

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

bridgyview.84@yahoo.com

The Robin



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Pre-season friendly | Saturday 22 August 2020
Welcome to Fairfax Park



Bodmin Town



Season 2020/21
#01



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FROM THE DUGOUT

'Good afternoon everyone...

Training has been great and everyone has worked so hard. It's been good to get them back in and the energy levels have been fantastic. There is a great feeling amongst the group and the new players have settled in well and are all enjoying it.

The games we've played so far have been tough, but we are really pleased with what we have seen to date. The next few weeks will bring many more tests with the games that are lined up but the main thing is we are back playing football.



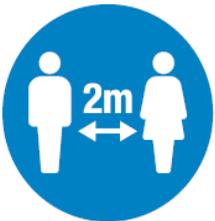
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Avoid touching

Surfaces and products unless absolutely necessary

As you would expect, we constantly monitor everything we do and we're talking to one or two players which hopefully we will have some news soon.

Whilst we're focused on doing what we need to do throughout pre-season and ensure we're at the levels we need to reach, it have been strange playing behind closed doors.

Everyone behind the scenes has done a magnificent job in ensuring supporters can return safely and I urge our fans to purchase a season ticket ready for when that day comes.'

Finally: welcome to Darren, his team and everyone from Bodmin Town FC, today's game will no doubt be a good test for all concerned...

PEARSEY!



ROBINS RECAP

Bridgwater Town 1984 FC

*Is an Unincorporated
Members' Club*

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

*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

WELCOME...

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

We hope their supporters, players and officials enjoyed a straightforward trip getting here and an equally a safe journey home.

The last few months have been quite unprecedented and have brought many challenges for us all. It is so pleasing to, at last, be able to welcome back, you, our loyal supporters to this game – exactly six months on from the last one.

The lockdown, subsequent restrictions and the government and FA requirements for restarting have required multiple hours of work from our small group of volunteers to ensure that your club is in as good shape as possible to open the doors today. The response to our fundraising efforts in the spring was extremely gratifying; it has made a huge difference and has helped us continue our work to ensure the sustainability and progression of your club.

We are keen to attract more volunteers who are able to provide regular help around the ground with maintenance, match day management and other tasks. If that sounds like you, or someone you know, please speak to me or any member of our committee.

Equally, we are actively seeking more sponsors and advertisers and have

recently launched our new 'Commercial Packages' document that provides options to suit all budgets. Details are on our website and social media pages. Of course, I will be delighted to provide more details to any individual or business that you know that might be interested in helping us. I'm on 07966 386091 or bobbuckingham@btinternet.com

You will see that we have been forced to make many adjustments to our normal match day arrangements and we hope that you will understand and support the actions we have taken to ensure the safety of everyone involved here today.

We have been required to restrict the number of spectators to just 150 today but this will increase to 300 when we play our final preseason game here on Wednesday v Helston Athletic of South West Peninsula League. We hope to see you and your friends then!

Enjoy the game today and I would urge you all to cheer on our team in the most positive way you can; I know you will be vocal in your support.

Best Regards

Bob Buckingham

Vice Chairman/Commercial Manager

**COME ON
BRIDGY!**

For the record:

Toolstation Western League Premier Division 2019/20

BRIDGWATER TOWN vs	Res - <u>Home</u> - Att		Res - <u>Away</u> - Att	
BITTON	L: 2-3	256	Void	
BRADFORD TOWN	Void		Void	
BRIDPORT	W: 3-2	211	W: 6-0	347
BRISLINGTON	Void		L: 1-2	122
BUCKLAND ATHLETIC	D: 3-3	189	Void	
CADBURY HEATH	W: 4-0	131	D: 3-3	60
CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN	Void		W: 8-1	85
CLEDON TOWN	D: 3-3	288	L: 1-2	206
CRIBBS	D: 1-1	237	W: 3-2	74
EXMOUTH TOWN	Void		D: 0-0	232
HALLEN	D: 2-2	233	W: 6-4	65
KEYNSHAM TOWN	D: 1-1	161	W: 1-0	124
ODD DOWN	Void		W: 3-2	52
PLYMOUTH PARKWAY	W: 2-0	232	Void	
ROMAN GLASS ST GEORGE	W: 2-0	215	Void	
SHEPTON MALLET	L: 1-2	302	L: 0-1	178
STREET	L: 2-4	237	Void	
TAVISTOCK	Void		Void	
WELLINGTON	W: 2-0	211	W: 3-0	152
WESTBURY UNITED	Void		W: 2-1	55
<i>Total attendance</i>		2993		1752
<i>Average attendance</i>		230		135

