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THE EMIRATES FA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND



TUFFLEY ROVERS

V. FLACKWELL HEATH



SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST 2021, 3pm






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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Our second match-day programme of the 2021/22 season and a second occasion when I should be saying “welcome to Glevum Park”, but instead find the narrative being about a game at home, yet away.

First things first, I must offer a huge “thank you” to our friends at Brimscombe & Thrupp, who have kindly allowed us to make use of their pitch at The Meadow. Without their support we would have faced another long trip to play at home, as our visitors, Flackwell Heath, would have been able to exercise an option to play at their own ground.

This is the first time, for many years, when I can talk about winning an FA Cup tie, as we've had a pretty abysmal record in recent years. The nail-biting win 3-2 over Windsor on 8 August was our first win since we defeated Leighton Town by the same scoreline in 2017.

Interestingly, and those of you who know me well know that I do find this interesting, we have recorded nine FA Cup victories in the past, but only three when we've scored fewer than three goals! Our first ever FA Cup tie saw us win 5-1 against Glastonbury, in 1995, and only wins against Minehead (2-1 in 1998), Bishops Cleeve (1-0 in 2015) and Woodley United (2-1 in 2017) have come without at least three Tuffley Rovers goals being recorded.

Nine Preliminary Round ties have seen us record five of our wins and only twice have we failed to score at least two goals at this stage; once in a 1-0 defeat against St Blazey in 2002 and once in the 1-0 win over Cleeve six years ago. In addition to the win over Glastonbury, we've also triumphed in this stage over Cirencester Town (4-3 in 1997), Taunton Town (4-1 in 2000) and in the wins over Bishops Cleeve and Leighton Town.

Of course, for those who didn't read my note in the programme for our most recent FA Cup tie, I ought to offer some explanation as to why we aren't playing this fixture at our own home.

Those who have visited Glevum Park over the past 4 or 5 years will have seen that we have continually sought to adapt and improve our ground, not only to meet the requirements of Step 5 football but to prepare the club for the potential opportunity to play at a higher level.

Whilst that is potentially some way off, in terms of the relative strength of our playing squad, we should put the infrastructure in place to make it possible and the latest step was taken this spring/summer, when we installed a brand new drainage system, as well as irrigation, with a view to ensure our pitch can match the facilities around it. However, that work was always going to carry the risk that we wouldn't be able to start our season at home at the same stage as other clubs and today's fixture is a victim of that. We are very grateful to Clive, Allan, Scott and the rest of the committee at Brimscombe & Thrupp FC for supporting us in playing today's game at The Meadow.

If it goes well, twelve more wins and we will be holding the FA Cup aloft at the end of the 2021/22 season, as well as looking forward to a season in European football...well, you've got to dream!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the fixture today. We hope to see you at Glevum Park this season – our first scheduled game is when we host....Brimscombe & Thrupp on 18 September!!

– NEIL #uptherovers

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DRIVING EFFICIENCY

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Good afternoon all and welcome to The Meadow, home to a fantastic local club Brimscombe and Thrupp. I do hope that everyone has had a comfortable journey whether you have travelled from Buckinghamshire, Gloucester or even more locally as a Brimscombe fan.

I would like to extend our gratitude to the committee of Brimscombe, who have agreed to us playing this game here, as the works on our main pitch at Glevum Park draw to a conclusion. This has been quite a challenging time to find a ground that can host FA Cup fixtures and now this is our second away, but home, game.

It is actually looking like our first competitive game at Glevum Park will in fact be against Brimscombe for our charity day game in honour of the great work done by our nominated local charity Heart Heroes. For those that can make the game on 18th September at Glevum Park, we look forward to seeing you and helping a raise money for a brilliant charity. If you have time please do have a look at the great work Kelly and her band of volunteers do - heartheroes.co.uk

Our league campaign has not got off to the start that we hoped and two league defeats in two. I am confident that we will turn this around and that Coxy whilst still making tweaks to the team, isn't too far away from having a very good team. A good consistent run of form and results will mean we climb the league to a position that this team is more than capable of achieving.

I hope you enjoy the wonderful hospitality from the staff, committee and volunteers here at Brimscombe that is always provided, and are treated to a competitive game of football and then have a safe journey home.

- Dan

Dan Boon
Football Chairman

[#uptherovers](#)

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 MARSH



MANAGER'S COMMENT

Hello to all of those who are watching our game today, including our visitors from Flackwell Heath.

Firstly, I would like to thank Brimscombe & Thrupp FC for allowing us to use their pitch for today's game - although it's a shame we cannot use Glevum Park and again make the most of home advantage for this occasion, however it keeps us fairly local and hopefully that has a knock on effect with some good support.

The performance against Windsor in the last round was good and we deserved the result on the day. We have been performing well between the two penalty areas, but the game isn't won there, so we know we need to be more cut throat and effective in both boxes to win games consistently and we hope we can do this today. The squad and management will give everything in trying to progress to the next round.

We know from our meetings in previous seasons that Flackwell Heath are a very good outfit and I'm sure they will be the same today. They are usually strong across all areas and we need to be at our best to compete and hopefully get the result we want today.

Thanks for the support today.

- COXY

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. The next season, a much younger side finished a slightly disappointing 11th but with a year's experience gained the Rovers challenged again at the top of the table for most of the next season before finishing 3rd.

