

#WeAreAscot



ASCOT UNITED vs. SUTTON COMMON ROVERS

Sat 30 Sep 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
 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
 Josh Edwards
 Luke Phillips
 Ollie Harris
 Oliver McCoy
 Oliver Lahtinen-Kalsi
 Rob Gerrard
 Ryan Case
 Sean McCormack
 Sammy Balogun
 Usman Lalustani

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

Manager
Asst. Manager
GK Coach
Coach
Coach
Physio

THE COMMONERS



Blue

James Dillion (GK)
 Danny Divine
 Matthew Tanton
 Daryl Coleman
 Antonio Simone
 Bertie Lloyd
 Max Oldham
 Siao Blackwood
 Conan Torpey
 Nabeel Channam
 Courtney Swaby
 Jordan Wilson
 Isy Nzelo
 Aaron Jenkins
 Noah Africa
 Charlie Martin
 Ben Holden
 Gabriel Odunaike
 Shakeel Morris
 Louie Erokritos Staussi (GK)
 Tom Jones
 Matt Feeney-Hill
 Ashley Sheppard

Sam Morgan
 Reece Turner
 Oliver Leighton
 Liam Joyce

Elizabeth Raji / Geoff Moxey

Match Officials

Thomas Frost	Joseph Casey	Ben Jerrams
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Last Match: Badshot Lea A Tue 26 Sep 0-1 LC 2

Next Match: Whitehawk A Sat 7 Oct FAT 3Q





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

Veterans Reserve Team Manager: Dan Hough

Women's First Team Manager: Darrel Evans / Will Blithing

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

Physio: Nathan Riley

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 Sutton Common Rovers for today's Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division fixture.



Good afternoon and welcome to The Racecourse for today's Isthmian League match against Sutton Common Rovers...

After what seems like a constant run of Cup games recently, it's good to be back in league action and will be looking to build on the solid start to the campaign. As always the League campaign is our priority, but it's great for the fans to have decent cup runs to enjoy - the Friday night game against Lewes under lights in the FA Cup saw our highest attendance of the season, and then our recent win in the FA Trophy against Lancing saw us win the Isthmian League "Performance of the Week" as we progressed to the next round. I'm delighted with the start we have made this season, with some performances not earning us the results we deserved but there is a definite buzz around the club which is great to see.

On the topic of the FA Trophy, we have drawn Whitehawk FC away in the next round next weekend... another South Coast opposition to contend with. We will be running a coach for fans to this game, FREE of charge on a first come first served basis leaving at 11am. Ricky is the man to speak to if you want a seat!

Our attendances this season have been significantly higher than in previous seasons - partly reflecting the higher level of opposition we are playing but also reflecting the hard work we have put into increasing engagement with our members and local schools. All our playing members have season tickets allowing them and an adult to attend league games for free, and we have started a schools campaign where we will be issuing up to 12,000 FREE tickets for league games to local schools. If you are involved in a local school and want to get involved, please get in touch. We have already issued the tickets to Charters School in Ascot and thank them for their support.

To further improve engagement, we will be holding a Fans Forum in the clubhouse on 12th October from 7pm... here the plans we have to further improve the facilities here at the Racecourse, and get involved in a Q&A with Jamie. Further details to follow - keep an eye on Social Media.

This Sunday, our Women's First Team play their first FA Cup game of the season - the first of many we hope! We play against Wycombe Wanderers here at The Racecourse with a 2pm kick off - we hope to get a good crowd here to cheer them on, and have made this game FREE entry for everyone. Come along and see if we can maintain our 100% start to the season. Enjoy the game ~ Simon

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FROM THE DUGOUT



Jamie Tompkins
First Team Manager

Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Sutton Common Rovers. Enjoy the game!



Welcome to the Racecourse Ground for today's game against Sutton Common Rovers in the Pitching In Isthmian League on this Saturday afternoon.

