	H	Kettering Town	Southern League					
Tue	25-Nov	7:45 PM	H	Quorn	Southern League					
Sat	29-Nov	3:00 PM	A	AFC Sudbury	Southern League					
Sat	06-Dec	3:00 PM	H	Stratford Town	Southern League					
Sat	13-Dec	3:00 PM	A	Real Bedford	Southern League					
Sat	20-Dec	3:00 PM	A	Bishop's Stortford	Southern League					
Sat	27-Dec	3:00 PM	H	Redditch United	Southern League					
Sat	01-Jan	3:00 PM	A	Halesowen Town	Southern League					
Sat	10-Jan	3:00 PM	H	Alvechurch	Southern League					
Sat	17-Jan	3:00 PM	A	Bury Town	Southern League					
Sat	24-Jan	3:00 PM	H	Barwell	Southern League					
Sat	31-Jan	3:00 PM	A	Stamford	Southern League					
Sat	07-Feb	3:00 PM	H	Harborough Town	Southern League					
Sat	14-Feb	3:00 PM	A	Leiston	Southern League					
Sat	21-Feb	3:00 PM	H	Worcester City	Southern League					
Sat	28-Feb	3:00 PM	H	AFC Sudbury	Southern League					
Sat	07-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Kettering Town	Southern League					
Sat	14-Mar	3:00 PM	H	Stourbridge	Southern League					
Sat	21-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Royston Town	Southern League					
Sat	28-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Spalding United	Southern League					
Fri	03-Apr	3:00 PM	A	Needham Market	Southern League					
Mon	06-Apr	3:00 PM	H	Halesowen Town	Southern League					
Sat	11-Apr	3:00 PM	A	St Ives Town	Southern League					
Sat	18-Apr	3:00 PM	A	Stratford Town	Southern League					
Sat	25-Apr	3:00 PM	H	Real Bedford	Southern League					

Bromsgrove Sporting FC - Appearances / Goalscorers																									
Season 2024-2025																									
	League							Cups							Season Total				Sporting Career						
Name	App	Sub	Bench	Capt.	Yellow	Reds	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Bench	Capt.	Yellow	Reds	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Tot	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Tot	Goals
Koby Arthur		2			1												2	2					2	2	
Luke Benbow	2						1	1									2	2	1	1		2		2	1
Josh Burgess																									
Finlay Carson																									
Ash Carter																					33		33	1	
Nick Clayton-Phillips	2																2	2			2		2		
Romehl Critchlow		2																							
Tom Edge	2				1												2	2			2		2		
Josh Ezewe	2																2	2			12		12		
George Gillon																									
Kobe Hall		2					1	1									2	2	1	1	3	6	9	1	
Adam Harrison	2				1												2	2			2		2		
Jack Kelly	2				1												2	2			2		2		
Reece King																					47		47	5	
Jordan Lyden																					5	13	18		
Paul McCone	2				1												2	2			2		2		
Charlie McNamara																					1		1		
Bo Morris	2				1												2	2			3	3	6		
Taylor Morrison	1	1															1	1			1	3	4		
Lewis Neal																									
Jack Newell	2																2	2			95	26	121	6	
Ryan Pratt																									
Gus Sanches		1	1														1	1				13	13	2	
Billy Shaw	2		2														2	2			51	11	62	4	
Aksum White	1	1															1	1			64	17	81		

## Bromsgrove Sporting - Player Profiles

Name: Scott Adey-Linforth      Squad Number: n/a      DoB: 6/9/94, Birmingham  
Position: Manager      Height: 6' 0"      Weight: 75kg

Previous Clubs: Stourbridge, (Current) Aston Villa 1st Team Performance Analyst

Scott was promoted as 1st Team manager in November 2024 following a successful spell as first team coach and interim manager. A manager, who despite his young age has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Name: Karl Fellows      Squad Number: n/a      DoB: 22/4/85, Solihull  
Position: Coach      Height: 6' 1"      Weight: 86kg

Previous Clubs: Aston Villa

A former Bromsgrove Sporting player, Karl is well known to manager Scott Adey-Linforth following their time together at Aston Villa.

Name: Ryan Pratt      Squad Number: 25      DoB: 17/1/02, Stourbridge  
Position: Player/Goalkeeper coach      Height: 6' 1"      Weight: 75kg

Previous Clubs: Redditch United, Aston Villa, Coventry City, Lye Town, Darlaston Town, Sporting Khalsa, Bedworth united, Rushall Olympic, Stourport Swifts.

Our player/goalkeeper coach Ryan is a passionate coach who has great knowledge and experience in non-league football. Now into his second spell with the club.

Name: Dan Eyre      Squad Number: n/a      DoB: 18/5/03  
Position: Sports therapist      Height: 5' 8"      Weight: 90kg

Previous Clubs:

Dan joined Sporting at the start of the 2024/25 season. He is the Head Sports therapist at the club and outside of football is the head of medical for the Worcester Royals American football team.

