



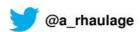


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# **EDITOR'S COMMENT**



I'd like to offer a warm welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this evening for the visit of Brimscombe & Thrupp, for what is our final home game of the 2023/24 season, and what a great club to have with us this evening. I sincerely hope their players, supporters and officials enjoy their visit to our home, although I'd prefer that we take the points that are on offer!

Our visitors tonight are just one of those clubs where I really like the people. Although their personnel have changed in recent times, with the sad loss of John Mutton, then Clive Baker standing down as Chairman earlier this season, they've still got some really good people involved. Allan and Scott Boulton are really good football people, who care passionately about their club, and the long-serving manager, Sam Prior, has consistently managed to get the maximum out of a solid group of players, ably assisted by Tim Wilkins (another couple of good blokes, in my estimation!).

We are fortunate to have some good people here. It is difficult to name individuals without running the risk of offending someone, but I'll take the risk. Booner has done a great job as Chairman, most notably around the project at our social club, which finally looks like it could become a reality, but it has been generally great to have him involved. Thank you, as well, to Ken for his work as our Head of Football Development.

Muzzy, Ritchie and Ashleigh have most regularly filled the bench and have all worked tirelessly for the good of the team. Muzzy is on the cusp of completing a first full season and after his time away from the game, it has been an important one for him. Hopefully we can survive and preparations will be very different for the next season. A special mention to Ritchie, who will leave us at the end of the season, courtesy of a move to the USA with his work. He has been a great servant to the club over the past few seasons and will be a real loss. I wish him every success and hope we'll see him again someday. A quick mention, also, to Dave Cornock who has stepped up to help Muzzy several times this season.

Thanks, also, to Luke in the bar, Wally and Ter (and occasionally Pete) for their support with the turnstiles for first team games. Also, when fourth team fixtures have permitted them to attend, to Deano and Will, who always offer to help at games. Hopefully Will is going to be on the tannoy one more time this season at tonight's game.

I must also thank my Mum, Pat, who has helped in the kitchen at most first team games and has also donated the cakes and savoury snacks that our visitors and match officials usually get at half-time and the end of the game. Whilst on the subject of family, I desperately want to thank my daughter, Jess, for all her work on our social media graphics, YouTube content and for her work in formatting our match-day programme, so that we can now produce both an online and printed version.

Thanks to Steve Bevan, who has also assisted with social media, and to Brian Rossiter. Without Brian's wonderful photographs our website, programme, social media content and other publications just wouldn't be the same. A great man who we're lucky to have regularly attending our games.

My biggest thanks is reserved for one person. My wife, Sonia, completes another season where she has worked so hard. Not only in the kitchen, where you might occasionally see her hiding by the ovens, but in so many other ways. She not only carries her own work but also supports me in so many ways, not least because she allows me to devote so much time to the club. I am so very grateful for all her love and support.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported the club, in any capacity, this season. Each supporter, player, coach or committee member helps make this club the great place that it is. Whatever happens in the eight days, I hope we all meet again (hopefully in the Premier Division) when the 2023/24 season gets underway.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this. I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home. Your support means a lot to me and to everyone at the club.

- Neil

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# CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



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Good evening and welcome to Glevum Park. A warm welcome to our near neighbours and opponents this evening from Brimscombe & Thrupp FC, and to all of their players, management, committee and supporters.

It is the final home game of the season for our first team and what an odd season it has been, albeit not over yet. I was very optimistic about this season but anyone who knows Tuffley Rovers, will be aware that we do not like to make life easy for ourselves. Throw in a few more challenges, such as the newly installed drainage system collapsing as the season got underway, and given how we wanted (and expected) the playing surface to be like we when started the work two years ago, you then start to get a small insight into how we will be glad to see this season draw to a close!!

I am hoping that by the end of this evening's game other results earlier in the week will have gone our way, so that we will have secured our place in this league for the 2023-24 season. If not, then we will have to wait another few days to find out our fate.

Whatever happens, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club, both on and off the field, over this season as, without the support, the club simply would not survive. The league standing may not be pretty, but we sure do like to make things interesting here at this great club. A special thank you to all of the volunteers that give up countless hours for us on match days but also behind the scenes.

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 site on Tuffley Avenue. 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 requesting that some local construction organisations to tender for the work. We have set up a Crowdfunder to support us in realising this development and there are posters with QR codes on them within the bar area, that if you wish, you can donate via the QR code and we are aiming to raise £10,000 and commence the work in early May 2023.

