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V



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VS BARWELL

SATURDAY 24TH
JANUARY 2026

3:00 PM KICK-OFF

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Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club

The Victoria Ground

BROMSGROVE

Worcs B61 0DR

Incorporated 2009



CLUB DIRECTORS AND OFFICIALS

President: Jeff Rea

Chairman: Rod Brown

Vice-Chairman: Graham Scott

Football Secretary: Dave Stephens

Director of Football: Iain Queen

Operations: Simon Cadwallader

Safety: Rob McLaren

Facilities: David Sheppard

Head of Commercial and Hospitality: Anita Gemmell

Directors: Joe Amess, Beni di Luca *Commercial:* Matt Foden, Peter Baker

Vice-Presidents: Brian Poole, Steve Smith, Richard Boorn *Chaplain:* Rev Steve Levett

Safety Officer: Simon Nichol

Crowd Doctor: Dr Jerome Wallington

Maintenance: Joe Ford, Charlie Rudge, Steve Davies, Andrew Stephens, Mark Vardy, Rob Birch, Bob Kyle, Steve Lammas, Tony Swift, Mike Chance

Schools & Community Ambassador: Nirm Bassi *Accountants:* Taylor & Co.

Reception: Sarah Lammas, Sandra Cable

Catering: Della Greatbach

Manager: Tim Flowers

Assistant Manager: Leon Broadhurst

GK Coach: Dan Price

Analyst: Karol Blicharski

Club Kit Man: Dean Ashford

Sports Therapist: Dan Eyre

Team Captain: Aaron Roberts

Vice-Captain: TBC

Social Media & Website: Max Banner, Chris Curtis

Photos & Video: Chris Jepson, Rob Clarke *Tannoy:* Adrian Fox, Chris Fox

Website: www.bromsgrovesporting.co.uk

General enquiries email: hello@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk

Rouslers Bar Bookings email: barmanager@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk

Rouslers Bar Bookings telephone: 07353 862559 *Commercial:* 07809 836935

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Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club is the trading name of Bromsgrove Sporting Limited, a company limited by shares, company number 06997103.

Bromsgrove Sporting Supporters Society Limited owns 26.33% of the shares with no one individual controlling more than 10% of the shareholding.

Views expressed in this programme are those of individuals and not necessarily those of Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club

CLUB HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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

BROMSGROVE SPORTING MANAGERS

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| <i>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 - 2025 |
| <i>Tim Flowers</i> | 2025 - |

BROMSGROVE SPORTING CHAIMEN

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| <i>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 - |

From the Boardroom - Rod Brown, Chairman



Welcome all the directors, management, players and supporters from our opponents Barwell today for their visit to the UK Electrical Stadium.

This is our first home game of 2026, following the last match we hosted, a draw against our local rivals Redditch United.

We come into the New Year with a change in our own management structure, with now Tim Flowers returning after taking over from Scott Adey-Linforth.

This was a decision not taken lightly. However, having discussed with Scott a month before his departure, we highlighted our concerns regarding our declining league form and the lack of new signings to strengthen the squad. Therefore, we took the decision to bring in more experience, and similar to when Tim was successful previously keeping us in this league when in a difficult position.

This runs parallel with the Club's difficulties in sustaining the necessary funding for this level of football. With that in mind I have been in dialogue with five successful local businessmen to form a "rescue" consortium that can stabilise the Club financially and we can then build upon that to improve the Club both on and off the field.

The board of directors has accepted a proposal that allows the consortium to buy an additional 3000 shares which will give them a 75% controlling position. The funds will go straight into the Club.

It sets up an exciting prospect going forward. We have plans to sweat the assets of the club commercially particularly on non-match days. Also, there is an appetite to improve the budget that will allow Tim to build a squad that will not languish around the bottom six of the division next season.

Already we have served 10 seven-day approaches for players in just four weeks; that's more than we had in the previous five months. So, you can anticipate a lot of "coming and goings". The challenges are still here though as we need to try to break clear from the bottom six and we definitely need as much support as possible. We need you - the crowd to get behind Tim and the lads.

Meanwhile enjoy the match today.

Rod

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Manager - Tim Flowers



Good afternoon and may I welcome everybody to today's match, the first at home since the game against Redditch United at the end of last year?

In particular can I welcome directors and supporters of Barwell along with their manager Jimmy Ginnelly and his players?

Since I took over the hot seat in December, my tenure has been dominated by recruitment and after losing a number of players to seven-day notices. Replacing them has been difficult with players available either not being good enough for the standard we play, or their wage demands have been excessive.

In training we have been working hard on fitness, organisation and set-pieces. That has led to what has been some good performances where we have played well against better sides such as Redditch United and Bishop's Stortford but unfortunately, we missed chances to win matches that has cost us around 3/4 points that I hope will not be regretted later in the season.

However, we are in something of a dogfight and a perilous position, so we need to get points on the board.

Many of the things that we have tried out in training are being implemented in matches and all of the lads are learning well and implementing what they have been taught.

Today will only be my second home match and our form here at the UK Electrical Stadium is critical to our ability to progress.

We are fortunate to have a good following here is Bromsgrove as witnessed by the tremendous crowd that turned out for us just after Christmas and I am sure that support will continue to get behind us and enable us to push on.

We will be looking over our respective shoulders but with a good run and your support behind us, there is no reason why we cannot move up the table.

It may now be a bit later but as I have not had the opportunity to say it so far, my good New Year wishes and enjoy the game today.

Tim

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We look forward to hearing from you...

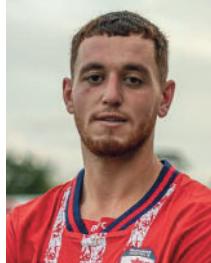


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Meet the Rouslers (1)

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | <p>Tim Flowers Manager Bromsgrove Dog Walking & Pet Services</p>  |  | <p>Leon Broadhurst Assistant Manager Sponsored by Tim Reeves</p> |
|  | <p>Dan Price Goalkeeping Coach Available for sponsorship</p> |  | <p>Dean Ashford Club Kit Man Available for sponsorship</p> |
|  | <p>Dan Eyre Sports Therapist Sponsored by Phil & Jane Baker</p> |  | <p>Rory Brown Goalkeeper Sponsored by Keaton Troth</p> |
|  | <p>Charlie McNamara Goalkeeper Available for sponsorship</p> |  | <p>Koby Arthur Midfielder Sponsored by Happy House Childminding Services.</p> |
|  | <p>Luke Benbow Striker Sponsored by Marc Pullen and Edna May Parker</p> |  | <p>Josh Burgess Defender Available for sponsorship</p> |

Meet The Rouslers (2)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | <p>Finlay Carson Midfielder <i>Available for sponsorship</i></p> |  | <p>Jaden Charles Defender <i>Sponsored by Kevin Baggott</i></p> |
|  | <p>Mekhi Farrell Right-back <i>Available for sponsorship</i></p> |  | <p>Niall Flint Midfielder/ Defender <i>Available for sponsorship</i></p> |
|  | <p>George Gillon Midfielder <i>Available for sponsorship</i></p> |  | <p>Kobe Hall Forward <i>Sponsored by JAK Projects & Services</i></p> |
|  | <p>Tyrone Lewthwaite Striker <i>Sponsored by our accountant Sarah Lammas of</i>  TAYLOR & CO ACCOUNTANTS</p> |  | <p>Jordan Lyden Midfielder  <i>Sponsored by Rich Holliday in awareness of</i> ANDYSMANCLUB <i>charity</i></p> |
|  | <p>Taylor Morrison Defender <i>Available for sponsorship</i></p> |  | <p>Jack Newell Defender/Midfield <i>Sponsored by Kevin Baggott</i></p> |

Meet The Rouslers (3)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | <p>Aaron Roberts Defender Sponsored by Pinfields - Chartered Accountants</p> <p>pinfields Chartered Accountants</p> |  | <p>Theo Robinson Striker Sponsored by James Freeman at Smiles Turkey UK</p> <p>Smiles Turkey</p>  |
|  | <p>Kyle Rowley Defender Available for sponsorship</p> |  | <p>Gus Sanches Forward Sponsored by Daniel Blythe and Kelly Downing</p> |
|  | <p>Billy Shaw Midfielder Sponsored by: The Fox family (Margaret, Christopher and Adrian)</p> |  | <p>Luke Softley Defender Sponsored by The Groundforce Team</p> |
|  | <p>Brad Stretton Midfielder Sponsored by Spartan Hot Tub Hire</p> <p>SPARTAN HOT TUB HIRE</p> |  | <p>George Wynne Midfielder Sponsored by Tim Reeb, who lives in New Jersey, USA</p> |
|  | <p>Ethan Young Defender Available for sponsorship</p> |  | <p>Rebel Rousler Club Mascot</p> |

