

THE ROUISLERS



**SATURDAY 7TH
FEBRUARY 2026**

3:00 PM KICK-OFF

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
CENTRAL

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V



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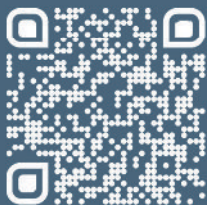


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The Victoria Ground

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Worcs B61 0DR

Incorporated 2009



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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

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Chaplain: Rev Steve Levett

Safety Officer: Simon Nichol

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Reception: Sarah Lammas, Sandra Cable

Catering: Della Greatbach

Manager: Tim Flowers

Assistant Manager: Leon Broadhurst

Goalkeeping 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

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



Good afternoon.

Can we firstly welcome all the directors, management, players and fans from our opponents Harborough Town today for their first visit to the UK Electrical Stadium in 2026.

They come here on the back of very impressive league form, only losing two games all season so far.

This will be a very difficult afternoon if we allow them to come and stamp their authority, but we can see a determination amongst our squad. We look fitter and over the last three performances we have looked stronger in the last fifteen minutes of the game.

Tim (Flowers, manager) and Leon (Broadhurst, assistant manager) have been working really hard to improve the squad for what is going to be a tough last quarter of the season but an exciting one.

Excitement was the word that was used a few times following the board's decision to accept a proposal from successful local businessmen. They have offered to purchase sufficient shares to give them a controlling interest to thus save the Club and then set it on to a better financial future.

We recently organised an informal meeting to give shareholders the opportunity to see and hear their plans, firstly securing the short-term future and then an insight to some of the exciting plans for improving the club's presence in the community, and more importantly increasing the commercial strength of the Club. The meeting was well-attended, and the shareholders asked many questions, and by the end I believe there was a unanimous feeling of excitement and positivity.

We are currently going through all the necessary protocols with the FA and the Southern League, and we are hoping to make a formal statement very soon.

What has been made noticeably clear is the importance of everyone pulling together, hopefully trying to secure step 3 football, and then planning to bolster the squad to improve the product on the pitch so that this then increases the gates and the experience. Exciting times ahead!

Today's game will not define our season, but a positive hard-working performance will without doubt stand us in good stead.

Enjoy!

Rod

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Manager - Tim Flowers



Good afternoon everybody and can I give a warm welcome to Mitch Austin, the Harborough manager, along with his players, staff and their supporters?

For them they have had an outstanding season so far with only two games lost. And it is no fluke. They have been able to adapt and cope with the different styles of football played in this division. They are a well-rounded team and should at the minimum be in the play-offs by the end of the campaign with many people seeing them

as the potential league champions.

Moving on to ourselves, we gained a hard-fought point on the road last Saturday against Stamford up in Lincolnshire. We acquitted ourselves well with two good goals and created a number of other chances. At the other end, the two goals conceded could have been avoided and we will have to be careful not to make the same mistakes today otherwise we will get punished.

There is no hiding from our poor away form, and we have not been picking up enough points on our travels making us dependent on picking them up at home. We did well a couple of weeks ago against Barwell in finely balanced match. They had the better of the possession, but we created more chances. In the end a combination of Theo Robinson and Billy Shaw saw us home and a useful three points.

Everybody in the dressing room is aware of the situation we are in and what we must do between now and the end of the season. We are in a scrap and have to do the ugly side of football. No player is giving any less than 100% and as a manager I take a lot of heart from that.

Leon Broadhurst (assistant manager) and I are still looking to improve the squad if we can and add some quality but at this state of the season it is not that easy to recruit players and get them to move.

Also, we have to have an eye on the future and give some thought and do some planning for next season on the assumption that we shall be staying in this division.

I am of course grateful to the loyal fans who turned up to see us beat Barwell a couple of weeks ago and the sizable number who travelled up to Stamford last weekend. Your support is appreciated by the players and my management team.

Tim

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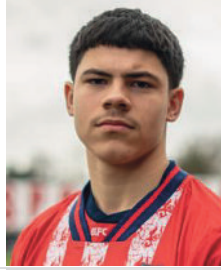
Meet the Rouslers (1)

	<p>Tim Flowers <i>Manager</i> Bromsgrove Dog Walking & Pet Services</p> 		<p>Leon Broadhurst <i>Assistant Manager</i> Sponsored by Tim Reeves</p>
	<p>Dan Price <i>Goalkeeping Coach</i> Available for sponsorship</p>		<p>Dean Ashford <i>Club Kit Man</i> Available for sponsorship</p>
	<p>Dan Eyre <i>Sports Therapist</i> Sponsored by Phil & Jane Baker</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>
	<p>Luke Benbow <i>Striker</i> Sponsored by Marc Pullen and Edna May Parker</p>		<p>Josh Burgess <i>Defender</i> Available for sponsorship</p>

Meet The Rouslers (2)



Max Asante-Boakye
Defender
Available for sponsorship



Akai Bonnick
Midfielder
Available for sponsorship



Finlay Carson
Midfielder
Available for sponsorship



Jaden Charles
Defender
Sponsored by Kevin Baggott



Archie Duerden
Defender
Available for sponsorship



Mekhi Farrell
Right-back
Available for sponsorship



Niall Flint
Defender
Sponsored by JAK Projects & Services



George Gillon
Midfielder
Available for sponsorship



Tyrone Lewthwaite
Striker
Sponsored by our accountant Sarah Lammas of

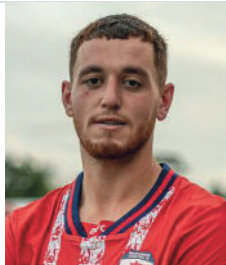


Jordan Lyden
Midfielder
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Meet The Rouslers (3)



Taylor Morrison
Defender
Available for
sponsorship



Jack Newell
Defender/Midfield
Sponsored by Kevin
Baggott



Aaron Roberts
Defender
Sponsored by
Pinfields - Chartered
Accountants



Theo Robinson
Striker
Sponsored by
James Freeman at
Smiles Turkey UK



Kyle Rowley
Defender
Available for
sponsorship



Billy Shaw
Midfielder
Sponsored by:
The Fox family
(Margaret,
Christopher and
Adrian)



Luke Softley
Defender
Sponsored by
The Groundforce
Team



Brad Stretton
Midfielder
Sponsored by Spartan
Hot Tub Hire



George Wynne
Midfielder
Sponsored by Tim
Reeb, who lives in
New Jersey, USA



Ethan Young
Defender
Available for
sponsorship

Profile:

