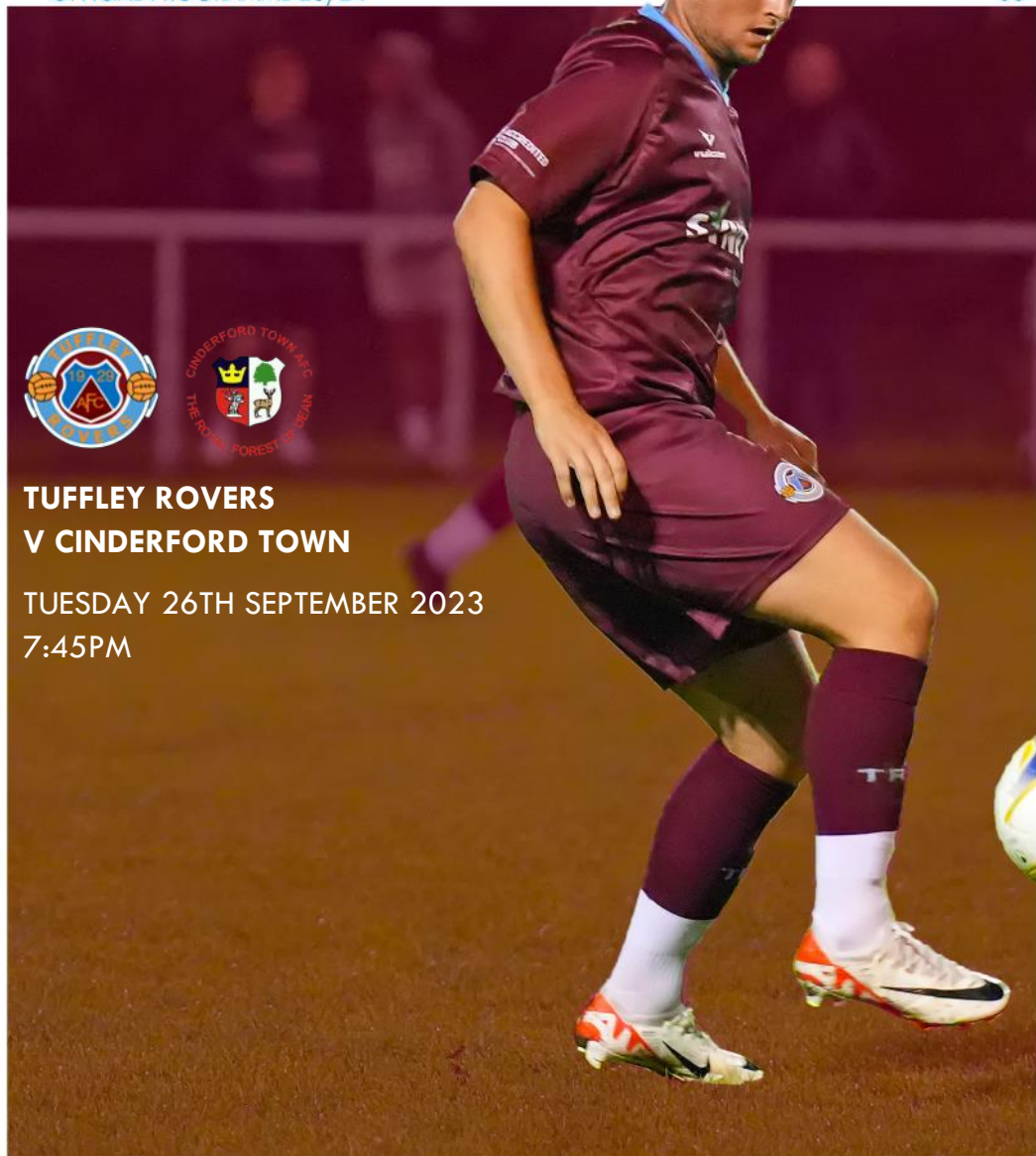


TRFC



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 23/24

06



TUFFLEY ROVERS V CINDERFORD TOWN

TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023
7:45PM

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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

When I last wrote, we were still in search of a first competitive victory (in 90 minutes) during the 2023/24 season. Since then, we've won two games and then secured a place in the Isuzu FA Vase, First Round Proper courtesy of a win on penalties. Things feel a lot better after that!