The 2010/11 season saw some variable performances in the league, with a final finishing position of 6th, followed by a third place finish in 2011/12. 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.

HEART HEROES

Working with children and their families living with Heart Conditions

Heart Heroes work with children and their families living with heart conditions. We aim to provide services for these children, to help them meet others who are in similar situations and allow their family to talk to other families going through related experiences.

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THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT WASN'T...a look back at 2020/21

It has become customary for our first programme of the new season to devote a couple of pages to reviewing the previous year at The Rovers. In 2019/20 we did headlined the feature in a similar way but never anticipated that the same situation would arise 12 months later, nor that we would, in fact, play fewer games. We will look back at 2020/21, nonetheless; well, look back at what little action there was!

August 2020

After the enforced break from football caused by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Rovers started 2020/21 looking to build on a positive end to the truncated 2019/20 campaign but the biggest news came in the form of manager Mark Pritchett's shock resignation on 23 August, a little over a week before the start of the competitive season, after four years in the Player/Manager role.



With Pritchett gone so close to the start of the season, Rich Cox was immediately installed as the Caretaker Manager of the first team, stepping up from his role as Assistant, just 7 days before the club would start their season with an FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round tie.

September 2020



The first competitive game on Cox's watch was full of effort and application, as a very young Rovers side, with a centre-half pairing of 16-year-old Jacob Geddes and 17-year-old Toby Lawrence, were undone by a hat-trick for former QPR striker Richard Pacquette, as Spartan South Midland Premier side, Harefield United, won 5-2 despite goals from Warren Mann and Henry Birkett.

A trip to face Virginia Water, in the first UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division fixture of the season quickly followed and although Cox's young charges were, once again, competitive against more experienced and physical opposition, a late goal meant they travelled back to Gloucester without any points.

Worse was to come in the following midweek as Rovers, deprived of four goalkeepers, were forced to field outfield player Liam Wright in goal and lost 6-0 to a rampant Brimscombe & Thrupp side, who scored three times in each half.

Just three days later, the club's Buildbase FA Vase campaign ended at the hands of Hellenic League, Division One side Clanfield 85 FC (2-0), then a bad month got steadily worse, with a defeat away at Flackwell Heath, though Henry Birkett did manage to register a first league goal of the season in a 2-1 defeat. Finally, in the final act of a desperately disappointing month, goals from Antoine Thompson and Jake Rhodes did finally ensure Rovers secured their first league points, in a first home Premier Division game of the campaign, in a feisty affair against Ardley United that finished 2-1.



October 2020

Any hopes raised by the win on 29 September were quickly suppressed by the opening game of October 2020. Despite James Sunley netting a penalty, his first goal for the club, another poor performance saw Rovers slip to a disappointing defeat away at Easington Sports (3-1), in what was to prove the final game for several

weeks, as a positive Covid test in the squad led to an enforced break from football activities.

When the return to competitive football arrived on 24 October, there was further disappointment, despite the debut of the highly rated Cheltenham Town youngster, Felix Miles, who had joined on a work experience arrangement, as Luke Soule's first goal for the club wasn't enough, with Fairford Town recording a victory that was more comfortable than the 2-1 scoreline may have suggested.

However, as had been the case in September, the month ended with a second victory of the season, as Warren Mann's late, late winner (after Olly Hunt's very late equaliser) secured a second 2-1 victory of the season over Ardley. Mann was then sent-off after receiving a second caution for his celebration. That he wouldn't serve out his ban for nine months tells a tale of the season that followed.

November 2020-March 2021

A lack of games in November, as Covid and weather related postponements took their toll, followed by the cessation of all football activities in December, gave all the impression that the 2020/21 season was finished and the conclusion of the Premier Division season was then subsequently confirmed.

April & May 2021

When the Hellenic League's Management Committee invited clubs to participate in a Challenge Cup competition, operating under revised rules, with a group stage to kick things off, Rovers found themselves in a tough group, featuring local rivals Longlevens, Lydney Town and Bishops Cleeve.

An opening group fixture against one of the competition favourites, Cleeve, ended 4-0 as Rovers struggled to cope with a physical opponent who scored all their goals from set plays, was followed by a further defeat – in what proved to be the last game at Glevum Park before the commencement of extensive drainage works on the playing surface – as Lydney Town scored twice without reply.



Jacob Geddes' first goal for the club helped record a much needed win over Longlevens in the third group fixture, but four days later the cross-City rivals gained revenge as they came from behind, after Sunley scored a spectacular free-kick to add to Joe Shutt's excellent goal, with former Rovers man Will Emery netting a hat-trick in a 3-2 defeat. The final group games saw defeats against Lydney and Cleeve, confirming Rovers' season would end in the Supplementary Cup.



Draws against Wellington FC and Stonehouse Town were pre-cursors to Cox's squad progressing via wins on penalties each time, resulting in a semi-final tie away at Wokingham & Emmbrook that conjured optimism that the season may end with a cup final place. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be and although Rudi McKinnon netted a first competitive goal, after a prolific season in the club's U18s, a poor display meant that the season ended not with a bang but the whimper associated with a crushing 4-1 defeat.

The last time out against today's opposition at Glevum Park Home

It has been a while since we last played Flackwell Heath at Home, on 9 November 2019, when the game was something of a thriller....