How the TWL Premier Division table looked on 11 March 2020 when the season was brought to an early conclusion...

		P	W	D	L	Gd	Pts
1	Tavistock	26	20	2	4	45	62
2	Plymouth Parkway	23	19	2	2	59	59
3	Bradford Town	22	19	1	2	49	58
4	Hallen	29	17	6	6	16	57
5	Exmouth Town	25	18	2	5	38	56
6	Shepton Mallet	27	17	4	6	35	55
7	Bitton	26	16	2	8	32	50
8	Bridgwater Town	27	13	7	7	25	46
9	Clevedon Town	29	12	5	12	-4	41
10	Roman Glass St G	29	12	4	13	15	40
11	Street	30	12	4	14	-4	40
12	Westbury United	28	12	3	13	11	39
13	Buckland Athletic	25	12	2	11	0	38
14	Keynsham Town	29	11	4	14	-7	37
15	Brislington	27	10	5	12	-20	35
16	Cribbs	27	8	3	16	-29	27
17	Cadbury Heath	30	6	7	17	-44	25
18	Chipping Sodbury T	28	6	1	21	-59	19
19	Bridport	27	5	2	20	-55	17
20	Wellington	30	3	3	24	-50	12
21	Odd Down	28	3	1	24	-53	10

Odd Down	28	3	1	24	-53	10
Wellington	30	3	3	24	-50	12
Bridport	27	5	2	20	-55	17
Chipping Sodbury T	28	6	1	21	-59	19
Cadbury Heath	30	6	7	17	-44	25
Cribbs	27	8	3	16	-29	27
Brislington	27	10	5	12	-20	35



**BE SMART
STAY 2M
APART!**

Your patience whilst queuing saves lives

PPG or not PPG?

That is [was] the question!

At the time, many individuals and clubs considered it was a hasty decision by the powers that be to null and void the 2019/20 season with so many games still to be played. Many of the same then felt that 'Points Per Game' (PPG) should be used instead to decide any promotion and relegation issues once it became clear a prolonged Covid-19 lay-off was inevitable.

Opposite is how the TWL Premier Division table would have looked had PPG been used... but with so many games still to be played, would it have actually been a true reflection of how things might have finished?

No disrespect to Bradford Town, but of their 18 remaining fixtures no less than 10 were against other sides in the top 8, so would their PPG have remained constant? They still had Plymouth Parkway, Exmouth Town, Hallen and us (BTFC) to face both home and away, as well as tricky games against Tavistock (home) and Bitton (away).

On the other hand: on paper Plymouth Parkway's run in was considerably easier, with two-thirds of their games against mid to lower table teams. Likewise for Tavistock, so the three-horse race would probably have gone to the final round of games.

Anyway: it's all irrelevant now as the season was declared null and void and we go again from scratch with more or less the same divisional set-ups. But it doesn't stop some from wondering what might have been for them...!!!

