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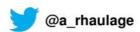


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# **EDITOR'S COMMENT**



I'd like to offer a warm welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this afternoon for the visit of Chipping Sodbury Town. I sincerely hope their players, supporters and officials enjoy their visit to our home (in every respect, bar the result!).

We are now at the 'business end' of the season and, in that context, games don't come bigger than this. Like our visitors today, we realise we are at risk of relegation from the Premier Division and I would suspect that they share our ambitions to avoid that outcome. Like us, they've had some good days and some bad during the 2022/23 season but all that pales into insignificance if either team secures the points needed to save their place at Step 5. If that is the outcome, neither of us will concern ourselves too much with what went before – the relief will be enough.

If, however, one (or possibly both) of us end up in the bottom two places, then we will probably analyse every poor performance, wasted chance and missed opportunity, as we lament or fortunes and look towards rebuilding at Step 6. That is what will make today's game such a big deal. It is the 'six pointer' that will shape the next two weeks, as the season draws to a close. Winning makes the journey to 22 April much easier; losing makes it far tougher – I know which path I'd like to follow!

Of course, whatever happens today won't be the end of the story. There are many other games to be played by the teams at or around the bottom of the table and, most importantly, we are due to travel to Chipping Sodbury on the last day of the season. I personally hope that isn't a 'winner takes all' game but it might well be.

Relegation wouldn't be the end of the world, but everyone involved in this club over the past 15 years has worked so hard to get us back to Step 5 and it would be very sad to lose our place at that level. We've got a squad capable of competing at this level but injuries, non-availability, poor form at crucial moments, and bad luck have all played their part in our direction of travel. Today will be the latest chance to change things for the better. I believe that Muzzy can guide this team to the right result but that is by no means certain and our visitors will be feeling the same, I'm sure.

I would also like to congratulate Macaulay Herbert on reaching 250 competitive appearances for the first team. It is another wonderful achievement and I sincerely hope that Macca can move towards 300 appearances with a season in the Premier Division. That is a cause worth fighting for.

In closing, one thing to reflect upon, given some rumours circulating recently. It is suggested a Hellenic League club intends to seek "voluntary relegation" from the Premier Division. I have been asked numerous times whether that might save us – irrespective of league positions – and my answer is unequivocal; it is irrelevant to 'now'. We must make sure we get the points needed to finish outside the bottom two places and then the discussion is over. If we wait upon the misfortune of others, then we really aren't doing what we set out to do at the start of this season.

#InMuzzyWeTrust

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 and welcome to everyone at Glevum Park today. Firstly, I hope everyone has had a wonderful Easter weekend so far.

A warm welcome to our opponents Chipping Sodbury and all their players, management, committee and supporters.

Thank you, today, to our match sponsor Foxmoor Fire & Security. We're really delighted they've joined as at Glevum Park today and really appreciate their support as a regular match-day sponsor.

I don't think I need to let anyone know the importance of this game today, for both clubs, as both teams continue their quest for Hellenic League Premier Division survival. Whilst our opponents today play their 3rd game in 5 days, our players have had a ten day break. I hope that our time off will mean player injuries, and other niggles have cleared up – rather than the risk that a short break could mean the lads will be a little rusty.

Off the field we have been successful in our bid for a Levelling Up grant through Gloucestershire County Council towards us redeveloping our social club and youth changing rooms at the site on Tuffley Lane. This bid will be released in the press by Gloucestershire County Council in the coming weeks, but following an application process and interview, we have been awarded £37,500 to add to the Gloucester City grant of £200,000 we have been allocated from a pot of section 106 funding.

We are now engaging with local construction organisations, who will tender for the work and help us plan to make it a reailty. To help us make the project a reality and as successful as possible, we have also set up a CrowdFunder page and there are posters with QR codes on them within the bar area so that, if you wish, you can donate via the QR code. We are aiming to raise £10,000 and commence the work in early May 2023.

I hope everyone enjoys the game and hospitality here today, and has a safe trip home.

Many thanks,

Dan

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# MANAGER'S COMMENT



Good afternoon and welcome to all players officials and supporters of Chipping Sodbury Town who are visiting us at Glevum Park. Today's game is crucial to both teams and probably a 'must not lose' for either of us.

We go into the game in a confident mood after our recent run and a spirited performance last week at Malvern Town, when we gave one of the division's leading sides a tough afternoon.

Since then, we have had a 10-day break, which has given us an opportunity to get all injuries and niggles sorted, so that we are fresh and ready to go. Kieran Alder is still not available, and his injury has proved more of an issue than first thought, but most other players are fit or nearing full fitness.

There is still plenty to play for after today but if we can get a much needed win, which we really require, it would give us the boost we need going into the final three games against Brimscombe & Thrupp, Corsham Town and then the return game at Chipping Sodbury.

My hope is that we're in a position of safety before we travel to Sodbury on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, but we'll need results to go our way and to record the results we're looking for if that is to become a reality.