Profile:

Luke Benbow
Striker



| | |
|---|--|
| Birthplace and Date of Birth? | Birmingham, 21/8/91 (age 34) |
| Height, weight? | 5' 10", 90 kg |
| Left or right footed? | Right |
| Previous Clubs? | Stourbridge, Rushall Olympic, Nuneaton Borough, Solihull Moors |
| Football Honours? | Once won the Golden Boot |
| Best moment playing football? | Playing in the FA Cup Third Round |
| Biggest influence on your career? | My family |
| Which team do you support? | Manchester United |
| Favourite all-time player? | Ronaldinho |
| Favourite position on the pitch: | Striker |
| What boots do you wear? | Nike Vapors or Venoms |
| What football law would you change? | VAR |
| Which team do you most like to beat? | Halesowen Town |
| Nickname in the changing room? | Benbow |
| Do you play any other sports? | Badminton |
| Relationship? | Partner - Chelsea |
| Kids? | Roman age 10, Rae age 3 |
| Jon outside football? | Driver |
| Where do you live? | Smethwick |
| What car do you drive? | Vauxhall Mokka |
| Favourite food? | Oxtail |
| Favourite drink? | Pepsi Max |
| Favourite biscuit? | Jammy Dodgers |
| Favourite Newspaper? | Daily Mail |
| Favourite TV programme? | The Cube |
| Favourite Film? | American Gangster |
| Favourite actor or actress? | Denzil Washington |
| Favourite band or singer? | Polo G (American rapper) |
| Favourite Album or Single? | Epidemic (Polo G) |
| Guilty Pleasure? | Chocolate |
| Least like to sit next to on an aeroplane? | Luke Softley |
| Favourite Holiday destination? | Florida |
| Top of Bucket List | To one day tour Route 66 on a motorbike |
| Claim to fame? | I once scored 49 goals in a season to win the Golden Boot. |



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From The Archives, 10 Years Ago

Midland Football League Division One - Saturday 23rd January 2016 - 3:00 p.m. kick-off

Bromsgrove Sporting 4 (1) Bolehall Swifts 1 (0) at the Victoria Ground

Bromsgrove Sporting surged to the top of the Midland Football League Division One as they beat strugglers Bolehall Swifts 4-1 on Saturday afternoon.

The home side took an early lead thanks to a Craig Jones header, but the advantage was cancelled out shortly after the half time interval, when Tom Lapworth's effort was adjudged to have crossed the line.

However, Sporting soon stepped it up a gear, as two quickfire goals from Aaron Roberts and Sean Brain put the result beyond much doubt as the visitors began to tire.

Kyle Turner added a fourth 10 minutes from time and put the seal on a win that puts Sporting 2 points clear of Coventry United having played 3 games more.

The opener came after ten minutes, when Sam Wills' inviting free kick was glanced into the bottom corner by the head of captain Jones.

Both teams had chances not long after, with Bolehall 'keeper Thomas McNulty tipping Will Tibbets' ambitious corner over the bar and Simeon Smith blazing his one-on-one effort dismally in the same manner. Real chances were few and far between for the remainder of the half, as Connor Collins and Jack Wilson had speculative efforts miss the target for the home side whilst Smith had a looping header hit the upright for the visitors.

Sporting's first half display was largely lacklustre by their usual high standards, and it looked as though they might have been made to pay for it when a goalmouth scramble in Sporting's area resulted in Lapworth's header just creeping over the line, despite the effort of Jones to hook the ball clear. However, the Sporting faithful were soon in high spirits again, as an accurate Tibbets corner was met with a bullet header from Roberts only 60 seconds later.

The lead was doubled within five minutes, and it was a goal that Bolehall keeper McNulty will want to forget quickly. Haring out of his box to reach the ball, he was beaten to it by Brain, who skilfully took it around and confidently placed the ball into the empty net.

Wills had an effort saved on the 80th minute but he was directly involved in the fourth, as his pinpoint cross found substitute Turner, who deftly volleyed the ball into the roof of the net.

Benn Minshull could have given the away fans another goal to enjoy but his free kick could only find the grateful hands of Chris Jay, whilst another Sporting replacement, Luke Dugmore, blazed a long-range drive wide of the mark.

Another solid win in the end for Bromsgrove but it was not entirely convincing at times, despite it being their ninth win in a row in all competitions.

Sporting: Chris Jay, Aaron Roberts, Jack Wilson, Liam Spink (Nathan Walker 69 mins), Craig Jones, Jake Willcox, Will Tibbets, Reece Hewitt, Connor Collins (Luke Dugmore 59 mins), Sam Wills, Sean Brain (Kyle Turner 78 mins). Substitutes unused: Brendan Kelly, Dale Edwards.

Goals: Jones (9 mins), Roberts (50 mins), Brain (55 mins), Turner (82 mins)

Bolehall: Tom McNulty, Reiss Hick, Kyle Bache, Joe Obi, Scott Goodby, Joe McNulty, Nick Hadley, Ben Minshull, Simeon Smith (Jordan Brown 69 mins), Tom Lapworth (Harry Brooks 74 mins), Adam Clarke (Terence Carpenter 61 mins). Substitutes unused: Chris Sheldon, Gavin Allers.

Goal: Lapworth (49 mins)

Referee: Mr S Lane (Sheldon), Assistants: Mr G Blackmore (Solihull), Mr J Nolan (Sutton Coldfield)

Crowd: 360 Weather: Mild, damp Sporting Man of the Match: Aaron Roberts

Reporter: Max Banner



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William Searies
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Big Up Brommy

Carl Smith
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Big Ben
Get it Forward!

Chris Smith
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Malcolm Perrie
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Alfie & Oscar

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Peter Sidwell
We Love You!
Oscar & Millie

Best Grandpa Ever!
Arthur Cross
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Patrick King
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In-Die

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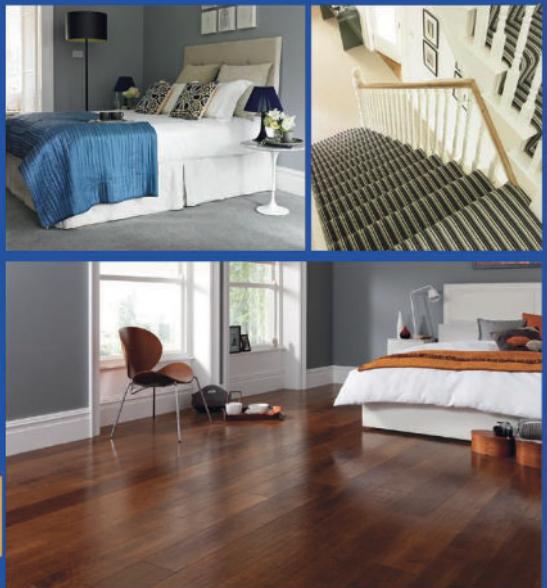
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Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

Bromsgrove Sporting 1 Worcester City 5

The Ladies had their first game in 6 weeks today, as they hosted Worcester City Firsts in the Worcestershire County Cup Quarter Final at the UK Electrical Stadium. Before the game, both teams paid their respects to Ladies supporter, and captain Amy Goodison's late father, Malcolm Kendall with a minute's silence.

The Ladies did not give their opponents any time on the ball from the off and had some nice passages of play moving forward but couldn't find space to get shots away.

Worcester grew into the game and started to dominate possession around 15 minutes in. In the 17th minute, Worcester's midfielder played a defence-splitting pass before their striker opened the scoring.

Sporting still carried on battling hard, and limited Worcester to shots from outside the area. The Ladies defence stayed strong, and goalkeeper Maya Smailes pulled off some outstanding saves.

The Ladies were unfortunate to go in at half time 2-0 behind, after a fortunate cross found the far corner from the Worcester winger.

At half time, the Sporting coaches rallied the team after a strong first half performance, and the Ladies came out fighting. Sporting came close to a reply at the start of the second half, with Ashleigh Kennedy's shot being saved on the line. Shortly after, Worcester scored a quick double to make it 4-0 after Sporting switched off and were made to pay for a couple of lapses of concentration.

