

TUFFLEY ROVERS



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TUFFLEY ROVERS V SLIMBRIDGE
SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST 2022, 3pm





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EDITOR'S COMMENT



Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this afternoon for the visit of Slimbridge AFC. I would like to welcome all their players, supporters and officials to our home and although I hope they enjoy the visit, I certainly hope that we're still in the FA Cup come the end of the afternoon, so I don't want them to enjoy it too much!!

Sometimes you would look at a 0-0 draw on the opening day of the season and it wouldn't seem too fond a memory. However, it has been three years since we took even a point on the opening day of our league season and since we have only won one opening game since returning to the Hellenic League Premier Division in 2015/16, I came away from Brimscombe & Thrupp with something of a buzz, to be honest! I've got too used to us not recording points until at least September!!

This has been a challenging pre-season, to say the least. We are a club of limited means and the division we play in (and the next level) is full of sides who are able to pay their players and recruit on that basis. I don't blame any player who steps up a level, irrespective of whether that is accompanied by financial reward, but it is frustrating when you lose players who are incentivised to go into lower league football for a fistful of dollars.

On that note, we will probably welcome back a few ex-Rovers today and I am delighted to see them here. Jacob Geddes and Joe Shutt were good servants to our club in recent years, so it will be strange to see them lining up for the opposition. However, they epitomise what I referred to in the previous paragraph – they have left us to move up, rather than for financial reward or gain. Other former Rovers at Slimbridge include Toby Lawrence and Ben Pricor, two players who served us well during their short stays at Glevum Park. I welcome all of these lads back here today but remain steadfast in my hopes that they suffer a disappointment today, rather than us!

The Emirates FA Cup is a great competition and it would be wonderful if we could progress to the next round, but I am also realistic enough to know that today's visitors will arrive at our home with every intention of making it through to the next round themselves. A point in midweek will have buoyed our squad, so here's hoping that they can carry that opening day form into today's tie. It would be great to progress and either Keynsham Town or Flackwell Heath await in the next round.

Today will be a day where either dreams come true or memories are created. What a privilege it is to play in this competition. I love the FA Cup.

In Muzzy We Trust!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this and support our humble football programme. I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- NEIL

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Good afternoon all and what a game we have as our first at Glevum Park for the 2022/23 season!!

Firstly, welcome to the committee, players, management and supporters of Slimbridge. I am sure this will be a great day for everyone involved in this FA Cup fixture, irrespective of the side you support.

Our match sponsor today is Pete Thomas and his team at The Pike & Musket in Tuffley. Part of the Sizzling Pub company. Thank you to Pete for sponsoring today's game and please do check them out if you're looking to eat/drink out in the local area.

No sooner had the final whistle sounded on the 2021/22 season, than it felt like most teams were already starting preseason arrangements and back in training. The work here at Glevum Park has not stopped, with off-season pitch renovations, not helped by the extremely dry period of time we have had - even our sprinkler system has not been able to keep up with the need for more water on the pitch. You will probably be able to see the difference between the main pitch and the training pitch at the bottom of the ground, the difference the water we have managed to get on the main pitch has made. Thanks must go to both Ian and Tom, our ground staff, who have taken over our pitch maintenance and have had to battle with the tough conditions they have faced. We managed to go through the whole of the 2021/22 season without one game being called off after our investment in new pitch drainage back in May 2021.

Our changing rooms have had a splash of colour to them both inside and out. Our thanks must go to our brewery partners Molson Coors for commissioning the mural on the outside of the building. I, for one, was hesitant as to the feedback we would receive from visitors to the ground, but so far everyone has been positive about the finished artwork.

We have also been able to rebuild the stand that was destroyed back in January by storm Eunice and our long-term sponsor and supporter Jamie Gibbons of JMJ Fabrications has, as always, done a fantastic job.

It was great to be able to confirm at the end of last season, that Neil Mustoe (Muzzy) would commit beyond an interim period as first team manager and take the position on permanently. Muzzy has had a busy "off season", looking at retaining and recruiting the squad that would move forward in the 2022/23 season. I'm not quite sure how much he has enjoyed this "silly-season" - I've never known a year with so many rumours around players signing for clubs before a registration form has been issued to the leagues, and all these player announcements on social media - but I am sure we are all in agreement that we are glad the season is finally underway and we can concentrate more on the football.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the volunteers and staff who have supported the club in the off season and for all their commitment and hard work they will offer during this upcoming season.

Have a great day and a safe trip home.

- Dan

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 MARSH

MANAGER'S COMMENT



Good Afternoon. I would like to welcome all staff, players (including our former players) and supporters from Slimbridge AFC, in what we hope is an entertaining FA Cup tie.

That was a very interesting close season, one like I have never experienced before, but we have recruited more experience, retained some valuable players from last year and added a crop of young talent. We also added to our coaching staff, at senior and youth levels hopefully making it an even more attractive place to come and play and be involved.

After a mixed bag of results, and performances, during pre-season our competitive season finally got underway on Wednesday, with a pleasing performance in a hard fought encounter with Brimscombe & Thrupp, where we came away with a fully deserved point. Chances wise we had the better, particularly early doors, and when they had their moments we were very resilient, defended well as a team and played out the game plan to perfection.

Today will be a different encounter, with another local derby against a team who have had a good pre-season and are a division higher in the pyramid, so we will need to show the same qualities we did on Wednesday.

With it being 'that time of the year' we are short of a few players but it I'm sure it will be the same for both sides. I hope you enjoy your afternoon. Thanks – your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

- Muzzy

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Tuffley Rovers • Club History

The late Donald E Hall founded Tuffley Rovers FC in 1929. The Club's Headquarters were in a former railway carriage, which served as Mr Hall's Boot and Shoe repair shop on the Stroud Road at Tuffley in the City of Gloucester. The Club started its playing life in the North Gloucestershire League. Senior XI Championship honours include that of the North Gloucestershire League and Stroud and District League (4 times) and in 1987/1988 the Club were Champions of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and gained promotion to the Gloucestershire County League.



