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Vanarama National
League North

Monday 28th December 2020

3.00pm KO



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Jack Edwards

ISSUE 8



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GAFFER'S COLUMN

PAUL HOLLERAN

Good afternoon, I trust all of you have enjoyed Christmas as much as you have been able to. We welcome Josh Gowling, Steve Burr and their Hereford side to Harbury Lane this afternoon for the final game of 2020.

What a strange year this has been, but perversely, in the latter stages particularly, a pretty good one for us as a club on the pitch. All of us have had to deal with situations and a way of life that seemed quite alien at first but has now sadly become normal. How long it will continue for is anyone's guess. We laboured a little after losing Josh March at the end of

2019, but the FA Trophy run kept the spirits up, despite the way it ended. This season we didn't start very well in our opening three games, but I think you'll agree we have more than made up for it since! It was fantastic to pull off a 'giant killing' at Wrexham, but as always the occasion was tinged with disappointment that our fans could not be with us to share in it.

It would have been fantastic, and a huge boost for everyone, to have been able to welcome supporters back for today's fixture, but sadly we continue to be prevented from doing that. Those of you who watch our fantastic streaming service will no doubt notice today that there should be a new stand on the Sheepside of the ground. National League regulations required us to install more seating by March 2021 to bring us in line. Let's hope they can be used some time in the New Year.

As these notes were written prior to our trip to Gloucester City on Boxing Day, whether we will come into today's game with our unbeaten record

intact is a mystery. It will certainly have been one of our toughest tests of the season, and if we have taken something from that game it will have been well earned.

We have had some good battles with Hereford over the last couple of seasons. The two sides are usually evenly matched and not too far apart in terms of league positions, so I am sure today will be no different. Both sides will want to end this wretched year on a high so it should be an entertaining afternoon.

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CHAIRMAN

JIM SCOTT



We welcome the players, team management and club officials of Hereford to our Community Stadium for this the last fixture of 2020 and I am pretty certain that I speak for everyone in saying I can't wait to see the back of 2020. Having said that I am not in any way certain as to how much of an improvement 2021 will be on these past twelve months.

Having said that, with the team currently on such a good run of form (Boxing Day aside and I am not Mystic Meg) these past two months it has not been all bad. It never pays to get ahead of

yourself re results and everything can turn in the blink of an eye.

Whilst it took a penalty shoot out to decide the result of our Buildbase FA Trophy tie at Wrexham last Saturday, we undoubtedly shaded the game. Jake Weaver's performance in the 'shoot out' was top class with two saves and a further two where he got strong hands on well

taken penalties. We scored six of our seven and Kaiman Anderson could count himself unlucky when his came back out off the underside of the bar.

The hugely disappointing aspect of the team being in a run of good form is that our fans have not been there to watch it and that was even more so at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground. Away days at grounds such as theirs are special and even more so when you win in such dramatic fashion as we did. Our ground remains within Tier 3 Covid restrictions and if I'm being honest I can't see

that changing for quite a few weeks, so let's hope that the lads can maintain good form and give you even more to shout about when you are allowed back in to watch.

The Fourth Round Draw (last 32) has paired us with a difficult tie at Kettering Town That means the scheduled league fixture versus Guiseley FC on Saturday 16 January will now have to be re-scheduled.

With Gloucester on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, plus today's fixture this is going to be a very testing period, so it will be interesting to see how the lads handle it. Let's hope they can continue to give you something to cheer about and hopefully you will all have had a good Christmas Day with at least some of your family and friends.

Let's hope you enjoy the game. Come on you Brakes.

Jim Scott



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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

JACK EDWARDS

Afternoon Brakes fans! I hope you have all had a good Christmas. I'm sure many of you will be watching the live stream of today's game. It's not the same as being here, I know, but hopefully we can send you into 2021 in good spirits.

It's been a strange old year on and off the pitch, but I hope that in the last couple of months we have helped to keep your spirits up with how we have progressed. It's been different for me just recently as I have had to travel solo to our away games as my partner is expecting our first child, so, with that in mind I can't afford to take any risks. Hopefully by the time you read this Baby Edwards will have been introduced to the world.

We are expecting another tight battle with Hereford again this afternoon. There has never been too much between the two sides really, but it will be strange stepping out with no fans here, as it has been all season. We will have had our first game in front of fans at Gloucester on Boxing Day, so we'll know by now how that went. Fingers crossed 2021 will be a better for us all, and we can welcome you back to games as soon as possible!

Jack



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Match day programme printed by:

Minuteman Press Coventry

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LAST 90 MINUTES



0 0

(Leamington win 6-5 on penalties

after 90 minutes)

Written by Paul Edwards

The Buildbase FA Trophy 3rd Round

The Racecourse Ground

Saturday 19th December 2020

Two fine saves from Jake Weaver in a penalty shootout sealed Leamington's progress in the Buildbase FA Trophy at a freezing Racecourse Ground as they pulled off an upset of sorts to dump out former winners Wrexham.

Paul Holleran unsurprisingly opted to name an unchanged starting eleven following the emphatic victory over St Ives Town in the Second Round on Tuesday evening, while Red Dragons' boss Dean Keates named only three players in his starting eleven that began Tuesday's National League game at Weymouth, with four of his substitutes from that game stepping up to kick off the game.

The visitors forged the first chance of the afternoon with three minutes played, Sam Osborne sending Danny Waldron scampering down the right with a pass from half way, the former Rushall man cutting inside before forcing Christian Dibble into a save at his near post with a low strike.

Wrexham's opening opportunity was a good one, James Horsfield's inviting ball in from the right was met by the head of Kwame Thomas, but the striker could only power his header over the bar into the empty terrace.

With dark clouds menacingly gathering over the nearby hills and rain starting to fall just prior to

kick off, some of the players were having trouble keeping their footing in what was a scrappy opening to the game. The bounce of the ball on the slick playing surface also caught them out as they attempted to push forward.

Osborne uncharacteristically screwed a shot into the stand behind the Wrexham goal after gliding past two defenders, while former Coventry City man Thomas stretched to head another effort wide from Jordan Davies' left wing cross as Wrexham began to look the more threatening going forward as half time approached.

They were foiled by the offside flag as Davies' shot across the box was blocked, Elliott Durrell's follow up going the same way before the flag was raised before the ball hit the back of the net from another effort.

Leamington began the second half in determined fashion and were a hair's breadth from taking the lead eight minutes in when Edwards found Osborne in a central position inside the Wrexham penalty area some ten yards from goal. His low drive struck the post with Smith tucking home the rebound only to be denied by an offside flag.

Brakes continued to threaten and came close once more when Osborne's low driven cross was only



cleared as far as Edwards, who had time to set himself and connect with a clean strike some 25 yards from goal, the ball deflected behind for the first corner of the afternoon, which was cleared as far as Steph Morley, whose first time drive was held by Dibble.

Osborne did well to win the ball back having been dispossessed, Simeon Maye nudging it forward to give him the chance of a strike at goal, which again was straight at Dibble. He then saw a free kick deflected inches over the crossbar after Maye had been felled by Wrexham skipper Shaun Pearson right on the edge of the box.

Osborne uncharacteristically screwed a shot into the stand behind the Wrexham goal after gliding past two defenders, while former Coventry City man Thomas stretched to head another effort wide from Jordan Davies' left wing cross as Wrexham began to look the more threatening going forward as half time approached.

There was a blow for Leamington as Smith was forced off with little over five minutes remaining after going down on half way trying to win the ball. He was replaced by Junior English.

Wrexham came close to snatching it in bizarre fashion deep into injury time when a deflected cross from the right forced Weaver to palm the ball behind as it threatened to sneak into the top corner.

With neither side able to find the net the tie went to spot kicks. Osborne confidently put away the first, while Weaver got hands to Thomas' effort but was unable to keep it out. Lane stepped up to smash in Brakes' second, Davies following suit for Wrexham. Joe Clarke, who enjoyed a successful spell in North Wales and is still revered by the home fans to this day, scored Leamington's third kick, Dan Jarvis levelling things up once more, but only just as Weaver got another strong hand to the ball.

Callum Gittings and Mark Carrington netted their penalties, as did Morley and Elliott Durrell, before second half substitute Kaiman Anderson smashed his against the crossbar, but just when it looked as though the game was up for Brakes, Weaver came up trumps with a fine save from Horsfield to keep them alive.

The skipper stepped up to confidently crash in the sixth penalty for Leamington before Weaver made himself the hero, brilliantly keeping out Anthony Jeffrey's kick



before being submerged by his jubilant team mates.

Wrexham's players sportingly interrupted the celebrations to congratulate the players before leaving the field, leaving Holleran and his staff and players to toast progress into the fourth round for the second consecutive season.

Referee: Mr Martin Woods

Assistant Referees: Mr Stuart Morland & Mr William Davis

Fourth Official: Mr David Croft

Brakes Man of the Match: Kyle Morrison.

Many thanks to Wrexham AFC and Alun Roberts for the use of their photographs

WREXHAM

Wrexham: 21 Christian Dibble, 15 James Horsfield, 5 Shaun Pearson, 32 Max Cleworth, 29 Jordan Davies, 7 Elliott Durrell, 12 Dan Jarvis, 13 Mark Carrington, 14 Paul Rutherford (11 Anthony Jeffrey, 62), 19 Adi Yussuf (27 Jake Bickerstaff, 81), 39 Kwame Thomas.

Subs not used: 1 Rob Lainton, 2 Reece Hall-Johnson, 3 Jamie Reckford.

LEAMINGTON

Leamington: Jake Weaver, Josh Martin, Stephan Morley, Joe Clarke, Kyle Morrison, Jack Lane, Sam Osborne, Simeon Maye (15 Callum Gittings, 88), Lance Smith (16 Junior English, 85), Jack Edwards ©, Danny Waldron (14 Kaiman Anderson, 72).

Subs not used: 12 Dan Meredith, 17 Connor Taylor.



