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SOUTHERN  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# MATCH DAY



EVESHAM UNITED FC  
VS  
POOLE TOWN FC

**3RD APRIL**

**15:00 PM KO**



Spiers & Hartwell Stadium

**Spiers & Hartwell**

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# FORD'S FOCUS



## **Evesham United v Poole Town Southern League Premier South – Programme Notes**

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome back to The Spiers & Hartwell Stadium for today's huge fixture against Poole Town.

This is a massive game for both clubs. We need points for our reasons, and they'll be just as hungry for theirs. At this stage of the season, every moment matters, every decision matters, and every ounce of effort matters. That's the reality we're living in – and it's a challenge we must rise to together.

The Tiverton game was on Tuesday, after I had written these notes, hopefully it's one that helps us. But regardless of what's happened, our focus has to remain firmly on today and us. Our performance, our spirit and our identity.

Because we must remember what we are:

- Fighters.
- Scrappers.

A group with enough ability to ask questions of anyone in this league, and very young. I had 7 20 and under on the pitch last week, for 45 minutes we were excellent. The youthfulness and the lack of maturity cost the team. We have some brilliant young talent, it's our job to help them develop and learn.

We've shown it before, and we need to show it again today. We need enormous fight, enormous spirit, and total commitment to the cause. We have to deal with our current situation head-on – no excuses, no hiding. Just hard work, togetherness, and belief. To our supporters: you make a difference.

Your backing lifts this group when it matters most. Get behind the players from the first whistle to the last. Drive them on. Encourage them. Stand with them.

Because today, more than ever:

We are all in this together.

Enjoy the game,

**Mike Ford**

Manager, Evesham United FC



# THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN...



Good afternoon everyone,

The run-in is well and truly underway, and Tuesday night's result in Devon has given us exactly the momentum we need at this critical juncture. At this stage of the season, form is important, but belief is everything. Every minute we step onto the pitch representing this club demands full commitment, togetherness, and a refusal to give in.

Our trip to Tiverton Town was the definition of a "must-win" fixture. While we dominated the early stages with swift passing and effective use of our wing-backs, trailing at the break felt harsh given the chances we created. However, the character shown to fight back in the second half speaks volumes about the spirit in this squad.

Today, we welcome Poole Town for this Good Friday clash. Like every side we face in April, they will be dangerous and competitive. We cannot afford to "roll over" or assume the job is done. We must manage the game with the same efficiency we showed during those final six minutes of injury time on Tuesday.

Your support remains our greatest asset. The atmosphere you create provides the energy the players need to turn draws into wins. Moments of unity—like the celebrations in Devon—remind us what this club is about: pride and community.

Let's build on the positives, push each other, and make sure every second counts. Let's make the Spiers & Hartwell Stadium a fortress this afternoon.

Up the Robins!

Ged- chairman



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# MATCH REPORT



## **Havant & Waterlooville 6 vs Evesham United 1: Southern League Premier Division South Match Report by Simon Purfield**

Evesham made the trip to the south coast on Saturday to take on Havant and Waterlooville and came away with their biggest defeat of the season.

After a tightly contested opening twenty minutes, the home side began to assert themselves, applying increased pressure to the Evesham goal. The breakthrough came in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute when Pendlebury delivered a free kick that found Wilson. His attempt was spilt by Evesham goalkeeper Alex Harris, resulting in the ball creeping over the line to give Havant the lead.

Shortly afterwards, Havant almost doubled their advantage. Whittingham surged forward and released Oudnie-Morgan, whose low cross into the box was met by Hutt, preventing the home side from getting another shot at goal.

Evesham responded in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute, drawing level through midfielder Josh McConnell, who capitalised on good play from Barlow to restore parity and give the visitors hope. The Hawks attempted to regain the lead when Seager connected with a pass from Oudnie-Morgan, but Harris denied him a chance to shoot. A good move was created for Awadh, but he could not take advantage of the opportunity for the Robins.

Overall, the first half was evenly matched, with both teams creating chances and keeping the contest tightly balanced.

The second half saw Havant seize control. Just two minutes after the interval, Laidlaw's corner was returned to him via Patten, and he struck the loose ball first time into the net to restore the hosts' lead. Havant extended their advantage in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute when Laidlaw won an aerial duel and set up Whittingham, who calmly found the net. The Hawks made it 4-1 on the hour mark. Substitute Giwa-McNeil won the ball in the air, Seager collected the loose ball and played it to Whittingham, who finished clinically from close range. Havant's dominance continued as Giwa-McNeil twisted and turned inside the area before curling a composed finish into the back of the net, bringing the tally to four goals within sixteen minutes.

