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VS WORCESTER CITY**

**SATURDAY 21ST
FEBRUARY 2026**

3:00 PM KICK-OFF

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Worcs B61 0DR

Incorporated 2009



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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

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Accountants: Taylor & Co.

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



A welcome to everyone, especially our friends the directors, management, players and fans from our near neighbours Worcester City.

We come into this game following a disappointing performance on the Tuesday evening against Alvechurch, when we went down 4 - 1. It was our first game under Tim Flowers' tenure that the lads have lacked any intensity.

Our opponents today however are the opposite. They come into the match a fine vein of form and it will be a very difficult challenge this afternoon, but one that we will hopefully respond too.

It will be nice to welcome back a few lads that were with us previously, especially Luke Rowe our former captain.

Off the field, we have all been excited that the consortium are just crossing the t's and dotting the i's on taking the controlling share interest in the club. This will then allow them to influence so many areas positively - improving the squad for next season, creating a commercial revenue stream outside of match days and also ground improvements creating a better match day experience.

This process started this week with ELONEX (one of the consortium's businesses) introducing a large digital screen in the ground with another planned. This system can facilitate greater advertising revenue as well as showing many various platforms for viewing experience such as previous games, goals, and player profiles.

Everyone is very enthusiastic for the future.

Here at the UK Electrical Stadium, we have a fantastic volunteer network, and they will all be part of the project going forward, in fact, we would welcome more of the community to come forward and get involved, please get in touch with me if you would like a chat?

Also today, we welcome back Michael Fellows Dance Group back for a half-time entertainment, we hope you all give them an encouraging round of applause.

Enjoy the game and safe journey home.

Rod

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Manager - Tim Flowers



Good afternoon everybody and as with the chairman, my welcome to Worcester City for our Southern League match today!

Starting with last Tuesday's match against Alvechurch that was hugely disappointing and for me an unacceptable performance across the whole game.

Unfortunately, we did not get to the ball fast enough and did not put them under any sort of pressure and then we conceded soft goals.

I went home very dejected and from now on we clearly need a massive reaction from the players so I will be insisting on commitment and a big work effort today.

Worcester City have acquainted themselves well with this level of football after gaining promotion last year. They have had a steady season, bought in a number of good players and giving it a good go. They will probably consider themselves possible candidates for the play offs and to go up to the next level.

We shall be fully aware of the threat that they pose as they are powerful and capable outfit, basically a good side.

Player wise, we lost Billy Shaw to a hamstring injury on Tuesday. He picked it up when playing Stamford three weeks ago and thought he was okay but obviously it went again and we shall miss him, but it is now up to other players to step up to the plate. Max Asante-Boakye has a hip injury and is back with Sheffield United having treatment so I am unsure when we will see him again. Otherwise hopefully I have a fully-fit squad.

It is the first time that we have entertained Worcester City here for a few years and a big crowd is expected so let's hope it is a good match and a positive outcome.

Tim

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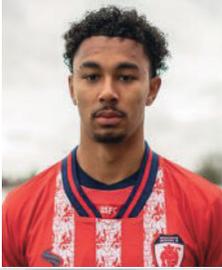


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Meet the Rouslers (1)

	<p>Tim Flowers <i>Manager</i> Bromsgrove Dog Walking & Pet Services</p> 		<p>Leon Broadhurst <i>Assistant Manager</i> Sponsored by Tim Reeb, who lives in New Jersey, USA</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



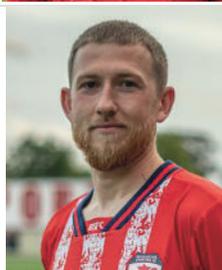
Jaden Charles
Defender
Sponsored by Kevin Baggott



Archie Duerden
Defender
Available for sponsorship



Niall Flint
Defender
Sponsored by JAK Projects & Services



Jack Kelly
Defender
Sponsored by the Sidewinders



Tyrone Lewthwaite
Striker
Sponsored by our accountant Sarah Lammass of



Ellis Litherland
Goalkeeper
Available for sponsorship



Jordan Lyden
Midfielder
Sponsored by Rich Holliday in awareness of



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Meet The Rouslers (3)



Jack Newell
Defender/Midfield
Sponsored by
Kevin Baggott



Aaron Roberts
Defender
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Accountants



Theo Robinson
Striker
Sponsored by
James Freeman at
Smiles Turkey UK



Kyle Rowley
Defender
Sponsored by our
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Curtis



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



Luke Softley
Defender
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Brad Stretton
Midfielder
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George Wynne
Midfielder
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Rebel Rousler
Club Mascot

Profile:
Tyrone Lewthwaite
Striker



Birthplace and Date of Birth?	Aylesbury, 18/12/00 (age 25)
Height, weight?	6' 5", 100kg
Left or right footed?	Right
Previous clubs?	Rotherham United, Hampton & Richmond, Aylesbury United, Bedford Town, Kettering Town.
Best moment playing football?	Scoring a hat-trick vs Slovakia for Northern Ireland Under 19s
Biggest influence on your career?	My Granddad
Which team do you support?	Arsenal
Favourite all-time player?	Thierry Henry
Best player you have played against?	Kai Havertz
Favourite position on the pitch:	Striker
What boots do you wear?	Adidas F50s
What football law would you change?	Defenders going over too easily
Which team do you most like to beat?	Redditch United
Nickname in the changing room?	Ty
Do you play any other sports?	Bowling
Married, single?	Girlfriend
Pets?	Milo - Shih Tzu
Where do you live?	Aylesbury
Job outside football?	Sales
What car do you drive?	Mercedes
Favourite food?	Pizza
Favourite drink?	Tea
Favourite biscuit?	Custard Creams
Favourite TV programme?	The Walking Dead
Favourite Film?	Pursuit of Happiness
Favourite actor or actress?	Leonardo di Caprio
Favourite band or singer?	Drake
Favourite Album or Single?	Views - Drake album
Guilty Pleasure?	Banana cake
Least like to sit next to on an aeroplane?	Luke Softley
Put in Room 101?	Coleslaw
Favourite Holiday destination?	Barcelona
Top of bucket list?	Living in another country - Having a family - Playing at Wembley
Clain to fame?	Met Trent Alexander-Arnold at a party in Marbella Shared a room with Jadon Sancho in Portugal and Switzerland for academy tours at Watford Met Jurrien Timber playing on the next bay to me at Top Golf



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From The Archives, 10 Years Ago

Midland Football League Division One - Saturday 20th February 2016 - 3:00 p.m. kick-off

Heather St Johns 0 (0) Bromsgrove Sporting 4 (2) at St John's Park

As the scoreline suggests this match was a comfortable win for the Rouslers despite having to contend with a heavy pitch and swirling wind.