A league game?! Seems strange after many weeks of cup competitions and progressions and with an FA Trophy away day to look forward to, our full focus remains on today's game as a chance to grab three points!

Last Saturday against Lancing, we were devastating in attack and scored some fantastic goals! Four from our talisman Brendan Matthew and goals from Harvey Killeen and Sean McCormack but it was a top collective performance from the squad and one they can certainly be proud of.

You may have seen last weekend or on our social channels that we have signed experienced defender Ryan Case who is an excellent and intelligent player who has played at a higher level, so to have his experience around the squad is a great addition.

Sutton Common Rovers come in today's game in good form and have started well in the league and having gained momentum, I am sure they will be well prepared to play against us here at the Racecourse Ground.

So, let's get behind our team today, just as we have done throughout the season so far. Enjoy the match, and thank you for your continued support. Come on, 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 Sutton Common Rovers for this Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division match.



Welcome to The Racecourse for this league game against Sutton Common, whom from memory we have never met. Even in the first COVID-season where we were both in the Combined Counties League, we were still scheduled to meet them home and away as part of the seven-game run-in that never happened. SCR have previously played at Sutton United's Gander Green Lane, but are now at Whyteleafe. Formerly known as Mole Valley SCR, they got promotion to step 4 when the 2nd COVID wave hit and their average of PPG across the two curtailed seasons was enough for elevation. Impressively, in the six seasons between 2015-2021 that they entered the FA Vase under their new name, they reached the fifth round once, fourth round three times and third round once – a pretty decent cup record! Last weekend was a superb performance against Lancing – devastating show of attack – and after a midweek league cup defeat at Badshot Lea we'll be looking for more of that. Next weekend we have a really tough tie away at Whitehawk in the FA Trophy.

WELCOME TO THE COMMONERS

WELCOME TO THE COMMONERS



Welcome to Step 4! Ascot United Chairman Simon Negus receives a commemorative shield from the Isthmian League's Chairman last week, celebrating The Yellamen's promotion to Step 4. We might need a bigger trophy cabinet to house it after last season...!!!

We did show we can compete with step 3 opposition by giving Lewes a second half battering in the FA Cup so we will take heart from that. However, we'll need the same level of performance and more to get anything there. Away from the men's team, our Women are the early Southern Region Women's Football League leaders after winning their first three games. Tomorrow, they are home again against Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup. Everyone loves a cup run and they had a decent run last year before being knocked out on penalties so hopefully they can kick start another decent run tomorrow. Finally, I note the demise of a decent club we beat in 5th round of the FA Vase a few years ago – Norwich United. After losing their squad they played their youngsters to fulfil some fixtures but got a double-digit hammering before they resigned from the Eastern Counties League a few weeks ago. This was a side who won the ECP league two years running (including the season where we easily beat them 3-0) and had 2 seasons at step 4 between 2016-2018. A reminder how quickly things can change in the current climate. Enjoy the game. ~ Neal



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.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



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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 Vale	A	ISTH SC	2-3	220	Matthew, Killeen
19-Aug	Mangotsfield United	H	FAC P	5-1	137	Matthew 3, Ajaniekoko, H. Grant
26-Aug	Guernsey	H	ISTH SC	4-0	189	Matthew 2, H. Grant, McCoy
28-Aug	Badshot Lea	A	ISTH SC	1-0	178	McCormack
02-Sep	Westfield	H	FAC 10	1-0	206	McCoy
09-Sep	Horndean	A	FAT 10	3-2	110	Matthew 2, Balogun
12-Sep	Leatherhead	H	ISTH SC	0-1	246	
15-Sep	Lewes	H	FAC 20	1-2	451	OG
23-Sep	Lancing	H	FAT 20	6-2	162	Mathew 4, Killeen, McCormack
26-Sep	Badshot Lea	A	LG 2	0-1	78	
30-Sep	Sutton Common Rovers	H	ISTH SC			
07-Oct	Whitehawk	A	FAT 30			
14-Oct	Hanworth Villa	H	ISTH SC			
17-Oct	Ashford Town (Middx)	A	ISTH SC			
21-Oct	Chipstead	A	ISTH SC			
24-Oct	Binfield	H	ISTH SC			
31-Oct	Thatcham Town	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	Metronolitan Police	A	ISTH SC			
23-Dec	Chertsey Town	H	ISTH SC			
26-Dec	Uxbridge	A	ISTH SC			
30-Dec	Leatherhead	H	ISTH SC			
01-Jan	Badshot Lea	H	ISTH SC			
06-Jan	Thatcham Town	H	ISTH SC			
13-Jan	Binfield	A	ISTH SC			
20-Jan	Hartley Wintnev	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	Ravnes Park Vale	H	ISTH SC			
13-Apr	Chertsev Town	A	ISTH SC			
20-Apr	Metronolitan Police	H	ISTH SC			
27-Apr	Northwood	A	ISTH SC			
TBA	Hartley Wintnev	A	ISTH SC			

