

TIVERTON TOWN FC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2025/26 SEASON

ISSUE 3



EMIRATES FA CUP FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING

TIVERTON TOWN vs TAUNTON TOWN

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST 2025 3pm

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Slee Blackwell Solicitors Stadium, Bolham Road, Tiverton, EX16 6SG

Tel: 01884 693989

Email: contact@tivertontownfc.co.uk

Unincorporated Members Club

THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

President	Wally Burke	Football Secretary	Viv Curtis
Chairman	Ian Moorcroft	Fixtures Secretary	Sharon Parker-Brock
Vice Chairman	Matthew Conridge	Ground Safety Officer	Marian Pile
Club Secretary	Viv Curtis	Media Manager	Jake Crump
Executive Committee	Mark Clarkson	Programme Editor	Simon Ellis
	Andrew Greig	Club Photographer	Viv Curtis
	Kimm Smith	First Team Manager	Asa Hall
	Claire Pike	First Team Assistant Manager	Steven Orchard
	Debbie Whiteway	First Team Physiotherapist	Anthony Cornish
Treasurer	Kimm Smith	Football Development	Michael Ebdon

CLUB HONOURS

FA Vase	Winners 1998 1999	Exeter League	Champions 1934
	Runner-up 1993		1965 1966
SL Div 1 Play Offs	Winners 2017	North Devon League	Champions 1932
Southern League Cup	Winners 2007	East Devon League	Champions 1925
Western League	Champions 1994		1926 1927 1928
	1995 1997 1998.	East Devon Senior Cup	Winners 1929 1936
Western League Cup	Winners 1993 1994		1938 1953 1961
	1996 1997 1998		1963 1967
Devon St. Lukes Cup	Winners 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1997 2000 2003 2006 2017 2023		
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Highest Attendance	3500 vs Leyton Orient (FA Cup First Round) 12 th November 1994		

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VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT



It's FA Cup weekend and we face another tough test as we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Taunton Town FC to the Slee Blackwell Solicitors Stadium.

The FA Cup is always a special competition to be part of, full of history and excitement, and we are really looking forward to today's game.

What better way to kick things off than with a local derby? These fixtures are always fiercely contested, and I know both sets of players and supporters will be giving everything to make it a memorable occasion.

The Bank Holiday weekend was a disappointing one for us, with two demanding fixtures leaving us empty-handed. The players gave their all, but football can be

unforgiving, and sometimes you don't get the rewards you feel your effort deserves. That said, I've been pleased with the spirit in the dressing room, and I know the lads are eager to respond in the right way today.

Every club at our level dreams of a good run, and we'll be doing all we can to make sure we find ourselves in the hat for the next round.

As always, I'd like to thank you for your fantastic support. Your backing home and away does not go unnoticed, and it makes a huge difference to the boys when the atmosphere lifts around the ground.

Please get behind them again today.

Up The Yellows ! ❤️

Asa

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD



Good afternoon and welcome to the Slee Blackwell Solicitors Stadium for today's FA Cup game against Taunton Town. I'd like to welcome the Taunton Team, Committee and Supporters to Tiverton.

This is my favourite time of the year, I absolutely love the FA Cup. I have fond memories of the competition, whether it be Tiverton Town's exploits in the early stages or Manchester United's success in the latter stages. It's a competition we as football fans should protect from the current incumbents in the Premier League who clearly value money ahead of tradition.

No better example of this than the scrapping of replays, a disgraceful decision which will have repercussions across football over the next few years. Anyhow, today is a day of saviour as we have had very little success in this competition for a number of years now unfortunately. Hopefully that changes today!

Our opponents Taunton Town have started the season well and have compiled a very strong side. I'm sure they will be in and

around the playoffs at the end of the season in what is a very competitive league. I'd say there at twelve plus sides who have a good shot at making the top five this season, there are very few (if any) weak sides in this division.

If you look at the season so far, from a results perspective it appears disappointing. Four losses and one win is not a great return, but as ever the key is in the detail, and what we have seen so far is a clear identity, a plan. Asa and Steve know exactly what they are doing, they know what they want to achieve and how to do it. We've seen an exciting, attacking team who want to play football.

We've got players who are on the way up rather than the way down, players who want to play for the club. Results haven't quite gone our way yet but they will, I'm supremely confident of that. The Taunton game on Monday past was a prime example, we matched them step for step but didn't take our chances. We are nearly there, keep the faith and back the team. I know they really appreciate the support each week, keep it up.

Last week saw both our Women's and Under 18s Boys sides go to Taunton Town and get impressive victories. This was wonderful to see and shows the strides the club as a whole are making. Again, these teams appreciate any support you can give them and they deserve it.

Onwards and Upwards.