Name: Dean Ashford      Squad Number: n/a      DoB: 22/2/67  
Position: Kitman      Height: 5' 7"      Weight:

Previous Clubs: Austin Ex-apprentices

An invaluable member of the backroom staff 'Deano' joined the club at the start of the 2024/25 season and is a popular member of the squad.

Name: Koby Arthur      Squad Number: 11      DoB: 31/1/96, Kumasi, Ghana  
Position: Attacking midfield      Height: 5' 5"      Weight:

Previous Clubs: Lincoln City, Birmingham City, Cheltenham Town, Macclesfield Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Dover Athletic, Maidenhead United, Hereford, Stourbridge, Rushall Olympic, Barwell.

Joined Sporting in August 2025, the former Birmingham City player is a fast and tricky player who likes to get on the ball. Comfortable in a variety of positions and his versatility is a big asset to the squad.

Name: Luke Benbow      Squad Number: 9      DoB: 21/8/91, Birmingham  
Position: Centre forward      Height: 5' 10"      Weight:

Previous Clubs: Redditch United, Solihull Moors, Hednesford Town, Nuneaton Borough, Stourbridge.

Joined at the start of the season from Stourbridge, Luke is well regarded centre-forward with extensive experience of Step 3 football. A strong and powerful forward with an eye for the spectacular.

Name: Ash Carter      Squad Number: 6      DoB: 12/9/95, Birmingham  
Position: Centre-back      Height: 6' 2"      Weight: 91 kg

Previous Clubs: Wolves, Chesterfield, Tamworth, Kidderminster Harriers, Alvechurch, Nuneaton Borough, Stourbridge, Halesowen Town, Coalville Town, Walsall Wood.

Vice-Captain Ash joined us last season following a spell with Walsall Wood and made a huge impact in our upturn in results. A natural leader with valuable experience Ash offers a strong and physical presence to our backline.

Name: Nick Clayton-Phillips      Squad Number: 10      DoB: 23/9/95, Birmingham  
Position: Left midfield      Height: 5' 8"      Weight:

Previous Clubs: WBA, Braintree Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Solihull Moors, Stourbridge, Alvechurch, Walsall Wood, Halesowen Town, Redditch United.

Known as NCP, the creative midfielder with an eye for the spectacular. Comfortable playing as a striker or number 10, Nick has the ability to score and create goals.

Name: Tom Edge      Squad Number: 8      DoB: 8/11/98, Wolverhampton  
Position: Centre midfield      Height: 5' 11"      Weight:

Previous Clubs: Leek Town, Alvechurch, Boston United, Rushall Olympic

The box-box midfielder is known for his no-nonsense style of play. A leader who has experience of playing Step 2 and abroad, Tom has made a big impact since he arrived at Bromsgrove Sporting.

Name: Josh Ezeweale      Squad Number: 2      DoB: 21/1/97, Birmingham  
Position: Right-back      Height: 5' 11"      Weight: 80 kg

Previous Clubs: WBA, Yeovil Town, Kidderminster Harriers, AFC Fylde, Alvechurch, Stourbridge, Spalding United, Halesowen Town.

A strong and attacking full back, Josh Ezeweale rejoined us last season, before injury prematurely ended his season. Now fully fit, Josh's energy down the right-hand side of the pitch is a big asset for the club.

Name: Kobe Hall      Squad Number: 20      DoB: 25/8/06, Birmingham



Position: Centre forward	Height: 6' 2"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Kidderminster Harriers, Coleshill Town, Stourport Swifts, Quorn, Alfreton Town, Rushall Olympic.		
Returning to the club after a brief spell in 2023, Kobe is a player with big potential. Despite his young age he has good experience at the level. A powerful forward with an eye for goal.		
Name: Adam Harrison	Squad Number: 1	DoB: 19/2/99, Nuneaton
Position: Goalkeeper	Height: 6' 1"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Leicester City, Bedworth United, Tividale, Worcester City, Redditch United, Bedford Town, AFC Rushden & Diamonds.		
Joined the club at the start of the season following a spell with AFC Rushden & Diamonds. A highly regarded keeper who had a successful spell with local rivals Redditch United.		
Name: Jack Kelly	Squad Number: 3	DoB: 1/1/96
Position: :Left back	Height: 5' 11"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Nottingham Forest, Hemel Hempstead Town, Kettering Town, Newtown AFC, Shifnal Town, Hednesford Town, Walsall Wood, Sporting Khalsa, Redditch United.		
An energetic left back who joined Sporting from Redditch United in June 2025. Jack has good experience at Step 3 and is a threat from set pieces with both his hands and feet.		
Name: Reece King	Squad Number: 4	DoB: 29/7/95, Worcester
Position: midfield and team captain	Height: 6' 3"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Stourbridge, Buxton Town, Malvern Town.		
Club captain, Reece joined us at the start of the 2024/25 season and impressed with his all-action style of play and scored some vital goals. Naturally a centre midfielder but also comfortable playing in centre defence.		
Name: Jordan Lyden	Squad Number: 18	DoB: 30/1/96, Perth, Australia
Position: Centre midfield	Height: 5' 11"	Weight: 79 kg
Previous Clubs: Aston Villa, Oldham Athletic, Swindon Town, Leyton Orient, Hereford.		
Former Australia U20 international, Jordan has spent the majority of his career in the professional game. A technical player with and an excellent touch and range of passing.		
Name: Paul McCone	Squad Number: 5	DoB: 28/9/91, Stourbridge
Position: Centre back and assistant mgr	Height: 6' 1"	Weight: 82½kg
Previous Clubs: Wolves, Leamington, Stourbridge, Hednesford Town, AFC Telford United, Halesowen Town, Stratford Town.		
Paul is an experienced and strong centre half who reads the game well, alongside being a real threat in both boxes. Signed from Stratford Town at the start of the season as a player/assistant manager.		

