

Rovers Review



VS



Our Mascot
Today
Jamie Roberts

Saturday 5th October 2024 - Kick Off 3pm

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A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Good afternoon, everyone,

After four consecutive away matches, it's a pleasure to finally be back at the Moat Ground for today's United Counties League fixture as we host Newark and Sherwood United Football Club.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to all those associated with our opponents and wish them an enjoyable afternoon with us, as well as safe travels back to Nottinghamshire following the game.

It's fair to say our start to the season has been a rollercoaster, with results and performances fluctuating considerably. However, as I witnessed firsthand during our 5-1 defeat away at Wisbech Town while covering for Carl, the team remains deeply committed to turning things around. I believe we have the potential to compete with the best in the league; we just need to find the right balance in key positions and establish a more settled side, avoiding unnecessary changes.

On another note, you may have noticed our recent fundraising efforts to purchase a club minibus for use by all our teams. If you haven't already donated, please consider contributing.

Having our own minibus will be a significant asset not only for the club but also for the local community.

A huge thank you to Steve and the supporters' club for their generous donation of £1,000 towards our £10,000 target, which will cover the cost of the vehicle, branding with the club's name and sponsors, and the first year's running expenses.

Returning to today's match, I hope it's an exciting contest and that we can deliver a performance and result that our supporters can celebrate.

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support of the club.

Up the Rovers!
Gaz

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Telephone 01283 216315

www.gresleyrovers.com



EDITORIAL

After a run of very disappointing away results it was very pleasing to travel to Eastwood and travel back home with a thoroughly deserved point.

It was hard to choose a man-of-the-match because every member of the team had played so well but Nathan Banton was chosen because of his dashing runs down the left which caused the homeside problems and he was unfortunate not to have grabbed a late winner for Rovers.

I'm sure all those hardy souls who made the trip on a very miserable evening weather wise had a happy journey back to South Derbyshire.

Eastwood fielded a few former Rovers players, Lavelle White, Jermaine Hollis and someone who needs no introduction to Rovers supporters of an older age!

Aaron O'Connor was Eastwood's captain and almost robbed us of a deserved point but he unbelievably missed his spot kick.

I spoke to Aaron as the teams readied themselves to enter the pitch and asked him in jest not to score against us. He replied that he's try not to.

After the game I spoke to him again and said I wouldn't rub it in that he missed his spot kick.

He tapped his chest and said that he knows where his heart is.

Lovely lad and will be remembered for a long time at the Moat Ground.

Good to see him in a red shirt unfortunately the wrong red shirt!

I'm hoping that that encouraging performance will kick start us into some more and we can start to garner points and move away from the lower regions of the league.

Today's game will not be easy but it is good to be back at the dear old Moat.

Four away games on the bounce is enough for any team but at least we've got two of the longer journeys out of the way before the bad weather closes in.

We face Newark and Sherwood today who have not visited our quirky stadium but I hope they enjoy the experience.

Tuesday we start our journey in the Derbyshire Senior Cup when Sandiacre Town visit us in the 1st Round.

Enjoy the game and thank you for your support which the players, management and board really appreciate.

There is no other club in our league at least that have better support than our.

Let's get the Moat rocking

Rob

GRESLEY ROVERS

MANAGER: CARL ABBOTT

Jack **ANDREWS**

Louis **ANTHONY**

Nathan **BANTON**

Fin **BARKER**

Alex **BRITTON**

Jenson **COOPER**

Ethan **GOODFELLOW**

Dylan **HUNNIFORD**

Ste **HART**

Ryan **KING**

Alby **LANSDOWNE**

Kane **LEE**

Sam **MEAKIN**

Will **ROBINSON**

Jamie **SLEIGH**

Harrison **SOLOMON**

Jacob **STURGESS**

Louie **TURNER (GK)**

Charlie **WOOD (GK)**

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: LIAM VAYRO

ASSISTANT: NICHOLAS LEES

ASSISTANT: MICHAEL NEWTON

FIXTURES

AFC MANSFIELD VS LINCOLN UNITED

HEANOR TOWN VS DEEPING

RANGERS

HUCKNALL TOWN VS SHIREBROOK

TOWN

KIMBERLEY MW VS BOURNE TOWN

SLEAFORD TOWN VS NEWARK TOWN

WISBECH TOWN VS ASHBY IVANHOE

NEWARK & SHERWOOD

MANAGER: ROMAINE GRAHAM

Leo **ALMOND**

Dior **ANDERSON**

Kam **CAMPBELL**

Kieran **CUMMINGS**

Jayden **DOWLING**

Coden **DUNCAN**

Marley **FEARON**

Jamie **GODDARD**

Harrison **GOMM**

Romaine **GRAHAM**

Ben **HENDERSON**

Louie **JARVIS**

Sam **KING**

Kole **LAMBERT**

Riley **OVERTON**

Tom **SLONE**

Ricco **SPENCER**

Ryley **THOMPSON**

Keiran **WALKER**

Beau **WATSON**

Luke **WHITE**

Toby **WHITE**

Jamie **WILLIAMSON**

Benni **WILSON**

Ross **WOOLLEY**

SIN BINS

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sinbins' - are mandatory for acts of dissent across all of grassroots football.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go into the structure for dissent locations.



