



v LOUGHBOROUGH DYNAMO



Saturday 2nd December 2023
Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

PITCHING IN PARTNERS WITH **NPL** NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB HONOURS

United Counties League Premier Division South

Winners 2023

Midland Alliance League Cup

Winners 2010

Midland Combination Premier Division

Champions 2007

Runners-up 1996, 2002, 2005, 2006

Midland Combination Challenge Cup

Finalists 1999

Winners 2002, 2005

Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup

Winners 1966, 2005, 2006

Coventry Charity Cup

Winners 2007

BCFA Midweek Floodlit Cup

Winners 2007

Tony Allden Cup

Winners 2007

FA Vase

Quarter Finalists 2008

OTHER HONOURS

United Counties League Programme of the Year

Winners 2023

Midland Alliance Programme of the Year

Winners 2008

Runners-up 2009

Midland Combination Programme of the Year

Runners-up 2005

Winners 2006, 2007

Midland Combination Hospitality Award

Winners 2006 (Division 3)

Winners 2007 (Division 2)



CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman: Daniel Cahill

Vice-Chairman: Joseph Fletcher

Finance Officer: Neil Buswell

Club Secretary: Sharon Taylor

Matchday Secretary: Sharon Taylor

Youth Secretary: Sharon Taylor

Pitch Allocator: Dave Bull

Welfare Officer: Joanne Bull

Ticket Manager: Mandy Seddon

Programme Editor: Chris Nee

FIRST TEAM STAFF

Joint Manager: Shaun Thomas

Joint Manager: John Woodward

First Team Coach: Nigel Starkey

Goalkeeping Coach: Damian Morgan

Goalkeeping Coach: Michael Taylor

First Team Physio: Kirk Holland

Kit Manager: Paul Seddon

Chief Scout: Jim McClean

GROUNDS TEAM

Paul Wright, Martin Sutton

MEDIA TEAM

Chris Nee

Liam Cook

PHOTOGRAPHY

Marcus Robinson

Stuart Guest

MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY

Leanne Talbot & Donna Crouch

MATCHDAY VOLUNTEERS

Martin Sutton, Dave Bull, Alan Townsend

Coventry Sphinx Football Club

Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena, Sphinx Drive, Coventry, CV3 1WA
024 7645 1361

Coventry Sphinx Football Club is a non-for-profit organisation



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



TRIDENT
LEAGUES
VOLUNTEER HUB
POWERED BY ENTAIN



NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE



Print. Display. Merch.

info@buymyprint.co.uk

www.buymyprint.co.uk

social: @buymyprint

0330 043 7961



Earlsdon | Coventry | CV5 6GF



Business Print



Promo Print



Workwear Print



Display Print

Upcoming fixtures

AWAY



Cambridge City v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands
Saturday 9th December 2023 | 3.00pm
St Ives Town FC
Westwood Road, St Ives, PE27 6DT

HOME



Coventry Sphinx v Gresley Rovers

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands
Saturday 16th December 2023 | 3.00pm
Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena
Sphinx Drive

AWAY



Quorn v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands
Saturday 23rd December 2023 | 3.00pm
Farley Way
Farley Way, Quorn, LE12 8RB

HOME



Coventry Sphinx v Lye Town

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands
Tuesday 26th December 2023 | 3.00pm
Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena
Sphinx Drive

AWAY



Bedworth United v Coventry Sphinx

Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands
Monday 1st January 2024 | 3.00pm
The Oval
Coventry Road, Bedworth, CV12 8NN



CoventrySphinx



CoventrySphinxFootballClub



CoventrySphinxFC

In this issue

6	Editorial	24	Report: Sphinx 1-1 Hinckley LR
8	Our History	26	Football Pitches and Pesticides
12	Meet The Squad	32	Report: Harborough Town 6-1 Sphinx
16	2023/24 Player Statistics	40	NPL Midlands Fixtures
18	Report: Sphinx 2-3 Nuneaton Borough	41	NPL Midlands Table
22	2023/24 Season Overview	44	Match Squad

coventrysphinx.co.uk | youtube.com/@CoventrySphinx

We've had a tough time of it since Coventry Sphinx's most recent home game here at the Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena.

League defeats away at Harborough Town and Boldmere St Michaels were each bruising in their own way and it's been a fortnight to forget for the boys in sky blue and white.

Harborough was a heavy loss, frustrating in many regards but tempered by the quality of the opposition and the apparent likelihood that they'll be at or near the very top of the table at the end of our debut season at Step Four.

Like Harborough, Boldmere's squad last Saturday included a number of familiar names and faces from local clubs playing at higher levels. But I don't think those players guarantee anything and I'm certain that Sphinx were capable of going to Boldmere and getting a result.

That they didn't do so is neither here nor there. Football matches can go either way. But the nature of the defeat was a reminder of exactly what we've let ourselves in for by winning promotion.

There was nothing that happened against Boldmere that can't be fixed and I don't believe that major surgery is required. We have a squad full of quality, brains and guts and I know they have what it takes to get back on the right path.

One thing we will miss is the impact of Leo Brown. Leo returned to Alvechurch at the end of his loan after the Boldmere game and his ability won't be easy to replace.

It's important to remember that last season and this season were always going to be different because it can be no other way.

Sphinx earned the league title last year by reeling in the leaders, which in itself was a challenge and a triumph of which we are rightly proud.

But the thing about needing to win every game to finish first is that we got into the habit of winning every game. It was a fantastic season to be a part of but it wasn't normal. That's kind of the point.

For the first time in a while, we're watching a Sphinx team battle hard and still not have things their own way. Adversity is no longer a memory. Bad luck, miserable afternoons and the odd kicking are back on the agenda.

Now, more than ever, we all need to stick together — supporters, players, managers, everyone. We're not a big budget club. We can't match everyone in the league for resources or facilities or the ability to pay players to drop a level or two. All we have is the Sphinx so let's get behind John, Shaun and the boys.

This afternoon we welcome the fans, players, staff and officials of Loughborough Dynamo to Sphinx Drive for our first Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands meeting of 2023/24.

Dynamo have had a terrific first half of the season so far and sit in third, unbeaten at home and just a point behind Harborough. I expect another exceedingly difficult test today but I'm optimistic that we can show more of what we're about.

Nobody here wants to carry the label of draw specialists but we haven't exactly shaken it off in the manner in which we'd hoped. The job now is even harder: turn losses into wins.

There's still something there for our football club this season. Only we, all of us, can start to make it happen. Up the Sphinx!

Chris Nee
Programme Editor



From grassroots to Heroes

Official Benchwear Partner to the
Pitching In Northern Premier League



macron

for every athlete
at every level

Find the Macron Sports Hub
closest to you



These clubs have chosen Macron



macron.com



OUR HISTORY

The history of Coventry Sphinx began in 1946. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft FC had been highly successful in the city before and during the Second World War and changed their name to Sphinx FC.

AWA's legacy was replicated by the new club. Sphinx won a number of league and cup competitions throughout the 1950s and 1960s before playing a major role in the formation of the Coventry Alliance and continuing to win trophies in the following decades.

Coventry underwent significant socioeconomic change in the 1990s. The recession led to the closure of factories in the city and surrounding areas, which in turn led to the dissolution of many of Coventry's football clubs. Sphinx needed a new challenge and joined the Midland Combination Football League in 1993.

In our first season in the Midland Combination we were promoted from Division 2 and reached the semi-finals of the Birmingham Sunday Vase. A second consecutive promotion followed thanks to a second-placed finish in Division 1 the next season.

With promotion to the top division of the Midland Combination secured it was decided that the club should be linked more closely to our city. We became Coventry Sphinx and the first match under our new name was against a Coventry City XI at our home ground.

Throughout its history, our club has been served by countless loyal and hard-working local people who've contributed enormously to Coventry Sphinx on and off the field. Through their dedication we

have achieved some unbeatable highs. There have also been times of great tragedy.

In November 2001, Sphinx manager Willie Knibbs was killed in a car accident on the way home from a cup match at Meir KA. Willie was a former Sphinx player in his second spell as manager. His death was a terrible loss to our club and to local football in Coventry.

After a painful season, Sphinx went on to win the Midland Combination Challenge Cup and it was renamed the Willie Knibbs Cup as a mark of respect. Our main stand is also named in Willie's honour.

Sphinx became one of the leading teams in the Midland Combination Premier League, finishing as runners-up in our first season and again in both 2005 and 2006. We reached the final of the Endsleigh Challenge Cup on three occasions, losing to Alveston at Villa Park in 1999 but beating Coventry Marconi in 2003 and Feckenham in 2005.

We also won the Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup in successive seasons, making Sphinx the last winners of the competition at Highfield Road and the first at the Ricoh Arena.

Although first team success is a driving force, the heartbeat of our club is the thriving junior section. Formed in 1997, it started with just three teams and has grown ever since. There are now hundreds of players representing Coventry Sphinx and we were the first club in Coventry to achieve the FA Charter.

Our youth team started competing in the Midland Floodlit Youth League in 2003 and one of the

biggest successes to date came in the 2014/15 season, when they won the double after suffering only one league defeat and beating Stourbridge 3-0 in the Birmingham County FA Midweek Floodlit Youth Cup.

