



FGIF INBOX NEWS UPDATES 2023-24

shown on posting date...

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR 2023-24 - please note that as per last season all new additions covering club photos, reports, programmes etc are found on the relevant on-site pages. Alternatively, you can also check out the latest club/ground updates as they come in by referring to the yellow panel shown on the *FGIF* Home page...

SEPTEMBER 2023

03/09/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck)

Blanford United of the Dorset Premier League have been given planning permission to build an extension to the clubhouse and addition of a pergola in front of it.

A legal battle for **Scunthorpe United's** Glanford Park Stadium will take place next year. The dispute between former owner Peter Swann and new owner David Hilton over possession of the ground will go to court in January. A three-day hearing is listed for the case.

Westfields FC of the Hellenic League are to stage an international fixture between England Fire Service v Wales Fire Service on Thursday 2nd November 2023 (ko 2.00 pm).

More **National League** matches to be shown live on TNT Sports.

Sat October 7th - **Dorking Wanderers** v Barnet (ko 5.30 pm).

Sat October 21st - **Wealdstone** v Boreham Wood (ko 5.30 pm).

Sat October 28th - **York City** v Halifax Town (ko 5.30 pm).

Sad news today (Saturday) - **East Thurrock United** of the Isthmian League North, have gone into liquidation and folded.

03/09/23: Steve Ayre writes: *I attended a game in the Banbury Lord Jersey Premier Division at **Longford Park**. It ended 4-3 to visitors Glory Farm. Excellent facilities for this level and the tea bar was free for this season opener. I used the car but there is a stop nearby.*

AUGUST 2023

30/08/23: Gary Spooner writes - A glorious sunny Bank Holiday Monday - ideal for watching a game or two of footie! First up was **Flackwell Heath** where the home side comfortably won 3-0 against Hilltop. Paper programme issued as well! From here it was a very short hop to **Marlow** and their magnificent old stand for game two. The sun was still shining, and Marlow made hay while the sun shone winning 6-1. No programme here and no dogs allowed. Probably not a factor but a prog and several dogs at Flackwell Heath who had a better crowd than their higher placed neighbours. (217 against 179). An excellent Bank Holiday day out and taking the M40 home instead of the M1 proved a wise choice as home in time for dinner.

28/08/23: Jon T Green writes - I went to the gorgeous **Sherwood Colliery** on Friday night (pictures and report to follow) and although the traffic through the A17 in Lincolnshire was worse than normal (exactly how many tractors are there in the world?) the trip was so worthwhile.

Today (Monday) I ventured down to the **61 FC in Luton**. To be honest, the club are doing an amazing job in pretty difficult circumstances. Playing in a public park is obviously less than ideal but their friendliness was second to none and a real credit to every one of the volunteers working there - more power to them is what I say!!!

27/08/23: Gary Spooner writes - Yesterday we headed to **Bishop Sutton** for their Vase game against Wadebridge Town. We took the scenic route down ignoring motorways. Wise move as when we crossed the M4 it was gridlocked with stationary traffic as far as we could see. Before the game we ate our sandwiches at Chew Valley Lake. Excellent view and thousands of birds. Arrived at the ground and received a great welcome from the eccentric gateman who told us he had been doing the job for 34 years. When entry duties were finished, he stood behind the goal, pint in one hand, waving his stick with the other and shouting encouragement throughout the game. Very scenic ground it is too with enough cover for the sparse crowd, including a dozen or so from Wadebridge, to dodge a couple of heavy but short showers during the afternoon. Excellent game which saw Wadebridge go two up before Bishop Sutton pulled a goal back just before half-time. Second half saw Bishop Sutton striving for an equaliser and Wadebridge nervously hanging on until a late goal made the game safe for the visitors and the final score 1-3. The magic of the Vase was definitely alive and well yesterday.

27/08/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck)

The draw for the **FA Cup** 1st qualifying round was made last Monday. The full draw can be seen on various platforms and the matches will take place on Saturday 2nd September with winners getting £2250 and losers taking £750. One thing of note at the moment is that the RMT rail union are on strike that day and the ASLEF union have banned overtime. Travellers without cars could have major problems.