Sporting didn't drop their heads and pushed for a goal, which they got on 78 minutes. Shy Atkins played a well-directed ball over the top to Elloise Russell who took her only clear sight on goal with great composure to pull one back.

Worcester wrapped up the scoring with a brilliant strike from 25 yards into the top corner to make it 5-1.

The Ladies may be out of the cup, but management were very proud of the performance, with many positives to take into next week's home fixture vs Halesowen Town. Sporting's defensive work made Worcester work hard for their chances, with Amy Goodison and Lucy Pearl making a number of important blocks and interceptions, with a number of impressive saves by Maya Smailes.

We wish Worcester the best of luck for the semi-final.

Rovers' historians Michael Tovey and Graham Reynolds continue their journey through 140 years of Bromsgrove football, choosing their player of the decade for the 1940s.



The 1940's must have been a wonderful time to be a regular down at the Victoria Ground. What a turn around after the general doom and gloom of the inter-war years - and not a battle with re-election in sight! Following the end of the Second World War, football resumed ahead of the 1945/46 season. With Frank Harris at the helm, the Rovers reached the lofty heights of 3rd in the Birmingham Combination, and then the following year, and after over half-a-century of trying, they finally captured a league title, pipping Walsall Reserves to the Combination top spot by three points. That season they also won the Worcestershire Senior Cup for the first time, defeating Wellington Town in front of 5,768 fans, a late goal from Eli Hough giving Rovers a hard fought 4-3 victory. In 1947/48 they retained the Worcestershire Senior Cup, beating

Hereford United 3-0 at St George's Lane, having made even more history earlier in the year by reaching the First Round of the F.A. Cup - where they lost 2-1 to Third Division Aldershot Town. Never outside the top five in the league, cup final appearances, FA Cup runs, the level of success the club had in the 1940's was unprecedented and had to have provided a real boost to the town which had suffered the inevitable hardships of a global conflict.

Some wonderful players graced the hallowed turf of the Victoria Ground in this golden age for the club. Frank Skitt was one of Rovers finest ever keepers, eventually clocking up 289 appearances over two spells between 1945 and 1956. Arthur Davenport was a quality full back who made 140 appearances. Norman Williams began a distinguished Rovers' career that lasted into the 1960s. Michael "Paddy" O'Mahoney and Cliff Gallear were outstanding half-backs who both notched up over 150 appearances. The 1940s also saw the arrival of Joe Wainwright. More about him later... In the forward line, a couple of wingers stand out; Jack Giles on the right, who made 153 appearances, and Eli Hough on the left, who also joined the '100 Club' and would no doubt have played many more games had he not been forced into early retirement at the age of 25 due to problems with a perforated duodenum. Welshman Eddie Cave was another fantastic servant, playing 170 games mainly from the inside positions. But really, there could only be one choice as our 'Player of the Decade' for the 1940s, goal scoring sensation Bill "Nodder" Oldnall. Bill was born on 1 February 1920, in Smethwick. As a youngster, he excelled at football and represented Smethwick schools. He began his career playing for the Railway & Carriage Works company team. After being made redundant, he took on a job at a cycle export factory before he was called up to serve his country in the Second World War. During the war, he spent five years as a prisoner of war in Poland, and as the Russians were pushing the Germans back from the East, he endured forced marches of up to 30 miles a day for 10 weeks. Thankfully, unlike many others, Bill survived this horrendous ordeal.

After the war, Bill returned to work at the cycle factory and signed for Dudley Town. Unable to break into their first team, he was given a trial by the Rovers, making his debut against Stafford Rangers on 2 November 1946. He failed to score that day, but the *Bromsgrove Messenger* immediately saw his potential, commenting "The Rovers seem to have remedied a weakness at centre forward, where Oldnall showed some clever touches, opened out the play nicely and was not afraid to have a "bang" where opportunity arose... but he should score if persevered with." How right they were!

Bill got off the mark in style in the very next game, bagging a hat-trick at home to Walsall Reserves, not a bad way to ingratiate yourself with the fans! After that, the goals just kept coming, a good proportion of those were scored with his head, hence the nickname "Nodder". In April, he helped himself to a seven-minute hat-trick against Wolverhampton Wanderers 'A'. Towards the end of May, he banged in four goals as the Rovers beat Worcester City 5-0 - a result that sealed the Birmingham Combination title. That match also saw Bill pass the club goalscoring record for a single season, previously held by Sammy Small, with 40 in 1933/34. Bill wasn't finished though, scoring two in the Worcestershire Senior Cup final triumph over Wellington Town, and notching yet another hat-trick in a 7-4 victory over Kidderminster Harriers. He ended up with 49 goals from 37 matches. Think how many he might have scored if he had been with Rovers from the start of the campaign!

Bill's amazing goalscoring form continued into the 1947/48 season. He broke new ground for the club in a match against Bedworth Town at the Victoria Ground at the end of August, becoming the first man to score a double hat-trick in a 7-2 victory. Hat-tricks followed against Oswestry Town, Gresley Rovers, Brush Sports, Walsall Reserves and Atherstone Town. He also netted four against Hinckley Athletic as Rovers finished a respectable 5th in the Birmingham Combination. Incredibly, he beat his own club record, scoring 51 goals in 44 games, while during the season he became the clubs all-time leading scorer, passing the 84 goals Norman Lacey netted in the 1930s. While 1948/49 was a less remarkable season with no cup runs of note, the club still managed a decent 4th place league finish - how the success starved fans of the inter-war years would have killed for that! Bill didn't stop scoring though and for a third season running he beat the club record for goals scored - this time 54 goals in 44 games. Real 'Roy of the Rovers' stuff!

The following year was another fine season for both the club and Bill. The Rovers were runners-up in the Birmingham Combination and again reached the First Round of the F.A. Cup, where they faced Hereford United. That match took place in front of 10,150 spectators, the largest ever crowd for a Rovers fixture. Sadly, Bromsgrove went down 3-0. Still, the goals flowed freely and for the fourth season running Bill reached the 50 mark, finishing up with 51 goals from 47 games. Surely, a feat that will never be bettered?

During the 1950/51 season, Bill went down with a nasty bout of pleurisy but was fit enough to take part in Rovers' third appearance in the First Round of the F.A. Cup in November, when over

6,000 fans packed into the Victoria Ground to see them go down once more to Hereford United. Despite having an injury ravaged season, he still managed a very respectable 22 goals in 27 matches.

The whole of Bromsgrove probably let out a collective groan when he signed for Stafford Rangers at the start of the following campaign. Bill returned to the Rovers for the 1952/53 season, but it wasn't the same and he only played in the first two games, making his final appearance in a 0-0 draw away at Sutton Town on 30 August. Around this time, he was made redundant. Although he was offered another job, this was conditional on him playing for the works side, so 1953 saw him playing for Allen Everitt in the Birmingham Works League, a rather underwhelming end to an

outstanding career.

There have been some superb goalscorers for Bromsgrove before and after Bill - George Bushnell, Norman Lacey, Maurice Hackett, John Bayliss, Alan Craddock, Chris Hanks, Becky Carter, Jason Cowley to name just a few. You would be hard pushed to argue that Bill was not the greatest of them all.

Bill "Nodder" Oldnall, a true Rovers great, 1946-1952. 201 appearances, 227 goals.