For use of words, gestures, squinting or undermining the referee's decisions.



EXAMPLES OF DISSENT:
Shouting at the referee, questioning the referee's ability, slumping the ball into the ground and intentionally clapping a decision.

DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin.



For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin.



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of half-time, continuous into extra time, extra time players can participate in the penalty shoot-out.

THE MATCH DAY PROCESS



Dissent



Dissent location. Referee issues a Yellow Card and directs the player to the touchline.



While in the sin bin, if the player commits a further offence they are sent off and cannot be substituted.



A player can only return to the field of play with the referee's permission at a message in play.



If a player receives a second Yellow Card for any type of offence, they will be shown a Red Card and dismissed from the field of play.

Sin bins only apply to a player's first Yellow Card. If they receive a second Yellow Card they are dismissed from the field of play.

Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions is still a Red Card offence!




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

I'll Get Mi Coat

I've been reading a book on the history of super glue.

Couldn't put it down.



MEET THE GRESLEY LADS

	Carl Abbott Manager Sponsored by Borley's ReadyMix		Paul Tomlinson Asst Manager Sponsored by Vckers Young		Jess Wainwright Physio Sponsored by Ian Collins		Owen Barry Coach Sponsored by
	Jack Andrews Sponsored by		Louis Anthony Sponsored by		Nathan Banton Sponsored by Leah & Lucas Parker		Finlay Barker Sponsored by The Kinsey Family
	Alex Britton Sponsored by Stella Sounds & Events		Jenson Cooper Sponsored by		Ethan Goodfellow Sponsored by Rob Howe and Jeanette Tipper		Dylan Hunniford Sponsored by Gary Norton
	Ryan King Sponsored by Richardsons Furnishers		Albert Lansdowne Sponsored by Gresley Rovers Supporters Club		Kane Lee Sponsored by The Forest Gate		Jake Meakin Sponsored by Stuart & Audrey
	Will Robinson Sponsored by		Jamie Sleigh Sponsored by South Derbyshire Mining Preserva- tion Group		Harrison Solomon Sponsored by		Jacob Sturgess Sponsored by Ryan Brockway
	Louie Turner Sponsored by		Charlie Wood Sponsored by Stuart Hallam				

Man-of-the-Match
Shirebrook Game
Alby Lansdowne chosen by
game sponsors
the Kinsey Family in memory of
Derrick



MEET THE GRESLEY LADS

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 Alneyrians. 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.

Jenson Cooper - The striker joins us from Shepshed Dynamo for a second spell at the club. He was part of last season's squad for the latter end. Other

clubs include Belper United, Redditch United, AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Walsall Wood and Shrewsbury Academy.

Ethan Goodfellow - Young player who has come through the Youth and Reserve ranks.

Ste Hart - Forward Ste returned to Gresley in the summer. He is a big impact player and well known for a thunderous shot and accurate long passing.

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.

Jake Meakin - Young midfielder signed in close season.

Will Robinson - Defender recently signed from Sherwood Colliery.

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.

Harrison Solomon - Defender Former Derby County u21 player who has just returned from a scholarship in the USA

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

Louie Turner - Goal keeper recently signed from Shepshed Dynamo

Charlie Wood - Young keeper who signed in the close season. from Uttoxeter Town.

MEET THE GRESLEY LADS cont

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)

Craig Hill (Goalkeeper Coach)

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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,

NEWARK & SHERWOOD HISTORY

Founded in 1901 as A.J. Simpson and Co., the football club began life in the Newark Ironmongers' League. No records survive from those early days, but it is known that in 1935 the club, now renamed Worthington Simpson, entered the Nottingham Spartan League.

After winning back-to-back titles, Simmo's or the Works (as the club became known locally) joined the Notts Alliance League in 1949, going on to win that title in the momentous football years of 1953 and 1966.

The Notts Alliance Cup brought the club's greatest success up to that point, first in 1970 beating Notts Combined Police two-nil in a replay at Notts County's Meadow Lane ground and then the trophy returning to Newark in 1972 after an epic five-three extra time victory, the team coming back from three goals down to restore parity in the fourth minute of injury time with George Best look alike Donny Hage jinking through the Thoresby defence to send the five coach loads of supporters delirious. The trophy returned to Newark again 1981, 1989 and finally 1999 when a single Gary Breden goal proved the difference. Name changes followed in the late '90s, first to IDP and then to Newark Flowserve, and in 2004 the club's name was entered into the first level of the FA's national pyramid by joining the Central Midlands League Premier Division.

Following a short break, the first team re-formed in 2013 and finished a creditable third in Notts Senior League (NSL) Division Two, securing promotion to the First Division. Another successful campaign followed a year later when the team finished runners-up and clinched their place in the NSL Premier Division, taking the club back to step seven football.

