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TUFFLEY ROVERS V LYDNEY TOWN
SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST 2022, 3pm





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EDITOR'S COMMENT



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

Firstly, thank you to our match-day sponsors, Foxmoor Fire & Security, for their support of the club. Match-day sponsors are a vital part of our sustainability at this level and every single company that backs us is demonstrating their support for the grassroots game.

What a start on Tuesday evening – and I was delighted it was Dobber who got our goal. He has been fantastic so far this season and deserved that first goal since returning to the club. We gave Malvern Town a stern test through the course of the evening and although they eventually looked like the only side likely to win the game, with a little more luck things might have gone our way. As I keep saying, that appears to be the difference between this squad and the group that we fielded last year.

It was good to see Macaulay Herbert back on Tuesday evening. He had a dreadful injury last year and so it was good to see his return, even if only for a brief cameo appearance. If he can recover his fitness it will feel like a new signing.

Lydney Town will provide us with another test this afternoon but these are the games are players should relish. A local derby between what I anticipate will be two fairly evenly matched sides, battling for the usual three points. We hope they enjoy their visit but leave empty handed on this occasion.

If we can get a first win it will help us build on what has been a very encouraging start. As I said in the last edition of the programme, the 'vibe' feels very different now to the experience 12 months ago and our manager deserves a lot of credit for his impact in very challenging circumstances, as does the rest of the coaching team.

On that note, and in closing, it was great to see Sam Hill helping out in the dug-out in recent games. He's back from Dubai and even though it is only for a few weeks it has been great to see him back around the club.

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 afternoon all and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park.

I would like to start by welcoming our opposition players, management, committee and supporters from Lydney Town to our home today.

It has been really refreshing start to the season for the club with a lot of positivity on and off the field around the direction that the club is going in. Only this week we were granted planning permission to develop our social club and youth changing rooms located on Tuffley Lane that have been an eyesore for many years now.

On the field it feels there seems to be a togetherness that has been missing for many years and that this group want to work hard for each other. We have also had some really positive results from both our Development and U18s teams, so I am feeling confident all of our teams will go well this season.

I hope everyone enjoys our match this afternoon, which will be a tough game no doubt.

Have a safe trip home and I hope you enjoy the hospitality on offer today.

- Dan

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 MARSH

MANAGER'S COMMENT



Good Afternoon and welcome to all players, management and supporters of Lydney Town FC.

Our first competitive week came to an end on Tuesday, when we were beaten by a decent Malvern Town outfit. On the night although I felt we had our moments, after a great start and taking an early lead, on reflection after watching it back I thought with a little bit more composure and game management at times we may have done better. We had some opportunities and threatened them, getting in some good areas further up the pitch.

Despite that defeat, I have to say all three performances have been to a standard I was looking for, although I know there is more to come, and this is what myself and management team will be demanding going forward.

We anticipate this being a tough afternoon. With Lydney Town drawing both their league games 0-0 it tells me they are a solid outfit and we will need to be at our best to get a result. Sometimes you don't get what you deserve in this game but I'm sure this will change for us at some point and fingers crossed it will be this afternoon, so we can get our first win and a result the previous performances have deserved.

With the fixtures coming thick and fast it has been difficult to play a settled team. The most pleasing thing is the togetherness in this new group, who are adapting to different ideas and formations on a game to game basis, based on availability,

Enjoy your afternoon and the game

Thanks,

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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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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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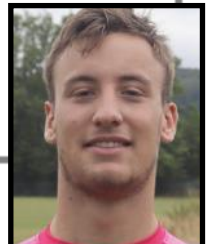
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Warren Mann



Noah Smerdon

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Jordan Barry

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Macaulay Herbert

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Martin Kent



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Mason Lewis

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Dominik Kent



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Shayne Bradley



Jack Beardsell



Callum McGuirk



Neil Mustoe
(Manager, First XI)



Ritchie Warden
(Asst. Manager, First XI)

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(Joint Manager,
Development Squad)





Luke Hawkins

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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.

HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 10 August 2022

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

Appearance information



Up to and including Tuesday, 9 August 2022

(includes selected list of former players)

Congratulations to Ryan Dobbins, who netted in our midweek defeat. 'Dobber' who is in his second spell with the club, scored after 35 seconds (probably one of our fastest ever goals) but it was his first in a competitive fixture since 6 October 2018, when he scored in a 6-1 win over Virginia Water at Glevum Park. May this be the first of many more this season. Well done Dobber!!



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	76	22	Kent, Dominik	131	17
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Lander, Daniel	3	0
Azubilla, Paul	0	0	Lewis, Mason	2	0
Barry, Jordan	2	0	Lomotey, Yeshaya	13	1
Beardsell, Jack	59	10	Mace, Ryley	2	1
Birkett, Henry	43	5	Mann, Warren	465	82
Bradley, Shayne	232	106	McGuirk, Callum	2	0
Butler, Matt	4	0	McNally, Laurie	10	0
Davies, Ashley	166	27	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Dobbins, Ryan	43	9	Nicholls, Scott	8	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	63	5
Herbert, Macaulay	219	8	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Hicks, Sammie	7	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	3	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

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	1-2	186	R Mace
09/Aug	7:45pm	Malvern Town		H	1-3	124	R Dobbins
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

Goalscorers

Dobbins, Ryan	1
Mace, Ryley	1

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 Glevum 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.



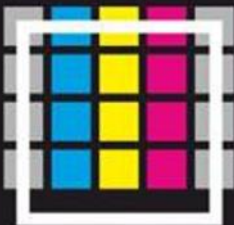
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Half-time quiz: Break for five

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 focus on matches played in extreme weather conditions....

1. Which two Italian teams are pictured here, taking part in a clash during September 2016 that was abandoned, with the score 1-1, when a torrential downpour turned the pitch into a lake and flooded the players' tunnel?



2. When German side Bayer Leverkusen visited Rosenborg, of Norway, in a 2010 Champions League, the game was played within 300 miles of the Arctic Circle. What was the temperature record as (in Celsius) at the time of kick-off?

3. When the USA hosted Costa Rica in a 2014 World Cup Qualifier in Colorado, snow disrupted the game and almost caused it to be abandoned. The USA went on to win a game played in atrocious conditions 1-0. Who is the man pictured, who scored the only goal of the game?



4. In August 1999 a League Cup fixture between Torquay United and Portsmouth was postponed due to a natural occurrence that prevented the local Police force from committing the appropriate level of resource to the game. Which natural environmental issue, happening for the first time since 1927, was to blame?

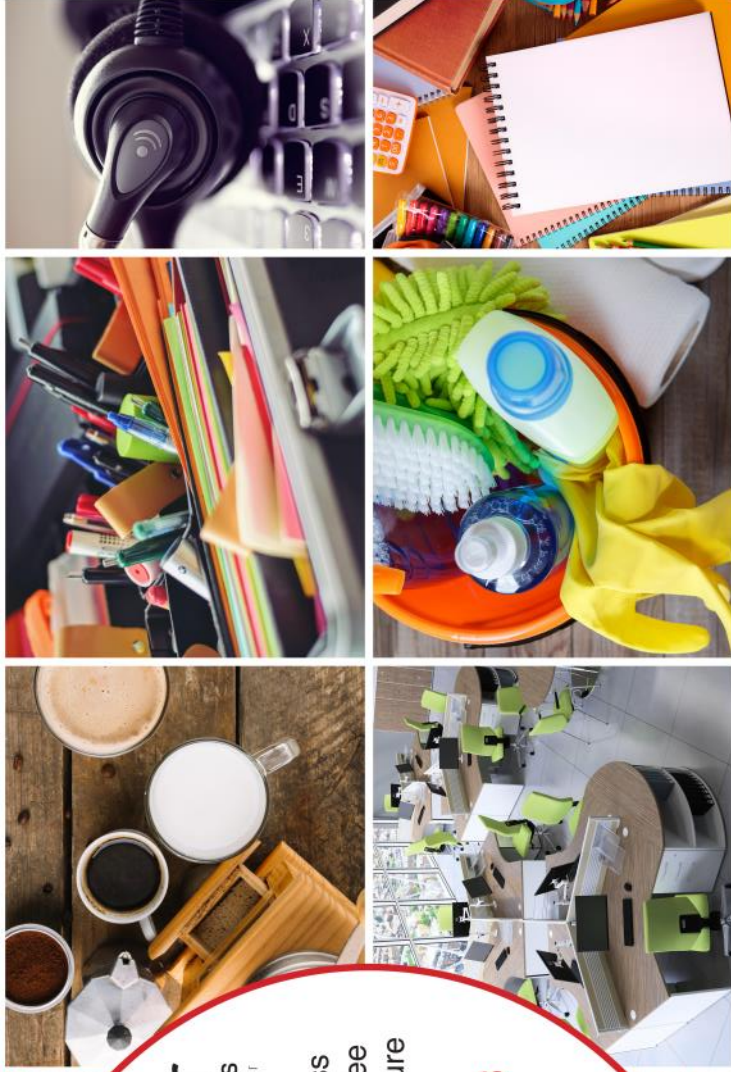
5. We've recently rebuilt our stand, after it was destroyed during a storm in February of this year. What was the name of that storm?



