



# Midland Football League Newsletter

16th August 2017

## League News

Student life is all about late nights and hangovers, right? Not if you're part of **Loughborough University's** football team, who juggle getting good grades with achieving results on the pitch. As the Scholars battle for success on multiple fronts, the players are leading the way for a new breed of educated footballers to infiltrate the country's game. From playing two matches in six hours and trying to stump up a team during the Christmas holiday, to hosting Liverpool and playing at St. George's Park, playing football at Loughborough is a truly unique experience. In Learning Curve, Chris Evans explores the idiosyncrasies of university football and finds out why studying for a degree might just be a smarter decision than most young players realise. Evans meets student footballers past and present to reveal the untold stories of British football's best-kept secret. \*\*Includes a foreword written by Arsenal legend Bob Wilson.

If you wish to buy the book, please follow the link [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Learning-Curve-Chris-Evans/dp/1527210685/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1500563630&sr=8-1&keywords=learning+curve+chris+evans](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Learning-Curve-Chris-Evans/dp/1527210685/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1500563630&sr=8-1&keywords=learning+curve+chris+evans)

## Travels of The Press Officer

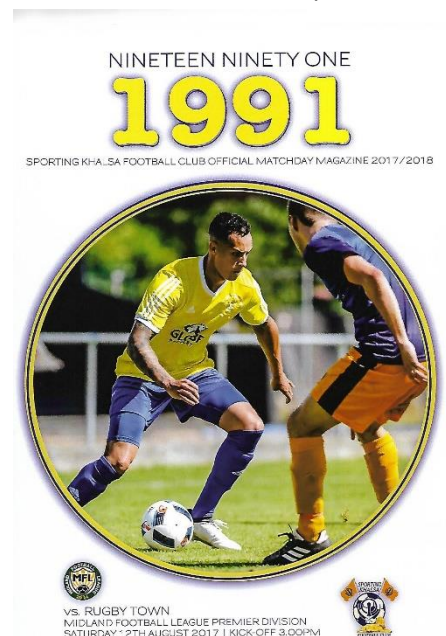
Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>

### Premier Division

#### Sporting Khalsa 1 Rugby Town 2

The start of the Premier Division season sees two of the expected title challengers go head to head at The Aspray Arena. Both sides came into the game having made progress in the FA Cup away from home. Relegated Rugby started the game on the front foot and took the lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> minute. A mistake by Craig Bannister allowed Josh Ruff to send David Kolodynski down the left and his ball in was slotted home by James Dance. Khalsa should have levelled in the 7<sup>th</sup> minute when Josh Cooke dragged his shot wide following a flick on from David Meese. Reuben Wiggins-Thomas had a good run for Rugby but was shielded away from goal by Tesfa Robinson. The Rugby defence stood firm blocking shots from Mike Perks and Cooke. The visitors' keeper Niall Cooper looked susceptible under the high ball flapping at a couple of crosses with no-one from Khalsa on hand to convert. In the 25<sup>th</sup> minute, a clash in midfield saw referee Paul Stonier give Khalsa's Craig Bannister a yellow card for use of an elbow, where a red appeared to be more appropriate. Another mistake by Khalsa gifted Rugby a second goal. In the 28<sup>th</sup> minute, Tom Turner rushed off his line, missed the ball and Wiggins-Thomas made no mistake, calmly slotting home. Khalsa responded and a back heel from Cooke was cleared for a corner. In the 34<sup>th</sup> minute, Marvin Nisbett saw his shot saved but a minute later he had pulled a goal back for the home side. Harvey Holloway was dispossessed on the halfway line, Nisbett ran to the edge of the area and hammered the ball past Cooper. Rugby went close to increasing their lead in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute. A shot from Dance was well saved by Turner, and the keeper excelled by turning away Wiggins-Thomas' follow up. A free-kick from Bannister was headed over by Bannister while Khalsa appeals for a penalty were rejected as the ball pinballed around the area. In stoppage time, a cross from Nisbett was met on the volley by Shawn Boothe and Cooper made a comfortable save.