Welcome to Jake White, who will hopefully be available to make his Glevum Park debut this evening. He has recently joined us from Longlevens, after a short spell there following his departure from Roman Glass St. George. If his first outing, as a substitute, on Saturday is anything to go by we've secured a good signing.

Far from debutants, I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of four players tonight. Liam Smith, who has battled a succession of injuries to get to 50 competitive appearances since joining us; and Callum McGuirk, who reached the same milestone a few days earlier, but it quicker time, having hardly missed a game over the time he's been with the club.

Congratulations to Luke Merchant, who will equal Chris Perks' record for competitive appearances as a goalkeeper (at least during the period since 2007 that I hold records for) if he makes his 92nd appearance this evening. A huge congratulations to Henry Birkett, too, who will make it to 100 competitive appearances this evening. That is a great achievement for anyone but it is perhaps a sign of Henry's development that he's here to make 100 appearances for The Rovers, after such a nomadic journey from football club to football club since he first appeared for us. Well done to both lads.

Henry first appeared for the first team at 16 years of age, when Warren Evans was our manager. Tonight (at least at the time of writing!) we will welcome Zain Shaikh and his U9s squad to Glevum Park, as mascots. They will train on the 9v9 pitch before our game and then walk out with the players just before kick-off, all being well. We love having the youngsters at the games and hopefully some of them are first team players of the future! We hope they enjoy their evening with us.

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

- Neil

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

(a selection of fixtures from the Hellenic League programme this evening)

Hellenic League, Premier Division

Corsham Town v Wantage Town

Fairford Town v Slimbridge

Lydney Town v Westfields

Pershore Town v Hereford Lads Club

Worcester City v Hereford Pegasus

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park. Welcome to our opponents Cinderford Town and all their players, management, committee and supporters.

It has been a very busy week for the club and specifically our first team, with three fixtures in eight days, on conclusion of tonight's game. A very welcome league win against Lydney last Tuesday was followed up by FA Vase win against Malmesbury Victoria on Saturday. We now have another away fixture down in Southampton on 21st October against Blackfield and Langley FC, which is something to look forward to.

Our Development Squad continued their impressive start to the season with another victory on Saturday, in the County Cup, and with a much more consistent squad this season can hopefully push for a top-end finish this year.

Our Stroud league teams are in a bit of a rut at the moment with results not going their way, but I am sure that will pick up in the coming weeks. What is good to see is that all squads feature players with a wide range of ages, so that we continue to provide football for players finding their way in the adult game or towards the end of their time in football.

Onto our Ladies team, and what is a transition season for a lot of young players. The squad have had a tough start and are still looking for their first win of the season.

Lastly, whilst our U18s have now been eliminated from the FA Youth Cup, after losing against a very good Street FC team - who no doubt will do very well in the competition – they have been performing well in other games and won their first league game a couple of weeks ago.

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

- Dan

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TUFFLEY ROVERS CLUB HISTORY



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

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

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

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

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

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

The first season saw a struggle against relegation, ultimately resulting in the resignation of Warren Evans as manager, before the club retained their status due to a vacancy in the league, after finishing 17th. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10th placed finishes, before a 15th place finish in 2018/19. Two pandemic affected seasons then passed, with Pritchett leaving the club part-way through. Rich Cox took over as Manager for a single season, but resigned midway through 2021/22 after a disastrous run of results. Former Manchester United player Neil Mustoe then took over, steering the club away from danger (finishing in 17th place).

Since the resumption of full-playing activities, Mustoe has had one full campaign, with the club finishing in 18th place and narrowly avoiding relegation from the Hellenic League Premier Division.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Good evening and welcome to Glevum Park, including all players, officials, and supporters from Cinderford Town FC.

Saturday's win now means we have got three positive results in a row, which is a big improvement in our form. What has been really pleasing is the way we have been creating chances and, when needed, dug deep to get the results required.

Bit by bit there has been an improvement in performances. This is pleasing but we now need to have our goods spells for longer periods and make sure we put away our chances. In both games last week we should have had the game sealed at half-time, but wasted opportunities meant that we were forced to defend in the closing stages.

Tonight's opponents are having a steady start to the season, and seem to be signing players every week, so they are only going to get stronger as the season progresses. Hopefully we will continue our recent form and get a result to maintain this bit of momentum we have.

We got our FA Vase draw yesterday and face a trip into the unknown on 21 October, as we will make the long journey to face Blackfield & Langley, near Southampton. That is something to look forward to but we need to make sure our league form is consistent, so that we accumulate the points needed to compete in this division.

