



Company Secretary: Wendy Newey, United Counties League, 4 Wulfric Square, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8RF  
Telephone: 01733 330056 Fax: 01733 330067 E mail: wendy.newey@theucl.co.uk  
web site: www.theucl.co.uk  
Newline telephone 09066 555 885

**CHROMASPORT & TROPHIES UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE**

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**Groundhop gives season a high scoring start**

The league was again the first in England to see league action as 2016-17 opened with three groundhop games in Division One.

The Friday night opener at Long Buckby saw 201 spectators present for Whittlesey's UCL bow and the new boys were given a lesson in finishing as their hosts ran out 4-1 winners. Manny Salumu gave Buckby the breakthrough late in the first half and the home side wrapped up the win with an Ed Kostiuik brace and Dale Linton debut strike before Joe Butterworth scored the goal of the game to give the long distance visitors their consolation.

On Saturday evening Oakham overwhelmed much changed hosts Rushden & Higham 7-2 at Hayden Road in front of 214 spectators. Two of last season's long term injury victims returned to action with a bang for Oakham, Michael Nelson scoring three and Eddie McDonald two, summer capture Alex Brockbank also on the mark twice. Aaron Cormack and Jed Ainge replied for the Lankies.

The Sunday morning encounter drew the highest crowd of the three matches, 241 present to see much changed Bugbrooke kick off a new era under Mitch Austin with a 2-1 comeback win over Bourne who took the lead through the prolific Zak Munton late in the first half. The Badgers, fielding 14 new players in their matchday squad, levelled through Bleu McNeil before Rebus Richard-Noel poached a late winner.

**Rebuilding task for new Nirvana management**

After finishing as Premier Division runners-up for both of the last two seasons Leicester Nirvana face a period of rebuilding.

A new look management team blends non league and professional experience. Dave Williams will be manager and Owen Wright will be assistant. Both were involved in UCL management last season, Williams with Desborough and Wellingborough, completing a thousand career matches as manager and coach towards the end of the season, and Wright with Oadby in a co-manager role. Williams has also managed Shepshed and Rothwell Town at higher levels.

Providing coaching support are former professional players Mark Rawle and Scott Eustace. Rawle made his name with Boston United before spells with Southend and Oxford, while Eustace started out with Leicester City before featuring for Mansfield and Cambridge.

Tobias Hawkins will be fitness, strength and conditioning coach and Richard Gerald takes a football coordinator role.

Four of the club's attacking stars have followed former manager Damion Qualey to Northern Premier League Gresley with Matt Melbourne (37 goals last term), Pearson Mwanyongo (31), Reece Morris (21) and Tendai Chitiza (14) all departing along with experienced defender Ryan Walker.

Joining the Gleneagles Avenue club are Oadby defender Chris Hollist and front runner Mirza Sejdic who was with Burton Albion last term. Midfielder Mandeep Bains returns from GNG after playing in Nirvana's first UCL campaign while wide man Nathan Williams and midfielder Farid Yusuf step up from ground sharers Highfield. Wide man James Bessey-Saldanha joins from Nottingham University while Highfield goalkeeper Tasiwa Nyambiya was an eve of season signing after Aaron Harris suffered a pre season injury.

**Pre season:** 12/7 – Shepshed (A) W 1-0; 14/7 – Montpellier (H) D 0-0; 16/7 – Boldmere (H) L 2-3; 23/7 – Carlton (H) L 2-3; 26/7 – Graham St Prims (A) W 3-1; 30/7 – Basford (H) D 1-1.

**Same again for Swans**

Newport Pagnell go into the new season largely reliant on the squad which claimed a top three finish in 2015-16.

Main Willen Road arrival is widely travelled defender Ollie Wilkinson who played for AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Cogenhoe last season. Ex-Olney forward Jamie Burrows is another player likely to feature in the senior side while full back Remy Forrester joins from New Bradwell.

Newport's reserve side return to the league after a ten year absence from the competition. Ex-Olney second string boss David Ashcroft will manage the side assisted by Stacey Field.

**Pre season:** 19/7 – Daventry (A) D 1-1; 22/7 – Harry's Rainbow (H) W 11-1; 26/7 – Buckingham (H) W 4-1; 28/7 – Thame (A) L 2-4; 30/7 – Buckingham Athletic (H) W 5-0.

**Cundy joins Tigers management team**

A change to the Holbeach management team has seen Martyn Cundy appointed as assistant to manager Tom Roberts. Former Tigers player and one time Moulton Harrox manager Cundy steps into the vacancy left by Andy Tidswell's decision to stand down due to work commitments. Also joining the backroom staff is physio Julian Holland who switches from Bourne.

On field player movement has seen Roberts bring in left sided player Adam Jackson from Spalding, a former Tigers favourite who played some midweek games last season, although an ankle injury will keep him sidelined at the start of the season. Another former Tulip joining is striker Stuart Eason who also played for St Ives last term. Experienced back four man Spencer Tinkler arrives after several years with Deeping.

Defender Ashley Coddington joins from Peterborough League champions Moulton Harrox while Stamford Lions midfielder Jake Walton and Pinchbeck midfielder Tyler Wright also step up from lower levels.

Making a welcome return to the fold is full back Jonny Allen who has been on the sidelines since suffering a broken leg against Cogenhoe in February 2015.

**Pre season:** 8/7 – Bourne (A) W 3-1; 16/7 – Oakham (A) D 0-0; 23/7 – Wisbech St Mary (A) W 4-0; 26/7 – Netherton (H) W 2-1; 30/7 – Stamford (H) L 1-2; 2/8 – Spalding (H) L 0-1.

**Changes aplenty for Cooks**

It has been a summer of major changes at Compton Park with many of last season's Cogenhoe squad departing for pastures new and a host of new recruits checking in.

The bulk of last season's Northampton Spencer squad have joined new Cogenhoe boss Tom Chapman at Compton Park.

Goalkeeper Aaron Lee, defenders Jake Gartland, Alex Lowery, Josh Melling, Dan Stevenson and Liam Tuck, midfielders Ash Clamp, Ryan Dove, Munya Matiyenga, Sean McBride and Luke Stone and front runners Ryan Ansell, Jack Bartley and Matt Long are all part of a sizeable ex-Millers contingent linking up with the Cooks.

Three more former Millers will be involved in the Compton Park management teams. Luke Bartley will assist first team boss Chapman after ex-Rushden & Higham chief Dale Brunton was forced to vacate the role after a promotion within the Luton Town Academy left him unavailable on Saturdays, while Jake Stone and Curtis Avery form the reserve management team.

Other summer signings are Raunds goalkeeper Rhys Redding, Potters Bar full back George Boot, ex-Mildenhall winger Eoin O'Herlihy and Irchester top scorer Ryan Lovell.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Hook Norton (A) W 2-1; 12/7 – Rugby (H) D 1-1; 16/7 – Biggleswade United (H) L 0-3; 19/7 – Whitworth (A) L 0-2; 23/7 – Ampthill (H) W 4-1; 25/7 – Northampton Town XI (H) W 4-0; 30/7 – Leighton (A) W 4-1.

**Late additions for Eynesbury**

Eynesbury's first team squad blends old and new from that which finished last season with one notable departure that of Hall Road legend Lee Bassett who has decided to play more locally with Eaton Socon in the Cambridgeshire League.

Replacing Bassett in the Rovers squad is Peterborough Northern Star's leading marksman last term, Craig Smith, while front man Chris Francis has returned for a second spell with the club. Also linking up with Rovers are West Wrattling goalkeeper Jamie Greygoose and St Ives midfielder Jack Warwick.

Eve of season captures were St Ives defender Dan Moyes, Potton midfielder Joe Jordan and Peterborough Northern Star midfielder Hayden Bream.