The Highwaymen – named after the town's historic links with the 'noble' art – won the NSL Premier division and league cup double in magnificent style, finishing a remarkable 25 points clear of runners-up Awworth Villa. Season 2018/19 saw the club playing step six football in the East Midlands Counties Football League (EMCFL) where they achieved a second place and promotion to the Midland Football League Premier Division. For the second year running the club also picked up the league cup, this time the EMCFL League Cup!

Sadly the 2019/20 season was ended abruptly because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, however, the club finished in 4th place in the league, were still in the MFL League Cup and were in the semi-finals of the Nottinghamshire FA's Senior Cup. To add to this, club had been accepted into The FA Vase for the first time in its history – a debut which saw them bow out in the last 32 of the competition at Preston based Longridge Town. Notwithstanding the promotions achieved in the previous three seasons, it is generally accepted that this was certainly on par with anything else achieved by the club in its long history.

1st September 2020 was memorable for two firsts with 250 spectators and the TV cameras seeing a four-nil victory under the new floodlights in a debut F.A. Cup match against Deeping Rangers. After beating Maltby Main "the highwaymen" travelled to step three side Rushden & Diamonds and raced into a three-goal lead inside twenty minutes before recording a five-goal victory and the performance of the round award. In May 2020 after requests from The FA over sponsorship issues relating to any future promotion the club dropped the Flowserve and became Newark FC.

Lowfields played host to county cricket with the likes of Gary Sobers, Richard Hadlee and Derek Randall all hitting the ball out of the ground while the bowls greens hosted some of the best players in the county. Before the eighties rebuild the pavilion was a wooden structure with two gigantic baths, one for each team, taking the whole of the second half the fill. With the factory closed it was inevitable the club's famous old ground with its all history would be lost and the 21/22 season found the club ground sharing at Basford United for a traumatic first season in the United Counties League.

With new investment from local businessman Steff Wright, a change of name and a management team lead by ex-Lincoln City star Nathan Arnold, 22/23 looks promising. Newark & Sherwood United have moved back to the Newark area at Collingham's upgraded Station Road ground until new state of the art facilities is built in the town.

Ex Manchester City player Jonathan D'Laryea took over the reins in October and led the club to an eighth-place finish and for time in the club's history the Notts Senior Cup was won.

Great names from the past include George Lambert who served as secretary for over fifty years and Gerry Fell who once scored sixty-six goals in one Notts Alliance season before going on to play for Leicester and Brighton. Never forgotten centre-forwards include George Bower, Gerry Booth and Mark Gore who along with Fell are the only players to top the one hundred goal total for the club. At the other end of the pitch Dennis Judson was the custodian in the glory years while the younger generation will remember seventeen-year-old Garry Attwood making his debut and becoming the long-time custodian. For over eighty years the club played in an all-white strip making this their tradition kit, after spells in purple, yellow and latterly orange its Nottinghamshire green for the new look kit.

As the club embarks on a new existing era take time out to remember there is over one hundred and twenty years of tradition to follow.

HARROWBY UNITED MATCH REPORT

Gresley Rovers suffered another defeat on the road but it was not for the want of trying as indeed anyone who witnessed the game would surely have agreed that they deserved a share of the points at the very least.

This performance against Harrowby was in marked contrast to last week's effort at Wisbech. It showed in large parts what Rovers could produce and I'm sure will produce as a more settled side take to the field.

The lack of taking the numerous opportunities which arrived denied the visitors of at least a four-goal lead by the half time break. Harrowby, on the other hand, had just three chances but converted two of them.

Rovers were missing Alby Lansdowne who is suffering from tendonitis, but they did have a new signing, Jenson Cooper who had previously played for the club towards the end of last season.

Just like the last couple of games Rovers were under pressure from the start with a good block needed at the post within two minutes. Fin Barker then made a fine run down the left before passing to Jamie Sleigh who in turn picked out Kane Lee only for Lee to see his well struck shot clatter the cross bar with only eight minutes on the clock.

Six minutes later Rovers had another good chance. Home keeper Alex Smith dallied on the ball just inside his own area and was robbed of the ball by Sleigh who skipped around the keeper but put his final shot into the side netting from a tight angle.

Rovers were well on top and continued to create chances which unfortunately they didn't convert. Lee made a run down the right and sent over a great ball to Sleigh waiting in the area but unbelievably put his shot over the bar with the goal gaping. Lee himself had the next chance this time his goal bound effort was blocked at the near post.

Harrowby were pressing towards the end of the half but were not testing the visiting keeper. Rovers had two further chances as the half drew to a close with Sleigh heading Barker's wide and Lee, after a run through the middle, fired wide.

The home side were in front within two minutes of the second half starting from a corner which Elliott

King converted with a shot which beat Louie Turner. Rovers were looking for a goal themselves and it came on 61 minutes, and it was a cracker.

