

TUFFLEY ROVERS



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TUFFLEY ROVERS V MALVERN TOWN TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST 2022, 7:45pm





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EDITOR'S COMMENT



Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this evening for the visit of Malvern Town. I would like to welcome all their players, supporters and officials to our home.

I will confess something in this evening's programme note. I know I am not alone in making this confession, having seen the season kick into action over the past seven days.

To be frank, I wasn't looking forward to this season. There, I said it. Well, I acknowledge there is a long, long way to go but quite the opposite has been true.

Muzzy has somehow taken what looked like a threadbare squad in early pre-season and turned it into a very collegiate group, with genuine competition for places, to the extent that when writing the programme I don't even know who to put in the programme team-sheet.

I looked at our opening games (the second edition!) and genuinely thought that we would be in for a very challenging start. That has been true, but this formative squad has risen to the challenge. Against Brimscombe & Thrupp and Slimbride our lads executed a game plan, almost (almost!!) to perfection. We went 180 minutes without conceding a goal, but two injury time goals on Saturday meant that our FA Cup dreams ended for another season.

One point and a cup exit doesn't sound like great news. If you have seen the struggles over the past year or so, it will feel very different. It feels like really great things are starting to happen.

Whatever the result tonight, there is a sense of pride and togetherness that is being restored. That has a value that goes way behind three points.

In Muzzy We Trust!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this. I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- NEIL

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Good evening all and a warm welcome to Glevum Park.

I would like to start by welcoming our opposition players, management, committee and supporters from Malvern Town, who always have a fantastic away following that come year after year.

I've had to write my notes prior to our FA Cup game against Slimbridge, so I shall just say it was an entertaining game, a really enjoyable afternoon and I wish our higher league opponents the very best for the season!!

I'm very much looking forward to this evening's game, although I feel it will be a tough one for us. Our result last Wednesday probably shocked most who paid any interest in the result - to go to Brimscombe and get a point and a clean sheet is a tremendous start to the season. The result was probably a fair outcome and our lads were superb.

I hope everyone enjoys the game tonight, as well as the hospitality on offer.

Have a safe trip home and I look forward to the reverse fixture in April.

- Dan

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 MARSH

MANAGER'S COMMENT



Good evening and welcome to Glevum Park to all players, management, officials and supporters of Malvern Town FC.

Tonight is our first home Hellenic League game of the season and I am hoping to continue with the performances shown in the last two games and build on a great away point against Brimscombe & Thrupp.

Saturday was a day that all the players and our club should be proud of, where we were narrowly beaten by a Slimbridge side who play a league higher, with their two goals coming after the 90-minute mark had passed.

The boys were obviously down after the game but we need to pick ourselves up for what will be a tough evening against a strong visiting team. If they're not in the mix at the top of the table come the end of the season I will be very surprised.

I hope you all enjoy the game this evening.

- 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).

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Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2022/23 season



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Yeshaya Lomotey



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Matt Butler



Michael Oakes
(Joint Manager,
Development Squad)

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Craig Darkin
(Coach)

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Ashleigh Watson
(Physio / Sports Therapist)



Hopeton Francis
(Physio / Sports Therapist)



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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 Parisson, 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 Saturday, 6 August 2022

(includes selected list of former players)

Following on from debuts for Elliot Jones, Dan Lander and Noah Smerdon in our draw at Brimscombe & Thrupp last week, we saw debuts for four players on Saturday in our FA Cup defeat, as Mason Lewis, Callum McGuirk, Luke Hawkins and Ryley Mace all made first competitive appearances for The Rovers. In scoring on his debut Ryley became the first player to do so since Harvey Greenslade in January 2022, on the day when Harvey was an unused substitute for Bristol Rovers in League One! Ryley might not find himself in League One in 7 months' time but hopefully he can become a regular in our squad!