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

MATCH REPORT ROUNDUP

ASCOT BEATEN IN LEAGUE CUP

Badshot Lea get revenge for earlier league defeat



Tuesday 26th September 2023, Velocity Trophy R2, Badshot Lea 1 - 0 Ascot United

Ascot United were edged out 1-0 by Badshot Lea in the Velocity Trophy second round on Tuesday evening. In a game where the tempo wasn't matched by the quality, Adam New's header midway through the second half sealed it for the hosts.

Ascot had already won this season's league encounter on The Baggies' turf one month earlier, and for instalment number two manager Jamie Tompkins duly shuffled his starting line-up bringing in Dan Bailey, Sammy Balogun and Jay Welch for Harry Tucker, Harry Grant and Jordan Ajanlekoko. The question would be how they would perform this time, especially so against a side who had won all four games since losing to Ascot on Bank Holiday Monday.

In an energetic first half, the home side created most of the chances, the first of which saw Hugo Sobte save with his feet from Anwar Ceessay after he had escaped the attentions of Ryan Case. Big defender Adam New glanced agonisingly wide from Max Herbert's free kick after Josh Edwards had been penalized for hand ball, but they came even closer in the 40th minute when New's close range header brought the best out of Sobte, who reacted quickly with a strong hand to palm the ball over the bar. The closest Ascot came was a minute later when Welch clattered the crossbar from Case's right-wing cross when it looked easier to score; 0-0 as the sides changed ends.

The home side looked like they would score, or at least force a shot, just after the hour mark only for Dan Bailey's brilliant last-ditch tackle to deny Mohammad Regragui as he shaped to shoot in a decent position. But they would soon get their goal, New rising unmarked to crash home a 66th minute header directly from a left-wing corner.

Harry Laffin, one of all five used visiting substitutes, made a positive impact from the bench and he forced Harry Cawdron into action with a deflected effort that the home' keeper smothered just two minutes after Ascot had gone behind. But Sobte was the busier of the two keepers as he saved Nick Medcraft's deflected effort and then denied Regragui again after Billy Oram had played him in.

The closest Ascot got was Brendan Matthew's glancing header just wide from Harry Grant's cross in the dying embers, but there was still time for Regragui to miss a sitter at the other end in added time when he fired over at the far post with a gaping net in front of him.

It didn't matter, the home side earned their win, and Ascot will go again this weekend.

What's next for Ascot?

The Yellamen are back in league action this Saturday with the visit of Sutton Common Rovers – which will be only their fifth league game in thirteen matches - and as yesterday's FA Trophy draw pitted them with Isthmian Premier Division side Whitehawk, East Brighton is the destination for yet another cup tie one week later. It'll be at least November before the Yellamen will have played more league matches than cup matches this season, but it's a nice challenge to navigate even if their Velocity Trophy campaign never gathered speed.