Lee was almost on the halfway line when he noticed Smith well out of his goal and he launched a superb accurate lob over the keeper and into the net very like David Beckham's famous effort.

Unfortunately, Rovers were only level for six minutes. A ball into the Rovers' box caused some panic. Turner couldn't hold on to the ball and it was only half cleared before it was played back into the area where Lewis Marsh managed to poke the ball home.

The goal was somewhat against the run of play as Rovers were still on top but couldn't find that killer touch their play deserved. Sleigh went close again firing a shot at the keeper but Harrowby had a chance also with the unmarked Taylor Gray missing a gilt edged one firing over the bar from close in.

Cooper, who had replaced Alex Britton, took a long throw that found fellow substitute Ste Hart who managed to turn in the area and hit a shot which took a deflection to deny him. Harrowby were not done yet and substitute Marley Hamilton almost extended his side's lead but his thunderous shot from the left hit the cross bar. The home side were having the better of the final few minutes with Rovers' Will Robinson having to make a perfectly timed tackle to deny another goal. Turner's superb save denying Tom Harris ensured his side conceded no more goals.

Despite the scoreline this was a very encouraging performance from Rovers with signs that it won't be long before things start to click in place.



ALEX BRITTON

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AGE: **36** PLACE OF BIRTH: **STRETTON** NICKNAME: **BRITT/AB**

HOBBIES/INTEREST OUTSIDE FOOTBALL:
GOING GYM, HOLIDAYS, SPENDING TIME WITH SON

ANY SUPERSTIONS
PRE GAME: **NONE** FAVOURITE FOOD
PRE GAME: **PASTA & A IBUPROFEN**

PLAYING POSITION:
RB/CDM/CM

PREVIOUS CLUBS:
HEANOR, UTTOXETER, STAPENHILL, LOUGHBROUGH, MICKLEOVER, BURTON

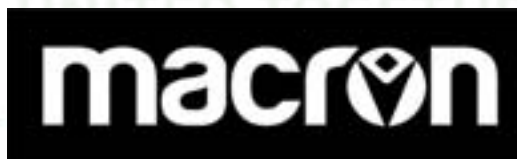
PRO TEAM SUPPORTED GROWING UP: **MAN UNITED**
FAVOURITE FOOTBALLER/HERO: **WAYNE ROONEY**
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL MEMORY: **MAKING MY DEBUT FOR BURTON AT 16 -
AWAY AT FARNBOROUGH**
WORST FOOTBALL MEMORY: **TOO MANY TO NAME**
BEST GROUND PLAYED ON: **BARNET - PITCH WAS LIKE A CARPET**
BEST MATE IN FOOTBALL: **JAMIE SLEIGH**
BEST FOOTBALLER PLAYED WITH: **JOHN BRADFORD**
BEST FOOTBALLER PLAYED AGAINST: **JOE HART**
PET HATE/DISLIKE:
NONE

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: **LINE OF DUTY** FAVOURITE FILM: **SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION** FAVOURITE MUSICIAN/BAND:
DRAKE/ED SHEERAN

FAVOURITE ACTOR:
DENZEL WASHINGTON

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#unitedtogether

At the United Counties Football League,
we believe in making football everyone's
game

MINI BUS FUNDRAISING APPEAL



We are excited to announce the launch of an important fundraising campaign to purchase a much-needed minibus for the club. This initiative aims to provide reliable transportation for all of the club's various teams, as well as support community outreach efforts.

"Many clubs at our level of football have access to their own minibus, and as a board, we've been discussing for a while how great it would be to find a way to fund one of our own," said club Chairman Gary Norton. "Given the tight finances that are common for non-league clubs, we don't have the funds to pay for this ourselves, so we've decided to give a fundraising approach a try."

Currently, the club's various squads, including the First Team, Reserves, U18s, Ladies, Development, and Girls teams, rely on individual lifts when traveling to matches. This places a significant burden on players, parents, and club volunteers. By acquiring a dedicated minibus, the club can help improve these logistics and ensure our teams can focus on performing at their best.

Beyond benefiting the players, the minibus will also strengthen the club's ties with the local community. When not in use by the teams, the minibus will be available to support community initiatives, such as providing transportation for local youth groups, elderly residents, or those with limited mobility. This will make the club's resources more accessible and inclusive for the people of Gresley and surrounding areas.

The fundraising goal is set at £10,000, which will allow the club to purchase a suitable used minibus that can accommodate players, equipment, and additional passengers. This investment in the club's infrastructure will have a lasting impact, enabling Gresley Rovers Football Club to better serve its players and the wider community for years to come.

Over the coming months, the club will be hosting various fundraising events to support the minibus campaign. The club kindly asks for the support of the local community, supporters, volunteers, and local companies. Donations of any size will contribute towards making this minibus a reality and improving the experience and accessibility of Gresley Rovers Football Club.

"Together, we can ensure our teams have the resources they need to succeed on the pitch and our community has access to a valuable asset," added Norton.