Hope you enjoy the game.

- Muzz

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- **We aim to introduce families with similar experiences so that they can support each other.**

Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2023/24 season

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HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 20 September 2023

Pos	Team	Home											Away											Overall
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	
1	Corsham Town	9	3	1	0	15	4	3	2	0	9	5	6	3	0	24	9	15	21					
2	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	8	3	0	0	4	1	3	0	2	11	11	6	0	2	15	12	3	18					
3	Worcester Raiders	9	3	1	2	5	5	2	1	0	7	1	5	2	2	12	6	6	17					
4	Worcester City	7	3	1	1	12	4	2	0	0	4	0	5	1	1	16	4	12	16					
5	Highworth Town	8	2	0	0	3	1	3	1	2	10	9	5	1	2	13	10	3	16					
6	Slimbridge	9	3	1	2	12	13	2	0	1	5	3	5	1	3	17	16	1	16					
7	Hereford Pegasus	10	2	1	3	8	15	3	0	1	10	7	5	1	4	18	22	-4	16					
8	Cinderford Town	9	2	0	2	10	6	2	2	1	12	10	4	2	3	22	16	6	14					
9	Pershore Town	8	1	2	1	7	6	3	0	1	9	5	4	2	2	16	11	5	14					
10	Mangotsfield United	9	2	0	2	10	6	2	1	2	8	5	4	1	4	18	11	7	13					
11	Westfields	9	3	1	2	14	10	1	0	2	4	5	4	1	4	18	15	3	13					
12	Longlevens AFC	9	2	1	1	7	8	1	1	3	10	14	3	2	4	17	22	-5	11					
13	Roman Glass St George	8	0	1	3	4	8	3	0	1	13	4	3	1	4	17	12	5	10					
14	Hereford Lads Club	8	1	2	0	3	1	1	2	2	5	4	2	4	2	8	5	3	10					
15	Fairford Town	9	1	2	2	7	10	1	2	1	5	4	2	4	3	12	14	-2	10					
16	Brimacombe & Thrupp	9	1	1	2	7	7	1	2	2	5	9	2	3	4	12	16	-4	9					
17	Thornbury Town	8	2	1	1	9	4	0	0	4	5	18	2	1	5	14	22	-8	7					
18	Tuffley Rovers	8	0	0	3	4	8	1	2	2	4	9	1	2	5	8	17	-9	5					
19	Lydney Town	8	0	0	5	7	17	1	0	2	6	10	1	0	7	13	27	-14	3					
20	Wantage Town	8	0	0	3	1	12	0	0	5	4	16	0	0	8	5	28	-23	0					

HELLENIC LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP

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



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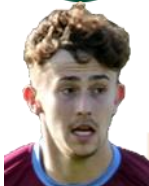


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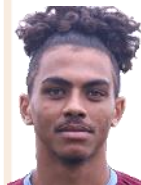


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On (or around) this day in history...

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 played twice on 26 September, and had plenty of games on the dates either side. We've selected a few to reflect our fortunes on or around this particular date...

26 September 2009

After two below par performances, Tuffley Rovers returned to winning ways with a 2 – 0 victory over Bishops Cleeve Reserves in the Gloucestershire County League.

The opening goal came after seven minutes, when Mark Wallington hooked the ball over his head goal bound and the Bishops Cleeve defender raised his arms to stop the flight of the ball resulting in a penalty. Victor Webb duly converted from the spot.

In the first fifteen minutes of the second half Rovers were on the back foot as Bishops Cleeve pushed forward for an equaliser. The Glevum Park side weathered the storm and then got themselves back into the game and in the 80th minute a cross from Warren Mann was poorly dealt with by the visitors defence and Mark Ford netted to make it 2 – 0.

Squad: Adam Bennett; James Barton; Adam Dunsford; Ashley Davies; Richard James; Victor Webb; Ben Wood; Mark Wallington; Warren Mann; Stuart Griffith; Mark Ford. **Subs used:** Lee Wallington, Christopher Lee; Daniel Billingham.

25 September 2010

Tuffley Rovers returned from their County League fixture at Henbury with all three points, courtesy of a solitary strike from Warren Mann after 65 minutes. The goal was really well taken as Mann went on a mazy run, passing three home defenders before striking the ball across the home keeper into the far corner.

