

# #WeAreAscot



## ASCOT UNITED vs. GUERNSEY

Sat 26 Aug 2023

Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division



**Matchday  
Programme**

**Respect**



**Season  
2023/24**



# THE YELLAMEN



twitter.com/AscotUnitedFC

www.ascotunited.net

## Yellow and Blue

Alex Sykes (GK)  
 Hugo Sobte (GK)  
 Sam Hayes (GK)  
 Adam Everiss  
 Alfie Grant  
 Brendan Matthew  
 Charlie Morgan  
 Dan Bailey  
 Dan Brown  
 Duarte Surpanu  
 George Lock  
 Harry Grant  
 Harry Laffin  
 Harry Tucker  
 Harvey Killeen  
 Jay Welch  
 Joe Gater  
 Jordan Ajanlekoko  
 Kai Allsopp  
 Josh Edwards  
 Luke Phillips  
 Luqman Kassim  
 Oliver Harris  
 Oliver Lahtinen-Kalsi  
 Rob Gerrard  
 Sean McCormack  
 Sammy Balogun  
 Toby Thompson  
 Usman Lalustani

Jamie Tompkins  
 Dean Greenwood  
 Alex Sykes  
 Steve Quelch  
 Stuart Britton  
 Nathan Riley

**Manager**  
**Asst. Manager**  
**GK Coach**  
**Coach**  
**Coach**  
**Physio**

# THE GREEN LIONS



## Green and White

Jason Martin  
 Tom Dodds  
 Dave Merris  
 Joe Alvarez  
 Jacob Fallaize  
 Seb Vance  
 Charlton Gauvain  
 Kieran Mahon  
 Keene Domaille  
 Dave Rihoy  
 Will Fazakerley  
 Ross Allen  
 Matt Loaring  
 Sam Murray

**Tony Vance**

Jordan Kelly  
 Colin Fallaize  
 Steve Sharman  
 Robin Bishop / Dan Guillemette

## Match Officials

Lawrence Attoh	Neil Morrison	Alec Alexander Ovens
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Last Match: Mangotsfield United H Sat 19 Aug 5-1 FAC P  
 Next Match: Badshot Lea A Mon 28 Aug ISTN SC





HEDONE

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# ASCOT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



Racecourse Ground, Winkfield Road, Ascot, SL5 7LJ

**Chairman:** Simon Negus

**Club Secretary and Football Operations Manager:** Ricky Simons

**Director of Football:** Neil Richards

**Director of Football - Women and Girls:** Donna Graham

**General Manager:** Jo Gavin

**1st Team Manager:** Jamie Tompkins

**Assistant Manager:** Dean Greenwood

**Coach:** Steve Quelch

**Strength and Conditioning Coach:** Stuart Britton

**Goalkeeping Coach:** Alex Sykes

**Allied U18s Team Manager:** Adam Clark

**Veterans Team Manager:** Dave Good

**Women's First Team Manager:** Darrel Evans

**Women's Phoenix Team Managers:** Lisa Phillips / Kelly Rideout

**Physio:** Nathan Riley

**Marketing Manager:** Abi Ticehurst

**Private Events Manager:** Sam Knight

**Administration Manager:** Emma Paton

**Child Welfare Officer / Club Director:** Rob Jones

**Match Reporting and Programme:** Neal Jeffs / William Powell

**Other Directors:**

**Doug Page**

**Mark Cooper**

**Phil Wray**

**Melanie Greaves**

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# IN THE CHAIR



**Simon Negus**  
Chairman

**A warm welcome to Guernsey for today's Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division fixture.**



**Welcome to The Racecourse and this Isthmian League fixture against Guernsey... a special welcome to our visitors today.**

**This season will see the highest ever number of teams playing at Ascot Utd FC, with over 1000 members in over 90 teams. Whilst we look to offer competitive football for all players, our focus remains on being the best junior grassroots community club in the country, open to all players whatever their ability or aspiration in the game. We will continue to support our senior teams to make sure we achieve as much success we can, and after a fantastic Cup result last weekend I know Jamie will be keen to get off the mark in the league today.**

**One thing we are keen to do at Ascot Utd is encourage more junior members to come and watch our first team games - this season we are offering every junior member a free season ticket for all senior games... not only does the junior get in free, they can also bring an adult for free and get 5% off in the cafe on matchdays! This applies to both the men's and women's games. How many members who came to Wembley with us back in May will be coming to The Racecourse on Saturdays to support the team... even 10% of the Wembley numbers would be game-changing for us as a club. If you haven't got your Junior Season Ticket yet, you can pick it up from the club anytime.**

**In the past week we have announced the departures of Dan Masters, Chad Smith and Abi Ticehurst. All have contributed massively to our success on and off the pitch, and will remain very welcome at The Racecourse in the future. Thank you for everything you have done for the club!**

**Thanks, *Simon***

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# FROM THE DUGOUT



**Jamie Tompkins**  
First Team Manager

**Welcome to the players, officials  
and supporters of Guernsey.  
Enjoy the game!**



Welcome to the Racecourse Ground for what promises to be an exhilarating encounter against Guernsey FC. We are thrilled to have you all here today, and we extend our warmest greetings to our visitors from Guernsey.

### **Last Weekend's FA Cup Triumph**

We're still buzzing from our incredible 5-1 victory against Mangotsfield Town in the FA Cup last weekend. The team showcased exceptional skill, determination, and unity on the pitch, securing our place to the next round and matching the furthest any Ascot team has reached in the FA Cup. We appreciate the atmosphere created by our loyal supporters which undoubtedly played a significant role in boosting our players' spirits and motivating them to perform at their best.

We are delighted to announce that in the next round of the FA Cup, the First Qualifying Round, we will be facing off against Westfield at home on Saturday 2nd September. This is another exciting opportunity for us to demonstrate our prowess and make our mark in this prestigious competition.

### **Farewell and Gratitude**

As we celebrate our team's accomplishments, we must also acknowledge and bid farewell to some integral members of our coaching staff. Our esteemed Assistant Manager, Dan Masters, has decided to step back after 5 years at the club, and we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the team's success. His friendship, dedication and expertise will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Additionally, we bid farewell to the 'best physio in the world' Chad Smith who has decided to retire and our Media and Marketing Manager, Abi Ticehurst, who has been an integral part of our organisation. Their support and commitment has been immense, and we extend our gratitude to them. Their efforts behind the scenes have helped shape the environment that fosters our team's growth and achievements.

### **Today's Match**

As we take on Guernsey FC, we ask you to join us in showing respect to our opponents and displaying the passionate sportsmanship that defines our club. Let's rally behind our team, encouraging them to excel on the pitch and secure another memorable victory.