Club Shop Merchandise

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | T-shirt From £15-00 |  | College Hoodie From £35-00 |
|  | 1/4 zip Tracksuit top From £20-00 |  | Printed T-shirt From £12-50 |
|  | Shorts From £15-00 |  | Knitted 1/4 zip From £45-00 |
|  | Tracksuit bottoms From £17-50 |  | Printed tracksuit bottoms From £12-50 |
|  | 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 |
|  | Leisure Polo From £35-00 |  | Away Goalkeeper Jersey From £35-00 |
|  | College Sweatshirt From £30-00 | All prices include VAT | |



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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 | Spalding United | 27 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 74 | 33 | +41 | 60 |
| 2 | Harborough Town | 24 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 44 | 18 | +26 | 54 |
| 3 | Real Bedford | 23 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 42 | 26 | +16 | 44 |
| 4 | Halesowen Town | 25 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 48 | 37 | +11 | 42 |
| 5 | Needham Market | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 37 | 33 | +4 | 42 |
| 6 | Quorn | 26 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 54 | 45 | +9 | 41 |
| 7 | Redditch United | 27 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 38 | 40 | -2 | 40 |
| 8 | Leiston | 26 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 43 | 36 | +7 | 39 |
| 9 | Stratford Town | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 34 | +3 | 38 |
| 10 | Worcester City | 27 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 44 | 30 | +14 | 37 |
| 11 | Bishop's Stortford | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 40 | 34 | +6 | 35 |
| 12 | Kettering Town | 24 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 38 | 38 | - | 32 |
| 13 | Banbury United | 24 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 35 | 35 | - | 32 |
| 14 | St Ives Town | 25 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 35 | 38 | -3 | 32 |
| 15 | Bury Town | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 33 | 35 | -2 | 30 |
| 16 | Barwell | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 34 | 43 | -9 | 29 |
| 17 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 32 | 49 | -17 | 26 |
| 18 | Alvechurch | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 26 | -3 | 25 |
| 19 | Stourbridge | 26 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 35 | 47 | -12 | 25 |
| 20 | AFC Sudbury | 25 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 31 | 63 | -32 | 21 |
| 21 | Stamford AFC | 24 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 17 | 44 | -27 | 19 |
| 22 | Royston Town | 27 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 28 | 58 | -30 | 17 |

Table as at Tuesday 20th January 2026

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 Ezewele |
| 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 | W 3 - 0 | 560 | 23 | 15 | Jaden Charles |
| Tue | 25-Nov | 7:45 PM | H | Quorn | Southern League | L 1 - 5 | 352 | 23 | 16 | James Sanderson |
| Sat | 29-Nov | 3:00 PM | A | AFC Sudbury | Southern League | D 2 - 2 | 215 | 24 | 16 | Tom Edge |
| Sat | 06-Dec | 3:00 PM | H | Stratford Town | Southern League | L 1 - 2 | 654 | 24 | 17 | Charlie Pavey |
| Sat | 20-Dec | 3:00 PM | A | Bishop's Stortford | Southern League | L 1 - 2 | 336 | 24 | 18 | Billy Shaw |
| Tue | 23-Dec | 7:45 PM | A | Worcester Raiders | Worcs Senior Cup QF | W 0-0 (5-4) | ~100 | - | - | Brad Stretton |
| Sat | 27-Dec | 3:00 PM | H | Redditch United | Southern League | D 1 - 1 | 1350 | 25 | 17 | Joe Lyden |
| Sat | 01-Jan | 3:00 PM | A | Halesowen Town | Southern League | L 1 - 3 | 1563 | 25 | 17 | Billy Shaw |
| Sat | 17-Jan | 3:00 PM | A | Bury Town | Southern League | D 1 - 1 | 664 | 26 | 17 | George Wynne |
| Tue | 20-Jan | 7:45 PM | A | Real Bedford | Southern League | L 0 - 2 | 209 | 26 | 17 | Jack Newell |
| 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 | | | | | |
| Tue | 17-Feb | 7:45 PM | H | Alvechurch | Southern League | | | | | |
| Sat | 21-Feb | 3:00 PM | H | Worcester City | Southern League | | | | | |
| Sat | 28-Feb | 3:00 PM | H | AFC Sudbury | Southern League | | | | | |
| Mon | 3-Mar | 7:45 PM | A | Redditch United | Worcs Senior Cup SF | | | | | |
| 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 | Goals |
| Koby Arthur | 19 | 6 | | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | 22 | 22 | | | 22 | 22 | | | | |
| Luke Benbow | 11 | 6 | | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 11 | 8 | 19 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 19 | 6 | |
| <i>Freddie Boakye</i> | 4 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | | | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| Rory Brown | 12 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 13 | 13 | 1 | | 13 | | 13 | | | |
| <i>Ash Carter</i> | 11 | 1 | 5 | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 13 | 13 | | | 46 | 46 | 1 | | | |
| Jaden Charles | 4 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 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 | | | |
| <i>Tom Edge</i> | 20 | 2 | | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 24 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 2 | 26 | 1 | |
| <i>Josh Ezewele</i> | 20 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 22 | 2 | 24 | 3 | | 32 | 2 | 34 | | |
| Niall Flint | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Kobe Hall | 5 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 11 | | | | 7 | 15 | 22 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 29 | 4 | |
| <i>Adam Harrison</i> | 14 | | | 1 | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | 17 | 17 | | | 17 | | 17 | | | |
| Jack Kelly | 13 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 15 | 3 | 18 | 3 | | 15 | 3 | 18 | | |
| <i>Reece King</i> | 10 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 12 | 6 | 18 | 2 | | 59 | 6 | 65 | 5 | |
| Tyrone Lewthwaite | 4 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| Jordan Lyden | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 10 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 18 | 33 | 1 | |
| <i>Paul McCone</i> | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | | 3 | | | |
| <i>Bo Morris</i> | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 6 | 1 | 7 | | | 7 | 4 | 11 | | |
| Taylor Morrison | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Jack Newell | 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 21 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 11 | 14 | 28 | 142 | 8 |
| <i>Charlie Pavey</i> | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 3 |
| Aaron Roberts | 19 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | 22 | 1 | 23 | 1 | | 337 | 15 | 352 | 23 | |
| Theo Robinson | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | | | 31 | 16 | 47 | 13 | |
| Kyle Rowley | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | 2 | | | |
| Gus Sanches | 10 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 12 | 14 | 26 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 26 | 38 | 6 | |
| <i>James Sanderson</i> | 9 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 10 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 2 | |
| Billy Shaw | 26 | | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 30 | | 30 | 4 | 6 | 79 | 11 | 90 | 10 | | | |
| Luke Softley | 21 | 2 | | 7 | | 1 | 4 | | | 1 | 1 | | 25 | | 25 | 1 | 1 | 25 | | 25 | 1 | | | | |
| Bradley Stretton | 10 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 11 | 7 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 18 | 1 | |
| <i>Aksum White</i> | 4 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | | | 68 | 17 | 85 | | | |
| George Wynne | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Ethan Young | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | | | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| Own Goal | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |

Up to and including Tuesday 20th January 2026

Bromsgrove Sporting - Player Profiles

Tim Flowers Squad Number: n/a DoB: 3/7/67, Kenilworth

Position: Manager Height: 6' 2"

Previous Clubs: Wolves, Southampton, Swindon Town, Blackburn Rovers, Leicester City, Stockport County, Coventry City.

Enjoyed a stellar career as a goalkeeper picking up 11 England caps. Has been goalkeeping coach and manager at a number of clubs. Recently re-joined Sporting after a short spell at the end of the 2023-24 season.

Leon Broadhurst Squad Number: n/a DoB: 10/04/84, Bromsgrove

Position: Assistant Manager Height: 6' 0" Weight:

Previous Clubs: Bromsgrove Rovers, Leamington, Stourbridge

Local lad who joined Sporting in 2019 following 16 years at Stourbridge where he became a club legend with a record number of appearances. Returned to Stourbridge for a brief spell as joint manager. Recently re-joined Sporting in new position.

Dan Price Squad Number: n/a

Position: Goalkeeping Coach

New arrival at the UK Electrical Stadium as part of the management team.

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.

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: 95 kg

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.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Rory Brown | Squad Number: 1 | DoB: 25/5/00, Derry |
| Position: Goalkeeper | Height: 6' 3" | Weight: 90kg |
| Previous Clubs: Wolves, Coleraine, Glenavon, Institute, Ballinamallard, Solihull Moors | | |
| Now a permanent signing after playing on loan from Solihull Moors. An experienced keeper who is a good communicator. | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Jaden Charles | Squad Number: 3 | DoB: 21/1/02 |
| Position: Left-back | Height: 5' 8" | Weight: |
| Previous Clubs: Rushall Olympic, Stamford, Nuneaton Borough, Mansfield Town, Hereford, York City, Derby County U18. | | |
| A recent signing who is a top left back with excellent delivery in the final third. Jaden has represented the Republic of Ireland at U18 level. | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------|
| Mekhi Farrell | Squad Number: | DoB: |
| Position: Defender | Height: | Weight: |
| Been at Sporting since just after the start of the season. Been on the bench but waiting to make his debut. | | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Niall Flint | Squad Number: 20 | DoB: 15/8/97 |
| Position: Midfielder | Height: | Weight: |
| Previous Clubs: Shrewsbury Town, Telford United, Scarborough, Matlock Town, Newtown, Cefn Druids, Aberystwyth, Stourbridge, Worcester City, Shifnal Town. | | |
| Recent signing that will boost the manager's options in mid-field. | | |

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Tyrone Lewthwaite | Squad Number: tba | DoB: 18/12/00, Aylesbury |
| Position: Centre forward | Height: 6' 0" | Weight: |
| Previous Clubs: Corby Town, Spalding United, Kettering Town, Bedford Town, Aylesbury United., Beaconsfield, Chesham, Hampton & Richmond, Watford Youth, Rotherham U18. | | |
| Powerful striker who is a recent arrival in Bromsgrove, scoring in his first two appearances. | | |

| | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 an excellent touch and range of passing.

