



**Surrey County FA
Specsavers
Senior Cup**

BALHAM

**Tuesday
12th November**

**at Cobham's
Reg Madgwick
Stadium**

**7.45pm
Kick-Off**



Respect

**ASHFORD TOWN
(MIDDX)**



The Surrey Senior Cup is the senior Saturday cup competition of the Surrey FA. It is currently competed for by teams playing in the top nine levels of the English football league system who are affiliated to the Surrey FA.

The competition was introduced in 1882, at the same time as the Surrey FA voted to affiliate to the Football Association.

No finals took place from 1914 to 1919, due to World War One, from 1940 to 1943, due to World War Two, and from 2020 to 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 1905-06 final replay was played immediately after the FA Cup final, which had an attendance of 75,609. It's not known exactly how many people stayed to watch the match.

This turned out to be a controversial final between Dulwich Hamlet and Croydon.

The initial match was played at Woodbridge Road, Guildford in front of 3200 spectators and ended in a 0-0 draw..

The replay, as mentioned above, took place after the FA Cup final at Crystal Palace Park - not Selhurst Park - in which Everton won the competition for the first time clinching a 1-0 victory over Newcastle United.



Dulwich Hamlet won the replay 3-0 but the match had to be replayed for a second time after Croydon protested about spectator encroachment.

Dulwich Hamlet won the second replay 2-1 in a game that was staged at the Herne Hill Track.

South Park (Reigate) are the current holders of the Specsavers Surrey Senior Cup after their 1-0 win over Farnham Town in front of 549 spectators at Dorking's Meadowbank Stadium.

WELCOME NOTES

Good evening everyone and a warm welcome to Balham for this Surrey County FA Specsavers Senior Cup Preliminary Round tie at Cobham along with the referee Thomas Berry and his assistants Ryan Hetherington and Philip Jones.

This promises to be a competitive game and the prize for the winners is a home tie against South Park. Our visitors are long-time members of the Combined Counties League although, like ourselves, they have not enjoyed the best of fortunes this season, currently finding themselves in 19th position out of 20 and in danger of relegation. They now play their home matches at Tooting and Mitcham's ground. We have met rarely but the most recent meeting saw them beating us in this competition in the 2021-2022 season, albeit on penalties 6-5 after a 1-1 draw. The match was played at AFC Croydon Athletic, who incidentally will be the opponents for either ourselves or Balham or South Park.



Hard to know where to start regarding Saturday's match against Leatherhead. Firstly, we had the rather disappointing news that Conner Cullen had left us to play for Egham Town, where he scored on Saturday in Egham's win over Haywards Heath in the Isuzu FA Vase. In came youngsters Tristan Francois Vernal plus Liam Moore and Jayden Porter-Atkinson and suddenly the whole team just clicked. Leatherhead who have been touted as promotion candidates and they certainly play good football possibly underestimated us as we took a deserved lead though Liam at half-time and then followed it up with a second goal in the second half, a superb movement ending with Jayden gleefully hammering home for our second goal.

As the match went on Leatherhead had more of it and eventually pulled one back in the 80th minute. They threw everything at it after that but with the regulation five minutes of stoppage time having passed it looked as if we had done it but play mysteriously went on for nearly two further minutes, the additional time seemingly as the result of a dispute between the referee and the Leatherhead bench as they had a player sent off at the death presumably for something he said. So, it was with virtually the last kick of the match our visitors equalised, to leave us ruing yet another very late goal against us, a situation that has cost us any number of points so far this season.

However, it was by far our best performance of the season though, possibly even better than the seven we scored against Kingstonian, even though the result was less dramatic. Talking of Kingstonian we have the return match this coming Saturday at their new temporary home of Raynes Park Vale, kick-off 3pm. That is followed next Tuesday by another match here at Cobham against Hendon in the First Round of the Middlesex County FA Senior Cup. They were regular opponents in our Isthmian Premier days but the most recent cup meeting was back in 2009-10, when we drew 0-0 in the FA Cup but lost on penalties 9-8 back at Short Lane in the replay. We were incensed as Hendon only drew in the replay thanks to a late goal from a free kick taken yards away from where it should have been, the taker moving the ball forward whilst the referee had his back to him, before hammering it home, and it wasn't picked up. For nostalgia sake our eight scorers in the shoot out were: Harrison, Jeffreys, Logie, Fowler, D. Haule, Weight, S. Harris, and Hollis.