Once again, thank you for your support. Your presence and dedication is greatly appreciated. Let's make today's match another brilliant experience for players and fans alike. Enjoy the game, yellas! ~ JT



**Dean Greenwood**  
Assistant Manager



**Stuart Britton**  
Strength/Con. Coach



**Steve Quelch**  
Coach



**Nathan Riley**  
Physio

# ON COURSE!

With Programme Editor Neal Jeffs

**Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Guernsey for this Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division match.**



Welcome to the Racecourse today as we chase our first points on the board against our visitors from The Channel Islands, who we are delighted to have here. Guernsey enjoyed a fantastic start to life back in 2011-12, easily winning the Combined Counties League Division 1 and moving up to the Premier Division. They were regularly attracting 4-figure crowds to their games, and were promoted once again the next season to the Isthmian League, which is where they have remained since 2013-14. They even reached the FA Vase semi-final in their only appearance in the competition back in 2012-13, scoring 29 goals in 11 matches before defeat against Spennymoor Town over 2 legs. They really do have the potential to go further, but haven't got close to a further promotion since 2014. It'll be interesting to see how our attendances pick up once the juniors and parents start attending more games and people come back from vacation. I was perplexed our crowd last Saturday when it was sunny was lower than the previous round's miserable, wet, midweek replay! We just need to find where the rest of the 4500 who went to Wembley are hiding...

WELCOME TO THE GREEN LIONS



**On Track! Guernsey's Footes Lane stadium pitch is enclosed by a fetching blue-coloured athletics track.**

As Simon and JT both referenced, I want to add my own thanks and best wishes to our departing trio of Abi, Dan and Chad. All 3 were a big part of the success of last season and that is a great CV to have. Abi in particular worked arm in arm with me and does techy stuff that I can't even begin to comprehend; the social media stats in and around our FA vase run were incredible. As it stands I can't be here today as I'm being dragged off to friends in Cheltenham but I'll be glued to twitter and looking forward to reading Will's report – and as it stands we are also the feature report in tomorrow's Non League Paper – available from various shops on Sunday/Monday including Sainsbury's in the High Street, Londis New Road and the Tesco petrol station in Warfield. There, that's my plug done for them. Enjoy the game and safe travels to The Islanders! *Neal*

WELCOME TO THE GREEN LIONS





## Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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Please visit  
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](http://Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



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FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE**

# ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

**Ascot United endorses the zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. We are equally proud to embrace football at all levels. Football is for all, and we help facilitate that desire.**



**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.**

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# RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	H/A	Comp	Result	Att	Scorers
05-Aug	Ardlev United	A	FAC KP	1-1	96	Laffin
08-Aug	Ardlev United	H	FAC XPr	2-1	141	Killeen, Matthew
12-Aug	Ravnes Park Value	A	ISTH SC	2-3	220	Matthew, Killeen
19-Aug	Mangotsfield United	H	FAC P	5-1	137	Matthew 3, Ajanlekoko, H. Grant
26-Aug	Guernsey	H	ISTH SC			
28-Aug	Badshot Lea	A	ISTH SC			
02-Sep	Westfield	H	FAC 10			
09-Sep	Horndean	A	FAT 10			
12-Sep	Leatherhead	H	ISTH SC			
16-Sep	Binfield	H	ISTH SC			
23-Sep	Thattham Town	A	ISTH SC			
30-Sep	Sutton Common Rovers	H	ISTH SC			
07-Oct	Hartley Wintney	A	ISTH SC			
10-Oct	Ashford Town (Middx)	A	ISTH SC			
14-Oct	Hanworth Villa	H	ISTH SC			
21-Oct	Chipstead	A	ISTH SC			
04-Nov	Corinthian-Casuals	A	ISTH SC			
11-Nov	Southall	H	ISTH SC			
18-Nov	South Park (Reigate)	A	ISTH SC			
25-Nov	Marlow	H	ISTH SC			
02-Dec	Westfield	A	ISTH SC			
09-Dec	Northwood	H	ISTH SC			
16-Dec	Metropolitan Police	A	ISTH SC			
23-Dec	Chertsev Town	H	ISTH SC			
26-Dec	Uxbridge	A	ISTH SC			
30-Dec	Leatherhead	A	ISTH SC			
01-Jan	Badshot Lea	H	ISTH SC			
06-Jan	Thattham Town	H	ISTH SC			
13-Jan	Binfield	A	ISTH SC			
20-Jan	Hartley Wintney	H	ISTH SC			
27-Jan	Sutton Common Rovers	A	ISTH SC			
30-Jan	Ashford Town (Middx)	H	ISTH SC			
03-Feb	Hanworth Villa	A	ISTH SC			
10-Feb	Chipstead	H	ISTH SC			
24-Feb	Corinthian-Casuals	H	ISTH SC			
02-Mar	South Park (Reigate)	H	ISTH SC			
09-Mar	Southall	A	ISTH SC			
16-Mar	Westfield	H	ISTH SC			
23-Mar	Marlow	A	ISTH SC			
30-Mar	Guernsey	A	ISTH SC			
01-Apr	Uxbridge	H	ISTH SC			
06-Apr	Raynes Park Vale	H	ISTH SC			
13-Apr	Chertsev Town	A	ISTH SC			
20-Apr	Metropolitan Police	H	ISTH SC			
27-Apr	Northwood	A	ISTH SC			

*ISTH SC - Pitching In Isthmian League South Central, FAT - Isuzu FA Trophy, FAC - The Emirates FA Cup, BB - Berks&Bucks Cup, LC - Pitching In League Cup*

# MATCH REPORT ROUNDUP

## BRENDAN DOES THE TRICK AS ASCOT EASE PAST 'FIELD

**Yellamen beat Mangotsfield 5-1 in FA Cup**

**Saturday 19th August 2023, Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round, Ascot United 5 - 1 Mangotsfield United**



Brendan Matthew was back to his ruthless best as his hat-trick helped Ascot United to a 5-1 against Mangotsfield United in the Emirates FA Cup on Saturday. Ascot were never really in top gear against their ragged opponents, but had enough in the locker to book their spot in Monday's first qualifying round draw.

### **More Step 5 opposition for Ascot as both teams dream**

This was another test for Ascot against lower-level opposition having eventually disposed of Ardley United at the second attempt in the previous round. Mangotsfield, hailing from Bristol and plying their trade in the Hellenic League Premier Division, arrived in similar form to the hosts. However, they boasted the better FA Cup pedigree having reached the 4th and final qualifying round on four occasions- Ascot's own runs have rarely ever extended into September – making for an interesting match-up.

### **Ascot go well clear at half-time**

The game itself had the feeling of a training game, although it had initially looked like it was going to be littered with chances after Jordan Ajanlekoko had slotted home the opener just 105 seconds into the match; Harry Grant with the pass that Ajanlekoko rifled into the roof of the net.

Lugman Kassim failed to keep a decent headed chance down and visiting 'keeper Jakob Glover timed his interception at the feet of Sean McCormack to perfection after the excellent Ajanlekoko had threaded him in, but Mangotsfield frustrated their hosts and looked like they might escape the half just one goal down.

But Ascot would find their way through once again in the 40th minute. Initially, Glover had done extremely well to thwart McCormack's low drive after Harry Grant had teed him up, but in the recycled play McCormack repaid the compliment by swinging the ball in for Grant to plant a sumptuously placed headed into the top right. And, the game was as good as over in injury time when Harvey Killeen expertly played Matthew in, and he sat Glover down by rolling the ball into the bottom right.

