



GODALMING TOWN

Epsom and Ewell

Saturday 29th August 2026

Fleet Town

Monday 31st August 2026

£2.50



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Editorial



Hello and welcome back to The Bill Kyte Stadium for our first home game back in the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties Prem South. It's a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Epsom & Ewell today and Fleet Town on Bank Holiday Monday and welcome to our match officials of both games.

Last Saturday we welcomed bottom of the league Eversley & California. In the first minute, Gs were awarded a free-kick, Mark Soares put the ball in the box with their keeper making a good save. Sam Fernley also had a shot which was deflected out for a throw. Then from that throw on 5 minutes, Sam ran into the box then was brought down and penalty awarded, Mark Soares put it way to put G's 1 up. Then on 8 minutes, Mark picked up the ball on the halfway line, fed it left for Deji Alabi who delivered a great pass to Shane Johnson to put G's 2 up. G's continued to create chances but could not convert them. Just before the half time whistle, a ball came into the G's penalty area, we couldn't clear our lines and an Eversley player got a foot on the ball and ended up in the net to make it 2-1 at half time. It was Eversley that was the much better side in the second half and on 75 minutes, Eversley got a free kick, the ball came to player stood alone around our left goalpost, got his head to the ball, which lopped over Steve Douglas and into the net to make it 2-2. We will feel disappointed that it wasn't the full three points but it was another point on the board, now three games unbeaten and moved up a place in the league away from the bottom two.

Today we welcome Epsom & Ewell. They sit just below us on the same points but have a game in hand on us. They progressed in the FA Vase with a good 5-1 win against Horsham YM but then lost to Met Police 3-0 in the league and sadly went out of the FA Cup last Saturday losing 3-0 to Crowborough. We have not had the best results against Epsom in the past only having once in the six games we have played them over the years in the CCL.

On Monday we welcome Fleet Town. Fleet are one of the favourites to win the league this season and are currently in 2nd. They have won 3 and lost 1 of their four games played (these notes were written before today). Alex McCallister is their leading scorer with 4 goals already this season so he will be one to watch.

The U23 side managed by Toby Sleight, started their season in the new look Suburban League last Wednesday evening (19th August) when they travelled to Chessington & Hook. Chessington scored first on 16 minutes but G's rallied back and equalised on 35 minutes with Cameron Nanu scoring for the G's. In the 2nd half, Chessington went down to 10 men but also G's went down to 10 as Aiden Falker handled the ball on the line preventing a goal, but Chessington couldn't score and G's picked up a good point on the road. Last Saturday they travelled to PFC Victoria Development. Unfortunately it was a 3-1 defeat on the road, Kristian Panayotov scored G's goal. Wednesday evening (26th August) they entertained Hartley Wintney U23s at the Bill Kyte Stadium. These notes were written before that game so hopefully they got their first home win. Their next game is away to Abbey Rangers Reserves next Saturday (5th September).

We are pleased to say that all four of our youth teams will be competing in the East Berkshire Football Alliance. The teams will be overseen by Jack Sollis and the team at

Kickstart Coaching. The U13 team will be managed by Harry Batterson. The U14 team will be managed by Ollie Ballam. The U15 will be managed by Vinnie Martin and the U16's will be managed by Matt Hess this season. Their season will start on the 19th September but fixtures will be subject to change depending on pitch conditions.

We wish all our youth teams all the best for this new season.

Thank you to all our fantastic sponsors for this season - Blagden Garden Services are our first team sponsors. It's a pleasure having Jake and his team on board with us for this season and build on last season's success. Our U23s are sponsored by Dan Kirby and the team at Chedd Ltd. Our youth teams would not be able to compete if it wasn't for the support of our youth team sponsors. Human AI for sponsoring our U13s and U14s, Colin Broad sponsors our U15 side and Jewsons Godalming for sponsoring our U16 team. As well as all our other sponsors that you see in this match day programme.

Fixture News:

The first team have been given a bye in the 1st qualifying round of the Isuzu FA Vase, and will travel to Chislehurst Glebe in the 2nd qualifying round on Saturday 12th September.

The first team have been drawn away to Fleet Town in the Cherry Red Records Premier Cup on Saturday 21st November.

We will also be competing in the Southern Combination Cup (involving CCL teams) and have been drawn at home to Reading City in the 2nd round. Date to be confirmed by the league.

In the Surrey FA Specsavers Senior Cup we have been drawn at home to Kingstonian. Date to be confirmed.

On Thursday 20th August, we had our Annual General Meeting and we are pleased to say that Tony Roberts has now become Chairman after Matthew Clay stepped down at the end of last season. Glenn Lye will be Vice-Chairman. We also have a new treasurer that will be starting on the 1st September. We would like to thank both Matthew and Jo Fox for all their hard work for the past 10 years keeping the club where it needs to be and leaving a lasting legacy especially with the new floodlights installed and with the first team winning the league last season.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on match days and with events that we hold at the club. So if you have some spare time to help, then please email club secretary Lucy Ballam lucyandbailey@hotmail.co.uk or speak to a club official on a matchday.

Don't forget to keep an eye on all our social media platforms. We are on Facebook, Instagram, X (formally Twitter) and the website for all the latest club news and fixture updates. Also this season you will find live updates of other CCL games on Football Web Pages.

Thank you for your amazing support! Come On You Gs!