Under manager Paul Charnley, Coventry Sphinx's men's first team completed a remarkable treble achievement in May 2007.

In addition to finally becoming champions of the Midland Football Combination – achieving promotion to the Midland Football Alliance in the process – Sphinx won the Coventry Charity Cup and the BCFA Midland Floodlit Cup.

The 2007/08 season saw Sphinx enjoy our best ever run in the FA Vase, reaching the quarter-final for the very first time and losing controversially to Kirkham & Wesham, the eventual Wembley winners, in a replay at Sphinx Drive.

We made a run to the semi-finals of the League Cup in the same season and went on to win the Midland Alliance Polymac League Cup by beating Westfields in the final in 2009/10.

In 2014/15 the club was honoured to become a founder member of the Midland Football League Premier Division. After a top ten finish under Stuart Dutton, Lee Knibbs took over as manager in the autumn of 2017.

Lee is the son of Willie Knibbs and returned to the club after an earlier spell as assistant manager to Danny McSheffrey.

He guided Sphinx to some of our most memorable results of the decade before deciding to step aside in November 2019.

Knibbs was succeeded by his assistants, John Woodward and Shaun Thomas, who became the club's joint managers and ended the truncated 2019/20 season on a long unbeaten run, the foundation of Sphinx's greatest achievement to come.

Sphinx made a sideways move as part of FA restructuring ahead of the 2021/22 season, competing in a newly formed Premier Division South in the United Counties League.

In our first season we finished in fourth place, losing only twice in the second half of the season, and enjoyed a long run in the FA Vase, narrowly missing out on another quarter-final.

The following season saw Sphinx lose on penalties again in the same round of the FA Vase but 2022/23 was the best season in our history.

In the space of one week in April, our club acquired the freehold to the Sphinx Drive ground for the very first time and secured the United Counties League Premier Division South title with a 7-0 win against Eynesbury Rovers.

Sphinx won all of the last eleven league matches to close a big gap at the top and become champions. We scored 106 goals and ended the season three points clear of runners-up Rugby Town to confirm promotion to the Northern Premier League Midlands Division. 2023/24 is our first ever season at Step 4.

Football never stands still. Local football in Coventry has declined over the years, so to be playing at our highest ever level after more than seventy years is an achievement of which the players, officials and supporters of our club can be proud.

The structure in place at senior, youth and junior levels for both men and women promises a bright future for Coventry Sphinx as we work towards the progress Willie Knibbs' memory deserves.





**Sponsors of the ground and facilities of
Coventry Sphinx Football Club**



**Sponsors of the Coventry Sphinx Football Club
first team home kit**

Scan the QR codes to find out more about our sponsors



**BESPOKE GARDEN ROOMS
AND OUTBUILDINGS**

INFO@LOURDESGARDENROOMS.CO.UK
WWW.LOURDESGARDENROOMS.CO.UK

024 7644 2838 / 07544 051 129



RF Digital Systems

Sky and Freeview Installation - HD Distribution - CCTV
Multi Room Audio - AV Distribution

Tel: 02476 454 234

www.rfdigitalsystems.co.uk

WELCOME TO

BUDGET SKIPS

COVENTRY









































www.budgetskipscoventry.co.uk



024 7636 3002

MEET THE SQUAD

	Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls	Explosive forward player with high-level experience. Signed for Sphinx in the autumn of 2023.	 LOURDES GARDEN ROOMS 024 7644 2838		Jordan Hayward	Former Long Buckby wide player who scored on his debut in August 2022 and went on to win the UCL Premier Division South in his first season.	Sponsored by IAN AND PAULINE MCINTOSH
	Harvey Billing	Former Sphinx youth team captain who returned to the club after spells with Stratford Town and Easington Sports.	 JUST 4 KEEPERS HELPING GOALKEEPERS SINCE 1999		Alex Lock	Highly rated midfield player signed from Rugby Town in October 2023.	Sponsorship available
	James Bryson	Strong and steady central defender with a knack for a goal. A crucial part of the title-winning Sphinx team in 2022/23.	Sponsored by MANDY SEDDON		Callum Martin	Pacy former Coventry City junior full back who loves a tackle and causes opponents problems in the attacking third.	 DESIGN RIGHT Windows & Doors
	Antonio Cristofaro	Skilful former Walsall youth midfielder with dribbling ability, sharp creative instincts and an eye for goal.	 BLOCK109 ALWAYS THERE.		Dylan Parker	Dangerous forward player who signed for Sphinx in November 2022 and has been a consistent scorer ever since.	Sponsored by DANNIE CAHILL
	Gio Dainty	Experienced and versatile midfield player who returned to Sphinx in 2023 after a long and successful spell with Coleshill Town.	Sponsored by STUART GUEST		Dawid Peplinski	Future Pro Academy scholar and former Sphinx youth central defender who joined the first team ranks after playing Step 5 football in 2022/23.	
	Jack Downes	Versatile, battling midfielder with a tremendous engine. Outstanding since returning to Sphinx Drive and a league winner in 2022/23.	 Cardiac Risk in the Young		Leigh Phillips	Experienced wide player who returned to Sphinx ahead of 2023/24 after a successful career in armed forces football.	 LOURDES GARDEN ROOMS 024 7644 2838
	Luke Downes	Creative midfield player who returned to Sphinx in 2021 after countless impressive performances here as a youngster.	 PARTY PROPS		Joe Pursey	Sturdy defender who came in late in 2022/23 and had an instant impact in Sphinx's title quest.	Sponsorship available
	Jamie Draper	Defender who emerged from the Sphinx youth team and has become a regular starter in our best ever team.	 KA KITS ACADEMY		Jac Redhead	Creative midfield player with experience at Barwell and Halesowen Town.	Sponsorship available
	William Edjenguele	Experienced former Coventry City central defender who joined from Bedworth United after spells with Barwell and Nuneaton Borough.	Sponsorship available		Matthew Shipman	Physical and mobile striker who led the line in the UCL Premier Division South title season after signing from Long Buckby in 2021/22.	Sponsored by BF ESSENTIALS 07927 649288
	Sam Ellis	Entertaining attacking midfielder who joined Sphinx after spells with Sutton Coldfield Town and Hinckley in 2022/23.	 SPHINX Industrial Supplies Ltd		Finlay Shorrock	Versatile left-sided player who joined Sphinx in September 2023 and debuted in our first win in eighth tier football.	Sponsorship available
	Keelan Fallows	Talented goalkeeper who joined from Tamworth at the start of Sphinx's first season in the eighth tier of English football.	 IB CONSTRUCTION		Callum Whiteside	Versatile defensive player who joined Sphinx at the start of 2022/23 and quickly became a reliable regular for John Woodward and Shaun Thomas.	 SPHINX Industrial Supplies Ltd
	Louis Guest	A former Sphinx junior and now a leader in our squad, Guesty is a long-serving central defender and the club's vice captain.	 Burbank fresh produce		Callum Woodward	Long-serving legendary club captain, a battling mainstay in the Sphinx midfield and a vital source of goals and creativity.	 Dream Displays Exhibitors · Displays · Bespoke Fitings

FIRST TEAM MANAGEMENT

John Woodward	Joint Manager	Sponsorship available
Shaun Thomas	Joint Manager	Sponsorship available
Nigel Starkey	First Team Coach	Sponsorship available
Michael Taylor	Goalkeeping Coach	Sponsorship available
Damian Morgan	Goalkeeping Coach	Sponsorship available
Jim McClean	Chief Scout	Sponsorship available
Kirk Holland	First Team Physio	Sponsorship available
Paul Seddon	Kit Manager	Sponsored by CEFOVID UGANDA
Sharon Taylor	Club Secretary	
Martin Sutton	Matchday Volunteer	CNS SPORT 
Liam Cook	Match Commentator	
Chris Nee	Programme Editor	

If you're interested in claiming one of our vacant player or management sponsorships, speak to one of our media team today or contact neil@coventryspinx.co.uk

SKYBLUES 
in the COMMUNITY

WALKING FOOTBALL

Meet new friends and improve your physical and mental well-being.

Over 50 and feeling inspired? Come and join us!

LOCATION
Coventry Sphinx Sports & Social Club, CV3 1WA

DAYS
Mondays | Thursdays

TIME
10am meet | 10.30am KO

£5 per session

Socialise and chat over tea, coffee and refreshments included.


