



MATCH SPONSOR:



CHELTHENHAM TOWN

vs EXETER CITY

MONDAY 1ST APRIL 2024 | KICK-OFF: 3.00PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | £3.00



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SHOWERS



CHELTEHAM
TOWN FC

Cheltenham Town through and through



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THE MANAGER DARRELL CLARKE



Good afternoon Cheltenham fans and welcome back to the Completely-Suzuki Stadium for today's Easter Monday clash with Exeter City. I'd also like to welcome Gary, his staff and players and the supporters from Exeter to Cheltenham today.

It's been quite some time since our last home match and we are all looking forward to playing in front of your support again this afternoon. We took a well-earned and hard grafted point from the Barnsley game into the recent international break. We had a long 13 days between games but that gave us the chance to put in some more hard work on the training pitch.

It was really important that we got as many players as fit and fresh as possible for this run that sees us play nine games in four weeks. We know it's a tough challenge but we're in the right frame of mind physically, technically and tactically to put up a proper fight.

Looking ahead to today's game and we know what Exeter bring to the table. They picked up some good results before the break and are definitely looking up now rather than down. But it's another game and another opportunity to get three points, that's how we treat it and that's what we'll be looking to do.

Thank you again for your support and I hope you enjoy today's game.

COYR
Darrell



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encouraging you to join our 30 for 30 campaign. Help us celebrate by taking on one of our 30 for 30 challenges or by creating your own and raise vital funds to enable us to be there for the next 30 years and beyond. For more information on how you can get involved and some ideas to help you get started visit www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk.

If you, or anyone you know of may be a young carer please contact us via our website or talk to your school or other support networks about completing a referral.

If you are a professional wanting more information or support with young carers please contact us via the website.

RAISED IN THE EFL

CURTIS DAVIES X TOM KING

As part of the EFL's Youth Development week, EFL veteran Curtis Davies sat down with young Robins striker Tom King to talk through some of his achievements so far this season. From an England U18 call-up to signing his first professional contract, it's been some campaign for the young star.



CD: How did you feel coming into the building this year and making such an immediate impact and getting your debut in the first game of the season?

TK: I felt confident. I started with the 18s and a couple of days in got moved up to the first team. I played a couple of pre-season games, scored a goal and then I was lucky enough to get on the bench for the opening game against Shrewsbury [Town] where I made my debut, and it all went well from there. I was playing well for the 18s, got England selection and now I'm a pro so it's going really well.

CD: I want to take it back a little bit to your path to this point. I know we've had personal conversations where you've spoke about how you didn't come into the academy setup with Cheltenham until late on. What was your path, what teams did you play for and how much did you believe you could actually get to this level?

TK: I was playing locally with my mates from school for a team called Cam Everside and we gelled together and moved onto Gloucester City. Then I was playing Cheltenham in a couple of friendly games and got a trial. I joined in Year 11 and instantly got moved up to the 18s which is a tough challenge to get used, like it is now getting used to the first team. It's been a good journey so far.

CD: The England selection. First and foremost, about yourself, how much did it mean and also to be the first person in Cheltenham Town's history to have played for an England setup. How much did that mean to you?

TK: It was an amazing feeling. I never thought it would happen at the start of the season. Getting the call-up is the best I've ever felt and then playing with the lads who were out there, it was an amazing feeling and experience as well.

CD: I know the manager Ryan Garry and the fact he's put that faith into you, a lad that has only been in football for a year and to have played your debut he has seen something in you. What are your aspirations moving forward with that?

TK: Getting a selection gave me a lot of confidence to realise I can be on that level and can play with players who are that good. I think moving on maybe hopefully I can get a couple more caps but I will need to keep working hard because obviously I didn't get the selection for the one recently.

CD: And how will you keep yourself at those levels? You train with the first team now. What do you need to do as Tom King to get into the first team and to get into that England setup and making sure you're progressing with that as well?

TK: Keep working hard and try to be myself more in training because that's the reason why I got opportunities to play for England and be a pro because of how I play. Hopefully I can get some minutes and then there will be more people looking at you and if you play well, you might get another sniff of playing for England.

CD: Just over a year ago you were playing for Gloucester City, you signed for Cheltenham after a short trial and now a year later you've barely turned 17 and you're signing a pro contract. How big was that for you and your family?

TK: It was massive because typically they only give it out at the end of the second year and as a first-year scholar you don't really get a look in at a pro so it is good to know that the gaffer and the coaches really like me and think I can do well in the first team. It's a big opportunity and I feel like I'm settling in more now.

CD: Whose been the biggest influence on your career to date?