Earlier in the game Gary Clarke had a great chance for the home side but struck his shot over the bar and later in the game, Henbury had a couple of efforts cleared off the line.

Squad: Adam Bennett; Martin Middlecote; Lee Wallington; Patrick Boyd; Ashley Davies; Dave Rich; Mark Wallington; Danny Wallington; Mark Ford; Warren Mann; Kyle Kennedy. **Subs used:** Ben Clutterbuck; Liam Harding.

28 September 2013

Tuffley Rovers advanced to the next round of the Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup, as Doug Foxwell's side saw off the visitors, Chinnor FC 3-0, in a game delayed by the visitors' late arrival at Glevum Park.

Goals from Shayne Bradley, Rich Thwaite and Steve Bick gave Rovers a deserved, comprehensive victory in a game they had dominated throughout.

Squad: Christopher Perks; Marcus Foxwell; Antoine Thompson; Richard Thwaite; Michael Devlin; Steve Bick; Mark Wallington; Matt Minett; Shayne Bradley; Mark Ford; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Courtney Hamilton; Elliot King; Leone Cornwall.

24 September 2016



Tuffley Rovers progressed to the First Round Proper of this season's Buildbase FA Vase, after defeating Ardley United 4-1 at Glevum Park on Saturday.

Rovers had already played and lost against Ardley in one of the FA's competitions this season, when they exited the FA Cup on 6 August, so had the chance to settle a score against the visitors, although the more pressing need was for Mark Pritchett's side to rediscover the form which had deserted them in recent fixtures.

The game opening in slow fashion, with little by way of major incident, for either side, before the first major talking point resulted in Ardley United being reduced to ten men, after 12 minutes. As Rovers' full-back Sam Hill looked to head clear, Ardley's Jack Kennedy caught the defender with a flailing boot, causing a serious looking head injury. Referee Ben Morris determined that Kennedy's challenge was dangerous and produced a red-card that meant the visitor were down to ten-men.

Despite being numerically disadvantaged, the visitors took the lead on 38 minutes, as Chris Jackson headed home a free-kick.

However, on 58 minutes, Shayne Bradley produced a terrific cross-field pass that started a move and after Brett James had rolled the ball into Liam Wright's path, the young midfielder produced a fantastic shot across the path of Joe White in the Ardley United goal and into the top corner of the net.



Two minutes later, Brett James darted in from the left-hand side and produced an unstoppable curling shot into the top right-hand corner of White's goal, to put Rovers into the lead.

The Glevum Park side were now in control of the game and they scored again, on 75 minutes, as Warren Mann, Rovers' top scorer, latched onto a loose defensive header, rounded White and rolled the ball into the Ardley net, to make it 3-1. Five minutes later, James scored his second, to put the game beyond doubt, as he collected a flicked header from Mann, before lobbing White from 20 yards, to secure an important win and a place in the next round of the FA Vase.

Squad: Dave Evans; Sam Hill; Tristan Haswell; Mark Pritchett; Marcus Foxwell; Ben Tunnicliff; Warren Mann; Ashley Davies; Shayne Bradley; Liam Wright; Brett James. **Subs used:** Courtney Hamilton; Jamie Goodwin; Jack Overthrow.

26 September 2020

Tuffley Rovers dismal start to their 2020/21 season continued when they visited Flackwell Heath on Saturday afternoon and although a late Henry Birkett goal – the first Richard Cox's side had scored in their four league games - offered some hope, it was another afternoon when a victory had seemed unlikely almost from the earliest moments in the game. By contrast, the three points awarded to the hosts took them to the summit of the Premier Division table.

Rovers fell behind, to Cameron Gray's goal, after 10 minutes, and then James Burrell made it 2-0 on 62 minutes.

The late consolation from Birkett (albeit controversial, as the ball didn't appear to have crossed the line) briefly raised hopes of a comeback but the hosts held on and Rovers' poor run continued.

Squad: Luke Merchant; Miles Ferguson; Antoine Thompson; Jake Rhodes; Toby Lawrence; Macaulay Herbert; James Sunley; Dominik Kent; Jack Beardsell; Henry Birkett; Rudi McKinnon. **Subs used:** Joe Shutt; Jacob Geddes; Brett James.

