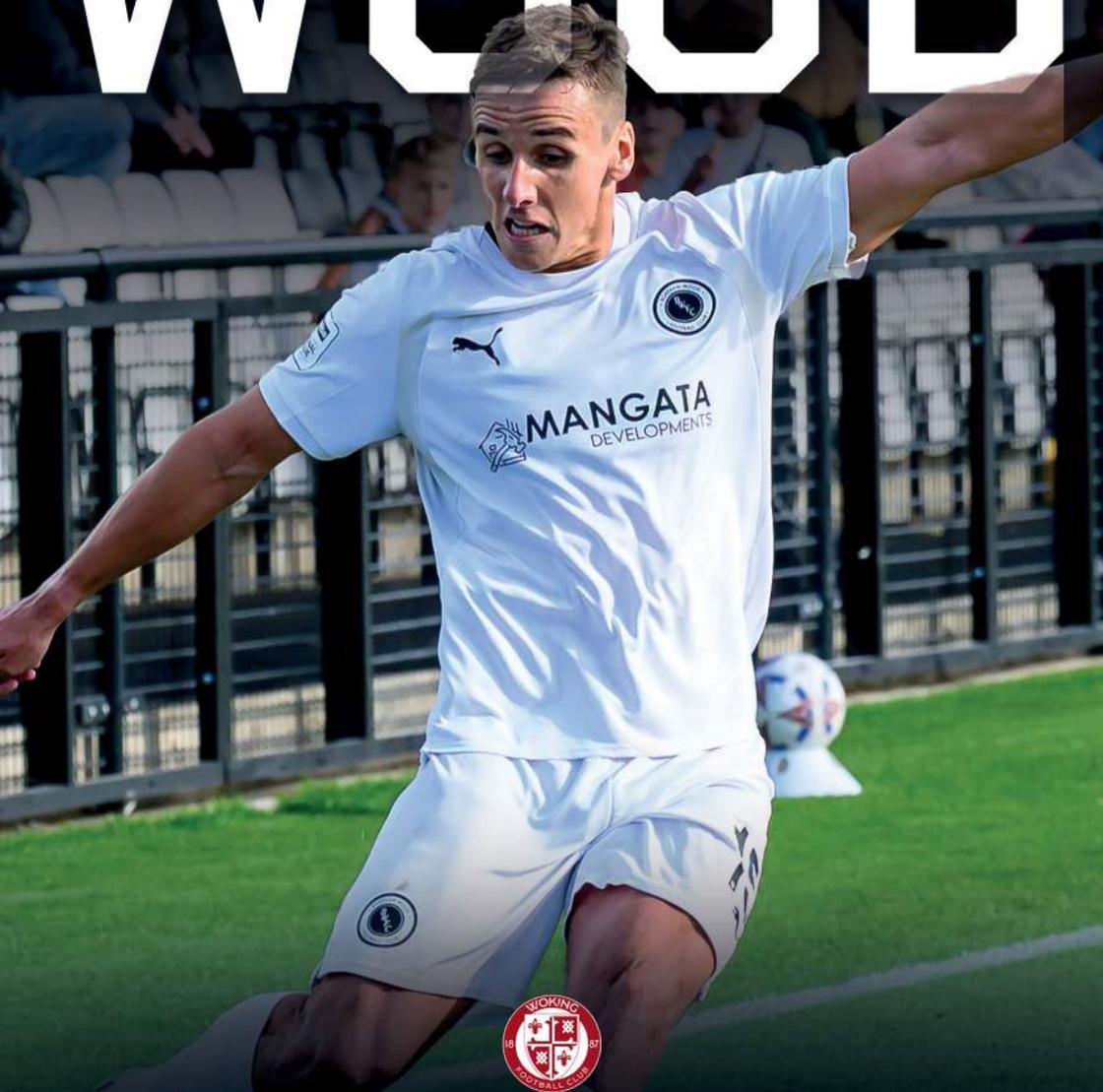


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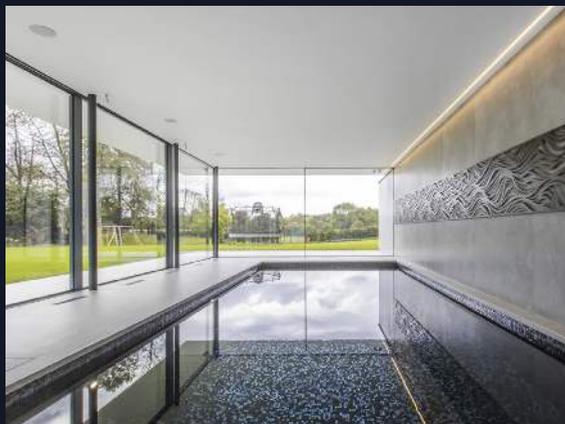
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CONFERENCE SOUTH PLAY-OFF WINNERS:
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SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE EAST CHAMPIONS:
2005/06
ISTHMIAN PREMIER DIVISION RUNNERS-UP:
1997/98
ISTHMIAN DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS:
1994/95, 2000/01
ISTHMIAN DIVISION TWO CHAMPIONS:
1976/77
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP WINNERS:
1996/97
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP RUNNERS-UP:
1998/99
FULL MEMBERS CUP RUNNERS-UP:
1994/95, 1995/96
FA CHALLENGE CUP:
1ST ROUND:
1973/74, 1977/78, 1998/99, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2023/24, 2024/25
2ND ROUND:
1996/97, 1997/98, 2017/18
3RD ROUND:
2020/21, 2022/23
5TH ROUND:
2021/22
FA CHALLENGE TROPHY SEMI-FINALISTS:
2005/06
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HERTFORDSHIRE FA SENIOR CHARITY CUP WINNERS:
1980/81, 1983/84, 1985/86, 1988/89, 1989/90
LONDON FA CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS:
1997/98



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DANNY HUNTER

Today we welcome Woking to the Mangata Developments Stadium Meadow Park, can I wish their Directors, Manager, Players, Staff and Supporters a pleasant stay with us and a safe journey home.

Well it's fair to say we've started the season possibly far better than we could all have hoped for and so I'm now constantly being asked by you, the supporters, how has this happened, is there a secret, if so what is the secret? As such, I would like to give you my thoughts on our start and my opinion on how things have evolved over the last 18 months at the club.....the truth is there is not one thing, or any big secret, to our improvement, recruitment or our work ethic this season, as it's honestly not a science.

If it was a science all the bigger clubs would win every week and be promoted every year due to their budget and squad strength, but trust me it's not as simple as chucking money at it - but recruitment, a good squad and being able to run for 95 minutes are factors.