Matt ❤️



VENI VIDI VICI

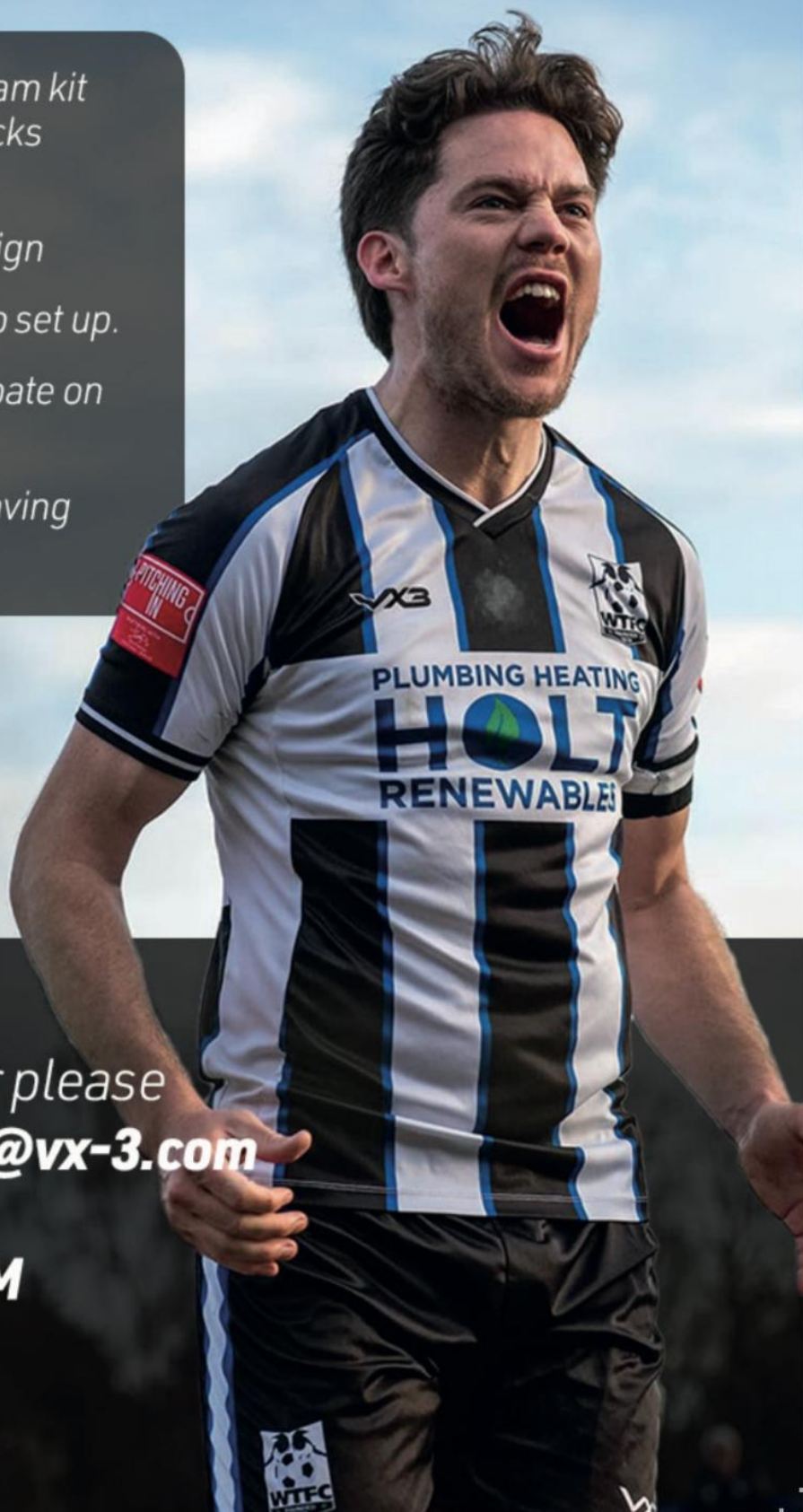
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Toby Stephens (above) and Dan Koita (below) in action at Wordsworth Drive last Monday.



Photograph credits, with thanks to Viv Curtis.

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IN PROFILE – TOBY DOWN



"I was delighted to be given the opportunity to continue my time at Tiverton, since coming back to the club last season I've enjoyed every minute of my time back here despite the challenges we faced on the pitch last season. I'm proud to wear the armband for the club and it was an absolute honour and a privilege to be asked to be captain".

"Obviously there were a lot of changes made, player wise, to the squad over the summer but the new lads that have come in have settled in really quickly and already our performances have improved as a group and I'm really excited to see where it takes us this season".

Central defender Toby joined the Yellows initially from Bideford, where he had spent the previous four

seasons, after impressive performances in the summer schedule at the start of the 2022/23 season.

Toby began his career at Exeter City, where he made a handful of first team appearances before he spent loan spells at both Weymouth and Dorchester Town, eventually joining The Terras on a permanent basis.

He was then part of the Taunton squad that won promotion in 2018 to the Premier Division South, before swapping Wordsworth Drive for the Sports Ground of Bideford at the end of that season.

A spell at Plymouth Parkway followed his first stint here at Tiverton and somewhat ironically, he made his Parkway debut against the Yellows in the October of 2022 and helped his new Bolitho Park based team-mates to a 4-2 victory.

At the back end of last season, after rejoining us from his second spell at Taunton, Toby was an integral part of the defensive unit as the Yellows defied the odds and maintained their Premier Division South status and his own individual, outstanding performances were duly recognised as he was awarded both the Supporters Player and the Managers Player of the Season.



Wishing Tiverton Town Football Club

All the best for this season



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2025/26 SEASON FIXTURES

AUGUST 2025

Sa 9	CHERTSEY TOWN	L 0-2
Tu 12	Dorchester Town	W 3-1
Sa 16	Hungerford Town	L 1-2
Sa 23	SHOLING	L 0-1
Mo 25	Taunton Town	L 0-3
Sa 30	TAUNTON TOWN	FAC

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sa 6	BRACKNELL TOWN	SL
Tu 9	Yate Town	SL
Sa 20	UXBRIDGE	SL
Tu 23	POOLE TOWN	SL

OCTOBER 2025

Sa 11	Evesham United	SL
Tu 14	Weymouth	SL
Sa 18	BERKHAMSTED	SL
Tu 21	WIMBORNE TOWN	SL

NOVEMBER 2025

Sa 1	Walton & Hersham	SL
Sa 8	Hanwell Town	SL
Sa 15	GLOUCESTER CITY	SL
Tu 18	YATE TOWN	SL
Sa 22	Gosport Borough	SL
Tu 25	Poole Town	SL
Sa 29	HAVANT & W` LOOVILLE	SL

DECEMBER 2025

Sa 6	BASINGSTOKE TOWN	SL
Sa 13	Farnham Town	SL
Sa 20	DORCHESTER TOWN	SL
Sa 27	Plymouth Parkway	SL

JANUARY 2026

Sa 3	TAUNTON TOWN	SL
Sa 10	Chertsey Town	SL
Sa 17	HANWELL TOWN	SL
Sa 24	Gloucester City	SL
Sa 31	EVESHAM UNITED	SL