For more information and to make a donation, please visit the justgiving page via the link

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gresleyroversfcminibus>

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE BOXING ACADEMY



We have 2 buildings for our club, one with a full sized boxing ring which is great for sparring. This has a mezzanine floor above that overlooks the ring with various exercise equipment including bikes, rowers, treadmills, weights etc. Suitable for all ages of all abilities. The second building has various punch bags hanging and wall mounted perfect for getting plenty of bag work and a very large floor area for pad work, skipping, weights, cardio based exercise and much more. Anyone is welcome whether its to box, train or keep fit and exercise.

**Gym Address: Woodhouse Street Woodville
Swadlincote, Derbyshire
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COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING



Corby & Brian

A return to the Moat for the first team, in what seems like ages, as the matches come thick and fast!

You will have hopefully have seen our appeal to crowdfund for a mini bus for the clubs various teams use. If you can donate please do, if you have a mini bus, you could loan the club, even better.

The new club sponsorship brochure is now available to download on the website and hard copies are available from the club. Please look at how you can help.

We are especially looking for more advertisers in the programme. It is a great way to advertise your business and get new people involved.

There are plenty of opportunities for match sponsorship at the moment. Come have a great day out at the Moat, 10 tickets, name on the programme, social media exposure, drinks in the directors box and a great day out.

We still have players & board members that are looking for sponsors and if your player leaves we will rotate to a new player for you as well.

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Please keep an eye out on our social media for a new platform that will help you do online

purchases of games, player sponsorships etc.

Hopefully some of you listened to the Sports Brew? Hope you enjoyed it and happy to take on any questions and we are also looking for a sponsor for the show?

So let me know if you are interested don't forget just google Burton Radio and you will find us or use the link on the club website.

Don't forget easy crowdfunding when making those online purchases, every bit helps,

Any queries about sponsorship opportunities just give us a shout at the club and we will get in touch with you asap.

Our mascot for today's game is Jamie Roberts. We hope he enjoys the game.



Listen to the latest episode of "Rovers Return" which was broadcast on Monday evening from Burton Radio as part of their Local Sports Brew section. The show goes our live each Monday evening at 7pm and is repeated each Saturday at 2pm and can be access via Burton internet Radio station also known as Microbrew radio via <https://microbrewradio.com>

Listen to the latest episode of "Rovers Return" which was broadcast on Monday evening from Burton Radio as part of their Local Sports Brew section.

You can also catch up on previous shows featuring Ian Collins and Steve Shrive.

A GAME IN EARLY OCTOBER 1961

Central Alliance Premier Division 7th October 1961 Gresley Rovers 3 - 2 Arnold St Mary's Below Best Gresley Left It Late

A dull first half gave no indication of what was to follow in this Central Alliance Premier Division game on the Moat Ground on Saturday, when the Rovers, after being a goal in arrears, came back to win by three goals to two. No one expected that they were to be treated to a second period goal-rush, for the first 45 minutes had produced very little in the way of good attacking football, and both defences had controlled the game.

The Rovers achieved their victory as a result of a series of all-out raids in the closing minutes, which brought a goal from inside right Johnny Hallam. The Gresley forward, although in pain from an injured leg, drove the ball past Ironmonger with a very well-placed shot. However, although this is a story of success it is also one which must have given the Gresley committee food for thought, for the Rovers easily could have won by twice the margin. The reason they did not was lack of cohesion in the forward line, which enabled the Arnold defence to scramble the ball clear on many occasions.

Possibly the rearrangement of the attack was the main cause of the failing, for all the forwards with, perhaps, the exception of out-side left Peter Shaw, seemed unable to give their best. On many occasions passes went astray and the line never really settled down throughout the 90 minutes.

Most disappointing from Gresley's point of view was the first half, which should have produced goals, for the opportunities were always there. It is true that Arnold's defence was very tight, but in spite of this I feel that the Rovers could and should have gained a lead. The reason that it was not, lay for most parts in the poor finishing, which, as I have stated, could have been due to the positional changes made in the side.

But in spite of these shortcomings, Gresley's victory cannot be denied, and it was particularly creditable when one considers that before the match Arnold were above them in the league table. On paper it appeared that a draw was a very likely result, especially when it is remembered that Arnold held Boston United earlier in the season.

Playing his first game for Gresley at left back was recently signed Butler, and he impressed from start

to finish with a series of cool, methodical moves that promise much more for the future. He had the measure of the opposing outside right, Moore, but was often called upon to do more than his fair share of work, as B Hextall had a non-too-successful game at left half.

Taking everything into consideration I am certain that the Rovers could have won more easily than the score suggests, for they were definitely the stronger of the two teams. The lack of co-ordination seemed to induce a feeling of apathy into the side. This did not apply to all the players, of course, and several turned in good performances, but generally, the standard was not as high as we have seen previously this season.