After two seasons of consolidation the Club won the County League Title in 1990/1991, their application to join the Hellenic League was successful and they were accepted into Hellenic Division One. Progress continued as in the 1992/1993 season Rovers were Champions of Division One and also Division One League Cup Winners and after promotion competed in the Premier Division of the Hellenic League from 1993/1994, regularly finishing in the top half of the table. The 1998/1999 season saw Tuffley win the Norman Matthew's Floodlit Cup defeating Carterton Town in the final. Whilst the Club enjoyed this success, the 2nd XI and 3rd XI also gained promotion and championship honours. The 1998/1999 season saw the 2nd XI win the Northern Senior League and reach the finals of both the County Cup and League Cup, unfortunately losing out on both occasions. Promotion, however, was not possible as reserve teams were not allowed at that point to enter the Gloucestershire County League and progress further up the pyramid system.

The Club continued to thrive in the Hellenic League and managed to win the Floodlit Cup again in the 2002/2003 season defeating Brackley Town over two legs in the final. However, the ever-changing ground grading requirements, if the club was to remain in the Hellenic League, and the financial strain these improvements imposed on the Club forced Tuffley Rovers to make the decision to withdraw from the Hellenic League in 2005 and settle for local football in Gloucestershire.

After a difficult start Rovers were crowned champions of Division 2 of the Northern Senior League in the 2005/2006 season and were promoted to Division 1. After a slow start the team put together a consistent run and managed to claim the Division 1 Title as well as win the GFA Senior Amateur Cup and reach the final of the Reg Davis Memorial League Cup.

A return to the Gloucestershire County League followed and the club finished a very creditable 4th place (2007/8) but the summer of 2008 saw a number of senior players retire. Over the next few seasons, an evolving squad finished 11th, 3rd, 6th and 3rd in the County League, before the 2012/13 Season marked an improvement for the club. After challenging for league championship honours all season, the club couldn't quite maintain the form to secure the title, finishing second. However, this was enough to gain promotion to the Hellenic League Division One (West) for the 2013/14 season.

On their return to the Hellenic League, The Rovers saw a season that witnessed some turmoil – including the departure of manager, Doug Foxwell – to record a decent sixth place finish and some good cup results. This was followed up with the Runners'-up spot in 2014/15 and promotion back to the Hellenic Premier Division, exactly ten years after they had withdrawn from the League.

The first season saw a struggle against relegation, ultimately resulting in the resignation of Warren Evans as manager, before the club retained their status due to a vacancy in the league, after finishing 17th. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10th placed finishes, before a 15th place finish in 2018/19.

Two pandemic affected seasons then passed, with Pritchett leaving the club part-way through. Rich Cox took over as Manager for a single season, but resigned midway through 2021/22 after a disastrous run of results. Former Manchester United player Neil Mustoe then took over, steering the club away from danger (finishing in 17th place).

HEART HEROES

Working with children and their families living with Heart Conditions

Heart Heroes work with children and their families living with heart conditions. We aim to provide services for these children, to help them meet others who are in similar situations and allow their family to talk to other families going through related experiences.

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- **Support children with heart diseases aged 0 – 16.**
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Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2022/23 season



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We are grateful to all the companies, supporters and other benevolent individuals who have sponsored the first team squad this season.



Elliot Jones

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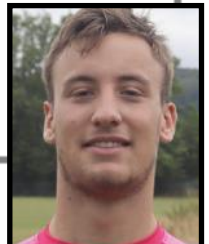
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Ryan Dobbins



Tomos Shyamapant

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Shayne Bradley



Jack Beardsell



Callum McGuirk

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Neil Mustoe
(Manager, First XI)



Richie Warden
(Asst. Manager, First XI)

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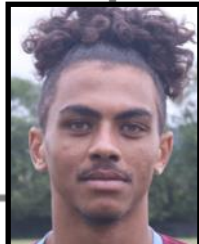
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(Joint Manager, Development Squad)

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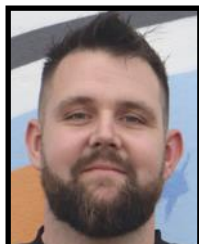
Matt Butler

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Michael Oakes
(Joint Manager, Development Squad)

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Craig Darkin
(Coach)

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Ashleigh Watson
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If you'd like to sponsor a player, please email to admin@tuffleyroversfc.co.uk

THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT WAS...a look back at the 2022/23 season

It has become customary for our first programme of the new season to devote a couple of pages to reviewing the previous year at The Rovers. Today we look back at 2022/23; a season after Covid, where our fortunes fluctuated, we had a change of manager and we saw a huge turnover of players!

August 2021

The newly appointed Manager of Tuffley Rovers, Rich Cox, started his first campaign at the helm with a trip to newly promoted Thornbury Town and he gave six players a competitive debut for the club. Keeper Jake Parsisson, signed on a work experience arrangement from Cheltenham Town, joined Josh Swales, Lucas Price, Aaron Basford, Dion Ellis-Clark and Billy Romais in making an appearance, but the youngster was at fault for both goals, as Rovers crashed to a 2-1 defeat.

There was a much better performance the following Sunday, as Rovers travelled to Windsor to play a 'home' fixture in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round, although it looked grim, with Rovers trailing 2-0, before Josh Swales, Dom Kent and Aaron Basford scored to make it 3-2.

Unfortunately, after a disappointing 2-0 defeat away at Corsham Town, Rovers exited the FA Cup, on the wrong end of a 6-0 thrashing after a 2-2 draw in a home fixture played at Brimscombe & Thrupp.

As August continued, another disappointing defeat, away at Shrivenham, was the prelude to an improvement, as a depleted Rovers squad managed a 2-2 draw away at local rivals Longlevens, to earn the first point of the league season from the final game of the month.

September 2021

The signing of three Cheltenham Town scholars appeared to have the desired effect, as Rovers headed into September, as Brennan Denness-Barrett, Archie Woodall and Josh Aldridge made their debuts in a first win of the season, away at Chipping Sodbury Town. That was the beginning of a successful period, as wins against Calne Town and Malmesbury Victoria (in the FA Vase) followed.