Enjoy the game

Godalming Town is an England Football Accredited members club



GODALMING TOWN

HISTORY

The club has its origins as Godalming United FC, formed in 1950 by ex-pupils of Godalming Grammar School. Between 1950-71 the club played at the Recreation Ground. However, in 1970 Surrey Senior League side Farncombe collapsed, leaving their ground in Meadow vacant. Godalming took over the debts and tenancy, changing their name to Godalming and Farncombe FC, and the ground to Wey Court in the process.

The original pitch was where the nearby Wey Court Sheltered Housing stood and considerable amount of work was undertaken on the new playing area, which was built on the site of an old waste tip. The club was helped by Waverley Council when drainage problems and subsidence meant they had to find a temporary home at Broadwater Park.

The club was accepted into the Combined Counties League for the start of the 1978 season, and a year later the name was changed again, to Godalming Town FC.

In 1985, another local club, Addlestone & Weybridge, was disbanded and, before their ground at Liberty Lane was demolished, Godalming purchased the stand and perimeter fence for £225 and £50 respectively. The stand was re-erected at Wey Court, with seating and fascia added.

The next development came in 1992 when the Guildford Football Appeal (formed in an attempt to return the town's name to senior football, following the collapse of Guildford City in 1977) donated a sum of money towards floodlights, and in return the name of the club was changed again to Godalming & Guildford FC.

Further recycling followed in 1995, when a new turnstile building was erected incorporating a turnstile from Millwall's old ground and in 1996 the clubhouse was refurbished.

During 2005 close season, the club changed its name for a fifth time, albeit back to one of its previous incarnations, that of Godalming Town. A fantastic 2005/06 season saw the side take the Combined Counties League Championship and League Cup by storm. Godalming Town were then accepted by Isthmian League officials following extensive ground

improvements.

At the end of a tough season, Godalming found themselves at the bottom of a very competitive division. However, events elsewhere meant that Godalming were reprieved from relegation and were transferred into the Southern League's South & West Division for the 2007/08 season. Chuck Martini replaced Roger Steer as Manager in October 2007. Town were moved back to the Ryman League for the 2008/09 season and eventually finished in another record high position, 9th. Godalming also progressed further than ever before in the FA Cup by reaching the 3rd Qualifying Round before losing 2-1 at Conference South side Havant & Waterlooville.

The 2009/10 season was arguably the best season in the history of the club. Town finished a record high position 4th in the Ryman South but were eventually beaten 2-1 in the Playoff Final at Folkestone Invicta. The club progressed further than ever before in the FA Trophy and won the Surrey Senior Cup by beating Sutton United 2-1. The season also saw local boy Shaun Elliott become the club's record appearance holder after reaching 360 games in a Godalming shirt. Chuck Martini was replaced by joint-managers Jon Underwood & Neil Baker in October 2010 and the club finished an unpredictable season in mid-table. The 2011/12 season saw a lot of new faces join, but the team quickly gelled, reaching the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, beating Wimborne, Moneyfields, Worcester City & Bodmin before bowing out to Maidenhead United in front of 700 at Wey Court. The G's finished 5th in the league, and travelled to Bognor Regis Town in the playoff semi-final, drawing 4-4 after extra time but Godalming lost 5-3 on penalties.

2012/13 saw Jon Underwood and Neil Baker guide Godalming to their highest ever finish in the pyramid, finishing in 3rd place. The G's lost in the playoff semi-final for the second year running, this time losing 2-1 to Biggleswade at Wey Court. The season finished on a high however, as Godalming lifted the Surrey Senior Cup for the second time in four years, beating Sutton United 1-0 at Gander Green Lane, thanks to a last minute goal from Scott Harris. The close season saw Godalming moved to a third different league in as many years, this time to the South & West Division. With divisional change came a managerial change;

Jon Underwood and Neil Baker left Godalming to join Slough Town, taking the majority of the squad with them. Andy Hunt was appointed manager in June 2013, assisted by Neil Selby.

The 2013/14 season was probably one of the hardest the club has dealt with. Andy Hunt was given the task of putting together a squad that will compete in the league and secure step four football. At Christmas 2013 the clubhouse, kitchen and changing rooms were ruined by flood water. Godalming finished the season in 18th position. Godalming were then moved into another division again and played in the Southern League Central Division for the 2014/15 season.

Godalming finished in 10th position in the 2015/2016 and reached the Surrey Senior Cup Final for the 3rd time but lost 4-0 to Merstham.

The 2016/17 season could be viewed as an annus horribilis for the men as wins became less frequent than management changes. Andy Hunt left and was replaced by Dean Thomas who subsequently departed before the club was relegated under Dan Turkington. Inevitably relegation followed and Dan departed, as did pretty much the entire first team.

On the upside the Ladies team under the auspices of Steve Davies and Darren Wheeler finished second in Division 2 South and were promoted to division one in the Greater London Women's Football League.

2017/18 began in familiar fashion with a new management team and a new squad in a new division. After a promising start under Simon Funnell and Matt Drew (including a brief run in the FA Cup which finally ended at Hereford), wins became harder to come by and by Christmas Jon Palmer and Gavin Smith were in charge. After a slow start, a promising run took the Gees out of the relegation zone before fixture congestion and high turnover of players led to a second relegation in two years.

The under 18s had a great season and finished 2nd in the U18 Premier Elite whilst the Ladies first team continued to go from strength to strength with an exciting FA Cup run and promotion to the GLWFL Premiership. The development squad finished an excellent third in division 3.

On a sad note February 2018 saw the passing of Bill Kyte the Godalming Town president of an astonishing 57 years. It is true to say that without his tireless work; the club would not even exist today which is why it is fitting that the name of the ground was changed to The Bill Kyte Stadium in memory of the great man.