### **Killeen-Matthew combination is key**

Quickly out of the blocks once again, Killeen turned provider for Matthew only a minute after the restart – this time creating space before cutting the ball back for the hot-shot to make it 4-0 – this time with his left foot into the bottom right; the partnership becoming increasingly fruitful.

The 'Field offered little, but had a purple patch when Isaac Flynn's dangerous header back across the area was scrambled clear and then his side scored what proved to be a consolation when Jaydn Crosbie nearly broke the netting with a rasper into the top right, but that was as good as it got before a combination of Sobte and a post thwarted substitute Keane Ashwood.

### **Shoves, scuffles and a late sending-off**

Matthew out-jumped his marker but headed straight at Glover seven minutes before the end – all that after a smattering of bookings for both sides – but it turned needlessly passionate in stoppage time when visiting defender Stuart Tovey was dismissed for his remonstrations following a penalty award to Ascot – the ten men subsequently watched on as Matthew converted the spot kick that he had earlier won, and 5-1 it finished.

### **What's next for Ascot?**

The Yellamen will be glued to Monday's first qualifying round draw before plotting a way past Guernsey as league action returns to the Racecourse next Saturday.

**Ascot United:** Sobte, Lock, Ajanlekoko, Tucker, Bailey, McCormack, Killeen (Allsopp 68'), Matthew, Lahtinen-Kalsi, H. Grant (Welch 80'), Kassim (Lalustani 65'). Subs unused: Sykes, Balogun, Brown, Laffin

Entertainment: 3 / Reporter's Star Man: Jordan Ajanlekoko (Ascot United)





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# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - 23/24

Sponsorship Opportunities	Cost excluding VAT	Benefits	Electronic
Pitch-side board at Racecourse	£1400 per season, renewal price £1000 per season	Pitch side presence viewable to an average weekly footfall of over 1500 people, plus visibility in match photos on social media	Logo in club sponsor area on AUFU website with link to sponsors website with contact details.
5 a side Teams	£500 per season	Set of 8 shirts with sponsor logo	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
7 a side Teams	£600 per season	Set of 10 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
9 a side Teams	£800 per season	Set of 12 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
11 a side teams (ex. adult teams)	£950 per season	Set of 16 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
Men's First Team – next available 25/26 season	EPOA per season	Set of Home & Away shirts with sponsor logo on Front. Warm up shirts with logo on Front. Free advertising in programme with option for sponsor's message. Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details. Promotion via social media channels.
Women's First Team – next available 25/26 season	EPOA per season	Set of Home & Away shirts with sponsor logo on Front. Warm up shirts with logo on Front. Free advertising in programme with option for sponsor's message. Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Promotion via social media channels.
Vets Team – next available 24/25 season	£2,000 per season	Set of shirts with sponsor logo on Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Social media support
Allied Counties Youth Team – next available 25/26 Season	£2,000 per season	Set of shirts with sponsor logo on Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Social media support
First Team Programme	£300 per season	Sponsors name on full page advert.	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details
Multiple New projects looking for sponsorship ranging from Stands to benches, box goals to footballs and many more.	POA	Dependant on project, ranges from visible branding on site, pitch side presence, social media engagement, membership and community support	Logo on AUFU website and social media support. Package can be tailored to requirements
Match Day Sponsorship	£500 per game	Advert in match day programme Free entrance for up to 6 people at sponsored games Reserved table in the bar Complimentary lunch for six with a beer or glass of wine Pre and post-game social media shout outs Vote and present the award for player of the match Photo opportunity with players	Pre and post match social media support Advert in the online programme

# PHOTOZONE



Action from last weekend's win over Mangotsfield united. **Clockwise from top left:** Brendan Matthew slots home his 2nd goal, George Lock on the wing, Sean McCormack crosses, generations of supporters, Harvey Killeen in possession. Photos courtesy of [shooting-stars.co.uk](http://shooting-stars.co.uk).





*Neil Graham*  
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



neil.graham0071@gmail.com  
www.neilgrahamphotography.com  
07584 900938

# BANK HOLIDAY FIXTURES

## SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023

### SOUTH-CENTRAL

⌚ 15:00	Ascot United	vs	Guernsey
⌚ 15:00	Binfield	vs	Chipstead
⌚ 15:00	Corinthian-Casuals	vs	Marlow
⌚ 15:00	Hanworth Villa	vs	Raynes Park Vale
⌚ 15:00	Hartley Wintney	vs	Metropolitan Police
⌚ 15:00	South Park (Reigate)	vs	Leatherhead
⌚ 15:00	Southall	vs	Badshot Lea
⌚ 15:00	Sutton Common Rovers	vs	Uxbridge
⌚ 15:00	Thatcham Town	vs	Ashford Town (Middx)
⌚ 15:00	Westfield	vs	Chertsey Town

## MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2023

### SOUTH-CENTRAL

⌚ 15:00	Ashford Town (Middx)	vs	Southall
⌚ 15:00	Badshot Lea	vs	Ascot United
⌚ 15:00	Chertsey Town	vs	Hartley Wintney
⌚ 15:00	Chipstead	vs	Corinthian-Casuals
⌚ 12:00	Guernsey	vs	South Park (Reigate)
⌚ 15:00	Leatherhead	vs	Westfield
⌚ 15:00	Marlow	vs	Sutton Common Rovers
⌚ 15:00	Metropolitan Police	vs	Hanworth Villa
⌚ 15:00	Northwood	vs	Binfield
⌚ 15:00	Uxbridge	vs	Thatcham Town

At Slough Town FC





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### **GRIEF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & LISTENING CIRCLES**

*(when the funeral is over but grief continues...)*

### **LIVING FUNERALS**

### **WEDDINGS & RENEWAL OF VOWS**

### **CORPORATE & AWARDS CEREMONIES**

### **BABY NAMING / WELCOMING & ADOPTION CEREMONIES**

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**Celebrant Training Enquiries** - [www.celebranttraining.org.uk](http://www.celebranttraining.org.uk)



# LEAGUE TABLES

## Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Ashford Town (Middx)	1	1	0	0	6	0	6	3
2 Chipstead	1	1	0	0	6	2	4	3
3 Northwood	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
4 South Park (Reigate)	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
5 Sutton Common Rovers	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
6 Guernsey	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
7 Raynes Park Vale	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
8 Chertsey Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
9 Leatherhead	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
10 Thatcham Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
11 Uxbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Ascot United	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
13 Hanworth Villa	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
14 Southall	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
15 Marlow	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
16 Westfield	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
17 Hartley Wintney	1	0	0	1	2	6	-4	0
18 Badshot Lea	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
19 Corinthian-Casuals	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
20 Metropolitan Police	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
21 Binfield	1	0	0	1	0	6	-6	0

