

RED DEVILS' DIARY

PRODUCED BY SUPPORTERS FOR SUPPORTERS – BACKED BY THE CTSA

SEASON 2025-26

£2



**CRAWLEY TOWN FC VS
CHESTERFIELD FC**
SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026, 3PM
SKYBET EFL LEAGUE TWO





IF YOU SEE IT OR HEAR IT, REPORT IT

'It' is discrimination, in all its forms.
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RED DEVILS

CLUB INFORMATION

This publication does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Football Club or its owners.

First-Team Manager Scott Lindsey
Assistant Manager Jamie Day
Assistant Manager Neil Smith
Goalkeeping Coach Kris Dixon
Director Of Football Erdem Konyar

Head of Analysis Conor McGaharan
First Team Analyst Jake Fearnley
First Team Physio Tom Dudeney
Head of Performance Ricky McFarlane
Kit & Equipment Manager Alan Denman
Kit & Equipment Assistant Aaron O'Shea

CLUB OPENING HOURS

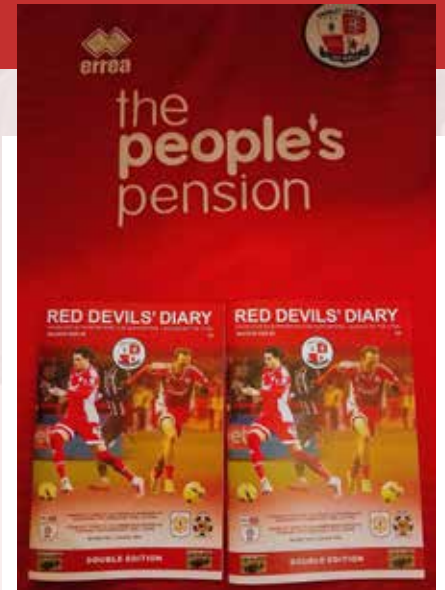
Monday **10am - 4:30pm**
Tuesday **9am - 4:30pm**
Wednesday **CLOSED**
Thursday **9am - 4:30pm**
Friday **9am - 4:30pm**
Saturday Matchday **10am - 4:30pm**
Sunday **CLOSED**

GET IN TOUCH

By Post **Broadfield Stadium,
Winfield Way, Crawley, West Sussex,
RH11 9RX**
General Enquiries
noreply@crawleytownfc.com
Ticket Enquiries
tickets@crawleytownfc.com
or call **01293 410 000**
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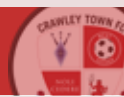
Thanks to everyone involved in making this programme a success, and our thanks also go to you the fans for buying it.

Contact the Editors at red4ever40@hotmail.com
You can see the previous editions here:
www.ctfcsa.co.uk/category/news/red-devils-diary
The Crawley Town FC Supporters Association website
They are also available to view on:
www.ctfchistory.co.uk
The Crawley Town Football Club history website

THE RED DEVILS' DIARY MATCH PROGRAMME

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FootiePrint.co.uk
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WELCOME TO THE BROADFIELD STADIUM

Welcome to the Broadfield Stadium for today's League Two Match. We would also like to extend a warm Crawley Town welcome to the players, staff and fans of today's visitors and wish them all a safe journey home after the game.

NEWS BITES FROM THE DEVIL

BEN RADCLIFFE LOANED TO GATESHEAD

Our number 15, young defender Ben Radcliffe, has joined National League side Gateshead on loan until May. Ben had recently returned to training following injury, having made his most recent start against Fleetwood back in November. The 22 year old Radcliffe heads up north to join one of his former teams and to link up with ex Crawley boss Rob Elliot. Radcliffe's loan includes a recall option. Since his arrival from Derby he has made 23 appearances for us across all competitions.

LOUIS FLOWER LOANED TO WOKING

Our number 14, 21 year old striker Louis Flower, has joined National League side Woking on loan until the end of the season. (The ex Brighton player had 4 games at Gateshead on loan in 2025 - it seems its the fashionable place to be.) Louis has made 16 appearances for the club this season, scoring 3 goals. Louis has now joined "the Cardinals", who currently sit mid table in the fifth tier. Flower's loan also includes a recall option. Lets hope he blooms under manager Neil Ardley, who arrived at Woking in Dec 2024 having previously managed AFC Wimbledon, Notts County, Solihull Moors and York.

JANUARY PLAYER OF THE MONTH

The Sponsors - CORE Facilities Management - nominated Theo Vassell (so solid), Taylor Richards (who can forget that fantastic curler at Barrow) Jay Williams (bandage bandanna), and new loan Goalkeeper Jacob Chapman (we had started to forget what a clean sheet was!). The winner was Jacob Chapman, well done Jacob!

PITCH YOUR TENT

In order to get the recent SKY Sports+ game V Crewe on (despite the incessant rain) the pitch was covered with an inflatable tent, until the morning of the game. Luckily it was worth the effort, as we passed the pitch inspection and the grass held up really well. A credit to all the staff who worked so hard. We should spare a thought for ex-league club Hereford who haven't managed a home game since 8 November due to the rain (as at 8th Feb).



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former player Gary Alexander (46) has taken over the manager's role at Erith and Belvedere. Gary, right, played 62 games for us and scored 15 goals between 2012 and 2014, having originally come in on loan from Brentford before signing. Gary was also a caretaker manager at the Broadfield in 2013 after Ritchie Barker was relieved of his duties.



A SHOUT OUT FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

Our friends at local club Three Bridges are having a great season. They currently sit top of the Isthmian South East Division with an 8 point gap. They have really thrived since coming back to their new artificial turf. If they could share a bit of their goalscoring fortune across this side of town we would be grateful. Striker Reece Hallard currently has 24 goals and Noel Leighton has 22..... so far!

SACK @ BARROW

Barrow have sacked their manager Paul Gallagher just 40 days/five matches after his appointment. They lost every game since he started on the 2nd January. Almost immediately, Dino Maamria was appointed as Barrow boss, taking on his first role since leaving Burton Albion in December 2023.

WOUNDED REDS

Key players Max Anderson and Theo Vassell are both out for at least 4 to 6 weeks having picked up injuries in recent matches. Danny Cashman, who we had high hopes for in pre season, is now set to be out of action until next pre season, as reported by our Director Of Football.

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

The Club Captaincy has been passed to Jay Williams, on a permanent basis, for the rest of this season.

REGISTERED PLAYERS

Antony Papadopoulos has returned from his second successful stint on loan at Maidstone Utd. He, along with Reece Brown and Dion Conroy are not on the Reds squad list registered with the EFL, post the January transfer window. It is therefore likely that we will see these players go back out on loan at some point. However Erdem Konyar did suggest that they had kept one free space in the squad, to enable them to register a non contract or overseas player before season's end if necessary.



PRINTED MATERIAL IS KING!

Before you read my latest piece I would like to share an e-mail I received just after the Crewe Alexandra game on the 7th of February 2026

I should mention that, after discussion with friends and colleagues, I have had to resort to the tactics of the leader of the free world and redacted parts of the e-mail; not because I necessarily agree or disagree with the points made, but rather that I would prefer to try and build bridges than see them washed away.

Suffice it to say that it absolutely brightened my evening as the email, as you can read for yourselves, was congratulatory in its tone and urges us to carry on producing this programme.

“Dear All.

“Many congratulations and thanks for producing a matchday programme again for Crawley Town FC. I am a (retired) freelance football reporter who has covered many, many matches at Crawley (and other grounds) for The Sun newspaper and thought it was **** when the club decided to **** for **** supporters. I think that decision shows just how **** true fans **** of some clubs and, as I am sure you know, Crawley Town FC have many ****.

“I covered the game against Crewe Alexandra yesterday and happened to find a copy of the Red Devils Review lying in the main stand near the Press Box. I have now read it cover to cover and find it is just what is needed. The club say they **** something like this **** but it seems that somebody can. And it is much, much

better and more professional than what they **** together!

“A programme provides a legacy and souvenir of the match you attended and is a vital traditional part of the old game. I know younger people think they can do almost everything on their mobile phones and other devices these days but to me and, I know thousands of others, this is sheer sacrilege.

“I would like to know where I could buy it on future visits - although these have become fewer because, at my advanced age, The Sun is the only paper I work for and they, rather like the ‘dump-it’ policy adopted by **** and **** over the programme, no longer fulfill their boast of ‘having a reporter’ at every EFL match.

“These days in the Sun on Sunday, League One and League Two matches are restricted to a 12-paragraph (maximum) round-up, rather than reports on individual games. The Sun, in midweek, does not touch League One and Two at all for match reports. They would rather have huge bookmakers’ adverts (a big revenue for them, of course) on their pages where the football live news used to appear.

“So, if you are buying it, the SUN that is, not the Red Devils’ Diary, I certainly wouldn’t recommend you do so anymore! Buy the Football League Paper instead. They need money to keep a good service going.

“Once again, many thanks and more power to your elbows. I would like to know where I can buy a copy of the Red Devils’ Diary the next time I am at Broadfield Stadium.

“Best regards, Bill.”

And now for this game’s piece.

The Wordsearch in this programme features titles of books which have been written by ex-footballers or are about footballers or football in general. I hope you have noticed that six of those listed are about, or have been written by, players who have worn the shirt of Crawley Town.

One that I did not include in the Wordsearch, “A Kestrel for a Knave” written by Barry Hines, was published in 1968 and was turned into a feature film “Kes” just one year later. What is the connection with Crawley Town?

Barry Hines was born in the mining village of Hoyland Common near Barnsley on 30th June 1939 and attended Ecclesfield Grammar School. One of his proudest moments was playing for the England Secondary Schools football team in 1957. He worked for the National Coal Board as an apprentice mining engineer, but returned to education, eventually gaining a teaching qualification at Loughborough University. He worked as a Physical Education teacher for several years, first in London and then in Hoyland Common, eventually leaving to become a full-time writer.

