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FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MATCH DAY



EVESHAM UNITED FC
VS
WALTON & HERSHAM

11TH APRIL

15:00 PM KO



Spiers & Hartwell Stadium



Spiers & Hartwell

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2025/26



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FORD'S FOCUS



First and foremost, it's important that we show our respect to Walton & Hersham. To be confirmed as champions is no small achievement and it reflects the consistency, quality, and standards they have shown throughout the season. Everyone at our club congratulates them on winning the league – it is thoroughly deserved.

Looking back to our most recent fixture at Yate, the disappointment of that result is still fresh. It's never easy to take a defeat, but context matters. We have asked a huge amount of this group in a very short space of time – four games in nine days is a tough schedule for any squad, let alone one that is young and operating with small numbers. The effort, commitment, and honesty from the players should never be in question. We have carried the fight all year and will continue to do so.

Today's fixture is an important one for several reasons.

- It's another opportunity for this group to test themselves against top opposition.
- It's a chance to respond and show resilience after a difficult loss.
- It's about continuing our development, reinforcing our identity, and setting standards that will carry us forward.
- And just as importantly, it's about pride – for the badge, for each other, and for everyone connected with the club.

We will need the backing of our supporters this afternoon. Post Tiverton game was a great show of appreciation for the fans that travelled on a Tuesday night to cheer us on. It was brilliant to celebrate with you.

I can promise you one thing: this team will not stop fighting. We will keep scrapping, competing, and showing that we care about every minute, every challenge, and every result. That commitment will not change, regardless of circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the game.

Mike Ford

Manager, Evesham United FC



THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN...



Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Spiers in Hartwell Stadium for this our penultimate Home fixture of the season.

A special warm welcome to the league champions, their officials, players, and supporters. I would like to congratulate Walton and Hershaw on their league success and wish them well in step two next season.

We have had mixed fortunes in our last three league games.

We travel to Devon from midweek fixture against Tiverton town and the lads putting in a real top class performance. We dominated the game from start to finish but somehow found ourselves behind at the break.

Tiverton managed one shot in which they scored a worldie. In the first half we did everything but score, Andre coming the closest by hitting the post.

Second half so continued pressure from ourselves and eventually we were rewarded with the two goals to give us a victory.

Good Friday, saw us entertain Poole town. Another strong performance by us ended in a 1-1 draw.. ultimately we were denied the victory by a very dodgy penalty decision.

Easter Monday, we travel to Yate town. This turned out to be a game too far as we look tired from the start of the game and we're never really in it.

Today is a fabulous chance to put that performance behind us and with your support behind us, we can get the job done.

I'd like to put on record the fabulous support we have had over the season and 100 people made the journey to Yate on Easter Monday and thank you all.

Together we are united!!

Come on you Robins.

Ged- chairman



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MATCH REPORT



Evesham United 1 vs Poole Town 1 – Southern League Premier Division South 4.4.26 **Match Report by Simon Purfield**

Evesham United welcomed Poole Town on Good Friday for a crucial fixture, with both teams having plenty at stake. Evesham were eager to avoid slipping into the bottom four, while Poole sought to consolidate their position in the play-off places.

With the benefit of a strong wind at their backs, Evesham started brightly. Ethan Dunbar was the first to threaten, forcing Poole's goalkeeper Adam Parkes into a smart save, turning the shot around the post. The early exchanges saw both sides probing and testing each other, but neither team managed to seize the initiative or dictate the tempo.

The breakthrough came in the 28th minute for the home side. Josh McConnell found Andre Wright, whose superb through ball released Dunbar. Dunbar kept his composure and finished confidently from around eight yards, giving Evesham the lead.

Poole immediately responded. Shaquille Gwengwe played in Ayo, who found himself in a promising position but could not keep his shot down. Shortly after, Gwengwe was fouled just outside the box but the resulting free kick was blocked by the Evesham wall. As the half drew to a close, Wright and Dunbar combined once again, only for Dunbar's effort to be thwarted by Poole's defenders.

Early in the second half, Wright was presented with an opportunity from a ball into the area, but he was unable to make the necessary connection, and the chance went begging.

Then in the 50th minute, to the astonishment of the crowd, the referee awarded a controversial penalty where the Evesham defender Jyrel Bojang was blatantly pushed in the back by the striker and in the process his arm touched the ball. The division's top scorer Shaquille Gwengwe put the resultant penalty away with aplomb to level up the score.

The wind continued to influence proceedings, making it difficult for either side to create clear-cut chances. With five minutes remaining, Poole substitute Antonio Diaz squared an excellent ball to Harvey Slade on the edge of the area, but Slade fired his shot well over the bar. Deep into injury time, Slade thought he had snatched victory for Poole when he found the net, but the goal was ruled out for handball.

The match finished in a hard-fought 1-1 draw, witnessed by a crowd of 503. The result left Evesham four places and five points above the relegation zone, with four matches remaining in the season.



MATCH REPORT



**HYate Town 3 vs Evesham United 0 – Southern League Premier Division South.
Monday 6 April 2026.**

Match Report by Simon Purfield

Evesham United travelled down the M5 on a sunny Easter Monday to the South West Interiors Stadium, facing Yate Town, who were positioned in the relegation zone.

Yate Town started brightly and, in the sixth minute, Marlon Jackson's cross from the left reached Rex Mannings, whose overhead kick went wide. The home side maintained most of the pressure but struggled to create clear chances in the box. Evesham United were largely on the defensive, only posing a threat with sporadic attacks that led to corners.

Eventually, Yate Town's persistence paid off as they broke the deadlock in the 40th minute. A move involving Jackson and Mannings set up James Taylor to deliver a cross into a crowded six-yard box, where Jackson rose highest to head into the corner of the net.

