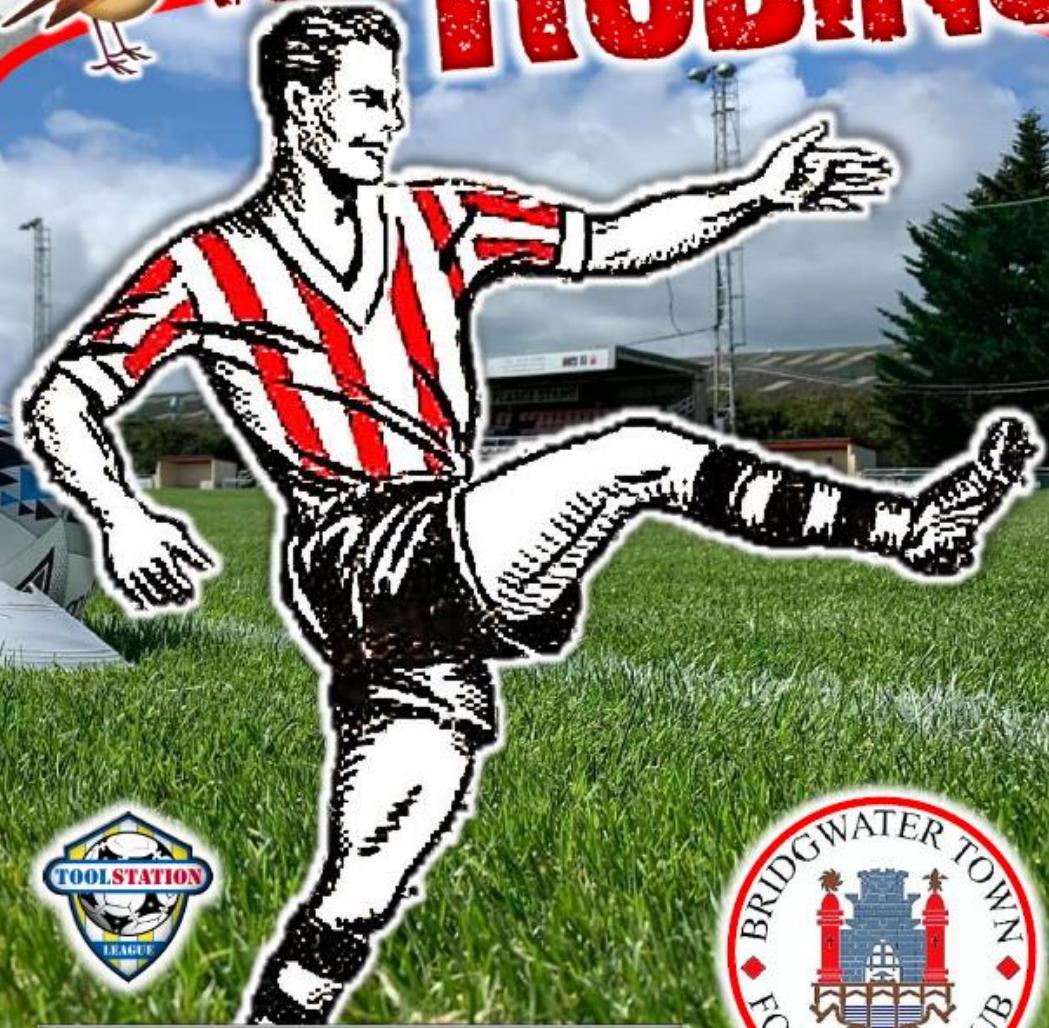


THE ROBINS



Pre-season friendly fixtures | We welcome...

Wednesday 26 August:

HELSTON ATHLETIC

Friday 28 August:

TORRIDGESIDE AFC

SEASON 2020/21
ISSUE #02



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FROM THE DUGOUT



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'So, finally we are back and raring to go!

It was great to see fans come back through the gates for the first time in 6 months. Behind closed doors is OK as a start, but there is nothing like the real thing.

The Western League Premier is shaping up to be as strong as it has ever been: but our lads have worked exceptionally hard during pre-season and we are looking forward to a competitive campaign with you all here to enjoy it!'

PEARSEY



WHEN WE MEET: AT-A-GLANCE



TWL PREMIER DIVISION

Bridgwater Town vs.

Bitton
 Bradford Town
 Bridport
 Brislington
 Buckland Athletic
 Cadbury Heath
 Chipping Sodbury Town
 Clevedon Town
 Cribbs
 Exmouth Town
 Hallen
 Keynsham Town
 Odd Down
 Plymouth Parkway
 Roman Glass St George
 Shepton Mallet
 Street
 Tavistock
 Wellington
 Westbury United

Home	Score	Att
19-12		
12-12		
23-01		
08-05		
29-12		
14-11		
24-10		
08-09		
13-03		
26-09		
19-09		
10-04		
27-02		
21-11		
16-01		
20-02		
02-04		
01-05		
06-10		
02-01		
Total		
Average		

Away	Score	Att
31-10		
17-04		
22-09		
27-03		
05-09		
09-01		
06-03		
17-10		
28-11		
05-04		
15-05		
06-02		
05-12		
10-10		
07-11		
24-04		
26-12		
20-03		
16-09		
03-10		
Total		
Average		

Dates subject to change

Welcome...

All of us at Bridgwater Town extend a warm Fairfax Park welcome to our visitors Helston Athletic for this pre-season friendly.

We hope their supporters, players and officials enjoyed a straightforward trip getting here and have an equally safe journey home. We certainly do not underestimate the level of commitment required to make a round trip of almost 300 miles in midweek!

It was so pleasing to be able welcome back supporters on Saturday after 6 months away and then for the lads to put in an excellent performance in securing a 4-1 win. We have all been gratified by the positive feedback we have received in our efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and put in place processes to keep everyone safe.

We are expecting a very tough test from our ambitious visitors this evening so, as always, we will be grateful for your usual high volume support.

A final pre-season game has been arranged for this upcoming Friday evening when we welcome TORRIDGESIDE AFC of South West Peninsula League Premier East.

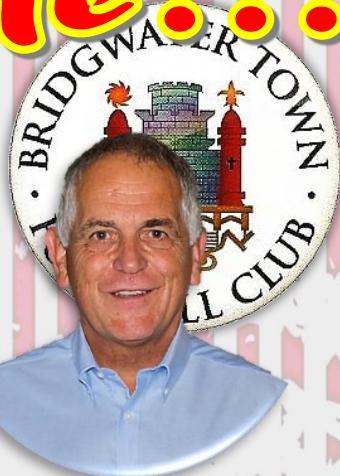
We will look forward to welcoming their players, officials and supporters. Our Friday night games under the lights in the past couple of seasons have been very well attended so we are hoping that this one will be no exception – despite the fact that FA guidelines limit those attending to a maximum of 150. This restriction lifts to 300 for games played after 31st August.