The first half saw few thrills, but shortly before halftime, Hallam put Clarke away, for the centre forward to shoot while on the run. The ball hit a post with tremendous force and had it been inches towards the net, it would have been a certain goal. Seven minutes after the resumption Arnold went ahead through England who took advantage of a Gresley defensive error to tap the ball over the line from close in.

Stung into activity, the Rovers retaliated, and Hallam notched the equaliser three minutes later, with a glorious header from a Clarke centre. This started a ding-dong battle for supremacy and a Gresley victory seemed assured when Shaw put them in the lead in the 70th minute, with a shot from a difficult angle that carried goalkeeper Ironmonger into the net.

But the visitors came back again and put themselves on level terms in the 87th minute through England, who tapped the ball home after Lightfoot had saved a difficult shot but partially dropped the ball.

The realisation that victory could slip from their grasp gave Gresley the incentive to mount strong attacks, one of which led to John Hallam's goal in the 89th minute. The inside right seized the ball and drove it between the posts.

Gresley Rovers: Lightfoot, Cashmore, Butler, P Boulton, Rowe, Hextall, J Boulton, Hallam, Clarke, Fitchett, Shaw.

Referee: PD Hughes (Derby)

Gate receipts: £23.10s

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EASTWOOD CFC MATCH REPORT

On a very damp evening Gresley Rovers and Eastwood CFC played out an entertaining match on the 3G pitch.

Both sides played their part in an end-to-end encounter with the home side threatening first when Tyler Blake fired straight at Rovers' keeper Louie Turner. The action flew to the other end with a fine pass from Ryan King laying the ball up for Kane Lee who had his shot parried by Sam Wilson.

Jenson Cooper had his shot deleted for Rovers and they went even closer on 10 minutes when Lee hit a thunderous shot which left Wilson a spectator only to see the ball crash against the bar.

Eastwood took the lead six minutes later when Blake held off his marker, turned and somehow managed to squeeze his low shot between Turner and the near post. The goal prompted more end-to-end action with Phil Watt heading a free kick wide and Gresley legend Aaron O'Connor having a shot pushed away.

With the first half almost up Rovers had a couple of chances themselves. The first fell to King who fired at the keeper and then a good passage of play saw Dylan Hunniford put the ball through to King who's cross from the left was inches away from Lee running into the box.

The second half opened in a similar pattern as the first had ended with the play flowing from one end to the other with Eastwood forcing two corners in

succession which were well defended.

Eastwood made their first changes with Will Gillies replacing Jermain Hollis and Oliver Robinson coming on for Lavell White, but it was Rovers who were pressing hard looking for an equaliser. Lee hit a shot on the turn at Wilson followed by him firing just wide of the target.

Both sides made changes with Jacob Sturgess replacing King for Rovers and Ryan Tait replacing Billy Bennett for the home side.

On 81 minutes Rovers succeeded in getting the goal their play deserved. Cooper latched on to the ball and raced forward and seeing Willson coming off his line he lifted a delicate lob over the keeper and into net despite the attention of two defenders trying to prevent it, his first goal in a Rovers shirt.

The game almost turned against Rovers when Sturgess brought down Blake in the area with just four minutes of regular time remaining. Who should step up to take the penalty kick was no other than O'Conner. Normally a sure cert for a goal he somehow managed to sky his shot well over the bar.

Rovers almost snatched a winner when Banton, having his best game in a Rovers shirt, ran into the area from the left before forcing Wilson into a fine save.

The referee drew the game to an end and too be honest a draw was arguably the right result.





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Harry & Kath's Bar

Gresley Rovers's Social Club, known as Harry's & Kath's Bar, is situated in the Moat Ground and is open for all games Saturday's and Midweek.

So why not join us for a drink when you visit Gresley Rovers

Payment by card is available.

Sunday Coaching Club!

WHAT?

Progressive football sessions that cover all elements including: Passing, shooting, dribbling in a fun and relaxed environment for all abilities.

WHO?

Children between 4-11 years old

WHERE?

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November 3rd at The Moat Ground with a 15:00 kick off. It is free entry, and you are all welcome to get behind the team. The bar will be open as you will definantly need a drink after watching us play. We are also training every Thursday at Greenbank starting at 8pm. This gives us a chance to have a good laugh and run about.

to Bingo please let me know and we will plan it where possible.

Up The Rovers
Steve

Good afternoon all and welcome to The Moat for today's game. It feels like forever since our last home game (3-1 win Shirebrook Town). Results however in that period have been hard to come by. Hopefully now as the squad begins to settle and the stadium ban of Thommo has been lifted we can now start to galvanise and push on. Today's visitors sit one place above us having played less games and have only lost three games to date.

September's club draw took place last Saturday and was our best one yet. We had 140 players and the payouts were huge, with Harrison Solomon taking home the top prize of £350.