As the match progressed, Havant maintained their dominance. In the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, two attempts were cleared off the line by the Evesham defence. With the final kick of the match, Seager slotted the ball into the bottom corner, rounding off the score at 6-1. Following this result, Evesham, having collected just three points from their last seven matches, find themselves two places and one point above the relegation zone.



# MATCH REPORT



## **Hanwell Town 2 vs Evesham United 0 – Southern League Premier Division South: Tuesday 24 March - Match Report by Simon Purfield**

Evesham United made their first ever visit to West London based Hanwell Town on Tuesday evening. The hosts were in 13<sup>th</sup> place and Evesham in 17<sup>th</sup>, two points apart, so important in terms of the battle to avoid the drop.

The Robins made the brighter start culminating in arguably the best chance that the visitors would have. Skipper Amer Awadh worked his way down the left, looked up and cut the ball into the path of Kai Churchley. His shot from just inside the box went wide of the left-hand post. Minutes later, the Geordies had their first sight of goal when Seidou Sanogo had a header saved by Alex Harris.

The first half saw few clear-cut openings created, with Hanwell using the long ball and long throws to build up their play. Evesham tried to be more patient without a cutting edge.

With three minutes added of extra time for the first half, Hanwell took the lead. Luke Cook found some space on the right wing, where he drilled a hopeful ball into the Evesham box. This was not cleared properly by the Evesham defence, and it fell to Sanogo, who slotted the ball calmly into the bottom left corner to give the home side the lead at half-time.

Into the second half, Awadh again was the provider with a ball over the top of the defence to Roger James, whose looping effort beat Sam Beasant in goal, but it went wide.

Just before the hour, Hanwell Town doubled their lead. A build-up for the goal came with good work down the right flank, followed by a Roberto Nditi low cross that Henry Snee poked home from close range. Minutes later, Evesham responded when a good passing move saw Owen Foye set up Liam Hutt, but his shot went well over the stand. The last third of the match was played in driving rain and a swirling breeze.

With five minutes remaining, a Churchley in-swinging corner from the right was brilliantly pushed over from under the crossbar by Beasant. Then Hanwell created an opportunity where a snapshot was deflected just over the Evesham goal.

The match ended 2-0 to Hanwell and Evesham are now entrenched in the relegation battle after a run of six games without victory.



# MATCH REPORT



## **Tiverton Town 1 Evesham United 2: Southern League Premier Division South Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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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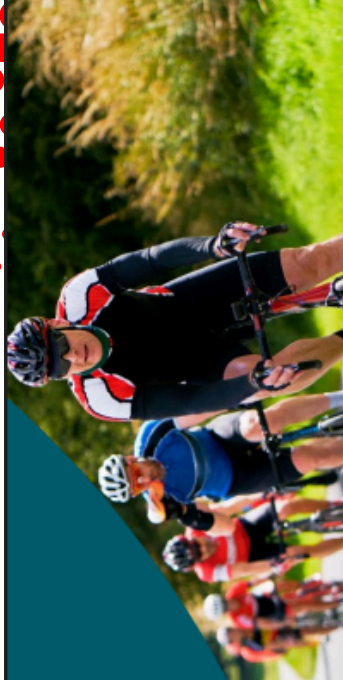
# LEAGUE TABLE



	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	<b>Walton &amp; Hersham</b>	37	29	4	4	91	32	59	<b>91</b>
2	<b>Gloucester City</b>	37	22	7	8	84	46	38	<b>73</b>
3	<b>Farnham Town</b>	35	21	8	6	81	44	37	<b>71</b>
4	<b>Poole Town</b>	37	19	10	8	72	44	28	<b>67</b>
5	<b>Sholing</b>	37	16	14	7	65	47	18	<b>62</b>
6	Chertsey Town	37	17	9	11	58	46	12	60
7	Berkhamsted	37	17	9	11	52	46	6	60
8	Gosport Borough	36	17	6	13	64	58	6	57
9	Havant & Waterlooville	37	15	6	16	68	62	6	51
10	Uxbridge	37	13	12	12	65	63	2	51
11	Bracknell Town	37	13	9	15	55	63	-8	48
12	Hanwell Town	36	12	9	15	49	55	-6	45
13	Wimborne Town	36	10	13	13	50	54	-4	43
14	Plymouth Parkway	37	12	7	18	47	71	-24	43
<b>15</b>	<b>Evesham United</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>42</b>
16	Basingstoke Town	37	11	9	17	53	64	-11	42
17	Weymouth	37	11	7	19	47	63	-16	40
18	Yate Town	37	10	9	18	45	59	-14	39
19	Dorchester Town	37	9	11	17	46	67	-21	38
20	Hungerford Town	37	9	10	18	45	77	-32	37
21	Taunton Town	36	9	8	19	55	69	-14	35
22	Tiverton Town	35	5	3	27	33	87	-54	18