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MEET THE VISITORS

HISTORY OF HEREFORD

Following the winding up of Hereford United on 19 December 2014, the Hereford United Supporters Trust (HUST) vowed to start a new phoenix club. Three days later, local businessman Jon Hale, who had earlier been chairman of HUST, registered the name Hereford Football Club with the Herefordshire County Football Association, in conjunction with the trust and a group of local businessmen. A press release followed on 24 December, outlining plans to let HUST members decide on the club's kits and crest. It also addressed the issue of the ownership structure, with the Hereford United Supporters Trust being given the opportunity to become the largest single shareholder, with individuals and corporate benefactors being barred from owning more than 49% of the new club. The press release stated that HUST's stake would be 'much more' than this.

for the city's Edgar Street stadium.

The club opened applications for the position of club manager on 27 February and, following 42 applications, Peter Beadle was announced as the successful candidate by the board on 17 April 2015. Beadle, the final caretaker manager of the predecessor club, was joined by assistant manager Matt Bishop, who had served as a national coach developer with The Football Association.

2015–16 season

On 14 May 2015, the FA confirmed that Hereford would compete in the Midland Football League Premier Division (9th tier) for the club's first season. As a consequence, this meant that the club were entered into the FA Vase and the Midland League Cup.

The first game, a pre-season friendly, took place away at Malvern Town on 7 July 2015, a 3–2 victory for Hereford in which the winning goal was scored by Dale Hodge, in front of a record crowd for the hosts. Four days later, Hereford hosted their first match, a friendly against FC United of Manchester at Edgar Street, with Nathan Hughes scoring the only goal in a victory watched by around 4,250 spectators. They won 4–1 against Dunkirk in their first league match on 8 August, in front of a crowd of 4,062; this broke the league record attendance of 1,280, and was higher than four attendances that day in Football League One.

On 10 December 2015, while in first place in the league, the club announced that they had applied for promotion to the Southern Football League for the 2016–17 season. The league campaign had started with a shaky start, but they managed to put together a long winning run, which eventually came to an end after 27 wins in a row, in a 1–1 draw at home to Alvechurch on 23 January 2016, and

the unbeaten run of 34 games came to an end on 23 February, following a 2–0 loss at home to Highgate United.

Hereford broke their attendance record again in the FA Vase semi-final first leg against Salisbury on 12 March. Hereford won 1–0 in front of a record crowd of 4,683. On 25 April, Hereford clinched the league title following a 4–0 away win at Coventry Sphinx and were subsequently promoted to the Southern League South and West Division. A week later, the club picked up their second trophy, the Herefordshire County Cup, following a 5–1 win over Westfields. Hereford secured their third trophy of the season, the Midland Football League Cup, on 10 May, following a 3–1 win over Walsall Wood at Solihull Moors' Damson Park. On 22 May, Hereford lost 4–1 in the FA Vase Final to Morpeth Town at Wembley Stadium.

2016–17 season

On 12 May 2016, it was confirmed that Hereford would compete in the Southern League South and West, following their promotion from the Midland Football League Premier. The season would see the club make their first appearance in both the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. It was announced on 24 May, that assistant manager Matt Bishop would be leaving the club, and he was replaced by Steve Jenkins on 30 May. The club decided to withdraw from the Southern League Cup in an attempt to focus on the league. The club went out of the FA Cup at the third qualifying round at Tonbridge Angels and exited the FA Trophy in the preliminary round at Salisbury. On 12 October, the club announced that manager Peter Beadle had signed his first contract with the club, on a rolling 12-month deal. On 19 October, it was announced that Chairman Jon Hale had stepped down and was to be replaced in the interim by Chris Williams, who was replaced by Ken Kinnersley on 3 January 2017.

The club's official website went live on 29 December. Hale gave an interview with Trevor Owens on BBC Hereford and Worcester on 3 January 2015, citing Hereford United's untenable debts as the reason for the business group's reluctance to engage with the former club. The appointment of Hale as Hereford F.C. chairman was released in an FAQ on 13 January. An open meeting two days later confirmed several appointments, including HUST chairman Chris Williams as vice chairman, Hugh Brooks as finance director, George Webb as commercial director and Phil Eynon as governance director (the latter three being part of the Hale-led group of local businessmen).

On 20 and 21 January, HUST members voted in favour of the proposal from the Hale group, with 96.71% voting to accept the plans. The Hereford F.C. bid had been the only approach submitted to HUST. Two weeks later, Herefordshire Council confirmed that the club had secured a five-year lease

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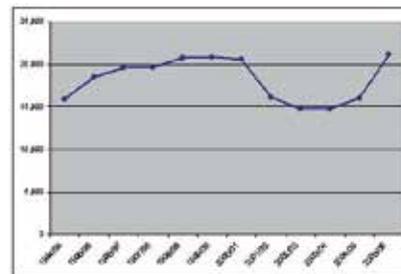


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MEET THE VISITORS

HISTORY OF HEREFORD

On 4 March 2017, their away match against Didcot Town was abandoned due to crowd disturbances after a few Hereford fans went on to the pitch in celebration of the team taking the lead in the dying minutes of the game. Two men from Hereford were later arrested. After reviewing reports and video footage of the incidents, the FA decided to take no further action against either club, rather highlighting how sensationalised and ill-informed some of the news reporting, at the time, had been. Disciplinary action, however, was taken against three Hereford supporters, one of the Didcot players and the Didcot team coach. The Southern League also ordered the game to be replayed – which was subsequently played behind closed doors on 11 April 2017, with Hereford winning 2–1.

2017–18 season

Following their promotion the past season it was announced Hereford would play in the Southern Premier League. It was also announced that captain Joel Edwards had been released meaning Jimmy Oates was the new captain of Hereford FC.

Hereford notably had runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy. In the FA Cup Hereford after beating Godalming Town, Kempston Rovers and Hornchurch, Hereford were drawn a game away to Eastleigh where goals from Mike McGrath and Garyn Preen (who later got knocked unconscious by Gavin Hoyte that game) took Hereford into the first round for the first time in their history. In the first round, a John Mills goal against Telford United put them in the second round where they were drawn against Fleetwood Town. A goal from Calvin Dinsley earned Hereford a replay which was televised on BT Sport and got an attendance of 4,235 which Hereford ended up losing. Fleetwood then went on to play Leicester City

in the 3rd round. In the FA Trophy, Hereford beat Weymouth, Potters Bar Town and Oxford City to make the first round. Hereford beat National League side Dagenham & Redbridge 3–2 to set up a tie against Wealdstone. In the Wealdstone game there was a moment of controversy after Dara O'Shea seemed to bring down a player when he was through on goal which resulted in him getting sent off. Footage later on showed O'Shea should not have been given a red card so the FA reversed the decision. Hereford ended up losing that game 1–0.

In the Southern Premier League, in January, Hereford came back from 2–0 down in injury time to salvage a 2–2 draw with promotion chasing Slough Town after goals from Jimmy Oates and Keyon Refell. Hereford's away unbeaten run in the league came to an end in January 2018 after defeat to King's Lynn. This unbeaten run stretched back to August 2015. In February 2018, Hereford fans got in trouble after multiple flares were thrown onto the pitch against Farnborough. Farnborough player Lewis Ferrell then retaliated and threw the flare back at Hereford fans, which resulted in him being shown a straight red card. On Tuesday 17 April Hereford travelled to Biggleswade Town where a 0–1 away victory saw them become league champions for a record 3rd consecutive season. They lifted the Southern Football League shield following a 4–1 win against Kettering Town F.C. They finished the season with a 6–0 home win over Hereford Lads Club to win the Herefordshire County Cup for a third successive time.

2018–19 season

On 13 September 2018, after three league titles in a row, Peter Beadle was sacked as manager of Hereford, a month into the new season with Hereford in 12th place in the National

League North. Assistant manager Steve Jenkins also departed, leaving Ryan Green as interim player-manager. On 19 September 2018, Tim Harris was appointed Head of Football, with his son-in-law Marc Richards subsequently taking the Head Coach role on 3 October 2018. They finished the season in 17th after poor performances against teams low-down in the table, including 0 wins from 6 against the three relegated sides.

2019–20 season

Three games into the campaign, and with four points from a possible nine, Marc Richards was sacked as head coach on 12 August, with his assistant Will Morford also leaving. The club announced that Head of Football Tim Harris would take interim charge of the side while searching for a new head coach. On 29 August, Russell Slade was announced as the club's new Manager. Andy Whing joined as his assistant on 13 September. On 14 January Assistant Coach Andy Whing left the club with no reason being given for his departure. Just 6 days later on 20 January, Manager Russell Slade left the club after a run of just one win in 18 games. Josh Gowling was named the club's interim manager on 21 January, he appointed Steve Burr as his assistant 3 days later. These appointments were later made full-time. The season ended due to Covid-19 with the Bulls in a ppg position of 16th.

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MEET THE VISITORS

HEREFORD

Paul White - Goalkeeper (25)
Signed from Kettering in the summer after four years with the Poppies. Previously with Forest Green.

Brandon Hall - Goalkeeper (26)
Signed from Kidderminster in the summer of 2019 after winning a series of supporter awards. Previously with Ebbsfleet and Woking.

Jamie Grimes - Defender (29)
Experienced central defender previously playing with manager Josh Gowling at Kidderminster. Spent last season with Ebbsfleet.

Daniel Jones - Defender (33)
Comfortable all down the left side, Jones has several years of EFL experience with the likes of Cambridge United, Notts County, and Sheffield Wednesday.

Kennedy Digie - Defender (23)
Versatile defender previously with Kidderminster Harriers and Guiseley.

Jared Hodgkiss - Defender (32)
Experienced full back with over 300 appearances for the likes of Forest Green, Torquay, and Macclesfield.

Toby Raison - Defender (18)
A product of the Hereford FC Academy. The defender earned his first contract in the summer after impressing management in pre-season.

Ben Pollock - Midfielder (22)
Came into the club midway through last season and became a regular under Josh Gowling's caretaker management.

Yan Klukowski - Midfielder (33)
Player/Coach. Amassed 400 senior appearances with the likes of Forest Green and Newport County.

Chris Camwell - Midfielder (21)
Former Coventry City trainee. Signed a contract after a successful pre-season trial.

Ryan Lloyd - Midfielder (26)
Versatile former Port Vale and Macclesfield midfielder, can play a number of roles across the middle of the park.

Giles Coke - Midfielder (34)
Vastly experienced midfielder previously with the likes of Sheff Weds, Mansfield, and Motherwell.