Name: Charlie McNamara	Squad Number: 13	DoB: 4/2/07
Position: Goalkeeper	Height:	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Bromsgrove Sporting Under 21s, Cradley Town, Gornal Athletic		
Talented young goalkeeper who made his debut in the Worcestershire Senior Cup against Droitwich Spa in October 2024. Only 18 years old and currently out on duel registration gaining valuable experience.		
Name: Bo Morris	Squad Number: 16	DoB:
Position: Defence	Height:	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Bromsgrove Sporting Under 21s, Pershore Town		
A young player who impressed with our U21 team and broke into the first team at the end of the 2024/25 season following a successful loan spell with Pershore Town. Comfortable playing at right back or centre half.		
Name: Taylor Morrison	Squad Number: 17	DoB: 7/6/99
Position: Left back	Height: 6' 0"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: WBA, Alvechurch, Stratford Town, Evesham United, Redditch United, Worcester City, Tamworth, Littleton, Walsall Wood.		
Taylor joined the club towards the end of 2024/25 season. A versatile player who can play in multiple positions, and will be a big asset to the club throughout the season.		
Name: Jack Newell	Squad Number: 15	DoB: 22/1/01, Kingston-upon-Thames
Position: Midfield	Height: 6' 0"	Weight: 80 kg
Previous Clubs: Northampton Town, Barwell, Highgate United.		
Now into his 5th season at the club, and with over 100 appearances to his name for the club, Jack continues to impress in the centre of midfield. A player who reads the game well and specialises in breaking up play.		
Name: Gus Sanches	Squad Number: 19	DoB: 23/2/04
Position: Forward	Height: 5' 10"	Weight: 72kg
Previous Clubs: Boldmere St Michaels		
Returned to Sporting following a brief spell in the 2023/24 season. A player with pace to burn, Gus can turn a game in an instance and has a fantastic work ethic.		
Name: Billy Shaw	Squad Number: 7	DoB: 17/12/01, Stourbridge
Position: Midfield	Height: 5' 8"	Weight: 70 kg
Previous Clubs: Halesowen Town, Worcester City, Redditch United.		
A versatile player who is a big fan favourite at the club. Returned to Sporting after a brief spell away in 2024. Known for his all-energy style of play, an excellent dribbler who has the ability to score and create goals.		

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**Thanks to Steve Richards for doing the quizzes again this season**

**Here is the number two, a few more general questions**

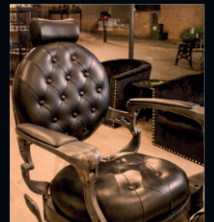
1. Who scored Sporting's first goal of the season with the equaliser against Alvechurch on Tuesday?
2. Ten countries have qualified so far for next summer's World Cup. Which two Asian countries will be appearing for the first time?
3. Which non-league club are managed by Mark Hughes?
4. Which country does new Manchester United signing Benjamin Šeško play for?
5. Before Crystal Palace this week, who were the last club (in 1975) to win the Charity / Community Shield in their debut appearance?
6. Which three clubs won promotion through the Championship, League One and League Two play offs last season?

Answers: 1) Luke Benbow 2) Jordan and Uzbekistan 3) Carlisle United 4) Slovenia 5) Derby County 6) Sunderland, Charlton Athletic, and AFC Wimbledon

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William Searies Always With Us	Tim Hatchett Happy 60th Birthday	Kate Hughes Big Up Brommy	Carl Smith Rovers Forever!	Big Ben Get It Forward!	Chris Smith Never Forgotten x	Alexander Bright Come on you Rouslers	Seamus O'Brien Always With Us
In Loving Memory Jeff Black 1957-2025 Forever With Us			Awesome Grandad Philip Garratt We Love You! Max & Erin	Pete Stelling Always Smiling Missed By All The Boys xxx			In Loving Memory Susan White 1998-2025 Forever With Us
Super Grandad Malcolm Perrie We Love You! Ailie & Oscar			In Loving Memory Kevin Green 1947-2025 Forever With Us	Adam Mullen Never Forgotten 1953-2024 Always With Us			Grandpa Robson Wishing You a Very Happy 80th Birthday Alex, Phoebe & Eli
Patrick King Never Forgotten 1947-2024 Always In Our Hearts			Best Dad Ever! Peter Sidwell We Love You! Oscar & Millie	Best Grandpa Ever! Arthur Cross Happy 70th Birthday Love From Aisha			Peter Herring Never Forgotten 1954-2024 Always With Us
Steven Croft Happy 50th Birthday	Arthur Harrison Never Forgotten	Uncle Kev Man Myth Legend	Rachel Airey Happy 60th Birthday	Tom Oldham Loyal Supporter	Mark Brent Happy 50th Birthday	Luke Farnworth Happy 50th Birthday	James White Happy 50th Birthday

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## Today's Visitors - Spalding United FC - Club History



Although long believed to have formed in 1921, research shows Spalding United was actually founded in 1905, following the merger of Fulney Institute and Spalding Victorias at a meeting in a local hostelry. The new club began life at the Low Grounds, with matches also staged on Pinchbeck Road (Black Swan Field) – the site of today's Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field, our long-standing home.