During seven minutes of injury time at the end of the first half, Evesham United had their best chance when captain Andre Wright's free kick from the edge of the Yate penalty area narrowly missed the post.

Yate Town doubled their lead just three minutes after the interval. Lloyd James delivered a lofted free kick which Jackson met, nodding the ball over the advancing Alex Harris in the Evesham goal.

Shortly after the hour mark, Jackson had the opportunity for a hat-trick when Josh Bennett's long throw found him six yards out, but he fired over the bar. Evesham managed a brief resurgence, with substitute Josh McConnell shooting straight at Aaron Sainsbury from the edge of the area. Following a corner from the left, Sainsbury made a strong reaction save as the ball was deflected off a Yate defender.

In the 88th minute, substitute Dani Gonzalez-Birchall was fouled in the Evesham penalty area, and Chris Zebroski calmly converted the resulting penalty, sending Harris the wrong way.

Yate Town fully merited their victory, moving above Evesham United in the league table on goal difference. Evesham now sit 18th, just one place above the relegation zone, having secured only one win in their last ten matches. Their next fixture is at home against champions Walton & Hershaw on Saturday.



MATCH REPORT



Tiverton Town 1 Evesham United 2: Southern League Premier Division South Tuesday 31st March 26 - Match Report by Simon Purfield

Evesham United travelled to Devon on Tuesday for their rescheduled league fixture against Tiverton Town, the bottom club, in a crucial match for the Robins. The visitors began strongly, demonstrating swift passing through midfield and effective use of their wing backs.

Ethan Dunbar collected the ball near the corner flag and delivered a cross to Andre Wright, who narrowly missed from close range. Shortly after, Tiverton manager Asa Hall made a goal-line block to prevent a drilled shot from reaching the net. At twelve minutes, Owen Foye's long-range effort prompted a scrambling save from home goalkeeper John Ross.

Despite Evesham's early dominance, Tiverton took the lead against the run of play. Coulibaly set up Toby Stephens, who struck a 25-yard shot into the top left corner. Evesham responded with continued pressure; Dunbar produced another accurate cross, though no teammate was able to convert. Dunbar had a further opportunity beating the offside trap and from a narrow angle put his effort wide.

The visitors maintained intensity, registering three blocked shots within quick succession around the half-hour mark. Wright was twice denied by Ross during a goalmouth scramble. Soon after, Dunbar broke the offside trap and approached goal, but Ross and Wood combined to thwart his attempt.

In the 37th minute, Brandon Liggett sent a cross to the back post, where Wright's header hit the post. At halftime, Evesham, having controlled much of the play, remained behind. The opening period of the second half proved more balanced, with both teams' sharing possession but creating limited opportunities. Approaching the hour, a Foye corner placed Tiverton under pressure, resulting in two attempts—one blocked and one saved. Evesham equalised on seventy-two minutes: Wright headed down a ball from Liggett, Josh McConnell touched it to Dunbar, who finished assuredly from eight yards. A typical poachers goal. Tiverton responded, prompting Evesham keeper Alex Harris to make a double save, denying Camilo and then Wright.

With eight minutes remaining, Evesham claimed a deserved lead. Liggett flicked the ball on, allowing Wright to slide in before the goalkeeper could intervene. Koerner then played an excellent pass from midfield to Wright, who cut back, but Tiverton failed to capitalise. Evesham managed the six added minutes efficiently, with George Alston's late shot deflected for a corner. The Robins secured a 2-1 victory, their first away win since September, lifting them to fifteenth place and four points above the relegation zone. Their next fixture is at home against Poole Town on Good Friday at 3pm.



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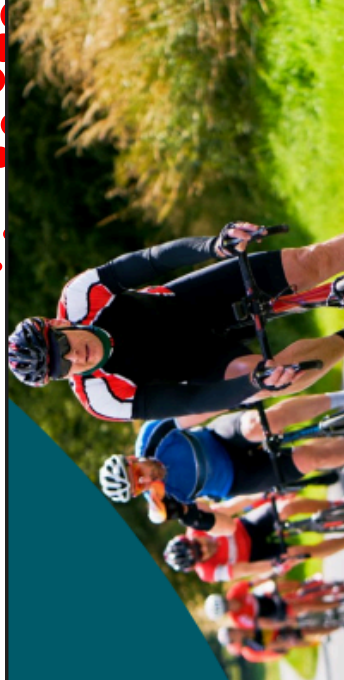
LEAGUE TABLE



	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Walton & Hershaw (C)	39	29	4	6	92	37	55	91
2	Gloucester City	39	23	7	9	86	49	37	76
3	Farnham Town	37	22	8	7	83	47	36	74
4	Poole Town	39	19	11	9	74	47	27	68
5	Berkhamsted	39	19	9	11	59	49	10	66
6	Sholing	39	17	14	8	67	49	18	65
7	Chertsey Town	39	18	10	11	62	49	13	64
8	Havant & Waterlooville	39	17	6	16	74	62	12	57
9	Uxbridge	39	15	12	12	69	64	5	57
10	Gosport Borough	38	17	6	15	65	64	1	57
11	Bracknell Town	39	14	9	16	59	66	-7	51
12	Plymouth Parkway	39	14	7	18	53	73	-20	49
13	Wimborne Town	38	11	13	14	52	56	-4	46
14	Hanwell Town	38	12	9	17	50	59	-9	45
15	Basingstoke Town	39	12	9	18	54	67	-13	45
16	Weymouth	39	12	8	19	48	64	-16	44
17	Yate Town	39	11	10	18	50	60	-10	43
18	Evesham United	39	10	13	16	47	58	-11	43
19	Taunton Town	38	11	8	19	60	69	-9	41
20	Dorchester Town	39	9	12	18	48	70	-22	39
21	Hungerford Town	39	9	10	20	46	83	-37	37
22	Tiverton Town (R)	37	5	3	29	36	92	-56	18