Finally, huge thanks to all of my fellow committee members and volunteers for their tireless work that has made our preseason games possible. As you will read elsewhere, we start our 2020/21 campaign in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup away at Millbrook on Tuesday 1st September. Current restrictions prevent us from running a supporters coach, but we hope that we will have the support of some our loyal fans as we strive to progress the next round.

Best Regards

Bob Buckingham

Vice Chairman/Commercial Manager



COME ON BRIDGY!



Bridgwater Town 1984 FC

*Is an Unincorporated
Members' Club*

<i>Chairman</i>	Adrian Byrne
<i>Vice Chairman & Commercial</i>	Bob Buckingham
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Paul Welham
<i>Football Secretary</i>	Kerry Miller
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	TBA
<i>Welfare Officer</i>	Ian Barber
<i>Club Photographer</i>	Debbie Gould
<i>Social Club Manager</i>	Marc Crisp
<i>Matchday Catering</i>	Sue Chilcott
<i>Groundsman</i>	Nick Crocker
<i>Assistants</i>	Eddie Pike & Bill Baker
<i>Fan Liaison Officer</i>	Alan King
<i>Committee Member</i>	Andrew Cattle
<i>Club Shop</i>	Will Pilborough
<i>Life Members</i>	Peter Besley Peter Criddle Alan Hurford Eddie Pike Keith Setter Sally Wright
<i>First Team</i>	Karl Baggaley
<i>Joint Managers</i>	& Dave Pearse
<i>Sports Therapist</i>	Taylor Cornish
<i>Coach</i>	Josh Crook
<i>GK Coach</i>	Steve Laker
<i>Team BTC/BTFC U18 Manager</i>	Mo Hopkins

ROBINS RECAP

A brief timeline of Bridgwater Town (1984) FC - from the *Football Club History Database* (FCHD)

- 1984** New Bridgwater Town club formed, taking the place of the former club's reserve team in Somerset Senior League Div 2
- 1986-87** Somerset Senior League Div 1 champions - Promoted to Premier Division
- 1988-89** Somerset Senior League runner-up
- 1989-90** Somerset Senior League champions
- 1990-91** Somerset Senior League champions
- 1991-92** Somerset Senior League champions (3rd successive year)
- 1993-94** Somerset Senior League runner-up to Portishead (who could not be promoted)
- 1994-95** Joined Western League Div 1
- 1995-96** Western League Div 1 champions (on goal difference) - Promoted to the Premier Division
- 2006-07** Western League runner-up behind Corsham Town (who could not be promoted)
- 2007-08** Joined the Southern League in Div 1 South & West
- 2008/09** Southern League Cup runner-up - beaten by Atherstone Town on aggregate
- 2009-10** Finished 3rd in Div 1 South & West - not promoted after play-offs - Semi Final: Bridgwater Town 3 - 0 VT FC (now Sholing), Final: Bridgwater Town 3 - 4 Cirencester Town (after extra time)
- 2017-18** Rejoined Western League



The Toolstation Western League season kicks off on September 5th, following the Government's announcement that a limited number of fans are now allowed back into non-league football grounds.

To celebrate their exceptional work and sacrifice during the Coronavirus pandemic, Toolstation Western League clubs have agreed to offer NHS staff free entry to all league matches this season. Those wishing to make use of this special offer will be required to show a valid form of NHS identification at the turnstile.

Since 2015 the Toolstation Western League has run a scheme whereby serving members of the Armed Forces can gain entry to league games on production of a military ID card. The NHS scheme will run at least until the end of the 2020/21 season, with clubs able to extend the offer further if they wish.



Pre- season friendly - Sat 22 Aug

Bridgwater Town 4 Bodmin Town 1

Taylor 35, Watts 60,

Ellis 77, Bryant 86



THE SIGNS ARE PROMISING

Bridgwater Team

Jake Viney

Ollie Morris

(Conor Bryant 73)

Jordan Greenwood
(Tyne Govier 67)

George Painter

Tom Ellis

Sam Towler

Mike Duffy

Callum Watts

Jack Taylor

Ryan Brereton

Jake Llewellyn

The Robins have never lost a game against Bodmin but they have always been strong opposition.

So the fact that they won this friendly fixture quite comfortably suggests that this reworked team is starting to work well together.

Town snatched the initiative from early on and kept the Cornish side under pressure for much of the game. The midfield, in particular, played with great conviction and invention and served up a steady stream of goal chances.

The early passages of the game were illuminated by the controlled passion and effort of Mike Duffy and the close control and creative vision of Callum Watts. Midfield partner Sam Towler linked it all very well together with a major, box-to-box, lung-busting display.

Duffy lashed an early effort a yard wide on the right and Watts' long range shot lacked enough power to cause concern. Duffy accepted a head on from Ryan Brereton and this time he shot just over, on the run.

Bodmin's central striker forced Jake Viney to push over but this was a fleeting moment of concern. Almost immediately the irrepressible Duffy pinged a half volleyed pass 40 yards to the left and Jake Llewellyn was just too high with his shot.

Match Report by
Mark Hollidge

The goal was coming and it came from the most likely source. Duffy tricked his way along the by-line and Taylor had a simple tap-in from 5 yards out.

Town's top marksman almost scored again just before half-time when a great ball from Towler allowed Taylor to size up his opportunity. The keeper was equal to this one.

Bodmin's best chance of the game closely preceded Town's second. One of the Bodmin subs got free on the right and hit his shot firm, high and true. Viney pushed it onto the outside of the post. A terrific save.

The young and diminutive Watts was still exerting plenty of influence on the game. He accepted a loose ball just outside the penalty area and found the bottom left corner of the net with an accurate, low strike. Credit here to the referee who had played advantage when Ollie Morris was fouled with a late challenge in the build up to the goal.

Lovely link up play between Watts and Duffy gave the latter another chance but the keeper smothered it well. It was all Town now and Tom Ellis headed in from a Llewellyn free kick.

It was a surprise when Bodmin got on the scoresheet. It looked like Viney was maybe unsure whether to catch or punch a looping high ball and he ended up just pushing the ball a few yards and it led to an easy finish from close range.

This barely seemed to matter and Town reinforced their dominance with the last goal of the afternoon. In quick succession Taylor and Duffy both rattled shots at the Bodmin keeper but the ball then rebounded to Connor Bryant who, from a central position shot high into the net from 10 yards.

Town 1-2-3...