One of the most famous days in the club's history came in 1952, when a record 6,973 crowd packed into the ground for an FA Cup qualifier against Peterborough United. Spalding led 2-0 with ten minutes to go before Posh fought back to draw and win the replay 3-0. The Tulips lifted the Lincolnshire Senior A Cup the following year and twice reached the FA Cup First Round – against Durham City in 1957/58, and in 1964/65, when they faced Football League opposition for the first time, losing 5-3.

In the league, Spalding were United Counties League runners-up three years running (1951–53) before winning the title in 1955. Spells followed in the Eastern Counties League, Central Alliance, and Midland League before returning to the UCL in 1968 and winning the championship again in 1975.

The late 1980s brought an FA Vase quarter-final in 1989/90 against Guiseley, featuring ex-England striker Frank Worthington, with 2,020 fans watching an extra-time defeat. Another Vase quarter-final came in 1998, losing 2-1 to eventual winners Tiverton Town before an even bigger crowd of 2,038. The following year saw a clean sweep – UCL champions, Lincolnshire A Cup and Hinchingsbrooke Cup winners – earning a return to the Southern League in 1999/2000.

A link-up with Spalding Athletic JFC in 2011/12 brought a youth pathway, though that season ended in relegation. The Tulips bounced back with a UCL Knockout Cup win in 2012/13 and the league title in 2013/14, alongside the appointment of CEO Malcolm Gray. Back in the Evo-Stik NPL, Spalding impressed in 2014/15 (7th) and launched an under-18 team. The 2016/17 season was historic – finishing 3rd, the club's highest-ever step-four finish, and three players made the Division's Team of the Year.

After a difficult 2018/19, the club underwent a major restructure in 2019, bringing in new investors. Manager Matt Easton stepped down in December 2019, with Lewis Thorogood taking over before COVID curtailed the season. A new era began in 2020 as AK Holdings, led by Andrew Killingsworth, took ownership and appointed Leigh Porter as CEO. Porter spearheaded key initiatives, including reconnecting the club with its youth teams.

The Tulips looked to push on under Gabby Zakuani in 2021/22, before Brett Whaley steadied the ship mid-season. In 2022/23, Spalding started unbeaten until January and reached the Lincolnshire Senior Trophy Final, but fell short in the play-off final at Halesowen after an injury-time equaliser and extra-time heartbreaker. Elliot Sandy, who stepped in as interim, earned the job permanently.

The hard work paid off in April 2024, when Spalding won the Northern Premier League Midlands Division on the final day in front of 1,730 fans, sealing promotion to Step 3 with a stunning 8-0 win. Major ground upgrades followed – new dugouts, tunnel, a 100-seat stand and 40m covered terrace – to meet Step 3 standards. The club's first season at this level ended with a 7th-place finish in the Southern League Premier Central.

After a tough start to the 2024/25 season, the Tulips appointed Jimmy Dean, former Peterborough Sports promotion-winner and Scunthorpe United manager, to lead the next chapter. With a strong squad, passionate supporters, and deep community roots, Spalding United is building towards a bright future at Step 3 and beyond.

That same year, the club's off-field impact was recognised as Spalding United won both the Lincolnshire FA Club of the Year and the South Holland Community Sports Group Award for its outstanding community work. From free U16 and senior tickets to food bank collections, coffee mornings, and local outreach, the Tulips have worked hard to make football a force for good. Volunteers remain the club's heartbeat, from the organisation and running of match days, painting fences & general maintenance around the ground, to the running and coaching of the youth section, Looking ahead, further transformation is on the way in 2025/26 with the installation of a brand-new 3G pitch, generously funded by owner Andrew Killingsworth. This upgrade will provide over 20 youth teams with a winter training base in the heart of Spalding, ensuring a strong pathway for future generations.

The 2025/26 season will also see the introduction of a senior ladies team, led by Sammy Linford, marking a major step forward for the club's inclusivity and growth. In addition, a midweek Under-18 team will compete in the Thurlow Nunn Youth League – the first Spalding United youth side ever to enter the FA Youth Cup.

## Spalding United - Profiles

### Goalkeepers

#### Aaron Chapman

Standing at an incredible 6'8", Aaron brings a commanding presence between the posts. With Football League experience at Peterborough United, Accrington Stanley, and Gillingham, he adds real pedigree to the squad. He previously worked with Jimmy Dean at Scunthorpe United and played a key role at Boston United during their 2023/24 campaign. Calm under pressure and dominant in the air, Chapman is a huge asset for Spalding.