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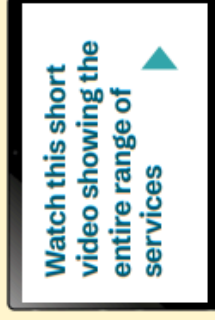
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MEET THE MANAGEMENT



MIKE FORD – MANAGER

Mike, as a player represented Cardiff City and Oxford United, clocking up close to 500 league appearances, gaining two promotions during that time. Following retirement due to injury, Mike has managed Oxford United (twice in caretaker roles) and was also assistant manager there for a period. He then went on to manage Oxford City, (2009-2014) leading them to promotion to the National League Southern Division. He then moved to Banbury United (2015-2020) where he gained promotion from Evesham's level in 2016, before establishing them in the Premier Division from that point. He helped manage St. Ives Town last season. Mike is a UEFA A licensed coach, who has experience working with and developing young players, including being the Oxford United Youth Team Manager.



ALEX SYKES – ASSISTANT MANAGER

May 2011, Alex was appointed as manager of Bishop's Cleeve. In his first season as manager, he led Bishop's Cleeve to the club's then record high league finish of 11th in the Southern League South & West. At the end of his second season as boss, in April 2013, he stepped down from his role as manager at the club. In May 2013 he became joint-manager at fellow Southern League club Shortwood United alongside John Evans. He would eventually take sole charge of the club following the retirement of John Evans at the end of the 2015-16 season. After leading the side for the 2016-17 season, he left Shortwood in April 2017. In January 2018, Alex was appointed as assistant manager Redditch United. In October 2021 he was appointed manager of Cinderford Town and left at the end of the 2022-23 season.

Alex started his playing career in the Football League with Mansfield Town. However he is best known for his time at Forest Green Rovers from 1996 to 2004 where he played 295 times scoring 73 goals in two spells and a loan. He was also a fans favourite at Gloucester City where he scored 60 goals in 160 appearances. Alex played for other teams such as Nuneaton Borough, Bath City and Bishops Cleeve. He is a former England Futsal international.



DAN HEAD – GK COACH

Dan is an experienced coach and Head of senior goalkeeping at Evesham United. Having played academy football at an early age, Dan played the majority of his senior football at representative level in the Services but stopped playing due to injury at a relatively young age. Turning his attention to coaching, he became an ECB accredited cricket coach and has been involved at minor counties level before turning his focus back to football. Dan is a UEFA B qualified outfield and goalkeeper coach and is also a member of the GK Nexus set up. A small group of goalkeepers, mainly working in the professional game, who are mentored by former Derby and Manchester City goalkeeper Eric Steele who was Sir Alex Ferguson's goalkeeper coach at Manchester United. Dan also previously worked across the junior set up at Evesham United and previously coached at Cheltenham Town Academy.



PLAYER PROFILES



ALEX HARRIS – GOALKEEPER

Alex has played for title-winning teams in this division, firstly with Cinderford Town 2015/16, and then Hereford when they were champions in 2016/17. Since then, Harris has played for Gloucester City, Westfields, and Merthyr Town, as well as a second spell at Cinderford Town, who he also helped reach the play-off final. He signed for Cirencester Town from Merthyr during the Covid-19 season. Up until the end of the 2022-23 season, Alex had chalked up almost 100 appearances for the Centurions, before moving on to play in Europe last season with Penybont of the Welsh national league.



JENSON KILROY – GOALKEEPER

Jenson signed his first professional contract with Walsall. He impressed throughout his scholarship and gained men's football experience during loan stints with Hereford Pegasus, Stratford Town and Farsley Celtic. Jenson has been with Walsall since the age of 10, has also trained with the first team and been involved in matchday squads during his scholarship. His professionalism, character and good performances earned him the Saddlers Apprentice of the Year award for the 2024/25 season. The Saddlers have loaned Jenson to the Robins for the 2025/26 season. Already, the young keeper has made some important saves.



BRENDON BEARD – GOALKEEPER

A promising goalkeeper that has joined us from Stoke Gifford United for the 25-26 season.



PLAYER PROFILES



IOAN RICHARDS – DEFENDER

Ioan is a Welsh-born defender who was on a short-term loan from Gloucester City at Swindon Supermarine. He signed at Gloucester City after a trial period in preseason, having previously been with Redditch United and Taunton Town, and had a previous short spell with Gloucester City in 2019. He was initially on a one-month loan until mid-October, which was extended until the end of the season, but Ioan left City in December and joined Swindon Supermarine for the 2024/25 season. He signed for the Robins permanently for the 2025/26 season.



JYREL BOJANG – DEFENDER

Jyrel joined Evesham from Pershore Town; previously, he played at Studley. A solid defender when called from the bench or in the starting XI.



ETHAN PATTERSON – DEFENDER

Ethan is a product of Aston Villa's academy, where he started the 2016/17 season for three years before a stint at Thróttur Vogum (Iceland) from July 2020 until January 2021. Alvechurch was next for Ethan for the 2021/22 season, a short spell at Hednesford during 2023, followed by a return to Alvechurch in June of that year. Ethan then moved on to Bromsgrove Sporting for the 2024/25 season. Signed as a Robin for the 2025/26 season.



CAMERON WALTERS – DEFENDER

Sam was previously at Southampton FC, joining when he was 8 years old and left at the age of 21. He played all the way up to U23 level in which he made his U23 debut at 17. During his time there he earned a 2 year scholarship and following that a 2 year professional contract. After leaving the club, he spent time with Derby County, Bath City and Chippenham, before eventually signing for Kidlington FC for the remainder of the 2023/24 season. Sam later signed for Evesham FC in July 2024 and was part of the 2024/25 promotion winning team. He can play across the back line and as a defensive midfielder.