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	76	22	Kent, Dominik	130	17
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Lander, Daniel	2	0
Azubilla, Paul	0	0	Lewis, Mason	1	0
Barry, Jordan	2	0	Lomotey, Yeshaya	12	1
Beardsell, Jack	58	10	Mace, Ryley	1	1
Birkett, Henry	42	5	Mann, Warren	464	82
Bradley, Shayne	231	106	McGuirk, Callum	1	0
Butler, Matt	4	0	McNally, Laurie	10	0
Davies, Ashley	166	27	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Dobbins, Ryan	42	8	Nicholls, Scott	7	0
Driver-Dickerson, George	0	0	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Poole, Bradley	4	0
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Pritchett, Mark	130	20
Geddes, Jacob	51	4	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Shyamapant, Tomos	9	0
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Smerdon, Noah	2	0
Haswell, Tristan	97	1	Smith, Liam	23	1
Hawkins, Luke	1	0	Squires, Kieran	62	5
Herbert, Macaulay	218	8	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Hicks, Sammie	6	0	Walker, Harry	67	6
Hill, Sam	120	8	Wallington, Lee	131	4
James, Brett	185	64	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Richard	125	40	White, Joel	108	4
John, Harri	42	0	Wright, Liam	122	3
Jones, Elliot	2	0	Yussuf, Demilade	12	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

UHlsport 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	1-2	186 R Mace
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		

Goalscorers	
Mace, Ryley	1

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 today the questions or answers have a relationship to Hill(s), which shouldn't need any explanation given that Malvern are with us today....

1. Can you name the Luton Town player who made his full international debut for England on 22 September 1982 against Denmark?



2. Can you name this former player, club official and TV presenter who was born in London on 22 July 1928 from these other clues? He went onto play for Brentford and Fulham, then managed Coventry City, after which he moved into broadcasting - alongside spells as a Director at Coventry City, Charlton Athletic, Fulham and QPR - before he died on 19 December 2015.

3. Who is this former Milwall, Manchester United, Derby County and QPR player, nicknamed 'Merlin' who also spent several seasons in the USA and had a spell in non-league football later in his career, which spanned from 1973 to 1991?