There are some simple indicators that we feel help smaller clubs like ours to compete, as the recruitment process for a smaller club doesn't change that much. I feel the increased involvement of the agent is a challenge and the bigger clubs spending power does mean silly season in May and June now lasts until July and I feel you must be patient as the good loan deals often do not now start until a month later than they used to - I hope all that makes sense?

For me though, having been the Chairman of a relegated club just 18 months ago, it was important not to panic with the budget and we needed to ensure every penny was used intelligently. As such, it was important for me to lean on certain past business experience, lean on our contacts in football, and of course learn from our many mistakes.

Trust me I doubted myself at times but I needed to trust in my experience and what we had all built here together and I needed to find a way to block out the noise from those around me, as that was the only way we were going to get ourselves promoted at the first time of asking.

To continue to put my money into the first team and stay full time was never in doubt, but it was still about planning for our future both on and off the park and that meant not being distracted. It was boringly more about balancing my facility spend, looking at our wider operation obligations, while creating a competitive playing budget and also being both honest and realistic with you our support base.

To have a chance of promotion, we needed you all to stay with us and be patient, I needed you to trust in my past experience and especially trust in our ambition, our infrastructure, our staff, our loyal sponsors and partners and especially trust in our diverse income streams, which did in fact hold up fantastically well last season and then we all had to pray for a bit of good fortune.

In my case, as you know I do rely on 'old school' relationships with our partners, sponsors and other clubs who I've built long term friendships with over many, many years. On top of that you always need to have a good manager who knows his own mind, someone who can communicate to the fans and who trusts himself in the bad times and not someone who concerns himself more about his own future, as he's the one steering your club, your town and your wider communities' hopes and ambitions.

So what can I tell you supporters over last two seasons that best explains our promising start to the season that you

don't already know? Firstly, improvement came from within, it perhaps started with a club relegation overview I carried out from the top to bottom. Our club has always been built from the bottom up and so I was relatively pleased that our bottom up infrastructure had remained pretty solid but devastated at our self inflicted relegation season.

We then moved on to look at our past recruitment over the previous season and our squad make up, the age coefficients and were there indicators we could rely on and in truth it wasn't pretty, so some big decisions were needed. The squad rebuild in earnest then came, and over the last 18 months and our recruitments and new signings best indicate how we've created our good start.

We now have a far more thorough, well thought through recruitment process and I've seen an improved knowledge of good young and more experienced players within our price range now discussed. I feel we also now have a database regarding target players which in truth is phenomenal. On top of that I think the relationship between Charlie Hunter, Luke Garrard, ably assisted by our Club Secretary/PASE Manager Billy Hunter and our football staff has gone to another level and that's been great for me to witness.

That said, the proof of what Luke and the players are doing off the park must also be seen by me and you the supporters on a Saturday afternoon to properly gauge our progress. Personally I think the squads evolvement (yes I know it's only 10 games in), means we are not only witnessing winning football but seeing exciting young players, plus very good players at their peak, while seeing some really experienced players in key areas playing to their maximum, all of which has

culminated in us playing good football with a purpose.

To be clear, we still have a very 'old school' way of working here, possibly because at my age as I'm an 'old fashioned' Chairman, who still perceives this new world of Director of Football and Sporting Directors with a touch of scepticism at our level, especially if Directors of Football are given too much power, as that might if you are not careful, undermine a managers position as you've employed him to manage - hope that makes sense?

My policy here over many years has been very simple, communication, communication, communication. That is a must, because when you couple that with honesty and hard work it does give you a chance. I also feel if you don't believe football is an exact science, then you must allow your Manager and Sporting Director to make honest mistakes when building a squad.

Our history over the last two decades has shown patience, consistency and planning on and off the field and our way of working has helped us build a club together that's won us four promotions in twenty years. Since then I've only changed my manager by choice twice and though I did change the manager after just 8 games last season, I did it because I knew I had made a huge, huge mistake and it was a mistake that was totally my fault.

As the man who funds the club you must believe in and back your manager. I simply chose the wrong man, he was not a communicator and as such was never going to be right for me or this football club. So I acted decisively by sitting him down face to face, being honest with him, paying up his compensation figure in the contract and I took my medicine -

fortunately I've been proven correct.

For me a manager's dressing room and his training pitch is his church and his staff appointments and players are his congregation. As such, the environment he creates for his congregation must always be his and his alone because all successful managers create good environments.

Of course, if asked I'll always advise or steer Luke and Charlie as my longevity here means I have a tad more experience and credit in the bank than most Chairmen at our level and a lot more experience than many of the new owners within this league. That said, Luke must always know no matter what Charlie or my opinion is, he will always have the final say on recruitment, on his staff, on team selection and on all of those type of managerial decisions in between.

In truth this season's promising start does indicate that our structures and club policies do work and have been instrumental to our revival over the last 18 months and if adhered to I feel they always stand the test of time. Working relationships and partnerships here have been built slowly with care and always built with one eye on the future.

That's also why I have twenty five year relationships with most of my inner circle Ciara Dyer, Mande Morris, Billy Hunter, Peter Smith, Del Ward, Loretta Brown, Daniel Hunter, Jodie Lillywhite and Grant Morris are have been critical to both our past and our future success and in truth they are a major part of why I'm still here.

Professional relationships of course don't happen overnight, as is clearly evident with six National League managers in Martin Hinshelwood at York, Matt Taylor at Solihull, Mark Cooper at Yeovil, Danny

Webb, again at Yeovil, Steve Morrison at Sutton and Kelvin Davis at Eastleigh already sacked or gone this season. In truth there are a few more managers and a fair few Directors of Football under huge pressure this afternoon and we're just 7 weeks into a new season.

This shows everyone the pressure on clubs at the moment but for us after 2 years of dealing with huge pressure, sitting in a play off place after 10 games means no pressure at all. That said, as an 'old school' owner, it's still my job to look at rival clubs to see how they are doing things and I always look at rival clubs' infrastructures, their boardroom make-up, their ownership and business models. I also want to know where they derive their income streams from and try to learn lessons from these clubs as you cannot ever stop learning or evolving in this game.

I also do that because I know the business expertise and knowledge that sits within some of these boardrooms, I know the monies you need to operate at our level. Trust me if you are thin skinned, haven't got the money or are not prepared to invest and go the distance with a club, supporters will find you out and that in turn will bring huge pressure to these new CEO's, Chairmen, new Owners and Clubs.

To be honest the game at our level with its ever increasing financial needs and unrealistic fan expectations, has changed the landscape hugely over the last decade or so, especially with the type of money now needed to compete at this level of non league and even after 27 seasons in the Chair it has become quite scary for me.

