

# Rovers Review



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**Assistant Manager** Paul Tomlinson  
**First Team Physio** Jess Wainwright  
**First Team Coach** Owen Barry  
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**Reserve Team Head Coach** Matt Toulson  
**Reserve Team Coach** Ian Parker  
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 Matt Toulson  
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 Ground, Moat Street, Church Gresley,  
 Derbyshire DE11 9RE  
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## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



the start of our, hopefully, decent  
 FA Cup run.

It's been quite a while since we  
 had a decent run so let's hope this  
 season will see us make a few  
 steps towards Wembley.

Last season, of course, did not  
 go as we had hoped, resulting  
 in our relegation. However, we  
 are approaching this season  
 with renewed determination and  
 optimism, and I would like to wish  
 Carl Abbott and Paul Tomlinson  
 the very best of luck following their  
 re-appointment last month.

The past couple of months in  
 the close season have been a  
 period of reflection and rebuilding.  
 We belatedly took the decision  
 to make a change in team  
 management 6 or 7 weeks ago,  
 and after the selection process,  
 we felt that Carl's return to the  
 club was in the best interests of  
 the club at this time. We faced  
 some valid criticism for the  
 timing of our decision to change  
 managers, but I can assure  
 supporters that a number of  
 lessons have been learned as  
 a board of directors from that  
 experience and in particularly on  
 my part.

The important thing now is that we  
 all look forward with the positivity  
 that a new season brings, and I  
 remain confident that Carl's return  
 to the club will ultimately prove to  
 be successful.

Good  
 afternoon  
 to you  
 all and  
 welcome  
 back to  
 the Moat  
 Ground for

From a standing start just six  
 weeks ago following his re-  
 appointment, we have completely  
 rebuilt the squad and made  
 several significant additions to  
 ensure that we are well-prepared  
 for the challenges ahead. I would  
 like to extend a warm welcome  
 to all our new players and, of  
 course, those familiar faces who  
 have returned to the club. Whilst  
 it's still very much a "work in  
 progress", we have a squad with  
 great potential and commitment,  
 and I am confident they will make  
 valuable contributions to our team.

Today, we also extend our  
 hospitality to the players, officials,  
 and supporters of Lichfield City.  
 We appreciate all who have  
 travelled to South Derbyshire and  
 look forward to a match played in  
 the true spirit of sportsmanship.

I would like to take this opportunity  
 to thank all of our hardworking  
 volunteers for the incredible effort  
 they have put in over the summer.

Their dedication in preparing the  
 Moat Ground, and specifically  
 the pitch, for the new season has  
 been nothing short of remarkable.  
 The Moat Ground, at 116 years  
 old, remains a very characteristic  
 non-league venue, and as such,  
 despite its age and state of repair,  
 it is a special place to play our  
 football.

We are truly indebted to all of  
 our volunteers who help keep it  
 operational and maintain its true  
 non-league ground charm.

continued...

# GAFFER'S THOUGHTS

Manager Carl Abbott sponsored by Borley's Mini-Mix



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the Moat Ground for this afternoons FA Cup Extra Preliminary round tie vs Lichfield City.

May I extend the warmest of welcomes to players, officials and supporters of Lichfield City.

The game gives us an opportunity to renew old acquaintances with Joe Haines, a former player at Gresley, and for myself and Paul personally, manager Ivor Green who we have come to know well over the years and for whom I have an enormous respect.

I write these notes as I prepare to leave for this evening's encounter away at Kimberley Miners Welfare, where I hope to see us build upon what I thought was a good opening day performance against Boston

Town, albeit not the result we were looking for.

We knew that this would be a season we would be required to grow into, and that we would remain a work in progress in the early months.

I am not a person who takes losing well or am at ease with it, however I was absolutely pleased with the performance we delivered, where we absolutely matched a Boston Town side I was wholly impressed with on the day.

Indications from speaking with the Boston management ahead of the game was that they had been delighted with preparations coming into the game, off the back of a strong pre-season.

That we matched them throughout and could just as easily have had a positive result, whilst in truth nowhere near ready, fills me with optimism.

We have much to improve, but I felt we played some nice football, and must believe in our ability to

commit to this throughout rather than slipping too easily into old habits of being too direct.

An unforced error led to the opening goal, and proved a key moment in the game.

I can, however, only see us improving as players reach full fitness, and become available once again, and the players have a little more time to adjust to one another and what we are asking.

I don't think any supporter in attendance would argue that the game was not an enjoyable spectacle, and that all of our players left everything out on the pitch and represented the football club and the supporters as they would wish.

Let's hope for a good performance today and a positive result.

As ever I thank you for your ongoing support.

Carl.

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## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR cont

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As we kick off this new season, my hope is that we try to stick together in our support for the team. A lot of changes have happened in a short period of time, making the pre-season far from ideal. As a result, we are mindful that the team and results might take a little time to settle down over the opening weeks of the season.

Hopefully, this won't be the case, and the team will hit the ground

running, but being realistic about where we started when Carl was reappointed on June 8th, it's clear to all that we are very much still a work in progress, and it might take some time for Carl and Paul to find their best starting line-up for the season's challenges ahead.

As supporters, your passion and dedication have always been the backbone of this club, and together, we will strive to make this

season a successful one.

We'd like to thank Wreakin Products Ltd for generously sponsoring today's game.

Thank you as always for your unwavering support.