Before I close this week's programme note, I'd like to just take the opportunity to congratulate Macca on making his 250<sup>th</sup> appearance at Malvern Town. Following on from Warren's 500<sup>th</sup> appearance it is another great achievement by one of our players and a relatively rare sign of loyalty and commitment in this day and age.

I hope you had a good Easter and that you enjoy the game this afternoon. Thanks for your support.

Cheers,

Muzzy

Today's match sponsor:



#### 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 17<sup>th</sup>. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10<sup>th</sup> placed finishes, before a 15<sup>th</sup> 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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- Organise events and provide socialising opportunities for children to attend.
- We aim to introduce families with similar experiences so that they can support each other.



Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2022/23 season



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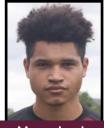




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**Neil Mustoe** (Manager, First XI)



Ritchie Warden (Asst. Manager, First XI)



**Dave Cornock** (Joint Manager, Development Squad)





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James Reynolds





Yeshaya Lomotey





Ellis Danes-Rutherford





**Tyrel Roberts** 





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Michael Oakes (Joint Manager, **Development Squad)** 





Craig Darkin (Coach)





Ashleigh Watson (Physio / Sports Therapist)





**Hopeton Francis** (Physio / Sports Therapist)





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



#### CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN HISTORY

In the summer of 1959 Cliff Phelps decided it was time football association was brought back to the town. It had been six long years since the boys of the town had donned the Blue & White of Sodbury in the Western League. After several meetings at The Bell Inn (Now Brooks Bar & Kitchen) the new club was formed. Major L.M.Harris was President, Mr. E Purbrick Chairman, Mr. C Phelps Vice Chairman, Club Captain Dennis Greenaway and Youth Captain Michael Boulton. In the initial 1959/60 season they entered a senior team into The Dursley & Wotton League and a team into the Youth Section. The following season Sodbury joined the Bristol and District League and throughout the 60's remained in Division 3.

The 1970's began with relegation, when we finished bottom of Division 3 and the slump continued in 1971/72 Season when finishing bottom of Division 4. The Mid 70's saw a few changes and the ground work of the team today. Mike Fox became player Manager and 'The Sods' began a Sunday Side. In the 1976/77 Season, Sodbury finished third in Division 5 and gained promotion. The 1978/79 Season saw us go one better and finished runners-up of Division 4. To finish the decade off and celebrate twenty years of the club's rebirth, we won the Championship of Division 3 in 1979/80.

The 1980's began were the 70's left off and a fourth place finish gave Sodbury promotion to Bristol and District Division 1. 1981/82 saw the rebirth of our Reserve side and by the end of the season, the 1st's had gained promotion to the Senior Division. From Division 5, to the Senior League in six seasons. The first season in the Senior division was mid-table finish and the end of the season saw Mike Fox's testimonial and an Ashton Gate appearance against Mangotsfield united. The following season we finished third. After finishing 15th in 1985/86 we were relegated to Division 1, where we remained until finishing runners up in 1988/89.

The 1990's kicked off with a third place finish and promotion to the Bristol Premier Combination Div 1. in 1990/91. The early 90's saw a new clubhouse and changing rooms built with Players and Committee members contributing their trades. A fourth place finish and the winning of the Premier cup in 1992/93 was the clubs best season so far. The Sods remained in Division 1 until the end of the nineties, when they were promoted to the Premier Division for the 1999/00 Season.

The 2000's and after 3 seasons in the Premier, the Sods were relegated at the end of 2001/02 season. A new manager and new era began in 2002/03. Les Underdown and his Assistant Jeff Clark both ex-players with the club took over the reins. A mid table finish in their first season, saw Les leave and left Jeff in the hot seat. The following season saw another mid-table finish and the Reserves become Champions with the exciting players now in the squad. 2004/05 ended in a disappointing third place but the club now had a third team as well. The following season, the previous year was forgotten when the club won the Championship and promoted back to the Premier division. A mid table finish in the Premier division and the other 2 teams both winning promotion was a good season in 2006/07. 2007/08 became the clubs most successful season, when the first's won the Championship of the Premier and the reserves Champions of Bristol & District division 1. The first season and a change of manager in the Gloucestershire county league and the team finished bottom of the league, only winning 5 games. Even though the club finished bottom, they were not relegated. Mark Stenner was appointed manager and he started the steady march up the County league.