to



Quiz Answers: (1) Roma v Sampdoria; (2) -15 degrees; (3) Clint Dempsey; (4) A total eclipse of the sun; (5) Storm Eunice.



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**UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION
TUFFLEY ROVERS 1-3 MALVERN TOWN
TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2022
(ATT: 124)**



This would be the second league match of the 2022-23 season after both clubs had drawn their opening fixture in the mid-week before the F.A. Cup fixtures three days earlier. Rovers had drawn 0-0 at Brimscombe & Thrupp, while Malvern Town had drawn 2-2 with Westfields, attracting an attendance of over 300, to their picturesque stadium which is overlooked by the Malvern Hills.

The Hillsiders finished 3rd in their inaugural season in the Hellenic's Premier Division in 2021-22 and took 77 points from their 38 league fixtures. Although that was 49 points more than their hosts this evening, Rovers had come from 0-3 down to take a point at the Langland Stadium in October but Town were too strong in the return match and won 3-0 at Glevum Park a month later.

Early-season matches are so hard to predict until a certain number of games have been played and some sort of pattern has emerged. While Rovers were suffering heartbreak in the FA Cup in their previous fixture, Malvern were progressing in that competition by beating Worcester City in front of nearly 900 spectators. Those cup results would have to be put to bed quickly because now important league points were up for grabs.

Ultimately, Malvern's win was as comfortable as their 3-0 victory at Glevum Park nine months earlier. The only difference this time was that Rovers scored (in the opening minute) but rarely threatened to do so again. The Hillsiders passed neatly and accurately and broke with pace and purpose. In Matt Turner they had the game's stand-out performer; an excellent target man who could also hold the ball up and distribute it well. His over-exuberance when making certain challenges is not a trait that will commend him to many but in many ways he is the perfect centre-forward, if such a position exists in the modern game.

Tuffley's start was in complete contrast to the way they had finished Saturday's cup-tie. Inside a minute Jack Beardsell timed his run down the right perfectly to stay onside and his inch-perfect cross on the run saw Ryan Dobbins peel away at the back post to plant a powerful header past Keiron Blackburn in the visitors' goal.



Rovers only scored 40 league goals from 38 matches last term; only relegated Calne Town scored fewer (37). Averaging only one goal per league match is a worrying trend that needs to be changed. Despite the lift that such an early goal should have given them, they rarely looked like beating Blackburn again. Full-back Ryley Mace strode forward to unleash a powerful shot which narrowly cleared the crossbar in the closing moments of the first half; and a speculative shot by Jack Beardsell fizzed past the far post shortly before the final whistle.

Rovers weren't over-run by any means but were constantly having to regroup after surviving dangerous attacks to get ready for the next wave that would be coming towards them a minute or two later. In truth Town and especially Turner could have scored more but once they had taken the lead with an hour played they never really looked like relinquishing it because adding to it was always the more likely alternative.

Malvern's equaliser was as tidy as Tuffley's opener, Harry Clark finding space at the far post to convert an inviting cross from Ben Hayes. Town were awarded a lot of free-kicks in the first half but their delivery was often poor and didn't give Elliot Jones much to worry about.