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 2-3 FLACKWELL HEATH SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2019

Buckinghamshire club Flackwell Heath arrived in Gloucester having played fewer league matches this season than any other club in the Hellenic's Premier Division; as many as seven fewer than Windsor and six fewer than Ardley, Brackley and Virginia Water. Not that this stuttering start to the season had affected them in an adverse way because they had only lost two of their seven matches so far to follow up a very respectable finishing position of 8th in 2018-19.

The Heathens continued their promising start to the season by edging out their Gloucester hosts by three goals to two; and will be relieved to have done so after playing three-quarters of the match with only ten men following the sending-off of their captain Josh Baines for a reckless challenge. Rovers were happy to put a game on after successive Saturday wash-outs but will be regretting the fact that their best spell of the match only came after they had gone three goals behind. Such was the intensity of their recovery that this could easily have been their fourth 3-3 draw in the last nine league games.

This match was mostly played in quite dreadful conditions with persistent rain falling for most of the morning and continuing into the afternoon following more rain earlier in the week. Rovers' sensible decision to postpone a match on their Glevum Park pitch on Thursday evening meant that the surface had more time to recover and it coped really well with the deluge by the time Saturday afternoon arrived. Unsurprisingly, in such gloomy conditions, the floodlights were on from the start.



The pre-match minute's silence on Remembrance weekend was respectfully observed by all present before Tuffley got the game started by kicking off playing towards the open end. But their visitors were the first to show real attacking intent when a cross from the right was grabbed by Luke Merchant thus preventing Josh Baines from having an easy tap-in at the far post. Flackwell won a corner on the right soon afterwards and James Burrell's deep flag-kick was hit firmly but driven wide by Baines.

Their next corner, from the other side, was more productive. Baines took it and Merchant made a stunning instinctive save from Burrell's close-range header; the goalkeeper then parried the rebound too but could only watch in frustration as Mo Ceesay, who had scored in this fixture last season, forced the ball over the line.

Rovers' response was immediate. Warren Mann's cross from the left looked as if it would fall perfectly for Jake Rhodes at the far post but the home Number Nine couldn't quite reach it. Tuffley should have been level a few minutes later when Kieran Alder's corner-kick from the right was met firmly by an unmarked Mark Pritchett but his header cleared the crossbar. Five minutes after taking the lead the visitors found themselves a man down. Baines went in on Isaac Lawrence robustly on halfway, leaving the Tuffley full-back writhing on the ground.

Referee John Mowatt called Flackwell's captain over to him and pulled a red card out of his pocket to the obvious dismay of all the visiting players who were in the vicinity. Baines trotted off having first handed the captain's armband to Cameron Gray.

It looked for a moment as if Rovers' superiority in numbers would be negated when Pritchett brought down Khalid Simmo who was racing past him towards the home penalty-area. Several visiting players verbally demanded retribution from the referee for losing their captain earlier in the half and there was indeed a flash of red as Mister Mowatt pulled a card from his pocket only to change that to a yellow in the seconds that followed

In this fixture last season Rovers had gone behind but equalised in the last minute of the first half. There would again be a goal in the 45th minute, at the same end where Joel White had equalised in March, but this time it was not scored by the home team. After Gray had been fouled wide on the right, Dean Morgan's lofted cross evaded every player in the penalty-area except James Burrell who, racing in at the far post, buried a fantastic left-footed volley high past Merchant's right-hand side. This wondrous strike was the final act of the opening half and put the visitors in a really strong position at the break.

The Heathens pushed forward right from the start of the second half. When Morgan took a free-kick from the right Merchant had to be alert to tip Cessay's header over for a corner. Although Gray now wore the captain's armband, it was Morgan who had become the real leader on the pitch with his attitude and approach.

Dominik Kent ran through on goal but Aaron Watkins came off his line quickly to gather the ball before Kent could get a shot away. Almost immediately at the other end Morgan made yet another telling contribution by heading on his goalkeeper's clearance leaving Simmo with a clear run on goal and he dribbled past Merchant before tucking the ball into the net with his left foot. Going three goals behind ten minutes into the second half would normally be the point of no return for most teams but Rovers' response was sustained and courageous although until the 68th minute it brought no real reward, until Alder got on the end of a Lewis Bainbridge cross from the right and directed a neat, downward header past Watkins in the visitors' goal.



Flackwell took off forwards Morgan and Simmo and replaced them with Leius Sinclair and Ashley Howell as they worked hard to protect their lead. Rovers sent on Joel White for Lawrence and Adam Bloomfield for Kent and it was the second of these substitutes who ensured that the game had quite a tense finish when he raced on to a through-pass, skipped past Watkins and pushed the ball into an empty net.

Sadly, for the scorer and his team-mates, time was nearly up at this point and moments later the final whistle went to the great relief of the visiting players who had been in control for almost an hour yet nearly only ended up with one point instead of all three, but both teams should be commended for the entertainment they provided under very difficult conditions. This five-goal affair had been a fine advertisement for the Hellenic League.

Flackwell Heath • Club History



Flackwell Heath FC was founded in 1907 and the club joined the High Wycombe and District League for its inaugural season. The Heathens proved to be a major force in local football, having won twelve Wycombe League championship titles and fourteen High Wycombe Senior Challenge Cup finals.

In the 1950's Flackwell joined the Great Western Combination League and won this league twice before returning to the Wycombe League. In 1956 the club moved to its current home, the new ground being donated by the Wilks family.