Brad Stretton

Midfielder/Forward



Birthplace and Date of Birth?	Coventry, 9/9/04 (age 21)
Height, weight?	6 ft, 68 kg
Left or right footed?	Left
Previous Clubs?	Coventry City, Alvechurch, Oxford City, Rugby Borough
Best moment playing football?	Scoring for Coventry City in a pre-season friendly against MK Dons.
Which team do you support?	Coventry City
Favourite all-time player?	Harry Kane
Best player you have played against?	Ross Barkley
Favourite position on the pitch:	Right wing
What boots do you wear?	Nike Mercurials
What football law would you change?	VAR
Which team do you most like to beat?	Leicester City
Nickname in the changing room?	Strets
Do you play any other sports?	Padel, golf, pool
Relationship?	Partner - Millie
Where do you live?	Coventry
What car do you drive?	Mercedes A Class
Favourite food?	Steak and Chips
Favourite drink?	Chocolate Yazoo
Favourite biscuit?	Chocolate Bourbons
Favourite TV programme?	Traitors
Favourite Film?	Green Street
Favourite actor or actress?	Jason Statham
Favourite band or singer?	Ed Sheeran
Favourite Album or Single?	Perfect (Ed Sheeran)
Guilty Pleasure?	Playing golf
Least like to sit next to on an aeroplane?	Softs (Luke Softley)
Put in Room 101?	Parking fines
Favourite Holiday destination?	Portugal - Albufeira
Top of Bucket List?	Being successful in life



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From The Archives, 11 Years Ago

Midland Football League - Les James Challenge Cup Quarter Final

Saturday 7th February - 3:00 p.m. kick-off

Bromsgrove Sporting 2 (1) Uttoxeter United 0 (0)

This was less a game of two halves and more a game of two minutes, as goals from Sean Brain in the opening minute and Dan Carter in the final minute wrapped up a 2-0 win against Uttoxeter Town.

Sporting's first was definitely a case of "blink and you'll miss it". Brain capitalised on a misplaced pass by Doug Price by taking the ball into the penalty area and slotting home comfortably past keeper Alex Langridge after a mere 46 seconds.

A piece of clever thinking by Carter sealed victory in the ninetieth minute. As Uttoxeter were pushing for an equaliser, Langridge was caught in no man's land in the middle of his own half. The Sporting substitute was aware of this; delicately lobbing the hapless goalkeeper from 30 yards out.

Apart from these two goals, it was a game of very few clear-cut chances. Perhaps Sporting's best chance of getting their second goal earlier was shortly after the half time interval. Following an enticing cross from Jack Wilson, Brain squandered a gilt-edged chance inside the six-yard box, his tame shot being saved by Langridge.

Uttoxeter were not without their chances. Their best goal opportunity coming on the hour mark as Lee Bagley's hard-hit effort from distance was comfortably saved by Jake Bedford. That was the away team's problem all game; they just didn't appear to have a clinical finisher who could really worry the ever-reliable Bedford. Olly Ritchie was very lively for the visitors, but his endeavour was ultimately in vain.

This wouldn't be described as a vintage Sporting performance, certainly not in comparison to their demolition jobs of Studley and Pilkington XXX over the festive period. They were fortunate to bag the early goal as Uttoxeter faced an uphill task from the get-go to find a way back into things. But, most importantly, they got the win and are only one game away from a final at Walsall's Bescot Stadium.

Sporting: Jake Bedford, Ryan Mahon, Jack Wilson, Scott Smith, Craig Jones, Will Tibbetts, Reece Hewitt, Jozsef Jakab (Danny Morris 62 mins), Sam Wills (Joe Adams 41 mins), Sean Brain (Dan Carter 62 mins). Unused substitutes: Orrin Pendley, Tim Bradley.

Goals: Sean Brain (1 min), Dan Carter (90+1 mins)

Uttoxeter: Alex Langridge, Mark Springall, Aden Johnson, Liam Sowter (Jim Hornsey 62 mins), Doug Price, Lee Bagley, Martin Gadsby, Jack Holley (Gary Beardsley 80 mins), James Curley, Olly Ritchie, Olly Mellor (John Atherton 38 mins).

Subs not used: George Marshman, John Lamburn.

Referee: Mr O Denne (Leamington Spa)

Assistants: Mr M Homer (Rednal), Mr J Wain (Alcester)

Crowd: 251 Sporting Man of the Match: Ryan Mahon



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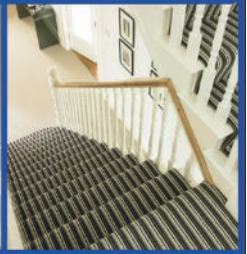
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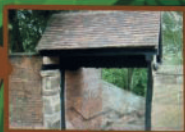


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Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

Bromsgrove Sporting 1 Hereford Pegasus 0

Sporting faced Hereford Pegasus in their 3rd home game in a row today. With a depleted squad due to injuries and work commitments, Sporting named a much-changed team.

They came into the game with confidence on the ball and played some fantastic football in the opening minutes of the game. In the middle, it was Alice Eva pulling the strings for Sporting, playing many through balls behind the Pegasus defence. Unfortunately for Sporting, some very last-ditch tackles from the Pegasus defence restricted shots on goal.

The Ladies did get their breakthrough in the 44th minute. Alice Eva picking the ball up in the middle, playing a ball for Ashleigh Kennedy to run on to. Ashleigh delivered the ball across the front of goal, and Sophie Taylor swept home the ball on her return to the team after 18 months!

The second half saw Pegasus put a lot of pressure on the Sporting back line, who dealt with this pressure well and not allowing any shots on goal.

Sporting did get a couple of chances in the second half, but all were saved comfortably by the Pegasus goalkeeper.

A good win for Sporting, despite their depleted squad.

Today's players of the match were Abi Bourne and Alice Eva. Abi stepped into the Sporting defence brilliantly, bringing lots of strength, tackles and building attacks. She did not allow her winger to beat her once all game!

Alice controlled the tempo in midfield, picking up the ball in tight spaces and picking out dangerous forward passes. Her composure in the middle helped Sporting break down the Pegasus defence in the first half, then made many important interceptions in the second to stop Pegasus attacks.

The Ladies are on the road next week, as they visit a Knowle side who are in good league form.

Rovers' historians Michael Tovey and Graham Reynolds continue their journey through 140 years of Bromsgrove football, choosing their player of the decade for the 1950s.