After another poor season for the men's first team, inevitably there had to be changes and in June 2018, Les Cleevely was appointed first team manager, following a long and illustrious playing career and

managerial roles at Carshalton and Walton and Hersham amongst others, and as goalkeeping coach at Spurs and Chelsea.

Under his leadership, the vessel steadied with Godalming finishing a creditable 12th in Division One of the Combined Counties in the 18/19 campaign.

2019/20 ended prematurely but not before another year of turmoil that saw the departure of Les Cleevely and also his replacement, Paul Bonner. The final games of the season were overseen by Phil Ruggles and his team before COVID 19 shut us down.

The 2020/21 season saw Phil expand his coaching staff and assemble a competitive squad that promised a far more relaxing season for Godalming supporters before it's cancellation in December.

Football restarted with a small round robin competition and finished on a high with victory in the Cherry Red Challenge Cup final in May.

For 21-22 the FA has decided that Surrey no longer needed a step 6 division and this saw the team broaden their horizons in the Southern Combination Div 1. After a slightly bumpy start in more ways than one the Gs became a very hard team to beat and finished 7th, rueing a few limp draws in the early part of the season, which otherwise would have seen us comfortably in the play-off places. This was a big step forward for a club more used to looking down the table rather than up. More importantly in the last two and a half years Phil and his coaching team built a squad that has dug in through thick and thin and who are only getting stronger as a unit. 22/23 was our best season in years. We won a cup, lost a cup and were mugged by Wick in the promotion play-off semi.

2023/4 saw the departure of Phil Ruggles our old friend Tony Roberts stepping into the driving seat and a bit of a rebuild after half the first team emigrated to the wilds of Ash.

2024/25 We bade farewell and adieu to Tony Roberts and hello again to Mo Sher. A slow start with many draws before evolving into the team to beat in the division from November onwards. Unfortunately we couldn't quite carry this form through the play-offs but we look forward to the new season with a largely unchanged squad hungry to avoid the harsh lottery of the play-offs.

2025/26 was by any metric a good year for the Gs. The first team clinched promotion with two games to go following a run of dominant performances, including 5 consecutive wins without conceding a goal. The return to Step 5 football involved a move back to the Combined Counties Premier (Southern). The future looks exciting with the U15's finishing the season as EBFA League Champions.

Combined Counties Premier League South



BADSHOT LEA

1

GODALMING TOWN

1

Tuesday night's visit to near neighbours Badshot Lea was an entertaining encounter, ultimately with the points shared by a Badshot goal after Godalming had taken the lead. Some were heard to say this was two points dropped but I shall beg to differ.

The Gees lineup featured only nine of Saturday's squad of sixteen and included five debutants amongst the fifteen men named. If I were a bit more diligent, I would have spotted these new faces on FA Full Time before the game, but I didn't and so, like the majority of the away support, I was left to speculate. Our shirt numbers caused Badshot Lea a problem too. Their team whiteboard is permanently numbered 1 to 20 and as we never line up wearing 1 to 11, they had to explain many times that a name in green pen is for a 'Starter' and black pen is for a 'Substitute', so I assume a number with no name means 'shirt in the wash'.

To that line up then: In goal Stephen Douglas returned, with Bertie Saunders coming in at centre back alongside Elliot Creely. Nana Afful was right full back and Skipper, and Sam Fernley left back. In a diamond-like midfield were Jav Waugh, Mark Soares, Deji Alabi and Dan Boyden. Diego Bruno out left supported Shane Johnson in attack. Four players on the bench; Cameron Nanu, Luca Le Page, Danillo Carvalho and Tom Christmas. A very warm welcome to Bertie, Diego, Nanu, Luca and Tom, although Tom will be familiar having been with our U23's for some while. We wish them all every success with us.

A clash of heads between two Badshot players after 2 minutes gave them the chance to recover and us a chance on the terrace to finish deciding who was who in the yellow shirts. Mark Soares and Diego Bruno combined to put a cross over to Dan Boyden who was unable to keep the ball from touch. On 13 minutes Mark took a quick throw-in to the feet of Deji Alabi who jinked his way into the area where his shot went narrowly wide of the far post. Bertie Saunders and Dan worked the ball to Nana on the right; his cross was deflected for a throw. Nana was quickly back to cut out Badshot's first attack. A lively start by the Gees was interrupted by Badshot's first corner on the 20 minute mark, Shane Johnson heading the ball clear.

Dan saw two attempts on goal canon off defenders; the second following good approach play by Sam Fernley and Deji. Dan won a free kick on the halfway line, which Mark played long to Jav Waugh, but Jav's ball to Diego was snapped up by the keeper. Dan found space down the right, put over a ball to the waiting Deji who was penalised for some reason. Badshot then won two corners in succession, Dougie punching the second away to the touchline. Mark tried his luck with a long range effort that lacked a touch of pace when he latched on to a Dougie goal kick.

Godalming somewhat surprisingly didn't win a corner until the 40th minute and it came when Mark and Deji set up Sam for a shot that was cleared behind. Jav was first to the corner, but his header was wide. However,

they finished the half strongly with Deji shooting well over after more good work from Dan and Mark. The last effort fell to Nana, his cross-come-shot causing the opposition keeper some consternation as it crept over the cross bar. 0-0 at the whistle.

As you were for the second half and the Gees were quickly back into the game. Diego broke down the left and played a ball into the box, but the keeper was out first to beat Shane to it. On 54 minutes it was Dan Boyden who broke down the opposite wing, tricked his way toward the bye line and played a ball low across the area. Diego was on the end of the pass to divert it home with the keeper stranded. 1-0 Gees and deservedly so.

