

Welcome to Westwood Road

Evo-Stik League South Premier Central Saturday 15 September 2018 3:00 pm

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From the Editor's Desk

Good afternoon and may I extend a warm welcome to the officials, players, supporters of Stourbridge and to the match day officials for this Evo-Stik South Premier Central fixture. I hope you enjoy your short stay with us followed by a safe journey home.

Tuesday's replay against Saffron Walden, for me, was a typical feisty, full blooded FA Cup tie with strong challenges, desire, commitment and plenty of passion. We took the lead on 17 minutes and right on the 45 mark Walden had a player sent off. When we doubled the lead around the hour mark, courtesy of a Jarvis Wilson header, it did look as though it was game over. However, less than a minute later Walden pulled one back and it was 'squeaky bum' time right up until we made it safe with a third goal late in the game. We will now play Grantham Town of the Northern Premier League in the 2nd Qualifying Round here at WWR next Saturday, 3pm kick off. Please note that season tickets will not be valid for this game.

The FA have also increased the prize money for the competition this year. We were awarded £6000 for beating Saffron Walden and £9000 is up for grabs in the next round. It is certainly not to be sniffed at. I do believe that for once the FA have got their act together with regards to looking after the non-league clubs in this competition and not focusing and the big boys of whom don't give the FA Cup much regard anymore unless they get in to the last 4 with nothing else to play for. Right, rant over!

We welcome Stourbridge to WWR for the first time today. We met last season at the War Memorial Ground for a Sunday encounter in the FA Cup with The Glassboys coasting to a 2-0 victory. I am in no doubt that we are in for another tough encounter today. However, I honestly believe that we have a much stronger bonded team this time round and there is no reason if we play as well as we have done so far this season, we can come away with the 3 points on offer.

As always let's get behind the lads and be the twelfth man.

Enjoy the game & Up the Ives!!

Dave

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Introducing today's visitors - Stourbridge FC

"The Glassboys" were founded in 1876 and were originally known as Stourbridge Standard. Top honours eluded the club until the 1887-88 season when the Kidderminster Cup and the Worcester Charity Cup was won. By that time, it is known that that the club had changed its name to "Stourbridge Football Club" and were competing in the Birmingham and District League, where reasonable success was achieved without actually gaining the league title, but the Worcestershire Senior Cup was won on three occasions.

The 1923-24 season was one of the best in the club's history, when the Birmingham League championship was clinched by finishing seven points clear of Shrewsbury and the Worcestershire Senior Cup was won yet again.

After the Second World War, "The Glassboys" (reflecting the town's connection with the Cut Glass industry) enjoyed a particularly successful period with the Birmingham Combination Championship achieved in 1952 and the Birmingham, Worcestershire and Herefordshire Senior Cups were also won too during this particular era.

The club returned to the Birmingham League in 1954 on the disbanding of the Birmingham Combination and were runners-up in 1955-56. The Birmingham Senior Cup was won for a second time in 1958-59 and later, the 1967-68 season saw the club achieve a 'double' in lifting both the Worcestershire and Birmingham Senior Cups.

INTO THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE

In 1971 the club was elected to the expanding Southern League and soon enjoyed success under manager Alan Grundy in the 1973-74 season, with the Division 1 (North) title and the Merit Cup (for the league's highest goalscorers) coming to Amblecote. Twin strikers, Ray Haywood and Chic Bates, each notched 50 goals that season and were transferred to Shrewsbury Town, where Bates served 13 years as both player and manager.

Another highlight in 1973-74 was a tremendous run in the Welsh Cup, in which we disposed of both Swansea and Wrexham on their own grounds and then faced Cardiff City in a two-leg final. A record crowd of 5,726 saw the Glassboys lose the home leg 1-0 and then also go down 1-0 at Ninian Park.

Four seasons were spent in the Premier Division of the Southern League between 1974 and 1984, but little of note was achieved except for a Worcestershire Senior Cup Final victory over Kidderminster Harriers in 1981. Two centre-forwards were also sold, Steve Cooper to Torquay and Tony Cunningham to Lincoln City during this time.

Subsequent Midland Division form was mediocre too, despite three good F.A. Cup runs, and a disastrous run of results in 1987-88 led to a relegation spot, however fortune was on the club's side and we were reelected to the League in the close season.

Stourbridge then went on from strength to strength, culminating in winning the Midland Division Championship in 1991 under the managership of John Chambers. But disappointment followed when Southern League officials refused promotion due to the shared use of the Ground with the Cricket Club.

1992-93 also proved to be a truly remarkable season. Our league form was inconsistent, however following a memorable run in the Barclays Commercial Services (Southern League) Cup we reached the final, where despite the resignation of John Chambers as manager in the lead-up, we upset the form book by recording a 3-2 aggregate success over Southern League Premier Division champions Dover Athletic to win the trophy.

After a mixed start to the 1995-96 season, the Club parted company with boss Colin Gordon at Christmas and then Chairman Morton Bartleet took control of team affairs. He led the side to the 1996 Worcestershire Senior Cup final where the Glassboys lost 4-3 on aggregate to Bromsgrove Rovers.

October 1997 saw a new Chairman at the club and many impressive signings for the 1998-99 season were made under the guidance of a new manager, Steve Daniels. However early season success proved short lived as budget cutbacks then saw many of the more experienced players move on. The club finished in mid-table and shortly after the end of the season, Daniels resigned as manager, and player/coach Micky Guest was promoted as his successor.

The club suffered a torrid few months on and off the pitch at the start of the 1999-2000 season and Micky Guest resigned. Meanwhile a new owner came to the club, and swiftly appointed Mark Serrell as Chairman and Mark Harrison as Manager. Despite an influx of new players, continued poor results meant the bell finally tolled on our 29-year spell at Southern League level with defeat in the last game of the season at

Hinckley United in May 2000.

We began our inaugural season in the Midland Football Alliance on a more optimistic note as we looked to re-group. We eventually finished in 5th spot in the league, but the highlight of the 2000-01 season was the capture of the MFA Davis League Cup. We emerged victorious over Bridgnorth Town following a dramatic penalty shoot-out after the final had finished in a 1-1 draw, to collect our first silverware for eight years.