News re- **Hamworthy United FC** of the Southern League Div.1 South - a condemned football stand can now finally be demolished to make way for a new structure after months of uncertainty. The club has been sharing at Weymouth's ground as they were not allowed to play at home. However, an application for a new 150-seater stand has been approved.

Chickerell United have pulled out of the Dorset Senior League citing a shortage of players as the reason behind their decision.

Southend United - the saga rumbles on as the club have been given a final 42-day notice to complete the sale of the club. They will reappear in court on Wednesday 4th October according to Ron Martin. An unnamed Australian buyer should be finalised by the end of September.

Further to my notes above about today's hearing (Wed 23 August) the National League have docked Southend United 10 points for failing to clear their tax bill at today's hearing.

Cymru North side **Llandudno FC** have put down an initial deposit for a new pitch to be installed at their home ground. Work is expected to start on September 18th and the club hope to be playing on the ground by late October.

Forest Green Rovers have submitted a planning application for a 5000-seat friendly timber stadium near to junction 13 of the M5. The planning application to Stroud council is for the layout, scale and external appearance of the stadium. District planners are expected to consider the scheme by 23rd October.

Westbury United of the Southern League Div 1 South will ground share at Melksham Town over the next month playing 4 games there. This is so that work can be carried out to increase the size of the dressing rooms.

The 4 home games being played at Melksham are: Monday Aug 28th v Melksham Town (ko 3.00 pm); Saturday September 2nd v Malvern Town (ko 3.00 pm); Saturday September 9th v Bemerton Heath Harlequins in the FA Trophy 1st qualifying round (ko 3.00 pm) and Tuesday September 26th v Wimbourne Town (ko 7.45 pm) although I have not been able to confirm this fixture...

Hertford Town - the new secretary of Hertford Town is Ian Bush, who once fulfilled the same role at Ware. In his spare time, he is also an excellent photographer and part time Groundhopper.

20/08/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck)

Midland Football League Div 1 - **Droitwich Spa v Wednesfield** on Sat 12th August... a sign of the times as this match was abandoned in the 80th minute when a Wednesfield sub warming up near the dug-out suffered racist remarks from spectators. The Wednesfield team walked off in support of their player. In a statement Droitwich Spa directors apologised to the visiting club.

Sat 12th August MWCL Div 1 North - **Darwen v South Liverpool** - match abandoned as officials abused and threatened. The league say they are waiting for reports and may deal with it or passed on to the FA.

Saudi Arabia will play two international friendlies at **Newcastle United's St. James Park** - on

Friday 8th September SA v Costa Rica (ko 8.00 pm) and Tuesday 12th Sept SA v South Korea (ko 5.30 pm)

Atherstone v Highgate - Midland League Premier Division was abandoned when Highgate refused to play on after their goalkeeper was racially abused. Atherstone said two fans were ejected and given life bans.

Spartan South Midland League Premier Division (15/08) - a non-league match between **Arlesey Town and Potton United** was abandoned after allegations of a racial comment during the game. The referee stopped the match after a fight broke out between the two sides. Arlesey Town said they were made aware of an alleged racist comment at one of their coaches.

Bilston Town Community FC of the Midland Football League Division 1 have voted in principle to become the first fan owned club in the West Midlands.

Southend United are due back in the high court on Wednesday (23 August) to face a winding up order. Let's hope they get some good news at last and can put their troubles behind them.

Spurs Under 21's - after Premier League 2 (cunningly) reorganised themselves to save Spurs the embarrassment of getting relegated at the end of last season, all the teams in Division 1 and 2 have now been lumped together and this season everyone will play each other once. Spurs fans will note that most home games will be play at Stevenage on Saturdays with a 1pm kick off. However, subject to change, they do have a Friday night home game in February!

Hertford & District League - The H & D L has in effect folded with all remaining clubs merging into the Herts Senior County League.

