

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2022 **SATURDAY VASE** 2023
FINAL



SUTTON UNITED
VS
KNOWLE



SATURDAY 20 MAY 2023 | KICK OFF 2PM | BCFA EXCELLENCE ARENA

ADULTS £5 | CONCESSIONS £2

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



COUNTY CUP FIXTURES 2022/23

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE #MORETHANACUP JOURNEY BY ATTENDING OUR 14 COUNTY CUP FINALS DURING APRIL AND MAY 2023.

SUNDAY AMATEUR CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 2 APRIL, 11AM

GIRLS COUNTY CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SATURDAY 15 APRIL, 11AM

SATURDAY MINOR CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SATURDAY 22 APRIL, 11AM

SUNDAY VASE
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 23 APRIL, 11AM

ROGER WOOD MEMORIAL CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 30 APRIL, 11AM

WOMEN'S COUNTY CUP
MOLINEUX STADIUM
TUESDAY 9 MAY, 7.45PM

MIDWEEK FLOODLIT CUP
WALSALL FC
THURSDAY 11 MAY, 7.45PM

SENIOR CUP
WALSALL FC
FRIDAY 12 MAY, 7.45PM

SATURDAY AMATEUR CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SATURDAY 13 MAY, 2PM

MINOR CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 14 MAY, 11AM

JOEL RICHARDS MEMORIAL CUP
WALSALL FC
MONDAY 15 MAY, 7.45PM

SATURDAY VASE
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SATURDAY 20 MAY, 2PM

VETERANS CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 21 MAY, 11AM

SUNDAY YOUTH CUP
EXCELLENCE ARENA
BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA
SUNDAY 28 MAY, 11AM

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS ON BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA'S COUNTY CUP FINALS

 @BirminghamCFA  @Birmingham_FA  @BirminghamFA

WELCOME

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTY CUP FINAL

A warm welcome to all the players, coaches, volunteers and supporters of both competing teams and also the match officials for this prestigious County Cup Final.

With 1,100 clubs with a combined total of 5,200 teams and nearly 79,000 players playing all formats of the game within our County boundary, every team that makes it to one of our 14 Cup Finals should be rightly proud of their achievements.

We have again received over 500 Cup entries across all of our competitions so the winners of this and each Final can proudly carry the mantle of County 'Champions' which also brings with it the kudos but added responsibility of playing and behaving in the manner that befits the title of Champions at their respective levels of the game for the next 12 months.

It is also a big day for our match officials who have dedicated hours and in some cases many years 'in the middle' and on the side-lines at all levels of the game to have been selected to represent our 1,300 Birmingham County FA officials at their chosen Final which is part of their own development and reward for their own performances during the current and previous seasons.

I'd also like to take the opportunity of thanking the thousands of volunteers for all the work they do throughout the season to simply help and administer and improve their clubs and teams – more often than not unpaid and into the early hours across many evenings. Without the range of volunteers at every level of the game and at every club and league, then the game as we know it would not exist, especially at grassroots level. As part of the post-match celebrations, we will be presenting a volunteer award which each finalist has nominated as a thank you from those at each club.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues at Birmingham County FA for all the work they do and the support they offer participants in order to promote, govern and develop the game and deliver 14 fantastic Finals and create memories for those who play, coach, officiate and watch their friends, family and loved ones compete.

Enjoy the game and celebrate your achievements before and after the game whilst, at the same time, recognising and respecting the achievements of the opposition and their efforts in making the Final along with those of the match officials on their special day as well.

Play well and play fair and enjoy the memories and friendships that the fixture brings.

Kevin Shoemake
CEO – Birmingham County FA



BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Ray Hall Lane, Birmingham, B43 6JF
Support@BirminghamFA.com | www.BirminghamFA.com



KEVIN SHOEMAKE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ALWAYS
BALLIN'.
NEVER
BRAWLIN'.

SATURDAY VASE

MEET THE OFFICIALS



REFEREE

HARRY JAMES

I started refereeing when I was 15 on the Stourbridge & District Youth Football League. 7 years later, I am now a Level 4 Supply League referee on the Midland Football League, refereeing at steps 5 and 6 while also officiating on steps 3 and 4 as an assistant referee. Refereeing has become such a massive part of my life, where I've officiated on some great games and met some great people over the years. It is huge honour to represent my county on a cup final and I'm very much looking forward to it. All the best to both teams and I hope everyone enjoys the game.