A trip to Brimscombe & Thrupp brought Rovers back down to earth with a bump, as Cox's side crashed to a 5-1 defeat, but a win over Fleet Spurs (in the FA Vase) meant the month of September ended on a high, with Jacob Geddes getting the decisive goal.



October 2021

If September ended well, October started even better, as Rovers recorded a sensational 1-0 win over high-flying Bradford Town; Joe Shutt getting the winner with a rare headed effort.



On their next outing Rovers once again showed good form, as they came back from a 3-0 half-time deficit to earn a 3-3 draw away at Malvern Town, with Archie Woodall getting a late equaliser, but their season took an immediate dip, as an Adam Hockey inspired Hereford Lads Club crushed Cox's charges, with Rovers on the wrong end of a record-breaking 9-1 defeat.

Pride was restored as Rovers drew with Calne Town and Bishops Cleeve, before completing a double over Chipping Sodbury Town, with Denness-Barrett scoring twice in a 3-1 victory.

It was back to earth with a bump, as Rovers exited the FA Vase courtesy of a poor performance in the 4-1 defeat to Western League side Street FC, but then a season high followed, as Jamal Lawrence's late winner earned Rovers a 1-0 victory away at Westfields, making them the first visiting side to win at the allpay.uk ground since the Herefordshire side entered the Hellenic League.

The month ended with a disappointing home defeat against Westbury United but twelve points in October gave all involved plenty of reasons to be optimistic as the squad moved into November.

November 2021

November proved to be a disastrous month for Rich Cox's squad, as they recorded a succession of defeats. A run of seven consecutive reverses, including a 5-2 GFA Challenge Trophy loss at home to Cheltenham Saracens, included five league games where Rovers failed to score and Shutt was the only Poet to net in the Hellenic League, with the only other Rovers goal coming via an OG at home to Thornbury Town.

December 2021

If November was poor, there was little respite in December and an embarrassing 4-0 defeat away at Lydney Town was followed by a 3-0 reverse at home to Corsham Town and one week later Cox resigned as Rovers' manager after a run of eleven consecutive defeats, during which Rovers had scored just four times.

Ritchie Warden was appointed as Caretaker for the visit of Longlevens on 27 December – with Rovers going down 1-0 to a heavily deflected Shaun O'Connor effort, in front of a crowd of 331 – before Neil Mustoe joined the club, as interim manager, for the remainder of the season.

January 2022

Mustoe started his reign with a 6-2 defeat against Brimscombe & Thrupp, in front of a crowd of 168, but there was optimism aplenty, as Rovers initially led 2-1. The second game under the interim manager saw the debut of Bristol Rovers Work Experience player Harvey Greenslade, and he netted within sixty seconds of his debut, before adding a second, as Rovers overcame Shrivenham 3-2.



A defeat against Roman Glass followed, before a 7-1 capitulation away at Bradford Town, but positive results followed, with a 2-2 draw against Bishops Cleeve preceding a 3-1 victory over Hereford Lads Club to end the month.

February 2021

Three single goal defeats – against Hallen, Westfields and Westbury United – followed, as Rovers started to look far more competitive, before a Jack Beardsell double, away at Hallen, all but secured Rovers' safety from relegation.

In the final game of February, Rovers pushed Cribbs all the way, before a late, late goal handed the visitors a 1-0 victory.

March / April 2021

March started with another two single goal defeats (away to Royal Wootton Bassett Town, then home to Lydney Town), before a sloppy performance away at Fairford Town ended the season, with Rovers Hellenic League Premier Division future already secured.

The month ended with a scratch Rovers squad securing a victory, on penalties, over Newent Town in the Challenge Cup, then using the same methodology to get past Division One Champions Studley FC, before a 3-0 defeat to Bradford Town ended the season, with Mustoe confirmed as leading the side in 2022/23 shortly after that.

HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

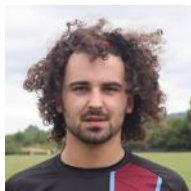
Up to and including 3 August 2022

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bradford Town	1	1	0	0	5	3
2	Worcester Raiders	1	1	0	0	4	3
3	Hereford Lads Club	1	1	0	0	3	3
4	Roman Glass St George	1	1	0	0	2	3
5	Cribbs	1	1	0	0	1	3
6	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	1	1	0	0	1	3
7	Corsham Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
8	Wantage Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
9	Malvern Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
10	Westfields	1	0	1	0	0	1
11	Brinscombe & Thrupp	1	0	1	0	0	1
12	Longlevens AFC	1	0	1	0	0	1
13	Lydney Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
14	Tuffley Rovers	1	0	1	0	0	1
15	Thornbury Town	1	0	0	1	-1	0
16	Mangotsfield United	1	0	0	1	-1	0
17	Shrivenham	1	0	0	1	-2	0
18	Hereford Pegasus	1	0	0	1	-3	0
19	Fairford Town	1	0	0	1	-4	0
20	Chipping Sodbury Town	1	0	0	1	-5	0

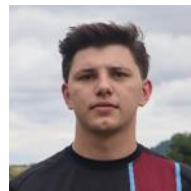
Appearance information

Up to and including Wednesday, 3 August 2022

(includes selected list of former players)



Every season seems to start with a number of debutants and this season was no different, as Elliot Jones, Dan Lander and Noah Smerdon all made first team debuts for the club in our midweek draw at Brimscombe & Thrupp. They became the 268th, 269th and 270th players to appear in the first team since our return to Step 7 football in 2007/08. Congratulations to all three on their debut first team appearance for the club.