MEET THE VISITORS

HEREFORD

Samir Nabi - Midfielder (23)

The Pakistan international has featured for Torquay and Kidderminster since coming through the West Brom Academy.

Tom Owen-Evans - Midfielder (21)

Former Newport County man who had a brief spell with Falkirk at the start of the season. Was top scorer last season.

Richard Whittingham - Midfielder (29)

Signed in November 2020 after previously trialling with the club during the 2019/20 season.

Dylan Jones - Midfielder (18)

Young Welsh midfielder who has spent time with Swansea and Newport County.

James McQuilkin - Midfielder (31)

Experienced at this level with Kidderminster and Telford, the midfielder previous plied his trade at Edgar Street for Hereford United until 2013.

Kyle Finn - Forward (20)

Signed on a permanent deal for an undisclosed fee after a loan spell from Coventry City. A player that is eager to impress.

Lenell John-Lewis - Forward (31)

Powerful forward signed from Shrewsbury Town in February. Previously with Grimsby Town, Lincoln City, and Bury.

AWAY STATS

HEREFORD



HOME STATS

Ranked	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
17	5	1	2	2	7	9	-2	5

AWAY STATS

Ranked	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
12	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7

SEQUENCES

	Home matches/ Current	Home matches/ Season	Away matches/ Current	Away matches/ Season	All matches/ Current	All matches/ Season
Consecutive wins	2	2	1	2	3	3
Consecutive draws		2		1		2
Consecutive defeats		2		1		1
Games without a win		4		2		4
Games without a draw	2	2	5	5	4	5
Games without a defeat	4	4	1	2	3	3
Consecutive scoring	4	4	5	5	6	6
Consecutive conceding		5		1		5
Games without scoring		2		1		1
Games without conceding	1	1	1	2	2	2



LAST MEETING



1 2

Written by Paul Edwards

Vanarama National League North

Edgar Street

Saturday 28th December 2019

Brakes lavished more festive cheer on their delighted supporters as they bagged a third win of the season on their National League North travels in front of just under 2,000 at Edgar Street. They needed to dig their heels in and soak up plenty of pressure, and benefitted from a little good fortune at times, but were worthy of the three points in front of a raucous travelling support boosted by the visit of our German friends from SV Eichede.

Paul Holleran was forced into changes to his squad with George Carline having been recalled by parent club Solihull Moors on Friday, while Callum Gittings was unavailable and top scorer Josh March was not risked having taken a knock on Boxing Day against Gloucester, so Joe Clarke, Jordan Murphy and Kaiman Anderson all stepped into the starting eleven.

As is sometimes the case when Brakes turn out at former Football League arenas in front of large crowds, the hosts were first to settle, and the Bulls' on loan Nottingham Forest striker Victor Sodeinde came close on three minutes when he watched the ball over his shoulder before cracking a fine first time volley across goal and only just wide of Jake Weaver's far post.

The Hereford number 10 looked a lively customer and registered his side's next effort on goal when he received the ball just inside the penalty area on the left and took on three defenders before thundering a shot towards goal that struck some part of Weaver on its way behind for a corner.

The Bulls were undoubtedly on top in the opening period but found themselves

behind on 18 minutes when Leamington won a corner on the left which seemed to sail over everyone straight into the net from the boot of Dexter Walters to stun the already quiet Edgar Street crowd.

Sodeinde continued to pose the main threat for Hereford and was involved once more when his deflected effort fell perfectly for Peter Vincenti to strike first time, Weaver producing a stunning save to help the ball over the bar.

It was perhaps inevitable that the youngster would be the scorer of Hereford's equaliser and he dragged his side level on 34 minutes, beating James Mace on the left before striding into the box a couple of paces and dispatching a fine rising drive past Weaver into the roof of the net.

The home side looked to have a gilt edged chance for a second shortly before the break when they somehow found themselves two on two inside the Leamington penalty area, but Jordan Nicholson was unable to get the ball under control and the opportunity was gone.

Brakes had not been at their best in the first forty-five minutes but whatever it was Holleran said to them at half time paid instant dividends as they regained the lead inside a minute of the restart. Maycock fed fellow Sky Blues loanee Walters, whose quick footwork saw him beat two defenders and slip the ball left for Kaiman Anderson, who looked to have missed his chance to shoot but then rammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Walters curled a shot past the far post as he cut in from the left before Maycock almost wrong-footed Brandon Hall as his shot struck Kieran Thomas before trickling behind.



Sodeinde then turned on the afterburners as he set off in pursuit of a long clearance. Jack Lane was goalside and looked to have things under control but the striker still managed to get a shot away, the ball whistling across goal and just wide.

With around an hour gone the home crowd suddenly awoke from their slumber and the team responded, putting Brakes under concerted pressure once more. Edwards and Vincenti both went into Referee Simeon Lucas' notebook after a coming together between several players from both sides just inside the Hereford half. The Brakes skipper thought he had missed a chance to add a third goal for his side when he smashed in a shot that was turned round the post well by Hall, but the offside flag

The home side looked to have a gilt edged chance for a second shortly before the break when they somehow found themselves two on two inside the Leamington penalty area, but Jordan Nicholson was unable to get the ball under control and the opportunity was gone.

was raised.

The sight of Sodeinde being replaced would no doubt have been a relief to the Leamington defence, but he was replaced by experienced goal getter Reece Styche as the hosts attempted to maintain the pressure, but they seemed

to have lost their impetus and Brakes began to settle down again.

There were inevitably some hairy moments in the closing stages as Hereford attempted to salvage something from the game, with shots blocked and Weaver clinging on to the ball at the second attempt on two occasions, and while the final whistle brought boos from the home fans still left in the ground it signalled happy celebrations for the Leamington contingent, who can march into the new year on a wave of optimism. Well done lads!

MANAGER'S REACTION

'Today was a big ask. Two games in 48 hours. With the games that went before that, a massive effort on Thursday (Boxing Day); followed up today with losing George, Calum and Josh. As I've stated before, we have a small squad but it's a competitive squad, and I thought that the players who came in today were all tremendous. There wasn't much in the game. Possibly the start of the first half and the start of the second half were key periods, and we just edged it but it was a massive effort. Even though Hereford are on a bit of a bad run they are a big club, they've got good players, a good manager, but they're not getting the drop of the ball at the moment. Take nothing away from us though. When we were allowed to play we were expansive and looked a threat. I thought Jack Edwards was tremendous today - it was like having three players on the pitch.

'I think two games in 48 hours is very unfair on players at this level, especially with a small squad like ours when we've had a player recalled on the Friday. There's lots of different ingredients



required to win football games and we showed lots and lots of character, determination and grit today with a sprinkling of quality, and we're absolutely delighted.

'Edgar Street is a fantastic place to come. I enjoy coming here to watch a game of football. I've never won here before. We came here last year and played well and ended up losing 2-1. You take it on the chin and move on, and we've come here today and won 2-1, so it's a great feeling.

'I looked at it today and I did think it might be too much for the boys. Hereford are a big football club and they're in the position where they can make changes in key areas and I thought that might tell as the game went on, but we grew into it and when we needed to find something we did so, and in the end I think we just about deserved it.'

Attendance: 1,930 (65 away)

Referee: Mr Simeon Lucas

Assistant Referees: Mr Thomas Swift & Mr Karl Buckley

Brakes Man of the Match: Jack Edwards.

HEREFORD

Hereford: Brandon Hall, Kieran Thomas, Danny Greenslade, Tommy O'Sullivan, Jordan Cullinane-Liburud, Jason Pope, Peter Vincenti (17 Taylor Allen 77), Stephen Dawson ©, Kelsey Mooney, Victor Sodeinde (16 Reece Styche, 70), Jordan Nicholson (12 Alex Bray, 59).

Subs not used: 14 Ben Pollock, 15 Jared Hodgkiss.

LEAMINGTON

Leamington: Jake Weaver, Junior English, Stephan Morley, Callum Maycock (15 Josh Martin, 87), James Mace, Jack Lane, Jordan Murphy (12 Kieran Dunbar, 72), Joe Clarke, Kaiman Anderson, Jack Edwards ©, Dexter Walters (14 Connor Taylor, 78).

Subs not used: 16 Josh March, 17 Tom James.

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LEAMINGTON FC MATCHDAY 50-50 DRAW



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LEAMINGTON BRAKES

Welcome to the players and staff of Hereford Football Club at the ground, and their supporters who may be joining us on the live feed (weather and COVID permitting!) Here's hoping that you all have had an enjoyable "alternative" Christmas. Leamington Brakes are a Junior Football Community Club that have over 200 players and we are affiliated to the main club. Apart from playing football we also encourage players to take part in community activities and to also participate in activities outside of football together.

Junior football has been impacted by COVID but games have been played. With the cancellation of games for the Men's team, there have been fewer home games than there normally would have been at this point of the season, so there is a bit of catching up to do with results and updates for the junior teams. Today we are going to look at the Under 14s Blue team who play in Division D of the John Bryan Coventry & Warwickshire Youth League. Managed by Wayne Bates and assisted by Stephen Buckton, the squad is made up of Bates, Brazenell, Buckton, Cullinane Draper, Farrington, Goncalves-Lisboa Monastero, Rosenbaur, Sass, Sangha, Stephenson Townsend, Walker, Watson, and Welkin.

If you want to watch goals, then this has been the team to watch this season. A special mention has to be made of their first match of the season when they came back from 5-1 down at half time to win 7-6. Obviously they have decided to follow the comeback trend of the first team. Currently fifth in the table, the team's top scorer, Farrington is 8th in the league goal scorers table and we have seen player of the match performances from across the squad. Taking us to the start of the second lockdown, here are their results, goal scorers and player of the match nominees.