ASSISTANT REFEREE

NATHAN PARRY

I first started refereeing at 14 while living in the United States. Since moving back to England I've been promoted in consecutive seasons to Level 5 and have enjoyed my first season with the Birmingham FA. It's an honour to be appointed to this final and I am looking forward to the occasion.

ASSISTANT REFEREE

SIMON KING

FOURTH OFFICIAL

AARON FORD

I am 28 and have been refereeing for six years, this is my second County Cup Final. I am a Level 4 & Women's Championship Referee from Solihull.

Some of my favourite things:

- Favourite game - 1st tv game this season - Lewes Women v Man United Women - FA Cup QF
- Favourite skills - resilience, confidence
- Favourite film - Shawshank Redemption
- Favourite thing about refereeing - meeting new colleagues each week and attending new Grounds/Stadiums



**POSITIVITY
ALWAYS
WINS**

SATURDAY VASE

SUTTON UNITED

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

FIRST ROUND

SUTTON UNITED

vs

BYE

SECOND ROUND

SUTTON UNITED 2

vs

BALSALL/BERKSWELL 1

THIRD ROUND

GORNAL COLTS 3

vs

SUTTON UNITED 6

QUARTER-FINAL

BOLEHALL SWIFTS 1

vs

SUTTON UNITED 3

SEMI-FINAL

COVENTRIANS 0

vs

SUTTON UNITED 1



**Birmingham &
Black Country**
Wildlife Trust

**CHARITY PARTNER
2022/23**



Birmingham County Football Association and their Save Today, Play Tomorrow programme is pleased to share that they have partnered with Birmingham and Black County Wildlife Trust as their Charity of the Year for the 22/23 season.

The vision for the Trust is for A Wilder Birmingham and Black Country with more green and wild spaces where nature thrives, and where everyone has an equal opportunity to access nature in their daily lives.

The Trust are working towards three goals that they aim to reach by 2030 which are;

1. To see 30% of Birmingham & Black Country's landscape managed for the benefit of wildlife
2. To have at least 1 in 4 people in Birmingham & Black Country taking action for nature
3. To aim for 500 hectares (or the equivalent of 700 football pitches) to be improved to provide nature-based solutions to the ecological & climate crisis

It is hoped through this brand-new partnership BCFA member clubs and their supporters can play a part helping to raise the Trust's profile and encourage and adopt regular fundraising through a series of planned activities from wildlife gardening, citizen science, volunteering, campaigning, events, and training courses at one of the Trust's six nature reserves or two environmental education centres.

Football can play a vital part in protecting our planet by reconnecting and helping the recovery of nature. Grassroots football is predominantly an outdoor sport played on green spaces and it has a unique opportunity to support the Trust's on-going work.

By connecting our clubs & their members to nearby nature over the coming months, we hope will also bring about long-term health & wellbeing benefits reducing anxiety, stress and improving heart health for individuals coupled with the opportunity to raise money for a worthy cause. BCFA have agreed to donate some of the proceeds from ticket sales from all 14 of this seasons County Cup Finals to the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust

You can text your support with a donation using the below method:

BCFA Text Giving:
Text STPT + donation amount to 70085
e.g. STPT 5 to 70085 to donate £5

**DONATE
HERE**



**BECOME A
MEMBER TODAY**





SUTTON UNITED

HISTORY

The 1940s – 50s

In 1947, two years after the end of World War II, three young men, recently demobbed from the RAF, returned to Sutton Coldfield after service during the latter war years. They had met before the war, while with the Air Training Corps in Sutton and, after returning home, asked Squadron 495 to form an amateur football club, which was agreed. The three, Frank White, Ken Smith and Bill Walker, became Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and Sutton United was born, using a small monetary gift from ATC. The name United was chosen as there was already a Sutton Town and an Athletic.

