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NOVEMBER 2025**

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Vice-Chairman: Graham Scott

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CLUB HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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

BROMSGROVE SPORTING MANAGERS

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

BROMSGROVE SPORTING CHAIRMEN

John Teece	<i>2009 - 15</i>
Jon Prescott	<i>2015 - 16</i>
Jeff Rea	<i>2016</i>
Mike Burke	<i>2016 - 2023</i>
Brian Seymour-Smith	<i>2023</i>
Graham Scott	<i>2023</i>
Rod Brown	<i>2023 -</i>

From the Boardroom - Rod Brown, Chairman



Can I welcome all the directors, management, playing staff and fans from Kettering Town for your first visit to the UK Electrical Stadium this season?

We come into this fixture on the back of five home games without defeat, albeit our away form this season has been very up and down.

Last Saturday, we endured a topsy-turvy game away at Stourbridge, finally finishing three each having been ahead twice; it felt like two points dropped.

We then ventured to Banbury United on Tuesday who had a very good result against in-form Quorn on the previous Saturday and we unfortunately lost three nil; so we looking to get back on track at home today.

It's always nice to welcome back an old player from his Bromsgrove Rovers days in Liam McDonald, Kettering's manager. (*Liam played 35 times for Rovers scoring 3 goals and getting 2 red cards! Ed.*)

Discussions continue off the field regarding a local consortium purchasing a majority shareholding to stabilise the club. I am working hard to try and complete the negotiations. Until then we continue to work hard on generating more interest in the community to come along to a game.

After today, we move into our Festive fixture programme at home against Quorn this Tuesday, then Stratford Town on Saturday 6th December. Both of these games will be offered with a "Santa" festive special £10-00 adult entry to try and encourage more of the community to try a game.

Then we have Redditch United here at the UK Electrical Stadium on Saturday 27th December.

We will be hoping that Santa is generous to us over these fixtures.

Safe journey going home, enjoy your day.

Rod

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Manager - Scott Adey-Linforth



Good afternoon everybody and welcome to our match today against Kettering Town and after the recent cold snap I hope that the weather has warmed up a little.

I'll start with last Saturday's game against Stourbridge that is probably the maddest and closest game we have had since I took over as manager last year. Needless to say that I was more than pleased to go in at halftime 2 - 0 and with the advantage of playing with an extra man. But that all changed early in the second half when we were also down to ten with Aaron's Roberts unfortunate red card. They scored from the resulting free-kick and to be

fair a "wonder" goal. That seemed to give them momentum and they went 3 -2 up. I felt that we were going to lose the match but thanks to Kobe Hall for striking a fine penalty to give us a point that I thought we deserved.

Going on to Tuesday and losing 3 - 0 to Banbury United was disappointing particularly after beating them by the same scoreline here at the UK Electrical Stadium a month or so ago. Although they deserved the win, the scoreline flattered them a little. We might have got one back in the latter stages of the game but it was not to be.

Squad wise, we have had a few injuries so one or two players have been missing or playing with minor knocks which is not great but shows the commitment within the team.

Kettering are one of the biggest clubs in this league and they have made no secret of wanting to get promoted which makes them dangerous opponents. They will be at or near the top at the end of the season and with a new manager the team will want to impress.

A decent crowd is expected and with segregation I'm expecting a lot of noise and a good atmosphere especially from the home end.

We are eight points above the relegation zone and nine points from the play-offs, so the middle of the division is very tight.

We have two tough matches today and Tuesday against Quorn but there is no reason why we cannot take all six points that would move us well up the league.

Thanks as always for your support.

Scott

Scott is too modest to mention it but today is his 50th match as Sporting's manager. Ed.

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Meet the Rouslers (1)

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	<p>Karl Fellows <i>First Team Coach</i> Available for sponsorship</p>		<p>Matt Ballard <i>Goalkeeping Coach</i> Available for sponsorship</p>
	<p>Dean Ashford <i>Club Kit Man</i> Sponsored by Phil & Jane Baker</p>		<p>Dan Eyre <i>Sports Therapist</i> Available for sponsorship</p>
	<p>Reece King <i>Team Captain/ Midfielder</i> Sponsored by Kevin Baggott</p>		<p>Rory Brown <i>Goalkeeper</i> Sponsored by Keaton Troth</p>
	<p>Charlie McNamara <i>Goalkeeper</i> Available for sponsorship</p>		<p>Koby Arthur <i>Midfielder</i> Sponsored by Happy House Childminding Services.</p>

Meet The Rouslers (2)



Luke Benbow
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Finlay Carson
Midfielder
Available for
sponsorship



Ash Carter
Centre-back and
vice-captain
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**James Freeman at
Smiles Turkey UK**



Tom Edge
Midfielder
Sponsored by our
accountant **Sarah
Lammas of**



Josh Ezewele
Right-back
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Curtis**



Mekhi Farrell
Right-back
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George Gillon
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Forward
Sponsored by **JAK
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Midfielder
Sponsored
by **Rich
Holliday in
awareness
of**



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Meet The Rouslers (3)



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Defender
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Jack Newell
Defender/Midfield
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Adrian)



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Now, Leo's family is urgently working with blood cancer charity DKMS to search for a stem cell donor who could give him, or others like him with blood cancer, a second chance at life.

Joining the stem cell donor register is quick and easy – a few minutes of your time gives hope to Leo and patients like him of finding their perfect match.

Come and register. It's a three minute cheek swab, taking place at St Godwalds Church in Finstall, from 12 to 6 on Sunday 23rd November!



Sorry that there is no player profile again this week but of three issued, no player had returned their form for inclusion at the time of publication.



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From The Archives, 6 Years Ago

Saturday 23rd November 2019 - 3:00 p.m. kick-off, The Southern League Premier Division Central

Bromsgrove Sporting 3 (2) St Ives Town 2 (1) at the Victoria Ground

Two goals from hotshot striker Mikey Taylor helped guide Bromsgrove Sporting to a 3-2 win over St. Ives Town.

A well struck Taylor effort from close range opened the scoring four minutes in, before Cameron McWilliams tapped into an empty net to equalise six minutes later.

A Harry Higginson header gave Bromsgrove the lead soon after, but St. Ives would once again level, five minutes into the second half, courtesy of a well struck penalty by Robert Parker.

The winner would come seven minutes from time, as Taylor neatly powered home with aplomb past keeper Shay Griffiths.