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Taylor Morrison | Squad Number: | 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. | | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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. | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Aaron Roberts | Squad Number: 5 | DoB: 19/6/92 |
| Position: Defender | Height: | Weight: |
| Previous Clubs: Evesham United, Worcester City, Hednesford Town, Alvechurch, Redditch United. | | |
| Now on his fifth spell at Sporting having played in Sporting's first ever match and clocking up over 350 appearances. | | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Theo Robinson | Squad Number: 16 | DoB: 22/1/89 |
| Position: Striker | Height: 5' 9" | Weight: |
| Previous Clubs: Gloucester City, Brackley Town, Hartlepool United, Bradford City, Port Vale, Southend United, Colchester United, Swindon Town, Lincoln City, Motherwell, Doncaster Rovers, Scunthorpe United, Derby County, Huddersfield Town, Millwall, Watford, Hereford United, Wealdstone | | |
| Recently returned to the UK Electrical Stadium after playing most of last season. Vastly experienced striker who has played for several Football League clubs clocking up over 500 appearances as well as picking up seven caps playing for Jamaica. | | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Kyle Rowley | Squad Number: tbc | DoB: 4/9/96, Stourbridge |
| Position: Defender | Height: 5' 11" | |
| Previous Clubs: Walsall, Sutton Coldfield Town, Rugby Town, Alvechurch, Walsall Wood, Hednesford Town, Stourbridge, Barwell, Mickleover, Redditch United, Stamford. | | |
| Capable defender who usually plays in the centre and has plenty of step 3 experience. | | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 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. | | |
| Billy Shaw | Squad Number: 7 | DoB: 17/12/01, Stourbridge |
| Position: Midfield and team vice-captain | 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. | | |
| Luke Softley | Squad Number: 17 | DoB: 21/4/05 |
| Position: Centre Back | Height 6' 2" | 81kg |
| 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. | | |
| Brad Stretton | Squad Number: 10 | DoB: 9/9/04, Coventry |
| Position: Midfield/Right wing | Height: 6' 0" | Weight: 68 kg |
| 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. | | |
| Ethan Young | Squad Number: 4 | DoB: 13/1/04, Peterborough |
| Position: Defender | Height: 6' 4" | |
| Previous Clubs: Scunthorpe United, Yaxley, Warrington Rylands, Stamford, Shepshed, Peterborough Sports. | | |
| Currently on loan from Peterborough Sports. Plays mainly as a left-footed central defender but can also play left back. Adds to the defence options available. | | |
| George Wynne | Squad Number: tbc | DoB: 14/05/07 |
| Position: Midfielder | Height: | |
| Previous Clubs: on loan from Birmingham City | | |
| The 18-year-old, who has been at the Blues for over a decade, will spend the rest of the season with Sporting. Has impressed playing for Birmingham City under 21s. | | |

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“A family concern”

Thanks to Steve Richards for doing the quizzes again this season

Here is number 14, a few general questions

1. Who scored Sporting's first goal of the new year with the opener at Halesowen?
2. Which Third round giant killers are the only non-league club left in this season's FA Cup?
3. At which club did the late Terry Yorath win his only league title in 1974?
4. Which country won the African Cup of Nations last week, beating hosts Morocco 1-0 in the final?
5. Who are the only two clubs to beat Arsenal in the Premier League so far this season?
6. At the other end of the table, who did Wolves beat for their only league victory so far this season?

5) Liverpool and Aston Villa 6) West Ham United

Answers: 1) Tyrone Lethwaite 2) Macclesfield 3) Leeds United 4) Senegal

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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The Non-League Paper provides a column for club programmes each week. Here is last week's contribution is from Jon Couch.

IF there's one thing we dread at NLP Towers on a Saturday it's attempting to keep abreast with the raft of postponements caused by wet and wintery conditions.

Dummy pages have to be written and drawn, sometimes never used, match pages require a complete overhaul and reporters need contacting with revised instructions for those games that do go ahead. It's an absolute nightmare, believe me!

But we are not the only ones whose days has been put out by such an event.

Managers, players, supporters, matchday volunteers, are all of which are severely inconvenienced - and also out of pocket with both clubs too losing thousands in travel expenses and lost revenue.

And then there's the poor matchday referees - the ones who make those all-important decisions to call a game off for whatever reason, causing anger, frustration and often resentment for all concerned. They simply cannot win.

Safety of the players must come first, and referees known that something does go wrong, then there are huge consequences. The last thing they want is to call a game off - no-one is doing so deliberately.

This week in The NLP we ran a guest column with Farnborough manager Spencer Day.

His team found themselves at the eye of a storm, quite literally, a fortnight ago when their National League South game with Chelmsford City was postponed very late on.

And their game wasn't the only one to fall, with other local matches at Eastleigh and on the 4G at Bracknell also falling at the 11th hour, along with Bath City v Southend United in the FA Trophy, much to the ire of the away contingent who had travelled almost the entire width of the country, only to be turned away.

A number of theories and unfounded suggestions have been thrown out there in a bid to combat such an eventuality, but according to the Boro boss, there is no resolution.

"We live in the UK and the truth of it is we are bound by the weather," Day told us.

"Our games fell to the most bizarre conditions seen for quite some time.

"I saw our pitch on Friday, and I was amazed by the excellent condition it was in.

I'd been communicating with Chelmsford and [manager] Angelo Harrop all week and when I got to the game on Saturday I walked it, as I always do, and didn't see any issue at all. The pitch looked fantastic.

"Then, 40 minutes later, the referee turns up and told us there was an area of the pitch that had frozen over that he wanted to look at. I mean, yes, it was hard, no question, but it was tiny, about a foot in area, and the temperatures weren't dropping.

"In theory, could we have tried something? Maybe, I'm not sure. Could we have chucked boiling water on it? Again, I don't know. But it was obvious at the time at that point that it had to be called off so I'm not blaming him.

After he called the game off, I left the ground at 5 o'clock and I decided I wanted to walk the pitch just to see what it was like, and it completely softened. It had actually got warmer, which is crazy. It's the weather. I wish there was an answer."

With a handful of games postponed last Saturday due to waterlogged pitches, and more bad weather on the way, don't expect this situation to be brushed under the carpet anytime soon.

Health & Safety is top of the priority list of football authorities and in these days of social media, such decisions come under scrutiny like never before, adding copious amounts of pressure to the officials, part-time themselves more often than not.

Has the world has gone risk adverse? Day, for one, believes it has, but he also urges supporters to step back and look at the bigger picture when letting their frustrations be known.

"I'm a big supporter of the leagues, the FA and politicians - I think they have impossible jobs," he added. "They are damned if they do and damned if they don't in whatever decision they make.

"Everyone's trying their best to resolve what it an impossible situation, but sometimes your best isn't always the popular decision.

"All you can do is apologise to everyone but in some respects, I don't know what we're apologising for. No-one can control the weather."

Today's Visitors - Barwell FC - Club History

The



Club played for the first time in the Midland Combination under the name of Barwell FC in the 1992/3 season when Hinckley FC joined forces with Barwell Athletic from the Leicestershire Senior League. Barwell became one of the founder members of the Midland Football Alliance League on its formation in 1994/95. The Sports complex with its bowling, cricket, and football facilities and sports club is situated just out of the centre of the village making it an ideal venue for local residents.

The facilities of the complex include a cricket pitch - which was used for two Leicestershire 1st XI county championship matches just after the Second World War, is a current venue for some Leicestershire second eleven and youth team matches. There is an outdoor bowling green and a magnificent indoor bowls centre complete with bar and restaurant serving a wide range of drinks and meals at prices to suit all pockets.

Floodlights were installed prior to the 1992/93 season and have been updated to comply with current FA lighting regulations. A new cantilever stand to seat 500 spectators was built prior to 1996/7 season and during the 1997/8 close season the ground was enclosed, an important step in our quest for higher status. Towards the end of 2000/01 season a new cantilever stand was erected at Kirkby Road and officially opened by goalkeeper Chris Kirkland on 31st July 2001 - a Barwell lad.