After the successes of the 1940s, the opening few seasons of the 1950s were a touch



disappointing, although the club remained a constant presence in the top half of the league table. In 1953/54, their 56-year membership of the Birmingham Combination came to an end, as they opted to join the Birmingham & District League, which was generally considered a higher level of football. It took the Rovers a couple of seasons to find their footing but in 1956/57 they finished runners-up, just three points behind the champions, Walsall Reserves. The arrival of manager Eric Jones in January 1959, led to a golden period for the club and the decade finished on a monumental high, when they achieved an unprecedented treble, winning the Birmingham & District League, the Worcestershire Senior Cup and the Inter-Town Cup. Just 19 players were used that season, a joint record with season 1893/94 - when only twenty matches were played - showing once more the benefits of a settled and unchanged side. A significant change in the appearance of

the Victoria Ground came during the decade with the installation of floodlights, and in March 1954, floodlit football came to Bromsgrove for the first time.

On the pitch, the Rovers continued to be served by some fine players. Goalkeeper Frank Skitt returned for a second spell, finishing his career with 289 appearances. At the other end of the decade, the vastly experienced Jack Lewis arrived, missing only the one match in his five seasons with the club. Norman Williams continued to be a fixture in the back and half-back line, his 478 appearances putting him fifth on the all-time list. But even his numbers pale next to Arthur Wainwright. Debuting in 1953/54, he would go onto play a mammoth 523 games in the green and white. Defenders Peter Purcell and Larry Hames added their names to the ever growing '100 Club', while Johnny Wassall, who had Football League experience with Coventry City and Southport, led the Rovers with distinction in the late 1950s, captaining them to the treble in 1959/60. Harry Smith and Dennis Humphries provided firepower in the frontline and the majestic Frank Bolton dazzled with his skill over eleven seasons, racking up 395 appearances. Mick Deakin and John Phillips caught the eye of Crystal Palace and in 1958, Brian Punter signed for Leicester City for a reported £1,000, a record fee for the club. However, the player we have chosen as our 'Player of the Decade' for the 1950s is Joe Wainwright, who would most likely have received this accolade for the 1940s too if it weren't for the incredible goal scoring exploits of Bill Oldnall.

Joe Wainwright's playing career with the Rovers spanned fourteen seasons, but his association with and affection for the club lasted a lifetime. Born on 11 October 1915, in Balsall



Heath, he was a keen sportsman from an early age, excelling in both football and cricket. He played for Birmingham Gas and Tamworth prior to outbreak of the Second World War, during which he served in the Royal Navy. On the resumption of football, he made a few appearances for Sutton Town before signing for the Rovers in December 1945. Joe made his debut in a 5-0 victory over Banbury Spencer and very quickly made the centre-half berth his own. In his first full season with the club, he captained them to the Birmingham Combination, the Worcestershire Senior Cup and to the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup. His importance to the team was so much so that when a knee injury ruled him out of the second-half of the following campaign, the general belief was that it was Joe's absence that prevented them from defending the league crown. He led the team into the First Round of the FA Cup for the first time in their history that year and subsequently did so on three further occasions.

When the Rovers switched to the Birmingham & District League, no prizes for guessing the man to take them into this new era. Joe remained loyal to Bromsgrove from the moment he signed for the club, turning down overtures over the years from other teams who were keen to acquire his services.

So ingrained was he that it came as something of a shock when he decided to hang up his boots at the end of the 1957/58 season, even though by then he was 42 years old. He wasn't going anywhere mind, and took over the running of the Reserve team, who played in the Worcestershire Combination. After Eric Jones left to take up a managerial post in Holland, it was Joe who the Committee called upon to look after first team duties. He had the best part of six seasons in charge, with a second-place finish in 1960/61 the high point. It was during this season that he was forced to don his boots one final time. Injuries and no-shows had left the team a forward short for a match against Moor Green in April. Joe brought himself out of retirement to lead the line and the fairytale was complete when he scored the winning goal. At 45, he is likely one of the oldest people to ever play for the Rovers and certainly their oldest goal scorer.

Joe was relieved of his duties in February 1966, the club unable to afford the luxury of a

manager anymore. Only two months earlier, he had been presented with a silver coffee set in honour of twenty years' service. It was a somewhat acrimonious ending, yet ever the gentleman he offered to leave immediately as opposed at the end of the season as had been suggested.

A stint at Moor Green followed but Joe wasn't done with the Rovers. Twice he answered SOS calls to take on a caretaker managerial role - the final time in 1976 - and he could usually be found on the sidelines at all home First and Reserve team fixtures until his health started to fail him.


















Joe sadly passed away on 6 December 1993, aged 78, just a month before the FA Cup tie with Barnsley. As per his wishes, his ashes were dug into the centre of the Victoria Ground pitch.

In the *Victoria Ground Story* book, Des Best refers to him as the greatest clubman in the club's history. It's hard to argue against that or even think of someone who comes close.



Joe Wainwright, a true Rovers great, 1945-1993. 431 appearances, 15 goals.

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	Tracksuit bottoms From £17-50		Printed tracksuit bottoms From £12-50
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	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
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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	29	18	7	4	77	37	+40	61
2	Harborough Town	26	18	6	2	50	20	+30	60
3	Real Bedford	24	14	5	5	46	27	+19	47
4	Quorn	29	14	5	10	58	47	+11	47
5	Redditch United	29	14	4	11	42	41	+1	46
6	Halesowen Town	27	12	9	6	53	40	+13	45
7	Needham Market	28	13	6	9	42	39	+3	45
8	Leiston	29	10	11	8	47	41	+6	41
9	Stratford Town	26	12	5	9	41	36	+5	41
10	Banbury United	27	12	5	10	40	37	+3	41
11	Worcester City	28	11	7	10	45	30	+15	40
12	Kettering Town	26	11	5	10	43	39	+4	38
13	Bury Town	28	10	7	11	39	38	+1	37
14	Bishop's Stortford	27	10	6	11	43	42	+1	36
15	St Ives Town	28	8	8	12	37	46	-9	32
16	Bromsgrove Sporting	28	8	6	14	35	51	-16	30
17	Barwell	28	7	8	13	34	45	-11	29
18	Alvechurch	24	8	4	12	25	29	-4	28
19	Stourbridge	28	5	10	13	35	51	-16	25
20	Stamford AFC	27	6	5	16	20	48	-28	23
21	AFC Sudbury	27	5	6	16	34	71	-37	21
22	Royston Town	29	3	9	17	30	61	-31	18

Table as at Tuesday 3rd February 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	W 1 - 0	527	29	17	Aaron Roberts
Sat	31-Jan	3:00 PM	A	Stamford	Southern League	D 2 - 2	493	30	16	Niall Flint
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 2025-2026