The club will have less strength in depth this term though with most of last year's Under 21 squad following the management team of Dave Northfield and Mark Inskip to the newly formed step 6 club Biggleswade FC.

Former Rovers player Dan Woodhead has rejoined the club to take charge of the reserve side. He has been with Potton and Huntingdon since leaving Hall Road midway through last season. Another backroom change sees Ash Civil leave the first team coaching staff to study for his UEFA A licence.

**Pre season:** 12/7 – Corby (A) L 1-2; 16/7 – Barton Rovers (H) L 1-2; 19/7 – St Ives (A) L 0-2; 20/7 – Mildenhall (H) D 3-3; 23/7 – Bedford (A) W 2-1; 30/7 – Welwyn Garden City (H) D 3-3; 2/8 – Potton (A) W 2-1.

**Sleaford strengthen squad**

After their best ever Premier Division campaign last time out Sleaford are preparing for the new season with a mixture of new and familiar faces joining the squad.

Former England schoolboy cap Tom Siddons returns to Eslaforde Park after travelling while wide man Pete Sutton is another popular returnee. Ex-Grantham midfielder George Zuerner rejoins the Greens from Moorlands Railway while experienced captures are midfielder Craig Bridge from Harrowby and Lincoln United winger Mitch Griffiths although work commitments are likely to restrict the latter two's appearances. Front runner Joe Goodall links up with his local club after playing for Huntingdon last season while other arrivals are Ruston Sports goalkeeper Carl Stubbs, young Boston United full back Miles Lynch, central defender Leigh Warman from Lincoln Moorlands, Collingham full back or midfielder Sam Greenwood, one time Lincoln City midfield youngster Ben Machin and Collingham forward Ryan Rushen.

Goalkeeper Phil McGann and midfielder Harry Millard have both moved up a level, joining Lincoln United in the Northern Premier League.

Chris Armond joins the Greens backroom staff which has lost Mark Wheatley and Ben Brown who have moved to Coningsby as a management duo. Also joining the club in a backroom role is Tony Taylor, a former Sleaford and Grantham reserve team boss.

**Pre-season:** 12/7 – Newark (H) D 2-2; 15/7 – Grantham (H) L 2-6; 19/7 – Lincoln United (H) D 1-1; 23/7 – Bourne (H) W 4-2; 27/7 – Wyberton (H) W 3-0; 30/7 – Lincoln City XI (A) L 1-3.

**Fenmen recruit six**

After a disappointing campaign last time out Wisbech have added a sprinkling of new faces to their squad for their fourth season of UCL football.

Two of the summer captures return to the Elgoods Stadium. Midfielder Sam Murphy is back after spells with Peterborough Northern Star and last season Spalding, while striker Jack Friend was the club's youngest ever goalscorer before joining Peterborough United two years ago. He has now been released by Posh after spending part of last season on loan at Kings Lynn.

An interesting capture is Josh Pike, a marauding left back from Welsh club Briton Ferry who has also played in Sweden while Lithuanian striker Edgar Buzas joins from Swedish club IF Arvika.

Other summer signings by Fenmen boss Dick Creasey are goalkeeper Rick Lovelace who had spells with Holbeach and Stamford last term and young front runner Harry Limb from Boston United.

Wisbech's held over Cambs Invitation Cup final with Cambridge City will be played at Newmarket on 24<sup>th</sup> August with proceeds going to hit and run victims Shaun Whiter and Joey Abbs, players with Newmarket and Soham respectively. Both players suffered severe injuries with Shaun having both legs amputated below the knee.

Off the pitch the club has enclosed the playing area further by infilling at both ends of the pitch.

**Pre season:** 12/7 – Pinchbeck (A) L 0-3; 16/7 – Kings Lynn (H) L 0-2; 22/7 – Ely (H) W 2-1; 26/7 – Thetford (H) W 4-2; 30/7 – March (A) L 0-3 (BKD Cup).

**Handful of new faces for Kirby**

Kirby Muxloe have recruited a handful of new players for their second season of UCL football.

Checking in at Ratby Lane are Ellistown & Ibstock defender Sam Surridge, midfielder Will Cheshire from Friar Lane & Epworth and front man Tyler Sibson from Barrow Town, while goalkeeper James Flinders arrives from league rivals Leicester Nirvana.

Youngster Josh Burniston has joined Kirby after his release from Cambridge United. He had a spell with Oadby on work experience at the end of last season while further additions are Leicester Nirvana defender Sean Doy and Barrow Town midfielder Jordan Lever.

Kirby closed their warm up programme with a match against League Two Crewe who ran out 5-0 winners at Ratby Lane.

Summer arrival Nick Brett, former Friar Lane & Epworth boss, will co-manage the side with John Love in the season ahead.

**Pre season:** 12/7 – Blaby & Whetstone (A) L 1-2 (Joe Preston Memorial Cup); 23/7 – Quorn (A) W 2-1; 26/7 – Aylestone Park (A) L 3-4; 1/8 – Crewe (H) L 0-5.

**Little change for Deeping**

Deeping embark on the new campaign with a similar squad to that which finished 2015-16.

The versatile Matt Carter returns from a spell with Peterborough Northern Star while other recruits from Star are midfielder Danny Barker and defender or midfielder Calum Madigan while an important capture is St Neots midfielder Charlie Coulson who played first team football for Peterborough United as a 16 year old.

Completing the new faces is eve of season goalkeeper signing Richard Stainsby who transferred from Melton after Rangers lost Alex Pycock to injury in their warm up programme. Last season's number one Danny Bircham has again registered as a player while also taking up a coaching role at the Haydon Whitham Stadium.

Wide man Jason Kilbride has returned to action after missing the second half of last season with a broken leg.

**Pre season:** 16/7 – Netherton (A) W 3-1; 19/7 – March (A) W 5-0; 23/7 – AFC Rushden & Diamonds (H) L 2-3; 26/7 – Stamford (H) W 4-3; 30/7 – Blackstones (H) W 5-1.

**Bees recruit three**

Harborough have managed to retain the services of most of their team which enjoyed a greatly improved 2015-16 campaign.

Manager Nick Pollard has added a trio of new faces to his squad with midfielder Keaton Towers making the move from Oadby and central defender Zak Negahban joining from Leicester University. Front runner Jack Sutherland arrives from Lutterworth where he was joint top scorer last term.

Long term injured absentees Billy Shepherd (groin) and Alex McMillan (ankle) are back in action.

Assistant manager Chris Church has left Bowdens Park after a lengthy association with the Bees.

**Pre season:** 16/7 – Blaby & Whetstone (A) D 1-1; 18/7 – St Andrews (A) L 0-2; 23/7 – Stewarts & Lloyds (A) W 6-0; 26/7 – Corby (H) L 1-3; 30/7 – Loughborough University (H) D 1-1.

**Whaley raids former club to strengthen Cuckoos**

Yaxley manager Brett Whaley has raided his former club Wisbech to gather together a squad which should mount a challenge for honours in the months ahead.

Goalkeeper Aaron Butcher, defender Ross Watson and midfielder Rob Hughes all return to In2Itive Park while also arriving from the Fenmen are experienced defender Stuart Wall, who emerges from retirement after a lengthy lay off through injury, and wide man Matt Sparrow.

Full back Michael Mackrell has switched from Peterborough Northern Star and young midfielder Tom Carroll, who had a spell on work experience from Northampton Town last season, returns after his release from the Cobblers. Completing the new faces is Spalding forward Charley Sanders.

Elio Salerno has joined the Cuckoos backroom staff after previously occupying a coaching post at Wisbech.

