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DARLASTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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NORTHERN PREMIER  
LEAGUE MIDLANDS  
DIVISION / 10.08.2024  
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## NEIL MELVIN **DIRECTOR'S TAKE**

### Welcome to another new season of football at Butlin Road!

Firstly, a big welcome back to all our fans and volunteers for what we hope will be an exciting and successful season ahead.

As well as welcoming back our management and players who finished off so well last season, we have also introduced a number of new players as well as additions to the backroom staff Gary Drake and Lucas Van-Eda - our new assistant manager and therapist respectively.

To all faces old and new I hope you have an enjoyable time with the club.

This afternoon we host newly-promoted Darlaston Town to open our league campaign and on behalf of all at the club I would like to wish the players, supporters and officials of Darlaston a pleasant stay with us and a safe journey home this evening.

Over the summer, our management team have worked extremely hard to build a squad to compete in

the Northern Premier League Midlands. We are pleased to have retained the majority of the squad that finished last season and along with the new faces will hopefully see us competing more towards the right end of the table. Those who traveled to Wolverhampton last weekend for our season opener in the Emirates FA Cup will have seen no less than seven debutants!

Wolves Casuals were one of Darlaston's Midland Football League Premier Division opponents last season and we finished the game strongly to progress from what was a very tough cup tie. The hosts certainly had their moments and could have easily taken the lead but for some good saves by Paul Hathaway and some profligate finishing. But we did improve as the second half progressed and we were increasing the pressure so it did feel like a breakthrough was coming and when it did we showed our quality.

But today will be a much tougher game against a Darlaston side who themselves had a big FA Cup of their own last weekend.

**TO ALL FACES OLD AND NEW I HOPE YOU HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME WITH THE CLUB.**

These are exciting times for Darlaston who are competing in the Northern Premier League for the first time in their history following their promotion via the play-offs last season from the MFL. Since they reformed ten years ago they have only gone from strength-to-strength achieving four promotions and generally only competing at the top end of the table.

With a newly promoted team they are something of an unknown quantity and when you look at how the promoted sides performed last season it was a real mixed bag.

Our opening day record in the last few seasons has been pretty good - we've won four and drawn two in the six seasons that Carl Adams has taken charge. Let's hope we can continue that run today.//

# Rugby Town Football Club

# CLUB INFO

Year Formed  
1956

Previous names  
Valley Sports (1956-1971)  
Valley Sports Rugby (1971-1973)  
VS Rugby (1973-2000)  
Rugby United (2000-2005)  
Rugby Town (2005-present)

Honours  
Southern League Division One  
Midland/Central  
Champions 86/87  
Runners Up 93/94, 12/13 & 13/14

United Counties League  
Premier Division South  
Runners Up 22/23

FA Vase  
Winners 82/83

Southern League Cup  
Winners 89/90

Birmingham Senior Cup  
Winners 88/89 & 89/90  
Runners-up 92/93

Record Attendance  
3,961 v Northampton Town  
FA Cup 1st Round, 1984

Stadium Address  
Butlin Road, Rugby, CV21 3SD.  
Clubhouse Tel: 01788 844806

Office: Melbros House, Great  
Central Way, Rugby, CV21 3XH.  
Office Tel: 01788 866920  
E: football@rugbytownfc.com  
W: www.rugbytownfc.com

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL  
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02843062, takes the 'Form'  
of a Private Company limited  
by Shares (incorporated 3rd  
August 1993).

Ultimate shareholders: Lisa  
Melvin (28%), Ian Melvin  
(28%), Neil Melvin (28%).

Programme designed, edited  
and printed by Rugby Town  
Football Club

Club Officials  
Chairman: Brian Melvin

Directors: Brian Melvin, Mike  
Yeats, Les Leeson, Danny Lorden,  
Ian Melvin, Neil Melvin, Lisa  
Melvin, Jim Melvin & Darren  
Knapp

Club President: Dr Pete Kilvert  
Football Secretary: Doug Wilkins  
Safety Officer: Darren Knapp  
Welfare Officer: Colin Raine  
VS Bar Manager: Jacquie Leeson  
Groundsman: Steve Sharp  
Media Relations: Jon Venner  
Club Photographer: Martin Pulley  
Stadium Announcer: Craig Webb  
Programme Editor: Elliott Green

First Team Manager: Carl Adams  
First Team Assistant: Liam Francis  
First Team Assistant: Gary Drake  
First Team Coach: Ben Cook  
Sports Therapist: Lucas Van-Eda  
Kitman: Mark Cross

Company information  
Valley Sports Rugby  
Association Football Club  
Limited - trading and  
competing as Rugby Town FC.

Company reg no: 02843062  
VAT no: 623614656

## THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

# MIDLANDS



Rugby Town will line-up  
in the Northern Premier  
League Midland  
Division this season  
after the FA released  
their provisional league  
allocations.

Rugby kept their status in  
Step Four (of the non-league  
pyramid) with a final day win  
over Boldmere St Michaels  
in the NPL Midlands.

All Step Four leagues are  
expanding to 22 teams from  
the 2024/25 season which  
means an additional four  
league games to fit into the  
fixture calendar from next  
season.

Leaving the division are  
Loughborough Dynamo  
who have taken a voluntary  
demotion despite their  
highest ever finish of  
sixth and this has meant a  
reprieve for AFC Rushden  
and Diamonds who finished  
in the relegation zone.

Meanwhile Cambridge City  
are leaving the NPL Midlands  
with a lateral movement to  
the Isthmian League North  
with Spalding United and  
Harborough Town moving  
onto the Southern League  
Premier Central after  
winning promotion.

Joining the NPL Midlands  
are five promoted teams  
including some familiar  
names to Valley's fixture list.

Wellingborough Town won  
the United Counties League  
Premier South to earn  
promotion from Rugby's old  
division along with Racing  
Club Warwick who won the

UCL Premier South play-  
offs.

Another familiar face joining  
the NPL for the first time  
are Loughborough Students  
(formerly Loughborough  
University) won the UCL  
Premier North play-offs  
while Darlaston Town have  
also been promoted via the  
Midland League Premier  
play-offs. Darlaston were  
opponents of Valley back  
in the West Midlands  
(Regional) League days  
between 1975-1982.

The longest trip of the  
season are to a resurgent  
Worcester City who romped  
to the Hellenic League  
Premier Division title in front  
of an average attendance of  
600+ at their relatively new  
Claines Lane ground.

Rugby have faced Worcester  
numerous times over the  
years including during the  
80's and 90's in the Southern  
League Premier days as well  
as some memorable FA  
Cup ties at Kidderminster's  
Aggborough Stadium in  
2013 and 2014.

Also joining the division  
are the laterally moved  
Grantham Town with whom  
Rugby also have a long  
history including ties in the  
FA Cup and FA Trophy in the  
last two seasons.