FEBRUARY 2026

Sa 7	Uxbridge	SL
Sa 14	GOSPORT BOROUGH	SL
Sa 21	Havant & Waterlooville	SL
Sa 28	Berkhamsted	SL

MARCH 2026

Sa 7	WEYMOUTH	SL
Sa 14	Wimborne Town	SL
Sa 21	WALTON & HERSHAM	SL
Sa 28	HUNGERFORD TOWN	SL

APRIL 2026

Fr 3	Sholing	SL
Mo 6	PLYMOUTH PARKWAY	SL
Sa 11	Bracknell Town	SL
Sa 18	Basingstoke Town	SL
Sa 25	FARNHAM TOWN	SL

		P	GD	Pts
1	Sholing	5	5	11
2	Farnham Town	5	4	11
3	Walton & Hersham	5	5	10
4	Gloucester City	5	5	10
5	Taunton Town	5	4	10
6	Berkhamsted	5	1	10
7	Poole Town	5	0	10
8	Hungerford Town	5	2	9
9	Wimborne Town	5	3	8
10	Uxbridge	5	1	7
11	Hanwell Town	5	0	7
12	Basingstoke Town	5	1	6
13	Evesham United	5	1	6
14	Chertsey Town	5	0	5
15	Bracknell Town	5	-1	5
16	Gosport Borough	5	-3	4
17	Havant & Waterlooville	5	-3	4
18	Weymouth	5	-4	4
19	Plymouth Parkway	5	-5	4
20	Tiverton Town	5	-5	3
21	Dorchester Town	5	-5	2
22	Yate Town	5	-6	2

*Home fixtures in CAPITALS

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Girls

Under 7's

Wendy Humphreys (07854200248)

Under 8's

Toby Wilson (07961039906)

Under 9's

Steve Jeffs (07926969799)

Under 9's

Steve Grace (07791965305)

Under 11's

Wendy Humphreys (07854200248)

Under 10's

Ryan Berner (07943054730)

Under 13's

Ryan Berner (07943054730)

Chris Thomas (07508329703)

Under 11's

Mike Smith (07733220988)

Kevin Jon (07494026009)

Under 15's

Ryan Standford (07838666053)

Under 12's

Andy Fraser (07709336411)

Andrew Orchard (07887594235)

Under 13's

Chris Bowen (07823331638)

Under 14's

Mark Farrell (07739022229)

Under 15's

Marc Hodsdon (07752 562161)

Under 16's

Tiverton Town FC

Nigel Raybould (07469185758)



TIVERTON TOWN 0

SHOLING 1

Folivi 79

It was the Boatmen who came away from this game with all three points, as the Yellows battled in the stifling heat, but just came up short and fell to a second consecutive loss.

For the first of two games over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the management team of Asa Hall and Steve Orchard were without the injured Dean Moxey, so the side that finished the game at Hungerford last Saturday, lined up against early front runners Sholing.

Matt Wood taking his place, as the right sided centre back and captain Toby Down moving over to the position vacated by Moxey on the left side centrally. Gabe Billington continuing in the right back berth, with the not yet fully fit Brooklyn Wilkins on the bench.



A bright start from the Yellows', saw them win two corners in quick succession around the five-minute mark and from the second delivery in, Matt Wood's header agonisingly just cleared the woodwork.

As the first half progressed chances for both sides were few and far between, as the two defences were on top. The quartet

of Gabe Billington, Wood, Down and Koerner looked solid and organised and apart from a shot dragged wide on seventeen minutes from a Sholing attacker, they were relatively untroubled early on.

The majority of the play took place between both boxes, that was until Dan Koita hurried the Boatmen's keeper Craig King as the ball was perhaps unwisely played back to him. Bobbling through on the dry surface, with 28 minutes played, Tivvy's number nine impressively executed a high press, stealing the ball away from King's feet, the athletic frontman's sight of goal was soon obstructed by a posse of determined, visiting defenders and he was crowded out.

The defences both stood firm and although each side played some neat football and put pressure on the other in the opposing half, opportunities to take the lead were rare, apart from a 41st minute effort from Sholing, when it opened up for one of their forwards who shot wildly off target.

When crosses did come over or the ball was played into the box, George Burton was alert and his handling was assured. The goalless first half was a fair outcome and the Yellows had applied themselves well and worked hard.

A bit of a war of attrition in the first 45 and with opportunities to score a rarity, it never felt like there would be many goals in this game. When the teams re-emerged, Koita wriggled past a couple of defenders after latching onto a long searching ball, but he hooked his flying volley over the bar in the 51st minute.



LOCAL INDEPENDANTS FOR TIVERTON

We are a group of like-minded ordinary people from Tiverton who want to reinvigorate political thinking in Tiverton and Mid Devon, with no party lines to hold us back from trying to do what is best for Tiverton and all who work and live here.

A forward thinking, inclusive, progressive and green group, who currently have 6 councillors on Tiverton Town Council. We hold public stalls at the top of Pheonix lane on the first Saturday morning of each month, please feel free to come and share your thoughts with us.

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/localindependents>

Email admin@localindependants.org.uk

Contact 07782273984

Tivvy ramped up the pressure in a good five-minute spell of probing interplay and forced a corner, which despite a brief game of pinball was cleared to safety. Sholing though were then into their stride and always looked more likely in the final half hour.

Relentless attacking play from the visitors required “backs to the wall defending”, as Burton produced a couple of magnificent saves from point blank range, in as many minutes and Corey Koerner’s excellent defensive block, just outside Tivvy’s six-yard box, denied what seemed a certain goal.

More good glove work from Burton saw him tip a header over, for a corner to the Boatmen. During this period Sholing manager Paul Doswell made three changes, including the introduction of former Southampton Premier League player James Hesketh and the quick footed winger Gianni Crichlow. This seemed to re-energise the visitors.