20/08/23: Gary Spooner - writes: *Cracking day yesterday at **Cranfield United** - the only ground I know with a fully operational Chinese restaurant! Small airfield behind far goal meant plane spotting available too. Game started explosively with Cranfield 1 up in the first minute and two up after about 8 minutes. At that point I thought it might be 5 or 6 at half time. Huntingdon dug in and but for a marvellous save from the CU goalie on the stroke of half time could have been back in the game. Second half saw two more goals for Cranfield and a comprehensive victory.*

17/08/23: Gary Spooner - writes: *Our recent European adventure started in Milan from where it was a short train ride to Lake Como. A short walk from the station takes you to the funicular up to Brunate from where there are stunning views and*

some great photo opportunities of the Italian landscape, lake, mountains and **Stadio Comunale G. Sinigaglia, home of Como 1907** who play in Serie B -

WebEd - check out the superb album in our Flickr gallery by clicking [HERE](#) .

16/08/23: Gary Spooner - writes: *Back from our jaunt round Europe and an excellent time was had. Managed a couple of footie games - the first of which was **Bayern Munich II** v Nuremberg II played at Grunwalder Stadion, home of TSV 1860 Munich in the Regionalliga Bayern, the 4th tier of German football.*

On a baking hot Friday evening we arrived at the stadium around 6pm for a 7pm kick off. We were rewarded with an excellent game. Nuremberg took the lead to the delight of the 29 fans in the away enclosure - it was very easy to count them - but Bayern hit back with 2 goals to lead 2-1 at half time. Second half saw an equaliser from Nurnberg and the hilarious sight of a single Nurnberg fan hurdling 3 crush barriers to get to the fenced in celebration. Ed Moses would have been very impressed! No more goals but excellent entertainment in an excellent stadium which TSV returned to in 2017 after twelve years sharing the Allianz with their more illustrious neighbours.

*Next morning saw us hit the rails again taking the 8.55 train from Munich to **Bregenz**. It's an excellent city on the banks of Lake Constance. We arrived at 11 with plenty of time for a pre match stroll along the shore in absolutely baking conditions which necessitated stopping for a cold drink and later on an ice cream. The stadium is very close to the shore as well. The stadium was excellent and there were many different food and drink offerings. I was very tempted by the cakes but as I had just eaten, I didn't partake. The game was pretty awful. Kapfenberger scored a goal in each half to win 2-0. SW who were promoted to 2 Liga at the end of last season produced little and were lucky to get nil! At full time we made our exit along with some of the home fans. I say some as a large number stayed behind to have a beer or six. The bars and food stalls were doing a roaring trade after the final whistle despite the home defeat. A brilliant day out!*

14/08/23: Jon Green - writes: Here are my pictures from **Tring Corinthians** - lovely ground set below the Chiltern Hills. Tring itself is also delightful although £4 for a pint of draft coke at a pub on the Grand Union Canal was a touch excessive, I thought.

13/08/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck)

Two Hellenic League clubs have withdrawn from the league at the start of the season - Div 1 **Bourton Rovers FC** and Div 2 **East Old Bradwell United Development**. No reasons have been given for these withdrawals.

BBC Television Scotland will be showing live **Servette v Rangers** (Champions League 3rd qualifying round 2nd leg) on Tuesday 15th August (ko 7.30 pm).

BBC Television Scotland will be showing live **Hearts v Rosenburg** (Europa Conference League 3rd qualifying round 2nd leg) on Thursday 17th August (ko 7.45pm).

Derry City have asked UEFA if their Europa Conference League 3rd qualifying round 2nd leg v Tobol Kostanay (Kazakhstan) on Thursday 17th August can be switched to Windsor Park Belfast - so far, no decision from UEFA.

Amendment - further to my earlier post UEFA has turned down Derry's request to play the game at Windsor Park. Instead, it will be played at the Tallaght Stadium Dublin (home of Shamrock Rovers).

To keep in line with EFL regulations **Barrow AFC** have installed 2000 extra covered seats.

Carabao Cup - Sky are to show **Doncaster Rovers** v Everton live on Wednesday 30th August (ko 8.00 pm).

Carabao Cup 2nd round Tuesday 29th August **Salford City** v Leeds United (ko 8.00 pm) will be shown live on Sky Sports.