**Pre season:** 5/7 – Netherton (H) W 2-1; 8/7 – Biggleswade Town (H) D 1-1; 16/7 – Godmanchester (H) W 5-0; 19/7 – Oakham (H.) W 2-1; 23/7 – Spalding (H) W 5-2; 26/7 – Wisbech St Mary (H) W 6-1; 30/7 – Cambridge City Reserves (A) W 5-0.

**Lankies trio link up with Corinthians**

After their best ever Premier season last time out Rothwell Corinthians have kept the majority of the squad which has performed so well over the last two seasons.

They have however recruited a trio of new faces from new co-manager Jim Scott's former club Rushden & Higham. Making the switch from Hayden Road to Sergeant's Lawn are defender Aaron Champion, midfield operator Jory Mann and goalscoring wide man Lewis O'Dell.

Also arriving at Sergeant's Lawn is Portuguese striker Djedje Gomes from St Neots while his brother, full back Dauntrim, is another signing who played in his home country for Club Vila Verde. Youngsters signing from the Corby Town academy are defender Fraser Hawes, midfielder Shay Magee and front runner Adam Frisch.

A further pre season boost for Corinthians was the return of defender Dan Cooper who featured in the season's first transfer after initially signing for neighbours Desborough.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Bugbrooke (A) W 1-0; 12/7 – Kettering (H) L 0-5; 16/7 – Corby (H) L 1-5; 23/7 – Oakham (A) L 1-2; 30/7 – Whitworth (A) L 0-5.

**Sprinkling of newcomers for Desborough**

Desborough manager Chris Bradshaw has fine tuned his squad over the summer bringing a handful of new faces into the Ar Tarn squad.

Full back Merson Styles and midfielder Will Arnold have made the short trip from neighbours Rothwell Corinthians, experienced midfielder Liam Boath arrives from Stewarts & Lloyds and youngster Lewis Carpenter joins from Kettering to add to the engine room options. Tony Bartlett is a defensive recruit from Weldon.

Burton Park midfielder Joe Baldwin is another summer capture for Ar Tarn while striker Oliver Jones is another new face from Canadian club VND Varsity Reds, but a major departure is defender Aidan Bradshaw who has linked up with AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

Veteran striker Jason Turner will take on a dual role as player coach this season.

**Pre season:** 2/7 – Long Buckby (A) W 6-0; 9/7 – Thrapston (A) W 2-0; 12/7 – Oakham (A) W 2-1; 18/7 – Irchester (A) D 1-1; 21/7 – Burton PW (A) W 6-1; 26/7 – Stewarts & Lloyds (A) W 6-0; 30/7 – Aylestone Park (H) W 4-1.

**New look for Boston Town**

After a disappointing season last time out Boston Town will be hoping for a much better 2016-17 season under new manager Nathan Collins and right hand man Daryl Clare.

The duo have recruited heavily in the Grimsby area bringing in faces old and new. Rejoining the club are midfielder Tom Charlesworth who played for the Poachers during Collins' first spell in charge, and Grimsby Borough pair, midfielder or forward Matt Kennedy and midfielder Dan Wood.

Winger Jack Wightwick is also back in the fold after a late season move to Stamford last term.

Young defenders Josh Sunter and Joe Crowther have joined from Grimsby Town along with goalkeeper Jack Pearson and striker James Wroot while goalkeeper James Lambley steps up from Lincolnshire League football with Skegness Town. Adding to the strike options are the signings of Sam O'Malley from AFC Mansfield and Danny Trott from Cleethorpes. Completing the list of new faces is Alford left back Lucas Sparrow.

The Poachers' friendly at Grimsby Borough acted as a fund raiser for the Pink Rose Suite at the Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby.

**Pre season:** 5/7 – Boston United (H) L 0-4; 9/7 – Walkington (H) W 3-1; 16/7 – Grimsby Borough (A) D 1-1; 27/7 – Spalding (A) L 0-2; 30/7 – Wyberton (H) W 1-0.



**Youngsters to the fore for Star**

Peterborough Northern Star will place the emphasis on youth for the season ahead after seeing a number of last term's regular players depart.

Making a return to the club is Peterborough Sports defender Wilkins Makate whose brother Eric will feature in a wide role after signing from Netherton.

Young midfielder Sam Wilson steps up after spending last season in Division One with Bourne while fellow midfielder Kieran Blanchard also switches from the Wakes and Jake Sansby arrives from city neighbours Peterborough Sports along with defender Kane Gilbert.

Rejoining Star is Boston Town front man Aaron Warrener and while one time Peterborough United junior Levi Wright is another attacking signing.

**Pre season:** 6/7 – Bourne (A) W 3-2; 13/7 – Whittlesey (A) W 3-1; 23/7 – Netherton (A) D 1-1; 26/7 – Kettering (H) W 2-1; 30/7- Spalding (H) L 0-7.

**Harrowby recruit new faces aplenty**

Harrowby have recruited numerous new faces as the new season beckons.

Rejoining the Arrows are goalkeeper Jack Drury from Shepshed and midfielder Luke Peberdy from Beehive.

Other new faces are defender Joe Braithwaite from Sleaford, RAF midfielder Jordan Kirk-Ellis and young Boston United midfield man Kemal Yembertiz.

Midfielder Joe Elliott has been recruited from Stamford while ex-Lincoln United man Sam Turner is another engine room signing along with Sean Woolley from Genesis FC.

Wide man Liam Harper is back in action after missing most of last season through injury but another long term absentee, last season's top goalscorer Danny Durkin, has moved up two levels to join Grantham.

Nick Andersen will manage the side on his own in the season ahead after last season's co-boss Tony Joynes returned to former club Newark. Jason Harrison will assist Andersen.

A match between teams of Harrowby and Grantham legends during pre season raised over £1,200 for former Arrows' player Karl Bullimore's cancer treatment.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Cleethorpes (A) L 1-3; 12/7 – Grantham (H) L 0-2; 15/7 – Grantham Sunday League (H) L 0-5 (George Wood Trophy); 16/7 – Dunkirk (H) L 1-2; 19/7 – Spalding (H) L 0-1; 23/7 – Sherwood Colliery (H) D 0-0; 2/8 – Newark (H) D 1-1.

**Sileby sign Foundrymen trio**

Sileby have added a sprinkling of new faces to the squad which finished last season strongly.

Manager Lee Duffy has made three signings from one of his former clubs Stewarts & Lloyds after the Foundrymen narrowly missed out on promotion.

Goalkeeper Kris Bartle, defender and skipper Paul Caswell and front man David Halliday (formerly Sheridan) have all switched to Fernie Fields, while S&L top scorer last term Michael Byrne has rejoined Rangers after initially putting pen to paper for Desborough.

Other signings are attacking pair Scott Sandy from Kettering and Luke Stevens from Raunds while midfielder Luke Fairlamb is back from the United States where he played for St Peter's College and fellow midfielder Luke Uzoma arrives from Polish club BKS Stal-Biesko. Adding to the international flavour is the signing of Sierra Leone international Allie Jaward who most recently played for Langford.

Sileby played their traditional curtain raiser against Northampton Town on 9<sup>th</sup> July with the Cobblers, newly promoted to League One, running out 3-0 winners in front of a 1,200 plus crowd.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Northampton Town (H) L 0-3; 16/7 – Moulton (A) W 4-0; 19/7 – Burton PW (A) W 4-1.

**Lower league recruits for Doughboys**

After last season's battle for top flight survival Wellingborough are hoping for a more successful campaign this time round.

Manager Jon Mitchell has recruited at lower levels bringing in a host of players from Division One football.

Defensive captures are ex-Buckingham full back Lewis Sheridan, Rushden & Higham full back Fred Devereaux and Irchester centre back Theo Alcindor while new signing from Bugbrooke Olly Reynolds has spent most of his career as a goalkeeper before playing last season as a midfielder for the Badgers.