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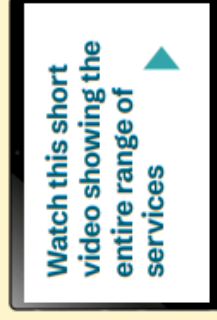
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# MEET THE MANAGEMENT



## 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.



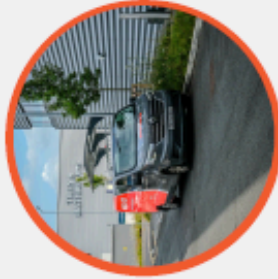
## KAI CHURCHLEY – FORWARD

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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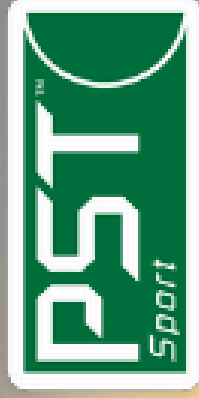
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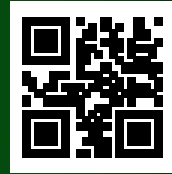


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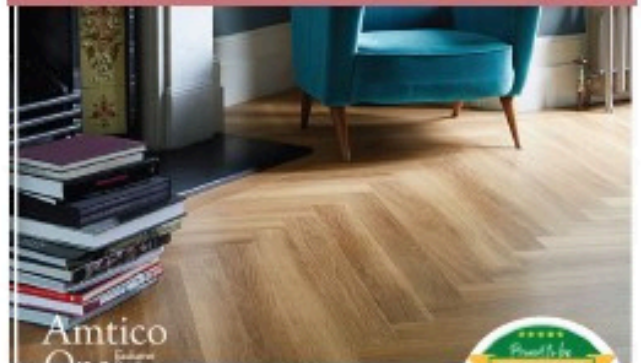
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# PLAYER APPEARANCES & GOALS 2025-26



	LEAGUE Starts	Subs	Goals	CUP Starts	Subs	Goals	TOTAL Starts	Subs	Goals
Aaron Heap	20	6		2	3		22	9	
Alex Harris (GK)	28			3			31		
Amer Awadh	26	8	3	5	1	1	31	9	4
Andre Wright	30	6	9	5	1	2	35	7	11
Brandon Liggett	23	8		4	2		27	10	
Brendan Beard	1	1		1			2	1	
Cameron Walters	30			5			35		
Dani Gonzalez-Birchall	1	5			1		1	6	
Ethan Dunbar	20	16	6	2	4		22	20	6
Ethan Patterson	13	1	1	1			14	1	1
George Alston		4					0	4	
Ioan Richards	30		2	6		1	36		4
Jac Lee Poffley	8	2					8	2	
Jenson Kilroy (GK)	7			2			9		
Josh Mcconnell	6	6	1				6	6	1
Joshua Barlow	31	3	2	3	2		34	5	2
Jyrel Bojang	21	7		5			26	7	
Kai Churchley	15	14	4	4	1		19	15	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	18	4	2	1			19	4	2
Owen Foye	18		1	1			19		1
Roger James	2	6					2	6	
William Owens	12	3	1	5			17	3	1

The VX3 logo is rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The 'V' and 'X' are connected, and the '3' is slightly smaller and positioned to the right.

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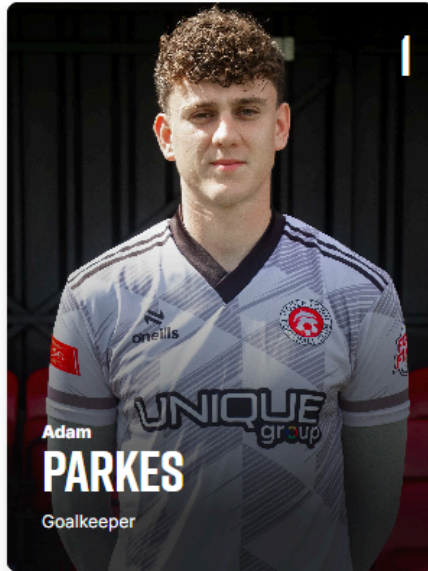