As has been said many times the nature of the game of football now is that, scream and shout as much as you like from the bench or sidelines, most teams that score a goal tend then to defend that bit deeper and invite the opposition to come on to them. Badshot responded with a shot that ran across the face of the goal and a cross that wandered over the bar. The 65th minute brought the first Godalming substitution with Danillo Carvalho coming on in place of goalscorer Diego Bruno. Sam and Danillo combined to set up Mark Soares, but the final pass fell short and Badshot won a corner shortly afterwards. The Gees still created opportunities, Sam attacked down the left and put a ball into Mark who forced the keeper to parry away his shot. The home side won a further corner which was headed wide.

On 75 minutes Tom Christmas, full of running, was sent on up front to replace Shane Johnson. Seven minutes later Luca Le Page came on for Deji; that was just after Mark had seen an effort go narrowly wide of the post. Badshot headed a free kick wide of goal and in the aftermath, Bertie Saunders was left on the ground having picked up a knock. Cameron Nuna came on for him with Jav moving into the back four. Bertie had put in a great shift and let's hope it's not too long until we see him again. Sam Fernley set off on one of his goalward runs, but the ball stuck under his foot before he could shoot.

On or around the 90 minute mark all the steady work and progress unravelled when several scoring opportunities fell to Bagshot, all from one move across our goal. The ball didn't get the big boot away that was needed and it ultimately ended in the net. Mark Soares took a yellow for the team on halfway breaking up an attack and Badshot mustered one more corner before the whistle blew, 1-1.

OK, a disappointing final score but considering the changes and number of new faces involved it was a very encouraging and lively performance. Certainly, one to build on next Saturday when Eversley and California come to the Bill Kyte Stadium for a 3pm kick off.

COYG's

Combined Counties Premier League South



GODALMING TOWN

2

EVERSLEY & CALIFORNIA

2

Off the field matters first and at the Club AGM held last Thursday Tony Roberts was officially confirmed as the new Chairman of Godalming Town Football Club. Tony is no stranger to the Club, and we can look forward to further success with him at the helm. Matt Clay, as Chairman, and Jo Fox have stepped down from their positions, and both are owed considerable thanks and gratitude for keeping the Club's head above water and the wolves from the door for the last eight plus years. Thank you both, some nice new floodlights and a Championship Trophy last season are a great legacy to leave with.

On the field matters next and after 90 minutes we had witnessed not so much a game of two halves, but one of 15 minutes of Gees total dominance that was followed by 75 minutes of the not so good. The usual combination of knocks and holidays brought changes from Tuesday's line up. Stephen Douglas was there in goal with Nana Afful, Bertie Saunders and Elliott Creeley across a back four, completed with Evan Kelly coming in at left back. Sam Fernley moved forward to a wide left midfield berth. Cameron Edwin returned from suspension to skipper the side in front of the back four where he was flanked by Mark Soares and Deji Alabi. That left Dan Boyden on the right with Shane Johnson up front. Waiting in the wings were five substitutes, four of whom were Luca Le Page, Diego Bruno, Danillo Carvalho and Tom Christmas. The fifth was a surprise in the form of an old favourite, goalkeeper Adrian Giles, back providing some cover and coaching.

Rarely have a Godalming side enjoyed such rich pickings from the start of a match. Seconds in and a free kick was awarded their way, Mark Soares sent it into the box, and the Eversley keeper was mighty fortunate to get to the ball in front of three yellow shirts. In the fourth minute Sam Fernley unleashed a shot coming in from the left which was deflected out for a throw in. The ball was thrown back to Sam who ran toward goal and was upended in the box. Stonewall penalty given and duly converted by Mark Soares for an early lead. Straight back on the attack after the restart Dan Boyden unleashed a shot which the keeper smothered at the second attempt. To the 9th minute and Mark picked up the ball on halfway, fed it left for Deji Alabi who delivered a peach of a pass to Shane Johnson to score a second goal. 2-0 Gees.

Eversley were nowhere to be seen, Dan Boyden and Mark to name just two were running them ragged. Dan and Sam set up another chance for Shane which was cleared. Mark then turned provider to Shane, but his shot was carted away to the touchline. Deji popped up on the right and found Evan Kelly who could only direct his effort wide. I cannot recall when we have witnessed such a one-side opening spell. Eversley finally crossed the halfway line in the 12th minute, and it wasn't for long. Shane picked up a long ball but was called offside. Mark, and then Dan had goal-bound shots blocked. Bizarrely an innocuous challenge on halfway saw Nana presented with a yellow card. The resulting

Eversley free kick broke down completely, Dan brought the ball up field, Sam's cross was half cleared and fell to Cam, you couldn't blame him for having a go, but the ball sailed over the bar.

And then it kind of stopped. The Gees' impetus just dispersed somewhere, and the game seemed to be being played 20 yards deeper toward Dougie's area. Just before the half hour Eversley mounted their first serious foray towards the Godalming goal with Elliott Creeley on hand to cut the ball out. It wasn't as if we stopped creating chances though and Bernie Saunders, up in the area for a Deji free kick, came close with a header. Eversley managed another shot, over the bar on 39 minutes. Gees retaliated winning a corner, and as it came over Evan went down in the box; no penalty but he copped a yellow card for diving. We move to three minutes to half time and while the Gees were down to 10 men with Sam Fernley on the sidelines for treatment, we conceded a goal too much like that one on Tuesday. A ball into the area crying out for a boot to 'get rid' didn't get one and ended up in the net. Half time 2-1.