Providing a goal threat is Jack Wisniewski a consistent midfield marksman for Thrapston, who have also lost midfielder Nathan Wills and experienced forward or midfielder Danny Rogers to the Doughboys. Striker Voni Maswangani joins from Bugbrooke with Kosta Adesina from Sileby another eve of season signing.

Wellingborough's build up to the new season has been overshadowed by the news that the landlord has given the club notice to leave the Dog & Duck by the end of May 2017 by invoking a break clause in the lease. Club officials remain hopeful of resolving matters favourably.

**Pre season:** 16/7 – Raunds (H) L 1-2; 19/7 – Stewarts & Lloyds (H) W 7-0; 23/7 – Bugbrooke (H) L 2-3; 26/7 – AFC Rushden & Diamonds (H) L 1-2; 30/7 – Banbury (A) L 0-8.

**Oadby go for new look**

It has been a summer of change for Oadby after last season's brush with Premier Division relegation.

Co-manager Graham Chambers has raided his former club Lutterworth Athletic to snap up full back Jakob Chambers, midfielders Liam Baines, Jordan Pick, Sam Burton and Adam Bolley and winger Suraj Patel while fellow manager Dave Clay's old club Quorn have lost defender Luke Hammond and midfielder Tom Bennett to the Poachers.

Ben Taylor will fill a central defensive role after returning from Nuneaton Town but fellow new back four man Toby Smith from Kirby Muxloe will be a long term absentee after suffering a dislocated kneecap during pre season.

Moving from Aylestone Park are defensive trio Kieran Hefford, Kieran Henfrey and Aniyah King and midfielder Callum Steer, while joining from Blaby & Whetstone are midfielders Tom Gamble and Chris Anastasi and striker Carlton Beardmore. Ethan Bibby from Birstall is another midfield arrival while front man Lamar Parkes moves from league rivals Leicester Nirvana. Defender or midfielder Sam Slater has moved from Barrow Town.

Contesting the goalkeeper slot are ex-Nirvana man Alpha Kallon, Adam Fletcher-Warrington from Shepshed and Tom Hubbard from Uppingham while winger Andre Williams returns after being away at university and defender Lewis McLean joins from Belgrave.

**Pre season:** 19/7 – Gresley (H) L 1-7; 23/7 – Lutterworth Athletic (H) D 2-2; 26/7 – Blaby & Whetstone (H) L 0-4; 30/7 – Alvis (A) W 4-3; 2/8 – Leicester Road (H) L 1-6.

**Huntingdon aim to capitalise on reprieve**

After their unexpected reprieve from relegation Huntingdon will hope to fare better in the months ahead. They will be encouraged by a series of pre season victories to establish a winning habit which has been absent at the club over the last season and a half.

Highlight of the pre season was a 3-0 win over a Cambridge City side to win the Mayor's Cup. New signing Addie Staffieri from Blackstones was on target in that victory along with two goal Jordan Brockett who topped the Cromwellians scorecharts last season.

An important capture is former Charlton academy defender Simon Sea, now at Cambridge University. Other new signings are young defenders Elliott Luxford from Godmanchester and Alfie Oakman from Ely, young midfielder Mark Lloyd from St Ives, striker Andy Chapman from the Godmanchester youth set up and Outwell top scorer last term Paul Richardson. Contesting the goalkeeper slot are Richard Roberts from Aylesbury and one time Gainsborough custodian Chris Laming.

Former Town stalwart Hans Reif has accepted an invitation to become club president after the death of Brian Waldock over the summer. Reif was chairman when the club joined the UCL having previously been a player and manager. A stand has now been named in Brian Waldock's memory.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – British School of Sport (H) W 2-1; 16/7 – Chatteris (A) W 2-1; 20/7 – Cambridge City XI (H) W 3-0 (Mayor's Cup); 23/7 – Feeder (H) W 4-3; 27/7 – Ramsey (H) W 4-0.

**Sports strengthen for new challenge**

After their four trophy campaign last time out Peterborough Sports will be confident of further success as they prepare for life in the top flight.

Sports supremo Jimmy Dean has brought in some experienced higher level campaigners to meet the challenge head on.

Eye catching recruits are the Jones brothers from Boston United. Central defender Richard previously skippered Stamford at step 3 while striker Mark has also played for Gainsborough in the Conference North as well as the Pilgrims.

Strengthening the midfield area are two former Spalding players. Dan Lawlor featured in a handful of games for Sports last term and has now committed to a full time role with the Turbines while his ex-Tulips team mate Dan Banister has also linked up with the Premier new boys.

Also checking in at Lincoln Road is defender Luke Smith from Peterborough Northern Star.

With goalkeeper Luke McShane missing the first couple of months of the season following an operation Sports have snapped up Josh Bennis from Plymouth University to fill the gap between the posts.

Sports have enjoyed a free scoring and unbeaten pre season with six victories and a goalless draw at step 3 new boys St Ives. They were successful in their European adventure with a comprehensive win over Czech hosts Predni Kopinina.

**Pre season:** 2/7 – Bourne (A) W 5-2; 9/7 – Welwyn Garden City (H) W 3-0; 12/7 – Potton (A) W 6-0; 16/7 – Predni Kopinina (A) W 5-2; 23/7 – Blackstones (A) W 7-1; 26/7 - St Ives (A) D 0-0; 30/7 – Ely (H) W 4-0.

**Chenecks show stability ahead of top flight bow**

ON Chenecks have gone for stability in the run up to their first Premier Division campaign.

Joining the Billing Road outfit are former Cogenhoe second string players, goalkeeper Kevin Sparkes and defender Ryan Chamberlain, while midfield operator Jake Nagy has made the move from Wellingborough.

Gavin Nullatamby has joined Chenecks from Bugbrooke to join Tim Clack's backroom team with the reserves.

The club has completed the construction of a new stand at the Billing Road ground.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Raunds (H) W 3-2; 16/7 – Bugbrooke (A) D 2-2; 23/7 – Daventry (A) L 0-2; 26/7 – Quorn (A) W 2-0; 30/7 – Olney (A) W 2-1.

**Stewarts & Lloyds start from scratch**

After missing out on promotion to the Premier Division last season Stewarts & Lloyds' side has broken up leaving incoming manager Ian Benjamin facing a major rebuilding job. Only defender Ryan Buckingham remains from last season's squad.

Benjamin's most experienced signing so far is defender Andy Coleman who previously played for the Foundrymen boss at Yaxley and Soham. He will assist Benjamin at Occupation Road.

Midfielder Harry Henbury and Luke Waterhouse played for Benjamin at Yaxley last season, the latter having originally signed for Thrapston over the summer, while experienced defender Michael Duroe and front man Jack Nolan have been signed from Harborough.

Other arrivals include young Corby Town goalkeeper Luke Reay, ex-Brixworth midfielder Greg Purcell and a number of players who featured for associate club S&L Khalsa last season, defenders Mirko Bilic and Conor Bird and midfielders Kieran Jakes and Szabolcs Rutai.

**Pre-season:** 9/7 – Bedford Town (A) L 0-13; 19/7 – Wellingborough (A) L 0-7; 23/7 – Harborough (H) L 0-6; 26/7 – Desborough (H) L 0-6; 30/7 – Mansfield Town Development (A) L 1-3.

**Newcomers aplenty for Olney**

Olney look well geared up for another good season in Division One after adding several new faces to their squad.

Joining from Premier Division clubs are Cogenhoe goalkeeper Josh McAdoo, Wellingborough defender Matt Brady, Newport Pagnell full backs Lewis Smith and Rob Tapp and midfielder Rob Macdonald, Northampton Spencer midfielder Mason Childs and AFC Kempston striker Josh Crawley.