PLAYER PROFILES



LIAM HUTT – DEFENDER

A product of the Swindon Town youth academy, Hutt made his senior debut for the club during the 2023–24 season in the EFL Trophy group stage.

To gain further first-team experience, he spent time on loan during the 2024–25 season at Weymouth, where he made five appearances in the National League South. He is a young player looking to establish himself in the professional game.



OWEN FOYE – DEFENDER

After a short spell with Swindon Supermarine, he now looks forward to helping Evesham this season.

The young defender, who is in the second year of his scholarship at Swindon Town, has featured in Town's Youth Alliance League and Cup competitions.

He has joined Evesham on a work experience loan to help further develop and give important Men's first-team experience.



JOSHUA BARLOW – MIDFIELDER

Josh started his career at Cheltenham before making the move to the Salop Academy in the 2020/21 season. Whilst impressing in the middle of the park, Steve Cotterill, the Shrewsbury manager, took a shine to Barlow and rewarded him by naming him on the bench towards the end of 21/22 season as a scholar. During the 22/23 season, Josh started three games in the EFL Trophy, making his debut in a 2-1 defeat against Wolverhampton Wanderers. He went on to feature twice more in the same competition, with Shrewsbury eventually bowing out in the group stage. Despite the results in the EFL Trophy. He joined Banbury in June 2023 before leaving them in December. A solid member of the squad with good vision on the ball.



WILL OWENS – MIDFIELDER

Will joined Evesham permanently after signing for Worcester City at the start of the season 23/24.

22-year-old Will originally came on loan from Oxford United in February 2023 and played for us mainly on the left wing.



PLAYER PROFILES



AMER AWADH – MIDFIELDER

28-year-old Amer Awadh is an attacking midfielder who came through the youth system at Oxford City, playing primarily for their Nomads side, though he progressed to make a few first-team appearances. He had been playing for Fanja SC in Oman before joining Banbury United in February 2018, for whom he made 84 appearances. In 2021-22, he started the season at Nuneaton Borough before moving to North Leigh later that term. For the Oxfordshire outfit, he turned out on 70 occasions, scoring 6 goals. Amer captained the Robins promotion side in 2024/25 and continues in the role this season.



BRANDON LIGGETT – MIDFIELDER

Brandon started with Cheltenham Town Under 18s in the 2023/24 season before being loaned early in the year to Gloucester City. Back to Cheltenham the following year, and a month's loan to Salisbury ensued. Brandon moved to the Robins on a free transfer for the 2025/26 season.



LEWIS MIDDLETON – MIDFIELDER

18-year-old Lewis joined Evesham from Kidlington last season. He recently scored his first FA Cup goal for the Robins, hopefully the first of many. This season, 2025/26, Lewis is becoming a super sub, causing our opponents' defence many problems with his speed.



PLAYER PROFILES



ANDRE WRIGHT – FORWARD

Andre joined Evesham from Stratford Town FC. Andre was a product of West Bromwich Albion's academy. He was loaned out to Kidderminster Harriers, Torquay United, and Coventry City in his early career to gain senior football experience. He has also had experience playing in League Two for Yeovil Town in January 2017. He joined National League North side Hereford in January 2022 before moving to Hereford in the same season. Andre signed for Stratford Town in October 2022. Andre has a natural instinct for a chance to score; when in the right place, his shot is deadly.



ETHAN DUNBAR – FORWARD

Ethan signed from Bishops Cleeve for this season, 2025/26. Ethan is a hardworking, right-footed forward who started out in 2021-22 with Longlevens AFC before moving to Slimbridge in 2022-23, where he scored 18 goals. Bishops Cleeve signed Ethan for 2023-25, and he scored 39 goals in two seasons with them. Already finding the net this season, Ethan is a handful for the opposition defence.



KAI CHURCHLEY – FORWARD

Kai had an excellent 4-year spell (2 years scholar and 2 years pro) with Bristol City, where he played a key role in the Robins' successful Under-21s team in the Professional Development League Two. Kai also had a loan spell with Gloucester City during their National League North campaign in 2023/24, before having a spell with Tiverton Town in the Southern League Premier South during the 2024/25 season. Kai comes to the Robins as a loan signing from Merthyr Town. The 21-year-old attacker joins the Robins on a deal that will run until at least the New Year.

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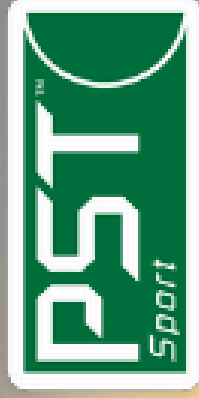
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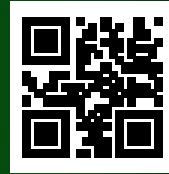
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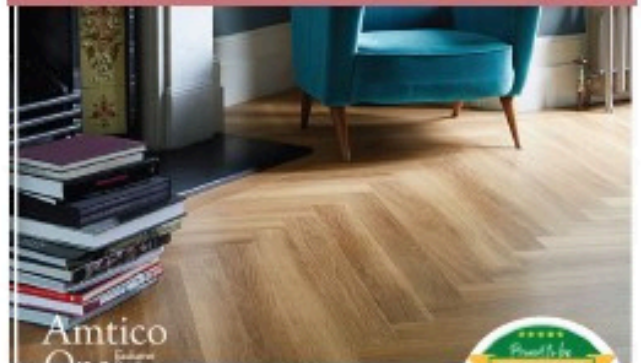
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PLAYER APPEARANCES & GOALS 2025-26