The 2010's has produced the club's most successful time in their history. Mark Stenner had

taken the team to a third place finish in the County league in 2010/11. After his departure early the following season, Scott Gibson took over. A disappointing bottom place finish was followed by two seasons of rebuilding and climbing the league. Karl Reese was appointed new manager at the beginning of 2014/15 season and in his first season had promoted the club from the County league to the dizzy heights of Western League football with a third place finish. Not a bad start for the new gaffer but with some new faces and playing great football, we went 1 better the following season and won the Western League Division 1 Championship. 2016/17 and the Western League Premier division was tough but a very creditable 13th position and competing in the F.A. Vase was our most successful season so far. 2017/18 was going to be a massive mountain to climb. Karl had left the club and also half the first team had departed to pastures new. Enter Neil Simons our new gaffer, a season in the Western league to take on with half a team and to make things a little more difficult, your first game is the clubs first ever game in the F.A.Cup. The season ended with a 13th place finish, an FA Cup victory and a quarter final place in the GFA Challenge trophy. Early in the 2018/19 Season Neil decided to leave the club and shortly afterwards we appointed our present manager Joe White and his assistant Steve. At the end of the season under his leadership, the club had finished 10th in the Western League and had the best run in the FA cup in the clubs history. The club were successful in their appeal against the Hellenic League, sideways move by the F.A. So 2019/20 season was in the Western League Premier. The uncertainty of which League we would be playing in, unsettled the players and so several departed the Club before a ball was kicked that Season. Three weeks before the season started the club also lost our Manager and his Assistant. Justin Bishop & Scott Gibson took control of the 1st team as Caretaker management and remained there until the League came to an abrupt halt. The F.A. announced on 26th March 2020 that the Step 1-7 game and all grassroots football leagues and competition under its umbrella had ended, as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. All results for the season would be expunged.

The 2020's begin with Jeff Roberts and his team, Drew, Sean & Nick steering the 1<sup>st</sup> Team. The season was to be curtailed due to Covid-19. The 2021/22 season is now looking more promising with the new FA restructuring of the leagues; the football club can now begin their journey together with Jeff and his team in the Hellenic League -Premier Division. This is exciting times for the club and who knows where it will end!

Foe the rest of the club - The Reserves have a new manager in Justin Carpenter having taken over from Les Theobald who is now concentrating on General Secretary duties. Justin is a ex Sodbury member of the club who had a successful period at Brimsham Green and who is entrusted now to take the team to the Gloucester County League. The A team is still under the guidance of Ricky Gray who has seen the team move up the league ladder to the Bristol and District Senior Division; highest ever achieved by the A team.

The Women are in their second season in the South West Regional League (Tier 3). Hopefully this season manager Jake Scanlon and his team like everyone will have an undisrupted season. Jake has high hopes for promotion from this group.

The two Under18 teams , one midweek and one Sunday are under the stewardship of Mark Lloyd and Steve Woodruff (midlweek) and Brian Cook (Sunday). Both teams are in the process of finalising their squads ready for the start . The football club hopes that some of these boys will eventually be playing for the Senior Mens teams.

The Committee have worked tirelessly over the enforced break to update and move forward the club. We are all volunteers and always welcome more people to join this fantastic club.

# HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

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## Appearance information

Up to and including Saturday, 1 April 2023 (includes selected list of former players)



Just one game after Warren Mann made his 500<sup>th</sup> appearance for Tuffley Rovers, Macaulay Herbert brought up his 250<sup>th</sup> competitive first team appearance in the recent defeat at Malvern Town. That made Macca the second player to reach that milestone this season, after Shayne Bradley also brought up his 250<sup>th</sup> game earlier in 2022/23.

Macca made a first team debut at 16 years old and had it not been for injuries, Im sure he'd have made far more appearances. Many remember that he missed most of the 2021/22 season due to a nasty shoulder injury and that was one of many set-backs that have impacted on the frequency of his selection. However, he's returned with some great performances this year and is on course for his highest number of appearances since 2015/16. Only Bradders and Marcus Foxwell sit between Macca and 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the appearance list – if he can stay fit and stay a Rover, I'm confident Macca will be challenging Wazza's record in the next few years! Congratulations, Macaulay. Thank you for your service to the club.

Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	95	27	James, Richard	125	40
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Jones, Elliot	19	0
Azubilla, Paul	21	1	Kent, Dominik	171	19
Barry, Jordan	4	0	Lander, Daniel	26	1
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Lewis, Mason	27	3
Beasley, Daniel	25	4	Lomotey, Yeshaya	31	7
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Mace, Ryley	16	1
Bird, Ashley	66	5	Martin, Jamie	2	0
Birkett, Henry	82	6	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Bradley, Shayne	257	117	Mann, Warren	501	84
Butler, Matt	6	1	McGuirk, Callum	38	0
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	McNally, Laurie	10	0
Danes-Rutherford, Ellis	1	0	Merchant, Luke	77	0
Davies, Ashley	182	27	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Dobbins, Ryan	83	18	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Driver-Dickerson, George	9	0	Nicholls, Scott	14	0
Evans, David	69	0	Oakes, Michael	40	2
Fallows, Dayton	3	0	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Poole, Bradley	8	0
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Pritchett, Mark	142	22
Geddes, Jacob	51	4	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Shyamapant, Tomos	21	1
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Smerdon, Noah	4	1
Hands, Ben	1	0	Smith, Liam	41	1
Haswell, Joey	11	2	Squires, Kieran	89	7
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Hawkins, Luke	13	0	Tomkins, Lyndon	1	0
Herbert, Macaulay	250	10	Walker, Harry	67	6
Hicks, Sammie	28	0	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	120	8	Wallington, Mark	220	29
Hoffland, Robin	4	0	White, Joel	110	4
Iddles, Harrison	12	0	Wright, Liam	124	3
James, Brett	185	64	Yussuf, Demilade	14	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 besome variation to statistics in due course.

