

MATCH DAY



EVESHAM UNITED FC
VS
HALESOWEN TOWN FC

24 OCTOBER
SATURDAY | 15:00



SPIERS AND HARTWELL



Spiers & Hartwell



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2026/27

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THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN...



A warm welcome as usual to everyone joining us at The Spiers & Hartwell Stadium today for this FA Trophy tie. I would like to extend a special welcome to the players, staff, directors, and travelling supporters from Halesowen Town FC.

Halesowen are a traditional, historic club, and it is always a pleasure to host them for what promises to be a great cup encounter.

There is no hiding from the fact that we are struggling a bit at the moment, but we have to remember what a highly competitive league this is. Every single match in this division presents a real battle, and as long as the lads continue to fight and work hard on the pitch every week, we can't ask for any more than that. Knockout football brings a fresh focus, and I know the team is determined to give everything today to get us into the next round.

I must also extend our sincere thanks to all of our club sponsors, whose continued backing behind the scenes is vital to everything we do here at Evesham United. A special mention today goes to Phil Mullen former Evesham United player/manager whose ties to our football club and is fondly remembered by everyone around the ground. Having Phil involved and supporting us means a great deal to everyone at the club.

Thank you all for sticking with us and continuing to back the team through this spell. Let's get right behind the boys from the first whistle today!

Enjoy the game,

Brenzo



FORD'S FOCUS



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to everyone attending today's FA Trophy tie, including the directors, management, players, and supporters of Halesowen Town.

Halesowen arrive today as a big-spending side with high expectations on their shoulders. In contrast, our mindset is simple: we fight every single week for every point and every goal we accumulate or score.

My lads have been fantastic in recent weeks. The performances have been overwhelmingly positive, though, as is natural with a young squad, there are bound to be a few blips along the way. That learning curve is all part of their growth.

Finally, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all the supporters who made the trip to Chertsey recently. Your dedication and backing on the road never go unnoticed—it is always deeply respected and greatly appreciated by everyone at the club.

Enjoy the match,

Mike Ford
Manager, Evesham United FC



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MATCH REPORT



Chertsey Town 2 vs Evesham United 0 Southern League Premier Division South

Tuesday 20th October

Match Report by Simon Purfield

Despite an improved display from Saturday, the Robins suffered a fifth consecutive league defeat away to Chertsey Town in Surrey on Tuesday evening.

The Curfews started quickly. In the opening minute, Gary Abisogun beat the offside trap after being played through, but Brendan Beard denied him in the Evesham goal.

Kai Churchley and Sopuru Obieri combined for the visitors, with Churchley setting up an effort that was smothered behind for a corner. Evesham then won a succession of corners, one of which Stephen Walsh delivered for Ioan Richards to head straight at Wynne-Roberts.

In the 17th minute, Jesse Effa showed skill and determination down the left before cutting the ball back to Abisogun, whose effort was well saved. Chertsey broke through a minute later when Darryl Harrison rose highest in the box to head home from a corner.

Just before the half-hour mark, Evesham responded as Walsh shifted the ball onto his right foot outside the area but curled his effort over the crossbar. Soon afterwards, he caused problems again, charging down the left and sending a low cross into the six-yard box, where Alex Fisher deflected the ball against the post and behind for a corner.

Chertsey took a slender 1-0 lead into the break.

Four minutes into the second half, the Curfews had a major let off when Obieri put the ball in the hosts' net, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside.

Chertsey began creating more chances. In the 53rd minute, Effa found Robertson, whose effort was well saved. The ball was recycled to Abisogun, but Beard superbly kept out his shot towards the top corner. A minute later, the hosts doubled their lead when Luke Robertson flicked Ashley Lodge's near-post corner into the top of the net.

Midway through the half, the visitors were unlucky not to halve the deficit when Josh McConnell broke into the Curfews' penalty area and fired against the crossbar.

In the final minute of normal time, substitute Jaheim Kamara crossed from the right for Joe Grant, who could not connect with his header.

The defeat dropped Evesham United one place to 15th in the league table, two points above the relegation zone. The Robins now turn their attention to Saturday's FA Trophy home tie against Halesowen Town at the Spiers and Hartwell Stadium, with kick-off at 3pm.



MATCH REPORT



Evesham 0 vs Bath City 2 Southern League Premier Division South

Tuesday 13 October

Match Report by Simon Purfield

Evesham United hosted fifth-placed Bath City, recently relegated from National League South, at the Spiers and Hartwell Stadium on Tuesday.

The first clear chance came in the tenth minute, when Harrison Minturn headed a right-wing corner towards goal. Evesham goalkeeper Oscar Varney parried it into the air before the defence cleared. Kai Churchley was the first to test Bath goalkeeper Wiles-Richards. After latching onto Amer Awadh's through ball, he cut inside Callum Wood to create space, but the keeper saved well with his legs and turned the ball behind. From the resulting corner, loan Richards headed straight at the Romans stopper.

The visitors squandered a superb chance after 24 minutes. Pedro Elawar beat Jyrel Bojang to a ball over the top from midfield and squared it to Harry Parsons, who somehow side-footed wide from 12 yards.

In the 41st minute, Richards nodded Churchley's looping free-kick over the bar. Soon afterwards, Wood headed onto the roof of the net for the visitors.

The match was goalless at half-time, although Bath had looked the more dangerous side around the edge of the box.

Bath took the lead early in the second half. Matt Bowman advanced down the left and pulled the ball back to Jordan Tillson, whose 25-yard shot glanced off Richards' head and wrong-footed Varney. Evesham manager Mike Ford was then cautioned for protesting over an alleged foul on Tom Conteh in the build-up.

Evesham raised their intensity after falling behind, and Aaron Heap saw a shot deflected following Conteh's long throw into the box.

Conteh was soon involved again, racing down the right and into the area before finding Brandon Liggett, who scuffed his effort. Evesham continued to rue their missed chances when Churchley spun and shot across goal after a good move, but no one was close enough to turn the ball in.