Statistics 2023/24

Competition

Uhsport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated

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

BFCC = Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup;

WLFC = Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup

Att Scorers

2023

01/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester City		A	0-0	487	-
05/Aug	3pm	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	FAC	H	2-2	124	S Hicks, J Rhodes
12/Aug	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		A	0-2	108	-
15/Aug	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus		H	3-4	103	J Rhodes, M Pritchett, T Shyamapant
19/Aug	3pm	Evesham United	FAC	A	0-2	247	-
22/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders		A	1-1	TBC	T Shyamapant
26/Aug	3pm	AEK Boco	FAV	A	1-1*	69	S Hill
28/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		H	0-2	271	-
02/Sep	3pm	Westfields		A	0-4	102	-
09/Sep	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		H	1-2	74	C Walters
12/Sep	7:45pm	Stonehouse Town	WLFC	H	5-1	108	C Walters (3), W Mann, M Marquez-Espada
19/Sep	7:45pm	Lydney Town		A	3-2	87	M Pritchett (2), J Martin
23/Sep	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	FAV	A	0-0**	108	-
26/Sep	7:45pm	Cinderford Town		H			
30/Sep	3pm	Stimbridge		A			
03/Oct	7:45pm	Worcester City		H			
07/Oct	3pm	Thornbury Town		A			
14/Oct	3pm	Wantage Town		H			
21/Oct	3pm	Blackfield & Langley	FAV	A			
24/Oct	7:45pm	Pershore Town		H			
28/Oct	3pm	Corsham Town		A			
31/Oct	7:45pm	Thornbury Town	WLFC	H			
03/Nov	7:45pm	Fairford Town		H			
11/Nov	3pm	Highworth Town		A			
14/Nov	7:45pm	Stonehouse Town	GFA	H			
18/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United		H			
21/Nov	7:45pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		H			
25/Nov	3pm	Roman Glass St George		A			
02/Dec	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		A			
09/Dec	3pm	Stimbridge		H			
16/Dec	3pm	Thornbury Town		H			
23/Dec	3pm	Wantage Town		A			
27/Dec	3pm	Longlevens		A			
30/Dec	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		A			
2024							
01/Jan	3pm	Corsham Town		H			
06/Jan	3pm	Fairford Town		A			
13/Jan	3pm	Highworth Town		H			
20/Jan	3pm	Mangotsfield United		A			
27/Jan	3pm	Roman Glass St George		H			
03/Feb	3pm	Pershore Town		A			
10/Feb	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		H			
17/Feb	3pm	Hereford Pegasus		A			
24/Feb	3pm	Worcester Raiders		H			
02/Mar	3pm	Westfields		H			
08/Mar	7:45pm	Lydney Town		H			
16/Mar	3pm	Cinderford Town		A			

*Tuffley Rovers won 4-1 on penalties

** Tuffley Rovers won 4-3 on penalties

TOTAL APPEARANCES
STARTS
SUBSTITUTE
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE

Goalscorers

Walters, Connor	4	Hicks, Sammie	1
Pritchett, Mark	3	Hill, Sam	1
Rhodes, Jake	2	Martin, Jamie	1
Shyamapant, Tomos	2	Marquez-Espada, Manolo	1
Mann, Warren	1		

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

Luke Merchant

Goalkeeper

Returned to the club last season, after a Hellenic League Premier Division title winning season at Bishops Cleeve, and was in sensational form. A great shot stopper, commanding presence and accomplished keeper. Should surpass Bruce Perks' record number of appearances for a keeper (at Step 7 and above) this season.

Dan Lander

Defence

Debut in 2022/23 after returning to the club following a spell at Quedgeley Wanderers. A great club man, who gives his all in every game. Offers height, strength and determination at centre-half, He knows his role in the side and rarely lets the team down. A real competitor, who gives his all in every game, and

Macaulay Herbert

Defence

Now the second longest-serving member of the first team, 'Macca' came through our U18s and is solid and dependable; an excellent defender who has been getting better with every season that passed. Has now made over 250 first team appearances, despite several injuries punctuating each season. If he can stay fit could be the second highest appearance maker in the modern era.

Alex Barrett

Defence

Joined during pre-season 2023/24 and has settled in well, offering an option at left-back. Good defensively, very competitive and carries a threat going into the opposition half. Previously with Shortwood United; now looking to step up into Helleic League, Premier Division football. Impressed during pre-season and hopes are high for the season ahead.

Joel White

Defence

The return of 'Digger' is a massive boost and the former Rovers captain is back playing after a season managing Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, Brockworth Albion. Can play in midfield but has developed into a fantastic centre-half, who is one of the team's leaders and most dependable players.