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	76	22	Jones, Elliot	1	0
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Kent, Dominik	130	17
Azubilla, Paul	0	0	Lander, Daniel	1	0
Barry, Jordan	2	0	Lewis, Mason	0	0
Beardsell, Jack	57	10	Lomotey, Yeshaya	12	1
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Mace, Ryley	0	0
Birkett, Henry	41	5	Mann, Warren	463	82
Bradley, Shayne	230	106	McNally, Laurie	10	0
Butler, Matt	4	0	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Davies, Ashley	166	27	Nicholls, Scott	6	0
Dobbins, Ryan	41	8	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Driver-Dickerson, George	0	0	Poole, Bradley	4	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Pritchett, Mark	130	20
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Geddes, Jacob	51	4	Shyamapant, Tomos	9	0
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Smerdon, Noah	1	0
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Smith, Liam	23	1
Haswell, Tristan	97	1	Squires, Kieran	62	5
Hawkins, Luke	0	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Herbert, Macaulay	218	8	Walker, Harry	67	6
Hicks, Sammie	6	0	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	120	8	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Brett	185	64	White, Joel	108	4
James, Richard	125	40	Wright, Liam	122	3
John, Harri	42	0	Yussuf, Demilade	11	0

NB: The figures are correct for all league competitions from season 2007/08, when Tuffley Rovers returned to the County League (Step 7) and include all competitive games since the start of the 2013/14 season. There are some gaps in the information relating to cup games prior to the start of the 2013/14 campaign. This period is currently subject to a thorough review and there may be some variation to statistics in due course.

Statistics 2022/23

Competition

Uhsport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated

FAC = FA Cup; FAV = FA Vase; GFA = GFA Challenge Trophy;

BFCC = Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup;

WLFC = Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup

Att Scorers

2022					
03/Aug	7:45pm	Brimscombe & Thrupp		A	0-0 143 -
06/Aug	3pm	Slimbridge	FAC	H	
09/Aug	7:45pm	Malvern Town		H	
13/Aug	3pm	Lydney Town		H	
17/Aug	7:45pm	Fairford Town		A	
23/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders		H	
29/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		A	
06/Sep	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus		H	
10/Sep	3pm	Worcester Raiders		A	
13/Sep	7:45pm	Newent Town	WLFC	H	
20/Sep	3pm	Brimscombe & Thrupp		H	
27/Sep	7:45pm	Fairford Town		H	
01/Oct	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		A	
15/Oct	3pm	Shrivenham		H	
22/Oct	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		A	
29/Oct	3pm	Roman Glass St. George		H	
05/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United		A	
12/Nov	3pm	Cribbs FC		H	
19/Nov	3pm	Corsham Town		A	
26/Nov	3pm	Chipping Sodbury Town		H	
03/Dec	3pm	Bradford Town		H	
10/Dec	3pm	Wantage Town		H	
17/Dec	3pm	Thornbury Town		A	
27/Dec	3pm	Longlevens		H	
2023					
02/Jan	3pm	Shrivenham		A	
07/Jan	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		H	
14/Jan	3pm	Roman Glass St. George		A	
21/Jan	3pm	Mangotsfield United		H	
28/Jan	3pm	Cribbs FC		A	
04/Feb	3pm	Corsham Town		H	
11/Feb	3pm	Chipping Sodbury Town		A	
18/Feb	3pm	Bradford Town		A	
25/Feb	3pm	Wantage Town		A	
04/Mar	3pm	Thornbury Town		H	
11/Mar	3pm	Westfields		A	
18/Mar	3pm	Lydney Town		A	
25/Mar	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		H	
01/Apr	3pm	Malvern Town		A	
07/Apr	3pm	Westfields		H	
10/Apr	3pm	Hereford Pegasus		A	

TOTAL APPEARANCES

STARTS

SUBSTITUTE

UNUSED SUBSTITUTE

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

Brad Poole

Goalkeeper

Fantastic keeper who first played under Doug Foxwell in the County League promotion season in 2012/13, after being attached to Cheltenham Town in youth football, but unable to commit to first team football in the years that have followed, due to work commitments, and has made just four competitive appearances in a Rovers shirt. Now providing goalkeeping cover for the 2022/23 season.

Kieran Squires

Defence

Previously with the club from 2014/15 to 2017/18 but then spent time at Slimbridge, Longlevens and Hardwicke, before dropping down to play local league football. Returned to the club at the start of pre-season and if he can recover fitness, he could be a shrewd acquisition. Thunderous tackling, powerful in the air and has a terrific long-throw that could add a dimension to our play.

George Driver-Dickerson

Defence

A new signing, but a familiar surname for those who remember his father's spell as a player at the club. Signed from Slimbridge, where he had played his U18s football and looking to make the progression to first team football. Naturally a full-back, who looks confident on the ball and tenacious off it. Also a very talented cricketer.

Paul Azubilla

Defence

Joined from local side Gloucester Athletic this season, after requesting a trial in the summer. Impressed in the early pre-season sessions and could be a great acquisition. Raw but has pace, power, strength and desire to improve. Very calm on the ball and capable of hitting a pass, meaning he could be a good prospect as the season develops.

Dan Lander

Defence

Returned in pre-season, having spent a short spell with the club a few seasons ago, without making a competitive appearance. Has returned with more experience and is a tall centre-half, who is strong, fierce in the tackle and decent in the air. He's also sensible in possession and knows his role in the side.

Ashley Davies

Defence

In his third spell with the club. Has had spells away at Hardwicke, Shortwood United and Cinderford Town but returned last season for a short period and is now raring to go in 2022/23! Was Neil Mustoe's first signing last season and an incredible coup. Brings class on the ball, a physical presence, leadership and a wonderful work ethic to the squad and his influence will be of huge value to the club. Can also play in midfield.

2022/23 PLAYER PROFILES

Noah Smerdon

Defence

A stellar capture by Neil Mustoe, who knew the player from his time at Gloucester City. Made it into the City first-team before he'd turned 18 and courted interest from higher level clubs before signing for Exeter City. Had spells at Tiverton Town and Weston-Super-Mare but injuries restricted his progress. Has signed in an effort to regain fitness, so may not be with us for long, but a hugely impressive signing! Can play on the left-side of the defence or in a holding midfield role.

Scott Nicholls

Defence

A member of our hugely successful 2020/21 FA Youth Cup squad, Scott then secured a scholarship to attend college in the US but returned to the club in December 2021 and made a solid contribution in five appearances, punctuated by a return to the USA, before the end of the season. Tall, athletic and comfortable on the ball will be looking to collect more first team appearances this season.