Through the 60s and 70's the club continued their success on and off field and the new clubhouse was built in 1974 as the first stage of their rise into senior football. In 1975 The Heathens won the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup and the Reading Senior Cup. In 1977 the club achieved Senior status and moved up into the Hellenic League Division One. Promotion to the Premier Division was achieved at the first attempt. After five seasons in this league, during which time floodlights were installed at Wilks Park, Flackwell were elected into the Athenian League. In 1984 they joined the expanding Isthmian League. The clubs first season in this competition saw them playing in Division Two (North) and against some tough opposition they finished in a respectable eighth position. The following season Flackwell was switched to Division Two (South) where life turned out to be even tougher. At the end of season 1990-91, after finishing below mid-table, The Heathens found themselves placed in the newly formed Ryman League Division Three.

At this stage the club installed a 150 seater stand to stay in senior football, and new home changing rooms were built to comply with new ground gradings. For the next 10 years the club carried out further ground improvements and they established themselves in senior football.

In 2002/03 for the first time in their history Flackwell reached the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup losing 4-1 at home against Crawley and finished third in the newly formed Ryman League Division Two, the highest position achieved to date.

In season 2004/05 The Heathens reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the second time in three years, this time losing 3-0 at Ryman Premier Division Billericay Town and were runners-up in the Ryman League Associate Members Cup, losing 2-1 after extra time to Division Two champions Ilford on their own ground.

Flackwell finished fourth in Ryman League Division Two in 2005/06, narrowly missing out on promotion. After the end of 2006/07 the FA reorganised the non-league pyramid and we were due to be relegated into the South Midlands Spartan League until Barking and East Ham United went out of business and we were given the opportunity to take their place in the Ryman Division One (North). Unfortunately we finished bottom of the league and were relegated into the Hellenic Premier Division for season 2008/09.

The 2014/15 season saw us gain promotion into the Southern League Division 1. However, a late move by the Southern League of us from the Central Division into the South West Division meant FHFC were unable to accept promotion and we stayed in the Hellenic League Premier Division for season 2015-16. 2014-15 also saw us with places in the final of the Berks & Bucks Trophy (losing to Windsor FC) and the High Wycombe Senior Challenge Cup (winning against Penn & Tylers Green FC). Earlier that season we reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup losing to Conference side Weston Supermare 4-1. For the first time in club history we also reached the last sixteen of the FA Vase losing 3-2 to Shaw Lane Aquaforce. 2015/16 season under the continued management of Graham Malcolm assisted by Paul Shone saw us finish 3rd in the Hellenic League also winning 3 cup finals – the Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy (against Newport Pagnell FC), the UHlsport Challenge Cup (against Brackley Town Saints) and the Wycombe Senior Cup (against Pitstone and Ivinghoe FC).

After Graham Malcolm's decision to move to Spain, Paul Shone took over the managerial role assisted by Sean Kelleher. Unfortunately, this combination did not work out and in November 2017 they were replaced by Marcus Richardson, formerly of Highmoor Ibis FC, assisted by Fabian Coultriss.

Marcus had to start rebuilding the team from scratch, bringing in lots of young players and former Youth team players. That season the team finished a respectable 5th, following with 8th position in 2018/19.

The past 2 seasons have been limited by Covid-19 restrictions with our 2019/20 season finish of 9th, with games in hand, being declared null and void. The past season was similarly curtailed, leaving FHFC top of the Hellenic League having only lost one game.

However, FA promotions and restructuring using a points per game system saw us finishing 4th over the previous 2 seasons, thereby missing out on promotion for 2021/22. The restructuring has seen us take up a place in the Spartan South Midlands League, Premier Division. This disappointment was tempered by a very successful run in the 2020/21 FA Vase. FHFC reached the Quarter Finals for the 1st time in their history finally losing to US Portsmouth FC 2-0.

FLACKWELL HEATH F.C. – Player Profiles



Aaron Watkins Goalkeeper
 "Watto" starts his 4th season with us taking charge of his 18 yard box. Mr Dependable, a dominating figure, great shot stopper and a cannon of a kick with laser accuracy too!



Brandon Eaton Defence
 A Flackwell Heath player from the age of 6. He has cemented his place in Heathen history. A versatile player who will play most positions and will run through brick walls for the team.



Tyler Gregory Defence
 Another player who started with our Youth set up, Tyler returns after a short spell with Windsor FC. Born to defend, Mr Reliable.



Mo Ceesay Defence
 A former striker turned centre-half who has never looked back. Plays at the heart of defence like he's been there his whole life, possessing an unerring calmness on the ball. One of the first names on the team sheet.



Patrick Phillips Defence/Midfield
 Patrick is in his 2nd season with the club. He has proved he can play at this level and has become a good squad member.



Jack Taylor Midfield
 Jack is a tough tackling midfielder who plays at a high tempo and takes the game by the scruff of the neck, another one with a great eye for a pass.



Alan Akerman Midfield
 After starting his Flackwell career as an 18 year old with our 1st team, Akers returns this season after a spell with Holyport FC. He brings a calmness to the team, with an eye for the goal.



Jack Shakespeare Midfield
 A player who has come from our Youth squad. He has heaps of potential. An exciting player who will definitely get people out of their seats.



Adam Thomas Forward
 Unlucky with injury, he is working hard to get fit for this season. Hard working, drawing defenders out and creating space. Great in the air and stronger than he looks. If he gets the service he could bag some goals this season.