There was little between the two teams for the first 27 minutes as both struggled with the conditions and a close-marking game plan by both sides. However, as often happens at this level of football, a touch of inspiration in this case by Sporting's Jack Wilson changed the course of the game. Playing at left-back he chipped a well-placed ball into the box from around 35 yards out only to see his effort float over 'keeper Ben Allsop's head into the back of the net. A bit of help from the wind perhaps but a goal nevertheless.

Two minutes later Sporting doubled their lead as Sean Brain managed to find himself some space on the left, beating two defenders before hitting home a low, angled shot that found its way in the narrow gap between Allsop and the post.

Heather now needed to open their game up and could not just play to contain their opponents and were unlucky not to get on to the scoresheet themselves on the 39th minute when lively right-winger Rami Tekle had a good run down the right before his shot hit the angle.

Five minutes after the break, Sporting got their third. This time it was a well-worked move starting with Wilson on the left who knocked over a cross to Will Tibbetts in the middle of the box, he laid the ball back to an unmarked Sam Wills who gave Allsop no chance from 15 yards out.

Heather attempted to get back into the match but often found the Sporting back four in their way. When they did make any progress, they found that luck was not on their side as again they hit the woodwork, this time Deqwon Ebanks against the bar on 73 minutes after making a good run down the right.

Sporting though were well in control but legs were beginning to tire on the soft surface and the pace of the game slackened. Both sides used up all their substitutions though it was Connor Collins for the visitors who had the biggest impact when he scored the best goal of the afternoon on 80 minutes. The lanky striker picked the ball up out wide ran square for a few yards before picking his spot and unleashing a powerful drive from 25 yards that curved nicely into the top right-hand corner of the net just beyond Allsop's fingertips.

Just to complete a miserable afternoon for the home side, frustration got the better of Eddie Wilson with three minutes of normal time left when he deservedly received a red card for a late and dangerous tackle on Brendan Kelly.

Although referee Mr Croston play five minutes of added time, Sporting were unable to add to the scoreline but with Coventry United not playing, the result sends them back to the top of the table, one point ahead of their rivals but a couple of games in front.

In summing up, manager Paul Smith said, "This was a good performance and we worked our socks off. Once we had the lead there was no going back".

Heather: Ben Allsop, Jordan Burrows, Jordan Taylor, Harry Reece (David Williams 80 mins), Daniel Wain, Conor Wright, Rami Tekle (Jack Jepson 66 mins), Luke Pinnock (Capt.), Deqwon Ebanks, Eddie Wilson, Dominic Oliver (Kyle Bishop 75 mins). Substitutes not used: Sam Carline, Fibrom Kilman.

Sporting: Chris Jay, Aaron Roberts, Jack Wilson (Brendan Kelly 69 mins), Nathan Walker, Craig Jones (Capt.), Jake Willcox, Will Tibbetts (Connor Collins 61 mins), Dale Edwards, Liam Spink, Sam Wills (Kyle Turner 61 mins), Sean Brain. Substitutes not used: Reece Hewitt, Simon Fitter.

Referee: Mr I Croston (Coventry), Assistants: Mr P Tapp (Coventry), Mr K Wright (Burton-on-Trent)

Crowd: 103 Weather: Windy, damp Sporting Man of the Match: Liam Spink



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We welcome Martin Roche, Executive Manager for Commercial Waste and his colleagues to the UK Electrical Stadium today.

Rover's historians Michael Tovey and Graham Reynolds continue their journey through 140 years of Bromsgrove football, choosing their player of the decade for the 1960s.

The 1960s began in uncertain fashion for the Rovers as Eric Jones, who led the team to an unprecedented treble in the 1959/60 campaign, left to manage Dutch Second Division side De Graafschap. Club legend Joe Wainwright, who had previously been looking after the Reserve team, was the man the Committee turned to in order to steer the ship. In his first season in charge, he secured a runners-up spot in the Birmingham & District League and a seventh appearance for the club in the Worcestershire Senior Cup final, where they went down 4-2 on aggregate to Worcester City. He kept the side comfortably in the top half of the league for the next three years with 3rd, 7th and 4th place finishes, but the cracks were beginning to show. Attendances were down to below 300 and in 1964/65 Joe endured swingeing cuts to the budget. Despite this, he still delivered a creditable 6th place finish. 1965/66 saw a reorganisation of Midlands' non-league football, with the Rovers now plying their trade in the West Midlands League Premier Division, the Birmingham & District League having changed its name to the West Midlands League three years earlier. The financial situation at the club was really taking its toll though, attendance had continued to drop and in February, the club shocked the football community by terminating Joe's contract. Chairman David Hughes said at the time "We shall continue without a manager, we simply can't afford one." Harking back to the pre-war days, a selection committee once more picked the side. The club ended the season in 12th spot, their worst finish since the resumption of football in 1945/46. Things took a turn for the better in 1967/68 with the arrival of Gil Merrick as manager. Gil was a massive name in the game, an ex-England international and longtime Birmingham City goalkeeper. He also managed "the Blues" from 1960 to 1964. His first campaign saw him guide the Rovers to a mid-table finish and the final of the West Midlands League Cup. The following season they reached two more cup finals, both against Kidderminster Harriers. The Harriers came out on top in the Worcestershire Senior Cup, although strangely the Camkin Cup was shared after the two sides were unable to be separated over two legs. As they often seemed to, the decade ended on a positive note with Rovers claiming the runners-up spot in the West Midlands League.

