

United Counties Football League

Season 2025/26

Review



UNITED COUNTIES
FOOTBALL LEAGUE





By A Goldsmith

UhlSPORT United Counties League Season Review 2025-26



This season the usual combination of promoted and relegated teams, combined with the continuing FA allocational changes has produced the smallest number of changes in membership for several years. Premier Division South loses the two promoted sides: champions St Neots Town and play-off winners Rugby Borough were placed in the Northern Premier League Midlands Division, while at the bottom both GNG Oadby Town and Godmanchester Rovers received a reprieve. Moulton and Nuneaton Town enter via the pyramid system, while Atherstone Town were moved sideways from the Midland League. Premier Division North also only had four new clubs, Blackstones and Clay Cross Town promoted from Division One, while Grantham Town return and Shirewood Colliery after relegation. Champions Lincoln United and runners-up and play-off winners Bourne Town were both promoted to the Northern Premier East and Midlands Division respectively. At the bottom, Sleaford Town and Shirebrook Town were relegated to UCL Division One. Division One had the biggest change in personnel with seven new clubs arriving; Dronfield Town, Pinchbeck United Swallownest were moved sideways, FCV Grace Dieu and South Normanton Athletic arrived under the pyramid system, Shirebrook Town and Sleaford Town came down from UCL Premier North. Sandiacre Town and Holwell Sports were both given a reprieve from relegation.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM CLUB ALLOCATION – STEP 5 & 6, SEASON 2025/26

Premier Division North (20)	Premier Division South (20)	Division One (23)
AFC Mansfield Ashby Ivanhoe Belper United Blackstones Boston Town Clay Cross Town Deeping Rangers Eastwood C F.C. Grantham Town Gresley Rovers Harrowby United Heanor Town Hucknall Town Kimberley M W Melton Town FC Newark & Sherwood United Newark Town Sherwood Colliery Skegness Town Wisbech Town	Atherstone Town Aylestone Park Bugbrooke St. Michael FC Coventry United Daventry Town Easington Sports Eynesbury Rovers GNG Oadby Town Godmanchester Rovers FC Hinckley Histon Leicester Nirvana Lutterworth Town March Town United Moulton Newport Pagnell Town Northampton ON Chenecks Northampton Sileby Rangers Nuneaton Town Yaxley	Clifton All Whites Clipstone Coalville Town FC Dronfield Town Dunkirk FCV Grace Dieu Gedling Miners Welfare Holwell Sports Pinchbeck United FC Pinxton Radford Rainworth M W Retford Retford United Sandiacre Town FC Shirebrook Town Sleaford Town South Normanton Athletic Southwell City Stapleford Town Staveley M W Swallownest West Bridgford



Uhsport United Counties League **Season Review 2025-26**



The 2025-26 season kicked off on the last weekend of July with all divisions in action, which included the customary, UCL Ground Hop. This established popular event included six games across the three days and included one fixture from outside the league's membership. The hop, and the season, kicked off on the evening of Friday 25 July with an all-Midlands Premier Division South fixture between Coventry United and Atherstone Town. It was the visitors who got the show going and the stole the points through a single Louis Samuels goal on 70 minutes, in front of an excellent crowd of 710 at the Butts Arena. The Following day the show moved slightly up country to Gresley, for an 11-30 kick off between Gresley Rovers and Sherwood Colliery. The visitors producing a master class in finishing to record a 5-1 victory, with Craig Westcar helping himself to four, which included a first half hat-trick, Attendance 597. The mid-afternoon game was a Division One affair, new boys FCV Grace Dieu hosted Shirebrook Town at the FCV Academy. A healthy crowd of 286 witnessed the home side run out 3-0 winners, with late goals from Joshua Halliday and Cornelious Olajide-Oriowo taking the spoils. The final game on the Saturday was a 7pm kick off between Daventry Town and Hinckley AFC, three goals in each half ensured a comfortable home win, with Burrows x 2, Cobourne x 2, Jackson and Mitchell-Gears all on the score sheet. Attendance 465. The Sunday started with a trip to the seaside for Skegness Town versus Newark Town and what a spectacle these two put on. The Visitors raced into an early two goal lead through Kolodynski and Braithwaite, before Dukin pulled one back for the hosts, but Perkins restored Newark's two goal advantage before half time. Dakin got the hosts back in toughing distance before a quick fire double from Czerwak and Kolodynski put the visitors out of reach, although a Horne goal for the hosts rounded of a thoroughly entertaining game for a crowd of 434. The final game was also in Lincolnshire where the entourage travelled to Louth for a North East Counties Division One fixture between Louth Town and Appleby Frodingham. The hosts winning 3-2 in front of 384 at the MKM Stadium. Once again, the event was a credit to all involved and firmly puts the UCL in the public spotlight, with just short of 3,000 spectators enjoying a feast of 29 goals and good football.

UCL Premier Division South

Premier Division South championship was won and dominated by newly promoted Nuneaton Town. The title was secured with an away win against spirited Northampton Sileby Rangers 3-0 at the Oriordan Bond Stadium Northampton. The Bedworth based outfit had topped the table for nearly all the season, with only Moulton the other newly promoted side edging the top spot in the early weeks of the campaign. Nuneaton started their campaign with a thirteen-game undefeated run, which surprisingly came to an end at lowly Easington Sports, where three second half goals gave the hosts the points. Histon were the next side to lower Towns colours, a 1-0 home defeat in mid-October, but this was to be their last for 20 matches. The Easter programme pitted Nuneaton with their title rival as they met both the second and third place sides, with Town losing both, at 2-0 home reverse to Atherstone Town and a 3-0 away loss at Coventry United. Incredibly the two games drew a crowd of over 3200 spectators. Nuneaton secure three points in their final game to take the crown by a four-point margin from Coventry United. Atherstone Town finished third, with March Town United fourth, the Hares looking creditable challengers for long periods of the campaign until a stuttering start to the new year saw them drop off the pace. Aylestone Park completed the play off positions, finishing five points clear of Lutterworth Town. At the bottom, Bugbrooke St Michaels and G.N.G. Oadby filled the relegation places for most of the season, eventually finishing three points adrift of Yaxley. Northampton Sileby Rangers and Easington Sports were looking nervously over their shoulders but managed to secure vital wins at key times to keep their heads above the water. Lutterworth Town secured the Divisions biggest victory score-line, defeating G.N.G Oadby 12-0 at Riverside, with six goals in each half and seven different players on the scoresheet, including two hattricks from Nuttal and Monteiro.