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

Many thanks,

Dan

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# MANAGER'S COMMENT



Good evening and welcome to Glevum Park for our final home game of the 2022/23 season. I would like to welcome all players, officials and supporters from Brimscombe & Thrupp FC.

After what has already been a tough season where we had to rebuild a squad, it is in our own hands if we want to make sure we stay in this league and we will be fighting right to end to ensure this happens.

Monday's win against Chipping Sodbury Town should be a result that will give us confidence, as will our previous home win, and when results and performances were required most we have delivered.

Points wise, the two halves of the season have nearly if not mirrored each other, but what was a terrible run after Christmas put us deep into trouble. However, the last 10/11 games has seen us not only compete but get victories, scoring plenty of goals in process, but more importantly look even more solid at the back with some great performances throughout.

It is not over yet and we know we need points to be mathematically safe, but the squad build throughout the campaign has been encouraging and I had the luxury of leaving 3 or 4 players out of the squad for the last game.

We have quality, strength and a different mindset recently so, on one hand, I don't want the season to end as it feels we are just getting right. That having been said, I suppose it is the best time to do this - at the business end of the season – although we know we need to finish the job off properly and we have three games in which to achieve our objective of saying in this division. On a personal level I would like to get something from all of them and I believe we are capable of doing just that.

On a separate note, on behalf of all at Tuffley Rovers, I would like to wish Warren Mann and Cassie a happy wedding day for tomorrow. Here's hoping we can get three points, which would probably be a nice present from us!!

I hope you enjoy the game this evening. Thanks for your support.

Cheers,

Muzzy

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#### Tuffley Rovers • Club History

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



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

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

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

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

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

The first season saw a struggle against relegation, ultimately resulting in the resignation of Warren Evans as manager, before the club retained their status due to a vacancy in the league, after finishing 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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Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2022/23 season



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Kieran Alder











Josh Stevens

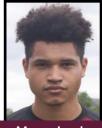




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**Neil Mustoe** (Manager, First XI)



Ritchie Warden (Asst. Manager, First XI)



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





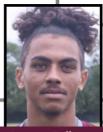
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Michael Oakes (Joint Manager, **Development Squad)** 





Craig Darkin (Coach)





Ashleigh Watson (Physio / Sports Therapist)





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





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## Brimscombe & Thrupp – History

Brimscombe A.F.C. was founded in 1886 – the same year as the Gloucestershire Football Association!

The G.F.A. friendlies were played until the competitive league was formed in 1890. In 1902 the Stroud League was founded and Brimscombe were its first winners. Just after the First World War the Northern Senior League appeared. Its first season was 1922 and once again Brimscombe were the very first champions. Football was interrupted during the Second World War (1939–1945) but the game continued at 'The Meadow' where matches between the Army, Navy, Air Force and a team called 'Brimscombe Wanderers' took place.

When the Gloucestershire County League was first formed in 1968/9, Brimscombe – affectionately known as "The Lilywhites", were again founder members, along with other local sides Forest Green Rovers and Stonehouse Town. In 1973/4 The Lilywhites, amid some controversy, found themselves back in the Senior League, just failing by one vote to secure a place in the Hellenic League.

It was at this time the Club experienced a difficult period and in the late 1970's Brimscombe and Thrupp amalgamated to secure both Club's futures. The Club hit a purple patch in the 1980's and won the Senior League Division One and Two and the County Cup all in the space of three seasons, eventually being promoted back to the County League and finishing 4th in 1987. There then followed many years of varying fortunes for the club including relegation to the lower leagues. However, in 2008 there were major changes to the Club Committee and the Football Management which immediately brought a successful period for the club.

In season 2008/9 the First Eleven managed by Phil Baker were Runners-up to Longlevens and were promoted once again into the County League for the third time in its History.

In 2011 Brimscombe & Thrupp F.C. won the Gloucestershire County League for the first time and gained promotion to the Hellenic League under Phil Baker. Since promotion major redevelopments of the ground have taken place including an extension to the clubhouse and the installation of floodlights.

Season 2012/13 saw Brimscombe & Thrupp F.C. win the Uhlsport Hellenic League Division 1 West and gain acceptance into the Premier League. More ground improvements were undertaken which included a new 100 standing/100 seating stand and further walkways around the pitch.