#### Statistics 2022/23

03/Aug

06/Aug

09/Aug

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04/Feb

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18/Feb

21/Feb

03/Mar

07/Mai

14/Mai

22/Mai

25/Mai

28/Mai

01/Apr

10/Apr

14/Apr

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

7:45pm

3nm

3pm

3pm

3pm

3pm Cribbs FC

3nm

3pm

3pm

7:45pm Brimscombe & Thrupp

Slimbridge

Malvern Town

Lydney Town

Hereford Pegasus

Thornbury Town

Hereford Lads Club

Worcester Raiders

Hartpury University 7:45pm Fairford Town

Worcester Raiders

7:45pm Hartpury University

3pm Meadow Park

7:45pm Malvern Town

12noon Bradford Town

7:30pm Almondsbury FC

3pm Longlevens

7:45pm Malvern Town

7:45pm Cribbs FC

7:45pm Shrivenham

3pm Bradford Town

7:45pm Thornbury Town

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7:45pm Mangotsfield United

7:45pm Cribbs FC

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7:45pm Hereford Pegasus

Mangotsfield United

3pm Royal Wootton Bassett Town

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7:45pm Royal Wootton Bassett Town

Hereford Lads Club

7:45pm Royal Wootton Bassett Town

Chipping Sodbury Town

Malvern Town

7:45pm Brimscombe & Thrupp

3pm Chipping Sodbury Town

7:45pm Corsham Town

Roman Glass St. Georg

7:45pm Fairford Town

7:45pm Newent Town

3pm Fleet Spurs

7:45pm Lydney Town

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Α 1-2 81 D Beasley

Α 4-0

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Н

Н 0-2

Α 1-1

Α 1-2 107

Н 4-0 142

Н 1-3 121 M Pritchett

Α 1-3 302 R Dobbins

Н

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1-4 50

0-5

4-2

4-5 90

Att Scorers

Y Lomotey, H Birkett

ST/

K Alder, M Herbert, M Pritchett, T Shyamapar

R Dobbins W Mann M Herbert K Alde

90

74 S Bradley

55

178

127

199

104 M Lewis

79

68

63

Scorers	Jones, Ell	Nicholls, 8	Mann, Wa	Smerdon,	Lander, Da	Hicks. Sar
-	1	2	3	4	5	6
R Mace	1	2	3	4	5	
R Dobbins	1	5	2		6	7
J Beardsell (2), M Lewis (2)	1	2	3	6	5	10
N Smerdon	1	3	2	4		10
	1	4	3			6
M Butler	1	4	2			6
S Bradley (2)	1	16			3	
J Beardsell, D Kent	1		3			6
S Bradley	1		3			6
P Azubilla	1		3			
S Bradley	1				U	
J Haswell (2), D Kent, D Beasley	1		3			
K Squires	1		2			
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R Dobbins, O.G.	1		11		U	
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S Bradley			3		4	
S Bradley, D Beasley		16			5	
S Bradley (3), K Alder			11		5	
R Dobbins, S Bradley (2)			11		3	6
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M Lewis			11		3	
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22/Apr
* Tuffley Rovers won 4-2 on penalties

<sup>\*\*</sup> Tuffley Rovers won 7-6 on penalties

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Dobbins, Ryan	10	Haswel
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Beasley, Daniel	4	Smerdo
Lewis, Mason	3	Butler,
Beardsell Jack	3	Azubilla

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obbins, Ryan	10	Haswell, Joey	2
motey, Yeshaya	6	O.G.	2
der, Kieran	5	Mace, Ryley	1
easley, Daniel	4	Smerdon, Noah	1
wis, Mason	3	Butler, Matt	1
eardsell, Jack	3	Azubilla, Paul	1
erbert, Macaulay	2	Shyamapant, Tomos	1
uires, Kieran	2	Birkett, Henry	1
ent, Dominik	2	Lander, Daniel	1
ann, Warren	2		

TAL APPEARANCES	19	9	37	4	24	22
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#### **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 has been 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.

#### Luke Merchant Goalkeepe

Back at the club after a Hellenic League Premier Division title winning season at Bishops Cleeve. A great shot stopper, commanding presence and accomplished keeper, who is a fantastic addition to the squad after leaving at the end of the 2020/21 season. Now less than thirty appearances away from surpassing Bruce Perks' record number of appearances for a keeper at Step 7 and above.