It was while he was a teacher in London that he played 11 games for Crawley FC, 9 in the Metropolitan League and 2 in the Metropolitan League cup semifinal matches. In those games we won 7 league matches, losing only 2, and went out of the League cup by losing a replay against Dartford Reserves.

The film Kes directed by Ken Loach was an acclaimed British drama which focused on Billy Casper, a tormented working-class boy who is subjected to

abuse both at school and at home. The son of a single mother, Billy’s existence is mostly bleak until he takes up an interest in falconry and begins training a kestrel that he finds on a nearby farm. While Billy forms a close bond with the falcon, his hardscrabble life and harsh environment prove to be a challenge to the boy and his bird.



Mr. Sugden: “Casper, what do you think you are, an ape..?”

Billy is bullied, even by his teachers, especially his physical education teacher, Mr. Sugden (played brilliantly in the film by Brian Glover). During a PE lesson, Mr. Sugden is both referee and centre forward for one of the teams in a game of football on a cold school playing field in Yorkshire, and the only person wearing proper kit is the teacher, who strips off his tracksuit top to reveal a Manchester United red shirt. The game starts with Billy, being the last person to be picked, in the teacher’s team playing in goal and he soon lets in a goal, which the ref, Teacher, “Bobby Charlton” Mr. Sugden berates him for.



The play then goes up to the other end of the pitch, and the teacher awards himself a penalty, despite no one being near him when he falls to the ground. His first attempt, masquerading as Bobby C, is saved by the keeper, but as he is also the referee, he takes the kick again, scores and wheels away as if he has won the European Cup. *(For those who are too young to remember, this Cup was the forerunner of the Champions League and, unlike the current competition, was only for national champions).*

If you haven't read the book or watched the film you really should seek it out.

The next book that really needs adding to your reading list is entitled "RUN AWAY FOR GLORY and other stories" and is written by Vic Bragg, who played for Crawley Town after spending four years

at Fulham from the age of 14. Signing in 1967 and staying for 16 years, playing a total of 609 games and scoring 42 goals, 12 of them from the spot. He is second in terms of matches played for Crawley Town; only 48 games behind CTFC legend, John Maggs. Playing in midfield, he was a great passer of the ball, but he is over a hundred goals behind our leading scorer of all time, some chap called OG.

He worked as a postman, but while he was at Town Mead he took up coaching and qualified as a teacher. He went to teach at Langley Green and Bishop Bell (now The Oaks). He played in two promotion seasons, 1968/69 and 1983/84, albeit he only made the pitch once in the second one.

He then went on to work at Brighton and

Hove Albion in 1994 and was assistant manager for England U16 schoolboys in 1997/98 and assistant manager and manager of England U18 schoolboys from 2000 to 2004. He retired from the team that play in blue and white shirts in 2024 but while he was there, he wrote "Run Away For Glory" which tells the story of a young lad who is desperate to be a footballer and who runs away from his London home to try his luck at a northern club.

The next three stories in the book, "The Survivor", "A bucket of steam" and "The Nut" are about growing up on a London council estate during the sixties, while the final story "Chalk and Cheese" is about two professional footballers, one with great skill and the other of lesser ability, who, unsurprisingly, have different outlooks on life - which affects their footballing careers.

I haven't, on purpose, told you the outcomes of these stories, but in my opinion, they are a must to read for any youngster who is contemplating a career

within the beautiful game or for those slightly older in age who would like to reminisce.

The last two books in this piece are about two players who played for the Red Devils in possibly the most important years of our club's history. They are "The Journeyman" by midfielder Ben Smith and "The Sergio Torres Story, From Brick Factory to Old Trafford" written by the man who was "here, there and every ****ing where", Sergio Torres and Juan Manuel Lopez.

Forget my books; these are the books that every self-respecting Crawley Town fan should have on their bookshelves. Two of the best midfielders we have ever had at our club, who between the two of them played 233 games and scored 25 goals during project promotion and beyond. However, if you would like a copy of Noli Semper Cedere, Tinpot and Proud or Better the Devil, you know where I am on match days. Buy a programme and make a deal.



CTFC HONOURS LIST

- Lge 2 Wembley Play Off Winners 2023/24
- Promoted to League 1 3rd Place 2011/12
- FA Cup 5th Round 2010/11 & 2011/12
- EFL League Cup 4th Round 2019/20
- Conference Champions 2010/11
- Southern League Champions 2003/04
- Southern League Cup Winner 2003/04
- Southern League Cup Winner 2002/03
- Southern League Cup Runner-up 2000/01
- Sussex Senior Cup Winner 1989/90, 1990/91, 2002/03, 2004/05
- Roy Hayden Trophy Winner 1990/91, 1991/92, 2004/05
- Sussex Floodlight Cup Winner 1990/91, 91/92, 92/93, 98/99
- William Hill Senior Cup Winner 1992/93
- Gilbert Rice Floodlight Cup Winner 1979/80, 1983/84
- Sussex Intermediate Cup Winner 1927/28
- Montgomery Cup Winner 1925/26
- Mid Sussex Senior League Winner 1902/03





WORD SEARCH

FIND THE TITLES:

- Better the Devil (Steve Leake)
- Journeyman (Ben Smith ex-CTFC 2010-2012)
- Noli Cedere & Noli Semper Cedere (Steve Leake)
- Red (Gary Neville)
- Run away for glory (Vic Bragg ex CTFC player 60s/70s)
- The Dream Factory (Ryan Baldi)
- The Sergio Torres Story (Juan Manuel Lopez)
- Tinpot and Proud (Steve Leake)
- Two Brothers, Bobby and Jacky Charlton (Jonathan Wilson)

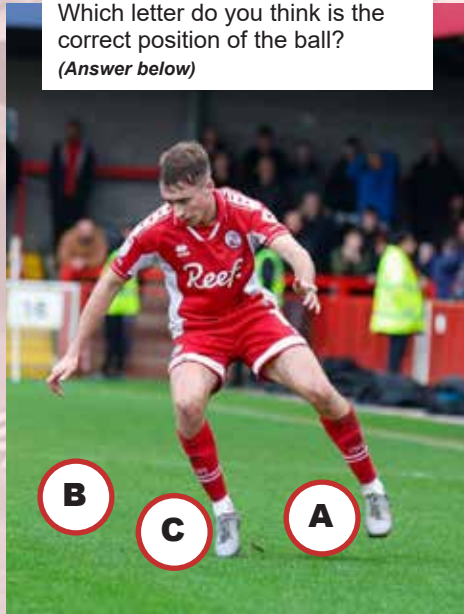
NB One of the titles requires a dog leg to find it.

Apologies to Kevin Neylon, one of our contributors, who has written two books, but not about football. "Where the light shines brightest" and "A drabble a day keeps the psychoanalyst away" I tried to fit them in the wordsearch, but that proved harder than climbing the table.

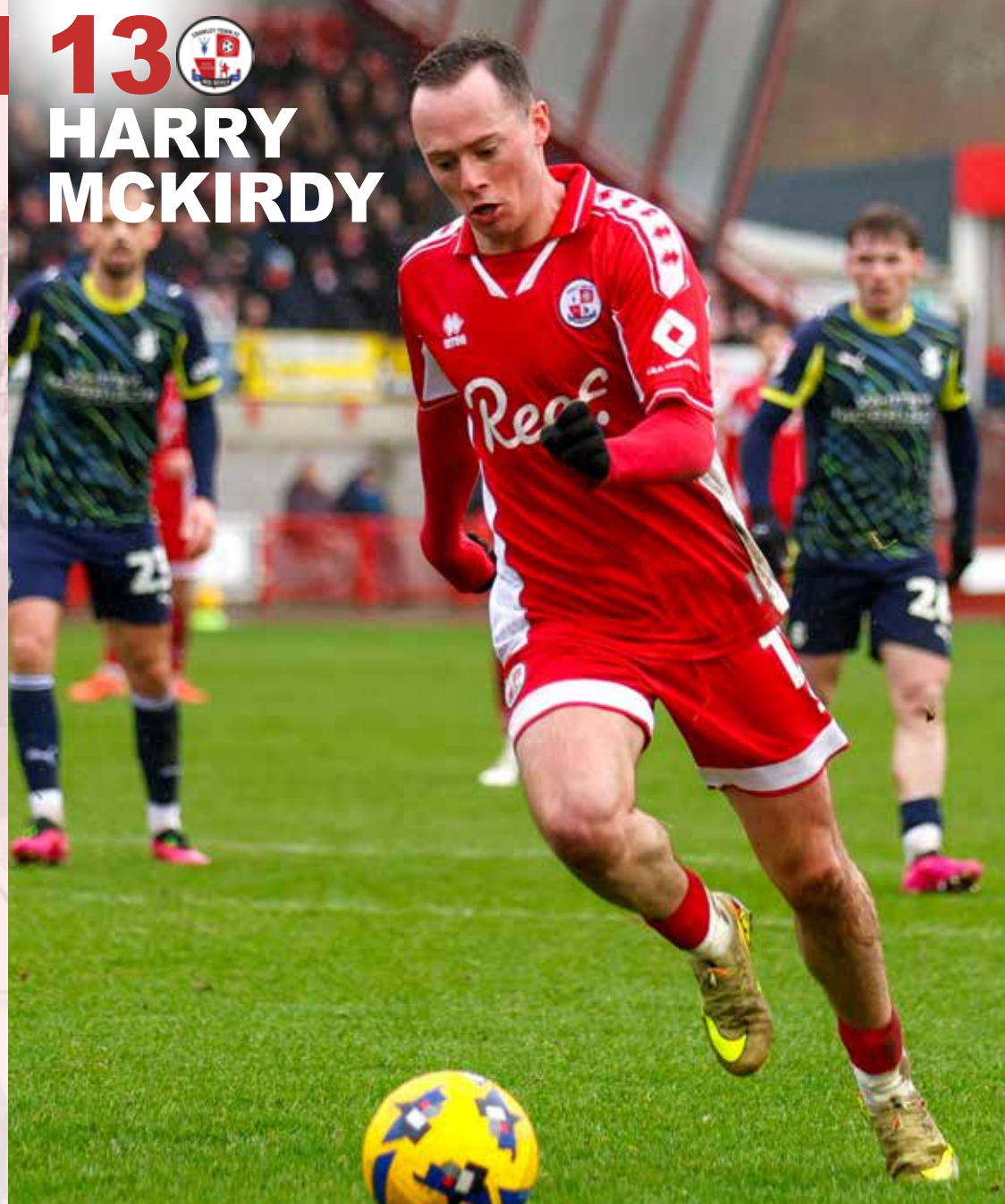
Hidden in the wordsearch is the translation of Noli Cedere and the name of a place where Sergio worked before becoming a footballer. Can you find them? (answer below)

SPOT THE BALL!