Long Eaton United are the  
only relegated side from  
Step Three as they finished  
third bottom in the Southern  
League Premier Central  
- Valley last faced them in  
2018. ///

### Recent Results

Saturday 3 August - FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round	Bugbrooke St Michaels	0-2	Loughborough Students
	Coleshill Town	0-0	Eastwood CFC
	Corby Town	1-1	AFC Rushden & Dmnds
	Coventry Sphinx	0-1	Ashby Ivanhoe
	Hanley Town	1-1	Boldmere St Michaels
	Racing Club Warwick	1-4	Hednesford Town
	Rugby Borough	0-4	Darlaston Town
	Shepshed Dynamo	0-3	Winterton Rangers
	Sherwood Colliery	1-1	Grantham Town
	Sporting Khalsa	3-0	Coventry United
	Stone Old Alleynians	2-1	Bedworth United
	Sutton Coldfield Town	2-0	Romulus
	Wellingborough Town	1-1	Sleaford Town
	<b>Wolves Casuals</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>Rugby Town</b>
	Worcester City	0-0	Walsall Wood

Tuesday 6 August - FA Cup Extra Preliminary Replay	AFC Rushden & Dmnds	P1-1	Corby Town
	Boldmere St Michaels	0-0 <sup>P</sup>	Hanley Town
	Eastwood CFC	1-3 <sup>E</sup>	Coleshill Town
	Grantham Town	4-0	Sherwood Colliery
	Walsall Wood	A-A	Worcester City

Wednesday 7 August - FA Cup Extra Preliminary Rep	Sleaford Town	2-2 <sup>P</sup>	Wellingborough Town
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### Today's Games

Saturday 10 August - NPL Midlands	AFC Rushden & Dmnds	v	Lye Town
	Boldmere St Michaels	v	Racing Club Warwick
	Coleshill Town	v	Loughborough Students
	Coventry Sphinx	v	Shepshed Dynamo
	Grantham Town	v	Walsall Wood
	Hinckley Leicester Road	v	Corby Town
	Quorn	v	Sutton Coldfield Town
	<b>Rugby Town</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Darlaston Town</b>
	Sporting Khalsa	v	Bedworth United
	Wellingborough Town	v	Long Eaton United
	Worcester City	v	Anstey Nomads

### Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 13 August - NPL Midlands	Anstey Nomads	v	Wellingborough Town
	Bedworth United	v	AFC Rushden & Dmnds
	Long Eaton United	v	Quorn
	Loughborough Students	v	Grantham Town
	Lye Town	v	Sporting Khalsa
	Racing Club Warwick	v	Coleshill Town
	Shepshed Dynamo	v	Hinckley Leicester Road
	Sutton Coldfield Town	v	Coventry Sphinx

Tuesday 13 August - FA Cup Extra Preliminary Replay	Walsall Wood	v	Worcester City
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Wednesday 14 August - NPL Midlands	<b>Corby Town</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Rugby Town</b>
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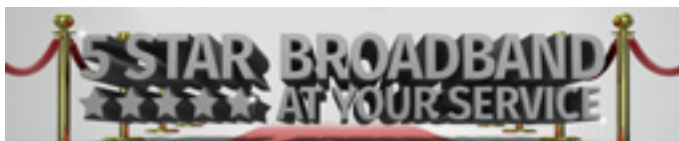
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CARL ADAMS

# FROM THE DUGOUT

A big welcome back to our fans for another season of Northern Premier League football.

We also welcome our opponents Darlaston Town who make their NPL debut today after a great campaign winning promotion last season.

It seems like a long time ago but when I wrote my last notes for the Walsall Wood programme in April we still had two games to go to secure our safety in the NPL. We completed the job in style and it was a fantastic day in the end at Boldmere St Michaels where our supporters were fantastic. I am proud to have achieved that, along with the rest of the backroom and players, but there is no rest in football and we have been

beavering away during the summer.

After a busy close season bringing in lots of new players I feel the squad is in a better place than it was last season.

Pre-season has gone relatively well in terms of performances but we all know this means nothing until the real action kicks off. For me that showed Saturday when at times we struggled at Wolverhampton Casuals and found ourselves fortunate to be going in at half time goalless. That being said I think second half we gradually took control of the tie and with the strength of substitutions we were able to make, it massively kicked us on to move into the next round where we will have a home tie next Saturday against Stone Old Alleynians.

Looking forward we will be

**WE COMPLETED THE JOB IN STYLE AND IT WAS A FANTASTIC DAY IN THE END AT BOLDMERE.**

playing two games a week for the next four weeks where there will be plenty of good and bad before the league starts to settle down. Once again the support we received Saturday was top drawer and we thank you for that.

Hopefully we can repay you today with three points in what I'm sure will be a very difficult game.

Finally I would like to formally welcome new assistant manager Gary Drake and new therapist Lucas Van-Eda to the club.

UTV.//



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TREY CHARLES & DAMIEN OSOIMOEOJOKHIAN



Match Report

# WOLVES 0-3 RUGBY

FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY / 03.08.2024 / ATTENDANCE 131 AT BRINSFORD LANE

Rugby Town won through to the next round of the Emirates FA Cup with three late goals after a very tough Extra Preliminary tie at Wolverhampton Casuals.

Valley struck three times in the final ten minutes of the game to seal a place in the next round, but the margin of victory did not reflect what was a relatively even affair.

Town's opening eleven included six players making their first competitive start for the club, although it was the hosts that had the better of the early exchanges.

Rhyce Brown's scuffed shot from close range after ten minutes was pushed behind for a corner by Valley keeper Paul Hathaway, and then Tom Cottam got in behind the right hand side of the Rugby defence only to see Hathaway out quickly to narrow the angle and ultimately execute a decent parried save.

Dan Summerfield's whipped-in cross represented the visitors first threatening moment at the other end, but unfortunately it was just beyond Town's spearhead Mikey Taylor.

Rugby slowly started to find their feet after this, and Trey Charles volleyed one wide after some neat interchange

play on the left between Tayo Tucker and Hilton Arthur.

A further surging run into the box by Tucker ended with a low cross that was just cut out by a Casuals' defender, before the home side could easily have taken the lead when Brown helped a good chance wide after Connor Parker's initial effort had been blocked by his own team-mate.

The final opportunity of the opening forty-five fell to the Valley though, when Arthur's run into the box ended with a strike that tested Wolverhampton keeper Lucas Kibrya.

Town started the new period brightly too, and Charles was soon causing problems for



TAYO TUCKER

the hosts with a powerful run from deep inside his own half culminating in an off-target strike.

Ryan Sahota had a shot blocked after the young midfielder had created himself an opening with particularly determined play on the edge of the penalty area.

The Casuals' best chance of the game then came when their captain James Pritchard's cross picked out fellow full-back Hayden Seymour at the far post, but the ex-Valley man saw his first time volley blocked by Hathaway and then the keeper was quickly back to his feet to deal with the follow-up effort from Seymour.

Cottam put one wide from distance, before the floodgates finally opened for Rugby and they punished their Midland League opponents with a quickfire treble.

Town's seventh debutant

of the afternoon sub Ethan O'Toole was involved in all three goals, with the first coming on 83 minutes from his low corner from the left which appeared to get the slightest of touches from Damien Osoimoejokhian at the near post before then somehow finding its way through to Charles at the back post to help home from a few yards out.

Charles made it two six minutes later when he ran onto O'Toole's forward pass to neatly steer the ball past the diving Kibrya and into the bottom right hand corner.