In the 73rd minute, loanee Stephen Walsh crossed towards Richards, whose attempted header was parried by the keeper.

Bath's much-travelled Reuben Reid fired through a crowd from Enzo Boldewijn's free-kick, but Varney claimed the shot comfortably.

The home side thought they had equalised when Wiles-Richards spilled Churchley's free-kick. Conteh appeared to kick the ball from the goalkeeper's hands before Liggett forced it home, but the goal was disallowed for a foul.

In the final minute of normal time, Richards beat Seweryn Streczen in the air, but Alex Fisher collected the loose ball on the edge of the box. Liam Hutt blocked Fisher's attempted shot, and the ball struck his arm for a penalty. The Evesham bench protested, claiming a handball in the build-up, before Fisher drove the spot-kick into the bottom-left corner beyond the fully stretched Varney to make it 2-0.

For the third successive match, Evesham played well but took no points, despite facing three top-five sides. They deserved more from those performances. Their next match is at home to Taunton Town on Saturday, with kick-off at 3pm.



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LEAGUE TABLE



Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Poole Town	12	9	0	3	22	13	9	27
2	Uxbridge	11	8	2	1	23	8	15	26
3	Bath City	13	8	2	3	19	10	9	26
4	Hanworth Villa	13	7	3	3	25	15	10	24
5	Plymouth Parkway	11	7	2	2	26	12	14	23
6	Chichester City	13	7	1	5	23	21	2	22
7	Taunton Town	12	6	1	5	32	25	7	19
8	Chertsey Town	12	5	4	3	25	18	7	19
9	Frome Town	13	5	4	4	20	16	4	19
10	Wimborne Town	11	5	3	3	20	9	11	18
11	Gosport Borough	13	5	3	5	19	17	2	18
12	Berkhamsted Town	12	5	1	6	15	17	-2	16
13	Bracknell Town	13	4	2	7	13	27	-14	22
14	Yate Town	12	3	4	5	16	25	-9	13
15	Evesham United	13	4	1	8	15	26	-11	13
16	Sholing	11	3	3	5	13	17	-4	12
17	Basingstoke Town	12	3	3	6	19	25	-6	12
18	Hanwell Town	11	2	5	4	10	14	-4	11
19	Malvern Town	13	3	2	8	19	34	-15	11
20	Gloucester City	10	2	4	4	15	18	-3	10
21	Havant & Waterlooville	13	2	3	8	18	26	-8	9
22	Chippenham Town	12	2	3	7	11	25	-14	9

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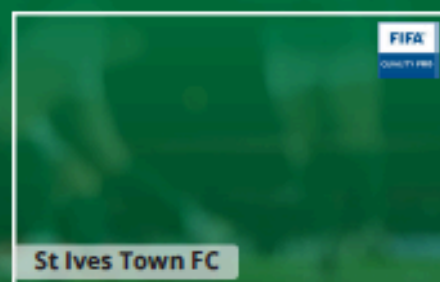
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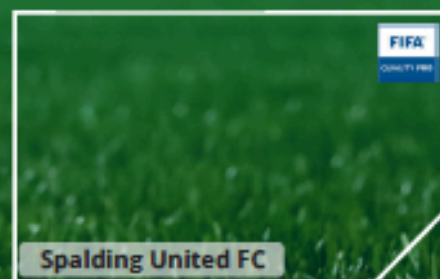
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MEET THE MANAGEMENT



MIKE FORD – MANAGER

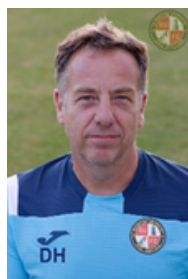
Mike, as a player, represented Cardiff City and Oxford United, clocking up close to 500 league appearances and gaining two promotions during that time. Following retirement due to injury, Mike has managed Oxford United (twice in caretaker roles) and was also assistant manager there for a period. He then 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 in the 2021/22 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

In 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 of 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 was involved at the 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 works across the junior setup at Evesham United and previously coached at Cheltenham Town Academy.



STEVE COOK – COACH

Cook has had numerous roles at Evesham United for a number of years. He has acted as the manager of the U18 and Development sides but most recently acted as manager of Evesham United Reserves in the Hellenic Alliance West. Cook was added to the First Team coaching staff for the 2026/2027 season.



MEET THE MANAGEMENT



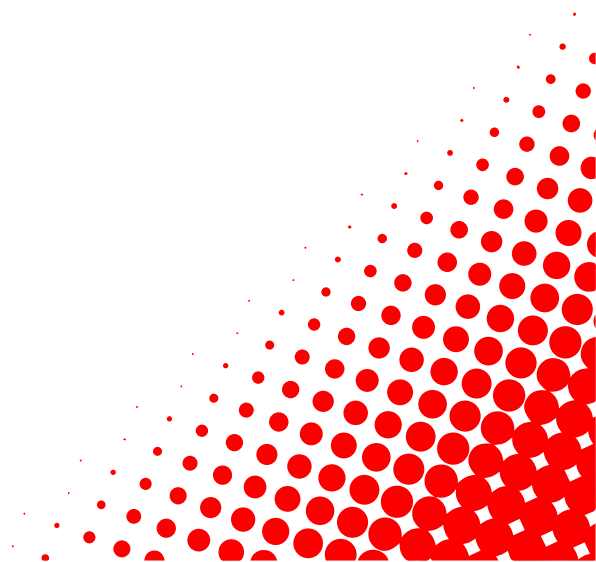
MIKE BYRNE – COACH

Across his 35 years as a professional football coach, he has developed a reputation for high standards, consistency, and a deep commitment to improving players and people. His career spans elite Academy environments, formal teaching, national coach education, and leadership roles that have shaped both young athletes and future industry leaders as an MBA coach. What defines his work is a 360-degree coaching approach and an unwavering belief that every player can grow under the right guidance.



