



Jewson Western League Division One

Sturminster Newton United

Vs

Welton Rovers

Saturday 2nd August 2025

Kick-Off – 3PM

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Welcome to Barnett's Field

The Home of Sturminster Newton United FC

Officials At Barnett's Field

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Vice President:	Steve Clarke
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Club Secretary:	Justine Turnbull
Football Secretary:	Phil Blakey
Treasurer:	John Cowley
Welfare Officer:	Adam Kellaway
Welfare Officer:	Lucy Eckett
Director of Football:	Dan Carroll
Director of Operations:	Mark Deakin
Social Media:	Ellie Cowley
Membership Secretary	Rob Hookins
Committee Members:	Debbie Bright
	Jordan Edmonds
	Fred Douch
	Mark Rowland

Social Media:

You can catch all our updates on our socials here:

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Welcome from the Chairman

Welcome to our second season at step six, the Jewson Western League Division One. Last season, our first at this level, was a pretty incredible journey for the club, ending up in eighth position in the table. Not bad for our first attempt.

The season was a great success off the pitch too, with many ground improvements being carried out, and of course the installation of our new fifty seater stand, all of which made sure that we hit the ground grading requirements by the 31st March deadline, so that we could continue to play at this level.

There were too many highlights to pick out any particular events, but the 2-2 draw in the final match away to division winners Hallen was a great demonstration of the quality and gutsy performances that the team kept delivering throughout the season.

Now we turn our attentions to the new season and we welcome new teams to Barnett's Field: Welton Rovers – today's opponents who endured a tough season and were eventually relegated to Division One; and Almondsbury, promoted from their county league. We say goodbye to Gillingham Town, our local opponents who were unfortunately relegated to the DPL, Cribbs Reserves who are relegated because their first team dropped down, and Hallen and Bradford Town who were both promoted.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support home and away. It really does make a difference! Also welcome to any new supporters who are joining us on our journey. I think you will enjoy the experience.

Thanks to you all

Lee

Lee Bright
Chairman

Thanks to our sponsors

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors! We would struggle to do this without your contributions to the club. We will do a fuller report on our sponsors in a future programme, but supporters will notice the new sponsors signage on the back of the two stands today, as well as some new advertising boards around the ground.

Today's man of the match is kindly sponsored by Meyers Estate Agents.



Since we were last here...

Our last match at home was against Gillingham Town, which was a nice 2-0 win, which was followed by a successful Easter Monday trip to Odd Down (Bath) where we grabbed all three points in a well fought 2-1 win.

The final match of the season was away to Hallen, who by this stage had already won the division. They were not about to let the new kids on the block ruin their season and put out a full team against us, hopeful of reaching the 100 points for the season. At half-time it looked like they might achieve their target, but The Cherries came out rejuvenated for the second half not having any of it! Two second half goals from Buddy O'Shea brought the scores level and we shared the points in a 2-2 draw.

Pre-season has been a good test for the squad, trialling some new players and testing out some of the more familiar faces. All of them have worked hard, and the lads look ready, fitter, and leaner for the new season. Come on The Cherries!



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Sturminster Newton United FC – History

In 1874 the club, which was then known as the Panthers FC, became the first ever club from the West Country to participate in the FA Cup, reaching the second round on three occasions.

In 1877-78 they played the legendary Wanderers in the first round but lost 9-1. In the 1890's their name was changed to Sturminster St Mary's, with the current name adopted in 1945.

They were among the founding members of the Dorset Combination in 1957, having previously played in the Dorset League. After leaving the league due to financial difficulties in 1960, they played in the lower Dorset Senior League until they re-joined the Combination in 1972. They remained in that competition (since 2002 known as the Dorset Premier League) until 2011, when they were relegated to the Dorset Senior League. During this time, they won the Combination Cup twice, in 1981 and 1995.

They moved from a public recreation ground to their own stadium in Honeymead Lane in 1996.

In 2011-12 under Gary Head, in his first full season in charge, the club won the Dorset Senior Trophy with a 1-0 win over Parley Sports at Wimborne Town. In 2021-22 under the management of Nick Squires the club won its second Dorset Senior Trophy, beating Merley Cobham Sports 2-1 at The County Ground, Hamworthy. In 2022-23 the club continued their success adding the Dorset Premier League Cup to the trophy cabinet beating Sturminster Marshall 4-1 at Wimborne Town. The 2023-24 season has been the most successful in the clubs history as they have won the Dorset Premier League for the first time and have gained promotion to Step 6. A great season first time around in the Jewson Western League Division One saw them finish a very credible eighth under Nick Squires.

Dorset League Division One Winners 1971-72

Dorset Senior Trophy Winners – 2011-12 and 2021-22

Dorset Combination League Cup Winners – 1980-81 and 1995-96

Dorset Premier League Cup Winners – 2022-23 and 2023-24

Dorset Premier League Winners 2023-24

Welton Rovers FC – History

Founded as Welton Red Star, in the coal mining town of Midsomer Norton, in 1887, Welton Rovers are five time winners of the Western League and its longest serving members.

