

TRFC



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 23/24

07



TUFFLEY ROVERS V WORCESTER CITY

TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023
7:45PM

MATCH-DAY SPONSOR:



UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION





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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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

We come into today's game off the back of a disappointing 4-1 reverse at Slimbridge on Saturday, whilst tonight's opposition won 8-0 at the weekend at bottom of the table Wantage Town. Form would often be a pointer to the likely outcome of a game like this, but such the chasm between the resources available between our club and Worcester City that you would expect them to be the better team tonight.

They were the better team when we played them on the opening day of the season, but that night we put on a performance full of organisation, grit, determination and resolve – plus a little bit of luck here and there! – and came away with a valuable point. I'm sure Worcester City fans there that evening would feel they did more than enough to take all three points, but my view is that our lads were heroic enough to deserve their point. Add in the luck we had and that got as a result.

Tonight will be an even tougher proposition. Since we played them, Worcester City have added to their squad. Notably, they added in two strikers in Jamie Insall and Kyle Belmonte who have plied their trade at a higher level. Insall was once at Scottish clubs Hibernian and East Fife, whilst Belmonte scored regularly for Evesham United last season. Two players don't make a great team, but they are two really good players who have added to an already excellent squad.

I hope we will soon be in a position to improve our squad, albeit from existing resource. Kieran Alder began his comeback with a came on at Slimnbridge on Saturday, and I hope that we will see Jake Rhodes back in our colours in the coming weeks. Both have been out with injury for some time and have been sorely missed.

Whatever happens this evening, we most on to two crucial league games after this one, as we visit Thornbury Town on Saturday, then host Wantage Town at home on 14 October. Tonight's game is important, but those two games are more likely to define the direction of travel for the rest of this season. We must remember that, whatever the outcome tonight.

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)

Uhtsport Hellenic League, Premier Division

Cinderford Town v Westfields

Corsham Town v Roman Glass St. George

Hereford Lads Club v Hereford Pegasus

Lydney Town v Longlevens

Mangotsfield United v Fairford Town

Royal Wootton Bassett Town v Thornbury Town

Wantage Town v Brimscombe & Thrupp

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



Good evening and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park and hopefully a bumper crowd here to watch the game tonight.

Welcome to our opponents Worcester City and all of their players, management, committee and supporters.

After a decent run of four games without defeat for our first team, we were just simply not good enough or at the races on Saturday against Slimbridge.

After a solid performance against Cinderford Town on Tuesday night, it seemed some players were suffering with a bit of fatigue. A few sloppy goals certainly didn't help the cause and the timing of going behind meant we were never likely to get back in the game. We had our opportunities, but once again we weren't clinical enough with our chances, which has been a problem of late.

On a more positive note, our Development Squad had a record win in their game on Saturday with a scoreline of 9-0, and they are certainly in a rich vein of form.

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

Thanks,

- 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 afternoon and welcome to Glevum Park, including all players, officials and supporters from Worcester City.

We are looking forward to a big crowd as the away following so far this season from our visitors has been amazing, and I expect similar numbers again tonight.

This evening we hope we can get a performance that will give us an opportunity to a result.

We got a valuable draw first game of the season, but our visitors have gone from strength to strength since then, and I would expect them to push Corsham Town all the way this season for that top spot.

After a good recent run, our result and performance on Saturday was not what we would have hoped for pre-match, or what it had been like over the last few weeks.

We looked tired and off the pace and Slimbridge made us pay. To the lad's credit we asked for a better performance second half and to come out of the game with some credibility; which we did, but that is the only positive we can take.

There will be very few pre-match thinking we can get something, but we know on our day and at our best we can produce performances and compete with anyone, but it is our consistency and level of performance we need to improve.

These are the games that all players should want to play in and hopefully my team will rise to the challenge tonight.

I hope you enjoy the game.