LETTINGS AND SALES
Supporting grassroots football


COVENTRY SPHINX FOOTBALL CLUB



For more information please contact us via:
02476 786 349 | sbitc@sbitc.org.uk

2023/24 Player Stats (all competitions)

Player	Apps	Mins	Starts	Full 90	Sub On	Yellows	Second Yellows	Straight Reds	Goals	Assists	Goals Per 90	Assists Per 90	G+A Per 90
Bailey-Nicholls, Khaellem	4	59	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown, Leo	5	448	5	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0.022	0.011	0.033
Bryson, James	5	258	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Carey, Kyle	5	396	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Castellano, Alfonso	1	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cristofaro, Antonio	4	105	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dainty, Gio	6	382	5	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0.022	0.011	0.033
Downes, Jack	17	1377	15	11	2	7	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Luke	17	1221	14	10	3	5	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Draper, Jamie	1	90	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Edjenguele, Will	9	738	9	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ellis, Sam	10	239	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fallows, Keelan	16	1440	16	16	0	3	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Guest, Louis	18	1500	17	16	1	5	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hayward, Jordan	8	387	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Hedge, Zach	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Jackson, Sam	1	28	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Johnson, Max	12	539	5	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lock, Alex	7	524	6	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Martin, Callum	7	463	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Parker, Dylan	15	1125	12	7	3	3	0	0	3	3	0.033	0.033	0.067
Peplinski, Dawid	4	168	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Phillips, Leigh	3	125	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Purseley, Joe	16	1426	16	15	0	3	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Redhead, Jac	10	712	8	3	2	2	0	0	2	0	0.022	0.000	0.022
Shipman, Matty	17	1530	17	17	0	4	0	0	6	2	0.067	0.022	0.089
Shorrocks, Finlay	11	911	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Whiteside, Callum	19	1559	18	15	1	5	0	0	1	0	0.011	0.000	0.011
Woodward, Callum	9	716	9	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	0.011	0.022	0.033

2023/24 Player Stats (NPL Midlands only)

Player	Apps	Mins	Starts	Full 90	Sub On	Yellows	Second Yellows	Straight Reds	Goals	Assists	Goals Per 90	Assists Per 90	G+A Per 90
Bailey-Nicholls, Khaellem	4	59	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Brown, Leo	5	448	5	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0.022	0.011	0.033
Bryson, James	5	258	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Carey, Kyle	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Castellano, Alfonso	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cristofaro, Antonio	3	91	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dainty, Gio	5	312	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0.011	0.011	0.022
Downes, Jack	14	1107	12	8	2	6	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Downes, Luke	14	979	11	8	3	4	1	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Draper, Jamie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Edjenguele, Will	8	648	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ellis, Sam	8	183	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fallows, Keelan	13	1170	13	13	0	2	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Guest, Louis	16	1320	15	14	1	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hayward, Jordan	6	261	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Hedge, Zach	3	270	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Jackson, Sam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Johnson, Max	10	449	4	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lock, Alex	6	470	5	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Martin, Callum	6	427	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Parker, Dylan	12	891	9	5	3	2	0	0	2	3	0.022	0.033	0.056
Peplinski, Dawid	4	168	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Phillips, Leigh	2	63	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Purseley, Joe	14	1246	14	13	0	2	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.011	0.011
Redhead, Jac	9	622	7	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0.022	0.000	0.022
Shipman, Matty	14	1260	14	14	0	4	0	0	6	2	0.067	0.022	0.089
Shorrocks, Finlay	10	857	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Whiteside, Callum	16	1303	15	13	1	5	0	0	1	0	0.011	0.000	0.011
Woodward, Callum	8	654	8	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	0.011	0.022	0.033

COVENTRY SPHINX 2 NUNEATON BOROUGH 3

**Birmingham Senior Cup
Second Round**
Tuesday 14th November 2023

Nuneaton Borough came to the Sphinx Industrial Supplies Arena with their access to their home ground revoked and their future in some doubt.

After playing their previous home league game at Stratford Town, two cup ties away from Liberty Way gave them a much needed stay of execution.

The first of those was at Sphinx and was played in Coventry despite originally being drawn as a home tie for the Boro.

Understandably, given the visitors' announcement that their cameo at Stratford might be their last game, theirs was the story that dominated the build-up to this Birmingham Senior Cup Second Round clash.

Nevertheless, Nuneaton arrived in good shape on the pitch as a higher division opponent for Sphinx, and were able to name a strong starting eleven to see them to a 3-2 win and a place in the next round.

Despite the loss, it was a Sphinx performance deserving of the plaudits that followed.

They equalised twice in a thrilling match and can look back on 90 minutes in which they were beaten purely by some clinical finishing against the run of play.

Sphinx joint managers John Woodward and Shaun Thomas brought Jamie Draper into the starting line-up and Callum Martin onto the bench after long injury lay-offs.

Louis Guest and Jac Redhead dropped to the bench to make way for Draper and Gio Dainty.

Draper was joined at the back by Joe Pursey, Callum Whiteside and Finlay Shorrock in front of goalkeeper Keelan Fallows.

Luke Downes captained the side from midfield with Jack Downes, Alex Lock and Dainty. Matty Shipman and Dylan Parker started in attack.

Nuneaton started quickly and Fallows had to make a pair of early saves, first from a free kick and then from Leroy Lita after good interplay

and sharp movement to get into a dangerous position in the box.

Sphinx didn't look second best, however, and did plenty of attacking of their own and moved the ball nicely in the early knockings.

Lita was unable to take a very presentable chance in the 13th minute and Sphinx, gradually, started to dominate possession, albeit without giving the Boro goalkeeper much to worry about.

At the other end the Sphinx defence had to produce an important block to deny the already influential Owen Oseni.

The home team enjoyed a spell of pressure in the middle of the half. Lock exchanged passes with Shipman but saw his shot blocked.

Parker lofted the corner to the back post, where Shipman's header beat Finley Osborn but was cleared off the line.

Sphinx looked good on the ball but the visitors were able to probe and carry a threat. After Boro defender Elwalid Elhaghany sliced a clearance just wide of goal, Sphinx pushed for an opener from a succession of corners.

Parker took the first and Osborn punched it clear just as it clipped the crossbar.

Two more corners followed and Whiteside appeared to be fouled in the box at both of them. The second thumped the bar as it swung in from Parker.

Nuneaton were always likely to show their quality and they took the lead just after the half hour.

A deep cross from the right found Matt Stenson, whose looping header back across goal dropped into the far corner to make it 1-0.

Sphinx's pressing in the Boro's defensive third was tremendous and paid off before the break.

Osborn had to make a decent save from Jack Downes before the home team equalised in the final minute of the first half.

Parker's whipped free kick towards Osborn's bottom corner appeared to be on target but saveable before Lita swung a boot at it to divert the ball above the goalkeeper's grasp and in.

There were goals aplenty in the second half and Nuneaton grabbed the first of them despite Sphinx being on top and both Shipman and Lock forcing saves from Osborn in the Boro goal.

Six minutes into the half Lita tucked in from close range to make it 2-1 to the visitors with a clinical finish that was very much against the run of play.

If there was any concern that Nuneaton's second goal would take the wind out of Sphinx's sails, the home team's press banished it by yielding a goal almost immediately.

The lively Dainty pinched the ball to capitalise on a short pass, took it beyond Osborn and tapped it into the empty net for 2-2.

Sphinx welcomed Martin and Jordan Hayward back from injury off the bench and continued to look lethal going forward with the game on a knife edge.

Nuneaton squandered a chance before great work from Parker teed up Shipman to shoot over with 20 minutes left.

Alfonso Castellano made a belated Sphinx debut as a substitute and made his mark on what proved an excellent team performance.

The home team produced a number of half chances as they took almost total control of the game late on.

In the end it came down to two chances as penalties loomed. Another Shipman header from a Parker corner was scrambled away by the Boro defence and Sphinx weren't able to do the same four minutes from time.

A long free kick was headed back across goal and Lita was on hand at the back post to nudge in the winning goal. Proven finishers are proven finishers.

Honourable defeat isn't a sustainable route to success but taken in small doses it's no bad thing.

Sphinx took on a team performing at a higher level and fired up by circumstance and not only matched them but bettered them in all departments apart from one.

But putting the ball in the net is the name of the game and Lita has made a living off it.

It showed when the Boro made their crucial chances; Lita and Stenson were clinical when it counted.

Sphinx can be encouraged as they move back into league action.

Their next two opponents were the top two in the United Counties League Premier Division South in the season before Sphinx won it.

Hinckley LR visit Sphinx Drive on Saturday 18th November before the boys in sky blue and white head over to Leicestershire to take on Harborough Town on the following Tuesday.

As tests of confidence and momentum go for Sphinx as a newly minted Step Four team, we couldn't ask for much tougher than these two in close proximity.