Which letter do you think is the correct position of the ball?
(Answer below)



13 HARRY MCKIRDY



Y	R	O	T	C	A	F	K	C	I	R	B	C	D
R	O	N	H	W	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E
O	E	P	E	N	O	L	I	C	E	D	E	R	E
T	R	Q	S	R	S	B	T	Y	U	V	L	W	X
C	E	F	E	E	D	C	R	R	B	A	I	Z	Y
A	D	G	R	H	I	J	U	O	K	L	V	M	N
F	E	U	G	T	S	R	N	L	T	Q	E	P	O
M	C	V	I	W	N	X	A	G	T	H	D	D	Y
A	R	E	O	D	A	C	W	R	B	A	E	E	Z
E	E	F	T	G	M	H	A	O	I	J	H	R	K
R	P	Q	O	P	Y	O	Y	F	N	M	T	L	S
D	M	R	R	S	E	T	F	Y	U	V	R	W	X
E	E	E	R	D	N	C	O	A	B	A	E	Z	Y
H	S	F	E	G	R	H	R	W	I	J	T	K	L
T	I	T	S	S	U	R	Q	A	P	O	T	N	M
U	L	V	S	T	O	R	Y	N	W	X	E	Y	Z
I	O	H	T	G	J	F	E	U	D	C	B	B	A
T	N	P	U	E	V	I	G	R	E	V	E	N	J
D	U	O	R	P	D	N	A	T	O	P	N	I	T

AUTOGRAPH

ANSWER Never Give Up, Brick factory SPOT THE BALL ANSWER Ball A



THEY'VE PLAYED FOR BOTH

Players who have represented both Chesterfield and Crawley Town, include defenders LAURENCE MAGUIRE and KYLE MCFADZEAN, plus, more recently, RONAN DARCY was on loan there.

29 Year old Laurence Maguire (pictured right top) spent time on loan at Crawley from Chesterfield in 2024 and made 34 appearances (3 goals) in our promotion winning side, before departing for MK Dons at the end of his loan. He had previously racked up 150 matches (7 goals) for the Spireites.

Kyle McFadzean (age 38) (pictured right middle) was a defender with Crawley from 2010 to 2014 and turned out for us on 133 occasions, scoring 9 goals. He joined Chesterfield in January 2025.

He left Crawley for the dreaded MK Dons in June 2014. The only club where he made more appearances than Crawley was at Coventry City from 2019-2024 where he amassed 155 games (8 goals).

Ronan Darcy, (pictured right bottom), our popular attacking midfielder/winger, was loaned to today's opponents from Wigan Athletic for the first half of this season. Ronan played 24 matches and scored 3 goals for them, before heading back to his rightful place on the pitch with the Reds.



WE'VE MET BEFORE - CRAWLEY VS CHESTERFIELD

PLAYED **5** WON **1** DRAWN **2** LOST **2** WIN RATIO **20%**

Season	Date	Match	Result	Comp	CTFC Mgr
2014/15	29 Nov 2014	Crawley Town v Chesterfield	D 1-1	Lge One	John Gregory
	27 Jan 2015	Chesterfield v Crawley Town	L 3-0	Lge One	Dean Saunders
2017/18	17 Oct 2017	Crawley Town v Chesterfield	L 0-2	Lge Two	Harry Kewell
	03 Feb 2018	Chesterfield v Crawley Town	W 1-2	Lge Two	Harry Kewell
2025/26	30 Aug 2025	Chesterfield v Crawley Town	D 2-2	Lge Two	Scott Lindsey



SMH STADIUM, OPENED - 2010
CAPACITY - 10,504 (ALL SEATED)

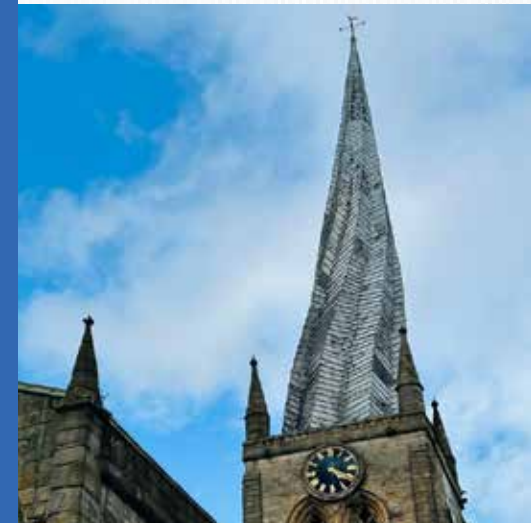


CHESTERFIELD'S HOME & AWAY KITS

THE SPIREITES - INTERESTING FACT

Similar to the mythical tale about how Devils' Dyke came about, there is a tale about the twisted church spire, which gives Chesterfield their nickname; the Spireites.

The Church of St Mary and All Saints in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, famous for its "Crooked Spire," was constructed in the 14th century. The 230-foot spire actually twists and leans, due to a 33-ton lead covering, unseasoned timber and lack of proper bracing; whereas I prefer the local legend - which says it was caused by the Devil, who twisted it, when he flew from the top of it, having been suddenly woken one Sunday morning. Let's hope our Red Devils can demolish the Spireites today.





MEET THE MANAGER

PAUL COOK

Paul Cook (age 58) is a former central midfielder, whose playing career lasted from 1983 to 2006. He made 643 appearances and scored 56 goals along the way. His longest spell at a club was from 1989 to 1994 when he played for Wolves 193 times, getting a total of 19 goals for them.

He ended his playing days at Accrington Stanley in 2006. He moved into management with Southport, subsequently managing: Sligo Rovers, Accrington Stanley, Chesterfield, Portsmouth, Wigan Athletic and Ipswich, before returning to Chesterfield on 10 February 2022.

Cook has a distinguished record of winning titles at various levels of the English football pyramid:

Chesterfield (1st spell):
Won the League Two title (2013/14).

Portsmouth: Won the League Two title (2016/17).

Wigan Athletic: Won the League One title (2017/18)

He famously led the "Spireites" back to the English Football League (EFL) by winning the National League title as champions in the 2023/24 season. He was named the National League Manager of the Season for the 2023/24 campaign.



ONES TO WATCH

Experienced Irish International striker, **WILL GRIGG (TOP)**, has always had an eye for goal - creating or scoring. He was responsible for a sensational 25 goals in Chesterfield's promotion back from the National League.

Also in the squad is **JOHN FLECK (BOTTOM)**, who is a Scottish international. He had long service with Rangers, Coventry City and Sheffield United before finding his way to our opponents in September 2024.

Chesterfield have five loanees in their squad list and all from clubs with a decent pedigree. **No. 25 WILL DICKSON** is from Man City, **SIL SWINKELS No. 26** is from Aston Villa, **No. 28 JAMES BERRY** is loaned in from Wycombe Wanderers, **SAM CURTIS, No. 29**, is from Sheffield United and **SAMMY BRAYBROOKE, No 36**, is in from Leicester City.



PLAYERS IN SHOT

IMAGES BY GRANT MANSFIELD, FROM THE CREWE HOME GAME



Top: Jonny Russell takes on a Crewe defender, watched by the Boss
Bottom: Josh Flint - it is a bit early to swap shirts!

Top left: Kellan Gordon fires in a cross; Top right: Lolos takes on his man
Bottom left: Lewis launches a left foot shot; Bottom right: Taylor Richards shields the ball



SEASON RECORD 25/26

HOME Away Red = Evening KO ■ Cautioned Sent Off Scorers in **BOLD**
 L2 = SkyBet EFL League Two **FAC** = FA Cup **EFLT** = EFL Trophy Group F