Enjoy the game

Ashford Town (Middlesex) Football Club Limited

The Robert Parker Stadium, Short Lane, Stanwell, Middlesex TW19 7BH

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Website: ashfordtownmiddlesexfc.com

Member of the Pitching In Isthmian League, affiliated to Middlesex and Surrey FA's,
and an FA Charter Standard Community Club.

Company Registration Number: 07904731 Company Limited By Guarantee

Directors:

Nick Bailey (Chairman)

Steve Clark (General Secretary/Finance Director)

Patrons:

Russell Grant - The Lord of Ashford in Middlesex

Ray Dorset

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Vice-Presidents:

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Vice-Chairman and Head of Youth: Neil Mears

Match Secretary: Paul Blair

Vice-Chairman (Youth): Dave Sampson

First Team Manager: Luke Tuffs

Assistant Manager: Ken Hope

Sports Therapist: Callie Lansley

Groundsman: Liam Balmer

Season Ticket Secretary: Chris Canderton

Membership Secretary: Chris Canderton

Social Media Manager: Luke Mitschke

Programme Editor: Alan Constable

Women Manager/Physio: Martin O'Connell

Women Secretary: Matthew Corry

Women Match Secretary/Media: Paul Gully

Women Treasurer: John Gully

Clubhouse Manager: Vikki Ovenell

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RESPECT STATEMENT

The League's Respect Statement : 'The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination.

Any inappropriate conduct towards others, including but not limited to that based on individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national, origin, age, marital, domestic-partnership status, disability,

sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities.

The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities."

AWAY TRAVEL

Kingstonian - 16th November



Kingstonian - Prince George's Fields (Raynes Park Vale) - SW20 9DZ

Directions: From the Robert Parker Stadium aim for Clockhouse Roundabout via Short Lane, London Road/A30.

At Clockhouse Roundabout, take 4th exit on to Bedfont Road. Go through 1 roundabout. Turn right on to Chertsey Road and slight right on to Chertsey Road/A244. Turn left on to Groveley Road. Turn right on to Vicarage Road.

At Sunbury Cross Roundabout take the 2nd exit on to Staines Road East/A308. Follow A308.

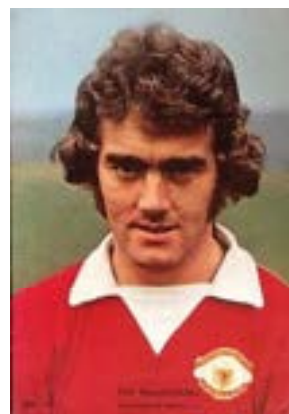
At Hampton Court Roundabout, take 2nd exit on to Hampton Court Way/A309. At roundabout take 2nd exit and stay on A309.

At Scilly Isles Junction take 2nd exit on to Kingston Bypass/A309. Take the slip road on the right on to Kingston Bypass/A3.

Take the A298 exit towards Wimbledon. Continue on to Bushey Road/A298. Turn right on to Grand Drive/B279.

HALF-TIME TEASER

1. Who were the last nine Liverpool club captains?
2. Who are the five English UEFA Europa Conference League 2024-25 goalscorers as at 8th November?
3. Who were the last nine Manchester United managers?
4. How many clubs have won the FA Cup during the Premier League era?
5. Who is the player pictured?



Answers on Page 9



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Farnham Town started the day with a four point lead at the top of the Pitching In Isthmian South Central table, and a difficult match in prospect as they headed around the M25 to take on Harrow Borough.

Borough were unbeaten at home, had only two defeats from ten, and were rather bent on revenge after losing four-nil to Farnham in September, but they fell behind five minutes before the break, Owen Dean with the goal, his 16th in 20 matches. For all of Borough's efforts, the equaliser wouldn't come- and Farnham remain four clear at the top.

Second place **Kingstonian** laboured to a win over Moneyfields on Wednesday night, but win they did, and that made it five victories in

a row and two clean sheets.

