

# THE BOUSLERS



THE **UK** ELECTRICAL STADIUM



V



**BROMSGROVE SPORTING  
VS REAL BEDFORD**

**SATURDAY 25TH  
APRIL 2026**

**3:00 PM KICK-OFF**

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
PREMIER DIVISION  
CENTRAL



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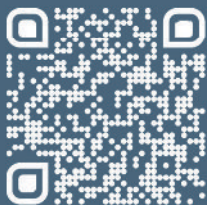


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# Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club

The Victoria Ground

**BROMSGROVE**

**Worcs B61 0DR**

**Incorporated 2009**



## ***CLUB DIRECTORS AND OFFICIALS***

*President: Jeff Rea*

*Chairman: Rod Brown*

*Vice-Chairman: Graham Scott*

*Football Secretary: Dave Stephens*

*Director of Football: Iain Queen*

*Operations: Simon Cadwallader*

*Safety: Rob McLaren*

*Facilities: David Sheppard*

*Head of Commercial and Hospitality: Anita Gemmell*

*Directors: Joe Amess, Beni di Luca*

*Commercial: Matt Foden, Peter Baker*

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

*Chaplain: Rev Steve Levett*

*Safety Officer: Simon Nichol*

*Crowd Doctor: Dr Jerome Wallington*

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

*Schools & Community Ambassador: Nirm Bassi*

*Accountants: TBA*

*Reception: Sandra Cable*

*Catering: Hangry Moose*

*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*

*Social Media & Website: Max Banner, Chris Curtis*

*Photos & Video: Chris Jepson, Rob Clarke*

*Tannoy: Adrian Fox, Chris Fox*

**Website:** [www.bromsgrovesporting.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrovesporting.co.uk)

**General enquiries email:** [hello@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk](mailto:hello@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk)

**Rouslers Bar Bookings email:** [barmanager@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk](mailto:barmanager@bromsgrovesporting.co.uk)

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

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Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club is the trading name of Bromsgrove Sporting Limited, a company limited by shares, company number 06997103. Bromsgrove Sporting Supporters Society Limited with 26.83% and Luke Sharkey with 10.02% of the shares own a significant interest in the company.

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

# ***CLUB HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS***

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

## ***BROMSGROVE SPORTING MANAGERS***

<b><i>Myles Day</i></b>	<i>2010</i>
<b><i>Stewart Brighton</i></b>	<i>2010 - 12</i>
<b><i>Keith Draper Snr</i></b>	<i>2012-13</i>
<b><i>Graham Scott</i></b>	<i>2013</i>
<b><i>Adrian Mander</i></b>	<i>2013 - 14</i>
<b><i>Les Palmer</i></b>	<i>2014</i>
<b><i>Paul Smith</i></b>	<i>2014 - 18</i>
<b><i>Brendan Kelly</i></b>	<i>2018 - 21</i>
<b><i>Gavin Hurren</i></b>	<i>2021 - 22</i>
<b><i>Thomas Baillie</i></b>	<i>2022</i>
<b><i>Mike McGrath</i></b>	<i>2022 -2024</i>
<b><i>Tim Flowers</i></b>	<i>2024</i>
<b><i>Paul Smith</i></b>	<i>2024</i>
<b><i>Scott Adey-Linforth</i></b>	<i>2024 - 2025</i>
<b><i>Tim Flowers</i></b>	<i>2025 -</i>

## ***BROMSGROVE SPORTING CHAIRMEN***

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

## From the Boardroom - Rod Brown, Chairman



Good afternoon and welcome to the UK Electrical Stadium today to all the directors, management, players and fans of Real Bedford for our final match of the season.

We come into this fixture having managed to secure our step three status with an excellent result at Stratford Town last Saturday.

All that praise must fall on the players but more importantly Tim (Flowers, manager), Leon (Broadhurst, assistant manager) and all the management staff for the terrific work and achievements. Well done all!

Real Bedford however, having only been promoted last season into this league are currently in a guaranteed play-off spot, a brilliant accomplishment. In fact, in the corresponding game at their ground back in January, we were given a footballing lesson; probably one of the best performances against us all season. Therefore, we wish them well in their play-off semi-final next week.

Today for us is a celebration on retaining our status, and once again it has been a difficult season at this level of football. However, On behalf of the board we are so excited about the future now that The consortium taking over the control of the club was concluded. Without their introduction, we would not be here today. Thank-you guys and now their vision can now start to be planned ahead for next season.

We are also celebrating our club's pathway today with a half-time parade around the pitch from players and coaches representing our colts', girls' and ladies' teams so please give them a warm response.

I would like to also thank our amazing volunteers for all their wonderful efforts throughout the season. Also, our fantastic sponsors and most importantly our amazing fans for your loyal support in what has been another challenging season.

And finally, I would like to recognise the great efforts and support of the board of directors throughout this season.

Enjoy the match today and safe journey home.

**Rod**

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## Manager - Tim Flowers



Good afternoon and welcome everybody, in particular our opponents today, Real Bedford?

My congratulations to them on gaining a play-off place coming third in the division in their first crack at this level of non-league football.

They have been outstanding all season and have taken some notable scalps. They have a number of very good players, play attractive football passing around well in mid-field and we know that as we hardly got a look at the ball when we played them at their end back in January.

Even with little to play for either side, this will be a tough match as both of us will want to finish the league season on a high note.

For ourselves, we secured our step three placing with an impressive victory last week at Stratford Town following that from the previous week at St Ives Town.

We were dominant across the 90 minutes especially in the first half when we could have been four or five up at the interval.

This performance though did not come about by chance but by hard work, commitment and application over the last month or so.

I have to give credit to the players who have had to perform in every game in recent weeks; they have been under a lot of duress and there have been no "free hits". There is a good team spirit and we have come up trumps just when it was needed particularly with our away matches. We of course would love to finish the season with another good performance today and hopefully a win.

The support at recent matches has been brilliant. We had a decent following at St Ives and last week at Stratford saw a huge turnout and that makes a big difference for the team. The noise and presence at the Arden Garages Stadium gave us just what we wanted and played a big part in pushing us over the line.

We have also had good crowds at home this season and with the new ownership and direction, hopefully we can build on that and push forward in a structured manner.

During the summer we shall be building for next season in retaining players and adding new faces to the squad. What we don't want next time round is to be scrapping and scraping around the bottom of the division again and we want to build a squad that will see us progress over the next 2/3 years.

By the time we meet again, I am hoping that those attending pre-season matches will start to see some of the changes we are planning to make.

I have that everybody has a good time today, an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you all for the next campaign.

# Tim

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## A bit about us...

Swallow Wholesale Drinks Solutions is a proud family-run business born and built in the West Midlands, recently celebrating 35 successful years as Birmingham's leading independent drinks wholesaler. With an impressive product portfolio consisting of Beers, Wine & Spirits, Ciders, Soft Drinks, Gas & Snacks, we distribute a vast range of premium brands to the on-trade across the city and its surrounding areas, providing solutions to each customer's individual drinks needs.