Henry Birkett went down injured as the first half came to a close but was okay to continue after treatment. The final action of the half saw Kieran Squires connect with a free-kick from the right but his header drifted harmlessly wide.

When Birkett was fouled by his opposing No.8 Joe Bullock early in the second half, the Tuffley player reacted petulantly by sticking out a leg in retaliation and the referee spoke to both players but did not brandish a card to either of them, but this started a bit of a running battle for a while and Bullock eventually saw yellow for fouling Birkett.



David Reynolds shot wide from a good position as the hour-mark approached but would soon be celebrating the success of a wonderful direct free-kick which flew high past Jones' left side like a guided missile.

Rovers made changes to try to freshen things up and although Malvern also brought on substitutes it seemed to be more to run the clock down than for any particular tactical reason.

Just after the mid-point of the second period a third Malvern goal effectively sealed the points for the visitors. Jones might have done better with a cross which came in from the right but when he could only push the ball up in the air Harry Clark had a simple header from just inside the six-yard box.

Rovers have another chance to grab their first league win of the season on Saturday when Lydney Town visit. Malvern go to Hereford Pegasus on the same afternoon but already look to be one of the strongest teams in this division just as they were a year ago.



Lydney Town FC • Club History



Although Lydney is one of the main towns of the Forest area the Severnsiders have always led a very nomadic existence. With the town very much a Rugby stronghold the football club has always found it difficult to exist and although the club can trace its roots back to 1911 it never has had a sound base. The club competed in the local leagues until 1952 when they were elected to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. In 1969 the club folded due to lack of committee. In 1971 the soccer lovers of the town pulled together and the club re-formed and in 1974 the appointment of Harold Elliott as player/coach saw many players from Lydney Juniors introduced with the resulting effect of promotion to Senior League Division One in 1976. During this period the club switched from Bathurst Park onto the Recreation Ground using the changing facilities at the neighbouring Cricket Club.

In 1979-80 after twice finishing Runners-Up they finally lifted the Senior League Division One Championship. Applications to the County League were unfruitful so the club turned to the Hellenic League, where the club held its own, but after 4 seasons the huge financial burden of the League forced the club to return to the Senior League. A dispute with the Cricket Club saw the club move back onto Bathurst Park and following this Secretary Roger Sansom, who had been elected in 1975 and who is still secretary to this day, investigated the possibility of building a clubhouse on the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately on the pitch the downward spiral continued and the club found itself back in the NGL. The players thankfully stayed together and they bounced back into the Senior League the following season. Ambitious plans to have our own clubhouse were still in the pipeline and a clubhouse was opened on Lydney Recreation Trust in 1990. In 1995 the club did the double by winning Division Two and the Forest Green Supporters Trophy, a feat they repeated in 1996-97.

In 2003-04 Manager Peter Elliott, who along with Roger Sansom are the longest serving members of the club with 40 plus years service, guided the club to the Final of the League Cup and the Senior Amateur Cup but in 2004 due to work commitments Peter decided to step down. The club turned to Stuart Liddington to take the helm and with Peter being persuaded to assist him they forged a very successful partnership. The addition of Pete Macklin from Cinderford Town, Danny Clarke ex-Oxford United, Matthew Timmins from Whitecroft and the return of Mark Saunders from Australia gave the club a real boost. Pete, Danny and 'Matty' provided the missing link in the goalscoring department scoring over 70 goals between them, Danny leading the way with 32 goals. The Senior League title was secured with 4 games to go and they did the double by lifting the Senior Amateur Cup. The season was complete with the news of acceptance into the County League a prize denied to them some 25 years ago. The clubs County League campaign started in unconvincing fashion with only 4 points from 3 home games but a 20 game unbeaten run saw the club take over as league leaders at the start of 2006, a position they held for the remainder of the season. Scoring goals was very much the key to winning as 87 goals proved, 'Matty' Timmins finishing the leagues leading goal scorer with 28 goals. This success was beyond the clubs wildest dreams and gave the club the opportunity of a return to the Hellenic League after 22 years. A steady start saw the club 12 points behind the leaders in October but a 6 game winning streak at the end of the year saw the club take over as leaders at the start of January. The critical game came in mid-April with fellow title contenders Trowbridge Town visiting 'The Rec'. In front of a crowd of 305 goals from Danny Clarke and Mark Crabbe secured victory and a 5 point cushion. With 3 games to go the Title was won at Malmesbury when Danny Bishop came off the subs bench to score 2 late goals and give the club an unprecedented 3rd title in as many seasons. The squad had certainly exceeded all expectations and can quite easily be classed as the best in the clubs history. Ambitious plans for the required improvements to gain promotion were put forward and accepted by the League allowing the club to play at the highest level in its history.