I look at our income, expenditure, debt ratio and I now have to plan at least one if not two years ahead. That said some of

the clubs I met even in the National South, let alone now we're back in the National League, have debt ratios and yearly losses beyond all sensible levels. As such, when I see some clubs 'end of year' accounts announced, they are truly staggering as they are almost operating on an insolvent basis.

With that in mind I'd expect at least two or three more Managerial and Director of Football casualties to happen way before Christmas.

In terms of our budget, I'm told I'm a risk averse Chairman by my son Charlie whatever that means haha, but I'm quietly happy with that description. However, you must all remember my working class back ground, I was born in a post war prefab, I left school with no qualifications and I was brought up in a council house with a single mum doing her best, so there are reasons for me possibly being risk averse.

That said, I've now made a nice few bob through hard work, my film prop master career, through property and through my other companies and now putting this club into the best shape in its history and that is now my priority. You all know we are a local family, you all know my father managed here successfully in the 60's and 70's, you all know I played here very unsuccessfully in the 80's and you all know I bought the club in the 90's. My love for my father's memory, our town and this club is now ingrained, is marrow deep and I'm obsessed with completing the stadium.

As such I'm always very open and honest with you about my feelings, what I'm planning, what our budget is and once again this season I can say our budget is pretty healthy and I'm very happy with where we are sitting both on and off the pitch.

In terms of the last two years, hindsight has shown me we might have been just a tad too loyal in our relegation season, but as you know I do like loyalty and despite us possibly knowing that some players had run their race and knew we had to lower the age of our squad, we didn't and we paid the ultimate price with relegation.

Trust me I didn't need telling I'm not a fool, I knew I'd let my supporters, town and community down. So I quickly tasked Charlie Hunter to identify good young players who represented value for money after relegation, as we were already in silly season and low and behold he found us players like Abdul, Junior Dixon and Charlie O'Connell to name but three.

Charlie dealt with the agents, he dealt with the parents, he dealt with the clubs and in my opinion through him exceptional business was done. In terms of the player profiles, all could run, all were talented and all were affordable, plus even more important to me, all would grow with the club and all had reasonable or very good recent injury records.

Charlie over the last two summers has in truth been my only member of staff whose job it was to deal with agents, clubs, transfers, loans, player contracts and our wider recruitment policies. He is a one man band in regard to our scouting network as we cannot afford anyone else and as my youngest son he can be a real pain in the bum at times when trying to get me to raise the playing budget. That said, he is ably assisted in that area by Luke Garrard haha and both try to get the extra few bob out of me when they can.

I'm sure they are scheming together when they go off to games, working out how to get the budget raised, but between them recruitment wise their signings

have recently been first class. Between them over the last 18 months they've done a great job in evolving our squad, which has meant identifying players like Abdul, Charlie O'Connell, Matt Rush, Tom White, Joe Newton, Callum Reynolds, Jon Benton, Junior Dixon, Lewis Richardson, Aaron Henry, Jeff King, Luke Norris and Finn Herrick whilst also dealing with my favourite people, the agents.....

For our playing budget and infrastructure structure to work though, we must operate a one in one out policy at times when the budget is spent and that's not easy, especially if you've just won a spectacular promotion with so many great lads coming to the end of their contracts.

To see the celebrations at the end of our play off final was incredible, but I well remember looking at our players who had become friends, knowing that some had possibly played their last game for us and for me that is both emotional and very hard to deal with. That weighed heavily on me almost straight after the final whistle, so I went home early after the final with conflicting thoughts and I'm not ashamed to say I shed a tear or two, possibly in relief at our promotion, of course elation as I knew what it meant to the town, but also for some of our lads who I knew would be leaving us.

That's the part of mine and Luke Garrard's job that people don't see and trust me the "we're letting you go" conversations are not just emotional, they are at times simply wrong on so many levels and they are genuinely upsetting. For me those decisions never get easier nor will they ever sit easily with me nor should they.

To put things into perspective, when I went home that night I'd had a drink, I was emotionally exhausted but who cared we

had won our promotion, but I knew it was my job to bring reality to the table within 24 hours, as my town and you supporters didn't need another relegation to mourn in 12 months time. Experience told me that night, to once again shut out the noise of promotion as the facts also told me we had finished the season well but still finished 5th in the division below.

The truth was in the play offs we had beaten Dorking Wanderers luckily, Torquay United deservedly and Maidstone United deservedly to win our promotion, but the cracks within our squad had been evident all season. They were still there for everyone to see and deep down I knew we were nowhere near good enough to compete at this higher level and it is my job to ensure that we are.

So over the summer, we let go my 'old friend' Tyrone Marsh, Josh Hare, David Agbontohoma, Mo Sagaf, Gus Mafuta, Josef Yarney, Kwezi Appiah and even a club legend in Mark Ricketts, while I was happy to pick up a buy out fee for Tom Whelan. Those decisions are difficult to make but they are made only to improve the club, the squad and the dressing room.

As such, I now come back to where I started these programme notes, in saying that recruitment is not an exact science. Yes you must look at the indicators, the injury data, a players' clips, and at analysis, but in the end a manager and sporting director must go with their instincts and what their eyes tell them, while asking their football contacts what they might know about a players' character, attitude, discipline, desire and life style which is so important.

Anyway, I hope these programme notes give a small insight into the madness of a football club, our decision making,

club policies and the clubs tangible improvement over the last 18 months or so. I hope highlighting the process we undertook after relegation enlightens some of you, who it appears are enjoying our good start to the season, our recent recruitment, our new playing style, and our new squad strength.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing and in looking back, I think we possibly got ourselves relegated for one simple reason we got comfortable and tried to put a roof on our house when our foundations were not quite in place? With Luke now back, with my key staff and my inner circle all still with me, I do now feel our foundations are strong and we are all the wiser for our relegation experience. So let's quietly build on our promotion and let's see where this season might take us.

Anyway, back to today and as we know with any Neal Ardley team it is going to be a very difficult day. As Neal now manages our old adversaries Woking, we also know exactly what to expect.

Let's hope for an open, attacking game and may the best team win.

Take care

Danny

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LIKE GARD



Good afternoon, firstly I would like to welcome Neal Ardley, his Staff and Players to Mangata Developments Stadium for this afternoons National League fixture.

Having watched them live on Tuesday Evening I know we will have to be right on our game to achieve maximum points today.