		<u>P</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>PPG</u>
1	Bradford Town	22	58	2.636
2	Plymouth Parkway	23	59	2.565
3	Tavistock	26	62	2.385
4	Exmouth Town	25	56	2.240
5	Shepton Mallet	27	55	2.037
6	Hallen	29	57	1.966
7	Bitton	26	50	1.923
8	Bridgwater Town	27	46	1.704
9	Buckland Athletic	25	38	1.520
10	Clevedon Town	29	41	1.414
11	Westbury United	28	39	1.393
12	Roman Glass SG	29	40	1.379
13	Street	30	40	1.333
14	Brislington	27	35	1.296
15	Keynsham Town	29	37	1.276
16	Cribbs	27	27	1.000
17	Cadbury Heath	30	25	0.833
18	Chipping Sodbury	28	19	0.679
19	Bridport	27	17	0.630
20	Wellington	30	12	0.400
21	Odd Down	28	10	0.357

**Washing hands
properly**

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spreading to
other people,
surfaces and
objects**

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

From the pen (keyboard) of **MARK HOLLIDGE**

I had a shock when Roger Palmer informed me that a) there is a football match you can go to watch live today and b) that a programme was going to be produced. It created a sort of panic in me because I am out of the habit when it comes to writing about football. In fact I haven't even been thinking about it very much. Yet the fact is that football is back and I am sure that we are all happy about that.

I have been watching these games on the telly where there are no fans but with added crowd noise. You get rather used to it. So I was wondering if this is something we would be bringing to non-league football. Just think about those clubs who survive on thirty fans. Just imagine the boost the players would get if a near miss or a goal was accompanied by an enormous roar that would put Liverpool's Spion Kop to shame.

For us, I think we should get together a group of fans with fine voices who can record a series of BTFC related chants and belt these out over the tannoy at high decibels whenever the time is right.

We wouldn't have any of this balance nonsense where the away team can have

chants of their own as well. No, make your home ground a fortress.

There are a few thank yous required.

Firstly to all the people who put their hands in their pockets and helped the club raise the money needed to tide it over this long time without income.

Secondly, to all the folks who have spent time doing necessary decoration and renovation at the ground.

Thirdly, to the folks who have done the spadework to make the ground, and us fans, Covid secure.

Fourthly to Andy Cole and Roger Palmer for the fantastic work they have done in the compiling of the three booklets about the club's history. These well produced publications have entertained but have also filled in the gaps in my knowledge. I am sure that for many older fans, they have enjoyed reliving fond memories.

Remember to get your season ticket if you haven't already, good value for money as ever. Isn't it great to have real football to watch again?



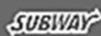
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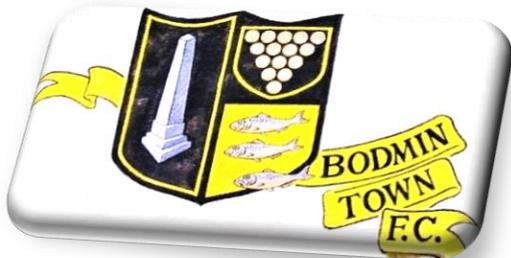
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BODMIN TOWN FC

What the FCHD says...

1953-54	Joined South Western League
1956-57	Two points deducted
1962	Left South Western League
1969-70	Rejoined South Western League
1976-77	South Western League runner-up
1986-87	Two points deducted
1988-89	Missed runner-up spot on goal difference
1990-91	South Western League Champions
1992-93	South Western League runner-up
1993-94	South Western League Champions (on goal difference) (2nd time)
1994-95	South Western League runner-up
2003-04	South Western League runner-up
2004-05	South Western League runner-up
2005-06	South Western League Champions (3rd time)
2007-08	Founder member of South West Peninsula League Premier Division South West Peninsula League Champions
2008-09	South West Peninsula League Champions (2nd time)
2009-10	South West Peninsula League runner-up (lost title on goal difference)
2010-11	South West Peninsula League runner-up
2011-12	South West Peninsula League Champions (3rd time)
2012-13	South West Peninsula League Champions (4th time)
2014-15	South West Peninsula League runner-up
2015-16	South West Peninsula League Champions (5th time)