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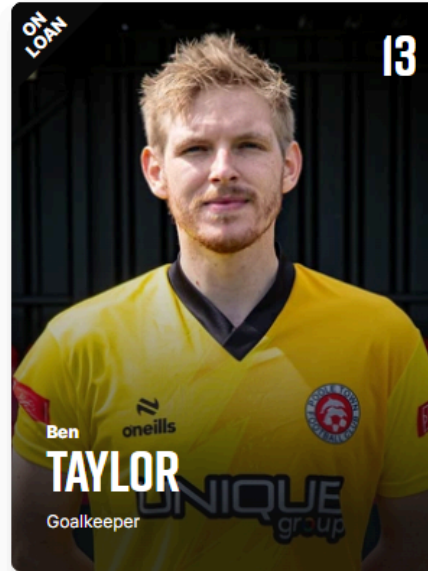
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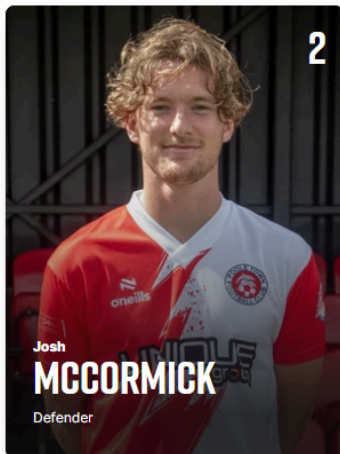
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# POOLE TOWN PLAYER PROFILES



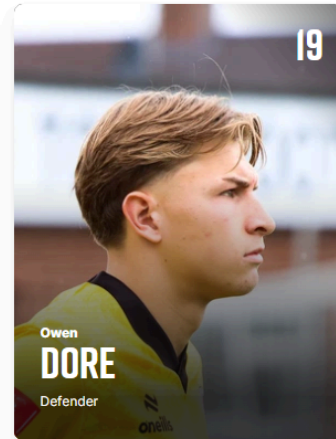
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**CARR**  
Defender

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Corey  
**JORDAN**  
Defender

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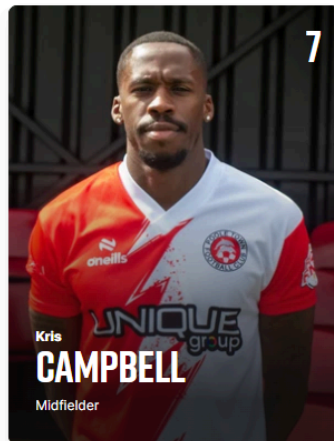
Owen  
**DORE**  
Defender

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Billy  
**LOWES**  
Midfielder

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**Ben Edgell**



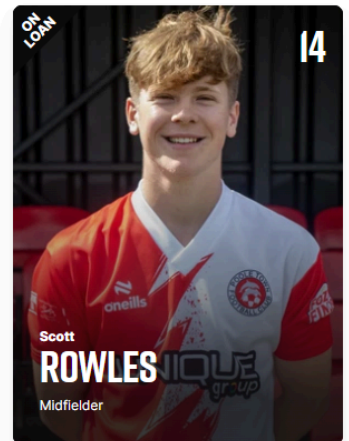
Kris  
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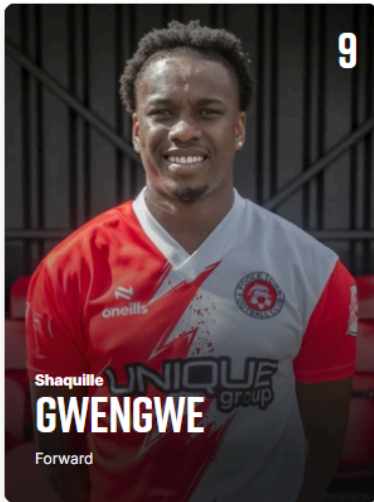
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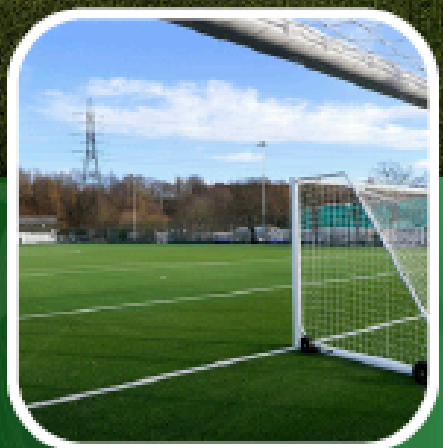
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# PITCHING IN

## 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.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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NON-LEAGUE Day has once again proved to be a roaring success with a record number of fans clicking through the turnstiles in support of their local clubs.