Town's third came in added-time, with O'Toole's tackle in the middle of the park releasing fellow replacement Harrison Nee, and he jinked past his marker in the box before applying an even better finish into the same corner as Charles's second strike. //



HILTON ARTHUR



Valley Star Man:  
**TREY CHARLES**



**Valley Line-up:** Hathaway; Summerfield, Osoimoejokhian, Thomas, Rai; Mensah, Sahota (Fitzharris 90'+1); Charles, Arthur (Semahimbo 63'), Tucker (Nee 78'); Taylor (O'Toole 63'). Subs not used: Ahenkorah, Francis, Bukowski. Booked: Thomas.

**Wolves Line-up:** Kibrya, Pritchard, Seymour, McKerdy, Weaver, Ticha, Swingwood, Taylor, Brown, Cottam, Parker. Subs: Millinchip, Yates, Clifton, Higginson, Garfield, Christie, Boote.



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JUSTIN MENSAH

**MATCH REPORT**  
**RUGBY 3-1 NORTH LEIGH**  
FRIENDLY / 27.07.2024 / ATTENDANCE 122 AT BUTLIN ROAD

Rugby Town completed their pre-season schedule with a relatively comfortable afternoon against North Leigh at Butlin Road.

It was the final chance for manager Carl Adams to run the rule over his new-look squad ahead of the first competitive game of the season next Saturday in the FA Cup at Wolverhampton Casuals.



HILTON ARTHUR

It was far from a pulsating game but Valley's Southern League Division One South side provided a well-organised opponent to break down.

With Mikey Taylor nursing a niggling injury and David Kolodynski on holiday it was a chance for the plethora of attacking talents in the squad to stake their place.

Trialist Justin Mensah was named in midfield in the absence of Chris Clements who is missing the start of the season through holiday.

Rugby were well on top in the opening exchanges and fresh from signing a contract earlier in the week, Ethan O'Toole turned in Tayo Alexander-Tucker's low, deflected cross to open the scoring.

O'Toole saw another similar effort just miss the target to double the lead while Ryan Sahota's spectacular overhead kick from the edge of the area wasn't too far away.

Valley scored similarly early in the second half in similar fashion as this time Trey Charles provided the assist with a low

**3-1**

**Valley Line-up:** Tomasz Bukowski (Jake Alley); Dan Summerfield, Damien Osoimoejiokhian, Josh Thomas (Liam Francis), Callum Rai; Justin Mensah, Ryan Sahota (Barry Fitzharris); Tayo Tucker, Hilton Arthur (MJ Semahimbo), Ethan O'Toole (Harrison Nee); Trey Charles (Joshua Yeboah).



cross which ricocheted into the six yard box with Hilton Arthur reacting quickest to stretch and find the net.

Substitute trialist striker Josh Yeboah could have done better with two chances when sent clear through on goal before the visitors got a goal back.

Callum Rai's mis-placed pass allowed North Leigh into the area and when sub Liam Francis could only clear against his own man in the area it left the striker with the fairly simple task to round the goalkeeper at close quarters and tap into an empty net.

The two-goal lead was restored soon after when sub goalkeeper Jake Alley's long ball caught out the North Leigh defence and MJ Semahimbo held off his man before dinking a smart finish over the onrushing goalkeeper into the net via the post. //

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A late flurry of goals ensured a victory in our penultimate pre-season friendly against Aylestone Park at Butlin Road.

After a slow first half which saw Aylestone Park dominate possession Rugby took the lead just before the break and then after a raft of changes in the second half, Valley scored some fine goals to secure the win.

Despite the visitors being on top in the first half they did not carve out many clear cut opportunities and it was Rugby who opened the scoring two minutes before half time with the only real piece of quality from the hosts in the first half.

A neat interchange on the right between Trey Charles and Mike Taylor opened up the Aylestone defence to release Ryan Sahota and he fed a neat through ball for winger Hilton

Arthur who buried his one-on-one chance.

After Rugby made seven half time changes, Aylestone got parity just past the hour mark when Rugby were caught out down their left allowing substitute full-back Matt Dawson in behind to square for Sam Hollis to score the easiest of finishes.

Valley were soon back in front when a rapid ball turnover on the halfway line resulted in an overload with Charles finding impressive substitute Tayo Alexander-Tucker who found the net with an excellent finish off the underside of the bar.

Charles himself was soon on the scoresheet with two excellent finishes of his own - firstly curling a sublime effort into the top corner from just inside the area before blasting another high into the net from the edge of the area. //



**Valley Line-up:** Tomasz Bukowski (Jake Alley); Mikkel Hirst (Trialist), Trialist (Edwin Ahenkorah), Josh Thomas, Callum Rai (Liam Francis); Barry Fitzharris (Chris Clements), Ryan Sahota, Trey Charles; MJ Semahimbo, Hilton Arthur (Tayo Tucker), Mikey Taylor (HarrisonNee).



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JOSH THOMAS  
**CAPTAIN'S LOG**

Hi all and welcome to  
Butlin Road.

I'm really happy to be writing these captain notes for the first time - it's an honour to wear the armband and represent this group of lads!

Looking back at last Saturday at Wolves Casuals in the FA Cup, it was great to get the win. Although we perhaps made hard work of it and weren't quite at our best, it's always important to get off on the right foot and we will look to build on that today.

The squad have worked extremely hard over what has turned out to be an extremely positive pre-season that has all of us buzzing to get the

league season kicked off today.

Darlaston are one of the five newly-promoted teams this season and we know from last time out how well Anstey Nomads, Quorn and Lye Town performed so they will be a dangerous team to face.

But we are taking great confidence from our finish last season into the new season, looking to extend our six-match unbeaten run!

Thank you all for your continued support, and I hope we can do all of you proud this year!

UTV.//

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**PAUL HATHAWAY**  
Goalkeeper // Age 40  
Debut in February 2024

**TOMASZ BUKOWSKI**  
Goalkeeper // Age 29  
Debut in December 2023

**LIAM FRANCIS**  
Defender // Age 34  
Debut in October 2018

**CALLUM RAI**  
Defender // Age 29  
Debut in August 2024



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**DAN SUMMERFIELD**  
Defender // Age 29  
Debut in January 2019



Sponsored by Jacob Macdonald  
**JOSH THOMAS**  
Defender // Age 21  
Debut in August 2021



**EDWIN AHENKORAH**  
Defender // Age 30  
Debut in January 2019



Sponsored by Fidelitas Training  
**DAMIEN OSOIMOE JIOHIAN**  
Defender // Age 23  
Debut in August 2024



Sponsored by Kealan Bott  
**BARRY FITZHARRIS**  
Midfielder // Age 32  
Debut in August 2021



Sponsored by Liam Waleczek  
**RYAN SAKHOTA**  
Midfielder // Age 19  
Debut in November 2022



**JUSTIN MENSAH**  
Midfielder // Age 22  
Debut in August 2024



Sponsored by Paul Mann & Mark Beet  
**CHRIS CLEMENTS**  
Midfielder // Age 34  
Debut in November 2023