TEAMSHEET

1 Keelan Fallows

2 Joe Pursey

3 Finlay Shorrock ▼ Martin (54)

4 Luke Downes @

5 Callum Whiteside

6 Jamie Draper

7 Dylan Parker ⚽

8 Jack Downes

9 Matty Shipman

10 Alex Lock ▼ Hayward (54)

11 Gio Dainty ⚽ ▼ Castellano (70)

12 Callum Martin ▲ Shorrock (54)

14 Jordan Hayward ▲ Lock (54)

15 Alfonso Castellano ▲ Dainty (70)

16 Louis Guest

17 Jac Redhead

SPHINX MAN OF THE MATCH
LUKE DOWNES



#ANDYSMANCLUB

**SUICIDE IS THE BIGGEST
KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45
1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS**

**ALL OUR GROUPS
MEET MONDAY 7PM**

**TO FIND YOUR NEAREST
GROUP VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ANDYSMANCLUB.CO.UK**



#ITSOKAYTOTALK

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

 info@andysmanclub.co.uk

 [andysmanclub](https://www.facebook.com/andysmanclub)

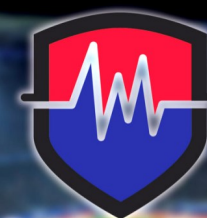
 [andysmanclubuk](https://www.instagram.com/andysmanclubuk)

 [@andysmanclubuk](https://twitter.com/andysmanclubuk)

**We are a peer to peer support group for men.
Come have a brew and a chat!**

#ITSOKAYTOTALK

Registered Charity: 1171728



The
Daniel Wilkinson
Foundation

*Providing Screening and Defibrillators to
prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in the young*



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](https://twitter.com/dannywilks5)

 [thedanielwilkinsonfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation)

 [dwfoundation5](https://www.instagram.com/dwfoundation5)

 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 [thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](https://www.thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)

To donate: mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

Date	Opponents	Comp	H	A	Res	Starting Eleven											Substitutes (<i>not used in italics</i>)						
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17 / GK	18	19 / GK
5 Aug	Stourport Swifts	FAC EP	A	2-0	L	Fallows	Pursey	Hayward	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	Parker	J. Downes	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	Ellis	Jackson	<i>Peplinski</i>	<i>Cristofaro</i>	<i>Billing</i>	<i>Martin</i>	<i>Salley-Haywood</i>
12 Aug	Quorn	NPL M	H	1-1	D	Fallows	Pursey	Hayward	J. Downes	Guest	Whiteside 1	Parker	Woodward ©	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	L. Downes	Ellis	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Cristofaro</i>	<i>Martin</i>		
15 Aug	Gresley Rovers	NPL M	A	1-1	D	Fallows	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	Parker	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Carey	J. Downes	<i>Johnson</i>	Peplinski	<i>Ellis</i>	<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Cristofaro</i>		
22 Aug	Sporting Khalsa	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	Hayward	J. Downes	Shipman	Carey	Johnson	Parker	Ellis	<i>Peplinski</i>	<i>Cristofaro</i>	<i>Jackson</i>		
26 Aug	Spalding United	NPL M	A	4-0	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	J. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	Hayward	Woodward ©	Parker	Ellis	Johnson	L. Downes	Peplinski	<i>Cristofaro</i>	<i>Draper</i>			
28 Aug	Bedworth United	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Hedge	Pursey	Martin	L. Downes	Guest	Whiteside	J. Downes	Woodward ©	Parker	Cristofaro	Johnson	Phillips	Peplinski	Ellis	<i>Penton</i>			
2 Sep	Sutton Coldfield Town	NPL M	A	4-1	L	Fallows	Whiteside	Martin	J. Downes	Guest	Peplinski	Pursey	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Redhead	Parker	<i>L. Downes</i>	Johnson	Ellis	Phillips	<i>Cristofaro</i>		
9 Sep	Quorn	FAT 1Q	A	4-0	L	Fallows	Whiteside	Phillips	L. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	J. Downes	Woodward ©	Shipman	Redhead	Parker	Johnson	Carey	<i>Cristofaro</i>	<i>Peplinski</i>	Ellis	<i>Hedge</i>	
16 Sep	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	NPL M	H	2-1	W	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	Hayward	Woodward ©	Shipman 1	Redhead	J. Downes	Parker 1	Johnson	<i>Ellis</i>	<i>Peplinski</i>	<i>Bryson</i>		
30 Sep	Rugby Town	NPL M	A	1-2	W	Fallows	Bryson	Shorrock	J. Downes	Guest	Edjenguele	Whiteside	Woodward © 1	Shipman 1	Redhead	Parker	<i>Pursey</i>	Bailey-Nicholls	<i>Castellano</i>	Ellis	<i>Phillips</i>		
7 Oct	Corby Town	NPL M	H	0-1	L	Fallows	Bryson	Shorrock	Whiteside	Guest	Edjenguele	Pursey	Woodward ©	Shipman	Ellis	Parker	Johnson	L. Downes	<i>Phillips</i>	Bailey-Nicholls	<i>Redhead</i>		
14 Oct	Shepshed Dynamo	NPL M	A	2-2	D	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Edjenguele	Bryson ©	Pursey	J. Downes	Shipman 1	Lock	Parker 1	Guest	Ellis	Johnson	<i>Cristofaro</i>			
21 Oct	Coleshill Town	NPL M	H	0-0	D	Fallows	Pursey	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Edjenguele	Parker	J. Downes	Shipman	Lock	Dainty	Whiteside	<i>Bryson</i>	Redhead	<i>Ellis</i>	Johnson		
4 Nov	Anstey Nomads	NPL M	H	2-2	D	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Edjenguele	Pursey	Lock	Shipman 1	Redhead	Brown 1	Parker	Johnson	Bryson	<i>Reed</i>	<i>Hedge</i>		
11 Nov	Walsall Wood	NPL M	A	1-1	D	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Edjenguele	Pursey	Lock	Shipman	Redhead	Brown 1	Dainty	J. Downes	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>Parker</i>	<i>Hayward</i>		
14 Nov	Nuneaton Borough	BSC 2R	H	2-3	L	Fallows	Pursey	Shorrock	L. Downes ©	Whiteside	Draper	Parker 1	J. Downes	Shipman	Lock	Dainty 1	Martin	Hayward	Castellano	Guest	<i>Redhead</i>		
18 Nov	Hinckley LR	NPL M	H	1-1	D	Fallows	Pursey	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	Brown	Lock	Shipman	Redhead 1	Dainty	<i>Edjenguele</i>	<i>Hayward</i>	<i>Bailey-Nicholls</i>	J. Downes	<i>Draper</i>		
21 Nov	Harborough Town	NPL M	A	6-1	L	Fallows	Whiteside	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Edjenguele	Pursey	J. Downes	Shipman	Brown	Dainty	Redhead 1	Lock	Bailey-Nicholls	Hayward			
25 Nov	Boldmere St Michaels	NPL M	A	3-1	L	Fallows	Pursey	Shorrock	L. Downes	Guest ©	Whiteside	J. Downes	Redhead	Shipman	Brown	Dainty 1	<i>Woodward</i>	<i>Edjenguele</i>	Lock	Bailey-Nicholls	Hayward		
2 Dec	Loughborough Dynamo	NPL M	H																				
9 Dec	Cambridge City	NPL M	A																				
16 Dec	Gresley Rovers	NPL M	H																				
23 Dec	Quorn	NPL M	A																				
26 Dec	Lye Town	NPL M	H																				
1 Jan	Bedworth United	NPL M	A																				
6 Jan	Spalding United	NPL M	H																				
13 Jan	Sporting Khalsa	NPL M	A																				
20 Jan	Harborough Town	NPL M	H																				
27 Jan	Coleshill Town	NPL M	A																				
3 Feb	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	NPL M	A																				
17 Feb	Rugby Town	NPL M	H																				
24 Feb	Corby Town	NPL M	A																				
2 Mar	Shepshed Dynamo	NPL M	H																				
16 Mar	Cambridge City	NPL M	H																				
23 Mar	Loughborough Dynamo	NPL M	A																				
30 Mar	Sutton Coldfield Town	NPL M	H																				
1 Apr	Lye Town	NPL M	A																				
6 Apr	Walsall Wood	NPL M	H																				
13 Apr	Anstey Nomads	NPL M	A																				
20 Apr	Boldmere St Michaels	NPL M	H																				
27 Apr	Hinckley LR	NPL M	A																				

COVENTRY SPHINX 1 HINCKLEY LR 1

Pitching In NPL
Division One Midlands
Saturday 18th November 2023

Coventry Sphinx picked up their fifth consecutive draw in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands thanks to Jac Redhead's equalising goal against former United Counties League rivals Hinckley Leicester Road.

Shaun Thomas and John Woodward's team again had to bounce back after conceding the first goal and the point kept Sphinx in 17th place while Boldmere St Michaels and Rugby Town swapped places either side of them.

After the Birmingham Senior Cup defeat to Nuneaton Borough in midweek, Sphinx's joint managers restored Redhead, Leo Brown and stand-in skipper Louis Guest to the starting line-up.

Goalkeeper Keelan Fallows played behind Guest, Callum Whiteside, Joe Pursey and Finlay Shorrock.

Luke Downes, Alex Lock, Brown, Redhead and Gio Dainty played in a fluid midfield that shifted to ensure plenty of creative supply to striker Matty Shipman. Will Edjenguele and Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls were back among the substitutes after injury.



Stuart Guest

Hinckley fancied themselves coming into this match and quickly set about putting the pressure on Sphinx's defence, playing direct in the early exchanges of what became a rather attritional first half for the most part.

Long clearances into the channels were the order of the day and it was an effective tactic that kept Sphinx honest when their attacks broke down. Eventually, it gave the visitors a foothold and they controlled the match through the middle of the first half.

A free kick was curled over in the 19th minute, and two minutes after that the dangerous Aaron Nuttall tricked his way past two Sphinx defenders and into the penalty area where he was taken down by Dainty.

The referee didn't hesitate before pointing to the spot and Tendai Daire - Hinckley's most recognised threat - sent the penalty past a diving Fallows and in for 1-0.