Tiverton responded through Louis Jagger Cane’s snapshot, after the Yellow’s had won themselves a free kick. His attempt in the second phase of this set-piece, forcing a good stop from keeper, King and with the tempo noticeably increasing, the teams traded attacking moves, as they frantically sought out a goal.

However, it was Sholing who were carrying more threat in the final third and on 79 minutes, the elusive goal arrived. For once ex EFL striker, Michael Folivi was able to turn and take a decisive touch past a defender and although it wasn’t the cleanest of finishes, it was enough to put the Southampton based side in front.

Steve Orchard reacted to this by introducing Aiden Horne for Dan Koita, a few minutes later. There was almost an equaliser for the Yellows, prior to going into added time, though King managed to smother a Yellows attempt from close in.



A late corner for Tiverton gave the fan’s a little hope, but it wasn’t to be and Sholing I feel, did enough to warrant their victory. The management team can be proud of their sides efforts, in running close the highflyers, who with this result stay top of the league.

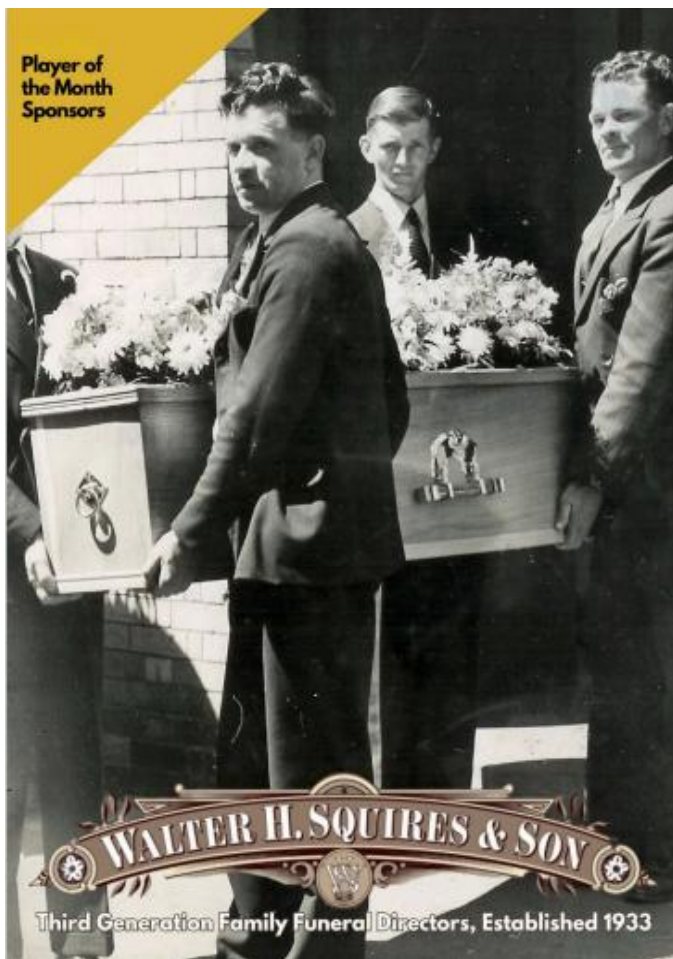
Moving onto Monday now. The Bank Holiday fixture away at local rivals Taunton will be another tough test and both sides will be keen to bounce back after losses at the weekend with the Peacocks also suffering defeat as they went down 2-1 at Walton & Hersham.

Tiverton: George Burton, Gabe Billington, Toby Down (c), **MATT WOOD**, Corey Koerner, Asa Hall, Toby Stephens, Tor Swann, Jacob Wellington, Louis Jagger Cane, Dan Koita (82).

Substitutes: John Ross, Brooklyn Wilkins, Ise Aworinde, Aiden Horne (82), Sam Gleeson.

Attendance: 363.

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Lets  about !t



**George Burton
(Goalkeeper).** George joined the Yellows this summer from near-

neighbours Willand Rovers, having spent the previous 3 seasons at Silver Street.

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**Brooklyn Wilkins
(Defender).** Right back Brooklyn joined the Yellows this

summer having impressed on trial during pre-season. Previously with Tavistock & Camelford.

Sponsor:



**Toby Down
(Defender).** Appointed club captain this summer.

Toby is in his second spell with the Yellows, having made 7 appearances for the club during the 2022/23 season.

Sponsor: Dave Burt



**Matthew Wood
(Defender).** Joined the Yellows this summer from Frome Town and notched

his first goal for the club in the 5-1 pre-season win at Newton Abbot Spurs.

Sponsor:



**Dean Moxey
(Defender).** Needs little in the way of an introduction, having

spent a sizeable portion of his career in the upper echelons of football with Derby County, Crystal Palace and Bolton Wanderers.

Sponsor: Exeter Window Store



**Corey Koerner
(Defender).** Left sided defender Corey joined the Yellows this

summer following his departure from Yeovil and made his debut in the pre-season 2-2 draw at Willand Rovers.

Sponsor: Kelly Gillard



Asa Hall (Midfielder). Player/manager and midfield maestro, who alongside Steve

Orchard, masterminded the Yellows `great escape` at the end of the 2024/25 season.

Sponsor: Mid Devon Leaflet Distribution



**Toby Stephens
(Midfielder).** Former Southampton youth academy graduate

Toby joined the Yellows this summer from Hungerford Town. Also, previously with Yeovil Town.