No changes as we kicked off the second half and sadly it was to be 45 minutes of as you were, a repeat of the preceding thirty minutes of play. Let's jump to the final whistle and not for the first game ever I was asked, 'Are you doing the report today?' When you own up, you know the next bit that follows on days like these goes 'Well good luck making something out of that (expletive deleted) - this is Surrey and we all blush easily).

The lowlight of the half, with 15 minutes remaining, came after Deji Alabi had little choice but to take a yellow for the team on the halfway line in stopping an Eversley attack. From the resulting free kick an opposition player stood alone around our left goalpost, got his head to the ball, which lopped over Dougie and hey presto it's 2-2. Not much else to say about the half otherwise, a few half chances to the Gees, Dan Boyden taking yet another yellow to prevent yet another breakaway, an Eversley dive in the box, but this time with no card shown and, in the final minute, a 4 v 3 Eversley attack with a shot that ended up thankfully over the bar.

So where did it go wrong? And why was only one substitute used? And that's coming from me who thinks the game has been devalued by having five subs available. Mind you, what a thought, just imagine Gilesy coming on up front to lead the line and score the winner! Next, you'll be believing that Rob Parrott once played in goal and won a penalty shoot-out!

But seriously, what we do know is that we have a battle on our hands this season and anyone who was naïve enough to believe differently and can't take the heat perhaps should read Hendo's excellent Twenty Yard Screamer in the Eversley match programme and head off for the comfort of the nearest 'Hobby Club'.

Otherwise, do the right thing, stay and keep the faith. COYG's

THE HUMAN AI CO



JEWSON

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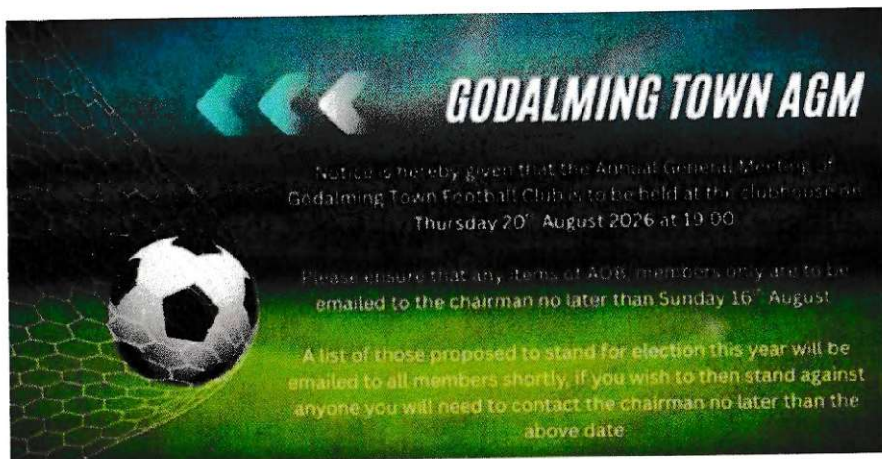
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League Table 2025/26

PDS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Redhill	4	3	1	0	8	10
2	Fleet Town	4	3	1	0	7	10
3	Abbey Rangers	4	3	1	0	3	10
4	Knaphill	5	3	0	2	0	9
5	Sheerwater	4	2	2	0	8	8
6	Alton	3	2	1	0	3	7
7	Sutton Common Rovers	4	2	1	1	1	7
8	Metropolitan Police	5	2	1	2	-1	7
9	Tadley Calleva	3	2	0	1	4	6
10	Virginia Water	4	2	0	2	2	6
11	Yateley United	3	1	2	0	1	5
12	Badshot Lea	3	1	1	1	1	4
13	Balham	4	1	1	2	0	4
14	Camberley Town	3	1	1	1	0	4
15	Chipstead	5	1	0	4	-2	3
16	Tooting & Mitcham United	4	1	0	3	-4	3
17	Godalming Town	5	0	3	2	-5	3
18	Epsom & Ewell	4	1	0	3	-5	3
19	Eversley & California	4	0	1	3	-9	1
20	Corinthian Casuals	5	0	1	4	-12	1



GODALMING TOWN AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Godalming Town Football Club is to be held at the clubhouse on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 10.00.

Please ensure that any items of AOB, members only are to be emailed to the chairman no later than Sunday 16th August.

A list of those proposed to stand for election this year will be emailed to all members shortly, if you wish to then stand against anyone you will need to contact the chairman no later than the above date.



GTFC

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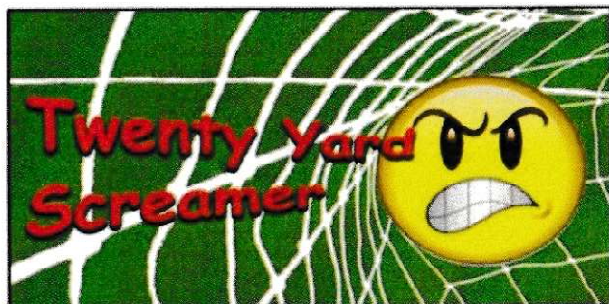
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Competitive Parents

Many years ago, the terms of the insurance on the film I was making meant that I had to be driven back and forth to the locations by one of their approved drivers. He was a lovely chap called Terry, who used to 'work on the steel', which meant he was one of those daredevils/lunatics who can be seen balancing precariously high up on girders when a skyscraper is being built.