#### Jake West

Jake is a promising young goalkeeper who joined Spalding in 2024 after coming through Peterborough United's academy. He quickly made a name for himself during pre-season with strong performances and shot-stopping ability. Still learning his trade, Jake benefits from working alongside experienced professionals like Aaron Chapman. With talent and hunger to improve, he has a bright future ahead.

### Defenders

#### Ben Blythe

Former Doncaster Rovers prospect and Swansea City defender, Ben captained Doncaster's U18s to a league title before further development in Wales. Comfortable on the ball and strong defensively, he also offers versatility across the back line. After a successful spell at Barry Town, Ben brings leadership and a cultured left foot to Spalding. Fans can expect him to be a key figure in the defence.

#### Aaron Cashmore

A promising young defender who came through Doncaster Rovers' academy and has impressed in pre-season. Aaron is strong in the tackle and reads the game well, showing maturity beyond his years. Determined to prove himself at this level, he is working hard to earn his chance in the starting eleven. A name for the future in the Tulips backline.

#### Nathan Fox

Nathan is an experienced left-back with a reputation for pace, energy, and dangerous crosses. A former Notts County player, he has achieved promotions with King's Lynn Town, Buxton, and Peterborough Sports. Known for his attacking runs and quality deliveries, Fox adds both defensive stability and attacking threat. Expect him to be a constant presence up and down the left flank.

#### Ben Hart

Ben joined Spalding from Kettering Town and has also represented Burton Albion, where he broke

into the first team. He is a reliable and composed defender who brings strength and consistency to the back line. Ben's versatility makes him a valuable option across the defence, and his experience in non-league football adds steel to the squad. A dependable figure for the season ahead.

### Connor Johnson

Connor is a commanding centre-back with an excellent football pedigree, having captained Wolves U23s earlier in his career. He has played for Walsall, Kilmarnock, and Kettering Town, bringing leadership and calmness under pressure. Johnson's aerial strength and defensive awareness make him a huge asset for Spalding. A natural leader in the heart of defence.

### Liam Moore (Captain)

One of Spalding's biggest signings in recent history, Liam brings top-level experience from Leicester City and Reading, where he made over 230 appearances. A former Premier League player and Jamaican international, he initially retired before joining the Tulips to lead from the back. Moore's leadership, reading of the game, and commanding presence make him the cornerstone of Spalding's defence. A true role model on and off the pitch.

### Midfielders

#### Alfie Bendle

A technically gifted 20-year-old midfielder, Alfie joined from Colchester United and previously developed with AFC Wimbledon and Forest Green Rovers. He has also impressed during loan spells at Eastbourne Borough and Chelmsford City, showing creativity and composure. Alfie brings energy and flair to the centre of the park and is one of the squad's rising talents. Fans will be eager to see his progress this season.

#### James Clifton

A versatile player who can operate in defence or midfield, Clifton is one of Spalding's most dependable performers. He played a huge part in the 2023/24 title-winning season, scoring four goals in the decisive game. Known for his work rate, leadership, and flexibility, Clifton is a real asset in any position. Expect him to be a driving force once again this year.

#### Dan Lawlor

Dan is a tenacious central midfielder with vast experience in non-league football. Reunited with Jimmy Dean after their successful time at Peterborough Sports, he brings leadership and a winning mentality. A former captain at Sports, Lawlor is known for his work ethic and ability to dictate play. He adds grit and organisation to Spalding's midfield.

#### Josh McCammon

Josh is a dynamic midfielder with energy and technical ability in abundance. He has played under Jimmy Dean at Peterborough Sports and was key in their rise through the leagues. Comfortable in multiple midfield roles, Josh adds drive and creativity to the team. Expect him to be influential in both defence and attack.

#### Lamine Sherif

A product of the Leicester City academy, Lamine has Football League experience with Accrington Stanley. He rejoined Spalding in 2024 after stints with several non-league clubs, bringing strength and composure to midfield. Sherif's work rate and tackling ability make him a vital presence in the engine room. A consistent and dependable performer for the Tulips.

### Curtis Thompson

Curtis is an experienced midfielder with over 200 Football League appearances, including successful spells at Notts County and Wycombe Wanderers. Known for his defensive qualities and tactical awareness, he adds steel and leadership to Spalding's midfield. Thompson's experience at Championship level makes him a huge asset in big games. Expect calmness, control, and quality in



the centre of the pitch.

#### Forwards

##### Yusifu Ceesay

A lightning-fast winger who loves to take on defenders, Yusifu is a major attacking threat. He scored 12 goals for Hereford last season and previously played for Blackpool in the EFL. Direct, dangerous, and exciting to watch, Ceesay brings pace and flair to Spalding's attack. Expect fireworks whenever he's on the ball.

##### Bart Cybulski

At 6'6", Bart is a towering striker with incredible presence in the box. A former Derby County player and Poland U19 international, he joined Spalding in 2024 and hit the ground running with goals galore. Strong, clinical, and confident, Bart is the focal point of the Tulips' attack. A true goal machine who defenders fear.