**ETHAN O'TOOLE**  
Forward // Age 21  
Debut in August 2024



**HARRISON NEE**  
Forward // Age 21  
Debut in March 2024



**HILTON ARTHUR**  
Forward // Age 23  
Debut in August 2024



**TAYO TUCKER**  
Forward // Age 19  
Debut in August 2024



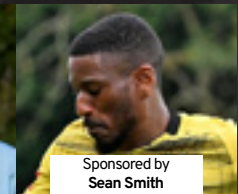
**M.J SEMAHIMBO**  
Forward // Age 22  
Debut in December 2021



**MIKEY TAYLOR**  
Forward // Age 36  
Debut in March 2023



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**DAVID KOLODYNYSKI**  
Forward // Age 35  
Debut in March 2006



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**TRACY CHARLES**  
Forward // Age 30  
Debut in August 2024

SEASON 2024/25  
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# PLAYER & TEAM STAT ATTACK

SEASON  
24  
25

## GOALKEEPERS

	APPS	CON	CS	STAR	YEL	RED
Tomasz Bukowski	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paul Hathaway	1 (0)	0	1	0	0	0

## DEFENDERS

	APPS	GLS	AST	STAR	YEL	RED
Edwin Ahenkorah	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liam Francis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Damien Osoimoejiokhian	1 (0)	0	1	0	0	0
Callum Rai	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Dan Summerfield	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Joshua Thomas	1 (0)	0	0	0	1	0

## MIDFIELDERS

	APPS	GLS	AST	STAR	YEL	RED
Chris Clements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barry Fitzharris	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Justin Mensah	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Ethan O'Toole	0 (1)	0	2	0	0	0
Ryan Sahota	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0

## FORWARDS

	APPS	GLS	AST	STAR	YEL	RED
Hilton Arthur	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Trey Charles	1 (0)	2	0	1	0	0
David Kolodynski	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harrison Nee	0 (1)	1	0	0	0	0
MJ Semahimbo	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Mikey Taylor	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0

## OVERVIEW STATS

Total Games	1
Games Won	1
Games Drawn	0
Games Lost	0
Total Goals Scored	3
Total Goals Conceded	0
Yellow Cards	1
Red Cards	0
Clean Sheets	1
Failed To Score	0
Total Players Used	15

## PLAYER STATS

Top Scorer - <b>Trey Charles</b>	2
Top League Scorer - N/A	-
Most Star Man Awards - <b>Trey Charles</b>	1
Most Assists - <b>Ethan O'Toole</b>	2
Most Clean Sheets - <b>Paul Hathaway</b>	1
Most Yellow Cards - <b>Josh Thomas</b>	1
Most Red Cards - N/A	-

## ATTENDANCES

Home Highest N/A	-
Away Highest <b>v Wolves Cas (FAC)</b>	131
Average Home (0 games)	-
Average Away (1 game)	131

## IN ATTACK: GOALS SCORED...

...in First Half	0
...in Second Half	3
...at Home	-
...Away	3
...at 3G End	-
...at The Rugby Cement End	0
...by Penalty Kick	0
...by Direct Free-kick	0
...from Corners	1
...indirect from Free-kicks/Throw-in	0
...from Open Play Outside the Box	0

## IN DEFENCE: GOALS CONCEDED...

...in First Half	0
...in Second Half	0
...at Home	0
...Away	0
...at 3G End	0
...at The Rugby Cement End	0
...by Penalty Kick	0
...by Direct Free-kick	0
...from Corners	0
...indirect from Free-kicks/Throw-in	0
...from Open Play Outside the Box	0

## LONGEST CONSECUTIVE GAMES...

...Without Losing	6
...Without Drawing	3
...Without Winning	0
...Won	3
...Drawn	0
...Lost	0
...Without Scoring	0
...Without Conceding	3
...Scored in	6
...Conceded in	0



**ETHAN O'TOOLE**



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# FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Opposition	Comp	W	D	L	Att	1	2	3	4	5
Sat 3 Aug	A Wolverhampton Casuals	FA Cup <sup>FP</sup>	W	3-0		131	Hathaway	Summerfield	Osoimoejokhian	Rai	Thomas <sub>v</sub>
Sat 10 Aug	H Darlaston Town	League									
Wed 14 Aug	A Corby Town	League									
Sat 17 Aug	H Stone Old Alleyrians	FA Cup <sup>P</sup>									
Tue 20 Aug	H Shepshed Dynamo	League									
Sat 24 Aug	A Sutton Coldfield Town	League									
Mon 26 Aug	H Racing Club Warwick	League									
Sat 31 Aug	A Anstey Nomads	League									
Sat 7 Sep	H Carlton Town	FA Trophy <sup>P</sup>									
Sat 14 Sep	A Loughborough Students	League									
Sat 21 Sep	H Boldmere St Michaels	League									
Sat 28 Sep	A Sporting Khalsa	League									
Sat 5 Oct	H Coventry Sphinx	League									
Tue 8 Oct	A Wellingborough Town	League									
Sat 12 Oct	H Coleshill Town	League									
Sat 19 Oct	A Hinckley Leicester Road	League									
Tue 22 Oct	H AFC Rushden & Diamonds	League									
Sat 26 Oct	H Worcester City	League									
Sat 2 Nov	A Lye Town	League									
Sat 9 Nov	A Grantham Town	League									
Sat 16 Nov	H Walsall Wood	League									
Sat 23 Nov	A Long Eaton United	League									
Sat 30 Nov	H Quorn	League									
Sat 7 Dec	H Loughborough Students	League									
Sat 14 Dec	A Boldmere St Michaels	League									
Sat 21 Dec	A Darlaston Town	League									
Thu 26 Dec	H Bedworth United	League									
Wed 1 Jan	A Racing Club Warwick	League									
Sat 4 Jan	H Corby Town	League									
Sat 11 Jan	A Coventry Sphinx	League									
Sat 18 Jan	H Sporting Khalsa	League									
Sat 25 Jan	A Coleshill Town	League									
Sat 1 Feb	H Wellingborough Town	League									
Sat 8 Feb	A AFC Rushden & Diamonds	League									
Sat 15 Feb	H Hinckley Leicester Road	League									
Sat 22 Feb	H Lye Town	League									
Sat 1 Mar	A Worcester City	League									
Sat 15 Mar	H Grantham Town	League									
Sat 22 Mar	A Walsall Wood	League									
Sat 29 Mar	H Long Eaton United	League									
Sat 5 Apr	A Quorn	League									
Sat 12 Apr	A Shepshed Dynamo	League									
Sat 19 Apr	H Anstey Nomads	League									
Mon 21 Apr	A Bedworth United	League									
Sat 26 Apr	H Sutton Coldfield Town	League									

Competition Key: League: Northern Premier League Midlands Division BSC Birmingham Senior Cup.

SEASON 24/25

SEASON 24/25

6	7	8	9	10	11	Substitutes used
Mensah	Charles <sup>2</sup>	Sahota	Taylor	Tucker	Arthur	O'Toole Semahimbo Fitzharris Nee <sup>1</sup>

# FIXTURES & RESULTS



## RUGBY TOWN 24/25 REPLICA SHIRTS ON SALE

Rugby Town's new 2024/25 replica shirts are in stock and ready to buy now - including a new away jersey.