The game got off to the best possible start for Sporting, as a ball from Greg Mills into the box was well kept in by Will Shorrock, who teed up Taylor, allowing him to emphatically slam the ball into the roof of the net.

However, St. Ives were level just moments later, as McWilliams shook off full back Jack Wilson and tapped home into a virtually empty net, with Higginson unable to clear with a last-ditch effort.

The action came thick and fast, with Leon Broadhurst sent off for a supposedly rash challenge on the quarter hour mark, although it did look harsh on the Sporting centre back.

The home side regained the lead 20 minutes in, as a cracking corner from Mills was headed in well by Higginson, with Griffiths unable to keep it out with the hand he got to it.

Shaquille McDonald and Shorrock had chances to extend the lead towards the back end of the first half, whilst Shorrock had a shot well saved by Griffiths early in the second 45.

Thomas Wood almost scored for St Ives in the 49th minute, but the leveller would come just 60 seconds later; Wilson was adjudged to have brought down George Bailey in the box, with Parker burying the subsequent spot-kick nicely into the bottom corner.

Taylor had a header from close to the far post blocked away by a defender, whilst Matthew Foy capped off a fine team move for St. Ives with a shot on goal that was struck straight at Sporting stopper Daniel Platt.

The 83rd minute saw the game's final goal - Taylor got onto a ball from Natham Hayward, allowing him to run at goal. His attempted pass to McDonald ricocheted back into his path, which resulted in him dispatching the ball home with aplomb.

Bromsgrove Manager Bren Kelly expressed his happiness at the victory: "It was a topsy-turvy game but the effort the lads put in was huge, so I'm delighted for them."

Disappointed St. Ives manager Ricky Marheineke said: "It's a tough one to take. We definitely didn't deserve to win the game but playing against 10-men for so long, we definitely would have expected to have taken a point."

Sporting: Dan Platt, Jak Hickman, Jack Wilson, Gift Mussa, Leon Broadhurst, Harry Higginson, Greg Mills (Nathan Hayward 21 mins), Josh Quaynor (Capt), Shaq McDonald, Mikey Taylor (Kieren Westwood 84 mins), Will Shorrock (Charlie Dowd 61 mins). Unused substitutes: Jono Brown, Richard Gregory.

Referee: Mr B Hall (Sutton Coldfield)

Crowd: 803 Sporting Man of the Match: Joe Cole

Sporting Man of the Match: Harry Higginson



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Club Bans Micro Pads After 'Unbearable' Injury to Forward

Non-league Ilfracombe Town have banned 'micro' shin pads after forward Riley Malin suffered an "unbearable" double-leg break in a South West Peninsula League match at the weekend.



Ilfracombe Town are trying to raise money to support Riley Malin in his recovery from injury. Image Nick Jupp/JustGiving

While there are currently no plans to ban the use of the pads, the Football Association says the use of 'mini' shin pads has the potential to "increase the risk of injury".

Ilfracombe Town's fixture at Bridport on Saturday was abandoned after Martin broke his fibula and tibia during a 50-50 challenge with the home goalkeeper.

"The initial sound of it was unbearable. It was like a shotgun going off," Ilfracombe Town chairman Nick Jupp told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"There is no blame on Riley at all for wearing micro shin pads but I think if he had more coverage on the shin area with bigger shin pads, the injury could have been less than it was."

While shin guards are mandatory under the laws of the game, the rules around them are vague.

They currently state that pads must be covered entirely by socks, made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar) and provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Law 4.2 states that shin pads must:

- Be made of a suitable material
- Be of an appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks
- And players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shin pads

Further FA guidance, external says: "The amount of shin physically covered is an important consideration, as any part of the shin that is not covered is not as well protected.

"'Micro' or 'mini' shin pads may therefore increase the risk of injury due to the smaller amount of shin covered compared to larger sized shin pads.

"We advise that when considering the protection offered by shin pads, safety is prioritised by ensuring a good proportion of the shin area is covered and

therefore protected."

The International Football Association Board (Ifab), football's lawmaker, has been contacted for comment.

Ifab has previously said it has no plans to change the rule and stressed that players - or the parents or guardians of youth players - must take responsibility for their own safety on the pitch.

"Players' legs are all different sizes and there are so many different materials," a spokesperson said.

"Ifab's view is that this is the responsibility of the individual player and not the referee. Where young players are concerned, that responsibility [should be taken by the coach, parents or guardians]."



Professional football players have been seen wearing small shin pads. Image: Getty Images

In a statement, Ilfracombe Town said they have now prohibited "the use of micro shin pads across all age groups and squads, from youth teams through to senior teams".

Ilfracombe's stance has support

They added: "This decision has been made in the interest of player safety and welfare, and to ensure that all players are equipped with protective gear that meets required safety standards."

They are not the first club to follow this course of action.

Penistone Church in Barnsley and a number of others cross the lower reaches of the game have taken similar decisions and support their stance.

Club chairman Jupp added: "I think clubs need to look closely at player welfare and safety regarding these micro shin pads. The support we've had on social media so far is unbelievable.



"A lot of grassroots clubs in the South West have banned them since we put out a statement on Sunday evening."

The shin pad a Penistone Church player was wearing when he broke his leg. Image: Family handout

Courtesy of Steve Sutcliffe, BBC website

Club Shop Merchandise

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	Shorts From £15-00		Knitted ¼ zip From £45-00
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	Rain Jacket From £30-00		Home Football shirt From £35-00
	Combo Jacket From £35-00		Away Football shirt From £35-00
	Gillet From £30-00		Home Goalkeeper Jersey From £35-00
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1	Harborough Town	15	10	5	0	25	7	+18	35
2	Spalding United	17	10	4	3	40	22	+18	34
3	Real Bedford	15	9	3	3	27	16	+11	30
4	Needham Market	17	8	5	4	31	23	+8	29
5	Redditch United	16	9	2	5	27	20	+7	29
6	Worcester City	17	7	6	4	30	15	+15	27
7	Quorn	17	8	3	6	32	25	+7	27
8	Halesowen Town	17	7	6	4	27	21	+6	27
9	Leiston	17	6	7	4	28	23	+5	25
10	St Ives Town	17	6	6	5	24	19	+5	24
11	Kettering Town	16	7	3	6	22	21	+1	24
12	Bishop's Stortford	15	7	1	7	26	23	+3	22
13	Barwell	16	6	3	7	27	26	+1	21
14	Banbury United	16	6	3	7	28	28	-	21
15	Alvechurch	16	6	2	8	16	17	-1	20
16	Stratford Town	17	5	5	7	22	28	-6	20
17	Bury Town	17	6	2	9	19	26	-7	20
18	Bromsgrove Sporting	17	6	2	9	21	31	-10	20
19	Stourbridge	16	2	6	8	20	31	-11	12
20	AFC Sudbury	16	3	3	10	14	39	-25	12
21	Royston Town	17	2	5	10	15	37	-22	11
22	Stamford AFC	16	1	4	11	9	32	-23	7