Club Draw for July
£350 - 124 Harrison Solomon
£150 - 6 Ray Lock
£75 - 64 Russ Roome
£75 - 39 Matt Wildsmith
£50 - 91 James Smith

We will be hosting a Ghoulish Bingo on October 19th following the Deeping Rangers game. All prizes will be paid out in cash and all proceeds go direct to the club. So come and join us for a night of entertainment regardless of age. There will be plenty for the children to do whilst the adults have their eyes down for a full house. The following event will be the Christmas Fayre and we are on the lookout for stall holders, regardless of what you sell you will be made more than welcome at our event.

The Supporters Club football team will play Briggs on

Gresley Rovers
Monthly Club Draw
(Drawn on the last Saturday of the month)

£10 Per Month Per Number

1st Prize £350
2nd Prize £150
3rd Prize £75
4th Prize £75
5th Prize £50

For more details or to join
Contact Steve Shrive
07792 461876

We continue to search for more entants to hit our 150 players by the end of the season. For £10 a month you are in with a chance to win fabulous monthly cash prizes. The next draw will be October 26th following the Skegness game.

We are also looking for fresh ideas to support our fundraising, if you have something that youd like to see us do from Santa Fun Run



MEET THE UCL

The United Counties League covers an area including the English counties of northern Bedfordshire, northern Buckinghamshire, most of Cambridgeshire, southern Derbyshire, southern Leicestershire, most of Lincolnshire, western Norfolk, Northamptonshire, southern Nottinghamshire, northern Oxfordshire, Rutland, eastern Staffordshire, eastern Warwickshire and eastern West Midlands.

It has a total of five divisions, three for first teams and two for reserve teams, but the reserves' divisions were merged into a single division for the 2013–14 season and remains so at present. Clubs in the Premier Divisions are eligible to enter the FA Cup in the preliminary round stages. The clubs in the league are eligible for the FA Vase, and there are knockout cups for the Premier/Division One clubs and for the Reserve Divisions clubs.

History

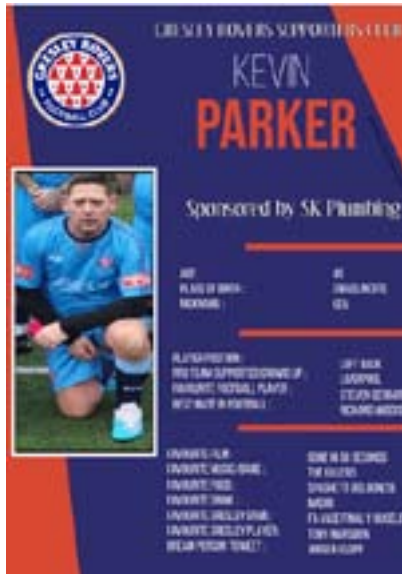
The United Counties League was formed in 1895 as the Northamptonshire Junior League, dropping the 'Junior' one year later. It took its current name in 1934 as teams from other counties had long since been a part of the league. Over the years the UCL has 'united' teams from Northamptonshire, Rutland and Bedfordshire with those from parts of Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire,

Huntingdonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and even Norfolk.

Northampton Town joined the league in 1897 and became champions in their second season before moving up to the Southern League. They would become the league's first former member to reach the Football League in 1920. In 1900 Bedford Queens became the first club from outside the county to join the league. The Football Association announced on 12 April 2021 that United Counties League would administer a new Step 5 division since the 2021–22 season after the scheduled National League System restructure had a one-season postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Step 5

The league has two divisions at level 9 (step 5) of the National League System (NLS). Member clubs take part in cup competitions organised by the county FA to which they are affiliated and other cup competitions. The north division has 20 clubs, feeding into the Northern Premier League Division One Midlands and East. The south division has 20 clubs, feeding into the Northern Premier League Division One Midlands and Southern Football League Division One Central.





Sandiacre Town (h)
Derbyshire Senior Cup 1st Rnd
Tuesday 8th October - 7.45pm

The only time we've played Town was in the Derbyshire Senior Cup on 16th March 1998 which we won 1-0 through a Paul Grant goal



Newark Town (a)
Saturday 12th October - 3pm

YMCA Sports Village,
Lord Hawke Way,
off Bowbridge Road,
Newark,
Notts. NG24 4FH

Travel Time: 1hrs 8mins approx



Kimberley MW (h)
Tuesday 15th October - 7.45pm

Despite being formed nearly 100 years ago, our records show that Kimberley have never visited the Moat Ground.

Our visit to Kimberley was an exciting game. Three down in the first 30 mins we came back to level in the second half and almost snatched all three points



Deeping Rangers (h)
Saturday 19th October - 3pm

The last we played Rangers at the Moat was on 13th November 2021 which ended in a 1-1 draw. Ste Hart equalised with a trade mark rocket in the second half.

Fixtures subject to change

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GRESLEY ROVERS HISTORY

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

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"



Hello, and welcome back to the Moat Ground!

Our season is well underway for all of our teams from reserves down to our under 13's, with our 13's – 16's starting last weekend in the Midland Junior Premier League.

Our u13's started their first season with us last weekend after a successful trial period all the players and put in a positive performance at home vs Blaby & Whetstone. It's really an exciting time for the new group.