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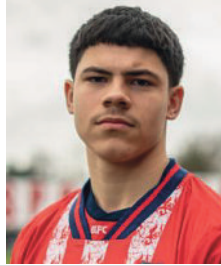
## Meet the Rouslers (1)

	<p><b>Tim Flowers</b>  <i>Manager</i>  <b>Bromsgrove Dog Walking &amp; Pet Services</b></p> 		<p><b>Leon Broadhurst</b>  <i>Assistant Manager</i>  <b>Sponsored by Tim Reeb, who lives in New Jersey, USA</b></p>
	<p><b>Dan Price</b>  <i>Goalkeeping Coach</i>  <b>Available for sponsorship</b></p>		<p><b>Karol Blicharski</b>  <i>Analyst</i>  <b>Available for sponsorship</b></p>
	<p><b>Dean Ashford</b>  <i>Club Kit Man</i>  <b>Available for sponsorship</b></p>		<p><b>Dan Eyre</b>  <i>Sports Therapist</i>  <b>Sponsored by Phil &amp; Jane Baker</b></p>
	<p><b>Rory Brown</b>  <i>Goalkeeper</i>  <b>Sponsored by Keaton Troth</b></p>		<p><b>Dale Eve</b>  <i>Goalkeeper</i>  <b>Available for sponsorship</b></p>
	<p><b>Kyle Belmonte</b>  <i>Midfielder</i>  <b>Sponsored by our webmaster, Chris Curtis</b></p>		

## Meet The Rouslers (2)



**Luke Benbow**  
Striker  
Sponsored by  
Marc Pullen and  
Edna May  
Parker



**Akai Bonnick**  
Midfielder  
Available for  
sponsorship



**Jaden Charles**  
Defender  
Sponsored by  
Kevin Baggott



**Archie Duerden**  
Defender  
Sponsored by  
Daniel Blythe  
and Kelly  
Downing



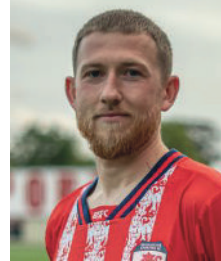
**Niall Flint**  
Defender  
Sponsored by JAK  
Projects & Services



**Isaac Godwin**  
Defender  
Available for  
sponsorship



**Kobe Hall**  
Forward  
Available for  
sponsorship



**Jack Kelly**  
Defender  
Sponsored by the  
Sidewinders



**Jordan Lyden**  
Midfielder



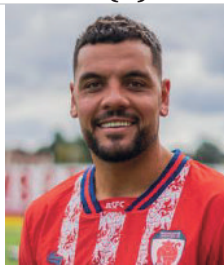
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by Rich  
Holliday in  
awareness  
of

**ANDYS MAN CLUB** charity

## Meet The Rouslers (3)



**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**



**Kian Ryley**  
Midfielder  
**Sponsored by**  
**Happy House**  
**Childminding**  
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**Billy Shaw**  
Midfielder  
**Sponsored by:**  
**The Fox family**  
**(Margaret,**  
**Christopher and**  
**Adrian)**



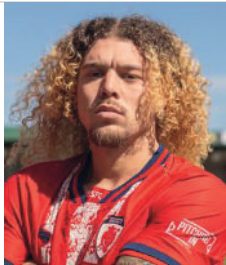
**Luke Softley**  
Defender  
**Sponsored by The**  
**Groundforce**  
**Team**



**Nile Timson**  
Defender  
**Sponsored by**  
**Spartan Hot Tub Hire**



**Charlie Trustram**  
Defender  
**Available for**  
**sponsorship**



**Shay Willock**  
Striker  
**Sponsored by**  
**Sarah Lammas of**



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

**Profile:**  
**Kyle Belmonte**  
*Midfielder*



<b>Birthplace and Date of Birth?</b>	Worcester, 27/5/99 (age 27)
<b>Height, weight?</b>	6' 2", 13 st
<b>Left or right footed?</b>	Right
<b>Previous clubs?</b>	Evesham United, Worcester City
<b>Football honours?</b>	Top scorer 3 x in a row, 2 for Evesham, 1 for Worcester, fans' player, players' player, chairman's player of the season. Won league, play-offs and senior cup back-to-back for Worcester.
<b>Best moment playing football?</b>	Reaching the play-offs for Evesham when we looked dead and buried with 6 matches to go
<b>Biggest influence on your career?</b>	Granddad Angelo and Granddad Colin
<b>Which team do you support?</b>	Portsmouth
<b>Favourite all-time player?</b>	Cristiano Ronaldo
<b>Best player you have played against?</b>	Ryan Babel, Damien Duff
<b>Favourite position on the pitch:</b>	Centre midfield
<b>What boots do you wear?</b>	Sondicos
<b>What football law would you change?</b>	Allow prison rules
<b>Which team do you most like to beat?</b>	Corby Town, Anstey Nomads
<b>Nickname in the changing room?</b>	Belmo
<b>Do you play any other sports?</b>	Train Muay Thai (Thai boxing) out of season
<b>Married, single?</b>	Single
<b>Kids?</b>	Amoré-Bloom Belmonte, 4 months old
<b>Where do you live?</b>	Worcester
<b>Job outside football?</b>	Ganger - Tarmacking
<b>What car do you drive?</b>	Volkswagen Tiguan R Line
<b>Favourite food?</b>	Chicken
<b>Favourite drink?</b>	Cold bottle of water
<b>Favourite biscuit?</b>	Caramel digestives
<b>Favourite TV programme?</b>	Don't really watch TV
<b>Favourite Film?</b>	Scarface
<b>Favourite actor/actress?</b>	Margot Robbie
<b>Favourite band or singer?</b>	Buffalo Traffic Jam (American folk/country band)
<b>Favourite Single/Album?</b>	Justin Bieber - My World
<b>Guilty Pleasure?</b>	None - embrace everything
<b>Favourite Holiday destination?</b>	Anywhere with a crazy nightlife - have a proper party.
<b>Bucket list?</b>	To do a Thai boxing fight in Thailand, to do a skydive, to go skiing
<b>Claim to fame?</b>	I claim to be a living legend, simple as that really!



## Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Southern League football clubs need your help with them.

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## From The Archives, 10 Years Ago

Midland Football League Division One - Tuesday 26th April 2016 - 7:45 p.m. kick-off

### **Southam United 1 (0) Bromsgrove Sporting 3 (2) at Banbury Road**

With Coventry United champions all barring a mathematical improbability, Sporting just needed to play the season out and finish on a high note. Unfortunately, Southam United although rooted to the bottom of the table, were in no mood to give the Rouslers an easy time and defended doggedly in numbers.

In the opening few minutes, Sporting tried to play neat football by swift and accurate passing but this proved to be difficult on an uneven pitch and using the flanks and high balls into the box rapidly became the tactic of choice.

Aaron Roberts and Liam Spink put good efforts over the bar whilst Reece Hewitt hit the post on 18 minutes but it was Jack Wilson at left-back who broke the deadlock on the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute when his powerful header hit the back of the net after Will Tibbetts got behind the defensive line to put over a deadly accurate cross.

Seven minutes later Sporting doubled their advantage and this time Wilson was the provider with a cross from the left that Tibbetts flicked on to Roberts who took a couple of steps before firing an angled daisy cutter into the left-hand corner of Matt Archer's net.

Tony Zamora had the best effort of the first half for the home side with a half-volley from 20 yards that Chris Jay comfortably gathered but with all of Southam's effort going into defence chances of reducing the lead were minimal.

However, Sporting were unable to convert their dominance into more goals and they remained two up at the interval.

Four minutes into the second period and the Bromsgrove team added to the score sheet with a rare but powerful Hewitt header that gave Archer no chance. Southam then managed to get on the score sheet via the hard-working Zamora who lobbed Jay from 20 yards after intercepting a poor back pass.

Manager Paul Smith then brought on 3 substitutes all from the under 21s team to give the youngsters a taste of first team football but no more goals came. Craig Jones had a couple disallowed for offside whilst Dean Fisher's effort was stopped by the post after Archer got a touch and credit to the home 'keeper who made several good stops.

With Coventry United clocking up their eighth successive victory, they now have a six-point lead with two games left and a far superior goal-difference. Miracles do happen but not on this occasion and in all probability Sporting will have to settle for the runners-up trophy for the third year in succession.