Sid Gbla Forward
 A forward who has been with us for a while but unfortunately has been injured. Making his return this season. He's got a very good eye for a goal with great pace.



Sam Loades Coach
 An experienced, passionate coach with a history of developing players at elite & amateur level. Skilled in Organisation Skills, Flexible Approach, Multi Sports Coaching, Observation, and Communication. UEFA B qualified.



Jonathan O'Sullivan Goalkeeper
 The pandemic hasn't given him many games recently but our go-to number 2 goalkeeper. Given his chance sure to put his stamp on the team this season.



Phil Pryor Defence
 Back to full fitness, a solid and sensible player with a great engine to boot. A formidable defender from the first to last minute. Always gives 100%.



Jamie Essex Defence
 Jamie has returned to the club last season after a spell with Thame United FC. He has quickly become one of our best leaders both on and off the field of play.



Ben Fraser Defence/Midfield
 Starts his 2nd season at FHFC after coming through our Youth set up. He is equally happy at left back or left wing. Calm and skillful on the ball with an eye for a pass.



James Burrell Midfield
 One of our most experienced players, James is more than comfortable taking control of the midfield. Leading by example he spurs the whole team on.



Cory Hathaway Midfield
 An energetic midfielder who always leaves the pitch having given everything he's got. Able to break up opposition attacks with ease and distributes the ball well.



Simeon Weekes Midfield
 Able to play out on the wing or up top comfortably. Blistering pace and strong as an ox, not often you'll see him knocked off the ball. Scares defenders and on his day he'll be the match winner.



Kane Guy Midfield A
 winger who is very direct, beating players with ease. He joins us for his 1st season after being at Beaconsfield Town FC. Speed to burn with an eye for the goal.



Aiden Higgs Forward
 Started as a Youth team player for Flackwell Heath before moving to Burnham FC and Ascot FC. He is a proven goal scorer whoever he has played for.



Ashley Howell Forward
 A young player but an integral part of the team. Quick off the ball, quick on the ball, lots of tricks up his sleeves and a lethal finisher. A defenders worst nightmare.



Marcus Richardson Manager
 His fifth season with Flackwell Heath having been appointed in November 2017. Took the team to the QF of the FA Vase for the 1st time in the clubs history.

Statistics 2021/22

Competition

Uhsport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated

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

BFCC = Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup;

BLFC = Banbury Litho Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup

Att Scorers

2021

Date	Time	Home	Competition	Away	Score	Attendance	Scorers	Parryson, Jake	Bainbridge, Lewis	Swales, Joshua	Coates, Jack
03/Aug	7:45pm	Thornbury Town		A	L	1-2	134	J Lawrence	1	2	3
08/Aug	3pm	Windsor FC	FAC	H	W	3-2	193	J Swales, D Kent, A Basford	16	3	0
14/Aug	3pm	Corsham Town		A	L	0-2	60	-	2	3	0
21/Aug	3pm	Flackwell Heath	FAC	H							
25/Aug	7:45pm	Calne Town		A							
28/Aug	3pm	Shrivenham		A							
30/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		A							
11/Sep	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	FAV	A							
18/Sep	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		H							
28/Sep	7:45pm	Chipping Sodbury Town		A							
02/Oct	3pm	Bradford Town		H							
05/Oct	7:45pm	Malvern Town		A							
09/Oct	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		A							
12/Oct	7:45pm	Calne Town		H							
16/Oct	3pm	Bishops Cleeve		A							
19/Oct	7:45pm	Chipping Sodbury Town		H							
23/Oct	3pm	Roman Glass St. George		A							
26/Oct	7:45pm	Westfields		A							
30/Oct	3pm	Westbury United		H							
06/Nov	3pm	Thornbury Town		H							
09/Nov	7:45pm	Malvern Town		H							
13/Nov	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		H							
20/Nov	3pm	Cribbs FC		A							
27/Nov	3pm	Fairford Town		H							
04/Dec	3pm	Lydney Town		A							
11/Dec	3pm	Roman Glass St. George		H							
18/Dec	3pm	Corsham Town		H							
27/Dec	1pm	Longlevens		H							
2022											
02/Jan	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		A							
08/Jan	3pm	Shrivenham		H							
15/Jan	3pm	Bradford Town		A							
22/Jan	3pm	Bishops Cleeve		H							
29/Jan	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		H							
05/Feb	3pm	Hallen		H							
12/Feb	3pm	Westfields		H							
19/Feb	3pm	Westbury United		A							
26/Feb	3pm	Cribbs FC		H							
05/Mar	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		A							
12/Mar	3pm	Lydney Town		H							
19/Mar	3pm	Fairford Town		A							
26/Mar	3pm	Hallen		A							

TOTAL APPEARANCES	1	3	3
STARTS	1	2	3
SUBSTITUTE	0	1	0
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE	0	0	0



The Untold Game

The FA Cup: The Death Match

When people think of the Nazis and football, many would think of *Escape to Victory*, the film in which Bobby Moore, Michael Caine and Pele - Prisoners of War - play for the pride of the allies and draw, carried out of the stadium on the shoulders of the oppressed French citizens to a jingoistic, triumphant soundtrack. Fewer people know that it was inspired by a match in the Ukraine between the occupied and the occupiers. What *Escape* does not show is half the team being executed for defying their conquerors. That is the dark secret of the Death Match. Theoretically.