From that point forward, most of the game became about whether Sphinx could find a way past Hinckley goalkeeper Will Highland.

Brown was the first to attempt it with a trademark incisive run through defenders and in on goal. Highland got down well to deny him at his near post.

Sphinx didn't really click in the first half an hour but a tactical tweak did the trick and the chances started to come.

The ball dropped to Lock on the edge of the box with 30 minutes played and he took a lovely touch past a defender but was unable to keep his shot down.

There was a potential turning point soon after that when a high ball eluded both Shipman and his marker.

The Sphinx striker got his body between man and ball inside the box with only Highland to beat.

While he hadn't yet controlled the ball, Shipman was clearly fouled and the decision not to award a penalty was a questionable one.

Highland had to react quickly after Whiteside connected with a rebound from Redhead's free kick in the 35th minute, with Sphinx now in the ascendancy.

Whiteside again forced Highland into action on the stroke of half time, this time with a powerful header from a corner that the Hinckley goalkeeper smartly tipped over to ensure a half time lead for the away side.

What Sphinx needed more than anything was a dominant start to the second half and an early goal, and they got it in style.

Dainty was picked out in the box and came up with a clever flick round the corner into the path of

Redhead, who was suddenly clean through. He confidently finished with his left foot to equalise.

Though certainly watchable, the second half was a little scruffy and produced very few chances as two teams slugged it out but made relatively little headway until much later in the half. With 20 minutes left to play the opportunities did start to come as the match finally started to open up.

Luke Downes fed Brown and his shot had enough power to force Highland to give away a corner despite being straight at him.



Stuart Guest

The on-loan forward was almost the beneficiary of a real period of pressure ten minutes from time, getting a good look at goal but just dragging the ball wide. Highland wasn't tested by that but he didn't have long to wait for his moment in the spotlight.

Jack Downes, off the bench in place of Dainty in the second half, picked up the bits from a corner that caused Hinckley a few problems and got his laces through a left-footed effort that looked destined for the bottom corner.

Highland must have seen it late through a crowd but got down quickly and turned it around the post.

Both teams sent speculative shots over the crossbar in the final minutes but Highland's late save was the crucial factor in preserving a point for the visitors.

Draws at home won't be enough for Woodward and Thomas to achieve their aims this season but a solid unbeaten run and

steady build-up of points shouldn't be underappreciated. The last five draws have been against teams full of quality and Sphinx could have beaten any or all of them.

Game by game, week by week, they look more and more capable at Step Four. The wins will come just as surely as a few losses.

Sphinx will round off November with two away trips and two matches on artificial turf. On Tuesday 21st November the rearranged visit to Harborough Town will take place with the Bees now out of the Isuzu FA Trophy and looking to respond.

The following Saturday sees Sphinx return to Boldmere St Michaels for the first time since leaving the Midland Football League. Though familiar to Sphinx from Step Five, both Harborough and Boldmere are now established at the level above.

Harborough ended the weekend top of the table. The tests just keep on coming and that's exactly how Sphinx like it.

TEAMSHEET

- 1 Keelan Fallows
- 2 Joe Pursey
- 3 Finlay Shorrock
- 4 Luke Downes
- 5 Louis Guest Ⓞ
- 6 Callum Whiteside
- 7 Leo Brown
- 8 Alex Lock 🟡
- 9 Matty Shipman
- 10 Jac Redhead ⚽ 🟡
- 11 Gio Dainty ▼ J. Downes (64)
- 12 Will Edjenguele
- 14 Jordan Hayward
- 15 Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls
- 16 Jack Downes ▲ Dainty (64)
- 17 Jamie Draper

SPHINX MAN OF THE MATCH
CALLUM WHITESIDE

MATCH HIGHLIGHTS



FOOTBALL PITCHES AND PESTICIDES

In January 2023, Nottingham Forest flew to Blackpool for their Emirates FA Cup Third Round match against what was then Michael Appleton's EFL Championship outfit. Forest's stoppage time goal turned 4-0 into 4-1, a less than thrilling conclusion to a trip that had been just as costly to Forest's public image.

Football clubs all over the country fly unnecessarily either frequently or occasionally but, for whatever reason, this particular journey was singled out for special attention and football's environmental impact was thrust back into the spotlight for the first time since the ludicrous decision to host the European Championships across the entire continent.

Football is an international sport. We take overseas competition for granted and think nothing of teams flying to all manner of destinations to play a match. It raises big questions – too big for football, in truth, but worth pondering nonetheless.

Discourse around football's footprint usually centres on travel. Steve Cooper was unfortunate to find himself as the poster boy for gratuitous domestic aviation; in a country as small as England, it's a valid discussion that shouldn't focus specifically on his team's flight to Lancashire.

Far more insidious is the increasing hunger for far flung pre-season tours and prestige friendlies. Unless we don't want football at all, we must accept that competitive away games are necessary. Exhibition football in the name of naked greed is not.

Are continental competitions unethical? Is international football as a concept simply too big a negative to justify? What about overseas travel for leisure more generally? I'm not going anywhere near those questions because you, and I, won't like the answers.

Travel is just one strand of football's outsized impact on the planet. Energy is another. Lights are left on at stadiums and training grounds and that's the tip of the iceberg. The cultural shift it would take to limit that damage is enormous to the point of impossibility.

Football facilities having the lights on and football teams travelling are just part of the global movement and existence of people. They can't be dealt with in isolation and that's probably for the best; the chances of a football resolution to these matters are vanishingly small.

But what about our own turf? Our literal, actual, real, green turf – the surface upon which the beautiful game is played.

In elite football's endless quest for perfection it has ruthlessly pursued improved pitches and the sport is now played on flawless lawns, albeit with more than a helping hand from synthetic fibres and engineering solutions I won't even pretend to know about or understand.

We are also reliant to a noteworthy degree on pesticides. Football has a duty to fully, honestly and ethically consider that fact.

The use of pesticides ("a chemical preparation for destroying plant, fungal, or animal pests") and herbicides ("a substance or preparation for killing plants, especially weeds") on sports pitches in the UK is – appropriately – widespread.

Despite the prevalence of pesticides in football and sport, it's not a dominant issue even when the environmental impact of sport is in the news, but it is one that academics, experts and indeed some clubs have been looking at.

Grounds staff are advised on the deployment of pesticides on football pitches and the simple fact is that their usefulness isn't in question. They destroy plant, fungal, or animal pests – exactly what it says on the vat. For the avoidance of doubt, the matter at hand is chemical pesticides. Unsurprisingly in our ecologically savvy times, there's a vocal lobby against them.

Common chemical solutions for just about anything can be controversial and football is no different. It's also not new territory and the Football Association has guidelines in place for groundspersons, including:

"It is...only permissible to use a herbicide which is approved for use on sports turf, and this is likely to be a total

herbicide. COSHH and a suitable Risk Assessment must be carried out prior to any application. A further legal consideration is that the user must have successfully obtained his/her Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1, PA2A or PA6A)."

Such restrictions around the types of pesticides permitted for use on football pitches are clearly a step in the right direction but it's the "legal consideration" that most stands out.

The studies that have been carried out in the past ten years call for more education and the requirement for grounds staff to be certified for the use of pesticides is an indication of progress on that front. Indeed, groundsperson job descriptions at top clubs call for various levels of National Proficiency Test Council certification in pesticide use.

The eagle-eyed will have noticed the COSHH reference in the passage from the FA. You probably know that this stands for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health – in addition to the environmental damage through air pollution, water pollution and collateral wildlife annihilation, pesticides fall into that category in a diverse number of ways.

The documented threats to players and grounds staff directly include respiratory problems, skin irritation and cancer – incidentally, the same claims have been made of rubber crumb – and there are suggestions that football specifically has caused to lead the way when it comes to revolutionising the management of pesticides on sports pitches.

Motor Neurone Disease is, sadly, a familiar condition for fans of sports in the UK. Professional sportspeople have been MND's most prolific representatives in the national media.

In 2019, MND Research looked at some of the research that had been done into professional football and Motor Neurone Disease up to that point. The conclusion is that there is no single risk factor responsible for football's apparent increased risk when compared to other sports, and there's no evidence of a link between that increased risk and pesticides.

MND Research does, however, acknowledge a potential similarity in organophosphate exposure levels between footballers and farmers, another increased risk group. Academia has also examined potential links between football and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) specifically.

Multiple Italian studies between 2006 and 2010 indicated the possibility of a "soccer-specific" risk of ALS. In the middle of that half-decade, The Guardian reported that 51 footballers in Italy had died from ALS by 2008 – six times the population average.

Raffaele Guariniello, a Turin magistrate with the data to hand, investigated – among several other potential causes – the use of pesticides and fertilisers on Italy's football pitches in the eighties and nineties. Frankly, the knowledge that children are the most susceptible to the negative effects of pesticides should be motivation enough to get to the bottom of it.

Pests kill football pitches and pesticides kill pests. Eradication is only made possible by the availability of

alternatives and sport has made big strides since these studies were published.

Some clubs in the UK are starting to use more sustainable and often organic alternatives to pesticides and herbicides. They include the use of natural predators as well as organic fertilisers and the monitoring and "physical removal" of pests.