They headed to fifth place Hartley Wintney, the Row looking to get back to winning ways after losing three in a... row. They had won five of their previous six at home, but they fell behind in this one, Bradley Wilson putting the K's ahead on 24 minutes, and 11 minutes later Wilson got another. The second half saw no addition to the scoreline, and the K's ensure the gas between themselves and Farnham got no bigger. The Row stay fifth.

Raynes Park Vale stay in third place after their 2-1 win over Rayners Laness with goals from Archie Harland-Goddard and Jordan Gallagher, his 18th from 18 games.

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

LEAGUE TABLE

LEAGUE FIXTURES

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Farnham Town.....	15	12	2	1	33	38
Kingstonian.....	14	11	1	2	21	34
Raynes Park Vale	15	9	2	4	12	29
Harrow Borough	13	8	2	3	10	26
Hartley Wintney	15	8	1	6	7	25
Hayes & Yeading Utd...	12	7	3	2	12	24
Ascot United	15	7	3	5	2	24
Uxbridge	13	7	2	4	4	23
Westfield.....	14	7	2	5	-3	23
Hanworth Villa	13	6	3	4	5	21
Horndean.....	15	6	3	6	-2	21
Southall.....	14	5	5	4	-1	20
Rayners Lane	14	4	5	5	-3	17
Binfield.....	14	5	2	7	-13	17
Leatherhead	13	4	4	5	9	16
Moneyfields	15	3	5	7	-9	14
South Park.....	13	3	4	6	-8	13
Sutton Common Rov ...	14	3	3	8	-6	12
Metropolitan Police	14	3	3	8	-9	12
Guernsey	14	2	3	9	-13	9
Ashford Town (Mx)	15	2	3	10	-18	9
Badshot Lea	14	0	3	11	-30	3

As at 10th November

Tuesday 12th November

Hanworth Villa v Harrow Borough
Uxbridge v Hayes & Yeading United

Wednesday 13th November

Kingstonian v Sutton Common Rovers

Saturday 16th November

Ascot United v Hayes & Yeading
Farnham Town v Raynes Park Vale
Hanworth Villa v Binfield
Horndean v Harrow Borough
Kingstonian v Ashford Town (Middx)
Leatherhead v Moneyfields
Rayners Lane v Metropolitan Police
South Park (Reigate) v Hartley Wingtney
Southall v Westfield
Sutton Common Rovers v Badshot Lea
Uxbridge v Guernsey



FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

2024-25 SEASON

FIX	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	KO/RES	ATT	POS	1	2	3	4	5
M1	Aug 03	Northwood	FAC	2-0	179	--	Fisher	R-Solanki	Larkham	King	Kandolo!
M2	Aug 10	Harrow Borough	IL	0-1	154	-	Fisher	Larkham^	Hope	King*	Kandolo!
M3	Aug 17	Uxbridge	FAC	1-1	79	-	Fisher	Larkham	Hope	King^	Kandolo!
M4	Aug 20	Uxbridge	FAC	2-1	140	-	Fisher	Larkham*	Hope ¹ =	King	Kandolo!
M5	Aug 24	Ascot United	FAT	1-1	90	-	Fisher	Blakeborough^	Hope	Humphreys+	Kandolo*
M6	Aug 26	Hanworth Villa	IL	1-4	230	-	Chisolm	Larkham	Hope	King+	Kandolo
M7	Aug 31	Herne Bay	FAC	0-2	97	-	Chisolm	Blakeborough	Larkham	Hope	McKay*
M8	Sep 18	Southall	IL	1-1	109	-	Brzozowski	Blakeborough+	Larkham	King ¹	McKay
M9	Sep 21	Farnham Town	IL	1-2	473	-	Brzozowski	R-Solanki	Larkham	Cullen*	Hope
M10	Sep 24	Hartley Wintney	IL	1-0	185	-	Brzozowski	Larkham	Hope	King^	Kandolo
M11	Sep 28	Uxbridge	IL	1-2	135	-	Brzozowski	Larkham	Blakeborough^	King^	Kandolo
M12	Oct 04	Raynes Park Vale	IL	0-5	201		Brzozowski	Larkham	Hope	King	Kandolo
M13	Oct 08	Kingstonian	IL	7-4	146		Brzozowski	Barsa	Hope	King	McKay
M14	Oct 12	South Park	IL	0-3	163	20	Brzozowski	Barsa	Hope*	King	McKay
M15	Oct 20	Metropolitan Police	IL	1-2	101	20-	Brzozowski	Larkham	Blakeborough	King*	McKay
M16	Oct 22	Leatherhead	IL	0-4	359	20	Jupp	Larkham	Hope	King+	McKay
M17	Oct 26	Rayners Lane	IL	1-2	96	20	Jupp	Hope	Larkham^	King	Kandolo
M18	Oct 29	Farnham Town	IL	0-2	134	20	Jupp	Larkham	R-Solanki	Atkinson	Hope
M19	Nov 01	Sutton Common Rov	IL	1-1	77	20	Jupp	Larkham	Hope	King	Poley
M20	Nov 09	Leatherhead	IL	2-2	232	21	Brzozowski	R-Solanki	Larkham	King+	Vernal
M	Nov 12	Balham	SSC	7.45							
M	Nov 16	Kingstonian	IL	3.00							
M	Nov 19	Hendon	MSC	7.45							
M	Nov 23	Uxbridge	IL	3.00							
M	Nov 26	Hartley Wintney	ASC	7.45							
M	Nov 30	Horndean	IL	3.00							
M	Dec 07	Guernsey	IL	1.00							
M	Dec 14	Hayes & Yeading Utd	IL	3.00							
M	Dec 20	Binfield	IL	7.45							
M	Dec 26	Westfield	IL	3.00							
M	Dec 28	Harrow Borough	IL	3.00							
M	Jan 01	Hanworth Villa	IL	3.00							
M	Jan 04	Moneyfields	IL	3.00							
M	Jan 11	Ascot United	IL	3.00							
M	Jan 18	Badshot Lea	IL	3.00							
M	Jan 26	Horndean	IL	3.00							
M	Feb 01	Guernsey	IL	3.00							
M	Feb 08	Raynes Park Vale	IL	3.00							
M	Feb 15	South Park	IL	3.00							
M	Feb 22	Metropolitan Police	IL	3.00							
M	Mar 01	Rayners Lane	IL	3.00							
M	Mar 07	Sutton Common Rov	IL	7.45							
M	Mar 15	Hayes & Yeading Utd	IL	3.00							
M	Mar 21	Binfield	IL	7.45							
M	Mar 29	Badshot Lea	IL	3.00							
M	Apr 05	Ascot United	IL	3.00							
M	Apr 12	Moneyfields	IL	3.00							
M	Apr 19	Hartley Wintney	IL	3.00							
M	Apr 21	Westfield	IL	3.00							
M	Apr 26	Southall	IL	3.00							

CUP MATCHES

Ashford Town (Middx) have a number of forthcoming Cup matches.

These are as follows. On Tuesday 12th November we play here at Cobham against Balham in the Surrey Senior Cup. That date is provisional at present as Balham had a match arranged in the Southern Combination Cup, which they are trying to change.

The following week on 16th November we have a home tie in the Middlesex Senior Cup, against Hendon, our last meeting being in the FA Cup in a home replay which we finally lost 9-8 on penalties. More on that one in due course. Finally, we travel to Hartley Wintney on Tuesday 26th November in the Aldershot Senior Cup, which we were invited to re-enter this season.

Key

IL: Isthmian South Central Division

FAC: Emirates FA Cup

FAT: Isuzu FA Trophy

MSC: Middlesex Senior Cup

SSC: Surrey Senior Cup

ASC: Aldershot Senior Cup

* Decided on Kicks From The Penalty Spot

BOLD FIXTURES - HOME GAMES (1,2) - GOALS SCORED

* First Sub; + Second Sub; ^ Third Sub ! Fourth Sub = Fifth Sub **Bold Blue**: Man of the Match