Season 2013/14 saw Brimscombe & Thrupp F.C. playing in the highest league in the clubs history, the ground improvements were complete with the new stand finished and other improvements made. The club experienced its first ever F.A. Vase football and were quite successful reaching the first round proper. The season was also made memorable with the First XI winning three cup finals – those being the Stroud & District Charity Cup, the Hellenic League Flying Press Floodlit Cup and the Hellenic League Supplementary Cup.

Season 2014/15 was another historic occasion with the side playing in the F.A. Cup for the first time in its history.

The club continued to go from strength to strength during season 2015/16 and saw the team end in fifth position, its highest league finish in its history. The upgrade of the club continues with works being carried out as required by Step 5 football.

2016/17 was another great season for the club when we appeared in three cup semi finals and saw the club have their best FA cup to date, eventually losing in the third qualifying round at Weymouth.

Season 2017/18 saw Brimscombe & Thrupp win the GFA Trophy for the first time in its history and finish sixth place in the League.

Season 2018/19 saw us reach our highest league position in the clubs history, however, second place was not enough to see us gain promotion.

Season 2019/20 was virtually wiped out by the Covid pandemic which affected all levels of football throughout the country this continued into season 2020/21 which also had restrictions put on us.

Season 2021/22 gave us a season with Covid restrictions which in most cases were lifted, it was in this season we once again made the GFA Cup final, however, disappointingly lost, but once again we finished the season in a creditable ninth place.

# HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

# Up to and including 13 April 2023

97

Bradford Town	Chipping Sodbury Town	Tuffley Rovers	Hereford Lads Club	Thornbury Town	Lydney Town	Shrivenham	Fairford Town	Longlevens AFC	Mangotsfield United	Brimscombe & Thrupp	Wantage Town	Hereford Pegasus	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	Westfields	Roman Glass St George	Worcester Raiders	Corsham Town	Malvern Town	Cribbs	Team	
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38	43	43	43	32	35	47	26	33	36	27	30	30	28	16	23	24	00	19	5	A	
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27	15	19	17	22	23	18	29	28	29	32	37	22	28	42	42	43	37	43	33	71	
51	73	38	38	4	46	41	39	28	30	32	34	33	20	22	19	23	17	21	10	A	
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41	40	47	45	49	45	39	54	52	52	68	67	64	65	65	74	97	81	107	93	П	
89	116	81	81	76	81	88	65	61	66	59	64	63	48	38	42	47	25	40	15	>	
-48	-76	-34	-36	-27	-36	-49	-11	.9	-14	9	ω	<b>1</b>	17	27	32	50	56	67	78	GD	

## **Appearance information**

Up to and including Monday, 10 April 2023 (includes selected list of former players)

As this is the last home game of the season, I'll simply reflect on some milestones and look forward to some that could be achieved in the not too distant future, assuming players remain in Rovers' colours next season.

First, a huge congratulations to Warren Mann who passed 500 competitive appearances a couple of weeks ago. As I said at the time, that is a phenomenal achievement and might never be matched. Second, a further congratulations to Shayne Bradley and Macaulay Herbert, who both reached 250 appearances this season. Both great servants and hopefully far from finished, as far as their total appearance count is concerned.

Finally, a look to next season – will Kieran Alder reach 100 appearances? Might Tristan Haswell return to make his 100<sup>th</sup> appearance? Ashley Davies is on target for 200, as is Dom Kent, and Mark Pritchett for 150. Henry Birkett and Kieran Squires are closing in on 100. Not forgetting Luke Merchant, who is getting closer to a century of appearances, but is closer to Chris Perks' record in this count (Step 7 and above) for a goalkeeper. All within touching distance. Here's hoping a few of those milestones are reached in 2023/24.

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	172	20
Barry, Jordan	4	0	Lander, Daniel	27	1
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Lewis, Mason	27	3
Beasley, Daniel	26	4	Lomotey, Yeshaya	32	7
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Mace, Ryley	17	1
Bird, Ashley	66	5	Martin, Jamie	3	1
Birkett, Henry	83	7	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Bradley, Shayne	257	117	Mann, Warren	502	84
Butler, Matt	6	1	McGuirk, Callum	38	0
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	McNally, Laurie	10	0
Danes-Rutherford, Ellis	1	0	Merchant, Luke	78	0
Davies, Ashley	183	27	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Dobbins, Ryan	84	18	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Driver-Dickerson, George	9	0	Nicholls, Scott	14	0
Evans, Dave	69	0	Michael Oakes	40	2
Fallows, Dayton	3	0	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Poole, Bradley	8	0
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Pritchett, Mark	143	23
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	251	10	Walker, Harry	67	6
Hicks, Sammie	29	1	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	120	8	Wallington, Mark	220	29
Hoffland, Robin	4	0	White, Joel	111	4
Iddles, Harrison	13	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