	LEAGUE Starts	Subs	Goals	CUP Starts	Subs	Goals	TOTAL Starts	Subs	Goals
Aaron Heap	20	7		2	3		22	10	
Alex Harris (GK)	30			3			33		
Amer Awadh	26	10	3	5	1	1	31	11	4
Andre Wright	32	6	9	5	1	2	37	7	11
Brandon Liggett	25	8		4	2		29	10	
Brendan Beard	1	1		1			2	1	
Cameron Walters	32			5			37		
Dani Gonzalez-Birchall	1	5			1		1	6	
Ethan Dunbar	22	16	7	2	4		24	20	7
Ethan Patterson	13	1	1	1			14	1	1
George Alston		4					0	4	
Ioan Richards	32		2	6		1	38		4
Jac Lee Poffley	9	3					9	3	
Josh Mcconnell	7	7	1				7	7	1
Joshua Barlow	33	3	2	3	2		36	5	2
Jyrel Bojang	23	7		5			28	7	
Kai Churchley	16	15	4	4	1		20	16	4
Levi Steele	21	7	10	4	2	2	25	9	12
Lewis Middleton	1	22	1	2	3	2	3	25	3
Liam Hutt	20	4	2	1			21	4	2
Owen Foye	19		1	1			20		1
Roger James	2	6					2	6	
William Owens	12	3	1	5			17	3	1

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WALTON & HERSHAM

PLAYER PROFILES



Jakub Pietrzak (Manager) – After being a part of Billy Rowley’s team management for the past two seasons, Jakub was appointed his successor following his departure in November. He spent time with Millwall as a first team scout, identifying talent for the Polish FA and working as a director and head coach for Elite Player Programme.

Julian Charles (Assistant Manager) – Julian joined Swans in December as Jakub Pietrzak’s assistant. He has a wealth of experience, having made close to 600 appearances in a near-25 year playing career. This included playing for Brentford after joining them from Hampton & Richmond Borough in 1999. He has also earned two caps for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Julian has held management and coaching roles at several clubs.

Jos Barker (Goalkeeper) – Jos joined Swans in the summer of 2024 from Combined Counties League club Knaphill, for whom he made his senior debut in 2021 at the age of 17. He became a regular for the Knappers, making well over a century of appearances and playing a key role in their passage to the 2023-24 Play-off Final, also breaking the Club’s clean sheet record with 17 shut-outs. In his first season at Step 3, Jos added to fine performances in goal by heading a last-minute equaliser against Dorchester Town. He was also selected for the English Universities’ squad. Age: 21. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

Eoin Bolger (Defender) – After being a young player at Crystal Palace, Eoin joined Swans at the beginning of the 2023-24 season from Tooting Bec FC. After being on dual-registration at Combined Counties League club Cobham he soon established himself as a regular in the Swans’ side. Eoin was virtually ever present last season at both left back and central defence, and has now made over 100 appearances. Age: 20. Debut: 09.12.23 v. Salisbury.

Luciano D’Auria-Henry (Defender) – Luciano came through Fulham’s development system to play for the U23s. He played three times for Cheltenham Town when on loan in 2023-24, and after being released by Fulham he joined Farnborough last season, making 23 appearances for them. He then joined Swans in October. Age: 23. Debut: 01.11.25 v. Tiverton Town.

Riley Horan (Defender) – A captain of the AFC Wimbledon U18 side, Riley joined Swans at the end of March last season on a work experience loan, scoring on his debut against Basingstoke Town. He rejoined for a second loan spell in August. Age: 19. Debut: 29.03.25 v. Basingstoke Town.

Thabo Kuaho (Defender) – Thabo is a young left-side defender who came through the development set-up at Chelsea. On his release he joined the Swans’ Academy, and soon broke into the 1st Team midway through last season, quickly establishing himself as a regular in the left-back spot. Age: 19. Debut: 14.12.24 v. Dorchester Town.

Ethan Light (Defender) – Ethan joined Leyton Orient from Burnham FC in January 2023. While at the East London club he had loan spells at both Hendon and Banbury United. After leaving Orient he had a short spell at Hemel Hempstead Town at the beginning of last season before re-joining Hendon on a permanent basis. He returned to Hemel Hempstead Town in January, before joining Swans in the summer. Age: 21. Debut: 09.08.25 v. Plymouth Parkway.

Stefan Parkes (Defender) – Stefan first joined Swans on loan from Fulham in February 2024, but his debut was cut short after just 25 minutes when he suffered a recurrence of a hamstring injury, one that he had just returned from following a long period of rehabilitation. After joining Fulham from Brentford as a 14 year-old, Stefan moved through the age ranks to the U21s. After being released by Fulham he re-joined Swans on a permanent basis in the summer. Age: 21. Debut: 17.01.24 v. Tiverton Town.

WALTON & HERSHAM

PLAYER PROFILES



Aaron Williams Fernandez (Defender) – Aaron signed for Swans in October from Chertsey Town, who he had joined in the summer. He spent his early career in the USA, playing for three different clubs, before moving to Spain in January 2025 from UNH Wildcats to play for Real Sporting de Gijón. Age: 23.

Joe Bennett (Defender/Midfield) – A highly experienced defender or midfielder, Joe made getting on for 400 appearances for several Premier and Football League clubs, including Middlesbrough, Aston Villa, Brighton & Hove Albion, Cardiff City, Wigan Athletic and Oxford United, with whom he won promotion to The Championship in 2023-24, playing in the Play-off Final win over Bolton Wanderers at Wembley. He has also represented England at U19, U20 and U21 levels. Although out for several months injured, Joe played several games for Oxford United last season, before leaving them in the summer. He signed for Swans in October. Age: 35. Debut: 11.10.25 v. Wimborne Town.