Mark Pritchett

Defence

Another player 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

2023/24 PLAYER PROFILES

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/Midfield

Our longest serving player and has now made over 500 appearances for the Rovers first team 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!

Ashley Davies

Defence/Midfield

In his 3rd spell with the club. Has had spells away at Hardwicke, Shortwood United & Cinderford Town but returned in 2021/22! Was Neil Mustoe's 1st signing and an incredible coup. Brings class on the ball, a physical presence, leadership and a wonderful work ethic to the squad - his influence is of huge value to the club.

Sammie Hicks

Defence/Midfield

A wonderful footballer, who finally seems to be overcoming some of the injury challenges that had previously restricted his appearances, both at Cinderford Town and then at Rovers. Talented midfielder, who can also play at the back or in more advanced positions. Could be a vital member of the squad, if he can stay fit.

Max Harper-Emerson

Defence/Midfield

Another new signing, who can play at full-back or in midfield. Has been with a number of clubs in Gloucestershire, including Slimbridge and Shortwood United. An industrious player with a turn of speed who will hopefully put some injury problems behind him and challenge for a regular place in the side.

Jack Twyman

Midfield

A new signing and one that could be a real coup! Injuries have taken their toll over the years, but 'Twy' has played at a good level, with plenty of Southern League experience at Slimbridge and Yate Town. Has been managing at County League Hardwicke over the past couple of seasons but we're now hoping some of his injury problems are behind him and he can make a successful return to

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

playing. Calm on the ball, creative, destructive...has all the qualities of a top midfielder.

Dayton Fallows

Midfield

One of a crop of youngsters who could breakthrough this season. Mature beyond his years, he came through the youth section and has shown he is good on the ball and hard-working. This could be a vital season in his development as a future first team player. One to watch in 2023/24 and beyond.

Callum McGuirk

Midfield

Signed from Longlevens in 2022, 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. Was originally with the Rovers, where he featured in our U18s squad. His versatility is a big attribute but he'll be keen to secure place in the midfield positions.

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 two injury hit campaigns in 2021/22 and 2022/23. Offers experience and capable of dropping into the back four when needed.

Henry Birkett

Midfield

Now in a 3rd (or 4th!) spell with Rovers, after a fairly nomadic life in Hellenic League & County League football. Great energy, good passing ability, hard-working and contribute goals, as well as good delivery from set-pieces. Has become an increasingly influential member of the team and won Manager's Player of the Year in 2022/23.

Jake White

Midfield

Recent signing from Longlevens, where he had a short spell after time at Roman Glass St. George and Weston-Super-Mare. Will be looking to add some creativity and composure in the middle of midfield – a more attacking option than several of his rivals for the place in the middle of the park.

Tomos Shyamapant

Forward

Has been a consistent goalscorer for both the U18s and Development Squad over 3 seasons. Highly rated; a genuine prospect. Natural finisher, looking to build on a run in the first team last season.

2023/24 PLAYER PROFILES

Kieran Alder

Forward

Returned to the club in 2022/23, after spells with Cinderford, Bishops Cleeve and Worcester City; recently hampered by injuries. Gifted No.10, whose work rate is as noticeable as his work on the ball - a creative player. Previously with Neil Mustoe's U18s at Gloucester City reunited at Rovers.

Connor Walters

Forward

Wide player who joined from Gala Wilton in the summer and made a really positive impression. Quick, strong and full of trickery, this mercurial talent could be a really fantastic addition to the Rovers squad. A goalscoring threat who will be looking to tie down a regular starting place.

Jake Rhodes

Forward

In his 2nd spell with the club, having signed in the summer, following spells with Bishops Cleeve and Shortwood United. An all-round centre-forward who can hold the ball up, create chances for others, and is good finisher. Very strong in the air, so will add a new dimension to Rovers' attack.

Yeshaya Lomotey

Forward

Powerful striker who joined in 2021/22 after spells at other local clubs, including Slimbridge and Cinderford Town. Offers quality on the ball and packs a powerful shot that is 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 Manager in January 2022, took the club away from relegation fears in 2021/22, before successfully battling against relegation in 2022/23. 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.

Liam O'Neill

Assistant Manager

Appointed as Assistant Manager in 2023, after a spell as Manager at Frampton United. Liam is still in the formative stage of his coaching journey but will offer great support to Muzzy.