## Non League Pyramid (Extract)

**Step 1**                      **National League**

**Step 2**                      **National League South**

**Step 3**                      **Isthmian League Premier**

**Step 4**                      **Isthmian League South Central**

**Step 5**                      **Combined Counties League**

# APPEARANCES AND GOALS

	Season 2023/24		All-time	
	App	Goals	App	Goals
A Sykes	-	-	4	-
H Sobte	4	-	4	-
S Hayes	-	-	2	-
A Everiss	-	-	26	1
A Grant	2	-	33	6
B Matthew	4	5	58	52
C Morgan	-	-	5	1
D Bailey	4	-	114	15
D Brown	1	-	1	-
D Surpanu	-	-	57	10
G Lock	4	-	218	10
H Grant	2	1	54	8
H Laffin	2	1	154	85
H Tucker	2	-	42	3
H Killeen	4	2	4	2
J Welch	4	-	45	2
J Gater	2	-	2	-
J Ajanlekoko	4	1	59	5
K Allsopp	2	-	2	-
J Edwards	-	-	-	-
L Phillips	-	-	2	1
L Kassim	4	-	51	13
O Harris	-	-	20	12
O Lahtinen-Kalsi	4	-	4	-
R Gerrard	-	-	34	4
S McCormack	4	-	98	18
S Balogun	2	-	17	-
T Thompson	-	-	11	-
U Lalustani	1	-	76	22
<b>Own Goals</b>	-	-	n/a	n/a
	<b>56</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>270</b>



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# THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER



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A SUNNY weekday morning, a little before 9.30am and a corner kick away from Wembley Stadium, Hanwell Town are opening up their ground for assessment.

It's part of the intensive drive to look in depth at all Step 3-6 grounds in the National League System by the end of October, with National League clubs to get the same treatment later in the season.

The NLP has been invited along to see what we'd traditionally know as a ground grading in action.

Launched at the end of July, the FA and Premier League have joined forces to launch the Stadium Accreditation Programme.

For the first time since ground grading was introduced over 15 years ago, the process has been digitalised with a new tool called Stadium Power.

Think of this process as a giant audit of Non-League grounds to essentially answer the questions: What have we got? Where are the challenges and areas of need? And, crucially, how can funding be best utilised?

"Up until now, although many will be surprised at this, there has been no central database capturing not just facility information but also the nuances around it," Mark Harris, chairman of The FA's Stadium Accreditation sub-committee, tells The NLP.

"So digitalisation will give us a central database of facilities. It will allow us to identify areas of non-compliance but, more importantly, look at common areas of non-compliance.

"It's about identifying big issues that can then be linked to funding. I don't want to set any hares running but, as an example, if we found there were high numbers of perimeter fencing not compliant for whatever reason, that enables a business case to be put together to talk to funding partners like the Premier League Stadium Fund and say: There is a common need here. Let's look at whether we should focus some funding on the bigger problems club face.

"It is not there as a bigger stick to beat clubs with. It's to bring transparency and also ensure impartiality."

That and consistency are key. Previously, grading at Steps 1-4 was handled centrally by The FA, with Steps 5 and 6 overseen by leagues themselves.

Naturally, and understandably, that has led to a variation across the country.

Stadium Accreditation assessors – 25 of them all trained together – are now undertaking the mammoth task to visit around 820 individual National League System grounds.

As part of this year one assessment, at least 400 individual items at each stadium are being recorded — of those, 160 linked to the ground grading criteria for 2023-24.

There are nine sections to be filled in by the assessor, accompanied by a league observer.

It starts with general information like ground details and who uses the pitch. Then entrances and exits, clubhouse details, how big is the clubhouse and how many can it hold. Spectator information and capacities, standing and seating.

Others areas include Medical & Safety, Pitch & Floodlights, Transport & Parking, Media & Broadcast.

With the app, photos and videos can now be taken and instantly uploaded to give a literal picture of what each ground has.

A key part of this fact-finding information will link into those extras. The FA can get an idea of suitable ground stock for England youth games as well as to aid the exploding growth of women's football to help clubs get permanent bases. Likewise, it will help the FA Competitions team at Wembley HQ with their planning.

Women's Super League games require an anti-doping room. Is there one available? It all goes into the app.

An important note, nothing in respect to the actual grading criteria has changed. But the in-depth collection of data will be reviewed by The FA's now monthly-meeting Stadium Accreditation Sub Committee.

"It may well be that arising from this first round of inspections that it actually highlights some changes we may need to think about making to criteria going forward," Harris says.

StadiumPower will allow clubs to keep tabs on their own improvements, give transparency on other clubs and there will be a public-facing element so the everyday fan can see what facilities they may attend.

Another feature of the app will be a stadium simulation tool where a club can, at the click of a button, see what work is required should they be promoted to the level above.

"This is about trying to move the mindset from compliance to opportunity," Harris says.

Nearly three hours on and there are still areas to be looked at, measured and photographed. But it's another one ticked off the list with the vision for a stronger Non-League game at the end of it. "Matthew Badcock



# MEET THE YELLAMEN

**Hugo Sobte** – goalkeeper. Signed for the 23/24 campaign having previously played for Windsor FC and most recently Step 4 football with Hanwell Town. A strong all-round 'keeper with good distribution and is particularly comfortable with the ball at his feet.



**Alex Sykes** – goalkeeper. Goalkeeping coach and reliable backup. Has international experience having played for the England Futsal team. Part of the successful double-winning squad of 22/23.

**Josh Edwards** – defence. Signed for the 23/24 season from Thattham Town where he was player of the season in 22/23. A strong, powerful defender and excellent in 1 v 1 scenarios. Previously with Basingstoke Town.



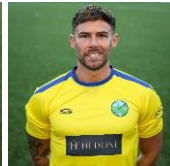
**Oliver Lahtinen-Kalsi** – defence. Exciting addition for the 23/24 campaign having joined us on a season-long loan from National League neighbours Aldershot Town.

**Dan Bailey** – defence. Experienced centre back and club captain. Previously played at a higher level with Marlow and has a FA level 2 coaching qualification. A great communicator who shows incredible commitment and leadership on the pitch. Pivotal member of our double-winning campaign in 22/23, leading the team to victory at Wembley.



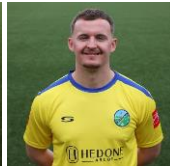
**George Lock** – defence. A fearless right back previously with Binfield and Bracknell. Technically strong and a consistently high performer who likes to get forward and has weighed in with important goals. Has made over 200 appearances heading into the 23/24 campaign. Another FA Vase winner.

**Toby Thompson** – defence. A product of the Ascot United junior ranks having also captained the Allied Under 18 side. Spent part of last season at Step 5 outfit Sheerwater, helping them escape relegation.



**Harry Tucker** – defence. Strong, commanding defender who oozes confidence on the ball and has excellent distribution. Previously with Kings Langley and Thame United. FA Vase winner.

**Joe Gater** – defence. Highly respected defender on the local scene having previously played Step 4 football with Bracknell Town and Binfield. Tall and physical with a strong aerial presence.



**Rob Gerrard** – defence. Powerful full back and technically strong. Big part of the FA Vase campaign, scoring a late equaliser in the semi-final and in the starting line-up Wembley before a head injury curtailed his afternoon. Signed from Thattham Town in November 2022.

**Alfie Gray** – defence. Commanding and non-nonsense defender. Signed from Reading City in October 2022. Another one of our FA Vase winners with a big performance in defence.