= Bluefin Sport = Wiseman Lig	ts Challenge	FA = GFA Challenge Tro e Cup; dlit Cup; SC = Supplemen	• •			Att	Scorers	Jones, Elliot	Nicholls, Scott	Mann, Warren	
2022 03/Aug	7:45pm	Brimscombe & Thrupp		A	0-0	143		1	2	3	Ì
06/Aug	7.45pm 3pm	Slimbridge	FAC	H	1-2	186	R Mace	1	2	3	Ì
09/Aug	7:45pm	Malvern Town	FAG	Н Н	1-3	124	R Dobhins	1	5	2	Ì
13/Aug	7.43piii 3pm	Lydney Town		н	4-0	84	J Beardsell (2), M Lewis (2)	1	2	3	i
17/Aug	7:45pm	Fairford Town		Α	1-4	90	N Smerdon	1	3	2	İ
29/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		Α .	0-0	222	N Silletuoli	1	4	3	i
03/Sep	3pm	Hereford Pegasus		Α .	1-4	50	M Butler	1	4	2	١
13/Sep	7:45pm	Newent Town	WLFC	Н	2-1	65	S Bradley (2)	1	16		
17/Sep	3pm	Thornbury Town	112.0	Α	2-0	47	J Beardsell, D Kent	1		3	
24/Sep	3pm	Fleet Spurs	FAV	Н	1-1*	74	S Bradley	1		3	
01/Oct	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		A	1-2	60	P Azubilla	1		3	ľ
08/Oct	3pm	Cribbs FC		Н	1-2	64	S Bradley	1		Ť	۰
11/0ct	7:45pm	Lydney Town	WLFC	Α	4-0	77	J Haswell (2), D Kent, D Beasley	1		3	١
15/Oct	3pm	Shrivenham		Н	1-1	55	K Squires	1		2	١
19/0ct	3pm	Worcester Raiders		Α	0-5	178		1			١
22/Oct	3pm	Hartpury University	FAV	Α	0-1	67		1		12	١
25/Oct	7:45pm	Fairford Town		Н	2-4	127	R Dobbins, O.G.	1		11	i
29/0ct	3pm	Roman Glass St. George		Н	0-5	67		1		3	ľ
01/Nov	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders		Н	1-2	73	S Bradley			3	i
05/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United		Α	2-4	199	S Bradley, D Beasley		16		
12/Nov	3pm	Wantage Town		Α	4-2	82	S Bradley (3), K Alder			11	i
15/Nov	7:45pm	Hartpury University	GFA	Н	3-2	62	R Dobbins, S Bradley (2)			11	i
19/Nov	3pm	Meadow Park	BFCC	Н	6-2	45	R Dobbins (3), W Mann (pen), K Alder, Y Lomotey			11	
22/Nov	7:45pm	Malvern Town	WLFC	Α	1-9	104	M Lewis			11	
30/Nov	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		Α	A-A	83					
03/Dec	12noon	Bradford Town		Н	4-5	90	O.G., R Dobbins, K Squires, D Beasley			11	
06/Dec	7:30pm	Almondsbury FC	GFA	Α	2-1	37	R Dobbins, Y Lomotey			3	
20/Dec	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus		Н	1-0	61	K Alder	_		11	
27/Dec	3pm	Longlevens		Н	0-4	373	-	_		11	
2023 10/Jan	7:45pm	Malvern Town	BFCC	Н	0-1	65	_	1		3	•
14/Jan	3pm	Roman Glass St. George	ысс	A	0-5	79		÷		3	١
27/Jan	7:45pm	Cribbs FC		Α	0-5	90				3	
31/Jan	7:45pm	Shrivenham		Α	0-1	68	-			3	
04/Feb	3pm	Corsham Town		Н	0-2	73		_		3	
07/Feb 11/Feb	7:45pm 3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town Westfields		A H	1-2 0-7	81 77	D Beasley	_			
18/Feb	3pm	Bradford Town		Α	4-0	111	K Alder, M Herbert, M Pritchett, T Shyamapant	_		8	
21/Feb	7:45pm	Cribbs FC	GFA	Н	0-0**	63	•			8	
25/Feb	3pm	Wantage Town		Н	1-1	52	Y Lomotey			8	
03/Mar	7:45pm	Thornbury Town		H	2-2	102	Y Lomotey, H Birkett	-		3	
07/Mar 11/Mar	7:45pm 3pm	Mangotsfield United Westfields		H A	0-2 1-0	72 102	D Lander	_		2	
14/Mar	3pm	Lydney Town		A	1-1	77	Y Lomotey	_		7	
22/Mar	7:45pm	Lydney Town	GFA	Α	1-2	107	Y Lomotey	_		14	١
25/Mar	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		Н	4-0	142	R Dobbins, W Mann, M Herbert, K Alder			7	
28/Mar	7:45pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		Н	1-3	121	M Pritchett			7	
01/Apr	3pm	Malvern Town		A H	1-3 5-0	302	R Dobbins	_		2	
10/Apr 14/Apr	3pm 7:45pm	Chipping Sodbury Town Brimscombe & Thrupp		Н	5-0	137	S Hicks, J Martin, M Pritchett, H Birkett, D Kent	_		3	
18/Apr	7:45pm	Corsham Town		Α							
22/Apr	3pm	Chipping Sodbury Town		Α							
							TOTAL APPEARANCES	19	9	37	
overs won 4-2 on per	nalties						STARTS	19	7	35	