They possess some real quality throughout their side in the likes on Harry Beautyman, Jake Forster Caskey and Josh Kelly. The latter is someone I have always liked and watching closely on Tuesday will provide a real threat for Woking for the remainder of the season.

For ourselves we picked up four points on our travels from Lincolnshire having faced Boston United on Saturday and Scunthorpe United on Wednesday. two tough away days and for us and to return back down South having remained unbeaten was very positive.

Our performance on Tuesday was extremely pleasing, especially facing a side with an impressive home record and for us to control large parts of the game should really show what can be achieved.

We have remained unbeaten and that now stands at 11 Matches in all competitions, the most pleasing thing is we are registering wins and scoring goals.

We look like a side that has many threats and again that was evident on Wednesday with the number of promising attacks we created. If I'm being picky I would have liked to have seen us finish some of these with a bit better quality as I feel we could of been 2 or 3 goals to the good prior to Scunthorpe's equaliser.

I have to also appreciate we have been hit with injuries in our offensive line with both Luke Norris and Erico Sousa being out. These are two players that were huge in our initial success having hit the ground running with their goal contributions.

This shows the level of squad we have to our disposal when you take 15 goal and assists out of the side and still create and score the goals we have without them is a credit to the group.

We now need to continue the progression we have shown over the last few weeks and continue to build this young, hungry and energetic squad and improve week by week.

I want to lastly thank the fans who have travelled back-to-back up North and have shown the level of support they have since the start of the season.

We are all so grateful for you all and I ask you to continue to believe in what we are doing and remain positive at all times to get the best out of this changing room.

Be Loud, Be proud, B'WOOD

Enjoy the Game.

Luke



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2025/26



08

Zak
BRUNT

FOUR & CO



9

Junior
DIXON

Gary Davis
GD Images



10

Abdul
ABDULMALIK



11

Jon
BENTON

Leonie Citron



12

Joe
NEWTON

GREENE KING



14

Aaron
HENRY



15

Jeff
KING

Chris Hudson Decorators



16

Callum
REYNOLDS

Leonie Citron



17

Charles
CLAYDEN



18

Luke
NORRIS



19

Tom
WHITE

Wendy McCarthy &
Rachael Messer



20

Lewis
RICHARDSON

Available



22

Finlay
HERRICK

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32

Matt
RUSH

Brody Weinberg



25/26 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	H/A	KD	OPPOSITION	COMP.	F-A	ATT.	STARTING XI				
AUGUST											
SAT 9	HOME	15:00	ROCHDALE	NL	0-2	1,151	ASHMORE	COXE ▼	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL
TUE 12	HOME	19:00	NOTTINGHAM FOREST U21	NLC	2-0	418	ASHMORE	ILESANMI ▼	O'CONNELL	SOUSA ▼	WHELAN
SAT 16	AWAY	15:00	CARLISLE UNITED	NL	3-3	8,741	ASHMORE	COXE	ILESANMI ▼	BUSH	O'CONNELL ⚡
WED 20	HOME	19:45	BRAINTREE TOWN	NL	2-1	974	ASHMORE	COXE ⚡	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL
MON 25	HOME	15:00	TRURO CITY	NL	2-1	958	ASHMORE	COXE ▼	ILESANMI	BUSH ⚡	O'CONNELL
SAT 30	AWAY	15:00	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	NL	0-0	3,612	ASHMORE	ILESANMI ▼	BUSH	O'CONNELL ⚡	SOUSA
SEPTEMBER											
WED 3	AWAY	19:45	SUTTON UNITED	NL	4-3	1,852	ASHMORE	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL	SOUSA ⚡
SAT 6	HOME	15:00	MORECAMBE	NL	3-0	1,035	HERRICK	ILESANMI ⚡	BUSH	O'CONNELL	SOUSA
TUE 9	HOME	19:00	WEST BROMWICH ALBION U21	NLC	3-1	443	ASHMORE	COXE	ILESANMI ▼	BUSH	O'CONNELL
SAT 13	HOME	15:00	ALTRINCHAM	NL	3-1	921	HERRICK	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL ⚡	SOUSA ⚡
SAT 20	AWAY	15:00	BOSTON UNITED	NL	2-0	1,812	HERRICK	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL	BRUNT ⚡
WED 24	AWAY	19:45	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	NL	1-1	3,602	HERRICK	ILESANMI	BUSH	O'CONNELL	BRUNT
SAT 27	HOME	15:00	WOKING	NL							
TUE 30	HOME	19:45	SOUTHEND UNITED	NL							
OCTOBER											
SAT 4	AWAY	15:00	YEOVIL TOWN	NL							
SAT 11	TBC	TBC	FA CUP 4Q	FAC							
SAT 18	HOME	15:00	EASTLEIGH	NL							
TUE 21	AWAY	19:45	YORK CITY	NL							
SAT 25	AWAY	15:00	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	NL							
NOVEMBER											
TUE 4	HOME	19:45	ALDERSHOT TOWN	NL							
SAT 8	AWAY	15:00	BRACKLEY TOWN	NL							
SAT 15	HOME	15:00	TAMWORTH	NL							
SAT 22	AWAY	15:00	GATESHEAD	NL							
TUE 25	HOME	19:00	LEICESTER CITY U21	NLC							
SAT 29	HOME	15:00	FC HALIFAX TOWN	NL							
DECEMBER											
TUE 2	HOME	19:00	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS U21	NLC							
SAT 6	AWAY	15:00	ROCHDALE	NL							
SAT 13	TBC	TBC	FA TROPHY 3	FAT							
SAT 20	HOME	15:00	CARLISLE UNITED	NL							
FRI 26	AWAY	15:00	WEALDSTONE	NL							
TUE 30	HOME	19:45	SOLI HULL MOORS	NL							
JANUARY											
SAT 3	HOME	15:00	YORK CITY	NL							
SAT 17	AWAY	15:00	BRAINTREE TOWN	NL							
WED 21	HOME	19:45	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	NL							
SAT 24	AWAY	15:00	ALTRINCHAM	NL							
SAT 31	HOME	15:00	BOSTON UNITED	NL							
FEBRUARY											
SAT 7	AWAY	15:00	WOKING	NL							
WED 11	HOME	19:45	YEOVIL TOWN	NL							
SAT 14	AWAY	15:00	EASTLEIGH	NL							
SAT 21	HOME	15:00	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	NL							
TUE 24	AWAY	19:45	SOUTHEND UNITED	NL							
WED 28	AWAY	19:45	TAMWORTH	NL							
MARCH											
SAT 7	HOME	15:00	BRACKLEY TOWN	NL							
SAT 14	AWAY	15:00	FC HALIFAX TOWN	NL							
SAT 21	HOME	15:00	GATESHEAD	NL							
TUE 24	AWAY	19:45	ALDERSHOT TOWN	NL							
SAT 28	HOME	15:00	TRURO CITY	NL							
APRIL											
SAT 3	HOME	15:00	WEALDSTONE	NL							
MON 6	AWAY	15:00	SOLI HULL MOORS	NL							
SAT 11	HOME	15:00	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	NL							
SAT 18	AWAY	15:00	MORECAMBE	NL							
SAT 25	HOME	15:00	SUTTON UNITED	NL							