Mason Lewis

Defence

Recently signed after impressing in pre-season. Capable of playing at centre-back or left-back and can also play further forward in a wide role. Tall, commanding, strong and comfortable on the ball. Will be looking to secure a regular starting berth after spells at Cirencester Town, Lydney Town and Longlevens, amongst others.

Luke Hawkins

Midfield

Joined during pre-season, having previously been at Newent Town, and will be looking to make the step up into Hellenic League Premier Division football this season. Looks to have plenty of pace, combined with an industrious style of play. Could prove to be a good acquisition, particularly as he looks comfortable playing in a wide position.

Sammie Hicks

Midfield

Signed in January to bolster the squad following Neil Mustoe's appointment as manager, on a dual registration agreement with Cinderford Town. Has now committed to the club for 2022/23. A super talented midfielder, now with experience at a higher level and just what we needed after a difficult season. Coming back from a series of injuries that have hampered his progress but a stellar signing, nonetheless.

Dominik Kent

Midfield

About to start his fifth season with the club, Dom was a product of Neil Mustoe's Gloucester City U18 squad and is a talented midfielder, who is good on the ball, industrious and quick across the ground but also incredibly tenacious, whether looking to retain possession or win the ball back. Has often sacrificed his natural attacking instinct to play in a deeper midfield role but still retains a healthy goals per game ratio.

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

Demilade Yussuf

Midfield

In this third season with the club, currently captain of our U18s squad and made the leap to Hellenic League Premier Division football last season, at the age of sixteen, and has already collected a healthy number of first team appearances. Strong, athletic and incredibly hard-working, Demi was previously at Cheltenham Town and is a real talent. One to watch in future years.

Liam Smith

Midfield

Another player with Southern League experience. Calm in possession and possesses a good passing range, whilst also physically strong, will be looking to hold down a regular place in the side, after an injury hit campaign in 2021/22. Offers experience and capable of dropping into the back four when needed.

Henry Birkett

Midfield

Now in a third (or fourth!) spell with Rovers, after a fairly nomadic life in Hellenic League & County League football. Has made forty appearances for the first team over 7 years but returned during pre-season with a new maturity - could be the season where he settles down to become the key player that we all believe he can be? Great energy, good passing ability, hard-working & can add goals. An important year ahead.

Warren Mann

Midfield

By far our longest serving player and has now made over 450 appearances at Step 7 and above, which is a record for the club. 'Wazza' may now lack pace in comparison to the winger who started with the club, but is hugely committed and massively experienced. Brings energy, passion and excellent technique; he's constantly involved in every game. Practical joker off the field (and sometimes on it!); usually the opposition support's least favourite player!

Jack Beardsell

Midfield

Re-joined the club in October 2021 on a transfer from Fairford Town, having previously played for the club thirty-three times, scoring eight goals. A mercurial talent who is capable of producing some high quality moments and, when on form, a healthy supply of goals. Needs to add consistency to his game but could be a big player in 2022/23.

Shayne Bradley

Forward

Could this season see an Indian Summer for the club's leading goalscorer since our return to Step 7 football (and progression since)? 106 goals in 230 appearances were hugely valuable to our progress from County League football and Bradders still possesses the quality that saw him make four Premier League appearances, as well promotion success at Mansfield Town, before injury curtailed his professional career. Last appeared in a Rovers shirt during 2018/19 but now set for a return in 2022/23.

2022/23 PLAYER PROFILES

Tomos Shyamapant

Forward

Youngster who has been a consistent goalscorer for both the U18s and Development Squad over the past two seasons. Highly rated and a genuine prospect. Made his debut against Cheltenham Saracens in the GFA Challenge Trophy last season and gained more experience as the season drew to a close. Natural finisher, who will be looking for more opportunities to make an impact this season. One for the future, for sure!

Ryan Dobbins

Forward

Another returning player, who started out at the club's Stroud League sides, before a successful period in the Reserves' squad was followed by a prolific spell at County League side Gala Wilton. Then moved back into Hellenic League football, where he played for Cheltenham Saracens, before a return to Glewum Park this season. Has the potential to contribute goals, but his all-round game has improved immeasurably and he is adept at holding the ball up and bringing his teammates into the game. Good signing for 2022/23.

Yeshaya Lomotey

Forward

Powerful striker who joined in 2021/22 after spells at other local clubs, including Slimbridge and Cinderford Town. Struggled for fitness during his first season but showed his quality on the ball and packs a powerful shot that could be a potent weapon. Will be hoping to stay fit and if he does, will be looking to contribute a regular supply of goals.

Matt Butler

Forward

Joined in 2021/22 season from Winchcombe Town & became a pivotal part of the Development Squad, scoring regularly. Was an occasional selection in our first team, mainly from the bench, but always made a positive impression, with an exceptional work-rate, when selected. Could be another important squad member in 2022/23.

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Appointed as first team manager in January and took the club away from relegation fears to a place of safety. Spent many years as a professional at Manchester United, Wigan Athletic, Cambridge United, Stevenage and Yeovil Town, before over 350 appearances for Gloucester City. Previous coaching experience with City before a spell away from the game until his appointment with The Rovers.

Ritchie Warden

Assistant Manager

Appointed as Assistant Manager in 2020, when Richard Cox took on the Caretaker Manager role, Ritchie is a UEFA B qualified coach who has experience from working at Cheltenham Town. Stayed on to become Neil Mustoe's assistant after Cox's resignation and is an important part of the management team.



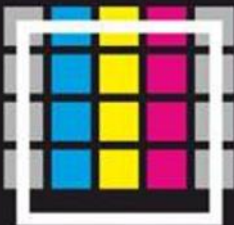
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Half-time quiz: Break for five

Grab a cup of tea and something to eat, then spend the five minutes of your half-time break trying to answer these questions. As ever, there is a theme and this week we look at some great facts about this wonderful competition...

1. Easy start. Who are the current holders of the Emirates FA Cup?

2. The 2013 FA Cup Final ended 1-0 to Wigan Athletic. Who is pictured celebrating his injury time winner and which team did The Latics defeat in that final?