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

Goals	core
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Codiscorcis			
Bradley, Shayne	11	Birkett, Henry	2
Dobbins, Ryan	10	Haswell, Joey	2
Lomotey, Yeshaya	6	O.G.	2
Alder, Kieran	5	Mace, Ryley	1
Beasley, Daniel	4	Smerdon, Noah	1
Kent, Dominik	3	Butler, Matt	1
Pritchett, Mark	3	Azubilla, Paul	1
Lewis, Mason	3	Shyamapant, Tomos	1
Beardsell, Jack	3	Lander, Daniel	1
Mann, Warren	2	Hicks, Sammie	1
Herbert, Macaulay	2	Martin, Jamie	1
Squires, Kieran	2		

<sup>\*</sup> Tuffley Rovers won 4-2 on penalties

S	юм	ammie Hicks	an Lander	cott Nicholls	enry Birkett	/arren Mann	lacaulay Herbert	enry Birkett	enry Birkett	ominik Kent	shley Davies	aul Azubilla	ieran Squires	pey Haswell	shley Davies	lliot Jones		shley Davies	lacaulay Herbert	aul Azubilla	allum McGuirk	rad Poole	enry Birkett	obin Hoffland	yan Dobbins	ieran Alder	/A	lason Lewis	shley Davies	ieran Alder	rad Poole		lacaulay Herbert	lacaulay Herbert	arren Mann	en Hands	aniel Lander	iam Smith	arrison Iddles lark Pritchett	uke Merchant	lacaulay Herbert	arrison Iddles	arren Mann	amie Martin	yley Mace	ammie Hicks	lacaulay Herbert		lark Pritchett	lark Pritchett emilade Yussuf	lark Pritchett	lark Pritchett emilade Yussuf	lark Pritchett emilade Yussuf	lark Pritchett emilade Yussuf
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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 halftime break trying to answer these questions. As ever, there is a theme and today the questions or answers are all about final home games...

1. Which current Premier League club played their last game at their former home on 26 May 2001, which is pictured to the right?



- 2. Manchester City played out the most dramatic of last home games at the end of the 2011/12 season, as Sergio Aguero's last minute goal won them a first Premier League title. That game, against QPR, finished 3-2 but can you name City's other goalscorers in that game?
- 3. On 3 May 1975 which player made his 789th competitive appearance for Celtic, captaining the side to a Scottish Cup Final win over Airdrie at Hampden Park, before retiring from the game, having made his final home appearance for the club a few weeks earlier?
- 4. When Liverpool played a Champions League fixture on 11 March 2020, it proved to be their final home game (and one of the final games in England) for some time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Who did they play in that game, drawing 2-2 but losing 4-2 on aggregate?
- 5. Can you name the three grounds pictured below, as well as the clubs who called them home, that all hosted a final home game in May 2005?











# 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 14 April that we have selected to reflect on our fortunes on this this particular date...

#### 14 April 2010

Tuffley Rovers returned from a midweek trip to Hanham Athletic with a much needed 3-0 victory, as they continued to battle their way through a backlog of fixtures in the Gloucestershire County League.