TK: Ash [Vincent] helped me a lot. Being with him in my first year at Cheltenham, he taught me the differences between the low level I was playing compared to moving up to being a professional footballer. He's helped me a lot and now with him in the first team. He keeps pushing me every day.

CD: If we could have a crystal ball right now and it was going to be, 'what is Tom King going to be doing at the start of next season,' what would you want it to look like?

TK: Playing well in pre-season, hopefully playing against the bigger teams. I had an injury at the start of the season so I missed playing the Championship sides like Bristol City and Birmingham City. I want to get some minutes against them and hopefully play well so I can start the season maybe starting. That is my goal or at least being on the bench like I was this season.

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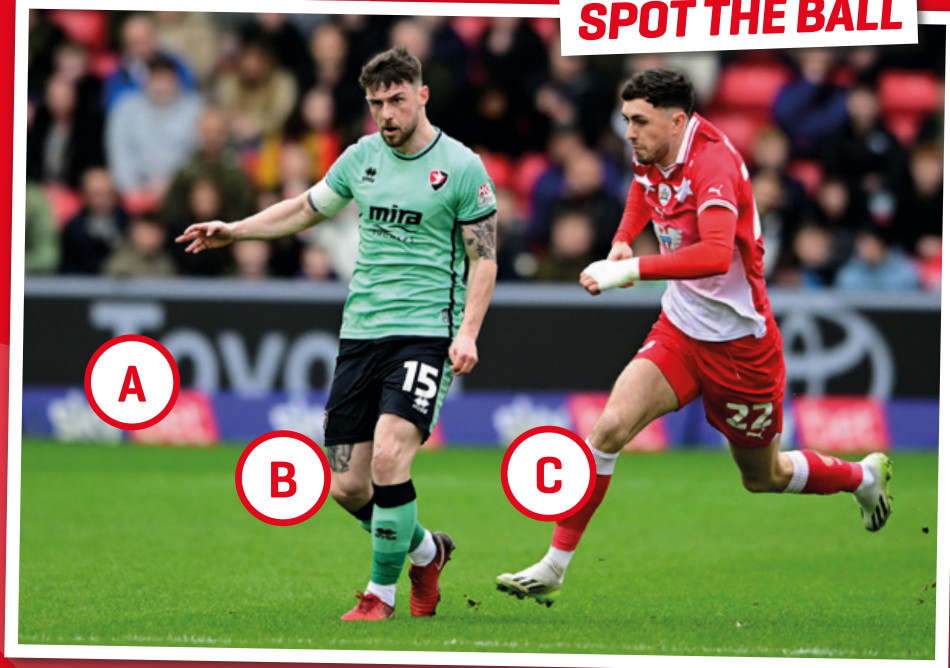
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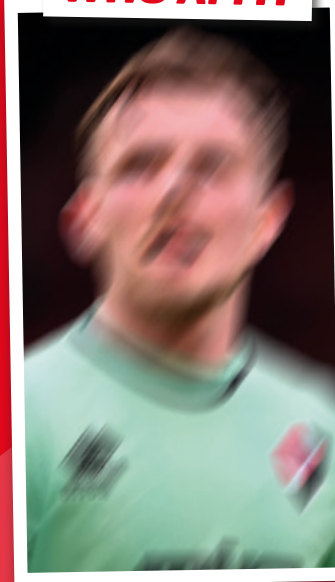
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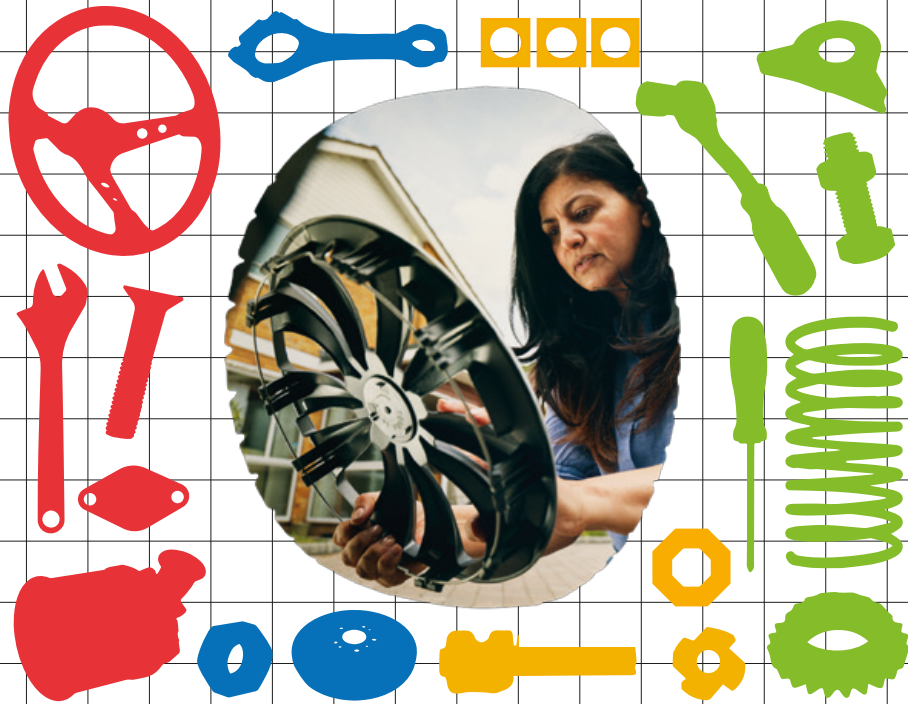
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Spot the Ball: C, Who Am I? Liam Kinsella