At this time, rationing was still very much in force and everything, including food and consumer goods, was in extremely short supply and difficult to obtain. Green shirts became the team's colours after they were given a blue 'keeper's jersey and some green shirts from the ATC, which they then made up into a complete kit. The team started out playing in a field off Cows Lane, Wylde Green, using the trees to change under and a nearby stream to wash in. Frank's wife Muriel usually washed all of the team's kit after every game. Sutton United played friendly games until the club joined the Birmingham AFA, after being proposed by local rivals Parkfield. After a couple of years, with monies from subscriptions and popular social events, SUFC purchased a changing room – a wooden shed! In 1952, a 15-year-old called Brian Dunn played his first games for the club.

Eventually, the club had to move and found a pitch, on land belonging to James Booth in Penns Lane. There were changing rooms – an old railway truck – but still no running water. This was used for 2-3 years, until Sutton Town Council provided the club with a pitch at Rectory Park. By now, Frank White was the only one of the original three left but, by this time, Sutton United had 2 teams and were growing stronger. At that time, compared to the AFA established "giants" like Wake Green and Sihill, SUFC were still very small minnows – but, even then, there was the drive to go onwards and upwards. Sutton United's journey on the path towards future success was already beginning to gain momentum.

The 1960s

Sutton United's 1960s' games at Rectory Park involved changing in the scout hut in nearby Broomie Close, until the council built a very small and basic changing room block for the four pitches in the park. This had no showers or washing facilities, just one metal sink to be shared by everyone with only cold water! Sutton United A team was in Division 2, the B team in combined Division 3 and the C team, formed in 1964, played at Walmley and was captained by Club Secretary Bert Ross. As a luxury, an old lady in the nearby maisonettes made the teams an urn of tea for the end of our games!

In 1964, Annual Membership was 5 shillings (25p) and match subs 2s (10p). There was a steep rise in 1966 when Annual Membership actually doubled. The only kit supplied by the club was the shirt that players kept and washed themselves. This resulted in teams having players in various shades of green, depending on how long you had been with the club. Socks and shorts had to be

purchased by the individual player and teams invariably sported a mixture of various styles of green and white. During the '60s, club members installed a single electric shower in the dressing rooms, in an effort to be granted promotion to Division 1 but, despite this, the facilities were not considered good enough and the club was turned down.

Following the demise of Sutton British Legion, the club gained a lease on the pitches outside the changing rooms and managed to achieve promotion to Division 1.

The 1960 fixture list had current teams such as Wake Green, Silhill, Parkfield, Cresconians, Welwyn and Walsall Phoenix. There were also the likes of Keep Bros, Gas Officials, Dudley Old Boys, Handsworth Wood Arsenal, Cradley Chain and Castings and Birmingham Telephone Area, all of whom are now long gone.

The 1970s

This was the decade of change for United. The teams had been strengthened by the excellent players joining from rivals Sutton British Legion FC, but it was not until 1974 that the club finally achieved promotion to the Premier Division, having missed out previously because of inadequate facilities in Rectory Park.

The first major success came in the Senior Cup 1974/75 when they beat the mighty Old Wulfs 4-3 after extra time. The following season, they lost out in the Senior Cup Final losing 4-2 after a replay and extra time. Minor and Holder Cup triumphs in 1978/79 were followed by the first of many Junior Cup successes in 1979/80. The second team were promoted to Division 2 in 1976/77, after winning Division 3 (scoring 105 goals in 24 games). In 1976, a fourth team was found to play in Division 6 and the first veterans' team was formed to play friendly games. However, success eluded the Premier side and they finished runners up in 1978/79 and 1979/80.

In 1977 a deal was made with the Rugby Club to sell us the Lease of Hollyfield Road for £5,000. The Committee made a brave decision and the sale was completed in 1977.

Quick renovations were carried out by members and friends, to make a comfortable clubhouse

In the same year the social committee organised a Silver Jubilee Dinner at Penns Hall Hotel, attended by 240 players, friends and guests. A successful 201 Club was formed, paying out weekly cash prizes, and they held a draw for a brand-new Mini car. Ladies evenings and beer and skittle evenings at Kempsey Common were frequent and well attended. The social side flourished, with a ladies committee formed that was full of ideas and very popular.