Khalsa came out of the blocks in the second half with Meese off target with a volley. Ruff overhit a pass with Dance making a good run into the area. Cooke whipped a ball into the Rugby box but there was no-one on the end. The home side should have been level in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute, A header from Nisbett was met by Boothe in the 6-yard box and his header was brilliantly saved by Cooper. From Bannister's corner, Boothe had a free header at the far post but put it over the bar. Khalsa were their own worst enemy with another defensive mistake giving Kolodynski a chance but he lifted the ball over the bar. In the 70<sup>th</sup> minute, Rugby could have sealed it when Wiggins-Thomas found Kolodynski but the striker failed to make sufficient contact. In the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute, Khalsa were reduced to 10 men when Mensah Kinch was shown a straight red for a challenge when he appeared to win the ball. The decision incensed the Khalsa bench but thankfully, this did not transfer itself onto the park. The ten men strove forward for an equaliser and Nisbett blasted over when well placed. With 7 minutes of normal time left, Cooper just did enough to take the ball away from Rikardo Reid. Wiggins-Thomas should have made it three for the visitors but his point-blank header was well saved by Turner. Three minutes into stoppage time, a cross from Callum Cooper picked out by Meese but his volley was easily cut out. Despite over 7 minutes of stoppage time, the home side couldn't grab the equaliser much to the delight of the travelling supporters.



**Monday August 14<sup>th</sup>**

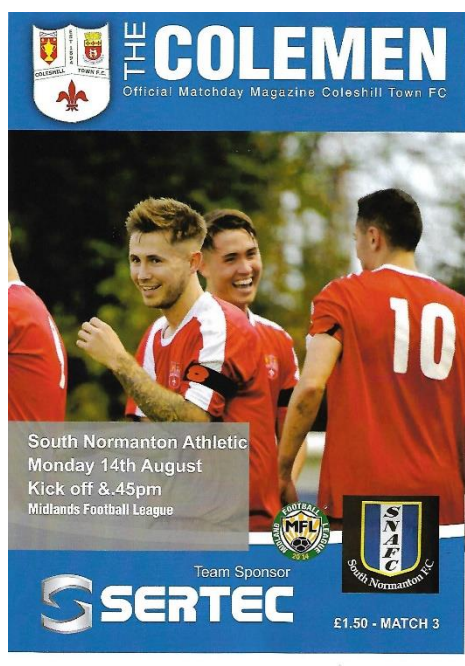
**Premier Division**

**Coleshill Town 2 South Normanton Athletic 0**

Monday night football and a game between two sides who had contrasting fortunes on opening day. Last season's runners-up Coleshill Town started with a 3-0 win over Loughborough University while promoted South Normanton Athletic went down to a heavy defeat at Westfields. On a damp evening, the Pack Meadow pitch had an extra zip as the visitors made the first impression with Luke Crosby robbed on the edge of the area after good close control. From Coleshill's first attack, the home side took the lead in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute. An excellent right-wing cross from Ryan Edmunds was met on the volley by South Normanton defender Dominic Allen who hammered the ball past his own keeper Charlie Mansfield. The visitors responded well and Shane Newton saw his shot deflected for a corner. In the 14<sup>th</sup> minute, a free-kick was Edmunds was headed goalwards by Rob Evans but Mansfield made a comfortable save. South Normanton were playing some good football but were guilty of needing one pass too many as they approached the Coleshill penalty area. In the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, Paul Hathaway, the Coleshill keeper, cannoned a clearance off Lee Fell, fortunately rebounding safe. A free-kick for the home side was on target from Edmunds but straight into the arms of Mansfield. Crosby continued to be a thorn in the side of the Coleshill defence, and clever footwork created an opening but the finish was weak. In the 35<sup>th</sup> minute, Hathaway raced off his line to clear, found Newton just inside the Coleshill half, and his first-time shot was gathered by the backpedalling keeper. In the 39<sup>th</sup> minute, a shot on the turn from Reece Leek just cleared the South Normanton bar. However, Leek turned creator second later, playing the ball into the path of Danny Tymon who shot low past Mansfield. South Normanton should have pulled a goal back a minute later but Fell was off target when given a free-header in front of goal. The visitors kept pushing and Crosby flashed a shot across the face of the goal. In stoppage time, Abou Sylla ran at the Coleshill defence, found space and curled a shot narrowly over the bar.

Three minutes into the second half, Coleshill were close to a third when a cross from Tymon was headed past his own post by Mark Strzyweski. Edmunds was off target for Coleshill and Leek hit the side-netting as the home side looked to put the game to bed. A free-kick from the right found the head of Newton who headed over as South Normanton continued to waste chances. The game continued with South Normanton having the bulk of possession without making the breakthrough. Five minutes from time Jack O'Brien attempted to chip Hathaway with the keeper gathering just under the bar. Two minutes into time added on, a well hit volley from Jack Tyson skimmed the Coleshill bar which summed up the night for South Normanton.