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MATCH ACTION



EXETER CITY



FOUNDED
1901

NICKNAME
The Grecians

MANAGER
Gary Caldwell

STADIUM
St James Park

CAPACITY
8,720

STAR PLAYER
Reece Cole
2022/23
14th, League One

Based in south-west England, Exeter City are laying the foundations under Gary Caldwell for a potentially prosperous period in their history.



The Grecians were founded in 1901 but they have never managed to climb out of the third tier of English football during that time, fluctuating between their current level, the fourth tier and non-league within the past 20 years. The legendary Paul Tisdale restored pride for the Devon based club with a return to the Football League by winning the 2008 Conference play-off final after being defeated the year prior. Tisdale then guided the supporters owned club into League One before they fell back down the pyramid three seasons later with three agonising play-off defeats at Wembley to follow before a return to League One was secured in 2021/22.

Now at the helm for the club is Gary Caldwell after he replaced Matt Taylor in October 2022. A successful first campaign maintained their League One status before they climbed to the summit in the early stages of the 2023/24 campaign.

Gary Caldwell

However, a 13 game winless run stretching through the autumn and winter months saw City plummet to 19th and place their League One position under credible threat.

However, despite being one of the lowest goal scorers in the league, a run of six wins in their next 11 combined with consecutive wins prior to the international break have lifted the Grecians away from any danger into a position of safety.

One of their early season successes came against the Robins with Caleb Watts scoring the only goal in September at St James Park. Now they are faced with a game at the Completely-Suzuki Stadium, a ground they suffered defeat at in the league last term.

In their ranks is a former Robin in Mo Eisa, who joined the club back in January. Goals have come from the likes of Reece Cole, young Sonny Cox and Reece Trevitt with all having netted five times. Typically, the Grecians line-up in the familiar three back formation, with club captain and the experienced Will Aimson a key figure in defence alongside club stalwart Pierce Sweeney.





PLAY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF YOUR HEROES

KICKS OFF - 08.04.24



MEMORABLE MATCH



ROBINS 3-1 EXETER

The Robins surged to a 3-1 victory over Exeter City when the two last met at the Completely-Suzuki Stadium in EFL League One action last season.

Aidan Keena's first Cheltenham Town goal got the ball rolling for the hosts before Joshua Key hauled the Grecians level.

However, a quickfire double from West Bromwich Albion loanee Caleb Taylor and Alfie May saw the Robins score three goals for the second consecutive game.

The visitors had the opportunity to hit the front from the spot early on, but Sam Nombé's low fired penalty was saved by the legs of the diving Luke Southwood.

Within minutes, the Robins were ahead after a slip and a miscued clearance at the back allowed May to poke the ball across to the Irish forward Keena who made no mistake.

He could've doubled his side's

lead before half-time as Liam Sercombe's driven effort narrowly evaded him, drifting the wrong side of the upright.

After Jay Stansfield had seen an effort saved by Southwood, the visitors got themselves level, as a cross to the back post picked out a towering Key whose downward header nestled in the bottom corner.

Not to be fazed by the equaliser, the Robins scored from a cross of their own as a backpedalling Taylor guided Will Ferry's delivery past Grecians keeper Jamal Blackman.

And five minutes later, Town had doubled their lead as May, through one on one, calmly slid the ball under the onrushing goalkeeper to round off a fine afternoon under the March sun.





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TICKET NEWS



Tickets and travel for our April away trip to face Leyton Orient in Sky Bet League One action are available online and from the ticket office.



The Robins meet with the O's on Saturday 6th April (3:00pm) at the Gaughan Group Stadium and visiting fans have been allocated seats in the GiPrint East Stand Upper.

Any tickets not collected from the Completely-Suzuki Stadium by 3pm on Friday 5th April will be taken to Brisbane Road for collection on the day from the Matchday Collections Kiosk which can be found outside the West Stand Ticket Office on Oliver Road.