THE LAST 10 SEASONS

2010-11	SWP-P	38	27	7	4	98	38	88	2/20
2011-12	SWP-P	38	36	0	2	145	34	108	1/20
2012-13	SWP-P	36	28	6	2	127	28	90	1/19
2013-14	SWP-P	38	22	7	9	75	41	73	7/20
2014-15	SWP-P	36	25	6	5	98	42	81	2/19
2015-16	SWP-P	38	27	8	3	130	43	89	1/20
2016-17	SWP-P	38	27	8	3	117	40	89	3/20
2017-18	SWP-P	38	24	7	7	96	50	79	5/20
2018-19	SWP-P	36	17	6	13	71	62	57	9/19
2019-20	SWP-W	27	18	3	6	77	44	57	Void



PRIORY PARK



Pictures taken from Google Images

A BRIEF HISTORY

Bodmin Town FC was established by Messrs. W.M. Pethybridge and C.H. Bray in 1889. After amalgamating with a team from the local barracks in 1900, they started playing in white shirts, gaining the nickname "the Lilywhites".

They won the Bodmin & District (Senior) League in 1922/23, and in 1925 the colour of the club's home shirts was changed to amber. They won the league again in 1926/27 and were runners-up in 1947/48.

In 1953 Bodmin joined the South Western League, where they played for nine seasons, before leaving at the end of the 1961/62 season to play in the East Cornwall Premier League.

They rejoined the South Western League in 1969 and were runners-up in 1976/77.

They won the league for the first time in 1990/91 and were champions again in 1993/94. They won the Cornwall Senior Cup for the first time in 1998/99, beating Millbrook 2-1 in the final. After finishing as runners-up twice in a row, they won the league for a third time in 2005/06.

In 2007 the club were founder members of the South West Peninsula League and were placed in the Premier Division; they went on to win the league and the League Cup in both of its first two seasons.

They finished as runners-up in 2009/10 & 2010/11, winning the Senior Cup in both seasons, beating Camelford 3-1 in the 2010 final and St Austell 3-2 in 2011.

The 2011/12 season saw them win the league, the League Cup and the Senior

Cup, beating Saltash United 3-2 in the final. They repeated the feat in 2012/13, with Helston Athletic beaten 4-3 after extra time in the Senior Cup final.¹

A fifth league title was won in 2015/16, with the club also winning the League Cup for a fifth time and the Senior Cup for a sixth time with a 7-0 win over Godolphin Athletic in the final.

Following league reorganisation at the end of the 2018/19 season, Bodmin were placed in the Premier Division West.

The club initially played at Cooksland, a ground located on Liskeard Road. They subsequently moved to Coldharbour Lane and then Barn Park, before returning to Cooksland.

They later moved to Westheath, which they shared with St Lawrence's Hospital football club and the cricket club.

In 1948 they moved to their current ground, Priory Park, which is owned by the local council. A stand was relocated from Westheath to the new ground but was replaced by a new 400-capacity main stand in 1958, which cost £2,500 to build; the money was donated by TH Dennison, with the stand being named the Dennison Memorial Stand.

Floodlights were installed in 1971 and a new clubhouse built in 1985.

One end of the ground consists of grass banking, with the other two sides of the pitch left open. The ground currently has a capacity of 5,000.

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Friday: 8am-4.30pm

Saturday: 8am-12pm

Sunday: Closed

Proud Sponsors of Bridgwater Town FC
C'mon Bridgy give us a win!

WE'VE MET BEFORE!

BODMIN TOWN FC

We have met our Cornish visitors several times since a first meeting back in 1973.

The initial encounter was in a competition for leading clubs drawn from different leagues in the South West called the Pratten Cup. 'Town were victorious over 2 legs and went on to beat Falmouth Town in the Final.

The other meetings have been confined to the FA Cup.

Bodmin Town FC is one of the leading clubs in the South West Peninsula League and is currently a member of the Premier West Division.

The table from the aborted 2019/20 season shows the Cornish side in a healthy 5th position.

It has won the competition 5 times in the last 20 years, although the last time was five years ago.

Prior to this the Bodmin Town were champions of the old South Western League on three occasions.

The manager, Darren Gilbert has recruited heavily during the lock-down and has brought in some quality and experienced players to join a squad that already boasted six members selected to represent the Cornish FA last season.