##### Jordan Nicholson

Jordan is an experienced attacking midfielder with an eye for goal and creativity in abundance. He has EFL experience with Peterborough United and Barnet and has scored regularly across non-league football. Nicholson's vision and technical ability make him a constant threat in the final third. A player who can unlock defences with a moment of magic.

##### Jack Roberts

A young striker with pace, power, and finishing ability, Jack joined Spalding from Bishop's Stortford in 2025. He made his name with some outstanding performances, including a hat-trick against the Tulips before signing. Hungry for goals and ready to shine, Roberts is one to watch this season. Expect excitement when he's on the pitch.

##### Sano Sani

Former Benfica academy product Sano is a versatile forward capable of playing anywhere across the front line. Strong, skilful, and unpredictable, he brings flair and power to Spalding's attack. Already off the mark for the Tulips, Sano is eager to make a big impact this season. A constant threat to opposition defences.

##### Dion Sembie-Ferris

Dion is a skilful winger who started his career at Peterborough and played in League One with Colchester United. Known for his pace and creativity, he played a key role in Jimmy Dean's previous successes at Peterborough Sports and Scunthorpe. Back under Dean's guidance, Dion brings energy and excitement to the wide areas. Expect him to create and score in equal measure.

### The Record against Spalding

Sporting have only played Spalding United twice and both matches were last season.

The first game was at the UK Electrical Stadium on Saturday 17th August that Sporting won 2 - 0. Charlie Wragg scored the opener on 35 minutes with Kieran Cook getting The Rouslers second with a penalty on the 85th minutes. Sporting Player of the Match was Reece King and the crowd was 604.

The reverse fixture was on Saturday 28th December at The Sir Halley Stewart Field. Spalding skipper Glenn Walker gave the home side the lead after 11 minutes but the Rouslers equalised with a minute of normal time remaining with a goal from Carter Lycett. Sporting Player of the Match was Ash Carter and the game was watched by 425 spectators.

Bromsgrove Rovers played the Tulips in a couple of Southern League Midlands Division matches in season 2006/7. The first game on 29th September 2006 saw Rovers win 2 - 0 in front of a crowd of 346; Kevin Banner (80 mins) and Nathan Lamey (90 mins) scoring for the home side.

At the reverse fixture played on 27th January 2007, Spalding gained revenge with a 1 - 0 victory. 140 spectators saw Danny Hargreaves get the only goal of the game on the 76th minute.



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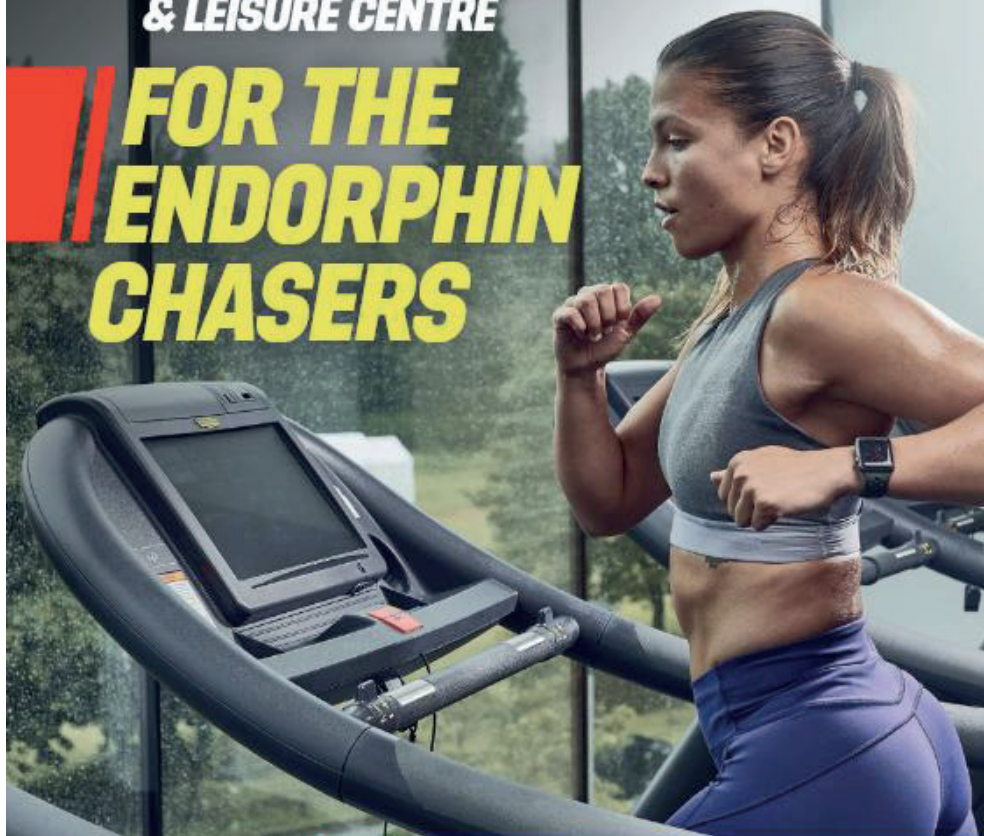
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## Photos from Recent Matches



Captain's performance from Billy Shaw against Bishop's Stortford but not the result he wanted.