06/08/23: Gary Spooner writes - *As expected the cricket yesterday at Middlesex (Plan A) was washed out without a ball being bowled. En route to **Colney Heath** in torrential rain I was not confident that Plan B would survive the weather and was thinking that Plan C, Hendon on plastic, would end up being my afternoon entertainment. No need to have worried as the pitch at Colney Heath was fine and so it was to be the magic of the Cup. Alas, little magic yesterday as another poor game witnessed. Virtually nothing happened until Ilford took the lead with a penalty midway through the second half. I thought that was it but late drama saw Colney Heath snatch an equaliser in the 94th minute to secure a replay. On the plus side it did stop raining for a while so that I managed some pics...*

06/08/23: Keith Aslan writes - *Re a hop to Louth Town FC. I doubt you'd recognise the ground now judging by the photos when you went there. A great club and great people running it, I hope they get the success they deserve.*

06/08/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck)

According to BBC Essex, **Southend** must get a new safety certificate by 5.00 pm tonight (30/07) otherwise Saturday's game v Oldham cannot be played at Roots Hall. Whether a suitable ground would be available at short notice I don't know as policing comes into the equation if the match is moved. (NB. This safety certificate was obtained).

Llandudno FC will be playing their homes at **Conwy Borough FC**. The club hope to move back to their old ground once a new pitch is laid...after being refused funding the supporters have started a pitch back bond scheme once the funds are raised the new pitch will be relayed.

Colwyn Bay are to play in the Cymru Premier for the first time in their history.

Colwyn Bay v Caernarfon on Sunday 13th August ko 5.15pm is all ticket with no cash admissions on the day.

Environmental campaigners have issued a legal challenge over **Oxford United's** proposed new stadium site. The club is considering a move to green belt land north of the city when its lease on the Kassam Stadium expires in 2026.

Reading owners are looking for new investors to provide financial stability at the club. The club sees its EFL transfer embargo removed after settling HMRC issue

Bracknell Town (Southern League Premier) and ground sharers **Sandhurst Town** (Combined Counties League Div.1) are pleased to announce the unveiling of their new state of the art 3G pitch for the coming season.

Maidenhead United FC has expressed "shock" after a council changed its mind about selling land for the purpose of building a new stadium. United agreed in 2022 to buy land at Braywick Park for £460,000.

Boro Rangers of the Northern League Div 1 are on a new ground. They are playing at Phoenix Park in Middlesbrough where the new stand capacity of 200 (100 seated 100 standing) will not be ready until September.

06/08/23: Bedfordshire FA (via the Bedfordshire County League):

Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup 1st Round Draw Season 2023-24:

Caldecote A v Elstow Abbey Reserves;
Leighton Woodside v Tempsford;
Bedford Wanderers v CS Rovers;
Clifton Reserves v Biggleswade FC Development;
Bedford Albion Development v M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves;
Amphill Town Colts v Blunham (CCL);
Woburn & Wavendon v Harlington Juniors Reserves and
Turvey v Dunstable Wanderers

Ties to be played on Saturday 21st October 2023.

Sandy Reserves v GS Athletic;
FC Haynes Reserves v Shefford Town & Campton U23 and
Leighton Woodside U23 v Lidlington United Sports Club Colts

Ties to be played on Saturday 28th October 2023.

Byes: Flitwick Town A; Kempston Athletic; Luton Panthers; Meltis Rangers & Queens Park Crescents Development.

JULY 2023

31/07/23: Jon T Green writes - *After seemingly weeks of pre-season matches it was fab to get back underway with some proper competitive games this weekend. I went to **Redcar Town** on Friday night (photos to follow) and then across to*

Barrow-in-Furness on Saturday for **Holker Old Boys** - there will be a match report for the latter in the next couple of days.

Redcar were one of the friendliest clubs I have visited in a long while and those hoppers obsessed by paper they even produced a nice, printed programme. Holker had some amazing views of the Lakeland Hills which even on a grey day looked pretty spectacular.

30/07/23: Gary Spooner writes - Alas no pics from my game at **Buckley** last weekend due to it raining in monsoon proportions on arrival. My camera stayed firmly in the car.