Date & Opposition	Comp	Res	Att	Team Line-Up First XI										Subs Used (Unused in Italics)	
AUGUST															
2 Grimsby Town	L2	L 0-3	6,806	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Brown	Williams	Scott	Forster	Holohan	Tshimanga	Watson, Papadopoulos, Roles, Flower (Mukena, Anderson)
9 NEWPORT COUNTY	L2	L 1-2	3,189	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Brown	Williams	Scott	Adeyemo	Holohan	Tshimanga	ANDERSON 1 , Watson, Roles, Flower (Mukena, Papadopoulos, Kotey)
12 Swansea City	CC1	L 1-3	5,095	Davies	Barker	Roles	Flint	McKirdy	Brown	Williams	Anderson	Adeyemo	Mukena	TSHIMANGA 1	Holohan, Watson, Papadopoulos, Kotey, Flower (Radcliffe)
16 Crewe Alexandra	L2	L 0-1	5,062	Davies	Barker	Flower	Flint	McKirdy	Brown	Williams	Anderson	Adeyemo	Mukena	Tshimanga	Roles, Watson, Cashman, Dixon (Papadopoulos, Radcliffe, Kotey)
19 MILTON KEYNES DONS	L2	D 1-1	3,561	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Watson	Williams	Dixon	ADEYEMO 1	Cashman	Tshimanga	Anderson, Roles, Brown, Flower (Radcliffe, Mukena, Showunmi)
23 TRANMERE ROVERS	L2	L 0-2	4,874	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Watson	Scott	Dixon	Adeyemo	Cashman	Tshimanga	Roles, Showunmi, Bajrami, Flower (Brown, Mukena, Anderson)
30 Chesterfield	L2	D 2-2	8,005	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	MCKIRDY 2	Watson	Scott	Dixon	Adeyemo	Cashman	Bajrami	Pereira, Anderson, Brown, Forster, Tshimanga, Flower (Roles)
SEPTEMBER															
6 Harrogate Town	L2	W 1-0	2,757	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Pereira	Scott	Loft	Adeyemo	BROWN 1	Bajrami	Anderson, Malone, Forster, Holohan, Tshimanga (Roles)
13 CHELTENHAM TOWN	L2	W 2-0	3,127	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	MCKIRDY 2	Pereira	Scott	Tshimanga	Adeyemo	Brown	Bajrami	Anderson, Malone, Flower, Dixon, Holohan (Forster)
16 ASTON VILLA U21	EFLT	W 4-2	743	Wollacott	Malone	Mukena	Anderson	RADCLIFFE 2	Kotey	Flower	LOFT 1	DIXON 1	Brown	Forster	Showunmi, Papadopoulos (Heater, Pereira, Adeyemo, Tshimanga)
20 Notts County	L2	L 0-4	8,974	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Pereira	Scott	Tshimanga	Adeyemo	Brown	Bajrami	Forster, Dixon, Loft, Holohan (Malone, Anderson)
27 BARROW	L2	L 1-2	2,889	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Pereira	Watson	Loft	Adeyemo	Holohan	BAJRAMI 1	Forster (Malone, Anderson, Brown, Tshimanga, Dixon)
OCTOBER															
4 Cambridge United	L2	L 1-3	6,607	Wollacott	Barker	Conroy	Flint	McKirdy	Pereira	Scott	Forster	Dixon	Holohan	Bajrami	Brown, Roles, TSHIMANGA 1 (Malone, Anderson, Flower)
7 Leyton Orient	EFLT	L 1-2	1,373	Wollacott	Radcliffe	Conroy	Kotey	Malone	Anderson	Scott	Loft	FLOWER 1	Brown	Tshimanga	Barker, Flint, Holohan (Robertson, Heater, Watson, Showunmi)
11 WALSALL	L2	D 1-1	3,461	Wollacott	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Malone	Anderson	McKirdy	LOFT 1	Pereira	Holohan	Tshimanga	Watson, Forster, Flower (Radcliffe, Brown, Showunmi)
18 Shrewsbury Town	L2	L 0-1	4,743	Wollacott	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Forster	Anderson	McKirdy	Loft	Pereira	Holohan	Tshimanga	Watson, Bajrami, Roles, Cashman (Brown, Scott)
25 BRISTOL ROVERS 1 x OG	L2	W 4-0	3,416	Wollacott	Barker	Conroy	Flint	MALONE 1	Anderson	Scott	Loft	Watson	Holohan	Bajrami	FLOWER 1, FORSTER 1 , Tshimanga, Dixon (Brown, Roles)
NOVEMBER															
1 Boreham Wood	FAC1	L 0-3	1,536	Wollacott	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Malone	Anderson	Scott	Loft	Watson	Holohan	Bajrami	Pereria, Dixon, Brown, Flower, Forster (Tshimanga, Roles, Heater, Radcliffe)
8 FLEETWOOD TOWN	L2	W 2-1	2,879	Wollacott	Barker	Radcliffe	Flint	Malone	Anderson	Adeyemo	Dixon	Watson	Brown	FLOWER 1	FORSTER 1 , Williams, Pereira (Bajrami, Scott, Tshimanga)
11 PETERBOROUGH UNITED	EFLT	L 1-2	924	Davies	Roles	Radcliffe	Flint	Kotey	Forster	Scott	Loft	Mukena	Tshimanga	BAJRAMI 1	Barker, Anderson, Adeyemo (Brown, Robertson, Heater, Showunmi)
15 Gillingham	L2	D 2-2	6,252	Wollacott	Barker	Williams	Flint	Anderson	Forster	Brown	Adeyemo	Watson	Flower	BAJRAMI 1	Roles, TSHIMANGA 1 (Davies, Mukena, Kotey, Robertson)
22 ACCRINGTON STANLEY	L2	D 1-1	2,885	Wollacott	Barker	Williams	Flint	McKirdy	Forster	Brown	Adeyemo	Watson	Flower	Bajrami	Dixon, Roles, TSHIMANGA 1 (Davies, Mukena, Robertson)
29 Salford City	L2	L 3-4	2,127	Wollacott	Bajrami	WILLIAMS 1	Flint	McKirdy	FORSTER 1	Brown	Adeyemo	Watson	Flower	Tshimanga	Pereria, Roles, Dixon (Davies, Mukena, Robertson)
DECEMBER															
9 Bromley	L2	L 1-3	3,544	Wollacott	Barker	Bajrami	Flint	McKirdy	Forster	Brown	Adeyemo	Williams	LOFT 1	Watson	Tshimanga, Dixon, Roles (Davies, Conroy, Holohan)
13 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	L2	D 2-2	3,152	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Dixon	Forster	Brown	Adeyemo	Williams	LOFT 1	Roles	Watson, Pereira, Holohan, TSHIMANGA 1 (Wollacott, Bajrami)
20 Swindon Town	L2	L 0-1	8,172	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Pereira	Forster	Brown	Bajrami	Williams	Loft	Roles	Tshimanga, Watson, Adeyemo, Holohan (Dixon, Wollacott)
26 COLCHESTER UNITED	L2	D 1-1	3,993	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Pereira	Forster	BROWN 1	Bajrami	Williams	Loft	Roles	Watson, Tshimanga, Adeyemo, Holohan, McKirdy (Dixon)
29 BROMLEY	L2	L 1-3	4,058	Davies	BARKER 1	Conroy	Flint	Pereira	Holohan	Brown	Bajrami	Williams	Loft	Adeyemo	Roles, Forster, McKirdy, Tshimanga (Dixon, Watson)
JANUARY 2026															
1 Barnet	L2	L 1-2	2,566	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Vassell	Richards	Forster	Bajrami	Williams	Loft	MCKIRDY 1	Watson, Tshimanga, Adeyemo, Dixon (Roles, Brown)
4 Cheltenham Town	L2	L 0-3	3,211	Davies	Barker	Conroy	Flint	Williams	McKirdy	Forster	Richards	T Adeyemo	Russell	Brown	Pereira, Roles, Tshimanga (Bajrami, Watson, Odimayo, Vassell)
17 NOTTS COUNTY	L2	L 1-2	3,933	Davies	Vassell	Odimayo	Flint	Forster	Pereira	Russell	Copley	Williams	Lolos	Orsi	MCKIRDY 1 , Anderson (Wollacott, Radcliffe, Barker, Bajrami, Adeyemo)
24 Barrow	L2	W 1-0	2,322	Chapman	Vassell	Odimayo	Flint	Darcy	McKirdy	Russell	Copley	Williams	Gordon	Orsi	RICHARDS 1 , Barker, Forster, Anderson (Wollacott, Pereira, Bajrami)
27 Walsall	L2	D 0-0	4,899	Chapman	Vassell	Anderson	Flint	Darcy	Barker	Russell	Richards	Williams	Gordon	Orsi	Odimayo, Bajrami, L Richards, McKirdy, Pereira (Wollacott, Forster)
31 HARROGATE TOWN	L2	W 2-0	3,326	Chapman	Vassell	ANDERSON 1	FLINT 1	Darcy	Barker	Russell	Richards	Williams	Gordon	Orsi	Bajrami, L Richards, Forster, McKirdy, Pereira (Wollacott, Odimayo)
FEBRUARY															
7 CREWE ALEX. (KO 12.31)	L2	L 0-1	2,975	Chapman	Vassell	McKirdy	Flint	Darcy	Barker	Russell	Lolos	Williams	Gordon	Orsi	T Richards, Forster (Pereira, Odimayo, Bajrami, L Richards)
10 CAMBRIDGE UNITED	L2	L 0-3	2,961	Chapman	Vassell	McKirdy	Flint	Darcy	Forster	L Richards	Lolos	Williams	Odimayo	Orsi	Gordon, T Richards, Bajrami (Barker, Copley, Pereira)
14 Tranmere Rovers	L2	L 0-2	5,739	Chapman	Bajrami	Gordon	Flint	Darcy	Forster	Copley	Lolos	Williams	Odimayo	Orsi	Barker, Pereira, Ferizaj (Wollacott, Adeyemo, L Richards)
17 Milton Keynes Dons	L2	D 0-0	7,035	Chapman	Bajrami	Gordon	Flint	Darcy	Barker	L Richards	Lolos	Williams	Ferizaj	Orsi	Forster, Pereira (Russell, Odimayo, Adeyemo, T Adeyemo)
21 CHESTERFIELD	L2														
28 Oldham Athletic	L2														
MARCH															
7 SWINDON TOWN	L2														
13 Colchester United	L2														
17 BARNET	L2														
21 Fleetwood Town	L2														
28 GILLINGHAM	L2														
APRIL															
3 Newport County	L2														
6 GRIMSBY TOWN	L2														
11 Bristol Rovers	L2														
18 SHREWSBURY TOWN	L2														
25 Accrington Stanley	L2														
MAY															
2 SALFORD CITY	L2														





REDS 0-1 CREWE ALEXANDRA SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY



After a good run of seven points out of nine, we welcomed Crewe Alexandra to the Broadfield. It was a 12.31 kick off, altered twice; once by Sky and then "a minute later" from the EFL, as all games are due to kick off a minute later to highlight the difference CPR can make in that first minute.