Barwell reached the last sixteen of the FA Vase in 1995/6 losing 3-1 away at Flixton. In 2009/10 they reached the semi-final narrowly losing out to eventual winners Whitley Bay after two keenly contested legs. Other honours include the Leicestershire Senior Cup in 1996/7, the President's Trophy in August 1997. They have also reached the final of the Westerby Cup (played at Filbert Street and latterly the Walkers Stadium) in 1999/2000, 2000/01 and 2004/5 unfortunately losing all three finals to Leicester City, Hinckley Utd and Oadby Town respectively then beating Quorn in 2008/09 and narrowly losing to Loughborough Dynamo the following year. Barwell also reached the League Cup Final losing after extra time to Rushall Olympic.

A new Manager, Bob Steel, took over the reins at Barwell in February 2004 and brought in Steve Greenhill and Ian Blyth as Assistant Managers (with Ian also being coach). He has steadied the side and instilled his way of playing into the players and gradually collected the squad he wanted.

2006/7 finally put some silverware on the shelf when Barwell won the Polymac services league cup final at Walsall's Bescot Stadium, beating Leamington 3-1.

2006/07 saw Barwell finish in a disappointing sixth position and come runners up in both the Westerby Cup and the Rolleston Charity Cup. It was also the first season for Barwell's Youth team who played in the Leicestershire Midweek Floodlit Youth League finishing a creditable sixth in the League and to round things off, the reserves also finished sixth with a great run of results to finish the season.

2007/08 was a somewhat mixed season for the Club. The first team saw two changes of manager. Bob Steel stood down in November to take on the running of the Sports Bar on the complex and his Assistant Ian Blyth took over as manager. After a run of indifferent results and the team slipping towards the bottom three, the Club decided to appoint a new manager in Marcus Law. Marcus took over the reins in February and with a run of good results lifted the Club to a respectable mid-table finish. The Reserves had a great season, despite losing a lot of players to the First Team, finishing third with the Youth Team finishing runners up.

2008/09 was Marcus' first full season at the Club and he has brought in Paul O'Brien as his Assistant with Coach Lee Knibbs, Goalkeeping Coach Pat Pattinson, and Sports Therapist Alan Cooke. They finished runners up in the League on 91 points and also won the Westerby Cup beating Quorn 2-0 at the Walkers Stadium.

2009/2010 saw the club's most successful season ever with Marcus attaining promotion to the Evo-stik League First Division South at his third attempt. The year started well with a 4-0 victory in the Joe McGorian Cup over previous League winners Market Drayton Town. The team broke all club records gaining 114 points and scoring 125 league goals whilst maintaining an undefeated League record. Barwell also reached the semi-final of the FA Vase where they narrowly lost out to Whitley Bay after a nail-biting two-legged encounter which saw a massive 1279 crowd at home and 2730 at Whitley. Also, the Canaries reached the final of the Westerby Cup, narrowly losing out to Loughborough Dynamo 2-1 and beating Hinckley United 3-0 to win the Rolleston Charity Cup.

2010/2011 ... again proved to be a very successful season. The season started where the last one had finished ... on a winning streak. In September the Manager, Marcus Law, left with our best wishes for a full-time post at Kettering Town. Assistant Manager Paul O'Brien took over with Jimmy Ginnelly taking the post of Assistant Manager. Unfortunately, Paul had to step down due to work commitments and so he and Jimmy swapped places for our third change in two months. As always with a new manager there are comings and goings, but Jimmy managed to retain most of the squad and won the League at the first attempt.

During the closed season, Barwell were put into the Evo-stik League Southern Premier Division and so for the first time

will be competing at level 3. Paul O'Brien left the club during the closed season to take up a coaching position with ex-manager Marcus Law, now at Tamworth. Martin Hier stepped up to Assistant Manager and Craig Woodley joined the Club as coach. Rob Lawrence also came on board as goalkeeping coach.

2011/2012 ... was Barwell FC's first ever season at Step 3 or equivalent in the club's history. Jimmy Ginnelly brought in a number of players to consolidate the team's position and others inevitably moved on to other clubs. Matches were increasingly challenging, but Barwell took some notable scalps with wins over the top teams in the division. Rising to sixth place in the table at one point, the Canaries ended the season in a very creditable ninth place. Craig Woodley left the club after one season as a coach to take up a similar position in the USA. The Reserves saw a significant change with Steve Greenhill stepping down to leave Andy Gray in sole charge. Results did not go their way for much of the season, and they finished tenth out of twelve teams in the Midland Combination Reserve Division One. However, they reached the semi-final of the Midland Combination Challenge Trophy where they narrowly lost out to Chasetown after two keenly fought matches.

2015/2016 This season was most notable for Barwell reaching the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup where they went out at home to Welling United of Step 1 - a game where the highlights were shown on the BBC on Match of the Day. In the league, Barwell finished very well in ninth position.

2016/2017 Barwell finished 14th in the Northern Premier League.

2017/2018 Barwell finished 10th in the Northern Premier League. This was not a season with much to shout about in the cup competitions with exits from the FA Cup in the 2nd Qualifying Round at AFC Telford and in the FA Trophy at home in the same round to Mildenhall Town.

2018/2019...Barwell were moved to the newly created Central Premier Division of the Southern League. Jimmy Ginnelly left the post as Barwell manager to join Nuneaton Borough and his assistant, Guy Hadland, was put in caretaker charge. Over a busy Christmas period Guy did enough to secure the job on a full-time basis. Barwell finished the season in 16th place and also managed to reach the FA Trophy 1st round proper, going out at Spennymoor Town.

2019/2020...The season that never was! Guy Hadland continued as manager and was looking forward to his first full season as manager. Barwell were on a good run when the season was brought to an abrupt end due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their final game was a 4-1 win away at Bromsgrove Sporting and this placed them 12th. Barwell made the final of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup but the final, against Anstey Nomads, was never played. Brady Hickey and Tolani Omotola finished as top scorers.

2020/2021...Another season that ended early due to COVID-19. Only 10 games were possible in the league, FA Cup and FA Trophy before the effects of the pandemic were once again felt across the football world. During the winter months and into early 2021, Barwell FC put together a successful bid for grants to put in an artificial pitch. This funding, along with money raised from local people and the fabulous supporters, saw the work start on 19th July.

2021. A new dawn was coming for Barwell FC and the village of Barwell.

2021/2022...The first full season played after the pandemic and one that saw Barwell retain their Step 3 status with a memorable 2-0 win away at local rivals Nuneaton Borough. It was a very mixed season with some good results but a number of disappointing scorelines. Ben Stephens was a highlight of the year, ending the campaign as the league's highest goalscorer. Guy Hadland stepped down as manager at the end of the season and was replaced by Ian King.

2022/2023...Ian King and his backroom staff did an incredible job in their first season in charge of Barwell, finishing eighth last season. The season was filled with many highlight moments, such as the 3-1 home wins over both local rivals Nuneaton Borough and Coalville Town. Brady Hickey finished as the club's top scorer in all competitions.

2023/24

Ian King departed for Coalville midway through the season which saw former boss Jimmy Ginnelly return as interim manager. A 14th place finish secured another season in step 3

2024/25

Ginnelly returned for his first full season back at Barwell, but it was one to forget as a winless run of 8 games at the turn of the year played a pivotal part in Barwell finishing in the relegation spots. However, after the demise of Farsley Celtic, Barwell were given another shot at step 3.

2025/26

With major upheaval in the summer Barwell head into a new season with a new look squad and a new sense of optimism.

Barwell FC - Profiles

Finn Osborn (GK)

After spending nearly all of his youth career at West Bromwich Albion the youngster broke into men's football with Kenilworth Sporting clocking up over 50 first team appearances at just 16 years old. He has since spent time with Nuneaton Borough, Nuneaton Griff, Hinckley AFC and most recently Atherstone where he played over 60 times helping the Adders to the MFL Premier Division playoffs.

Lathaniel Rowe-Turner (DF)

Lathaniel returns for his second season at the club after joining last summer from Kettering Town. He has once again worked with Ginnelly at Nuneaton Borough. Lathaniel brings both EFL experience (with Torquay United) and Southern Central title winning experience (at a previous spell with Kettering) to the side.

Finlay Shorrock (DF)

The 22-year-old has spent 2 seasons with the Sphinx featuring over 65 times for the Coventry side, helping them become an established Step 4 side in the process. Finlay also won the Managers Player of the Year this season. A fine reward for his performances.