Yesterday saw a footie trip to **Portishead Town FC**. Not too difficult to persuade Mandy to join me with decent weather and the seaside on offer. Will be somewhat more difficult (near impossible) later in the season when it's a trip to the middle of nowhere and freezing cold! We had a great day out and stopped for a lovely meal on the way home. Only downside was the game which will certainly be one of, if not the worst that I'll see all season. The hosts won with a first half goal in front of 153 spectators.

30/07/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) - The leader of Glasgow City Council has warned **Glasgow United** it could be barred from playing at its facility if it signs convicted rapist David Goodwillie, the ex-Scottish international played for Glasgow United in a friendly match. The club have not confirmed if they have signed the player.

National League fixtures:

TNT Sports will no longer show **Dagenham** v Southend (this match goes back to a 3.00 pm ko) instead now on Saturday August 12th as they will now broadcast **Bromley** v Barnet (ko 5.30pm).

Southend v Barnet on Boxing Day will now ko at 1.00 pm and Barnet v Southend on Saturday 30th December will ko at 3.00pm.

More games to be shown on TNT Sports,

Sat. 2nd Sept - **Gateshead** v Oldham Ath. (ko 5.30pm);

Sat. 9th Sept - **Bromley** v Maidenhead (ko 3.00pm);

Sat. 16th Sept - **Kidderminster H.** v Solihull Moors (ko 5.30pm);

Sat. 23rd Sept - **Woking** v York City (ko 12.30pm)

Tues. 26th Sept - **Rochdale** v Chesterfield (ko 7.45pm) and

Sat. 30th Sept - **Oxford City** v Altrincham (ko 5.30pm).

Europa Conference League 2nd qualifying round 2nd leg match, **Swift Hesperange** v The New Saints will now be played on Tuesday 1st August (ko 7.00pm).

EFL League One - **Cambridge United** v Reading was Sat. 2nd Sept now Monday 4th Sept (ko 8.00pm live on Sky Sports).

Tuesday 12th September - **Scotland v England** - a match to celebrate the SFA's 150 anniversary at Hampden Park. England will have a reduced allocation of just 2901 tickets; for the 2017 World Cup game England got 4784 tickets.

Possible trouble for **Spurs** owner Joe Lewis has been charged in the USA with orchestrating a brazen insider trader scheme. 86-year-old Lewis has gone to the USA to defend himself. Spurs said as this is a legal matter, we have no comment to make.

More problems for **Reading**...they have been placed under an immediate transfer embargo again for failing to pay HMRC on time again. I don't know how this will affect their hearing on August 7th.

Champions League 3rd qualifying round 1st leg - BBC Scotland will show **Rangers** v Servette or Genk live on Wednesday 9th August (ko 7.45pm). Note: Tues 25th July Servette 1 -1 Genk and Wed 2 August Genk v Servette (ko 6.00pm).

Southern League Premiership side **Beaconsfield Town** have agreed to allow Combined Counties Div.1 side **Windsor** to ground share with them.

National League fixture change: **Southend United** v Eastleigh now Friday August 25th (ko 7.45pm) moved from Saturday 26th August.

Penrith AFC of Northern League Div.1...£870k is being spent on ground improvements including a state-of-the-art 3G pitch. Work is underway so the venue of some home matches may be changed.

Enfield Town have been invited to take part in the Fenix Trophy, a competition for non-league clubs sanctioned by UEFA. The draw for the 12-team tournament takes place on Sat 29th July with the group stages to take place later this year and the semi-final and final next Summer. This year's final in June was staged at the legendary San Siro stadium.

Darlington United of the Northern Alliance league will this season play their home matches at the 26,500 capacity Darlington area they will be sharing the ground with Darlington Modwen Park rugby club...it is also the former home of Darlington FC.

The draw for the **Fenix Trophy** looks like this...

Group A - **Enfield Town**; Llantwit Major; BK Skjold (Denmark).

Group B - Prague Raptors; Venus Bucuresti; Gilla FC.

Group C - **FCUM**; Vinsky FC; Krakow Dragons.

Group D - **Lewes FC**; KSK Beveren; FC Oslo

...the winners of each group proceed to the Semi-Finals.

Yesterday (29/07), **Bury** made a stunning return to **Gigg Lane** beating Glossop North End 5-1 in front of a terrific crowd of **5451**.