3. Kevin Moran became the first player to be sent-off in an FA Cup Final, as he saw red in the 1985 contest between Manchester United and Everton. The next player to be sent-off in a final was in 2005 playing for which club, against which opposition? Oh, and who was he?

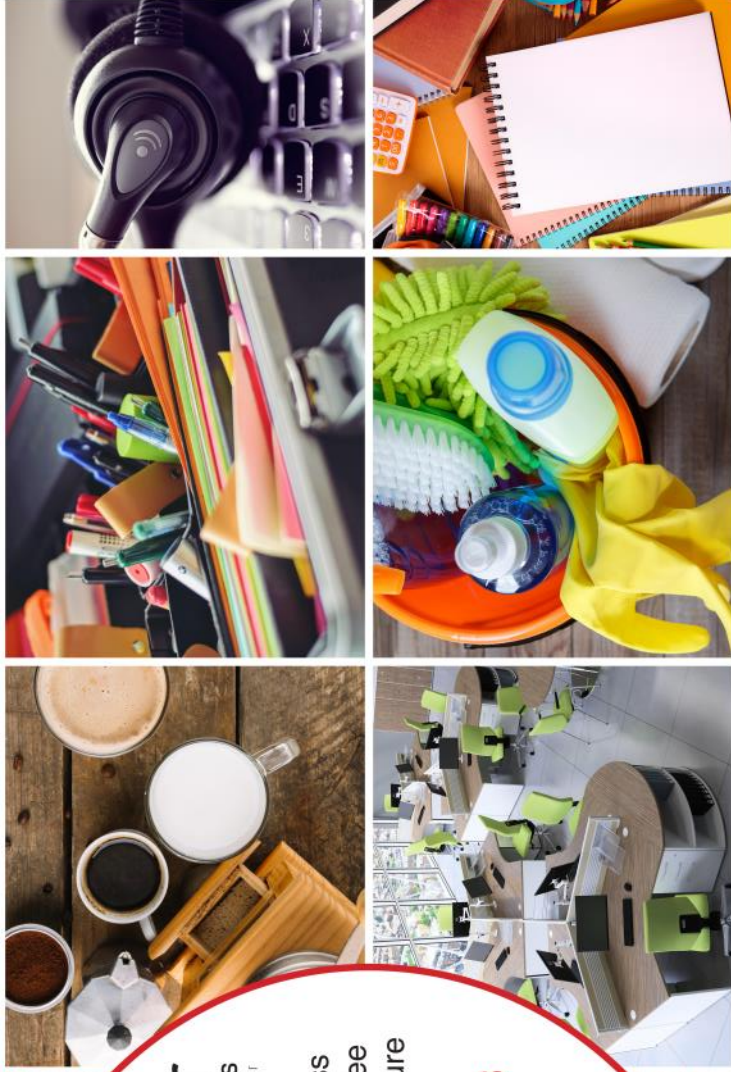


4. 1953 saw a game dubbed The Matthews Final, due to Sir Stanley Matthew's contribution to a 4-3 win for his Blackpool side over Preston North End. He wasn't the only star of the show, though. Who scored a hat-trick in that game?



5. Today's game is Slimbridge's 33rd FA Cup tie. What is the furthest stage they have ever advanced to in the competition since first participating in 2005/06?

Quiz Answers: (1) Liverpool; (2) Ben Watson scored the winner against Manchester City; (3) Jose Antonio Reyes was sent-off playing for Arsenal against Manchester United; (4) Stan Mortensen; (5) Third Qualifying Round (in 2006/07).



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR FA CUP



If I told you that we had a wonderful time at Glastonbury in 1995, you might assume that that summer's music festival (played out in baking heat, I might add – I was there!) was particularly good. It was, but Tuffley Rovers' trip to Glastonbury FC in August 1995 ended with a 5-1 victory in our first ever FA Cup tie (a Preliminary Round fixture). An opportunity to host Cinderford Town followed and our campaign ended swiftly, off the back of 4-0 reverse at Glevum Park.

There were plenty of goals when we met Taunton Town in August 1996, but our campaign ended immediately, courtesy of a 5-2 defeat and twelve months later we made progress, with a good win at home to Cirencester Town (we narrowly claimed a 4-3 victory in another home tie) but when Paulton Rovers came in the First Qualifying Round a 3-1 defeat spelt that end of that year's road to Wembley.

An immediate exit to Minehead Town in 1998 was another disappointment, but in 1999 the record book shows a victory over one of the now foremost non-league clubs, as we beat Eastleigh 2-1 in the First Qualifying Round. A record breaking appearance in the Second Qualifying Round almost saw us progress further, but a 1-1 draw took us to a replay at home against Lymington & New Milton, only to see us eliminated courtesy of a 5-0 thrashing!

Revenge came against Taunton Town in 2000, as we won 4-1 in the Preliminary Round, but we once again failed to progress further, as a single goal victory went in favour of our opponents Chippenham Town in the next round.

Four consecutive defeats saw our cup hopes perish at the first hurdle in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 but we had another opportunity to progress in 2005/06 as our Hellenic League side hosted Elmore. A 0-0 draw took us to only our second replay ever, but we succumbed to a late goal in a 1-0 defeat in the second meeting. That was to be our last FA Cup tie for 10 years, as the club's withdrawal from the Hellenic League just a few weeks later saw us drop to a lower level of football, rendering us unable to enter the world's most famous cup competition.

Our return, ten years later in 2015, saw a wonderful win at Ardley United (4-1), followed up with a terrific 1-0 win at home to Southern League neighbours Bishops Cleeve, before we put in a brave display against Taunton Town, before losing 3-0.



Ardley gained revenge 12 months later, but our return in 2017 saw a narrow win with ten-men away at Woodley United, then a momentous day at Leighton Town, when we made an astonishing comeback from 2-0 down, with just eight minutes remaining, to win 3-2 in the dying moments of the game. Swindon Supermarine demolished a Rovers

team playing most of the game with ten-men, in the next round, to end another attempt to march on the Wembley arch.

Four seasons ago, despite leading 1-0 at half-time thanks to Warren Mann's penalty, we were comprehensively beaten 4-1 by Colney Heath, and exited the competition at the first stage. Then two years ago, against North Greenford United, we produced two fairly lacklustre performances (in our 26th and 27th FA Cup matches) and went out of the competition with a whimper.