15	Apr	1973	A	2	0	Davis, Hockey		PC
29	Apr	1973	H	1	1	Brawley	450	PC
30	Aug	2008	A	3	0	Mackay, Pepperell, Young	149	FAC
13	Sep	2014	A	3	3	O'Hare 2, Tooze	116	FAC
16	Sep	2014	H	2	1	O'Hare, Rendall	182	FAC

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

Recent additions include Adam Carter, who grabbed 32 goals in 27 games for Plymouth Parkway last season and left back, Jordan Trott also from Parkway. Tom Annear from Tavistock, Ollie Chenoweth from Liskeard Athletic and Sol Wheatley, who can name Plymouth Argyle, Hereford and Paulton Rovers as previous clubs have also been signed.

Pre-season action so far

*All reports by
Kerry Miller*

04 August: BTFC 1-0 Wincanton Town

A well-taken goal from debutant Ryan Brereton on the half hour was enough to give the Robins victory over a strong and energetic Wincanton Town side, at Fairfax Park.

Although played officially behind closed doors, both sides went for it from the start and created an atmosphere for the watching clubmen and women which brought some entertaining football. With no interminable rolling subs, extended drinks breaks and long half time, it often resembled a league game and credit must go to the managers and referee Scott Jackson and his team for providing that.

Bridgy bosses Karl Baggaley and Dave Pearse were without skipper Mark Armstrong but introduced former Bishops Lydeard striker Brereton, plus former Lydeard and Wellington wide man Conor Bryant. Josh Wadham and Mike Duffy each returned for another debut and there was also a first look at Jordan Greenwood, a centre half from Roman Glass St George, who had a superb match alongside the unflappable Tom Ellis and was the unofficial man of the match.

Western League Division One Wincanton Town began well and were the better side for 20 minutes with Louis Irwin twice going close after Bryant and Sam Towler had set up Mike Duffy, whose effort was just blocked. Bryant then curled a shot inches wide and after Brereton had also gone close, he struck on the half hour when Fin Wilkinson and Jack Taylor combined and the 20 year old made no mistake from 12 yards with a fierce drive.

After the break Wilkinson went close with another curling shot before former Robin Dan Wise had a free-kick well held by Jake Viney on the hour. Jake Llewellyn and Ollie Morris were introduced soon after and as Wincanton went looking for an equaliser Pearse, Tyne Govier and Andy Venning had a run out. Ellis nodded a free kick wide but at the other end Greenwood was showing a turn of pace, somehow getting back to deny Toby Cole who was clear and about to pull the trigger.

Squad: Jake Viney, Dave Thorne, Fin Wilkinson, Sam Towler, Jordan Greenwood, Tom Ellis, Ryan Brereton, Mike Duffy, Jack Taylor, Josh Wadham, Conor Bryant.

Subs all used: Dave Pearse, Andy Venning, Tyne Govier, Jake Llewellyn, Ollie Morris.

07 August: BTFC 1-2 Weston super Mare

The Robins continued their pre-season campaign with their second game in three days when they took on Southern League Premier Division Weston-super-Mare, eventually losing to a snap left foot strike from Keiran Thomas just past the hour.

Dave Pearse and Karl Baggaley's squad were still in the game at the final whistle despite the attacking style of the Seagulls who must be one of the biggest sides to play at Fairfax Park for some time. Despite that, Bridgwater stood up to the task and with man of the match Tom Ellis, Ollie Morris and Jordan Greenwood at the back did well to repel the

imposing strike force of former Robin Nick McCootie, and returning striker Dayle Grubb after a spell in the Football League with Forest Green Rovers.

The tempo of the match was always upbeat but against the run of play Bridgwater took the lead when Seagulls' keeper Luke Purnell tried to dribble past Mike Duffy but was robbed and the returning midfielder rolled the ball into the empty net on 20 minutes. Josh Wadham was linking well with Jack Taylor and with new boys Conor Bryant and Ryan Brereton busy the visitors were never able to exert authority and roll the ball around freely but they levelled seven minutes before the break. Greenwood was forced to bring down McCootie just outside the box and Grubb curled his free-kick past Jake Viney for his first goal since re-joining the club on a four-year deal.