Not a lot to choose between the two sides with an unfortunate own goal and a piece of real quality being the difference.



Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup>

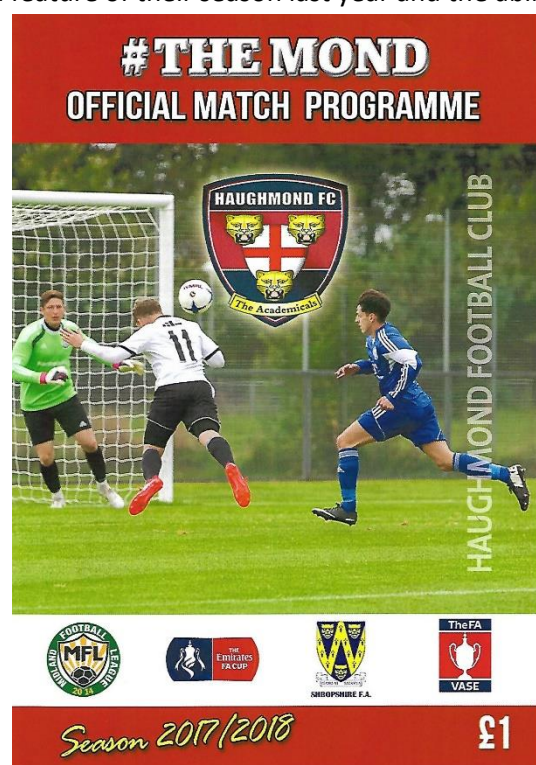
## Premier Division

### Haughmond 1 Westfields 2

A chance to watch the fourth new Premier Division side in successive matches with a trip to the Shrewsbury Sports Village. To access the stadium pitch, you walk through the Sports Centre reception and through the Café. The opportunity for a 'proper' coffee may be a plus but not at Premier League prices. The entry hut sits in the corner of the fenced in area and the first thing you notice is the quality of the pitch – a veritable carpet. There is plenty of seating with the view from the stand, excellent. Westfields started the brighter with sharp passing and movement off the ball. Ben Hayes was through on goal in the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute but Ash Spittlehouse saved well. A long throw by the giant Carl Rogers was caught by Westfields keeper Kieron Blackburn. Chris Ham was on target with an effort for the visitors with Spittlehouse saving comfortably. Steve Hole played the ball into Rogers but he was beaten to the ball by the Westfields defence. Good foot work by Craig Jones created space but his shot cleared the bar. Kane Kahaki wasted a good chance for Westfields in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute heading the ball over the bar. Spittlehouse made an excellent service mid-way through the first half, tipping over a 25-yard effort from Hayes, Jones should have done better in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute, missing the target when ideally placed. Hole forced a fine save from Blackburn even though the offside flag had been shown. With Blackburn off his line, Kevin Renshaw attempted to chip but the keeper managed to save.

Haughmond had grown in confidence as the first half progressed and it was the home side that went close three minutes after the break when Hole's shot was deflected over the bar with Blackburn beaten. A cross shot from Matt Fletcher was palmed away by Blackburn and Westfields hacked the ball clear. Sam Gwynne cleared the bar with an effort after good approach play by Westfields. The visitors took the lead in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute. A corner from Jones picked out Hayes on the edge of the area and his first-time shot was too good for Spittlehouse. Hole had a chance to bring Haughmond level but he shot wide. Haughmond grabbed an equaliser in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute. The impressive Hole was played in and he rounded Blackburn and finished superbly. Hayes should have re-established Westfields lead 5 minutes later but he volleyed wide. In the first minute of stoppage time, Westfields broke Haughmond hearts as Kahaki net a free-kick and looped a header off the defender's shoulder and into the net.

A cruel end to the game for Haughmond who had battled back into the game after being given the run around for the first 15 minutes. Westfields grabbed a late goal which was a feature of their season last year and the ability to keep going to the final whistle will stand them in good stead.