Table as at Tuesday 18th November 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	L 2 - 3	460	3	15	Billy Shaw
Sat	23-Aug	3:00 PM	H	Needham Market	Southern League	L 0 - 3	450	3	17	Luke Softley
Mon	25-Aug	3:00 PM	A	Redditch United	Southern League	L 0 - 3	1227	3	19	Aksum White
Sat	30-Aug	3:00 PM	A	Evesham United	FA Cup Q1	L 2 - 5	429	-	-	Bo Morris
Sat	06-Sep	3:00 PM	H	St Ives Town	Southern League	L 0 - 4	561	3	20	-
Tue	09-Sep	7:45 PM	H	Banbury United	Southern League	W 3 - 0	520	6	19	Reece King
Sat	20-Sep	3:00 PM	A	Barwell	Southern League	W 2 - 0	223	9	16	Jack Newell
Tue	23-Sep	7:45 PM	A	Quorn	Southern League	L 1 - 2	272	9	16	Tom Edge
Sat	04-Oct	3:00 PM	A	Barwell	FA Trophy Q3	W 3 - 0	150	-	-	Reece King
Sat	11-Oct	3:00 PM	H	Bury Town	Southern League	D 2 - 2	855	10	18	Charlie Pavey
Tue	14-Oct	7:45 PM	H	Stamford	Southern League	W 2 - 0	352	13	14	Josh Ezeweke
Sat	18-Oct	3:00 PM	A	Harborough Town	Southern League	L 0 - 1	732	13	15	Ash Carter
Tue	21-Oct	7:45 PM	A	Worcester City	Southern League	L 0 - 3	899	13	16	Billy Shaw
Sat	25-Oct	3:00 PM	A	Leek Town	FA Trophy R1	L 0 - 3	406	-	-	Adam Harrison
Sat	01-Nov	3:00 PM	H	Leiston	Southern League	W 2 - 1	510	16	16	Jack Newell
Sat	08-Nov	3:00 PM	H	Royston Town	Southern League	W 2 - 0	550	19	15	Luke Softley
Sat	15-Nov	3:00 PM	A	Stourbridge	Southern League	D 3 - 3	949	20	15	Tom Edge
Tue	18-Nov	7:45 PM	A	Banbury United	Southern League	L 0 - 3	417	20	18	-
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					
Tue	09-Dec	7:45 PM	A	Worcester Raiders	Worcs Senior Cup QF					
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

Name	League							Cups							Season Total				Sporting Career					
	App	Sub	Bench	Capt	Yellow	Reds	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Bench	Capt	Yellow	Reds	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Tot	Assts	Goals	App	Sub	Tot
Koby Arthur		14	2		1			2	1							16	16				16	16		
Ritchie Batchelor			1																					
Luke Benbow	7	2			2	1	2	3	2							7	4	11	2	3	7	4	11	3
Rory Brown	3				1	1										3	3	1			3		3	
Finlay Carson			3																					
Ash Carter	11		1	5	2			2			1					13	13				46	46	1	
<i>Nick Clayton-Phillips</i>	4	3						1							1	5	3	8	1		5	3	8	1
<i>Romehl Critchlow</i>		3	3						1							3	3				3	3		
Tom Edge	14	2			4			3								17	2	19			17	2	19	
Josh Ezewele	13	1			1	2	1	1								14	2	16	2		24	2	26	
Mekhi Farrell			2						1															
Kobe Hall	4	10	1			1	3	2	1			1	1			6	11	17	2	3	9	15	24	3
<i>Adam Harrison</i>	14				1			3								17	17				17	17		
Jack Kelly	8	3			3	3	2									10	3	13	3		10	3	13	
Reece King	8	5		8	3	2	2	1	2							10	6	16	2		57	6	63	5
Jordan Lyden	4	4	2		2		1	1	1	1						5	4	9	1		10	17	27	1
Paul McCone	3				1	1										3	3				3		3	
Bo Morris	5	1	2		1			1								6	1	7			7	4	11	
Taylor Morrison	1		2													1	1				1	3	4	
Jack Newell	13				1		1	2	1						1	15	1	16	2		108	27	135	8
Charlie Pavey	8				3	2	2	2					1			10	10	3	2		10		10	2
Aaron Roberts	12				1			2								14	14				329	14	343	23
Gus Sanches	10	6	1		2	1	4	1	1	1		1				11	7	18	1	4	11	19	30	6
James Sanderson	5	2				1	1	1	1							6	3	9	1	1	6	3	9	1
Billy Shaw	17				3	1	3	3						1	2	20	20	2	5		69	11	80	9
Luke Softley	13		2		6		1	3				1	1			16	16	1	1		16		16	1
Bradley Stretton	6	4			1	1	1									6	4	10	1	1	6	4	10	1
<i>Aksum White</i>	4		1					1								5	5				68	17	85	
Own Goal							1													1				

Up to and including Tuesday 18th November 2025

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: Richard Batchelor Squad Number: n/a DoB: 20/10/88, Birmingham

Position: Assistant Manager Height: 6' 3" Weight:

Previous Clubs: Rushall Olympic, Alvechurch, Stourbridge, Redditch United, Leamington, Sporting Khalsa, Worcester City and Hednesford Town, He was most recently playing at Racing Club Warwick.

Popular and respected midfielder who recently retired from playing at Alvechurch where he took on a player-assistant manager role and looking forward to building his experience in management with Sporting.

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: Matt Ballard Squad Number: DoB:

Position: Goalkeeping coach Height: Weight:

Previous Clubs: Old Wilsonians (10 years, team in South London), Rusthall (Kent), Bilston Town, Cradley Town, Cadbury Athletic and Barnt Green Spartak.