If you're assuming Forest Green Rovers is one of those clubs, you're right. Among a great many other environmental initiatives under shrinking violet eco-tycoon Dale Vince, the club's pitch at the New Lawn in Gloucestershire is organic and pesticide free. I assume their alternative is not the physical removal of pests by flamethrower.

The staff at Forest Green and every groundsperson I've ever spoken to will tell you that maintaining a top-class football pitch isn't easy at the best of times. Take away the option of chemical pesticides and the challenge only intensifies.

Herbicides are also a vital tool because weeds are a problem. There are alternatives here too, but as Connecticut academic Jason Henderson notes, controlling weeds is about more than just how a pitch looks:

"Weeds don't tolerate foot traffic as well as turfgrasses, so they die first on heavily used surfaces such as athletic fields, leaving bare spots in high-traffic zones. As vegetative cover decreases, surfaces become harder, increasing athletes' risk of injuries."

All of this knowledge is easy to access and apply for groundspersons in the professional game but football is a massive participation sport too. Its roots extend far beneath the elite and they might just be the tastiest bit.

Understanding the complex realities of pesticide use in sport is an unfair expectation of the people who maintain council pitches and school playing fields and non-league surfaces everywhere. It might not even be feasible – yet – for football in its entirety to be fully sustainable when it comes to pitch management.

Part of the answer is the same as ever: the industry at the top must both lead and support the culture underneath. Elite football owes its very existence to the participation levels of the game from the grassroots up. Investment in research and funding should be obligatory.

The use of pesticides and herbicides is a tricky subject. It has lots of pitfalls and few answers. The evidence available is partial. The medical conclusions are far from certain and footballers face enough other risk factors for neurological diseases to make further research the most important immediate development.

But the environmental impact of chemical pollution is clear and football must continue its progress in reducing its contribution to that. Our sport is an entirely man-made construct. It's not essential. We need to own our shit. We cannot continue to cause such damage in the name of enjoyment. It's time for a more substantial pesticides plan.

Chris Nee
hpbp.substack.com

For people, clubs, and businesses like you

The official insurance provider to the Pitching In Northern Premier League. From insurance to risk management and employee health and benefits*, it's our passion to advise, protect and support you.

01756 655505

marshcommercial.co.uk

This is a marketing communication

*Employee health and benefits are provided by our sister company, Mercer.

Mercer Marsh Benefits is a trading name used by Mercer Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Mercer Limited is registered in England and Wales. No. 984275. Registered Office: 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London, EC3R 5BU.

Marsh Commercial is a trading name of Marsh Ltd. Marsh Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for General Insurance Distribution and Credit Broking (Firm Reference No. 307511). Copyright © 2022 Marsh Ltd. Registered in England and Wales Number: 1507274. Registered office: 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London EC3R 5BU. All rights reserved. MC220726019

A business of Marsh McLennan



YOUTH TEAM FIXTURES

Thursday 17 August	1-4	L	Solihull Moors	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 31 August	2-1	W	Rugby Borough	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 7 September	5-2	W	Stourport Swifts	FA Youth Cup Preliminary Round
Thursday 14 September	1-1	D	Inkberrow	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 21 September	0-6	L	AFC Wulfrunians	FA Youth Cup First Round Qualifying
Thursday 28 September	3-1	W	Stratford Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 5 October	1-4	W	Rugby Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 12 October	4-0	W	P S Olympic	Joel Richards Memorial Cup R1
Monday 23 October	1-0	L	Stourbridge	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 9 November	3-4	L	Stourbridge	MFYL Southern Premier Division
Thursday 16 November	3-0	W	Atherstone Town	Joel Richards Memorial Cup R2
Tuesday 5 December	19.45	A	Rushall Olympic	Colin Lowe Memorial League Cup R3
Thursday 21 December	19.45	H	Rugby Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Alvechurch	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Alvechurch	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Bedworth United	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Bedworth United	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Halesowen Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Halesowen Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Inkberrow	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Kidderminster Harriers	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Kidderminster Harriers	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Rugby Borough	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Solihull Moors	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		H	Stourbridge	MFYL Southern Premier Division
TBC		A	Stratford Town	MFYL Southern Premier Division

LFE Engineering Ltd

Hibberd House, Curriers Close, Canley, Coventry, CV4 8AW

Tel: 02476 465 962

Email: sales@lfeeng.co.uk www.lfeeng.co.uk

Dave McLeod
Building and Groundwork Contractors
Est. 1985

OFFICE : 024 76 612003

MOBILE : 079 56 456401

HIGH PROTEIN
**BEEF
PASTE**

A weekly football newsletter in your inbox every Tuesday morning.

Subscribe at hpbp.substack.com

Stadium Development
Specialists

fwp
architecture

www.fwpgroup.co.uk



architecture • project management • structural engineering • interior design
building surveying • m&e design • quantity surveying • cdm consultancy



**IF YOU SEE IT
OR HEAR IT,
REPORT IT**

'It' is discrimination, in all its forms. Racism. Homophobia. Misogyny. Disablism.
If you have seen it or heard it, follow the QR code to report it to Kick It Out.
Together, we can put an end to it.

Take action today at kickitout.org

HARBOROUGH TOWN 6 COVENTRY SPHINX 1

Pitching In NPL
Division One Midlands
Tuesday 21st November 2023

No football team likes to lose, especially heavily, but getting promoted can mean you have to take a kicking once in a while.

Coventry Sphinx were on the wrong end of a quality Harborough Town performance in Leicestershire and were beaten 6-1 in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Midlands to end a run of five consecutive draws.

Sphinx joint managers John Woodward and Shaun Thomas brought Will Edjenguele back into the starting eleven after injury and named a back five in front of goalkeeper Keelan Fallows. Louis Guest and Callum Whiteside completed the central defensive trio, with Joe Pursey and Finlay Shorrock on the wings.

Jack Downes also returned to the line-up to play alongside Luke Downes and Gio Dainty in midfield, while Leo Brown started in an advanced position with striker Matty Shipman. Jac Redhead was named on the bench with Jordan Hayward, Khaellem Bailey Nicholls and Alex Lock.



As 90-minute performances go, Harborough's was as complete as we've seen this season. They put Sphinx under pressure from the off and proved themselves worthy league leaders with early attacks that soon produced a lead.

A low ball in to Joel Carta necessitated an excellent save from Fallows at his near post but it was already clear what the visitors were up against. Sphinx were putting in the yards and Harborough had the ball, but the opening goal for the Bees came out of possession.

Jordan Crawford speedily closed down an attempted clearance from Jack Downes and the

ball ran perfectly for the Harborough man who confidently finished the chance one-on-one and still had three more first-half goals up his sleeve.

Pursey cleared an effort off the line after quarter of an hour and Sphinx generated a decent spell against a very good side through the middle of the first half. Brown hit a powerful left-footer from 25 yards that stung the palms of Harborough goalkeeper Elliott Taylor, then curled a shot over from the edge of the box after nice play by Jack Downes.

Downes delivered a corner that Guest headed into Taylor's gloves in the 25th minute before another period of Sphinx attacking came to nothing. Harborough wasted no time getting back on the front foot and it wasn't long before they doubled their lead.

Carta was thwarted on the goal line again, this time by a Shorrock block, but Harborough scored a second with 30 minutes played. Crawford went in on goal, got a second bite of the cherry after another Fallows save, and turned it in for 2-0.

By now Harborough were moving the ball quickly, usually before the player in possession was engaged by an opponent, and Sphinx could only chase the game. Another Jack Downes cross provided an opportunity for Shipman to head back across goal but Taylor snuffed it out easily and two became three for the hosts in very short order.

Crawford's finish for 3-0 was the best of his bunch and his hat-trick took a shade over 20 minutes. Sadly for Sphinx there was another to come before the break. Harborough's clinical play and sharp finishing combined to give them obvious dominance and the fourth wasn't a surprise.

Alex Morris scuffed an effort into the grasp of Fallows with a couple of minutes left in the first half, and in the first minute of stoppage time a disputed penalty was awarded to the home team for what was deemed a foul by the back-tracking Shipman.

Crawford took the spot kick and fired it in off the post to round off a near perfect half for Harborough, whose all-round game was just too much for the visitors. Their passing was crisp, their direct play moved them upfield effectively and their physical side went unmatched on the night.

Clearly the away team had it all to do but the game was lost and the low energy start to the second

half reflected the scoreline before Fallows made a good low save seven minutes in and Shipman got up well to head over another Jack Downes corner shortly before the hour mark.

Substitute Bailey-Nicholls, on for Guest as Sphinx changed their shape and started to look ahead to the next fixture, dragged a left-footed shot wide of goal in the 61st minute as the visitors sought a consolation goal.



In the 67th minute the fifth goal of the match arrived and it went the way of Harborough.

Amar Sandhu's driving run was poorly defended but his right-footed strike across Fallows and into the far corner was sensational. It was also somewhat against the run of play with Sphinx briefly enjoying their best period of the match.

Pursey made a block on the line in the 73rd minute and Fallows soon had to follow suit. From the resulting corner, Harborough won a back post header and should have capitalised on a glaring opportunity to score with a free header in front of goal.