Elliott Bolton (Defender/Midfield) – Elliott joined Swans in the summer of 2024 after playing the latter stages of the previous season at Basingstoke Town, He started at AFC Wimbledon, and while there had a first short spell at Basingstoke on loan, and also played for Corinthian-Casuals on a similar arrangement. He joined Weymouth in 2023-24 before his move to Basingstoke. Age: 24. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

Joey Jones (Defender/Midfield) – Swans' captain Joey started as a young player at Arsenal and then Leicester City. Although born in England he qualified for Northern Ireland through his father and played for their youth sides to win a cap at U21 level. Prior to joining Swans in the summer of 2024 he had spent his career in the EFL and at Step 1, his clubs being Yeovil Town, Woking, Eastleigh, Salford City, Dagenham & Redbridge, Grimsby Town (loan), Solihull Moors and Altrincham. Age: 31. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

Lucas Defise (Midfield) – Lucas is a former Belgium U17 international with three caps to his name. After starting at AFC Wimbledon and Chelsea, he made the move to Southampton in the summer of 2018. He progressed through to the U21s at St. Marys before returning to his native Belgium in 2021. Lucas joined Union Saint-Gilloise U21s and spent a season on loan playing for Helmond Sport in the Dutch Eerste Divisie, before returning and making the step up to Under 23 level for the Belgian champions in 2022-23. After leaving Union he had spells at Dartford and Eastbourne Borough in 2023-24 before moving to Swans in the summer of 2024. Age: 24. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

Anis Nuur (Midfield) – Anis joined Swans at the beginning of the 2023-24 season following a second spell at Hartley Wintney. He had also previously played for Colliers Wood United, where he began as a youth, Balham, Tooting & Mitcham United, Hanwell Town, Westfield, Cray Wanderers, Hendon and Metropolitan Police. Anis made his debut for the Somali national side in the Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers in March 2022. He has now passed a century of appearances for Swans. Age: 28. Debut: 26.08.23 v. Gosport Borough.

Mason Obeng (Midfield) – Mason joined Swans in the summer of 2024 after being released by Aldershot Town. Prior to joining Aldershot's youth set-up he had played for Queens Park Rangers' U18s. He also had loan spells at both Westfield and Hartley Wintney while at the Shots. Age: 22. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

Johl Powell (Forward/Midfield) – After being with Charlton Athletic as a young player, Johl played for Maidstone United on loan before moving to Dulwich Hamlet and then Tonbridge Angels. He joined Swans in January 2024 from Dover Athletic, and has now clocked up over 100 appearances for the Club. Age: 24. Debut: 13.01.24 v. Swindon Supermarine.

WALTON & HERSHAM

PLAYER PROFILES



Jack Wood (Forward/Midfield) – Jack joined Swans in the summer from Southend United, after being at the National League club since the 2021-22 season, having signed for them from Kings Langley. While at the Shrimpers he had two loan spells at Tonbridge Angels and one at Torquay United. He had joined Kings Langley in the summer of 2019 from Berkhamsted. Age: 23. Debut: 09.08.25 v. Plymouth Parkway.

Zach Alfalahi (Forward) – Zach joined Swans in the summer, having had a successful time playing for Durham University. He also played for Durham United in his time in the north-east. Zach started at Chelsea, going on to play for Lingfield. Age: 22. Debut: 20.09.25 v. Bracknell Town.

Francis Amartey (Forward) – Francis joined Swans at the beginning of the year from Bracknell Town. Prior to playing for the Robins he had been at several clubs, including Beaconsfield Town, Aldershot Town, Slough Town, where he had three spells, and Ayr United in the Scottish Championship. Francis signed a professional contract with Birmingham City in August 2018. Age: 26. Debut: 03.01.26 v. Gosport Borough.

Danylo Hubynets (Forward) – After impressing in pre-season, Ukrainian born Danylo joined Swans in the summer. He has been with development squads at both Oxhey Jets and Harrow Borough. Danylo has played several times for Hanworth Villa on dual-registration. Age: 19. Debut: 09.08.25 v. Plymouth Parkway.

Dawid Rogalski (Forward) – After moving to England as a child from his native Poland, Dawid joined the Maidenhead United Academy. He returned to Poland in 2017 to play for GKS Tychy, Gryf Wejherowo, GKS Katowice and Resovia Rzeszów. After returning to England in 2021 he joined Chalfont St. Peter. Dawid signed for Swans in the summer of 2024 from Marlow, who he helped win the Isthmian League South-Central Division Play-offs the previous season, scoring 45 goals in all competitions. Age: 29. Debut: 10.08.24 v. AFC Totton.

WALTON & HERSHAM

CLUB HISTORY



Walton-on-Thames F.C. was formed in 1895, and in 1945, following World War II, amalgamated with Hershams F.C. to form Walton & Hershams F.C., the present club.

The united club immediately joined the newly formed Corinthian League and followed a poor first season with a hat-trick of Championships and a runners-up position.

They also won the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time in 1947-48, beating Isthmian League neighbours Kingstonsian 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

Election to the Athenian League soon followed and in their first season, 1950-51, Swans finished runners-up and again won the Surrey Senior Cup at Palace, defeating the much vaunted Dulwich Hamlet 2-1.

Great days, big crowds

These were golden days for the Stompond Lane side and the FA Amateur Cup Semi-Final was reached in successive seasons, 1951-52 and 1952-53, only for Swans to go out to Walthamstow Avenue and Harwich & Parkeston respectively.

During this period the club enjoyed a tremendous following, and a record crowd of 10,000 were at the Lane in 1952 when the famous Crook Town were the visitors for an Amateur Cup tie.

Stars of this era included Swans' most famous player, England and Great Britain Olympic defender C.R. 'Jack' Neale, and the prolific Reg Sentance, still the club's all-time top scorer.

Some lean years followed, although the FA Cup First Round was reached for the first time in 1957-58, Southampton winning 6-1 before 6,000 people at Stompond Lane.

Don Stoker's popular sides of the early 1960's brought cup fever back to the Lane and there were fine runs again in the FA Amateur Cup.