Our reserve team have had some mixed fortunes in terms of results since the start of the Central Midlands Alliance Premier.

With a packed schedule of Saturday and Tuesday games throughout August and so far in September, it's not allowed the team to train with many of our younger players in the squad (some still only 16), adapting to the challenges of playing senior football.

To find out more around all of our squads, follow our social media:

X: @GresleyAcademy
Facebook: Gresley Rovers Academy

Under 18's through to next round of the FA Youth Cup

Congratulations to our under 18's who last week went through to the next round of the FA Youth Cup beating Long Eaton United 4-3 at home.

Gresley were in control for the majority of the game, however lapses in concentration allowed Long Eaton back into the game.

Goals from Sheene Gordon, Stevie Savage, Davis Kommey and Evan Wynne secured the victory.

The under 18's have been drawn away against Birstall United Social in the next preliminary round on Thursday 19th September.

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

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

Enjoy today's game and Come on you Moatmen!

Matt Toulson
Director of Football (Youth Development) and Community



2024-2025 TABLES

United Counties Premier League North

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Eastwood CFC	12	9	2	1	36	8	29
2	Lincoln United	12	9	1	2	30	11	28
3	Bourne Town	11	7	2	2	27	12	23
4	AFC Mansfield	11	7	1	3	24	16	22
5	Belper United	12	7	1	4	30	25	22
6	Melton Town	10	6	3	1	27	13	21
7	Newark Town	11	5	4	2	25	16	19
8	Boston Town	12	6	0	6	12	16	18
9	Heanor Town	9	5	2	2	16	10	17
10	Skegness Town	12	5	1	6	16	16	16
11	Harrowby United	12	5	1	6	24	25	16
12	Sleaford Town	11	5	1	5	18	20	16
13	Newark & Sherwood	9	4	2	3	21	19	14
14	Gresley Rovers	12	3	3	6	20	27	12
15	Hucknall Town	11	3	1	7	14	23	10
16	Shirebrook Town	11	2	2	7	11	28	8
17	Wisbech Town	12	2	1	9	16	37	7
18	Ashby Ivanhoe	9	1	3	5	7	16	6
19	Kimberley Miners Welfare	10	1	2	7	15	27	5
20	Deeping Rangers	9	0	1	8	5	29	1

Last updated: 11pm, Tuesday 1st October 2024

Derbyshire Ladies League Division 2

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Castle Donington	4	4	0	0	34	3	12
2	Gresley Rovers	5	3	1	1	14	17	10
3	Hilton Harriers	4	2	0	2	10	13	6
4	Belper Town Ladies	5	2	0	3	11	27	6
5	Matlock Town	2	1	1	0	10	5	4
6	Bakewell Town Juniors	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
7	Stanton Ilkeston	4	0	1	3	4	12	1
8	Ashbourne	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Last updated: 7pm, Sunday 29th September 2024

Central Midlands Alliance Premier Division South

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	South Normanton Athletic	8	8	0	0	39	6	24
2	Linby Colliery	10	8	0	2	31	9	24
3	Melbourne Dynamo	9	8	0	1	22	6	24
4	Graham Street Prims	9	7	0	2	21	7	21
5	Cromford & Worksworth Town	9	6	2	1	27	10	20
6	Wirksworth Ivanhoe	10	6	2	2	28	18	20
7	Mickleover	9	4	0	5	17	20	12
8	Derby Singh Brothers	12	3	2	7	20	26	11
9	Arnold Town	8	3	1	4	18	19	10
10	Holbrook St Michaels	6	3	1	2	7	8	10
11	Mansfield Hosiery Mills	10	3	1	6	20	34	10
12	Holbrook Sports	11	2	3	6	12	26	9
13	Mickleover RBL	7	2	2	3	13	14	8
14	AFC Normanton	10	2	2	6	18	26	8
15	Bakewell Town	8	2	1	5	10	20	7
16	Gresley Rovers	10	1	1	8	12	40	4
17	Teversall	10	1	0	9	9	35	3

Last updated: 8pm, Saturday 28th September 2024

Leicestershire Midweek Floodlit Youth League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Gresley Rovers	2	2	0	0	13	5	6
2	Heather St Johns	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
3	Mountsorrel Juniors	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
4	Holwell Sports	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
5	Kirby Muxioe Midweek	2	1	0	1	11	2	3
6	Ashby Ivanhoe Knights	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7	Quorn	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
8	Coalville Town Ravens	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
9	Birstall United Social	2	0	0	2	2	11	0
10	Graham Street Prims	2	0	0	2	2	14	0

Last updated: 10pm, Wednesday 25th September 2024

League Top Five Scorers

Name	Team	Goals
Kieran Cummings	Newark & Sherwood	17
Ryan Ingram	AFC Mansfield	17
William Bird	Bourne Town	13
Ryan Smith	Newark Town	11
Niall Towle	Hucknall Town	10

Last updated: 11pm, Tuesday 1st October 2024

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