6	7	8	9	10	11	S	S	S	FIX
Hope	Sweeney ²	Holder*	Mcleish [^]	McAllister	Kelly+	Khallouqi*, Arnold+Day [^]			M1
McKay	Sweeney	Holder+	Mcleish	McAllister	Arnold	Humphreys*, Kelly+Khallouqi [^]			M2
McKay	Sweeney ¹	Holder+	Arnold	McAllister	Kelly*	R-Solanki*, Humphreys+Dayj [^]			M3
McKay	Sweeney	Humphreys+	Arnold!	McAllister	Kelly [^]	Blakebor*Mcleish+Holder [^] RSol!Day= ¹			M4
McKay	Sweeney ¹	Holder	Mcleish	Day	R-Solanki	Kelly*=McAllister+Larkham [^] Khallouqi!			M5
McKay	Day	Holder	Arnold ¹	McAllister	Khallouqi*	Mcleish*Blakeborough+			M6
Kandolo	Sweeney+	Holder	Mcleish	McAllister	Arnold	Day* R-Solanki+			M7
Hope	Basim*	Humphreys	Mcleish	McAllister	Cullen	Day* R-Solanki+			M8
McKay	Basim ¹	Day	Mcleish	Humphreys	King	Blakebrough*			M9
McKay	Basim ¹	Day*	Mcleish	Humphreys	Cullen+	McAllister*Barsa+R-Solanki [^]			M10
McKay+	Basim!	Humphreys	Mcleish	McAllister*	Cullen	Barsa*R-Solanki+Day [^] SSweeney! ¹			M11
Day*	Sweeney	Humphreys	Richards	Cullen	Basim+	Nwokebuife*R-Solanki+			M12
Day ¹ [^]	Sweeney	Humphreys ¹	Richards*	Cullen ⁴	Basim ¹ +	R-Solanki*Larkham+Nwokebuife [^]			M13
Day	Blakeborough+	Humphreys	Kandolo	Cullen	Basim ¹	Larkham*Nwokebuife+			M14
Kandolo	Basim ¹	Barsa	Day	Cullen	R-Solanki	Aryan*			M15
Kandolo	Basim	Dillon*	Day	Cullen	R-Solanki	Aryan* Blakebrough+			M16
McKay	Humphreys	R-Solanki	Cullen ¹	Day*	Basim+	Noyan*Nwokebuife+Blakebrough [^]			M17
Kandolo	Basim*	Day	N.Tajbakhsh	Humphreys	Blakeborough+	Arnold*Dillon+			M18
R-Solanki	Basim ¹	Humphreys	Cullen	Day*	Atkinson	Arnold*			M19
Poley	Basim [^]	Moore ¹	Arnold*	Humphreys!	Atkinson ¹	Vorster*Holder+N.Tajbak [^] Manning!			M20

ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX) NEWS ROUND-UP

□ The Ashford Town (Middx) Juniors Under-10s showed plenty of character in the second half of a match at the end of October. Against unknown opponents, the young Tangerines produced a lack-lustre performance in the first half and were trailing 3-0 at the break. Fearing a cricket-score defeat, the management team had a few words. The lads responded and managed to pull a goal back through Little Langers, who was also the player of the match.

□ There has been some player movement in recent weeks particularly with the departure of forward Connor Cullen, who has joined Egham Town. New faces include the return of defender Elliott Poley, who featured in the games against Farnham Town and Leatherhead. Other new faces include 18-year-olds Liam Moore and George Vorster, who have both signed on loan until January, from National League side Sutton United. Moore bagged a goal on debut in the 2-2 draw at home to Leatherhead. Another new face is defender Tristan Vernal, who has joined us from Waltham Forest. Bradley Manning, who has recently signed from Sutton Common Rovers came on as a substitute against Leatherhead.