Celebrating its 16th year in existence, the initiative, started 2010 by Queens Park Rangers fan James Doe, took full advantage of the international break by welcoming supporters of Premier League and EFL clubs through their doors as the Non-League football took centre stage on the fixture calendar.

It proved a day to remember also for 60-year-old retired school teacher Danny Burkey, who was chosen to lead his local team, Ossett United, for a crucial game from the manager's dugout.

Superfan Danny was named as assistant manager for the day as the Sheepicorns hosted Grimsby Borough in a crunch relegation six-pointer in NPL East.

Diagnosed with incurable prostate cancer in June 2021, Burkey had planned to attend the match, together with friends and family, to raise funds and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK.

But upon learning of his story, Ossett decided to centre the day around him.

Burkey was introduced to the players by manager James Walshaw during a rain-swept training session on Tuesday night and presented with a personalised branded bench-coat, plus a match shirt emblazoned with 'Burkey 45' - the 45 to highlight how one man dies every 45 minutes from the disease.

Non-League Day now attracts strong and widespread support from the FA, Premier League and Football League clubs to MPs, media organisations, charities, and Non-League teams across the country.

But alarming figures from a survey conducted by sports media brand LiveScore actually reveal low awareness of local clubs, and divided views on the 3pm blackout.

The fans' survey, capturing perspectives from fans of professional clubs, Non-League fans, and those who follow both, showed that just 23% of Non-League fans care about the outcome of a game – demonstrating that it's not just about winning, but the full experience of following your team and love of the game.

The report also reveals a visibility gap - 55% of professional football club fans say they'd be open to attending Non-League games, but four in ten can't name their local Non-League club.

Additionally, fans across both the professional and Non-League game doubt the relevance of the 3pm blackout, with just 27% of professional club fans feeling the 3pm blackout protects Non-League attendances, reopening the age-old debate of its usefulness in the modern game.

The findings shine a light on what draws fans to Non-League football, the barriers that still exist, and the opportunities to strengthen its appeal.

They underline the importance of preserving the fan experience at all levels, while reinforcing the unique role Non-League clubs play in sustaining the spirit and community of the game.

In an era shaped by shifting priorities in the professional game, Non-League Day serves as a timely reminder of football's roots and the vital role supporters play at every level

Dominic Vye, Marketing Director at LiveScore, said: "Our fan report underlines the fact that Non-League is not only the lifeblood of English football, but also has significant growth potential - the data shows that the interest is there, but there's a visibility gap.

"With over half of fans of pro clubs being open to attending Non-League games, we want to champion the unique strengths of further down the pyramid and empower existing fans to bring their friends along to Non-League Day 2026.

"Being able to attend games with your closest friends can act as a powerful catalyst, reconnecting supporters with the heart of the game and ensuring the future of football remains as vibrant at the grassroots as it is at the top."

For regular readers of this column, and for us at The NLP of course, every day is Non-League Day, but these figures from LiveScore prove that more work is required to promote the game at this level and encourage supporters across the UK to attend their local club. Their mission to fuel fans' passion for sport is most welcome.

To view the full survey, visit [www.livescore.com/en/media/non-league-fan-survey/](http://www.livescore.com/en/media/non-league-fan-survey/)

Happy Easter everyone.

# TODAY'S SQUADS



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**"THE ROBINS"**

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JYREL BOJANG  
AMER AWADH  
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KAI CHURCHLEY  
JOSHUA BARLOW  
ETHAN DUNBAR  
LEVI STEELE  
ANDRE WRIGHT

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

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**ASST MAN: ALEX SYKES**

**GK COACH: DAN HEAD**

**COACH: RICHARD JOYCE**

**PERFORMANCE: DARREN MORSON**

### **REFEREE:**

RICHARD WALKER

### **ASSISSTANT REFEREE**

HARRY ORGAN

### **ASSISSTANT REFEREE**

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ADAM PARKES  
JOSH MCCORMICK  
RYAN CAMPBELL  
ADE OLUMUYIWA  
JAMIE WHISKEN (C)  
BILLY LOWES  
KRIS CAMPBELL  
CHARLIE DAVIS  
SHAQUILLE GWENGWE  
IK HILL  
SAMUEL 'AYO' FANIYAN

BEN TAYLOR (GK)  
SCOTT ROWLES  
SALIM SAIED  
HARVEY SLADE  
COREY JORDAN  
OWEN DORE  
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