Ascot United: Sobte, Bailey, Edwards (Gater 57'), McCormack, Balogun (H. Grant 71'), Welch (Ajanlekoko 71'), Matthew, Lahtinen-Kalsi, Lalustani (Laffin 57'), Killeen (Morgan 57'), Case.

Entertainment: 2 / Reporter's Star Man: Hugo Sobte (Ascot United). Brilliant distribution and key saves to keep his side in touch / Away fans (estimate): 15

PHOTOZONE



Action from last weekend's FA Trophy win against Lancing. **Clockwise from top left:** New signing Ryan Case, Harvey Killeen capitalises on a goalkeeping error to score, Ollie Lahtinen-Kalsi passes, Brendan Matthew reminds everyone how many goals he scored, Matthew slots home an early opener.





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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

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FIXTURES

Saturday 30th September

Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

Ascot United vs Sutton Common Rovers

Ashford Town (Middx) vs Chertsey Town

Corinthian-Casuals vs Hartley Wintney

Guernsey vs Marlow

Leatherhead vs Thatcham Town

Metropolitan Police vs Chipstead

Raynes Park Vale vs Badshot Lea

Southall vs Binfield

Uxbridge vs Northwood

Westfield vs South Park (Reigate)



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LEAGUE TABLES

Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

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

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	12	-	12	-
S Hayes	-	-	2	-
A Everiss	-	-	26	1
A Grant	3	-	34	6
B Matthew	12	13	66	60
C Morgan	1	-	6	1
D Bailey	7	-	117	15
D Brown	5	-	5	-
D Surpanu	-	-	57	10
G Lock	10	-	224	10
H Grant	10	2	62	9
H Laffin	5	1	157	85
H Tucker	8	-	48	3
H Killeen	9	3	9	3
J Welch	10	-	51	2
J Gater	3	-	3	-
J Ajanlekoko	10	1	65	5
K Allsopp	4	-	4	-
J Edwards	7	-	7	-
L Phillips	-	-	2	1
L Kassim	5	-	52	13
O Harris	-	-	20	12
O Lahtinen-Kalsi	12	-	12	-
R Gerrard	-	-	34	4
S McCormack	12	2	106	20
S Balogun	8	1	23	1
T Thompson	-	-	11	-
U Lalustani	8	-	83	22
O McCoy	7	2	7	2
R Case	2	-	-	-
IOwn Goals	-	1	n/a	n/a
	170	26	1,309	285



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MENTION 'FA Cup fairytales' and your minds naturally think back to the magic produced on the field over the years; Wimbledon's historic win in '88, Luton Town beating Premier League Norwich on the road, or Lincoln City's mesmerising run to the quarter-finals in 2016-17.

But every year The NLP takes great delight in revealing the stories the fans don't see that the FA Cup never fails to conjure up.

This week, ahead of the third qualifying round we met three more unsung cup heroes who have their own particular reason to be glued to the action.

James Connor was cruelly denied a chance of fulfilling an FA Cup dream as a player.

Teenage midfielder had turned heads as a teenage midfielder at Aldershot FC when the then Division Four club were liquidated in the early 90s.

Labelled one of London's top young talents at the time, Mick McCarthy swooped to offer him an almost unheard-of five-year deal at Millwall, but just two months and 10 games into his fledgling career, a knee injury forced the young Lion to hang up his boots and set his sights on a different career at the ripe age of just 22.

These days, Connor now runs his own successful wealth management firm and, through choice, has had no dealings with football – until recently that is.

After agreeing to run his son's Under 9s at Hanworth Villa, Connor rediscovered his love for the game and is now very much back in the hotseat having taken over the chairmanship of the Isthmian League South Central club from his father Jim, who himself founded the Villains back in 1976.

This weekend, Connor turns their attentions to the FA Cup where victory at Horsham this afternoon will see them reach the fourth qualifying round for only the second time in the club's history.

"To be honest, I was never a huge football fan and never really understood the mentality of a football fan, until now," he told us. "I've been back in football now for two years and I'm loving every minute of it. The Non-League scene is such an exciting place to be. It's where it's at.