The 1980s

After finishing runners-up in the AFA Premier Division in the late Seventies, the future of the club looked bright. Success was just around the corner, under the guidance of John Orton, Tony Badham, Syd Hale and John Potter. It all began in the season 1982/83, with the club's first Premier



Title and the Division 5 Championship. Two more Premier Titles were to follow, with four more league championships and fourteen cup wins, that established Sutton United as the club to beat during this decade. Some new electric showers were installed and red vinyl seating bays put in the bar. During an 80s AFA Dinner, a total of 63 club members attended and carried off almost half the trophies on offer. The corner had been turned, and Sutton United were now the strongest AFA club. They also enjoyed some excellent veterans' annual fixtures against the Lamb and Flag, in Worcester, and Wallsend Terriers, from Cumbria. 1989 saw Frank White stepping down as Chairman after 42 years at the helm, and Rob Mansell became the new club Chairman. The Eighties saw two young players arrive at the club who, 22 years later, would guide the first team to premiership success as managers.

The 1990s

The 1990s featured the now infamous, free-scoring trio of Keenan, Long and Scott. First team managers in the '90s were Bob Manca, Paul Jude, Kim White and John Orton. The team featured the now infamous, free-scoring trio of Keenan, Long and Scott strikers Simmonds and Whaley, with a back four of Potter, White, Childs and the Robinson brothers Mark and Lee. The likes of Bevington and Cogan helped out in the midfield too, along with numerous other people, and there has to be a mention of the likes of the evergreen Ian Taylor and the forever-young Melvin Moore. They even managed to field a seventh team for a couple of seasons. In the early '90s, a young Steve McCall joined the club, and they also managed to get to the quarter-finals of the Umbro National Veterans Cup competition.

Further successes were 2 Senior Cups, the Junior Cup, 2 Minor Cups, 5 Holder Cups, the Youth Cup and the Veterans Cup. They were also the first AFA team to reach the finals of the Birmingham County Junior Cup but, unfortunately, lost 3-1 to Triumph Athletic in the final. It was also the era of scarves, itchy green wigs and four tours to Dusseldorf.

Off the field, money was obtained to build a changing room extension, a garage and new showers. A 125-year lease was bought for the Paddock from an Irishman called Mike Blake. In 1997, Rob Mansell stepped from the Chair and Steve Hughes became Sutton United's third Chairman.

Another momentous development for Sutton United occurred in the mid '90s. Mike Long persuaded the Committee to rent the pitches on Sundays for junior football and founded the Sutton United Juniors Club. That first junior team was managed by Mike, Ian Scott and Dave Whaley, who also assumed the major responsibilities as the Committee. In just five years, by the end of the '90s, the club had rapidly grown and was fielding 10 junior teams. Amazingly, from that very first Sutton United Junior team, players Richard Seager, Ed Mosley and Guy Naraine all graduated through the club and played major roles in this season's Premier championship-winning side. Other former juniors, Chris Seager, James Walmsley, Lee McCarthy and Phil Taylor were also first team regulars.

The Noughties

Sutton United and Sutton United Juniors became one, and the club benefited from an ongoing substantial renovation programme. Thanks to the Development Committee's work, the Cornerstone Club donations and Pete Warren's grand designs, supported by lots of hard work by many Club members; all pitches had improved drainage and surfaces and a new car park and patio was created. All teams now wore the same kits, right from Under 6s to the 1st team.; the Club Tour was resurrected in 2004 - with games in Rotterdam and Dusseldorf; and, a thriving golf society had also been developed.

Highly successful club tournaments and end of season Junior Presentations had been organised by Pete Lugg and Jamie Hunter and Annual Summer Balls were organised at Hollyfield Road.

Success on the football field continued the 1st Team won the Championship in style having been runners-up twice, and won HS Shield and then went onto to win it a further two times. The 2nd Team won four cups in three years, winning the Bill Hill Cup three years in succession. The 3rd team won the Minor cup three times, while the 4th & 5th teams won the Holder Cup four times in six years. The Youth team won the AFA youth cup twice the Junior Teams won a mightily-impressive 13 league titles and 13 cups.

In 2007 Steve Hughes retired as Chairman. Steve's focus and direction had helped to bring Sutton United to their position of strength and Mike Long took over the helm, becoming only the fourth Club Chairman in a 60-year history, and they were, again, in safe hands and ready for even greater success.