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		20	7		1			3	1							23	23				23	23			
Max Asante-Boakye		1	1				1									1	1	1				1	1		
Luke Benbow	12	7			5	1	2	7	2	1						12	9	21	2	7	12	9	21	7	
Freddie Boakye	4				1											4	4				4			4	
Akai Bonnick	2						1									2	2	1			2			2	
Rory Brown	14				1	1		1								15	15	1			15			15	
Josh Burgess										1															
Finlay Carson			3							1															
Ash Carter	11		1	5	2			2		1						13	13				46			46	1
Jaden Charles	4		1					1								4	4		1		4			4	1
Nick Clayton-Phillips	4	3						1							1	5	3	8	1		5	3	8	1	
Romehl Critchlow		3	3							1						3	3				3	3			
Archie Duerden			1																						
Tom Edge	20	2		2	4		2	1	4		1		1			24	2	26	2	1	24	2	26	1	
Josh Ezewele	20	1			1	3		2	1							22	2	24	3		32	2	34		
Mekhi Farrell			2							1															
Niall Flint	3															3		3			3			3	
Kobe Hall	5	14	2		1		1	4	2	1	1		1	1		7	15	22	2	4	10	19	29	4	
Adam Harrison	14				1			3								17		17			17			17	
Jack Kelly	15	3			3	4		2								17	3	20	4		17	3	20		
Reece King	10	5		10	4		2	2	1		2					12	6	18	2		59	6	65	5	
Tyrone Lewthwaite	6							3								6		6	3		6			6	3
Jordan Lyden	9	5	2		3	1	1	1	1		1					10	5	15	1	1	15	18	33	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	19	2	2		1		1	1	3	1					1	22	3	25	1	2	115	29	144	8	
Charlie Pavey	11	1	1		3	2	3	3						1		14	1	15	3	3	14	1	15	3	
Aaron Roberts	21	1		5	3	1	1	3						1		24	1	25	1		339	15	354	23	
Theo Robinson		4					1									4	4	1			31	17	48	13	
Kyle Rowley	4															4	4				4			4	
Gus Sanches	10	13	2		3		1	4	2	1	1		1			12	14	26	1	4	12	26	38	6	
James Sanderson	9	2			1		2	2	1	1						10	3	13	2	2	10	3	13	2	
Billy Shaw	28			6	7		3	5	4					1	2	32		32	4	7	81	11	92	11	
Luke Softley	23		2		7		1	4					1	1		27		27	1	1	27			27	1
Bradley Stretton	10	8	2		1	1	1	1								11	8	19	1	1	11	8	19	1	
Aksum White	4		1					1								5		5			68	17	85		
George Wynne	4	1			1											4	1	5			4	1	5		
Ethan Young	3							1								4		4			4			4	
Own Goal								1												1					

Up to and including Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Bromsgrove Sporting - Player Profiles

Tim Flowers Squad Number: n/a DoB: 3/2/67, 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: **Max Asante-Boakye** Squad Number: 4 DoB: 24/1/07
Position: Centre-back Height: Weight:
Previous Clubs: Aston Villa, Sheffield United.
Currently on a one-month loan from Sheffield United and is a regular U21 starter with the Blades, having joined from Aston Villa in the summer.

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.

Akai Bonnick Squad Number: 20 DoB: 11/6/06

Position: Midfielder Height: Weight:

Previous Clubs: Forest Green Rovers, Cribbs, Alvechurch

On loan from Forest Green Rovers until the end of the season who signed him from Nottingham Forest Under 16s. A capable and industrious youngster.

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: 21 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.

Archie Duerden Squad Number: 19 DoB: 9/3/06

Position: Centre-half Height: Weight:

Previous Clubs: Aston Villa

Recent signing and a ball-playing centre-half. A regular in the Villains' youth set-up, the 19-year-old signed for Sporting after being released by the Premier League side.

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: 2 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.

Jack Kelly Squad Number: 3 DoB: 1/1/96

Position: Left back Height: 5' 11" Weight:

Previous Clubs: Nottingham Forest, Hemel Hempstead Town, Kettering Town, Newtown AFC, Shifnal Town, Hednesford Town, Walsall Wood, Sporting Khalsa, Redditch United.

An energetic left back who joined Sporting from Redditch United in June 2025. Jack has good experience at Step 3 and is a threat from set pieces.

Tyrone Lewthwaite	Squad Number: 14	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 and an excellent touch and range of passing.

Taylor Morrison	Squad Number: 12	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 and team captain	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: 6 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.

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.

George Wynne Squad Number: 8 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.

Ethan Young Squad Number: ? 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.

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"A family concern"

Thanks to Steve Richards for doing the quizzes again this season

Here is number 15, on the Premier League

1. Since the formation of the Premier League in 92/93, which four clubs have appeared in it for just one season?
2. Who is the highest English goalscorer in the current Premier League season with nine goals so far?
3. In 2006 who became the only player aged over 40 to score in the Premier League, scoring his 146th and final PL goal for West Ham United against Portsmouth?
4. Which former Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion player currently has the most Premier League appearances, with 653?
5. Which Australian is the only non-English or Welsh player to make 500+ Premier League appearances?
6. Newcastle's Eddie Howe has won 135 Premier League matches putting him fourth for wins by English managers. Which three managers have more?

Answers: 1) Swindon Town (93/94), Barnsley (97/98), Blackpool (10/11), Luton Town (23/24) 2) Dominic Calvert-Lewin 3) Teddy Sheringham 4) Gareth Barry 5) Mark Schwarzer 6) Harry Redknapp (236), Sam Allardyce (178), Roy Hodgson (136)

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The Non-League Paper provides a column for club programmes each week. Here is this week's contribution is from Matt Badcock, the Editor-at-Large.

NON-LEAGUE football is the pillar of our communities and the true heartbeat of the game - there really is so much to be proud of. But whether we like it or not, it is also a giant mirror of our society and one that acts with anger and little fear of consequence.

Football brings out the best of us and we shouldn't forget that. The hours and hours of dedication people put in, more of than the not unpaid, simply for their love of their club or just the game itself. But here we are in 2026, and the same old problems continues to plague us. Racism, sadly, is still very much alive and kicking.

Over the years, The NLP have reported on countless stories of discriminatory abuse levelled at players, officials and fellow supporters. And once again last week, we followed up a statement issued by a club in support of one of their own. It came after Jermaine Francis posted a screenshot on X of the racist abuse he was sent on Snapchat after joining Sutton United.

The 23-year-old winger, who made the switch from Hartlepool United, said it was the second message he'd had received.

"We regret to report that we have been made aware of racist abuse directed towards Jermaine Francis on social media," Sutton said.

"Following the completion of his transfer from Hartlepool United to Sutton United yesterday afternoon, Jermaine received a message on his Snapchat account that included racial abuse.