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AUGUST

Sat 9	CHERTSEY TOWN	457	L 0-2	Burton	Wilkins	Koerner	Stephens	Down	SWANN
Tue 12	Dorchester Town	548	W 3-1	BURTON	Wilkins	Koerner	Stephens	Down	Swann
Sat 16	Hungerford Town	289	L 1-2	Burton	Koerner	Stephens	Down	SWANN	Hall
Sat 23	SHOLING	363	L 0-1	Burton	Koerner	Stephens	WOOD	Down	Swann
Mo 25	Taunton Town	1147	L 0-3	Burton	Koerner	STEPHENS	Wood	Down	Swann
Sa 30	TAUNTON TOWN	FAC							

SEPTEMBER

Sat 6	BRACKNELL TOWN	SL
Tue 9	Yate Town	SL
Sat 20	UXBRIDGE	SL
Tue 23	POOLE TOWN	SL

OCTOBER

Sat 11	Evesham United	SL
Tue 14	Weymouth	SL
Sat 18	BERKHAMSTED	SL
Tue 21	WIMBORNE TOWN	SL

NOVEMBER

Sat 1	Walton & Hersham	SL
Sat 8	Hanwell Town	SL
Sat 15	GLOUCESTER CITY	SL
Tue 18	YATE TOWN	SL
Sat 22	Gosport Borough	SL
Tue 25	Poole Town	SL
Sat 29	HAVANT & W'LOOVILLE	SL

DECEMBER

Sat 6	BASINGSTOKE TOWN	SL
Sat 13	Farnham Town	SL
Sat 20	DORCHESTER TOWN	SL
Sat 27	Plymouth Parkway	SL

JANUARY

Sat 3	TAUNTON TOWN	SL
Sat 10	Chertsey Town	SL
Sat 17	HANWELL TOWN	SL
Sat 24	Gloucester City	SL
Sat 31	EVESHAM UNITED	SL

FEBRUARY

Sat 7	Uxbridge	SL
Sat 14	GOSPORT BOROUGH	SL
Sat 21	Havant & W'looville	SL
Sat 28	Berkhamsted	SL

MARCH

Sat 7	WEYMOUTH	SL
Sat 14	Wimborne Town	SL
Sat 21	WALTON & HERSHAM	SL
Sat 28	HUNGERFORD TOWN	SL

APRIL

Fri 3	Sholing	SL
Mo 6	PLYMOUTH PARKWAY	SL
Sat 11	Bracknell Town	SL
Sat 18	Basingstoke Town	SL
Sat 25	FARNHAM TOWN	SL

Hall	Koita	Wellington	Horne	Moxey
Hall	Koita	Jagger Cane 2	Wellington	Moxey
Koita	Jagger Cane	Wellington	Billington	Moxey
Hall	Koita	Jagger Cane	Wellington	Billington
Hall	Koita	Jagger Cane	Wellington	Billington
Ross	Wood	Jagger Cane	Billington	Williams
Ross	Wood	Billington	Williams	Horne
Ross	Wilkins	Wood	Williams	Horne
Ross	Wilkins	Aworinde	Horne	Gleeson
Ross	Wilkins	Williams	Horne	Gleeson



Gabe Billington (Midfielder). Gabe made 17 appearances and scored twice on

loan from Exeter City during the 2024/25 season. Signed permanently this summer.

Sponsor:



Zack Williams (Midfielder). Wideman Zack joined the Yellows this

summer, after a successful trial period and is also dual registered with Sidmouth Town.

Sponsor:



Louis Jagger Cane (Forward). Re-joined the club this summer from Sidmouth Town,

where he was their top scorer last term, having made appearances in the 2019/20 season.

Sponsor: EcoTech Glazing



Daniel Koita (Forward). Signed from Okehampton Argyle at the start of

2025. Grew up and played youth football here in Tiverton before spells with Tavistock and Willand Rovers.

Sponsor: Steve Whiteway



Tor Swann (Forward). Another in his second spell with the club, having initially joined

the club in the summer of 2024 from Barnstaple before moving to Exmouth at the start of 2025.

Sponsor: Kelvin Groves



Aiden Horne (Forward). Local lad Aiden joined the Yellows this summer

from near-neighbours Cullompton Rangers, where he played under Steve Orchard.

Sponsor: David Phillips



Jacob Wellington (Forward). Former Torquay United youth academy graduate

Jacob is another to have joined the Yellows from Willand Rovers this summer.

Sponsor:

Ise Aworinde (Forward). 16-year-old forward, who was previously at Torquay United`s academy and has represented the Devon FA in their youth teams.

Sponsor: Stella Beever

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TAUNTON TOWN 3

Seymour 29, 70 Simpson 67

TIVERTON TOWN 0

Both sets of supporters came out in force to attend this Bank Holiday Monday derby, and Tiverton's followers definitely made themselves heard, amongst a crowd of 1147. The fans adding to the spectacle of a good game of football. The Peacocks went into the match as favourites and the scoreline may suggest a comfortable victory, however it's the visitors who will rue missed opportunities, which could have made the outcome of this match very different.

Asa Hall and Steve Orchard sent out an unchanged line up from the eleven that took to the field against Sholing on Saturday with Toby Down captaining the Yellows at his former club and ex-Yellows Niall Thompson, Austen Booth, Nick Grimes, Tom Purrington, Alfie Moulden and Kane Simpson were all on the opposing side.

As the two sides tussled for an early advantage, the award of a corner saw Asa Hall head back Gabe Billington's delivery into the mix, though it was a Taunton head that got there in front of the nearest Tiverton players and ten minutes had almost elapsed when the first serious chance of the game happened. Louis Jagger Cane, Tivvy's top scorer thus far, making space for himself with the ball at his feet, but his powerfully struck shot missed the target while Toby Stephens intelligent use of the ball and switching of the play was pivotal for the Yellows throughout.

Niall Thompson then burst forward for Richard Luffman's side, going past a defender and then warming George Burton's gloves. It was a little too central to cause alarm and instead the ex-Tivvy player who did, going down, clutching his shooting leg and calling Taunton's physio team into action, prompting a water break, a couple of minutes later the referee called the teams back to action

Taunton then had a decent five-minute spell of pressure following that. A Jayden Nielsen cross into the six-yard box, deflected off of a member of Tivvy's backline, which meant Burton saw it late. Although his alert reaction save was made easier, because it was almost straight at him. The impressive Owen Brain then shifted the ball into a pocket of space through the Yellow's defence, but fortunately for the visitors when he was in on goal, the ball got stuck in his feet. This enabled Tiverton to clear.