The club are now under the guidance of Pete Lugg who has truly moved the club forward, under his guidance and with the committee we have now moved to our new home Coleshill Road and the amazing facilities that we have at our disposal. The club has grown with more junior and ladies/girls teams as well as changes to the men's section from next season. We have enjoyed recently some great successes throughout the club with trophies coming across all age groups.



SAVE TODAY, PLAY TOMORROW

Birmingham County Football Association is committed to pioneering the way in which football minimises the impact of its activities on the environment.

More information on our commitment to creating a sustainable game is available below, along with helpful resources and documents that clubs, leagues and participants can use to help make a significant, positive contribution to the environment. Find out more by clicking [here](#).

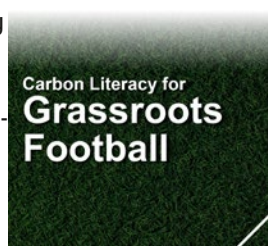


Carbon Neutral County Cup Finals. We are working with our carbon reporting & accounting partners Planet Mark, and the venue owners to ensure all 14 of this season's County Cup Finals will be carbon neutral events. Data will be collected on travel, food & beverage, energy & water consumption, and waste to plan and measure the overall emissions generated. These will be independently assessed and verified to meet robust PAS2060 standards and gold standard or VCS offsets will be procured for the finals to be Carbon Neutral events, as we look at more long-term solutions to reduce the impacts.



100% Renewable Energy Tariff. Birmingham County FA was proud to announce a new partnership with energy and sustainability consultant, Utility-Works. The partnership signals a commitment to helping football clubs of all shapes and sizes at the heart of their local communities, during the energy crisis and in the long-term transition to cheaper cleaner renewable energy. Find out more [here](#).

Carbon Literacy for Grassroots Football Training Course. This one-day course gives attendees a month's worth of knowledge and awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community, and organisational basis. Furthermore, learners will gain an understanding of the interdependencies between football and climate change, to allow them to take the necessary steps to reduce the impact the game is having on the environment. [Click here](#) for more.



Be A Super Supporter and Liftshare. Our first of its kind lift sharing scheme in grassroots football is going from strength to strength. To date users have saved over 27,000 miles in football journeys, that equates to 6.1 tonnes of harmful emissions not entering the atmosphere and £7829 not spent on fuel! Liftshare are the UK's largest car sharing organisation & this partnership provides you the opportunity to join the 750,000 likeminded people across the country to reduce their emissions footprint and save money. You can register to join our community [here](#).



Stack-Cup. Birmingham County FA are pleased to announce a partnership with Stack-Cup to offer clubs the opportunity to introduce reusable, washable cups as part of their Save Today, Play Tomorrow programme. To find out more, contact James Roles at Stack-Cup on james.roles@stack-cup.com or visit our website [here](#).

Planet Mark Certified. Planet Mark Certified. We're proud to announce that for the second year we've achieved the Planet Mark Business Certification. This is an incredible achievement involving the entire business which has seen a 30% reduction in CO2 emissions in the last 12 months. In this crucial #DecadeofAction, measuring our own carbon footprint has been a critical step in reducing our impact on the planet and society and through the findings and recommendations from the report we are on the right track to meet our Net Zero ambitions by 2030. View our full Planet Mark Year 2 Report [here](#).



Football Rebooted. We are proud to say that within network we now have over 50 grassroots clubs of all sizes acting as Football Rebooted collection & distribution centres for their community. Through this partnership we are seeing literally hundreds of pre-worn boots being donated each season for use back on the pitch and out of landfill. Many of the clubs have linked with schools or local charities to provide footwear to those most in need, making this as much a social project as much as an environmental one.

On behalf of Birmingham County FA and our partners at Football Rebooted, many thanks to all those clubs involved that offer their continued support. If you would like your club to be part of the Football Rebooted scheme, then please get in contact.



Pledgeball

Pledge of Sustainability. This season over 130 clubs with almost 1000 teams, and 12000 registered players have signed up to the Birmingham County FA Sustainability Pledge in partnership with [Pledgeball](#) engaging their members to pledge to select alternative lifestyle choices across 6 key areas, Travel, Food, Waste, Water, Energy & Community Engagement. By recording their behaviour changes throughout the season via the digital Pledgeball app the clubs have been competing each month to finish top of the league to receive £500 towards their running costs for this season.