When it comes to the Death Match, facts are hard to come by, myths are prevalent, and history is murky. For the Nazis, murdering football players for winning a match they were supposed to lose seems plausibly evil. For the Soviet Union, who reconquered the country and imposed strict media laws, the Death Match was used as propaganda to support the new Communist regime. The survivors and witnesses, fearful of both sides, were not forthcoming with their testimonies for many years. Neither regime kept good records of their doctoring of history, that would defeat the point of the exercise. So we have to put together the snippets of truth we can find and build up the story. The Death Match happened, but just how deadly it was is up for debate.

First, a little background. As the Ukraine was invaded, sports associations were disbanded and the traditional football clubs were outlawed. Players instead took up jobs under the German occupiers. Nikolai Trusevich, the legendary Dynamo Kiev goalkeeper, was offered a job at the city's Bread Factory No. 1, and over time was joined by a number of other former players; producing food for the Reich was one way to ensure you received enough of it. Three former Dynamo players ended up at the factory, along with six others from clubs across the city. All that talent in one place, eventually the Nazi occupiers relented and allowed football to be played once more, albeit in new teams. FC Start was born in the bread factory, and would prove to be something of a force in the game.

At the same time, clubs were popping up across the city. FC Ruch founder Georgi Shvetsov attempted to attract the former Dynamo players to his team, his factory, but had developed a reputation as an excellent collaborator with the Nazis. The players of FC Start, among others, were less than impressed. Ruch were subsequently humiliated 7-2 when they met the boys from the bread factory.

It wasn't just Ruch that were put to the sword, however. The team from the Hungarian garrison were beaten 6-2, and they racked up a 7-1 scoreline against a German artillery side. This raised some questions in the Fatherland, and the German High Command sought to emphatically answer those questions.

The Nazis sent their most formidable side, Flakelf, to put the Ukrainians in their place. Flakelf were the *Luftwaffe* side, personally overseen by Hermann Goering, who excused the players from more arduous military duty to maintain their invincibility. They were a propaganda dream for the superiority of the Aryan race, and they were sent to restore that superiority against the overachieving Ukrainians. The highly prized, well maintained German representatives of Aryanism, against a group a malnourished, poorly treated, factory workers. It was no contest, surely.

Or not. The match took place on 6th August 1942, and Start turned up to win. They took the game to their opponents and, in the end, humiliated them, beating the Germans 5-1 and ending the myth of Flakelf's invincibility. Unwilling to accept defeat to inferior opposition, the Luftwaffe arranged a



rematch for three days later. It is at half-time in that second match that the facts dry up and the myths take their place.

Start began the second game as strongly as they had finished the first, and found themselves 3-1 up at half time. Here the waters get a little murky. It was rumoured for decades that the German SS stormed into the Start dressing room and pressurised the Ukrainians to throw the game. Much like the match in *Escape to Victory*, there is a common understanding of a subdued, frightened crowd, and a pitch surrounded by jackbooted thugs with guard dogs. Flakelf came strongly into the second half, finding an equaliser, before a late show from Start saw the Ukrainians defy their orders to win 5-3.

Some accounts say that the crowd stormed the pitch to celebrate with their players, who were widely understood to be representing Communism against the Fascist invaders. When you consider the security in place at the game, and how outrageously violent the Nazi's were in Ukraine, this seems to be a Soviet myth. Another account has suggested that a few of the players were summarily executed for disobeying orders, but what evidence there is instead suggests that this was also a fiction, invented after the war. The Start players definitely survived the night. They even had a picture taken with the Flakelf side, on the pitch after the game.

What we do know is that seven days after that rematch Start beat Ruch 8-0, but then on August 18th, the Start players were arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned. Former Lokomotiv Kiev players were released, but others were kept in on suspicion of working for the Soviet secret police, the NKVD. When the Nazis discovered that one of the players, Mikola Korotkykh was indeed a Soviet spy, he was tortured to death. Olexander Tkachenko was shot whilst supposedly trying to escape. The FC Start players claimed to have been set up by Georgi Shvetsov, in retaliation for repeatedly humiliating his side.

The rest of the players were eventually sent to a concentration camp outside Kiev, where three more would be murdered, alongside a number of non-footballers. Reasons given for their execution vary, but in the end, in the concentration camp, death was more likely than survival. The most logical explanation, given the mass execution, is that it was to set an example to the other prisoners, either as reprisal for an escape attempt or some sabotage. The survivor's stories were not told for decades, and the Soviet Union tried to elevate the players into heroes of resistance. All players were awarded medals at the end of the war.

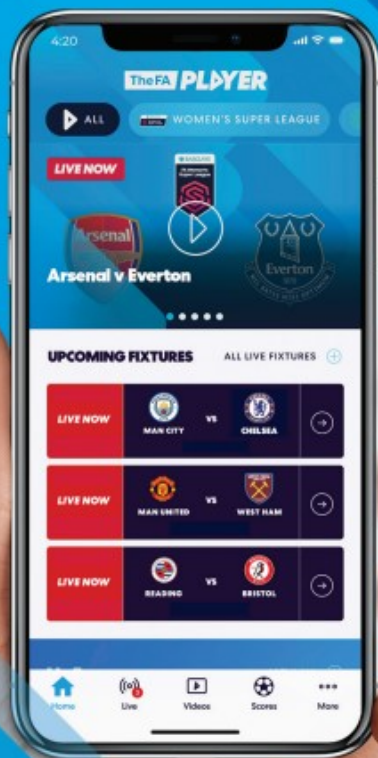
When the surviving players were eventually heard, their explanations never blame football for the deaths of their friends. It is true that following Flakelf's defeat, matches between Germans and occupied teams were forbidden to avoid embarrassment, but German sides had lost many matches throughout the war. German defeats were reported in German newspapers. It is more likely that the Nazis became aware of Korotkykh's ties to the NKVD, and his friends were rounded up as a consequence. That the mass execution occurred around the same time as the Nazis surrendered in Stalingrad, their first military defeat in the east, is probably noteworthy.