LIAM CHANDLER-JOHNSON – PHYSIO

Liam joined Evesham United during the 23/24 season, previously being at Longlevens AFC. With a background in Sports Therapy, he studied at Hartpury University. During this time, he went on placement with Cheltenham Town's 1st team. Using his experience working in





PLAYER PROFILES



BRENDON BEARD – GOALKEEPER

Beard is a promising goalkeeper who rose through the ranks of the Evesham youth set-up before joining Cheltenham Town. He rejoined The Robins from Stoke Gifford United in 2024/25 but made no appearances due to injury. He returned fully fit for the 2025/26 season and provided cover for Alex Harris, keeping a clean sheet on his debut in a 1-0 win against Hanwell Town and made four appearances over the course of the season.



IOAN RICHARDS – DEFENDER

Richards 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 Richards left City in December and joined Swindon Supermarine for the 2024/25 season. Ioan signed for The Robins permanently for the 2025/26 season, making 37 league appearances, scoring once. Ioan quickly became a staple of the side and fan favourite, winning both Evesham United Supporters' Club and Staff Player of the Season in his maiden season at the club.



JYREL BOJANG – DEFENDER

Jyrel joined Evesham from Pershore Town, where he was a standout at Step 5. Previously, he played at Studley. Jyrel is a solid defender at either full back or centre back when called from the bench or in the starting XI. Jyrel is into his third season at the club, making 38 appearances last season and 80 total appearances in that time.



LIAM HUTT – DEFENDER

Hutt came through the ranks of Swindon Town, making his debut for the club in the EFL Trophy against Reading. Hutt is able to operate across the back line but primarily operates from right back. He gained experience of senior football through a loan move to Weymouth in 2024-2025. Hutt joined Evesham United on loan in November 2025/26, making 28 appearances, scoring twice in that time. After impressing throughout the season Hutt signed permanently ahead of the 2026/27 season.



OWEN FOYE – DEFENDER

Foye also came through the ranks of Swindon Town and was a highly touted prospect, captaining their youth side. Foye made his debut for The Robins in 2024-25 in the EFL trophy against Tottenham Hotspur U21 and played one game in League 2, coming on as a late substitute away against Fleetwood. The left back impressed Ian Holloway in the 2025/26 pre-season and earned a work experience loan to Swindon Supermarine. He joined Evesham United on loan in November, making 20 appearances, netting once. Foye is no stranger to surging forward and creates chances from set-pieces and dangerous crosses. The 18 year old joined Evesham United permanently ahead of the 2026/27 season.



PLAYER PROFILES



ROCCO SUGHAYER – DEFENDER

Sughayer signed for Evesham United after impressing as a trialist in the person of the 2026/2027 season. The defender, previously of Bristol Rovers Academy and Forest Green Rovers Academy, was sent on loan to Didcot in the November of the 2025/2026 season on an initial one month loan. For The Railwaymen, the 18 year-old made 17 appearances across the season.



ANTHONY MCCORMICK – DEFENDER

McCormick spent 13 years as a junior at Swindon Town before being released at the close of the 2025/2026 season. He made his first team debut in November 2024, starting against Tottenham Hotspur U21 in the EFL Trophy at just 17. McCormick was loaned to National League South Salisbury in 2024/2025. The 19 year-old signed for Evesham for the 2026/2027 season.



JOSHUA BARLOW – MIDFIELDER

Barlow 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 the 21/22 season as a scholar. During the 22/23 season, he started three games in the EFL Trophy, making his debut in a 2-1 defeat against Wolverhampton Wanderers. Barlow 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 and vast passing range. Barlow has been an ever-present in Mike Ford's side across the past three seasons and has made 91 appearances. No stranger to a worldie, Barlow has scored 9 times for the club.



MACKENZIE STRETTON – MIDFIELDER

Stretton, 19, rose through the Coventry City Academy before signing a professional contract ahead of the 2025/26 season. To gain experience in senior football he joined Gloucester City on loan in March 2026, making 8 appearances and scoring once.



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, where he helped the club to promotion through the play-offs. For the Oxfordshire outfit, he turned out on 70 occasions, scoring 6 goals. Awadh captained the Robins promotion side in 2024/25 and continues in the role this season. He has become a stalwart of the club, making 134 appearances for the Robins, scoring 17 goals and creating many more with his elegant, mesmerising technical ability.



BRANDON LIGGETT – MIDFIELDER

Liggett started with Cheltenham Town Under 18s in the 2023/24 season before being loaned early in the year to Gloucester City. He made his Cheltenham Town debut against West Ham U21 in November 2023 in the EFL Trophy. Liggett signed a professional contract for Cheltenham in June 2024 and during the 2024/2025 season was sent on loan to Salisbury during the season on a one month deal. Liggett joined Evesham on a free transfer for the 2025/26 season. The combative Liggett made 38 appearances for The Robins last season.



LEWIS MIDDLETON – MIDFIELDER

18-year-old Lewis joined Evesham from Kidlington in 2024/25. In the playoff semi-final that season, Lewis had a breakout performance, coming on as a sub and netting twice against Exmouth, helping the Robins to overcome a 1-0 half-time deficit to win 4-1. He recently scored his first FA Cup goal for the Robins, hopefully the first of many. Lewis is often used as a super sub, causing our opponents' defence many problems with his speed and dribbling. Lewis is entering his third season under Mike Ford and has made 50 appearances in his first two seasons, netting 7 times.



AARON HEAP – MIDFIELDER

The versatile Heap joined Evesham United from North Leigh prior to the 2023/2024 season and became a regular member in Mike Ford's side. Heap played for Oxford United at youth level and made 3 appearances for Northern Ireland U19. He previously had a spell at Banbury United. Being deployed across the midfield, Heap made 113 appearances for the club before signing for Ardley United of Step 5 on dual registration in February 2026, though he made 2 appearances for the Robins in April amid an injury crisis, helping The Robins to retain Step 3 status.



PLAYER PROFILES



JOSH MCCONELL – MIDFIELDER

McConnell is a technical central midfielder who joined the club initially on loan from Oxford City in December of the 2025-26. McConnell made two appearances in the National League North for The Hoops against Bedford Town and Chester as a substitute. McConnell played 17 times for the Robins last season and scored once away at Havant and Waterloooville. McConnell joined the club permanently ahead of the 2026/27 season.