The 2001-02 season began well with the lifting of the Joe McGorian Cup after a 2-1 victory at League Champions Stourport. In November 2001, however, the club parted company with Mark Harrison, with the former Bilston Town boss Joe Jackson subsequently taking over as manager. We remained amongst the front-runners in the League despite an inevitable transitional phase and on the final Saturday of the season, we were crowned champions in dramatic fashion as a last gasp stoppage time goal by Brian Gray earned the point we needed at Stafford Town to pip Bromsgrove to the title.

Joe Jackson again led the club to the Midland Football Alliance Championship in 2002-03. Our record total of 101 league points only just being sufficient to overcome the strong challenge of Rushall Olympic and Stratford Town. The Joe McGorian Cup had earlier been retained after a 2-0 win at Rushall. Promotion though proved beyond us again due to the ground grading regulations in place at the time.

Joe Jackson declined to try and lead us to a hat trick of titles in 2003-04 and was replaced by Jon Ford and Gary Hackett, who had enjoyed two successful seasons in charge at Bromsgrove. The new management team had to rebuild the side from scratch, but an encouraging second half of the season saw the Glassboys finish a creditable 9th.

In 2004-05 we enjoyed a memorable run in the F.A. Vase to reach the last 8 of the competition. We put up a tremendous display at AFC Sudbury in the quarter-final before finally succumbing to a 4-1 defeat after extra time. In the league, we were well placed for a title push at the turn of the year, but after our exit from the Vase in early March we suffered a terrible run of results which meant that we slipped down the league table and eventually finished in 8th place.

In May 2005 Gary Hackett took sole charge of the team after Jon Ford decided to step down due to work and family commitments. With a re-organisation of the non-league pyramid at Step 4 level on the cards, we looked to mount a strong push for promotion. Off the pitch, concerted efforts were made to enable the club to meet the new F A ground grading requirements by April 1st. A superb run of results after Xmas lifted us into the title race and entering the last week of the season, a league and cup 'double' was still achievable, but we went down to a 1-0 defeat to Willenhall Town in the Final of the Birmingham Senior Cup and then four days later, we were pipped to the MFA title by Chasetown and had to settle for the runners-up spot. Mark Bellingham had hit 61 goals for the season to break the club record, while his tally of 48 goals in the MFA also smashed the league record. An anxious two-week gap followed before we received confirmation of promotion and a return to the Southern League after six years at the lower level.

In our first season back in the Southern League Midlands Division, a respectable 7th place finish in 2006-07 was achieved. We also reached the final of the Worcestershire Senior Cup, but following a goal-less draw at Amblecote in the first leg of the final against Evesham United, we were somewhat unluckily beaten 2 - 1 aet away in the second leg.

in the 2007-08 season, an excellent run of results during March and April saw us seal a third-place finish in the Midlands Division to reach the play-offs. A narrow 1 - 0 win at home to Sutton Coldfield took us through to the Final away at second placed Leamington and in front of a crowd of 1.634, a stunning goal from Leon Broadhurst four minutes from the end of extra-time sealed a 2 - 1 victory to earn us a second promotion in three seasons and a return to the Premier Division of the Southern League after a gap of 24 years!

After a difficult start to our return to the Premier Division, we eventually acclimatized to life at the higher level and we secured another season in the Premier Division with a final placing of 16th. We also reached our third senior cup final in four seasons with a fine run in the Birmingham Senior Cup, however we once again suffered heartbreak in the final as Hednesford Town defeated us 2 - 0 at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium.

In 2009-10 Gary Hackett became the first Stourbridge manager to take the club through to the First Round Proper of the F A Cup with the Glassboys earning a home tie with Walsall. In front of a crowd of 2,014 at the War Memorial Athletic Ground the Saddlers ran out narrow 1 - 0 winners on a momentous day for the club. Some excellent results in the second half of the campaign also saw Stourbridge finish in 9th place in the league.

2010-11 saw the Glassboys taste cup final success as we defeated Worcester City 2 - 0 to lift the Worcestershire Senior Cup at Kidderminster Harriers. Another solid Premier Division campaign ended with Stourbridge finishing 8th.

In 2011-12 we reached the First Round Proper of the F A Cup for the second time in three seasons and after a fabulous 3 - 3 draw away at League Two outfit Plymouth Argyle, a crowd of 2,519 saw the Glassboys defeat the Devon club 2 - 0 at Amblecote in front of the ESPN cameras to reach the 2nd Round Proper for the first time in our long history, but our glorious run was finally ended by Stevenage who won 3 - 0 at Stourbridge in-front of an attendance of 3,067. The Glassboys also remained in contention for the league play-offs, however a draw at Frome Town in our final fixture saw us just miss out on goal difference as we ended another memorable campaign in 6th place.

We got our 2012-13 campaign off to a winning start too as a 1 - 0 victory away at Kidderminster Harriers enabled us to retain the Worcestershire Senior Cup in a Final carried over from the previous season, but our early season form was wildly up and down. From December onwards though, we showed more consistency and a strong final run-in saw us clinch the runners up spot in the Premier Division. The Worcestershire Senior Cup was won for a third successive time in April 2013, but we needed penalties to overcome Redditch United after the final at St George's Lane had ended goal-less, however a week later we suffered play-off heartbreak as we were beaten 2 – 1 at home by Gosport Borough in the semi-finals to miss out on the chance of promotion.

In 2013-14 the club managed to reach the competition Proper stages of the F A Cup once again. A 4-1 home victory over league rivals Biggleswade Town in the 1st Round Proper earned us an away tie at Stevenage where we bowed out after a 4-0 defeat. In the league, a last day draw at Hitchin Town secured 5^{th} spot and a play-off place for a second successive season, however in the semi-final we were beaten 2-1 at league runners-up Chesham United.

We were moved across the pyramid structure for the 2014-15 season to become members of the Northern Premier League for the first time in the club's history. In an ultimately disappointing campaign, a dismal run of one win in our last 17 league games saw us eventually finish in 16th place.