6th Sept. Away to rugby Borough Colts W 6-7 (Farrington 2, Bates, Buckton, Watson, Walker, OG) POM Stephenson
13th Sept. No Fixture
20th Sept. Home to Coventrians D 4-4 (Farrington 2, Walker, Wilkin) POM Goncalves-Lisboa
27th Sept. Away to Bulkington Sports Juniors Bears L 4-2 (Buckton, Watson) POM Walker
4th Oct. No Fixture
11th Oct. Away to Meriden Lions W 0-5 (Draper 2, Farrington, Watson, Wilkin) POM Monastero
18th Oct. Home to Coventry United Juniors Green D 1-1 (Brazenell) POM The whole team.
1st Nov. Home to Stratford Town Colts Juniors L 1-4 POM Monastero

Despite the weather not being at its best, we have made it to the Christmas break. Now we have to sit and wait to see what happens with the Levels in the New Year as cases are rising rapidly again thanks to the new COVID variant. Whilst it would be nice to use the holidays to catch up on games, many clubs use school and council facilities which are closed down over the period, so sadly that is not an option.

We are always open to new players, and all abilities are welcome. If a squad is full (the league impose squad size limits, not us) then we won't turn you away, you will be welcome to train with a team. Training session times and locations vary depending on age group over the autumn and winter periods. For more information contact Matt Turner, our chairman, on 07713 156601 or info@leambrakes.co.uk. He can keep you fully informed with what is happening and when changes to training are made throughout the pandemic situation.

Best of luck today. With the next home game due to be the 2nd of January it seems a bit early to be saying it, but every good wish for a Happy New Year as we kick 2020 into touch. Fingers crossed by this time next year things will be a bit more normal and the football family will be reunited in the future.

HISTORY

OF LEAMINGTON F.C

Leamington Football Club History - REVISED!

Extensive research of our clubs history by club historian Paul Vanes has led to the discovery that there is NO connection between our club and that of Leamington Town - they were two separate entities. The Windmill Ground where both clubs once played provided a link between the two, but that is where it ends. As a club we respect and appreciate the fact that Leamington Town were the pioneers of the game in our great town, but we cannot claim a history that is not ours, hence the decision to re-evaluate.

There is a common misconception that Lockheed/AP Leamington are not the same club as Leamington FC because of the 12 year gap in our playing record, which is emphatically NOT the case.

The origins of Leamington FC are ingrained in Tachbrook Road, with the enormous Lockheed car parts factory that employed so many of the townfolk and would become the driving force behind the football club until things unfortunately turned sour in the 1980's. It is here that our club was born, in 1933, as Lockheed, Borg & Beck.

The team first competed in the Warwick & District League in the 1933/34 season, moving into the Coventry Works League the following campaign, where they spent six seasons before a move to the Leamington & District League in 1940/41. It was back to the Coventry Works League two years later before a switch to the Coventry & North Warwickshire League, where they spent three seasons before being accepted into the short lived Central Amateur League in 1947. It was around this time that the Lockheed Company purchased the Windmill Ground from Coventry City, who had themselves brought the stadium in 1937 for use by their 'A' team after Leamington Town had folded. Also during this time the club name was adjusted to Lockheed - Leamington. After two seasons the club successfully applied to join the Birmingham Combination. It was whilst in this league, early in the 1949/50 season, after signing Les Latham as player/manager the club embraced semi-professional football.

At this time the nickname 'The Brakes' was adopted by virtue of the car products the company manufactured. It was also around this time that the original club colours evolved - Gold trimmed Royal Blue shirts, Royal Blue shorts, and Gold socks. It was not until the early 1970's - that our current colours originated. Apparently somebody at the club made an error when ordering new kit, and from then on we played predominantly in Gold and Black.

It was during their five seasons in this league that Brakes won the Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup for the first time with victory against Hereford United in 1950/51. In 1956/57, with the club now in the Birmingham and District League the Senior Cup was won for a second time with victory over Redditch United.

The 1960's proved to be ground-breaking for the club. They began by winning the Senior Cup, thrashing local rivals Rugby Town, and winning the Birmingham and District League before becoming the first to win the renamed West Midlands Regional League the following season. 1963/64 saw a move to the Midland Counties League, where the Championship was won in only their second season.

After eight seasons the club was on the move once more - this time into the Southern League, which at the time was arguably the strongest, most established league outside the professional game. The Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup was captured for a fourth time in 1969/70.

The club underwent a name change in 1973 as Lockheed became Automotive Products, and AP Leamington, entered another boom period in their history. The

Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup had been won for the fifth time in 1972, and the Southern League Cup and the Southern League Championship Cup followed in 1974, both over Premier Division opposition. Progression to the First Round of the FA Cup was achieved for the first time this year. Brakes went on to reach the competition proper five times in six seasons, reaching the second round twice.

1975/76 saw promotion to the Southern League Premier Division for the first time, and Brakes established themselves in a highly competitive league before becoming founder members of the Alliance Premier League (now the National League) in 1979.

Leamington spent three seasons in this new league before being relegated in 1982, but under young manager Graham Allner, the seeds had been sown for further success, and the following season saw them win the Southern League Championship and with it promotion back to the APL, or so they thought.

Promotion was refused by the APL on supposed ground grading issues, while with the club at its playing pinnacle, Automotive Products decided to sell the club's Windmill Ground on Tachbrook Road for housing, leading to the break-up of one of the most exciting teams in non-league football and the departure of manager Allner, but not before he had led his team to another Southern League Championship Cup, and into the FA Cup 1st Round.

Under new manager Jim Watson, Brakes won the Southern League Cup for a second time, making them the first club to hold all three of the League's trophies at once.

The fight to find a new stadium for the club dominated the next few years as the club tumbled down and out of the Southern League. Leamington FC Limited was formed on September 6th 1983 with the intention of purchasing the Windmill Ground. Our association with Automotive Products ended on July 1st 1985, and the name of the club reverted to Leamington FC. A simple club crest, the first in our history, was created as the club battled to stay alive, but by 1988, now in the Midland Combination and at its lowest ebb, the decision was made to place the club in motbballs while the search for a new stadium site continued. A small but determined band of supporters continued to raise money and kept the club's registration with the FA each year.

In 1990 a field was purchased in Harbury Lane and the club was re-launched in 2000, playing at what was called the New Windmill Ground, Leamington FC did not look back. The first two seasons saw successive promotions: the Midland Combination Division Two title in the first year and as runners-up in Division One a year later.

Brakes finished third in the Midland Combination Premier in 2002-03, and were promoted as champions to the Midland Football Alliance in 2004-05 with a league record 109 points.

In 2005-06 Leamington reached the 1st Round Proper of the FA Cup, their first time in the competition since reforming, losing heroically at Colchester United. The cup run enabled the club to move forward its planned infrastructure development. The ground has more recently undergone further improvement ensuring it satisfied Football Conference guidelines.

Brakes completed a magnificent season in 2006-07, returning to the Southern League after 20 years by winning the Midland Football Alliance title and the League Cup, becoming the first club in the League's history to complete the double, also reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Vase.

2007-8 saw Leamington narrowly fail to be promoted again, slipping up to Stourbridge in the Southern Football League Midland Division promotion play-off final.

The 2008-09 campaign saw the team build upon their experience of the previous season by winning the title by 9 points and returning to the Southern League Premier Division after a gap of 24 years.

The club's first season in the Premier Division saw a managerial change with Paul Holleran leading the team to a comfortable 10th position. 2010-2011 saw a strong finish securing fifth place in a play-off semi-final defeat at Hednesford.

2011-2012 saw a top of the league position at Christmas. However, two months without a win in the New Year saw Brakes slip out of the play-offs, despite finishing with a twelve match unbeaten run. The start of 2012-13 saw a further 14 matches unbeaten and despite some fierce competition, Brakes won the Southern League Premier Division for the second time, 30 years after their previous triumph. The return back to the Football Conference, presented a brand new set of challenges for the club.

The inaugural season in the Conference North contained many highlights. Although the season started well it was tempered by several lengthy injuries, which ruled players out for the rest of the season. But the fans' relegation concerns were quieted by a fantastic festive period and a competent 13th place achieved by the end of the season.

The second season in a new league is often difficult, and Leamington found this to be very true. A 'reasonable' position halfway through the season was not sufficient, and the loss of players (especially goalkeepers) throughout the season meant relegation became a reality.

The 2015-16 season in the Southern League Premier Division saw a strong finish, resulting in a play-off place, and a win over Redditch United in the semi-final. However, the final was a game too far with a 2-1 loss away at Hungerford Town.

Key players were added to a mixture of youth and experience for 2016-17, and barring early exits from the national cup competitions, the team made a very good start, securing runners-up spot. Home advantage was key as Slough Town were defeated in the play-off semi-final, before an eventful final in front of a new record crowd of 2,102 saw Brakes finally taste play off glory with a 2-1 victory over Hitchin Town, a late equaliser and a red card for the visitors taking the game to extra time before a spectacular winner from Courtney Baker-Richardson, who went on to sign for Swansea City. The Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup was also added to the trophy cabinet for the first time in 45 years, a young Wolverhampton Wanderers side were beaten on penalties at their Molineux stadium after a 1-1 draw. Competing in the National League North once more in 2017/18, Brakes achieved safety by a single point, defying their tag as relegation favourites.

'Second season syndrome' did not materialise last time out as a storming start kept us away from the bottom three, and despite a wobble mid-season, the sparkling form of striker Colby Bishop returning from injury in October helped Leamington to a comfortable 13th place finish once more, and a second Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup win in three seasons. The young striker then sealed a move back to the Football League with Accrington Stanley. Paul Holleran, who celebrated 500 games and 10 years in charge at the club in 2019, replaced him with Josh March from Alvechurch, and the latest young striker surpassed all expectations - 24 goals in 27 games securing him a move to the professional ranks with Forest Green Rovers by the turn of the year. Despite this Brakes were always clear of relegation danger, finishing in 18th place by the Points per Game system after the 2019/20 season ended prematurely in March due to the outbreak of COVID 19. With the football landscape set to look markedly different due to the pandemic, Leamington will kick off a fourth consecutive season in the National League North with their aims unchanged - to compete and consolidate.

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

OUT & ABOUT

PUMP ROOMS

By the time that a spring had been found at the site of the rooms in 1811 Leamington already had a reputation as an up-and-coming spa resort. Six wells had been discovered south of the River Leam in and around the village. The influx of tourists to bathe in these springs and 'take the waters' had led to speculators developing land to the north of the river. It was decided by these men that they needed to find a spring on their side of the river so that they could erect a suitably grand building to match the town they aimed to develop. Another spring was found in 1811 on the land of Mr Bertie Greathed and the architectural work was undertaken by local man Charles S. Smith (who also designed The Regent Hotel and the Upper Assembly Rooms in the town) in the Classical style. The building named The New Pump Rooms and Baths was opened three years later in July 1814.