- Muzz

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Andrew Gillespie
Director

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HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 30 September 2023

Pos	Team	Home										Away										PTS
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD				
1	Corsham Town	11	5	1	0	24	5	3	2	0	9	5	8	3	0	33	10	23	27			
2	Worcester City	9	5	1	1	23	5	2	0	0	4	0	7	1	1	27	5	22	22			
3	Highworth Town	10	4	0	0	8	2	3	1	2	10	9	7	1	2	18	11	7	22			
4	Worcester Raiders	11	3	1	2	5	5	3	2	0	10	2	6	3	2	15	7	8	21			
5	Pershore Town	10	3	2	1	14	9	3	0	1	9	5	6	2	2	23	14	9	20			
6	Slimbridge	11	4	1	2	16	14	2	1	1	6	4	6	2	3	22	18	4	20			
7	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	9	3	0	0	4	1	3	0	3	13	14	6	0	3	17	15	2	18			
8	Mangotsfield United	10	3	0	2	12	7	2	1	2	8	5	5	1	4	20	12	8	16			
9	Westfields	11	4	1	2	17	12	1	0	3	6	8	5	1	5	23	20	3	16			
10	Hereford Pegasus	12	2	1	3	8	15	3	0	3	12	13	5	1	6	20	28	-8	16			
11	Cinderford Town	11	2	0	2	10	6	2	3	2	12	15	4	3	4	22	21	1	15			
12	Fairford Town	11	2	3	2	10	11	1	2	1	5	4	3	5	3	15	15	0	14			
13	Roman Glass St George	9	1	1	3	8	9	3	0	1	13	4	4	1	4	21	13	8	13			
14	Longlevens AFC	11	2	1	2	8	11	1	1	4	11	16	3	2	6	19	27	-8	11			
15	Hereford Lads Club	10	1	2	0	3	1	1	2	4	6	10	2	4	4	9	11	-2	10			
16	Brimcombe & Thrupp	10	1	2	2	7	7	1	2	2	5	9	2	4	4	12	16	-4	10			
17	Thornbury Town	10	2	1	1	9	4	0	0	6	7	23	2	1	7	16	27	-11	7			
18	Tuffley Rovers	10	0	1	3	4	8	1	2	3	5	13	1	3	6	9	21	-12	6			
19	Lydney Town	10	1	0	5	10	19	1	0	3	7	14	2	0	8	17	33	-16	6			
20	Wantage Town	10	0	0	3	1	12	0	0	7	5	28	0	0	10	6	40	-34	0			

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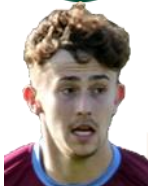


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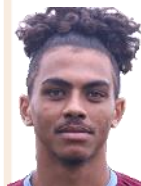


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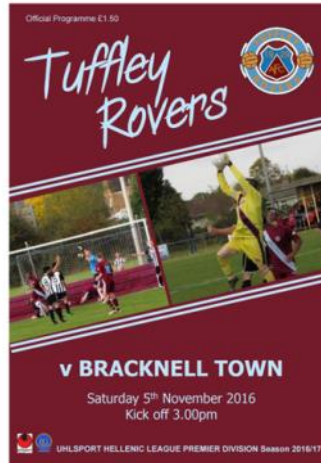
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Blast from the past....

In a new feature, we today look back on a previous game where Rovers pulled off a memorable victory against opposition who were one of the favourites for the Hellenic League title. Today we look back to Bracknell Town's visit on 5 November 2016....



UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION	
Saturday 5th November 2016 Kick off 3.00pm	
TUFFLEY ROVERS	V BRACKNELL TOWN
Clairt Athis	Navy Blue Athis
Clairt Athis	Navy Blue Athis
Clairt Athis	Navy Blue Athis
Dave Evans	Karl Steinborn-Busse
Sam Hill	Dave Hancock
Trotan Haswell	Khalid Semusi
Will Wellon	George Short
Courtney Hamilton	Callum Whitty
Shayne Anson	Alex Rodrigues
Warren Mann	Joe Grant
Ashley Davies	Jamie McClurg
Jamie Goodwin	Adam Cornell
Mark Pritchett	Terence Bohane
Brett James	Seb Bowerman
Marcus Foxwell	Kensley Mabrey
Henry Walker	Carl Withers
Hiscoley Herbert	James Suarez
Ben Tunnicliffe	Lee Boon
Ryan Dobbins	Lee Rushe
Kieron Macr	
Mark Ford	
Sam Drew	
Manager - Mark Pritchett	Assistant - Shayne Anson
Physio - Sam Coleman	Physio - Keith Wallington
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TUFFLEY ROVERS 2-1 BRACKNELL TOWN

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION

5 November 2016

Tuffley Rovers secured a fantastic victory over Bracknell Town on Saturday, as goals from Mark Pritchett and Warren Mann secured three points that took them above their opponents in the league table and into fifth place.