A host of new signings over the following summer gave the side a fresh look for 2015-16. Another remarkable run in the F A Cup, which included victories over non-league top flight sides Kidderminster Harriers and Dover Athletic saw the club reach the Second Round Proper once again before going down 2 - 0 to Eastleigh in-front of 2,086 at the War Memorial Athletic Ground and we also reached the last sixteen of the F A Trophy before succumbing to Nantwich Town. There was some late season disappointment, however, when defeats in our last two league games saw us consigned to a 6th place finish, therefore narrowly missing out on the play-offs.

The club once again enjoyed success in the F A Cup in 2016-17. In the 2nd Round Proper the Glassboys defeated League One club Northampton Town at home 1-0, in front of a crowd of 2,520, to famously reach the 3rd Round Proper for the first time in our history, where with the backing of over 2,000 travelling fans, we fell to a narrow 2-1 defeat away at Wycombe Wanderers. Soon afterwards defender Dan Scarr was sold to Birmingham City for a five-figure sum. A strong April saw us finish 3rd in the Premier Division to secure a play-off berth, but after overcoming Workington at home in the semi-finals, we lost 1-0 away to league runners-up Spennymoor Town in the play-off final to miss out on promotion.

The 2017-18 campaign saw the Glassboys have mixed fortunes in the league, eventually ending in 10th place, but the club reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the F A Cup and 2nd Round proper of the F A Trophy and the season ended on a high note with the lifting of the Birmingham Senior Cup with a 2 - 1 win over Hednesford Town in the Final played at St Andrew's.

The Club returns to the Southern League for 2018-19 as a member of the newly created Premier Division Central with hopes high for a strong campaign.

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The magic of the War League Cup by Stuart Fuller (@theballisround)

On the 1st September 1939, Adolf Hilter invaded Poland, sparking outrage across Europe and in the corridors of power in Westminster. However, twenty four hours later, the third "round" of games in the Football League took place as normal with barely a murmur of concern for events that were to unfold in the next few years. On that Saturday Blackpool's 2-1 at Bloomfield Road meant they had won three out of three in the Football League Division one, just a point ahead of Sheffield United and Arsenal.

A few hours later, on Sunday 3rd September, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany and ordered an immediate ban on the assembly of crowds for safety reasons. Faced with a potential long campaign, the Football League announced that the 1939/40 season would be terminated with immediate effect. Whilst Blackpool (and Luton Town in the Second, Accrington Stanley in the Third North and Reading in the Third South) topped their division, they were not awarded any trophy.

However, regulations were soon relaxed and the government announced that football could return but with maximum capacities of 8,000 and no travel outside a fifty mile radius. So the guys at the Football League got their thinking caps on and came up with the idea of a cup competition instead of a league competition. And so was born the Football League War Cup.

The competition consisted of 137 games (including replays) which commenced in October and were all complete bar the final by January 1940. However, with London under constant threat of the commencement of bombing raids, no floodlights could be used and so it was decided to play the final during the summer months. The date was set as Saturday 8th June 1940, with West Ham United and Blackburn Rovers due to contest the final at Wembley Stadium. However, on the 10th May the Germans pushed into France and the threat of invasion increased.

But the English showed their stiff upper lip and carried on regardless, turning out in numbers for the final. Over 40,000 spectators filed into Wembley Stadium to see Sam Small score the only goal for the Hammers and they became the first ever winners of the new trophy, commissioned by the Football League. It is reported that after the game there was no official reception for the team but instead they headed back to Upton Park for a "few pints in the Boleyn".

The following season saw the commencement of bombing raids on Britain, with London heavily hit. But football still carried on, as the government saw it as "good for morale". The War Cup provided a great tonic for many Londoners who had been almost under siege for months and in May 1941 the second final took place at Wembley with over 60,000 coming out to see Preston North End take on Arsenal. A Denis Compton goal for the Gunners was enough to earn them a replay at Ewood Park where over 45,000 saw the Lancastrians run out 2-1 winners, who featured a very young Bill Shankley in their line up.

The cup was still an important part of "business as usual" in England during the almost daily bombing raids. Attendances remained very high, and a number of clubs had players on active military duty, returning to the first team when they came back to Blighty. The Football League kept tinkering with the format in the next few years, firstly introducing a two legged final (won by Wolves 6-3 against Sunderland), and then in 1943 with Northern and Southern Finals with the winners meeting at Stamford Bridge (won by Blackpool who beat Arsenal).

In 1944 with the threat of bombing still high the title was shared between Aston Villa and Charlton

Athletic after a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge. The southern semi-final saw Charlton beat Chelsea in front of over 85,000 at Wembley which caused some panic for the authorities.

Whilst the Second World War didn't finish until September 1945 when the Japanese forces surrendered, the war in Europe effectively ended in May of the same year, meaning the cup in that year was the last time it was ever held. On the 2nd June 1945 35,000 people saw Bolton Wanderers beat Chelsea 2-1 to win the cup which fortunately since has never been competed for.

Whilst Portsmouth's 4-1 over Wolverhampton Wanderers in May 1939 was officially the last FA Cup final until 1946, many will class the War Cup as a continuation of the competition. It cannot be underestimated the effect the cup had on morale of the English general public and for that reason it will always have a special place in the history of our game.



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TRAVELLERS TALES - By Brian Buck

39th game of the season. (Match 12,719) Monday 13th August 2018. Tottenham Hotspur U23 1 West Ham United U23 3 (Played at Stevenage) (Premier League 2 Division 1) att 724. As we walked from the car park opposite to the ground, we noticed that no progress had been made on the new north stand. Instead there was an advertising hoarding advertising 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Perhaps the club have changed their minds! Once inside the ground we noticed further changes to the advertising boards. MBDA missiles are no longer on sale, although the company is still advertised. Perhaps there's been a run on them! Before a ball was kicked tonight I thought that on paper this looked a decent Spurs side. In fact I commented on this to a friend saying that now that they are a year older perhaps they will be able to compete better against some of the other sides who somehow seem to field older teams. Last season only a good run in the final few months of the season stopped them from getting relegated. Tonight they started off well, taking the lead on 6 minutes when a diagonal shot went in off the post. In this period Spurs had a lot of possession and they looked good, except in the final third of the pitch, where the wrong pass selection allowed West Ham to regroup and thus blunt their attack. Had Spurs been more adventurous, either in shooting earlier or in producing a better final ball then they could have had quite a few goals. But in parallel to this match other things were happening and while play was in progress we learned that Spurs will not be playing Liverpool at the new ground on 15th September and in fact at the time of writing it's not known when the first game will be played there. Meanwhile, back to the game and if you are one of those people who like to go for you half time cuppa two minutes before half time and then return three minutes after the restart then you would have gone home thinking that Spurs had won this match 1-0. But actually Xanda Silva scored a hattrick for West Ham in this period, firstly on 43 minutes and then 22 seconds into the second half and finally on 48 minutes. Spurs then lost confidence and looked poor. In the first half I partially blame the management for getting the tactics wrong. In the second half I felt that the players could have done a bit better. West Ham fans will be rightly pleased and happy!