Terry decided that he had pushed his luck long enough and had safely come down to earth and got a job as a production driver and over the weeks of filming we had many jolly chats in the car. He was fiercely proud of his two boys, aged around 9 and 12. One was very good at rugby, the other at football and every weekend he and his wife would go and watch them play, taking turns as to who watched which one of their offspring if their games clashed.

When I asked on one particular Monday morning how the sport had gone that weekend, he told me that he had been watching his rugby son but then had an urgent call to get to the football. He dutifully had rushed over and then this is exactly what he said to me; 'I got there, and my wife said, go and hit that bloke over there Terry. So, I gone over and give him a smack, then I went back to Sandra and asked what was that about?'

Slightly alarming.

If you are lucky enough to have children, then it is only natural that you will want the best for them and help in any way you can. Of course, when they are born, the possibilities for their future career are pretty much limitless. For that reason, I would hazard that nobody has ever looked down proudly at their newborn child and said, 'one day, he will sell UPVC guttering'.

But we come to realise that as they grow older and their talents, abilities and failings become clearer, it is the case that there is an ever-dwindling choice of occupation options available when considering their future.

However, when it comes to sport many parents will hang onto the dream of their child achieving greatness with accompanying fame and cash for years after that ambition should have been shelved along with their being Prime Minister, Taylor Swift, Rembrandt, or the new James Bond.

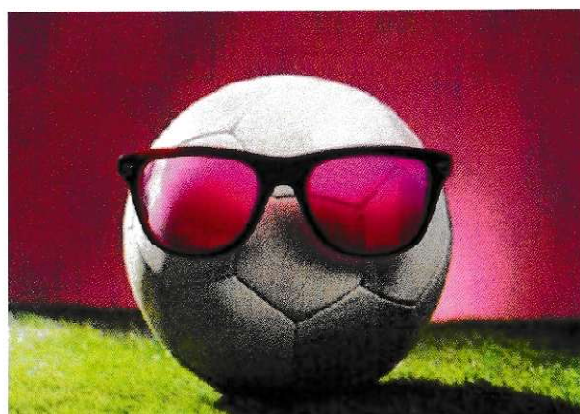
This sporting dream is difficult to shake off and many a parent will delude themselves that their boy or girl is just one kick, hit or catch away from the chance to bring out their own line of fragrances and sportswear. You can see some of them on the touchlines on a Saturday morning watching Junior falling over their laces, but through their rose-tinted glasses, they are witnessing the new Messi in the making.

But then to be fair, who would not want to boast about the success of their child, even if it is to bask in some form of vicarious praise, be it down the pub, country club, office or cell block.

My grandson's school sports teacher told me that he has witnessed many embarrassing incidents when parents have become, shall we say 'over-involved' in their offspring's performance. There have been plenty of shouted exchanges and even the occasional scuffle as tensions boiled over, but the worst case he cited was during a routine Under 13s rugby game when a parent on the sideline stuck his leg out to trip the opposition winger who was about to score. - I just checked online, and 'Dad-tripping' has happened before and was caught on camera during a game between Fullarians U16 when being thrashed by Royston Rugby Club.

Of course, many successful sports people owe a huge amount to the support and encouragement of their parents. Some have even become their full-time coaches and/or managers, going as far as giving up their own jobs to help realise their and perhaps their child's (but not necessarily) dream. However, of the very few parents whose prodigy has made it to the top, there are countless legions who should have faced reality a lot earlier to avoid their kid suffering inevitable disappointment.

But you can't blame them for trying or maybe you can.



VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT

Well, we're in the thick of it now.



I think we can agree we are seeing the step up in quality this season, and there is a whole new challenge to face this weekend. Two games in 36 hours, against two excellent sides, will really show how much we've learned over the past few weeks.

Before I touch on those games, it's only fair we look back at last weekend.

I understand there'll be a touch of frustration at both the result and, if I'm frank, the performance.

We came out absolutely flying and I'm sure we were all thinking we could really make a statement at 2-0. But, for many reasons, we did the opposite.

Our legs gave way, minds started to scramble and in all honesty, if the game had gone on another five minutes, Eversley would have been favourites to win it.

We had a long debrief to dissect it and a whole number of details came out, which we've worked hard on over two training sessions this week. We are a work in progress, though, so it's going to take time and patience, which we have.

On the flip side, it's also important to remember the progress we are making. We are creating chances, we are scoring goals and picking up points. To go three unbeaten in this league is no mean feat, and our trajectory is upward. We are making significant strides in a short period.

The primary detail remains around the depth of our squad.

Over the last two years we've had quality in every area, but we are currently working with a group that only has 14 fit players, and we are asking a lot of them. We are working, every day, to strengthen but this club is only too aware about the pitfalls of player churn, and that's a route we will not go down.

Rob Parrott, Jonny Miller, Nana Afful, Sam Thomas, Deji Alabi and Jack Sherwood are all unavailable today, and when you're missing individuals as important as them, you are of course going to have some adversity.

However, we go into this weekend with plenty of confidence and an unwavering belief we not only belong at this level, but are more than capable of competing.

And compete we will have to.

We wish a warm welcome to Max and his Epsom group, who we had some great battles with when we were both exiled in the Southern Combination League. Max hails from a legendary footballing family and has built a hard-edged, canny outfit at Epsom, so expect a game of fine margins.

And then we have Jamie coming across on Monday morning, heading up an excellent Fleet Town team.

Jamie is an outstanding manager at this level, and has recruited incredibly well. It doesn't take a genius to work out that any side which finishes ahead of them will probably win the league, and we are going to have to be at our very best to compete. That, though, is what we've wanted for two years.

Now's the moment...