HALF TIME TEASER ANSWERS

1. Ian Rush (1993-96), John Barnes (1996-97), Paul Ince (1997-99), Jamie Redknapp (1999-2002), Robbie Fowler (2000-01), Sami Hyypia (2002-03), Steven Gerrard (2003-15), Jordan Henderson (2015-23) and Virgil van Dijk (2023-25).
2. Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall (Chelsea), Tosin Adarabioyo (Chelsea), Archie Brown (Gent), Yan Dhanda (Heart of Midlothian) and Jordan Williams (The New Saints).
3. David Moyes (01.07.13 to 22.04.14), Ryan Giggs (22.04.14 to 11.05.14), Louis van Gaal (16.07.14 to 23.05.16), José Mourinho (27.05.16 to 18.12.18), Ole Gunnar Solskjær (19.12.20 to 21.11.21), Michael Carrick (21.11.21 to 02.12.21), Ralf Rangnick (03.12.21 to 22.05.22), Erik ten Hag (23.05.22 to 28.10.24) and Ruud van Nistelrooy (28.10.24 to 11.11.24).
4. Nine Clubs: Arsenal (9), Chelsea (7), Manchester United (6), Liverpool (3), Manchester City (3), Everton, Leicester City, Portsmouth and Wigan Athletic.
5. Ted MacDougall, whose clubs included Manchester United, West Ham United, Norwich City, Southampton, AFC Bournemouth.

ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH CENTRAL
2024-25 Appearances and Goalscorers

	League			Cup			Total		
	App	Sub	Goals	App	Sub	Goals	App	Sub	Goals
Toby Fisher	1			4			5		
Deven R-Solanki	7	5		2	3		9	8	
Archie Larkham	13	2		4	1		17	3	
James King	14		1	3			17		1
Prince Kandolo	10			5			15		
Callum Hope	12			5		1	17		1
Brad Sweeney	3	1	1	5		4	8	1	5
Ben Holder	2	1		4	1		6	2	
Aaron Mcleish	5	1		3	1		8	2	
Bradley Manning		1						1	
Chris Kelly				1			1		
Jack Arnold	3	2	1	3	1		6	3	1
Faris Khallouqi	1	1			2		1	3	
Scott Day	11	2	1	1	4	1	12	6	2
Kyron H-McKay	11			4			15		
Sam Humphreys	11	1	1	2	1		13	2	1
Vishna Kelly		1		2	1		2	2	
Josh Blakebrough	5	4		2	1		7	5	
Mac Chisholm	1			1			2		
Marcin Brzozowski	9						9		
Basim Mirthamasebi	13		5				13		5
Connor Cullen	11		5				11		5
Barsa Mirthamasebi	3	2					3	2	
Adam Richards	2						2		
Emmanuel Nwoke		3						3	
Aryantaj Tajbakhsh		2						2	
Nick Jupp	4						4		
Gordon Dillon	1	1					1	1	
Noyan Tajbakhsh	1	2					1	2	
Jayden P-Atkinson	3		1				3		1
Elliott Poley	2						2		
Tristan Vernal	1						1		
Liam Moore	1		1				1		1
George Vorster		1						1	

Callum McAllister 8 (2);

ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX) CROWD FUNDING PITCH PROJECT



The last few years beyond the horrible COVID period has been highly challenging and has affected our lives in a whole host of ways.

Our amazing volunteers, supporters and players have all played their part to get Ashford Town (Middx) to where we are today. The club has just announced we've successfully secured grants worth over £1.2m for us start the transition to new beginnings as a community football club after years of effort.

We've spent a small fortune on legal and planning fees to ensure the project could get going but this has left the club in a highly challenging situation where we're unable to pay for junior winter training facilities, relying on generosity of supporters for paying for a ground-sharing arrangement to allow first team games to continue and to pay our critical utility bill debts we've acquired while prioritising getting the 3G project going.

While the long-term future looks bright for this club, in the short term the club needs a significant cash injection to maintain its role in the local community and cover the costs of keeping the lights on at our club.

We know that everyone has been hit financially, but any donation would go a long

way to helping us secure the future of the club. With over 300 junior players across our youth section, plus our senior men's and women's teams, it's imperative the club can continue to operate and set the club up for the future. All donations raised will go directly into the club for the direct benefit of everyone involved.

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity and kindness. If we can successfully navigate through this tough period, this club will re-assert itself as the top local community club in Spelthorne and remain so for generations to come.

To donate go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/atcmiddlesex>



GROUND IMPROVEMENTS LATEST

Recently, we broke ground at Ashford Town Football Club's Robert Parker Stadium in Middlesex, marking the start of construction on a state-of-the-art artificial grass pitch. This significant development will replace the current grass surface, which has been plagued by poor weather conditions and limited usability for players.