After playing just three times between mid-December and the end of February, this was Rovers' ninth game in 40 days, but it was the first of ten in the next 31 days, and as they looked to get through 18 games in relatively quick succession, the ease of the win against Hanham was probably what was needed.

Goals from Richard James, Mark Pritchett and Patrick Boyd, without reply, were enough to secure three points and kept alive hopes of a promotion opportunity.

**Squad:** Adam Bennett; Adam Dunsford; Lee Wallington; Richard James; Leone Cornwall; Ashley Davies; Victor Webb; Mark Pritchett; Daniel Wallington; Edward Weyman; Warren Mann. **Subs used**: Marcus Foxwell; Mark Wallington; Patrick Boyd.

#### 12 April 2011

Tuffley Rovers returned from an enthralling midweek game at Kings Stanley, in the Gloucestershire County League, with a hard-fought 3-2 win that saw them move within a point of their hosts on the evening, although the porous nature of both defences was probably ample evidence as to why two good teams will not be challenging for honours come the end of the season.

A game played at a frenetic pace saw the hosts score through Matthew Davis and Sam Prior, but Rovers took the points thanks to a brace from Scott Jones and a goal from Richard James.

**Squad:** Christopher Perks; Ben Surman; Shayne Bradley; Mark Pritchett; Richard Workman; Richard James; Neil Griffiths; Peter Thomas; Liam Harding; Scott Jones; Warren Mann. **Subs used**: Kyle Kennedy.

#### 16 April 2013

Hosts Tuffley Rovers secured a solid 2-0 win over visitors Hanham Athletic at Glevum Park, with goals from Leone Cornwall and Mark Wallington enough to secure all three points, against a visiting side who played much of the game with ten-men after Daniel Fletcher's dismissal.

The win kept alive Rovers' title ambitions, as they went level on points at the top – and level of goal difference, but inferior on goals scored – with Bristol Academy.

**Squad:** Christopher Perks; Marcus Foxwell; Antoine Thompson; Leone Cornwall; Stuart Griffith; Mark Wallington; Nathen King; Shayne Bradley; Richard James; Calvin (CJ) Thomas; Warren Mann. **Subs used**: Lee Brinkworth.

#### 15 & 16 April 2016

If there was ever the toughest way in which a team was required to secure two wins needed to avoid relegation, Tuffley Rovers were probably given that envious task and some, as they faced Oxford City Nomads, away, and then league champions Kidlington Town, again away, with less than 17 hours between the conclusion of one game and the kick-off for the second.

On Friday evening (7:45pm KO), Rovers battled hard to stay in the game against mid-table Nomads and at half-time it was 0-0, and all to play for. However, despite Warren Mann's second -half goal, the hosts took the win – a confirmed Rovers would finish in a relegation place – courtesy of goals from Billy Gillett and substitute Louis Joyce.

Rovers then made the trip to Kidlington for a 3pm kick-off. Before the game the champions were awarded the winners' trophy and after dropping only 15 points all season would have been expected to stroll to a win over their visitors. However, Shayne Bradley's side had other ideas!

Mann gave Rovers the lead after just 7 minutes, but it looked like a step back into reality on 21 minutes, when Lewis Coyle set-up Kristian Thomas to make it 1-1. Quite the opposite, as first Ryan Williams produced a great finish to make it 2-1 on 34 minutes, then 4 minutes later Jordan Fletcher had the freedom of Kidlington, as he found himself totally unmarked making it 3-1.

Half-time came and went, as did the chances for Kidlington, who were consistently denied by a combination of solid defending and quality goalkeeping from Aaron Taylor, but they eventually reduced the arrears on 72 minutes, as Ancalet Odhiambo poked home from close range.

When Ryan Brooks equalised on 81 minutes it looked like Rovers' luck was up, but they managed to hold out in the closing moments and left Yarnton Road with a very impressive 33 draw that will do nothing for their league position but did ensure the season ended on a high.

**Squad v Oxford City Nomads:** Aaron Taylor; Marcus Foxwell; Tristan Haswell; Macaulay Herbert; Kieran Squires; Harry Walker; Warren Mann; Mark Wallington; Dean Bernard; Sam Drew; Brett James. **Subs used:** Shayne Bradley.

**Squad v Kidlington:** Aaron Taylor; Lee Brinkworth; Kieran Squires; Macaulay Herbert; Sam Drew; Liam Wright; Ryan Williams; Warren Mann; Jordan Fletcher; Mark Wallington; Brett James. **Subs used:** Tristan Haswell; Harry Walker; Dean Bernard.