In the 2020/21 season we succumbed to another heavy defeat at this stage, as Harefield United left Glevum Park with a 5-2 victory and their star striker, Richard Pacquette (a former QPR player), with the match-ball.

In our 29th FA Cup tie, at this stage against Windsor last year, we produced another stunning comeback, winning 3-2 after being two goals behind and almost repeated the feat as we came back from two goals down again, in a home tie against Flackwell Heath that was played at Brimscombe & Thrupp, but this time it ended 2-2 and we went to a replay.

The trip to Flackwell Heath was a disaster, as we lost our two centre-halves before we'd reach ten minutes of action and succumbed to a 6-0 thrashing.

Now, we face our 32nd FA Cup tie we go in pursuit of a tenth victory that would rank amongst the most historic. The prize for the winning team? It will be a trip to either Keynsham Town or...Flackwell Heath!

Courtesy of the Football Club History Database:

F.A. CUP

1995-96	PRE	GLASTONBURY	A	5-1
	1Q	CINDERFORD TOWN	H	0-4
1996-97	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	2-5
1997-98	PRE	CIRENCESTER TOWN	A	4-3
	1Q	PAULTON ROVERS	H	1-3
1998-99	1Q	MINEHEAD TOWN	H	0-3
1999-00	1Q	EASTLEIGH	H	2-1
	2Q	LYMINGTON & NEWMILTON	A	1-1
	2Qr	LYMINGTON & NEWMILTON	H	0-5
2000-01	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	4-1
	1Q	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	H	0-1
2001-02	PRE	WIMBORNE TOWN	H	2-5
2002-03	PRE	ST BLAZEY	H	0-1
2003-04	EP	FROME TOWN	A	0-1
2004-05	EP	BARNSTAPLE TOWN	H	0-3
2005-06	EP	ELMORE	H	0-0
	EPr	ELMORE	A	0-1
2015-16	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	4-1
	PRE	BISHOPS CLEEVE	H	1-0
	1Q	TAUNTON TOWN	A	0-3
2016-17	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	2-3
2017-18	EP	WOODLEY UNITED	A	2-1
	PRE	LEIGHTON TOWN	A	3-2
	1Q	SWINDON SUPERMARINE	H	0-5
2018-19	EP	COLNEY HEATH	H	1-4
2019-20	EP	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	H	1-1
	EPr	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	A	1-2
2020-21	EP	HAREFIELD UNITED	H	2-5
2021-22	EP	WINDSOR	H	3-2
	PRE	FLACKWELL HEATH	H	2-2
	PREr	FLACKWELL HEATH	A	0-6

Swans Pen Pics

Lewis Adams*Goalkeeper*

Lewis progressed through our U/18s side and has become a very capable Southern League player. Good shot stopper who has made over 100 appearances in the number one jersey.

Dan Troke*Goalkeeper*

Strong talented young up and coming U/18s goalkeeper pushing Lewis hard for a starting place this year.

Ben Hands*Defender*

A strong lad at the heart of the defence also plays in a defensive midfield role and capable of chipping in a few goals. Previous clubs include Longlevens and Cinderford Town.

Nathan Dennis*Defender*

Signed from County League Frampton 12 months ago and made a huge impact in the central defence. Big old school style defender that puts himself about at both ends of the pitch.

Toby Lawrence*Defender*

Former Cheltenham Town U18s player in his second year with the Swans in the Southern League having had a good season in the heart of the defence.

Jacob Geddes*Defender*

Former Tuffley Rovers player, is a no nonsense defender already showing his solidity and impressing amongst the rest of the squad

Zac Mitchell*Defender*

Signed on a dual registration from Chippenham Town. Zak is a strong centre-back who is calm and excellent with the ball at his feet

Ben Pricor*Defender*

Experienced Southern and Hellenic League defender in his third spell with the club after a spell with Evesham last season, likes getting forward.

Myron Turner*Midfield*

A very popular member of the squad and among the supporters here a Thornhill Park. Returns for his sixth season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens.

Michael Ford*Midfield*

A very solid player who is able to play in defence or midfield. Had a spell playing and coaching in Iceland in 2020, but returns to the Swans for his fourth season.

Ben McLean*Midfield*

Local lad formally with Birmingham City as a youngster looking to continue to bolster the Swans midfield this season. Very good passer of the ball and can strike from anywhere around the box.

Levi Francis*Midfield*

Former Swindon Town academy captain joined the Swans ahead of the upcoming season. The midfielder has impressed with his attitude and technical ability.

Joe Shutt*Midfield*

Joe is a highly energetic winger who has already fitted in really well with the rest of the boys having joined in preseason from Tuffley Rovers.

Romaine Campbell*Midfield*

Another former U18/s and reserve team player looking to break into the first team this season.

Marley Thomas*Midfield*

Returning to the Swans for a third spell. The pacy winger is fans favourite and looking to rekindle his goal scoring touch after spells away at Evesham United and Cinderford Town.

Liam Harper*Midfield*

An attacking player who has progressed through the ranks at the club captaining both the U18/s and reserve sides.

Swans Pen Pics

Will Hawes*Striker*

Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful player. He will be looking to form a strong partnership with young Ethan Dunbar up front and continue to score plenty more for the Swans this season.

Ethan Dunbar*Striker*

Another young player who caught the manager's eye having progressed through our U/18s. Spent last year away at Longlevens and returns more hungry than ever to step up to Southern League level. Ethan has plenty of pace and will further strengthen our attack.

Dylan Lewis*Striker*

Dylan has joined the Swans from Bristol City. The exciting forward has already impressed and will be a great addition to the squad

Brad Bevan*Striker*

Former Gloucester City U/23s and Fairford Town player Brad Bevan joins us ahead of this season. The young attacker has impressed with his eye for goal and attitude and will be a welcome squad member

Edjija Mbunga*Striker*

Pacey striker who can be a real handful in and around the penalty area.