## Review

### Premier Division

Last season's front runners **Westfields** got off to the perfect start with a 6-1 win at Allpay Park over league new boys **South Normanton Athletic**. Ben Hayes and Aiden Thomas both scored twice for Fields. **Coleshill Town** finished second last season and they began the new campaign with a 3-0 win over **Loughborough University** at Pack Meadow. Division 1 champions **Bromsgrove Sporting** began life in the Premier Division with a 4-0 win at **Quorn**, Jason Cowley scoring twice in the last 10 minutes. Liam Hurst scored a hat-trick on opening day as **Shepshed Dynamo** beat **Shawbury United** 4-1 at The Dovecote. **Coventry United** raced into a 4-0 lead inside 54 minutes at **Boldmere St Michaels** and despite a comeback from the Mikes, they picked up the three points with a 4-2 win. **Worcester City** hosted **Heanor Town** and a Dave Reynolds double in the first half helped them on their way to a 3-0 win. Relegated **Rugby Town** travelled to **Sporting Khalsa** and emerged 2-1 winners, all the goals in the first half. **AFC Wulfrunians** followed up their FA Cup win with a solid 2-0 win at **Rocester** with Nick Turton scoring twice. A goal 6 minutes from time from Nick Macpherson gave **Stourport Swifts** all three points in a 2-1 win at **Long Eaton United**. Promoted **Haughmond** are off the mark following a 1-1 draw at The Sports Village with **Coventry Sphinx**. It was the same scoreline at The Coppice as **Lye Town** came from behind to draw with **Highgate United**.

On Monday evening, **Coleshill Town** edged a tight game with promoted **South Normanton Athletic**, winning 2-0 at Pack meadow.

**Worcester City** took over top spot of the Premier Division following a 5-0 win over **AFC Wulfrunians** at The Victoria Ground. Dave Reynolds scored twice in the first-half with substitute Mark Danks adding two more after the break. **Coventry United** are second after an emphatic 7-2 win at **Loughborough University** despite playing most of the second half with 10-men. Mitch Piggon and Craig Reid both bagged hat-tricks for The Red and Greens. A stoppage time goal from Kane Kahaki gave **Westfields** all three points in a tough encounter at **Haughmond**, 2-1 the final score. **Heanor Town** bounced back to form with a 4-1 win over **Rocester** at The Town Ground, Elliott Reeves scoring twice. The competitive nature of the Premier Division was emphasised with four games ending in 1-1 draw. **Stourport Swifts** came from behind to draw at home to **Lye Town**. Marco Adaggio scored early for **Highgate United** but a Mensah Kinch equaliser for **Sporting Khalsa** meant the game finished even. David Kolodynski scored an equaliser for **Rugby Town** at home to **Long Eaton United**. Ryan Shaw scored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute for **Boldmere St Michaels** and was later sent off in their 1-1 draw with **Quorn**.

**Shepshed Dynamo** made it two wins out of two with a 1-0 win at Coventry Sphinx. Alex Troke got the all-important goal in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute while Sphinx had a player red carded and missed a penalty.

## League Table

1	<u>Worcester City</u>	22	00	8	0	8	6
2	<u>Coventry United</u>	22	00	11	4	7	6
3	<u>Westfields</u>	22	00	8	2	6	6
4	<u>Coleshill Town</u>	22	00	5	0	5	6
5	<u>Shepshed Dynamo</u>	22	00	5	1	4	6
6	<u>Rugby Town</u>	21	10	3	2	1	4
7	<u>Stourport Swifts</u>	21	10	3	2	1	4
8	<u>Bromsgrove Sporting</u>	11	00	4	0	4	3
9	<u>Heanor Town</u>	21	01	4	4	0	3
10	<u>AFC Wulfrunians</u>	21	01	2	5	-3	3
11	<u>Highgate United</u>	20	20	2	2	0	2
12	<u>Lye Town</u>	20	20	2	2	0	2
13	<u>Haughmond</u>	20	11	2	3	-1	1
14	<u>Long Eaton United</u>	20	11	2	3	-1	1
15	<u>Sporting Khalsa</u>	20	11	2	3	-1	1
16	<u>Coventry Sphinx</u>	20	11	1	2	-1	1
17	<u>Boldmere St Michaels</u>	20	11	3	5	-2	1
18	<u>Quorn</u>	20	11	1	5	-4	1
19	<u>Shawbury United</u>	10	01	1	4	-3	0
20	<u>Rocester</u>	20	02	1	6	-5	0
21	<u>South Normanton Athletic</u>	20	02	1	8	-7	0
22	<u>Loughborough University</u>	20	02	2	10	-8	0