#### 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. A real competitor, who gives his all in every game.

#### Ryley Mace Defence

After time served in the U18s and then Development Squad has started to feature in the first team. Plenty of potential, whether at full-back or in a more attacking role. Good going forward, comfortable on the ball and industrious player, who has a bright future if he can continue his progress in the next 12-18 months.

#### Macaulay Herbert Defence

Now the second longest-serving member of the first team, 'Macca' came through our U18s and is a solid, dependable; an excellent defender who has been getting better with every season that passed. Has now made over 200 first team appearances but has only recently returned following a lengthy absence with a serious shoulder injury. Closing in on 250 competitive appearances for the club.

#### Ashley Davies Defence

In his 3rd spell with the club. Has had spells away at Hardwicke, Shortwood United & Cinderford Town but returned briefly last and now raring to go in 2022/23! Was Neil Mustoe's 1st signing last season; an incredible coup. Brings class on the ball, a physical presence, leadership and a wonderful work ethic to the squad - his influence will be of huge value to the club.

#### 2022/23 PLAYER PROFILES

#### Mark Pritchett Defence

Another player to have returned to the club this season, and another who tasted Hellenic League title winning success at Bishops Cleeve during his time away. Previously at Rovers as Player/Manager before stepping away from the role during pre-season in 2021/22. Now back at the club his father had great success at, offering a no nonsense, uncompromising, good old-fashioned performance in every game, whilst also offering a threat in the opposition box.

#### Warren Mann Defence

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; usually the opposition support's least favourite player!

#### 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 this season has proved a shrewd acquisition. Thunderous tackling, powerful in the air and has a terrific long-throw that could add a dimension to our play

#### Kian Maher-Goldsmith Defence

Young defender, who has recently graduated to the first team squad and made his competitive debut at Royal Wotton Bassett Town. A good old-fashioned centre-back, who is brave, competitive and toughtackling, but also sensible on the ball. A natural leader, who has captained the Development Squad regularly this season.

#### 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 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

#### Callum McGuirk Midfield

Signed from Longlevens, where he'd largely been used at full-back, he is a hard-working midfielder, who looks comfortable on the ball. Played academy football during his earlier years, including a spell at Bristol City. Previously spent time at Rovers, where he featured in our U18s squad. Will look to make an impact in 2022/23 but his versatility could also be an important asset.

#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> (or 4<sup>th</sup>!) spell with Rovers, after a fairly nomadic life in Hellenic League & County League football. Made forty appearances for the first team over 7 years but returned during pre-season - could this 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.

#### Kieran Alder Midfield

Recently returned to the club after spells with Cinderford Town, Bishops Cleeve and Worcester City. A gifted No.10, whose work rate is as noticeable as his talent on the ball. Scored once in every four games during his previous spell with the club and scored eight league goals for Cleeve in their title winning season in 2021/22. Previously part of Neil Mustoe's U18s side at Gloucester City and now reunited with him at Rovers.

#### Ryan Dobbins Forward

Another returning player, who started out at the club's Stroud League sides, before a successful spell in the Reserves', followed by a prolific spell at County League side Gala Wilton. Moved back into Hellenic League football, playing 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; he is adept at holding the ball up and bringing his team-mates into the game.

#### Harrison Iddles Midfield

Livewire in the midfield, who offers a non-stop, high energy performance every time he appears in the team. Signed from Westfields at the end of 2022 and already a regular, who you're as likely to see tackling in our box as he is to be the furthest player forward in an attack. Was previously part of the highly successful U18s squad that Neil Mustoe and Ken Blackburn managed at Gloucester City.

#### 2022/23 PLAYER PROFILES

#### Dan Beasley Forward

Signing from Westfields, who looks to be a great acquisition. Strong, holds the ball up well, has an electric turn of pace and shows plenty of composure in front of goal. Injuries have stunted his progress since joining the club but another player with huge potential, if he can stay fit and get a regular run of games.

#### 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 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!

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 are all about football names related to banks (given the Bank Holiday!)...

1. Can you name the player pictured, who has a name that you might associate to banking? He currently plays in Ligue 1 for Nice, after playing in England for Everton, Sheffield Wednesday, Leeds United, Chelsea and Aston Villa.



- 2. Can you name the man who started out at Scunthorpe United, before playing for Fulham, Liverpool and other clubs, until ending his playing days at Scunthorpe in 1990; before embarking on a managerial career that included spells at Walsall, Luton Town, Cambridge United and Hartlepool United?
- 3. The player pictured here is a Polish international with the sort of surname that banks love. Can you name him and the club at which he started his career?



- 4. Which current National League team was formed in 1911 but was forced to close and re-start in 2008 due to their precarious financial position, and are nicknamed The Shaymen?
- 5. Which banking institute would you associate to the three players pictured below and can you name each of them?