40. (12,720) Tuesday 14th August 2018. Potton United 1 Newport Pagnell Town 1 (Future Lions United Counties League Reserve Division) att 42. Although the first team have been 'put' into the Spartan South Midlands League this season, their reserves have stayed in the United Counties League. Even though they don't actually have a permanent manager at present, they have acquired a player assistant manager in Neil Crook, who comes from Ware and is actually a policeman! So it was then that in the first half and on a pitch which is gradually becoming fully green again after some recent rain, the visitors looked the better side in the first half. They got players into good attacking positions when in possession, whereas Potton, who saw just as much of the ball, didn't as much. So it was no great surprise when Pagnell took the lead on 30 minutes. The second half saw Potton in a far more attacking mode and they equalised on 56 minutes. I'm still mystified as to how this goal was scored as I was told that the ball crossed the line before hitting the post! The local VAR expert, the Pagnell lino, who was up with play, gave it after the ref ran across to confirm it with him. Then the impressive Jim Burnside went off with a head injury. Word was that the ref asked him where he was bleeding from, to which he allegedly replied, "Shefford!" In an increasgly exciting game Potton tried for the winner before Pagnell did the same towards the end, forcing one excellent save from the evergreen Aaron Loney. Overall a thoroughly enjoyable match and yet again proof that reserve matches can be just as exciting as first team games.

41. (12,721) Wednesday 15th August 2018. St Neots Town Reserves 0 Fulbourn Institute 6 (Kershaw Premier League) att 60 approx. Having been relegated from Spartan South Midlands League Division 1 at the end of last season, St Neots were expecting to be in Division 2 of that league this season. But the FA had other ideas and moved them into the Kershaw League instead. I'm not totally sure if they agreed with it or not, but from a travelling point of view it makes sense, although some consider that they would have benefitted just as much by being put into the Beds County League. So this was their first league match of the season and soon they were up against it and by the 22nd minute they were 3-0 down against an experienced Fulbourn side. Ironically, had I watched the match at Gamlingay United before this one then I would have probably missed all three goals. At this stage of the game Fulbourn looked very good, but as the half wore on so St Neots started to see more of the ball, without really looking like scoring. They were much better after the break and possibly had more possession than Fulbourn for much of the half. But two things were now happening.

Firstly some St Neots tackles were starting to fly in and I for one was pleased when the excellent ref, Chris Abbott, well supported by the husband and wife lino's, booked their number 4 on 67 minutes. But this had more to do with the fact that he nearly decapitated me with a 100mph clearance minutes earlier! If he had a brain he'd be dangerous! Secondly, in pushing forward so much St Neots were now leaving gaps at the back and in the last 15 minutes Fulbourn scored thrice more without really needing to up their game. On the night St Neots didn't seem to have anyone up front likely to score goals. But this was an enjoyable watchable game, as many in the Kershaw League are.

42. (12,722) Thursday 16th August 2018. Watford Ladies 3 Stevenage Ladies 1 (Friendly Match) (Played at Kings Langley) att 243. My only other visit here occurred on 19 August 1997 when I watched Kings Langley lose 3-2 to Chipperfield Corinthians in a Herts Senior County League Premier Division match, att 65 approx. Since then the club have moved through the ranks and in recent years they have been promoted several times and now play Step 3 football in the Southern League. Unsurprisingly the ground has changed a lot since then, although I later found some older pictures on the internet which jogged my memory a bit. The attendance here was surprisingly big and I was unable to park in the club car park, despite arriving very early for the game. However it seems that a lot of the spaces were taken up by the Kings Langley mens side who were here training. So I decamped to a nearby layby instead. We sat in the sizeable main stand and just before kick off what seemed to be the clubs academy side turned up with notepads and their mentor/coach. For one moment I thought we were going to get a running commentary on the match. But although Watford and Stevenage for that matter, were decent sides they didn't do that much worth trying to imitate! On a lush pitch there was early drama when on about ten minutes the Stevenage keeper suffered an injury, possibly to her hand, which prevented her taking any further part in the game. She was replaced by a sub off the bench, who clearly wasn't a keeper. Within two minutes she had conceded a goal and was beaten again two minutes after that. The a third one went in four minutes later. At this point double figures seemed likely. But once the new keeper settled she handled the ball well and hers and the teams confidence grew, to the point where Stevenage pulled a goal back on 45(+2) minutes. After the break Stevenage seemed to change their keeper again with their captain taking over. Later during the half she too was replaced. In this period Stevenage saw as much of the ball as Watford, although I think that the hosts were still just the better side. But we left the game thinking that Watford might not have scored all of those three goals in guick succession had the original keeper been able to stay on the pitch! Overall a good night out and with all the inter changing of goalkeepers it was also a good evening for connoisseurs of sports bras!