Within months of opening however the baths proved so popular that the building needed to be extended. The building was finally complete two years later in 1816. Including the wings at the north and south end the building was 166 feet long with 17 hot baths and 3

cold baths. The total development cost was a fraction under £18,000.

From the 1840s onwards the British spa town tourist industry began to wane thanks to the growing popularity of spas in continental Europe, notably Belgium and France. Faced with the decline in demand for spa health treatments the decision was made in 1860 to close the Pump Rooms with a view to demolishing them and selling the land. However a group of local investors clubbed together and bought the building in October 1861. After spending £17,000 refurbishing the building, including adding a Turkish Bath and swimming pool, the Pump Rooms re-opened in 1863.

However, it proved impossible to operate at a profit and it was sold to the Local Board of Health in 1868. Since that time the building has remained in the public sector and in 1875 the Royal Pump Room Gardens next to the building were opened to the public under the management of George Elson. In 1889 a further large public swimming pool was opened. An annexe was added to the south of the main assembly room in 1910 and another to the north some

years later. In 1989 the swimming pool was closed and relocated to a new leisure centre building in Newbold Comyn.

After a number of different schemes to redevelop the Royal Pump Rooms had been considered, in 1997 work began on a major project to reuse it as a cultural complex. This opened after two years of redevelopment. The Leamington public library and public art gallery were relocated here from their former "Old Library" and annexe site on Avenue Road. The main swimming hall was used to house the library, the smaller swimming hall and Turkish Baths converted to house Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum. (Wording from Wikipedia)



By G-Man - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=774001>

LEAMINGTON RESULTS

ON THIS DAY

1957: A 1-1 draw at Aston Villa 'A' in the Birmingham & District League, Evans the goal scorer.

1963: A 2-1 win at Gainsborough Trinity in the Midland Counties League - Parry and Jepson our goal scorers.

1974: A 3-2 home win over Stevenage Athletic in the Southern League Division 1 North - Adrian Stewart with a brace and Mick Keeley were on target that day.

1976: A 1-1 draw with Chelmsford City at the Windmill Ground in front of 803 spectators in the Southern League Premier Division, Adrian Stewart was our scorer.

1987: A nice local fixture at Wilmcote, Billy Jawandha scoring in a 1-1 draw in the Midland Combination Premier Division.

2002: A 0-0 draw at home to Rugby Town in the Mid Comb Premier, 771 were present.

2004: The perennial Brakes servant Josh Blake scores the winner against local rivals Southam in front of 420.

2013: A 2-1 win over Hednesford Town in the Conference North in front of 803. Ricky Johnson and Stefan Moore, with THAT goal, won it for us.



FIXTURE & RESULTS

MATRIX

	AFC	AFC	ALF	BLY	BOS	BRA	BRA	CHE	CHO	CUR	DAR	FAR	GAT	GLO	GUI	HER	KET	KID	LEA	SOU	SPE	YOR
AFC																						
AFC																						
ALF																						
BLY																						
BOS																						
BRA																						
BRA																						
CHE																						
CHO																						
CUR																						
DAR																						
FAR																						
GAT																						
GLO																						
GUI																						
HER																						
KET																						
KID																						
LEA																						
SOU																						
SPE																						
YOR																						



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Bricks, blocks, roofing and more



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Leamington Spa
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TABLE & RESULTS

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Gloucester City	13	8	3	2	28	15	13	27
2	Kidderminster Harriers	11	7	2	2	18	8	10	23
3	AFC Fylde	11	6	3	2	16	12	4	21
4	York City	9	5	3	1	16	8	8	18
5	Chester	12	5	3	4	22	18	4	18
6	AFC Telford United	13	5	3	5	15	15	0	18
7	Gateshead	11	5	2	4	13	10	3	17
8	Leamington	11	4	5	2	19	17	2	17
9	Brackley Town	11	4	5	2	14	13	1	17
10	Farsley Celtic	13	4	5	4	16	17	-1	17
11	Spennymoor Town	11	4	4	3	15	13	2	16
12	Boston United	9	4	3	2	11	7	4	15
13	Southport	13	4	3	6	14	17	-3	15
14	Chorley	11	3	4	4	10	12	-2	13
15	Bradford (Park Avenue)	12	3	4	5	18	21	-3	13
16	Hereford	9	3	3	3	14	14	0	12
17	Kettering Town	11	3	3	5	15	17	-2	12
18	Curzon Ashton	14	3	3	8	12	23	-11	12
19	Guiseley	11	3	2	6	15	17	-2	11
20	Alfreton Town	13	2	5	6	12	22	-10	11
21	Darlington	7	3	0	4	11	8	3	9
22	Blyth Spartans	12	1	2	9	8	28	-20	5

SATURDAY 12TH DEC

- Alfreton Town 1-1
- Chorley
- Boston United 0-0
- Chester
- Brackley Town 2-1
- Blyth Spartans
- Bradford (Park Avenue) 1-3
- Leamington
- Curzon Ashton 0-1
- Gloucester City
- Gateshead 0-1
- Kidderminster Harriers

LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR 28TH DECEMBER

AFC Fylde	v	Southport
Alfreton Town	v	Kettering Town
Brackley Town	v	Gloucester City
Chester	v	Chorley
Curzon Ashton	v	Bradford (Park Avenue)
Darlington	v	Blyth Spartans
Farsley Celtic	v	Boston United
Gateshead	v	Spennymoor Town
Kidderminster Harriers	v	AFC Telford United
Leamington	v	Hereford
York City	v	Guiseley

NEXT HOME GAME



GLOUCESTER CITY A.F.C.
Saturday 2nd January 2021
3.00pm KO



PLAYER

STATS

2020-21	Season					Career						
	Start	Sub	Unused Sub	Total	Goals	Start	Sub	Total	Goals	Joined	Left	Returned
Josh Allen	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Taylor Allen	1	3	0	4	0	1	3	4	0	Nov-20		
Kaiman Anderson	3	7	0	10	1	35	17	52	5			
Richard Batchelor	0	1	1	1	0	151	17	168	25		Apr-17	Nov-20
Joe Clarke	13	0	0	13	0	119	14	133	1			
Kieran Dunbar	0	0	1	0	0	83	17	100	89		Sep-20	Nov-20
Jack Edwards	10	1	0	11	2	254	30	284	53			
Junior English	7	6	1	13	3	128	9	137	13			
Callum Gittings	4	3	3	7	0	137	35	172	8			
Chris Knott	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sep-20		
Jack Lane	14	0	0	14	1	81	7	88	3			
Josh Martin	10	0	4	10	0	10	0	10	0			
Simeon Maye	11	1	0	12	1	11	1	12	1	Aug-20		
Dan Meredith	1	8	5	9	1	1	10	11	1			
Stephan Morley	14	0	0	14	0	237	8	218	16			
Kyle Morrison	14	0	0	14	0	14	0	14	0	Jun-20		
Ben Newey	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0			
Sam Osborne	13	1	0	14	9	13	1	14	9	Sep-20		
Joe Parker	2	0	0	2	0	9	1	10	1			
Lance Smith	11	2	1	13	4	11	2	13	4	Jul-20		
Connor Taylor	2	3	9	5	0	34	37	71	3			
Danny Waldron	10	3	1	13	2	10	3	13	2	Aug-20		
Jake Weaver	14	0	0	14	0	56	0	56	0			

BRAKES DRESSING ROOM

SPONSORSHIP 2020-21



PAUL HOLLERAN
Manager
Brian Knibb



TIM HOLLAND
Coach
Kevin Watson



MARTYN NAYLOR
Coach
Sponsor



CHRIS KNOTT
First Team Coach
Sponsor



PETE DENHAM
Physiotherapist
Vice Presidents



BARRY REEVE
Kitman
Graham Hobbins



TOM GALLAGHER
Title
Sponsor



JACK SEABORN
Title
Sponsor



Name
Title
Sponsor



Name
Title
Sponsor



Kaiman Anderson
Midfield/attack
Jim Scott



Joe Clarke
Midfield
Sponsor



Jack Edwards
Defence/midfield/attack
The Gould Family



Junior English
Defence/midfield
Sponsor



Callum Gittings
Midfield
Fred Thompson



Jack Lane
Defence
Sponsor



Josh Martin
Defence
Sponsor



Simeon Maye
Midfield
Nic Sproul



Dan Meredith
Defence/midfield
Sponsor



Stephan Morley
Defence
Sponsor



Kyle Morrison
Defence
Russell Davis



Sam Osborne
Midfield/attack
PN DECORATORS



Joe Parker
Midfield
Sponsor



Lance Smith
Striker
Simon Davies



Connor Taylor
Midfield/attack
Wyn Grant



Danny Waldron
Midfield/attack
Oliver Spencer



Ben Newey
Goalkeeper
Sponsor



Jake Weaver
Goalkeeper
Sponsor



James Mace
Title
Graham Moody



Steve Ellis
Title
Andrew Calcutt

CHARLIE FOGARTY

Charlie Fogarty MBE an aspiring footballer and bright school pupil had the world at his feet when in March 2012, Charlie suffered a severe brain injury after being hit by an overtaking car whilst crossing the road. Following the accident Charlie was rushed to Birmingham Children's hospital, placed in an induced coma and spent 11 uncertain days in intensive care. He then was transferred on to a Neuro ward where he spent the next four months in the early stages of recovery. Charlie then went on to complete an intense six-month rehabilitation programme ran by The Children's Trust in Surrey where he learned to eat, walk and talk again. He finally returned home in February 2013, from there, he began his inspiring journey to recovery.

Shortly before the accident Charlie had finished a four-year contract at Birmingham City FC's Academy and was trialling for Milton Keynes Dons. Nothing was going to stop Charlie get back on that pitch where he belongs, he is now back playing football for his local Solihull Moors FC Community team and his beloved Northern Ireland CP team as well.

Playing for Northern Ireland has seen Charlie gain 5 International caps and play in two CP World Cups; one in England and one in Argentina.