Jake Llewellyn somehow cleared off the line twice in as many seconds just short of the break and the second half began as the first ended with the sides trading chances with Duffy and Thomas testing the keepers. By then McCootie had been replaced by the even bigger Mike Symons and the much-travelled striker again tested Ellis but he was up to the task.

Former Mangotsfield United and Yate Town midfielder Adnan Hiroli came on for the Robins on the hour, returning to Fairfax Park after a decade away and the Indian born player was soon in the action along with George Painter, yet another returning to Fairfax Park.

Thomas then put Weston ahead with his finish just past the hour and late on Ryan Jones and Eastwood both hit the woodwork but the Robins deserved that luck as they continued battling away until referee Carl Peters' final whistle.

The squad convenes again on Tuesday evening when Somerset County League Somerton Town are the visitors, again behind closed doors, kick-off 7.30pm.

Squad: Jake Viney, Ollie Morris, Tom Ellis, Jordan Greenwood, Mike Duffy, Josh Wadham, Ryan Brereton, Jake Llewellyn, Jack Taylor, Conor Bryant, Sam Towler.
Used subs: Adnan Hiroli, George Painter, Tyne Govier, Nathan Byrne.

11 August: BTFC 2-0 Somerton Town

Goals at either end of the match from Jack Taylor gave Bridgwater Town a hard-earned victory as they continued their pre-season campaign against Somerset County League Somerton Town at Fairfax Park.

Joint bosses Dave Pearse and Karl Baggaley gave starts to George Painter and the returning Mark Armstrong and within two minutes Adnan Hiroli had found space on the right and his cross was neatly tucked away by Taylor past visiting keeper Dave Barcall. If the Robins thought it was the start of a goal fest they were mistaken as Somerton were no pushovers and Rhys Dyer had an effort just over soon after.

Ryan Brereton was looking busy in the broiling heat and at the back Fin Wilkinson was seeing plenty of the ball before Jacob Holland nodded over from a long ball just past the



AVAILABLE TODAY!

The first three instalments of the combined history of Bridgwater Town AFC and Bridgwater Town (1984) FC.

Priced at £5 each with all monies going to club funds.



Book 1: Cheer up... the sun is red

Charts the first ten years of the current Club: from the struggle to maintain senior football in the town, to the Club successfully gaining entry to the Western League.

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

This edition chronicles the ten-year managership 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 separated 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.

half hour. Brereton then crashed a free-kick against the bar and Armstrong's cross shot was wide before the break as the Robins looked for more goals against a well organised Somerton. Josh Wadham came on and nodded a long cross wide and Sam Towler volleyed just over from close range but Somerton almost levelled when the prolific Joe Wilkinson could not quite finish when Jake Viney parried a drive.

Wilkinson looked dangerous whenever he was on the ball and twice went close but Town were exploiting the gaps as the game wore on and after a raft of changes Mike Duffy and Tyne Govier tested Barcall in the same move. Five minutes from the end Taylor moved forward and crashed home a left foot strike to make it 2-0 which was hard on the visitors who were far from overawed on the night.

Squad: Jake Viney, Dave Thorne, Fin Wilkinson, George Painter, Tom Ellis, Ollie Morris, Mark Armstrong, Ryan Brereton, Adnan Hiroli, Jack Taylor, Conor Bryant. Used subs: Jordan Greenwood, Tyne Govier, Josh Wadham, Sam Towler, Mike Duffy.

15 August: Ashton & Backwell Utd 3-2 BTFC

A brace of penalties from Jake Llewellyn was all Bridgwater had to show from their visit to Division One Ashton and Backwell United. The game often resembled a Western League encounter with tackles flying in on a wet surface and Town began well with Jack Taylor blazing over when free 18 yards out but the home side looked dangerous up front and James White and Saul Jarrat both tested Jake Viney in the Robins' goal.