- 1 Mike Duffy.
- 2 Callum Watts
- 3 Sam Towler





All pictures on these pages by Debbie Gould



WALKER UNDER THE BRIDGE

From the pen (keyboard) of MARK HOLLIDGE

**Last Saturday was a boost.
I hadn't seen any games
before Bodmin and the
results suggested that we
weren't quite on it...yet.
We were definitely "on it"
on Saturday.**

I have always respected the quality of the clubs in the Peninsula League and we have very rarely been able to dominate them, even though they are one level lower than us in the football pyramid.

Just think about the effect that Plymouth Parkway, Exmouth and Tavistock have had in the Western League and you could argue that maybe the better clubs in the Peninsula League are on a par with clubs in the Western League.

When we have played Peninsula clubs in cup ties they have always been challenging. So to win comfortably against a good Bodmin side was, as I said, a boost.

It was also encouraging to see so many people watching a friendly game. Maybe, after all this time without football, we will see a sustained spike in attendances. That would be great.

The period just after the Second World War saw a massive leap in attendances as people wanted to go out and enjoy themselves once more.

Telling everyone in advance that only the first 150 can get in the ground was, without doubt, a cunning plan to get everyone here nice and early! I wouldn't want to be the one to tell people they can't come in!

Of course, this was all about the COVID limit on fans in the ground and that limit has risen to 300 for today and, presumably, that restriction will be removed in due course.

I did wonder if some fans might simply not bother returning to watching live football at the ground because of their worries about the virus. Maybe a few will keep away but I think most of us simply cannot resist the lure of football in the flesh.

I also wondered if some clubs would simply disappear after such a long period without income from attendances. This hasn't happened in our division and there must have been some successful fundraising going on in lots of places. Nevertheless, it seems to me that many clubs will be having to operate with reduced income unless there is a boost in gates. A lot of people are losing their jobs



or feeling obligated to work for less money and financial realism is called for in football as in everywhere else.

I am sure that many of you look out for Debbie Gould's photographs of our games. In case you don't, make a point of looking at the collection she put together from the Bodmin game. She caught at least a couple of the goals and, in the bright light of that sunny afternoon, they fully display the joy of football and the fun of the afternoon. Nice work.

This programme is covering the games with both Helston and Torridgeside, which follow in quick succession.

Torridgeside are a young side who have moved quickly up from local football into the Eastern part of the Peninsula League and Helston are established front runners in the Western division. Helston look to have ambitions to follow the likes of Exmouth and Tavistock into the Western League and beyond. In their ranks are several players with recent Southern League experience and they will offer a stiff test.

For our part we need to keep forward momentum as the commencement of the serious stuff beckons.

Up the Town... MH



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bacteria from
spreading to
other people,
surfaces and
objects**

Looking back at the 2019/20 Western League Premier!

*Written, with a certain amount of Devon bias,
by 'For The Love Of The Game'*

The 2019-2020 season was announced null and void on the 9th April with the Western League Premier Division dominated by the Devon clubs once again with three of the four Devon sides in the top five.

When football was suspended Tavistock sat top of the table, however they could have been overtaken by Plymouth Parkway or Bradford Town who both had games in hand. At the bottom of the table Odd Down (Bath) and Wellington found themselves adrift with three wins each.

Having missed out on promotion to the Southern League on the final day of the previous season Plymouth Parkway were the favourites to win the league at the second attempt and started the season with the demolition of Cadbury Heath running out 7-1 victors.

Parkway had a strong strike force as the club brushed past several opponents beating Odd Down (10-0), Bridport (5-0), Bitton (5-1), Hallen (5-0), Chipping Sodbury Town (5-2) and Cadbury Heath again (5-0).

Tavistock, playing their first season in the Western League, had a slow start to the league as they didn't play a single league game for over a month between August 21st and September 28th.

However the club had a fantastic run in the FA Cup beating Hengrove Athletic (3-0), Frome Town (2-1), Shepton Mallet (2-1 after a replay) and Highworth Town (4-0) before losing 4-1 to National League South Welling United just 180 minutes from the First Round Proper. A superb achievement.

At the bottom of the table Odd Down struggled having lost every match since the end of September with early wins against Brislington (5-1), Roman Glass St George (2-1) and Wellington 3-1 being their only victories all season.

Wellington also struggled for wins as they only managed to beat Brislington (3-0), Odd Down (5-0) and Tavistock (3-1).

As August came to an end Bitton sat top of the league with three wins and a loss ahead of Plymouth Parkway and Bradford



Town on goal difference. Odd Down also found themselves level on points but what they didn't realise at the time was that the only direction they would travel would be down the league.

Roman Glass St George and Wellington were the only two teams to end August without a point on the board and Cribbs were only the third team without a win.

Come the end of September Plymouth Parkway sat at the top with Bitton pushed down to fifth. Chipping Sodbury Town, who were third from bottom had the worst goal difference in the league with -24. Buckland Athletic had a very slow start to the season and sat in fourteenth spot.

As Wellington picked up form Chipping Sodbury Town dropped to the foot of the table with Bridport not far ahead. Tavistock found themselves in seventeenth but had played a lot less games than most.

Bradford Town and Plymouth Parkway continued to battle it out at the top of the table throughout October and Bridgwater Town was chasing from third.

In November Bridgwater Town struggled to keep up with the top two and dropped to sixth below Hallen, Clevedon Town and Exmouth Town.

Westbury United beat Keynsham Town 6-2 as Keynsham had a month to forget losing their other league games against Clevedon Town (4-3), Cribbs (6-2) and Buckland Athletic 1-0.

As the year came to an end Shepton Mallet had a Christmas to remember as they beat Buckland Athletic (4-2) Wellington (5-0), Hallen (3-1), Odd Down (4-0) and Chipping Sodbury Town (6-0) whilst also drawing 1-1 with Clevedon Town. Bradford Town finished the year top of the table whilst Odd Down sat bottom of the league. Tavistock ended the year in seventh place slowly climbing the table.

Exmouth Town won four of their five games in January and sat in fifth spot still in the chasing pack but couldn't catch up with the top two who won all of their games in the month.

As January drew to a close the season was only going to go downhill, with the presence of Storms Ciara and Dennis making football almost impossible before the coronavirus pandemic saw the season end early. Tavistock climbed to the top of the league on the eleventh of March but who knows who would've won the league with Plymouth Parkway and Bradford Town having games in hand.

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WE'VE MET BEFORE!

HELSTON ATHLETIC

Actually, we haven't met despite tonight's visitors' long history. The forays into Kernow have got no further southwest than Truro and Falmouth and so our opponents are something of an unknown quantity.