Also helps out with physio duties. Available as a 'keeper if needed. 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

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' 6" Weight: 72kg

Previous Clubs: Lincoln, Birmingham City, Cheltenham, Macclesfield, Kidderminster Harriers, Dover Athletic, Maidenhead, 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: Rory Brown Squad Number: 1 DoB: 25/5/00, Londonderry

Position: Goalkeeper

Previous Clubs: Wolves, Coleraine, Glenavon, Institute, Ballinamallard, Solihull Moors

Currently on loan from Solihull Moors. An experienced keeper who is a good communicator.

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: 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 Ezewele 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 Ezewele 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: Mekhi Farrell Squad Number: DoB:
Position: Defender Height: Weight:
Recent arrival at the UK Electrical Stadium.

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: 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 most of his career in the professional game. A technical player with and an excellent touch and range of passing.

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: Charlie Pavey Squad Number: 14 DoB: 26/3/06
Position: Midfield/Forward Height: Weight:
Previous Clubs: Aston Villa (on loan)

On loan from Aston Villa. A technical, creative player with an eye for a goal. Signed a scholarship in 2002 and professional in 2024.

Name: Aaron Roberts Squad Number: 5 DoB: 19/6/92

Position: Defender Height: Weight:

Previous Clubs: Evesham United, Worcester City, Hednesford, Alvechurch, Hednesford, Redditch United.

Now on his 5th spell at Sporting having played in Sporting's first ever match and clocking up over 300 appearances.

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 can score and create goals.

Name: Luke Softley Squad Number: 5 DoB: 21/4/05

Position: Centre Back Height 6' 1½"

Previous Clubs: Aston Villa (youth), Hungerford Town

A local lad who impressed when playing against us in pre-season. Luke is a centre back who loves defending and getting on the ball and is comfortable playing anywhere across the backline.

Name: James Sanderson Squad Number: 15 DoB: 30/11/06

Position: Midfielder Height: Weight:

Previous Clubs: Notts County U21s

On loan from Notts County where he has played a couple of first team matches including scoring with one of his first touches making him the second youngest goalscorer in County's history.

Name: Brad Stretton Squad Number: 10 DoB:

Position: Midfield/Right wing

Previous Clubs: Coventry City, Oxford City, Alvechurch, Stratford Town, Rugby Borough. Impressed for Alvechurch last season. A young, ambitious player who adds quality and depth to the attack.

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"A family concern"

Thanks to Steve Richards for doing the quizzes again this season

Here is number 10, on recent internationals

1. Which player scored all five of Republic of Ireland's goals in their wins over Portugal and Hungary last week?
2. Steve McClaren resigned as manager of which country this week?
3. England finished their qualifying group with a 100% record and no goals conceded. Which four countries did they beat?
4. Which World Cup tournament did England last fail to qualify for?
5. Who scored from the halfway line for Scotland in their win over Denmark?
6. Scotland's last World Cup appearance in 1998 was hosted in which country?

Answers: 1) Troy Parrott 2) Jamaica 3) Albania, Serbia, Latvia and Andorra
4) USA 1994 5) Kenny McLean 6) France

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Today's Visitors - Kettering Town - Club History



Kettering Town were originally formed in 1872, turning professional in 1891. The club graduated through twelve different leagues from 1892 until they became founding members of the Alliance Premier League in 1979. The club maintained its status in the top flight of semi-professional football until the 2000–01 season.

Many honours have found their way to Rockingham Road, winning the Midland Football League title in 1896 and 1900. The Southern League Championship was won on three occasions by the club, in 1928 and 1957 under Tommy Lawton and in 1973 under the guidance of Ron Atkinson. In the 1930s the club won the East Midlands League and in 1948 the Poppies became Birmingham League Champions.

In a Southern League game against Bath City on 24 January 1976, Kettering became the first British club to play with a sponsor's name printed on their shirts after signing a deal with local firm Kettering Tyres. The deal was brokered by chief executive and manager Derek Dougan. Four days later, The Football Association ordered the club to remove the slogan, but Dougan changed the words on the shirts to "Kettering T" and claimed that the T stood for "Town". Nonetheless, the FA ordered the club to remove the words, which the club did due to the threat of a £1,000 fine. Shirt sponsorship was eventually legalised within the English game in 1977. Kettering are also the first ever British team to have their initials on their ground's floodlights.

The club finished runners-up in the Football Conference in 1981, 1989, 1994 and 1998. The GMAC Cup, (the non-league, league Cup) was won in 1987 and the Poppies were runners-up in 1995, then known as the Bob Lord Trophy. County competitions have been won regularly by Kettering Town, with the Northants Senior Cup won on 28 occasions and the Maunsell Cup 13 times.

The FA Cup has brought success and publicity to Rockingham Road with the first-round proper being reached on 41 occasions. In 1901 the club reached the last sixteen and in more modern times the Poppies reached the fourth-round proper in the 1988–89 season and the third round in 1991–92 only to lose to Kenny Dalglish's Blackburn Rovers. During the 1994–95 season the club made their debut live on Sky TV in a first-round tie against Plymouth Argyle, soon followed by another appearance against Wrexham at Rockingham Road. As of 2013 (June) the Poppies had scored more goals than any other team in the FA Cup history, with 846 goals scored.

Wembley has been reached on two occasions before. The Poppies lost 2–0 to Stafford Rangers in the 1979 FA Trophy Final. More recently, the FA Trophy Final in 2000 saw the Poppies lose a closely fought final with Kingstonian 3–2.

Most recently, the club were narrowly relegated on the last day of the 2000–01 season which ended 30 years in the top flight of non-league football. The Poppies made a quick return to the Conference in the 2001/02 season winning the Southern Football League with a last-day victory at Tiverton Town under Carl Shutt, his first full season in charge.

Season 2005–06 was to be one of massive change at Rockingham Road. In October 2005 it was announced that long-serving Chairman Peter Mallinger was to hand over the reins to a consortium consisting of Imraan Ladak, Mick Leech and England legend Paul Gascoigne. Gascoigne was installed as manager, replacing Kevin Wilson, and ex-Arsenal stalwart Paul Davis was recruited as assistant manager.

The eyes of the world were on Gascoigne and the Poppies, and media interest was massive. However, for a variety of reasons, Gascoigne was only to remain in the job for thirty-nine days. Kevin Wilson was given his old job back but only held onto it for two months as a run of one win in twelve games saw the Poppies slump into the bottom half of Conference North.