"As a club we condemn racism and discrimination in all forms, in the strongest possible manner. This behaviour has no place in football, or in society, and we are angered that Jermaine has been subjected to such disgusting abuse.

"We can't wait to welcome Jermaine to the VBS Community Stadium, and we know our superb supporters will be fully behind him, as well as the whole team, as they have been throughout the season.

"We stand with Jermaine and all victims of online discriminatory abuse.

Kick It Out campaigns to make sure football is always welcoming - to everyone - and are here to put an end to every form of discrimination; something which we reiterate. There is no place for racism in football - or anywhere."

At the same time, we were also contacted by a Hereford supporter who was left shaken by a chant from his fellow supporters when they took on Merthyr Town in National League North recently. Karan Rai has supported the Bulls for 21 years, chairs the London Bulls Supporters' Club and, after agonising over whether to do so, penned a must-read open letter on Substack of how he felt that December afternoon and the impact it had.

"As an Asian Hereford fan, and as a proud Punjabi Sikh, I could not believe that after 21 years of following the club I love," he said. "I witnessed a group of Hereford supporters singing "I'd rather be a P*ki than a Taff" loudly and repeatedly before kick-off at the Merthyr game, behind the goal," he wrote. "A game I was really looking forward to with my friends was totally ruined in seconds.

"Let me tell you, having a load of people sing that chant behind you when you're one of very few ethnic minorities in the ground is not a nice experience.

"What made it even more baffling and painful was recognising people I know among those singing it. Some of the same people who, only months earlier against Worksop, would have held up a "Give Racism the Red Card" placard. How do you make sense of that one?"

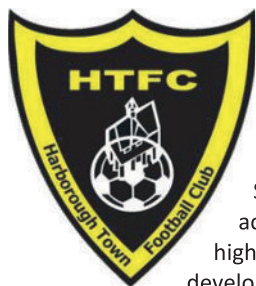
Making sense of it feels impossible. There has never been a time with less of an excuse for not understanding the power of words. Hereford should be applauded for their statement on the matter, which is now a police investigation.

Rai wants his story to become a positive too.

"It has been met with an outpouring of support, and I ultimately want the letter to be an educational tool for good," he said. "I want to turn this situation into a positive and for some good to come out of it. I want this letter to encourage people to stand up to racism in football and to stop its normalisation and to call it out. I want people to feel encouraged that they can step forward too." It's that attitude that should empower us all to rid society of this disease in 2026 and beyond.

Read Karan's full account at <https://kdrai94.substack.com/p/a-letter-to-those-who-chanted-id>

Our Visitors This Afternoon - Harborough Town



Harborough Town FC is the realisation of the merger of Harborough Town Juniors, Harborough Town Spencers and Harborough Minis in 2007, which created one club for all ages, gender and ability for the Market Harborough community.

We are based in Market Harborough, where our impressive facilities cater for all of the club's teams. The club became an FA Charter Standard Club in 2004 and through consistent development has achieved FA Charter Standard Community Club status which is the highest accolade currently available and recognizes best practice, on-going development and a positive impact within the local community. The club currently has teams that include Minis, Girls, Junior, Youth, Ladies, Inclusive, Senior, Veteran and Walking Football sides.

Harborough Town Juniors was formed in 1975, running teams from U11 to U16. After initially playing at Symington's, they developed facilities on Northampton Road in the 1990s. However, there was a desire to have senior football for the youngsters to move on to, and consequently they formed links with Spencers United, and in 2007 they merged with Harborough Town Spencers, as they had become called. In the early 2000s Harborough Minis had been formed to cater for U11s, and in 2007 they also joined the merger to create Harborough Town FC.

After three seasons in the Northants Combination, managed by Andy 'Stan' Wilson, the club won promotion to the United Counties League. On 14 August 2010 Market Harborough witnessed the return of UCL football for the first time since Symington's FC's last game in 1954, and by 2012 'The Bees', as they had become known, had won promotion to the UCL Premier Division.

In the early years of HTFC the Northampton Road ground had seen much improvement, with a new clubhouse, first team pitch, two stands and a 3G artificial pitch. The Bowden's Park ground had become a fine ground, but in 2018 the installation of a Class 1 artificial pitch (3G), funded by Market Harborough District Council, a Stadium Improvement Grant and the Football Foundation, saw the creation of The Harborough Town Community Football Ground, but known as The Beehive. This was opened on 1 November 2018 with a game against an FA Representative XI.

The senior side made steady progress in the UCL, and the two aborted COVID-19 seasons saw us have good starts, reflecting the clubs on field progress. In 2020 experienced UCL manager Mitch Austin joined the club and immediately changed the mindset to a much more professional one. After 10 years of steady progress at Step 5 HTFC's ambitions in the FA Pyramid were met when we won the UCL Premier Division South in 2022, with 102 points. A place in the Northern Premier League Midland Division was the reward. In the first season an excellent 8th place was achieved, just one point of the playoffs, but the 2023/24 season proved to be an exceptional one. After a steady start, a great run of wins saw 'The Bees' go top of the division by Christmas and there we stayed until an administrative error cost us six points and that meant a third-place finish instead of the title. Mitch was not to be deterred though and victories against Hinckley LRFC and Anstey Nomads meant promotion to Step 3 football for the first time in the club's history.

The first Step 3 season started slowly with just two wins in the first 9 games, but slowly and with the addition of several players the season turned. A run of 6 wins in a row across the New Year became a playoff charge, with a brilliant 5th place secured. Sadly, we lost on penalties at Kettering Town but an amazing first season ever at this level. Ground additions have also improved The Beehive.

Harborough Town - Profiles

MITCH AUSTIN, Manager: an exciting young manager who has managed in the United Counties League and was Assistant Manager at Kettering Town and St Ives Town, who joined 'The Bees' from in October 2020. His brilliant player recruitment and leadership led to the UCL Premier Division South title and the UCL's Champions Trophy in 2022, promotion from the NPL Midlands Division in 2024 and a fifth-place finish in the SL Premier Central Division in the club's first Step 3 season won us a playoff place last season.

ELLIOT TAYLOR, goalkeeper: an excellent all-round keeper, who is quick off his line and a fine shot stopper; in his sixth season at the club, he rarely misses a game and is closing in on 200 appearances.

GEORGE CARLINE, full back: a close season signing from Brackley Town for this season, he is an experienced and versatile player who was voted into the National League North Team of the Season for 2024/25.

BEN WILLIAMS, central defender: our goal scoring, dominating centre half and captain. He has played over 400 senior games for the club and is in his 13th season at senior level, having been a junior with us.