Harlow Town FC intend to do a tribute to the late **Steve Dobson** at their home match on Saturday 5th August v Basildon Town. It is assumed that it will be something like a minute's silence or applause before KO.

26/07/23: Steve Hardy - UK Non-League Football Programme Database - Our outstanding contributor, programme guru, super hopper and dedicated archivist has now COMPLETELY UPDATED all sections of his extensive UK Non-League Football Programme Database featuring 1000's of clubs covering English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish, Ladies, School and Youth and Sunday football. The impressive catalogue lists include EVERY KNOWN CLUB THAT HAS ISSUED up to the end of the 2022-23 season. Reference to all alterations/additions since last year's database are handily highlighted in red ink for ease of identification. Check out the selection of new programmes (including covers) Steve has tracked down since last season. As you will appreciate an incredible amount of work has gone into making this possible and we are indebted once again to Steve for his painstaking efforts. You'll agree it's an absolutely fantastic resource for programme collectors and ground hoppers alike. To find out more simply click on the following link shown below. Enjoy browsing! footballgroundsinfocus.com/UKPDBHome.htm

23/07/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) - If **Southend United** get the all-clear their match at Dagenham & Redbridge on Saturday August 12th will be shown live on *TNT Sports* (*BT* re-branded) ko 17.30.

The following matches will also be shown live on *TNT Sport 1*:

Rochdale v Ebbsfleet - Saturday August 5th (ko 17.30)
Chesterfield v Oldham Athletic - Saturday August 19th (ko 12.30)
Hartlepool United v AFC Fylde - Saturday August 26th (ko 17.30)
Eastleigh v Aldershot - Monday August 28th (ko 15.00)

After ground sharing at Lowestoft Town, **Gorleston** of Isthmian League North division have now signed a long-term deal to play at Great Yarmouth Town of the Eastern Counties League.

After being knocked out of the Champions League **The New Saints** have dropped down to the Europa Conference League 2nd qualifying round.

Tuesday 25 July The New Saints v Swift Hesperange (Luxembourg) ko 19.00 pm and Thursday 3rd August Swift Hesperange v The New Saints (ko tbc)

NCEL Premier Division fixture changes:

Tadcaster Albion v Barton Town now on Friday 18th August ko 19.45 (from Sat 19th August);
Hallam v Rossington Main now Tuesday 5th September ko 19.45 (from Sat 9th September due to cricket) and

Barton Town v Tadcaster Albion now Friday 22nd December ko 19.45 (from Sat 23rd December)

Southend's pre-season friendly on Saturday July 29th v AFC Wimbledon has now been postponed.

At a special court hearing (Friday 23/07) a judge is allowing Southend to pay football creditors-related debts of £300,000 so they can keep their licence and remain in the national league. The club is insolvent and has debts of £2.5 million pounds. It is understood that several investors are willing to help the new owners get the club on a safe footing.

Millwall v Leeds United - the match due to have been played on Saturday September 16th will now be played the next day on Sunday September 17th ko 12.00 midday (live on Sky Sports)

18/07/23: Jon T Green writes - *I was over on the West coast of Ireland to take in a couple of Irish league games last weekend - the weather was beyond abysmal, but I was lucky enough to visit the superb **Finn Park home of Finn Harps** (funnily enough!!!). The first team will soon move to a new venue close by so there is only a season or so left to catch a game here. The Belfast roof on the Main Stand is simply enormous and not something that we see any more in England. Only a couple of weeks before the start of the new non-league season so hope you have something exciting lined up for the opening day. Stay dry and I will be in touch with the first report of the year in a couple of weeks.*