43. (12,723) Friday 17th August 2018. Godmanchester Rovers 1 Histon 3 (Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division) att 267. This game was just about a local derby and the participants know each other very well. A feisty game was expected and the large crowd would have gone away unsatisfied had it not been so. In fact I suspect that many of those present came expecting a passionate encounter and they were not disappointed. All of the goals were scored at the start and towards the end of the match. A header indirectly from a corner gave Histon the lead on 14 minutes, but Goddy were level three minutes later, but not before the lino initially raised his flag for offside, a decision overturned by the ref. This was a bit strange as surely the lino had the best view? Although these goals got both sides motivated nothing much more happened in the first half. The first twenty five minutes of the second half were quiet also. But on 71 minutes the match suddenly came to life again when I witnessed the best goal I'd seen so far this season. It was scored by Histon, but came from a long Goddy throw in into the Histon box. It was cleared up field to the eventual scorer, who received the ball, turned his man and set off for goal. He outpaced his markers and shot home from near the edge of the area. A third goal, almost as good, arrived five minutes later when the scorer had his shot at goal blocked. But the rebound came back to him and from a narrow angle he shot home with the outside of his boot. Then three minutes later we had a sending off. A hard Histon tackle saw the recipient react by blatantly pushing his assailant in the back, who made sure that the ref saw it and gave him his second yellow card. But he went one better and red carded him, with the Histon player getting booked. This was the right decision according to the laws of the game, but with all the pushing and shoving that had gone on before, this didn't look quite right. By giving him his second yellow it would have still got him off the pitch. Anyway this was a decent spectacle and I'm glad I went. It's good to see Histon now starting to reverse their downward trend of a few seasons ago.

Player Profiles - Stourbridge FC

JAMES WREN

A highly regarded goalkeeper who joined the club for an undisclosed fee from Hednesford Town on the eve of the 2018-19 season and has signed a one-year deal with an option to extend. He began his career with Walsall before subsequently joining Burton Albion. In the summer of 2012 he joined Tamworth but was soon loaned out to Redditch United. In the autumn of 2013 he signed for Barwell and his performances for the Canaries later earned him a move to Nuneaton Town in July 2014 as cover. After being released by Nuneaton in the summer of 2015 he initially joined Stafford Rangers, but soon moved on to Sutton Coldfield early in the 2015-16 campaign where he quickly established himself as their no. 1 keeper and enjoyed two fine seasons. James joined Hednesford in the summer of 2017 when he followed then Pitmen boss Neil Tooth from Sutton Coldfield Town to Hednesford. He played against the Glassboys in the Birmingham Senior Cup Final in May.

NIALL MAHER

A promising 19-year old goalkeeper signed in July 2018 after being released by Morecambe. Having spent some time with Tividale he joined the Shrimpers on scholarship forms in 2015 before signing a professional contract in the summer of 2017. Early in the 2017-18 season he spent a month on loan at Halesowen Town making two appearances.

KAIMAN ANDERSON

A young Telford based forward who began his career with Shrewsbury Town, where he earned a professional contract. He spent spells on loan with AFC Telford, Halesowen Town (twice) and Oxford City during his time with the Shropshire outfit and was a prolific goalscorer in the NPL whilst playing for Halesowen. Following his release from Shrewsbury in the summer of 2017 he signed for Southport for the start of last season but was loaned out to Nantwich early on to gain match fitness. He played ten times for Southport, scoring once before linking up with the Glassboys on loan in December 2017, later making the move permanent in March 2018.

LUKE BENBOW

A strong and deceptive striker with a terrific scoring record at this level. At 16 he joined the Football Education programme at Birmingham City. He later had spells with Bromsgrove Rovers and Weymouth before being selected to join Glenn Hoddle's Football Academy in Spain. He later returned to the UK and joined Solihull Moors who initially loaned him out to Highgate United before he linked up with Redditch United for the latter part of the 2011-12 campaign. He subsequently joined the Glassboys in the summer of 2012 and he spent three years with the club, managing 23 goals in his first season and 25, the following campaign before he suffered an injury hampered 2014-15 season. He initially signed for Hednesford in July 2015 but ended up moving on again to Rushall before the start of 2015-16. Luke notched 20 times in the league as he appeared to get back to his best. After a season with Rushall, he re-joined us for a second spell in July 2016 and a tremendous 2016-17 campaign saw him notch 39 goals in all competitions as he won the Golden Boot award for the Evo-stik Premier Division. He moved on to Solihull Moors in the summer of 2017, but injury hampered his progress there. He returned to Stourbridge on loan in November 2017 and has since re-joined on a permanent basis. His brace of goals helped the Glassboys lift the Birmingham Senior Cup in May.

BRAD BIRCH

A tenacious Worcester-based central midfielder who likes to get forward. He was originally signed in July 2016 after impressing in the pre-season build-up. He began his career in the youth ranks at Worcester City and has since seen service with Westfields, Bromyard Town and most recently Littleton in the Midland Football League. After one full season with the Glassboys he moved on to Worcester City in the summer of 2017 where he captained their side. He re-joined Stourbridge on a dual registration basis in March 2018 and has committed to the club for the 2018-19 season.

LEON BROADHURST

A highly regarded and tireless player who enjoyed a well-deserved testimonial in 2013-14. He has spent most of his time with us playing in the centre of midfield but has also appeared at left-back or centre-half. He rejoined us for a third spell in October 2009 after a brief stint with Leamington and reached 700 appearances in our colours against Workington in December 2017. He has also notched over 100 goals for the club. Leon originally signed for Stourbridge in the summer of 2003 having previously played for Bromsgrove Rovers and Fairfield Villa, subsequently returning to Bromsgrove for a short-time towards the end of the 2004-05 campaign. The evergreen campaigner swept the boards at the end of season awards at the end of last season.

JORDAAN BROWN

A strong left-sided player, who is equally at home at centre-back or as a marauding full-back. He joined Stourbridge in the summer of 2018 from Stafford Rangers. Jordaan started his career at AFC Wimbledon and gained some senior experience with Chipstead before signing for then Conference South club Staines Town in the summer of 2012. After two seasons with the Swans, he headed to Vaasa in Finland to join VPS in the spring of 2014 where he got to play in the Europa League for his new club. In February 2015 he moved to Flekkeroy in the Norwegian 2nd Division before returning to England the following winter and signing for Hayes & Yeading FC in January 2016. He subsequently joined Redditch United early in the 2016/17 campaign after re-locating to the Midlands and then moved on to Stafford Rangers in the summer of 2017. He enjoyed a fine 2017-18 campaign with Stafford, which saw him pick up three honours at the end of the season. He won the Manager's, Players' and Supporters' Player of the Year awards.