The danger wasn't over though, and a combination of clinical finishing and the blazing sun brought the games opener. A searching high ball was contested for by Toby Down and Ben Seymour, with Down initially looking into the sun with Seymour, on his shoulder. This allowed the former Exeter City marksman, a clearer view of the ball and as it dropped, his rifled effort into the opposite corner of Burton's goal was out of the top drawer. Twenty-nine minutes in and the Yellows were behind.

The Yellows recomposed themselves and some attractive progressive football through the team resulted in two free kicks in central areas around the Taunton box.



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Tor Swann who was fouled for the first one, picked himself up and stepped up to take, though his attempt lacked power and was gathered by Phillips.

Jagger Cane struck the second one sweetly, up and over the wall, however the Peacocks keeper didn't have to move and made a routine save. Kane Simpson who is quick when into his running, then went past his marker after a neat lay off from his strike partner Seymour. Although, he fired across goal and beyond the watchful Burton's post and with half time beckoning, more incisive play from the Yellows resulted in Jagger Cane being sent through. However, he screwed his effort wide.

Taunton held the upper hand as the teams disappeared into the dressing room, despite there not being much in the game and Tiverton will have been frustrated in not at least going into the on an equal footing, but perhaps more so that Phillips in the home side's goal had not had a save of any note to make.

That changed three minutes into the second half, when an excellent threaded pass from Koita split the defence and found the onrushing Swann. Phillips winning his one-on-one duel though, by denying the lively Swann with his trailing leg.

However, the next telling action of the match saw Taunton extend their lead. With 67 minutes on the clock, after Tivvy looking more likely, the Peacocks broke. After Brain had got round the back, of the Yellows backline, he delivered an inviting pull back into the visitor's box. In the ensuing play Josh Owers header brought an outstanding reaction save from Burton but as the Yellows desperately tried to

scramble away, Simpson following up made it two.

Steve Orchard then made some substitutions, with Aiden Horne and Zack Williams replacing Jagger Cane and Wellington. Tiverton needed to respond quickly to the Peacock's second goal, but a few minutes later Seymour's second ruthless finish, seemingly ended all hopes of Tivvy taking anything away from this derby.

A confident slotted finish from the angle, after manoeuvring a bit of space for himself, brought a high quality third for the hosts. An understandably shell-shocked Yellows did well to rally and following some excellent footwork from Stephens, he unleashed a rasping driven shot, which Phillips' at full stretch expertly stopped to the top corner of his goal with a strong hand.

That 79th minute effort though, was the last notable action of the game. The vastly experienced Somerset side with plenty of pedigree in their line-up, were made to work very hard and it is testament to Asa Hall and Steve Orchard's side that they were the better team in possession. However, they will be fully aware that they will need to improve their end product.

Tiverton: George Burton, Gabe Billington, Corey Koerner, Matt Wood, Toby Down (c), **TOBY STEPHENS**, Asa Hall, Tor Swann, Jacob Wellington (69), Louis Jagger Cane (69), Dan Koita.

Substitutes: John Ross, Brooklyn Wilkins, Zack Williams (69), Aiden Horne (69), Sam Gleeson.

Attendance: 1147.



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

The last time the two sides faced off against each other in the early stages of the FA Cup was back in October of 2020 and produced a proper `ding dong` cup tie. Here`s the report from that day.

Tiverton Town's adventure came to an end in this year's FA Cup following a valiant second half come-back but the Yellows couldn't find the elusive equaliser before ex-Yellows forward; Owen Howe scored a penalty ten minutes from time to secure the Peacocks place in the third-round qualifying draw on Monday.

The Yellows changed two from the side that beat Weston-super-Mare on Wednesday evening 3-1 as Aaron Dawson made his way back into the starting eleven, Louis Morison dropping to the bench and Chris Shephard replaced the injured Ed Butcher



The first 20 minutes was very much an open affair with chances falling to both sides on a playing surface looking remarkably unscathed considering the recent deluge of rain ! Chris Shephards blocked shot on 12' looped up off the defender and fell just wide of Irish's goal was the first real “chance” for the game

and the Yellows looked sharp early doors, considering the games have been coming thick and fast and when Dan Hayfield cut inside from the right on 20' before beating Irish at his near post, it was the dream start Tiverton fans and players alike had all hoped and dreamed for.



It's hard to describe what happened to Tiverton in the next 25 minutes of football but suddenly the dream became a nightmare as on 26' Dan Sullivan sent a thunderbolt strike past Lewis Williams into the top corner after his initial shot had been blocked and as a result the Peacocks found momentum and played the ball sharper and quicker and soon enough, six minutes later in fact ,found themselves ahead with Toby Holmes poking home from close range.

In a rare moment of pressure from the Yellows late on in the first half on 39' Fletcher broke past the visitors back line but Irish saved well and it seemed like half time couldn't come soon enough and 4 minutes from the interval Gethyn Hill headed the visitors further in front from Sullivan's delivery before

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The before picture attached was taken in 2004 when I was walking on sticks and weighed 22 stone 10lb but two years later I rode from John O'Groats to Lands End in 16 days, beginning at 18-5lb and pedalling through to the end arriving on my 50th birthday weighing 16-10lb!

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ex-Yellows defender Jamie Short seemed to have put the final nail in the Yellows coffin when he picked up the ball on the edge of the area and rammed home a fourth.

You can only imagine the scenes and words uttered in the home dressing room at half time and probably best left that way but the second half got underway and the Yellows had re-found their hunger and only a superb Lloyd Irish save kept out an early Lewington header. Neil Martin and Jared Lewington made way for fresh legs in the form of Andy Watkins and Jordan Bastin and the former instantly made an impact as on 55' Watkins was brought down in the box, the referee pointed to the spot and Alex Fletcher slotted home his 5th of the season.