The "Blues" were founded in 1896 and are celebrating their 125th anniversary this season and are enjoying one of their most successful periods in that long history.

From 1953 until 1971 the club was a member of the old South Western League. A spell of 3 championship titles in the Cornwall Combination then followed and most recently the club joined the SW Peninsula League and won the Division One West title in 2014/15.

Last season Athletic enjoyed a record-breaking run of 24 consecutive league wins and seemed destined for the title and possible promotion when the lockdown intervened.

Although it must be said that they had yet to meet title challengers, Saltash United. Those two encounters were scheduled for 23 April and 2 May and would have made an exciting finale to the season.

We of course met Saltash United last season and know that they were a very useful side. Tonight's visitors are likely to be at least 'on a par' and if last week's 2-1 defeat at Dorchester Town is anything to go by probably better. Mark Goldsworthy got their goal at the Avenue and also hit the crossbar as the Blues gave a very good account of themselves.

Helston's Director of Football is experienced ex league footballer, Steve Massey. He has managed Truro City on more than one occasion and has helped build a strong blend of experienced and well-respected County players such as Ollie Brokenshire, Mark Goldsworthy and Neil Slateford with promising products from the club's well-established youth system.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Helston Athletic	26	25	0	1	100	22	+78	75
2	St Austell	28	21	4	3	85	23	+62	67
3	Saltash United	22	19	2	1	107	18	+89	59
4	Mousehole	25	17	6	2	92	22	+70	57
5	Bodmin Town	27	18	3	6	77	44	+33	57
6	Newquay	28	15	3	10	72	47	+25	48
7	Falmouth Town	23	14	3	6	73	36	+37	45
8	Porthleven	23	9	5	9	43	46	-3	32
9	Liskeard Athletic	25	10	1	14	44	66	-22	31
10	Camelford	23	9	3	11	54	50	+4	30
11	St Blazey	26	8	5	13	48	51	-3	29
12	Wendron United	24	9	2	13	44	60	-16	29
13	Dobwalls	22	8	4	10	50	60	-10	28
14	Wadebridge Town	25	6	6	13	51	72	-21	24
15	Launceston	23	7	2	14	42	57	-15	23
16	Penzance	25	5	5	15	27	68	-41	20
17	Callington Town	27	6	2	19	37	90	-53	20
18	St Dennis	25	5	3	17	33	91	-58	18
19	Sticker	28	5	1	22	38	113	-75	16
20	Godolphin Atlantic (Newquay)	27	4	2	21	27	108	-81	14

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BRIDGWATER TOWN

01	Sep	Sat	05	LGE	Away	Buckland Athletic		
				Goalscorers			Att	
02		Tue	08	LGE	Home	CLEVEDON TOWN	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
03		Wed	16	LGE	Away	Wellington	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
04		Sat	19	LGE	Home	HALLEN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
05		Tue	22	LGE	Away	Bridport	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
06		Sat	26	LGE	Home	EXMOUTH TOWN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
07		Tue	29	LGE	Home	BUCKLAND ATHLETIC	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
08	Oct	Sat	03	LGE	Away	Westbury United		
				Goalscorers			Att	
09		Tue	06	LGE	Home	WELLINGTON	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
10		Sat	10	LGE	Away	Plymouth Parkway		
				Goalscorers			Att	
11		Sat	17	LGE	Away	Clevedon Town		
				Goalscorers			Att	
12		Sat	24	LGE	Home	CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
13		Sat	31	LGE	Away	Bitton	(to be re-arranged – FA Vase Round 1 date)	
				Goalscorers			Att	
14	Nov	Sat	07	LGE	Away	Roman Glass St George		
				Goalscorers			Att	
15		Sat	14	LGE	Home	CADBURY HEATH		
				Goalscorers			Att	
16		Sat	21	LGE	Home	PLYMOUTH PARKWAY		
				Goalscorers			Att	
17		Sat	28	LGE	Away	Cribbs		
				Goalscorers			Att	
18	Dec	Sat	05	LGE	Away	Odd Down		
				Goalscorers			Att	
19		Sat	12	LGE	Home	BRADFORD TOWN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
20		Sat	19	LGE	Home	BITTON		
				Goalscorers			Att	
21		Sat	26	LGE	Away	Street		Boxing Day
				Goalscorers			Att	
22	Jan	Sat	02	LGE	Home	WESTBURY UNITED		
				Goalscorers			Att	
23		Sat	09	LGE	Away	Cadbury Heath		
				Goalscorers			Att	
24		Sat	16	LGE	Home	ROMAN GLASS ST GEORGE		
				Goalscorers			Att	

2020/21

25	Jan	Sat	23	LGE	Home	BRIDPORT		
				Goalscorers			Att	
26	Feb	Sat	06	LGE	Away	Keynsham Town		
				Goalscorers			Att	
27		Sat	20	LGE	Home	SHEPTON MALLET		
				Goalscorers			Att	
28		Sat	27	LGE	Home	ODD DOWN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
29	Mar	Sat	06	LGE	Away	Chipping Sodbury Town		
				Goalscorers			Att	
30		Sat	13	LGE	Home	CRIBBS		
				Goalscorers			Att	
31		Sat	20	LGE	Away	Tavistock		
				Goalscorers			Att	
32		Sat	27	LGE	Away	Brislington		
				Goalscorers			Att	
33	Apr	Fri	02	LGE	Home	STREET		Good Friday
				Goalscorers			Att	
34		Mon	05	LGE	Away	Exmouth Town		Easter Monday
				Goalscorers			Att	
35		Sat	10	LGE	Home	KEYNSHAM TOWN		
				Goalscorers			Att	
36		Sat	17	LGE	Away	Bradford Town		
				Goalscorers			Att	
37		Sat	24	LGE	Away	Shepton Mallet		
				Goalscorers			Att	
38	May	Sat	01	LGE	Home	TAVISTOCK		
				Goalscorers			Att	
39		Sat	08	LGE	Home	BRISLINGTON		
				Goalscorers			Att	
40		Sat	15	LGE	Away	Hallen		
				Goalscorers			Att	

CUP FIXTURES

EP	Sep	Tue	01	FAC	Away	Millbrook*	19.45	
				Goalscorers			Att	
PR		Sat	12	FAC	Home	*BUCKLAND ATHLETIC or BITTON		
				Goalscorers			Att	
R1	Oct	Sat	31	FAV	?	?		
				Goalscorers			Att	

Dates are subject to change due to cup fixtures and/or inclement weather

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WE'VE MET BEFORE!

TORRIDGESIDE AFC

Actually, just like Helston Athletic, our paths have never crossed until this evening's encounter. Below is the info obtained from the Football Club History Database...