On the playing front, Norman Williams, Frank Bolton and Arthur Wainwright, three stalwarts from the 1950s, all finished their careers during the decade. Catshill's Mick O'Mahoney amassed 139 appearances, primarily from left-back, whilst fellow fullbacks Johnny Innocent and Dennis Isherwood both racked up over 100 appearances themselves. In the half-back line, Trevor Thomas and Sid Nicholls made 198 and 155 appearances respectively. Ray Howell progressed from the Reserve team to the Firsts and went onto have a wonderful non-league career, still playing competitively for Moor Green over twenty years after he made his debut for Bromsgrove. Another local

lad and centurion, Gordon Vine from Stoke Prior, caused defences all manner of problems with his wing-play, whilst inside him, Terry Wood was the perfect attacking foil, ending his time at the Rovers with a more than respectable 115 goals from 173 starts. Talking of goals, the 1960s bore witness to two of the club's finest ever goal scorers in John "Donkey" Bayliss and Maurice Hackett. Their totals of 145 and 179, and Bayliss' was at a goal-a-game average, were only bettered by a handful of players. The pull of Gil Merrick was so strong that he even lured internationals Norman Deeley, Mike Hellawell and Graham Leggat to the Victoria Ground. Hellawell especially deserves mention as he lived in Keighley, Yorkshire - where he ran a newsagents with his wife - and it was a 288-mile round trip for each home match, a journey he often made multiple times a week. When you consider he made 163 appearances for the Rovers, that is some going. The latter years of the decade saw the debuts of Alan Craddock, John L. Dyer and John Wood, all of whom would feature heavily for the club during the 1970s. Even amongst all these fantastic players and servants, one man stands out above the rest, our 'Player of the Decade' for the 1960s, goalkeeper Chris Hooper.



Chris was born on 11 March 1942 and as a child lived in Kings Norton. On leaving school, he signed for Birmingham City, first playing in the Fourth team in October 1959, as a 17-year-old. He soon progressed to the Thirds and was part of the team that lifted the Warwickshire Combination Camkin Cup in September 1960, beating West Bromwich Albion 3-1 at St Andrews. Sadly, misfortune was around the corner. In November 1960, First team keeper Johnny Schofield fractured his skull and Colin Withers, who himself was battling injury, was promoted from the Reserves to replace him. Chris was an absolute shoe-in for reserve team football, but it was not to be. In a match just three days later, he fractured his ankle in two places, which required a pin to be inserted in the ankle to keep it straight, and that unfortunately was the end of his dreams of a future in the professional game. He reflected some years later, "Gil Merrick was the manager at Blues then, but I never found out whether or not I could have made it."

Following a long and arduous recovery, Chris was loaned to Bromsgrove near the start of the 1961/62 season, his first appearance being for the Reserves against Walsall Wood in the Worcestershire Combination on 19 August 1961. After the Rovers exited the FA Cup at the hands of Sankey's and then lost their unbeaten league run to Brierley Hill Alliance a week later, Joe Wainwright decided to ring the changes and Chris was promoted to the First team. It was a bold move by the Manager as Jack Lewis had played 170 out of a possible 171 matches since he joined the club. Chris' debut came against Evesham United on 14 October 1961. It can't be described as a dream debut as the Rovers lost 3-1, with Chris mishandling a corner and gifting Evesham one of the goals. While Joe also looked at Tony Avery as a potential replacement, he must have been convinced of Chris' talents and by the end of the season he was the regular first choice keeper. The loan arrangement was soon made permanent and Chris became the undisputed number one, a role he kept until 1974.



Chris' consistent performances no doubt greatly helped the Rovers as they managed a series of top half finishes in the first half of the decade. In the summer of 1965, it seemed likely that Chris would move on, with Rovers receiving approaches from Stourbridge, Dudley and the Nuneaton Borough manager Fred Badham even stating, "I shall probably be signing Chris." However, in the end, Chris decided to remain at the Victoria Ground. His loyalty to the club was then without question. Speaking in 1970, he said, "I had an offer from Walsall and from other Southern League clubs. But I have been happy at Bromsgrove, the soccer is good, so are the amenities."

Throughout the rest of the 1960s and into the 1970s, Chris missed very few matches. This was made even more remarkable as it was a period when the Rovers were playing a huge number of games each year, with the team playing in the Midland Floodlit League and the Camkin Cup in addition to the usual competitions. In 1968/69 he clocked up 69 appearances, bettering that in 1970/71 with 70. No one ever played more games in a single season for the Rovers than Chris did that year.



Chris played in all the cup finals Rovers reached in the late 1960s, the one that probably gave him the most satisfaction would be the 1968/69 Camkin Cup final. When speaking of the strikers he most admired during his career, Chris mentioned Ron McDermott of Bilston, Chic Bates of Stourbridge and Peter Wassall of Kidderminster. Wassall was an amazing goal scorer for the Harriers notching a club record 65 goals in the 1968/69 season and it was the Harriers who the Rovers faced in that Camkin Cup final. With the tie level at 3-3 in the last minute of extra time in the second leg, Bobby Thomson upended Brendan Wassall and Kidderminster were awarded a penalty. As the *Worcester Evening News* reported, "Peter Wassall took the penalty and blasted the ball to his right, but Hooper with a miraculous dive caught it cleanly and cleared." The save gave the Rovers a share of the trophy - no penalties in those days.

By the turn of the decade, he had long surpassed Frank Skitt's record for most appearances by a goalkeeper and was granted a testimonial by the club. A West Midlands League XI was to take on a Midlands All-Star XI at the Victoria Ground on 16 December 1970, but the match was called off at the last minute as electricity authorities couldn't guarantee power for the floodlights! This was the second time Chris' testimonial had been postponed, the weather putting pay to it the season before. The match did eventually take place in January 1971. The All-Stars side included an array of Blues players, including Malcolm Beard who had been a teammate of Chris' from his time at St Andrews, as well as former England international Peter Broadbent, who had signed for the Rovers two months earlier. The West Midlands XI included his old adversaries Bates and Wassall alongside current teammates Mick Gwynne, John Wood and Brian Taylor. A crowd of 1,500 turned out to see the All-Stars triumph 6-5. The match raised £450 for Chris, a very tidy sum back in 1971, probably worth around £9,000 in today's money!