**Order online now from our website or see us on the turnstile.**

Valley will be stripped out in a Macron kit for the first time since the 2017/18 season with the sky home jersey being accompanied with a yellow & black away shirt - which is also available to order.

The Macron shirt is made entirely in Eco-Fabric, obtained from 100% recycled PET featuring a knitted V-neck with piping on the front.

The shirt features a distinctive optical texture which is embossed on the sleeves and dye-sub printed

on the front.

The Macron Hero logo stands in silicone on front while the Eco-micromesh back guarantees outstanding breathability

The home sky shirts will be combined with white shorts and sky socks and again will be adorned with principal sponsor Rugby-based Melbros Building Supplies as the main shirt sponsorship.

Joining the shirt sponsor part this season is HazExperts who will feature on the rear of the shirts.

The away shirt will see a yellow and black design coupled with black shorts and socks.

Shirts are available on a matchday at the turnstile or can be collected locally on non-matchdays or posted to you (post charges will apply). //

<sup>1/2/3</sup> denotes goalscorer <sub>v/r</sub> denotes booking \* denotes star man



# VALLEY U CITIZENS ENCOUNTERS

Rugby have not previously met with the current incarnation of Darlaston Town which reformed in 2014.

But Valley did meet the original Darlaston on multiple occasions during the 1970's and 1980's however in the club's West Midlands (Regional) League days.

Our club founder **Keith Coughlan** has kindly provided some insight into those occasions:

After six seasons in the United Counties League, Valley finished 3rd in Division One at the end of the 1974/75 season.

However, instead of remaining where they were the Valley accepted an approach by officials of the West Midlands (Regional) League to join their Premier Division for the 1975/76 season. They opened the season with a trip to Dudley Town on Saturday 16th August, securing their first point with a 1-1

draw.

The first ever visitors to Butlin Road in the competition were Darlaston who beat the newcomers by the only goal of the game.

The two teams went on to play a total of 14 league games up to the end of the 1981/82 season when Darlaston were relegated after finishing bottom of the 22 team strong league with 20 points from their 42 games.

Darlaston generally had the better of the encounters winning eight of the meetings with Rugby coming out on top just once.

Incupcompetitions Valley won both encounters - a 3-1 home win in the FA Cup First Qualifying Round in September 1980 and a 3-2 win away in the Birmingham Senior Cup First Round tie in October 1997.

This was the last meeting between the clubs and incidently at the time it was the ninth consecutive away fixture for the

Valley since drawing 1-1 at home with Hinckley United on 7th September in the Southern League Midland Division.

The teams for the final meeting between the sides were as follows. Valley Lineup: Adam Dickens, Eddie Boxford, Marcus Harper, Steve Shea, Michael Trotter, Andre Marsh, Chris Kerr, Marcus Jones (Adam Beazeley 25), Matt Owen, Dean Emerson, Ian Thompson. Subs not used: Chris Joseph, Ryan Cranton. Scorers: Emerson 50', Owen 58', Beazeley 80'.

Darlaston Lineup: Dunnett, Kelly, Balfour, Abley, Evans, Hulme, Williams, Henry, Ryan, Gocan, Rodgers. Subs: Hodson, Lawrence, Simpson. Scorers: Hulme 55', Henry 57'. //

## HEAD2HEAD

VENUE	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	7	2	3	2	13	12
AWAY	7	1	0	6	9	18
TOTAL	14	3	3	8	22	30



**The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).**



**Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.**

**Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!**

## SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

• SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.

• ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.

• Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.

• Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.

• In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

## OUR MISSION

**The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.**

**Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.**

## Find out more

 @dannywilks5

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

 dwfoundation5

 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

**To donate:** [mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation](https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation)



# DARLASTON TOWN HISTORY

Originally formed in 1874 the first known league game was a 2-2 draw against Walsall Unity on 23 September 1893 in the Walsall and District League.

The home record gate of 7,000 was recorded on 3 April 1899 in a 3-1 win against Wednesbury Old Athletic.

The club moved to the City Ground in January 1900. The origin of the ground name is believed to emanate from the club nickname at the time when they were known as The Citizens. The City Ground became home for 114 years.

During the Second World War the Combination ceased to run but on the return to normal Combination Football in season 1945/46 the club were crowned Champions.

The Championship winning side included 19-year-old Jack Burkitt who was sold to Nottingham Forest in 1947 going on to make more than 500 League and Cup appearances and captaining them to their 1959 FA Cup Final win over Luton Town.

The club were founder members of the West Midlands Regional League (WMRL) in 1962/63 playing in the Premier Division until the 1981/82 season when poor ground facilities demotion to Division One. Promotion back to the Premier Division followed after winning Division One at the end of the 1989/90 season. The club became the first side to win the Birmingham County FA Vase in back-to-back in seasons in 1990/91 and 1991/92.

The 2013/14 season saw the WMRL fixtures published for the first time without a Darlaston side present, the club folding in June 2013. Following two public meetings a new committee formed a phoenix club Darlaston Town (1874) FC.

In 2014 the re-formed club were accepted into the WMRL Division 2. The end of their first season back in the saw the club earn promotion into Division Two and the club moved to the impressive Paycare Ground.

The first team earned promotion back into the Premier Division of the WMRL at the end of the 2019/20 season, finishing runners up by a single point after a close-run season with Worcester Raiders.

After Darlaston's promotion was announced in order to be promoted the club erected at their now much improved Paycare Ground floodlights on the main pitch, which were duly opened on the 5th November 2019, when the club hosted EFL side Walsall FC, which produced the clubs record attendance of 452. At the end of that season Darlaston finished in 8th position following their return to the WMRL Premier Division, the last full season played.

After completing a full season for the first time in two years Darlaston Town (1874) finished Runners Up after a 97th minute goal in the final game of the season at Chelmsley Wood to secure the Runners Up spot and also prime place in the playoffs in the hope to secure promotion into Step 5 of the NLS.

Darlaston by virtue of their second placed finish hosted local rivals Dudley Town in front of a record crowd of 789 at the Paycare Stadium on the Tuesday evening following the last game of the season and a 4-0 win secured a play-off final against Stapenhill who beat Ashby Ivanhoe 3-1 in the other playoff semi-final.

The play-off final played the following Saturday at the Paycare Stadium in front of 501 supporters saw Darlaston secure Step 5 or equivalent football for the first time in the club's history since their inception in 1874.

**Founded**// 1874 & reformed in 2014. **Last season** // 3rd in Midland Football League Premier (promoted via play-offs). **Last game** // Won 4-0 v Rugby Borough in FA Cup Extra Prelim.

Darlaston's first ever season at Step 5 playing in the Midland Football League Premier Division the rise in level saw the team adjust very quickly, and after an excellent start the club managed to stay in contention in the top five for the majority of the season, unfortunately a couple of losses on key weekends the club finished in a highly successful 4th place.

During the summer of 2023 the club was forced to restructure allowing the first team to return to the club's original name Darlaston Town, with remainder of the clubs teams playing under the Darlaston Town 1874 FC name.