#### 14 April 2018

Bracknell Town underlined their credentials as title challengers and promotion favourites against Tuffley Rovers, but only after they saw off a determined display from Mark Pritchetts team.

Ryan Davis was drawn into a rash challenge on Terence Bohane, as they competed for the ball just inside the Rovers area, and Seb Bowerman was presented with the opportunity to open the scoring from the penalty spot; one he did not waste. Bracknell showed their clinical side, after 18 minutes, when Bowerman's corner was headed back across goal and into the top corner by centre-half Joe Gator, who produced an excellent header from a difficult angle.

Just two minutes later, Rovers were back in the game, as top scorer Brett James found space on the edge of the box, before driving home a shot that Bracknell's keeper Chris Grace appeared to misjudge, as the ball bounced in off the post and across the line, to make it 21.

After the see-saw nature of the first period, it was something of a surprise that neither side scored in the second and Gator's goal ultimately proved to be decisive in a game that Bracknell deservedly won, but not without having to show the quality of champions.

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

# **Brimscombe & Thrupp F.C. Player Pics**

SAM PRIOR



Manager

#### TIM WILKINS



Assistant Manager

ANDY JONES



Coach

ADAM PRICE



Midfield

ASHLEY CALDWELL



Defender

BEN DEAKIN



Defender

DAN BRABHAM



Goalkeeper

**DAVE WATERS** 



**DEAN TURNER** 



Midfield

**ELIJAH SIMPSON** 



Defender

**GAVIN JONES** 



Goalkeeper

JEREMIAH IDOWU



Forward

JONTY WELCH



Midfield

LIAM HARPER



Midfield

OLIVER BARNES



Forward

RYAN OUTRAM



Midfield

RYAN PONTING



Defender

SAM FOLKES



Forward

TOM BLACK



Midfield

TYLER JAGGERS



Midfield

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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 in early January 2023, it was officially Neil Mustoe's first game in charge and although it ended in a defeat, we scored for the first time in 648 minutes...

#### UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 2-6 BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP MONDAY, 3 JANUARY 2022

Given an awful run of form dating back to the end of October, there has been little to celebrate at Tuffley Rovers, but in his first game officially in charge of the club (albeit his second appearance in the dugout), Neil Mustoe saw his side end one barren run as they finally scored a goal in a Hellenic League fixture, 648 minutes after their last. That the goal – a rather scrambled and otherwise unmemorable effort from Will Ramsey – was the first by a Rovers player since Joe Shutt scored an early goal in a game at Roman Glass St George on 3 November is perhaps the most obvious illustration of the problems that have blighted Rovers' season.

Mustoe made two changes to the starting line-up, following the defeat at home to Longlevens, with Aaron Basford and Ramsey called up in place of the Demilade Yussuf and the suspended Warren Mann. Brimscombe arrived at Glevum Park without their manager, Sam Prior, who had suffered the tragic loss of his father less than 48 hours earlier.

After an impeccably observed minute's silence, the game kicked off at a lightening fast pace, in front of a healthy sized Bank Holiday crowd, and the visitors almost had an early lead, as Sam Folkes' cross was met by Ben Baxter, whose header fell neatly into the path of Ollie Pitt, but he was crowded out and his shot deflected wide of Jack Copland's goal. Jonty Welch fired over from the resultant set-piece.

Pitt had been denied but he successfully turned provider on 11 minutes, as his free-kick found Kyle Pitts at the back post and the Thrupp defender has given the freedom of Glevum Park as he stooped down to head the ball into the Rovers net from close range.





Given Rovers' goal drought, a single goal lead for the opposition would inevitably bring fear and so Mustoe would have been grateful to see Welch waste another chance, two minutes later, as he headed over from close range.

The recalled Aaron Basford then had Rovers' first chance of note, only to put his shot straight at Gavin Jones in the visiting goal.

However, after 18 minutes the moment that the hosts' fans had been waiting for finally arrived. After Jones' kick failed to get the required distance, Elijah Simpson miscontrolled and the ball was picked up by Jamal Lawrence, who burst through two challenges before rolling the ball across the Brimscombe goal line and Ramsey, arriving late, made enough contact with the ball to loop it towards the goal, with Baxter's desperate attempt to keep

the ball ultimately failing as his he could only succeed in heading the ball into his own net. The goal was credited to Ramsey, making it his first for the club.