Player of the Match against Alvechurch, Jack Kelly contributing to a fine victory.

Photos: Chris Jepson



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## Recent Results

### The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 9th August

AFC Sudbury	2 - 0	Redditch United	338
Barwell	3 - 2	St Ives Town	217
<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	0 - 2	Bishop's Stortford	551
Harborough Town	4 - 0	Needham Market	596
Leiston	2 - 2	Halesowen Town	224
Real Bedford	2 - 1	Spalding United	523
Royston Town	3 - 4	Kettering Town	586
Stamford	0 - 0	Alvechurch	359
Stourbridge	2 - 0	Bury Town	561
Stratford Town	0 - 3	Banbury United	922
Worcester City	0 - 1	Quorn	986

### The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 11th August

Redditch United	1 - 0	Stratford Town	641
St Ives Town	1 - 0	Stamford	352

### The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 12th August

Alvechurch	1 - 2	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	482
Banbury United	1 - 1	Worcester City	722
Bishop's Stortford	6 - 1	AFC Sudbury	473
Bury Town	1 - 0	Royston Town	768
Halesowen Town	3 - 1	Barwell	1,106
Harborough Town	1 - 1	Spalding United	604
Kettering Town	3 - 0	Leiston	1,368
Needham Market	0 - 0	Real Bedford	259
Quorn	1 - 1	Stourbridge	410

## Today's Matches

### The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 16th August

Alvechurch	v	AFC Sudbury
Banbury United	v	Leiston
Bishop's Stortford	v	Stamford
<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	v	Spalding United
Bury Town	v	Harborough Town
Halesowen Town	v	Real Bedford
Kettering Town	v	Barwell
Needham Market	v	Worcester City

Quorn	v	Stratford Town
Redditch United	v	Royston Town
St Ives Town	v	Stourbridge

### Forthcoming Matches

**The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 23rd August**

AFC Sudbury	v	Quorn
Barwell	v	Alvechurch
<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	v	Needham Market
Harborough Town	v	St Ives Town
Leiston	v	Redditch United
Real Bedford	v	Kettering Town
Royston Town	v	Banbury United
Stamford	v	Halesowen Town
Stourbridge	v	Spalding United
Stratford Town	v	Bishop's Stortford
Worcester City	v	Bury Town

### Bromsgrove Sporting Under 21s

***Matt Tennant, reflects on the Under 21s first season as a team, as pre-season friendlies are underway ahead of their upcoming season...***

Bromsgrove Sporting’s U21’s debut season has come to an end and, as preparations for the 25/26



season get underway, we are taking time to reflect on the many successes of the club’s development side in their first season.

The team finished third in the Midland Football League’s U21 South Division, after an impressive campaign that included long winning streaks and strong away form.

"As preparations for the new season begin, I wanted to take a moment to look back and reflect on a fantastic first season for our U21 team," said the Director of Football at Sporting, Iain Queen.

"We have been delighted with the progress that the team have made, and a massive part of that is down the management team. Mark (Reeve), Stuart (Carson) and Pete (Rose) have worked tirelessly to put together a competitive group of lads, who week after week having given everything for the club. They are a fantastic group of lads and I know from speaking to the management team that they have been a pleasure to coach week in week out.

"Our journey started with over 180 applicants, so there was a real interest from local players to come and represent Bromsgrove Sporting FC. Over the course of the season, players have come and gone and I would like to personally thank them all for their efforts when putting on a Bromsgrove

Sporting shirt," said Queen.

Last season, the team fought hard throughout their fixtures in the South Division, which ignited a thrilling battle with Bedworth United U21s.

The two sides frequently traded positions throughout the season until Bromsgrove narrowly stepped ahead of the Greenbacks to claim a hard-fought podium finish.

Under-21s coach, Pete Rose, said: "I think the team gelled from day one, in no part because of their character.

"There’s no egos or bad eggs and when we ask them to put a shift in at training or during a game they all do so with no questions or fuss.

"As a coach, the most pleasing thing for me is that I can see that the players have developed and improved as the season progressed. As we played games, you could see momentum building and each week we looked stronger as a unit."

The U21s also enjoyed spirited matchups in the Worcestershire Cup, which saw electrifying local action that included goalscoring frenzies and last minute penalty shootout glory.

The team progressed to the semi-finals, where they faced Meadow Park FC away, but despite their best efforts, the home side took the win to end a thrilling competition for Bromsgrove.

Although the team has achieved a series of impressive results in their debut season, arguably the most astounding was their performance in the MFL Challenge Bowl, in which they won five out of five group stage fixtures, with perfect away form helping them finish joint top out of 19 teams.

After stunning in the group stage, the U21s progressed to the quarter finals and semi finals, where they were beaten by Stourbridge U21s after an intense second half. This match brought the Rouslers’ first season to a close.