## ON (OR AROUND) THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

Current records date back, fairly accurately, to the 2007/08 season and although there are a few gaps stopping us having a full set of data, it gives us the opportunity to include a new programme feature that allows us to reflect on days gone by and fixtures on, or around, today's date.

Since those records began, we've had a few games on or around 10 April that we have selected to reflect on our fortunes on this this particular date...

#### 9 April 2008

A solitary goal from Michael Oakes proved enough to secure a vital three points for Tuffley Rovers in their Gloucestershire County League game against Thornbury Town at Glevum Park.

The hosts came into the game fourth in the table, with the visitors in eleventh place, and they were made to work hard for their victory but Oakes' strike proved enough to ensure that the team in claret and blue triumphed to cement their push for a top four place.

**Squad:** Mark Harris; Ben Surman; Michael Oakes; Mark Patterson; Sid Summerell; Robert Cook; Jon Corbett; Gary Cornwall; Marcus Foxwell; Nathan Owen; Adam Hacker. **Subs used**: Warren Mann; Mark Wallington; Martin Middlecote.

#### 10 April 2010

A 1-0 win for Tuffley Rovers pushed their hosts Ellwood to the bottom of the Gloucestershire County League table, as Richard James' penalty proved enough to separate the sides. In what was by no means a classic game, a goalless first half seemed inevitable in a game of very few chances.



Ellwood missed a good chance to take the lead in the 70th minute and paid the price 5 minutes later when Richard James scored from the penalty spot to give Tuffley the three points and move them back into second spot in the table.

**Squad:** Adam Bennett; Leone Cornwall; Lee Wallington; Ashley Davies; Richard James; Victor Webb; Mark Wallington; Daniel Wallington; Jon Corbett; Edward Weyman; Warren Mann. **Subs used**: Oliver Everitt.

#### 9 April 2011

Tuffley Rovers ran out 2-1 winners over Taverners at Glevum Park in the Gloucestershire County League. Scott Jones gave the home side the lead on 21 minutes, when he capitalised on a one-on-one situation with the keeper, before Freddie Latchford levelled for Taverners two minutes into the second half. Rovers' response was immediate and when Warren Mann scored from a direct free-kick, it provide enough to secure all three points for the hosts.

**Squad:** Christopher Perks; Ben Surman; Kyle Kennedy; Richard James; Richard Workman; Liam Harding; Mark Wallington; Peter Thomas; Shayne Bradley; Scott Jones; Warren Mann. **Subs used**: Mark Ford (Snr).

#### 11 April 2015

Tuffley Rovers' Hellenic League Division One (West) promotion campaign took a further twist, following their defeat against champions elect, Longlevens, on Bank Holiday Monday, as they drew 2-2 away at mid-table Clanfield FC, a result that saw them overtaken by Lydney Town in

the table, with two games remaining.

Jordan Dowdeswell gave Rovers the lead on 27 minutes, with a good finish from the edge of the box, before the hosts equalised on 34 minutes, through Adam Smith. The hosts then took the lead shortly before the interval through Matt Cheetham.

Just after the hour mark Brett James made it 2-2, with his seventeenth goal of the season, and it looked like Rovers might breath a little hope into their title challenge, but they were unable to convert a host of chances that change their way, meaning the title went to Longlevens and Rovers needed to make up a point on promotion challengers Lydney in their final two games.

**Squad:** Aaron Taylor; Marcus Foxwell; Stuart Griffith; Macaulay Herbert; Sam Drew; Ashley Davies; Jordan Dowdeswell; Warren Mann; Kieran Tracey; Mark Ford; Brett James. **Subs used:** Steve Bick.

#### 7 April 2018

Tuffley Rovers withstood a period of sustained pressure in the second half of this Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division fixture, to record a vital win, away at Windsor, in their quest to secure their highest league position since the 2001/02 season. Mark Pritchetts side found themselves with an opportunity to match their 2002 placing, as they sat in eighth place with only a handful of fixtures remaining.

Kieran Alder opened the scoring in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute, but Rovers were grateful to keeper Dave Evans shortly after, when he pushed away a shot from former Premier League striker, Barry Hayles. On 37 minutes Alder scored his second, after capitalising on good work by Shayne Bradley and Warren Mann, volleying home from close range to make it 2-0.

Andy Ingram's goal on 74 minutes brought the hosts back into the game and Rovers were then under constant pressure. Evans pulled off another incredible save to keep it at 2-1, as he denied Kieran Knight in the dying moments, and that proved to be a pivotal moment as Alder's quest for hat-trick was ended by a good stop by Windsor keeper Hugo Sobte but Bradley was on hand to tuck the loose ball home and make it 3-1 to Pritchett's side.

**Squad:** Dave Evans; Shayne Anson; Ryan Davis; Joel White; Macaulay Herbert; Courtney Hamilton; Ashley Bird; Kieran Alder; Shayne Bradley; Harry Walker; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Cameron Williams; Mark Pritchett.