Season 1971/72 saw Chris complete 150 consecutive appearances for the club - a run which ended at 156 - and the following year he broke Arthur Wainwright's all-time appearance record. He was awarded the 'Player of the Year' trophy at the 1972/73 end of season awards at the Perry Hall Hotel and in August 1973 he played his 600th game for the Rovers, where he fittingly kept a clean sheet in a 0-0 draw with Kidderminster. But his time at the club was drawing to a close. He was by now struggling with spinal arthritis and the 1974/75 season turned out to be his last. Dudley Hicklin had replaced him as first choice keeper mid-way through the campaign but Chris continued to play for the Reserves. In a superb gesture and tribute, he was recalled to the First team for the final league game of the season. And at the Victoria Ground on 22 April 1975, nigh on 14 years after his debut, he signed off with a 3-2 victory over Milton Keynes City. By the time he hung up his gloves, he had made 686 recorded first team appearances - a number which is no doubt a few shy due to information that has been sadly lost to time - and all-told, including friendlies, testimonials and reserve team games he would have represented the club close to 750 times.

It can't be overstated what a wonderful player Chris was for the Rovers. It is probably best summed up in comments made by his teammate Alan Craddock in the *Victoria Ground Story* book, "Chris was the finest goalkeeper playing in non-league football in that period. He was a great shot-stopper, and like all outstanding goal keepers was very courageous and sustained many bad knocks through diving at the feet of oncoming forwards. Chris was as hard as nails as many opposing attackers found out when they bounced off Chris when they tried to shoulder charge him."



The respect in which Chris was held was also shown in 1977 when the club put on a benefit game for him. He had been struggling with the arthritis which had ended his career, and funds from this game went to help fund twelve months of intensive treatment to help with his ailment. "It was the opinion of the directors that Chris should not think he has been forgotten by Bromsgrove Rovers," said Secretary Sid Cross at the time. "He was a very loyal player and we hope that we have been of some assistance."

After his retirement Chris remained a keen follower of the Rovers and Bromsgrove Sporting and he often attended matches up until the last few years. He passed away on 2 November 2025.

Chris Hooper, Bromsgrove Rovers' greatest goalkeeper, 1961-1975. 686 appearances. Second on the all-time appearance list, behind Shaun O'Meara

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	Gillet From £30-00		Home 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	31	20	7	4	81	37	+44	67
2	Harborough Town	27	19	6	2	52	21	+31	63
3	Real Bedford	27	17	5	5	54	28	+26	56
4	Quorn	30	15	5	10	59	47	+12	50
5	Needham Market	29	14	6	9	45	39	+6	48
6	Redditch United	29	14	4	11	42	41	+1	46
7	Halesowen Town	28	12	9	7	53	43	+10	45
8	Leiston	31	11	12	8	51	44	+7	45
9	Banbury United	28	13	5	10	41	37	+4	44
10	Worcester City	29	11	8	10	45	30	+15	41
11	Kettering Town	27	12	5	10	46	40	+6	41
12	Stratford Town	27	12	5	10	41	37	+4	41
13	Bury Town	30	11	7	12	41	39	+2	40
14	Bishop's Stortford	29	10	6	13	43	48	-5	36
15	St Ives Town	30	8	8	14	38	51	-13	32
16	Alvechurch	26	9	4	13	29	33	-4	31
17	Bromsgrove Sporting	30	8	7	15	37	56	-19	31
18	Barwell	29	7	8	14	36	48	-12	29
19	Stamford AFC	29	7	6	16	23	49	-26	27
20	Stourbridge	29	5	11	13	36	52	-16	26
21	AFC Sudbury	30	5	7	18	36	75	-39	22
22	Royston Town	31	3	9	19	30	64	-34	18

Table as at Tuesday 17th 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	14-Feb	3:00 PM	A	Leiston	Southern League	D 1 - 1	201	31	16	Ellis Litherland
Tue	17-Feb	7:45 PM	H	Alvechurch	Southern League	L 1 - 4	595	31	17	-
Sat	21-Feb	3:00 PM	H	Worcester City	Southern League					
Sat	28-Feb	3:00 PM	H	AFC Sudbury	Southern League					
Mon	2-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					
Tue	17-Mar	7:45 PM	H	Harborough Town	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		21	7		1			3	1							24	24				24	24			
Max Asante-Boakye		1	1				1									1	1	1				1	1		
Luke Benbow	12	9			5	1	2	7	2	1						12	11	23	2	7	12	11	23	7	
Freddie Boakye	4				1											4	4				4			4	
Akai Bonnick	2	2					1									2	2	4	1		2	2		4	
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		2	1													2	2					2			2
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	
Niall Flint	5				1											5	5				5			5	
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	17	3			3	4	2									19	3	22	4		19	3		22	
Reece King	10	5		10	4	2	2	1			2					12	6	18	2		59	6	65	5	
Tyrone Lewthwaite	8						3									8	8	3			8			8	3
Ellis Litherland	2															2	2				2			2	
Jordan Lyden	11	5	2		3	1	1	1	1		1		1			12	5	17	1	1	17	18	35	1	
Paul McCone	3				1	1										3	3				3			3	
Charlie McNamara																					1			1	
Bo Morris	5	1	2		1			1								6	1	7			7	4	11		
Taylor Morrison	1		2													1	1				1	3	4		
Jack Newell	21	2	2		1	1	1	3	1					1		24	3	27	1	2	117	29	146	8	
Charlie Pavey	11	1	1		3	2	3	3						1		14	1	15	3	3	14	1	15	3	
Aaron Roberts	23	1		7	3	1	1	3				1				26	1	27	1		341	15	356	23	
Theo Robinson		5					1									5	5	1			31	18	49	13	
Kyle Rowley	6															6	6				6			6	
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	29	1		6	7	3	5	4						1	2	33	1	34	4	7	82	12	94	11	
Luke Softley	25		2		8		2	4				1	1			29	29	1	2		29			29	2
Bradley Stretton	11	9	2		1	3	1	1								12	9	21	3	1	12	9	21	1	
Aksun White	4		1					1								5	5				68	17		85	
George Wynne	6	1			3		1									6	1	7	1		6	1	7	1	
Ethan Young	3							1								4	4				4			4	
Own Goal							1												1						

Up to and including Tuesday 17th 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.