Southam: Matt Archer, Josh Marshall (Mitch Seagers 84 mins), Luke Mason, James Keller, Luke Sanders (Adam Owen 69 mins), Alex Baird, Dexter Purser, Teo Yovchev, Charlie Franklin, Tony Zamora, Max Beard (Capt.). Substitute unused: Tunde Ajibade

Sporting: Chris Jay, Aaron Roberts, Jack Wilson, Simon Fitter, Craig Jones (Capt.), Lucky Nwosu, Will Tibbetts (Dean Fisher 75 mins), Reece Hewitt (Lewis Kemp 59 mins), Liam Spink, Brendan Kelly, Sean Brain (Ethan Hanks 59 mins). Substitutes unused: Jake Willcox, Sam Horton

Referee: Mr S Carter (Leamington Spa), Assistants: Mr K Andrews (Warwick), Mr R Balmer (Coventry)

Crowd: 101

Weather: Cold, damp

Sporting MoM: Aaron Roberts




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William Searles Always With Us	Tim Hatchett Happy 60th Birthday	Kate Hughes Big Up Brommy	Carl Smith Rovers Forever!	Big Ben Get it Forward!	Chris Smith Never Forgotten x	Alexander Bright Come on you Rouslers	Seamus O'Brien Always With Us x
In Loving Memory Jeff Black 1957-2025 Forever With Us		Awesome Grandad Philip Garratt We Love You! Max & Erin	Pete Stelling Always Smiling Missed By All The Boys xxx		In Loving Memory Susan White 1958-2025 Forever With Us		
Super Grandad Malcolm Perrie We Love You! Alfie & Oscar	In Loving Memory Kevin Green 1947-2025 Forever With Us	Adam Mullen Never Forgotten 1953-2024 Always With Us	Grandpa Robson Wishing You a Very Happy 80th Birthday Alex, Phoebe & Eli				
Patrick King Never Forgotten 1947-2024 Always In Our Hearts	Best Dad Ever! Peter Sidwell We Love You! Oscar & Millie	Best Grandpa Ever! Arthur Cross Happy 70th Birthday Love From Aisha	Peter Harring Never Forgotten 1954-2024 Always With Us				
Steven Croft Dad	Arthur Harrison Never Forgotten	Uncle Kevin Man:Myth:Legend	Rachel Airey Happy Anniversary	Tom Oldham Loyal Supporter!	Mark Brent Forever With Us	Luke Farnworth Forever With Us	

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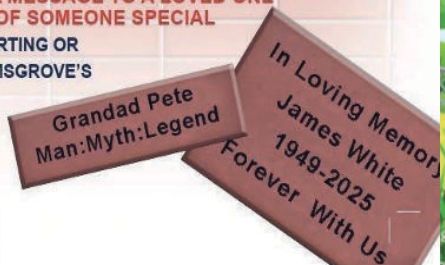


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### Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies Development Team

Playing live at the UK Electrical Stadium, The Devs will be at the home of Bromsgrove Sporting FC for one night only! Come and show your support on **Wednesday 29th April** as we take on Welland in an exciting midweek match!

Entry to the stadium is free and the bar is open too! What better way to spend a Wednesday night! Kick-off is 7:35pm

A promotional poster for an upcoming match. The background is red with a white torn-paper effect. At the top, it says 'UPCOMING MATCH' in large white letters. Below that, the date '29.04.2026' is displayed. The Bromsgrove Sporting FC logo is in the center, with the text 'BROMSGROVE SPORTING FC' above it. To the right is the Welland Ladies FC logo, which includes a red bull and the text 'WELLAND LADIES FC' and 'WLFC'. A group of female football players in red and green kits are shown in action. At the bottom, it says '7.35PM H.O.'. The left side of the poster has the text 'BROMSGROVE SPORTING LADIES DEVELOPMENT' written vertically. At the very bottom, there is small text: 'UK ELECTRICAL STADIUM, BROMSGROVE ROAD, BROMSGROVE, B95 0JL' and 'A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL IN LEICESTERSHIRE'. There are also logos for 'UK ELECTRICAL' and 'WATERCROFT' at the bottom.

To subscribe, visit [www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/subscriptions](http://www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/subscriptions)

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

AMIDST the highs and the lows, the thrills and the spills, of another spell-binding Non-League season, it all boils down to this.

Thirty-eight weeks of action, through the wind, rain, sleet and snow, and now just 90 minutes remain before the final whistle is blown on a captivating campaign.

Ever since Cobham FC became English football's first champions of 2025-26 by waltzing to the Combined Counties Premier South title on March 10, champagne corks have been popping up and down the country with managers, players and supporters alike celebrating joining the Non-League Roll of Honour.

But the elite list of title winners is yet to be complete with plenty of honours still left to play for as we enter this final Saturday of the regular season.

None more so than the most coveted accolade of them all in the Non-League game.

The Rochdale versus York City title decider in the National League has been dubbed as Non-League football's greatest ever showdown with this afternoon's Spotland winner earning their place back in the Football League. A draw will see York City progress by two clear points.

For the loser, though, it's the unenviable task of picking themselves up for the play-offs, despite amassing well over 100 points.

And as York proved last season after racking up 96 points before bombing out 3-0 at home to eventual winners Oldham Athletic, that's not easy.

This year's play-off places in the National League may already be settled but the battle is still on for a vital home draw in the Eliminators.

Last Saturday's 3-0 win at Morecambe ensured Luke Garrard's Boreham Wood are assured of one, while Scunthorpe United can clinch the other with victory over Eastleigh this afternoon.

Just like 12 months ago, resurgent Southend United are in the mix, with they and Robbie Savage's Forest Green Rovers battling for sixth place.

Perennially, National League North and South tend to go down to the wire and it's no different this year with both the title – and promotion places – very much up for grabs in both.

In the North, South Shields' failure to beat Bedford Town at home last Saturday could prove crucial as AFC Fylde regained top spot by two clear points and a two-goal better goal difference, courtesy of their 4-0 win over Southport.

Both face tough away games this afternoon – leaders AFC Fylde at play-off chasing Merthyr Town, the Mariners at Kidderminster Harriers, who are assured of third place and a home play-off semi-final.

Who they play, though, is anyone's guess with as many as six teams vying for the remaining three play-off places.

Worthing's promotion party was royally spoiled by Maidstone United last Saturday, but the Rebels still

lead the way in the South by a single point from Hornchurch ahead a swashbuckling final game against Ebbsfleet United today.

Another crunch clash sees Weston-super-Mare host Dorking Wanderers in a tense battle for a home play-off final which involves no fewer than SEVEN teams. Maidstone, in ninth, are still in with a shout under departing manager George Elokobi following their 2-1 win over leaders Worthing last week.

The top of NPL Premier is just as exciting with FC United of Manchester's shock 1-0 home defeat by Hyde United last Saturday ensuring that Hebburn Town or Hednesford Town can clinch the automatic promotion spot with victory this afternoon.

Their shock home defeat came just 24 hours after the Red Rebels were granted permission to stage Tuesday night's rearranged visit of Stockton Town at their Broadhurst Park home despite an initial Northern Premier League ruling that the potentially-crucial game should be played at Curzon Ashton's Tameside Stadium.

As it is, Hebburn, with a five-goal better goal difference than the Pitmen, host Rushall Olympic sat firmly in the driving seat, while Hednesford entertain Ashton United.

Stockton, Lancaster, Gainsborough Trinity and Leek Town are vying for the final available play-off spot.

With the Isthmian Premier play-off spots settled, all eyes are on the Southern League Premier Central where five clubs are looking to join Spalding United and Real Bedford in the play-offs in a bid to join champions Harborough Town at Step 2 next season.

Premier South is as far less complicated with Berkhamsted needing just a point from their visit of relegation-threatened Weymouth to seal the final play-off place.

In the Northern Premier League at Step 4, Anstey Nomads take a two-point lead at the top of the NPL Midlands division over Carlton Town into the final day, while Emley, Bradford PA and Pontefract Collieries are battling it out for play-off places in the East, looking to go up with champions Redcar Athletic.