- 1989 Club founded
- 2003-04 Joined North Devon League
- 2004-05 North Devon League Division Two Champions
Promoted to Division One
- 2005-06 Promoted to Senior Division
- 2007-08 North Devon League Senior Division runner-up
Promoted to Premier Division
- 2012-13 North Devon League Champions (on goal difference)
- 2015-16 North Devon League runner-up
- 2016-17 Joined South West Peninsula League Division One East



The Last 10 Seasons

2010-11	N DEV-P	28	11	8	9	62	54	41	6/15
2011-12	N DEV-P	30	17	4	9	83	49	55	5/16
2012-13	N DEV-P	28	24	3	1	105	21	75	1/15
2013-14	N DEV-P	30	15	2	13	90	68	44 ³	8/16
2014-15	N DEV-P	28	19	4	5	83	31	61	3/15
2015-16	N DEV-P	28	24	1	3	138	35	73	2/15
2016-17	SWP-1E	34	18	3	13	93	66	57	7/18
2017-18	SWP-1E	32	15	4	13	67	56	49	8/17
2018-19	SWP-1E	34	21	8	5	97	43	71	4/18
2019-20	SWP-E	26	11	4	11	60	55	37	Void

Pictured below:
Donnacroft, the home
of Torridgeside AFC



IS THE WESTERN LEAGUE GOING TO HELSTON IN A HANDCART?



by Ian Nockolds

On Valentine's Day this year, Non-League football clubs across the country were given the first formal indication as to where the Football Association consider their League future to be, following the restructuring of the National League System at the end of this season. Given the speculation over the last two seasons about how the Clubs would be reorganised, not to mention the timing of the FA's communication, would this be a proposal of marriage or a 'Dear John'?

The FA's update details where Clubs are likely to be playing next season, based on the League tables on December 31st. The FA recognise that they "cannot possibly know the final outcomes until the final ball of the season is kicked," rather this simulation has been undertaken to "provide as much information as practicably possible in order to best prepare Clubs for the 2020-21 season."

The Northern border of the Premier Division, which sits at Step 5 of the National League pyramid, is projected to hug the M4 and M5 as they arch around Bristol, with Chipping Sodbury, Roman Glass, Hallen, Cribbs and Clevedon all heading into the Hellenic League. The FA's simulation places a promoted Radstock Town on the Premier Division's eastern border, which no longer includes the Wiltshire Clubs of Bradford Town, promoted to the Step 4 Southern League, Calne Town, promoted into the Hellenic League and Westbury United, moved into the Wessex League.

To the West, Cornish sides Helston and Saltash are projected to join a Premier

PLEASE NOTE THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN EARLIER IN THE YEAR BEFORE ANY SIGN THAT THE 2019/20 SEASON WOULD COME TO AN EARLY END. BUT IT MAY STILL BE RELEVANT AS THE PLANNED RESTRUCTURING WAS SIMPLY POSTPONED TO THE END OF SEASON 2020/21

Division that will also include six sides from Devon. It is this expansion into the West that provides the main driver for the constriction of the League in the North and East. When the FA published plans to promote the top two Clubs in "the two divisions operated by the South West Peninsula League," the writing was on the wall for the Western League. The only logical place to promote four Clubs from Devon and Cornwall was "the most geographically appropriate" Western League.

Matters of promotion and relegation have been ceded away from the Leagues in recent seasons and are now administered by the FA's Leagues Committee, chaired by Mark Frost. Previously, the top two sides from the First Division would have been guaranteed promotion to the Premier Division, but as Cheddar found out to their cost last season, this is no longer the case.

So, having moved from a situation where only Keynsham were promoted from the First Division last season, the National League System Regulations now paves the

way for the top four in the First Division to qualify for promotion. However, the days of promotion from the First into the Premier Division are now over, as promotion and relegation have become the FA's primary tool for reorganisation.

For Calne Town, promotion out of the First Division is likely to mean moving into the Hellenic League, yet this alone will not deliver the scale of restructuring the FA are looking for. Lateral movement, as shown in the FA's mapping exercise, is the only way to enable four sides from the SWPL and three from the Western Leagues' First Division, excluding Calne, to find a place in a Western League Premier Division that is projected to extend from the Coalfields of Somerset to beyond Falmouth.

The construction of the "pure pyramid", designed to guarantee promotion and relegation across the Leagues, has also served to shift the footprints of the Divisions within the Leagues at Steps 5 and 6. Whilst the Western League is welcoming a burgeoning contingent of sides from Devon and Cornwall into its Step 5 Premier Division, Step 6 sides located in these counties will continue to play in the SWPL. Wiltshire sides like Corsham and Devizes that would be lost to the League if promoted, remain a fixture in its First Division. In the grand scheme of things, this administrative anomaly may prove to be of little consequence, but it does serve to muddy the waters for Clubs assessing where their long-term promotion prospects may lie.

The key question for many Western League watchers is where will this process ultimately end? The FA may believe the re-organisation will be complete in the 2020/21 season, but the consequences of

the "pure pyramid" are likely to be felt for many years to come, and not just by the Western League.

Whilst promotion is unlikely to continue at the levels described in this season's NLS, the prospect of Devon and Cornish sides consistently joining the Western League has the potential to drag its northern and eastern borders further westward. Indeed, this process will also impact on the standard of competition in the Peninsula League, which faces the prospect of losing traditional powerhouses like Bodmin Town, Newquay, Falmouth and St Austell if the pressure to promote continues in the coming seasons.

The FA will be updating their league allocations in March and are scheduled to report the latest simulation to all Clubs in April. Whilst the FA have used lateral movement as a way of managing the pyramid in the past, the process hasn't always run smoothly, as Chipping Sodbury proved at the start of this season, when they successfully appealed their movement into the Hellenic League. However, the FA appear to have learnt their lesson, publishing a detailed timetable for the process of finalising next season's League membership, along with their membership projections.

Whether we are going to Helston in a handcart, or whether this is all just a storm in a teacup, remains to be seen. No matter how it is mistreated, football has a remarkable ability to survive the most turbulent social and economic challenges our society has to offer, which is why it is the game we all love. That said, 'Plan for the Worst and Hope for the Best' must remain the mantra for every Western League Club.



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WARNING !

OBJECTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR

It has been stated many times that neither FOUL, ABUSIVE nor RACIST LANGUAGE will be tolerated within the League.

The FA has now issued further guidelines to match officials regarding the handling of any situation which may bring the club, League or indeed the whole of the game into disrepute.

It is a problem that everyone involved in the game must take responsibility for in an effort to eradicate it.

Paying spectators are the lifeblood of every club and if they stay away from matches because of the objectionable behaviour of others everyone will suffer.