## Division 1

Last season's Golden Boot winner Alex Naughton started his league campaign with a bang scoring 4 goals in **Atherstone Town's** 6-1 win over **Chelmsley Town** at Sheepy Road. Two goals from George Bowerman saw **Hinckley AFC** race into a 3-0 lead at Evans Park against **Stafford Town**. The home side responded with 2 goals of their own but Jake Healy confirmed all 3 points for the visitors, 4-2 the final score. **Studley** are the early pacesetters, sitting on 6 points following a 3-1 win at **Nuneaton Griff**, Josh Westwood scoring twice. A last-minute goal from Greg Downes gave **Leicester Road** all 3 points in a 2-1 home win over **Coventry Copsewood**. A Paul Sullivan penalty was enough for **Walsall Wood** as they won 1-0 at **Cadbury Athletic**. The biggest crowd of the day was at The New Manor Ground as 583 welcomed **Ilkeston Town** for their first competitive home fixture. **Heath Hayes** spoiled the party somewhat winning 2-0. Two goals from Dan Griffiths and another from Craig Marshall gave **Lichfield City** a 3-0 win at **Coventry Alvis**. Promoted **Paget Rangers** are off the mark in Division 1 following a 3-1 win at **Heather St Johns** who remain pointless after two games. **Littleton** bounced back from their opening day defeat, beating **Uttoxeter Town** 5-1 at 5 Acres, Daniel Stokes with a brace. Adam Knight scored twice for **Racing Club Warwick** as they beat relegated **Brocton** 3-2 at Townsend Meadow. **Bolehall Swifts** were another side to win 3-2, beating **Pershore Town** at Rene Road. Michael Bloore scored twice for Swifts who came from 2-0 down to win.

**Walsall Wood** sent a title message to their rivals with a 4-1 victory at **Hinckley AFC**. Daniel Egege scored twice for **Chelmsley Town** as they came from behind to beat **Stafford Town** 4-2 at Evans Park. **Brocton** picked up their first points of the season with a 2-1 win at Silkmore Lane over **Uttoxeter Town**. **Bolehall Swifts** maintained their unbeaten start with a 1-1 draw at Rene Road with **Cadbury Athletic**.

**Coventry Copsewood** are new leaders of Division 1 following a 4-0 win at local rivals **Nuneaton Griff**. **Leicester Road** made it two wins out of two with a 4-0 victory at **Coventry Alvis**, Greg Downes scoring twice. **Heather St Johns** got off the mark with an excellent 4-2 win at **Atherstone Town**. Nathan Corry scoring twice for Heather.

## League Table

1	<u>Coventry Copsewood</u>	32017	2	5	6
2	<u>Leicester Road</u>	22006	1	5	6
3	<u>Walsall Wood</u>	22005	1	4	6
4	<u>Studley</u>	32017	6	1	6
5	<u>Chelmsley Town</u>	32017	9	-2	6
6	<u>Bolehall Swifts</u>	31206	5	1	5
7	<u>Lichfield City</u>	21108	5	3	4
8	<u>Heath Hayes</u>	21107	5	2	4
9	<u>Racing Club Warwick</u>	21105	4	1	4
10	<u>Atherstone Town</u>	21018	5	3	3
11	<u>Littleton</u>	21016	4	2	3
12	<u>Paget Rangers</u>	21014	3	1	3
13	<u>Pershore Town</u>	31029	9	0	3
14	<u>Brocton</u>	21014	4	0	3
15	<u>Stafford Town</u>	31027	8	-1	3
16	<u>Hinckley AFC</u>	21015	6	-1	3
17	<u>Heather St Johns</u>	31027	9	-2	3
18	<u>Nuneaton Griff</u>	41035	11	-6	3
19	<u>Coventry Alvis</u>	41033	11	-8	3
20	<u>Cadbury Athletic</u>	20111	2	-1	1
21	<u>Ilkeston Town</u>	20111	3	-2	1
22	<u>Uttoxeter Town</u>	30123	8	-5	1



## Division 2

Only one place to start on opening day in Division 2 and that is at The Robin's Nest as **Knowle** beat **Barnt Green Spartak** 5-2. The scoreline doesn't tell the complete story as both teams finished with 8 men following 6 red cards. Steven Ruck helped himself to a hat-trick for Knowle. Promoted **Montpellier** had a fantastic start at their new home beating **Moors Academy** 6-0 at The Beehive. Stuart Hendrie started where he finished last season with a hat-trick for The Pellers with Kelsn Shepard scoring twice. Division 3 champions, **NKF Burbage** came from behind to beat **Smithswood Firs** 2-1 at The Glades. **Redditch Borough** just missed out on promotion last season and they started with a 3-1 win over **Pelsall Villa** at Walsall Wood FC, Billy Garvey scoring twice. **Coton Green** are well fancied for a promotion push and they got their season under way with a 2-1 win over **Northfield Town** at New Mill Lane. **Hampton** made a positive start to the season with a 3-0 win at home to **Feckenham**. **Earlswood Town** and **Fairfield Villa** couldn't manage a goal between them in a stalemate at The Pavilions.