Chairman Imraan Ladak installed former Tamworth manager Mark Cooper as the new Kettering Town manager for the 2007–08 campaign. The club finished the season as Conference North champions, breaking several records along the way (including seven consecutive wins at the start of the season, 29 wins overall, and a divisional record of 97 points). As a result, the club was promoted to the Conference National.

In the 2008–09 season, Kettering Town beat Lincoln City, Notts County and Eastwood Town to reach the fourth round of the FA Cup, where they faced Fulham at home. While twice pulling even with the Premier League squad and looking like they could possibly produce a draw late in the second half, they gave up two goals and ultimately lost the spirited match, 4–2.

Creditable finishes were achieved in the Blue Square Bet Premier League, until a disastrous move in 2011 from

Kettering to Nene Park, the former home of Rushden and Diamonds, saw the Club in financial turmoil and relegation of two divisions followed a bottom of the table finish and the declaration of a CVA.

In February 2012 George Rolls took over control of the club from Imraan Ladak, although Rolls wasn't officially the Kettering Town owner, he was involved in the day to day running of the club and John Beck was appointed manager. On the 6th June 2012, George Rolls was suspended from football for five years after breaches of Football Association betting laws were proven, Rolls was also fined £10,000, and this led to the appointment of Ritchie Jeune as Chairman.

In September 2012, Imraan Ladak the owner of the Club assumed the role of Interim Chairman after a dispute. John Beck who had been appointed as Manager in June 2012 was asked to leave the premises just before a game against Bashley on 6th October. On 8th October, the lights were switched off at Nene Park and several games were postponed by the Southern League in order that the Club could find new investors. On 10th November 2012, Kettering recommenced their fixtures by playing Redditch United at Corby's Steel Park with Alan Doyle as Caretaker Manager. Volunteers, led by Northampton businessman Ritchie Jeune, ran the Club in the absence of the majority shareholder and Director with the support of the Kettering Town (Poppies) Supporters Trust.

Thomas Baillie, the former head of the Youth set up, took over as Manager in February 2013 with Alan Doyle becoming Football Technical Director, and the experienced Dean Thomas arrived to become Assistant Manager. The inevitable relegation followed another season of turmoil and the club was placed in the Southern League Division One Central, with Dean Thomas assuming the Manager's role and Thomas Baillie reverting to become Assistant Manager. The Poppies moved again to Latimer Park ground sharing with Burton Park Wanderers.

After a disappointing start to the 2013-14 Kettering whose Chairman was now Ritchie Jeune, went on a record 21 game unbeaten league run, following that up with 10 consecutive victories (9 in the league) in April to create a National record, ending the season in third place just, 2 points behind Champions Dunstable Town and losing to Slough Town in the Calor League Division One Central Play-off final in front of 2,331 at Latimer Park, the club's most successful season in the last four campaigns. Sensationally though Dean Thomas stood down as manager of the club in mid-May 2014, leaving his assistant Thomas Baillie to return as joint manager along with Scott Machin.

The combination of the joint managers reaped the benefits from the previous season as the 2014-15 Evo-Stik Southern League Division One Central Championship was won in style, at their first attempt, winning the division by 11 points. But the club wanted a sole manager for the 2015-16 season, Tom Baillie soon resigned and after that shock so did Scott Machin, paving the way for the return of Marcus Law to become the club's 57th manager. Marcus steered the club to 6th position in the Evo-Stik Premier missing out on the play-offs by just one point. In 2016-17 the club finished in 9th place while winning the Northamptonshire Hillier Senior Cup (for the first time since 2001) in a thrilling final against rivals Corby Town at Sixfields, Northampton.

The 2018-19 season saw manager Marcus Law guide the Poppies to the Evo-Stik League South Premier Central title, winning the league by a massive 14 points and promotion back to the Conference North. But Marcus resigned his position in June 2019, paving the way for former Poppy Nicky Eaden, to guide the club in the Vanarama National League North for the 2019-20 campaign. After 11 league games with just two wins and an FA Cup exit against Sutton Coldfield Town, Nicky Eaden was sacked. Former Poppy and ex-Eastwood Town, Mansfield Town, Torquay United, Barrow and Guseley manager Paul Cox was appointed in October with the Poppies bottom of the league!

Cox transformed the Poppies fortunes and was well on course to finish in a respectable league position until the Covid-19 pandemic forced the season to end null and void with only 31 of the 42 games played, final positions were decided on a points per game ratio. The following 2020-21 season was even shorter, just 14 games for the Poppies, as financial implications due to the continued restrictions on fans in the ground, lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic, again made the season null & void after a vote in the National League North to discontinue (well the majority of clubs) the campaign.

Paul Cox embarked on the 2021-22 season, technically having not managed a game for the club despite being at the club for almost two seasons! But with the club in mid-table Cox's tenure during his first full season lasted until Friday January 21st 2020, a day before our game away at Bradford (Park Avenue), when it was announced he and his staff had resigned to join rivals Boston United.

The club wasted no time in appointing a successor as former Kings Lynn Town guru, Ian Culverhouse was

appointed as the 60th Kettering Town manager, along with former Poppies goalkeeper Paul Bastock as his assistant and coach Joe Simpson. They continued and improved the club's form with the Poppies finishing 8th in the Vanarama National League North. Only engaged until the end of the season it was a surprise though that Culverhouse and his staff left the club two weeks later.

The search for a new manager began and in mid-May former Nottingham Forest and Port Vale star Lee Glover was appointed as the Poppies 61st manager since 1922 for the onset of the 2022-23 season. But a disappointing season with just 3 players on the books when he arrived, Lee built a squad that ultimately saw relegation on the final Saturday of the season when safety a few weeks earlier seemed most likely.

Lee left the club in May by mutual consent. The club prior to Lee's departure saw long term chairman and owner Ritchie Jenue leave the club as a new owner was sought after.

The 2023-24 season saw Poppies in the Southern League Premier Central with Andy Leese being appointed as the new manager, Again, he only had 4 players at his disposal at the start of his tenure at the club, so the rebuilding began. But a poor start to the season saw the Poppies in the relegation zone, after 21 games Andy was replaced with his assistant and former player Jim Le Masurier, first in an interim capacity and then appointed as manager. After a promising start he in turn took a step back in February and became part of new manager Richard Lavery's backroom team. 'Lavs' was no stranger to the club being part of Marcus Law's, (his assistant), in the title winning side in 2018-19. He steered the club away from relegation, winning 5 consecutive league games, with 4 games to spare as the rebuild for the 2024-25 began in earnest.