Two late goals by the prolific and popular Brian Jenkins beat the star-studded Wimbledon side in the Surrey Senior Cup Final of 1960-61, and the trophy was retained against Sutton United the following season.

After several years of mid-table respectability the appointment of Allen Batsford as manager in 1967 heralded the beginning of the most successful period in the club's history.

At the end of his first season, a superb victory over a powerful Wimbledon side in the two legged Final secured the Premier Midweek Floodlit League title, the first of three, followed a year later by the winning of the Athenian League championship for the first time.

The FA Cup First Round Proper was again reached in the following two seasons, only for Swans to lose to Barnet 1-0 in 1969-70 and Telford United 5-2 in 1970-71, both games being played at the Lane.

The runners-up spot in the League was achieved in both those campaigns and the Surrey Senior Cup came back to Stompond Lane in 1970-71, Woking being defeated 3-0 in the Final.

Election to the Isthmian ranks followed, with third place attained in the first season, 1971-72.

Wembley at last

Then followed the most memorable season in the club's history, 1972-73.

The FA Cup First Round barrier was overcome for the first time with Exeter City being defeated 2-1 amid tremendous excitement at the Lane, only for visitors Margate to win by the only goal in the Second Round.

Kingstonsian were beaten 2-0 in the Surrey Senior Cup Final and the runners-up spot achieved in the League.

Then on the 14th of April 1973 the ultimate prize was gained at Wembley when 41,000 people saw a last-minute Roger Connell goal against Slough Town bring the FA Amateur Cup to Stompond Lane, the trophy being won without a goal being conceded, a record never to be equaled.

Dave Bassett, Willie Smith and Connell also had the honour of playing for the England Amateur side.

The following season Brian Clough brought his Brighton & Hove Albion side to Stompond Lane in the FA Cup First Round, and following a goalless draw, Swans pulled off a sensational result in the replay at The Goldstone Ground, a Clive Foskett hat-trick included in a 4-0 win.

Sadly, when Batsford left for Wimbledon the following season the fine team broke up, the crowds drifted away, and relegation soon followed in 1975

WALTON & HERSHAM

CLUB HISTORY



The FA Cup First Round was surprisingly reached in 1975-76, and a young side put on a battling performance at Selhurst Park against Malcolm Allison's Crystal Palace, only going down 1-0 to a late goal.

Barren years followed, with the club several times being close to extinction.

In the mid 1980's the club was proud to have Sir Stanley Matthews as President, but sides flattered to deceive and only a draw in the final game of the 1986-87 season prevented relegation to Division Two.

Promotion

After 20 years out of the top-flight, a young side under Neil Price at last gained promotion in 1993-94, and the following season the First Round Proper of the FA Cup was again reached, Swansea City winning 2-0 at the Lane. However Swans' Centenary celebrations were spoilt by relegation after only two seasons back in the Premier. Under the management of Laurie Craker the team ensured the stay in Division One was as brief as possible, promotion being gained on the last day of the campaign.

After a creditable first season back in the Premier Division it again proved to be a struggle to remain there, and at the end of the 1999-2000 season Swans finished in bottom spot and relegation again became a reality.

Swans had to wait until the 2004-05 season before more success came to Stompond Lane after long-serving player Alan Dowson took over as manager in October.

After defeat in his first match in charge, Dowson led the team to a record breaking 13 match winning sequence, fine runs in the FA Trophy and League Cup, and promotion as runners-up in the Ryman League Division One.

The Surrey Senior Cup Final was reached for the first time in 31 years, the Swans only losing a thrilling game against AFC Wimbledon 2-1 after extra-time before close to 4,000 people at Woking.

After a creditable first season back in the Premier Division a poor start to 2006-07 led to Dowson's early resignation and eventual relegation yet again.

Since then Swans remained in Division One, facing relegation fights on several occasions, until 2015-16, when a third from bottom finish finally saw them go down, ending a 45 year unbroken stay in the Isthmian League.

At the end of September 2017 Swans were forced to leave their home of 8 decades, Stompond Lane, when it was sold for development, the club moving to a new home at a purpose-built Sports Hub in Waterside Drive.

After two good seasons in the Combined Counties League Premier Division, when they finished in fifth and fourth places, a poor 2018-19 led to a bottom place finish and relegation to Division One.

A new era

At the start of the 2019-20 season Walton & Hershams FC was then taken over by a consortium of seven 19 year-olds, who became the youngest owners of a senior football club.

With a complete club rebranding a resurgence of fortunes soon began, and following two seasons that remained unfinished due to the Covid-19 virus, Swans' record of finishing in third and second places gained them promotion under a PPG (points per game) system to the newly formed Combined Counties League Premier Division South for 2021-22.

The management team of Scott Harris and Billy Rowley then guided Swans to a second successive promotion and a return to the Isthmian League after six seasons away, a runners-up spot securing them a place in the South-Central Division for 2022-23.

Also, an end of season record breaking 18 match unbeaten run culminated in them winning the Combined Counties League Premier Challenge Cup with a 2-1 win over Southall in the Final.

After a last minute goal in the final match of the season denied them the Championship, a 3-1 home win over Hanworth Villa in the Play-off Final before a ground record crowd of 2,059 secured a third successive promotion, the season ending with a 21 match unbeaten run.

WALTON & HERSHAM

CLUB HISTORY



Returning to Step 3 after an absence of 16 seasons for 2023-24, the Club played in the Southern League for the first time, finishing in a creditable 7th place in the Premier Division South.

Following the departure of Scott Harris, Swans played their second season in the Southern League Premier Division South with Billy Rowley in managerial charge, and reached the 2024-25 Play-off's by finishing in 3rd place. Unfortunately the Semi-Final at home to Gloucester City was lost 5-3 on penalties following a 2-2 draw after extra-time.

