KICKABOUT SHAKESPEARE

SESSION 16 — DECEMBER 2024



SEASONAL GLORY

LEAGUE

GILLINGHAM FC

CUP

Scaynes Hill

LEAGUE CUP

GILLINGHAM FC

BOWL

Metropole IF

TROPHY

Liverpool Stars

THE CUP FINAL

Glory for Scaynes

Scaynes Hill 1 – 0 Wexford Wraiths

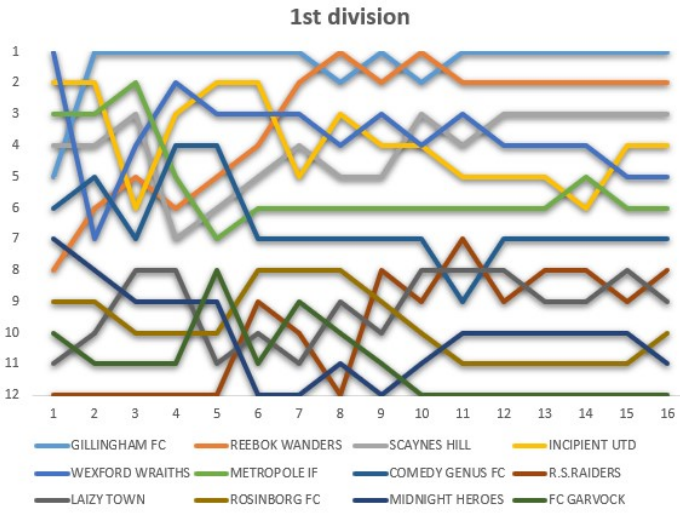
In a match with high expectations of entertainment and an expectant buzz in the stands, both teams chose to play with the handbrake pulled and came onto the field in SW252 formations. Unfortunately, this left its mark on the match, where the most entertaining thing in the first 90 minutes was the Scanyes Hill fans' dissatisfaction with the linesmen and their chant of "the lino being a cunt".

First in extra time, the 62,225 fans were spoiled with a goal when Benny scored the only goal of the match for Scaynes from close range. A sad experience for the neutral fan but a great triumph for manager Paul Sutton. Congratulations.

1st DIVISION

THE SEASON IS FINALLY — HOLLIDAY IS HERE

The fact that medals and relegation were decided in the previous session seems to have settled in the teams ahead of the last matches of the year. A measly 4 goals in the 6 matches that were on the program from the start of the season. If you ignore a postponed match that ended 6-0 and from the ugly derby between Reebok Wands and Wexford Wraiths which resulted in both red cards and injuries, the matches were also played in an atmosphere of Christmas peace.



In the stands, more time was therefore spent evaluating the season than following what was happening on the pitch. The story among many a Kickabout manager is that predictions in session 1 newsletters are often without objective background and instead of being based on facts, they seem to have been pulled backwards out of a cow's ass.

Preseason predictions and how it turned out
Top: Wexford, Metropole IF and Scaynes Hill
Relegation: FC Garvock, R.S.Raiders and Midnight Heroes

Wexford and Metropole started the season well but quickly lost momentum and both teams landed in the boring middle ground, where the season was quickly over in terms of excitement. Scanys started well, then had a dip and then slowly but surely climbed back to the top but without at any point being in the fight for first place.

At the bottom, the accuracy was a little better Garvock and Midnight Heroes as expected will go down to the second division. At one time it looked like Radiers would follow, but a solid second half of the season saw them struggle up the mire. In the end, Rosinborg took the last ticket to the elevator and the trip down.

Gillinham has been the most stable team and it is also completely deserved that the gold ended up somewhere in Scotland. Congratulations again to Adrian.

2nd DIVISION

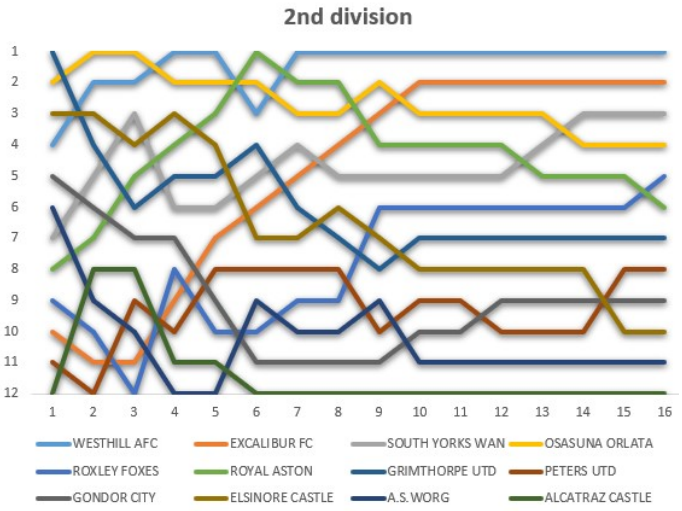
PROMOTION FOR SOUTH YORKS WAN

In the second division, South Yorks Wands went into the final match as favourites for the last promotion spot, knowing that 1 point would be enough for next season to have a chance to bite spoons with the big boys (as they say in Danish). Yorks met Elsinore away in a derby that only threw a single card. Yorks effectively secured promotion when they scored 0-1 in the 23rd minute. Elsinore, who were without their goalkeeper, had dug in from the start and never managed to adjust to chasing a goal. With Elsinore's defeat, the last relegation spot was also decided, with Gondor, despite losing to Roxley, finishing three points ahead of Elsinore.