To date 3,105,039kgsCO2e has been pledged to be saved this year which is the equivalent to taking 675 cars off the road.

To help support your club for FREE become more sustainable both environmentally & financially just follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Go to <https://www.pledgeball.org/events/> and scroll down to "Up Coming Events" and select Birmingham County FA
2. Find & select your club
3. Register as a supporter, select your simple pledges and see the carbon savings for the year

To find out more about Pledgeball, head to [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [Pledgeball.org](#)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR AWARD-WINNING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME [HERE](#)

THE AMBITIOUS GOAL OF LOW CARBON FOOTBALL

[f @SaveTodayPlayTomorrow](#) [t @WeAreSTPT](#) [i @savetodayplaytomorrow](#)



KNOWLE

HISTORY

Knowle Football Club was formed in 1926 and has been based since on land acquired from the owners of Grimshaw Hall. The site was initially shared with the Knowle Cricket Club but in 1934 additional adjacent land was acquired with the football club staying on the original site with the cricket club gravitating to the additional piece of land. In 1947 a clubhouse was built from corrugated iron sheets that were produced for making Anderson Shelters. This remained in use until 2017 when the roof was blown off during Storm Doris. Fortunately no-one was injured in the process but it made the structure unsafe and it had to be demolished. The club eventually replaced the clubhouse with a modular unit in 2018 before installing a 50 seater stand in 2020.

During the early days we enjoyed many successes, winning two league titles and several trophies before the war. These included the Dr Nelson Charity Cup, the Henry Butler Cup and the West Bromwich Shield. In 1947 Knowle won the league and cup double in the Birmingham Youth & Old Boys Amateur Football Association. Knowle moved across to the Worcester Combination League, finishing runners up in Division 2 in 1969 before the league was renamed the Midland Combination. League results were patchy but they did reach the final of the Birmingham Junior Cup where they lost to Highgate United in front of over 1000 spectators. 1981/2 was a stellar season for the club with the team reaching the last 16 of the FA Vase against Barton Rovers but sadly lost 2-1 to two goals in the last five minutes.

Knowle had their highest ever league finish – 4th place in the Midland Comb Premier League in 1995/96. The following season Knowle won the Les James Challenge Cup on penalties after a thrilling game against Kings Heath finished 3-3, in which current Manager Clive Seeley played for Kings Heath. Despite a mid-table finish at the end of the 1998 season, Knowle were relegated to Division One due to not having floodlights at the ground, which was a new requirement.

Knowle finished runners up in Division One in 1999. They also secured third place in 2000/01 & 2001/02 and were runners up in the President's Cup in the former. Knowle won Division One in 2003 but couldn't be promoted back into the Premier Division because the ground still didn't have floodlights! They won the Division One in 2006 and then again in 2008 along with the President's Cup. This time the club was adamant that they wanted the chance to test themselves in the Premier League, so an agreement was made to ground share with Studley and Knowle FC moved away from Hampton Road for the first time. That first season in 2008/09 saw the team finish a respectable 12th.

However, the cost of ground sharing as well as running Hampton Road for the Reserves, Ladies & a growing Junior section soon took its toll on the club and the team took voluntary demotion back to Division One in 2010. They finished runners up the following season, and went all the way to the President Cup final but took second prize there too. Eventually Knowle did get their hands on that trophy though, winning it 3-2 AET against Hampton in 2014. In

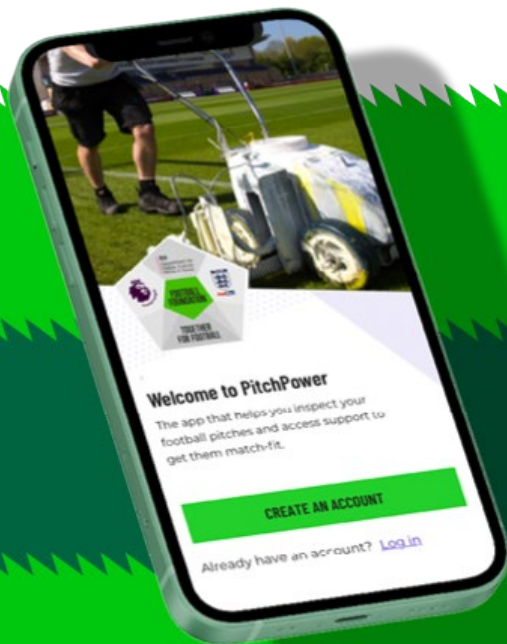
2014 the Midland Combination League and the Midland Alliance League merged, and Knowle were placed in Division Two of the newly formed structure. They reached the final of the President's Cup again but lost out to Coventry United.