**Gary**

## GRESLEY ROVERS

- Jack **ANDREWS**
- Louis **ANTHONY**
- Nathan **BANTON**
- Fin **BARKER**
- Alex **BRITTON**
- Haydn **BROWN**
- Lewis **FENNEY (GK)**
- Ben **GOUGH**
- Bekir **HALIL**
- Dylan **HUNNIFORD**
- Ryan **KING**
- Alby **LANSDOWNE**
- Kane **LEE**
- Kumbirai **MAFINI**
- Danny **MUNDAY**
- Osaze **OKUONGHAE**
- Jamie **SLEIGH**
- Jacob **STURGESS**
- Joe **WILLIAMS (GK)**

## MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE: JAKE RICHARDS**  
**ASSISTANT: JAMES KERRIGAN**  
**ASSISTANT: REECE HASTLE**

## UCL TEAMS FA FIXTURES

**BARTON TOWN VS NEWARK TOWN**  
**BOURNE TOWN VS AYLESTONE PARK**  
**COLESHILL TOWN VS EASTWOOD CFC**  
**COVENTRY SPHINX VS ASHBY IVANHOE**  
**DEREHAM TOWN VS WISBECH TOWN**  
**HUCKNALL TOWN VS BOTTESFORD**  
**TOWN**  
**KIMBERLEY MINERS WELFARE VS**  
**CLEETHORPES TOWN**  
**LINCOLN UNITED VS GOOLE**  
**MELTON TOWN VS HARROWBY**  
**UNITED**  
**NORTHAMPTON SILEBY RANGERS VS**  
**BOSTON TOWN**  
**ROSSINGTON MAIN VS AFC**  
**MANSFIELD**  
**SHIFNAL TOWN VS BELPER UNITED**  
**SHIREBROOK TOWN VS DEEPING**  
**RANGERS**  
**SKEGNESS TOWN VS NEWARK &**  
**SHERWOOD UNITED**  
**UTTOXETER TOWN VS HEANOR TOWN**  
**WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN VS**  
**SLEAFORD TOWN FC**

## LICHFIELD CITY

- Jack **ARNOLD**
- James **BEESON**
- Tom **BROWN**
- Luke **CHILDS**
- Jordan **CLEMENT**
- Max **DIXON**
- Jack **EDWARDS**
- Jamie **ELKES**
- Callum **GRIFFIN**
- Joe **HAINES**
- Ronnie **HOLT**
- Daniel **LOMAS**
- Leighton **MCMENEMY**
- Chandler **PEGG**
- Callum **RUDD**
- Jack **SALMON**
- James **WILCOCK**



## EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

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Saturday's result of the game against Boston Town was not the one we may have wanted but Boston have a decent side this season and could quite easily be in the mix come the end of the season.

I was impressed with two of their players who did the damage against us, Harry Limb and Lucas Dakin. Limb has featured for Northern Ireland u19's and looks to be a very decent prospect. He also has Burnley u19's, Boston United, Kings Lynn and Stamford as previous clubs. His striking colleague was on Lincoln City's books as a youngster.

Boston also had a solid defence although Kane Lee was giving their left back some problems, so they doubled up on him so as to try and stop his raids down the right.

Some of our younger players played well and one of them was adjudged as man-of-the-man by one of the directors, and who

could argue with that. Midfielder Jake Meakin had a great game getting stuck in and making some impressive passes.

Overall, there were plenty of positives that come out of that game. We have not had as many pre-season friendly games as we'd have liked to get the side gelling, that along with senior players being absent for various reasons provided Carl and Paul with a headache. It will take a few games for the team to settle but there are a few good signs.

Today is our first game in this season's FA Cup competition. Yes, we are just into August and already playing in England football's most prestigious games. It hardly seems five minutes since the final was played and we are still to play the Community Shield.

The last decent FA Cup run came back on 14th November 1998 when we ran Walsall close to bringing them back to the Moat

Ground for a replay losing 1-0. If you were at the game like me the end of the ground, we were allotted were, it's been estimated, stood 1,000 supporters. Great support, great atmosphere.

Let's hope days like that are just around the corner. Enjoy the game.


## NEW ARTWORK

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You've probably noticed the new artwork up on the top wall. Brightens that part of the ground up


# MEET THE GRESLEY LADS





	<p><b>Carl Abbott</b> Manager</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Borley's</b> <b>MiniMix</b></p>		<p><b>Paul Tomlinson</b> Asst Manager</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Vckers Young</b></p>		<p><b>Jess</b> Wainwright Physio</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Owen Barry</b> Coach</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>
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	<p><b>Gary</b> Moore Goalkeeper Coach</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Jack</b> Andrews</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Louis</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Nathan</b> Banton</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Leah &amp; Lucas</b> <b>Parker</b></p>
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	<p><b>Finlay</b> Barker</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Alex</b> Britton</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Stella Sounds</b> <b>&amp; Events</b></p>		<p><b>Haydn</b> Brown</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Richardsons</b> <b>Furniture</b></p>		<p><b>Ben</b> Gough</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>
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	<p><b>Bekir</b> Halil</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Rob Howe and</b> <b>Jeanette Tipper</b></p>		<p><b>Dylan</b> Hunniford</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Gary Norton</b></p>		<p><b>Ryan</b> King</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Albert</b> Lansdowne</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Gresley Rovers</b> <b>Supporters Club</b></p>
--	---	---	---	---	--	---	--

	<p><b>Kane</b> Lee</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>The Forest</b> <b>Gate</b></p>		<p><b>Kumbirai</b> Mafini</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Jake</b> Meakin</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Danny</b> Munday</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>
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	<p><b>Osaze</b> Okuonghae</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Jamie</b> Sleigh</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>South Derbyshire</b> <b>Mining Preserva-</b> <b>tion Group</b></p>		<p><b>Jacob</b> Sturgess</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b></p>		<p><b>Joe</b> Williams</p> <p><b>Sponsored by</b> <b>Stuart Hallam</b></p>
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# MEET THE GRESLEY LADS

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**Jack Andrews** - Left sided central defender Andrews was a young professional at Nottingham Forest and counts Boston United, Eastwood, Quorn and Basford United among his former clubs.

**Louis Anthony** - Central defender Louis Anthony arrives at the club from Stone Old Alleynians. Louis has impressed in both of the club's friendly fixtures so far in pre-season and has looked a big, strong, physical presence. Louis has good experience at the level and is a very solid addition to the developing squad.

**Nathan Banton** - Defender now in his second season with the club signed from Kimberley MW.

**Fin Barker** - Barker has signed for the club following a brief spell at Rovers early last season on loan from Solihull Moors. Despite a quite sensational debut performance at The Moat against Boldmere St Michaels, his loan spell was brought to a premature end by a nasty concussion suffered in the following game. Finn now links up with the club full time having moved away permanently from Solihull.