Darlaston Town started the 2023/24 season once again exceptionally well, beating Racing Club Warwick, and Northern Premier League Western Division side Hednesford Town reach the First Round Qualifying when they received a great draw away against local rivals Sporting Khalsa. The game was televised nationally by the BBC, in front of the nation Darlaston drew 2-2 against their higher league rivals to earn a reply the following Wednesday evening at the Paycare Stadium. The reply was played in front of a club record crowd of 1,144 Darlaston bowed out of the competition losing on penalties.

The club's good start to the season continued playing well throughout the whole season never dropping below seventh in the table. After a defeat to Romulus the team went on an unbeaten seven game run to secure a third place finish in the league and qualification for the end of season playoffs.

Playing in front of 1,000 people, Darlaston beat Lichfield 3-1 to earn promotion into Step 4 for the first time in their 150 year history, and this season will take up their place in the Northern Premier League for the first ever time. //



## Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit [Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk) to find out more





# DARLASTON TOWN PLAYERS

## Dean Gill // Manager

Dean started his management journey in youth football with Wednesfield before taking over the first team securing promotion into the West Midlands Regional League (WMRL) Premier Division along with winning the Birmingham County FA Vase in his first season. Dean was enticed away to Wolverhampton Casuals at the end of the following season, where the success continued, winning the (WMRL) League Cup and two successful seasons with two top four finishes secured Casuals promotion into Step 5 when the leagues were rearranged by the FA in the summer of 2021. Dean had already left Wolverhampton Casuals to move to Bilston Town, and then in March 2021 Dean resigned as Bilston Town manager to take over at Darlaston Town. His tenure at Darlaston has been highly successful, two promotions in three seasons, a good FA Cup run.

## James Storer // Goalkeeper

James is a 19 year old 6'5' goalkeeper who joined the club on a three month loan from Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers 'on the



ALEXANDER FORESHAW

eve of the season's start. James is a proven talent and is highly thought of at Wolves, since signing for the club at 13 he has always been playing above his age.

## Zach Kourouyianni // Defender

Joined Darlaston in the summer of 2024 from Midland Football League Premier Division side Tividale where he had played for two seasons and captained the side. 21-year-old Zacharias has always impressed the Darlaston management team when the clubs played each other.

## Harry Chesterton // Defender

Harry a 19 year old defender spent the last three months of last season at Darlaston Town from Solihull Moors where he was under contract. Having played at Aston Villa and Walsall academies as a youth player. At 16 Harry joined the highly success Solihull Moors Elite Academy squad, his performances led to a full contract at Solihull Moors which expired at the end of last season.

## Alexander Foreshaw // Defender

Our club captain has played for manager Dean Gill for many seasons at all his previous clubs. Alex joined Darlaston just after COVID in 2021 and has made over 100 league and cup appearances during his time at the club. His leadership has been instrumental in the club's success both on and off the field.

## Ben Podmore // Defender

Ben also came to the club with manager Dean Gill in early 2021, he became part of manager Dean's squad after leaving Gornal Athletic to play for Dean firstly at Wolverhampton Casuals and Bilston Town. The second part of our defensive partnership, Ben is a no-nonsense defender who is very strong in the air and as capable on the ground, he will always give his all

23/24 Most appearances  
Alexander Foreshaw // 45 apps  
23/24 Top scorer  
Aaron Bishop // 21 goals

in every game and he demands the same from his teammates.

## Reece Mason // Defender

The smallest player in our squad, but don't let that deceive you in any way, a fierce competitor on the pitch and like many others Reece came to the club in 2021 and played a big part in our first promotion from step 6 to step 5. Unfortunately, in 2023/24 Reece suffered a very serious knee injury in pre-season that required reconstruction surgery, and he is on his way back to full fitness after a successful surgery and rehabilitation programme.

## Taylor Eades // Defender

Taylor joined the club just hours before the season started from fellow NPL side Coleshill Town. Taylor who played all his youth football at Cheltenham Town, before joining the Solihull Moors Elite Academy at 16 years old. Taylor like others excelled and earned a full professional contact at Solihull Moors where he played a big part in the Academy's success. He spent most of last season on loan at Midland football League side Studley who are connected with Solihull Moors.

## Sebastian Pearsall // Defender

Sebastian is a current member of Solihull Moors Academy set up. At 17 years old this is a big season for him. Sebastian played of the club in pre-season and produced a standout performance against step 3 side AFC Telford United.

## Sam Smith // Defender

Another member of Solihull Moors highly respected and talented academy. A no nonsense defender who is not afraid of anything, technically gifted very quick for his size and is not afraid to play out of position when asked. He is the type of player who will put everything on



the line for his team. Sam has been with us for the majority of pre-season playing a part in many of the games. It's been interesting to see him develop as a player over the four or so weeks a player.

## Ryan Winwood // Midfield

Ryan was the first player manager Dean Gill brought to the club outside of his group. Ryan joined from Worcester City in pre-season before the start of the 2021/22 season which saw us promoted from the Midland Football League Division One into the Premier Division. Ryan has vast experience for his age, in his youth he spent many years at West Bromwich Albion, signed at Tividale, he went on to play a big part in Alvechurch's promotion from step 6 into step 3, as well as playing for Stourbridge.

## Leo Gill // Midfield

Another 19 year old, Leo has been registered at Darlaston for the past 3 seasons and has spent spells out on loan at other clubs to aid his development. He has had a very good pre-season, and this has helped him significantly in his development. An attacking midfielder player with an eye for goal, always arriving late to seize on loose balls to punish the opposition, he has a knack of being in the right place at the right time.

## Lewis Gill // Midfield

Lewis came to the club in 2021 from Bilston Town as part of Dean's squad. At 24 he has plenty more football in him and time to develop even more. He is strong, loves a tackle, and like several other players play's an important part in the squad. Lewis possesses a great left foot, and is our dead ball specialist, always scores more than 10 goals a season and not always from the penalty spot. He has to work harder than most to earn a place in the team, because that's the way it is when your father is the gaffer. Yet another player who has played more than 100 league and cup games for Darlaston Town

## James Rowland // Midfield

James joined us at the beginning

of last season from fellow Midland Football League Prem side Whitchurch Alport. His ability is undoubted, James when aged 9 started his footballing journey at West Bromwich Albion playing at the club for 9 years before being released. He soon found a new home at Shrewsbury Town, where after progressing from the Academy James was rewarded with a three year contract. He made his full debut for the club in November 2018 coming on as substitute in the Checkatrade Trophy against local rival Crewe Alexandra, over the next few seasons James made several appearances for the club in both cup and league games. James scored 19 times from midfield in his first season, and we hope his form continues into this season.

## Jake Pearson // Midfield

Jake is the team's engine; it seems he can run forever. He has been with Dean for several seasons joining him at Wolverhampton Casuals from Old Wulfrunians and joined Darlaston Town in 2021. Jake has played a big part in the teams success over the past three seasons and this pre-season it seems he has moved onto another level.

## Jack Downing // Forward

Jack signed for Darlaston Town mid-way through the 2022/23 season from Tividale. After signing as a youth from AFC Telford United, Jack was loaned out to several MFL Premier Division Clubs, and he had a great impact with his speed and skill on the ball. At just 24 he has plenty of time to improve his game more and is eager to do so. Jack has proved very versatile since joining the club playing in many positions, after helping the club finish 4th in his first season, he left to join newly promoted Lye Town, but after a few months he returned to play an important part in the clubs promotion last season.