Bury FC attracted a crowd of over 7,000 for their visit of Witton Albion last Saturday – and they'll be another sizable number when they make the trip to Atherton Collieries this afternoon with the title in their sights.

Avro will be looking to capitalise on any slip-up when they entertain Darlaston Town, while Lower Breck, Bootle and Vauxhall Motors lock horns for the last remaining play-off spot.

In the Isthmian League, a four-way play-off battle has developed in the North with Bowes & Pitsea, Redbridge, Gorleston and Wroxham all in the running, while Faversham Town are ready to pounce on any Sittingbourne slip-up in the South-East. The Brickies need just a point from their visit of VCD Athletic to be assured of a play-off spot, while VCD will bring the curtain down on 110 years of history when the Crayford-based side play their final game as a senior football club.

In the Southern, Thame United need a point to secure the final play-off spot in Division One Central, denying Hertford Town, likewise Shaftesbury in the South with Bishops Cleeve hovering.

The play-offs are already underway in many leagues at Step 5 and 6 – and promotion parties already underway.

Beverley Town became the first play-off winners of 2025-26 after edging out Tadcaster Albion to win promotion from the Northern Counties East League Premier last Saturday.

And there are number of big knockout games in action this afternoon, notably a huge Northwich derby between Victoria and 1874 in the Midland League, and the conclusion of the Combined Counties League Premier South promotion race when Fleet Town host Horley Town in a battle of fourth versus fifth.

A breathless end to a rollercoaster season. We wouldn't have it any other way.

Enjoy the break and we'll see you in 2026-27.

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## Today's Mascots

**Today's mascots are from Rigby Hall School; they are very welcome here today at the UK Electrical Stadium.**



Rigby Hall is situated within the Aston Fields area of Bromsgrove. They are an all-age special school providing education for children between the ages of 4 and 19 (Reception to Post 16) who have a wide range of learning difficulties; including autism, communication difficulties and other needs that are better met within our specialist provision.

Sport is an important part of the curriculum and a broad range of topic areas are covered, including football, netball, rugby, tennis, cricket, athletics, swimming and dance.

They also offer after school clubs which includes their own football teams for children of all ages, where they also invite pupils from other schools to train alongside their children.

## Today's Match Sponsor




















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They also arrange annual refresher training as a reminder and in case of any relevant changes to health and safety legislation.

Please see their main advert on page 4 of this programme.

## Club Shop Merchandise

	<b>T-shirt</b> From £15-00		<b>College Hoodie</b> From £35-00
	<b>¼ zip Tracksuit top</b> From £20-00		<b>Printed T-shirt</b> From £12-50
	<b>Shorts</b> From £15-00		<b>Knitted ¼ zip</b> From £45-00
	<b>Tracksuit bottoms</b> From £17-50		<b>Printed tracksuit bottoms</b> From £12-50
	<b>Rain Jacket</b> From £30-00		<b>Home Football shirt</b> From £35-00
	<b>Combo Jacket</b> From £35-00		<b>Away Football shirt</b> From £35-00
	<b>Gillet</b> From £30-00		<b>Home Goalkeeper Jersey</b> From £35-00
	<b>Leisure Polo</b> From £35-00		<b>Away Goalkeeper Jersey</b> From £35-00
	<b>College Sweatshirt</b> From £30-00	<b>All prices include VAT</b>	

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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	Harborough Town	41	28	10	3	81	33	+48	94
2	Spalding United	41	25	9	7	99	50	+49	84
<b>3</b>	<b>Real Bedford</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>+35</b>	<b>78</b>
4	Needham Market	41	20	10	11	64	51	+13	70
5	Kettering Town	41	20	9	12	73	52	+21	69
6	Halesowen Town	41	19	10	12	80	60	+20	67
7	Redditch United	41	20	7	14	62	58	+4	67
8	Quorn	41	19	8	14	78	66	+12	65
9	Worcester City	41	17	11	13	60	40	+20	62
10	Leiston	41	16	14	11	64	57	+7	62
11	Stratford Town	41	17	9	15	61	54	+7	60
12	Bury Town	41	15	13	13	61	52	+9	58
13	Banbury United	41	16	9	16	49	56	-7	57
14	Alvechurch	41	14	7	20	48	54	-6	49
15	Bishop's Stortford	41	13	10	18	52	64	-12	49
16	Stourbridge	41	11	14	16	57	68	-11	47
17	Stamford AFC	41	13	7	21	41	64	-23	46
<b>18</b>	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>44</b>
19	St Ives Town	41	9	11	21	50	73	-23	38
20	Barwell	41	8	8	25	49	84	-35	32
21	Royston Town	41	5	10	26	35	81	-46	25
22	AFC Sudbury	41	6	7	28	47	110	-63	25

Table as at Saturday 18th April 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 Ezewe
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	L 0 - 1	750	31	18	George Wynne
Sat	28-Feb	3:00 PM	H	AFC Sudbury	Southern League	W 5 - 3	580	34	15	Theo Robinson
Mon	2-Mar	7:45 PM	A	Redditch United	Worcs Senior Cup SF	L 0 - 1	635	-	-	Luke Benbow
Sat	07-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Kettering Town	Southern League	L 0 - 1	945	34	16	Jack Newell
Sat	14-Mar	3:00 PM	H	Stourbridge	Southern League	L 1 - 2	799	34	17	Kyle Belmonte
Tue	17-Mar	7:45 PM	H	Harborough Town	Southern League	L 1 - 2	353	34	17	Luke Softley
Sat	21-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Royston Town	Southern League	D 1 - 1	338	35	17	Nile Timson
Sat	28-Mar	3:00 PM	A	Spalding United	Southern League	W 2 - 0	675	38	17	Kyle Belmonte
Fri	03-Apr	3:00 PM	A	Needham Market	Southern League	L 0 - 1	383	38	17	Jack Kelly
Mon	06-Apr	3:00 PM	H	Halesowen Town	Southern League	L 0 - 2	1641	38	18	Aaron Roberts
Sat	11-Apr	3:00 PM	A	St Ives Town	Southern League	W 2 - 0	309	41	17	Rory Brown
Sat	18-Apr	3:00 PM	A	Stratford Town	Southern League	W 2 - 1	1368	44	18	Shay Willock
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		22	8		1				4	1						26	26				26	26			
Max Asante-Boakye		1	1				1									1	1	1			1	1			
Kyle Belmonte	9															9	9				9			9	
Luke Benbow	16	14			7	2	4	10	1	2	1		1			17	16	33	4	10	17	16	33	10	
Freddie Boakye	4				1											4	4				4			4	
Akai Bonnick	3	2					1									3	2	5	1		3	2	5		
Rory Brown	24				1		2		2							26	26	2			26			26	
Ash Carter	11		1	5	2				2			1				13	13				46			46	1
Jaden Charles	7		1					1								7	7		1		7			7	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		3	1
Archie Duerden		4	2								1					4	4				4	4		4	4
Tom Edge	20	2		2	4		2	1	4			1	1			24	2	26	2	1	24	2	26	1	
Dale Eve			2																						
Josh Ezewe	20	1			1		3		2	1						22	2	24	3		32	2	34		
Niall Flint	14	2			3			1	1							15	2	17		1	15	2	17	1	
Isaac Godwin	2	1				1			1							3	1	4			3	1	4		
Lewis Green	4				1				1							5	5				5			5	
Kobe Hall	5	14	2		1		1	4	2	2	1			1	1	7	16	23	2	4	10	20	30	4	
Adam Harrison	14				1				3							17	17				17			17	
Jack Kelly	23	7			5		7		3							26	7	33	7		26	7	33		
Reece King	10	5		10	4		2		2	1		2				12	6	18	2		59	6	65	5	
Tyrone Lewthwaite	10	2						5								10	2	12		5	10	2	12	5	
Ellis Litherland	3															3	3				3			3	
Jordan Lyden	12	7	9		4		1	1	2		1		2			14	7	21	1	1	19	20	39	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			1	3	4		
Jack Newell	32	2	2		5		2	2	4	1					1	36	3	39	2	3	129	29	158	9	
Charlie Pavey	11	1	1		3		2	3	3					1		14	1	15	3	3	14	1	15	3	
Aaron Roberts	34	1			18	3	1	1	1	4			1	1		38	1	39	1	1	353	15	368	24	
Theo Robinson	8	8			2		2	3		1						8	9	17	2	3	39	22	61	16	
Kyle Rowley	8	1	1		1				1							8	2	10			8	2	10		
Kian Ryley	5	4			1											5	4	9			5	4	9		
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	33	3		6	8		3	5	4					1	2	37	3	40	4	7	86	14	100	11	
Luke Softley	34		3		8		1	2	5					1	1	39		39	2	2	39		39	2	
Bradley Stretton	12	11	2		3		3	1	1							13	11	24	3	1	13	11	24	1	
Nile Timson	5	1			2			1								5	1	6		1	5	1	6	1	
Charlie Trustram	3	2	2		1											3	2	5			3	2	5		
Aksum White	4		1						1							5	5				68	17	85		
Shay Willock	1	6			1		1	2								1	6	7	1	2	1	6	7	2	
George Wynne	15	1			5			1	1							16	1	17		1	16	1	17	1	
Ethan Young	3								1							4	4				4			4	
Own Goal								1													1				