**Alex Britton** - Locally based player joins the club from divisional rivals Heanor Town, where he has been a mainstay in their side for the past few seasons. Britton, a former youth player at Burton Albion, had a brief loan spell with Gresley Rovers many years ago. His addition will bring valuable defensive stability and know-how to the club's young, attack-minded squad.

**Haydn Brown** – Locally based player who can make explosive runs into the area causing problems for any defence also in his second season.

**Ben Gough** - Defender signed for the club in close season and will add experience to the squad.

**Bekir Halil** – Combative midfielder signed again for Rovers during the close season. Former clubs include Worcester City, Hinckley AFC and Sporting Khalsa

**Ste Hart** – Another player that needs no introduction. He was pivotal the last time Rovers were in the UCL with his goals helping the club to be promoted.

**Dylan Hunniford** - Young youth team graduate Dylan is an exciting prospect who has made a notable impression. We are expecting further development from Dylan and believe he has a bright future at the club. Was voted supporters' player of the year 2023-2024.

**Ryan King** - Kingy might just be the most naturally gifted at the club but unfortunately for him, injuries and misfortune have not been kind to him. He still has a little while to get back to full fitness, but the prognosis looks good.

**Alby Lansdowne** – Another local lad who is popular with the Moat faithful returns to the club after a break.

**Kane Lee** – A local lad who needs no introduction. Lee returns to the club after brief spells at Loughborough Dynamo and AFC Wulfrunians.

**Kumbirai Mafini** - Young defender who has impressed in pre-season.

**Jake Meakin** - Young midfielder signed in close season.

**Danny Munday** - Danny has a rich history with the club and

is beloved by supporters for his dynamic performances and significant contribution to our promotion in the 2021/22 season. He aims to add to his impressive record of 34 goals in 71 appearances.

**Osaze Okuonghae** - defender has an imposing stature and real ability and is an exciting prospect for the football club very much in the mold of George Clark. He has featured prominently in both friendly fixtures to date and has really impressed. We are so excited about Osaze. As soon as we saw him training last season with the youth team at Wulfs we identified him as a player ready to step up to senior football.

**Jamie Sleigh** - Jamie Sleigh returns from Heanor Town with an incredible goal-scoring record, having netted 155 goals in 185 appearances. Jamie was disappointed by his short stint last term due and is eager to make a significant impact at the club.

**Jacob Sturgess** - Midfield. Another experienced player who names Belper Town, Bedworth United, Kettering Town, Carlton Town, Kidsgrove Athletic, Burton Albion as former clubs

**Joe Williams** – Young keeper who signed in the close season. Came through the development teams at Hednesford Town, before appearing in the first team. Joe has also played at Stone Old Alleynians.



## MEET THE GRESLEY LADS cont

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### Management

**Carl Abbott (Manager)** Former central defender as a player who played in the Midland Alliance for Sandwell Borough, Halesowen Harriers and Alvechurch before moving into management at the age of 28 following serious injury. UEFA B coaching award holder who enjoyed a lengthy and hugely successful period as manager of Wolverhampton Casuals which saw him land the much sought-after Hinckley job. Another lengthy spell linking up with Paul Tomlinson yielded strong league campaigns, cup wins, and significant FA Cup and FA Vase runs, before a step up in levels with Market Drayton Town, Quorn, Evesham United and AFC Wulfrunians.

**Paul Tomlinson (Assistant Manager)** Former professional player with Sheffield United who was once subject of a transfer approach from 'big' Jack Charlton when manager at Newcastle United. Played for

Stafford Rangers and Halesowen Harriers before moving into management and coaching. Previously Assistant Manager at Alvechurch, Halesowen Town and Evesham United, before linking with a former player of his in Carl Abbott, and subsequently becoming his long-term number two through lengthy and hugely successful spells at Hinckley, Quorn, Market Drayton Town and a second spell with Evesham United.

**Jess Wainwright (Physio)**

**Owen Barry (Coach)**

**Gary Moore (Goalkeeper Coach)**

### Focused sponsor is Colliery Lane Lodges



Everybody is in need of a break and in a few months, we hope to be able to get some normality back, please consider Colliery Lane Lodges in Linton as they have a fantastic set up ideal for the family – Discuss with Pete Robinson for more detail,

# LICHFIELD CITY HISTORY

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The Club began life in the 1970's as Beacon Rangers before changing it's name to Beacon Park. In June 2006 a decision was made by the Committee to change the club's name to Lichfield City FC in order to raise its profile in the local community.

We achieved our Charter Standard award within a year and in 2009 achieved the status of Charter Standard Community Club which is the pinnacle award for Charter Standard Clubs.

In 2010 Lichfield City FC was recognised by Staffordshire FA as the best Community Club in Staffordshire.

In 2007 we took on the lease for the site at Brownsfield Road giving the club a recognised home.

In 2008 we moved our open age team from the Burton & District League into the Midland Football Combination, so that we could provide our junior members with an exit route into a better standard of football. That season we finished 5th, but we were fortunate enough to gain promotion to the second division after a league restructure.

In 2009 / 2010 we finished 3rd but missed out on back to back promotions as only the top 2 teams got promoted.

For the 2010 / 2011 season we moved our reserve team into the Midland Football Combination to benefit from the improved professionalism, standard and playing facilities that the league provide. That season our first team finished 4th in the 2nd division and again gained promotion due to a league restructure.

Season 2011/2012 was a great season with the reserves finishing runners up in the reserve division 2 and our first team a creditable 4th in the first division. After successfully gaining planning permission for floodlights, we had the platform in place for premier division football and following the Mid Comb AGM, both our teams were promoted to their respective premier leagues for season 2012/2013. We installed floodlights, perimeter fence, two covered stands and spectator path to the pitch to meet the higher league ground grading requirements.

In 2018 we installed a 3G pitch to accommodate the 350 participants playing football within the football club and hoping to attract more players to our ever growing Junior Section which has risen to 500.

In 2021 our 1st team gained promotion to The Midland

Football League Premier Division, and in the first season finished in third place.

More ground developments have since taken place with a refurbishment to our lounge, a new home dressing room, refurbished away & officials dressing rooms, an additional covered seating stand, a covered standing terrace behind the far goal, turnstile block, TV gantry, spectator toilets, protected player walkway - all of which all give our Trade Tyre Community Stadium a feeling of a non league football stadium.