Rovers started the game knowing that their opponents were one of the form teams in the division and although anticipating a tough game, more than matched their opponents in the early stages and went close after 12 minutes, as Mann latched onto Jamie Goodwin's through-ball, rounded one defender and produced a shot that went narrowly wide of the Bracknell Town goal.

The game lacked the quality which might be anticipated from two sides in the upper echelons of the Premier Division, but it took a first twist, in Rovers' favour, on 23 minutes, as Mann's intelligent overhead pass landed in front of Player/Manager Pritchett, who smashed home a volley from the edge of the box, to make it 1-0.

Bracknell briefly threatened to come back into the game, with Dan Cornell prominent in attack and he had a chance to equalise but the ball ran away from him, as he attempted to control a ball that had gone over the top of the Rovers defence and the ball drifted harmlessly through to Dave Evans in goal.



On 23 minutes, Pritchett played a significant role in another passage of play, as he burst past two challenges and drew a foul from a third, as he entered the penalty

area, giving the match official, Gregorsz Kornasiewicz, little option but to award a spot-kick.

Mann, who had missed a penalty in the recent County Cup defeat at Kingswood FC, stepped up to roll the ball into the bottom corner of Kari Born-Bucce's goal and Rovers led 2-0, a lead which they comfortably held until the end of the first half.



The second half started at a brisk pace, with Bracknell Town chastened and Rovers showing attacking intent, and both sides looked capable of scoring.

Goodwin had an excellent opportunity to score when Brett James had twisted his marker inside and out, before putting the ball across the six-yard area, only for the former Cheltenham Town youngster to balloon the ball over the bar of the Bracknell goal from close range.

James was proving a constant threat to Bracknell Town, who were much improved in the second period, and he saw a shot well-saved by Borne-Bucce, before Jack Overthrow shot wide from the rebound.

Bracknell Town were far from out of the game and only some fantastic defending by the Tuffley Rovers, led by centre-half pairing Will Wellon and Shayne Anson, kept them at bay. On the rare occasions that they did breach Rovers' rear-guard, Evans raced off his line to force Seb Bowerman wide and Tristan Haswell was able to clear comfortably when the ball was sent goalwards. Two minutes later Dan Cornell headed over from 6 yards when presented with a glorious opportunity to reduce the arrears.

Bracknell were very much on the front foot and it took some inspired goalkeeping from Evans to keep them at bay, as first produced a stretching, one-handed save from Cornell's header, before immediately leaping to his feet to punch the ball away from the advancing Kensley Maloney.

Overthrow, who scored a sublime chip against Longlevens a few weeks previously, almost replicated that effort as he lobbed the ball towards the Bracknell goal but it was Born-Bucce's turn to pull off a terrific save, as he back-peddled to push the ball over his bar.

Evans then produced two further reflex saves to deny Burnell and Callum Whitty in quick succession, as the game moved into the last ten minutes, and he was also assisted in keeping the visitors at bay by the defensive line ahead of him. It wasn't one-way traffic and Mann continued to be an excellent outlet for Rovers, chasing each and every clearance deep into the Bracknell half to give his defensive colleagues breathing space from the Bracknell onslaught.

Deep into injury time Whitty headed into Evans' top corner to make it 2-1 but within thirty seconds the game ended and Rovers leapt above their opponents in the Hellenic League, Premier Division table.

Rovers' line-up: Dave Evans; Sam Hill, Tristan Haswell; Shayne Anson; Jack Overthrow; Jamie Goodwin; Courtney Hamilton; Mark Pritchett; Warren Mann; Brett James. **Subs used:** Ryan Dobbins.

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 3 October, 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...