## Rivel Mardenborough // Forward

Rivel joined Darlaston Town after following the clubs promotion into Step 5 from Paget Rangers where ha scored 28 goals in the 2021/22



RIVEL MARDENBOROUGH

season. Rivel is 22 years old he grew up in Walas playing in Swansea City and Newport County Academies, he represented Wales at schoolboy level. After moving to England, he has worked his way up the levels by scoring goals every season. In his first season at Darlaston he scored 18 times in league and cup fixtures, which attracted interest from higher clubs. Rivel left Darlaston to join Hednesford Town at the beginning of the 2023/24 season. But after a poor start to the season at Hednesford, Rivel rejoined Darlaston in October last year and played a big part in the clubs promotion last season scoring 8 times in the league.

## Kieran Miller // Forward

Kieran has played for manager Dean Gill on and off for many years, he came to the club in 2021 with Dean. During his time at Darlaston he has left on a couple of occasions to play at a higher level but like many others has always returned to the club. Kieran has a special place in many of the clubs supporters hearts, scoring both winning goals in the play-off finals that have secured the two promotions for the club. A gentle giant off the pitch, but directly opposite when playing. A very strong a capable forward who certainly takes no prisoners during a game, capable from scoring from anywhere, he like Rivel is probably the best prepared he has ever been for a seasons start, and it shows in his recent performances especially scoring a brace in the season's opening game at Rugby Borough in the Emirates FA Cup. //



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# THE TOWN OF DARLASTON

Darlaston, a town in the borough of Walsall, West Midlands, is perhaps not on everyone's bucket list, but it has its own unique character and a story worth telling.

If you're after a slice of British industrial history, this is your stop.

Back in the day, Darlaston was a heavy hitter in the industrial world. The Industrial Revolution turned this once sleepy agricultural spot into a powerhouse of metalworking and manufacturing. The town cranked out nuts, bolts, and other fasteners like there was no tomorrow, thanks to the local abundance of coal and iron ore. This wasn't just a blip on the map; Darlaston was a crucial cog in the Black Country's industrial machine.

Today, Darlaston is a mix of the old and the new. The heavy industry might have packed its bags and left, but the town hasn't just rolled over and given up. There have been regeneration projects aimed at sprucing up the place, especially around Darlaston Green.

It's an ongoing process, but there's a sense of progress.

Darlaston is home to several notable architectural landmarks. One such example is St. Lawrence's Church, which dates back to the 13th century. This Grade II\* listed building has undergone various restorations and remains a focal point of the town's historical and cultural identity.

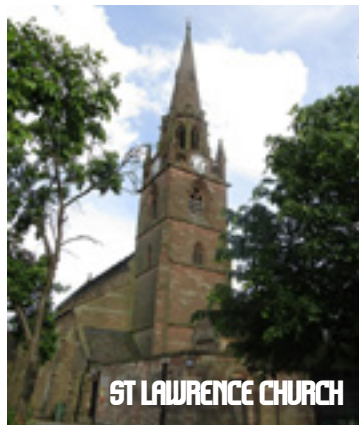
Geographically, Darlaston is pretty well-placed. It's just a few miles from Walsall town centre, and Birmingham is a short drive away. That means you've got access to everything from the Bullring's shopping madness to the cultural delights of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Wolverhampton is also nearby, adding to the mix of urban conveniences.

In the world of business, Darlaston has also housed several significant businesses.

Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd. was founded in Darlaston in 1884 and this company grew to become one of the most significant engineering firms in the UK, particularly known for

its work in the automotive industry. They produced everything from nuts and bolts to entire car chassis. During the mid-20th century, Rubery Owen was a major employer in the region and played a key role in the development of the British automotive industry.

James Bridge Copper Works, established in the 19th century, was another significant player in Darlaston's industrial sector. They specialized in the production of copper goods, and their presence further solidified Darlaston's reputation as a center of metalworking and manufacturing. //



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# THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE NEWS



## GRANTHAM CONFIRM LOAN SIGNING OF SIDNEY PEREIRA

Promising Peterborough Sports striker Sidney Pereira has completed a three-month loan move to NPL East Division side Grantham Town.

The Portuguese youngster was on the bench for the Gingerbreads' Lincolnshire FA Senior Cup defeat to Spalding United on July 27.

The 19-year-old was named in matchday squads 21 times at Step Two last season for Sports, making a total of eight appearances.

Grantham head coach Louis Bland said: "He's an exciting young player, and while he's with us we want to get the best out of him."

On the move, Pereira said: "I'm excited to get going and do everything I can while I'm here."

## JAMAL STEPS UP FOR DIAMONDS

AFC Rushden & Diamonds have confirmed the arrival of frontman Jamal Adams from MFL Premier Division side Studley FC.

The 24-year-old has impressed in his trial period with Diamonds, scoring the opening goal in their recent 2-1 win over Daventry Town.

Adams is a proven goalscorer in the division below his new side, scoring 15 goals in 33 appearances for Coventry United last season before his move to Studley, who narrowly missed out on the play-offs as a result of goals scored.

Rushden & Diamonds manager Michael Harriman is excited to see what his new signing can do in the Northern Premier League pyramid, saying: "He adds a different dynamic for us in forward areas.

"He can hold up the ball and also get in behind and he clearly has an eye for goal. He's a fantastic addition to the club."

## ROWLEY MAKES WALSALL WOOD RETURN

Central defender Kyle Rowley has re-joined Walsall Wood for a second spell.

Rowley played for the Wood at the beginning of the 2020/21 season before the campaign was abandoned a few months later due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before joining Walsall Wood in 2020, he featured for Walsall's academy and also spent time at Sutton Coldfield Town and Rugby Town.

Most recently, he turned out for Mickleover in the

Southern Premier League Central after he left Barwell, where he made several appearances.

He could make his second league debut for Ian Long's side against Grantham Town on August 10.

## KHALSA ADD FIREPOWER

Sporting Khalsa have announced the signing of striker Simeon Cobourne ahead of the 2024/25 season.

The 27-year-old forward was most recently at Racing Club Warwick.

He scored eight goals in 11 games as he helped the Racers secure promotion to the Northern Premier League.

A proven goalscorer at a variety of levels, Cobourne has previously played for the likes of Solihull Moors, Halesowen Town, Rushall Olympic and Colehill Town. //



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5. Which player scored the fastest hat-trick in Premier League history?
6. In which year did Manchester United complete their famous treble of the Premier League, FA Cup, and UEFA Champions League?
7. Which country won the first ever FIFA Women's World Cup in 1991?
8. Who holds the record for the most goals scored in a single World Cup tournament?
9. Which football club is known as "The Old Lady"?
10. Which goalkeeper has the most clean sheets in Premier League history?