"When we played Hythe Town in the first qualifying round, we took the kids swimming in the sea.

Those are the stories to the 'Road to Wembley' that supporters of the bigger clubs don't see.

"We've got a really tough game to come against Horsham and we'll be playing as the underdog. But giant-killings do happen in the FA Cup, it's what makes it such a special competition, so we're just really looking forward to it."

Someone far more used to the thrills and spills of a cup campaign is Paul Carden (continued).

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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He returns to the scene of his greatest triumph this afternoon when he takes his Nantwich Town side to face his old club Chester.

Dabbers boss Carden, 44, spent five years at the Deva during his days as an all-action midfielder, racking up more than 200 appearances across two separate spells. Relegated from the Football League shortly after joining the club in 2000, Carden briefly joined Doncaster but returned within months and in 2003-04 captained the Blues to the Conference title.

"I've got a lot of brilliant memories of Chester but that was the highlight," says Carden, whose Nantwich side who off Shifnal Town, Liversedge and Step 2 Banbury United on route to the Chester clash.

"But are we a banana skin for Chester? Do they get complacent thinking, 'It's a night game, we're at home to a side a couple of leagues below'. "Who knows? "We've just got to hope the stars align." The last remaining Step 5 side left in the draw are Emley AFC – and there's plenty of cup magic around the Welfare Ground too.

After Andrew Painten went to watch Emley for the first time with his dad as a boy, he often asked when they could go back.

Now, as chairman, he hopes his own son is savouring the moment – just like he did – with the West Yorkshire outfit on the up again.

"I've been a fan for long enough to recall we've often been the bridesmaid, never a bride," Painten said of the Northern Counties East League Premier Division side.

"I reckon we might just now be ready to get our glad rags on."

The Pewits' best FA Cup run for more than 20 years is inspired in part by wanting to make the most of a second chance after they were reinstated when Avro, their conquerors in the extra preliminary round, were removed from the competition as punishment fielding an ineligible player.

This week, they make the trip to National League North side Alfreton Town – a team ranked 70 places higher than them in the Pyramid – but boss Richard Tracey won't be daunted after eliminating two higher-ranked foes to reach this stage.

Painten said: "We've done it the hard way after being drawn away each time since coming back in.

"It's a big ask to win the next one – just look at the league tables – but football has a funny way of defying what you think will happen." ~Jon Couch

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.

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.



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.



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.

Sean McCormack – forward. Skilful forward signed from Walton and Hershham 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.



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.



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.



CLUB HISTORY - SUTTON COMMON ROVERS

Chairman and Life President Alan Salmon founded SCR F.C in 1978, when the club began life as INRAD FC, based in Carshalton. The club entered a new era when Alan moved to Sutton and arranged sponsorship with his new neighbour, CENTRE 21 FC was born. This era saw the club running one Saturday side, three Sunday sides and three Youth sides. Centre 21's sponsorship continued until the club's youth players were no longer under 21 years old.

The club again sought new a identity, SUTTON COMMON ROAD FC was formed and subsequently abbreviated to SCR FC. Since then the club has had five major sponsors whose names have been incorporated into the clubs affiliated name: SCR PLOUGH (twice), SCR GRAPES, next the club's longest sponsor SCR LITTEN TREE (7 years) & finally SCR Kingfisher, Ewell with whom we started our venture in Saturday football in 2004/05. It was at this point that the club took the decision to revert back to using the SCR name alone, feeling that as we strive for continued promotion we needed to disassociate ourselves with the whole 'pub team' image. The club however did take sponsorship from the Fox & Hounds, Carshalton for the Sat first team in 2006/07, but the decision was made that the pub name would not be incorporated into our own, for the above reason...