ARIS CHRISTOPHOROU

A versatile and reliable no-nonsense player, capable of playing at full-back or also in the centre of defence. He progressed through the youth ranks and into the reserve side at Walsall before being released in the summer of 2014. He had previously on the radar of the Cypriot international youth set-up. He duly signed for Rushall for the start of the 2014-15 campaign and chalked up over 150 appearances in his three seasons with the Pics. He joined the Glassboys from Rushall Olympic in the summer of 2017 and is now in his second season with the club.

JACK DUGGAN

A powerful, strong central defender who was brought up in Blackpool, but now resides in the Midlands. Jack is a commanding presence in the air and a threat at the other end on set pieces. He started his career with Fleetwood Town. As he rose through the ranks he had loan spells with Lancaster City and Chester before being released by the Cod Army in the spring of 2012. He joined Kendal Town in July 2012 before following boss Lee Ashcroft to Northwich Victoria in December 2012. He signed for Rushall in the summer of 2013 where he soon impressed at the heart of their defence. He joined the Glassboys for a small fee in July 2016 and famously scored the winning goal against Northampton Town in the F A Cup 2nd Round in December 2016 before a shoulder injury in February 2017 that required surgery ended his season prematurely. Despite only making 14 league appearances he was named in the Evo-stik League Premier Division 'Team of the Year' for 2016-17. Injury continued to hamper him last season but is looking to get back to his best in 2018-19.

TOM EDMONDS-HILL

An 18-year old left-sided winger or attacker who has progressed into the first team squad for 2018-19 after impressing for our youth team over the last two seasons. He made his first team debut as a substitute against WBA under 23's in the Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final in April 2018.

JAKE EVANS

A promising teenage midfielder from Stourbridge who is a good passer of the ball. Jake made a handful of first team appearances last season and has now graduated into the senior set-up for 2018-19 after captaining our successful youth team to two trophies in 2017-18.

AARON FORDE

A strong midfield player with plenty of drive. He progressed through the academy at Walsall to captain the youth team before being released in the summer of 2011. The following season he had short spells with Romulus, Stourport Swifts and Redditch United before signing for Stratford Town in the summer of 2012 and he was a key member of their 2012-13 MFA title winning side. He joined Bedworth United for the start of the 2013-14 season before signing for Halesowen Town in January 2014. He spent a year-and-a-half with the Yeltz and then moved to Sutton Coldfield Town for the 2015-16 campaign before spending the whole of 2016-17 at Rushall. He joined Stourbridge in the summer of 2017 and is now in his second season with the club.

AARON HAYDEN

A strong and athletic versatile defender who was originally at Chelsea's academy before becoming a scholar at Wolves when aged 16 and later signing professional terms in March 2015. He enjoyed a loan spell at Newport County in League Two at the start of the 2015/16 campaign, making his league debut against Cambridge United on the opening day of the season. In 2016/17 he had a loan stint with Hemel Hempstead Town during the first half of the season and then in January 2017 he joined Bromley on loan but had to return to Wolves soon afterwards after picking up an injury in a behind closed doors friendly without making a competitive appearance for the National League outfit. He joined AFC Telford on loan at the start of 2017-18 before

returning to Wolves in January 2018. He then linked up with Stourbridge on loan in February 2018 and made a good impression. He has now re-joined the club on loan again until January 2019.

PAUL McCONE

A highly regarded central defender. He originally joined the club in the summer of 2010, following his release from Wolverhampton Wanderers. He enjoyed three outstanding seasons with us as he chalked up over 150 appearances. He moved on in the summer of 2013 to sign for newly-promoted Leamington in Conference North but returned very briefly in October of the same year to make a couple more appearances in our colours before joining another Conference North outfit, Hednesford Town, helping them to reach the 2013-14 play-offs. He began 2014-15 at Hednesford but re-joined Stourbridge in October 2014 for a third stint, only to switch back to Hednesford two months later. Paul then followed the Pitmen's managerial team of Rob Smith and Larry Chambers to AFC Telford early in the 2015-16 season but an impressive start with the Bucks was halted by a serious knee injury which ruled him out of the rest of that season. He successfully regained his place in the Telford set-up in 2016-17 becoming a key figure. Paul re-joined us for a 4th spell in July 2017 following a change of manager at AFC Telford.

GREG MILLS

A skilful and direct left-sided winger who can also play through the middle to great effect. Greg started out his career at Derby County where he progressed through their ranks to go on and make two first team appearances with his debut coming in October 2009. He also spent time on loan with Solihull Moors, Macclesfield Town and AFC Telford United. Following his release by the Rams he signed for AFC Telford United in August 2011, but with his opportunities limited, he subsequently joined Worcester City in January 2012. He moved on to Boston United in March 2013 before signing for Barrow that summer. In October 2013 he joined King's Lynn Town on a month's loan before linking up with Corby Town the following month - again initially on loan. Greg flourished there, eventually joining the Steelmen on a more permanent basis and he spent two-and-a-half years with the Northamptonshire outfit, playing his part in their 2014-15 Southern League Premier title success with over 20 goals that season. He moved on to Tamworth in the summer of 2016, but in January 2017 he joined Nuneaton Town where he was re-united with Tommy Wright, his former boss at Corby. When Wright became manager of Darlington in November 2017, he soon agreed a move to the north-east and he made 16 appearances for the Quakers netting once. Having now re-located to the West Midlands region, he signed for Stourbridge in the summer of 2018.

STUART PIERPOINT

An experienced and commanding central defender. He is a good organiser at the back, strong in the air and reads the game well. He originally saw service with Oldbury United and Sutton Coldfield Town and was then recruited by Halesowen Town in the summer of 2005 before joining Stafford Rangers in 2008. In the summer of 2009 he moved on to Nuneaton where he spent two years before signing for Solihull Moors in 2011. Ahead of the 2014-15 campaign he switched to Leamington to link up for a second time with their boss Paul Holleran, but on this occasion the move didn't work out and he joined Brackley Town in December 2014 where he played his part in helping the Northamptonshire outfit to avoid relegation from step 2. He was snapped up from Brackley in June 2015 and was soon appointed as club captain. Now in his 4th season at Stourbridge.