Alongside his footballing achievements, Charlie also continued his education. Shortly after the accident Charlie's educational memory in some subjects had dropped to level one / two – the equivalent to a year one child at the age of seven. With one-to-one support Charlie has remarkably gone on to achieve a degree in Sports Science programme and graduated in late 2018.



Charlie's inspirational story and never give up attitude has been recognised by him being awarded an MBE for services to Young People in Solihull, West Midlands.

Charlie's dream is to tell his story to the masses, inspiring individuals from all walks of life. Charlie has inspired people throughout the UK and the world, delivering his renowned inspirational speeches. Charlie's speeches transcend age, professions, gender and background; encourage each and every individual that giving up never has to be an option, no matter what.

Charlie Fogarty has been a keynote and headline speaker at many influential events, corporate conferences & premier league clubs.



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PLAYER PROFILE

JUNIOR ENGLISH (DEFENCE/MIDFIELD)

Arriving in the summer of 2017 as Leamington returned to the National League North, Junior underlined his versatility by seamlessly switching from midfield to right back during the campaign. He has been one of the most consistent performers in the squad over the last three seasons, a statistic borne out by the fact that he scooped the Players Player of the Year and the Managers' Player of the Year in his first two seasons with us.

Prior to joining Leamington Junior spent a season with Worcester City. He has played his entire career at Step 2 of the Pyramid having started out at Moor Green, who later merged with Solihull Borough to become Solihull Moors. Junior made over 300 appearances, playing in every position but goalkeeper, and was part of their National League North title winning squad in 2016. He passed a century of appearances in a Brakes shirt last season.

He notched a pair of very juicy doubles in those wins - and also got a late leveller against title-chasing AFC Fylde.



ED BLACKABY INTERVIEW

DAVID PRESCOTT

David has been a big fan of the Brakes since the 1960s; I have become friends with him on Facebook and was keen to ask him about some of his memories watching the team.

WHEN DID YOU START TO WATCH THE BRAKES?

I first watched the Brakes in the 1965/66 season. My dad worked at the factory and he had a Lambretta scooter that he used to get to work from Warwick and he took me on the back to see my first game in 1965. My uncle who also worked at the factory lived in St Helens Road and my dad would park at his house and we would walk round to the ground with about six of their work colleagues. I think the game was Lockheed Leamington v Goole Town, I was nine years old and not that interested in the football but the attraction back then was my uncle and my dad's work mates spoiling me by buying me Mars bars and pop from the shed!

1965 was the year that the new floodlights were installed from Manchester City's ground and I remember it being said that we had the best floodlights in non-league football. Do I remember correctly that



they were that bright that some bulbs had to be taken out?

WHO WERE YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYERS WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED TO WATCH THEM?

My favourite players of that era were undoubtedly the two wingers Syd Hall and Ernie Ward. I can remember them terrifying the opposition defences when they attacked down the wings. Strangely enough I ended up working with Ernie's nephew and I was also an apprentice with star centre forward Duncan Gardner.

OVER THE YEARS WHICH MATCHES ARE YOUR FAVOURITE? ANY ERA

The match that sticks in my mind most was in the 1974/75 season when AP Leamington got as far as the FA Cup first round but sadly lost at home to Southend United. It was a huge crowd with a great atmosphere but I went home disappointed after a 2-1 defeat. I still have the programme somewhere!

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MATCH OF THE MODERN ERA?

The first game I attended after the club reformed was the play-off final in 2008 against Stourbridge losing 2-1 after extra time to shatter the dreams of promotion. I have been a regular supporter ever since.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYERS OF THE MODERN ERA?

My favourite players since the club reformed are: Tony Breedon, Bello, Batch, Rich Adams, Jimmy Husband, Danny Newton, Rich Taundry and of course my all-time favourite of recent seasons James Mace.

Do you reckon that you could name a best Brakes XI since you have been watching them? Not easy so many great players.

Can I name an all-time best Brakes XI, really tricky but here goes: Alan Dulleston, Denis Taylor, Gordon Hancocks, Connor Gudger, Roger Brown (Captain), Jon Adams, Ernie Ward, Duncan Gardner, Ivor Talbot, Kim

Casey and Syd Hall.

That is a great team David full of goals; I would have picked a lot of those players in my team too. Thank you very much for your time and see you at a match.

By Ed Blackaby





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UP & COMING

The Buildbase FA Trophy Fourth Round draw has taken place with the Brakes being drawn away against Kettering Town. The tie will be in place of the Guiseley game on 16th January, so this game will be rearranged in due course.

Fans may not be allowed to attend in person yet, but you have the opportunity of supporting Leamington FC by buying 50/50 tickets for each game and so show your support from the comfort of your own home. Check the club website and social media for updated details.

There is a short turn-around from today's game with the next match being here at the Community Stadium next Saturday, 2nd January. As usual, there will be no fans allowed but the streaming service will be available.

BRAKES LOTTERY

Support your Football Club and WIN Cash with Brakes Lottery

What can I win?

The Brakes Lottery prize fund will be 50% of entry fees for each draw (max £1,176). If there are no winners, then the prize fund will rollover to the next draw until won (max 25,000). The more entries that we have, the bigger the prize fund will be, so tell your friends and family too!

How to enter

Application forms to join the Brakes Lottery can be obtained from Kevin Watson
Tel: 07598 133125
E-Mail: lottery@leamingtonfc.co.uk; or from the official website at www.leamingtonfc.co.uk.

LATEST DRAW

Last Draw Date: 19 Dec 2020

1st Number drawn

04

2nd Number drawn:

28

Winner: Rollover

Next draw: 26 Dec 2020

Prize Fund: £2,900

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Written by David Richardson

THAT true altruistic spirit of the Non-League family has been really shining through during the terrible Coronavirus pandemic.

Our wonderful clubs have been extremely busy helping local vulnerable people throughout the lockdown.

Here are some examples of what they've been up to within their local communities:

Worcester Raiders have made a donation to the Worcestershire Homeless Appeal, with the club players and management clubbing together to provide food and clothing for those living rough on the streets of Worcester.

Norton Athletic representatives ran a sponsored 4km to raise money for nearby hospitals.

Stoneyburn Juniors held an eight-week programme to help with men's mental health.

Maidenhead United have been staging Pilates and Yoga sessions via Zoom to improve wellbeing whilst raising money for local charities.

Chatham Town have a mental health ambassador who has been available during the lockdown period to provide support to those who need it.

Stockport County have a Food for Christmas campaign to provide meals to children in Stockport. More than £152,000 has been raised so far via a JustGiving page.

Uttoxeter Town have been using their club mini-bus to deliver medicines and shopping to the most vulnerable in the town.

Gorleston have been collecting cash donations to obtain food for local people. Deliveries have been made by the club's reserve team assistant manager Arren Howarth.

Bottesford Town Juniors have been raising funds for the Creative Therapy for Children and Young People organisation. This offers free support for those who have suffered emotional distress during these difficult times.

Soham Town Rangers raised £1,637 with a JustGiving appeal to provide hot meals for children and families in need during the school holidays.

Warrington Wolves Women players have been creating pieces of art on the subject of teamwork and these will go to an exhibition to raise funds for the vulnerable.

Cheltenham Saracens open their ground every Wednesday morning to distribute food to those who need it in conjunction with the local Tesco store.

Harborough Town have been distributing android tablets to local school pupils and nursing homes for people with no access to a device.

Kingstonian are in regular contact with their supporters, focusing on those who live alone and have no internet access or family network. The Kingstonian Supporters Club have paid for these people to log in to specially arranged Zoom conferences with the club players and management plus other online events.

Bradford Town's playing squad and management are running a total distance of 867 miles to raise money for The Hub charity in Bradford-on-Avon. This will provide food and help people get back into work who have fallen on hard times.

Bootle have been offering their facilities to the local council and schools to keep community outreach programmes going for disabled children during the lockdown.

Ramsgate have been donating to 59 charities during lockdown, including donations to 10 different food banks. A total of £4,800 has been raised.

Gosport Borough have been running a 'Feed a Family in Need' campaign where a crowdfunding campaign raised £9,000.

Runcorn Linnets distributed more than 400 free packed lunches to children who needed them.

Formby Community have been doing people's shopping and collecting medication. They have looked after 502 homes and responded to more than 2,500 requests.

Slimbridge AFC committee members have been acting as street volunteers to deliver shopping and prescriptions to local residents who can't leave their homes.

These are truly fantastic initiatives at Non-League level. They provide every reason for us all to be really proud to pull together and support our local football clubs.

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NOTICE BOARD

Apologies for this programme not being as up-to-date as normal, but despite the Covid-19 restrictions we all needed a break from work, so this was prepared before Christmas. There will hopefully be a completely on point programme ready for the Gloucester game next Saturday.

The Buildbase FA Trophy 4th Round draw has

been made and we are due to play at Kettering Town on Saturday 16th January. At the moment they are in Tier 2 but we are unable to travel from Tier 3. This is very likely to change (probably not for the better) by the time I write this article for the Gloucester City game.

Any Hereford readers who purchased a programme way back in

September 2019 may like to know that the missing word from the Word Search was 'Blackfriars'.

GAME CHANGER...

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THE A-Z OF LFC

D

is for...

Daniel Dubidat

Signed from: Bedworth United
Brakes Debut: 28/03/16 @
Stratford Town - Southern
League Premier Division -
Won 1-0

Appearances: (2015/16) 7

Daniel Dubidat signed for
Leamington late in the
2015/16 campaign as Paul
Holleran bolstered his squad
for the push into the play off
places. He won a penalty on
his debut at Stratford with
almost his first touch of the
ball, and played seven times
for Brakes as they made the
play off final but lost out to
Hungerford Town.