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.

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.

Ellis Litherland Squad Number: 13 DoB: 5/5/04, Blackburn

Position: Goalkeeper Height: 6' 3"

Previous clubs: Bolton Wanderer, Bamber Bridge, Matlock Town, Huddersfield Town

Currently on loan from Huddersfield Town. Awarded Player of the Match on his debut, after a string of fine saves.

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.

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

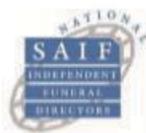
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"A family concern"

Thanks to Steve Richards for doing the quizzes again this season
Here is number 17. In advance of the World Cup being played this summer, here
are a few questions on the 1966 World Cup

1. Nicknamed 'The Black Pearl' who was the top scorer in the 1966 World Cup with 9 goals.
2. Who was the only non-European or American country to take part in the 1966 World Cup?
3. Which Liverpool player appeared for England in the 1966 World Cup group stages against France but didn't play for them again until 1977, the longest such interval for any England player?
4. Geoff Hurst famously scored a hat-trick in the final, who scored England's other goal?
5. What was the name of the dog who found the Jules Rimet trophy after it had been stolen ahead of the tournament?
6. According to the 1990s Nike advertising campaign, '66 was a great year for English football' because who was born?

Answers: 1) Eusebio 2) North Korea 3) Ian Callaghan 4) Martin Peters 5) Pickles 6) Eric Cantona

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The Non-League Paper provides a column for club programmes each week. Here is this week's contribution is from Chris Dunlavy.

CHARLIE Wyke must be the bravest, but also unluckiest, footballer going. Four years ago, the striker, now at Carlisle United, suffered a heart-attack during a training session for Wigan Athletic and actually died for four minutes. But that traumatic experience was nothing compared to the physical and mental anguish the 33-year-old has endured over the last 16 months. In October 2024, shortly after coming on as a substitute for Carlisle in a League Two match against Cheltenham, Wyke was felled by a heavy tackle from Luke Young.

"I broke my leg, dislocated my ankle, tore every ligament, damaged the cartilage - it was like six or seven different injuries in one," the former Bradford City, Sunderland and Rotherham striker exclusively told The NLP last week.

"I had multiple operations, screws and pins put in my leg. And the pain - I honestly can't describe it.

"Everybody knows about my cardiac arrest, and objectively that's 100 times worse. But there was no pain with that. I had to have a lot of tests, missed a lot of football. Day to day, though, it didn't really bother me.

"This was so much harder. I was battling the pain literally every day. I had to call an ambulance like three times because the pot on my ankle was too tight. At one point, I didn't sleep for six nights straight and started hallucinating.

"I'd been watching Black Mirror on Netflix and there was an episode where somebody turns into a werewolf. One night, I thought the werewolf was in my bedroom. I was screaming and shouting. I felt like I was going mad.

"On top of that, I had the surgeon telling me I was done. I went up to see him five or six times, and the message was always the same. He said 'You're 33, it's a massive injury - my advice is to retire immediately'.

"He said that nobody fully recovers from something like this, and even if I did get back to running and playing football then I'd struggle badly with arthritis for the rest of my life. You hear that, and your whole life just stops. It's been horrendous, absolutely horrendous."

Wyke defied his doctor's orders to continue a 14-year career that saw him score 130 goals in 358 EFL appearances, featuring in last month's 3-1 National League victory over Altrincham at Brunton Park. Or at least, it should have been emotional. Unfortunately for Wyke, part of the medication for managing his heart condition includes an adrenalin suppressant.

"The reception I got coming on, I should have been absolutely buzzing," he says. "But it's just a bit... different. It's the same when you score a goal. There isn't that rush.

"I think if I went on a rollercoaster these days, I'd just be sitting there bored, waiting for it to finish! It's a very strange feeling."

Sadly, he won't be back for long. Wyke may have won the battle, but acknowledges that the war is lost. He can barely train, suffers constant swelling and can't even manage half an hour of competitive action.

"I'll never be able to start a game again," he admits. "If you ask anyone who has been to the last few games, I can't even warm up properly. Coming on for five or ten minutes is just about alright. I could do 25 at a push. But if I did that my knee and ankle would swell up massive and I wouldn't be able to train for the rest of the week.

"So yeah, it goes without saying that my days are numbered. I'll probably go until the end of the season, then that will be me. It's not ideal. Nobody wants to retire, especially at 33. But as the surgeon said, you have to look at the bigger picture.

"My son Albie is six and he's mad into football. I've already missed a good 14 months of taking him to training, playing with him in the garden, all that sort of stuff. I don't want to be a 40-year-old dad who can't run around and can't play with my kids.

"Practically, as well, who is going to touch me? The gaffer here has been great, really understanding and supportive. But nobody is going to sign a player who can only play for ten minutes, especially with all the problems I've had."

So, a sad end to a promising career, but making that sacrifice for the sake of his son serves as a reminder to us all of the important things in life.

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Our Visitors Today - Worcester City



Worcester City Football Club was formed on 9th September 1902 when another Worcester-based club, Berwick Rangers, went into liquidation. The Birmingham League agreed to let City take over Rangers' fixtures.

The Club moved to St. George's Lane in 1905 and City's first honour was the Worcestershire Senior Cup, which was won for six successive seasons between 1908 and 1914. In the final season before World War 1 a Birmingham League and Senior Cup

double was achieved.

There was little success in the early post-war years, but eventually City began to attract some quality players and surprised everybody by winning a second Birmingham League title in 1924/25.

For 1928/29 City appointed a full-time player-manager, Frank Womack. City clinched the title for a third time with ten wins out of their last eleven matches. Womack was succeeded by Joe Smith, an ex-England and West Bromwich Albion full-back. 1929/30 season saw the title won again, City scoring an incredible 153 goals in 34 games.