**Montpellier** mean business with their 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-0 win on the trot as they beat **Bloxwich Town** at The Beehive. Stuart Hendrie made it 7 goals in two games adding another four to his tally. Fellow promoted side **NKF Burbage** made it two wins out of two beating Knowle 2-1 at Kirkby Road. **Redditch Borough** also made it two wins out of two with a fine 5-1 win at **Fairfield Villa**, five different players on the scoresheet. A goal from Umit Eminoglu gave **Feckenham** all three points at home to **Moors Academy**.

**Droitwich Spa** began their campaign with a 1-1 draw at home to **Pelsall Villa**. **Barnt Green Spartak** took a 10<sup>th</sup> minute lead at home to **Earlswood Town** but the visitors gained a point with a second-half equaliser.

## Les James Challenge Cup

**Droitwich Spa** progressed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round following a 5-1 win at **Bloxwich Town**, James Lemon and Haydn Morris both scoring twice.

## Smedley Crooke Memorial Charity Cup

**Pershore Town** eased into the next round with a 5-1 win over Tenbury United, Michael Wright with a hat-trick.

## Division 2 League Table

1	<u>Montpellier</u>	22	00	12	012	6
2	<u>Redditch Borough</u>	22	00	8	2	6
3	<u>NKF Burbage</u>	22	00	4	2	2
4	<u>Hampton</u>	11	00	3	0	3
5	<u>Knowle</u>	21	01	6	4	2
6	<u>Coton Green</u>	11	00	2	1	1
7	<u>Feckenham</u>	21	01	1	3	-2
8	<u>Earlswood Town</u>	20	20	1	1	0
9	<u>Droitwich Spa</u>	10	10	1	1	0
10	<u>Pelsall Villa</u>	20	11	2	4	-2
11	<u>Barnt Green Spartak</u>	20	11	3	6	-3
12	<u>Fairfield Villa</u>	20	11	1	5	-4
13	<u>Northfield Town</u>	10	01	1	2	-1
14	<u>Smithswood Firs</u>	10	01	1	2	-1
15	<u>Bloxwich Town</u>	10	01	0	6	-6
16	<u>Moors Academy</u>	20	02	0	7	-7

## Leading scorers

### Premier Division

Dave Reynolds	Worcester City	5
Liam Hurst	Shepshed Dynamo	4
Mitch Piggon	Coventry United	4
Craig Reid	Coventry United	4
Isaac Jagroop	Highgate United	3
Nick Turton	AFC Wulfrunians	3
Ben Hayes	Westfields	3
David Kolodynski	Rugby Town	3

### Division 1

Michael Wright	Pershore Town	6
Craig Marshall	Lichfield City	5
Alex Naughton	Atherstone Town	4
Michael Bloore	Bolehall Swifts	4
Andy Nicol	Studley	3
Paul Sullivan	Walsall Wood	3
Ryan Millerchip	Nuneaton Griff	3
Daniel Priest	Pershore Town	3
Greg Downes	Leicester Road	3

### Division 2

Stuart Hendrie	Montpellier	7
Steve Ruck	Knowle	3
James Lemon	Droitwich Spa	2
Haydn Morris	Droitwich Spa	2
Billy Garvey	Redditch Borough	2
Kelsn Shepard	Montpellier	2
Matthew Fearon	Redditch Borough	2

## **Preview**

### **FA Cup Preliminary Round**

#### **AFC Wulfrunians vs Westfields**

Westfields progressed through to the first-round proper last season but will have to get past tough opposition in league rivals AFC Wulfrunians to get to the 1<sup>st</sup> qualifying round. Westfields have a 100% record this season and will start favourites at the CKW stadium

#### **Bedworth United vs Haughmond**

Haughmond have made club history by reaching the Preliminary round of the FA Cup and they travel to Warwickshire to face Evostik South Bedworth United. Bedworth include a number of players that graced the MFL last season including Coventry United leading scorer Kai Williams. A big test for Haughmond but a clear possibility

#### **Brocton vs Gresley**

Evostik South Gresley were on the receiving end of a heavy defeat at Step 4 newboys Cleethorpes Town on the opening day and travel to Silkmore Lane to face a new-look Brocton following last season's relegation. The two step difference favours the visitors but Brocton have the talent to cause an upset

#### **Bromsgrove Sporting vs Coleshill Town**

A meeting of last season's FA Vase semi-finalists and two teams expected to be in the promotion mix this season. Both teams have started in winning form and appear to be well matched on paper. A big Victoria Ground crowd may have a say in the destination of this tie

#### **Grimsby Borough vs Leicester Road**

Leicester Road make the journey to the Lincolnshire coast hoping for better luck at the Bradley Development Centre than has befallen other MFL sides in the past couple of seasons. Cleethorpes Town share the ground with Grimsby Borough and they have been a thorn in the side to our clubs. Grimsby Borough, on the other hand, have started poorly in NCEL Division 1 with two straight defeats in the league although they arrested that with an away win on Wednesday. Leicester Road are expected to be one of the Division 1 front runners this season and go into the game as favourites.