And the pitch has had extra protection this week, as the same "dome" Sky gave to Cheltenham to keep the frost off just after New Year has been in use to keep the persistent rain off the pitch all week. Without the tent there was no way this game would have gone ahead, as the uncovered apron of the pitch would show.

There is a reasonable turn out of away fans considering the early kick off and distance. We are in our all red with white trim home kit and Crewe are in all black with a green pattern on the front of their shirts.

An early long ball is nodded down to Ronan Darcy and his shot from distance goes just over. It looks as if the wind may be quite a factor, as the ball is getting blown all over the place. We give away an unnecessary corner, getting closed down whilst passing it around at the back. It's taken short and crossed in and Jacob Chapman just about flaps it away. A Crewe free kick on the right comes in; the ref blows for a foul before they put it into the net. And almost straight away another Crewe shot comes in and is comfortably saved by Chapman. The Crewe players are throwing themselves to the

ground at the slightest hint of contact, and the ref is buying it most of the time. Is it the Oscars soon?

A Jonny Russell long throw on the right is flicked on by Josh Flint but cleared and Crewe break and have a shot easily saved by Chapman. Another Russell throw is flicked on by Flint again, half cleared and worked back to Klaidi Lolos who has a shot on the turn from twenty-five yards which goes over the bar. A long Crewe free kick is nodded down and a shot from the edge of the area is another easy save for Chapman. Crewe attack again down the right, cut into the box and a shot hits the side netting after an obvious foul in the build-up wasn't given.

We attack down the left and get the ball into Lolos, he plays it across to Kellan Gordon on the right and his cross is headed behind for a corner. It's curled in by Russell but lands on the roof of the net. Russell is down for a second time and is getting treatment this time. Crewe get a corner and take it out to the edge of the box and a shot flies over the Eden Utilities Stand for ball loss number one of the day.

A long ball down the left is won by Harry McKirdy; he plays it across the box to Gordon on the right and then onto Darcy and his attempted clip over the top back to McKirdy is too strong. Crewe are looking the more dangerous going forward and are pressing well. They get a corner, which is taken deep, headed back and a shot goes just wide. We almost gift Crewe a chance as a Charlie Barker

ball across the box is cut out but the shot is saved and we smuggle it out for a throw. Crewe keep the ball and only a blatant hand ball to push it away from Jay Williams' head gives us a free kick and possession. But seriously, how isn't that a yellow card? We break and a McKirdy shot is blocked, it comes back in and gets to the edge of the area and a Williams' sliding effort is blocked and cleared. Gordon gets a yellow for a pull back. The free kick comes to nothing. There are two added minutes before the half time whistle goes with the scores level at 0-0.

We make a substitution at half time with the injured Russell being replaced by Lewis Richards. Into the second half and Crewe are still pressing really well and we are getting no time on the ball and there are quite a few misplaced passes, but we break and there is a misplaced Crewe pass to Richards and his shot from the edge of the box is well saved for a corner. It's taken low to the near post and cleared. We are working it well now. A long ball down the right finds Gordon, he puts it across the box and Richards and Lolos combine, Lolos cuts inside and has a shot from the edge of the box which goes just wide.

A ball down the left gets to Richards and he plays it through to McKirdy in the box, he beats a man and goes a bit wide but gets a shot off, which is parried by the keeper and Danilo Orsi bundles it in and the wild celebrating starts, but..... the lino has his flag up for offside. Not sure how he worked that one out. (Apparently, the ref ruled it out for a handball by Orsi.) Crewe have a couple of free kicks in the attacking half, both of which are borderline decisions at best. They are both taken deep and go for goal kicks. Flint rampages down the left, exchanges passes with Richards and his cross is blocked but comes to Orsi and his shot is saved.

A Crewe break is stopped by Lolos and McKirdy and we get it forward to Darcy, but he can't quite get it under control. It's not really working for him at all today. And then he picks up a booking for stopping a Crewe break. Another Crewe break down the left sees a precision cross in, which is met by a striker near the penalty spot on the volley and the shot beats Chapman's despairing dive. We trail 0-1. We make substitutions before the restart with Darcy and Gordon being replaced by Taylor Richards and Harry Forster.

Williams wins the ball in midfield and plays it to T Richards, then out to McKirdy who clips it into the box and Forster plays it back, but it is cleared for a corner. It's taken deep and cleared. Crewe break down the right and their cross is put behind for a corner. It's played back to the edge of the area, and a shot takes a deflection for another corner. Taken deep and Crewe keep it on the left but their cross goes out. A blatant foul on T Richards is ignored, and Crewe get a shot which goes over. Another Flint run out of defence ends with him going down on the edge of the box. He made a meal of going down but we get the free kick. Lolos lines it up but hits the wall. L Richards crosses it, but ref blows for a free kick to Crewe.

There are four added minutes, there is a coming together in midfield and a Crewe player is down claiming to have been elbowed in the face by Williams. The Crewe bench gets involved and all that comes from it is wasted time. Crewe force a save from Chapman and it goes for a corner. Crewe just play keep ball in the corner and the final whistle goes on a narrow 0-1 defeat.

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REDS 0-3 CAMBRIDGE UNITED TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Two very late second-half goals by substitute Sullay Kaikai, after a 44th minute first-half opener from Shane McLoughlin, lifted Cambridge into the League Two automatic promotion places in third spot. The U's seventh win in their last eight games, which left Crawley only just clear of the drop zone.

Reds made a decent fist of the first half, and they held the Cambridge team to account. Restricting them to very little, for almost all of the first half. Unfortunately it seems to be the case this season that big chances keep going begging. Newly returned striker Danilo Orsi came incredibly close to giving Crawley the lead in the first minute, following a great set up from McKirdy, but his low shot was somehow blocked by the legs of goalkeeper Jake Eastwood.

Crawley kept in the game and Lolos had a shot blocked from outside the box on 29 minutes. Harry McKirdy headed a pinpoint Orsi cross just wide of the right hand post from close range on 39 minutes. If either of these go in it is a different game.

But if I had a pound for every time we've said that this season it would be beers all round! There is then a delay in the flow of the game as George Hoddle is substituted because of injury, (Yes he is related – second cousin to Glenn Hoddle – before you ask.)



A happy Cambridge Utd fan - because of the result and our programme

The flow having been broken, before you know it unmarked midfielder Shane McLoughlin puts Cambridge in front just before the break, by slotting in a James Gibbons cross at the back stick. In the three minutes of added time Lolos has a shot blocked from a Reds corner, then Cambridge get a corner themselves and Jacob makes a good save to keep it 0-1 at half time.

Cambridge come out for the second half with more fire – after what must have been a bit of a roasting from their Boss Neil Harris. Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu should have doubled their advantage four minutes into the second half, but he shot straight at



Matt the East Stand Drummer tried his best to rally the troops

Red's keeper Chapman. Crawley defender Josh Flint heads a great Darcy cross just wide. 61 mins in and it is time for a change.

Taylor Richards takes over from McKirdy and Kellan Gordon swaps with Lewis Richards. Moments later Flint – who has been a shining light in a rather testing season – misses the target by a whisker, following a good cross from Gordon on the wing. Cambridge substitute Ball then blazed his namesake, the ball, wide at the other end.

Then – just when you think it can't get any worse – new signing Vassell – who has been a revelation in defence, gets a bad leg injury. On 68 mins ex Red Sullay Kaikai is subbed on. Sadly Vassell is unable to continue so Bajrami enters the fray. Having survived a couple of corners Reds come undone when Kaikai scores

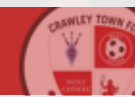
following a fast breakaway, tucking in Shayne Lavery's assist at close range, in front of the large contingent of travelling fans.

Kaikai continues to be involved in several more waves of Cambridge attack. In the 88th Minute there is briefly hope of a comeback, but Flint's left footer from distance is again blocked by a solid defence. Into 5 minutes added on and it becomes nothing but free kick city, as the game gets a bit ill tempered.

There is time for another Cambridge sub and then Kaikai calmly added their third in the last minute of stoppage time, with his right foot, to somewhat flatter the visitors. Darcy, Gordon & Williams were the only Crawley yellow cards of the game, so that was a good day for us.

Referee Alex Chilowicz actually had a pretty decent game by recent standards – (it is a very low bar mind you!).





TRANMERE ROVERS 2-0 REDS SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY



It was an early start, and there were a few other fans at Three Bridges Station. Once off the train at Birkenhead Central there was some time to wander around Birkenhead taking photos. Some very nice buildings, but a lot of looking up is required.

And Prenton Park is certainly a decent stadium to visit; there are memorials, statues, blue plaques, street art, and decent gates. The club shop is good and they do a decent enough programme. There's a nice touch next to the away turnstiles (pic below), and there was a steward giving out team sheets at the turnstile on the way in, and a drink token as promised at the Fan's Forum on Thursday once inside.

We are in our third, all black kit, playing against the all-white of Tranmere. And we do the annoying changing ends before the kick-off. Tranmere win an early corner, which we clear, and I'm glad to see we are still going with having three up on the halfway line when the corners are taken. Tranmere attack again and a player is given far too much time to weave his way through the static defence, and get a shot in, which Jacob Chapman saves well, but there's a Tranmere player to the rebound first and they put the ball in the net. The ref wanders over to chat with the linesman and after a discussion, the lino's flag goes up and it's ruled out. Difficult to tell from our end but may have got away with one there.

We attack and Kellan Gordon's cross is headed behind for a corner. The corner comes in and is blatantly cleared with a Tranmere hand, which is missed, and when the ball comes back in Adin Odimayo is offside. Ronan Darcy and Gordon combine well down the right and a Gordon cross is blocked for a throw. Josh Flint comes over to take the throw; it bounces around in the box before falling to Klaidi Lolos and his shot is blocked. Tranmere break quickly and we didn't learn from the earlier let

off as we let twinkle toes loose in the box again and this time his initial shot beats Chapman and we trail 0-1.