CALLUM POWELL

A sharp, quick, direct Coventry-born winger who was initially involved with the youth academy at Northampton Town before spending time in Canada at the Spencer Fraser University on a soccer scholarship. On his return home he linked up with Rugby Town for the 2015-16 campaign and his performances for the Warwickshire outfit led him to be offered a deal with Wrexham in May 2016. With opportunities to start limited at the Welsh club, he joined Leamington on a month's loan in early February 2017 before going back out on loan again to Tamworth a month later. In the summer of 2017 he joined the Lambs on a more permanent basis and spent the whole of last season with Tamworth. The pacey wide-man was released by Tamworth in the summer of 2018 and subsequently signed for Stratford Town, but after impressing against the Glassboys in the first week of the new league season, boss Gary Hackett swooped to secure his services just before the August Bank Holiday period.

CHEKAINE STEEL

A promising young winger who brings plenty of energy and work-rate and is the sort of player that can excite supporters. He started his career in the youth ranks at Port Vale. Following his release, he joined Worcester City for the 2016-17 season where he featured regularly for the club in the National League North. He linked up with AFC Telford in the summer of 2017 but was troubled by a hamstring injury and he left the New Bucks

Head at the start of September 2017 without making an appearance for the Shropshire outfit. He was quickly snapped up by Hednesford Town but moved on again in December 2017 to join Sutton Coldfield Town. He went to Leamington for trials in July 2018 and did well enough to be signed up by the Brakes, but with his early season opportunities limited there, he subsequently joined Stourbridge on dual registration, making his Glassboys debut at the beginning of September 2018.

ROBERT THOMPSON-BROWN

An attacking midfield player who can also play out wide. He likes to get forward and is a threat on dead-ball situations. Robert started out in the youth system at Kidderminster Harriers. He then spent time with Redditch United and Stratford Town before returning to the Aggborough fold. He moved on to Nuneaton for the 2012-13 season and subsequently had spells out on loan with Daventry Town and Leamington. He signed for Hednesford Town in August 2013 and enjoyed one season at Keys Park before joining Halesowen Town in July 2014. A move to Stratford Town followed in February 2015 before he joined Redditch United in December 2015. He signed for Leamington in the summer of 2016 and he spent one-and-a-half years with the Brakes. Robert netted six times in 22 appearances for Leamington last season before joining Stafford Rangers in December 2017 in search of more regular starts. He completed a move to Stourbridge in May 2018.

DARRYL WESTLAKE

A measured and reliable full-back with extensive league experience. He began his career with Walsall, progressing from the youth ranks into the first team, making his league debut in August 2009. He made over 70 appearances for the Saddlers before moving to Sheffield United in the summer of 2012. In November 2013, he joined Mansfield Town on a month's loan - an arrangement that was later extended to the end of that season. After being released by Sheffield United in May 2014, he subsequently made the move north of the border in September 2014 to join Kilmarnock. He had two seasons at Rugby Park, but an ankle injury restricted his appearances in 2015-16. He spent some time with Solihull Moors in the summer of 2016 before making the switch to Amblecote in September 2016.

GARY HACKETT (Manager)

Stourbridge born, Gary began his playing career at Lye Town before moving to Bromsgrove Rovers. He was spotted by Shrewsbury Town and joined the Shropshire side in 1983. After clocking up over 170 appearances in four years, he moved to Aberdeen and later played for Stoke City, WBA, Peterborough and Chester City. Returning to the Midlands, he spent two seasons at Halesowen Town before coming to Stourbridge as Player-Coach for the 1997-98 season. A year later, he moved on to take a similar role at Stourport. In the autumn of 2000, he returned to Halesowen Town to assist the then-manager Alan Moore, followed by short stints back at Bromsgrove and then Redditch. He again returned to Bromsgrove Rovers to take charge with Jon Ford in December 2001. Finishing up as runners-up in the MFA was good enough for Rovers to win promotion back to the Southern League Western Division, where despite a third-place finish, the duo were replaced. Along with Jon Ford, Gary accepted an offer to return to Stourbridge to take charge of the side in May 2003 before taking sole charge of the Glassboys two years later following Jon Ford's decision to step down. Having guided the club to two promotions in three seasons (2005-06 and 2007-08), he also became the first manager to lead Stourbridge into the First Round Proper of the F A Cup in 2009-10 and the 3rd Round Proper in 2016-17.

JON FORD (Assistant Manager)

Started out as a teenager with Halesowen Town and went on to play for Stourbridge, Bromsgrove, Dudley Town and Cradley Town before earning a move into league football with Swansea City at the start of the 1991-92 season. Jon made 160 appearances for the Swans over a four-year period, becoming a well-regarded defender or sweeper, which brought him a move to Bradford City for the 1995-96 campaign. Spells at Gillingham and Barnet later followed before he returned to the Midlands early in 1999 to play for Kidderminster in the Conference. He subsequently played for Telford and Halesowen Town before returning to Bromsgrove Rovers as Player/ Assistant Manager in the summer of 2001, later becoming joint-manager with Gary Hackett in December of that year. Surprisingly axed, along with Gary in May 2003, he re-joined Stourbridge as Player/ Joint-Manager a short while later. In May 2005 Jon decided to stand down as joint-manager due to family and work commitments, but he has stayed with the club since and continues to provide assistance to Gary.

MARK CLIFTON (Assistant Manager)

As a player, Mark was a strong central defender who enjoyed a long and distinguished career in local non-league football with Stourport Swifts, Dudley Town, Redditch United, Blakenall, Bilston Town, Evesham United and Bromsgrove Rovers before moving into coaching. He followed Gary and Jon to Stourbridge in 2003 before leaving us in the autumn of 2005 to take up a coaching position with the Birmingham City academy. Mark rejoined us in time for the 2007-08 season and has since played an important role in the club's on-field progress.