Although the fans were better entertained compared to their friends in the first division, there was still time at half-time to look back on a well-spent season

Preseason predictions and how it turned out
Top: Westhill and Excalibur
Relegation: Roxley and Osasuna

After a somewhat uncertain start, there was never any doubt that Westhill would be promoted as predicted. On the other hand, Excalibur looked like a total failure for a long time, but manager Read slowly and steadily got the situation right and the team ended up in a safe second place.



Both Roxley and Osasuna managed to avoid relegation. Osasuna was never close to relegation and were up for promotion until session 12. Roxley started badly, but midway through the season they got so much control over the team that they were never really in danger. The most up and down team was Royal Aston, who started badly, was up to number 1 and then dropped to sixth place.

The Elsinore season has been a long slide towards the bottom and the team definitely takes the title as the least improved team of the season.

ZULU CLAIM PROMOTION

3rd DIVISION

With relegation or whatever we should call it having been decided for a while, the only outstanding issue was whether it was Zulu, Liverpool or Solaris who would be followed by Noise and Kickaveg up to the first division. Solaris played out their own chance by losing away to Legion, who had otherwise been played under the carpet, but Solaris' efficiency was low and the opposite was the case with Legion, who scored on their only chance. Liverpool did what they could by winning by one goal at home against lowly Galway. In the end, it was in vain as they kept their focus and got the 3 points they needed to hold on to their third place.

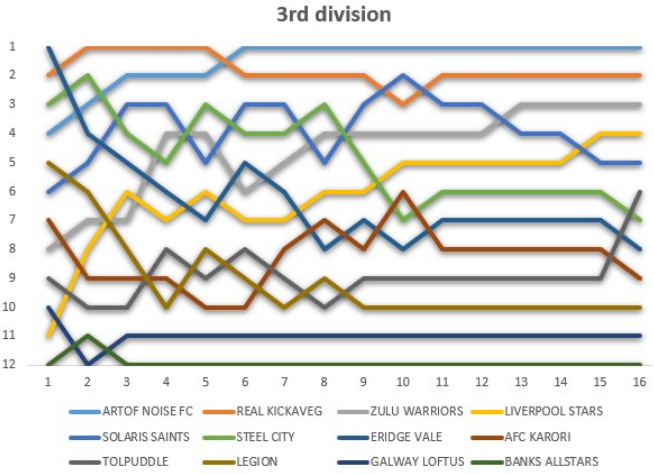
THE TROPHY FINAL

Metropole wins despite the manager being absent
Metrople IF vs. Excalibur 1-0

Excalibur entered the match without their star Governor Inccie. It turned out to be Metropole's great luck, as even with the opponent's star out of the picture, they had more than difficulty creating chances. Metropole has been without a manager for a few sessions, but even without a helmsman on board – or perhaps precisely because of this – luck was with them. Excalibur's Kamino scored a bang of an own goal when he wanted to play the ball back to his own goalkeeper from 40 meters. Unfortunately, the kick was not along the ground but in the air and in a nice soft arc it sailed over goalkeeper Walesa, who at first could only watch the ball end up in the goal and then could see the Metropole players carry the trophy home with them.

When the bookmakers wanted to open the spreadsheet for the third division, they were red-eared and aware that they had missed a lot

Preseason predictions and how it turned out
Top: Artof Noise, Eridge Vale and Galway Loftus
Relegation: Bank Allstars, AFC Karori



There was never really any doubt that Noise would be promoted to the second division. On the other hand, Eridge Vale and Galway Loftus flopped. Eridge started well enough as number one after the first session of the year, but it was a long decline that ended with an

unflattering place as number 8. The prediction that Galway Loftus would be promoted is possibly the worst guess ever. Galway's season started as a disaster and continued to be a disaster throughout the season - you don't get promoted by being number 11

At the bottom, Bank Allstars hit the hard bottom at the bottom of the bottom, as expected, whereas Karori, through a season that was never pretty, managed to stay away from the relegation places, except in sessions 5 and 6 where Karori challenged fate.