Even more developments are taking place as we are constructing a cafe within our premises which includes alterations to our kitchen and redesigning of our large function suite. Very exciting times both on and off the pitch.

We finished 11th in 2022-23 a season that didn't quite live up to the previous league campaign but finish the season on Tuesday 30th May with a massive high - we won the JW Hunt Cup, at The Molineux Stadium, beating Tividale 1-0 thanks to a 1st half goal from our record appearance holder Joe Haines, Captain Kyle Patterson picked up the Man of The Match award on a great night for our football club.

Season 2023-24 is our best season to date.

We finished 2nd in the MFL Premier Division and missed out on promotion after a 3-1 defeat to Darlaston Town in the Playoff Final. During this season we added a score board and media cabin to the bottom corner of our ground and updated our stadium speaker system.

During a campaign where we played 57 games we reached three semi-finals, losing 2-1 away to Congleton Town in the League Cup and we went out of the Walsall Senior Cup on penalties after drawing 3-3 with Step 2 Rushall Olympic.

We reached the JW Hunt Cup Final for the second season running after a very youthful side beat Wolverhampton Casuals on penalties. After the game ended 1-1 Paul Hathaway was the Lichfield City hero saving four penalties and scoring the best penalty of the evening to set up a return to The Molineux.

We retained the JW Hunt Cup after Joe Haines got another final goal and Man of The Match Leighton McMenemy scored a brace as we beat Wolverhampton Sporting 3-1 to secure back to back triumphs at The Molineux.

# ROVERS RECALLED - A Century, and more, of the FA Cup

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From 1895 to the demise of the club in 2009 the Qualifying Rounds of the world's most famous football competition was eagerly anticipated by players, officials and fans alike.

In the first season of entry 1895-96, Clay Cross were defeated on away soil before visitors Heanor triumphed 4-0 in South Derbyshire. The same opponents again put Rovers out during the following term after Buxton and Stratford had been beaten on the road.

During the next eight seasons Rovers and today's visitors Coalville Town, got to know each other well, the clubs being drawn against each other six times! Although Town advanced to the next round following the first two games, Rovers were successful in the four subsequent meetings.

Gresley fought through to Round 1 of the competition on three occasions - 1930, 1994 & 1998 - being defeated by Football League opposition each time, but twice threatening an upset in closely contested games.

In the autumn of 1930 the team battled past Rothwell, Desborough, Market Harborough and Loughborough Corinthians before meeting Kings Lynn at the Moat Ground on 15 November in the Fourth Qualifying Round. A crowd of around 3,000 watched the following team defeat the East Anglian visitors 4-1 - Waring, Wheeldon, Whittaker, Chambers, Brewin, Mee, Bird, T Warren, Dunleavy, Claye and Topliss - with Dunleavy (3) and Bird scoring.

The club's First Round reward was a trip to York City lying mid table in Division Three North. Rovers team showed only one change from the previous round - W Warren for Brewin - and travelled north on the morning of the game, accompanied by a good number of supporters.

Despite recent rain, the pitch was in good condition as the home side exerted pressure from the start in front of a 4,000 crowd. Rovers' defence held firm, goalkeeper Waring making several good saves, but could not prevent City taking the lead midway through the first half.

The visitors shocked the Football League side seven minutes after the interval however with Tommy Warren equalising. Now under severe pressure, Rovers defence held out until the final minutes of the tie when York scored twice to record a 3-1 victory, much to the relief of the home fans.

Rovers had a couple of exciting cup runs in the mid 1950's, beating Ilkeston, Matlock, South Normanton in 1953-54 to earn a Fourth Qualifying Round tie at Nuneaton. Borough were then one of the strongest local

non-league sides and Rovers were trounced 4-1 in front of a 6,500 Manor Park crowd which included around 2,000 from the South Derbyshire and Burton area.

During the following campaign - Rovers first in the Birmingham League - Basford and Matlock were defeated before old adversaries Ilkeston visited the Moat, bringing some 600 fans which created a tense atmosphere in the crowded ground. After going behind, home goals from Haines and Allen looked to have made the game safe but the visitors equalised from the penalty spot with minutes remaining.

The replay exhausted players and fans alike! Five minutes after the interval Rovers were 4-1 ahead, Haines and Sketchley each scoring twice - visiting players Newball and McGuire sustained injuries, then Ilkeston levelled the scores to face extra time. The injured Newball saved a penalty but Town eventually grabbed the winner to triumph 5-4. Rovers (both games): Newball, McGuire, Cook, Cashmore, Tunstall, E Duggins, Boulton, G Duggins, Sketchley, Haines, Allen.

Gresley suffered a lean cup spell during the 1970's winning just a single tie, 1974-75 1-0 First Qualifying Round victory over Hednesford Town. The 1980's were more fruitful, the 1985-86 term seeing a run to the Fourth Qualifying Round, 17 goals being scored in the victories over Friar Lane, Oldswinford, Worksop and Alfreton. The bubble burst in London, a 2-0 defeat being inflicted on a brave Rovers side by Isthmian League Leyton Wingate.

On to the 1990's and two First Round appearances! In the 1994-95 competition ties against Sandwell Borough, Stourport Swifts, Leek and the long trip to Braintree, were successfully navigated only for a second half collapse at Crewe's Gresty Road ground to shatter Rovers' hopes. The line-up for the 7-1 defeat was Aston, Dick, Harbey, Denby, Evans, Stanborough, Elliott (Wardle), Rigg, Holmes, Garner, Marsden (Devaney). Attendance 4,539, goal scorer Devaney.

In 1998-99 three 2-1 victories over Shepshed, Halesowen and Frickley were rewarded with a visit to Walsall's Bescot Stadium which, although ending in defeat, was a close run contest. Rovers side, which lost 1-0 in front of 4,272 crowd was Ford, R Wardle, Kearns, Fitzpatrick (Fowkes), Carvell, Faulkner, Smith (Lonergan), Simpson, Pitt, Rowland, Orton.

Since then we've tended to struggle to get out of the early rounds.