Jack Smith*Striker*

Member of the current U18/s team who has impressed during preseason and has a good future ahead of him with the Swans.

Brandon Barnes*Striker*

Experienced striker who has scored many goals for whoever he has played for. Started out with Swindon Town, Bristol City and Southampton academies. Played for Bitton and Chippenham Town then 5 successful years in New Zealand and Australia before returning to the UK with Weston Super-Mare.

Tom Speers*Manager*

Tom took over part way through last season stepping up from the assistant role. He has bags of experience as a player having previously played for the Swans between 2010 and 2013. Since retiring as a player in 2013 Tom has worked for the AC Milan Academy in Sydney before moving to Auckland where he worked firstly as assistant manager at top flight Eastern Suburbs then manager at North Shore. Currently a OFA B / UEFA B Licence holder and looking to take his A license in the near future. A very popular and well respected figure around the club, bringing a professional attitude to the dressing room.

Tom Deakin*Coach*

Deaks joined Slimbridge at the start of last season as first team coach. He arrived from Forest Green Rovers after 2 years with the academy and 14 years in total having also coached at Brimscombe and Thrupp working with both the first team and development sides.

Adam Coyle*Coach*

Adam is a long term servant with the club joining from the county youth scene to set up and manage the successful Under 18's youth team and more recently managing the reserve side. Has bags of coaching experience and brings a new dimension to the first team.

Tony Woodward*Sports Therapist*

Tony has been with us for very many years and is a popular figure in the dugout. Keeps threatening to retire but keeps turning up, Tony is also a qualified football referee.



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The Untold Game

Eternal Hope

Hope. It is the word that makes most sense of the beautiful game, of why we spend hours and days and weeks of our existence obsessing over something that, for the vast majority of us, if we're being really honest with ourselves, has little impact on our lives. And the beginning of a new season is where the hope is at it's highest. Old heroes have moved on, the failures and successes of last year are in the past, and now we look forward. New players to deify, new trophies to be chased, new records to be set. Each and every one of us knows, right up until kick off on the opening weekend of the season, that this is going to be our year. And, depending on whom you support, that knowledge can last anywhere from 60 seconds to 60 matches into the campaign. But, however it goes, every summer we reset, we get excited, and we believe again. There's comfort in that.

So now we come to the beginning of our new season, and we want to sustain that feeling, feed the hope, for as long as possible, before the nights close in and the points are dropped and the rain hammers down. It won't take long for most of us to be brought back down to earth, but we all know the importance of maintaining the hope for at least one more week, with a good opening day performance.



Leeds certainly know a thing or two about opening day performances, having put together a run of twenty consecutive opening day wins, from the heady days of Howard Wilkinson's return to the top flight in 1991, to the depths (by their standards at least) of League One in 2009, where Simon Grayson oversaw a victorious start to a season that would end with promotion. That run lasted through thirteen different managers, a league title, a Champions League semi-final, two relegations and the real threat of the club going out of business, the longest in the Football League. And yet, throughout all that turmoil, they kept the opening day a safe haven where, however disastrous it had been, fans could go home believing they were on the road to recovery.

For longer runs than that, we have to look to more consistently successful teams, and we have to look beyond England. Few are more consistently successful throughout Europe than Celtic.

The Glaswegians put together a run of 23 opening day victories, beginning with a 5-0 demolition of Dunfermline in 1998, a Craig Burley hat trick doing most of the damage, and ending only last season with a last minute John Souttar winner for Hearts. For their part, Celtic went through twelve different managers on their run, securing 15 league titles and ten Scottish Cups, as well as losing the UEFA Cup final in 2003. Certainly, opening day victory augurs more success in Scotland than it does in England.



But even a run of 23 opening day victories isn't the longest. For that we need to head to the Mediterranean, and the Old Lady, where Juventus reign supreme.

On the opening day of 1982, Juventus, complete with Dino Zoff and Michel Platini, travelled to relative upstarts Sampdoria. The home side were bolstered by a forward line of Roberto Mancini and Trevor Francis, fed by Arsenal legend Liam Brady, but it was fullback Mauro Ferroni who scored the only goal of the game in the 67th minute. That would be the last opening day that Juventus failed to win for nearly three decades, finally falling to defeat in 2010 to Bari, the single goal coming, ironically, from former Celtic player Massimo Donati. He was just 18 months old the previous time Juventus had failed to win in the first match of the season.



The Old Lady got through thirteen managers in that time, counting both Giovanni Trapattoni and Marcello Lippi twice, and only won seven league titles in that time, with two Italian Cups. But they also counted two European Cups, a Cup Winners Cup, three UEFA Cups and an Intertoto Cup in that time, so it's not all bad.

So here's hoping for an opening day victory to kick on to success. It might not lead to Champions League glory, but we can dream.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, *The Untold Game*

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MATCH DAY SPONSOR:

Elliot Jones	1	Lewis Adams
Liam Wright	2	Jacob Geddes
Warren Mann @	3	Toby Lawrence
Scott Nicholls	4	Ben Hands
Dan Lander	5	Nathan Dennis
Ashley Davies	6	Levi Francis
Noah Smerdon	7	Edjija Mbunga
Dominik Kent	8	Ben McLean
Ryan Dobbins	9	Will Hawes
Henry Birkett	10	Marley Thomas
Jack Beardsell	11	Zac Mitchell
Mason Lewis	12	Brandon Barnes
Shayne Bradley	14	Myron Turner
Kieran Squires	15	Ben Pricor
Sammie Hicks	16	Brad Bevan
Yeshaya Lomotey	17	Joe Shutt
Tomos Shyamapant	18	Ethan Dunbar
George Driver-Dickerson	19	Liam Harper
Luke Hawkins	20	Dylan Lewis
Demilade Yussuf	21	Jack Smith
Brad Poole	GK	Dan Troke

Neil Mustoe **Manager** Tom Spears

Richie Warden **Asst. Manager**

Ashleigh Watson (Physio) **Other Occupants** Tom Deakin (Coach)
 Adam Coyle (Coach)
 Tony Woodward (Sports Therapist)

Officials: Simon Laraway; Darren McMillan; Max Wilkins.