#### 11 April 2022

Tuffley Rovers' 2021/22 season ended in disappointment, as they exited the Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup at the quarter-final stage, as visitors Bradford Town left Glevum Park with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Neil Mustoe's side.

Shorn of a number of key players, Mustoe's squad had become increasingly youthful in the closing weeks of the season and he was forced into more changes for the visit of one of the league's most capable teams.

First half goals from Jake Brown and Ed Plackett had probably taken the tie beyond Rovers, but George Box's excellent finish confirmed the inevitable half-way through the second period and Rovers' season ended with the Premier Divison place safe, which had been the priority when Mustoe had arrived at the club in January.

**Squad:** Brad Poole; Jordan Barry; Scott Nicholls; Joel White; Jacob Geddes; Harri John; Joe Shutt; Aaron Basford; Ashley Bird; Dominik Kent; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Tomas Williment; Matt Butler.



# Step 5 play-offs to be introduced from 2023-24

The Football Association have recently revealed traditional four-team play-offs will be introduced for all Step 5 leagues from next season to replace the current Inter-Step playoffs.

The move, subject to FA Council approval, will guarantee two clubs are promoted into Step 4 each season from the 16 Step 5 divisions – one as champion and a second through the play-offs. At the end of the 2023-24 season, two clubs will be relegated from each of the eight Step 4 divisions in order to increase league sizes to 22 clubs. There will be one relegation spot from each Step 5 division.

From 2024-25, four teams will be relegated from every Step 4 division, while Step 5 will revert to two relegation places. The Inter-Step play-offs were introduced last season with clubs finishing third and fourth bottom of Step 4 at risk of relegation through one-off winner-takes-all matches against Step 5 runners-up.

An FA statement read: "Subject to FA Council approval, the Inter-Step Play-Offs currently in place at Steps 4 and 5 of the National League System (NLS) are to be replaced after the 2022/23 season.

"The change will see the introduction of a traditional four-team Play-Off in each of the sixteen Step 5 divisions – thus guaranteeing a second promotion place from Step 5 to Step 4, subject to Clubs meeting the eligibility criteria which includes an independent ground grading assessment.

"At the end of the 2023/24 season, this will mean that an additional 16 Clubs will be guaranteed promotion from Step 5 to Step 4 (32 Clubs in total), with the number of Clubs automatically relegated from each of the eight Step 4 divisions to remain as two in order to increase the divisional size at Step 4 to 22 Clubs per division. The resulting 16 vacancies at Step 5 will be filled by only relegating one Club per Step 5 division, as opposed to two.

"From the 2024/25 season, it is intended that the number of Clubs automatically relegated from each of the eight Step 4 divisions to Step 5 will increase from two to four, two Clubs from each of the sixteen Step 5 divisions will continue to be promoted to Step 4 (one automatic and one via the Play-Off) and the number of clubs automatically relegated from each Step 5 division will revert to two.

"These changes reflect a long-term aim of The FA to create consistency at each Step level of the NLS pyramid."

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#### Previously against today's opposition at Glevum Park

The last time we hosted today's visitors in a Premier Division fixture at Glevum Park a brace from Brennan Denness-Barrett and a Lewis Bainbridge goal were enough to help us complete a league double over Chipping Sodbury Town, although it proved to be the penultimate win under Rich Cox's leadership, with Rovers only recording one more win before his departure in December 2022...

#### UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 3-1 CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2021



For the second Tuesday evening in a row Rovers would play host to a club two points and two places below them in the Hellenic Premier table. It would also, as with Calne Town seven days earlier, be an opponent Tuffley had already beaten in their away league fixture, 3-2 at The Ridings on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. A third coincidence was that the Sods, like Calne, had also lost a Saturday home match before travelling to Gloucester in the following midweek. But statistics alone don't determine results. Both clubs needed points quickly to move away from the division's bottom three.

Considering how handicapped they were by having to play their first eleven League and Cup matches of the season away from their Glevum Park home, Rovers have three wins and three draws from the seven matches since their short-term exile ended with the latest of those victories coming with a disciplined and composed performance as they brushed aside Chipping Sodbury Town in the most foul weather conditions imaginable.

Rovers kept faith with the defence which had taken a point from Bishops Cleeve three days earlier and another shut-out would have been achieved had it not been for Connor Waldon's late consolation goal for the visitors.

The Sods optimistically appealed for a penalty inside the opening minute but it was the hosts who threatened more early on. Joe Shutt had an early attempt blocked but when the same player raced on to a sublime through-pass from Joel White which took out the left full-back completely he could only watch in despair as his crisp shot crashed against a post before rebounding to safety.

At the other end Abdul Tankora, who was lively and innovative all evening, had the visitors' first serious attempt on goal but he dragged his shot wide. A shot from Waldon soon followed, which Jack Copland saved low down, the first of many excellent saves by the young goalkeeper in the first half alone. Kye Simpson was the next visiting player to threaten but his good work down the left was wasted when his cross went past several players before being cleared.