Ticket prices for the fixture are as follows:

- Adult:** £24 (Advance), £28 (Matchday)
- Senior (65+):** £22 (Advance), £25 (Matchday)
- Young Adult (18-24):** £22 (Advance), £25 (Matchday)
- NHS Staff/Armed Forces/Emergency Services/Unemployed:** £22 (Advance), £25 (Matchday)
- Under 18:** £10



The official CTFC Travel Club will depart the Completely-Suzuki Stadium at 9:45am.

- Non-members -** £23
- Members -** £19
- Young Robins -** £9.50



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In 2021, a group of passionate women fans felt mobilised to start a campaign called #HerGameToo.

The campaign is committed to fostering an ethos in football where women are welcomed and respected equally and can be confident sharing their opinions about football online and in person without fear of sexist abuse. This afternoon, we introduce two new advocates to the cause.

Cheltenham Town's Her Game Too ambassador, Kelly-Marie Selby, tells us: "Growing up loving football, it was so sad that not only did girls not have the opportunities that boys had to further their abilities, but trying to voice my opinion was almost impossible. As soon as I tried to express any views I was told I was a girl, I didn't know anything about football, and I should just concentrate on make up and being a girl.

"The younger me shied away from fighting, but as I got older, I knew this wasn't right and that I should be allowed to join in on conversations about football. So when the opportunity came to become an ambassador of an amazing campaign to empower women to have a voice without fear, I put myself forward. Over the past few months I've been ambassador for Her Game Too Cheltenham, and this has now grown

with three incredible ladies coming on board - Mary Stone, Taz Scoles and Emily Moore.

"Together, we want to help create an environment at The Completely-Suzuki Stadium where women of all ages can feel welcome and safe without fear of sexism and misogyny, knowing there are avenues to report such incidents."

Introducing themselves, Taz explained: "53 years ago the ban of woman playing football was finally lifted, and now we are seeing woman on the big screens influencing the new generation. Her Game Too brings awareness to the struggles woman players and fans may face and how we can eliminate it. I am so excited to work alongside Her Game Too to raise more awareness and inspire the younger generations."

Alongside Taz and Kelly-Marie, Mary reflected on what the campaign is for her: "Her Game Too means being able to go and watch football games wherever I want, whenever I want,

without being made uncomfortable. In the short space of time I've been involved with this group, I've connected with so many female football friends, like Kelly and Taz, and sharing our experiences together shows exactly why we're doing what we're doing.

"I'd encourage everyone to find a way to get involved with Her Game Too, it could be through doing something so simple as wearing our badge or taking a more front facing role in tackling sexism in football."



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CHELTHENHAM TOWN



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	2	Sean Long	
	3	Ben Williams	
	4	Tom Bradbury	
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	6	Lewis Freestone	
	7	Liam Kinsella	
	8	Liam Sercombe	
	9	Matty Taylor	
	10	Aidan Keena	
	11	Rob Street	
	14	Jack Shepherd	
	15	Will Ferry	
	17	James Olayinka	
	19	George Lloyd	
	21	Jamie Pardington	
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	24	Grant Horton	
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	26	Joe Nuttall	
	27	Jordan Thomas	
	29	Tom King	
	30	Freddy Willcox	
	32	Greg Sloggett	
	33	Curtis Davies	
	34	Tom Pett	

EXETER CITY



	1	Viljami Sinisalo	
	2	Ben Purrington	
	3	Zak Jules	
	4	Will Aimson	
	5	Alex Hartridge	
	6	Tom Carroll	
	7	Demetri Mitchell	
	8	Ryan Woods	
	10	Admiral Muskwe	
	12	Reece Cole	
	13	Yanic Wildschut	
	14	Ilmari Niskanen	
	16	Harry Kite	
	17	Caleb Watts	
	18	David Perkins	
	19	Sonny Cox	
	20	Luke Harris	
	21	Dion Rankine	
	23	Kyle Taylor	
	24	Jack Fitzwater	
	25	Millenic Alli	
	26	Pierce Sweeney	
	27	Mohamed Eisa	
	29	Jack Aitchison	
	30	Shaun MacDonald	
	31	Vincent Harper	
	33	Gary Woods	
	34	Gabriel Billington	
	35	Joe O'Connor	
	36	Mitch Beardmore	
	38	Max Edgecombe	
	39	Cheick Diabate	
	41	Pedro Borges	
	46	Liam Oakes	
	47	Jake Richards	
	48	Santino Ohanaka	
	57	Aamir Daniels	



REFEREE:
Stephen Martin



ASSISTANT:
George Byrne



ASSISTANT:
Adam Crysell



FOURTH OFFICIAL:
Craig Hicks