Ashton and Backwell showed they were not going to mess about with niceties and Connor Saunders went in late twice in five minutes, either of which should have brought a yellow card before Jarrat's drive was superbly kept out by Viney. It was in vain as the corner was nodded home from close range by Joe Bishop to give the home side the lead. Viney's luck was out minutes later when he made a stunning double save, only for a clumsy challenge seconds later gave United a penalty and Townsend made it 2-0 from the spot. Within a minute Bridgwater had reduced the arrears when Sam Thomas was adjudged to have handled inside the box and Llewellyn tucked away his first spot kick to make it 2-1.

From the restart the lively Jarrat twice went close again and from the next attack the ball was deflected onto a post but Jordan Scadding prodded home to restore the two goal advantage. Sam Towler then hit the bar with a free-kick from the edge of the area then Tom Ellis and Taylor went close before Townsend was again late with a crude challenge and he was immediately substituted. While he got away Scott free, the hard working Mike Duffy was cautioned for a tackle moments later as the game temperature briefly rose.

Towler's long range volley was pushed away by Lewis Coombs but he could do little when substitute Dave Pearse was fouled in the area and Llewellyn stuck away the third spot kick of the day.

Squad: Jake Viney, Jake Lewellyn, Sam Towler, Jordan Greenwood, Ollie Morris, Mike Duffy, Jack Taylor, Conor Bryant, Adnan Hiroli, Tom Ellis, Dave Thorne.
USED SUBS: Dave Pearse, Tyne Govier, Fin Wilkinson.



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 RIDDING THE GAME OF AN UNNECESSARY EVIL, AND SET AN EXAMPLE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY.

RACIST REMARKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND ALL REPORTED INCIDENTS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE WAY.

THE TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE

#LOVETHEWHISTLE

Towards the end of last season, before it came to a shuddering halt, the Toolstation Western League began a campaign to promote the contribution that match officials make to football at every level of the game, not just the Western League.

Using the Western League Podcast, website and social media channels, the campaign looked at the motivation for officials to get involved with the game; what they get out of their participation, as well as what they find most frustrating.

Headlined by a serialised interview with Martin Cassidy, the CEO of Ref Support UK, a registered charity created by referees and Trustees who have all officiated on the Western League.

Ref Support provide referees with independent support, separate from the Football Association. The charity does not receive any funding from any of football's governing bodies, enabling them to challenge organisations like the FA when needed, as well as supporting match officials with training, both on and off the pitch.

In an interview for the Western League Podcast, Martin applauded the League for being the first in the country to approach Ref Support "for some independent help and support, because we won't just take the referees' side." Martin explained that the charity provides consultancy for Clubs on a variety of aspects of the game, including match reports from referees, dismissals and yellow cards.

Martin was keen to stress that, "We are never going to say that every referee is perfect for the level they operate at.

"Some referees react too quickly, some referees haven't had the soft skills training on how to deal with confrontation, and those skills aren't taught by the FA at grassroots level.

"We believe that concentrating on those first and getting soft skills to a level that can improve your communication with players and club officials really, really helps."

The campaign also included contributions from Western League match officials like Midsomer Norton's Andrew Hobbs, who got into refereeing after he gave up playing, on the advice of his friend, the late Mark Box. Andrew enjoys the opportunity to contribute to the game he loves - but is sad to see officials being abused every week. Ultimately, Ref Support and the Toolstation Western League want to see more people take up officiating.

Martin Cassidy explains the benefits he got from refereeing: "I can go into the pubs in Bristol and bump into a player or manager and have a pint and you can make some wonderful, long-term friendships.

"I would advise anybody to get off their Playstation, get off the couch and get out and take a referee's course. It's a great way to increase social engagement, improve your soft skills and just to meet people who are football lovers, just like you."