Aylesbury United pair, full back Luca Seminerio and striker Vinny Shrieves have also checked in at East Street along with Jamie O'Grady another to have played for the Ducks and Kempston. Kyle Stimpson, equally at home in defence or attack joins from Buckingham Athletic.

Buckingham midfield pair Nick Bines and Lukasz Filipiak are other East Street additions to manager Neil Griffiths' squad while an interesting capture is former Newport Pagnell and Corby midfielder Jordan Spruce who has had a couple of seasons out of the game through injury.

**Pre season:** 12/7 – Old Bradwell (H) W 2-1; 16/7 – New Bradwell (H) W 5-4; 21/7 – Crawley Green (A) D 1-1; 26/7 – AFC Kempston (H) L 1-8; 30/7 – ON Chenecks (H) L 1-2.

**Bourne side sticks together**

After an impressive campaign last time out Bourne's squad will have a familiar look under new manager Jimmy McDonnell.

The new manager has held on to most of last season's players while adding five new faces.

Left back Robbie Relf joins from Spalding and has also played for Holbeach, midfielder Scott Collins steps up from Peterborough League football with Baston and experienced front runner Tom Gosling has arrived from Holbeach. Former Norwich City youngster, front man George Couzens, is an exciting prospect while completing the new signings is ICA wide man Ashton Capes.

Former Bourne player Chris Good will be McDonnell's right hand man at the Abbey Lawn with Ben Haigh swapping the referee's whistle for a physio role with the club.

The Wakes have appointed under 18 manager Steve Bills as reserve manager, taking over from Darren Munton who will concentrate on his role as co-chairman. The appointment will see the club continue its policy of promoting young players into the senior side.

**Pre season:** 2/7 – Peterborough Sports (H) L 2-5; 6/7 – Peterborough Northern Star (H) L 2-3; 8/7 – Holbeach (H) L 1-3; 18/7 – Stamford (H) L 0-4 (Wilf Notley Memorial Cup); 23/7 – Sleaford (A) L 2-4.

**Buckby recruit six newcomers**

Long Buckby have introduced half a dozen new faces to their squad for their second season of Division One football.

Goalkeeper Jordan May makes a permanent switch from Clipston after providing midweek cover for the Bucks last term, and is joined by two team mates who performed well against Buckby in cup action last term. Central defender Ryan Durran and midfielder Tony Bridge make the step up.

Midfielder Stevy Djedje rejoins Buckby from Coventry United while another midfield capture is Adam Miles who was with Southam last season. An exciting recruit is Dale Linton who enjoyed a 30 plus goal campaign last term as his goals fired Alvis to title success in the Midland League last season.

**Pre season:** 2/7 – Desborough (H) L 0-6; 9/7 – Studley (H) W 5-2; 16/7 – Bedford (H) L 0-2; 19/7 – Racing Warwick (H) L 2-3.

**Royals add new faces**

Potton have added several new faces to their squad for the new season.

Three signings have been made from Olney with midfielder Aidan McLean, wide man Danny Webb and free scoring striker Jack Weeden all moving to the Hutchinson Hollow.

Popular goalkeeper Aaron Loney returns from Gamlingay while other new faces are defender Shaun Flack from Eaton Socon and midfielders Tom Blow from Ickwell and Tom Ray from Gamlingay, while front man Matt Chapman has switched from Royston along with midfielder James Meredith. Completing the signings is St Ives wide man Sam Davidson.

The club had some silverware in the trophy cabinet before the season proper started, beating Gamlingay 3-1 to win the inaugural staging of the Steve Loney Memorial Cup. George Kiely, Sam Kelly and Jack Weeden were on target for the Royals.

Rob Steele has returned the dugout as a coach with Ash Yeomans doubling up as both player and coach. In the reserves Steve Maddix has returned to the fold and will join Bradleigh Smith in assisting manager Matt Gedney.

**Pre-season:** 9/7 – Steeple Morden (A) W 4-0; 12/7 – Peterborough Sports (H) L 0-6; 16/7 – Ely (H) L 0-1; 23/7 – Foxton (A) W 7-2; 26/7 – Biggleswade (A) W 3-2; 29/7 – Gamlingay (H) W 3-1 (Steve Loney Memorial Cup); 2/8 – Eynesbury (H) L 1-2.

**Same again for Shopmates**

Raunds show little movement on the playing side as the big kick off approaches.

Midfielder Craig Harrower has joined the Shopmates from Rushden & Higham while a striking addition is Jamie White from Whitworth.

Assistant manager Simon Stewart has relinquished dugout duties to concentrate on fund raising and commercial activities for the club.

Joining the Raunds backroom team is goalkeeping coach Martyn Harvey who has previously held similar roles at Desborough and Thrapston.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – ON Chenecks (A) L 2-3; 14/7 – Wollaston (A) W 3-2; 16/7 – Wellingborough (A) W 2-1; 21/7 – Earls Barton (A) W 4-2; 26/7 – Harpole (H) W 1-0; 30/7 – Blisworth (A) L 1-2; 2/8 – AFC Rushden & Diamonds (H) L 1-4.

**Few Thrapston changes**

Thrapston go into the new season with a familiar look to their squad.

The versatile Mason Thomas is back at Chancery Lane after ending last term with Harborough while a couple of promising youngsters expected to push for senior places are wide man Harry Jacobs from Brixworth and central defender Jude Hillier from the Desborough Under 21 set up.

Barry Carter has been appointed club chairman after the summer departure of Gary Petts from the post.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Desborough (H) L 0-2; 20/7 – Kettering Nomads (H) W 5-1; 26/7 – S&L Khalsa (H) W 9-2; 30/7 – Kings Cliffe (A) W 6-0.

**Blackstones show little change**

After an improved season last time out Blackstones will largely rely on familiar faces for the 2016-17 season.

Manager Phil Gadsby has recruited one of the division's leading scorers last term, bringing in Lewis Leckie from Oakham, and the manager has returned to former club Langtoft to snap up goalkeeper Andy Isabell as cover. Left sided forward Steve Mastin, who made occasional appearances last season, has signed on a permanent basis from Netherton.

Striker Tom Lancaster has been among the goals in pre season after joining from Riverside while Army man Tom Seaton-Norton adds to the defensive options.

Midfielder Jordan Avis is still out and awaiting an MRI scan while defender Adam Sparkes will miss the opening games with an ankle problem.

Eve of season backroom changes saw assistant manager Talal Karama depart with coach Andy Sharpe stepping into his role and one time Deeping player Jonny Hands join Stones in a coaching role. Former Riverside manager Shane Davitt will be in charge of the revived Stones second string with Lloyd Buchan assisting him.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Pinchbeck (A) L 0-2; 19/7 – ICA Sports (A) W 5-1; 23/7 – Peterborough Sports (H) L 1-7; 28/7 – Ketton (H) W 3-2; 30/7 – Deeping (A) L 1-5; 3/8 – Langtoft (H) W3-1.



**Old favourites in Lutterworth returns**

Lutterworth have had a quiet summer with only minimal changes to their squad.

Three familiar faces return to Hall Lane in the form of defender Chris Bradshaw and the Laywood brothers, defender Adam and striker Danny.

Defender or midfielder Sam Coxon from Dunton & Broughton is another new face in the squad and is joined by former teammate, young strike prospect Jack Astill.

A defensive arrival at Hall Lane is former Sileby and Weldon man Mark Edge.

Backroom changes see Simon Clarke appointed as first team coach and Lee Jones begin a second spell in charge of the reserves, taking over from Alex Heathcote who continues with the club as a player.

**Pre season:** 23/7 – Oadby (A) D 2-2; 30/7 – Wisbech St Mary (A) W 3-1; 2/8 – Holwell Sports (A) L 1-2.

**Return of long term casualties boosts Oakham**

Oakham's preparations for their second season of Division One football have been boosted by the returns to action of some long term absentees with injuries.