TEAM MANAGERS AND PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEAD THE WAY IN RIDING THE GAME OF AN UNNECESSARY EVIL, AND SET AN EXAMPLE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY.

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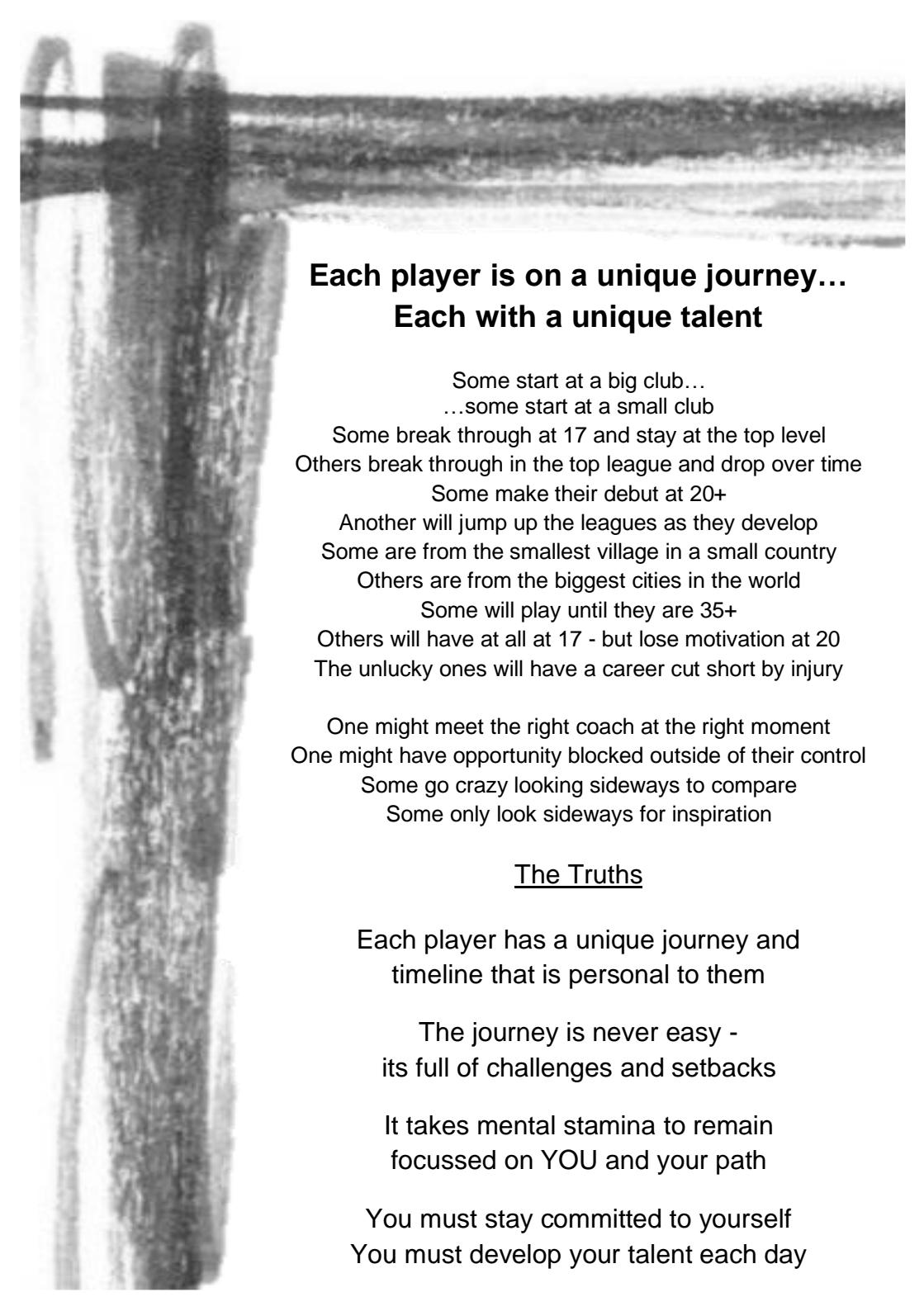
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Each player is on a unique journey... Each with a unique talent

Some start at a big club...

...some start at a small club

Some break through at 17 and stay at the top level

Others break through in the top league and drop over time

Some make their debut at 20+

Another will jump up the leagues as they develop

Some are from the smallest village in a small country

Others are from the biggest cities in the world

Some will play until they are 35+

Others will have at all at 17 - but lose motivation at 20

The unlucky ones will have a career cut short by injury

One might meet the right coach at the right moment

One might have opportunity blocked outside of their control

Some go crazy looking sideways to compare

Some only look sideways for inspiration

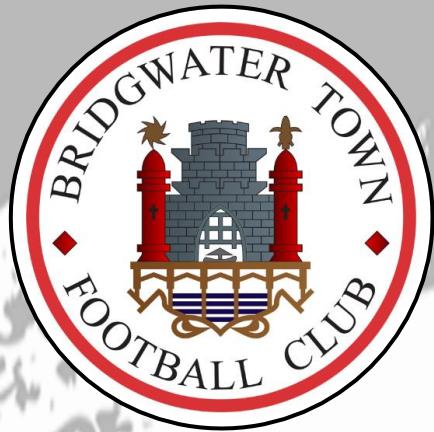
The Truths

Each player has a unique journey and timeline that is personal to them

The journey is never easy - its full of challenges and setbacks

It takes mental stamina to remain focussed on YOU and your path

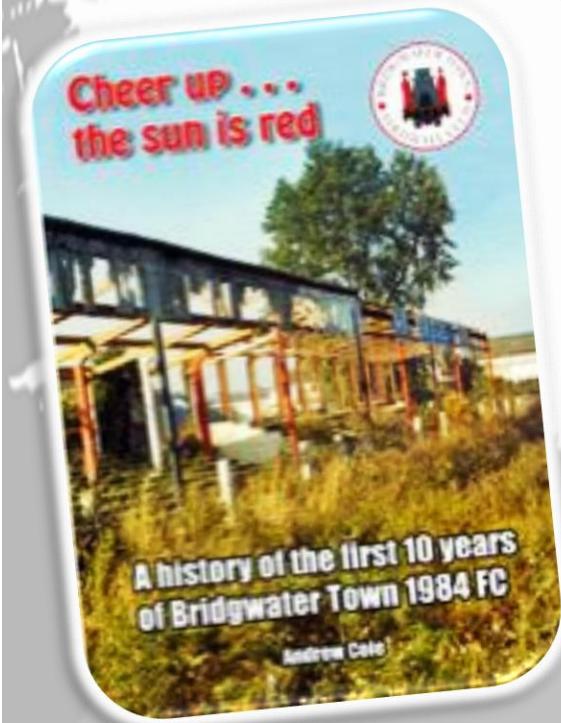
You must stay committed to yourself
You must develop your talent each day



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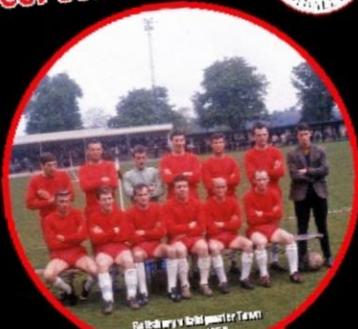
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Club successfully gaining
entry to the Western League.