KEY: ▲ SUB ON ▼ SUB OFF ■ YELLOW CARD ■ RED CARD ⇄ GOAL ⚽ OWN GOAL

SUBSTITUTES

SOUSA	ABDULMALIK ▼	REYNOLDS	CLAYDEN ▼	NORRIS ▼	WHITE	WHELAN ▲, DIXON ▲, BENTON, NEWTON, HENRY, KING ▲, RUSH ▲
DIXON ▼	BENTON	HENRY	KING	REYNOLDS ▼	RUSH ⇄	COXE ▲, BUSH ▲, ABDULMALIK, NEWTON, CLAYDEN ▲ ⇄, NORRIS ▲, WHITE
SOUSA	ABDULMALIK ▼	REYNOLDS	CLAYDEN ▼	NORRIS ⇄ ▼	WHITE	WHELAN ▲, DIXON ▲, BENTON ▲, HENRY, KING, RUSH ▲
SOUSA	ABDULMALIK ▼	REYNOLDS ■	CLAYDEN ▼	NORRIS ⇄ ▼	WHITE	DIXON ▲, BENTON ▲, NEWTON, HENRY, KING ▲, RUSH ▲
SOUSA	ABDULMALIK ▼	REYNOLDS	NORRIS	WHITE 1	RUSH	DIXON ▲, BENTON, NEWTON ▲, HENRY, KING ▲
ABDULMALIK ▼	KING ▼	REYNOLDS	NORRIS	WHITE	RUSH ▼	COXE ▲, BRUNT, ▲ DIXON ▲, BENTON, NEWTON, HENRY, CLAYDEN ▲
BRUNT ⇄ ▼	ABDULMALIK ⇄ ▼	KING ⇄ ▼	REYNOLDS ■	NORRIS ▼	WHITE	COXE ▲ ■, DIXON, NEWTON ▲, CLAYDEN, RICHARDSON ▲, HERRICK, RUSH ▲
BRUNT ■	ABDULMALIK ▼	KING ▼	WHITE	RICHARDSON ⇄ ▼	RUSH ⇄ ▼	ASHMORE, CDXE, DIXON, NEWTON, HENRY, CLAYDEN, NORRIS ■ ■
DIXON ⇄	BENTON	NEWTON	HENRY ▼	CLAYDEN ⇄	RICHARDSON ▼	SOUSA ▲ ⇄ ▼, BRUNT ▲, ABDULMALIK, KING ▲, WHITE, RUSH ▲
BRUNT ⇄	ABDULMALIK ▼	KING ■ ▼	REYNOLDS	WHITE	RUSH ▼	ASHMORE, CDXE ▲, DIXON ▲, BENTON ▲, NEWTON, HENRY, CLAYDEN ▲
ABDULMALIK ⇄ ▼	KING ▼	REYNOLDS ▼	WHITE	RICHARDSON ▼	RUSH	ASHMORE, CDXE ▲, DIXON ▲, BENTON ▲, NEWTON, HENRY, CLAYDEN ▲
ABDULMALIK ▼	KING ▼	REYNOLDS	CLAYDEN ▼	WHITE	RUSH ⇄ ▼	ASHMORE, CDXE ▲, DIXON ▲, BENTON, NEWTON ▲, HENRY, RICHARDSON ▲

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- Lead the Wood team out onto the pitch at Meadow Park with captain or selected player
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OUR VISITORS

WOKING

1887



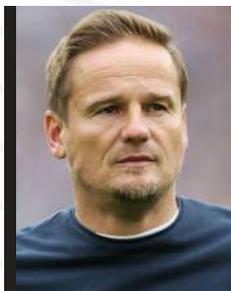
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2024/25 FINISH
15th National League

IN THE DUGOUT



Manager: Neal ARDLEY

An experienced manager and former midfielder, Ardley began coaching while still playing, earning his UEFA Pro Licence in 2010. After five years leading Cardiff City's academy, he took charge of AFC Wimbledon in 2012, guiding them from League Two relegation battles to a 2016 play-off promotion to League One. Ardley later managed Notts County, reaching the 2020 National League play-off final, and then Solihull Moors, finishing third in 2022. Briefly at York City in 2023–24, he became Woking manager in December of last year, losing only once in his first seventeen matches.

ONES TO WATCH



Aaron DREWE

Born: 8 February 2001

Position: Defender

Drewe came through Queens Park Rangers' academy after joining at age nine. After progressing through all youth levels, the defender made his senior debut in a 2022 FA Cup tie against Rotherham United. Drewe gained experience with loan spells at Chelmsford City, Oxford City and Weymouth before leaving QPR in 2024. After a brief return to Oxford City, he signed for the Cardinals in June, quickly making an impact and scoring his first goal for the club against York City.



Harry BEAUTYMAN

Born: 1 April 1992

Position: Midfield

A Leyton Orient academy graduate, Woking skipper Harry Beautyman gained early experience on loan at St Albans City and Hastings United before impressing at Sutton United. He later starred for Welling United and earned Football League moves to Peterborough United, Northampton Town, and Stevenage. Returning to Sutton in 2018, he became a key figure and earned England C honours. After Sutton's 2024 relegation, Beautyman joined Woking, quickly surpassing ten goals in his debut season and earning Player of the Month recognition in February.



Inih EFFIONG

Born: 2 March 1991

Position: Forward

The experienced striker's career began at St Albans City in 2008. After a spell with the Wood, he enjoyed prolific stints at Chesham United and Biggleswade Town, earning attention from higher leagues. Effiong later played for Barrow, Woking, Ross County, Dover Athletic and Stevenage, plus loan spells at Barnet and Notts County. Known for his strength and eye for goal, he twice returned to Woking before moves to Aldershot Town and Dagenham & Redbridge, joining Braintree Town in 2024 and re-signing for Woking that December. Effiong is yet to get off the mark this season and will be no doubt eager to do so.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

WOKING



4

Balanta [25'], Marsh [64', 71'p], Whelan [87']



2

Grego-Cow [10'p], Browne [16']

25 November 2025 // 15:00 // National League

Last time at home against the Cardinals, Wood produced a stirring comeback to win 4–2, earning vital points.