But Sphinx continued to work and refused to let the scoreline be an excuse for any lack of effort. Brown had a shot blocked and Redhead, off the bench, turned on the rebound and sent a shot on target but Taylor was able to make a straightforward save.

With 16 minutes left to play Redhead and Sphinx got their goal. Hayward, Sphinx's other substitute, played a nice interchange with Jack Downes on the left before cutting the ball back for Redhead. His low strike kicked up off a defender and looped over Taylor to make it 5-1 and give him a second goal in as many games.

Unfortunately there was one last insult for Sphinx, who suffered the ignominy of a sixth goal conceded three minutes

into stoppage time. Harborough remained dangerous in transition and Fallows made a late save only to find Johnson Gyamfi on hand to score from close range.

There's no denying that this was a tough result to take but Sphinx must remain positive.

Harborough were genuinely excellent and took apart a very good team. It's important that Thomas and Woodward's men aren't knocked off track by that because they truly don't need to be.

Harborough are top of the league and will be there or very close to it at the end of April. For all Sphinx's progress in the last few years, we know that our focus right now is on the other half of the table.

Losing to the teams at the top won't dictate Sphinx's ability to settle in at Step Four this season.

What happens in the aftermath will tell us a lot more about what's to come for the boys in sky blue and white.

The positive response began on the night.

A continuation against Boldmere St Michaels, Loughborough Dynamo and Cambridge City is now required.

TEAMSHEET

- 1 Keelan Fallows
- 2 Callum Whiteside
- 3 Finlay Shorrock ▼ Hayward (60)
- 4 Luke Downes
- 5 Louis Guest @ ▼ Bailey-Nicholls (60)
- 6 Will Edjenguele
- 7 Joe Pursey
- 8 Jack Downes
- 9 Matty Shipman
- 10 Leo Brown
- 11 Gio Dainty ▼ Redhead (72)
- 12 Jac Redhead ⚽ ▲ Dainty (72)
- 14 Alex Lock
- 15 Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls ▲ Guest (60)
- 16 Jordan Hayward ▲ Shorrock (60)



LOUGHBOROUGH DYNAMO



Loughborough Dynamo FC are a member of the Northern Premier League, playing in the Midlands Division. The club plays at the Newton Fallowell Stadium in Watermead Lane, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Dynamo was formed in 1955 by pupils of Loughborough Grammar School. A few years after World War II the school switched from football to rugby. Several pupils wanted to play organised football, so the club was formed in what might say was a secretive manner, including unauthorised meetings in the school library!

The club's name comes from FC Dynamo Moscow, which had played in the United Kingdom in friendly matches on tours in both 1945 and 1955. The club colours of gold and black come from Wolverhampton Wanderers, who played against Dynamo Moscow at Molineux on November 9th, 1955.

After two seasons of leading a nomadic existence playing away friendly matches, the club ventured into league football in 1957 and found its first home, the old Shelthorpe playing fields in Loughborough (now an 18-hole par 3 golf course). The league was the Loughborough Alliance League. Dynamo entered in Division 3 and quickly rose through the divisions, eventually winning the League. However, Dynamo was prevented from moving into the Leicestershire Senior League due to lack of facilities.

The club switched to the Leicester and District League in 1966, by which time Dynamo had moved across Loughborough to Bottleacre and the old ground of Morris Sports. Dynamo played in this league for five years, moving into the East Midlands League in 1971. However, Dynamo underperformed at this level and saw relegation to the Central Alliance League and almost immediately back to the Leicester and District League.

During this period Dynamo experienced two further moves of ground, enforced by Morris Sports sale of the Bottleacre ground for use as industrial premises. First was back to Shelthorpe, this time to Shelthorpe Primary School, then on to the club's current home of the Nanpantan Sports Ground (NSG), renamed The ADT Stadium in the Summer of 2018, ADT Taxis being the club's new ground sponsor.

On the Charnwood Forest side of the town and on the edge of Loughborough, the ground had recently been bought by Charnwood District Council from the Brush manufacturing company of Loughborough. The Council own it to this day.

It was at its current home that the club was playing in the Leicestershire Senior League Division 1, but the facilities were not good enough to enable promotion the Premier Division. The specific requirement was floodlights. It was then that discussions took place between the club and Loughborough University, the education facility was looking to integrate into

the local community, and the offer was to develop, with Dynamo, the facilities at the NSG.

Also, James Ellis came on board as manager. All this occurred in the early 2000's and enabled the club to gain promotion to the Premier Division and start its development to where it is today.

The period of James Ellis's management saw the club stabilise in the Premier Division and then go on a period of success in Leicestershire football circles. The club won the Premier League title, won the Leicestershire Senior Cup and retained it the following season, and also won the League Cup and President's Cup. Promotion was then achieved to the Midland Football Alliance (MFA). This promotion was also thanks to the massive effort from volunteers to enable the NSG to be ready to stage football at MFA level.

Dynamo stabilised in the MFA, and then came the memorable season of 2007-08 when under the management of Adam Beazeley, assisted by John Folwell and Simon Tebbutt (James Ellis having moved on), the club achieved promotion to the Northern Premier League Division One South.

2010 saw Dynamo lift the Westerby Challenge Cup, the main knockout cup for Leicestershire sides, at the Walkers Stadium, the home of Leicester City. The club had a joint managerial team at this point of Ian Blyth and Scott Clamp, Barwell being the defeated opponents. Two years later, with the Walkers Stadium now renamed the King Power Stadium and with Scott Clamp as sole manager, Dynamo won the trophy for a second time, defeating Hinckley United from two leagues higher in the non-league pyramid.

Tom Brookbanks became Manager in May 2013, and by the start of the 2014-15 season had built an entertaining side, and in September of that season Dynamo topped the division, the highest position in the club's history. But off fields matters came to a head the following month and the management team and squad was suddenly ripped apart, and the club slid down the table.

The following two seasons were not easy on the pitch, finishing 20th in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 campaigns, one place above the relegation positions. In the latter season the experienced Peter Ward took over as Dynamo's Manager just after Christmas 2016 and steered the club to its own 'Great Escape', winning the last four matches of the season (the first three of those matches being away, two to the other clubs involved in the relegation battle) to finish four points clear of the relegation places.

Under Peter's Management Dynamo finished the 2017-18 season fifteen points and six places better than a year previously, as well as reaching the Leicestershire Challenge Cup, going down 7-6 on penalties to Premier Division Coalville

Town, after the game finished 2-2. Peter felt this was the best time to move on with Peter's Assistant, former Dynamo player Lee Attenborough, stepping up into the Manager's post. Lee has previous managerial experience at Leicestershire Senior League Sileby Town and East Midlands Counties League side Ashby Ivanhoe. Lee's first season in charge had its ups and downs but a strong finish, in which Dynamo won all of their final six games resulted in Dynamo finishing eighth in the league, only six points off a play-off place.

Seasons 2019-20 & 2020-21 were both cut short and declared 'null and void' due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. However when season 2020-21 was declared void Dynamo were sitting in second spot.

A return to a full season in 2021-22 saw Dynamo in the Midlands Division and never really threatening to get amongst the promotion race or be in trouble at the wrong end of the table. Ultimately it was a thirteenth place finish with 45 points. During that season, manager Lee Attenborough left and was replaced by his assistant Brad Munn who was joined by former Nottingham Forest player Lewis McGugan.

In the 2022/23 season, Brad and Lewis guided the club to a tenth place finish in the league before leaving. Now in 2023/24, the club is managed by Tom Hayes and his assistant John Ramshaw.

PEN PICTURES

Tom Hayes: Manager of Loughborough Dynamo and joined the club in May 2023. Has his UEFA A Licence and has previously been manager of Leicester Nirvana. Tom has also been Head Football Coach at the University of Nottingham for the last few years. Was originally an academy player at Coventry City.

John Ramshaw: Assistant Manager at Loughborough Dynamo and has plenty of experience in the non-league pyramid. John has been involved in football for forty years and started as a youth coach at Nottingham Forest before managing or assisting at clubs such as Torquay United, Mansfield Town, Kettering Town, and Sutton Town.

Toni Williams: Sports Therapist who is in her second season at the club. Having studied at Loughborough University, Toni is responsible for the fitness of the players including pre-match warmups, training exercises and rehabilitation.

Lewis King: A fans favourite at the club who has made over 250 appearances at Step 1-3. Previously played for Stockport County and likes interacting with the crowd during a game. Josh Mee: Young 16 year old goalkeeper who joined up with the first team after impressing with our academy. Made a penalty shootout winning save on his debut.

David Chapman: A left-back who has previously worked with manager Tom Hayes at the University of Nottingham. Formerly a Nottingham Forest academy graduate that likes to get forward and whip crosses into the box. Previously played for Kettering, Quorn, and Clifton All Whites

Shemar Pette: A defensive player who can slot into the back line almost anywhere whether that is at full back or centre back.

Tarun Rohilla: Has links with Tom Hayes from Nottingham University. A left back who has had a solid start to his time at the Moes.

Mitchell Robinson: A defender who joined the club from Long Eaton at the start of the season having won back to back promotions with his former club over the last two seasons. Previously played for Newark and Stapleford Town as well.