The Yellows looked hungry for more with chances falling for Hayfield and Egan before Bastin cleverly worked himself some space on the edge of the area and reignited the Yellows fans hopes driving home his shot from 18 yards but the closest opportunity to restore parity was on 75' when Watkins shot, that was well saved by Irish, fell to Bastin but he couldn't redirect the shot goal bound and then the pantomime moment arrived.

Ex-Yellows forward Owen Howe made his entrance on 78' it was almost written in the script for him to make an impact and with ten minutes to go he did just that when he went to ground, with Woodman in close attendance,

inside the box and Howe fired home the resulting penalty, much the delight of the travelling Peacocks fans behind that goal, to end any hopes of a dream comeback and the chance to decide the tie on a penalty shoot-out.



Tiverton Town: Lewis Williams, Kyle Egan, Craig Woodman, Aaron Dawson (Louis Morison 82), Michael Peck, Neil Martin (Jordan Bastin 54), Jordan Lam, Dan Hayfield, Jared Lewington (Andy Watkins 54), Alex Fletcher, Chris Shephard.

Goals: Dan Hayfield 20, Alex Fletcher 56 (p), Jordan Bastin 68

Taunton Town: Lloyd Irish, Jamie Short, Jay Foulston, Ben Adelsbury, Nick Grimes, Jake Wannell, Ollie Chamberlain, Gethyn Hill (Dan McBeam 72), Toby Holmes (Owen Howe 78), Dan Sullivan (Ross Staley 79), Joe Guest.

Goals: Dan Sullivan 26, Toby Holmes 32, Gethyn Hill 41, Jamie Short 44, Owen Howe 81 (p).

Attendance: 560



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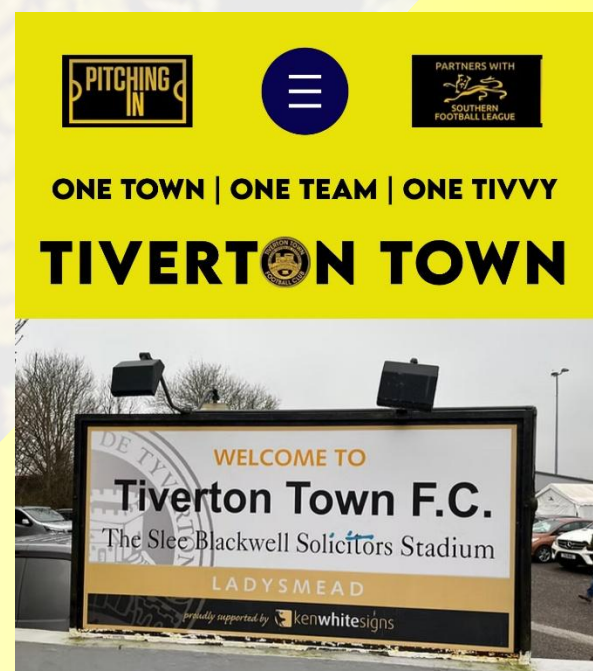
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MEET THE VISITORS

The first Taunton Association Football Club was formed on 11 September 1889 at the George Hotel. This club was known variously as Taunton, Taunton United and Taunton Town and had disbanded and reformed many times before finally withdrawing from the Southern League and folding for good in 1935.

The present Taunton Town Football Club was formed in December 1947 by a few local businessmen and played their first friendly fixture during Easter 1948. They played on a number of grounds, including Mountfields, French Weir, Victoria Park, Huish Old Boys, and Denman's Park at Haines Hill.

In 1953, the club joined the Western League after competing in the Somerset Senior League and moved into their current home at Wordsworth Drive.



The club struggled financially during the late 1950s and early 1960s, relying heavily on a dedicated Supporters Club. In 1968/69, fortunes improved under manager Doug Hillard, who led the team to its first Western League championship.



The 1970`s saw further development with Ron Gingell as manager. The club were runners-up for four successive seasons, bought their ground from Taunton Borough Council, installed floodlights, and, in 1977, gained election to the Southern League.

Taunton became a limited company in 1981, but rising costs led to a return to the Western League in 1983. A return to success came in 1990 with Keith Bowker guiding the team to another championship.

In 1994, under Terry Rowles, Taunton reached the FA Vase final at Wembley and took the lead before losing to Diss Town in extra time. Russell Musker became manager later that year, securing the league title in 1996.

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After two seasons as runners-up, Taunton won three consecutive league titles and finally lifted their first cup trophy with a 2–1 win over Berkhamsted Town in the FA Carlsberg Vase final at Villa Park. This ended a long run of 18 cup final defeats. In 2003, the club won the Somerset Premier Cup for the first time, beating Yeovil Town.

Peter Beadle took over as manager in 2005 but soon left, with Gary Domone stepping in. He delivered another Somerset Premier Cup win before resigning in 2007. Ian Jones replaced him but departed in 2009. Former player Paul West then rebuilt the team with a local focus and remained until 2012, when Leigh Robinson took over.



Under Robinson, the club reached the Southern League play-offs for three straight years from 2015 to 2017 and won the Somerset Premier Cup in 2014, 2015, and 2017. In the 2016–17 season, the club reached the FA Cup First Round Proper for the second time, drawing 2–2 with

Barrow at home before losing the away replay 2–1.



The 2017–18 season was a historic high point. The team won the West Division title by 19 points, remained unbeaten away all season, and lost only one league match. A 34-game unbeaten run followed, earning them promotion to the Southern Premier South division for the first time.

Taunton finished as Southern Premier runners-up in their first season but lost on penalties to Poole Town in the play-offs. After two disrupted seasons due to the pandemic, the club won the Southern Premier South title in 2021–22, losing only twice in their final 26 matches and earning promotion to the National League South.

Their debut National League season ended with a solid 14th-place finish. They also reached the FA Cup First Round Proper for the third time, beating Yeovil Town before falling to MK Dons.