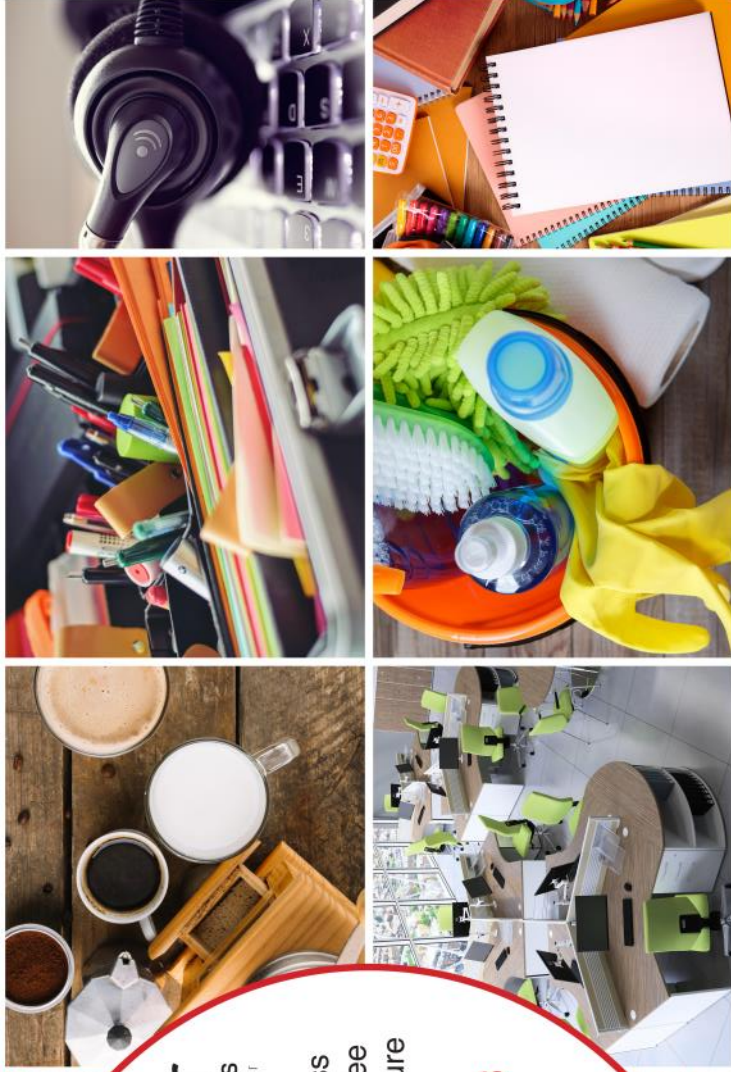


4. Which Gloucestershire club spent eight seasons in the Hellenic League, Premier Division over two spells – and an additional six seasons in Division One – before the resigned from the Hellenic League part-way through the 2009/10 season?

5. Can you name these three football Hills and, for a bonus point, which of the played for Glasgow Rangers during their career?



Quiz Answers: (1) Ricky Hill; (2) Jimmy Hill; (3) Gordon Hill; (4) Harrow Hill; (5) They are, from left to right - Clint Hill, Keith Hill and Colin Hill. Clint played for Glasgow Rangers 32 times during the 2016/17 season.



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THE EMIRATES FA CUP, EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND TUFFLEY ROVERS 1-2 SLIMBRIDGE SATURDAY, 6 AUGUST 2022 (ATT: 186)



This was a dream draw for the hosts with a local Southern League club coming up to Gloucester for the afternoon, but there were certainly words of warning to be heeded by Neil Mustoe's squad, because apart from winning at Windsor in the Extra Preliminary Round in 2021, Rovers had lost their three previous matches at this stage of the competition to Harefield United (2020), North Greenford United (2019) and Colney Heath (2018).

In addition to that, the last Southern League team to visit Glevum Park in an F.A. Cup-tie, Swindon Supermarine in 2017, had inflicted a heavy defeat on their hosts but the visitors' status on that occasion had ensured a 200+ attendance at Glevum Park and Rovers would certainly be hoping to emulate or better that five years on.

Slimbridge arrived in Gloucester with four former Rovers players in their matchday squad with three of them making the starting eleven. One of them, Jacob Geddes, would have a significant impact as the match reached its closing stages. As ordinary time moved into added-time, Rovers were on the brink of a sensational victory over their Southern League neighbours, but even after Geddes' headed equaliser, Slimbridge roused themselves for one final push and were rewarded when substitute Marley Thomas cut in from the left and fired an unstoppable shot past Elliot Jones for an amazing finale to an absorbing afternoon's entertainment.

Things were much quieter at 3pm as the teams trotted out on a warm afternoon in front of a crowd that was, in fact, just short of the two hundred mark.

The Swans' tricky right-winger and former Rover Joe Shutt had an early chance to run at former team-mate Warren Mann but, interestingly, chose not to. When a similar opportunity presented itself a couple of minutes later, Joe raced past Mann but was deliberately fouled by the Tuffley captain. So Round One to Mister Shutt and an intriguing tussle which lasted for most of the afternoon.



Chances were few and far between at both ends until Mann combined with Henry Birkett and the latter's cross from the left was met with a firm header from Jack Beardsell at the far post, which visiting goalkeeper Lewis Adams caught comfortably. After a Slimbridge shot had flown high over Elliot Jones' crossbar, Mason Lewis shot narrowly wide from the left after breaking through Slimbridge's defensive line.

No more real chances came until half an hour had been played when, after a neat passing move involving three or four players, Will Hawes shot narrowly past the post with his left foot. Following a Slimbridge corner on the right, Shutt's cross was headed wide by Myron Turner before a Tuffley free-kick taken by Birkett was reached by Noah Smerdon, but he could only head the ball out of play. So, the first half ended without a goal being scored.

Early in the second period Ben McLean shot wide for the Swans after Demilade Yussuf had lost possession in midfield. When Rovers won a corner on the left, the ball drifted beyond the far post but Lewis was unable to get a touch on the ball.