4 October 2008

Hanham Athletic were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Tuffley Rovers but may well feel they should have won this game with the amount of chances they created. Terry Baker gave Hanham the lead on 10 minutes but they failed to find the back of the net again and were devastated when Dave Nichols popped in the equalising goal ten minutes from the end of time, following a goalmouth scramble.

Rovers finished the day dropping from 4th to 7th place in the Gloucestershire County League table, whilst the point helped Hanham rise one place to 12th.

Squad: Adam Bennett; Patrick Boyd; Lee Wallington; Marcus Foxwell; Jamie Harper; Stuart Griffith; Martin Middlecote; Warren Mann; Peter Thomas; David Nichols; Daniel Gillespie. **Subs used:** Oliver Everitt; Ben Surman; Christopher Lee.

3 October 2009

The only away win of the day in the Gloucestershire County League went to Tuffley Rovers, who returned from a visit to Henbury with all three points, following a 2-1 victory.

Rovers took the lead on 25 minutes with a goal from Mark Wallington that looked very much like a cross, but within a minute Henbury were level when Eddie Howells netted. A few minutes later the hosts might have taken the lead, but Erol Deans header crashed against the crossbar.

That proved the opportunity, the visiting Tuffley team needed and they regained the lead in the 40th minute when Victor Webb scored from a free kick. With no further score in the second half Rovers secured all three points and moved into third place in the table.

Squad: Adam Bennett; James Barton; Leone Cornwall; Richard James; Ashley Davies; Ben Wood; Victor Webb; Warren Mann; Mark Wallington; Stuart Griffith; Mark Ford. **Subs used:** Lee Wallington; Nathan Owen; Christopher Lee.

6 October 2012

Tuffley Rovers progressed in the Les James League Cup, courtesy of a 2-0 win over their hosts on the day Rockleaze Rangers.

Goals from Shayne Bradley, his fifth in four games, and Mark Wallington proved the difference and set Rovers up for a tie with Taverners in the next round of the competition.

Squad: Mark Harris; Elliot King; Antoine Thompson; Richard James; Leone Cornwall; Courtney Hamilton; Jonathan Meadows; Mark Wallington; Warren Mann; Shayne Bradley; Ryan Brown. **Subs used:** Marcus Foxwell; Mark Ford.

4 October 2014

Tuffley Rovers' first FA Vase tie in almost a decade proved to be a tumultuous affair that

ended with what may have been the first ever penalty shootout in the competition history. Cheered on by a large contingent of travelling supporters, Warren Evans' side started the game well and it was something of a surprise when they fell behind, on 27 minutes, to a stunning free-kick from Matt Neems, with the thirty-five yard strike evading Aaron Taylor and bouncing in off the crossbar, as it swerved and dipped into the goal.

Despite the set-back, Rovers deservedly levelled three minutes later, as Warren Mann set Brett James free and his angled run and shot beat Chris Bowles in the hosts' goal. That proved to be the end to the scoring in normal time, as the teams played out a goalless second half.

Any fears that the game would drift through the extra period and into a penalty shoot-out were soon eliminated, as within two minute of the re-start, Shayne Bradley lofted a free-kick towards the goal and after Bowles failed to hold the ball, Ashley Davies was on-hand to fire the ball home from two yards.

Buoyed by this, Rovers carried an increasing threat and early in the second period of extra-time, they scored what should have been the decisive goal, as Bradley met Brett James' quick free-kick and fired into the roof of the net from 6 yards, on 111 minutes.

Within two minutes, however, Charlie Lynch met Gareth Evans' corner to head high into the top corner of Taylor's net and in a nervy end to the game Rovers lost possession and a neat passing move ended with Craig Smith firing low beyond Taylor to make it 3-3 and send the game in to a penalty shoot-out.

After Eversely had missed their first spot-kick, Rovers scored through Bradley and Mann, before James struck a post to restore parity. With each side then scoring each attempt, the game entered sudden-death and after Taylor brilliantly saved Eversley's seventh kick, substitute Elliot King confidently placed the ball into the corner of the net and sent the Rovers players and supporters into rapture, as they clinched a 6-5 victory and a place in the first round proper.