James Walker James joined the club in the summer of 2025 as a free agent. A graduate of the Bristol City Academy, he has since featured for Chippenham Town, Hungerford Town, Cribbs, and Highworth Town.

Frankie Phillips Signed on a season-long loan from Exeter City; Frankie became The Peacocks' new number one following the departure of Josh Gould in the summer of 2025. He reached the Southern League Division One South play-off final in 2024–25 and was voted Supporters' Player of the Season.

Niall Thompson Niall joined from rivals Tiverton Town in the summer of 2025 and quickly settled into The Peacocks' backline, combining physicality with valuable experience. He began his career at the Torquay United Academy and had loan spells at Weymouth and Bideford before a six-year stint with Truro City.

Ryan Lane Ryan signed as a free agent ahead of the 2025–26 season after recovering from a knee injury that kept him out of action in 2024–25. A marauding full-back known for his pace and power on the left flank, Ryan is a Plymouth Argyle Academy graduate.

Nick Grimes Nick is The Peacocks' longest-serving player, with a brief spell away at Bath City in the summer of 2024 before returning midway through the 2024–25 season. He was handed the armband again in summer 2025.

Ollie Woodhouse Ollie joined The Peacocks from Bristol Manor Farm in the summer of 2024 and quickly adapted to life in the Premier South with solid performances at centre-back.

Austen Booth After a year abroad in Australia, Austen returned to England and rejoined The Peacocks at the Cygnet Health Care Stadium. With both physical presence and footballing ability, he's an ideal centre-back partner for Nick Grimes and Ollie Woodhouse.

Jack Rice "Ricey" returned for a second spell with The Peacocks on loan from National League North side Chorley FC. After an impressive stint, the move was made permanent with an 18-month contract through to the end of the 2025–26 season.

Tom Purrington Tom joined in the summer of 2024 from Plymouth Parkway, having previously played for Dorchester Town, Bromley, Tiverton Town, and Plymouth Argyle.

Kane Simpson After back-to-back Southern League promotions, Kane joined The Peacocks aiming for a third in a row. He scored 20 goals for Merthyr Town in their title-winning Premier South campaign last season.

Owen Brain Owen signed from Bristol Manor Farm ahead of the 2024–25 season, having been named in the Southern League Division One South Team of the Season.

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Jacob Hodgson “Skip” has played under Richard Luffman for several seasons, following him from Cribbs to Taunton ahead of the 2024–25 campaign. A classic box-to-box midfielder, he became a fan favourite early on and chipped in with three goals last season.

Ben Seymour Ben joined on a season-long loan from Torquay United. His pre-season form showed he’s among the best forwards in the division when firing. He spent the latter half of the 2024–25 season on loan at AFC Totton, helping the Stags earn their first-ever promotion to the National League South.

Jacob Towns A highly rated young midfielder, Jacob signed from Hartpury University FC after a standout 2024–25 season that saw his side reach the FA Vase semi-finals and win the Hellenic Premier Division.

Josh Owers Josh joined from title-winning Yeovil Town during the 2024–25 season, but an injury cut his campaign short. Now fully fit, the former Bristol City Academy midfielder is eager to make an impact in the heart of midfield this season.

Jayden Nielson Jayden arrived from Bristol Manor Farm in summer 2024, also having made the Division One South Team of the Season. A dynamic wide player, he’s comfortable on either wing.

Finn Rooke A strong young forward, Finn had been on Richard Luffman’s radar for several seasons. Initially expected to join in 2024, he opted to gain experience with Willand Rovers, where he reached double digits for both goals and assists.

Tom Symons Taunton-born Tom is a graduate of the club’s successful Under-18s setup. An attacking left-sided defender, he has gained senior experience on loan at Cribbs and Tavistock.

Ryan Caine Ryan joined midway through last season while also being dual registered with Cribbs in Division One South. A tireless midfielder who can play across the middle, he helped Cribbs to a third-place finish in 2023–24, the highest in their history.

Alfie Moulden Alfie signed in the summer of 2024 from Tiverton Town and brings a wealth of experience at this level, having previously played for Weston-super-Mare, Bideford, Guiseley, Plymouth Parkway, and Willand Rovers, where he scored 12 goals in 24 games.

Chris Zebroski A vastly experienced centre-forward, Chris joined The Peacocks from Royal Wootton Bassett during the 2025–26 season. His career began at Plymouth Argyle in 2004, followed by a move to Millwall in 2006. One of his standout spells came with Torquay United in 2007, scoring 19 goals in 46 appearances as they reached the play-off semi-finals.

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Brooklyn Wilkins	2	●	●	2
Corey Koerner	3	●	●	3
Toby Stephens	4	●	●	4
Matthew Wood	5	●	●	5
Toby Down	6	●	●	6
Tor Swann	7	●	●	7
Asa Hall	8	●	●	8
Dan Koita	9	●	●	9
Louis Jagger Cane	10	●	●	10
Jacob Wellington	11	●	●	11
Gabe Billington	12	●	●	12
John Ross	13	●	●	13
Zack Williams	14	●	●	14
Ise Aworinde	16	●	●	15
Aiden Horne	17	●	●	16
Sam Gleeson	18	●	●	17
Dean Moxey	21	●	●	18

TAUNTON TOWN FC

CLARET & BLUE

Frankie Phillips	1
Niall Thompson	2
Ryan Lane	3
Nicholas Grimes	4
Ollie Woodhouse	5
Austen Booth	6
Jack Rice	7
Tom Purrington	8
Kane Simpson	9
Owen Brain	10
Jake Hodgson	11
Ben Seymour	12
Jacob Towns	13
Josh Owers	14
Jayden Nielsen	15
Finn Rooke	16
Tom Symons	17
Ryan Caine	18
Bailey Croome	19
Alfie Moulden	20
Chris Zebroski	21

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Dylan Baylis
(Referee)

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