As the match reached a point at which substitutions would be made on a very warm afternoon, Rovers' choice of the man to come on after a mid-session water-break was the height, power and experience of 42-year-old Shayne Bradley. What an impact he would make as the match moved into its final quarter! A delightful Bradley flick on halfway sent Ryan Dobbins racing down the right-hand channel and when he squared the ball across the Slimbridge penalty-area another substitute, Ryley Mace, controlled the ball before placing it past Adams, who was unable to recover from the position he had taken up a few seconds earlier.



Dobbins, who had worked like a Trojan all afternoon, came off and the Swans made changes as well as they tried to retrieve something from the game. Before Rovers went ahead there had earlier been an enormous scramble on their own goal-line when Jones saved a shot then lost the ball but recovered to make a second save before watching a third Slimbridge effort get hacked away from danger, but the pressure was mounting.



Mann was cautioned for chopping down Hawes and Slimbridge won corners on both sides. From what seemed likely to be the final play in normal time, a left-wing corner was met by Geddes at the far post and his firm downward header rippled the net after passing a motionless goalkeeper.

At that point both teams would probably have settled for a replay, but the momentum of equalising so late pushed Slimbridge on. When the ball reached Thomas near the left touchline, there seemed no immediate danger, but the substitute cut inside, danced into the penalty-area and hit a sublime shot up and over Jones into the far corner. It was a goal fit to win any game ... and it won this one.



Every player in both teams gave their all during a frenetic second half. Rovers could have managed the match better after going ahead but their opponents just wouldn't give up. It is a cruel way to lose and an uplifting way to win. It wasn't just Slimbridge's team that won. The game of football was a winner too. Rovers will play worse and win; Slimbridge will play as well and might not. That is what sport is like. In defeat you have to lift yourself to avoid what happened here happening again any time soon.

Rovers have just three days before Malvern Town come to Glevum Park, the Hillsiders having also drawn their opening league match of the season in the midweek before the FA Cup-ties. Both urgently want that first three points of the season but Rovers have the motivation to quickly get Saturday's heartbreak out of their systems quickly.

THE CLUB was established in 1946 as Barnard's Green Football Club. They joined the Worcester League, where they played until moving up to the Worcestershire Combination in 1955, going on to win the league at the first attempt.

The club also won the Worcestershire Junior Cup and retained the trophy for the next two seasons, before winning it again in 1961–62.

In 1967 the Worcestershire Combination was renamed the Midland Combination. The club won the inaugural Worcestershire Senior Urn in 1973–74, before retaining it for the next two seasons; they also finished as runners-up in the Midland Combination in 1973–74.

In 1979 Malvern transferred to the Premier Division of the West Midlands (Regional) League and although they finished bottom of the division in 1982–83, the club avoided being relegated. However, they were relegated to Division One at the end of the 1991–92 season.

Despite only finishing ninth in Division One in 1993–94, the club were promoted back to the Premier Division. In 2003–04 they won the Premier Division title, earning promotion to the Midland Alliance. A third-place finish in the Alliance in 2005–06 saw the club promoted to Division One Midlands of the Southern League.

The club finished bottom of Division One Midlands in 2008–09 and were relegated back to the Midland Alliance. Two seasons later they finished bottom of the Midland Alliance and were relegated to the Premier Division of the West Midlands (Regional) League.

We lifted the Worcestershire Senior Urn for a ninth time in 2018–19 and have finished in the top five in each of the last five seasons. The summer of 2019 saw our association with the West Midlands (Regional) League come to an end as we were moved across to the Hellenic League Division One West.

It was during the first half of the 2019-20 season that Project 2020 finally came to fruition with significant developments made to the club's facilities and infrastructure, including a new state-of-the-art 3G playing surface and new dressing rooms. An FA Vase tie against Loughborough University in November 2019 signalled the first game at the revamped stadium and with home crowds regularly topping the 200-mark, the team marched to the top of the table until the campaign was declared null-and-void in March 2020 amidst the Covid-19 outbreak.

The 2020-21 season also saw us sitting deservedly at the top of the table when the season was curtailed due to Covid-19. However, in May 2021, it was confirmed that we would be promoted into the Premier Division. A run in the FA Vase saw us reach the fourth round proper.