The afternoon began badly for Luke Garrard's side as Reece Grego-Cox converted a 10th minute penalty and Rhys Browne struck from 35 yards to put the visitors 2–0 up inside 16 minutes. But Wood responded before the break when Angelo Balanta turned in a neat finish at the near post to halve the deficit.

After half-time the hosts dominated. Four minutes in, Tom Whelan's free kick was nodded down by Balanta for Tyrone Marsh to head home. Marsh then completed the turnaround from the spot on 70 minutes after Whelan was fouled. Whelan sealed the win late on, latching onto Balanta's pass after fine hold-up play from Lee Ndlovu.

Wood's relentless pressure, creativity from Whelan, and Marsh's clinical finishing transformed a dismal start into a morale-boosting victory that lifted them further from the drop zone.





Mitre
DIFFERENT LEAGUE

SHOOTING STARS

WOKING

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles ten post-war Altrincham goalscoring favourites

BILL WILES

Centre-forward Bill Wiles was Woking's leading marksman in five successive seasons during the early post-war era. He scored on his debut in Woking's 3-2 victory at home to St Albans City in October 1947 and netted twice in their 1949 Surrey Combination Cup final triumph. Ever-present in 1950-51, he starred alongside Freddie Pink and Geoff Hamm in Woking's attack and scored four goals in a match on three occasions. He represented Surrey several times and netted 133 goals in 173 games overall for the Cards before leaving Kingfield in May 1953. Later manager/coach at Farncombe, he worked for Beechams and died in Worthing in April 1992.

CHARLIE MORTIMORE

England Amateur international centre-forward Charlie Mortimore was a player and manager during 15 years at Woking. Previously in the RAF, he was Aldershot's leading marksman in 1949-50 and joined Woking together with his younger brother John in August 1953. He briefly played for Portsmouth and skippered Woking's 1956 Surrey Senior Cup and 1958 Amateur Cup triumphs. Scoring a club record 250 goals in 363 games, he managed Woking from March 1964 until March 1968. A teacher at Cove County Secondary School, he became president of Farnborough Town and was awarded the MBE for services to youth football. He died in September 2019.

GEOFF HAMM

England Amateur international inside-left Geoff Hamm starred in Woking's 1958 Amateur Cup final triumph. Initially with

Woking Rovers, he played for Bridgnorth during National Service in the RAF. He joined Woking in August 1950, helping win the Surrey Senior Cup in 1956 and finish Isthmian League runners-up in 1956-57, netting 118 goals in 261 games. Moving to Wimbledon in July 1958, he helped win the Isthmian League title four times in six seasons, also the Amateur Cup in 1963, briefly managing their reserves. He spent 49 years as a supervisor in customer service for James Walker packing manufacturers in Woking and died in October 2019.

REG STRATTON

England Amateur international Reg Stratton scored in Woking's 1958 Amateur Cup final triumph. He also netted in the 1959 Surrey Senior Cup final, scoring 64 goals in 123 games overall for Woking prior to joining Fulham in August 1959. Gaining top-flight experience alongside England internationals Johnny Haynes and Bobby Robson, he moved to Colchester United in May 1965 and was leading marksman in three successive seasons including their 1965-66 promotion triumph. He joined Vancouver Royals in May 1968, then played for Brentwood, Dover and Basingstoke. Later a storeman for Solartron in Farnborough, he died in May 2018.

ERNIE TINDALL

Striker Ernie Tindall was Woking's leading marksman on four occasions. The brother of Chelsea forward Ron Tindall, he was top scorer at Wokingham prior to joining Woking in December 1961. He scored on his debut in that month's 3-1 defeat at Dulwich Hamlet and was a Surrey Senior Cup finalist in 1966. Netting a club record 42 goals in 1966-67,

he featured in Woking's 1968 Surrey Senior Shield success and helped fight through the qualifying rounds to reach the FA Cup first round proper in 1968-69. He played his final game for the Cards in their 6-0 defeat at Barking in December 1968, netting 134 goals in 269 games overall. He died in October 2004.

STEVE COSHAM

Striker Steve Cosham had two spells at Woking. Starting with Redhill, he was an amateur with Charlton Athletic and QPR, then had spells with Eastbourne United, Tooting & Mitcham and Crawley Town before joining Horsham in January 1973. He moved to Woking in February 1975 and was an instant success, finishing top scorer with 19 goals. Joining Sutton United with Roger Steer in July 1976, he returned in February 1977 and was leading marksman in 1977-78. He starred alongside Eggie James as Woking took Swansea City to an FA Cup second round replay in 1978-79 and netted 90 goals in 174 games overall. He died in September 2008.

ALAN MORTON

Striker Alan Morton was Woking's top scorer in 1978-79 and 1980-81. He progressed through the ranks at Woking and joined Crystal Palace in November 1967. Loaned to Stockport, he moved via Nuneaton to Fulham in August 1970. He joined Wimbledon in July 1971 and was top scorer in 1971-72. Moving to Ashford Town in July 1972, he was leading marksman as they reached the FA Trophy semi-finals in 1972-73. Joining Maidstone United in February 1974, he returned to Woking in July 1975 and scored 178 goals in 369 games overall. He later played for Kingstonian, Wokingham, Walton & Hersham, Farnborough, Epsom & Ewell and Westfield.

TIM BUZAGLO

Striker Tim Buzaglo scored a hat-trick in Woking's epic 1990-91 FA Cup third round victory at West Brom. Initially with Guildford & District League club Weysiders, he moved to Woking in July 1986 and was joined at Kingfield by his brother Richard. He was top scorer four times, starring as Woking won the Isthmian League Second Division (South) title in 1986-87 and promotion to the Premier

Division in 1989-90. Making a failed comeback attempt after injury in February 1991, scoring 151 goals in 244 games overall, he later had spells at Marlow and Wealdstone. He was an estate agent for Mann & Co and played ICC Trophy cricket for Gibraltar.

DARRAN HAY

Striker Darran Hay starred as Woking won the FA Trophy three times, scoring their Wembley winner in 1994 and 1997. Starting with Biggleswade, he joined Cambridge United in March 1994 and had two loan spells at Woking before rejoining the Cards on a permanent basis in March 1995. He helped finish Conference runners-up in two consecutive seasons and twice reach the FA Cup third round. Scoring 124 goals overall, he joined Stevenage in July 2000 and moved to Chesham United in September 2002. He later played for Carshalton, Harrow Borough, Hitchin, King's Lynn, Aylesbury and Arlesey, then had a spell as Hitchin's manager.