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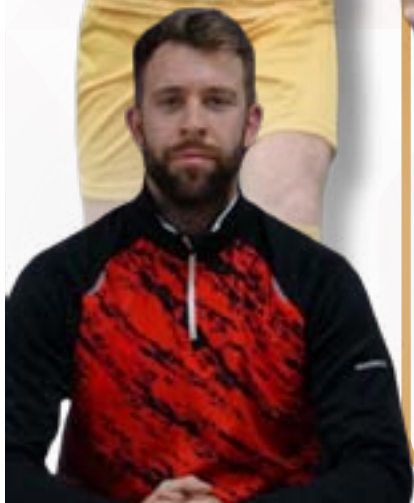
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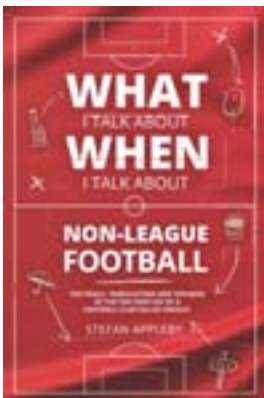
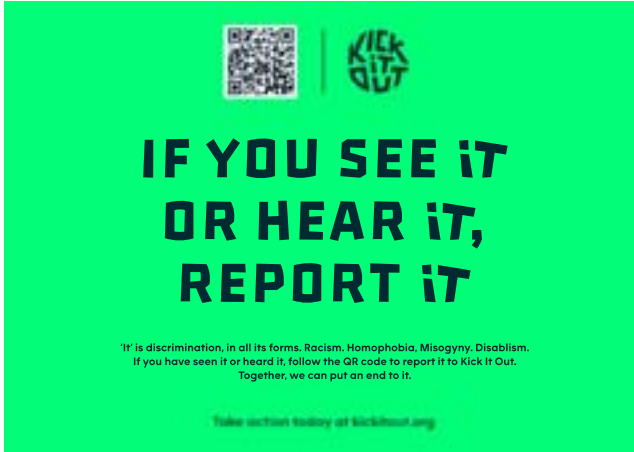
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"What I Talk About When I Talk About Non-League Football" tells the story of the ten-year life of a football club called Gresley FC.

Gresley FC were formed from the ashes of a proud old club called Gresley Rovers, who at one point were the third biggest club in Derbyshire, and as famous as that suggests. The name Gresley FC officially existed for only ten years before they were able to change it back to Gresley Rovers again.

That decade saw two promotions, one relegation, one play-off final, two memorable runs in the FA Vase, a six-month stretch where they won only one game, and too many visits to Leek. These ups and downs were mirrored by the promotions and the redundancies, the marriage and the gout, of one man's wobbly journey from a childlike 30-year-old into a slightly-less-childlike 40-year-old.

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Corby & Brian

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Corby and Bryan



My name is Thomas Andrew Curtis; however, I am better known to my family and friends as 'Chopper'. I lived in Swadlincote with my Mum and Brother.

On Friday 8th December 2023, I was driving home from visiting a friend who's in a wheelchair after a motor cross accident. I was driving through wet muddy lanes, when unfortunately, I drove up a mud verge and hitting a sign face on.

I turned away from the sign and rolled the van into 3 fields. I was flung out of the driver's side window and fell to the ground.

I was taken straight to Nottingham Queen's Medical Centre and up to the A&E department. I was then rushed to ICU and put into a medically induced coma for 3 days.

Prior to being put in the coma, I was resuscitated twice.

I will be unable to return to my current job role due to my injuries, which means I will be adjusting to life in a wheelchair.

I am determined to resume an independent life living in my own bungalow. The bungalow would need to be kitted out with furniture which would come at a cost. -A suitable light weight wheel chair that I can transport around with me.

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## Saturday 17th September 2016 The Moat Ground - Stamford AFC

Before the game there was an impeccably observed one minute's silence in memory of the young Shaw Lane player Dan Wilkinson who collapsed and died during their midweek game at Brighouse.

Gresley manager Damion Beckford-Quailey made changes to his back line for the visit of Stamford. Matt Rooome and Ryan Walker replaced Jamie Barrett and Josh Egginton and Jordan Wakeling returned after serving his one match ban with Jake Carlisle taking a seat on the bench.

A late, late goal from Pearson Mwanyongo got Gresley out of goal and his side's name in the hat on Monday for the next round of the FA Cup.

Almost from the off Stamford took control and were soon testing home keeper Rob Peet with a shot from distance by Jake Duffey. They went close again minutes but Jevani Brown's shot was tipped over the bar by Peet.

Gresley were struggling to get any sort of foothold in the game being pressed back into their own half but they did have one chance with a low shot from Walker straight at Stamford keeper Paul Bastock.

The Daniels took the lead on 17 minutes. Brown made a run down the left and managed to get to the bye line before sending a low cross across the box to the far post where Elliott Sandy was on hand to head the ball home from close in.

The home side were still finding it difficult against some resolute and at times physical defending with Reece Morris more than once the target.

Stamford's tactic of sending long high balls into Gresley's area was causing problems but when Gresley tried to reciprocate the danger was easily dealt with by the Stamford defence.

Duffy once more fired straight at Peet from a free kick, Brown blazed over when well placed just inside the area and the visitors finished the first half strongly with John King making a good run down the left moving the ball to Duffy who squandered a good chance firing wide.

Beckford- Quailey said after the match that he'd 'had words' with his side at the interval and they came out looking like a different side for the second half. Making one change with Ben Harris replacing Eddy Samba Gresley looked far more positive and threatening going forward with Lucas Harrison's good run down the left ending with a well struck shot across the face of goal. Courtney Meade then hit a thunderous shot which keeper Bastock did well to tip over the bar.

Meade was looking more of a threat this half and broke forward towards the edge of the Stamford area only to be tripped by Delroy Gordon who received a yellow card from the referee.

Despite Gresley having the upper hand they were finding Stamford's defending solid and at times overly so with Morris still receiving more than his fair share of it.

Still, a mark of this season's Gresley side is that do not give up despite almost going further behind on 83 minutes but substitute Ryan Robbins could only scuff a shot wide of the far post which surely should have been put away.