Squad: Aaron Taylor; Marcus Foxwell; Stuart Griffith; Ashley Davies; Glenn Gittins; Sam Drew; Steve Bick; Warren Mann; Shayne Bradley; Mark Ford; Brett James. **Subs used:** Jordan Dowdeswell; Elliot King; Kieran Squires.

3 October 2020

After the high of their first UHlsport Hellenic League win of the season, in midweek against Ardley United, Tuffley Rovers left Easington Sports on Saturday having recorded a fourth defeat in five league games and failing, not for the first time this season, to trouble the opposition goalkeeper.

The hosts took an early lead through Luke Swann, before Charlie Hill scored from the penalty spot to make it 2-0 after 26 minutes. Rovers then had a penalty of their own, despatched by James Sunley, and that made it 2-1 which was the score that took the teams into the interval.

Whilst the second period saw Rovers more competitive, they were susceptible to the energetic counter-attacks frequently launched by the hosts, and it was no surprise when Henry Rose's heavily deflected shot secured all three points for the hosts.

Squad: Luke Merchant; Miles Ferguson; Antoine Thompson; Henry Birkett; Macaulay Herbert; Jacob Geddes; Joe Shutt; Dominik Kent; Luke Soule; James Sunley; Rudi McKinnon. **Subs used:** Lewis Bainbridge; Warren Mann; Harri John.

Statistics 2023/24

Competition

Uthsport 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	0-0	157 -
30/Sep	3pm	Slimbridge		A	1-4	128 C Walters
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	Slimbridge		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	5	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, given the reputation Worcester City have for bringing a large travelling support, we look at questions and answers related to big crowds at football matches...

1. The largest ever 'official' crowd saw which team defeat Brazil 2-1 in the 1950 World Cup Final, despite the Brazilians having home advantage and taking a 1-0 lead in front of a crowd of 199,854?



2. Can you name the stadium pictured here (from 1956) when the hosts defeated AC Milan 4-2 in a European Cup Semi-Final, in front of a crowd of 129,690?

3. The first ever game at the 'old' Wembley Stadium is remembered as much for the white horse on the pitch as Bolton Wanderers' 2-0 win over West Ham United in the FA Cup Final, in front of an official crowd of 126,047 but estimated at almost 300,000 by some commentators!! What year did that game take place?

4. On 15 April 1970 an estimated 136,505 crammed into Hampden Park for a European Cup game (pictured). Which two teams played out a memorable game and what was the score?



5. Can you name the two grounds pictured below and identify which one has had the biggest official attendance for a football match in their histories?



(a)



(b)

Quiz Answers: (1) Uruguay; (2) Estadio Santiago Bernabéu – the home of Real Madrid; (3) 1923; (4) Celtic defeated Leeds United 3-1 in the European Cup Semi-Final; (5) a – Estadio Da Luz, Portugal / b – Michigan Stadium, USA... and the biggest attendance was in Lisbon with 135,000 dwarfing Michigan's 109,318.



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MATCH REPORT:
UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION
TUFFLEY ROVERS 0-0 CINDERFORD TOWN
SATURDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2023
(Courtesy of Rhys Anderson)



The match between Tuffley Rovers and Cinderford Town ended 0-0 at Glevum Park in a game that both managers will be disappointed to have come away with only a point.

The best chance of the game fell to Connor Walters who found himself in space behind the defence and, more importantly, onside but when the young Rovers forward had time in order to pick the perfect finish he was thwarted by a great save from James Smallcombe in the Cinderford goal, which saw his side enter the break thankful for it still being 0-0.

Just before Walters' chance, Cinderford's Charlie Davies forced an unbelievable save out of the Rovers' captain, Luke Merchant, who used his feet well to deny a close-range effort.

Smallcombe was called upon to make two further saves during the half, twice denying youngster Tomos Shyamapant, the first after the Rovers man had beat his man after cutting in from the right to produce a low, fizzing shot that the Cinderford Town man turned away from goal; then the second was a tremendous block after a loose ball fell to the same Rovers player and he looked destined to score.