Current manager Clive Seeley joined the club for the 2016/17 season. Whilst league success evaded the club we reached the Les James Challenge Cup final in 2019 but after taking the lead ended up losing 2-1 to Redditch Borough.

The Covid induced premature finish to the incomplete 2019/20 season was frustrating with Knowle well placed in the league and in two cup semi-finals. 2020/21 was also curtailed after a healthy start to the season. In 2021/22 Knowle missed out on promotion by one point. Clive's brother Steve and nephew Matt joined the coaching/management team for this season and with son George now captaining the team the Seeley family are at the forefront of leading the team. The title/promotion race has again proved to be tight this season but with Knowle in both the Les James and the County Cup Finals there are high hopes of silverware returning to Knowle this season.

Former Knowle FC connections include Graham Potter the recent Brighton and Chelsea manager who played for the club as a junior. Former Birmingham City player Kevan Broadhurst played and managed the club. Talented youngster Jimmy Davis played for Knowle for four years as a junior before progressing to Man Utd where he represented England 9 times in U16, U18 & U20 age group teams. Sadly he lost his life in a road accident whilst he travelled to play for Watford when out on loan.





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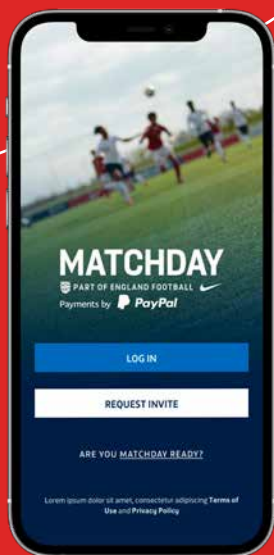


THE GAME IS ALWAYS ON
MATCHDAY

PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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2022 SATURDAY VASE FINAL 2023

SUTTON UNITED



Finlay Ballantyne
Pete Bannister
Remi Bell
Matt Bishop
Freddie Cockerell
Joe Delaney
Kaine Donald
Chad Duggan
Josh Duggan
Aaron Evans
Joe Gildea
Brad Gregory
Jonny Grigg
Leighton Hines
Matt Hurrell
Lewis James
Will Jones
Tom Massey
Jake Murrell
Cormac Parize
Yousef Semlali
Elliott Smail
Shane Smith
James Stretton
James Taylor
Reiss Wagstaff

COACHING STAFF

Richard Heath – Joint Manager
Liam Burke – Joint Manager
Matt Gough – 1st Team Coach
Chris Bratt Rose – 1st Team Coach

First Choice Colours:
Green shirts, black shorts and socks



KNOWLE

Matt Bailey
Dylon Bennett
Taylor Blythe
Lewis Clarke
Nathan Corry
Craig Johnson
Ben Jones
Kartel Martin O'Neil
Christian McArdle
Charlie Morris
Jack Mullen
Lewis Rainey
Jack Ricketts
George Seeley
Hayden Seymour
Joe Sinton
Reece Staley
Jacob Walton

COACHING STAFF

Clive Seeley – Joint Manager
Matt Seeley – Joint Manager
Steve Seeley – Goalkeeper Coach
Craig Gasiewski – Coach

First Choice Colours:
Red shirts, black shorts and socks

TROPHY PRESENTED BY KEIRAN FORREST

Keiran Forrest is the BCFA Referee Development Officer. As such he has been fundamental in the evolution of County Cup appointments. Keiran has led on implementing new software to make it easier to appoint to County Cup matches which has seen a stark rise in referee coverage. Keiran also masterminded the new BCFA recruitment strategy which has seen a rise in the number of registered match officials. Aside from his role in refereeing, Keiran has always supported the County Cups and been an instrumental figure in ensuring the highest level of club satisfaction.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee - Harry James
Assistant Referee - Nathan Parry
Assistant Referee - Simon King
Fourth Official - Aaron Ford