In May 2024, after 12 dramatic seasons legendary club owner Ritchie Jenue sold Kettering Town Football Club to Nadim (George) Akhtar, a new era began. It was a great first season for the club, getting to the FA Cup 2nd round for the 17th time after dispatching Northampton Town 2-1 at Sixfields in front of millions around the world watching on BBC TV in the first round. A heart-breaking Play-off final defeat at the hands of AFC Telford United at Latimer Park saw the end of the Poppies campaign after finishing the regular season runners-up, in a tightly fought contest with eventual Champions Bedford Town.

It was all change in the summer 2025, with the surprise departure of manager Richard Lavery and the majority of the 2024-25 squad. Former Banbury United manager Simon Hollyhead was appointed in July becoming the 65th different manager of the Club and so began his task of shaping a squad for the 2025-26 campaign. After a promising start winning the first 4 games fortunes changed dramatically with league defeats and early exits from both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, top players leaving the club, Simon resigned after just 13 games.

The search for another manager began, with former Poppy Liam McDonald being appointed becoming the 66th manager and 12th different since the Poppies arrived at Latimer Park since 2013. Liam's first task was to resurrect the fortunes of the squad who were in mid-table obscurity.

Kettering Town - Profiles

MANAGEMENT

MANAGER – LIAM McDONALD

Worcester born Liam was appointed manager of Kettering Town in late October 2025 after the departure of Simon Hollyhead. He is no stranger to the club having played for the Poppies under Marcus Law during the 2010-11 season.

ASSISTANT MANAGER – NICK GREEN

Nick is a former Poppy having played for the club during the 2010-11 season. He had previously played for Aston Villa, Stourbridge Swifts, RC Warwick, Quorn and Barwell.

ASSISTANT COACH/ANALYST – TERRY THOMPSON

Terry is a former semi-professional player in the Scottish non leagues. He started coach education pathway with the Scottish Football Association during covid, gaining experience working from youth teams through to first team at Scottish Championship level.

LEAD STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH – SHOHEIB EBRAHIM

Shoheib has extensive experience, knowledge and practical application of strength and conditioning practices to optimise player performance and minimise injury risk the majority of which was gained at his three seasons whilst at Mansfield Town FC.

JASON ALEXANDER – Goalkeeper (b 22:08:88)

Jason returned to the Poppies in early August after an injury to Paul White. Jason's return to Latimer Park saw an impressive 3-0 win over Leiston with another good display from the big man.

LEVI ANDOH – Defender (b 12:03:00)

Levi was born in Amsterdam (Netherlands) before moving to England aged 6. Joined the Poppies during pre-season as the Poppies strengthened their defensive unit. Levi is a tall powerful versatile defender with strength and pace.

PRESTON BITEMO – Midfield (b 14:11:05)

Preston joined the Poppies in early November on loan from Hereford. The youngster who impressed the Bulls also played for Hinckley AFC. He joins the Poppies in transition as manager Liam McDonald begins to stamp his authority on the season.

JAMES CLIFTON – Forward (b 28:11:91)

James returns to Latimer Park on loan from Spalding United having previously played for the Poppies in 2013-14, making 65 appearances, scoring 9 goals in two seasons, winning a title with Kettering before moving to Nuneaton Town.

LEWIS COYLE – Defender (b 09:08:94)

Lewis was a Liam McDonald signing in early November on loan from Bedford Town. Prior to his time with the Eagles, the experienced defender spent 5 seasons with Oxford City.

ISMAEL FATADJO – Winger (b 23:06:00)

Ismael was born in Portugal and joined the Poppies in the closed season from Leiston, having previously played for Wroxham, Kings Lynn Town and Gorleston (on loan from the Linnets).

KAI FIFIELD – Midfield (b 14:07:03)

Kai joined the Poppies during pre-season in 2024. He previously played for Wantage Town, Wellingborough Whitworths, Beaconsfield U23 and St Ives Town.

SHANE FLYNN – Left Back (b14:10:01)

Shane joined the Poppies in July 2025 after impressing during pre-season. The former Bray Wanderers, Leicester City Academy defender who played for the Foxes Premier League 2 side and U18's before joining Waterford and Ballymena United (Ireland).

GEORGE FORSYTH – Central midfield (b 04:12:98)

George re-joined the Poppies during the 2025-26 closed season from Banbury United. He has previously played for Bromsgrove Sporting, Hereford, Halesowen Town, Hednesford Town, Stourbridge, Worcester City, Kidderminster Harriers, AFC Telford United and Banbury United.

WILL GLENNON – Midfield / Central defender (b 02:01:03)

Will joined the Poppies in early August from Bedford Town. The dynamic midfield / central defender is no stranger to Latimer Park having scored two goals last season in St Ives Town 3-2 win

ALFIE LEWIS – Midfield (b 28:09:99)

Alfie is a product of the West Ham United academy and was part of the Hammers first team squad, without making a first-class appearance. He went on loan from West Ham to St Patrick's Athletic, of the League of Ireland Premier before joining them full-time.

EDIMOND OPPONG – Winger (b 13:04:05)

Eddy joined the Poppies in July having impressed during pre-season, the fleet footed pacy winger with a lethal left foot, has previously played for Union EuroCalcio (Italy), Middlesbrough U21,

Belper Town and Mickleover FC.

RYAN MONGA – Forward (b 08:07:05)

Ryan, a young forward previously played for Nuneaton Borough and currently is a coach at the CP (Callum Powell) Academy. He made his first-class debut against Quorn FC having previously played for the Poppies in the Northants Senior Cup.

CALLUM POWELL – Forward (b 28:01:96)

Callum returned to Kettering Town in December 2024 from Braintree Town, having previously played for the Poppies during the 2020-21 & 2021-22 seasons.

BLAINE ROWE – Right back (b 22:03:02)

Blaine joined the Poppies in late October linking up with former manager Liam McDonald from their time at Stourbridge.

CONNOR STANLEY – Winger (b 30:12:01)

Connor is an exciting winger who joined the Poppies from Banbury United during the closed season. He was a product of the Birmingham City and Manchester United youth academies which included a Europa League squad place while at United.