**Harvey Killeen** – midfield. A fantastic addition for 23/24 having signed from North Greenford United, for whom he starred against us in 22/23. Works incredibly hard, pops up all over the pitch and scores bags of goals despite not being an outright attacker.

**Charlie Morgan** – midfield. Exciting young talent who first featured in 22/23 and will continue to improve.



**Jay Welch** – midfield. Signed in 22/23, a versatile player who can play in defence or midfield. Bundles of energy and tenacity alongside great technical ability. Massive performance in winning the FA Vase and only denied a Wembley goal by the woodwork.

# MEET THE YELLAMEN

**Ollie Harris** – midfield. Signed from near neighbours Binfield in 22/23 where he was a huge part of The Moles' run to the FA Vase final in 20/21. A true clubman, he was a huge part of Ascot's double-winning campaign in 22/23 despite long-term injury and will bounce back in 23/24. Exceptionally quick and talented forward with bags of tricks.



**Harry Grant** – midfield. A Rolls Royce of a player and an excellent addition to the club in 22/23. Ex-professional at Gillingham, winning EFL League 2 and the FA Vase with Thatcham Town in 2017/18 before repeating the feat with Ascot United in 22/23.

**Jordan Ajanlekoko** – midfield. Cultured midfielder who signed in 22/23 after Step 3 experience with Beaconsfield. Previously featured for the Yellamen on loan with 2 appearances in 17/18 and became a permanent addition for the 22/23 season. Unavailable for the FA Vase final but a huge part of the cup run.



**Sammy Balogun** – midfield. Signed midway through the 22/23 season and proved invaluable in midfield with some big performances, especially in the 22/23 FA Vase Semi Final. Reads the game exceptionally well. Unused substitute at Wembley.

**Lugman Kassim** – forward. Returns to the club for a third spell having played professional football in the Finnish 2nd tier, notably with VPS and JaPS. A livewire winger with plenty of pace and skill.



**Harry Laffin** – forward. Needs little introduction. 'Laffers' is a goal-machine who returned late in the 22/23 season to add more attacking options having scored 29 goals in 30 appearances for Ascot in 21/22. Has netted over 80 goals for the club heading into 23/24 in just over 150 games.

**Brendan Matthew** – forward. Exceptionally quick and a proven goalscorer. Signed for the 22/23 season from Egham Town and smashed Ascot' goalscoring record with 47 goals in his first season. Subsequently won just about every award at the end-of-season presentation evening. On his day he is simply irrepressible. Another FA Vase winner.



**Dan Brown** – forward. Experienced striker who joins for 23/24 from Ashford Town having also featured for Wingate & Finchley.

**Usman Lalustani** – forward. Rejoined The Yellamen in 22/23 after featuring in 18/19 and 19/20 when he netted 11 goals from 38 appearances. Maintains high fitness levels and on his day will cause problems for any defence. An ice-cool character, he scored the winning penalty in the FA Vase Quarter Final in but was suspended for the final.



**Sean McCormack** – forward. Skilful forward signed from Walton and Hershaw in 21/22 and previously with Maidenhead United and Bracknell Town. Was the players' and supporters' POY in his first campaign after dazzling on the right wing. Incredible workrate and vision and tracks back to cover the defence. Another FA vase winner.

# MEET THE YELLAMEN

**Jamie Tompkins** – manager. Highly respected throughout the club who won the league cup in his first season (18/19) and almost won the league in 20/21 only for COVID to strike. However, overseeing a league and FA Vase double in 22/23 eclipsed all that went before and he now gets the chance to have a crack at Step 4 in 23/24. Jamie is also Senior Director of Football Development at Brentford FC.



**Dean Greenwood** – assistant manager. Joined the coaching team in November 2022 and also has first team management experience from his spells in charge at Ashford Town (Middx) and Camberley Town. Also helped mastermind the league and FA Vase double.

**Steve Quelch** – coach. Many years of experience in the local game with Chalvey Sports and is a UEFA B coach, joined the club ahead of the 2019/20 season. A big character, especially during our 22/23 double-winning campaign.



**Stuart Britton** – strength and conditioning coach. Joining in the summer of 2021, 'Stu' joined to focus on the fitness, recovery and injury prevention and rehabilitation of the squad which was invaluable during the gruelling 22/23 league and FA Vase campaign.

**Nathan Riley** – physio. Joined us in 22/23 and becomes the club's main physio for 23/24. Another important member of our double-winning team.



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# CLUB HISTORY - ASCOT UNITED

Ascot United as we know it, was founded in 1965 by a men's team who played their games at Sunninghill with "after match meetings" in The Wells in Cheapside village (now Mikado's). Teams played as long ago as 1928 under the name "Ascot United" but nothing to link them directly to the current club. In 1965, the club had gained permission from the Ascot Racecourse Trustees to convert the land east of coach park 10 into a football pitch. A wooden clubhouse was built, and this team went on to win many prestigious trophies in the years that followed.

Various youth teams represented Ascot United over the years up to 1988, and in 1992 the East Berks 7-a-side Association was formed by our then Chairman Keith Wicks, introducing small-sided junior games and having disbanded in 1980 the men's team also reformed. The men's senior team enjoyed early success through the East Berks League gaining continued promotions to the Senior division and winning various Cups including the Fielden Charity Cup in 1996/7. In 2001, the First Team join the Reading Senior League, were awarded FA Charter Standard status in 2004, and won the Reading Evening Post Senior Cup at the Madejski Stadium in 2006. Promotion to the Hellenic League Division 1 soon followed in 2007, before promotion to the Premier Division in 2009.

"The Yellamen" made their debut in the FA Cup in 2011 with a home tie against Wembley FC. The game attracted 1,149 people to The Racecourse on a Friday evening where the famous trophy itself was on display, and the match was streamed live on Facebook. In 2012-13 and 2015-16 we reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase twice, enjoyed two top-three finishes in the UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division, and won both the Bluefin Sport Challenge Cup and Perpetua Press Floodlit Cup. In 2018-19, new manager Jamie Tompkins led his side to the top of the table for long spells, and although they couldn't hang on to their lead, they would taste league cup glory once again by defeating Windsor FC 3-1.

A lateral move to the Combined Counties Premier Division for the 2019-20 season, combined with the installation of a new 3G pitch provided a platform for further development both on and off the pitch. The Yellamen were clear at the top of the league before COVID curtailed their first crack at the title before the 2021-22 season saw them reach the Bucks Senior Cup Final after defeating three sides from higher divisions, including Wycombe Wanderers in the semi-final in front of a club-record crowd of 1,267.

However, it is the 2022-23 campaign that will surely remain the club's most successful for decades to come. Tompkins' side dominated the league, taking 102 points from 38 league matches to win the title with four matches to spare. And if that wasn't enough, they achieved an incredible double by lifting the Isuzu FA Vase at Wembley in front of over 4,400 travelling Ascot United supporters and the BT Sport cameras. Impressively, they entered in the very first qualifying round before winning ten matches in a mesmerizing run; Kai Walters heading home in the 79th minute to secure a 1-0 win over the then-holders Newport Pagnell Town.