Morris made a good run down the left before cutting in and racing across the 18-yard line but his final shot was a weak one straight at the keeper.

Meade was unlucky not to have leveled things on 90 minutes but the unfortunate forward could only watch as his shot from the right came back off the bar.

Gresley are making it a habit of scoring late goals and one duly arrived a minute into time added on, and what an important one it was.

Tendai Chitiza dribbled his way into the area but was felled by Jordan Smith giving referee Matthew Smith no option but to award the penalty.

With Gresley supporters' collective breath being held, Pearson Mwanyongo stepped up to take the kick and made certain sending Bastock the wrong way which means both sides have to do it all again on Tuesday night at the Zeeco Stadium, Stamford.

We lost the replay 1-0.





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# KIMBERLEY MW MATCH REPORT

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This was a strange game as Gresley Rovers found themselves a goal down with hardly two minutes on the clock and two down after just seven minutes despite playing well. On the half hour Rovers were three goals down and things looked bleak.

Personnel changes after the break made a difference and Rovers launched a tremendous fight back to claim a point at the end.

The game started in blistering fashion and the home side were in front on two minutes when a move down the left ended with Paul Johnson slotting home. Rovers should have levelled almost immediately but Nathan Banton's shot, after being put through on goal went straight at the goalkeeper.

From the resultant goal kick Kimberley raced into a two-goal lead with Lewis Weaver collecting a long ball before cutting inside before firing past visiting keeper Joe Williams.

To Rovers' credit they did not let their heads drop and continued to push forward looking for that elusive goal. Danny Munday forced keeper Thomas Smith into punching the ball away and on 19 minutes they were handed a lifeline when the lively Fin Barker was brought down in the area. Munday took the spot kick, which was a poor one, allowing Smith to save the low struck ball.

Barker went close twice putting his shots narrowly wide of the post but on the half hour mark Kimberley increased their advantage. A cross from the right was not cleared at the far post and Weaver was on hand to nod home for his second of the game.

Things looked bleak for the visitors but still they pressed forward forcing numerous corners which came to nothing. Munday was in on goal but his shot was blocked by the keeper's legs. He went close again moments later when he flicked a header from Alby Lansdowne's long throw narrowly the wrong side of the post. Another chance for Rovers almost on the halftime whistle with Lansdowne's header being held by Smith.

Rovers looked shellshocked walking off for the break as they had played well but as we've seen in previous games those goals, they deserved just would not come.

After the break Rovers made a couple of changes which were to make an impact. On came young defender Osaze Okuonghae and Jamie Sleigh for Ben Gough and Alex Britton respectively.

Still Rovers pressed and the feeling was from the travelling faithful that if they could score then they could get back into the game. They were dominating the game and yet another chance went close with Kane Lee heading a corner from Bekir Halil over the bar at the back post.

With the visitors pressing so hard they were a bit vulnerable to a quick break and it took and perfectly timed last-ditch tackle from Landsdowne to prevent Kimberley from adding to their tally.

On 61 minutes Rovers got the deserved goal their play had deserved. A good flowing move between Sleigh and Lee through the middle ended with Sleigh curling a sublime curling shot into the top far corner giving Smith no chance.

Two more changes with Jacob Sturgess and Dylan Hunniford replacing Halil and Banton. Louis Anthony headed a corner just over the bar and on 76 minutes a bit of a scramble in the home box saw the post struck and a clearance off the line before Munday rammed the loose ball into the net from close in.

Was the remarkable comeback on. Well yes it was as two minutes later unbelievably Rovers were level. A superb run from Barker ended with him hitting an unstoppable shot past Smith.

Barker went an inch away from winning the game for his team when Sleigh fed the ball through to Barker who then hit another rocket of a shot which left Smith standing but the ball hit the bar flush on the front and the ball came back out. It would have been a fitting conclusion as the young man had had a great game and helped fully in the remarkable turn around full of determination character from his teammates claiming a fully deserved point at the very least.



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Hopefully this season will be a different matter and we will at least get to the end of the month still in the competition.

The Supporter's Club has continued to go from strength to strength throughout the summer. The football team have had several games against strong local opposition and gave a good account of ourselves and we also managed to enter two teams in the 5 aside competition. If you would like to join us keep an eye for our games being promoted on social media.

The 100 club remains an excellent source of income to the club and we hope to make this the 150 club by the end of the season. To be in with a chance of winning an excellent cash prize ranging from £50-£250 you need to be in it to win it. So drop me a message or speak to me on the gate for further details.

Tomorrow sees the club's fundraising carwash held on the clubs car park from 09:00 to 16:00. Car wash is £5 and wash and vac will be £10. Please support this if you can by either bring your car to be washed or lending a hand to one of the volunteers.

Up The Rovers.

Steve

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# NUNEATON TOWN MATCH REPORT

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Rovers' start to their UCL campaign did not get off to the best when they slipped to a narrow defeat at the Moat Ground. The Moatmen were still missing several senior players but those who filled the shirts put on a decent showing.

Two evenly matched sides put on an entertaining game on a pleasant afternoon, but it was the visitors who grabbed all three points.

Both sides threatened early on but it was Boston who went the closest when on 19 minutes when Harry Limb lobbed Joe Williams in the home goal only to see his effort come back off the bar.

It was a cagey game with attacks at both ends coming to nothing and neither keeper having to work very hard. Kane Lee had a half chance for Rovers on 32 minutes, but his low shot was comfortably gathered by visiting keeper Travis Portas. The first half fizzled out and the referee ended the game.

Town were quick off the mark taking the lead on 52 minutes. Williams kick was short and the lively Limb collected and raced forward rounding the keeper and slotting the ball home. Within 8 minutes their lead was doubled as a result of a quick break down the left and Lucas Dakin finishing the move off with a goal.

Nathan Banton gave the home crowd something to cheer when he picked the ball up before racing into the middle with pace and firing the ball past the keeper.

The final 15 minutes saw both teams making changes and Rovers began to take charge of the game but still the visitors managed to repel any home attacks and although hanging on at the end held out to take all three points back to Boston.

Rovers have the quick chance to get back on track as they travel to Kimberley on Tuesday.