Up to and including Saturday 18th April 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.

---

**Karol Blicharski** Squad Number: n/a  
Position: Analyst  
UEFA C football coach with extensive experience in youth development, community programs, and international coaching environments.

---

**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.

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**Kyle Belmonte** Squad Number: 6  
Position: Forward/midfielder  
On loan from Worcester City until the end of the season. Energetic midfield man made 26 appearances for Worcester this season, scoring four times. He also played a starring role in Worcester's 3-0 win over Sporting at Sixways, back in October.

---

**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

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with an eye for the spectacular.

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<b>Akai Bonnick</b>	Squad Number: 4	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.

---

<b>Rory Brown</b>	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.

---

<b>Jaden Charles</b>	Squad Number: 12	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.

---

<b>Archie Duerden</b>	Squad Number: 19	DoB: 9/3/06
Position: Centre-half	Height:	

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.

---

<b>Dale Eve</b>	Squad Number: 13	DoB: 9/2/95, Bermuda
Position: Goalkeeper	Height: 1.93m	

Recent clubs: Alvechurch, Redditch United, Walsall Wood, Hereford, Spennymoor Town, Robin Hood (Bermuda), Kidderminster Harriers, Rushall Olympic, Ilkeston.

Bermudan international who has a wealth of Step 3 experience.

---

<b>Niall Flint</b>	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.

---

<b>Isaac Godwin</b>	Squad Number: 21	DoB: 26/10/06
---------------------	------------------	---------------

Position: Left back

Previous clubs: Vauxhall Motors, Newcastle Town, Shrewsbury Town under 18s

Currently on loan from Shrewsbury Town. Usually a defender but can play in midfield.

<b>Kobe Hall</b>	Squad Number: tba	DoB: 25/8/06, Birmingham
Position: Centre forward	Height: 6' 2"	Weight:
Previous Clubs: Kidderminster Harriers, Coleshill Town, Stourport Swifts, Quorn, Alfreton Town, Rushall Olympic.		
Returning to the club after a brief spell in 2023, Kobe is a player with big potential. Despite his young age he has good experience at the level. A powerful forward with an eye for goal.		
<b>Jack Kelly</b>	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.		
<b>Jordan Lyden</b>	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.		
<b>Jack Newell</b>	Squad Number: 15	DoB: 22/1/01, Kingston-upon-Thames
Position: Midfield	Height: 6' 0"	Weight: 80 kg
Previous clubs: Northampton Town, Highgate United.		
Now into his 5th season at the club, and with over 150 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.		
<b>Aaron Roberts</b>	Squad Number: 5	DoB: 19/6/92
Position: Defender and team captain		
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.		
<b>Theo Robinson</b>	Squad Number: 16	DoB: 22/1/89
Position: Striker	Height: 5' 9"	Weight:
Previous clubs: Gloucester City, Brackley Town, Hartlepool, Bradford, Port Vale, Southend United, Colchester, Swindon Town, Lincoln City, Motherwell, Doncaster, Scunthorpe, Derby, Huddersfield Town, Millwall, Watford, Hereford, 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.		

<b>Kian Ryley</b>	Squad Number: 20	DoB: 1/4/05
Position: Midfielder	Height: 5' 11"	
Previous clubs: Solihull Moors, Hereford, Mickleover, Studley, Stourbridge, Brackley, Rushall Olympic.		
Attacking midfielder who can also play on either wing. On loan from Solihull Moors until the end of the season.		
<b>Billy Shaw</b>	Squad Number: 7	DoB: 17/12/01, Stourbridge
Position: Midfielder	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.		
<b>Luke Softley</b>	Squad Number: 17	DoB: 21/4/05
Position: Centre Back	Height 6' 2"	Weight: 81kg
Previous clubs: Aston Villa (youth), Hungerford Town		
A local lad who impressed when playing against us in pre-season. Centre back who loves defending and getting on the ball and is comfortable playing across the backline.		
<b>Nile Timson</b>	Squad Number: 14	DoB: 22/12/05, Birmingham
Position: Centre Back	Height 6' 1"	
Previous clubs: Alvechurch, Stourbridge and Rushall Olympic		
Another recent signing who started at Aston Villa's academy. Impressed on his debut against Royston Town.		
<b>Charlie Trustram</b>	Squad Number: 10	DoB: 18/10/06
Position: Midfielder		
Previous clubs: Luton Town under 18s and 21s, Bedford Town		
On loan from Luton Town. A box-to-box midfielder signed for the Hatters as an Under-13 from Stevenage's academy		
<b>Shay Willock</b>	Squad Number: 11	DoB: 15/9/03, Birmingham
Position: Centre-forward	Height: 6' 3"	
Previous clubs: Alvechurch, Stourbridge, Walsall, Worcester Raiders, Coventry Sphinx, Stafford Rangers		
Combative striker who made first team appearances whilst at Walsall.		
<b>George Wynne</b>	Squad Number: 8	DoB: 14/05/07
Position: Midfielder		
Previous clubs: on loan from Birmingham City		
The 18-year-old, who has been at the Blues for over a decade, will spend the rest of the season with Sporting. Has impressed playing for Birmingham City under 21s.		

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

Here is number 21 this time on the modern era of the World Cup

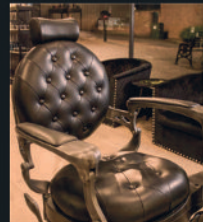
- 1 Which African team were eliminated from the World Cup by a golden goal in 2002 and a yellow card count in 2018?
- 2 England's last World Cup qualification defeat was against Ukraine in 2009. Which England goalkeeper was sent off that night, the first England keeper to ever be red carded?
- 3 In 2018 England won their first World Cup penalty shoot-out after three previous exits. Who did they beat?
- 4 Which player won the Golden Boot at the 2022 World cup, scoring 8 goals?
- 5 England had joint top scorers in 2022, which two players scored 3 goals each?
- 6 Which four countries at this summer's World Cup have qualified for the first time?