Our first season at the higher level ended in a third-place finish with some impressive displays and home crowds regularly topping 200.

As we continue to embrace the local community, and with Project 2022 full steam ahead for the development of a Community Hub, we look forward to what the future holds in store.



**UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION
BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP 0-0 TUFFLEY ROVERS
WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2022
(ATT: 143)**

After a pre-season that had offered little to assure Tuffley Rovers' supporters that the season ahead would see a move away from the struggles of the past three campaigns, with concerns amplified by the loss of half a squad during the close season, Neil Mustoe's squad gave the perfect riposte as they came away with a valuable league point, off the back of a performance full of courage, endeavor, out and out desire and following their manager's game plan to perfection.

Mustoe handed first team competitive debuts to goalkeeper Elliot Jones, defender Dan Lander and Noah Smerdon, the former Gloucester City and Exeter City player who has been with Rovers over the summer period, and fielded a midfield diamond, with the returning Henry Birkett lining-up alongside Dom Kent, Jack Beardsell and former Cinderford Town man Sammie Hicks.

The hosts had a very familiar look to their midfield and attacking line-up but had a much-changed defence, following their own exodus of players since the close of the 2021/22 season.

Early chances were at a premium, although it looked like Rovers had taken the lead, as Beardsell's header came back off the bar and then bundled home by Scott Nicholls, but the goal was correctly ruled out for offside from the original free-kick from Henry Birkett.

Beardsell then produced an excellent run deep into the Brimscombe half, before he pulled back a perfectly weighted pass into the path of Dom Kent, whose shot was well-struck but close enough to Gavin Jones, the Brimscombe keeper, he produced a good save to push the ball away from the goal and to safety.



Rovers continued to press and had a corner that was well defended by the home defence, and as the ball broke former Yate Town man, Adam Price, launched an audacious shot towards the visiting goal, from just inside his own half, but it drifted wide and the score remained at 0-0, a score that remained in place until the interval arrived.

Rovers' keeper then produced a good block save to keep the scores level and then another Price, Harlie, almost forced the ball home but Jones recovered from an initial error to pounce on a weak effort.

Early in the second period two returning Rovers, Liam Wright and Ryan Dobbins, created an opportunity for the latter, but although the signing from Cheltenham Saracens did well to create space he was denied space and a tame shot was comfortably saved by Brimscombe's Jones.

Jonty Welch then might have given the hosts the lead, but he shot well wide from the edge of the box when he had time and space, and Lander made a terrific block as the ball fell loose from a set-piece, so that the deadlock remained in place.

Both sides continued to search for a chance to secure all three points, but both defences stood firm and Rovers secured a first point at The Meadow since recording the same scoreline on 29 August 2016.

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Previously against today's opposition at Glevum Park

The last time we hosted today's visitors in a competitive fixture at Glevum Park on 9 November last year, just as we found ourselves in a terrible run of form that went on until the New Year. Fifteen points separate the sides prior to the game but it was an eighteen point gap by the end of the evening...

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 0-3 MALVERN TOWN TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021



The Worcestershire club visiting Glevum Park was deservedly promoted into the Hellenic League's top division after finishing first in both of the curtailed seasons of 2019-20 and 2020-21 and being a massive twelve points clear of the second-placed club when that second season ended. Furthermore, the Hillsiders have made a very solid start to life in a different League and arrived in Gloucester sitting comfortably in 4th place with ten wins, four draws and just two defeats from their sixteen league matches so far, one of which was a remarkable 3-3 draw with Tuffley in Malvern on the 5th of October from which Rovers somehow took a point after being 0-3 down at the interval.

This one went to form and there was never any likelihood of a repeat of the high-scoring draw in Malvern thirty-five days earlier.



Rovers were able to welcome back the calm assurance of Jacob Geddes in defence and the vast experience of Warren Mann, albeit in a different role to the one he has normally taken in the past. They also brought in Dan Greenhouse in goal to replace Jack Copland and the debutant was quickly involved having to race off his line in the opening minute to grab the ball from Town's Joe Bates before facing a penalty-kick a minute later after Bates had been tripped by Archie Woodall. Matthew Turner, who worked tirelessly for Malvern

all evening, drilled the spot-kick low past the goalkeeper's right-hand side.