Evo-Stik League South Premier Central Division Table up to & including 1 September 18

	Club	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1	Kettering Town	6	6	0	0	14	3	11	18
2	Coalville Town	6	4	1	1	12	8	4	13
3	Leiston	6	3	2	1	15	10	5	11
4	Stourbridge	6	3	2	1	12	9	3	11
5	Banbury United	5	3	2	0	6	3	3	11
6	Biggleswade Town	6	2	4	0	10	7	3	10
7	Lowestoft Town	6	3	1	2	8	6	2	10
8	St Ives Town	6	3	1	2	5	5	0	10
9	Needham Market	6	2	2	2	15	9	6	8
10	Alvechurch	5	2	2	1	7	3	4	8
11	Royston Town	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8
12	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	5	2	1	2	9	7	2	7
13	Barwell	6	2	1	3	8	7	1	7
14	Tamworth	6	1	3	2	7	7	0	6
15	Halesowen Town	6	1	3	2	5	7	-2	6
16	Rushall Olympic	6	1	3	2	6	10	-4	6
17	St Neots Town	6	1	2	3	3	5	-2	5
18	Stratford Town	6	1	2	3	6	12	-6	5
19	King's Lynn Town	6	1	1	4	4	8	-4	4
20	Hitchin Town	6	1	1	4	5	14	-9	4
21	Redditch United	6	1	0	5	9	17	-8	3
22	Bedworth United	5	0	2	3	4	13	-9	2

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Based in St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, Cambridge Sensotec manufacture a range of single, dual and multiple gas analysers under the brand name, Rapidox. The gas analysers are designed for various applications such as industrial processes, laboratory scale experiments and the testing of impurities in inert gases.

Founded in the year 2000, the company has since expanded into an international company with an established network of distributors and ISO 9001 accreditation. The company offers analysis solutions for a broad range of gases including ${\rm CO_2~CO~CH_4~SO_2~H_2S~H_2H_2O}$ and ${\rm SF_6}$. Rapidox gas analysers are widely used within universities, manufacturing plants and by environmental consultancies.

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Cambridge Sensotec has been proudly sponsoring St Ives Town Football Club since 2011 and wish the club every success in their third season at step three level in the Evo Stik Premier Division Central. Up the Ives!

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Research and Development

Medical and Pharmaceutical

Metal Heat Treatment

Biogas and Syngas



Manufacturing

Gloveboxes

Electrical

Today's Squads, Management & Match Officials

Adams

Swannell

St Ives Town
Sam Wilson (GK)
Charlie De'ath
Jack O'Connor
Jarvis Wilson
Daniel Moyes
Joe Hood
Mark Coulson
Sam Cartwright
Owen Wallis
Robbie Parker
Tom McGowan
Jordan Patrick
Ben Seymour-Shove
Declan Rogers
Ollie Snaith
Munashie Sundire
Dylan Wilson
Danny Kelly
George Bailey
Ben Baker

Team Colours Black & White Shirts, Black Shorts, Black Socks

Manager - Ricky Marheineke Assistant Manager - Craig

Physiotherapist - Jess Guthrie Goalkeeping Coach - Paul

Match Officials
Referee - Abigail Marriott
Assistant - Gary Connell
Assistant - Laurentiu Hantea

Team Colours

Yellow Shirts, Blue Shorts, White

Socks

James Wren (GK) Aaron Hayden Jordaan Brown Paul McCone Stuart Pierpoint Aaron Forde Kaiman Anderson Luke Benbow Robert Thompson-Brown Greg Mills **Bradley Birch** Leon Broadhurst Darryl Westlake Callum Powell Chekaine Steele Jake Evans Aris Christophorou Louis Hall Niall Maher (GK)

Stourbridge

Manager - Gary Hackett Assistant Managers - Jon Ford & Mark Clifton Sports Therapist - Richard Drewett

Fixtures & Results 2018/19

DATE	COMP	OPPONENTS		F/A	ATT
11/08/2018	LGE	Tamworth	Н	1-0	306
14/08/2018	LGE	Lowestoft Town	Α	1-0	393
18/08/2018	LGE	Redditch United	Α	0-2	202
25/08/2018	LGE	Needham Market	н	1-1	243
27/08/2018	LGE	Royston Town	Α	2-1	361
01/09/2018	LGE	Coalville Town	н	0-1	262
04/09/2018	LC Pre	Yaxley	Α	2-2*	97
		Yaxley wo	n 2-	0 on pei	naltie
08/09/2018	FAC 1Q	Saffron Walden Town	Α	0-0	52
11/09/2018	FAC 1QR	Saffron Walden Town	Н	3-1	258
15/09/2018	LGE	Stourbridge	Н		
22/09/2018	FAC 2Q	Grantham Town	Н		
29/09/2018	LGE	AFC Rushden & D	Α		
06/10/2018	LGE	Leiston	Н		
13/10/2018	LGE	Alvechurch	Α		
16/10/2018	LGE	Biggleswade Town	Н		
20/10/2018	LGE	Rushall Olympic	Α		
27/10/2018	FAT 1Q				
03/11/2018	LGE	Stratford Town	н		
10/11/2018	LGE	Hitchin Town	Α		
17/11/2018	LGE	Halesowen Town	н		
20/11/2018	LGE	King's Lynn Town	Α		
24/11/2018	LGE	Banbury United	н		
01/12/2018	LGE	Kettering Town	Α		
08/12/2018	LGE	Bedworth United	н		
15/12/2018	LGE	Barwell	Α		
22/12/2018	LGE	Tamworth	Α		
26/12/2018	LGE	Royston Town	н		
29/12/2018	LGE	Lowestoft Town	н		
01/01/2019	LGE	St Neots Town	Α		
05/01/2019	LGE	Biggleswade Town	Α		
12/01/2019	LGE	Hitchin Town	н		
19/01/2019	LGE	Halesowen Town	Α		
26/01/2019	LGE	King's Lynn Town	н		
02/02/2019	LGE	Stratford Town	Α		
09/02/2019	LGE	Rushall Olympic	н		
16/02/2019	LGE	Kettering Town	н		
23/02/2019	LGE	Banbury United	Α		
02/03/2019	LGE	Bedworth United	Α		
09/03/2019	LGE	Barwell	Н		
16/03/2019	LGE	Leiston	Α		
23/03/2019	LGE	Alvechurch	Н		
30/03/2019	LGE	Stourbridge	Α		
06/04/2019	LGE	AFC Rushden & D	н		
13/04/2019	LGE	Redditch United	н		
20/04/2019	LGE	Needham Market	A		
22/04/2019	LGE	St Neots Town	Н		
27/04/2019	LGE	Coalville Town	A		
TBA	HC QF	Godmanchester R	Н		
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