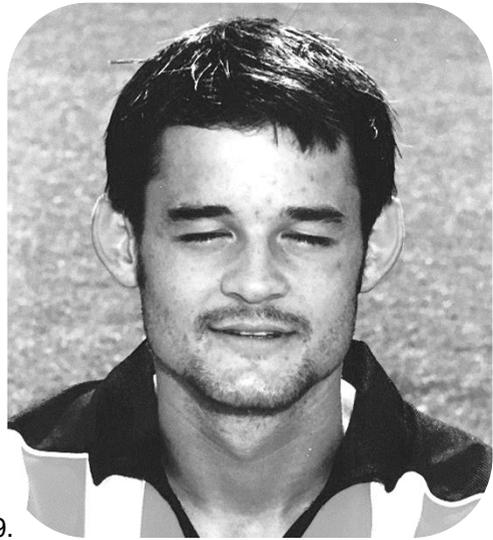
If you are interested in becoming a match official, then contact your County FA to find out more.

Ian Nockolds

The Toolstation Western League Podcast is available weekly, on itunes, as well as <http://toolstationleague.com/> The League's social media accounts can be found at: @TSWesternLeague. As part of the campaign to support match officials, fans are being asked to use #Lovethewhistle in any football-related social media posts.

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

JON ASHTON



Jon was born in Plymouth in 1979.

He joined his hometown club, Plymouth Argyle as a trainee. He rose through the ranks and made his initial First team appearance as a sub against Cardiff City in a 1-0 defeat back on the 5th September 1998. Later in the same week he made his first League start. He made the long trip to Rotherham United, where "the Pilgrims" ended as 2-0 victors.

Jon's Home Park debut came in November but unfortunately it was the visitors, Leyton Orient, who won 2-4 that day. Jon figured in 26 League fixtures in the 1998-99 season and there were further starts in the Worthington and LDV Cup squads. He was often picked in the right-back position. In the next season, he found his opportunities more limited and his final First team appearance was in the 2-2 draw at Mansfield Town in May 2000.

He made the free transfer move to neighbouring, Exeter City and began the new season in their defence. The 1stst fixture resulted in a 2-1 home defeat to highly fancied, Cardiff City. Jon found that once he had lost his place to the experienced, Graeme Power, it was difficult to dislodge him and although he made 13 starts in the red and white of Exeter City, a settled run was not forthcoming. His final First team appearance came in the 1-0 victory over Shrewsbury Town in March 2001.

After a spell at Conference side, Hayes, Jon joined Ryman League club, Dulwich Hamlet. Then he combined a new career in the insurance industry with playing part-time with Bodmin Town. He joined up with 'Town in November 2003 and made 23 appearances, initially at right back but later moved up into the forward line. He scored one goal in a 4-2 win over Devizes Town. At the end of the season he rejected an offer to stay in favour of moving to newly promoted Paulton Rovers in the Southern League.

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THE SQUADS



Please note the players are listed alphabetically and the actual team line-ups will be announced and made available before the game

Bridgwater Town	v E&OE	Bodmin Town
© Mark Armstrong		Tom Annear
Ryan Brereton		Adam Carter
Conor Bryant		Tom Chambers
Nathan Byrne	GK	Ollie Chenoweth
Mike Duffy		Harry Clarke
Tom Ellis		Max Gilbert
Tyne Govier		Tom Harris
Jordan Greenwood		Sam Hillson
Adnan Hiroli		Mason Hughes
Jake Horsey		Dan Jennings
Jake Llewellyn		Chris Reski
Ollie Morris		Francis Rowlands
George Painter		Connor Rush
Dave Pearse		Nathan Summers
Jack Taylor		Jordan Trott
Dave Thorne		Cameron Turner
Sam Towler		Will Warnock
Andy Venning		Martin Watts
Jake Viney	GK	Tom Whipp
Josh Wadham		
Finley Wilkinson		

Match Officials

Referee:
Craig Scriven

Assistants:
To be announced

Dave Pearse	Managers	Darren Gilbert
Karl Baggaley		Alan Carey
Josh Crook	Coach	Gary Jeffries
Taylor Cornish	Therapist	Regan Miles & Jordan Oaten



-----NEXT FIRST TEAM HOME GAME-----

Friendly fixture: Wed 26 August v Helston Athletic