ALEX MORRIS, central defender: the description everybody seems to use of Alex, is 'towering defender'! In his third season since he joined from Gresley Rovers, a seasoned player, but still only 28. He made 50 appearances last season and voted Supporters' Player of the Season last year and the Manager's PofS.

PAUL MALONE, central defender/striker: in his fifth season at the club since joining the club from Peterborough Sports. A hugely impressive and experienced quality defender who dominates in both boxes and scores goals as well as being a huge presence in the dressing room.

LIAM DOLMAN, central defender: a hugely experienced defender who has a massive presence in the Harborough defence. Signed from Tamworth Town last season.

RORY McAULEY, central defender: another very experienced defender who joined recently from Corby Town. He began at Cambridge City and has played over 200 games in the National League, with clubs such as Peterborough Sports and Kings Lynn

ELIOT PUTMAN, defender: a close season signing from Peterborough Sports whose quality was shown by being the Sports' Manager's Player of the Season for 2024/25. His experience in any position across the defence will be vital to 'The Bees' this season.

JOSH WALSH, defender/midfield: he has come through the ranks at 'The Bees' and now in his eighth season. A versatile, quality midfield/defensive player, whose sweet left foot provides the ammunition for our strikers. He played every league game last season, reaching 250 for the club. Voted Players' Player of the season in the last campaign.

JAMES TAYLOR, defender: joins us after a hugely successful season at Uxbridge, winning promotion from Step 4. He is a commanding centre half who made 40 appearances last season.

DEVON KELLY-EVANS, midfield: joins the club from neighbours Kettering Town, where he was Player's Player of the Year last season. He is a tenacious but creative midfielder who impressed during pre-season.

CONNOR KENNEDY, midfield: having played for Kettering Town and Peterborough Sports Connor has proved to be a great capture by the club, now in his third season. He gives us possession and drive in the centre of the park and scores goals too.

ROBERT MORGAN, midfielder: a hugely influential central midfielder who signed from AFC Stamford last season, where he was club captain. Made a massive contribution in the race to the playoffs last season.

BRADY HICKEY, midfielder: an excellent capture by 'The Bees' in the close season after spending 10 years at neighbours Barwell, where he showed his quality as a goal scoring attacking midfielder. He scored 18 goals last season in a side destined for the bottom four.

TERREL PENNANT, forward: a pacy and skilful wide man signed recently from Alfreton Town. He began his career at Leicester City and has played at Coalville Town, Rushall Olympic and Kettering Town

JUTORRE BURGESS, midfielder/forward: a young player who was the first to make the move from the HTFC Development Squad. A quick and alert player who hails from Bermuda, who made the transition to senior football amazingly well last season, making 39 appearances.

BEN STEPHENS, midfielder/forward: joined the club from Step 2 club Kings Lynn Town last season and was excellent being leading scorer with 20 goals. A versatile player who can play in any of the front and midfield roles.

DAN FORBES, defender/midfield/attack: a long serving HTFC player, now in his 11th season with 250 appearances, he is really versatile, from wing back to forward.

RILEY O'SULLIVAN, midfielder/forward: a quality attacking player who joined Town from Spalding United last season. He is quick scores goals and plays the game with real attitude, never giving defenders a minute's rest.

LUIS ROSE, midfielder/forward: in his second spell at Harborough, he has proved to be real asset to the club playing anywhere in the top half he creates and scores goals, whilst working incredibly hard.

JORDON CRAWFORD, midfielder/forward: a quality player who has played for Kettering Town, Boston United and Brackley Town and returned to the club where his career began last season. He was hugely influential in our promotion team but sadly damaged his ACL in the play-off Final and missed last season.

DAVID KAMARA, forward: an exciting young forward who is on a season long loan from Peterborough United. He can play down the middle or as a no. 10.

DANNY NEWTON, forward: our second signing from Brackley Town for this season. Danny is a proven goal scorer who has played Step 1 football and his goals were influential in 'The Saints' promotion to the National League last season.

DEMPSEY ARLOTT-JOHN, attacking midfield: rejoined the club from Brackley Town during last season. He is an attacking wide player with an eye for goal.

The Record against Harborough

Sporting have only played Harborough Town three times. Twice last season when the Bees won 2 - 0 at their end and a 1 - 1 draw here in Bromsgrove.

Earlier this season on 18th October at the Community Football Ground, the match finished 1 - 0 to the hosts with a 67th minute goal from substitute Riley O'Sullivan. 732 spectators were in attendance.

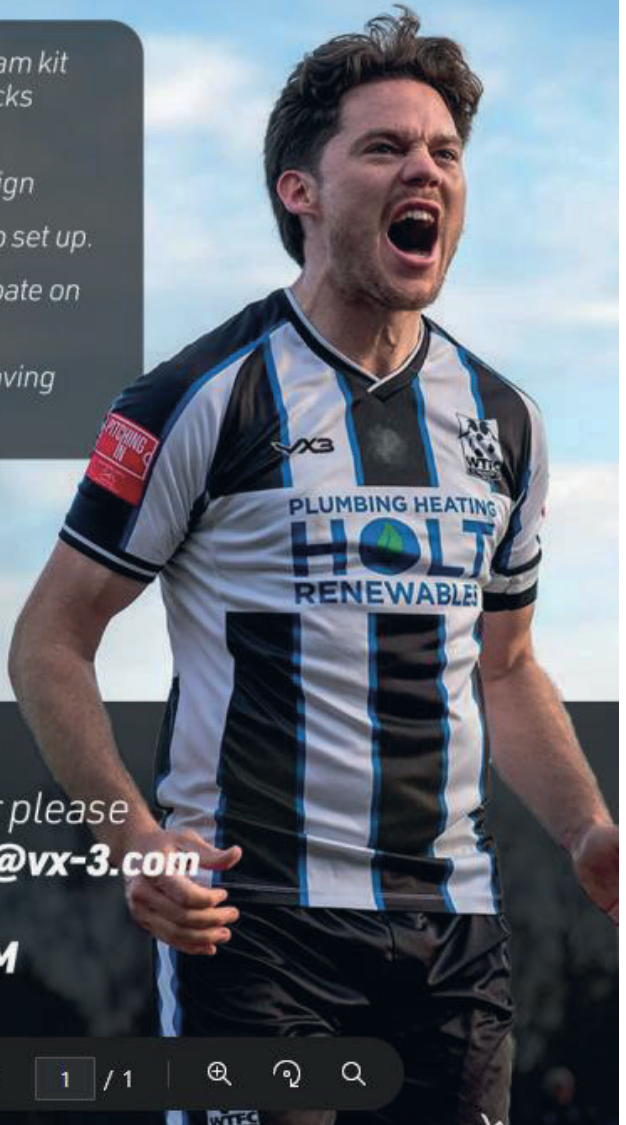
We have no record of Bromsgrove Rovers having played any matches against a Harborough side.