ANDI THANOJ – Central midfielder (b 19:12:92)

Andi is a former Albanian U21 international born in Tirana. He is a midfielder who has previously played for Grimsby Town, Alfreton Town, Harrogate Town, Redditch United and a 6-year spell at Boston United before joining Coalville Town.

PAUL WHITE – Goalkeeper (b 11:10:94)

Paul originally signed for the Poppies in 2016, going on to make 159 appearances keeping 52 clean sheets, a very impressive statistic.

KAI WILLIAMS – Forward (b 17:04:97)

Kai joined the club in late October and became manager Liam McDonald's first signing for the Poppies, as he looked to rejuvenate the forward line.

WES YORK – Defensive midfielder (b 10:05:93)

Wes joined the Poppies during the 2024-25 closed season from Coalville Town. Wes's career began at Anstey Nomads, before spells at Nuneaton Borough, Wrexham, Gateshead, York City and Brackley Town.

The Record against Kettering

Since joining the Southern League Premier Division Central in season 2023/4, Kettering Town have played Sporting four times. In that season, The Poppies won 2-1 at the Victoria Ground with 724 spectators in attendance. The match at Latimer Park finished 1 - 1 with 541 present.

Last season was a 2 - 1 win for Kettering with 571 in attendance. Sporting won the reverse fixture by the same scoreline but with a larger crowd of 1,124. In that match, the opener came 24 minutes in, as a cracker of a cross from Lycett was headed in from close range by King. The lead was doubled two minutes later by Jamie Soule. Kettering halved the deficit in the 56th minute, as Ben Hart capped off a decent team move with an authoritative drive into the net.

Venue	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Home	11	5	2	4	22	22
Away	11	4	4	3	17	13
Overall	22	9	6	7	39	35

Bromsgrove Sporting played Kettering Town on numerous occasions with the record as above:

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The Non-League Paper provides a column for club programmes each week. This week's contribution is from the editor-at-large, Matt Badcock.

RADCLIFFE joint-boss Anthony Johnson's recent social media post caught the eye.

Highlighting their three goalscorers, Jordan Hulme, Rio Clegg and Mikey Afuye Johnson pointed out their upbringing through local amateur football to the positions where they were used to putting up the nets and paying subs.

His message to youngsters is to not turn noses up at lower levels, but get out and play competitive men's football.

Those three are now spearheading Radcliffe's National League North campaign that has got off to a flyer.

It's interesting as a reminder to young aspiring footballers there are many ways to make a career in football.

Playing - and being paid - to play part-time at such a good level doesn't happen by accident. It takes hard work and dedication to achieve.

It's true there are some youngsters who may sneer at Non-League. Stories of some turning down the chance to go on loan to help with their development do float around.

Perhaps it's the social media culture where it's easier to have 'professional footballer' written in the X or Instagram bio. But for those who do play, there are more opportunities than ever to make an impact and get spotted.

In recent seasons we've written about so many stories of players getting their chance in the Football League who are not drawn just from the top of Non-League, but right the way through all Steps.

"Let's use those (Hulme, Clegg and Afuye) as an example," Johnsons told us. "Rio Clegg has never been hurt by the system. Because he's never come through an academy, he's never been released by a Liverpool, United, Blackburn and landed at, say, an Oldham and had to start again.

"That leaves a lot of scar tissue, it does. I see it with young players we coach now - eight, nine, ten year olds who have been told they're not good enough - and people wonder why there's a pandemic of young lads with mental health!

"We've got Rio Clegg, Mikey Afuye and a whole group of that age around the club where we can go: They're starving hungry.

"Then when you've got a Jordan Hulme, who has come from the exact same playground as them, put nets up and, it sounds awful, cleared dog s**t off the local park pitch, paid subs to then getting to paid to play semi-professional football, shows how far they've come.

"Yes, you've got young hungry lads coming through but you've also got lads at the top end who have been there and done it themselves. That helps keep their feet on the ground.

"We've got a group here - Matt Sargent, Danny Greenfield, Michael Afuye and Rio Clegg - who are all 23, 24, being watched by EFL clubs and they're an incredibly talented bunch.

"Then we've got the group above them who are coming into their prime. Then we've got our experienced group. It's almost three categories so we've got a really good blend."

EFL - and even Premier League - teamsheets this weekend will show there are plenty of routes to the same destination.

Have you spotted we're on YouTube? Join the team - and often a special guest - each week for a look at all things Non-League. Search the Non-League Paper for our weekly Non-League Goalmouth Show and make sure you like and subscribe to see the new episode, which drops each Thursday.

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Photos from The Last Matches



Man of the Match performance from Tom Edge before playing out of position for much of the game against Stourbridge



A late effort from Gus Sanches away to Banbury United. Photos: Chris Jepson

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Recent Results

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 8th November

AFC Sudbury	1 - 3	Barwell	161
Bishop's Stortford	1 - 4	Banbury United	415
Bromsgrove Sporting	2 - 0	Royston Town	550
Bury Town	2 - 1	Halesowen Town	826
Harborough Town	1 - 0	Alvechurch	557
Needham Market	2 - 1	Redditch United	347
Quorn	0 - 2	Kettering Town	690
Spalding United	2 - 3	St Ives Town	507
Stamford	1 - 3	Real Bedford	337
Stratford Town	1 - 1	Stourbridge	1,634
Worcester City	1 - 1	Leiston	862

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 10th November

St Ives Town	2 - 1	Banbury United	290
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The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 11th November

Harborough Town	2 - 2	AFC Sudbury	385
Stamford	0 - 3	Worcester City	306

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 15th November

Banbury United	3 - 2	Quorn	461
Barwell	0 - 2	Worcester City	
Halesowen Town	2 - 2	Spalding United	1,217
Leiston	3 - 0	Stamford	144
Redditch United	3 - 2	Bury Town	564
Royston Town	1 - 0	Stratford Town	307
St Ives Town	2 - 2	Needham Market	359
Stourbridge	3 - 3	Bromsgrove Sporting	949

The Isuzu FA Trophy, Second Round, Saturday 15th November

AFC Sudbury	1 - 5	Hereford	315
Alvechurch	1 - 1 (4 - 3)	Real Bedford	
Bedford Town	0 - 1	Anstey Nomads	502
Bishop's Stortford	1 - 1 (4 - 5)	Cheshunt	863
Chesham United	1 - 2	AFC Telford United	
Harborough Town	3 - 0	Enfield Town	794
Kidderminster Harriers	3 - 0	Corby Town	
Leek Town	1 - 0	Scarborough Athletic	