Bromsgrove Sporting’s U21s joint-manager, Mark Reeve, said: "From the 2024 trials, to the backing of Bromsgrove Sporting and our sponsors to end of season, we couldn’t have asked for much more last season.

"Finishing third in the League and joint top in the Challenge bowl, with a semi final placement, capped off a fine first year for the team."

It’s no secret that the intention of a development team is to nurture young talent and create bona fide pathways to play at a higher level within the club.

Over the last year, many Bromsgrove U21s players signed forms for the first team, with three of those players joining the men’s team for the 25/26 season.

Zac Powell was the first to be recruited by the first team after attracting attention in the early days of the U21s group. He was followed by Archie Thurston and Bo Morris, who signed up for first team duties in October 2024 after impressing in their early appearances for the U21s, with goalkeeper Charlie McNamara also receiving the call up and stunning spectators on a number of occasions.

"What was also pleasing was to see numerous players go on and play for the first team," continued Iain Queen.

"Zac Powell was picked up by the first team after impressing in the initial trials, then other players such as Charlie McNamara, Bo Morris, and Archie Thurston have all gone on to represent the first team."

Powell, Thurston, Morris and McNamara making their debuts has shown the significant success of Bromsgrove’s new development side and has developed a relationship between both the U21s and first team management with a common interest in creating opportunities for young talent.

Since then, a number of U21s players have also been given opportunities to train with the first team and gain additional experience, with George Gillon, Josh Burgess and Fin Carson being the latest names to put pen to paper and make the step up to the Men’s team.



"So far this pre season we have had Fin Carson, George Gillon and Josh Burgess all play a part in pre season. These are all signs that the pathway is working."

The three U21s alumni have continued training with the first team and will be available for selection in the upcoming season.

Queen added: "Like any non league club, it is difficult to keep hold of players who are performing well, and I encourage any young player to remain patient, stick with your coaches and, if you are good enough, the opportunities will come."

"It is a big jump from the development league up to Step Three, but the club have contacts with many local clubs who we can send our youngsters out with to experience a different environment. If they are developing under our Bromsgrove Sporting banner, then it is much easier for us to track and monitor their progress."

Pete Rose added: "This season will bring its own challenges and, as a team, we need to set ourselves some targets to ensure we push each other to maximise the undoubted ability all the boys have."

The U21s continue preparations for their second season with pre-season action well underway. You can catch the team back on the field for the start of their 25/26 season very soon!

## Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

With the kick-off of the 2025/26 league season for our ladies not far away, the management team have looked ahead to what's in store and how preparations are going. Here is what manager Alan Horton has to say:



"Our first season at Tier 6 was always going to be a challenge, with speed and physicality increasing drastically. We played well in spells and grew into the season. Our downfall was playing the majority of the campaign without recognised strikers, which is where we set our first target to improve this year," he commented.

The Ladies have achieved this

target, recruiting lots of new players to add depth and competition to the squad. New additions Elloise and Vicky S scored a combined total of 91 goals last season, adding firepower to the squad.

Sporting have also strengthened in other areas, with new goalkeeper Jessie replacing Rosie, who left for Redditch United. They've also added a number of midfielders, adding depth and attacking threat, with the ability to contribute goals to the team.

Horton added: "This is going to be an exciting season for the Ladies. The coaching team know that the potential is there for the squad to challenge at the top of the table, we need the players to believe that too. We've added lots of quality to the team, as well as keeping hold of a majority of last season's squad."

There is still some work going on behind the scenes on a few more signings, who would all add great depth to the squad.

Sporting Ladies have been drawn at home in the FA Cup First Round Qualifying against Kingfisher.

The home tie will be the Ladies' first game of the season on Sunday 7th September.

Details of the game will be confirmed closer to the date!

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## Today's Teams

<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>		<b>Spalding United</b>	
red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks		White shirts, black shorts, black socks	
Teams to be chosen from the following:			
1	Adam Harrison (GK)	1	Aaron Chapman (GK)
2	Josh Ezewe	2	Jake West (GK)
3	Jack Kelly	3	Alfie Bendle
4	Reece King (Capt)	4	Ben Blythe
5	TBA	5	Aaron Cashmore
6	Ash Carter	6	Yusifu Ceesay
7	Billy Shaw	7	James Clifton
8	Tom Edge	8	Bart Cybulski
9	Luke Benbow	9	Nathan Fox
10	Nick Clayton-Phillips	10	Ben Hart
11	Koby Arthur	11	Connor Johnson
12	Aksum White	12	Dan Lawlor
13	Charlie McNamara (GK)	13	Josh McCammon
14	Romehl Critchlow	14	Liam Moore (Capt)
15	Jack Newell	15	Jordan Nicholson
16	Bo Morris	16	Jack Roberts
17	Taylor Morrison	17	Sano Sani
18	Jordan Lyden	18	Dion Sembie-Ferris
19	Gus Sanches	19	Lamine Sherif
20	Kobe Hall	20	Curtis Thompson
21	Paul McCone	21	
25	Ryan Pratt (GK)	22	

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