Midway through the second half, Cinderford's number 12, Kerry Morgan got sin-binned for dissent, targeting him for not giving an offside against Shyamapant who caused problems all evening down the right-hand side. Rovers failed to take advantage of their numerical advantage and although a lively game continued, both defences stood firm, and both keepers played their part well, whenever called upon.

Rovers' best chance fell to Walters, but he fired across the goal and although Smallcombe's dive saw him beaten, the ball went wide of his post.

Late in the game, Macaulay Herbert was a cause for concern when he fell to the ground in the 81st minute after being caught by a stray elbow. Thankfully, the defender walked off the pitch, although groggy, and received a round of applause from both sets of fans.



In the end, both sides earned a share of the spoils. The point keeps Rovers in 18th place, but positive signs during the game showed promise that the team will hope to continue going forward.

APPEARANCE INFORMATION

Up to and including Saturday, 30 September 2023
(includes selected list of former players)



As mentioned in our last edition, Luke Merchant was on the cusp of breaking the record for competitive first team appearances as a goalkeeper for Tuffley Rovers, which had stood at 92 and was held by Chris ‘Bruce’ Perks, who appeared regularly between 2010 and 2014, before making a handful of appearances between 2015-2017.

Bruce’s last appearance came in an FA Cup tie against Swindon Supermarine in September 2017, a little under 12 months before Merch made his debut on 4 August 2018. Well done to our captain on surpassing that milestone with his 93rd appearance at Slimbridge and here is hoping he makes it to 100 appearances in the not too distant future!

Talking of one hundred appearances, a huge congratulations to Henry Birkett, who became the 18th player to reach that milestone in our modern history when he started against Cinderford Town last Tuesday. Another fantastic achievement in an era when loyalty to a club seems to be a rare thing.

Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	96	27	Lomotey, Yeshaya	48	7
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Mace, Ryley	19	1
Barrett, Alex	12	0	Marquez Espada, Manolo	2	1
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Martin, Jamie	5	2
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Birkett, Henry	101	7	Mann, Warren	515	85
Bradley, Shayne	260	117	McGuirk, Callum	53	0
Clifford, Ellis	1	0	Merchant, Luke	93	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	159	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	7	0	Shyamapant, Tomos	33	3
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Smith, Liam	52	1
Hoffland, Robin	5	0	Squires, Kieran	90	7
Holdaway, Matt	4	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Herbert, Macaulay	266	10	Twyman, Jack	13	0
Hicks, Sammie	43	2	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	125	9	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Brett	185	64	Walters, Connor	15	5
James, Richard	125	40	White, Jake	3	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.

WORCESTER CITY CLUB HISTORY



Worcester City Football Club was formed on 9th September 1902 when another Worcester-based club, Berwick Rangers, went into liquidation. The Birmingham League agreed to let City take over Rangers' fixtures, and the Club moved to St. George's Lane in 1905.

City's first honour was the Worcestershire Senior Cup, which was won for six successive seasons between 1908 and 1914, and in the final season before World War 1 a Birmingham League and Senior Cup double was achieved. There was little success in the early post-war years, but eventually City began to attract some quality players and surprised everybody by winning a second Birmingham League title in 1924/25.

For 1928/29 City appointed a full-time player-manager, Frank Womack. City clinched the title with ten wins out of their last eleven matches, but Womack then stunned City by accepting an offer to manage Torquay United. He was succeeded by Joe Smith, an ex-England and West Bromwich Albion full-back. The 1929/30 season saw the title won again, City scoring an incredible 153 goals in 34 games. At home they won all their matches, mostly by cricket scores, with a six, five sevens, an eight, two nines, a twelve and a (then) club record 13 against Stourbridge, with Billy Boswell getting six, a club record he still shares.

During the 1930's the Birmingham League was considerably weakened as teams left and in 1938 City joined the Southern League, winning the Southern League Cup in 1940 – it was wartime and City were able to field several Football League professionals as guest players!

Although crowds flocked to the Lane when football returned after the war, there was little success until 1957/58, when under player-manager Roy Paul, City took Aldershot to a second replay in the F.A. Cup First Round, going out at St. Andrews, Birmingham in front of a crowd of 22,926 - a record for a City game. The following year, City achieved a famous Cup result which is still talked about today. They first beat Millwall and then Liverpool - at the time playing in Division 2 - at the Lane before losing to Sheffield United in front of a record home crowd of 17,042 in Round 4.