Breaking ground at Ashford Town Football Club's Robert Parker Stadium in Middlesex, marking the start of construction on a state-of-the-art artificial grass pitch.

The new 106m x 70m stadium pitch, designed to meet FIFA Quality Pro standards, will provide an all-weather facility that can be used year-round. Once complete, it will provide local teams, schools, and community groups with a high-quality playing surface, expanding opportunities for everyone to participate in sport. The facility will help foster a thriving and inclusive environment for players of all ages and abilities.

PST Sport is delighted to partner with Ashford

Town FC on this transformative project. The construction will involve full groundworks, the installation of an enhanced drainage system and a dynamic stone base. The playing surface will feature Biplax 52, a high performance artificial grass laid over a preformed shock pad. BiPlex 52, specifically designed for heavily used pitches, incorporates two different fibres in each tuft, ensuring excellent appearance and resilience even under intense use.

Key elements of the project include the installation of 352m of spectator fencing, boundary fencing, recycled trek boards, and 8 no. 15m floodlights. For added safety, the pitch will also feature 60m of 15m high ball-stop netting and pitch divider netting, making it a versatile and secure facility.

The new pitch will be a major asset to both Ashford Town FC and the wider community, supporting the continued growth of sport in the area and providing a top-quality playing surface for all.

This project is supported by the Football Foundation.



● The Robert Parker Stadium as you have never seen it before. Soon it will have a state-of-the-art G3 surface.

BALHAM HISTORY

Balham Football Club was formed in 2011 in order to provide player progression into open age football for the hugely talented, high achieving age group teams of Balham Blazers, which was founded by Greg Cruttwell in 2001.

Having won back-to-back promotions in 2011-12 and 2012-13 Balham did the league and cup double in the Surrey South Eastern Combination in 2013-14.

In 2014-15 Balham finished in a promotion position again, in the Surrey Elite Intermediate Football League, however promotion was denied due to Combined Counties League facility requirements not being met.

Having moved to ground share with Cobham FC, in order to meet the facility requirements, Balham finished as runners up in the SEIFL in 2015/16 and as a result were promoted to Division One of the Combined Counties League for the 2016-17 season.

The club had an exceptional first league campaign at Step Six, finishing in a promotion position for the sixth consecutive season and winning the London Senior Trophy.

In 2017-18 the club had an equally exceptional season, finishing fifth at Step Five in the Premier Division of the CCL and winning the London Senior Cup.

The 2021-22 campaign was the club's fifth season at this level after flirting with relegation in 2018-19 and then having null and void seasons in 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to COVID-19.

Having begun on Wimbledon Extension, before moving to Cobham and then to the Wibbandune Stadium, where the club ground shared with Colliers Wood Utd, Balham were on the move again in 2020, this time to the Mayfield Stadium, where the club has embarked on a two-year ground share agreement with AFC Croydon Athletic. Moving location meant having to move sideways in the Football League Pyramid, from the Premier Division of the CCL into the Premier Division of the SCEFL (South East Counties Football League).

After one single season in the SCEFL however, which was curtailed due to COVID-19, the FA brought Balham back to the Combined Counties League for the 2021-22 season, at the same level, in a newly formed Premier League South.

The 2021-22 season we were back in the Combined Counties League Premier South – and great to play against some of the teams we have faced many times before as well as some new ones.

Balham's 21st season was Greg Cruttwell's final one in charge of football at the club. Greg has taken a step back and he is now Club President.

The First Team for the 2024-25 season will be led by Daré Jean-Pierre assisted by Abraham Richard Tagoe, Aser Gebreselassi, Robin Segura and Seneye Morrell in the CCL Premier South. We are delighted to have agreed a new ground share agreement with Tooting and Mitcham Utd, allowing us to play on their fabulous Imperials Fields Stadium

FOCUS ON BALHAM

Balham are having a difficult season in the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Division South.

They are in 19th position out of 20 teams but just a point off the one relegation spot, which is currently being held by

Spelthorne Sports, who have five points.

The season started promisingly for Balham with victories on the opening two days of the 2024-25 season.

The first came in the Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary

Round where they defeated Midhurst & Easebourne 3-1 with Omario Stewart netting twice and the other goal coming from Rylan Withers.

This was followed by their only League success, a 2-1 win over Spelthorne Sports.



Respect



The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination.

Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities.

The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities.

With our focus on positivity, The Isthmian League aims to ensure that all our footballers are able to play in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment and all supporters can enjoy the game in surroundings free from discrimination and hate.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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If the FA Cup first round is all about romance and nostalgia, then the second round takes on a slightly more serious feel.

Reaching the 'proper' stages of the competition is a big deal. But reaching the third round...potentially life-changing.

Once again the non-league clubs did everyone proud. Starting with Tamworth's Friday night win over Huddersfield on live TV, the weekend got off to a flyer. It was a result that would have made the TV execs happy with their choice and Kettering Town followed that up on Saturday by justifying the live pick of their away trip to Northampton.

The fact it was a derby helped but it seems the usual school of thought that a non-league side has to be at home to cause an upset has finally been put to bed. They can do it away as well! Former Premier League striker Nile Ranger popping up in extra-time to score a famous winner. They host Doncaster Rovers in round two.

Ah, extra-time. The decision to scrap replays has been met with, what could be diplomatically described as, erm, mixed reviews. But that's a whole other column for another day.

Tamworth, who will face Burton Albion next, and Kettering are joined by seven other sides in the second round. All dreaming of one more win to take them into the third round where the biggest clubs in the land finally enter.

Gainsborough Trinity's first round penalty shoot-out victory can only be described as chaos. Three-nil down at Hednesford, they somehow got back on level terms, fell behind again in the extra 30 minutes before levelling to force penalties.

Both sides had kicks to win, there was a flurry missed in sudden death and, after a total of 18 spot-kicks, the NPL Premier side won out 5-4.

"I've never been involved in anything like it," said experienced boss Russ Wilcox. They're off to Harrogate Town next.

One of the first round stories has to be Harborough Town. The Step Three outfit had already created history by making the first round stage but Mitch Austin's side love the underdog tag and they played it perfectly at Tonbridge Angels, winning 4-1. Up next is a trip to Reading.

Wealdstone stunned Grimsby Town with a late winner. Matt Taylor's side will welcome Wycombe Wanderers in the second round.

Ben Strevens once scored at Crewe as Eastleigh knocked out EFL opponents. Now he's won there from the dug-out with Dagenham & Redbridge emerging triumphant. They will travel to AFC Wimbledon.

Micky Mellon famously took Tranmere Rovers back into the Football League. A few years later his Oldham Athletic knocked them out of the FA Cup and have been drawn on the road to Leyton Orient.

Brackley beat Braintree Town on penalties to set-up a visit to former non-leaguers Stockport County, now of League One.

And there's a National League Promotion Final rematch when Solihull Moors host their Wembley conquerors Bromley.

Nine potential upsets. Let's see how many can make it to the mystical third round.

Matt Badcock

THE TEAMS

Tuesday 12th November



**ASHFORD
TOWN (MIDDX)**

Tangerine

MARCIN BRZOZOWSKI	1
DEVEN R-SOLANKI	2
ARCHIE LARKHAM	3
JAMES KING	4
TRISTAN F-VERNAL	5
ELLIOTT POLEY	6
BASIM MIRTAHMASEBI	7
LIAM MOORE	8
JACK ARNOLD	9
SAM HUMPHREYS	10
JAYDEN P-ATKINSON	11

SUBS

GEORGE VORSTER	12
BEN HOLDER	14
ARYANTAJ TAJBAKSH	15
NOYAN TAJBAKSH	16
BRADLEY MANNING	17

Manager

Luke Tuffs

Referee: Thomas Berry

Assistants: Ryan Hetherington, Philip Jones



BALHAM

White + Black

JOHN ROSS
WILL REES
KOJO KYEI
STAN CAIN
ED McCREA
JAKE HENRY
OMARIO STEWART
MAXWELL EMMERY
RAYJON MOORE
JORDAN SKEENE
IDIR KERMOUD

Manager

Dare Jean-Pierre

OUR NEXT HOME GAME

ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)

v

Hendon

Tuesday 19th November