The club has also enjoyed much success at all levels particularly in the Women's and Girls Section. Our Senior Women won promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern Region Women's Football League in 2017-18 and enjoyed their best season in 2022-23 when they were runners-up but ended on a high by winning the league cup. Our Women's Phoenix side achieved back-to-back promotions from the Thames Valley League to take their place just one level below the Senior side for 2023-24, and the newly-formed Junior Premier League (U18s) also won their league title at the first attempt in 2022-23.

Ascot United has grown to become one of the largest Community football clubs in the UK with over 1,000 registered players and over 90 teams playing every weekend embracing all ages and abilities from 5 year olds through to veterans. We are also extremely proud to have a mixed-ability team representing our club, the Ascot United Warriors, who are affiliated with Special Olympics GB. The future is bright.





# MEET THE OPPOSITION

## GUERNSEY FC 2023/24 PLAYER BIOS

### GOALKEEPERS

#### Josh Addison

Goalkeeper who made his debut against Chatham Town at Footes Lane in September 2016 due to the absence of regular number one Chris Tardif.

Addison was the hero in September 2020, scoring and saving in the shootout as the Green Lions beat FC Isle of Man 5-4 on penalties to win the inaugural Skipton Cup.

By the end of the 2022-23 season he had made his 60th appearance for the club, making some crucial saves on Guernsey's road to survival. Excels in his distribution and is not afraid to play the role of sweeper.

#### Jason Martin

Stopper who was a serial trophy winner with St Martin's in the local game and has Muratti Vase experience. Began training with GFC in the summer of 2022 but spent most of 2022/23 as back-up to Addison.

### DEFENDERS

#### Ben Le Tocq

Left sided defender who represented Rovers in the local game before making the step up to GFC post-pandemic. Making his debut in the opening game of Guernsey's 2021-22 season, he set up Ross Allen to score the Green Lions' second in a 4-1 win against Sutton Common Rovers.

Featured early on in the 2022-23 season but soon fell out of favour as other players emerged in the squad.

#### George McNeela

Young defender who made a trip away with the Green Lions early in the 2021-22 season, finally making his debut in February 2022 as a substitute against Bedford Sports.

#### Jacob Fallaize

Imposing centre-back and son of GFC coach Colin. First travelled with the squad in September 2015 and made his debut as a late substitute against Carshalton Athletic a month later. As a youngster, Fallaize was used both in defence and up front in his first few appearances. Scored his first two goals for the club against Walton & Hershaw in April 2016, making him the club's second youngest goalscorer.

Now very much a central defender, Jacob has become a first team regular, scoring some key goals from set pieces and scooping both the Fans' and Coaches' Player of the Year awards in the 2022-23 season.

#### Jamie Dodd

One of the team's most dependable players, club captain Dodd is a dominant defender who typically plays as a centre-back, but was a marauding left-back in his younger years.

Dodd was Guernsey FC's unquestioned player of the season for 2012-13 after he picked up a hat-trick of Fans', Coaches' and Players' Player of the Year awards.

Dodd is strong in the air, reads the game well and has superb ability to carry the ball out of defence, while his long throws pose a danger to any defence and have been the source of many key goals for the club.

Surpassed Dominic Heaume as the club's all-time record appearance holder in late 2018 and became the first player to reach 300 games for the club.

# MEET THE OPPOSITION

## **Joe Alvarez**

Made his debut in the Green Lions' first ever cup fixture in September 2011, playing briefly for the club in its earliest seasons.

In 2018 he was named captain of local outfit Sylvans, and spent several years as a solid performer in the Priaux League.

Joe returned to GFC ahead of the 2022-23 season, and soon became a regular starter at left-back, combining speed and stamina with an inclination to get forward, and good defensive awareness.

## **Keanu Marsh**

Energetic right-back who made his debut as part of Guernsey's youngest-ever squad at Hythe Town in January 2016. Has also represented the island at most age levels of youth football.

While injuries hampered his availability earlier in his career, he has since become a regular at right-back, but also has the pace and ability to perform in a more attacking role.

## **Seb Vance**

Son of manager Tony, and a talented young prospect. Having captained the Guernsey under-18s to victory in a local senior cup competition in 2021-2022, he made two appearances for the Green Lions in their successful relegation battle the following season.

Composed and a good reader of the game, Seb will hope to feature more regularly in 2023-24 following those impressive cameos.

## **Tom Martin**

A versatile player who has played at left-back, centre-back and on the left wing. Martin brings energy and passion when featuring in the side.

Brought up his half-century of appearances in the 2022-23 season, and will be aiming for more regular minutes going forward.

## **Tom Vaudin**

A new face on the GFC scene in 2022-23, Vaudin soon found his feet at Isthmian South Central level, developing into a dynamic and reliable defender. His sterling performances in his debut campaign were duly recognised with the Young Player of the Season award.

## **Tyler McKane**

Adventurous full-back who has captained Guernsey U21s in numerous junior Muratti wins.

Plays his local football for Rovers, helping them to back-to-back Priaux titles in 2017 and 2018.

Began training with the Green Lions in the summer of 2019 after being part of Chris Tardif's Island Games squad in Ynys Mon, where he played a key role as the Sarnians earned a silver medal.

## **MIDFIELDERS**

### **Brandon Wallace**

Technically gifted young winger who had a breakout season in 2022-23.

Despite not finding the back of the net in his debut campaign, Brandon frequently got fans on their feet with his exciting style of play and willingness to take on and beat defenders.

A pacey attacker with a very bright future.

# MEET THE OPPOSITION

## **Charlton Gauvain**

Having spent time with Bristol City's academy between the ages of 8 and 15, his pedigree was immediately apparent as he began training with the first team on his 16th birthday and showed flashes of quality in his debut season.

Became a first-team regular from 2017 and is a potent attacking threat with his dribbling ability and shooting. He has a knack for the spectacular, and won the GFC Goal of the Season awards two years running. His strike from the halfway line against Ramsgate in August 2018 went viral online and was featured on Sky Sports' Soccer AM programme.

Charlton has developed into a tenacious midfielder capable of playing in several different roles, and an unfortunate injury in preseason forced him out of the majority of 2022-23, however he did return to help complete Guernsey's escape from relegation.

## **Dave Merris**

Experienced midfielder Merris played and coached at Priaulx League side Belgrave Wanderers after moving to the island in the 2021-22 season. Beginning his career in the youth ranks of Rotherham United, his semi-pro CV has some famous names on it, with spells at York City and Harrogate Town among others.

Made his Guernsey debut in October 2022 as a substitute against Ashford Town, and has shown his class in midfield and occasionally at left back, as well as his excellent set-piece delivery.

## **Dave Rihoy**

Rihoy made his name as a diminutive pacy forward, overcoming serious injuries on several occasions. He has been a valuable player for the club, surpassing 250 appearances for the Green Lions and scoring plenty of goals in the process.

Another long-term injury restricted his appearances in 2015-16 but he came back towards the end of the season and notched his 50th goal for the club on the final day of the season.

Rihoy took on the mantle as the team's main forward in the following season in the absence of Ross Allen, winning the Golden Boot award in a difficult season. A serious injury in 2019 jeopardised his career and forced him to miss a whole season.