C'mon you Gs.

Mo

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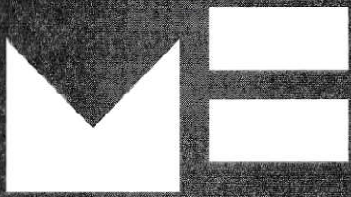
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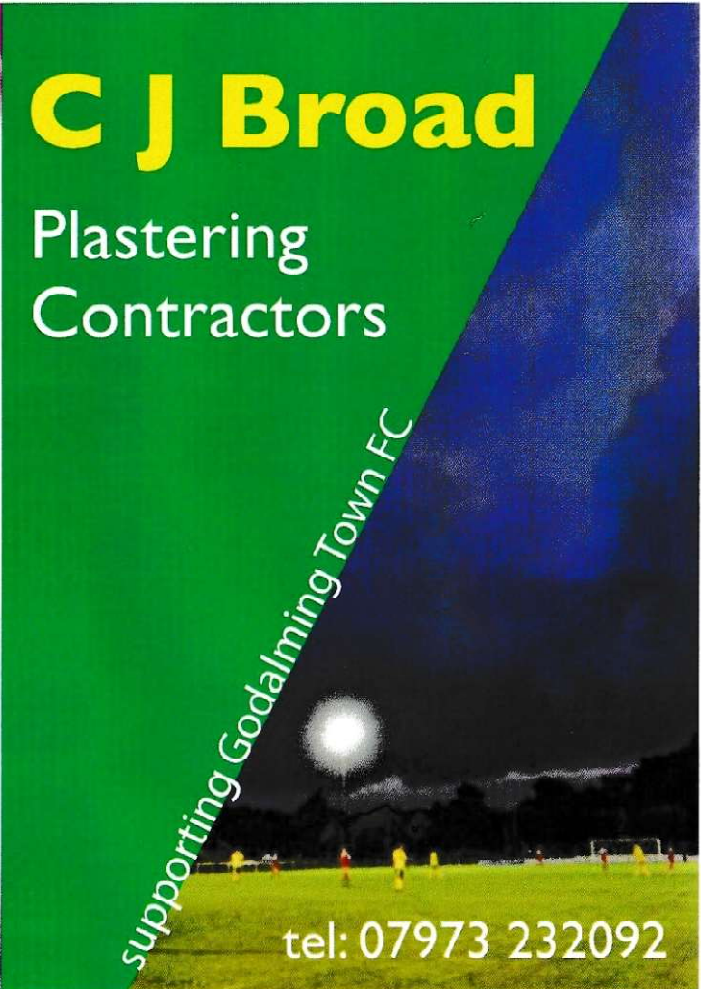
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SHEERWATER FC - SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER - KO 3PM

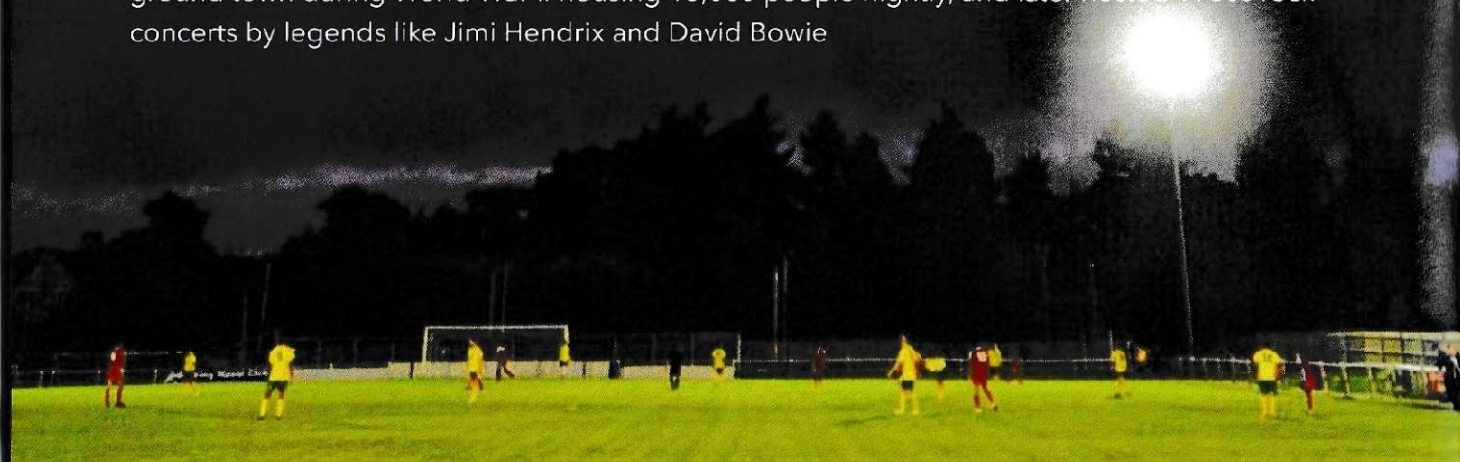
Founded:	1958
Nickname:	The Sheers
Ground:	Eastwood Leisure Centre, 247A Albert Drive, Sheerwater, Woking, GU21 5RF
Nearest Station:	Woking
Colours:	Royal Blue and White Shirts, Royal Blue Shorts and Royal Blue & White Socks
Midweek Home game:	Tuesday's 7.45pm kick offs
Club Webpage:	www.sheerwaterfc.com

Interesting fact: Three teenage residents formed the band The Jam in the 1970s while attending Sheerwater's secondary school including Paul Weller - the remainder of the band he led also attended the school.