Down the right a Gordon cross fizzies into the box and is just over Danilo Orsi's head and cleared. Harry Forster is fouled on the left-wing, level with the edge of the box. Darcy takes it deep and Flint heads it back into the middle, but it is cleared for a throw, which Flint takes and it is again cleared. We win a corner on the left and it is taken deep and half cleared, and Flint picks it up on the right and cuts into the box and gets a shot in, which is saved by the keeper for a corner. Which is wasted as it goes out for a throw. Again we attack, this time down the left and Forster gets a cross blocked for a corner, taken deep and put out for another corner on the other side. This sees a couple of headers in the box, before it's put back out for another corner on the original side. That's taken short and an Odimayo shot is blocked and cleared.

However, despite all the corners we have, it's Tranmere who look more dangerous going forward. Pacy attacks and decent final balls in. They come down the left and the cross in isn't dealt with and a shot crashes up off the bar. Another let off. Lolos wins the ball in midfield and gets it to Orsi, and he plays a great ball through to Darcy who's in, one on one, on the goalkeeper, but his shot is saved by the keeper's feet. Another gilt-edged chance squandered. Williams gets the ball in midfield and plays it to Orsi on the right and he cuts into the box but is hesitant to shoot and passes it, but it's intercepted and cleared.

Meanwhile Chapman is getting booed every time he gets the ball, which I assume is to do with the goal which was disallowed early on. A deep Tranmere cross is headed clear and then put back in, and both times the Tranmere players and fans are screaming for penalties to be given. Tranmere have a free kick which they put into the box, then back into the middle and we knock it onto the roof of the net. The corner is headed out for another, which is put out for a goal kick.



Copley is pulled back in midfield and there is a yellow card for the Tranmere player. A long throw on the right bounces around in the box and comes to Darcy and he slices his shot onto the roof of the net. Forster gets into the box and to the byline and gets a cross in which is cleared and there is a quick break. There is a tussle in the box, and the Tranmere player goes down behind Geraldo Bajrami and the ref points to the spot. Chapman is sent the wrong way and we trail 0-2.

There are four added minutes, and we are nearly undone by another quick break, but Odimayo gets back to block the shot. And the half time whistle goes with us trailing 0-2. At the break we replace Copley with a debut for Justin Ferizaj.

Into the second half and we are lucky that Bajrami doesn't give away another penalty, he probably just about let go of the shirt of the Tranmere striker in time, and we clear. Flint takes a throw on the right, but doesn't go long, it's played back to him, and he gets into the box, riding a couple of challenges, but he can't get a cross at the end of it. We do get crosses in from either side of the pitch, but Tranmere clear them and then break quickly and have a shot which goes just over the bar. They attack again and it is Orsi back in his own box who clears it for a corner. We clear and go to break down the left and Forster is wiped out before halfway and there is a yellow card for the challenge.

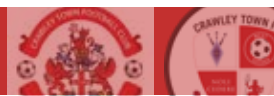
Flint and Forster combine down the left and the latter's cross sees a Darcy attempt spin over to Orsi who attempts an overhead kick which is cleared. A Flint long throw is put out for a corner. It is half cleared and falls to Forster, who fluffs his attempted shot and Tranmere clear. Darcy wins a free kick in the attacking half, the free kick is taken deep and headed back into the middle but cleared. We win a corner from a blocked Gordon cross, but it's easily cleared. Subs time comes, with Lolos and Odimayo being replaced by Ade Adeyemo and Charlie Barker. And Adeyemo's first action is winning a corner which is easily cleared again. We're trying to get crosses into the box, but they're being cleared, and Gordon's been caught offside a couple of times. Now another sub, with Forster being replaced by Dion Pereira.

A long ball out from the back by Barker is put out for a corner. And it's cleared. We work a shooting opportunity but Darcy's effort from outside the box goes over. Down the right Darcy passes to Adeyemo and then onto Ferizaj and his cross is put out for a corner. It is flicked on and Ferizaj's shot goes wide. A quick Tranmere attack down the right wins a corner, and we clear and Gordon is fouled as we come out and he then takes a quick free kick straight at the non-retreating Tranmere player and there's a yellow card for the Tranmere player. Then for the first time since the new rule was introduced at the start of the season, we see a referee give a corner for a goalkeeper holding the ball for more than eight seconds. It is against Tranmere, and it didn't seem overly long compared with some we've seen not given this season. As if in surprise, we waste the corner. We are trying to press forward, and Flint gives the ball away, and Tranmere attempt a shot from their own half, but it goes wide.

There are seven added minutes. A cross into the Tranmere box is cleared for a corner. We keep it in there and a ball is hacked off the line and then out for a goal kick. A free kick is put into the box and cleared, a Darcy shot is well saved, Adeyemo gets it on the left, puts it back in and Ferizaj's shot goes over. The Tranmere keeper is booked for timewasting. Apparently, it was a different memo the ref got about which team there was a quota for. Still we try, a ball to Pereira, and a shot from the edge of the box is tipped onto the bar and out for a corner. It comes in, a shot is blocked and the final whistle goes on a 0-2 defeat and disappointment for the 181 away fans to have made the trip up to Merseyside. (15 Crawley corners and we don't score from one.) My journey home included cancelled trains, a breakdown, a train swap over the tracks a mile from Euston, and eventually home at 3:30 Sunday morning. There have been better trips.

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LOOK BACK IN ANGER – IT'S BEEN A LOT WORSE!

This title and its film and literary reference (look it up) – to copy a plot device from Kev' Neylon and his musical references – sums up my feelings, as I start writing this article the day after the Cambridge United game.

Although, to be honest, it's probably more disappointment than anger, as no matter how much we all (or many of us) complain when things haven't gone well, it's usually fuelled by the disappointment we experience when the anticipation of an exciting performance – and the prospective three points – is met with the reality of a pretty depressing game.

I think it's fair to say that as January progressed, there was a much more positive feel amongst supporters, as the new signings kept rolling in, and hopefully this week has just been a blip. However, cast your minds back to the season of 1974/75 when the month of January was immeasurably bleaker for us than the present.

With finances very limited that season, we had already exited the FA Cup ignominiously to Ringmer in a Second Qualifying Round replay, having drawn 2-2 (Barry Morgan, John Leedham our scorers) in the first game at Town Meadow. The replay was on a Thursday afternoon: the energy crisis and three-day working week, during a time of large-scale industrial action across the country, meant that floodlights could not be used. Having taken the afternoon off work to go to the replay, I seem to remember a ground surrounded by tall trees, no bar being open and a terrible game, which we lost 2-1, with Barry Morgan (who I went to school with and who was a regular in our reserves) scoring our goal.

For such a grim season, I had forgotten that before the Ringmer fiasco we had actually won five of our previous six matches in all competitions (I checked this on Ian Mulcahy's excellent CTFC History website), but from then on, it was all downhill.

Christmas had brought a very unfestive 7-1

defeat away to Hastings United, before moving into January and a significant match at home to Salisbury City on 11th January 1975. Significant in that our 1-0 victory was our last Southern League win of the season, with Mick Mancini our scorer in front of a "crowd" of 163.

That crowd figure was nowhere near our lowest, with several well under one hundred and one of only 34 fans (I was one of them!) for a surprise 5-2 win over Tonbridge (they must have been bad!) in the Southern Counties Combination Floodlit League on 3rd April 1975.

After the Salisbury win in January, our Southern League points haul for the rest of the season amounted to precisely one point, a 2-2 draw at home to Dorchester Town on 12th April 1975, which came just four days after a 10-0 home defeat to Dartford in the Floodlit League in front of 61 fans (I was one!).

We did follow the Dorchester win with a 3-3 draw against Brighton in the Sussex Professional Cup Final on 17th April, but then lost all ten of our remaining games. Note that

Southern League	First Division	SouthCo	Inc	30/4/75					
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts	Home	Away
Gravesend & N'ft	38	24	12	3	70	30	60	0-1	0-4
Hillingdon Bare	28	22	8	8	87	45	52	0-5	1-5
Hinshold	37	20	9	8	70	33	49	1-2	0-5
Ransgate	38	19	11	8	70	38	49	0-4	0-1
Bexley United	37	19	7	11	61	41	45	1-3	0-3
Waterlooville	38	17	11	10	67	49	45	2-2	0-5
Basingstoke Town	38	16	11	11	64	50	40	0-1	0-5
Ashford Town	35	14	12	9	53	50	40	1-2	1-3
Canterbury City	37	15	9	13	52	43	39	0-2	0-2
Hastings United	37	12	14	11	52	45	38	1-5	1-7
Poole Town	37	11	13	13	54	55	35	0-1	3-3
Metropolitan Police	38	11	13	14	54	66	35	0-0	1-4
Folkestone & S'way	38	10	14	14	53	57	34	0-3	2-3
Andover	36	11	8	17	50	67	30	0-3	0-2
Salisbury	38	9	11	18	45	66	29	1-0	2-3
Bognor Regis Town	37	9	11	17	45	65	29	4-2	1-1
Bideford	37	10	8	19	40	68	28	0-2	0-2
Trowbridge Town	37	9	9	19	45	76	27	1-3	1-3
Dorchester Town	37	8	10	19	39	59	26	2-2	3-1
Crawley Town	36	3	5	28	30	98	11	x	x

OTHER RESULTS		
Andover	Southern League Cup	2-0 0-2
Andover	"	3-2
Salisbury	"	0-2
Horsham	London Senior Cup	1-2
Peac-haven	F A Cup	3-0
Ringmer	"	2-2 1-2
Lewes	F A Trophy	0-2
Horsham	Sussex Professional Cup	1-0
Brighton & Hove Al	"	3-3*

* after extra time

we still had ten games to play after 17th April, partly due to being in two Floodlit League competitions, but mainly due to our awful Town Meadow pitch causing many postponements.