Of other notable performances, Solaris and Zulu should be mentioned in particular. Both teams started

THE TROPHY FINAL

Liverpool flay the cats

Liverpool Stars vs. Cuthberts Cats 3-2

Where neither the cup nor trophy finals were particularly exciting, it was quite the opposite in the Bowl final, as both teams chose to attack the opponent. Liverpool was without question the best team on the day and also came out ahead as planned by a full 3-0. After an hour of play the game looked decided and the bookmakers were already paying out winnings. Cuthbert Cats got the excitement back in the game with two goals in 10 minutes and the spectators were on the edge of their seats in the last quarter of the game. Despite the Cuthberts doing their utmost to score a third goal and force the game into extra time, Liverpool's defense held firm and were able to take home the small trophy

4th DIVISION

NFFC BLEW IT AND BURBAGE THREW IT

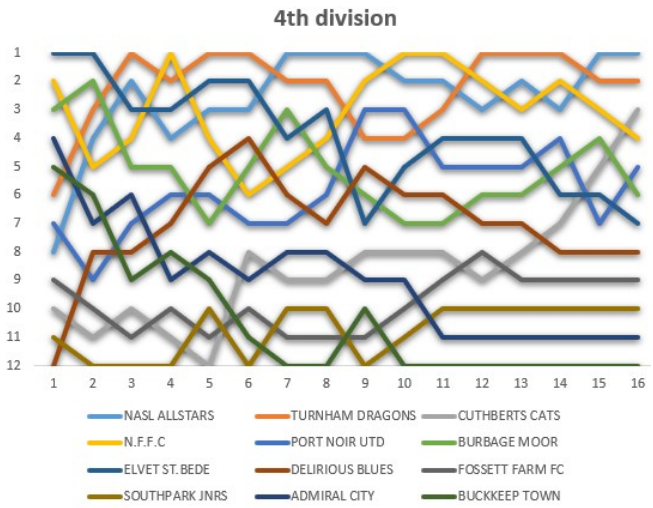
In the fourth division, all the excitement was concentrated at the top where the question was which team would follow NASL and Turnham out of the division and thus avoid the risk of being kicked out of the league when the 4th division next year becomes a 36-1 division for managers who expect to live to be +100 years old.

NFFC went into the session as big favourites – yes, the first game away against NASL was a tough nut to crack but the postponed game against the league's worst team Buckkeep should be a walk in the park. NFFC played a fine first game, where despite the suspensions they played even with NASL. The choice of PD did nothing good for NFCC who with a less defensive approach would probably have won the game. Unfortunately, the game was completely even in terms of shots and when luck was not with NFFC they ended up with a narrow 1-0 defeat.

In the game against Buckkeep, the picture repeated itself and the choice of PD once again fucked up the number of shots on goal. Despite a great dominance, NFFC surprisingly ended up as losers. When Burbage Moor chose to throw the match in the decisive match against Cuthbert Cats by playing without a goalkeeper, without a captain and at the same time using the wrong marking numbers, Cuthberts Cats ended up with the last promotion spot. Why the match was thrown is a mystery because either Burbage is thrown out of the league or they are forced to be promoted anyway.

Preseason predictions and how it turned out
Top: Delirious Blues, Turnham Dragons and Burbage Moor
Relegation: Cuthberts Cats, Buckkeep Town, NASL Allstars and Port Noir Utd

Before the season, Turnham, Burbage and Delirious Blues were expected to be promoted. Delirious Blues were never close to promotion, whereas Turnham spent most of the season in the sub-top and ended up as promoted. Burbage Moor, despite a season of ups



and downs, were close to taking the last promotion spot and I wonder if bookmakers have reported the last match for match fixing.

At the bottom, only Buckkeep lived up to expectations of finishing bottom, whereas Port Noir finished fifth and the last two favourites for bottom places – NASL and Cuthberts ended up being promoted.

GOLDEN BOOT RACE

1st division: Bennike of Gillingham take the divisional title of top score with a low 17 goals underlining that Adrians league title is based on a rock-solid defence and not entertaining attacking football.

2nd division: Major Hazard of Westhill takes the title as top goal score in the Shakespeare league with 24 goals

3rd division: Quizcrans Hoopla Hoop of Artof Noise win the division with 22 goals. Not as good last your where he took the title in the 4th with 25 goals.

4th division: Caramel of Cuthberts Cats beats fellow teammate Raducano with 16 against 11 goals. Well done.

MEANEST DEFENCES

1st division: Gillingham only concede 2 goals and end with best defence in the entire league. Well done

2nd division: Westhill on let in 7 goals and win the best defence in the division by a huge margin of 8 goals

3rd division: Artof Noise with 7 concede goals barely beats Zulu who let in 8 goals – what a close race.

4th division: Only division where the division winners don't claim best defence. In fact its Delirious Blues in the 8th spot with 12 goals against them who take that title.

MANAGER OF THE MONTH

1st division: goes to manager Sutton of Scaynes Hill for lifting the Cup

2nd division: goes to manager KP of South Yorks Wands for securing he last promotion spot.

3rd division: goes to the schizophrenic manager Brown / King of Liverpool stars for winning in league and claiming the Trophy. Well done.

4th division: goes to manager Stevens of Cutberth Cats for claiming promotion on the very last session of the season.



KA-WEEKEND, NORWICH, 9th-11th of May 2025