Will Grewal-Pollard (DF)

The 22-year-old wide man came through the ranks at Derby County where he had a 2-year pro contract following decent academy performances. He then has had stints at Alfreton Town and more recently Stourbridge and Sporting Khalsa ending last season as a regular starter for the latter. A dynamic player with good quality.

Rashaan Frances (DF)

Rash had a tremendous season and half at Tamworth when the season got abruptly cut short by covid. He then went on to play for Ilkeston Town.

Sidik Atcha (DF)

The 24-year-old Centre Back joins us from Shepshed Dynamo where he spent the latter part of last season after a mid-season move from league rivals Kettering Town. Sid has featured for the likes of Loughborough Dynamo, AFC Rushden and Diamonds, Nuneaton Borough and Harborough Town among others including a move to Lada Pilgora in Poland's 2nd division.

Kornell McDonald (DF)

Flying Full Back Kornell McDonald joins Barwell for the 25/26 season. The 23-year-old former Derby defender joins us from Ilkeston Town. Kornell has featured for Kettering Town, Bedford Town, Redditch, Gloucester, Matlock and Rushall Olympic beginning last season with Pics in the National League North.

Andrew Wooldridge (DF)

Local lad Drew came through at Strachan FF before signing for Hinckley AFC. He has won both step 5 and 6 with Rugby Town and Hinckley AFC which earnt him a move to Hinckley LRFC for 24/25. An attacking full back who is comfortable playing further forward.

Lindon Meikle (MF)

The 37-year-old midfielder joins from Ilkeston where he made 54 appearances after joining in January 2024. Lindon previously of Eastwood Town, Mansfield Town, York City, Alfreton Town, Barrow, Kettering, Buxton, Tamworth and Ilkeston add a wealth of experience and success.

Labeed Ahmada (MF)

The youngster spent the back end of last season at step 5 Leicester Nirvana scoring 4 goals in 17 appearances helping them to a fantastic end to the league season. On dual registration at Leicester Nirvana

Amarvir Sandu (MF)

Amar joins us from local rivals Harborough Town. He spent the second half of the season on loan at Corby Town helping the club to the playoff final where they narrowly missed out on promotion. The 29-year-old started men's football at Leicester Road back in 2014. He then had short spells at Barwell, Shepshed Dynamo and Quorn before joining Coleshill Town.

Prince Mancinelli (MF)

Prince joined from Basford United at the start of 2025, having previously played for Nuneaton Borough.

Hilton Arthur (MF)

The 24-year-old midfielder joins from Rugby Town where he featured 23 times for the Warwickshire based outfit. Arthur names Corby Town, Northampton Sileby Rangers and the aforementioned Rugby Town as his previous clubs.

Callum Chettle (MF)

Callum joins us from Spalding United with previous spells at Peterborough United, Nuneaton Borough, Basford and Stamford.

Isaac Adegoke (MF)

21-year-old Issac has spent the last couple of seasons around step 3 and 4 featuring for Halesowen, Lye and Sporting Khalsa and also featuring in Spalding's step 4 winning squad.

Charlie Dowd (MF)

The creative midfielder joins after featuring for Bedworth and Sutton Coldfield last season. Charlie has experience at step 3 with the likes of Nuneaton Borough and Stourbridge

Tyree Wilson (FW)

The 22-year-old who can play on the wing and in the attacking midfield role joins us from Kettering Town. Tyree has also featured for Derby County U23s, Ilkeston and Quorn so far in his career,

Tyrell Waite (FW)

Tyrell joined Barwell in January from Basford United, following spells at a number of local Step 3 sides including Coalville Town, Nuneaton Borough, Mickleover and Ilkeston Town.

Jevin Seaton (FW)

Jevin joins us from Step 4 Grantham Town. The striker had scored 68 in 92 at Radford before his move to step 4.

Formerly of Burton Albion and Carlton Town

Zayn Hakeem (FW)

A prolific goalscorer at Step 4 for Anstey Nomads and Shepshed Dynamo, Zayn re-joins Barwell after short stints back in 19/20 and 20/21. Formerly of Coalville, Stamford and Basford.

Kane Richards (FW)

Kane joined the club in February from Basford and started every game following his arrival scoring 1 goal for the Canaries. A product of the Derby County youth set up, listing the likes of Ilkeston, Dover Athletic and Kettering Town as previous clubs.

Blake Kindred (FW)

Blake signed papers towards the back end of last season and spent the final few months of the campaign around the first team. The 19-year-old is formally of Bromsgrove Sporting and Alvechurch.

Barwell FC Staff 2025/26

Jimmy Ginnelly (MANAGER)

Entering his second full season back at the helm since rejoining last season in March, Jimmy brings a wealth of experience to the Managerial role with the likes of Nuneaton Borough and Atherstone.

Andy Danylyszyn (COACH)

Andy joined Jimmy's coaching staff having worked together previously at Nuneaton Borough. Andy is an experienced coach at both non-league and academy level, holding a UEFA A Licence.

Damion Beckford-Quailey (COACH)

Damion joined Jimmy's coaching staff last summer from Shepshed Dynamo. He has previous managerial experience with Leicester Nirvana and Gresley.

Dr Stephen Wanless (TEAM DOCTOR)

'Doc' joined Barwell in the summer of 2022 as the new head physio but his work outside of football gives him plenty of experience as the Team Doctor.

Viv Coleman (PHYSIO)

Viv is another club legend at Barwell, having been long time physio on the pitch and club treasurer off it.

The Record against Barwell

Sporting have played Barwell 14 times, three of the matches in the aborted 2019-20 season.

Sporting won the last encounter 3 - 0 in the FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round earlier this season on 4th October with 150 spectators present. Goals were scored by Billy Shaw, Jack Newell and James Sanderson.

That makes the overall record look as follows:

| Venue | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against |
|---------|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|---------|
| Home | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 12 |
| Away | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 9 |
| Overall | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 21 |

Bromsgrove Rovers played Barwell four times. Twice in what was then the Midland Alliance losing 3 - 0 at the Victoria Ground on 17th November 2001 in front of a crowd of 334 but drawing the return fixture 1 - 1 at Kirkby Road on 16th February 2002 with 235 present.

The next season saw the two teams play in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup; drawing 1 - 1 at Barwell on 31st August 2002 but Rovers won the replay at Bromsgrove 4 - 3 on 3rd September.



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Canadian league set to trial Wenger's offside idea



The Canadian Premier League is set to trial Arsene Wenger's "daylight" offside rule.

It was presented to the International Football Association Board (Ifab) at its annual business meeting on Tuesday.

It will now go forward to the annual general meeting in Cardiff on 28 February. If approved, the trial will begin when the Canadian Premier League kicks off in April.

Wenger, who has been Fifa's head of global football development since 2019, proposes that there should be a complete gap between the attacker and the second-to-last

opposition player - effectively the last defender, given the goalkeeper's usual positioning.

Critics have suggested that daylight offside will give too much advantage to the attacking team.

"We have to try the radical solution first and see if we need to come back from that," said Wenger when he left Tuesday's meeting in London.

It was first suggested six years ago but so far there have only been limited trials in youth football.

If the trial in Canada goes ahead, its results will be presented to Ifab at the end of year. If successful, there is the potential for the law to change across the world for the 2027-28 European season.

Other leagues are set to be invited to take part in the trial. It is likely Ifab will want multiple tests to show the change is robust, especially as the Canadian league does not have (VAR).

Before the Ifab meeting it was expected that the trials of "daylight" offside would be ditched in favour of "torso" offside, which ignores arms and feet when making a judgement.

However, there was opposition to this idea, and it is now unlikely to go to trials.

Arsene Wenger's offside law proposal has been debated for a long time. Six years, in fact. But the law is no closer to being altered than it was in 2020. That is despite controversial "microscopic" VAR decisions, ruling to the millimetre. Or are we only talking about changing the law because of them?

Think Coventry's dramatic goal in time added on at the end of extra time against Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-final two years ago. Had it stood, Coventry would have won 4-3. Instead, they lost on penalties. VAR stripped away what would have been one of the most iconic goals in the competition's history.

Still, should the very fabric of the game at all levels be changed because of VAR? And how realistic is it that Wenger's law will be adopted?

Wenger was appointed Fifa's chief of global football development in November 2019. One of his key remits was to find ways to promote attacking play. Within weeks he had presented his plan to revolutionise offside: visual separation - or, as it is more commonly known, daylight between players.