CHISLEHURST GREEN - SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER - KO 3PM FA VASE 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND

Founded:	1995
Nickname:	The Foxes
Ground:	Glebe FC, Foxbury Avenue, Chislehurst, BR7 6SD
Capacity:	1200
Nearest Station:	Sidcup
Colours:	Red & Black Striped Shirts, Black Shorts & Socks
Club Webpage:	www.chislehurstglebefc.com

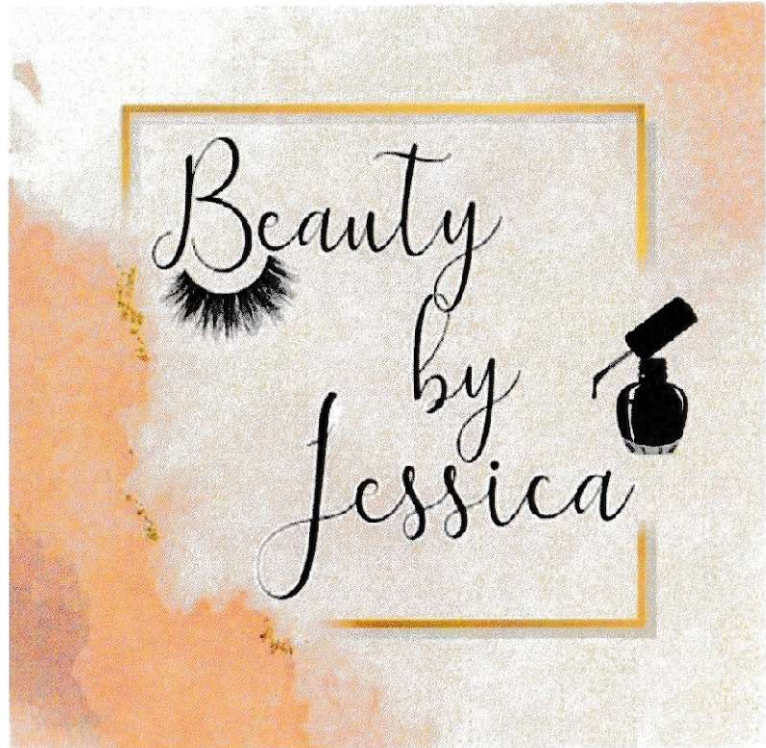
Interesting fact: home to the 22-mile-long Chislehurst Caves, which functioned as an underground town during World War II housing 15,000 people nightly, and later hosted 1960s rock concerts by legends like Jimi Hendrix and David Bowie



HALF TIME QUIZ

Name these World Cup trophy lifting captains

1. 1978 Argentina
2. 2006 Italy
3. 1974 West Germany
4. 2010 Spain
5. 1970 Brazil
6. 1966 England
7. 2014 Germany
8. 2018 France
9. 2002 Brazil
10. 1982 Italy



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Answers
1. Daniel Passarella 2. Fabio Cannavaro 3. Franz Beckenbauer 4. Iker Casillas 5. Carlos Alberto
6. Bobby Moore 7. Philipp Lahm 8. Hugo Lloris 9. Caru 10. Dino Zoff

Saturday 29th and Monday 31st August

Godalming

Stephen Douglas
 Samuel Fernley
 Robert Parrott
 Shane Johnson
 Deji Alabi
 Evan Kelly
 Cameron Edwin
 Jack Sherwood
 Elliot Creely
 Mark Soares
 Alex Afful
 Jonny Miller
 Conor Stillwell
 Diego Bruno
 Javaughny Waugh
 Sam Thomas
 Daniel Boyden
 Danilo Carvalho
 Bertie Saunders
 Daniel Boyden
 Kiye Martin

Epsom & Ewell

Stefan Aiwone
 Jason Bloor
 William Davis
 Ryley Merrett
 Harry Murphy
 Callum O'Keefe
 Luis Oliveira
 Courtney Swaby
 Jason Vincent
 Callum Wilson
 Toby Young
 Luke Miller
 Alex Foord
 Ayran Kugathas
 Frankie Lynn
 Daniel Conteh
 Brendan Murphy-Mcvey
 Blessing Hombessa
 Kionte Waul

Fleet Town

James Beauchamp
 Samuel Bartlett
 Aaron Burchett
 Benjamin Cook
 Kevin Dabarro
 Henry Grad
 Connor Holland
 Danylo Hubynets
 Alexander McCallister
 Billy Oram
 George Wallace
 Ollie Burke
 Shaquille Johnson
 George Short
 Sean Swift
 Liam Gavin
 Curtis Angell
 Elliot Legg
 Hayden Stedman

Manager: Mo Sher

Asst Man: Jack Webbe

Coach: Richard Keown
 Toby Sleight

GK Coach Adrian Giles

Physio Steve Snelling

Max Johnson

Craig Dundas

Martin Dryden
 Dylan Merchant Simmonds

Kevin Espinosa

Jodie Davis

Craig Hayman

Ayulie Dabor
 Ubong Uttah

Samantha Long

Referee Gareth Davis

Assistants James Field

Phil Paice

Ethan Stacey

Charles Sherred

Robert Boxall

Next Away Game

Saturday 5th September - Sheerwater FC - 3pm KO

Saturday 12th September - Chislehurst Glebe - 3pm KO FA Vase 2nd Qualifying Round

Next At The Bill Kyte Stadium

Tuesday 15th September - Alton FC - 7:45pm KO

Saturday 26th September - Corinthian Casuals - 3pm KO