**Lincoln United (a)**  
**Saturday 10th August - 3pm**

**Ashby Avenue,  
 Hartsholme,  
 Lincoln,  
 Lincolnshire,  
 LN6 0DY**

**Travel Time: 1hr 30 mins approx**



**Melton Town (h)**  
**Tuesday 13th August - 7.45pm**

The last time we played Melton was in January 2022 which we won a close game 4-3.

Dany Munday, Ryan Seal, Ste Hart and Alby Lansdowne were all on target for us.



**Rugby Borough (a)**  
**Isuzu FA Vase 1st Qualifying Round**  
**Saturday 24th August - 3pm**

**Nationwide Windows Arena,  
 Kilsby Lane,  
 Rugby  
 CV21 4PN**

**Travel Time: 1hr approx**



**Heanor Town (a)**  
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# GRESLEY ROVERS HISTORY

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Gresley Rovers were formed in 1882 in the small mining village of Church Gresley, which is near to Swadlincote - the biggest town in South Derbyshire.

Their first ground was at Mushroom Lane in Albert Village a mile or so from Church Gresley and they played mainly friendlies and cup games for ten years before joining the Burton Junior League for the 1892/93 season. They won their first league title in the 1894/95 season eleven points clear of their nearest rivals in the Burton Junior League.

Rovers moved from the quaintly named Mushroom Lane ground (which they shared with the local cricket club Mushroom Lane CC) to the newly acquired Church Street Ground in time for the 1895/96 season. They stayed at Church Street till near the end of the 1907/08 season when they had to move as the land was required for building and moved across the road onto the newly acquired Moat Ground - the ground they still play on today.

Six seasons from 1985/6 Gresley finish 4th, 4th, 2nd, 3rd, 1st and 1st. During that period they also won the Derbyshire Senior Cup on four successive occasions. Season 1990/91 was a particularly good one for Gresley. In addition to the League Title and the Derbyshire Senior Cup win they also reached the final of the F.A. Vase and so had the honour of playing at Wembley. Their opponents were Guiseley and some National Newspapers reported it as 'the most exciting Wembley Cup Final ever'. Unfortunately, they only drew before losing the replay.

Paul Futchter was appointed manager with Garry Birtles, former England International, his assistant on 2nd November 1995. The season 1996/7 was the best in the Club's long history because in addition to retaining the Derbyshire Senior Cup they also won the Dr. Martens Premier Division championship. Rovers were unbeaten in their first seventeen league games (won 10 drawn 7) and were league leaders for 31 weeks. The title was finally won with a 3 - 1 home victory against Gloucester City at the Moat Ground on April 26th 1997. Gresley Rovers became the first Derbyshire side and first village side to win this prestigious trophy, but ground grading meant that they were unable to gain promotion to the Football Conference.

After financial difficulties, Gresley Rovers liquidated at the end of the 2008-09 season, forming a new football club, Gresley F.C.

## Gresley FC

Gresley FC was formed in 2009 and enjoyed a very successful first season in the East Midlands Counties League. The side, managed by Gary Norton, finished as runners up and therefore narrowly missed out on promotion. Gresley also enjoyed a long run in the FA Vase by beating Spennymoor, Dawlish and Long Buckby. The Dawlish tie in particular will live long in the memory as the original tie was abandoned in extra time and the Moatmen won the replay in South Derbyshire on penalties. The Vase run came to an end in front of the home fans in disappointing fashion at home to Whitehawk in the quarter-finals.

2010-2011 Gresley's second season as a club and also their second in the East Midlands Counties League saw another good FA Vase run getting to the last 32 and then going one step further from the previous season by winning the league after an exciting run-in. Being a few points behind the leading contenders Gresley could not afford to slip up again after an unexpected home defeat in early January if their dreams were to be realised. An amazing 20 game unbeaten run with the final 8 all victories saw Gresley crowned as champions and promoted into the Midland Football Alliance.

Season 2011-2012 saw another good run in the FA Vase reaching the last 16 and to top off a superb season Gresley achieved a remarkable back-to-back title success as they lifted the Midland Football Alliance title at their first attempt and promotion to the Evo-Stik NPL Division One South.

The first season back at level four was successful as Gresley settled into the Division One South. Gresley finished just outside the top ten in the league and reached the 3rd Qualifying round of the FA Cup. At the end of the season joint manager Gary Norton stepped down with Martin Rowe named as manager.

# GRESLEY ROVERS HISTORY CONTINUED

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After losing their first two league fixtures of 2013-2014 and then an indifferent spell up to Christmas Gresley managed to stabilise their performances and ended the season in a credible 9th place. However, in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy Gresley had good runs going out of the cup after forcing Conference South outfit Brackley Town to a replay after a good draw at St James Park in the 2nd Qualifying Round and in the Trophy they took Conference Premier side Wrexham almost all the way in the First Round Proper losing by the odd goal in three at the Racecourse Ground. In September 2014 Martin Rowe resigned and his assistant Wayne Thornhill was appointed as first team manager at the end of October.

Wayne, along with his assistants Jamie Barrett and Russell Peel, turned the season around and they finished in a creditable fifth place making the play-offs where they met Leek Town at Harrison Park who narrowly beat the Moatmen by a single goal. An appearance in the Derbyshire Senior Cup Final at the home of Chesterfield FC ended with Gresley as runners-up losing to Evo-Stik Premier side Matlock Town. At the beginning of September Wayne stepped down and Dave Langston appointed as caretaker manager. In October Scott Goodwin was appointed as manager with Jamie Barrett and Gary Ricketts as his assistants. After a disappointing run of defeats Scott was released and Gary Ricketts appointed as player/manager assisted by Jamie Barrett and Dave Langston. The 2015-2016 ended with Gresley in a disappointing 16th position. Ricketts stood down as manager and former Leicester Nirvana

manager Damion Beckford-Quailey appointed in the close season. Damion's first season started well but the loss of three key players around Christmas time saw his side struggle for the rest of the campaign finishing in 18th position.