The Death Match, and its surrounding events, provides us with many questions, and few answers. It is highly probably that we will never know why the players of FC Start were arrested and executed, save for the fact that they were caught in the middle of the world's deadliest conflict. One thing we can be fairly certain of, however, is that the Death Match did not earn its name on the pitch, tragic as the events around it were.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Follow us @TheUntoldGame on social media, or head over to TheUntoldGame.co.uk to see more, and enter our fantasy league – cash and prizes to be won!



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Appearance information

Up to and including Saturday, 14 August 2021

(includes selected list of former players)

Name	Apps	Goals
Bainbridge, Lewis	36	5
Basford, Aaron	3	1
Bradley, Shayne	230	106
Brain, Callum	0	0
Clark, Adam	9	0
Copland, Jack	0	0
Davis, Felix	0	0
Ellis-Clark, Dion	3	0
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32
Geddes, Jacob	17	1
Hailwood, Ben	3	0
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6
Herbert, Macaulay	216	7
Hill, Sam	120	8
Hunt, Ollie	7	1
James, Brett	184	63
John, Harri	32	0
Jones, Xander	2	0
Kent, Dominik	86	15
Lawrence, Isaac	24	1
Lawrence, Jamal	2	1
Mann, Warren	431	79
McKinnon, Rudi	19	1
McNally, Laurie	0	0
Mendes, Sam	6	0
Morgan, Harry	9	1
Parsisson, Jake	1	0
Price, Lucas	2	0
Pritchett, Mark	130	20
Romais, Billy	1	0
Shutt, Joe	32	8
Smith, Liam	0	0
Swales, Josh	3	1
Thompson, Antoine	63	1
Walker, Harry	65	6
Wright, Liam	96	3



Lewis Bainbridge



Macaulay Herbert



Dominik Kent



Warren Mann

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.

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 this week we once again focus on the history of the FA Cup...

1. Today's game should see us playing our traditional claret & blue, with the opposition in a yellow change strip. The final in 2015 saw two teams playing the same (or at least very similar) colours. Which two teams took part in that final?

2. The man in the centre of this picture won the FA Cup with Everton, in the 1984 final against Watford. His name bears a relationship to today's opposition. Who is he?



3. Today is Flackwell Heath's 92nd FA Cup tie. Their first four ties all ended in defeats and they didn't win a game until 1988-89, when they recorded a 3-2 Preliminary Round victory over Camberley Town. That's year final also finished 3-2. Which two teams played out that year's final?

4. 50 years ago the Preliminary Round was played on the weekend of 4 September 1971. Which team won that season's FA Cup competition (see the black and white picture, if you need some help!)?



5. This year is the 150th anniversary of the FA Cup, but how many finals (not counting replays as separate games) have been played between 1872 and 2021?

Quiz Answers: (1) Arsenal, playing in yellow, beat Aston Villa 4-0; (2) It is Everton's Adrian Heath; (3) Liverpool defeated Everton 3-2; (4) The final – played in 1972 – was won by Leeds United; (5) The 2021 Final was the 140th cup final.

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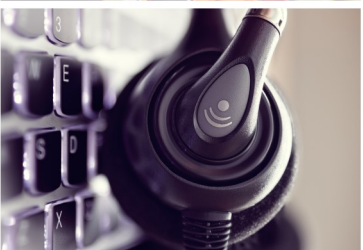
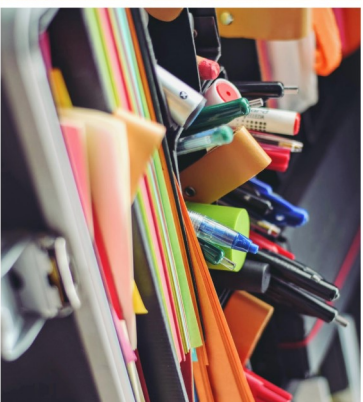
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR FA CUP



If I told you that we had a wonderful time at Glastonbury in 1995, you might assume that that summer's music festival (played in baking heat, I might add – I was there!) was particularly good. It was, but Tuffley Rovers' trip to Glastonbury FC in August 1995 ended with a 5-1 victory in our first ever FA Cup tie (a Preliminary Round fixture). An opportunity to host Cinderford Town followed and our campaign ended swiftly, off the back of 4-0 reverse at Glevum Park.

There were plenty of goals when we met Taunton Town in August 1996, but our campaign ended immediately, courtesy of a 5-2 defeat and twelve months later we made progress, with a good win at home to Cirencester Town (we narrowly claimed a 4-3 victory in another home tie) but when Paulton Rovers came in the First Qualifying Round a 3-1 defeat spelt that end of that year's road to Wembley.