The former Arsenal manager says that if "any part of your body is on the same line as the defender, you're not offside". In other words, there needs to be a complete gap between the attacker and the second-to-last opposition player - effectively the last defender, given the goalkeeper's usual positioning.

Article courtesy of the BBC website

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Photos from Recent Matches



Sporting attack thwarted in difficult conditions by former Rouslers Jason Cowley and Daniel Platt against Halesowen Town



Jack Kelly, here in action last weekend against Bury Town. Photos: Chris Jepson

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Recent Results

| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Friday 26th December | | | Att |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Worcester City | 1 - 2 | Halesowen Town | 2,360 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 27th December | | | |
| AFC Sudbury | 0 - 3 | Bury Town | 939 |
| Barwell | 2 - 2 | Quorn | 543 |
| Bromsgrove Sporting | 1 - 1 | Redditch United | 1,350 |
| Harborough Town | 4 - 2 | Kettering Town | 1,723 |
| Leiston | 0 - 1 | Needham Market | 509 |
| Real Bedford | 1 - 3 | St Ives Town | 562 |
| Royston Town | 2 - 1 | Bishop's Stortford | 687 |
| Spalding United | 3 - 0 | Stamford | 1,300 |
| Stourbridge | 1 - 1 | Banbury United | 927 |
| Stratford Town | 2 - 1 | Alvechurch | 1,066 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 3rd January | | | |
| Halesowen Town | 3 - 1 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 1,563 |
| Redditch United | 1 - 4 | Worcester City | 1,014 |
| Spalding United | 3 - 0 | Barwell | 598 |
| St Ives Town | 2 - 2 | Royston Town | 492 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 10th January | | | |
| AFC Sudbury | 0 - 2 | Bishop's Stortford | 301 |
| Leiston | 4 - 1 | Kettering Town | 201 |
| Spalding United | 3 - 1 | Harborough Town | 1,170 |
| Stratford Town | 1 - 0 | Redditch United | 964 |
| Worcester City | 0 - 1 | Banbury United | 943 |
| The Isuzu FA Trophy Fourth Round, Saturday 10th January | | | |
| Hereford | 2 - 2 (3 - 4) | AFC Fylde | 1,372 |
| Marine | 1 - 1 (4 - 3) | Gloucester City | 968 |
| Yeovil | 0 - 0 (3 - 1) | Alvechurch | 1,870 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 13th January | | | |
| AFC Sudbury | 1 - 3 | Real Bedford | 134 |
| Harborough Town | 2 - 0 | Stamford | 504 |
| The Isuzu FA Trophy Fourth Round, Tuesday 13th January | | | |
| FC Halifax Town | 4 - 0 | Anstey Nomads | 683 |
| Kidderminster Harriers | 6 - 2 | Morecambe | 1,596 |
| Tamworth | 1 - 1 (7 - 6) | Rochdale | 534 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Wednesday 14th January | | | |
| Stourbridge | 5 - 0 | Quorn | 325 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 17th January | | | |
| AFC Sudbury | 1 - 3 | Harborough Town | 244 |
| Barwell | 0 - 2 | Real Bedford | 217 |
| Bury Town | 1 - 1 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 664 |
| Halesowen Town | 2 - 1 | Royston Town | 1,397 |
| Leiston | 0 - 0 | Stourbridge | 180 |
| Needham Market | 1 - 0 | Stratford Town | 307 |
| Quorn | 3 - 4 | Spalding United | 501 |

| | | | |
|---|-------|----------------------------|-----|
| Redditch United | 0 - 0 | Bishop's Stortford | 428 |
| Worcester City | 0 - 1 | Stamford | 694 |
| The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 20th January | | | |
| Leiston | 3 - 3 | Alvechurch | 114 |
| Real Bedford | 2 - 0 | Bromsgrove Sporting | 209 |
| Stamford | 3 - 2 | AFC Sudbury | 278 |

Today's Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 24th January

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

Forthcoming Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 27th January

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Alvechurch | v | Stamford |
| Banbury United | v | St Ives Town |
| Kettering Town | v | AFC Sudbury |
| Stratford Town | v | Bishop's Stortford |

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 31st January

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

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 2nd February

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| Barwell | v | Halesowen Town |
|---------|---|----------------|

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 3rd February

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| Bury Town | v | Leiston |
| Needham Market | v | AFC Sudbury |
| Quorn | v | Stamford |
| Real Bedford | v | Harborough Town |

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 7th February

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| AFC Sudbury | v | Spalding United |
|-------------|---|-----------------|

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

Sporting on the Road

Saturday 31st January, 3:00 p.m. kick-off

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central

Stamford vs Bromsgrove Sporting

Address: The Zeeco Stadium, Borderville Sports Centre, Ryhall Road, STAMFORD, Lincs PE9 1US Telephone: 01780 751471

Directions: The postcode for the Stadium is PE9 1US. If not available use PE9 4QN

These instructions avoid the town centre which is very busy on Saturday.

From the West using the A43

Join A1 north as you approach Stamford. Then follow directions as A1 from the South.

Leave A1 at A606 exit signposted Oakham. Turn right over the A1 then left as if going back onto A1 south. Then take first right before joining the south bound carriageway for 0.5 mile. Turn left for one mile into Great Casterton (ignore first turning for Little Casterton) then turn right (signposted Ryhall) for about 2.5 miles. At the end of the road turn right and immediately right again. Continue for about 1.5 miles and ground on the right.



There is parking in the ground for about 110 cars. Additional parking is available at Travis Perkins two minutes' walk from the ground.

About 90 miles (2 hours) from the UK Electrical Stadium.

By Rail - Stamford railway station is the other side of town, 40 minutes' walk.

Admission Prices

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Adult: | £13.00 |
| Concession (Over 60): | £9.00 |
| Concession (Blue Light Card): | £9.00 |
| Concession (Student Card): | £9.00 |
| Child (12 - 17): | £5.00 |
| Child (11 & under with paying 18+): | Free |

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Today's Teams

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Bromsgrove Sporting red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks | | Barwell <i>lime shirts, lime shorts and lime socks</i> | |
| <i>Teams to be chosen from the following:</i> | | | |
| 1 | <i>Rory Brown (GK)</i> | 1 | <i>Finn Osborn (GK)</i> |
| 2 | <i>Mekhi Farrell</i> | 2 | <i>Isaac Adegoke</i> |
| 3 | <i>Jaden Charles</i> | 3 | <i>Labeed Ahmada</i> |
| 4 | <i>Ethan Young</i> | 4 | <i>Hilton Arthur</i> |
| 5 | <i>Aaron Roberts (Capt)</i> | 5 | <i>Sidik Atcha</i> |
| 6 | <i>Kyle Rowley</i> | 6 | <i>Callum Chettle</i> |
| 7 | <i>Billy Shaw</i> | 7 | <i>Charlie Dowd</i> |
| 8 | <i>George Wynne</i> | 8 | <i>Rashaan Frances</i> |
| 9 | <i>Luke Benbow</i> | 9 | <i>Will Grewal-Pollard</i> |
| 10 | <i>Brad Stretton</i> | 10 | <i>Zayn Hakeem</i> |
| 11 | <i>Koby Arthur</i> | 11 | <i>Blake Kindred</i> |
| 12 | <i>Taylor Morrison</i> | 12 | <i>Prince Mancinelli</i> |
| 13 | <i>Charlie McNamara (GK)</i> | 13 | <i>Kornell McDonald</i> |
| 14 | <i>Tyrone Lewthwaite</i> | 14 | <i>Lindon Meikle</i> |
| 15 | <i>Jack Newell</i> | 15 | <i>Kane Richards</i> |
| 16 | <i>Theo Robinson</i> | 16 | <i>Lathaniel Rowe-Turner</i> |
| 17 | <i>Luke Softley</i> | 17 | <i>Amarvir Sandu</i> |
| 18 | <i>Jordan Lyden</i> | 18 | <i>Jevin Seaton</i> |
| 19 | <i>Gus Sanches</i> | 19 | <i>Finlay Shorrock</i> |
| 20 | <i>Niall Flint</i> | 20 | <i>Tyrell Waite</i> |
| 21 | <i>Jack Kelly</i> | 21 | <i>Andrew Wooldridge</i> |

Match Officials

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Referee: | Mr A McAnoy |
| Assistant 1: | Mr H Organ |
| Assistant 2: | Mr J Alliband |

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