The club entered yet another new era this season, with the introduction of a third Saturday side (Messrs Alex Avis & Tony Williams) and the 1's moving to the Middlesex County FL (and a name change SUTTON COMMON ROVERS) in the pursuit of combined Counties football, having made an unsuccessful application from the Surrey South Eastern Combination at the end of season 2006/07 having finished joint top (3rd on goal difference... -1 goal)

A third place finish in the Middlesex County League Premier division in 07/08 meant that our promotion to the CCL was not assured but months of hard work & determination from the management team SCR eventually secured a place for the clubs 1st time in their 30 year history at the league AGM in June 2008 and the reserves moved into the CCL reserve division under the guidance of Alex Avis & Justin Salmon.

Season 08/09 saw the latest name change of the club, to form MOLE VALLEY SCR FC reflecting the area in which we played. Season 09/10 saw the club reach a Surrey Cup final, narrowly being defeated by Sutton United after a 1-1 extra time score line on penalties and in the same season compete in the FA Vase for the first time in our relatively short history. We finished Champions of Division One at the second time of asking, narrowly piping Worcester Park to the post in a fine run which saw us finish 3 points clear on the final match of the season, assuming as we believed, we were awarded the points from the postponed Coulsdon match who unfortunately were unable to field a side for our scheduled league game some weeks earlier.

The following season saw the club play at our highest level to date, and make our FA Cup debut, although this lasted just one game, and ended in a 5-0 defeat against Chertsey Town. The club managed two seasons in the Premier Division, before being relegated back to Division 1, following a start to the season that saw 12 straight league defeats. The 2012/13 season started with a rebuilt side and expectations of consolidation, however a 20 game unbeaten run propelled us into runners up spot, and a much coveted promotion back to the Premier Division.

CLUB HISTORY - SUTTON COMMON ROVERS

2013/14 started brightly, but went to the last game, and a point saw survival. It was the same the following season, and although we lost (2-0 at home to Guildford City), we still managed to survive. For the 2015/16 season, there was a change of name to Sutton Common Rovers, and after much hard work by the Salmons, a return to Sutton, and a ground share with Sutton Utd.

2016/17 saw a 12th place league finish and the capture of the Southern Combination Cup

The following season, 2017/18 we recorded our highest ever placing, finishing 3rd in the Premier Division, and reached the semi final of both the Southern Combination Cup and the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup.

2018/19 was our best ever season, finishing runners up in the Premier division behind the powerful Chertsey Town side, winning the Premier Challenge Cup and finishing runners up in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup

2019/20 saw the side a little off the pace in the league, when it was called to a halt, but with games in hand a place in the top 5 was possible. It was in the national cup competitions that new records were set, with the side reaching the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the first time (after wins over Molesey 1-0, after a 1-1 draw; and Eastbourne Town 3-0), the FA Vase saw further success, with wins over Snodland Town 5-1, Raynes Park Vale 4-0, Lancing 1-0 (after a 3-3 draw); and Christchurch 2-1 taking us to the fifth round, where we bowed out to Western League AFC Bitton 2-1, after a disappointing performance down in Bristol.

At the end of another curtailed season and following an FA restructure the club was moved up to Step 4 and the Isthmian South Central division.

Our first season in the Isthmian League saw a 17th place finish, on goal difference behind both Westfield and Tooting & Mitcham Utd, and avoidance of the relegation play offs. We also made our debut in the FA Trophy, albeit briefly, losing our only fixture away at Ramsgate.

We reached the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time, thanks to wins over Steyning Town and a shock win at Isthmian Premier Cray Wanderers, before losing after a replay to Jersey Bulls.

A run of 13 games without a point saw us slip perilously close to automatic relegation in our second season at Step 4, but a late season recovery, which actually had us 7th in current form over the last 10 games saw us secure a relegation play off spot, where Crawley Down Gatwick were defeated 2-0 to preserve our Isthmian place

Darren Salmon stepped down after nigh on 30 years at the helm at the end of the season, with assistant Sam Morgan stepping up to overall control of the side.