DANIEL HANSON – MIDFIELDER

Hanson joined the club after a successful trial period in preseason. Hanson plied his trade in both the Leicester City and Hamburger SV academies. He has previously played for Brimscombe and Thrupp and Hartbury University. Hanson most recently had spells with Slimbridge, where he scored a pivotal last minute winner from outside the box against Worcester Raiders, and for Pershore Town.



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.



THOMAS CONTEH – FORWARD

Conteh is a pacey and direct forward who is able to operate across all positions of the frontline. Conteh joins the club on a season-long loan from Forest Green Rovers. Last season Conteh spent time on loan at Alvechurch and Hungerford and looks to gain more senior experience with The Robins.



SOPURUCHUKWU OBIERI – FORWARD

The young forward signs on a season-long loan from Cheltenham Town where he became the youngest player to represent the club, making his debut aged 15 years and 303 days old in the EFL Trophy against West Ham U21s. Obieri has had several successful loan spells at Step 3 and 4, representing Hungerford Town, Worcester City and most recently Gloucester City. Obieri has been described as a pacey, physical player who can link play together with a hunger to score goals.



PLAYER PROFILES



MICHEAL MEADOWS- FORWARD

Meadows signed on non-contract terms in August. Meadows was part of Evesham United Reserves in 2025/2026, scoring three times.



OSCAR VARNEY-GOALKEEPER

Varney is a 19 year-old goalkeeper who joined on loan from Coventry City U21. Varney began his career progressing through the ranks of Fulham, where he was for a decade from 2015 before joining Coventry City U21 in July 2025.

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Evesham United Foundation

August 2026

The Foundation continues to work for the benefit of the local community and to promote sport for all. Three major projects continue to be realised and the Foundation is thankful to all those individuals and companies who have made contributions both financial and materially. In addition, applications have been made to various trusts and sporting bodies to realise funds for these projects.



Grateful thanks to Jewson - <https://www.jewson.co.uk>

Jewson Evesham have supplied a number of boards for the development of a marque facility and RedKite Property letting Agency have supported the Foundation as a long term benefactor.



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Please visit the Foundation website to read of the work being undertaken and how you can contribute to the projects over the coming months:

- To provide multi-sport kit bags to the 6 local primary schools for use in PE lessons and at play times – cost £1200
 - To plan and install a modern fitness suite at EUFC for use by the disabled learning group, the Academy section of U14 -18 players and as a 'private' sole use facility for club members and the general public – c£24000
- To provide additional kit for the 70 coaches now working for the club on a voluntary basis. - £4000

Foundation web site: www.eveshamunitedfoundation.co.uk

Or contact the CEO: ceo@eveshamunitedfoundation.co.uk



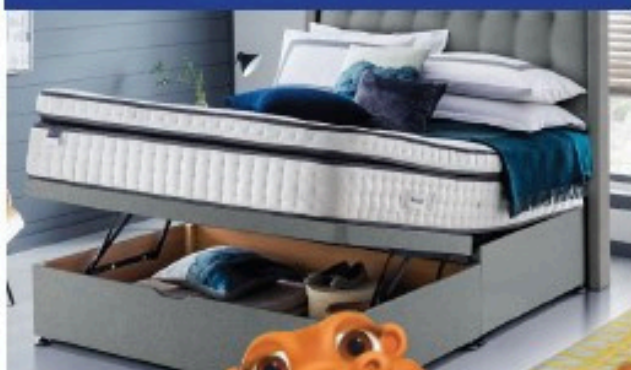
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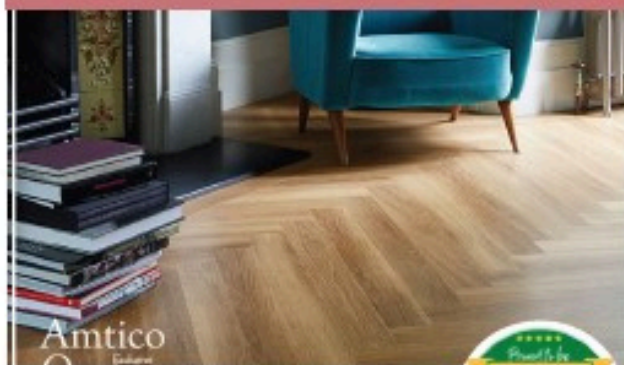
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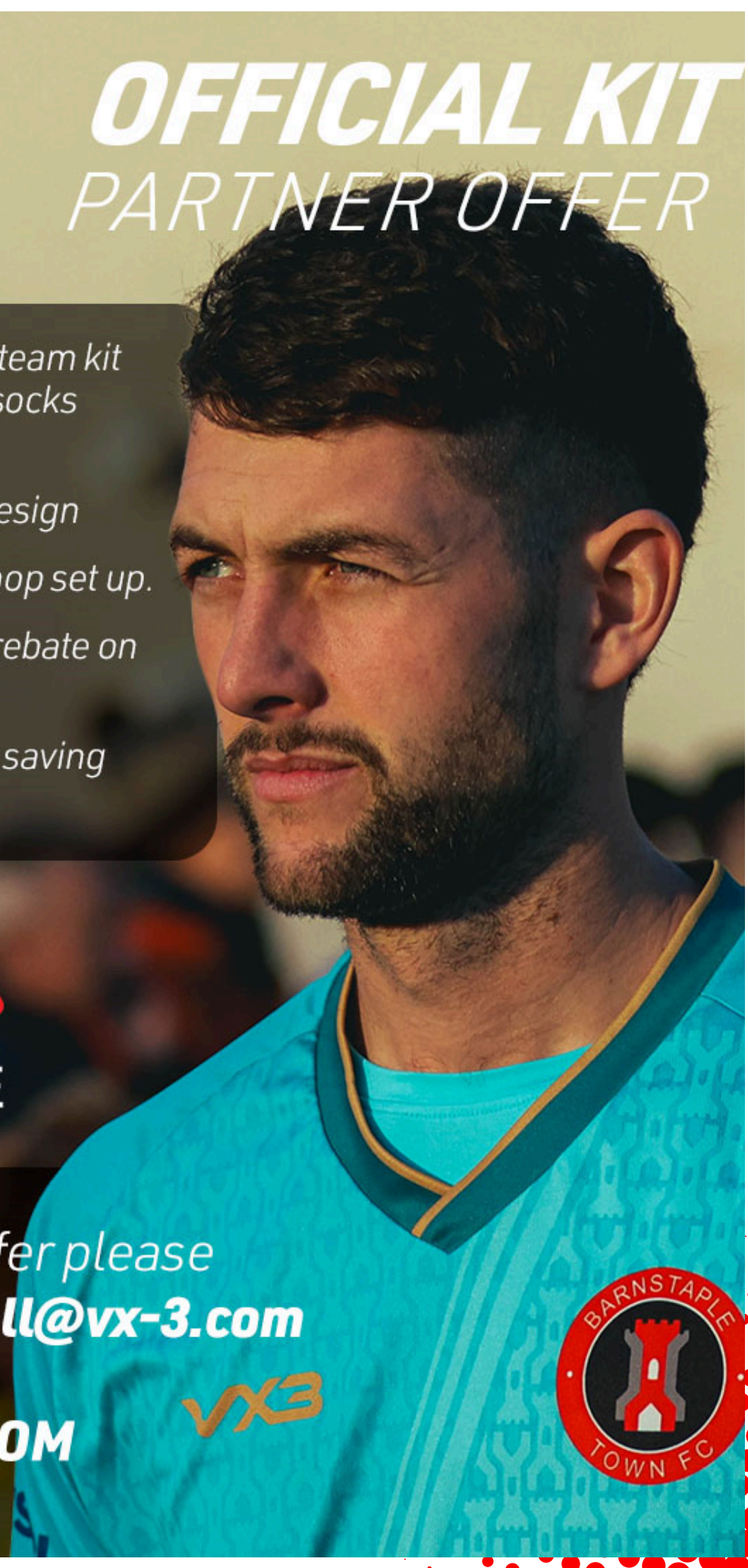