GIUSEPPE SOLE

England Semi-Pro international striker Giuseppe Sole was leading marksman in Woking's 2011-12 Conference South title triumph, scoring in a club record 11 consecutive games. A product of Woking's Academy, he made his first-team debut in Woking's 0-0 draw at Southport in August 2006. 'Gez' had spells at Newport County and Havant & Waterlooville during the 2010-11 campaign before rejoining Woking in June 2011. Noted for his free-kicks and long-range strikes, he fought back from a career-threatening injury and netted 111 goals in 352 games overall before Hampton & Richmond Borough in June 2016. He joined Dorking Wanderers five months later.





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MATCH ACTION



0



2

Brunt (50'), Abdulmalik (61')

20 September 2025 // 15:00 // National League

Wood extended their winning streak to four league games with a composed 0–2 victory at Boston United, maintaining their strong start to the season.

Despite dominating possession in the first half, Luke Garrard's side failed to find a breakthrough, with Jeff King hitting the crossbar and Rhys Lovett denying several efforts. Boston occasionally threatened, but Wood's defence, marshalled by Chris Bush and Callum Reynolds, held firm.

Luke Garrard's side's quality showed after the break. Five minutes after the restart, Abdul Abdulmalik wriggled through the Pilgrims' defence and found Tom White, whose precise pass allowed Zak Brunt to rifle home the opener. Soon after, Reynolds' brilliant long ball and King's surging run set up Abdulmalik, who calmly doubled the lead.

Wood controlled the remainder of the match, their back line snuffing out late Boston attacks to preserve the clean sheet. Efficient and clinical, Luke Garrard's men proved too strong, collecting another vital three points on the road.





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MATCH ACTION



1

Roberts (74'p)



1

Rush (1')

24 September 2025 // 19:45 // National League

Boreham Wood were left frustrated after a dominant display earned only a 1-1 draw at Scunthorpe. Luke Garrard's side struck within 30 seconds when Charles Clayden's cross fell kindly for Matt Rush to finish from close range. The visitors controlled much of the first half, forcing a string of saves from home goalkeeper Rory Watson as Femi Ilesanmi, Jeff King and Zak Brunt all went close.

Wood continued to press after the break, with Abdul Abdulmalik and Rush threatening to double the lead, but a decisive second goal never came. Scunthorpe, quiet for long spells, levelled on 74 minutes when Chris Bush fouled Tyrell Sellars-Fleming. Callum Roberts saw his penalty saved by Finlay Herrick but tucked in the rebound.

The late equaliser sparked the hosts into life, yet Herrick remained alert to deny Sellars-Fleming again. Boreham Wood left Lincolnshire rueing missed chances that should have delivered all three points despite an impressive all-round performance.





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HOW IT STANDS

LEAGUE TABLE

POS	TEAM	HOME				AWAY				TOTAL							
		P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	5	4	1	0	6	4	2	0	11	8	3	0	20	6	14	27
2	ROCHDALE	5	5	0	0	4	3	0	1	9	8	0	1	20	5	15	24
3	CARLISLE UNITED	5	3	2	0	6	4	0	2	11	7	2	2	21	12	9	23
4	BOREHAM WOOD	5	4	0	1	5	2	3	0	10	6	3	1	20	12	8	21
5	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	5	3	2	0	4	2	2	0	9	5	4	0	16	8	8	19
6	YORK CITY	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	0	9	5	3	1	20	7	13	18
7	SOUTHEND UNITED	5	2	3	0	5	3	0	2	10	5	3	2	16	8	8	18
8	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	5	2	3	0	6	2	2	2	11	4	5	2	10	4	6	17
9	TAMWORTH	6	3	2	1	5	2	0	3	11	5	2	4	13	15	-2	17
10	BRACKLEY TOWN	6	4	1	1	4	0	3	1	10	4	4	2	10	8	2	16
11	FC HALIFAX TOWN	4	1	2	1	7	3	1	3	11	4	3	4	14	18	-4	15
12	WEALDSTONE	6	3	1	2	5	1	1	3	11	4	2	5	17	17	0	14
13	YEOVIL TOWN	5	2	1	2	6	2	0	4	11	4	1	6	14	16	-2	13
14	EASTLEIGH	5	3	0	2	5	1	1	3	10	4	1	5	12	14	-2	13
15	ALDERSHOT TOWN	6	2	1	3	5	1	2	2	11	3	3	5	24	23	1	12
16	ALTRINCHAM	6	3	0	3	5	1	0	4	11	4	0	7	15	18	-3	12
17	BOSTON UNITED	5	2	0	3	5	1	2	2	10	3	2	5	10	15	-5	11
18	GATESHEAD	6	1	1	4	5	2	1	2	11	3	2	6	14	26	-12	11
19	BRAINTREE TOWN	5	2	1	2	6	1	0	5	11	3	1	7	11	19	-8	10
20	SOLIHULL MOORS	5	0	2	3	6	2	2	2	11	2	4	5	13	22	-9	10
21	WOKING	6	1	2	3	5	1	1	3	11	2	3	6	12	16	-4	9
22	MORECAMBE	5	2	0	3	3	0	1	2	8	2	1	5	12	22	-10	7
23	SUTTON UNITED	5	1	1	3	6	0	2	4	11	1	3	7	13	22	-9	6
24	TRURO CITY	5	1	1	3	6	0	0	6	11	1	1	9	6	20	-14	4

FIXTURES

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025

BOREHAM WOOD V WOKING
 BRAINTREE TOWN V GATESHEAD
 CARLISLE UNITED V ROCHDALE
 FC HALIFAX TOWN V ALDERSHOT TOWN
 FOREST GREEN ROVERS V YORK CITY
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED V TAMWORTH
 SOLIHULL MOORS V BRACKLEY TOWN
 SOUTHEND UNITED V SCUNTHORPE UNITED
 SUTTON UNITED V BOSTON UNITED
 TRURO CITY V MORECAMBE
 WEALDSTONE V EASTLEIGH
 YEOVIL TOWN V ALTRINCHAM

TUESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

ALDERSHOT TOWN V BRAINTREE TOWN
 BOREHAM WOOD V SOUTHEND UNITED
 MORECAMBE V GATESHEAD
 SOLIHULL MOORS V WOKING
 SUTTON UNITED V YEOVIL TOWN
 TRURO CITY V EASTLEIGH

WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2025

ALTRINCHAM V TAMWORTH
 BOSTON UNITED V FOREST GREEN ROVERS
 BRACKLEY TOWN V WEALDSTONE
 CARLISLE UNITED V HARTLEPOOL UNITED
 ROCHDALE V FC HALIFAX TOWN
 YORK CITY V SCUNTHORPE UNITED



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LATEST ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS



FIVE STAR CITY THUMP CUMBRIANS

York City delivered a stunning statement of intent, thrashing fellow promotion hopefuls Carlisle United 5-0 at the LNER Community Stadium.