On the matter of postponements, I found in a programme for the Hillingdon Borough game of 24th August 1974 that the club had just obtained a new flagpole, but had no flag to go on it, and were therefore appealing for donations for this, as they couldn't justify spending our limited funds on one.

They then raised the idea that the flag, when bought, could have a practical use and be hoisted on home matchdays to indicate that the game was on.

Obviously this would still necessitate a trip to the ground to see if the flag was flying, but it would save you the last 20 yards or so of walking!

I must admit, I can't remember if we ever did manage to obtain a flag, but for midweek

games in the winter, a walk to the end of our road in Northgate to see if the floodlights were on usually gave me a good idea of the chance of seeing a game. You lucky lot who just have to look on the internet these days are spoilt!

Mention of flags jogged my memory of a cutting I have, included here, of the raising of the original flag in club colours from November 1949, but no mention of whether it would be used as a communication device for fans.

Returning to the end of that terrible 1974/75 season, we closed out the Southern League programme with two home games in two days: a 2-0 defeat on 1st May to Andover and a 3-2 defeat to Ashford Town on 2nd May, in front of 71 and 67 fans respectively – perhaps those four absent lightweighters couldn't cope with one more defeat!

Our scorers in the Ashford game were Ali West and Stan Norris and, as mentioned in the Andover programme, Ali West had featured the previous week for our youth team in

winning the Sussex Youth Cup 3-2 against Thomas Bennett Youth Wing. They were also to play the same team on 4th May in the Sussex Sunday League Minor Cup Final at Town Mead(ow) and I have the programme for this game but sadly not the scores.

Out of interest, I did check the teams in that programme and recognised a few players who would go on to play a number of games for the first team, in particular the aforementioned Ali West, as well as David Gates, Dave Easton and Robbie Turnbull.



The November 1949 Flag Raising

RETRO RED DEVILS CONTINUED >>>>

Robbie was the son of Les Turnbull, who had just been announced as a new member of the club board and who would go on to play a crucial role in securing the club's future, including the move to Broadfield Stadium.

I find it amazing that when the club were in such a parlous financial situation, they could run a youth side and also a reserve side (in the Southern Counties Combination) as well as the first team featuring in two floodlight leagues. I suppose it goes to largely explain why the pitch was so poor, with all those games played on it?

Just prior to the flagpole appeal I mentioned earlier, we had played a number of pre-season matches at home, one of these being a hastily arranged match against a team who would compete in the European Cup that season. No, not Real Madrid or Bayern Munich but Cork Celtic. Cork were at the time managed by ex-Chelsea star Bobby Tambling, and were gearing up for the season by playing a few matches in England when they contacted us at fairly short notice to arrange a game on Friday 9th August 1974.

While in the press preview, our coach Tony Elkins Green was hoping for a crowd of over 1,500 but the fact we had played Guildford and Dorking United only the night before, may have had some bearing on the attendance of a meagre 304, which caused some embarrassment to Crawley officials as part of the agreement was that we would split the gate money 50-50 with Cork.

As it was, the game ended in a 1-1 draw, with our goal a penalty scored by Vic Bragg, who is shown in the cutting trying to close down Tambling, who played part of the game, alongside four Eire internationals.

For all the illustrious names on paper, one of the few Crawley fans at the game apparently commented, "Guildford gave us more problems the night before"! While Elkins Green fumed at the poor attendance, a footnote comment from the Observer reporter was that he didn't see anything in the Crawley side to suggest a successful season to come. How right he was!

Mick Fox
mjfo@yahoo.co.uk



VIC BRAGG (left) wins this aerial duel with Cork Celtic's Bobby Tambling at Town Mead last Friday.

Vic Bragg & Bobby Tambling

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SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2026, 3PM OLDHAM ATHLETIC

The supporters coach will depart from the stadium at 7.00am and will cost £40.00. We will have a comfort/coffee break at the M6 Toll services at about 10.00am and then a buffet stop at the Fox & Hounds at Spronston Green at about 11.30am. We will depart at 1.00pm to arrive at Oldham just after 2.00pm. Coach will park up at the stadium.

We depart straight after the game and will have a break at some point on the return journey, depending on traffic conditions – either Warwick or Oxford.

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2026, 7.45PM COLCHESTER UNITED

The supporters coach will depart from the stadium at 4.00pm and will cost £30.00.

We will travel direct to Colchester United's Stadium non-stop; arriving at about 7.00pm – earlier if the traffic is good on the M25 at Dartford and the A12. Coach will park up at the stadium. We will depart straight after the game finishes and travel back non-stop to the Broadfield Stadium. Match tickets are now available from the Colchester ticket portal – the earlier you book them the cheaper they are.



SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026, 3PM FLEETWOOD

Bookings now being taken. The supporters coach will depart from the stadium at 7.00am and will cost £40.00. We will have a comfort/coffee break at the M6 Toll services at about 10.00pm and then hopefully a buffet stop at a pub, yet to be organised. We will depart from there at 1.00pm to arrive at Fleetwood just after 2.00pm. Coach will park up at the stadium. We depart straight after the game and will have a break at some point on the return journey, depending on traffic conditions – either Warwick or Oxford. Match tickets are not yet on sale, match ticket delivery services available for this game.

REMEMBER... If you can't get to the stadium to pick up your away match tickets we can collect and bring them to the game, on the coach – just let us and the club know when buying your tickets that you want them collected (please make sure they put a contact telephone number on the envelope) – we will text you when we have them, so you don't need to worry.

Full details of our away matches are also on our website www.ghcoaches.co.uk. To book on any of these coaches we will be in Redz bar before any home game – Saturdays or midweek – or you can book via Email, text messages to Alain – NEW E mail ghcoachesat@gmail.com Text or phone 07771-792346. Patrick via Facebook or X (Twitter). For coach payments this can be done either via Bank transfer or if in Redz cash. If you need our bank details then please ask.

**We are in partnership with UNITED MINIBUSES AND COACHES
to run supporter transport to matches – UNITED Telephone 01293-781000**





HISTORICAL STATS COMPILED BY IAN MULCAHY THE CONFERENCE YEARS & EFL

CONFERENCE (NATIONAL LEAGUE)

Most League Points	105	2010/11	Least League points	47	2005/06
Most Draws	14	2008/09	Least Draws	9	2004/05
					2007/08
					2008/09
Most wins	31	2010/11	Least wins	12	2005/06
Most defeats	19	2005/06	Least defeats	3	2010/11
Most goals scored	93	2010/11	Least goals scored	48	2005/06
Most goals conceded	67	2007/08	Least goals conceded	30	2010/11
Best GD	63	2010/11	Worst GD	-7	2005/06
					2009/10
Best Home Att	4,054	18 Mar 2011 v AFC Wimbledon			
Best Away Att	6,895	5 Oct 2010 v Luton Town			
Lowest Home Att	593	24 Feb 2009 v Lewes			
Lowest Away Att	320	28 Aug 2010 v Hayes & Yeading			
Top season scorer	37	Matt Tubbs (2010/11) <i>League goals only</i>			
Top Season Apps	46	Dannie Bulman (2008/09) Simon Rayner (2008/09) <i>League appearances only (+ from the bench)</i>			

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Most Lge Points	84	L2 2011/12
Least Lge points	46	L2 2022/23, L1 2024/25
Most Draws	15	L2 2011/12, L1 2013/14, L2 2019/20
Least Draws	7	L2 2023/24
Most wins	23	L2 2011/12
Least wins	11	L2 2019/20, L2 2022/23
Most defeats	25	L2 2015/16
Least defeats	8	L2 2011/12
Most goals scored	76	L2 2011/12
Least goals scored	45	L2 2015/16
Most goals conceded	83	L1 2024/25
Least goals conceded	47	L2 2019/20 (37 matches only due to COVID) <i>54 in full seasons L2 2011/12 and L1 2013/14</i> <i>Alexandra at Wembley.</i>
Best GD	22	L2 2011/12
Worst GD	-33	L2 2015/16
Best Home Att	5,744	3 May 2015 v Coventry City, League One
Best Away Att	27,325	18 Apr 2025 v Birmingham City, League One <i>CTFCH stats show 33,341, 19 May 2024 v Crewe</i>
Lowest Home Att	1,455	26 Sep 2017 v Newport County, League Two <i>12 Dec 2020 v Barrow was 650, but was also a "sell out" due to COVID restrictions</i>
Lowest Away Att	1,098	20 Oct 2015 v Morecambe, League Two
Top season scorer	23	Daniilo Orsi (2023/24) <i>League goals only</i>
Top Season Apps	49	Klaidi Lolos <i>League appearances only (inc. from the bench), including the 3 play off matches</i>