A steady start was overshadowed by events off the pitch when despite gaining planning permission for erection of floodlights the club became embroiled in a sea of red tape with their landlords. To continue playing in the Premier Division an agreement was reached to use Cinderford Town and Harrow Hill for home games. Despite these off the pitch issues an unbeaten league run of 11 games placed them in the top half of the table. Despite finishing in 10th position the club were unable to satisfy the April deadline imposed by the league and were forced to be relegated back into Division One (West).

With relegation came the inevitable loss of players who wished to play at a higher level of football and the club decided to pin its future hopes on the youth of the town. Mark Lee, who had joined the club from County League side Ellwood, took on the role of Player/Manager. In 2014-15 they finished runners up to Tytherington Rocks but despite finishing in a promotion position ground development had not been completed by the March 31st deadline and a further season in Division One followed. Determined that such a situation would not happen again further development work followed to ensure the necessary G grading but disappointingly after all the clubs efforts the club finished in third spot which would not necessarily ensure promotion. As luck would have it circumstances led to the club being offered a place in the Premier Division which they readily accepted but this again meant further development was needed to obtain an F Grading and this was attained in 2016 with the installation of a 2nd stand. In 2016-17 silverware came the clubs way via the Floodlit Trophy beating Flackwell Heath on penalties after the game finished 3-3. Last season the club finished in 11th position but Manager Mark Lee decided to step down after 8 years in charge and the clubs search for a new manager started. The club turned to ex-Town forward Richard Kear. Lydney born Richard joined Cheltenham Town as a youth player but on his release he played on the Non League circuit. In 2013-14 he rejoined the club from Westfields. Unfortunately family commitments saw Richard step down at the end of season 2020-21. To replace Richard the club regained the services of previous manager Stuart Liddington but a set of indifferent results saw the club turn to Reserve Team Manager James Morse who instilled a new found confidence in the players and staved off any relegation fears.

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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 was 12 March 2022 and it turned out to be a day when both sides secured their status in the Hellenic League, Premier Division, although it was a better day for the visitors than the hosts...

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 0-1 LYDNEY TOWN SATURDAY, 12 MARCH 2022



The Town, much like the Rovers, have endured a most difficult season. Tuffley had the disadvantage of having to start the season by playing a string of away matches while their Glevum Park pitch was being treated. Lydney were able to play at their Recreation Ground but lost four of their opening five league matches there as well as losing five of their first six away fixtures too. So, both clubs have spent much of the season worrying about the clubs around them in the table rather than setting their sights on catching and overhauling clubs above them.

On this penultimate weekend of the Hellenic season, both knew that their safety from relegation was pretty much assured before Tuffley went to Fairford on the final day while Lydney finished with home matches against Hallen and Longlevens. Lydney's biggest win of the season came when they trounced Tuffley 4-0 back in December so the home players would have ample reason for wanting to reverse not only that result but also the scoreline.

Ultimately, Fairford's win at Calne Town meant that the Wiltshire club could no longer catch Tuffley or Lydney but of course neither players nor officials of the clubs who met in Gloucester knew that at 3pm. Town's 1-0 victory moved them above their hosts to complete a double over Rovers, for whom this was a 13th defeat from their nineteen home fixtures in the League.



It was a good toss to win on this chilly and windy afternoon and Lydney chose to defend the goal at the south end of the ground believing that playing with the wind behind them might give them an advantage in the opening period. Conversely, of course, this advantage might then be used by Rovers in the second half but as things turned out the wind dropped somewhat after the interval and home goalkeeper Jack Copland, who had struggled to get both distance and direction on a lot of his clearances in the opening forty-five, also encountered the same problem in the closing 45 minutes, when a number of his kicks went straight into touch, as in the first half.