Malachi Fagan-Walcott opened the scoring early before Ollie Pearce struck twice before half-time, including a coolly taken penalty. Carlisle never recovered, and second-half goals from Alex Newby and substitute Josh Stones completed the demolition.

Backed by over 1,500 travelling fans, Carlisle offered little in response and slipped to third in the National League table, their goal difference badly damaged. York, unchanged from their weekend defeat, dominated from start to finish, underlining their own promotion credentials while handing Carlisle a humbling night to forget.



EX-MAGPIE BOOSTS SHRIMPS' ATTACK

Former Newcastle United winger Rolando Aarons has signed for Morecambe, bringing top-level experience to the Shrimps.

The 29-year-old, who enjoyed a productive loan spell at Wycombe Wanderers in 2019/20, joins as a free agent after two seasons with Slovenian club NK Celje. Manager Ashvir Singh Johal hailed Aarons' pedigree, highlighting his time in the Premier League, Championship and Serie A.

Aarons began his career at Bristol City before nine years at Newcastle, where he made 27 senior appearances and scored four goals, followed by a series of loans. Wearing shirt number 99, he aims to reignite his career in England.

DAVIS DISMISSED BY THE SPITFIRES



Eastleigh have parted company with manager Kelvin Davis and assistant Danny Butterfield after a poor run left the Spitfires 16th in the National League.

Saturday's 3-1 home defeat to Braintree was their fifth loss in nine games, following just one point from their last three matches. Davis, appointed in February last year, had steadied the club to consecutive 13th-place finishes but failed to build momentum this season despite a promising August.

The board thanked the former Sunderland, Ipswich Town and Southampton goalkeeper and his assistant for their efforts and said the search for a new manager is under way as Eastleigh aim to revive their campaign.

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ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE FORM GUIDE

FORM - LAST 6 MATCHES

POS.	TEAM	FORM						F	A	PTS
1	ROCHDALE	L	W	W	W	W	W	12	4	15
2	BOREHAM WOOD	D	W	W	W	W	D	13	5	14
3	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	D	W	W	D	W	W	9	3	14
4	YORK CITY	D	W	W	W	L	W	16	5	13
5	TAMWORTH	W	W	L	W	W	D	8	8	13
6	CARLISLE UNITED	L	W	W	W	W	L	9	8	12
7	FC HALIFAX TOWN	W	D	L	D	W	W	10	10	11
8	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	W	D	D	D	W	D	11	6	10
9	YEOVIL TOWN	L	W	L	W	L	W	9	8	9
10	BRACKLEY TOWN	D	L	D	D	W	W	5	4	9
11	WOKING	W	D	W	L	L	D	9	5	8
12	SOUTHEND UNITED	D	W	L	W	D	L	10	8	8
13	EASTLEIGH	L	W	L	D	L	W	7	9	7
14	SOLIHULL MOORS	L	L	W	D	W	L	9	12	7
15	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	D	D	L	D	L	W	2	3	6
16	ALTRINCHAM	L	W	W	L	L	L	8	10	6
17	ALDERSHOT TOWN	D	D	D	L	W	L	9	13	6
18	WEALDSTONE	L	L	W	D	L	D	11	14	5
19	BOSTON UNITED	L	D	L	D	L	W	5	9	5
20	SUTTON UNITED	W	L	L	L	L	D	9	12	4
21	BRAINTREE TOWN	D	L	L	L	W	L	6	10	4
22	TRURO CITY	W	D	L	L	L	L	5	11	4
23	MORECAMBE	L	L	L	D	W	L	10	17	4
24	GATESHEAD	D	L	L	D	L	L	6	15	2

TODAYS MASCOT



JOSH ARVA

Age:

6 Years Old

Favourite Team(s):

Liverpool

Favourite Player:

Mo Salah

Favourite Wood Player:

Callum Reynolds

Score Prediction:

3-0 to The Wood

FORM, GOAL SCORERS & ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

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Approved by The Openwork Partnership on 08/07/2025

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 16th December 2025

8pm

(Doors open at 7:30pm)

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SQUADS



Manager

Luke **GARRARD**

- 1 Nathan **ASHMORE** ^{GK}
- 2 Cameron **COXE**
- 3 Femi **ILESANMI**
- 4 Jack **PAYNE**
- 5 Chris **BUSH**
- 6 Charlie **O'CONNELL**
- 7 Erico **SOUSA**
- 8 Zak **BRUNT**
- 9 Junior **DIXON**
- 10 Abdul **ABDULMALIK**
- 11 Jon **BENTON**
- 12 Joe **NEWTON**
- 14 Aaron **HENRY**
- 15 Jeff **KING**
- 16 Callum **REYNOLDS**
- 17 Charles **CLAYDEN**
- 18 Luke **NORRIS**
- 19 Tom **WHITE**
- 20 Lewis **RICHARDSON**
- 22 Finlay **HERRICK** ^{GK}
- 32 Matt **RUSH**



Manager

Neal **ARDLEY**

- 2 Aaron **DREWE**
- 3 Caleb **RICHARDS**
- 4 Chin **OKOLI**
- 5 Timi **ODUSINA**
- 6 Jamie **ANDREWS**
- 7 Harry **BEAUTYMAN**
- 8 Dale **GORMAN**
- 9 Inih **EFFIONG**
- 10 Aiden **O'BRIEN**
- 11 Matt **WARD**
- 12 Josh **OSUDE**
- 13 Craig **ROSS** ^{GK}
- 14 Tariq **HINDS**
- 16 Tunji **AKINOLA**
- 17 Luke **HALL**
- 18 Jack **TURNER**
- 19 Jake **HYDE**
- 20 Sam **ASHFORD**
- 22 Will **JAASKELAINEN** ^{GK}
- 23 Timmy **AKINOLA**
- 25 Jake **FOSTER-CASEY**
- 30 Oilly **SANDERSON**
- 31 Tom **NORCOTT** ^{GK}
- 33 Sonny **PARKES**

Match Officials



Richard **ELEY**



Damith **BANDARA**



Shaun **FARRER**



Joe **DANN-PYE**

NEXT UP
AT MEADOW PARK



v



TUE 30 SEPT 2025 | 19:45 KO
ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE

