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IANAGER'S NOTES **STEVE SPRINGET**

A lot has happened since the 5th of October's appointment. A thumping start and back-toback league wins for the first time all season was a great foundation of what we're looking to achieve here.

We have seen some new additions come in & and we have seen a couple leave, but the lads here are starting to grasp our expectations every game. Our game at Tooting & Mitcham stands out for me. We were gritty, defensively well-organised, attacked with purpose and were finally starting to see more goals scored by attacking players.

Set-pieces, we are starting to use as an advantage now too, and this has always been a big thing for me in football. Both attacking and defensively, set pieces win & and lose you games.

I hope everyone has been enjoying our performances more recently, even despite the result at Farnham, had we been as clinical as what we were at Tooting, it would've been a very close game.

Expect to see more determined performances and more goals being scored as we look to get up this league table. The last 2 games have been disappointing and we will rectify the mistakes that have cost us points which are much needed as we look to get up the league table

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In May 1921 Guildford were accepted into the Southern League, the equivalent of today's National League. 1927 saw Guildford become a Diocese and coupled with the planned cathedral the club was renamed Guildford City. In 1928-29 City were drawn at home to Queen's Park Rangers in the FA Cup First Round proper and won 4-2 in front of almost 8,000 spectators.

The immediate pre-war years saw another famous FA Cup victory, this time over Reading, whilst 1937/38 saw Guildford City lift the Southern League Championship trophy for the first time. The following year a record crowd of 9,932 spectators crammed into Joseph's Road to watch an epic FA Cup First Round replay versus local rivals Aldershot. In 1951, City sold future England cap Jimmy Langley to Leeds. Another League Championship was achieved in 1955-56, and then in 1967-68, Guildford embarked upon a memorable FA Cup run. Leading 2-1 at Brentford in the First Round proper, the match was abandoned due to snow. A 2-2 draw in the rearranged fixture saw 7.289 fans cram into Joseph's Road to roar City on to a famous 2-1 victory in the replay. A further 8,774 saw City fall narrowly to Newport County in the Second Round, but the heroes of that era, players like Tony Burge and long-serving Darby Watts, will long be remembered.

In 1974 ongoing financial problems came to a head and it was announced that the Club was to merge with Dorking. Subsequently, the final game at Joseph's Road was played on 12 February 1974, when City beat Folkestone 2-0 in front of 625 fans. The club limped on for a further two seasons playing as Guildford & Dorking before finally succumbing on 9 December 1976. fter years of discussions, the club re-emerged as AFC Guildford in 1996 when the then Mayor of Guildford John Woodhatch persuaded Burpham FC to change its name and move to the Spectrum Leisure Centre.



AAfter a brief spell in the Surrey Premier League, Guildford joined the newly formed Combined Counties League, winning Division One in 2003-04. After 12 months as Guildford United, the club was re-named the historically significant 'Guildford City' after an absence of thirty years. 2007-2008 saw City claim a runner-up finish in the Combined Counties Premier League, under the management of Scott Steele and Lloyd Wye.

Then saw a period of struggle which was halted by the inspirational appointment of Kevin Rayner who took charge in spring 2009. Rayner's second season saw a good run in the FA Vase, an incredible FA Cup victory at Isthmian Premier Tonbridge Angels, but also the CCL Premier Division Championship. A second CCL Championship was gained in 2012, resulting in an emotional return to the Southern League after a gap of 38 years. That first Step 4 season saw a creditable ninth-place finish in the Central division. After 2012-13 Rayner departed for a new chapter in his career. In November 2013 Rayner returned to lead an ultimately unsuccessful battle against relegation. After a poor start to the 2014-15 CCL season, Kevin Rayner departed in November to be replaced by local coach Donovan Chislett who ultimately saved the club from relegation in an exciting climax to the season. Chislett himself departed in September 2015 to be replaced by former Godalming & Farncombe manager Dean Thomas. After exactly 12 months Dean departed to be replaced by his assistant Steve Dormer. Dormer in turn saw the 2016-17 season out before departing to be replaced by his assistant Chris Balchin. The season's highlight had been a Surrey Cup semi-final appearance against Woking in front of a record Spectrum crowd. After four seasons Balchin departed in December 2020 to be replaced as part of a major club restructure by ex-Staines Town manager Paul Barnes whose tenure proved to be short lived. Pete Ruggles took the reigns for one year before the popular Tristan Rees, a former assistant under Chris Balchin, took charge in May 2023.



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*The Athlete Academy App: a strength and conditioning platform for athletes who compete in multiple sports (football, basketball, rugby, hockey, and more). Like the "Design Your Training" platform, you will choose your exercises, following an effective, structured strength and conditioning program.

We also held our first showcase football trial, where we brought in multiple scouts representing clubs (Southampton FC, Gillingham FC, Bromley FC, and more) and observed players aged 8-22 to scout for their respective clubs. Out of 29 players who attended, 5 drew interest from the scouts and were put in contact with them. We hope to host more showcases soon. Head over to our website for further information!







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Epsom & Ewell FC v AFC Croydon Athletic Combined Counties Premier South Tuesday 18th November 2023

We travelled to sixth placed Tooting and Mitcham United and were expecting a tough examination, when in fact what turned out was a consummate victory for our team, 3-0.

The Tooting squad consisted of many familiar players from our successful promotion winning campaign of last season so there was always going to be an extra edge to this game.

There were a couple of changes to our team from our recent loss to Sutton United in the Surrey Senior Cup the previous Tuesday, but we had in the main a team that was able to compete without much higher placed hosts.

There was a minute's silence before the match began as it was Armistice Day which was impeccably observed by the crowd present. As the first half progressed, we were much the better team and most of the play was in the Tooting half. We had a number of corners and eventually one paid off as TJ was on hand in the 34th minute to head the ball home; it was nothing more than we deserved. The first half ended 1-0 to Epsom.

As the second half began, the game turned on a decision by the referee when he had no choice but to send off the Tooting No 4 for a bad tackle on Rory Edwards in the 47th minute.

Then with a one-man advantage we could not totally relax but we were in control of the game; there was one scare for us but our Captain and goalkeeper Harvey Keogh was on hand to save with his feet. We increased our lead in the 81st minute in rather comical style when the Tooting goalkeeper missed a back pass and the ball trundled into the net; it will not be a video that the hapless goalkeeper will want to see again in too much of a hurry.

We went 3-0 up when Luke Miller controlled a pass deftly in the area and slotted the ball into the net. Overall, a very 'satisfactory' day at the office for our team and another indication that our management team of Steve Springett and Sam Groombridge are beginning to get the team playing better and hopefully moving up the table.

We now have some momentum, but move onto a difficult away game at Sandhurst this Tuesday evening and then we follow that with a home game against Croydon Athletic or should we say 'Stromzy and Zaha's' team – your support would be gratefully appreciated and with the parking restrictions now lifted so that you can park on one side of the road that leads down to the Reg Madgwick stadium there is no reason not to come.

Finally, it would be remiss of us not to wish our Club President, Stella Lamont well after falling ill recently, everyone at the club from the playing staff, supporters and committee wish you all the very best.









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Community Partners Epsom & Ewell Colts FC



Epsom & Ewell Colts FC is an inclusive and diverse charter standard club committed to providing a safe and fun environment that allows players, coaches and managers to develop their skills and ensure a positive experience of youth football

Our club has been in existence since 1971, originally known as West Ewell Wanderers FC. In 2006 the club changed its name to Epsom & Ewell Colts FC.

Since 2006 the Colts have gone from strength to strength, not only on the pitch but also with its committee, managers and coaches who ensure the stability, standards and continued growth of the club.

Currently, we run a mixture of boys & girls teams, with the number of teams standing at 50 plus that play across Saturdays and Sundays.

As part of our three-year development plan, the Colts have initiated key partnerships and priorities:

Partnership with Chelsea Football Club Foundation to support the development of the Club, Managers and Players.

Partnership with GLF and Glyn School to secure a home ground that can provide excellent facilities for both the Colts and the wider community.

Our Ladies' team has now been created and provides lots of fitness and fun.

Sponsorship initiatives to provide income and longevity for the club

Our community partner clubs are a part of our project to return back to the borough, by allowing more younger players to use first-class grassroots facilities we have partnered with many local organisations to try and achieve this. You will find out more about our other community partners in future editions





Community Partners Alexandra United FC



Founded in 1972, Alexandra United Football Club play their home games at Alexandra Recreation Ground in Epsom, Surrey.

We are accredited as a Charter Standard club by the Surrey Football Association (FA) which means we have been rigorously adjudged to be well-run and sustainable – as well as prioritising child protection and quality coaching.

We also have Club Mark status, which is a universally acknowledged cross sport accreditation scheme for community sports clubs.

It confirms that we subscribe to high standards of welfare, coaching and management. Further, it shows that our club provides the right environment to ensure the welfare of members and encourages everyone to enjoy sport and stay involved throughout their lives. Being accredited recognises that our club is a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages as well as helping parents and carers know that they are choosing the best club for their young people.





Abbey Rangers v Epsom & Ewell FC Combined Counties Premier South

Saturday 25th November 2023

There cannot be many games that are decided by 3 penalties but that's what happened to us when we played away at Abbey Rangers on Saturday 25th November. It was yet another cruel result for our team with the deciding penalty being awarded in the 90th minute after an alleged handball from one of the Epsom defenders; the bizarre part of this decision is that the penalty was given by an assistant referee who must have been 40 yards from the incident. The handball resulted in the Epsom defender being sent off for the offence again we reiterate that a decision like this must be 100% correct to firstly award the penalty and then to send the player off; how can the officials be that sure from that far away?

As for the game itself, our player manager Steve Springett was on the bench due to illness of our assistant manager, Sam Groombridge, otherwise there were a couple of changes with Ethan Brazier making what turned out to be a polished debut in place of the suspended Tommy Williams. Nick Wilson came into midfield and made a huge difference throughout the game not only in midfield (more of that later).

Our opponents lay in 4th place in the league after a very good recent run of results, so we were expecting a hard game. In the first half we more than held our own, although not threatening too much and we were indebted to our excellent goalkeeper, Harvey Keogh who kept us in the game with some excellent point-blank saves. And then with one or our rare attacks in the first half as the game was entering its final stages, we were correctly awarded a penalty which Nick Wilson despatched easily to make it 1-0 which is how the half ended.

It was incredibly important to keep the scoreline tight in the opening minutes of the second half, however unfortunately we were caught out by a quick break and committed a foul in the penalty area which the resultant kick was despatched into our net – 1-1.

Shortly after we had the bizarre spectacle of our goalkeeper being sent to the sin bin after he had been booked for supposedly delaying the start of the match and then arguing the point with the referee. Nick Wilson went into our goal and yet again after his stellar performance away to Hailsham Town last season when he kept a clean sheet, he did the same again for us here for the ten minutes that Harvey was off the field.

The game was beginning to fizzle out into a draw when we had the aforementioned decision for another penalty to our hosts which was taken and went in the lead 2-1. This is how the game finished and it was as previously mentioned a harsh result for us.

There is no need to dwell on this performance as we move onto another away game at Alton Football Club next Saturday; we need your support more than ever.





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Alton FC v Epsom & Ewell FC Combined Counties Premier South

Saturday 2nd December 2023

We made the long trip to a very foggy Alton Football Club on what must have been one of the coldest days of the year thus far, but with it being played on a 3G pitch the likelihood of it being called off was minimal – Snoods, hand warmers, beanie hats and gloves were the order of the day and that was just the players!!!

In the absence through suspension of Ollie Thompson, Nick Wilson was deployed alongside Reece Tierney in the centre-back role. We started the game with a front line of Tino Carpene, George Owusu and Jann Stanley.

As the first half began, it became increasingly difficult to see what was going on clearly due to the mist and fog descending onto the ground. There were very few opportunities or chances in the first half for either side with long and closerange shots missing the target easily. It became difficult to see what was going on in either penalty area due to the weather. The half ended 0-0 which was right for any neutral or not supporter in the crowd.

Shortly after the second half began, we made a change to our front three with all of them coming off to be replaced by Luke Miller, Yannick Montaigne-Ebwa (making his debut) and Sirak Negassi. Unfortunately, shortly after, we conceded our first goal in the 63rd minute from a bit of 'ping pong' passing in our penalty area; this was a setback. It got worse 5 minutes later when we conceded again after an innocuous cross was missed by two of our defenders and the Alton forward just nodded the ball past our goalkeeper. This was cruel as it was not a 2-0 scoreline at all but that seems to be our luck at this current time.

Did this galvanise us into a fightback, it did not, we did not trouble the opposition goalkeeper at all in the second half and so the game fizzled out to a 2-0 defeat; this was our third defeat in a row it is very clear that we need to stop this run of bad form soon.







FIRST TEAM 2023/24 APPEARANCES & STATS

	Appearances (Sub Appearances)	Goals
Adeyemi Thompson	14 (1)	2
Aikins-Hawkson Jude	1 (1)	0
Amissah Ben	7 (7)	0
Batula Ade	20 (5)	5
Brown Kiyo	11 (4)	0
Carpene Tino	19 (9)	1
Clothier Chester	8	0
Colwell Toby	1	0
Edwards Rory	24 (2)	0
Elsom Lewis	1 (1)	0
Eshilokun Tijani	9 (1)	2
Inwugwu Nick-Aaron	23 (9)	1
Keogh Harvey	23	0
Kugthas Ayran	11 (3)	0
Miller Luke	9 (4)	2
Negassi Sirak	13 (7)	2
Nelson-Roberts Ethan	22	3
Ofosu-Hernandez Jabari	7 (3)	0
Owusu George	12 (7)	4
Pinder Marlon	6 (1)	2
Powell Zach	15	1
Steve Springett	5 (1)	0
Stanley Jaan	20 (7)	4
Tierney Reece	12 (2)	0
Thompson Ollie	20 (4)	1
Williams Tommy	11 (1)	1
Wilson Nick	4 (2)	1



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LEWIS **ELSOM**



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