It was almost 2-1 seven minutes later as Lewis Bainbridge carried the ball deep into the visitors territory, cut inside and fired a shot past Jones, only to see it cannon away off the frame of the goal, but by the time the half hour mark was reached, the score had turned in Royers' favour.



When Lucas Price cut inside his man, he unleashed a rasping shot that once again beat Jones before hitting the woodwork, but this time Bainbridge was on-hand to win the loose ball and force the ball over the line to make it 2-1 to Mustoe's side.

Folkes then missed a terrific chance to instantly equalize, but the porous Rovers defence once again surrendered a lead, as Scott Nicholls made a hash of an attempt to head the ball back to Copland, allowing Jack Smith to steal possession and confidently dispatch the ball into the Rovers goal and bring the scores level on 36 minutes.

Within five minutes it was 3-2, as Folkes turned Smith's miscued effort home and then there was further misery for the hosts, as a failure to clear the ball effectively ended with Pitt teeing up Smith for his second of the game and making it 4-2 on 42 minutes.



When the interval arrived shortly after, Mustoe was left to reflect on half an hour of positives, ultimately undone by ten minutes of calamitous defending that was another illustration of the problems he will face in turning the season around.

Several substitutions interrupted the early stages of the second half but the game was largely put to bed, on just past the hour mark, when Folkes made a powerful run into the Rovers box, before crossing into the path of Welch, who made no mistake and tucked the ball beyond Copland to make it 5-2.

Further substitutions followed and chances became fewer and farther between but the result was finally sealed in Brimscombe & Thrupp's favour, with twelve minutes remaining, as Smith latched onto a loose ball from a corner to poke the ball over the line and complete his hat-trick in the process.



When the final whistle sounded Rovers were once again on the wrong end of a disappointing scoreline but there was plenty of optimism around Glevum Park, after a spirited display that has at least seen Rovers show some teeth in front of goal, as Mustoe looks ahead to the visit of Shrivenham on Saturday, 8 January and another chance to secure his first points as manager of Tuffley Rovers.



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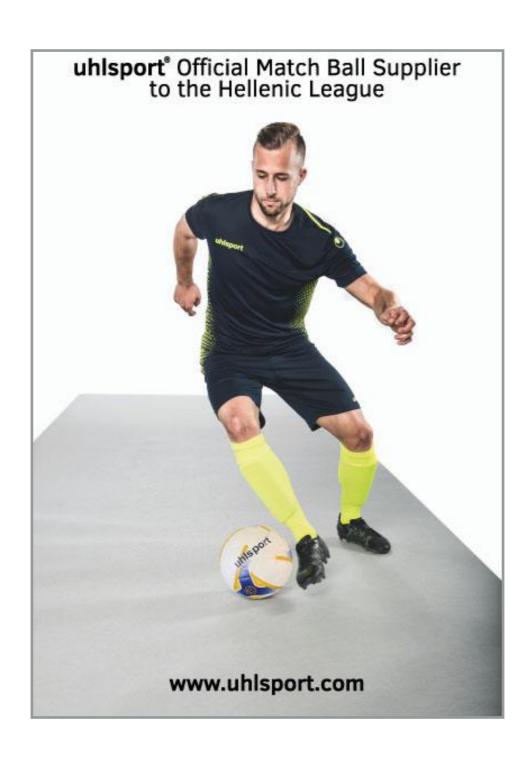
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## **TUFFLEY ROVERS**

BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP

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

White shirts; Blue shorts; Blue socks (GK: Green).

Luke Merchant **1** Gavin Jones

Sammie Hicks 2 Sam Folkes

Ryley Mace **3** Ben Deakin

Mark Pritchett 4 Tyler Jaggers

Macaulay Herbert 5 Elijah Simpson

Ashley Davies 6 Oliver Barnes

Warren Mann © **7** Jonty Welch ©

Henry Birkett **8** Adam Price

Ryan Dobbins 9 Ollie Pitt

Yesyaha Lomotey 10 Ryan Ponting

Harrison Iddles 11 Dave Waters

Callum McGuirk 12 Tom Black

Daniel Lander 14 Jeremiah Idowu

Liam Smith 15 James Campbell

Daniel Beasley 16 Ryan Outram

Dominik Kent 17 Liam Harper

Neil Mustoe **Manager** Sam Prior

**Asst. Manager** Tim Wilkins

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