Answers: 1) Senegal 2) Rob Green 3) Colombia 4) Kylian Mbappe 5) Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka 6) Cape Verde, Curacao, Jordan, and Uzbekistan

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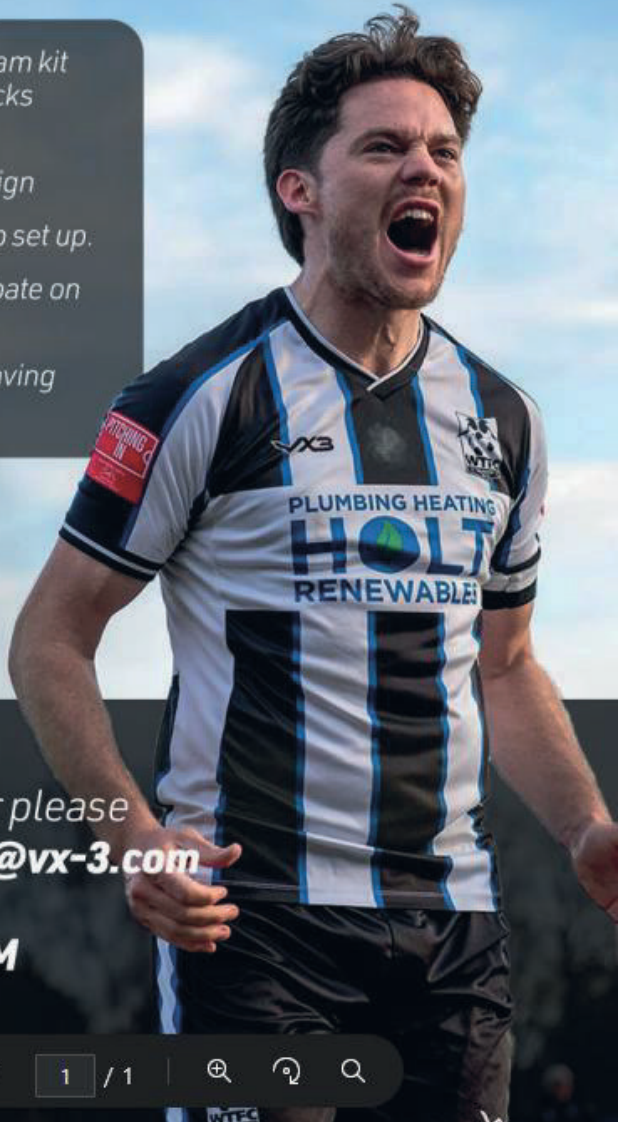
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## Our Visitors Today - Real Bedford

Founded in 2002 in Bedford, Bedford FC (now Real Bedford FC) was born from the merger of two clubs: Bedford United and US Valerio. Today, the club competes in the Pitching In South Central Division One and plays at the Ledger Stadium..



### **Bedford United**

Bedford United traces its origins back to 1957, when it was established as a staff team for the printing firm Diemer & Reynolds. The club made its competitive debut in the United Counties League's Division Three in 1971, which was later rebranded as Division Two. After nearly a decade, Bedford United left the league in 1979, joining the Bedfordshire County League, where they clinched the Division One title in the 1979-80 season.

In 1989, Bedford United joined the South Midlands League's Division One and became part of the Senior Division following the league's reorganization in 1993. A standout third-place finish in the 1995-96 season earned the club promotion to the Premier Division. The merger of the South Midlands League and the Spartan League in 1997 placed Bedford United in the newly formed Spartan South Midlands League's Premier Division North. Although they finished in fourteenth place in the first season, they were repositioned to the Senior Division the following year. Another strong third-place finish in 1999-2000 saw them promoted back to the Premier Division.

Bedford United's early matches were held at the company grounds, but the team later moved to Cople village and subsequently returned to Bedford, playing at various locations, including Allen Park and Fairhill on Clapham Road. It was at Fairhill that Bedford United set their record attendance of 1,500 during a South Midlands League match against Bedford Town. The club eventually settled at McMullen Park in 1996, named in honour of Jim McMullen, one of the club's founders.

### **US Valerio**

US Valerio, originally known as Unione Sportiva Valerio, was founded in 1985 by Nicola Valerio, with the name reflecting its Italian roots, meaning "Sporting Union." The club began its journey in the Michael Peters Sunday League, achieving considerable success, including winning the Harrison & Rowley Cup in the 2005-06 season.

### **The Merger**

In 2002, Bedford United and US Valerio merged to form Bedford United & Valerio, taking Bedford United's place in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division. The merged club faced challenges, finishing second-from-bottom in the Premier Division in 2004-05, which led to relegation to Division One. A series of name changes followed, becoming Bedford Valerio United in 2006 and then simply Bedford FC in 2007.

The club saw a resurgence in the 2014-15 season, finishing third in Division One and earning promotion to the Premier Division. However, they faced relegation the following season after finishing at the bottom of the table.

## **Real Bedford Formation**

In April 2022, podcaster and journalist Peter McCormack took over the club, setting an ambitious goal of reaching the Premier League. The club rebranded as Real Bedford and appointed Rob Sinclair as first-team manager before the 2022-23 season, which marked the beginning of a new era of success. That season, the team won the Bedfordshire Senior Trophy and the Division One title, securing promotion to the Spartan Premier League.

## **Continued Success**

The 2023-24 season saw the men's team continue their winning ways, securing another double by winning both the Spartan Premier League and the League Cup. This success earned the team promotion to Step 4 of the non-league pyramid.

In the same season, the club launched Real Bedford Ladies and appointed a new management team. The women's team had an outstanding debut season, achieving a treble by winning the league, league cup, and county cup. Looking ahead to the 2024-25 season, the club appointed Charlie Bill as the women's first-team manager, aiming to build on the team's early success.

## **New Investment**

In April 2024, the club announced a major investment of \$4.5 million from US billionaires Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss. This investment not only provided significant financial backing but also saw the Winklevoss twins become co-owners of Real Bedford, supporting the long-term ambition of the club.

## **Recent History**

During the 2024/25 season, Rob Sinclair's side lost just twice on their way to yet another dominant league campaign, securing the title with over 100 points and 100 goals. It marked a third consecutive league triumph for Sinclair and his relentless Pirates, who once again set the standard for consistency, quality, and ambition.

## **Men's Team Honours**

- 2022/23 Spartan Division One Winners
- 2022/23 Beds County Cup Winners
- 2023/24 Spartan Premier Division Winners
- 2023/24 Spartan Premier Cup Winners
- 2024/25 Southern League Div One Central Winners

## **Real Bedford - First Team Squad Profiles**

### **Craig King (GK)**

Our man between the sticks who stands tall and an incredible shot stopper.

### **Drew Richardson**

Since joining midway through the 23/24 season, Drew has become a commanding presence in both defence and midfield, using his height and strength to lead from the back.

### **Jack Morrell**

Jack Morrell, another strong addition to the squad, has quickly established himself as a ball-playing defender with exceptional defensive prowess.

### **Shaheim Ward**

Shaheim, a versatile fullback/wingback who joined at the start of the 24/25 season, is a powerful and intelligent player rarely seen making a mistake.

### **Lee Watkins (Captain)**

Lee, our captain since joining at the start of the 23/24 season, has been a dominant force in midfield with his versatility and strength.

### **Isaac Galliford**

Isaac, a new addition for the 24/25 season, has seamlessly integrated into the team, showcasing his exceptional technique and ball-handling skills.

### **Archie Jones**

Archie, with us since midway through the 23/24 season, has shown remarkable skill and technique despite battling injuries.

### **Ben Stevens**

Ben has been a standout player since joining in the 23/24 season, known for his unparalleled technical ability and being one of our top scorers.

### **Mo Ahmed**

Mo, an exceptional winger who joined at the start of the 23/24 season, consistently outmanoeuvres defenders while scoring and assisting with regularity.

### **Joshua Setchell**

Josh has been a rapid and reliable scorer and playmaker since his arrival in the 23/24 season.

### **Tom Hitchcock**

A senior member since the very beginning, Tom's outstanding technique and knack for last-minute goals make him a crucial player.