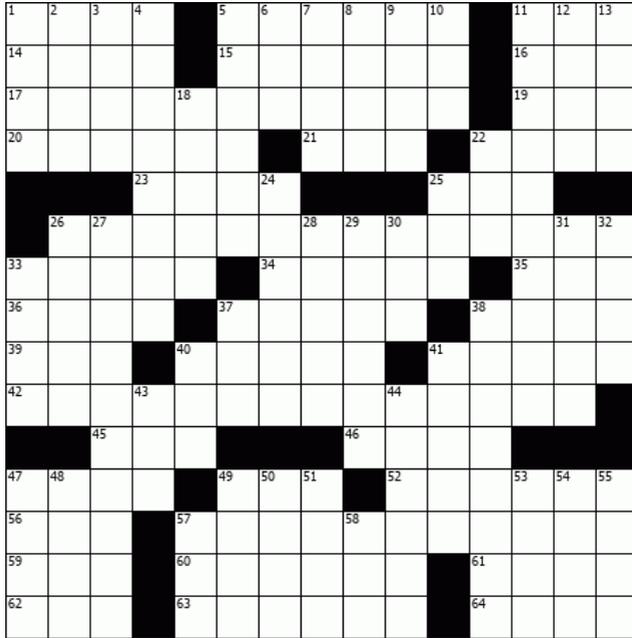


THE BRAIN CELL TESTING SECTION

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Vertebral cushion
- 5. Finger painters' protection
- 11. Explosive sound
- 14. Thundering sound
- 15. Outcast
- 16. Nuptial agreement
- 17. Explanation of golf's popularity (Part 1)
- 19. Stones' Wood
- 20. Made the grade
- 21. Waterlogged land
- 22. Nyctophobe's fear
- 23. What Mark Spitz has done well
- 25. Pitcher's success
- 26. Part 2 of the explanation
- 33. Ease
- 34. Clamor
- 35. Instrument for Stan Getz
- 36. Channel marker
- 37. Beer buyer, presumably
- 38. One of Hi and Lois' kids
- 39. Sixth sense
- 40. "Beauty is only skin deep," e.g.
- 41. Zoo heavyweight
- 42. Part 3 of the explanation
- 45. Bugs' voice
- 46. Look
- 47. Type of bag or circus
- 49. Steak excess
- 52. Prolific patentee
- 56. Singer Janis
- 57. End of the explanation
- 59. Stick out
- 60. Type of cracker or magnetism
- 61. "Roots" writer Haley
- 62. Roadblock requests
- 63. King novel
- 64. Ill-gotten goods



Down

- 1. Trickle
- 2. Tiny bit
- 3. Brat's comeback
- 4. Intersection
- 5. Accelerated
- 6. Long March leader
- 7. "Carmina Burana" composer
- 8. Quote an authority
- 9. Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
- 10. "Ain't --- Sweet"
- 11. Caribbean cruiser of old
- 12. Stench
- 13. Policy guru
- 18. Fit for the front page
- 22. Sarcastic response
- 24. Quarterback's morning after
- 25. Be obligated
- 26. Show a rosy glow
- 27. Romantic getaways?
- 28. Help for a paleface
- 29. Those involved in a coverup?
- 30. Option for the jet set
- 31. Monsoon occurrences
- 32. World's fair
- 33. Sanction wrongdoing
- 37. Nabokov novel
- 38. Type of bond or compound
- 40. The whole kit and caboodle
- 41. Clarinet parts
- 43. It might follow snow
- 44. With great intensity
- 47. Island nation of the Pacific
- 48. Extol
- 49. Done, in Dijon
- 50. Buyer's warning
- 51. "Sock it ---!"
- 53. Go it alone
- 54. Top-selling U.S. cookie
- 55. Ensuing
- 57. Spotlight grabber
- 58. Kind of chest or paint

THE BRAIN CELL TESTING SECTION

WORD SEARCH



The words below are included in the table, horizontally, diagonally, or vertically.

However, there is one word listed that is not included – which one is it? Result will be given with the next Word Search.

The missing word in the previous Word Search (St Ives Town) was 'Merryland'.

Rotherwas

Market

Bulls

Whites

Floods

Newton

Edgar

Street

County

Town

Herefordshire

HUST

Beer

Agriculture

United

Supporters

Cider

Rural

Trust

Forever

City

Wye

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THE BRAIN CELL TESTING SECTION

SPORTS QUIZ

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE FOOTBALL BASED QUESTIONS?

1. Mo Salah became Liverpool's all-time record goal-scorer in the Champions League with 22 goals, but whose record did he overtake?
2. Name the football club with which Jose Mourinho first became a top-tier manager?
3. Which retail billionaire became owner of Newcastle United in 2007?
4. Dubbed as the longest away trip in English football, which two teams played four times during the 2009/10 season?
5. Which goalkeeper was captain of Italy until his international retirement in 2017?
6. Which Frenchman once said: "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea"?
7. Harry Kane was the first English player to win the Premier League Golden Boot since which other English footballer?
8. Which Midlands club are known as 'The Saddlers'?
9. On 4th April, 2018 which player became the youngest Englishman to start a Champions League Quarter Final game? (Liverpool)
10. Which seaside club plays its home games at Bloomfield Road?

GUESS WHO?



WHERE IS THE BALL?



(Answers can be found on page 54)



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SPORTS CONNECTIONS

ON THIS DAY

1887 - John Layton Jarvis is the first British race horse trainer to be knighted.

George Circuit; becoming the first Scotsman to win the World Drivers Championship.

1902 - First indoor pro football game, Syracuse beats Philadelphia 6-0 (Madison Square Garden, NYC).

1965 – The Ballon d’Or was announced: Benfica striker Eusébio wins award for best European football player; first Portuguese national to win, and still only Benfica player to do this.

1905 – The Intercollegiate Athletic Association of US is founded (becomes NCAA in 1910).



2013 - Chris Weidman defeats Anderson Silva to retain the UFC Middleweight Championship.



1918 - Montreal’s Georges Vezina becomes the first NHL goalie to record an assist during the Canadian’s’ 6-3 win over the Toronto Arenas.
NHL Goalie
Georges Vezina

1934 – The first ever Women’s cricket international begins with England versus Australia in Australia.

2018 - UFC bantamweight champion Amanda Nunes of Brazil moves up in weight and KO’s dominant featherweight Cris “Cyborg” Justino just 51 seconds into the opening round at the Forum, Inglewood, CA; first female to win UFC titles in multiple weight classes.

1946 – The first Davis Cup takes place in Melbourne, Australia: Jack Kramer & Ted Schroeder give the US an unassailable 3-0 lead; beating Australians John Bromwich & Adrian Quist 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. It ends with a 5-0 whitewash.

1955 – In the 44th Davis Cup, Australia this time beats USA in New York with another whitewash (5-0).



1963 - Scottish Lotus driver Jim Clark wins his record 7th Grand Prix of the F1 season, the South African event at Prince

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ON THIS DAY

WHO ARE YA?

Who Are Ya... Hereford

An early town charter from 1189 granted by Richard I of England describes it as "Hereford in Wales". Hereford has been recognised as a city since time immemorial, with the status being reconfirmed as recently as October 2000. It is now known chiefly as a trading centre for a wider agricultural and rural area. Products from Hereford include: cider, beer, leather goods, nickel alloys, poultry, chemicals, and cattle, including the famous Hereford breed.

Famous Folk...

Broadcaster Gilbert Harding, footballer Connor Wickham and the original lineup of The Pretenders, (except Chrissie Hynde) all have connections with Hereford.

Pointless...

'Fore Herd' and 'Hod Freer' are anagrams.

On This Day... 28 December...

Events: Tay Rail Bridge collapses in Dundee, killing 75, 1879; a 7.2 Richter scale earthquake hits Sicily, killing 75,000, 1908; Algerian Arab Spring starts, 2010

Births: James Caan (businessman), 1960; Romana LuaLua (footballer), 1980; Tom Huddlestone (footballer), 1986

Deaths: Mary II (Queen), 1694 (age 32); Maurice Ravel (composer), 1937 (age 62); Dennis Wilson (Beach Boys), 1983 (age 39)

LFC: 2004 – 420 watch Brakes win the battle of the mud to see off Saints.

SOUTHAM UNITED 0 v LEAMINGTON 1

Midland Combination Premier Division

By David Hucker

There was drama aplenty at Banbury Road with Brakes winning through by the narrowest of margins against local rivals Southam to consolidate their lead at the top of the Midland Combination Premiership. With goalkeeper Pete Dye sent off for handling outside of his area in the first half,

Saints' ten men succumbed to a 48th minute strike from Brakes' leading scorer Josh Blake which sent the visiting supporters who made up the majority of the bumper crowd of 420 home happy.

Saints attacked early and Richard Morris had to save at the feet of ex-Sphinx and Marconi striker Tom Thacker. At the other end, Steve Thompson put Richard Adams through but, for what was to become a regular occurrence for the Brakes forwards, he was ruled offside. Home 'keeper Dye (who played for the old AP Leamington club in my time as Deputy Chairman) then saved a Paul Nicholls shot from the edge of the penalty area before denying Josh Blake an opening goal.

Brakes' passing style of football was becoming less and less effective as the green grass gave way to a brown bog and it was Saints who appeared to be adapting best to the difficult conditions. Steve Smith came to Brakes rescue clearing from Don Cramp and then, at the other end, Leon Morgan picked up a cross from the right by Jon Adams only to see his shot deflected for a corner.

On 25 minutes, Jon Adams again crossed this time to Blake who was upended in the penalty area. Having missed a spot kick at Meir earlier in the month, Adams showed no sign of nerves in walking up, but he shot straight at Dye who then acrobatically saved the follow-up. Five minutes later, there was a goalmouth scramble that saw Morgan, Richard Adams and Blake all try to dig the ball out of the mud and into the goal.

The match turned on 36 minutes when Morgan tried to lob Dye but, in making the save, the home 'keeper had strayed from his area and, although Nicholls put the ball into the net for what appeared to be the Brakes' opener, the referee brought play back and sent Dye off. Then, with Gary Puddifoot taking over in goal, Nicholls sent a good chance over the bar. As the interval approached, Nicholls cut in from the left and crossed to Richard Adams who headed over.

The crucial strike for Brakes came in the 48th minute when Richard Adams lobbed the ball past Puddifoot for Blake to come sliding in from the left and put the matter beyond doubt, 0-1. Once again, Blake showed both his scoring instincts and his phenomenal workrate in what is becoming another good season that could even top 2003/04. Saints almost hit back straightaway and Morris had to get down low to save from Neil Austin. Then, Richard

Adams picked up a Nicholls pass and ran the length of the Southam half of the pitch only to be denied by the 'keeper.