PLAYER APPEARANCES & GOALS 2026-27



	LEAGUE Starts	Subs	Goals	CUP Starts	Subs	Goals	TOTAL Starts	Subs	Goals
Aaron Heap	8	2		3			11	2	
Amer Awadh	9	1		2	1		11	2	
Antony McCormick		4						3	
Brandon Liggett	11		6	2			13		6
Brendan Beard (GK)	4	1		2			6	1	
Daniel Hanson		3			3			5	
Ioan Richards	10			3			13		
Josh Barlow	11			3			14		
Joshua McConnell	5	6		1	2		6	8	
Jyrel Bojang	10		2	3			13		2
Kai Churchley	8		5	3		1	11		6
Lewis Middleton		3			1			4	
Liam Hutt	6	4		2	1		8	5	
Mackenzie Stretton		2		1	1		1	3	
Max Asante-Boakye	2						2		
Michael Meadows		1						1	
Oscar Varney (GK)	7			1			8		
Owen Foye	9			3			12		
Rocco Sughayer	7	3		1	2		8	5	
Roger James		2						2	
Sopuru Obieri	5	4	2	1	2	1	6	6	3
Stephen Walsh	1	1					1	1	
Thomas Conteh	4	4		2	1		6	5	
Zidan Sutherland	2						2		



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CLUB HISTORY



Halesowen Town is one of the oldest teams in the country and claims to have been formed in 1873. Local historian Norman Jones wrote “there is evidence which shows that for the first ten years of the team’s existence it was the James Grove Button Factory team and that it adopted the present name in the early 1880’s. The earliest records that the Football Association have on file relating to Halesowen Town F.C. are dated 1882.....

When peacetime returned after World War II, the Club reformed. In season 1951/52 both Birmingham & Worcestershire Senior Cup Finals were reached. In front of a 6,000 crowd at Stourbridge, we lost in the Birmingham final to Brierley Hill Alliance but triumphed over Hednesford in the Worcestershire final, played at Bromsgrove. The same season saw us suffer our worst ever post-war defeat when we travelled to Merthyr Tydfil in the Herefordshire Senior Cup and were soundly beaten 0-9.

1955 brought our first major achievement when we reached the First Round of the FA Cup but lost 4-2 at home to Hendon in front of a packed Grove crowd. In March 1955, **Ronnie Dugmore** notched an incredible 7 goals when we won **10-0 at Dudley** in a Birmingham League match. In August 1957, we achieved our highest post-war winning margin when we beat **Coventry Amateurs 13-1** in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

The 1970’s brought us a period of struggle, and for times the only thing keeping us running was the effort of ‘**Mr Halesowen Town**’ - **Harry Rudge**. Before his untimely death in 1990, ‘H’ filled every role in the club at one time or other, including player, manager, groundsman, secretary, and anything else you can think of.

Then suddenly something strange happened - we got a decent team together and started winning things. Manager **Paddy Page** assembled a squad of promising youngsters, and in 1982-83 we had an unbelievable year. We won the West Midlands League for the first time, as well as winning the League Cup, but more importantly we reached the final of the **FA Vase at Wembley** narrowly losing 1-0 to VS Rugby. Two years later we were back at the home of football. This time there was no mistake, as we beat Fleetwood 3-1 in the greatest day in the history of the club. The following year we once again won the Vase by beating Southall 3-0 in front of over 17,000 people, most of whom had come down from Halesowen. From 1985 to 1991, we reached the First Round of the FA Cup for 7 consecutive years. On 4 occasions we played professional teams, Southend United, Brentford, Cardiff City and Tranmere Rovers.