In 1938 City joined the Southern League, winning the Southern League Cup in 1940 - it was wartime and City were able to field several Football League professionals as guest players!

Although crowds flocked to the Lane when football returned after the war, there was little success until 1957/58, when under player-manager Roy Paul, City took Aldershot to a second replay in the F.A. Cup First Round, going out at St. Andrews, Birmingham in front of a crowd of 22,926 - a record for a City game. The following year, City achieved a famous Cup result which is still talked about today. They first beat Millwall and then Liverpool - at the time playing in Division 2 - at the Lane before losing to Sheffield United in front of a record home crowd of 17,042 in Round 4.

City nearly went out of business in the early sixties, but supporters rallied to keep the Club afloat and were rewarded with some big-name signings. Players such as Peter McParland, Norman Deeley, Eddie Stuart, Ivor Allchurch and Gerry Hitchens all appeared in the blue and white shirt but it was not until the appointment of Nobby Clark as manager in December 1974 that the glory days truly returned.

The Southern League Division 1 North was won in 1976/77, with City gaining 69 points from a possible 76 and losing only one League match - the final one!

Two years later, the Southern League Premier Division title was won for the first time. In the F.A. and Welsh Cups, there were outstanding home wins over Plymouth and Cardiff and a draw at Newport County. City seemed destined for a tie at home to West Ham United in Round 3 of the Cup until a last-minute own-goal allowed Newport to level the replay. The visitors went through after extra time in front of a crowd of 10,223 - the last-ever five figure attendance at the Lane.

A crowd of 7,386 for the penultimate home game saw City beat their only rivals for the league title, Kettering Town, to clinch the Southern League Premier Division championship.

In 1979, City joined the newly-formed Alliance Premier League (Now the Football Conference) and finished third in its inaugural season. There were further F.A. Cup victories at home to Wrexham and Aldershot, but City were relegated in 1985.

There was little in the way of success in the 20 years that followed. In 2001 City won the Dr Martens Southern League Cup, and two City players - Adam Wilde and goalkeeper Danny McDonnell - were capped by England at semi-professional level, then in 2004 City became founder members of the Conference North. The following year they reached the second round of the F.A. Cup, losing 1-0 to Huddersfield Town at the Lane in a game televised live on the BBC. Huddersfield were drawn away to Chelsea in the next round.

In 2008, City switched to the Blue Square South, but after narrowly avoiding relegation in 2009/10 were back in the North after just two seasons.

2012 /13 was the final season at St George's Lane. The ground was sold for housing, but without a new stadium to move to City ground shared at Aggborough, the home of Kidderminster Harriers, for three seasons whilst The Supporters Trust worked to achieve a return to Worcester.

2014/15 proved to be one of the most memorable seasons in City's long history. On 9th November 2014 two goals from Sean Geddes earned a 2-1 win at the Ricoh Arena against Coventry City in the 1st Round of the F.A. Cup, backed by over 3,200 travelling supporters in a crowd of 8,439. The 2nd Round saw another memorable performance. City drew 1-1 draw away to Scunthorpe United, earning a replay in front of live TV cameras and a home crowd of 4,339. The replay ended 1-1 after extra time and it took an F.A. Cup record breaking shoot out for Scunthorpe to eventually go through 14-13.

The following season City again reached the First Round Proper of the F.A. Cup before bowing out 3-0 away at Sheffield United in front of a crowd of 11,108.

City left Aggborough in 2016, moving to play at Bromsgrove Sporting. City were relegated from the Vanarama Conference North in 2017, but the Board had already decided to withdraw from the league and as a result City were demoted by three Leagues to Step 5.

The Supporters Trust made a planning application to build a new ground at a local playing field, Perdisswell. It was refused by the City Council but the decision was overturned on appeal. Nevertheless the City Council made it clear they would not make the land available and City remained in exile, now playing in the Midland Football League. In February 2019 a decision was taken to become a supporter-owned Club. The Supporters Trust became majority shareholders and after months of negotiation the City Council finally supported the Club returning to Worcester, City becoming tenants at the Worcestershire F.A.'s Claines Lane headquarters in 2020. After finishing 4th in the Midland Football League in 2021/22 City endured an awful season the next year and were nearly relegated. However, two decisions were taken which would have a huge impact. Firstly, Worcester-born Chris Cornes was appointed as manager in November 2022 and he steered City away from the drop. Then in May 2023 supporters agreed to give successful local businessman Simon Lancaster a 51% majority stake in the Club.

The change in fortune was dramatic. City switched to the Hellenic League Premier Division for the 2023/24 season. Chris Cornes recruited many of the best local players and he led his team to the Club's first league title in 45 years. City were champions with a record 101 points, losing just one league game all season. They also won the Wiseman Floodlit Cup and reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Vase, where they lost in a penalty shootout. It was the best season that many City fans could remember and after 7 years at Step 5, City were promoted, moving up to play in the Northern Premier League for the first time in Club's history. In the 2024/2025 the club's fortunes continued on an upward scale. Firstly, they started the summer with winning a one-off cup final against Hereford Pegasus in the Herefordshire Senior Cup before later that season completing the county cup double, beating Alvechurch in the WFA invitational cup.

However, the season overall turned into a massive one for the club. In what was a stop start season, going on some good runs, but dropping points in games where they were expected to win, they somehow never fell out of the playoff positions and ended up stuttering their way into the semi-finals with a game to spare.

This is where the squad had their best performances, something every City fan knew was in the team, on their day, when they were on it, they could beat anyone in the league. And so, in the semi-final, away at Anstey Nomads, going into the game as underdogs, we scored inside the opening minutes to settle the nerves before adding a second later on in the half. From there the team controlled the game for large parts and dealt with anything thrown at them by the physical Anstey team.

The final was no different. Underdogs going to Corby Town in what would see the two best supported teams from the division lock horns. The first half was pretty uneventful and the teams went in at 0 v 0. The scoreline probably did more to boost the players confidence, on top of the semi-final win, and in the second half there only looked to be one winner. City would win a corner with Adam Mace whipping it in for Hayden Reeves to power a header towards goal, Zac Guinan on had to redirect in front of the goalkeeper.