Rovers' build-up play had been patient and it wasn't a surprise when they opened the scoring. Aaron Basford made progress on the left but his shot richocheted into the path of Brennan Denness-Barrett who placed his shot carefully to goalkeeper Luke Roberts' right and into the net.

Shortly after Joe Aldridge's free-kick had cleared the crossbar as Rovers sought to increase their lead, Chipping Sodbury were awarded a free-kick in a central position twenty yards from goal. Tankora's shot was saved but as the goalkeeper recovered to claim the ball Waldon fell to the ground claiming a penalty-kick and was so incensed that his claim was turned down that he was cautioned by referee Paul Herbert for his over-exuberant protest.

Sodbury threatened more once the half-hour mark had passed. From Keane Ashwood's free-kick on the right, Matty Jenkins powered in a header from close range but Copland reacted instinctively and majestically to parry the ball up into the air, after which it was cleared for a corner. Jack then raced off his line a couple of minutes later to smother the ball as Simpson was poised to flick it past him. That save protected Rovers' lead until the interval.



Copland made another fine save from Simpson early in the second half, a crucial stop as it turned out because instead of being 1-1 it was almost immediately 2-0 to Rovers as Lewis Bainbridge cut in from the left and saw his deflected shot fly past Roberts.

A third home goal soon followed. Jamal Lawrence received

a throw-in on the left, accelerated past the defender who was confronting him and played the

ball carefully across the six-yard box. Denness-Barrett took one touch to control the ball and his second smashed it past Roberts into the net.

Copland's evening of agility and concentration continued as he parried Simpson's fierce shot; Waldon was following up but could only put his header just the wrong side of the upright.



Both teams made substitutions as the rain lashed down harder than ever. Jacob Geddes had a tame shot which Roberts dealt with easily but as the rain finally eased in the closing minutes Chipping Sodbury pulled a goal back. Waldon found himself in space mid-way inside the Rovers half and dragged the ball a little to the right before firing in an explosive shot with his right foot which even Copland could not reach but there was no shame in that because his handling, distribution and agility had already been a key feature of the evening's action.

So Rovers moved up into 15<sup>th</sup> position in the table and left Chipping Sodbury looking nervously over their shoulders at the three clubs below them. Considering that only three of Tuffley's thirteen league fixtures so far have been home games, they can be pretty satisfied that they have collected sixteen points and know that another couple of wins are quite likely to take them into the top ten, which would have seemed a long way off after they had started the season with three successive away defeats.



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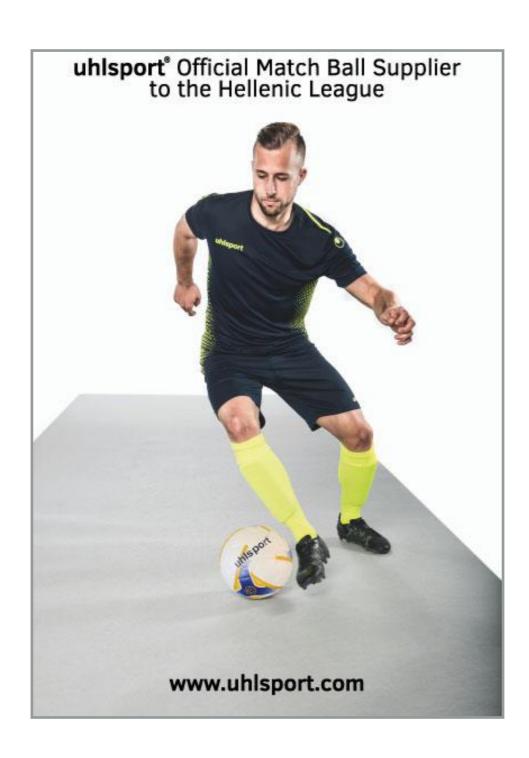
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TOWN
Black & White shirts; Black shorts; Black &

CHIPPING SODBURY

CST

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

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

Luke Merchant 1 Liam Barrett

Sammie Hicks 2 Dominic Anderson-Gordon

Ryley Mace 3 Harrison Exon

Mark Pritchett 4 Ibrahima Diallo

Macaulay Herbert 5 Keane Ashwood

Ashley Davies 6 Charlie Hitchings ©

Warren Mann © 7 Jordan Lawrence

Henry Birkett **8** Joe White

Ryan Dobbins **9** George Neill

Yesyaha Lomotey 10 Kylan Mapstone

Harrison Iddles 11 Josh Pandolfino

Callum McGuirk 12 Connor McCormack

Daniel Lander 14 George Hale

Joel White **15** Jabari Ngozi

Jamie Martin **16** Adrian Harvey

Dominik Kent 17 Baldwin Igbinobaro

Daniel Beasley **18** Aaron Langdon

Brad Poole **19** Liam Jones

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