CLUB HISTORY



The season of 2010/11 saw one of the poorest playing records in the Club's history, finishing the season in bottom place and scoring only 24 goals on top of conceding 107 times. Two years later and in the 2013/14 season, a large amount of great success came the clubs way, as two goals from top scorer the previous campaign Ben Haseley, ensured the 3 points that crowned us league champions and promotion to step 3.

The Peter Swales Challenge Trophy was added the following week, with a 3-1 win against Curzon Ashton. John Hill added to his squad two players with league experience, Neil Mackenzie and Iyseden Christie.

Fast forward to 2018 Club President and ex Chairman Colin Brookes became the ultimate owner of the club with his daughter and chair Karen Brookes and Keith McKenna becoming Directors of the club. The Yeltz narrowly avoided relegation and for the 2017-18 season played in the newly formed Evo-Stik South Premier Division Central. Sadly the 2018-19 season saw relegation to step 4.

Paul Smith took over as manager in the summer of 2019 as he looked to get the Yeltz back to step 3 at the earliest opportunity.

The Yeltz were looking at promotion back to step 3 when the Covid-19 pandemic stopped football and the world in its tracks as the league results were expunged and the league declared was null and void. The Yeltz had also reached the Semi-Final of the FA Trophy, and even took the lead at Concord Rangers before a late 2-1 defeat. The following season lasted no more than a dozen games before being curtailed. The 2021-22 season saw Halesowen reach the play off semi-final where a narrow defeat to Chasetown saw us stuck at step 4 for a third successive season. The 2022-23 season was quite different, a season where the Yeltz never slipped below a play-off place all season and gained promotion in a play-off final against Spalding United in front of 3,250 fans at a sellout Grove.

CLUB HISTORY



The clubs return to step 3 in the 2023-2024 after 4 seasons away, saw Halesowen hold their own in the Southern Premier Division Central and finish the season in 8th place. A status of which fans would have accepted before the season began.

The first full season under current boss Russ Penn, the 2024/25 ended in a 2-1 defeat to AFC Telford Utd in the play off semi final.

The 2025/26 season saw the club take another step forward. We lost just two of our first 10 league games, and were third in the league as late as January. We snuck into the play-offs on the final day of the season, thanks to our win against AFC Sudbury and Banbury United beating Needham Market.

Unfortunately, it was more play-off semi-final heartbreak for the club, as we lost 1-0 to a 75th minute goal at Spalding United.

The current season has seen a lot of change. Ron Moseley became the new Club President, following the sad passing of one of our most influential figures, Colin Brookes, in November 2025. The club appointed non-league icon Paul Holleran, our former manager, as Russ Penn's assistant, replacing Gary Whild. Lastly, the new and bigger & better James Grove Lounge was built at the Old Hawne Lane entrance to the ground, ensuring the facility can house more fans on matchday's and continue our progression as a club.

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MEET THE MANAGEMENT

RUSS PENN – MANAGER

His father played 504 games for Halesowen during the successful period of the 80's when three FA Vase finals at Wembley were achieved. Russ was a midfielder with Kidderminster Harriers, Cheltenham Town and York City as his main clubs during his playing career. In 2019 he became interim manager at Kidderminster Harriers which led into a permanent position until early 2024. In the 2022/2023 campaign he took Kidderminster through the play offs from the National League North to the National League. He joined Halesowen Town 27th February 2024 with a long term agreement.

PAUL HOLLERAN – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Paul first joined the Yeltz in March 2004, as manager. He spent two and a half years in this role and managed 144 games over that period. Following his departure from us, he spent just over two years at Rushall Olympic, before starting his 16 year legacy at Leamington. Holleran's 789 matches in the hot seat ended in January 2026. After a six month break from football, he is back at the Yeltz after almost two decades to take up the role as Russ' assistant.

RYAN CONNEELY – FIRST TEAM COACH

Ryan joined the Yeltz as our First Team Coach this summer. His coaching career started as Head Coach for Coventry City's U15's until 2016. After a one year spell at MK Dons as Academy Coach, in 2020 he became Manager of Hinckley AFC, where he spent almost three years. His journey in football continued into a First Team Coach, where he spent the next three years at Redditch United & Hednesford Town, also balancing a role as Academy Coach at Walsall. Following an Interim Head Coach role at National League North Alfreton Town, Ryan joined Quorn for a season, until starting his role here at the Yeltz.

LEWIS SOLLY – GOALKEEPING COACH

Lewis joined us in Summer 2024. He is also registered as a player. After starting with Wolves reserves, Bury and Welsh league he spent time at Rushall, Worcester and Redditch. However he has spent many years with over 400 appearances at our local neighbours Stourbridge as both player and more recently coach.



PLAYER PROFILES

DANIEL PLATT – GOALKEEPER

Dan first started his journey at the Yeltz in the Summer of 2015, before he left at the end of the 2018-19 season for a new adventure. Dan rejoined the club ahead of the 2022/23 campaign, and in April of this year he broke the record for the most appearances as a goalkeeper at the club of 336 and counting.

GAEL MFUAMBA – GOALKEEPER

Teenage 6 foot 4 goalkeeper Mfuamba joined the Yeltz first team for the 2025/26 campaign, having spent time studying a Sports Diploma at Halesowen College. Mfuamba spent most of last season at step 5 Lye Town.

BEN CASSIDY – DEFENDER

Versatile former West Bromwich Albion Academy product who joined the Yeltz in the summer of 2024 from Alvechurch, and missed just one of the clubs 48 matches in all competitions that season. Equally comfortable in defence or midfield, but was fondly remembered last season for being an attacking wing back, where he assisted 10 goals.

ROB EVANS – DEFENDER

Centre half Evans was one of Manager Paul Smith's signings in the summer of 2019 from Redditch United having joined them from Coleshill Town. Left for Leamington helping them gain promotion back to step 2. Returning in November 2025. He is a no nonsense, solid central defender and has been described by many as a Rolls Royce of a player.