It couldn't have been a worse start for the hosts, who were trying to repair the damage caused by three successive league defeats in which they only scored twice while conceding ten times.

Although Aaron Basford had a shot blocked in the 6th minute, most of the action was at the other end of the pitch and that pattern continued throughout the first half. Before ten minutes had passed, Bates Smerdon had headed over Dave Reynolds' free-kick from the right and soon Kyonn Evans was also off target after cutting in from the right to get a shot away.

All Rovers could offer in return was a crisp shot from the left by Basford which went into the side-netting and a tempting cross from Joshua Aldridge on the right which no home player could connect with. Bates then nearly increased Town's lead with a blistering shot from 20 yards which brought a stupendous save from Woodhouse.

As the half-hour passed Malvern's Curtis Smith received a yellow card but a second goal for the visitors wasn't far away and, when it came, it was stunning. Reynolds controlled the ball about 25 yards out and hit a sublime shot with his left foot which flew over Greenhouse's head and nestled in the top corner of the net.

Bates became the second Town player to receive a caution but it wasn't long before Warren Mann received the same punishment and there was still time for Basford to receive a yellow card before the half-time whistle went with the visitors firmly in control.




Early in the second half Joe Shutt cleared the ball off his own goal-line after Reynolds and Bates had combined well to set up the opportunity, then a few minutes later Turner pushed the ball forward for Bates to run on to and calmly steer Malvern's third goal past Greenhouse with his left foot.

Rovers brought on Sam Mendes for Basford and Dion Ellis-Clark for Aldridge. Malvern also made two changes as the match entered its final quarter, bringing on Louis Loader for Evans and James Febery for full-back Smith. Tuffley's final change saw Dominik Kent come off with Demilade Yussuf replacing him. All these changes had little or no effect on the outcome because Malvern were firmly in control and had been even before the changes were made.

The longer a losing (or winning) run goes on, the closer it is to ending. The worry for Rovers is that they have made recent changes to the team and slight changes to the formation they use but this has had no bearing on recent results which have seen November start with three league defeats. The three clubs immediately below them are now too close for comfort and something has to change...and quickly.



For Malvern Town it is quite different. They have consolidated 4th place in the table and have a game in hand on League-leaders Bishops Cleeve and know that they can hit the top spot if they win that match in hand. Malvern were one of the favourites to become champions and this latest showing at Glevum Park showed exactly why. Things aren't quite desperate for Tuffley yet but somehow this miserable run has got to end before their league position becomes a matter for real concern.



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TUFFLEY ROVERS

Claret & Blue shirts; Claret & Blue shorts; Claret & White socks (GK: Grey).

Elliot Jones	1
Scott Nicholls	2
Warren Mann ©	3
Noah Smerdon	4
Dan Lander	5
Sammie Hicks	6
Jack Beardsell	7
Callum McGuirk	8
Ryan Dobbins	9
Henry Birkett	10
Mason Lewis	11
Dominik Kent	12
Shayne Bradley	14
Ryley Mace	15
Luke Hawkins	16
Demilade Yussuf	17
Kieran Squires	18
Yeshaya Lomotey	19

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Richie Warden

Asst. Manager

Ashleigh Watson (Physio)

Other Occupants



MALVERN TOWN

Sky Blue & Maroon shirts, White shorts; Sky Blue socks (GK: Green).

Keiron Blackburn	1
Luke Payne	2
Lewis Platt	3
Carrick Hill	4
Adam Saunston	5
Jack Horrell	6
Jake Cavens	7
Joseph Bullock	8
Matt Turner ©	9
Dave Reynolds	10
Ben Hayes	11
Harry Wickett	12
Sam Judge	14
Zac Bruton	15
Lewis Spurrier	16
Elliott Flint	17
Louis Loader	18
Joe Bates	19

Lee Hooper / Stephen Cleal

Georgina Harris (Physio)

Nic Butler (Kit Man)

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