His second season, 2017-2018 was not much better but it ended in a disappointing manner when the manager, management team and most of the players left the club with just four games remaining and the danger of being relegated. Former Moat boss Gary Norton stepped in to steer the club to the end of a trying season and using a mixture of reserve and youth team players managed to keep the club in step 4 finishing 17th. Norton agreed to take on the role of manager for season 2018-2019 and along with assistant Carl Slater and player/coach Jamie Barrett have started to rebuild a side that hopefully be more competitive than the last two seasons.

Early in January 2019 Norton stood down and Gavin Hurren was appointed as manager. Unfortunately, at the end of the season, Gresley were relegated from the Evo-Stik East to the Midland League. Hurren left early in the new season to be replaced by David McDermott. Gresley's results failed to improve and in February McDermott was relieved of his position. Former manager Gary Norton again stepped in to steer the ship until the end of the season.

## Gresley Rovers Return

During the summer of 2020, the Gresley FC board met to discuss the possibility of re-naming the club and a unanimous decision

saw the Gresley Rovers name return to non-league football. Joint managers of Carl Abbott, Gary Norton and assistant manager Paul Thomlinson had the job of recruiting their players after the previous season was curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and non-league football allowed to start again.

After a stop/start end of season the FA completed their reorganisation of non-league football and Rovers were placed in the new United Counties North Division under the leadership of Carl Abbott.

2021-2022 proved to be a successful season finishing runners-up in the United Counties league but gained promotion due to points-per-game and are now members of the Northern Premier League Midland Division for 2022-2023.

A difficult first season back at step 4 ended with Rovers gaining the points to enable them to keep our place in the Northern Premier League Midland Division for another season.

2023-2024 was a deeply disappointing season for Rovers. A poor start saw manager Carl Abbott relieved of his duties in October and Marc Strzyzewski appointed but things did not improve and after a relegation position for most of the remaining season and relegation to Step 5 saw Strzyzewski also let go during the close season.

Carl Abbott returned as manager for the new season

# GRESLEY ROVERS IN THE COMMUNITY & ACADEMY



*"To improve the lives of people within the local community by increasing participation in sport, and putting Gresley Rovers at the heart of the community"*

Coaches Player: Addison Smith,  
Players' Player: Josh Brown

(dribbling, passing etc.) to improve and develop their fundamental football skills.

Under 18's: Supporters Player:  
Ewan Smith,  
Coaches Player: Ashton Frost,  
Players' Player: Ewan Smith

Due to the popularity of the sessions, we run two sessions; 9am - 10am, and 10:15am - 11:15am at £5 per session payable upfront for the month, with the first 2 weeks being free!

Reserves: Coaches Player: Aaron Harvey,  
Players' Player: Tyler Cox & Adnane Kinani

If you are interested in joining our sessions please email: matt.toulson@gresleyrovers.com

## South Derbyshire Festival of Leisure

During June, Gresley Rovers in Community had our annual stall at the Festival of Leisure on both the Saturday and Sunday at Gresley Park. We had activities and information supported by all of our areas from our Sunday Coaching Club, Girls and Ladies sections.

Thank you to everyone that visited our stall over the weekend and had a go and took part in our fundraising games.

We raised a total £765, which will be used to continue our community activities.

## Sunday Coaching Club (4-12 year olds)

Our Sunday Coaching Club sessions are for children aged 4-12 years old which we split into 3 separate age groups for the sessions.

We do not look to put them in teams at this age as our focus is to work on a different football specific topic each week

Hello, and welcome back to the Moat Ground for the 2024/25 season!

It feels like the close season has flown by with so much happening at the club and within the community since the end of last season.

## Boys Academy End Of Season Awards

Our end of season awards took place in May with a celebration of the successes of the season for our u13's up to our 18's with our reserve's presentation taking place alongside the first team.

Our award winners across our groups were:

Under 13's: Supporters Player: Robbie Day,  
Coaches Player: Liam Machin,  
Players' Player: Elliot Pickles

Under 14's: Supporters Player: Ross Horler,  
Coaches Player: Max Evans,  
Players' Player: Oakley Isham

Under 15's: Supporters Player: Liam Johnston,  
Coaches Player: George Woodings,  
Players' Player: Oscar Irving & George Woodings

Under 16's: Supporters Player: Addison Smith,







# FINAL 2024-2025 TABLES

## United Counties Premier League North

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Eastwood CFC	2	2	0	0	13	1	6
2	Heanor Town	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
3	Kimberley MW	2	1	1	0	9	4	4
4	Newark Town	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
5	Boston Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
6	Sleaford Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7	AFC Mansfield	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
8	Lincoln United	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
9	Newark & Sherwood	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
10	Belper United	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
11	Melton Town	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
12	Ashby Ivanhoe	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
13	Gresley Rovers	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
14	Shirebrook Town	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
15	Harrowby United	2	0	1	1	3	10	1
16	Bourne Town	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
17	Skegness Town	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
18	Hucknall Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
19	Wisbech Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
20	Deeping Rangers	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

Last updated: 11pm, Tuesday 30th July 2024

## Gresley Ladies League Coming Soon

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Last updated:

## Central Midlands Alliance Premier Division South

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	AFC Normanton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Allenton United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arnold Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bakewell Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Cromford & Worksworth Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Derby Singh Brothers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Graham Street Prims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Gresley Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Holbrook Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Holbrook St Michaels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Linby Colliery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Mansfield Hosiery Mills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Mayfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Melbourne Dynamo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Mickleover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Mickleover RBL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	South Normanton Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Teversall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Wirksworth Ivanhoe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Last updated:

## Leicestershire Midweek Floodlit Youth League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Last updated:

## League Top Five Scorers

Name	Team	Goals

Last updated:

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## for 2024/2025 season



1

### Match Day Sponsors

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- £150 per game plus VAT
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- Website and social media coverage
- Pick the man of the match
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2

### Match Ball Sponsorship

- £50 Plus VAT
- Programme acknowledgement
- 4 x free tickets for the match

3

### Match Day Programme Adverts

- Full season worth of ads to promote your business
- Quarter page £195 plus VAT – Plus 5 tickets for any match of your choice
- Half page £370 plus VAT – Plus 5 tickets for any match of your choice
- Full page £595 plus VAT – Plus 10 tickets for any match of your choice



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