PLAYER PROFILES

DAN MEREDITH – DEFENDER

Dan, a right back, joined the Yeltz this summer after a long spell playing at step 2. The fullback who played for Scotland's U16's & U17's, started out in the West Brom academy. His first taste of senior football came at National League Maidstone United on loan for the second half of the 2018/19 season. In the February 2020, he left West Brom to join Leamington, initially on loan. He spent the next seven years playing under our new assistant Paul Holleran at the Brakes. He racked up over 120 step 2 appearances, before leaving to join us at step 3.

JOSH BAILEY – DEFENDER

Josh, a left back is on loan from National League Tamworth. Spent time with Wolves and Shrewsbury academy's during his youth career. Last season he Worcester City contributing to 13 clean sheets in 34 games.

MATT PRESTON – DEFENDER

Matt, a centre half, joined the Yeltz this summer to mark his first season outside of the top six league's of English football since 2014. From the Walsall academy, Preston racked up over 120 EFL appearances at Walsall, Swindon Town & Mansfield Town from 2015 to 2020. He ventured into non-league permanantly for the first time in October 2020, and has since gone on to play for Barnet, Solihull Moors, Hereford, and most memorably Kidderminster Harriers. It was at Kiddy where Preston first teamed up with Russ, and had his star moment by winning Man of the Match in their historic FA Cup game against Premier League West Ham United in January 2022.

PATRICK WOOD – DEFENDER

Patrick is an academy player, mainly a fullback who has been at the club for the last few years. He's had a spell at Dudley Town on loan, but after featuring a lot in pre-season, looks set to be around the first team for the current season.



PLAYER PROFILES

RYAN WYNTER – DEFENDER

Ryan, nicknamed 'Wynts', re-joined the Yeltz this summer, following a season away from the club. All the way from a academy player at Stoke City, Wynts spent 2014-2017 at Stafford Rangers, Mickleover Sports, Hednesford Town & Chasetown. For the next six years, until the summer of 2023, he spent six years at the latter making over 125 step 4 appearances. His first season at step 3 came in the 2023/24 season, as he first joined the Yeltz. He made 85 appearances, 40 of which as club captain in all competitions for the club over two years, before re-joining Hednesford Town for their first season back at step 2. He endured a difficult second half of the season with injury, before coming back to The Grove.

MILAN BUTTERFIELD – MIDFIELDER

Milan, his preferred name, joined the Yeltz initially on loan until the end of season 24/25 from Basford Utd to reunite with manager Russ Penn, having previously played for him at Kidderminster Harriers. At 6 foot 5 he is the clubs tallest player, and lists Rushall Olympic, Alfreton Town, Nuneaton Borough and Stourbridge amongst some of his old clubs. The Bermuda international joins the Yeltz as a permanent signing for the 2025/26 campaign. The most recent season saw Milan become a serious fan favourite as a make shift defender due to injuries elsewhere, making 47 appearances in all competitions and scoring six goals.

LEWIS ISON – MIDFIELDER

Lewis, nicknamed 'Ice', joined the Yeltz in this summer. From Coventy, and first playing at Coventry United, he caught the eye of Bristol Rovers at the age of 19, but his time in their academy was short due to injury. After returning to Cov United and making 72 appearances at step 5, he joined Hednesford Town at step 3 in the summer of 2021. At this stage of his career, he transitioned from a defender into an attacking/central midfielder. After 18 months at Hednesford, he signed for Stratford Town in January 2023, where he scored 25 goals in 118 step 3 appearances before joining the Yeltz.

TODD PARKER – MIDFIELDER

Todd signed for the Yeltz in July 2023 from Hednesford Town having spent 10 years at the Wolverhampton Wanderers youth/academy. Todd missed just one game for the Yeltz from the date he signed until January 2025 spanning across 73 games in all competitions, and has been praised for his incredible fitness levels. Despite an injury that ruled him out for parts of last season, Todd came back into the XI regularly for the tail end of the campaign and once again became a key clog.



PLAYER PROFILES

JIM KELLERMANN – MIDFIELDER

At 14 years was signed by Wolverhampton Wanderers leaving them to sign for Aldershot Town. A two year contract at Scottish club St Mirren followed, before delving back into the world of non-league with Kidderminster Harriers under Russ, AFC Flyde, Chesterfield, Woking and Ebbsfleet. Kellers was an integral part to our midfield especially in the latter part of last season, contributing with eight assists, five of which came in March when we won our POTM award.

SAMSON HEWETT – MIDFIELDER

On loan from Kidderminster Harriers progressing through their academy setup. Loans to Lye, Bromsgrove Sporting, Malvern Town, Sporting Khalsa, Mickleover Sports and 4 Sporting Club Inkberrow. He joined fellow step 4 Bedworth United for the majority of last season, he scored 13 goals in 31 starts becoming their top scorer across the campaign.

TYRONE BARNETT – STRIKER

Moved to the Yeltz from Stourbridge October 2025. A youth player at WBA played for several non league clubs before becoming a professional at League Club Macclesfield Town. Spells at Crawley Town, Peterborough United, Bristol City, Shrewsbury Town, Southend Utd, Wimbledon, Port Vale and Cheltenham. 31 goals in 106 appearances for Eastleigh. Then Hereford and Leamington of the National League before Alvechurch in this league moving to Stourbridge. Ty became a fan favourite during his time at the club last season with his late strikes against Worcester City (A) & Royston Town (H), which helped us claim six points.

JASON COWLEY – STRIKER

A prolific goalscorer, Cowley joins the Yeltz ahead of the 2025/26 campaign from Hereford. The striker scored 12 goals in 34 National League North appearances for the side from Herefordshire in the 2023/24 campaign, but struggled through injury for chunks of last season. At step 3, the 2022/23 campaign, Cowley scored 24 goals at Stourbridge, and finished as the Southern Premier Division Central's fourth highest scorer. His first season the Yeltz in the most recent campaign, saw him become the league's top goalscorer, contributed 37 goals & 14 assists to the squad in all competitions, and swooped all of the club's main player awards.