Gianluca Bucci: A centre back who is firmly becoming a fans favourite. Joined from Spalding United mid-season and likes to pop up with a goal every so often as well.

Chad Timson: 22-year-old right back who has picked up the Players Player and Managers Player of the Year award at Leicester Nirvana two years in a row. Previously played for Kettering Town and Corby Town as well.

Mo Bangura: A versatile player who can play at either full-back, winger, or striker. Has previously worked with manager Tom Hayes at the University of Nottingham for the last three years and has previously played for Avelley.

Charlie Carter: On loan with the Moes until the end of December from Mansfield Town. A young defensive midfielder who has helped solidify our midfield.

Rob Norris: The Club Captain and one of the club's record appearance holders having made more than 250 appearances for the club. Had a knack of scoring a worldie in the 2022/23 season and his volley at Hinckley was runner up in the Northern Premier League's goal of the month competition.

Tom Marshall: Midfielder who joined from Long Eaton at the start of the season having also made over 100 appearances for Ilkeston Town.

George Ball: Joined the Moes from Daventry Town at the back end of last season. Likes to play in the number ten role and contribute goals and assists.

Tom Maddison: An experienced central midfielder who has played for a number of other clubs including Corby Town.

Connor Furey: A young winger who joined the club from Corby in the summer. When he plays you can't miss him because of his bright pink boots. Previously played for AFC Stamford and Harborough Town.

Jack Gibson: A number 9 with a real eye for goal. Scored seven goals in pre-season. Joined Dynamo from Belper in the 2022/23 season initially on loan.

Evan Garnett: A striker who has been in and around the Dynamo squad for five years. Has a good eye for goal. Was the second highest goalscorer at the club in the 2022/23 season.

Jonathan White: An attacker than can also play at wing back. Scored on his debut at local rivals Shepshed Dynamo. Has links to Tom Hayes from Nottingham University.

Rio Molyneaux: Scored a hat-trick on his debut against Walsall Wood. A striker who played for Corby Town last season before joining Belper Town and Colehill.



Baby Bottles Wholesale Ltd.
One of the UK's leading single
site wholesalers of beers, wines,
spirits, soft drinks and more to
a huge range of on-trade
outlets based in the midlands.

Call Us:
02476 361518

Visit Our Website:
www.babybottlesltd.co.uk

Unlocking the power of pitches

The Football Foundation
is the Premier League,
The FA and the
Government's charity.

We award grants and work
with partners to deliver
outstanding grassroots
football facilities
across England.

Search
**Football
Foundation**
to find out more





COVENTRY SPHINX LADIES FC

Sunday 3 September	0-4	L	Solihull Sporting Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 10 September	3-0	L	Shifnal Town Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 17 September	1-8	W	Crusaders Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 24 September	1-6	L	Worcester City Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 1 October	0-5	W	AFC Telford United	Women's FA Cup 2QR
Sunday 8 October	5-5	D	Solihull Sporting Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 15 October	0-5	L	Stourbridge 1st	BCFA Women's County Cup
Sunday 22 October	7-5	L	Northampton Town	Women's FA Cup 3QR
Sunday 29 October	3-4	W	Kidderminster Harriers Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 26 November	3-3	D	Burton Albion Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 3 December	14.00	A	Worcester City Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 10 December	14.00	H	Knowle Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 17 December	14.00	A	Lichfield City Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 7 January	14.00	A	Lye Town Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 14 January	14.00	H	Crusaders Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 28 January	14.00	A	Shrewsbury Town Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 4 February	14.00	H	Burton Albion Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 11 February	14.00	H	Kidderminster Harriers Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 18 February	14.00	A	Coundon Court Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 25 February	14.00	A	Knowle Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 3 March	14.00	H	Shifnal Town Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 10 March	14.00	H	Coundon Court Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
Sunday 17 March	14.00	H	Lichfield City Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
TBC		H	Lichfield City Ladies	West Mids Premier Cup 1R
TBC		H	Lye Town Ladies	West Mids Regional Premier Division
TBC		H	Shrewsbury Town Women	West Mids Regional Premier Division



COMMERCIAL 2023/24

BUY A PITCHSIDE ADVERTISING BOARD

£475 + VAT NEW
£350 + VAT RENEWAL

- ◆ Standard sized pitchside board for the season
- ◆ Full-page programme advertisement for the season
- ◆ Business name/logo on Sponsors section of club website
- ◆ One free Match Sponsorship package

SPONSOR A HOME MATCH

£100 per match

- ◆ Two adult tickets for sponsored match
- ◆ Business name mention in highlights commentary*
- ◆ Business name/logo in highlights package*
- ◆ Business name/logo in matchday programme and social media posts

* Subject to match coverage

SPONSOR A SPHINX PLAYER

£75 per player

- ◆ Business name/logo alongside player in matchday programme
- ◆ Business name/logo alongside player on website
- ◆ Business name/logo in Sponsors section on website
- ◆ Social media mention when player scores a goal

BUY A PROGRAMME AD

Full page £150 + VAT

Half page £100 + VAT

Quarter page £60 + VAT

Contact neil@coventryspinx.co.uk to find out more

PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE MIDLANDS FIXTURES

Saturday 2nd December

AFC Rushden & Diamonds	v	Quorn
Anstey Nomads	v	Cambridge City
Coleshill Town	v	Boldmere St Michaels
Coventry Sphinx	v	Loughborough Dynamo
Harborough Town	v	Spalding United
Rugby Town	v	Hinckley LR
Shepshed Dynamo	v	Lye Town
Sporting Khalsa	v	Bedworth United
Sutton Coldfield Town	v	Gresley Rovers
Walsall Wood	v	Corby Town

Tuesday 5th December

Loughborough Dynamo	v	Harborough Town
---------------------	---	-----------------

Saturday 9th December

Boldmere St Michaels	v	Anstey Nomads
Cambridge City	v	Coventry Sphinx
Corby Town	v	Harborough Town
Gresley Rovers	v	Coleshill Town
Hinckley LR	v	Shepshed Dynamo
Loughborough Dynamo	v	Sporting Khalsa
Lye Town	v	AFC Rushden & Diamonds
Quorn	v	Sutton Coldfield Town
Spalding United	v	Rugby Town

PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE MIDLANDS LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Harborough Town	15	11	1	3	32	11	21	34
2	Spalding United	16	10	3	3	38	19	19	33
3	Loughborough Dynamo	15	10	3	2	31	16	15	33
4	Anstey Nomads	15	9	5	1	34	18	16	32
5	Lye Town	17	9	4	4	26	19	7	31
6	Hinckley LR	15	7	5	3	26	23	3	26
7	Sporting Khalsa	16	8	1	7	20	26	-6	25
8	Corby Town	17	7	3	7	38	23	15	24
9	Quorn	15	7	3	5	29	22	7	24
10	Sutton Coldfield Town	16	7	3	6	23	21	2	24
11	Bedworth United	18	7	3	8	20	20	0	24
12	Walsall Wood	15	7	2	6	26	25	1	23
13	Coleshill Town	16	6	2	8	26	30	-4	20
14	Shepshed Dynamo	16	6	2	8	20	30	-10	20
15	Boldmere St Michaels	15	5	2	8	26	24	2	17
16	Cambridge City	16	4	3	9	20	28	-8	15
17	Coventry Sphinx	16	2	7	7	15	30	-15	13
18	Rugby Town	16	4	1	11	16	35	-19	13
19	Gresley Rovers	16	2	4	10	18	44	-26	10
20	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	15	1	1	13	9	29	-20	4

28/11/2023



Introducing the Spectral Intent Elite
Exclusive Northern Premier League Match Ball :

- **Microcoated PU casing equalizes airflow**
- **Engineered PU for increased response & enhanced control**
- **Optimal sphericity for straight flight**
- **Modified latex bladder for improved balance & accuracy**



sales enquiries : **e: sales@chryso.co.uk**
www.chryso.co.uk

PIHER®

Proud Away Shirt Sponsor of Coventry Sphinx Football Club



Piher Clamping Tools & Piher Grip-On Locking Pliers

Available in the UK and Ireland

Call 024 7636 4411 for your nearest stockist
or email piher-uk@piher.com



MATCH SQUADS



Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls
James Bryson
Alfonso Castellano
Antonio Cristofaro
Gio Dainty
Jack Downes
Luke Downes
Jamie Draper
Will Edjenguele
Sam Ellis
Keelan Fallows
Louis Guest
Jordan Hayward
Zach Hedge
Alex Lock
Callum Martin
Dylan Parker
Dawid Peplinski
Leigh Phillips
Joe Pursey
Jac Redhead
Matthew Shipman
Finlay Shorrock
Duncan Van Den Top
Callum Whiteside
Callum Woodward

Mo Bangura
Gianluca Bucci
Charlie Carter
David Chapman
Connor Furey
Evan Garnett
Jack Gibson
Lewis King
Tom Maddison
Tom Marshall
Josh Mee
Rio Molyneaux
Rob Norris
Shemar Pettet
Mitchell Robinson
Tarun Rohilla
Chad Timson
Jonathan White

Referee: Alex Rolfe

Assistant Referees: Aaron Ford and Imran Ahmed