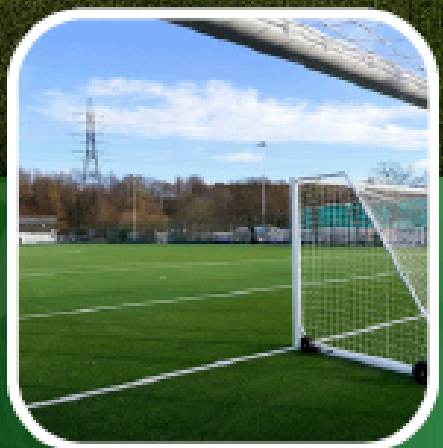
The season finished on a high note however, when the Surrey Senior Cup was won for the first time in 52 years, National League South Dorking Wanderers being beaten 3-1 in the Final on their own ground at Meadowbank.

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WELL, here we go again? It feels like only yesterday that we were negotiating the hectic Christmas period and scraping snow and ice off the pitches. How time flies.

Now, in the blink of an eye, we're preparing for Easter and counting down to the final throws of another spell-binding Non-League season.

Promotion, play-off and relegation pictures are becoming ever clearer, so with that in mind it's time to get those now iconic National Game Awards glass decanters to the engravers and prepare to honour the big winners of the 2025-26 campaign.

With plenty still to play for, of course, this year's NGAs are very much up for grabs, so why not get your votes in early to give your team, star man or most valued volunteer the best chance of being celebrated in Non-League football's most prized ceremony?

Today, we can exclusively reveal that The NGAs will again be held at AFC Wimbledon's Plough Lane Stadium on Wednesday May 20.

We are delighted once again to confirm that Isuzu UK have agreed to become title sponsors of the event, adding The NGAs to their current sponsorship of Non-League's two premier cup competitions, the FA Trophy and FA Vase.

Isuzu UK continue to be a driving force behind grassroots football in the community with a large number of dealerships from all over the country becoming actively involved in their local clubs.

We remain proud and hugely grateful for their support and look forward to working closely with the Isuzu UK team when it comes to selecting the winner of our much-loved Unsung Hero Award.

Institution

The NGAs have become something of a Non-League institution over the years – and that's thanks largely to the strong backing it receives.

Without this, we simply couldn't honour the great and good of the Non-League game with that famous decanter, provided once again by our friends at Supreme Engraving.

This year, we welcome new sponsors on board. Enterprise Rent-A-Car, official title sponsors of the National League, North and South, climb onto the NGA bandwagon after a groundbreaking first year of involvement in the Non-League game.

From helping fans get to the game to backing local initiatives off the pitch, Enterprise have relished becoming a part of the journey.

They will be honouring the hotly-contested Team of the Year award for their outstanding contribution this year.

Also on board this year for the first time, are JDG Media – *The NLP's* digital partners in bringing you unrivalled online news content.

They will be sponsoring our newest NGA, the Digital Media Award, honouring those who have provided the best content over various media platforms.

Last year's inaugural award was won by Farnham Town FC.

Talking of newcomers, this year we are also delighted to welcome on board Groundtastic – the Football Grounds Magazine – to proceedings as sponsors of our Step 3&4 Player of the Year, and our colleagues from News Team Group – the newspaper and magazine delivery specialists – to lead the Manager of the Year award.

Elsewhere, we are delighted to welcome back The Sports Circle Ltd for a second year. They will be honouring the Player of the Year for their outstanding contribution this year.

UK teamwear and clothing company Moving Forward Sports also return; Community Club of the Year award is their category.

Long-term sponsors Huck Nets have again put their name to the Goal of the Season accolade, while Reusch also return – they couldn't wait to once again get their hands on the sponsorship for this season's Goalkeeper of the Year award.

Our partners at Sportsbeat sign up once again – they didn't need asking twice to support the Young Player of the Year, while SK Kits will honour Non-League's top goal getter with the Golden Boot award.

The NLP Lifetime Achievement award is one of our personal favourites, while The Football Supporters' Association Away Day Experience of the Year recognises the efforts clubs make to cater for travelling fans.

The FA are also back on board to acknowledge the winner of the Cup Run of the Year, judged on the FA Cup, Trophy and Vase.

Macclesfield will clearly take some beating here but FA Trophy semi-finalists Marine and Southport will undoubtedly push them all the way.

Keep an eye on The NLP over the coming weeks for award-by-award guides and all the information you need to ensure the decanters end up in the right hands!

Let's get this show on the road once more.

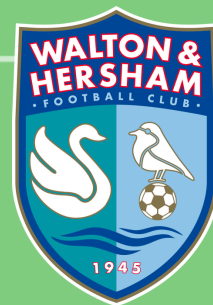
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OWEN FOYE
BRANDON LIGGETT
IOAN RICHARDS
BRENDON BEARD
LEWIS MIDDLETON
WILL OWENS
LIAM HUTT
ROGER JAMES
JOSH MCCONNELL
JAC LEE POFFLEY

MANAGER: MIKE FORD
ASST MAN: ALEX SYKES
GK COACH: DAN HEAD
COACH: RICHARD JOYCE
PERFORMANCE: DARREN MORSON



ZACH ALFALAH
FRANCIS AMARTEY
JOS BARKER (GK)
JOE BENNETT
EOIN BOLGER
ELLIOTT BOLTON
LUCAS DEFISE
RILEY HORAN
DANYLO HUBYNETS
JOEY JONES (C)
THABO KUAHO
ETHAN LIGHT
ANIS NUUR
MASON OBENG
STEFAN PARKES
JOHL POWELL
DAWID ROGALSKI
AARON WILLIAMS FERNANDEZ
JACK WOOD

MANAGER: JAKUB PIETRZAK
ASST MAN: JULIAN CHARLES

Next Home Match: Saturday 18th April 2026 vs. Gosport Borough
Kick off 15:00 Southern League Premier South