PLAYER PROFILES

CALLUM EBANKS – STRIKER

Callum joined the Yeltz this summer, but despite being just 23, he's had some career so far. He started out in the Cheltenham Town academy, before getting first team football on loan at Worcester City, Tuffley Rovers, Evesham United, Bromsgrove Sporting, Eastleigh & Bath City from 2019-2023. His first permanent move came in January 2023 at Stratford Town, following an initial loan in Shakespeare's home town. He scored an incredible 35 goals in 67 step 3 matches, which ultimately earned him a move to National League North Buxton in the summer of 2025. To start with, he struggled in Derbyshire, failing to score in 12 matches. A loan to fellow step 2 Bedford Town rejuvenated his goalscoring form, as he scored three goals in 16 games, before returning to his parent club this summer and eventually coming to us.

LUKE POSTLE – STRIKER

Luke is one of the most promising players to have come out of our academy in recent memory. His first appearance in the first team came in November 2023 in a Birmingham Senior Cup match at Lye Town. In January 2025, he made his first league appearance for the club, before scoring his first senior goal for the Yeltz in a Birmingham Senior Cup match at AFC Wolverhampton City in December 2025. He spent time away from the club for parts of last season, scoring twice in 16 games for step 5 Dudley Town. During our pre-season campaign ahead of the current season, Luke featured for large periods, assisting three goals.

VANY SILVA – STRIKER/WINGER

Vany, full name Vanylson, is a young talent at 21, who can play out wide, but also support the striker in a two up top formation. He first featured in first team football at Worcester Raiders. At 17 in the 21/22 season, he scored twice in 11 matches at step 6 on their route to promotion. For the next three seasons at step 5, he scored eight goals in 53 league appearances, before making the move to step 4 Hartpury FC last summer. He scored eight goals and missed just three of their 42 league matches last season, before joining us at as trialist initially and impressing with one goal and three assists in pre-season, before signing.

NEO DOBSON – STRIKER

On loan from Northampton Town. The 19 year old striker has had loan spells with clubs at step 3 and 4 including Corby Town and St Ives Town.



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By Jon Couch

THIS week, we at NLP Towers caught up with two of our old contacts who continue to prove that life very much begins at 40 at this level of the game.

For years, Justin Bennett swept up Non-League defences in the south, banging in goals for the likes of Andover, Gosport Borough, Oxford City and Salisbury.

Now, at the age of 44, the legendary striker has reached another milestone by racking up 700 career goals – not bad considering he supposedly retired four years ago!

Bennett achieved the feat while turning out for Step 7 Shrewton United in an 8-2 Wiltshire Premier League win over Bradford Town reserves.

“I’ll be honest, this season I’ve not felt as sharp as I used to be,” Bennett admitted. “But I hit a bit of a purple patch. I got two in midweek and then I felt I had a good chance last Saturday.”

Fans’ favourite Bennett was a major part of Gosport Borough’s famous run to the FA Trophy Final back in 2014.

He hung his shooting boots up back in 2022 after hitting 55 goals as Bemerton Heath Harlequins to the Wessex League Division One title. But the phone kept ringing.

“I was nearly 40, had just won the league with Bemmy so it was a good time – and I was happy, I wasn’t looking to go back and play,” said Bennett, who hit 200 goals on the nose for Andover earlier in his career.

“But I am a sucker when the phone rings and someone says, ‘Can you come and help us out?’ For whatever reason it’s, ‘Yeah, alright’. I’ve probably retired about three times!

“In my mind, if I am still getting out there and still having an impact on games and scoring then maybe I should keep going. My body tells me otherwise on a Sunday morning.”

The same can also be said for former Telford, Tamworth and Altrincham striker Kyle Perry, who has crammed more into his 40 years than many people have in a lifetime.

Professional footballer, rock star and podcaster, among other career highlights - Perry is now having a crack at management – at Step 5 Coton Green.

Assisted by his brother Todd, he has taken over as manager and assistant of the Midland Football League club following Nic Oakley’s departure to Lichfield City.

“I have always been here, there and everywhere,” Perry told us. “Last season I got a call to go in as assistant manager at Romulus, which is Step 5.

“I really enjoyed working with the young lads. I just feel I needed to give back because I’ve got a lot to offer.

“My brother has been in Non-League from playing for Kidderminster when he was a kid all the way down to Step 7. It’s a no brainer – let’s go and do it together.

“I’m the manager, Todd’s the assistant but it’s definitely a family affair. We’ve signed Mason, Todd’s son, who is 17 and has recently had England schoolboy trials.

“Management has been on my radar. It’s tough when you’re navigating getting older as a player. Especially when you’re the type of player I was – or am.”

And Justin and Kyle are not alone. A groundhopper’s travels will see them cross paths with a vast number of wily campaigners still playing well into their fifth decade.

It’s like an inch you’ve just got to scratch.

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DANIEL HANSON
ROCCO SUGHAYER
THOMAS CONTEH
SOPURU OBIERI

MANAGER: MIKE FORD
ASST MAN: ALEX SYKES
GK COACH: DAN HEAD
COACH - STEVE COOK
PHYSIO - LIAM CHANDLER-JOHNSON



HALESOWEN TOWN

"THE YELTZ"

BLUE

2 BEN CASSIDY
10 CALLUM EBANKS
22 DAN MEREDITH
1 DAN PLATT
21 GAEL MFUAMBA
17 JAMES KELLERMAN
9 JASON COWLEY
14 JOSH BAILEY
8 LEWIS ISON
4 MATT PRESTON
13 MILAN BUTTERFIELD
12 NEO DOBSON
25 PATRICK WOOD
18 ROB EVANS
5 RYAN WYNTER
19 SAMSON HEWETT
7 TODD PARKER
23 TY BARNETT
11 VANY SILVA

MANAGER: RUSS PENN
ASST MAN: PAUL HOLLERAN
GK COACH: LEWIS SOLLY
COACH - RYAN CONNEELY

Next Home Match: Saturday 31st 2026 vs. Bracknell Town
Kick off 15:00 Southern League Match