**Throbbin' their own
sweet song...**



**A part history of
Bridgwater Town AFC
The Peter Thomas years
1965 - 1975**

Andrew Cole & Roger Palmer

Book 2: Throbbin' their own sweet song...

This edition chronicles the ten-year management of Peter Thomas (1965 to 1975), who steered his charges through what many consider to be the most successful period in Bridgwater's senior footballing history.

Book 3: Rockin' Robins...

The latest volume covers the unsettled years which separates

Book 1 from Book 2.

This period was to see five managers and three chairmen in the space of nine seasons, a dramatic drop in support and the eventual voluntary liquidation of Bridgwater Town AFC.

Rockin' Robins ...



**A part history of
Bridgwater Town AFC**

**The Final Years
1975 - 1984**



**Andrew Cole &
Roger Palmer**

Somerset FA launches the 'Pledge of Positivity' which asks parents and spectators involved in under-18s grassroots football to commit to creating a more positive environment at matches across the country.



MAKE THE PLEDGE OF POSITIVITY

The 'Pledge of Positivity' asks parents and spectators involved in grassroots football to commit to creating a more positive environment at matches.

A 2019/20 survey conducted by The FA and Nielsen found that 88% of over 1,000 grassroots participants cite parents as a driver of disrespect in grassroots football.

To have an impact on this off-the-pitch behaviour, The FA launched the **Pledge of Positivity**, encouraging those on the sidelines to support all players involved and respect referees, coaches and other spectators.

The Pledge is based on The FA's RESPECT behavioural code of conduct which seeks to improve behavioural standards in football.

England captains Steph Houghton and Harry Kane were the first two high-profile stars to make the **Pledge of Positivity** and have encouraged others to follow suit..

The two skippers also penned a joint letter to parents and spectators, which was painted into the touchlines at their childhood clubs: Harry Kane's Ridgeway Rovers, Essex and Steph Houghton's Boldon Girls, South Shields, ahead of their recent youth team matches.

The letter highlights the importance of positive support and the role it played in their own footballing development, from the grassroots game all the way to Wembley. To watch the full launch video involving Houghton and Kane, visit the FA's website: pledge.TheFA.com

England men's captain Harry Kane, a father of two, said: "As parents and spectators, it is our job to make sure that children enjoy playing football. The pitch should be a place of support and encouragement. Youngsters should never feel pressure or intimidation from the side-lines, so I'm delighted to add my name to the **Pledge of Positivity** and I'd like to encourage as many people as possible to do the same."

Lionesses captain Steph Houghton added: "Positivity is essential in football. It's important to create an environment where everyone enjoys playing. There are small things you can do on the touchline – like applauding good play from both teams – that has a big impact on young players."

The FA's Chief Executive, Mark Bullingham said, "Having coached grass roots football for the last five years, I've seen first-hand the huge impact that parents on the side-lines can have on players from both a positive and negative point of view.

"It's no surprise that kids play better in a positive environment and our research has confirmed this impacts 90% of players.

"It's crucial that we create an atmosphere where players are encouraged rather than abused, for their enjoyment of football as well as their mental health.

"I urge others to join me in making this pledge and showing their support for kids' football."

The FA's Respect campaign was re-launched ahead of the 2018/19 season [having been originally launched in the 2008/09 season] with a new mantra of '**We Only Do Positive**'.

As a result, The FA has seen positivity in grassroots football rise with 88% of tracked U12 to U18s matches being played in a positive environment, a 2% increase from the previous season. The FA hope that the **Pledge of Positivity** will ensure that number continues to rise.

Your behaviour will shape your child's experience of football.
Make your pledge



pledge.TheFA.com



Start to make a difference today



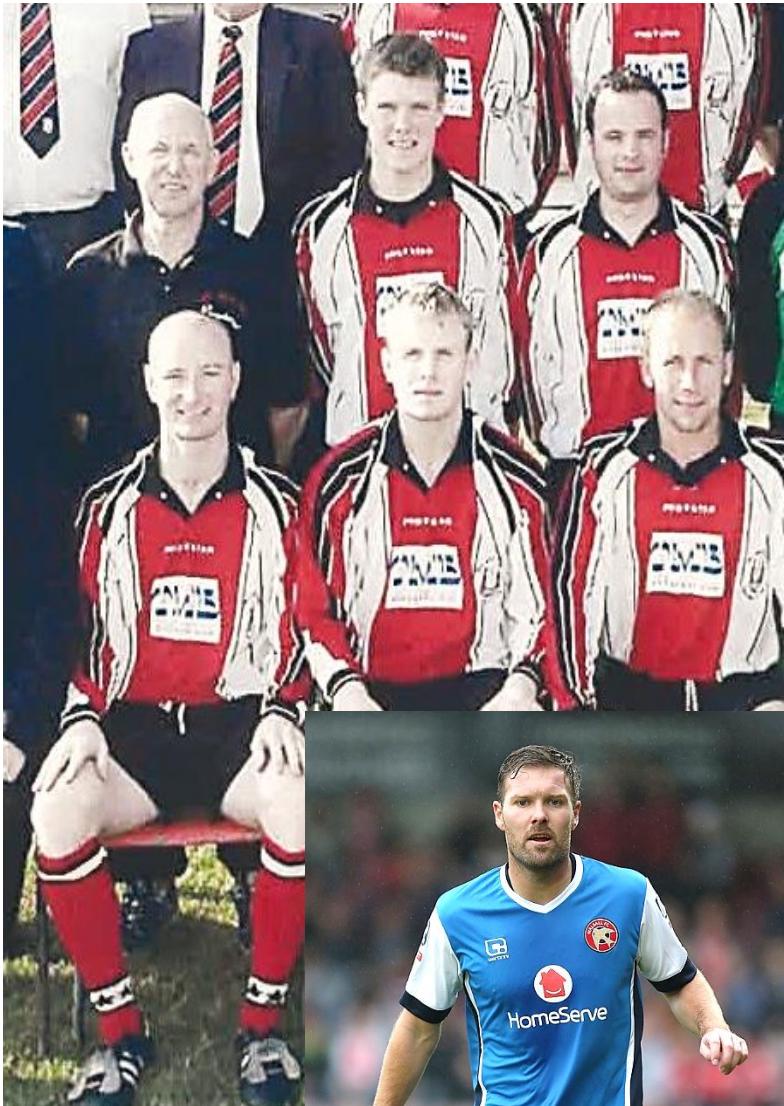
RESPECT

For ALL

#WeOnlyDoPositive

SCOTT LAIRD

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A picture series
based on Football
League players, who
over the years have
donned the colours
of BRIDGWATER
TOWN FC.