#### **Hinckley AFC vs Aylestone Park**

Aylestone Park knocked Premier Division Heanor Town out of the competition in the last round and will prove tough opposition for Hinckley. The home side, despite numerous squad changes, have started the season well and are a real force at St Johns Park. With goals throughout the side, expect Hinckley to progress

#### **Quorn vs AFC Mansfield**

NCEL Premier Division AFC Mansfield have started the season well and will hope to be in the promotion mix to Step 4 at the end of the season. Quorn have had a mixed start with an opening day home defeat at the hands of Bromsgrove Sporting not in the script. They will take time to get used to their new surface at Farley Way and will do well to get past AFC Mansfield.

#### **Rugby Town vs Romulus**

League rivals just last season as Rugby were relegated from Step 4. An opening day win at Sporting Khalsa gives Rugby some momentum while Roms have picked up just one point from their opening two fixture. A good opportunity for Rugby to pick up a Step 4 scalp and go through to the next round.

### **Shepshed Dynamo vs Kimberley Miners Welfare**

EMCL Kimberley MW have had an interesting start to the season. Losing in the FA Cup to Blaby & Whetstone only for Blaby to be later removed from the competition for fielding an ineligible player. A match abandoned for floodlight failure and a 5-0 home win and the season seems to have had everything already. Shepshed, on the other hand, have started in great form with Liam Hurst amongst the goals. Form and status point to a home win

### **Sporting Khalsa vs Market Drayton Town**

Khalsa had two dramatic games against Stourport Swifts to book their place in the Preliminary round and will be looking to cut out the defensive errors which has blighted their start to the season, Evostik South Market Drayton have started the season with two goalless draws and they will prove a tough nut to crack. Expect this to very tight.

### **Walsall Wood vs Tividale**

Both sides were relegated from the Premier Division last season and have gone separate ways, Wood to Division 1 and Tividale to the WMRL. Both had excellent results in the previous round with Tividale's defeat of Highgate United a real shock. Both clubs are expected to be challenging for a return to Step 5 this season. The experience of Walsall Wood may just edge this one

### **Wolverhampton Casuals vs Boldmere St Michaels**

WMRL Cassies are well fancied for a promotion push this season but have started with two defeats in the league. A 7-0 FA Cup win over Malvern Town is more the form associated with them with prolific goalscorer Liam Hughes up and running. The Mikes have recruited well in the summer and should be in for a good season. Brinsford Lane is never an easy place to visit and Boldmere could need a replay if they are to get through

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Worcester City vs Chasetown**

Worcester City have settled well into life at Step 5 and will fancy their chances against Evostik South Chasetown at The Victoria ground. Chasetown have a completely new squad this season and had no less than nine debutants in their opening league game last weekend. Both sides have a great history in the FA Cup and this promises to be an excellent game.

## Premier Division

**Rochester** welcome **Coventry Sphinx** to Hillsfield with both sides looking to bounce back from FA Cup defeats at the hands of league rivals. **Shawbury United** welcome **Lye Town** to Ludlow Stadium for their first home game at their new home. **South Normanton Athletic** have had a difficult start to the season and they will be hoping to get off the mark as they welcome **Heanor Town** to the MJ Robinson Structures Arena in a local derby.