Rihoy has since returned to the squad with his experience and versatility proving invaluable.

## **Kieran Mahon**

Kieran left Guernsey at 16 to become the first Channel Islands player to join the Football CV Academy in Northampton.

It was during his time there that 'Kez' was not only named the Academy player of the year but he also earned the accolade of being the first ever player to graduate from the academy as a full time professional when Northampton Town signed him in 2008.

An energetic, tough tackling midfielder with an eye for an incisive pass, and despite suffering some serious injuries he remains as competitive as ever, and a key player for the Green Lions.

## **Liam Mahon**

The younger of the two Mahon brothers has been involved with the club since returning to the island after a spell as a youngster with Northern Premier League side Ilkeston Town.

After making his debut in the 2014-15 season he would keep his place in the side from mid-December with a string of encouraging performances both in central midfield and at right-back.

His good form continued into the start of the 2015-16 before an injury sidelined him and restricted his involvement for the remainder of the campaign.

Now an experienced player with more than 150 appearances for the club, he has been a regular starter in midfield in recent seasons.

# MEET THE OPPOSITION

## **Matt Loaring**

A promising youngster at the time of Guernsey FC's inception. He has grown with the club and become one of its record appearance makers, having played more than 350 times.

With excellent close control and a desire to take on defenders, combined with a real eye for goal, Matt has been a fan favourite for the Green Lions for many years.

A key player in the Guernsey team and one of the most dependable players at the club.

## **Tom Dodds**

Midfielder renowned for his ability to break up play, and a very reliable deputy across the back line too.

Broke into the team remarkably quickly in the 2016-17 season, becoming a mainstay in midfield and winning five end-of-season awards. In the 2018-19 season he showed he was just as dependable as a full-back and has been a key member of the squad since his debut season.

## **FORWARDS**

### **Danny Hale**

Renowned in local football as a dangerous marksman, 2022-23 was Danny's first full season as a Guernsey player and he was often deployed in wide areas, limiting his chances in front of goal.

He showed his goalscoring instincts with a magnificent strike in a valuable 1-0 win at Westfield, and those who have seen him train or play locally know there is much more to come following a debut season which yielded only two goals.

### **Glenn Le Tissier**

Nephew of Southampton legend Matthew, Glenn boasts an excellent goal record for local side Vale Rec, and a knack for the spectacular.

With fierce competition up front in the Green Lions squad he continues to fight for his place in the team, and take the chances that come his way.

### **Keene Domaille**

A young striker with good movement and an eye for goal, Keene has scored prolifically for Guernsey at youth level and since making his debut in February 2022, has featured most often from the bench from the Green Lions.

He has looked impressive in his starts, and is another exciting prospect in Guernsey's ranks.

### **Paris Pereira**

With over 100 appearances for the Green Lions, Paris is a hard-working forward who has had some misfortune with injuries.

His pace and work rate make him a handful for any defence, and he crucially scored a late equaliser against Sittingbourne to save Guernsey from relegation in 2018-19, having come from 2-0 down at half time.

### **Ross Allen**

Perhaps the name most synonymous with Guernsey FC.

An experienced striker with an incredible goal record; having netted more than 280 times across 300 appearances for the club. An all-round technician with excellent hold up play and playmaking ability in addition to his goalscoring, which he does with both feet and his head, often in spectacular fashion.

# MEET THE OPPOSITION

Aside from a short spell with Team Wellington in New Zealand when he participated in the FIFA Club World Cup, he has spent his whole career with the Green Lions, despite plenty of interest from clubs higher up in the football pyramid.

## Sam Murray

Having loyally plied his trade for Northerners in the Priaulx League for several years, Murray began training with the Green Lions for the 2022-23 campaign. Netted 11 times in his debut campaign.

Physically strong and a threat in the air, it didn't take him long to become a key player for Guernsey, and he was duly voted Players' Player of the Season.

## Will Fazakerley

Physically imposing with an eye for a spectacular goal, the former professional cricketer returned to the island due to injury having played for Leicester CCC.

After a prolific season helping Rovers retain the Priaulx League title, he opted to represent Guernsey FC in the summer of 2018 and became the club's first player to feature in every single match in a season, scoring 6 times in the process while offering a key physical focal point in attack.

Some hard luck with injury followed his ever-present campaign, but in both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons he found the net from the halfway line, doing so first against East Grinstead Town and then Chipstead the following season.

**Below: Sixteen year-old Jack Griffin became Guernsey's youngest ever goalscorer when he netted against Westfield in the season's opener. Photo credit: guernseyfc.com**





# CLUB HISTORY - GUERNSEY

## GUERNSEY FC HISTORY

Guernsey Football Club was formed in 2011 to offer the island's elite footballers the opportunity to progress and test themselves on a regular basis outside of the Channel Islands. The proposal to establish the club and seek to join the English national league pyramid system was developed by the Guernsey Football Association in an attempt to further advance development opportunities for the island's current and future players by playing at higher levels on a regular basis.

We are an independent, community amateur football club which play in the Isthmian South Central Division at Step Four on English football's non-league pyramid system. The club is owned and run for the benefit of the local Guernsey community and it plays its home games at the Footes Lane Stadium.

The club's vision is to create, develop and maintain a sustainable, successful, financially viable, democratic football club that creates and maintains real and lasting benefits to its members and the local Guernsey community. We are a registered charity and will remain a non-profit organisation with any financial surpluses being re-invested for the future viability of the club and hence the benefit of the local community.

The initial idea to establish Guernsey FC was developed during the 2009-10 season when Guernsey's Senior County Division One representative side enjoyed a successful run in the FA National League System Cup (for league representative sides at Step Seven on the non-league pyramid system and below, since renamed the FA Inter-League Cup), culminating in Guernsey beating the Liverpool County Premier League 5-2 in the final in May 2010. Along the way, Guernsey defeated representative sides from the Kent County Premier League, the Northampton Premier League, the Southern Amateur League, the Hertfordshire Premier League and the Dorset Premier League. The final was held in Guernsey in front of a crowd of over 2,500 and was the first time ever that the FA had allowed one of its competition finals to be held outside of the UK mainland.

Following a 1-0 victory over Jersey to reclaim the Muratti Vase in May 2010, the team were rewarded for winning the FA National League System Cup by representing England in the UEFA Regions Cup preliminary round in Croatia in September 2010. This was a fantastic experience for the players and coaching and medical staff and, although Guernsey enjoyed mixed fortunes by beating Wales 3-0, drawing with hosts Croatia 1-1 and losing to group winners Turkey 3-0, it provided football at a higher standard, was very motivational and gave our players a great desire to improve further and to play more regularly at higher levels.

Over the course of the following few months, the club's founding directors, Steve Dewspn and Mark Le Tissier, received encouragement from the Football Association, the Guernsey FA, the Combined Counties League (which we were introduced to by the FA), our former official main club sponsor Sportingbet, the island's government (the States of Guernsey) and the island's local football community to develop our plans for the new club further and were delighted when the member clubs of the Combined Counties League voted by a significant majority on 20 June 2011 to allow Guernsey FC to join Division One of their league.