ANSWERS ON LAST PAGE  
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25**

**NPL MIDLAND DIVISION**  
 SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST 2024 | BUTLIN ROAD, RUGBY



JAMES DANCE & DAVID KOLODYNSKI

# KHALSA 1-2 RUGBY

MFL PREMIER / 12.08.2017 / ATTENDANCE 85 AT THE ASPRAY ARENA



JAMIE HALL



LIAM HOLT



RUBEN WIGGINS-THOMAS



# ANDYSMANCLUB



## WHAT IS ANDYSMANCLUB?

ANDYSMANCLUB is a free peer-to-peer group that provides a place for men to come together in a safe and open environment to talk about the issues or problems that they have faced or are currently facing.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process is about bringing men together who have been in similar situations, to help each other on a peer to peer basis, sharing how they have dealt with various situations through lived experiences. No matter how big or small your problem feels, we are here to support each other. The 5 questions that are asked each week are designed not only to encourage men to talk, but to start to focus on the positives and on strategies to keep moving forward. There is no pressure to answer any of the questions and it is not uncommon for men to just listen for the first few sessions.

The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of ANDYSMANCLUB is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The club is open to any man 18 or over, who is going through a storm, been through a storm or just wants to meet a good group of people with the aim of improving one another.

## WHEN IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUBs meet every Monday at 7pm (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays).

## WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has over 100 locations across the UK. Check our website below for a full list.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

Just turn up on the night. No registration or referral is required, all we ask is that you arrive before 7pm. The full list of our locations available on our website.

## CONTACT US

- @andysmanclub
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- info@andysmanclub.co.uk
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# 10 AUGUST 2019 ON THIS DAY

FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY / 10.08.2019 / ATTENDANCE 106 AT ASPRAY ARENA

Rugby Town were agonisingly beaten with a last-minute goal after a pulsating FA Cup tie at Sporting Khalsa.

Valley's fortunes had ebbed and flowed on a windy afternoon in the Black Country, with Josh McKenzie's late winner denying them a place in the next round against Belper Town.

An unchanged Rugby started sluggishly and keeper Matt Hill was soon blocking a decent shot from McKenzie, with Gaz Singh sending the rebound just wide.

After just eight minutes, the hosts took the lead though when McKenzie nodded in from close range after Tes Robinson had headed the ball across the face of Hill's goal.

Khalsa doubled their advantage when Singh fed the unmarked Dan Westwood, who fired home from twelve yards.

The visitors got themselves back in the game on 29 minutes though, after Charlie Evans ran onto Kieran Fitzgerald's through ball to skip round home keeper Sam Arnold and then squeeze the ball over the line from a tight angle.

It was level shortly after, when Ryan Seal's corner was met by the head of Town skipper Loyoiso Recci and his on-target

effort was parried by Arnold - only to fall into the path of Rico Alexander to head home.

The home side were visibly rocked by this quickfire response, and Valley continued to threaten and get in behind an increasingly open Khalsa back-line.

The first half turnaround was completed after Arnold had charged out to block Evans's effort, only to see Fitzgerald expertly clip the loose ball back over his head from more than thirty yards.

Recci also glanced a header just wide in the lead-up to the interval, and Town took up where they had left off after the restart - looking to exploit the gaps in the home defence.

Seal hit the crossbar after Justin Marsden had set him up, but the fourth was soon to come after a well-worked move involving both Seal and Marsden was ended with a composed finish from Fitzgerald.

However Khalsa responded well to falling further behind, with Hill down well to deny Kieron Whittaker, although Valley then nearly put the game out of their reach when Evans, Caine Elliott and Fitzgerald all went close in the same attacking phase.



**Valley Line-up:** Hill; L Recci, Kavanagh (Thomas), Clarke, Alexander; Elliott, White, Seal (O Recci (Bako)); Fitzgerald, Evans, Marsden. Subs not used: Lockley, Francis, Padmore. Booked: O Recci.

**Khalsa Line-up:** Arnold, Franco, Worsey, Miles, Robinson, Perry (Woodhouse), Whittaker, Armstrong, McKenzie, Westwood (McGrady), Singh (Williams). Subs not used: Meese, Perks.

However a triple substitution from the hosts on 67 minutes proved to be inspirational for them, with one of the replacements Sean Williams grabbing a goal with his first touch after an inswinging set-piece had picked him out.

Last season's MFL player of the year Williams then struck again with the equaliser when he blasted one past Hill from close range after Town had failed to deal with a long throw into the box.

Sporting ended the game the stronger, with Hill again pulling off a fine low stop to keep out James McGrady's low shot, before McKenzie struck at the death to round off the impressive comeback when he finished off McGrady's pass after Rugby sub Eli Bako had sloppily given away possession.

//

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# VALLEY U CITIZENS MATCH PREVIEW

Striker Mikey Taylor may be unavailable after picking up a calf injury last weekend at Wolverhampton Casuals.

One player definitely unavailable today is midfielder Chris Clements who is still away on a family holiday while David Kolodynski is back from holiday after missing last weekend's FA Cup tie.

There are seven players who could make their first Butlin Road appearances in sky blue this afternoon having made their debuts last weekend at Wolves.

Forward Trey Charles was with Barwell and Stamford last season and he marked

his first game with a brace last Saturday.

Fellow forwards Hilton Arthur (ex-Corby), Tayo Tucker (Anstey) started last week along with new midfielder Justin Mensah (Moulton) and new defenders Damien Osoimoejiohian (Daventry) and Callum Rai (Lutterworth) and they could be accompanied by Ethan O'Toole (Loughborough Students) who made a good impact off the bench.

Defender Keenah Rosser has been released by the club after six years with the club. Last season Keenah suffered a broken arm in September did not manage to return to the fold.

Meanwhile it's an historic day for Darlaston who play in Step Four for the first time in their history and are relishing the opportunity following their promotion last season. //



MIKEY TAYLOR

## UPCOMING ACTION //

The action continues on Wednesday evening when we make the trip to Corby Town.

Our last visit to Corby was one of the most memorable games of last season when we held the hosts to a draw despite playing for over half the game with nine men.

We are back at Butlin Road next Saturday when we host Stone Old Alleynians in the FA Cup Preliminary Round. If the game is drawn there will be a replay at Newcastle Town with whom they groundshare the following Wednesday.

If not then we will host Shepshed Dynamo on the Tuesday as per the current

schedule. Our next away league trip sees a visit to Sutton Coldfield Town before we host Racing Club Warwick on the Bank Holiday Monday later this month.

Should we or Anstey progress in the FA Cup then the league game between the sides on 31 August will be rescheduled. //



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# RUGBY TOWN



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# DARLASTON TOWN

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JUSTIN MENSAH

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DAMIEN OSOIMOEJIOKHIAN

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CALLUM RAI

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MADUNDO SEMAHIMBO

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JACK DOWNING

TAYLOR EADES

ALEXANDER FORESHAW

LEO GILL

LEWIS GILL

ZACHARIAS KOUROUYIANNI

REECE MASON

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SEBASTIAN PEARSALL

JAKE PEARSON

BEN PODMORE

SCOTT POWELL

JAMES ROWLAND

SAM SMITH

RYAN WINWOOD

DEAN GILL



NORTHERN PREMIER  
LEAGUE MIDLANDS  
DIVISION / 10.08.2024  
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