Saints used all three substitutes, including former Brakes youth player Neil Stacey, as they searched for an equaliser. They almost got one a minute from time as Graham went on a strong run into the Brakes' area only to see his shot get stuck in the mud at the foot of the post allowing Morris to smother the ball and save the day.

This was win number 20 for Brakes so far this season and, although not at their best, showed that they are real championship material ahead of what will be a very testing January. Manager Jason Cadden was pleased with the result saying, "The pitch was very difficult, but we should still have had it wrapped up at half-time. It was a cracking result that sets us up for the new year, but there is a long way to go and we have 19 hard fixtures left to play."

Southam United: Pete Dye; Wayne Britton; Adrian Fitzhugh [Capt]; Gary Puddifoot; Aided Wyatt; Calvin De-Voisey (Rob Brassington 58); Lee Constable; Mattie Graham; Tom Thacker (Jamie Russell 70); Don Cramp; Neil Austin (Neil Stacey 62)

Leamington: Richard Morris; Jon Adams; Darran Tank; Steve Smith; Andy Gregory; Stuart Herlihy; Leon Morgan; Josh Blake; Richard Adams (Ben Adams 83); Paul Nicholls; Steve Thompson [Capt] (Martin Thompson 75)

Sub Not Used: Simon Walker

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 DECEMBER



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WAY BACK

THEN

WYN GRANT

In December 1920 'Leamington, in common with other parts of the country, spent a Yuletide the spring-like weather of which was in sharp contrast with that suggested by the Christmas-card pictorial representations of the festival. The snow and frost of the previous fortnight were replaced by mild conditions and warm sunshine. It was in reality the most "unseasonable" Christmas that could be imagined. The existing unemployment and consequent poverty in many homes, however, provided great opportunities for those more fortunate to display the true spirit of the season. Football enthusiasts had a veritable carnival, and large crowds gathered to watch the exhibitions of the two leading Spa teams [Town and St. John's]. 'The mud on both grounds on Boxing Day was a great handicap in pleasant football. The turf quickly became a veritable quagmire, and players became pathetic objects in their mud-stained "togs". Had not the kindly rain descended and washed the thickest of it away, spectators would have been unable to follow intelligently the movements of the various players.'

The rain and mud did not, however, provide a deterrent to the crowds. One thousand spectators turned out to see the 'railwaymen's derby' between Banbury G.W.R. and Leamington G.W.R. Perhaps the presence of many railway staff explains why one Town player turned up too late for the Boxing Day match 'owing to certain trains not running.' This was not a constraint for the 'exceptionally large crowd' which gathered to watch Stockton play Napton in the Southam League. Several hundred spectators came not just from the competing villages but also from Southam and Long Itchington. The glare of the low sun, which was compared to that of a summer's day, was a challenge for the players. Napton led from a penalty, but with ten minutes go the home side equalised 'which caused a cheer to go up that sounded for miles. Great excitement prevailed', but this time there was no controversy over the referee as had been the case in recent Southam League matches. Referee Mr W. Sturley was described as having 'the eye of a hawk.' In contrast the referee at St. Johns versus Newdigate Colliery was sarcastically described as 'very alert': 'The number of offside kicks was remarkable.'

Playing wooden spoonists Daimler on Boxing Day, 'Leamington Town took the

opportunity of resting several of the regular side in view of the more important fixture against Budbrook the following day.' Even so, spectators 'were very interested in the play of Joe Williams (late of St. John's). Williams is a regular player for Rugby Town in the Combination, but he will appear in the Town team whenever possible. On Boxing Day, he did not appear up to his usual form.' Hinks was brought in to give Alcock a rest in goal. 'Against Daimler he played well, but his only fault is he does not clear like Alcock. But, of course, Alcock is exceptional.' Despite playing a weakened side, including one trial player, Town had no difficulty in beating Daimler 4-0.

Over at Clarendon Road, St. John's beat Armstrong-Siddeley 2-0, but the main feature of the game was the number of injuries. At a time when there were no substitutes, 'Midget' Knight was so badly hurt that he had to retire from the game. Several players had to be taken off for treatment for minor injuries as the 'Motormen' put up what was described as a 'good fight'.

FUN & GAMES

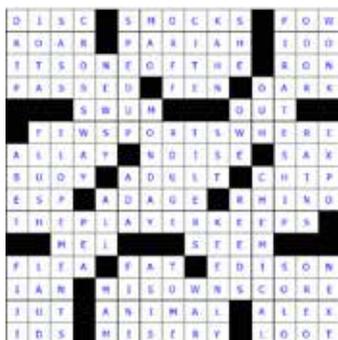
THESE ARE THE FOOTBALL QUESTION ANSWERS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ON PAGE 47

Answers

1. Steven Gerrard
2. Benfica
3. Mike Ashley
4. Newcastle United to Plymouth Argyle
5. Gianluigi Buffon
6. Eric Cantona
7. Kevin Phillips (Sunderland 1999/2000 season)
8. Walsall
9. Trent Alexander-Arnold – Liverpool
10. Blackpool

Guess Who? **KIERAN DUNBAR**

Where is the ball? **A**



THE FINAL WORD

THE FINAL WORD FROM THE GANTRY MATCHDAY COMMENTATOR

Leamington did the job to secure the sequel to their adventure in Hollywood in the Buildbase FA Trophy on Saturday. Demonstrating grit, determination and quality to slay the red Wrexham dragons across the border, the Brakes secured a 4th round tie against Kettering Town in a step closer to Wembley. Dominating the National League outfit in the second half, Leamington made an excellent account of themselves before Jake Weaver took the spotlight in the shootout, saving 2 spot-kicks in sudden death to complete an Oscar-worthy performance and taking the glory that the former Birmingham

man has deserved with his efforts between the sticks in recent weeks. The only disappointment on a euphoric afternoon, again, was that it occurred without you supporters in there. I do find myself very honoured to be able to watch and cover live football at the moment and it pains me deeply that you couldn't be there to celebrate with the team in what would have been a wonderful day out over the border.

Due to printing deadlines and the chaos that comes with Christmas, this article was sent off before the Boxing Day fixture with league leaders Gloucester, so I've no idea if Leamington's unbeaten run is still intact, or the circumstances of the table, but looking to today's game against Hereford, the Brakes face a foe that they have found to be a

tough nut to crack in recent seasons. The Brakes' only victory in the last 5 games coming in a 2-1 victory against the Bulls at Edgar Street last season. The Bulls have played two games less than the Brakes but (excluding whatever may come on Boxing Day) come into this one off the back of three wins on the trot. After Boris' Christmas cancellation, today sees yet another blow dealt by the covid-struck season as these ones always deliver a cracking atmosphere helped by the travelling Herford supporters but, as always, we'll do our best to radiate that atmosphere on commentary over the stream-waves this afternoon.

Enjoy the game,

Matt

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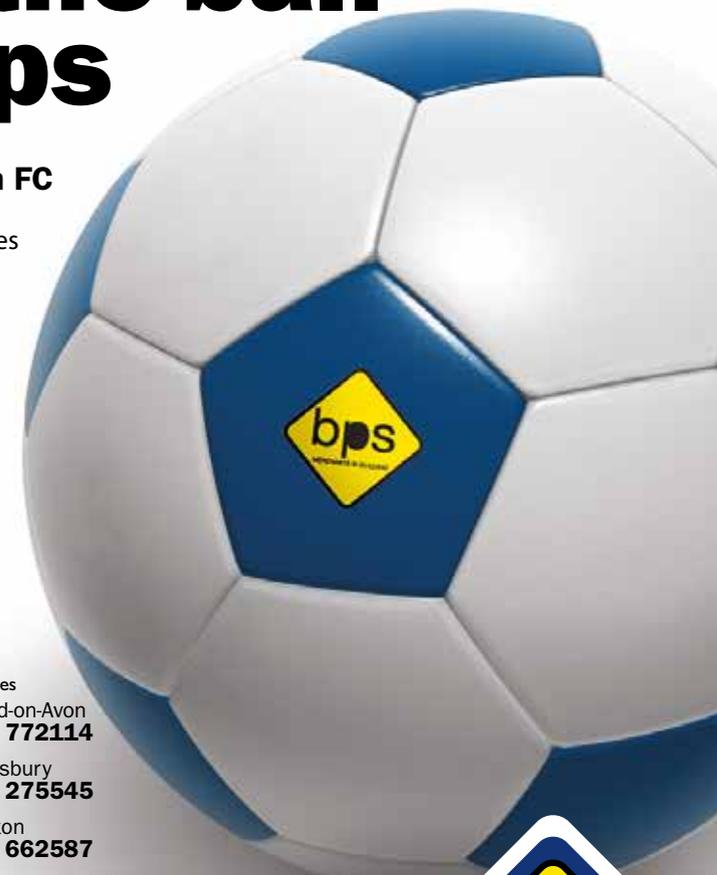
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LINE UP



LEAMINGTON FC

HEREFORD FC

Paul Holleran	Manager	Manager	Josh Gowling
Jack Seaborn	Assist Kit man	Assistant Manager	Steve Burr
Jake Weaver	1	1	Brandon Hall
Josh Martin	2	2	Jared Hodgkiss
Stephan Morley	3	3	Daniel Jones
Joe Clarke	4	4	James McQuilkin
Kyle Morrison	5	5	Jake Wright
Jack Lane	6	6	Giles Coke
Sam Osborne	7	7	Kyle Finn
Simeon Maye	8	8	Tom Owen-Evans
Lance Smith	9	9	Chris Camwell
Jack Edwards ©	10	10	Lenell John-Lewis
Danny Waldron	11	11	Ryan Lloyd
Dan Meredith	12	12	Toby Raison
Kaiman Anderson	14	14	Paul White
Junior English	15	15	Kennedy Digie
Callum Gittings	16	16	Yan Klukowski
Connor Taylor	17	17	Ben Pollock
Richard Batchelor	18	18	Jamie Grimes
Ben Newey	19	19	Dylan Jones

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MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Dean Watson

ASSISTANT REFEREE

Andrew Ellis

ASSISTANT REFEREE

Ashley Clarke

NEXT HOME GAME



GLOUCESTER CITY A.F.C.

Saturday 2nd January 2021

3.00pm KO