City were in dreamland, and then suddenly a City attack saw Guinan and Miles combine, time seemed to stand still as Felix Miles slotted the ball home with 10 minutes left on the clock and promotion to step 3 was becoming a reality. Corby did pull one back to make the end a nervy one but the whistle blew and City completed back-to-back promotions and the players forever cemented their names in the club's history.

Worcester City - Profiles

Logan Stoddart

Another face who joined the Club during a big rebuild ahead of the 2023/2024 season. Logan is a right back and is formerly of Bishops Cleeve and Worcester Raiders. He is part of the squad who completed back-to-back promotions last season.

Charlie Wise

Charlie joined us last summer and was a mainstay during our promotion winning season. He joined us after stints at Evesham United and Banbury. The giant of a centre half is sure to make his presence known this season in the back line and is very experienced at the higher end of the non-league pyramid.

Paul Downing

Paul is a new face this summer following his departure from Kidderminster Harriers. An extremely experienced player who has played in the football league across several seasons, he will bring that much needed experience and know how across the defence for the coming season.

Paul is previously of Walsall, Milton Keynes Dons, Blackburn Rovers, Doncaster Rovers, Portsmouth, Hereford and Kidderminster Harriers.

Liam Lockett

Liam is a product of the Clubs youth system; the exciting forward man gets City fans on the edge of their seats every time he takes on his fullback with twists and turns. Liam was one of the club's top scorers in Step 5 but found things are little harder last season with competition for places so fierce. Liam also had short stints at Alvechurch FC and Bedworth United FC.

Izak Reid

Probably our most experienced player at the club. Izak is a tricky wide player who much like Lockett is brilliant in taking on his full back, provides valuable assists from wide positions. He is formerly of Morecambe, Macclesfield Town, Stafford Rangers, Hednesford Town, AFC Telford United and Brackley Town

Dan Sweeney

Dan is another new face for the 2025/2026 season. Much travelled centre forward who certainly knows where the back of the net is. He brings physicality across the front line which will be much needed in the higher step. He is previously of Kidderminster Harriers, Redditch United, Bromsgrove Sporting, Macclesfield Town and Alvechurch to name a few.

Kyle Belmonte

Kyle generally plays in midfield or the number 10 position. Kyle boasts Redditch United, Evesham United and Bewdley Town as former clubs. Another who loves to get on the ball and attack at pace, he will also take on a shot from anywhere that the opportunity exists....literally....from anywhere and picked up goal of the season in the NPL last season with his halfway line goal.

Felix Miles

Felix joined the Club in October 2024 from Hungerford Town. Another who became instrumental in our bid for promotion. His goals and assists were huge. He is a tricky number 10 with exceptional feet and a good passer of the ball and will be sure to look to kick on again this term.

Musa Ceessay

Musa joined us towards the end of August having left Redditch United at the end of last season. Without a club during the summer and pre-season he has taken some time to get up to speed. Instant hit with the supporters with his big physique and calmness on the ball in the centre of midfield. He is formerly of Wolverhampton Casuals, Halesowen Town and Redditch United.

Harry Burns

Harry is the Clubs most recent signing. The attacking midfielder joined us in October from league rivals, Halesowen Town. He is formerly of Bishops Cleeve, Dorchester Town and Gloucester City AFC. Made his debut in a 2 v 0 win against Bishops Stortford.

Connor Stanley

Connor joined the Club most recently in December 2025 from league rivals, Kettering Town. The pacey

wide man came through the youth ranks at Birmingham City before joining Manchester United in 2018 and was included in the Clubs squad in the Europa League under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Connor has had spells in non-league with Hereford United, Banbury United, Alvechurch and Stourbridge.

Charlie Lutz

Charlie recently joined us in December 2025 following the conclusion of the season and his contract at Cork City. The pacey wide man is a local lad who went through the Aston Villa academy from age 13 until the summer. He has followed in his dad's footsteps in playing for the club.

Luke Rowe

Luke returned to the club in December for a second spell following his spells at Bromsgrove Sporting, Stourbridge and AFC Telford. Luke captained AFC Telford to play off glory last season in this very league. He brings a calmness and experience in central midfield which will only help those around him.

Brandon Smalley

Brandon joined us in January 2026 on loan from Merthyr Town until the end of the season. A product of Leeds United academy, the forward had a spell in the USA at Ocean City and Florida Tech. He returned to England in 2021 and joined Evesham United before spells with Yate Town, Bromsgrove Sporting and Gloucester City before his move to Merthyr in July.

Matt Richards

Another recent arrival, the midfielder came up through the ranks at West Bromwich Albion making loan moves to Stourbridge, Alvechurch and Leamington. He joined Hereford in the summer of 2025 before his move to us in January.

Josh Ezeuele

The right back was another January addition. Josh joined us from neighbours, Bromsgrove Sporting. Another who came through the ranks at West Bromwich Albion, Josh joined Yeovil in 2017 where he then had a spell on loan at Kidderminster Harriers before making the move permanent. He joined AFC Fylde in July 2017 where he spent that season before going on to make moves to Alvechurch, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Spalding United and Bromsgrove Sporting.

The Record against Worcester

Sporting have played Worcester City just four times with two away games at the Victoria Ground when they were our tenants. In addition, Sporting won a pre-season friendly 3 - 2 in 2019. The competitive record is as follows:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Home	1	1	0	0	2	1
Away	3	0	1	2	5	9
Total	4	1	1	2	7	10

The last encounter was earlier this season when The Faithfull won 3 - 0 at Sixways Stadium. Former Rousler, Charlie Wise was on target on the 12th and 36th minute. Another former Sporting player, Dan Sweeney got the third from the penalty spot on 57 minutes. 899 fans were in attendance

Bromsgrove Rovers played Worcester City on many occasions. Our records go back to 1923, but it is likely that a number of matches were played before then. That record is as follows:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Home	40	21	7	12	83	57
Away	43	9	9	24	47	79
Total	83	30	16	36	130	136

The last match between the two sides was a pre-season friendly on 17th July 2007 that Rovers won 5 - 1 here in Bromsgrove. The last competitive game played was a Worcestershire Senior Cup Second Round match on 23rd November 2004 also here in Bromsgrove that rovers won 3 - 1 before a crowd of 202. Leon Mitchell grabbed a brace for Rovers with Paul Szweczyk getting the 3rd in added time. James Smith scored the only goal for City.