VX3

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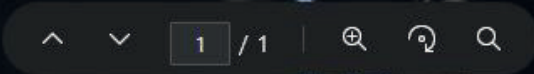
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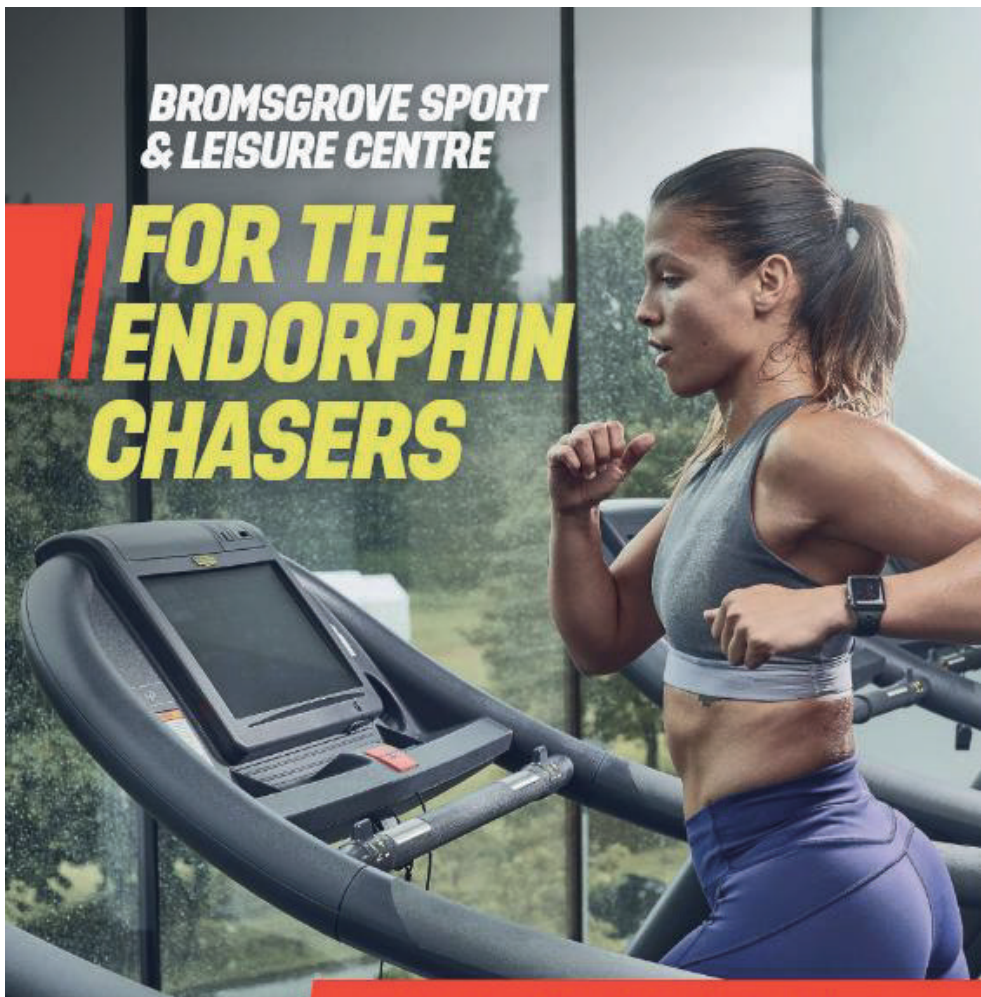
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Celebrating The Most Remarkable Almost-One-Club Players In Football

"Ian Muir played 95% of his games for Tranmere," writes Robert Abushal. **"One-club players aside, who's the closest to 100% without being 100%?"**

One-club men and women are among football's more celebrated groups, the players who dedicated their entire career to one particular cause. Athletic Club give out the One Club Man and One Club Woman awards each year; the list of recipients include Paolo Maldini, Matthew Le Tissier and Malin Moström.

There's no such recognition of Almost One Club Men and Women, unless you count answers in one-newspaper trivia columns. (The Knowledge has no comment to make on reports that we turned down a small-money move to a rival broadsheet in 2005.) We had dozens of answers to this question - thanks to all of you - so let's count them down in ascending order of One Clubness.

First, a couple of bits of housekeeping:

1. We haven't included non-league teams, which rules out Paul Scholes (three games for Royton) and Le Tissier (Eastleigh) among others. We've also excluded Hamburg legend Uwe Seeler, whose one appearance for Cork Celtic was in a sponsored event.
2. Data on appearances for individual players can vary from source to source, particularly for older players. We made a judgment call in each case, so the figures may only be 99.82% correct. But that's appropriate for this question, right? Right?

97.51% Gabby Agbonlahor (401 appearances: 2 Watford, 8 Sheffield Wednesday, 391 Aston Villa)

Agbonlahor went on loan to Watford and Sheffield Wednesday at the start of his career.

97.63% David Narey (886 appearances: 865 Dundee United, 21 Raith Rovers)

97.78% Manny Kaltz (754 appearances: 722 Hamburg, 1 Bordeaux, 16 Mulhouse, 15 Hamburg)

98.38%* Thomas Müller (804 appearances, 791 Bayern Munich/Bayern Munich II, 13 Vancouver Whitecaps)

Müller is still with Vancouver Whitecaps, so this percentage is likely to drop.



Thomas Müller greets Vancouver Whitecaps fans in August last year.

Photo: Rich Lam/Getty Images

98.63% David O'Leary (732 appearances: 722 Arsenal, 10 Leeds)

98.88% Daniele De Rossi (623 appearances: 616 Roma, 7 Boca Juniors)

99.01% Rogério Ceni (1,209 appearances: 12 Sinop, 1,197 São Paulo)

99.41% Lewis Dunk (512 appearances: 3 Bristol City, 509 Brighton)

Dunk also played eight games on loan at non-league Bognor Regis

99.58% Tom Finney (475 appearances: 473 Preston North End, 1 Toronto City, 1 Distillery)

99.62% John Ebbrell (266 appearances: 265 Everton, 1 Sheffield United)

99.69% John Atyeo (647 appearances: 2 Portsmouth, 645 Bristol City)

Atyeo also played for non-league Westbury United

99.81% Steve Death (538 appearances: 1 West Ham, 537 Reading)

99.82% Matt Bloomfield (558 appearances: 1 Ipswich, 557 Wycombe Wanderers)

"Current Oxford United manager **Matt Bloomfield** played for Wycombe Wanderers for 19 years, amassing 557 appearances in league and cup," writes Andy Carswell. "However, despite being known by fans as Mr Wycombe he actually started his career as a trainee at Ipswich Town, the team he supported as a boy. He made one League Cup appearance for them, meaning that 557 out of the 558 matches (or 99.82%) he played as a professional were for Wycombe."