16/07/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) - Chris Phillips the Southend Echo sports reporter, stated this morning that the club still hasn't been sold. They were due back in court last Wednesday 12th July over a £250,000 unpaid tax bill. They face a winding up petition if this is not paid. The National League have previously said that if all debts are not paid, they will expel **Southend United FC** from the league. Chris also mentioned that some members of staff have not been paid for 3 months - worrying times indeed for Southend. To add to their many problems United can't use their training ground (Boots and Laces) as the water supply has been cut off due to an unpaid bill. The saga rumbles on as the judge has granted another 42 days next court appearance (until August 23rd). Owner Ron Martin argued that he needed more time to complete the sale of the club saying the new owners had to satisfy the FA's directors test despite being in talks since May with the new owners! The tax debt has now risen to £275,000, and the club are due to play Oldham Athletic on August 5th. So far, they have passed no comment about today's court hearing. The National League have said they have been talking to Southend today (Thursday 13th) and the league will hold a full board meeting tomorrow to discuss the situation. If Southend are given the go ahead to start the season, they have only 14 registered players (striker Chris Wreh was the latest departure, having signed for Hartlepool United). As they are under a transfer embargo, they cannot sign anyone before their next court visit on August 23rd.

Reading FC is due in court on Wednesday 9th August at 10.30 am to face a winding up petition over an unpaid tax bill, amount unknown. They have since had their

transfer embargo lifted after settling an outstanding tax debt...hopefully that winding up petition due to be heard on August 9th will be dropped.

Hearts are cutting the number of away tickets at Tynecastle to 650. The only exception will be matches with Hibernian who will be given the Roseburn stand with a near 3400-capacity. This is a reciprocal agreement between the Edinburgh clubs based on high season ticket sales and match by match demand from their own supporters.

The **Midland Football League** fixtures are being released on Thursday 20th July.

Cambridge City FC will be ground sharing at St.Ives Town again next season but they are very confident they will be moving into their new stadium ahead of the start of the 2024/25 campaign. The fwd-ip Community Stadium is progressing well...the 3000-capacity venue will be in Sawston which is 6 miles south of Cambridge. There is a change to the ground grading system...previously it was done by the league itself, but it will now be completed by the FA, hopefully making things a bit easier.

Barnsley FC have been charged by the EFL with multiple breaches of their regulations. These charges relate to the period 2017-2022 during the ownership of Paul Conway and Chien Lee.

Luton Town v Burnley due to be played on Sat 19th August has been postponed due to ongoing refurbishment work at Kenilworth Road.

The **Manchester City** v Brentford PL match due to be played on Sat 23rd December has been postponed due to city's involvement in the Club World Cup.

16/07/23: Spartan South Midlands League - Fixtures for all three divisions up to the end of October will be available no later than the 18th July.

16/07/23: Gray's Athletic FC - Thurrock Council has approved a development on green belt land which includes Grays Athletic FC moving into the disused Ship Lane Stadium in Aveley, Essex, the former home of Thurrock FC, thus saving a decent ground from demolition.

09/07/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) writes - Planning permission has been granted for a statue of Portsmouth FC legend Jimmy Dickinson outside the club's stadium. The 2.2m (7ft) bronze statue will be installed on the northwest side of Fratton Park. They hope to have the statue up in August ahead of the club's 125th anniversary year.

More trouble ahead for **Southend United**. The players halted pre-season training after they failed to receive their June wages. Software company Midex Pro have ended their sponsorship deal with the football club.

Pre-season friendly - **Southampton** v AZ Alkmaar @St. Mary's on Sat 29th July ko 3.00 pm

Div.1 - **Wigan Athletic** v Carlisle United on Friday December 29th - this match will now ko @7.00 pm not 7.45 pm due to lack of public transport.

Former **Fleetwood Town** owner Andy Pilley has been jailed for 13 years after frauds to the value of £15 million.

Due to continued refurbishment at **Kenilworth Road** Luton's pre-season game v Ipswich will now be played at Colchester United's ground on Tuesday July 25th ko 7.30 pm.

There are fears for the future of **Llandudno FC** of Cymru North. Last season they played many matches at Bangor as their 3g pitch was deemed unfit. They applied for funding to replace the pitch and have now led floodlights after getting good feedback. However, their request was denied and as a result they will have to play home matches away again and many players have said they will leave the club. Llandudno manager Sean Eardley has in fact resigned and left the club.

One thing for travellers to keep an eye this coming season...the **Central Midlands League** has merged with the Midlands Regional Alliance and will be known as the Central Midlands Alliance and the competition will have 7 divisions with 93 teams.