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The Football Supporters Association and MPs meet new regulator

Politicians from the FSA's football group met recently to quiz the new Independent Football Regulator's (IFR) chair and chief executive, as their work ramps up following the body's formation last year. Here is a report of the meeting.

We were pleased to welcome the IFR's David Kogan (chair) and Richard Monks (chief executive) to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters, chaired by Ian Lavery MP, to which the FSA acts as secretariat.

MPs and peers learned more about the IFR's operational priorities for 2026, core objectives, approach to supporter engagement, and more.

The IFR is a new entity created from scratch and with that comes a set-up period as offices are found and staff recruited.

Consultations with clubs and supporters' groups are ongoing.

David Kogan outlined his determination to ensure the IFR was engaged with both clubs and supporters with the ball rolling on that already – as well as meetings around the country the IFR's first conference was attended by almost every club under its remit (and the FSA).

The ability to act proactively was a big part of the conversation, as all parties recognised that if a club gets to the "crisis" stage as we've seen recently at Sheffield Wednesday, it's too late. The IFR will have data from the leagues which helps it intervene as needed and as defined by the legislation.

The regulator now has the power to investigate "unsuitable incumbents" while, from May this year, new owners, directors and senior executives will have to pass IFR tests.

One of English football's most contentious areas is that of financial distribution between the Premier League and EFL, which means the regulator's State of the Game report will be big news when it is released in spring 2027. A draft version is expected later this year.

The report will examine financial distributions between the leagues which threaten to unbalance club finances. While the Premier League and EFL "cliff edge" is the most discussed, it's also a concern for clubs between the EFL and National League. Broadcast revenues, player wages, club ownership, financial distributions and academy development are all within scope of the State of the Game analysis.

If an agreement between the leagues on financial distribution cannot be reached, the IFR has last-resort powers to intervene – this is sometimes referred to as the "backstop". Kogan and Monks were both clear that this wasn't a power they took lightly and the mechanism could only be triggered once a number of conditions were met.

Ticketing and matchday

While much of the discussion looked at these macro financial issues MPs were interested in how the regulator would approach matchday and ticketing issues.

IFR CEO Richard Monks outlined that, while ticket prices themselves weren't directly within scope, clubs did have a duty to show they had properly consulted supporters on any price changes – and that was something that could be reported and monitored via the FSA and supporter engagement protocols.

What is in IFR scope?

- The top five leagues (116 clubs);
- Financial regulation and distribution (via "backstop" mechanism);
- Strengthened owners and directors tests;
- Fan engagement requirements;
- Corporate governance code;
- Protections for club heritage;
- "Prohibited competitions" (e.g. domestic club involvement in a European Super League)

What is NOT in IFR scope?

- Clubs outside the top five leagues;
- Women's football
- TV / fixture / match scheduling
- Profit and Sustainability Rules / Squad Cost Ratio / Financial Fair Play (FFP)
- Sporting sanctions
- Ticket prices and customer service (although supporters are entitled to bring these issues up via supporter engagement consultations).

The FSA would like to put on record our thanks to the IFR's David Kogan (chair) and Richard Monks (chief executive) as well as all the MPs and peers who attended this joint event between the APPG for Football Supporters and Football APPG.

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Photos from Last Tuesday's Match Against Alvechurch



Another useful performance from George Wynne but not enough to gain any points



Goalmouth scramble with Tyrone Lewthwaite and Luke Softley. Photos: Chris Jepson.

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Recent Results

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

Bishop's Stortford	0 - 5	Real Bedford	
Bromsgrove Sporting	1 - 4	Alvechurch	595
Stamford	2 - 0	St Ives Town	337

Today's Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 21st February

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

Forthcoming Matches

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 23rd February

Barwell	v	Halesowen Town	
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The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 24th February

Alvechurch	v	Real Bedford	
Banbury United	v	Stratford Town	
Kettering Town	v	AFC Sudbury	

The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 28th February

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

Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies

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Today's Teams

<p>Bromsgrove Sporting red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks</p>	<p>Alvechurch blue & white striped shirts, blue shorts and blue socks</p>	
<p><i>Teams to be chosen from the following:</i></p>		
1	<i>Rory Brown (GK)</i>	
2	<i>Niall Flint</i>	<i>Sam Kane (GK)</i>
3	<i>Jack Kelly</i>	<i>Harley Price (GK)</i>
4	<i>Max Asante-Boakye</i>	<i>Josh Bailey</i>
5	<i>Aaron Roberts (Capt)</i>	<i>Kyle Belmonte</i>
6	<i>Kyle Rowley</i>	<i>Harry Burns</i>
7	<i>Billy Shaw</i>	<i>Musa Ceesay</i>
8	<i>George Wynne</i>	<i>Kyle Clayton</i>
9	<i>Luke Benbow</i>	<i>Paul Downing</i>
10	<i>Brad Stretton</i>	<i>Josh Ezeweke</i>
11	<i>Koby Arthur</i>	<i>Liam Lockett</i>
12	<i>Ethan Young</i>	<i>Charlie Lutz</i>
13	<i>Ellis Litherland (GK)</i>	<i>Felix Miles</i>
14	<i>Tyrone Lewthwaite</i>	<i>Izak Reid</i>
15	<i>Jack Newell</i>	<i>Matt Richards</i>
16	<i>Theo Robinson</i>	<i>Luke Rowe</i>
17	<i>Luke Softley</i>	<i>Brandon Smalley</i>
18	<i>Jordan Lyden</i>	<i>Connor Stanley</i>
19	<i>Archie Duerden</i>	<i>Logan Stoddart</i>
20	<i>Akai Bonnick</i>	<i>Dan Sweeney</i>
21	<i>Jaden Charles</i>	<i>Charlie Wise</i>

Match Officials

Referee:	Mr B Scott
Assistant 1:	Mr C Charles
Assistant 2:	Mr J Hodgson

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