### **Sam Cartwright**

A new arrival for the 25/26 season, Sam brings a wealth of experience and composure to the back line. A commanding presence and a true Rolls-Royce of a defender.

### **Jack Davies**

A versatile and experienced defender, Jack is equally comfortable on either foot. Calm under pressure and confident in possession, he's a true ball-playing centre-back.

### **Conor Tee**

An agile and creative winger, Conor glides past defenders with ease and delivers pinpoint crosses. Backed by strong non-league experience, he's a constant attacking threat.

### **Josh Allen**

A natural number 9 who can also operate out wide, Josh has a sharp eye for goal, especially with quick, one-touch finishes. Already off the mark in the 25/26 season, he's one to watch.

### **Ben Weyman**

A composed and intelligent midfielder, Ben can play in both attacking and defensive roles. With a calm presence on the ball, he's the one who dictates the tempo from the middle of the park.

#### **Lewis Hilliard**

An experienced holding midfielder who can carry forward, pinning passes put wide, while also a key to our defensive stature.

#### **Elliot Simmons**

Elliot joined at the start of the 25/26 season, bringing higher level experience and a calm and controlled head to our midfield.

#### **Rio Deall**

Our latest signing, a rapid winger who has all the tricks to glide past his opponent.

### **The Record against Real Bedford**

Bromsgrove Sporting have only played Real Bedford once and that was earlier this year on Tuesday 20th January when the Pirates won 2 - 0 with 209 spectators present.

Goals from Josh Allen on 32 minutes and Ben Stevens 12 minutes after the interval gave them the three points.

Both Bromsgrove Rovers (12 times) and Bromsgrove Sporting (6 times) have played against Bedford Town but they are a separate club.



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## Are Long Throws Actually a Waste of Everyone's Time?

As you may well be aware, long throw-ins have made a bit of a comeback this season.

The numbers, as well as the eye test, prove there has been a big increase this term. In each of the previous five seasons, no more than 1.52 long throws had been attempted per Premier League game, when defining a 'long throw' as a throw-in aimed into the opposition's penalty area and measuring at least 20 metres in length (before the next touch of the ball). This season, there have been 3.92 in each match, well over double the highest previous rate.

It's been impossible to miss. Everyone is at it. Every team in the Premier League this season has put in at least five long throws, according to our above definition. Nine teams are putting in at least two per game. Four teams have attempted more than 100 in total - all averaging well over three per game.



Only, not everyone is doing it well. Brentford certainly are, having scored five goals after launching a long throw into the opposition's box this term. They were also the best at it last season, when they scored six goals from such situations.

Given they supplemented their goal return last term with almost as many goals from long throws as every other Premier League team put together (seven), it's reasonable to assume they are at least part of the reason everyone is at it in 2025-26.

"If Brentford can turn their throw-ins in the attacking third into half a dozen goals, then why can't we?" Understandably, many clubs sought to answer that question this season.

As it turns out, being good at long throws isn't quite as simple as finding out someone in your squad can hurl the ball from the touchline into the middle of the six-yard box. While it is a quick way

to get the ball very, very close to goal, the numbers prove this is an incredibly inefficient way of attacking. It was before this season and it remains so now, even if there are now more goals from long throws.

There have been 1,179 long throws in 301 Premier League games this season, and just 24 goals from such situations. That's one goal every 49.1 long throw attempts, or a goal from a long throw every 12.5 matches. And that's only if you're as good as the Premier League average. Tottenham have attempted 74 long throws in league games this season and haven't scored from a single one.

Corners are also a very inefficient route to goal, despite their growing popularity in recent seasons, but these two set-piece types, long throw-ins look even more of a waste of time.

There have been 2,564 corners that have been crossed directly into the box in Premier League games this season, and they have produced 123 goals. That's a goal every 20.8 crossed corners, or one every 2.4 matches. They produce goals much, much more often than throw-ins, so launching a long throw into the box is not anything like as good as doing so with a corner.

The thing is, though, if you do an inefficient thing enough, it will eventually produce a higher output. If you threw a tennis ball at a brick wall enough times, it would eventually knock it down, but that fact doesn't make it an efficient way of knocking down a wall.

There have already been at least 500 more long throws in the Premier League this season than in any of the previous 10 seasons, and we've still got 79 matches left to play this term. That has led to more goals from long throws than in any of those seasons, with 24 in total, at a rate of 0.08 per game.

One might argue here that any improvement is a worthwhile improvement. Seven of the 17 ever-present Premier League teams have scored more goals from long throws this season than they did last.

Manchester United may not have beaten Newcastle 1-0 on Boxing Day were it not for Patrick Dorgu's

exceptional volley, which came from a long throw-in. It would be difficult to convince them that Diogo Dalot should not have launched the ball into the box from a throw that day.

But the truth is the increases have been minute. Fourteen goals from long throws last season have become 24 this season, and that should increase to 30 by the end of the campaign if they continue to be scored at the current rate. It's not a groundbreaking increase.

Perhaps more significantly, the number of long throws that *didn't* lead to a goal has skyrocketed from 564 last season to 1,155 already this season. That's a whole lot of wasted time and effort.

Talking of wasted time, the ball has been out of play before throw-ins for an average of 642.2 seconds in each Premier League game this season. That's 10 minutes and 42 seconds of waiting for throw-ins in every match.

Obviously, not all of that time is waiting for *long* throws, but given it is almost two minutes more of waiting for throw-ins than last season (eight minutes, 49 seconds per game), it looks very much like the focus on long throws is resulting in the ball being out of play for significantly longer in every match.

Also, this is only an average, so some games have seen much longer delays for throw-ins. Twenty-two different Premier League matches in 2025-26 have been delayed for more than 15 minutes *just* waiting for throw-ins. Some of those could have been affected by lengthy injuries or VAR checks when the ball has gone out for a throw, but that can't be the reason for all of those matches seeing such long delays.

The point here goes beyond just complaining about the entertainment on offer when watching Premier League football. There are legitimate concerns about this from the viewers' perspective, but that isn't really the responsibility of the clubs or managers. Their priority is winning matches.

But there is also a possibility that so many long throws could actually be making it more difficult to win matches.

After the last four seasons were the four highest-scoring in Premier League history (from 2021-22 to 2024-25), the current season is, at present, producing the 13th-highest rate of goals (2.73 per game).

That may not be the direct result of the increase in long throws, but it certainly looks like it could be a contributing factor. The increase is part of the growing focus on set-pieces this season, which has either coincided with or directly resulted in teams being less capable of scoring from open play. We are seeing fewer goals from open play this season (1.7 per game) than in any Premier League season since 2009-10.

If teams spent less time working on long throws in training, they might get better at scoring from open play. Similarly, if players are being selected for their set-piece threat, that might make the team worse in open play.

If teams also spent less time getting ready for a long throw, they'd have more time with the ball on the pitch to try and score. And what's more, taking a throw-in quickly and short doesn't necessarily mean the team *won't* get the ball closer to goal; it might just take them a few seconds longer.

In the interest of balance, it's worth pointing out that, as is the case with most data, there are limitations here. The numbers we've been looking at don't take into account, for example, that a long throw might be headed straight out for a corner, which the team scores from. Or that a long throw might be the only reason two centre-backs are in the opposition's box a few phases of play later to score. There are also intangibles like the pressure that a long throw might help a team build, which might eventually contribute to the opposition collapsing and a goal being scored.

There is also the fact that more managers appear to be prioritising solid defences than free-flowing attacks, and it may not be realistic to score as many open-play goals while doing so. Hence the increased use of long throws.