The **Southern League** fixtures will be released on Friday 14th July (they will be officially announced on Monday 10th July).

Canvey Island v Southend United pre-season friendly due to be played on Tuesday 11th July has now been postponed until Tuesday 25th July. As a result of this change Canvey will play Maldon & Tiptree on this date (11/07) instead.

09/07/23: Leverington Sports FC - Chairman confirms positive news for the club going forward with news of ground improvements...pitch barrier to be installed within 6 months; floodlights within 24 months and new changing room with 36 months. The future is bright, the future is orange!

09/07/23: Twitter post from Haringey Borough FC to Tottenham Hotspur FC - *Dear Ange Postecoglou, I am the manager of Haringey Borough FC. Unfortunately, Bishop's Stortford have cancelled our pre-season friendly on the 22nd of July. Could you please send a team down to play us. All expenses will be paid. We are 1 mile away. Bus W3 stops right outside. T Loizou xx.*

02/07/23: Bob Powell (via Brian Buck) - The FA and Premier League will be joining forces from July 2023 to launch a new stadium accreditation programme for clubs that play in the National League System. The Premier League Stadium Fund will begin collecting ground grading data for the FA; the process will be digitised for the first time since ground grading process was introduced 15 years ago through the creation of a new digital tool (Stadium Power) at all stadiums used within the National League System.

Northern League Division 1 side **Thornaby**'s Teesdale Park ground was badly damaged in an arson attack. The club are devastated by the damage to its facilities. It has launched an on-line appeal to raise funds for the repair work.

Saturday 8th July - **Solihull Moors** v Birmingham City ko 3.00 pm @the Armco Arena. It is for the Arthur Cup, but the main purpose is to raise money for the NSPC and the Solihull Foundation.

Subject to final FA and league approval, **AFC Croydon** has been bought by a three-man consortium with former Crystal Palace man Danny Young, current player Wilfried Zaha and rapper Stormzy involved.

Ellesmere Rangers have resigned from NWCL 1 South due to high operating costs. As a result, Droylsden have been moved from Div 1 North to Div 1 South. The FA Inter-League Cup will return in season 2023/24 for the first time since the 2019/20 campaign with leagues from step 5 and 6 able to enter representative teams in the competition. There is also the added bonus of next season's winners going on to represent England in the UEFA regions cup.

From next season 2023/24 **EFL Championship** sides will be able to name 9 subs using 5 during EFL matches. Both **Division 1 and 2** will be able to name 7 subs using 5.

Beverley Town FC of NCEL 1 whose home ground is Norwood Park Beverley have three home pre-season games each being played at the Beverley Leisure Centre 3G in Flemingate. These are Sat 8th July v Bridlington, ko 1.00 pm; Sat 15th July v Goole AFC, ko 1.00 pm and Sat 22nd July v Hallam, ko 1.00 pm.

02/07/23: Boreham Wood FC - we can announce that for the upcoming 2023/24 Vanarama National League campaign, we will play our midweek home fixtures on Wednesday evenings, rather than a Tuesday.

02/07/23 - Bedfordshire County League - 2023-24 Season Update.

Caldecote Under 23 have now split to become independent of Caldecote FC and have renamed themselves GS Athletic.

Atletico Europa have now had a second name change and become Athletic FC for season 2023-24.

AFC Woburn have now joined for season 2023-24 and will play in Division Four. They are a completely new club being formed out of Woburn Golf club, taking the league membership up to 84 teams.

01/07/23: Web Ed - League twitter Statement from the **Humber Premier League**.... *In an effort to improve the standard of local football and to provide more structured football in the East Riding, the Humber Premier League and Right Car East Riding County League have taken action. After months of negotiations involving Chris Johnson from the East Riding FA, a proposal to return the HPL to 16 teams and create a NEW 14 team Premiership Feeder Division with the remaining HPL Division 1 teams and existing RCERCFL Premier Clubs under the RCERCFL umbrella, was accepted by the HPL clubs last night at the HPL SGM and*

existing RCERCFL Premier Clubs under the RCERCFL umbrella, was accepted by the HPL clubs last night at the HPL SGM (on 07/06)...

END