2025/26 SEASON PLAYER STATS AS AT 17/2/26

No / Pos / Player / Previous Club or Loan Status	CTFC 25-26 Stats					CTFC Career	
	St	Su	Gls	Y	R	Apps	Gls
2 DF Scott Malone Cambridge Utd	6	2	1	3		11	1
3 DF Dion Conroy Swindon Town	21			5		104	4
4 DF Geraldo Bajrami Season long loan from Burton	19	5	3	5		24	3
5 DF Charlie Barker Wealdstone	30	4	1	10		78	3
6 MF Max Anderson Dundee	12	7	2	7		66	5
7 MF Harry Forster Bromley	17	13	3	3		93	10
10 MF Reece Brown Forest Green Rovers	18	6	2	3		24	2
12 DF Lewis Richards Bradford City	3	2				5	
13 FW Harry McKirdy Bromley	22	5	6	6	1	27	6
14 FW Louis Flower On loan to Woking	6	10	3	3		16	3
15 DF Ben Radcliffe On loan to Gateshead	4		2	1		23	2
16 DF Jonny Russell Glentoran	6			1		6	
18 FW Danny Cashman Worthing	3	2		1		5	
19 MF Dion Pereira Luton Town	11	10		1		21	
20 FW Justin Ferizaj Bray Wanderers	1	1				2	
21 FW Ryan Loft Season long loan from Cambridge Utd	15	1	4	5	2	16	4
22 FW Ade Adeyemo Cray Valley PM	17	4	1	4		85	9
23 MF Fate Kotey On loan to Whitehawk	2	3				5	
25 MF Antony Papadopoulos Welling United		3				10	1
26 MF Jay Williams (Captain) MK Dons	23	1	2	10		80	5
27 MF Louie Watson Luton Town	11	8		3		27	
28 DF Josh Flint FC Vullendam	35	1	1	4		56	1
30 MF Louie Copley Half season loan from Arsenal	3					3	
31 DF Akin Odimayo Newport County	4	1				5	
32 MF Taylor Richards QPR	3	3	1			6	1
33 GK Will Heater On loan to Sheppey Utd							
34 GK Jojo Wollacott Hibernian	11					48	
35 GK Jacob Chapman Half season loan from Huddersfield	7			1		7	
38 FW Tobi Adeyemo Half season loan from Watford	1					1	
41 DF Kellan Gordon Notts County	6	1		3		7	
42 DF Theo Vassell Barrow	7			1		7	
44 MF Klaidi Lolos Half season loan from Peterborough	5				1	61	15
49 MF Ronan Darcy Half season loan from Wigan	7			2		86	8
56 MF Jude Robertson On loan to Whitehawk		3		1		3	
99 FW Daniilo Orsi AFC Wimbledon	8					58	25



NB: The EFL only allow 5 loanees to be included in each matchday squad



BY HERBERT'S TOURS

Oldham Athletic Saturday 28th February

09:10 Three Bridges - St Pancras 10:01 Short walk to London Euston for the **10:33** departure to Manchester Piccadilly. Arrives 12:44. Then Tram from Piccadilly to Manchester Victoria, Manchester Victoria to Westwood.

Boundary Park is a 15 minute walk from Westwood Tram stop.

Return journey, tram via Westwood to Victoria, then Victoria to Manchester Piccadilly.

18:34 Manchester Piccadilly - Euston 20:58 Short walk to London St Pancras.

21:20 St Pancras - Three Bridges 22:09 Currently £83 with a railcard. (The Metrolink Manchester tram is tap on tap off).

Colchester United Friday 13th March

15:43 Three Bridges - Farringdon 16:41

16:50 Farringdon - Stratford 17:00

17:10 Stratford - Colchester 17:58

From Colchester it's a good 35 minute walk, or you can get a bus from the station to the park & ride, which is next to the stadium.

Return journey, bus or 35 min walk.

22:33 Colchester - London Liverpool Street 23:31

23:46 Liverpool Street - Farringdon 23:48

23:58 Farringdon - Three Bridges 00:54

Currently £36 return on a railcard or on a groupsave ticket, (3-9 people traveling together).

Fleetwood Town Saturday 21st March

08:05 Three Bridges - London Victoria 08:45 Tube - Victoria line to Euston.

09:30 London Euston - Preston 11:39

11:59 Preston - Blackpool North 12:24

Then tram from Blackpool seafront to Fleetwood (duration 50 minutes).

Return journey; tram back to Blackpool.

18:22 Blackpool North - Preston 18:47

19:07 Preston - London Euston 21:40 Tube - Victoria line to Victoria.

22:24 London Victoria - Three Bridges 23:00 Currently £82 with a railcard.



SKYBET LEAGUE TWO TABLES & UPCOMING FIXTURES AS AT 17/2/26

Position & Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Bromley	32	18	10	4	56	34	+22	64
2 Swindon Town	33	19	4	10	55	38	+17	61
3 Cambridge United	32	17	9	6	46	26	+20	60
4 Milton Keynes Dons	32	16	10	6	60	33	+27	58
5 Notts County	32	17	7	8	47	32	+15	58
6 CHESTERFIELD	32	13	13	6	51	42	+9	52
7 Salford City	30	16	4	10	42	38	+4	52
8 Crewe Alexandra	33	14	8	11	48	39	+9	50
9 Walsall	30	14	7	9	38	31	+7	49
10 Grimsby Town	30	13	9	8	42	32	+10	48
11 Barnet	32	12	11	9	41	33	+8	47
12 Colchester United	31	12	10	9	44	33	+11	46
13 Accrington Stanley	31	13	7	11	36	31	+5	46
14 Gillingham	31	10	11	10	40	38	+2	41
15 Fleetwood Town	31	11	8	12	40	40	0	41
16 Oldham Athletic	30	9	12	9	31	30	+1	39
17 Tranmere Rovers	32	9	8	15	45	52	-7	35
18 Cheltenham Town	31	9	5	17	30	52	-22	32
19 Shrewsbury Town	32	8	8	16	29	51	-22	32
20 Barrow	31	7	6	18	31	47	-16	27
21 CRAWLEY TOWN	33	6	9	18	32	53	-21	27
22 Bristol Rovers	32	8	3	21	29	55	-26	27
23 Harrogate Town	33	6	7	20	24	51	-27	25
24 Newport County	32	6	6	20	32	58	-26	24

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026

Accrington Stanley v Shrewsbury Town
Bristol Rovers v Grimsby Town
Cheltenham Town v Salford City
Colchester United v Barnet
Crawley Town v Chesterfield
Fleetwood Town v Barrow
Gillingham v Oldham Athletic
Harrogate Town v Bromley
Newport County v Cambridge United
Notts County v Tranmere Rovers
Swindon Town v Crewe Alexandra

MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2026

Walsall v Milton Keynes Dons

TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2026

Accrington Stanley v Barnet
Salford City v Shrewsbury Town

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

Harrogate Town v Cheltenham Town

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2026

Barnet v Chesterfield
Barrow v Gillingham
Bromley v Accrington Stanley
Cambridge United v Milton Keynes Dons
Colchester United v Salford City
Crewe Alexandra v Tranmere Rovers
Fleetwood Town v Newport County
Notts County v Grimsby Town
Oldham Athletic v Crawley Town
Shrewsbury Town v Walsall
Swindon Town v Bristol Rovers

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2026

Bromley v Oldham Athletic
Chesterfield v Colchester United
Grimsby Town v Salford City
Newport County v Tranmere Rovers
Walsall v Fleetwood Town

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

Cheltenham Town v Barrow





			Start	Sub
2	DF	Scott MALONE	■	■
4	DF	Geraldo BAJRAMI	■	■
5	DF	Charlie BARKER	■	■
6	MF	Max ANDERSON	■	■
7	MF	Harry FORSTER	■	■
12	DF	Lewis RICHARDS	■	■
13	FW	Harry MCKIRDY	■	■
14	FW	Louis FLOWER	■	■
15	DF	Ben RADCLIFFE	■	■
16	DF	Jonny RUSSELL	■	■
18	FW	Danny CASHMAN	■	■
19	MF	Dion PEREIRA	■	■
20	MF	Justin FERIZAJ	■	■
21	FW	Ryan LOFT	■	■
22	FW	Ade ADEYEMO	■	■
23	MF	Fate KOTEY	■	■
26	MF	Jay WILLIAMS	■	■
27	MF	Louie WATSON	■	■
28	DF	Josh FLINT	■	■
30	MF	Louie COPLEY	■	■
31	DF	Akin ODIMAYO	■	■
32	MF	Taylor RICHARDS	■	■
33	GK	Will HEATER	■	■
34	GK	Jojo WOLLACOTT	■	■
35	GK	Jacob CHAPMAN	■	■
38	FW	Tobi ADEYEMO	■	■
41	DF	Kellan GORDON	■	■
42	DF	Theo VASSELL	■	■
44	MF	Klaidi LOLOS	■	■
49	MF	Ronan DARCY	■	■
56	MF	Jude ROBERTSON	■	■
99	FW	Danilo ORSI	■	■

REFEREE Paul Howard
ASST Adrian Trainer
ASST Alex Bradley
FOURTH Rob Smith



			Start	Sub
1	GK	Zach HEMMING	■	■
2	DF	Malik OWOLABI-BELEWU	■	■
3	DF	Adam LEWIS	■	■
4	MF	Tom NAYLOR	■	■
6	DF	Kyle MCFADZEAN	■	■
7	MF	Liam MANDEVILLE	■	■
8	MF	Ryan STIRK	■	■
9	FW	Will GRIGG	■	■
10	FW	Lee BONIS	■	■
11	FW	Dylan DUFFY	■	■
12	DF	Tyrone WILLIAMS	■	■
13	MF	John FLECK	■	■
15	MF	Bailey HOBSON	■	■
16	MF	Luke BUTTERFIELD	■	■
17	MF	Armando DOBRA	■	■
19	DF	Lewis GORDON	■	■
20	DF	Vontae DALEY-CAMPBELL	■	■
22	DF	Chey DUNKLEY	■	■
23	GK	Ryan BOOT	■	■
24	FW	Dilan MARKANDAY	■	■
25	FW	Will DICKSON	■	■
26	DF	Sil SWINKELS	■	■
28	MF	James BERRY	■	■
29	DF	Sam CURTIS	■	■
36	MF	Sammy BRAYBROOKE	■	■
37	GK	Ashton RINALDO	■	■
40	MF	Connor COOK	■	■
41	FW	Gunner ELLIOTT	■	■
42	DF	Alex WHITNEY	■	■
44	DF	Janoi DONACIEN	■	■
45	FW	Freddie LADAPO	■	■
46	DF	Tom PEARCE	■	■

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