Article courtesy of The Guardian

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Journalists - Be Wary of the Legendary Gordon Strachan



Gordon Strachan was always good for a quote. One has reached almost legend status, his comment on Eric Cantona's trawler and seagulls quote - *"If a Frenchman goes on about seagulls, trawlers and sardines, he's called a philosopher. I'd just be called a short Scottish bum talking crap."* However, reporters beware because if you ask him a silly question you were liable to get an answer you hadn't anticipated....

Reporter: "Bang, there goes your unbeaten run. Can you take it?"

Strachan: "No. I'm just going to crumble like a wreck. I'll go home, become an alcoholic and maybe jump off a bridge. Um, I think I can take it, yeah."

Reporter: "So, Gordon, in what areas do you think Middlesbrough were better than you today?"

Strachan: "What areas? Mainly that big green one out there!"

Reporter: "This might sound like a daft question, but you'll be happy to get your first win under your belt, won't you?"

Strachan: "You're right. It is a daft question. I'm not even going to bother answering that one. It is a daft question; you're spot on there."

Reporter: "Gordon, you must be delighted with that result?"

Strachan: "You're spot on. You can read me like a book!"

Reporter: "Any changes?"

Strachan: "Naw, still five foot six, ginger hair and a big nose"

Reporter: "Gordon, do you think James Beattie deserves to be in the England squad?"

Strachan: "I don't care, I'm Scottish."

Reporter: "You don't take losing lightly, do you Gordon?"

Strachan: "I don't take stupid comments lightly either."

Reporter: "Welcome to Southampton Football Club. Do you think you are the right man to turn things around?"

Strachan: "No. I was asked if I thought I was the right man for the job and I said 'No, I think they should have got George Graham because I'm useless.'"

Reporter: "Gordon, can we have a quick word please?"

Strachan: "Velocity" and he walks away!



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Photos from Recent Matches



Impressive home debut by George Wynne against Barwell. Photo: Chris Jepson



Tyrone Lewthwaite in good form last weekend against Stamford.

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Recent Results

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 24th January			Att
Alvechurch	1 - 3	Bury Town	269
Bishop's Stortford	0 - 2	Kettering Town	591
Bromsgrove Sporting	1 - 0	Barwell	527
Harborough Town	3 - 2	Leiston	533
Royston Town	1 - 2	Quorn	339
Spalding United	1 - 2	Banbury United	680
St Ives Town	0 - 4	Halesowen Town	325
Stamford	1 - 0	Needham Market	382
Stourbridge	0 - 1	Redditch United	704

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 27th January			
Banbury United	2 - 1	St Ives Town	345
Stratford Town	4 - 1	Bishop's Stortford	317

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 31st January			
Banbury United	1 - 0	Barwell	503
Harborough Town	3 - 0	Stourbridge	567
Leiston	1 - 1	Royston Town	154
Needham Market	1 - 3	Kettering Town	408
Quorn	0 - 1	Alvechurch	403
Real Bedford	4 - 1	AFC Sudbury	300
Redditch United	3 - 1	Halesowen Town	1,027
Spalding United	2 - 2	Bishop's Stortford	548
St Ives Town	1 - 2	Bury Town	326
Stamford	2 - 2	Bromsgrove Sporting	393
Worcester City	1 - 0	Stratford Town	946

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 3rd February			
Bury Town	1 - 1	Leiston	596
Needham Market	4 - 2	AFC Sudbury	322
Quorn	2 - 0	Stamford	260

Today's Matches

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

Forthcoming Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 10th February

Bishop's Stortford	v	Harborough Town
Royston Town	v	Bury Town
Stratford Town	v	Halesowen Town

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Friday 13th February

Redditch United	v	Barwell
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The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 14th February

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

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 17th February

Bishop's Stortford	v	Real Bedford
Bromsgrove Sporting	v	Alvechurch
Stamford	v	St Ives Town

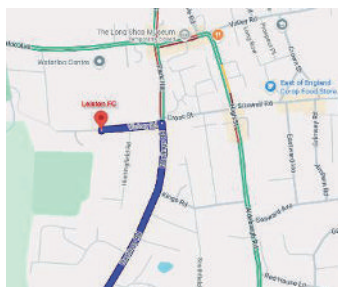
Sporting on the Road

Saturday 14th February, 3:00 p.m. kick-off

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central

Leiston vs Bromsgrove Sporting

Address: Victory Road, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4DQ



Directions: M42 from Bromsgrove then M6 south to A14. Exit at Needham market on to B1048. Merge on to A12 then after 3 miles turn tight on to Snape Road (B1069). After 2½ miles turn left on to Victory Road and the stadium.

180 miles from the Victoria Ground (about 3½ hours). Nearest Station is Saxmundham (on the Ipswich to Lowestoft line about 6½ miles). Bus 64 (operated by First) runs to Leiston High Street.

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Today's Teams

Bromsgrove Sporting		Harborough Town	
red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks		yellow shirts, yellow shorts and yellow socks	
Teams to be chosen from the following:			
1	Rory Brown (GK)	1	Elliott Taylor (GK)
2	Niall Flint	2	Dempsey Arlott-John
3	Jack Kelly	3	Jutorre Burgess
4	Max Asante-Boakye	4	George Carline
5	Aaron Roberts (Capt)	5	Jordon Crawford
6	Kyle Rowley	6	Liam Dolman
7	Billy Shaw	7	Dan Forbes
8	George Wynne	8	Brady Hickey
9	Luke Benbow	8	David Kamara
10	Brad Stretton	9	Devon Kelly-Evans
11	Koby Arthur	10	Connor Kennedy (Capt.)
12	Ethan Young	11	Rory McAuley
13	Charlie McNamara (GK)	12	Paul Malone
14	Tyrone Lewthwaite	13	Robert Morgan
15	Jack Newell	14	Alex Morris
16	Theo Robinson	15	Danny Newton
17	Luke Softley	16	Riley O'Sullivan
18	Jordan Lyden	17	Terrel Pennant
19	Archie Duerden	18	Eliot Putman
20	Akai Bonnick	19	Luis Rose
21	Jaden Charles	20	Ben Stephens
		21	James Taylor
			Josh Walsh
			Ben Williams

Match Officials

Referee:	Mr L Corbett
Assistant 1:	Mr S Hale
Assistant 2:	Mr T Flanagan

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