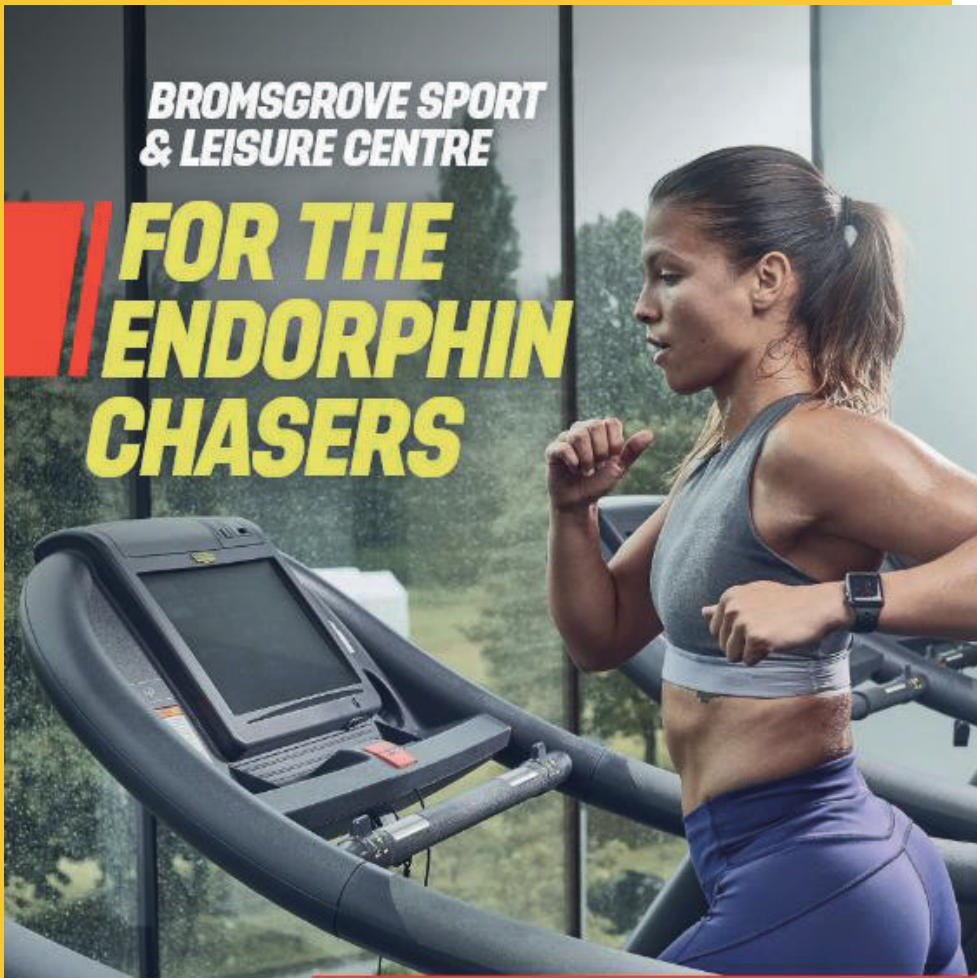
All Premier League teams might become more effective at long throws in the coming years. Many are only just starting out on their long-throw journey, and they may eventually become as effective as Brentford.

But for now, the evidence suggests long throws might just be more trouble than they are worth for just about every Premier League side. It will be interesting to see how long they remain a common and frequent method of attack in the top flight.

*Courtesy of Ali Tweedale, The Analyst*

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## Photos from Recent Matches



Another fine game for Jack Kelly in the critical win against St Ives Town



Shay Willock celebrates his opening goal against Stratford Town. Photos: Chris Jepson.

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## Recent Results

<b>The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Monday 6th April</b>			<b>Att</b>
AFC Sudbury	1 - 3	Needham Market	319
Barwell	0 - 2	Spalding United	247
<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	0 - 2	Halesowen Town	1,641
Harborough Town	5 - 1	Banbury United	1,052
Leiston	1 - 3	Bury Town	236
Real Bedford	4 - 0	Bishop's Stortford	526
Royston Town	0 - 2	St Ives Town	357
Stamford	1 - 0	Quorn	430
Stourbridge	1 - 1	Alvechurch	640
Stratford Town	2 - 0	Kettering Town	1,224
Worcester City	3 - 1	Redditch United	1,140
<b>The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 11th April</b>			
Alvechurch	1 - 0	Royston Town	263
Banbury United	2 - 0	AFC Sudbury	418
Bury Town	0 - 0	Stamford	968
Halesowen Town	1 - 3	Harborough Town	1,833
Kettering Town	2 - 1	Worcester City	1,154
Needham Market	2 - 1	Barwell	377
Quorn	1 - 2	Leiston	356
Redditch United	1 - 4	Real Bedford	602
Spalding United	1 - 3	Stratford Town	567
St Ives Town	0 - 2	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	309
Stourbridge	1 - 1	Bishop's Stortford	463
<b>The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Tuesday 14th April</b>			
Kettering Town	1 - 1	Redditch United	970
Real Bedford	0 - 1	Leiston	186
Stamford	4 - 0	Banbury United	432
<b>The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Wednesday 15th April</b>			
Stourbridge	0 - 1	Needham Market	375
<b>The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 18th April</b>			
AFC Sudbury	0 - 4	Stourbridge	304
Banbury United	0 - 0	Redditch United	568
Barwell	0 - 3	Bury Town	226
Harborough Town	1 - 1	Bishop's Stortford	1,325
Kettering Town	0 - 0	Halesowen Town	1,732

Leiston	2 - 2	Spalding United	533
Quorn	2 - 2	Needham Market	400
Real Bedford	3 - 2	Alvechurch	512
Royston Town	0 - 3	Stamford	435
Stratford Town	1 - 3	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	1,368
Worcester City	2 - 2	St Ives Town	808

## Today's Matches

### The Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central, Saturday 25th April

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

## Bromsgrove Sporting Ladies First Team

Remaining fixtures for the season, all West Midlands Regional Women's Football League - Division One South

Date	KO time	Opponents	H/A	Venue
Sunday 26th April	2:00 pm	Redditch United	A	Redditch United FC, Valley Stadium, Sallie Swan Street, Redditch, B97 4AU
Sunday 3rd May	2:00 pm	Knowle	A	Robins Nest, Hampton Road, Knowle, B93 0NX
Sunday 10th May	2:00 pm	Crusaders	H	3G Pitch, South Bromsgrove High School
Sunday 17th May	2:00 pm	Long Itchington	A	Redditch Borough Community Sports & Social Club, Cherry Tree Walk, Redditch, B97 6PB
TBA		Crusaders	A	Shirley Town FC, Tythe Barn Lane, Shirley, B90 1PH

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## Today's Teams

<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>		<b>Real Bedford</b>	
red & white striped shirts, navy blue shorts and navy blue & red socks		Turquoise shirts, shorts and socks	
<b>Teams to be chosen from the following:</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Rory Brown (GK)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Craig King (GK)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Niall Flint</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Mo Ahmed</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Jack Kelly</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Josh Allen</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Akai Bonnick</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sam Cartwright</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Aaron Roberts (Capt)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Sam Collins</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Kyle Belmonte</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Jack Davies</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Billy Shaw</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Rio Deall</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>George Wynne</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Isaac Galliford</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Luke Benbow</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Harry Gray</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Charlie Trustram</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Lewis Hilliard</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Shay Willock</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Tom Hitchcock</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Jaden Charles</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Archie Jones</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Dale Eve (GK)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Jack Morrell</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Nile Timson</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Drew Richardson</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Jack Newell</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Josh Setchell</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Theo Robinson</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Elliot Simmons</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Luke Softley</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Ben Stevens</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Jordan Lyden</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Conor Tee</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Archie Duerden</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Shaheim Ward</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Kian Ryley</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Lee Watkins (Capt)</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Isaac Godwin</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Ben Weyman</b>

## Match Officials

<b>Referee:</b>	<b>Mr G Davis</b>
<b>Assistant 1:</b>	<b>Mr D Steatham</b>
<b>Assistant 2:</b>	<b>Mr T Burt</b>

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