Rovers' relationship with the Western League began in the 1903/04 season. The club's first few decades saw them triumph in multiple Somerset Senior Cups, and win their first Western League title in 1912, but a failed attempt at professionalism would see the club go bankrupt and unable to compete in the 1923/24 season. This blip is the only break in Welton's membership of the Western League from 1903 to the modern-day, the club holding the dubious honour of having never been relegated — or promoted — outside of the two division set-up.

In the years following World War 2, Welton built the most successful Amateur side in the area with four consecutive Amateur Cup victories, and in Brian Barker, Keith Simmons and Eddie Attwood, the best forward line for miles around.

Rovers' golden period came in the mid-1960s following the appointment, in 1963, of the club's first official manager, former Huddersfield Town and Bristol City striker Arnold Rodgers, and the return to professionalism. Welton became only the second club to win the Western League three times in a row — after Portsmouth FC— with wins in '65, '66 (undefeated!) and '67. Potent throughout the time was the club's record goal scorer, Ian Henderson, who scored 321 goals in his spells with Welton. Rovers' triumphs brought with them an inflated reputation and showpiece matches, with the club's best ever FA Cup run seeing them face AFC Bournemouth in 1966 as well as exotic away days for end of season matches against a Guernsey XI in 1965 and to the Costa Brava the following year.

As is often the case, Welton's successes brought excesses and financial problems, and following the departure of Rodgers and 10 of his first-team squad, to Bath City, a period of uncertainty and mediocrity followed. That was until Dave Stone took the managerial reins in 1971 and led Welton to their fourth, and most recent, league title in the 73/74 season. Other showcases of the early '70s would see Juventus and Leeds United legend John Charles play and score at West Clewes for Merthyr Tydfil in the FA Trophy, and a Rothmans Cup final against now League One side Wycombe Wanderers.

The tail end of the 20th century saw Welton trade promotions and relegations, creating many a club legend along the way. Managers such as Geoff Elliott and Steve Coles brought good times, while legendary players like Malcolm Beck and Graham Withey commanded transfer fees to move on to Football League clubs. The 1980s saw huge improvements to facilities with the expansion of the club house — which remains one of the best in the league to this day — and the installation of floodlights in 1988, the erection of which were celebrated with a friendly against Oxford United, then managed by Mark Lawrenson.

The 1990s started with possibly the club's most ridiculous season, finishing rock bottom of the Premier Division and getting through 3 managers. The third of which, Peter De Sisto, brought former Football League players Alan Biley and Gary Stanley to the club, but could only win 3 games all season. As bad as the decade began, it ended on a high with Rovers' locally assembled side winning promotion back to the

Premier Division, under the tutelage of Adie Britton.

The past two decades have brought plenty of good times for Rovers' large and vociferous support, known as the Green Army. In 2006, Chris Mountford led Welton to their most successful season since the 1970s, with a 4th place Premier Division finish and Les Phillips Cup Semi-Final. Then, under Mark Harrington in 2010, Rovers won the Somerset Premier Cup for the first time, at Huish Park. A semi-final victory against Yeovil Town landed Rovers a final with Bridgwater Town, who they defeated on penalties to claim the silverware. That side contained Nick Beaverstock, the man who would lead the Greens to their next taste of glory — as manager — when they won promotion to the Western League Premier Division in 2015. Beaverstock would go on to become the Rovers manager to take charge of the second highest number of matches, totalling 223 after a caretaker spell last season.

Former player Tom Smith took charge of the club in March 2020 and has made incredible progress in a short space of time. With over 225 appearances for the club, Smithy has an undeniable understanding of the Welton DNA and guided the club to promotion in his first full season in charge, breaking multiple club records along the way. Premier Division status was maintained with a comfortable mid-table finish, and now, with attendances the largest they have been for over 40 years, Last season the team struggled to maintain their form and due to management changes finished in 17th position.

The club had a poor start to the 2024/25 season, and in November appointed Billy Wheeler & Angus Youngson as Joint managers to try and maintain our position as a thriving Step 5 club. Sadly, things did not improve, and the club were relegated at the end of the season, having earned just 4 points, with 1 win and 1 draw.

Welton have now appointed Jamie Harrison as new 1st team manager, now back in Jewson Western League Division 1.

CLUB HONOURS

Western League Champions: 1911-12, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1973-74

Western League Division 1 Champions: 1959-60, 1987-88

Western League Division 1 Play Off Winners: 2021-22

Western League Amateur Trophy Winners: 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60

Somerset Premier Cup Winners: 2009-2010

Allan Young Winners: 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68

Somerset Senior Cup Winners: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1925-26, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63

WCB Clares City of Wells Cup Winners: 1978-79

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