Scott only played a few times in Bridgwater U18, Reserves and First team colours in the crossover period between being on schoolboy and youth forms with Plymouth Argyle.

Probably his most memorable performance was in the 2003 pre-season friendly home 0-0 draw with Telford United. He lined up, aged only around 16 years old, in the heart of the 'Town's defence and marked £1 million ex Premiership forward, Lee Mills out of the game.

Mills had played for Wolves, Derby County and Bradford City and commanded transfer fees totalling £2.6 million.

It was obvious from the intelligent way in which he played that despite his youth Scott was a special talent.

He signed professional forms for Argyle in 2006 but only made a single League Cup appearance in 2007.

Brief spells at Tiverton Town and Torquay United followed before he signed for Conference Premier side, Stevenage United. Scott was to figure prominently in their dramatic rise from non-league football into League 2 and then League 1.

He made 112 Football League appearances (11 goals) for the Hertfordshire club before following his manager, Graham Westley, to Preston North End.

He spent three seasons at Deepdale playing largely in the left-back position. He was particularly dangerous in dead ball situations such as free-kicks and corners and built up a useful tally of goals.

Scott made 108 appearances for Preston (7 goals) despite missing 18 months with a broken leg sustained versus Notts County.

Scott then played for Scunthorpe United (39 apps + 3 gls) and Forest Green Rovers (44 + 9) punctuated by two loan spells at Walsall (39 + 4).

Scott won many international honours for Scotland at schools and youth level and also has an England 'C' international cap.

In season 2019/20, despite offers from several league clubs, he decided to join Weston-super-Mare as a player / assistant manager when his contract with Forest Green Rovers expired.

E&OE

In the top picture [left] Scott is in the centre of the back row between physio Dave Callow and Jorge Diaz. Front: Mark Cawley, Paul Heywood and Paul Toms.

Bottom picture: in the colours of Walsall FC on loan.

Editor's note:
One thing that caught my eye was the bottom team in each division both play at the same ground.
Wonder if the plastic pitch has anything to do with it?

PREMIER DIVISION

Team
Tavistock
Bridport
Chipping Sodbury Town
Buckland Athletic
Cribbs
Bradford Town
Cadbury Heath
Bitton
Plymouth Parkway
Shepton Mallet
Clevedon Town
Bridgwater Town
Exmouth Town
Odd Down (BATH)
Keynsham Town
Wellington
Westbury United
Hallen
Street FC
Brislington
Roman Glass St George

Cautions	Sent Off	Misconduct	Points
18	1	0	21
25	1	1	33
21	3	1	36
30	2	0	40
27	2	1	41
31	0	2	43
31	2	0	44
35	2	0	47
30	3	0	47
40	2	0	48
43	2	0	51
39	2	0	53
41	1	1	54
45	2	0	55
39	4	1	56
45	2	0	56
37	2	4	56
50	3	0	65
48	4	2	72
37	7	3	81
40	5	5	91

Team
Bishops Lydeard
Radstock Town
Corsham Town
Wells City
Devizes Town
Welton Rovers
Sherborne Town
Cheddar
Wincanton Town
Almondsbury
Ashton & Backwell United
Warminster Town
Calne Town
Portishead Town
Hengrove Athletic
Longwell Green Sports
Bristol Telephones
Bishop Sutton
Oldland Abbotonians
Lebeq United

Cautions	Sent Off	Misconduct	Points
21	3	0	33
19	3	1	34
35	1	1	41
29	3	0	43
25	3	1	44
37	1	0	44
36	2	0	47
32	2	1	50
36	4	0	50
35	2	2	54
44	2	0	54
39	3	2	59
41	2	4	62
40	3	1	64
46	3	1	71
39	6	3	71
48	3	3	75
43	5	1	76
58	4	2	83
58	8	7	124

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THE SQUADS!

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BRIDGWATER TOWN from

MARK ARMSTRONG ©	LEWIS HEMBREY	JACK TAYLOR
RYAN BRERETON	ADNAN HIROLI	DAVE THORNE
CONOR BRYANT	JAKE HORSEY	SAM TOWLER
MIKE DUFFY	JAKE LLEWELLYN	ANDY VENNING
TOM ELLIS	OLLIE MORRIS	JAKE VINEY (GK)
TYNE GOVIER	GEORGE PAINTER	JOSH WADHAM
JORDAN GREENWOOD	DAVE PEARSE	FINLEY WILKINSON
HARRY HAMBLIN	MATT REDMAN	

Management: Karl Baggaley & Dave Pearse

Coach: Josh Crook / GK Coach: Steve Laker / Therapist: Taylor Cornish

HELSTON ATHLETIC from

RYAN BEATTIE	LIAM EDDY	ED TIMMONS
OLLI BROKENSHIRE	MARK GOLDSWORTHY	WILL TINSLEY
MATTY BUCHAN	DAN HARRISON	BILLY TUCKER
MATTY BYE	KYLE MARKS	ALEX WHARTON
PHIL CATTRAN	DAMON MULREADY	
KAI CORNISH	JASON ROBERTSON (GK)	
KIERAN DAUGHTERY (GK)	LIAM SHORT	
JORDON DINGLE	NEIL SLATEFORD	

Manager: Steve Massey / Coach: Glynn Hooper / Assistant Coach: Dan Bua-Roberts

GK Coach: Martyn Daughtery / Therapist: TBA / Kitman: Paul Hendy

TORRIDGESIDE AFC

MARC BETTISS	GEORGE FOLLAND	RORY PAINES
NEIL BETTISS	HARRY GILBERT	GRADY PICKARD
PAUL BOUNDY	JACK GILBERT	HARRY STEVENS
JAMIE BRIGHT	NICK GLOVER	HARRY TAFFS
SHAUN COPP	JAMIE GREENAWAY	
RYAN DAVIES	JACK LANGFORD	
WILL DAVIS	JACK MAGAROTTO	
TYLER EVANS-LOUDE	KYLE PAINES	

Manager: Paul Hutchings

Assistant: Barry Paine

Match Officials to be announced at each game