Midfielder Eddie McDonald, winger Robbie Pearce and striker Michael Nelson have all featured in an encouraging pre-season for the Rutland club.

New faces in the Oakham squad are Blackstones defender Jack Salt and two recruits from Peterborough League football, striker Alex Brockbank from Ketton and right sided player Liam Hollingworth from Rutland Dead Rabbits.

An experienced arrival is wide man Nicki Young who has had a break from the game but has previously played for Blackstones, Deeping, Stewarts & Lloyds and Spalding.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – St Ives (A) L 1-3; 12/7 – Desborough (H) L 1-2; 16/7 – Holbeach (H) D 0-0; 19/7 – Yaxley (A) L 1-2; 23/7 – Rothwell Corinthians (H) W 2-1; 26/7 – Langtoft (H) D 2-2.

**Lankies shelve reserves**

Last season's Reserve Division champions Rushden & Higham will be missing from the line up as the new campaign gets underway.

With last season's reserve management Wayne Abbott and James Spendlove stepping up to first team duties and most of the title winning squad earmarked for first team places, the club decided that a lack of personnel would prompt a break from the action.

The club hope to revive their second string in the future.

A close season signing is former Raunds co-manager Scott Manning who adds defensive experience while Ashlee Adebayo steps up from reserve football with Irchester having featured towards the top of the Reserve Division scorecharts last season. Right sided player Ben Aidulis joins from Higham Ferrers while young midfielder Louis Gray rejoins the Lankies from Wellingborough.

**Pre season:** 7/7 – Higham Town (H) W 3-1; 14/7 – Kettering (H) L 0-5; 16/7 – AFC Rushden & Diamonds (H) L 1-4 (Chris Ruff Memorial Cup); 23/7 – Wingate & Finchley (H) L 0-10.

**Woodford build young squad**

Woodford will have a new look squad built around young players from the Rugby and Coventry areas in the season ahead.

Assistant manager Dan Carter, who played for Southam last season, brings defensive experience while he is joined by ex-Southam team mates, defender Zach Featherstone who was an academy player with Colchester, and striker Lewis Califano.

Other defensive recruits are ex-Cheltenham youth Harry Edgington-Furlong from Stratford, Matt Evans from Long Buckby, Nathan Ley from Coventry United and Lee Rycroft from Stratford.

Midfield signings are ex-Hinckley men Lee Clarke and Luke Gillett, while former Coventry Copsewood man Paul Govier is an attacking capture.

Former Kidderminster youngster Jordan Featherstone will feature in midfield along with ex-Coventry United duo Karlo Morgan and Sleiman Mbarouk, the latter has also played top flight football in Tanzania. Another ex-Coventry United man is striker Tobi Ojutalayo who previously played for the Reds in the Southern League.

Wellingborough forward Ash Stewart is another signing as is Cogenhoe goalkeeper Ross McCarthy.

Arriving on the eve of the season was Mark Jackson, a wide man from Coventry club Manhattan.

**Pre season:** 16/7 – Brackley Saints (H) L 0-4; 19/7 – Alvis (H) L 1-3; 23/7 – Brixworth (H) L 0-3; 26/7 – Adderbury Park (H) D 0-0; 28/7 – Cropredy (H) D 1-1; 2/8 – Wootton (H) D 2-2.

**Whitworth benefit from Spencer influx**

Whitworth have been one of the leading beneficiaries of the unfortunate demise of Northampton Spencer at the end of last season. With former Millers reserve boss Darren Bullen taking the Flourmen second string reins many players have moved from Kingsthorpe Mill to give Whitworth greater strength in depth going into the new campaign.

Among the Spencer men arriving at the Victoria Mill Ground goalkeeper Prezemyslaw Instunajd and midfielder Dean Hall have plenty of top flight experience while Jordan Richards and Morgan Littlejohn formed one of the reserve section's most effective strike partnerships over the last two seasons. Midfielder Matt Thornber is another signing from Spencer.

Another attacking option for manager James Mallows is ex-Rushden & Higham man Jack Dyson while a pre season boost for the Flourmen was the return of last term's top scorer Cavell Jarvis who had initially signed for Wellingborough. Other last minute transfer market sorties saw midfielder Ryan Archer switch from Daventry, ex-Rushden & Higham midfielder Jordan Pendered transfer from Cogenhoe and midfielder Sean Kilbane return from Irchester. Completing the new faces are Irchester full back Martin Brown and goalscoring full back Remy Brittain, back from a spell with Wellingborough.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Earls Barton (H) W 3-2; 16/7 – Wisbech St Mary (A) W 3-1; 19/7 – Cogenhoe (H) W 2-0; 26/7 – Deanshanger (H) W 4-1; 30/7 – Rothwell Corinthians (H) W 5-0.

**Romans appoint new reserve boss**

A pre season backroom change has seen Irchester appoint long serving player Chris Gell as reserve team manager after Mark Walker's work commitments forced him to step down after a single season in charge. Danny O'Neill joins from Whitworth as Gell's right hand man.

On field additions to the Irchester squad are a trio of former AFC Rushden & Diamonds Under 21 players, goalkeeper Nathan Rosshart, winger Tom Rogers and full back Ed Bates. Former Corby Eagles midfielder Matt Keenleyside is another new arrival.

**Pre season:** 18/7 – Desborough (H) D 1-1; 23/7 – Oakley (A) D 2-2; 26/7 – Wollaston (A) W 7-0; 30/7 – Earls Barton (A) W 3-1.

**Signings plentiful for Robins**

Buckingham will have a new look squad this season with new manager Gary Ollard recruiting a host of players from his former club New Bradwell.

Joining the Robins from the Spartan South Midlands club are defenders Steve Gavronski, Levi Squillace and Tom Traas, midfielders Ashley Bench, Conor Collins, Lewis Delahaye and Dan Jackson, the latter a former Luton Town youth player, and front runners Riccardo Archer and Michael McKenzie.

Also linking up with Buckingham are Stony Stratford defender Adam Harwood, forward Danny Mullins and attacking midfielder Jelani Blair and one time Sileby striker Dan Silver. Goalkeeper Ryan Thrussell joins from Winslow and midfielder Fuad Ahmed joins the Robins from Brackley Saints.

Dave Barron will assist the manager having previously been part of his backroom team at New Bradwell.

Buckingham will take on an Oxford United side at Manor Fields on 9<sup>th</sup> August with the James Victory Cup the prize for the winners.

**Pre season:** 16/7 – Wolverton (H) W 3-0; 21/7 – New Bradwell (H) W 4-0; 26/7 – Newport Pagnell (A) L 1-4; 28/7 – Clean Slate (A) W 3-2; 30/7 – Amersham (H) W 4-0; 2/8 – Bicester (H) L 3-4.

**New broom sweeps clean at Bugbrooke**

Bugbrooke will field one of the most changed squads in Division One with new chief Mitch Austin blending experience and youth in his new look line up.

Following Austin from his title winning Kettering Under 21 set up are goalkeeper Harry Oldham, defenders Branko Djujic, Bleu McNeil and Jonny Joyce, midfielders Dthaniel Weston and Connor Woulahan, prolific marksman Niall Duffy and front man Rebus Richard-Noel.

More seasoned arrivals at Birds Close are Northampton Spencer front runner Lance Allen, Towcester centre half Robson Kightley, ex-Rushden & Diamonds and Cogenhoe wide man Elliott Lamb-Johnson, former Woodford utility man Nathan Liburd, former Long Buckby manager Dan Stewart, Raunds midfielder Nathan Stewart and left back Jamie Wright who started last season at the Wellingborough helm.