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 17th November

Barwell	5 - 2	Stratford Town	
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The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 18th November

AFC Sudbury	2 - 1	St Ives Town	177
Banbury United	3 - 0	Bromsgrove Sporting	417
Bury Town	0 - 1	Real Bedford	
Halesowen Town	2 - 0	Alvechurch	921
Leiston	0 - 1	Bishop's Stortford	152
Needham Market	6 - 1	Royston Town	248
Quorn	0 - 1	Harborough Town	738
Spalding United	2 - 0	Kettering Town	
Worcester City	3 - 2	Stourbridge	822

Today's Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 22nd November

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

Forthcoming Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 24th November

St Ives Town	v	Leiston
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The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 25th November

Alvechurch	v	Worcester City
Bishop's Stortford	v	Needham Market
Bromsgrove Sporting	v	Quorn
Harborough Town	v	Redditch United
Real Bedford	v	Banbury United
Royston Town	v	AFC Sudbury
Spalding United	v	Bury Town
Stamford	v	Kettering Town
Stratford Town	v	Halesowen Town

Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

Recent Matches

The West Midlands Regional Women's Football League Cup - Sunday 9th November

Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies 1 - 4 Coventry Sphinx Ladies



Sporting faced a tough test against Tier 5 Coventry Sphinx today, at the UK Electrical Stadium in the League Cup.

Sporting started to game brightly, playing some quick football to get up the pitch and take shots at goal.

On 20 minutes, the away side took the lead. Their winger running down the right, before delivering a ball into the box. The first shot hit the bar, but the same player finished at the second time of asking.

This did not dishearten the Ladies, who looked to fight back. On 38 minutes, Elloise Russell came close from a ball into the box, but the goalkeeper reacted well to Elloise's flick from 8 yards out.

Half time: Bromsgrove 0 - 1 Sphinx

The second half started with a Sphinx goal after 2 minutes. Their left winger breaking down the Sporting right, with the striker finishing at the back post. Sphinx had their 3rd after 58 minutes as good work by the left winger got her to the by-line, before cutting back to the

advancing runner to finish at the near post.

Sphinx were pushing for more goals and would have had more opportunities to add to their tally if it were not for the committed defending from Amy Goodison and Charlotte Lane, putting their bodies on the line for the team.

Sphinx grabbed a 4th on 90 minutes. The Sphinx midfielder driving across the pitch, before firing the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

The Ladies did get themselves on the scoresheet late on. Ruby Brett delivering a cross from the right to Elloise Russell. Elloise's first shot was blocked, but her second was drilled into the net in the 92nd minute.

A good showing from Sporting, against a very good and organised Coventry Sphinx side. We wish them luck in the next round of the cup.

The Worcestershire Football Association Sunday Women's Cup - Sunday 16th November

Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies vs Wyre Forest Phoenix Ladies

Match Postponed

Fixture

The West Midlands Regional Women's Football League Division One South

Sunday 23rd November, 2:00 pm kick-off

Worcester City Women Reserves vs Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

at University of Worcester (3G Pitches), Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ

Midwest Counties Female Football League

Sunday 9th November

Droitwich Spa Ladies Devs 0 - 6 Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies Devs

Looking to build from last week's positive performance, we faced Droitwich Ladies Devs knowing that this game was the perfect opportunity for us to build on our confidence and get an important three points.

The game started in great fashion for us as within 2 minutes we found ourselves a goal up thanks to a fantastic shot by Mel.



The first half continued very much in this manner as we created a plethora of chances and converted goals number two and three thanks to Natalie. Some brilliant through balls and strong presses really put the Droitwich defence on the ropes.

A fourth goal was added just before the break as a result of a brilliant driving run and clinical finish from Abi.

At the start of the second half Droitwich found themselves growing into the game, however they never

really troubled our back line or keeper - but did enjoy a short spell of possession.

With the game entering its final stages we put our foot firmly back on the gas and after a brilliant cross shot from Ellie was fumbled by the goalkeeper, Vicky was there to tap it home to make it five.

Mel then added a sixth goal shortly after.

It was a job well done for the Sporting Devs who were worthy of the win and the 6 goals scored.

Shout out to our GK Becky who secured herself an impressive clean sheet. Player of the Match was awarded to Natalie for an all-round strong display.

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Today's Teams

Bromsgrove Sporting		Kettering Town	
red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks		blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks	
<i>Teams to be chosen from the following:</i>			
1	<i>Rory Brown (GK)</i>	1	<i>Jason Alexander (GK)</i>
2	<i>Josh Ezewele</i>	2	<i>Levi Andoh</i>
3	<i>Richie Batchelor</i>	3	<i>Preston Bitemo</i>
4	<i>Reece King (Capt)</i>	4	<i>James Clifton</i>
5	<i>Aaron Roberts</i>	5	<i>Lewis Coyle</i>
6	<i>Ash Carter</i>	6	<i>Ismael Fatadjo</i>
7	<i>Billy Shaw</i>	7	<i>Kai Fifield</i>
8	<i>Tom Edge</i>	8	<i>Shane Flynn</i>
9	<i>Luke Benbow</i>	9	<i>George Forsyth (Capt)</i>
10	<i>Brad Stretton</i>	10	<i>Will Glennon</i>
11	<i>Koby Arthur</i>	11	<i>Alfie Lewis</i>
12	<i>Taylor Morrison</i>	12	<i>Ryan Monga</i>
13	<i>Charlie McNamara</i>	13	<i>Eddy Oppong</i>
14	<i>Charlie Pavey</i>	14	<i>Callum Powell</i>
15	<i>Jack Newell</i>	15	<i>Blaine Rowe</i>
16	<i>James Sanderson</i>	16	<i>Connor Stanley</i>
17	<i>Luke Softley</i>	17	<i>Andi Thanoj</i>
18	<i>Jordan Lyden</i>	18	<i>Paul White (GK)</i>
19	<i>Gus Sanches</i>	19	<i>Kai Williams</i>
20	<i>Kobe Hall</i>	20	<i>Wes York</i>
21	<i>Mekhi Farrell</i>		

Match Officials

Referee:	Mr L Corbett
Assistant 1:	Mr K Longstaff
Assistant 2:	Mr L Richards

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