Midweek (FA Cup replays permitting)

### MONDAY 21st AUGUST 2017

Coleshill Town	v	Shawbury United
----------------	---	-----------------

### TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2017

AFC Wulfrunians	v	Haughmond
Bromsgrove Sporting	v	Stourport Swifts
Heanor Town	v	Rugby Town
Long Eaton United	v	Loughborough University
Sporting Khalsa	v	Boldmere St Michaels

### WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2017

Quorn	v	Highgate United
South Normanton Athletic	v	Shepshed Dynamo
Westfields	v	Lye Town

## Division 1

With a number of teams in FA Cup action, we are likely to see new leaders of Division 1 after the weekend. **Studley** host **Stafford Town** having picked up two wins in their opening three games and a win for Studley could see them go top. **Chelmsley Town** also sit on 6 points after a fine win in midweek. They welcome **Littleton** to Pack Meadow with the visitors having had a good 5-1 win last time out. **Lichfield City** host landlords **Bolehall Swifts** at their temporary home of Rene Road and with both sides unbeaten this should be a good game. **Heath Hayes** have started the season well and they welcome promoted **Coventry Alvis** to The Coppice Colliery Ground. **Ilkeston Town** supporters have turned up in big numbers as their 'new' club begin life at Step 6. They welcome league leaders **Coventry Copsewood** to The New Manor Ground looking for their first win of the season. **Uttoxeter Town** have picked up one point in their opening three games, and that came in an opening day draw with Ilkeston Town. They travel to **Pershore Town** who will be buoyed by a midweek cup win. Both **Racing Club Warwick** and **Paget Rangers** had good wins last weekend and they meet at Townsend Meadow.

Midweek Fixtures (FA Cup replays permitting)

### TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2017

#### DIVISION 1

Bolehall Swifts	v	Leicester Road	
Brocton	v	Heath Hayes	
Hinckley AFC	v	Nuneaton Griff	
Paget Rangers	v	Lichfield City	7.30
Pershore Town	v	Cadbury Athletic	
Stafford Town	v	Ilkeston Town	
Studley	v	Racing Club Warwick	
Uttoxeter Town	v	Atherstone Town	
Walsall Wood	v	Heather St John	

### WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2017

#### DIVISION 1

Coventry Alvis	v	Chelmsley Town	7.30
Littleton	v	Coventry Copsewood	

## Division 2

**Redditch Borough** have started the season in fine form and they will go top should they beat **Moors Academy** at Cherry Tree Walk. Promoted **NKF Burbage** have a 100% record after two 2-1 victories and they welcome **Feckenham** to Kirkby Road. **Bloxwich Town** have suffered two heavy defeats in their opening two fixtures and they travel to **Knowle** who had a 5-2-win last weekend. **Fairfield Villa** will be disappointed to have only picked up one point from their opening two games and they welcome **Smithswood Firs** to Stourbridge Road. Two of the fancied sides meet at New Mill Lane with **Coton Green** hosting **Droitwich Spa**. **Barnt Green Spartak** saw enough drama last weekend to last a season and they will be hoping for a quieter afternoon when they host **Northfield Town**.

## Other Fixtures

In Round 1 of the President's Cup, **Hampton** travel to **Earlswood Town** with the winners away to either NKF Burbage or Fairfield Villa.

## Midweek Fixtures

### TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2017

#### DIVISION 2

Northfield Town

v

Hampton

6.15



### Division 3

The Division 3 season gets under way with a full fixture list and 5 teams new to the MFL. Two of the new boys meet at The Pavilion with **CT Shush** hosting **Central Ajax**. **Bartestree** make their MFL bow with a trip to **Boldmere Sports & Social Falcons**. **GNP Sports** welcome **Castle Vale Town** to the Coventry Athletics Stadium. **Birmingham Tigers** begin life in the MFL with a home game against **FC Stratford** who are expected to be challenging for promotion come the end of the season. Relegated **Leamington Hibernian** welcome **Enville Athletic** to Bishops Tachbrook as they look for a quick return to Division 2. **Continental Star** start their Division 3 season at Tudor Grange leisure Centre against **AFC Solihull**. Two well fancied sides meet at Old Stratford Road with **Alcester Town** hosting **Shipston Excelsior**. **Coventrians** are another side being talked about as potential winners and they welcome **Inkberrow** to Holbrooks Park on opening day.

### Reserves

#### RESERVE DIVISION

Gresley	v	Alvechurch
---------	---	------------

### Under 21 Division

#### UNDER 21 DIVISION EAST

AFC Rushden & Diamonds Elite	v	Tamworth	10.30
Atherstone Town	v	Aylestone Park	11.00
Bedworth United	v	Kettering Town	10.30
Coleshill Town	v	Quorn	10.30
Leicester Nirvana	v	Coventry United	11.00

#### UNDER 21 DIVISION WEST

AFC Redditch	v	Highgate United	10.30
Boldmere St Michaels	v	Worcester City	10.30
Droitwich Spa G & B	v	Heath Hayes	10.30
Evesham United	v	H O W Academy	10.30
Sutton Coldfield Town	v	Continental Star	10.30