Sam Tandy

Physio

New for 2023/24 and son of legendary Gloucester City physio Ade Tandy. Can play as a keeper!



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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 in this edition we look at games between Town and Rovers (just maybe not these two clubs here tonight!)

1. Earlier this season, Blackburn Rovers recorded their highest ever away victory in their 148 year history, as they thrashed which Town in a Carabao Cup tie?

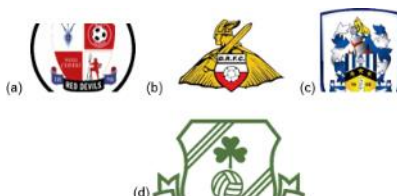
2. The manager pictured here has only managed two clubs. One is Town and the other is a Rovers. Who is he and which two clubs has he managed?



3. On 16 September 2023, in the EFL, The Salop (one of four nicknames recorded against the club) lost at home to The Pirates (one of a handful of nicknames used by the other club) at the Croud Meadow Stadium. Who were the Town and Rovers teams on that occasion?

4. There are very few Scottish football clubs with Town in their name (unless it forms part of a single name – e.g. Creetown in the South of Scotland League) and none in the top ten tiers of Scottish Football. However, there are plenty of Rovers in the same pyramid. Which is the highest ranked Rovers in the 2023/24 season and the only one in the top four divisions?

5. We've tried to conceal the full badge for these teams (to obscure names) but does that prevent you from naming the two Towns and two Rovers?



Quiz Answers: (1) Harrogate Town; (2) Joey Barton – Fleetwood Town and Bristol Rovers; (3) Shrewsbury Town v Bristol Rovers; (4) Raith Rovers; (5) a – Crawley Town; b – Doncaster Rovers; c – Huddersfield Town; d – Shamrock Rovers.



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HISTORY



Cinderford Town was formed in 1922 and played in the Glos Northern Senior League until 1939. In that year they joined the newly formed Bristol Charity League, but this folded two weeks later at the outbreak of World War Two. They then joined the Western League Division 2, and in 1957 won the title. During the two seasons they spent in the top flight, they set a ground attendance record, when a home game with Minehead saw 4,850 people in attendance. Sadly, participation at this level put severe financial pressure on the Club, who were then forced to withdraw and return to the Glos Northern Senior League.

Three years later, the Club made the unusual decision to join the Warwickshire Combination, and won a League and Cup double in 1964, which saw them step up to the West Midlands (Regional) League. A very strong league at the time, with member clubs such as Kidderminster Harriers, Boston United, Tamworth and Hednesford. 1968-69 season was their last at this level, but they bowed out as Joint League Cup winners with Kidderminster. Both Clubs shared the Trophy for 6 months.

Cinderford returned to play in the newly formed Gloucestershire County League for the 1969-70 season and stayed for the next 5 years, finishing as runners-up on 3 occasions. They again sought a higher standard of football, and were accepted into the Midland Combination. Town played in this League for the next 10 seasons, achieving a best finish of 4th and also winning the League Cup, before being forced to return to the Glos County League following financial problems relating to the Social Club. A new Committee stabilised the Club, so much so that floodlights were purchased outright, and in the 1990-91 season, the Club gained admission to the Hellenic League, initially in Division 1, where they won the title at the first attempt. Four years later, the Club claimed an historic first by winning the Premier Division title, the League Cup and the Hellenic Floodlight Cup, and stepped up to the Southern League, where they remain today with 28 years unbroken membership. The 1995-96 season saw Cinderford embark on an incredible F A Cup run, beating 2 Conference Clubs to reach the Second Round Proper, holding Gravesend & Northfleet to a 1-1 home draw before losing 3-0 in the replay in Kent. The winners were drawn with Aston Villa in the Third Round.

In the 2015-16 season, Cinderford were Champions of Southern League Div 1, South & West, but initially rejected promotion when undisclosed debts were discovered. However, they accepted promotion following a series of appeals which affected the constitution of the League going into the new season. The Club were duly relegated in their first season in the Premier Division, returning to play in the Southern League First Division again.

Under the then leadership of Manager Paul Michael, the Club went from strength to strength, with a League Cup Final appearance, losing to a single goal at Premier Division side Stratford Town, and reaching a League play-off final, losing away at Yate Town, who persuaded Paul to join them for their promotion to the Premier Division.