An immediate exit to Minehead Town in 1998 was another disappointment, but in 1999 the record book shows a victory over one of the now foremost non-league clubs, as we beat Eastleigh 2-1 in the First Qualifying Round. A record breaking appearance in the Second Qualifying Round almost saw us progress further, but a 1-1 draw took us to a replay at home against Lymington & New Milton, only to see us eliminated courtesy of a 5-0 thrashing!

Revenge came against Taunton Town in 2000, as we won 4-1 in the Preliminary Round, but we once again failed to progress further, as a single goal victory went in favour of our opponents Chippenham Town in the next round.

Four consecutive defeats saw our cup hopes perish at the first hurdle in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 but we had another opportunity to progress in 2005/06 as our Hellenic League side hosted Elmore. A 0-0 draw took us to only our second replay ever, but we succumbed to a late goal in a 1-0 defeat in the second meeting. That was to be our last FA Cup tie for 10 years, as the club's withdrawal from the Hellenic League just a few weeks later saw us drop to a lower level of football, rendering us unable to enter the world's most famous cup competition.

Our return, ten years later in 2015, saw a wonderful win at Ardley United (4-1), followed up with a terrific 1-0 win at home to Southern League neighbours Bishops Cleeve, before we put in a brave display against Taunton Town, before losing 3-0.



Ardley gained revenge 12 months later, but our return in 2017 saw a narrow win with ten-men away at Woodley United, then a momentous day at Leighton Town, when we made an astonishing comeback from 2-0 down, with just eight minutes remaining, to win 3-2 in the dying moments of the game. Swindon Supermarine demolished a

Rovers team playing most of the game with ten-men, in the next round, to end another attempt to march on the Wembley arch.

Three seasons ago, despite leading 1-0 at half-time thanks to Warren Mann's penalty, we were comprehensively beaten 4-1 by Colney Heath, and exited the competition at the first stage. Then two years ago, against North Greenford United, we produced two fairly lacklustre performances (in our 26th and 27th FA Cup matches) and went out of the competition with a whimper.

Last year, we succumbed to another heavy defeat at this stage, as Harefield United left Glevum Park with a 5-2 victory and their star striker, Richard Pacquette, with the match-ball.

This season, the competition has started well, as we recovered from going behind twice to see off a determined challenge from Windsor and set-up this 'home' tie against a familiar opponent; albeit one new to us in this competition.

Today, in our 30th FA Cup tie, we will go in pursuit of a tenth victory; a fourth draw will mean a replay on Tuesday evening at Flackwell Heath.



Courtesy of the Football Club History Database:

1995-96	PRE	GLASTONBURY	A	5-1
	1Q	CINDERFORD TOWN	H	0-4
1996-97	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	2-5
1997-98	PRE	CIRENCESTER TOWN	A	4-3
	1Q	PAULTON ROVERS	H	1-3
1998-99	1Q	MINEHEAD TOWN	H	0-3
1999-00	1Q	EASTLEIGH	H	2-1
	2Q	LYMINGTON & NEW MILTON	A	1-1
	2Qr	LYMINGTON & NEW MILTON	H	0-5
2000-01	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	4-1
	1Q	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	H	0-1
2001-02	PRE	WIMBORNE TOWN	H	2-5
2002-03	PRE	ST BLAZEY	H	0-1
2003-04	EP	FROME TOWN	A	0-1
2004-05	EP	BARNSTAPLE TOWN	H	0-3
2005-06	EP	ELMORE	H	0-0
	EPr	ELMORE	A	0-1
2015-16	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	4-1
	PRE	BISHOPS CLEEVE	H	1-0
	1Q	TAUNTON TOWN	A	0-3
2016-17	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	2-3
2017-18	EP	WOODLEY UNITED	A	2-1
	PRE	LEIGHTON TOWN	A	3-2
	1Q	SWINDON SUPERMARINE	H	0-5
2018-19	EP	COLNEY HEATH	H	1-4
2019-20	EP	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	H	1-1
	EPr	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	A	1-2
2020-21	EP	HAREFIELD UNITED	H	2-5
2021-22	EP	WINDSOR	H	3-2

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

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Xander Jones	2	Brandon Eaton
Josh Swales	3	Jamie Essex
Jacob Geddes	4	Mo Ceesay
Macaulay Herbert ©	5	Cory Hathaway
Dominik Kent	6	Alan Akerman
Joe Shutt	7	Jack Taylor
Dion Ellis-Clark	8	Ashley Howell
Aaron Basford	9	Aiden Higgs
Liam Wright	10	Sid Gbla
Rudi McKinnon	11	Theo Alexander
Sam Mendes	12	Tyler Gregory
Laurie McNally	14	James Burrell
Billy Romais	15	Simeon Weekes
Lewis Bainbridge	16	Jack Shakespeare
Harry Morgan	17	Kane Guy
Lucas Price	18	Ben Fraser
Harry Walker	19	Ezio Touray
Jamal Lawrence	20	Adam Thomas
Jack Copland	GK	

Rich Cox

Ritchie Warden

Dave Strain (Coach)

Ashleigh Watson (Physio)

Manager

Asst. Manager

Other occupants

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Fabian Coultriss

Sam Loades (Coach)

Stacia Murray (Physio)

Officials: Craig Thompson; Rebecca Halford; Bobby Tutton