Young full back Aaron Halliday has been signed from Thrapston while Kettering under 18 midfielder Jack O'Connor is another new face.

Best known recruit is former Northampton Town striker Courtney Herbert who played for AFC Rushden & Diamonds last term.

Joining the coaching staff are Craig Mander and Jack Rhodes.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Rothwell Corinthians (H) L 0-1; 16/7 – ON Chenecks (H) D 2-2; 20/7 – Brixworth (H) W 4-2; 23/7 – Wellingborough (A) W 3-2.

**Burton hope to build on late season improvement**

After displaying improved form towards the end of last season Burton Park will be looking for a further upturn as the new season gets underway.

Luke Smith has added some promising youngsters to the squad including midfielders Sam Dixon from Desborough and Harry Freeman from Wellingborough while defender Callum Edwards steps up from Sunday football with Kettering Stirrup Cup. A more experienced signing is Kettering Nomads midfielder Brian Boyle.

Club founder Bo Patrick has been named as club president in recognition of his contribution to the club over half a century.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Burton United (A) W 1-0; 16/7 – Stanion (A) L 3-4; 19/7 – Sileby (H) L 1-4; 21/7 – Desborough (H) L 1-6; 23/7 – Desborough Reserves (H) L 2-3; 26/7 – Kettering Nomads (A) L 1-2; 30/7 – Desborough & Rothwell (A) L 1-2.

**Major rebuild for newcomers Daventry**

Division One newcomers Daventry kick off the season two levels lower than they finished last one and it seems to be all change at Communications Park where managers Andy Marks and Arron Parkinson have raided their old clubs to put together a formidable looking squad.

Joining from Marks' former club Cogenhoe are goalkeeper George McClellan, defenders Ross Harris, Elliott Herbert and Bayley Leslie, midfielders Phil Cassidy, Tom McGowan and Taylor Orosz, front runner Sam Heavey and versatile left sided player Dean Lukeman while another former Cook, defender Kieran Tarry, has also signed. Steve Blackwood, another ex-Cogenhoe man who had a lengthy lay off through injury, returns after successfully resuming his playing career with Grange Park last season.

Parkinson has registered as a player and has been joined by ex-Woodford team mates, goalkeeper Joe Haynes and midfield trio Joe Henderson, Lewis Travers and Jamie Jollands along with forwards Aaron King and James Weale. Southam midfield youngster Harry Stowe is another recruit along with ex-Northampton Spencer front runner Karl Bates and Kettering Under 21 defender Jordan Orosz while midfielder Mark Faulkner arrives at Communications Park after helping Blisworth to the Northants Combination title last term.

Defender Sam Woods and midfield trio Adam Creaney, Dan Childs and Adam Confue remain from last season's squad while ex-Town and Cobblers striker Scott Cross is another familiar face at Communications Park.

Coaches Ady Fuller and Steve Allen and physio Simon Lord complete the Town backroom staff for the new season.

**Pre season:** 9/7 – Mursley (A) W 5-1; 16/7 – Racing Warwick (A) W 1-0; 19/7 – Newport Pagnell (H) D 1-1; 23/7 – ON Chenecks (H) W 2-0; 26/7 – Hook Norton (H) D 1-1; 30/7 – Easington Sports (A) D 1-1; 2/8 – Corby (H) D 3-3.

**Melton looking forward to new challenge**

Melton have recruited a number of new faces for the challenge of step 6 football in the season ahead.

Joining the club are several players who have followed assistant manager Ross Perkins from East Midlands Counties League Barrow Town, goalkeepers Ashley King and Alex Enger, centre halves Sam Beaver and Joe Slater and midfield pair Angus Gentleman and Jamie Hartle, while another defensive capture is Leon Fray from Bardon Hill who played in the Midland League Premier Division last term. Harry Calver is another defensive signing from Bardon Hill while midfielder Joe Williams and front man John Love have been snapped up from Cottesmore.

Star signing is attacking midfielder Tom Byrne who helped Coalville win promotion in the Northern Premier League last season.

Melton kicked off their warm up programme with an impressive 5-0 win over Birstall who pipped them to the Leicestershire Senior League title last term.

Another pre season highlight was a 6-3 win over the Leicester City legends in an official opening match for the new ground at the Melton Sports Village. Town boss Tony Thorpe spent the afternoon playing for his first club against his current one.

**Pre season:** 23/7 – Birstall (H) W 5-0; 26/7 – Rainworth (A) L 0-2; 30/7 – Cottesmore (H) W 5-1; 31/7 – Leicester City Legends (H) W 6-3.

**Whittlesey raid old rivals**

Following their promotion to Division One as Peterborough League runners up, Whittlesey have raided Moulton Harrox's championship winning squad for the challenge ahead.

Midfield man Billy King and striker Ian Bradbury have both made the move from the side which pipped Athletic to the crown last term.

Other new faces in the Athletic squad are midfielder Tom Flatters from Netherton and the versatile Louie Medwynter from Peterborough Northern Star. Most experienced capture is widely travelled Premier midfielder Ollie Gale who spent last season with Holbeach.

**Pre season:** 5/7 – St Neots (A) L 2-11; 9/7 – Netherton (A) L 1-3; 16/7 – Peterborough Northern Star (H) L 1-3; 23/7 – ICA Sports (A) W 2-1.

**Under 21 Division shelved for 2016-17**

The league will not run an under 21 division during the 2016-17 season due to a shortage of numbers.

From last season's line up Desborough and Eynesbury have reverted to reserve teams, Kempston have entered a team in the Bedfordshire County League, Milton Keynes College will play in the Hellenic League, AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Kettering have joined the Midland League Under 21 set up and Mildenhall have joined the Cambridgeshire League. After reductions in numbers in their academy Histon have folded their Under 21 team as have Yaxley who lost every game in the 2015-16 season.

**Transfer trail**

With the season yet to kick off for most clubs the total of movers has already reached double figures. Movers are as follows:-

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Dan Cooper       | Desborough Town to Rothwell Corinthians                   |
| 2. Michael Byrne    | Desborough Town to Northampton Sileby Rangers             |
| 3. Sam Burton       | Lutterworth Athletic to Oadby Town                        |
| 4. Richard Stainsby | Melton Town to Deeping Rangers                            |
| 5. Charlie Hynam    | Bugbrooke St Michaels to Cogenhoe United                  |
| 6. Luke Waterhouse  | Thrapston Town to Stewarts & Lloyds Corby                 |
| 7. Jordan Pendered  | Cogenhoe United to Wellingborough Whitworth               |
| 8. Ryan Archer      | Daventry Town to Wellingborough Whitworth                 |
| 9. Cavell Jarvis    | Wellingborough Town to Wellingborough Whitworth           |
| 10.                 | Sean Kilbane Irchester United to Wellingborough Whitworth |

**Player of the Year winners**

**Yaxley:** Dan Cotton (M & jt S), John-Paul Duncliffe (P), Jack Saunders (Jt S)

M = manager's; P = players'; S = supporters'

**Cups round-up**

**League Knockout Cup**

**Preliminary Round**

Huntingdon v Bugbrooke (17/9); Woodford v Oakham (27/8); Wisbech v Potton (27/8); Bourne v Yaxley (30/8); Leicester Nirvana v Newport Pagnell (27/8); ON Chenecks v Melton (17/9); Rushden & Higham v Daventry (30/8); Stewarts & Lloyds v Kirby Muxloe (30/8); Irchester v Burton PW (13/9); Wellingborough v Oadby (30/8).