Former Bishops Cleeve Manager Steve Cleal was appointed to replace Paul Michael but after an unsuccessful spell, he was succeeded as Manager by Alex Sykes, the former Gloucester City and Forest Green player, who was also unable to improve matters on the pitch. After an incredible 28 consecutive seasons as members of the Southern League, the Club were relegated at the end of the 2022-2023 season, to rejoin the Hellenic League Premier Division.

Alex Sykes left the Club by mutual consent, and has been replaced by former Merthyr Town player and former Manager at Welsh Club Aberbargoed, Matt Driscoll, who has had the unenviable task of rebuilding the entire squad. Hopes are high for a successful return to the Hellenic League, and eventual return back to the Southern League.



APPEARANCE INFORMATION

Up to and including Saturday, 23 September 2023
(includes selected list of former players)

The games come thick and fast for clubs in the Hellenic League and so do those notable appearance milestones for players! Last week first Callum McGuirk made it to 50 competitive first team appearances, and then Liam Smith matched that feat at the weekend.



Tonight, Henry Birkett will record his 100th appearance for the club, if selected, making him the eighteenth player to reach that landmark since our modern day records began in 2007. Congratulations to Henry, if he does make that number this evening – a really brilliant achievement.

Luke Merchant should be making his 92nd competitive appearance tonight and assuming that happens, too, that will see him equal 'Bruce' Perks' record number of appearances for a goalkeeper in competitive games at Step 7 and above. That is another fantastic achievement and here's hoping Merch goes on to reach the 100 landmark in a few weeks' time.

Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	95	27	Lomotey, Yeshaya	46	7
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Mace, Ryley	19	1
Barrett, Alex	10	0	Marquez Espada, Manolo	1	1
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Martin, Jamie	5	2
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Birkett, Henry	99	7	Mann, Warren	513	85
Bradley, Shayne	260	117	McGuirk, Callum	51	0
Clifford, Ellis	1	0	Merchant, Luke	91	0
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Danes-Rutherford, Ellis	1	0	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Davies, Ashley	190	27	Payne, Nathan	2	0
Dobbins, Ryan	87	18	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Fallows, Dayton	4	0	Poole, Bradley	8	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Pritchett, Mark	157	26
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Rhodes, Jake	58	18
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Roberts, Tyrel	2	0
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Harper-Emerson, Max	5	0	Shyamapant, Tomos	31	3
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Smith, Liam	50	1
Hoffland, Robin	5	0	Squires, Kieran	90	7
Holdaway, Matt	4	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Herbert, Macaulay	264	10	Twyman, Jack	11	0
Hicks, Sammie	41	2	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	125	9	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Brett	185	64	Walters, Connor	13	4
James, Richard	125	40	White, Jake	1	0
Jones, Elliot	21	0	White, Joel	122	4
Kent, Dominik	175	21	Wilton, Joe	2	0
Lander, Daniel	34	1	Wright, Liam	124	3

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



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TUFFLEY ROVERS



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Luke Merchant ©

Max Harper-Emerson

Alex Barrett

Mark Pritchett

Macaulay Herbert

Joel White

Henry Birkett

Jack Twyman

Yeshaya Lomotey

Connor Walters

Jamie Martin

Warren Mann

Tomos Shyamapant

Liam Smith

Sammie Hicks

Dan Lander

Jake Rhodes

Kieran Alder

Ashley Davies

Manolo Marquez Espada

Tyrel Roberts

Dayton Fallows

Ellis Clifford

V



CINDERFORD TOWN

Green shirts, Green shorts; Green socks (GK: Yellow).

James Smallcombe

Ben Vine

Josh Jones

Dan Barnard ©

Kian Skidmore

Jordan Chapelle

Declan Grant

Charlie Davies

Harry Knight

Fin Jones

Dan Brain

Luke Firkin

Craig Norman

Lewis Powell

Ethan Hayes

Kerry Morgan

Adam Davies

Lewis Lloyd

Matt Lee

Charlie Taylor

Will Cape

Dani Dema

Kallum Thomas

Neil Mustoe

Liam O'Neill

Sam Tandy (Physio)
Alex Butler (Coach)

Manager

Asst. Manager

Other Occupants

Matt Driscoll

Rhys Llewellyn

Will Morford (Head Coach)
Phil Tomkins (Kit Man)

Officials: Roger Smith; Alan Overthrow; Terry Cleasby.