City nearly went out of business in the early sixties, but supporters rallied to keep the Club afloat and were rewarded with some big name signings. Players such as Peter McParland, Norman Deeley, Eddie Stuart, Ivor Allchurch and Gerry Hitchens all appeared in the blue and white shirt but it was not until the appointment of Nobby Clark as manager in December 1974 that the glory days truly returned.

The Southern League Division 1 North was won in 1976/77, with City gaining 69 points from a possible 76 and losing only one League match - the final one! Two years later, the Southern League Premier Division title was won for the first time. In 1979, City joined the newly-formed Alliance Premier League (Now the Football Conference), and finished third in its inaugural season. There were further F.A. Cup successes at home to Wrexham and Aldershot,

but Clark was dismissed as manager in 1984, and City were relegated back to the Southern League twelve months later.

In 2001 former City star John Barton steered his team to success in the Dr Martens Southern League Cup, and during his five and a half year reign as manager two City players – Adam Wilde and goalkeeper Danny McDonnell – were capped by England at semi-professional level.

In 2004 City became founder members of the Conference North but in January 2005, Barton resigned and another former City player, Andy Preece, took over. His greatest success came in 2005/06, when City reached the second round of the F.A. Cup, losing 1-0 to Huddersfield Town at the Lane in a game televised live on the BBC. To compound City's misery, Huddersfield were drawn away to Chelsea in the next round.

In October 2007, Preece was replaced by Richard Dryden, assisted by City legend Carl Heeley. City switched to the Blue Square South for the 2008/09 season, with Carl taking over as manager at the start of 2010. City reverted to the Blue Square Bet North after narrowly avoiding relegation in 2009/10 and last season finished in 16th place.

The 2012 / 13 was the final season at St Georges Lane & the match v Chester FC on Saturday 27th April 2013 was the last ever game at The Lane, the attendance of 4,027 was the highest in the Blue Square North for the whole season. Worcester City FC ground shared at Aggborough, the home of Kidderminster Harriers FC for three Seasons whilst The Supporters Trust (backed by Supporters Direct) worked tirelessly to enable a return to Worcester.

The 2014/15 Season proved to be one of the most memorable in their History, winning against a Football League Club away from home for the first time, with a memorable 1-2 win at The Ricoh Arena v Coventry City in the 1st Round of the FA Cup. Another memorable followed in the 2nd Round, ending in a 1-1 draw away at Scunthorpe United before a replay ended 1-1 after extra time and it took an FA Cup record breaking shoot out for Scunthorpe to eventually go through 14-13.

The three Season stay at Aggborough came to an end as the Club continued its exile, moving to Bromsgrove Sporting. On the Pitch, they were relegated from the Vanarama Conference North but the Club dropped down three Leagues as the Board opted to resign from the League.

In August 2018 Steve Goode became Chairman of the Club with WCFC Supporters Trust members joining him, to pave the way to allow Community Ownership of the Club. In March 2019 the Supporters Trust became majority shareholders making Worcester City FC a Supporter Owned Club. Then, in August 2020, the City Council finally supported the Club returning to the City and to Claines Lane in Worcester in time for the 2020/21 season.



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Luke Merchant ©

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V



WORCESTER CITY

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

Haydn Whitcombe

Logan Stoddart

Adam Mace ©

Elliot Keightley

Connor Gater

Calvin Dinsley

Cam Monteith

Izak Reid

Kyle Belmonte

Jamie Insall

Robbie Thompson-Brown

Lorcan Sheehan

Josh Shuck

Kirk Layton

Elliott Hartley

James Batchelor

Kyonn Evans

Dwayne Samuels

Dylan Hart

Reece Day

Liam Lockett

Joe Stockton

Neil Mustoe

Liam O'Neill

Sam Tandy (Physio)
Alex Butler (Coach)

Manager

Asst. Manager

Other Occupants

Chris Cornes

Nick Clayton (Coach)
Ryan Rowe (Coach)

Officials: Alan Robinson; Graham Pugh; Mark Pratten.