Although our club is very young, football in Guernsey has a long history dating back to 1893 when the Guernsey FA was established and since then has produced several players who have graced the highest levels of the English professional game, including Bill Spurdle (Manchester City), Richard Le Flem (Nottingham Forest & England U23), Ron Farmer (Coventry City), Len Duquemin (Tottenham Hotspur) and, more recently and more famously, our former club president Matt Le Tissier (Southampton and England).

Saturday 6th August 2011 was a historic day for Guernsey FC and the island in general when the club played its inaugural game at Footes Lane against Knaphill FC in the Combined Counties League Division One. That historic day turned into an historic season with the club winning the league title, having lost only 2 of its 34 league matches, with a 7-1 win against second-placed Bedfont Sports in front of 2,145 supporters at Footes Lane in March 2012 and then going on to secure the double in its first season by winning the Combined Counties Premier Challenge Cup following a 2-0 victory after extra-time over Premier Division side Colliers Wood United.

The 2012-13 season was a tough campaign. The Green Lions reached the semi-finals of the FA Carlsberg Vase in the club's first season in the competition, breaking its record attendance twice in the historic run. A crowd of 4,290 was at Footes Lane for the semi-final first leg against Spennymoor Town. The league campaign saw countless postponed fixtures due to adverse weather and the cup run. In April, Guernsey FC

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played a staggering 16 games in 30 days. The May bank holiday weekend saw GFC play four games in four days and remarkably secure all 12 points to finish second in the Combined Counties Premier League and gain promotion to the Ryman Isthmian League Division One South.

The club's first season in the Ryman Isthmian Leagues was a constructive campaign and had plenty of highs. The club finished in a respectable fourth place but lost 3-2 away to Leatherhead in the play-off semi-final. The Green Lions also became the first team from the Channel Islands to play in the FA Cup during the 2013/14 season, when they took on Crawley Down Gatwick away on 31st August 2013. GFC won the game 3-1 and eventually went out of the competition in the 2nd qualifying round, after losing 3-2 to the Conference South's Dover Athletic.

Guernsey's second season in Ryman South was much tougher. Injuries and unavailability left the Green Lions struggling through October and November and it wasn't until just before Christmas that results picked up. Any hopes of sneaking into the playoffs late on were dashed with a run of four defeats in five games in March. The Green Lions eventually finished 10th in the league before many of the squad were part of the Guernsey FA gold-medal winning side at the 2015 NatWest Island Games in Jersey.

Despite a couple of patches of indifferent form in the first half of the 2015-16 season, the Green Lions found themselves third in the table in the new year and equalled their Ryman South unbeaten record of nine games. But a mixture of poor performances, injuries and bad luck led to a six-game losing run that saw our play-off challenge fade away. However, a new crop of youngsters made an impact, with Robbie Legg becoming the club's youngest goalscorer at 16 when he netted against Whyteleafe in March. GFC were finally drawn at home in the FA Cup against Lewes in the first qualifying round, but unfortunately, a replay defeat to Phoenix Sports in the preliminary round meant they were unable to fulfil that particular goal. We beat our points total and wins total from the previous season, but finished 13th.

The 2016-17 season was GFC's most challenging yet as they battled against relegation for the first time in their history. It took until the end of September to secure the first victory of the campaign and bad luck hit Tony Vance's squad with several lengthy injuries and absences to key players. They didn't manage to win a home game after Christmas, but finally ended their winless away run (that had gone on for over a year and nearly 30 matches) when they beat Chipstead in February and, ironically, it was their away results that kept them up as two more wins and a draw were enough to keep them ahead of their rivals. There was change off the field as Mark Le Tissier took over as Chairman, but the main highlight was the FA Cup coming to Guernsey for the first time in August amidst a tremendous fanfare that included the famous trophy being displayed at Footes Lane. Dave Rihoy's second-half brace in the first-ever FA-Cup match to be contested outside the mainland secured a replay, but GFC eventually went out on penalties at Thamesmead Town. More youngsters made an impact as Thomas Dodds went on to become a key player having only made his debut at the start of the campaign at just 17 years of age. He went on to scoop five awards at the end-of-season gala.

The following two seasons saw the Green Lions in transition with a number of senior players reaching the end of their careers at this level and several new young players thrown in the deep end and having to learn the hard way. There were some tough moments and the wins weren't free-flowing, but the team was starting to develop a new resilient side that saw them grind out some important results against some top teams. 2017-18 was a slightly more comfortable 18th place out of 24 with safety secured with a few weeks to go, but the 2018-19 season went right to the wire. Tony Vance's side didn't win a game during the final three months of the season but ground out enough points against the odds to keep them just ahead of Greenwich Borough. A re-shuffle of the Isthmian League saw a third division created at Step Four and Guernsey was part of a 20-team South East Division, which dropped to 19 when Thamesmead Town folded. That meant only one team would be relegated, with Guernsey securing a draw in the final minute of the last day of the season thanks to a Paris Pereira goal to ensure they stayed up on merit, rather than only being due to a three-point deduction for Greenwich, who went down in 19th.

Guernsey started the 2019-20 season much stronger, despite having to open with seven straight away games due to work on the running track at Footes Lane, and were threatening a play-off place for the first half of the season. The Isthmian League was curtailed in February 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Two fixtures with the Isle of Man were contested in Summer 2020 - the first as the fellow Crown Dependency's first-ever match, and the second was the inaugural Skipton Cup to celebrate relations between the two islands, who had established an 'air corridor' as a result of both being Coronavirus-free at the time. Guernsey won the first Skipton Cup 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Footes Lane.

Guernsey took the difficult decision to pull out of the 2020-21 season completely because of travel restrictions between the island and the UK mainland, and players turned out for their Prialx League clubs as the local season continued. The Green Lions did this with the League's blessing and were reinstated

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for 2021-22, also being relocated to the Isthmian South Central Division, although they had to start their season in October when restrictions were fully lifted and started their campaign several games behind the rest of the division. The announcement came with just a few days noticed and this meant Tony Vance's side did not have a proper pre-season to prepare. This meant they were a little 'undercooked' in the early parts of the season and took a while to get going, but eventually got up to speed and found some form to move them into a comfortable midtable position, despite a gruelling schedule in February and March 2022 due to catching up on games, exacerbated by four cancellations over the winter due to a rise in Covid-19 cases.

Injuries to key players contributed to a difficult 2022-23 season which saw the Green Lions sitting at the bottom of the table at Christmas. However, a resurgence in form led to six wins and a draw in January and February, which lifted the club from the foot of the table. It looked like Guernsey could avoid automatic relegation, but there were also two relegation play-off places to climb out of. Their improved form continued until they secured their survival with an away draw against South Park in early April.

It was however a landmark season for one of the club's former players, young midfielder Alex Scott, who stood out in midfield for Bristol City in the Championship, winning the EFL Championship Young Player of the Season award and attracting praise from Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola after an impressive performance in the FA Cup, with the City boss dubbing him an "unbelievable player". In the summer he represented England at the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup as they progressed unbeaten from their group before losing to eventual winners Italy in the first knockout round.



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