This wasn't a pretty match to watch and probably not to play in either. In trying to be both objective and honest, this performance by Rovers wasn't anything that hadn't been seen before in the weeks and months leading up to it. Six home defeats by a single goal since the middle of November had seen more often than not tight defending when either a lapse in

concentration or a flash of brilliance by an opponent led to a goal. Sadly, despite having in Copland a last line of defence who has had a quite outstanding season, there hasn't been enough composure in midfield or attack to create chances at the other end of the pitch. Today was a good example of that. Jack Beardsell worked gamely on the right flank but apart from an early cross which was headed wide by Ashley Bird he was unable to repeat similar accuracy with later crosses, which was partly caused by the wind. Short passes from midfielders trying to connect with attacking team-mates were picked off by opponents and long passes were usually comfortably headed away by central defenders.



The visitors settled into an early rhythm and were ahead before the first quarter of the match had been played, Matthew Board pouncing on a through-ball to round Copland and prod the ball home. Board worked hard for his team throughout as did the experienced Declan Morley-Lyne, against whom Demilade Yussuf received a yellow card for needlessly pulling his shirt.

Young Tomos Shyamapant, who had struggled to cope with far more uncompromising defenders than he normally encounters in the U18s League, was replaced by Joshua Aldridge at the start of the second half and for a brief period Rovers, thanks to Aldridge's passing ability, started to get a foothold in the game. When Town's Lewis Thompson had to leave the field with an injury, he was replaced by Charlie Powell.

As the match moved into its final quarter, Beardsell had a weak shot which was comfortably gathered by Jamie Merry in the Lydney goal. Merry had a quiet afternoon because far too few shots were fired at him and he only had to really extend himself once when punching away a last-minute Aldridge corner from the left which dropped near his back post.


Another excellent U18s player, Tomas Williment, came on for Liam Smith and Rovers' last throw of the dice saw Yeshaya Lomotey replace Demilade Yussuf, this causing a reshuffle of the Tuffley defence with manager Neil Mustoe barking out the re-arrangement from the touchline, but it was too little too late.

Although Lydney didn't seriously threaten to score again, they found it as comfortable to hold on to their lead as several other visiting teams had done at Glevum Park.



Considering the atrocious way they started the season, Lydney have done extremely well to rise into a position of safety. Tuffley have also guaranteed that they will play in the same division next season but must be concerned that they have lost nearly 65% of their league fixtures. Of equal concern must be the paucity of their goals return, an average of just 1.08 goals per game. With a bit more experience, young forward Shyamapant is capable of resolving the latter problem but the manager has somehow got to make Rovers a harder team to beat. Missing club captain Macaulay Herbert for almost the entire campaign was a big blow, a blow slightly eased by the way Joel White fitted smoothly back into central defence, usually alongside the extraordinarily talented Jacob Geddes.

The new pitch has held up extremely well but ultimately, as at any club, it is the personnel who perform on that pitch who will determine a club's progress and in that respect maybe Tuffley have some tough decisions to make about who represents them next season because while statistics can be manoeuvred they do not usually lie and Rovers' figures for the season which is about to end are, frankly, not good enough for a club of their ambition and status.



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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
Kieran Squires	6
Jack Beardsell	7
Sammie Hicks	8
Ryan Dobbins	9
Henry Birkett	10
Dominik Kent	11
Mason Lewis	12
Shayne Bradley	14
Ryley Mace	15
Callum McGuirk	16
Yeshaya Lomotey	17

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Ritchie Warden

Asst. Manager

Hope Francis (Physio)

Other Occupants

LYDNEY TOWN

Black & White shirts; Black shorts; Black socks (GK: Orange).



Richard Thomas
Liam Sheppard
Dan Morgan
Tom Baldwin
Sam Elliott
Tristan Murphy
Jordan Sheen ©
Finnan Hamblett
Keelan Hamblett
Jayson Watkins
Lewis Thompson
Harry Clark
Steve Clark
Lewis Bamford
Sam Wines
Declan Morley-Lyne

James Morse

Steve Jones

Imelda Morse (Physio)

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