**First Round**

ON Chenecks/Melton v Harborough (11 or 12/10); Irchester/Burton PW v Wellingborough/Oadby (11/10); Olney v Rushden & Higham/Daventry (11/10); Huntingdon/Bugbrooke v Whittlesey (12/10); Peterborough Northern Star v Sleaford (31/8); Cogenhoe v Woodford/Oakham (11/10); Boston Town v Harrowby (31/8); Leicester Nirvana/Newport Pagnell v Bourne/Yaxley (11/10); Holbeach v Long Buckby (27/8); Whitworth v Peterborough Sports (30/8); Blackstones v Eynesbury (31/8); Buckingham v Lutterworth Athletic (27/8); Thrapston v Sileby (6/9); Stewarts & Lloyds/Kirby Muxloe v Raunds (11/10); Rothwell Corinthians v Desborough (30/8); Wisbech/Potton v Deeping (11/10).

**Reserve Knockout Cup**

**Preliminary Round**

Cogenhoe v Irchester (30/8); Desborough v Harborough (7/9); Bourne v Whitworth (3/9).

**First Round**

Potton v Olney (30/8); Bourne/Whitworth v Rothwell Corinthians (11 or 12/10); Rushden & Higham withdrew, walkover for Desborough/Harborough; Blackstones v Raunds (14/9); Thrapston v Bugbrooke (14/9); Eynesbury v ON Chenecks (14/9); Newport Pagnell v Cogenhoe/Irchester (11/10); Lutterworth Athletic v Peterborough Northern Star (1/10).

**FA Cup**

**Extra Preliminary Round (6/8)**

OADBY v Long Eaton; LEICESTER NIRVANA v Dunkirk; Anstey v HARBOROUGH; Bardon Hill withdrew KIRBY MUXLOE walkover; HOLBEACH v Swaffham; BOSTON TOWN v WISBECH; PETERBOROUGH SPORTS v Gorleston; HARROWBY v Thetford; YAXLEY v HUNTINGDON; Ely v DEEPING; Fakenham v SLEAFORD; EYNESBURY v PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR; Crawley Green v ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS (7/8); Leighton v SILEBY; Tring v DESBOROUGH; WELLINGBOROUGH v Stotfold; COGENHOE v Berkhamsted; NEWPORT PAGNELL v Biggleswade United; Wembley v DAVENTRY; Harefield v ON CHENECKS.



**Cups round-up** – continued

**FA Cup** – continued

**Preliminary Round** (20/8)

LEICESTER NIRVANA/Dunkirk v Rainworth MW/Cleethorpes; Hinckley/Heanor v OADBY/Long Eaton; Retford/Leicester Road v Anstey/HARBOROUGH; Bottesford/Radford v KIRBY MUXLOE; Fakenham/SLEAFORD v Stamford; YAXLEY/HUNTINGDON v Dereham; Soham v HARROWBY/Thetford; Kirkley & Pakefield/Walsham le Willows v HOLBEACH/Swaffham; Ely/DEEPING v Wroxham; BOSTON TOWN/WISBECH v PETERBOROUGH SPORTS/Gorleston; EYNESBURY/PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR v Godmanchester/Great Yarmouth; WELLINGBOROUGH/Stotfold v Bedford/Welwyn Garden City; Crawley Green/ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS v Uxbridge; AFC Rushden & Diamonds v Leighton/SILEBY; Tring/DESBOROUGH v Leverstock Green/London Colney; Aylesbury United v NEWPORT PAGNELL/Biggleswade United; COGENHOE/Berkhamsted v Flackwell Heath/Baldock; Wembley/DAVENTRY v Harefield/ON CHENECKS.

**FA Vase**

**First Qualifying Round** (10/9)

Coton Green v KIRBY MUXLOE; LUTTERWORTH ATHLETIC v Stone; Clifton AW v OADBY; Gedling MW v OAKHAM; Pinxton v HARROWBY; Brigg v HARBOROUGH; YAXLEY v EYNESBURY; Great Yarmouth v BOURNE; WISBECH v Mildenhall; Walsham le Willows v DEEPING; RAUNDS v ON CHENECKS; Winslow v RUSHDEN & HIGHAM; LONG BUCKBY v Hillingdon; Ampthill v SILEBY; ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS v BURTON PW; AFC Hillgate v THRAPSTON; Bicester v POTTON; FC Deportivo Galicia v IRCHESTER; London Tigers v COGENHOE; DAVENTRY v Windsor; DESBOROUGH v WOODFORD; STEWARTS & LLOYDS v WHITWORTH; Cove v BUCKINGHAM.

**Second Qualifying Round** (24/9)

LUTTERWORTH ATHLETIC/Stone v Ashby/Pelsall; Coton Green/KIRBY MUXLOE v Bardon Hill/Littleton; Gedling MW/OAKHAM v Ollerton/Radford; Brigg/HARBOROUGH v Blaby & Whetstone; Pinxton/HARROWBY v Loughborough University/Arnold; Clifton AW/OADBY v Holwell Sports; YAXLEY/EYNESBURY v Newmarket; Fakenham v Great Yarmouth/BOURNE; PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR v BLACKSTONES; HUNTINGDON v Swaffham; WISBECH/Mildenhall v PETERBOROUGH SPORTS; BOSTON TOWN v Walsham le Willows/DEEPING; Wembley v LONG BUCKBY/Hillingdon; DAVENTRY/Windsor v Edgware; London Tigers/COGENHOE v Cranfield/Southall; Bicester/POTTON v Risborough/Broadfields; DESBOROUGH/WOODFORD v STEWARTS & LLOYDS/WHITWORTH; RAUNDS/ON CHENECKS v Brackley Saints/Leighton; Ampthill/SILEBY v Rayners Lane; AFC Hillgate/THRAPSTON v Bedford/CB Hounslow; Winslow/RUSHDEN & HIGHAM v Spelthorne/Tring; ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS/BURTON PW v FC Deportivo Galicia/IRCHESTER; WELLINGBOROUGH v Hanworth/Bedfont Sports; Cove/BUCKINGHAM v Eversley & California.

**Exempt to First Round:** HOLBEACH, NEWPORT PAGNELL.

**Exempt to Second Round:** LEICESTER NIRVANA, SLEAFORD.

**Cambridgeshire Invitation Cup 2015-16**

**FINAL** (24/8 @ Newmarket)

WISBECH v Cambridge City.

**Cups round-up** – continued

**Hinchingbrooke Cup**

**First Round**

HUNTINGDON v RAUNDS; YAXLEY v PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR (23/8); POTTON v OAKHAM; BOURNE v Netherton; STEWARTS & LLOYDS v Wisbech St Mary; Godmanchester v EYNESBURY; Stotfold v PETERBOROUGH SPORTS.

**Quarter Finals**

POTTON/OAKHAM v Godmanchester/EYNESBURY; Stotfold/PETERBOROUGH SPORTS v YAXLEY/PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR; DEEPING v BOURNE/Netherton; STEWARTS & LLOYDS/Wisbech St Mary v HUNTINGDON/RAUNDS.

**North Beds Charity Cup**

**Quarter Final**

Baldock v POTTON.

**Semi Final**

Kempston/Biggleswade United v Baldock/POTTON.

**Ancaster Cup**

**Quarter Final**

BOURNE RESERVES v Baston.

**Joe Preston Memorial Cup**

Blaby & Whetstone 2 KIRBY MUXLOE 1.

**George Wood Memorial Trophy**

HARROWBY 0 Grantham Sunday League 5.

**Chris Ruff Memorial Cup**

RUSHDEN & HIGHAM 1 AFC Rushden & Diamonds 4.

**Wilf Notley Memorial Cup**

BOURNE 0 Stmsford 4.

**Mayor's Cup**

HUNTINGDON 3 Cambridge City XI 0.

**Steve Loney Memorial Cup**

POTTON 3 Gamlingay 1.

**BKD Cup**

March 3 WISBECH 0.

**James Victory Cup**

BUCKINGHAM v Oxford United XI (9/8)