Premier South Play Offs

Both semi-final games going in favour of the home sides, Runners up Coventry United defeated fifth place Aylestone Park comfortably 4-1 at the Butts in front of 266 spectators. The home side had a three-nil advantage at the break thanks to goals from Adomako, Faulkner and Dunn and when Faulkner added a fourth in the first minute of the second period it was game set and match, with Ameni scoring a consolation effort for the visitors after 72 minutes. In the other game, Atherstone Town entertained March Town United at the MG Evans Community Stadium and edged a close contest 2-1. A Collins first half strike had the home side in front at the break, before Smith added a second and Foy for March

completed the scoring with 550 in attendance. Coventry United clinched promotion with a dramatic 2-0 Play Off Final win against Atherstone Town thanks to a Cameron Dunn brace in extra-time. With neither side able to break the deadlock in regulation time, Dunn struck twice in the extra period to seal promotion for the Red and Greens to Step Four for the first time in the club's history. United opened the scoring three minutes into the extra period and then doubled their lead at the end of the first period with a stunning Dunn strike into the top left corner from 25 yards out. Despite the match clashing with their neighbours Coventry City's promotion to the Premier League celebrations an excellent crowd of 750 turned up at the Butts.

UCL Premier Division North

Boston Town won the Premier Division North championship, securing the title with a comprehensive 6-0 final day home result against Hucknall 6-0 at the Mortgages for You Stadium, with rivals Sherwood Colliery only managing a draw at Blackstones. Unlike Nuneaton, Boston supremacy was not as emphatic as they did not to lead the table until the end of November and had lost four games and drew four of their opening nineteen games. November being a particular bad month for the Poachers, losing three on the bounce to Clay Cross, Grantham and Gresley Rovers. However a strong second half of the season, which saw them lose just three more times, again in a worrying three match spell to Sherwood, Heanor and Gresley at the beginning of February, the Poachers took the title by a four point margin from Sherwood Colliery. Newly relegated and many people's favourites Grantham finished in third spot a further three points behind, with Belper United and Newark Town completing the play off positions. It was an impressive rise by Belper, who were bottom of the table and winless in August, and fifteenth in September, but just one defeat in the final fourteen games saw them climb into the play-off spots. The Grantham derby on Boxing Day between Harrowby and Grantham produced an excellent crowd of 1220 to see the Gingerbread men narrowly win 1-0, the return fixture over Easter at the South Kesteven Stadium was also well attended with 919 present. At the bottom it was ever changing field, Ashby Invanhoe looked in trouble having been bottom at the turn of the year, only to rise to a final position of thirteenth. AFC Mansfield was another club who early on struggled for results, but a late resurgence saw the climb the table and fell just short of the play offs. Harrowby on the other hand started fairly well, but from October started slipping towards the bottom places and at the end finished eight points adrift of Newark & Sherwood, their cause not helped by a three-point deduction. Likewise Heanor were in eighth position in late September, but a steady decline saw them slip down the table to finish a point adrift of Blackstones. Eastwood and Kemberley produced the Divisions biggest goal feast with a 7-5 scoreline. Remarkably eight of the goals came on the first half, Eastwood scoring six goals in the opening thirty-six minutes, only for the visitors to reduce the deficit with two goals in first half added time. Kimberley then got themselves back to a single goal deficit after 58 minutes before Blake added a seventh to kill off any hopes of a remarkable recovery.

Premier North Play Offs

In the Semi finals second place Sherwood Colliery hosted fifth place Newark Town, but it was the lower ranked side that came out on top as Newark won 1-0 at Depdale Park thanks to a Harry Allcock goal in front of a crowd of 452. The second semi saw Grantham host Belper and as the league standing hinted, this was a close affair with the home side running out 3-2 winners, despite being a goal down at the interval. Bryant and Ramsey the Belper scores, with Johnson, Roberts and Stainfield for the hosts, with a 574 crowd present. A record crowd of 1616 saw Grantham Town beat Newark Town 2-0 in the North Play Off Final at the South Kesteven Stadium. A nervy first half finished goalless, but the second saw a dominant display by the home side. Cam Johnson raced onto a through ball to coolly finish early in the second half, before Captain Staino rose in the box to power in another header to clinch the Gingerbread men promotion and a quick return to Step Four.

UCL Premier Divisions Champions Cup

In front of 533 spectators the Championship final took place between Nuneaton Town and Boston Town. In a cagy opening period, Boston opened the scoring with a deft touch in by Matt Cotton from the far post following a corner in 19th minute. 60 minutes later following sustained pressure from Nuneaton a long clearance found Fraser Bayliss who tucked away probably Boston's only chance in the second half. The final score Nuneaton Town 0-2 Boston Town.

UCL Division One

The Division One championship race was very much an all Retford affair with both Retford and Retford United finishing the season with a hundred plus points and just five points separating them. Retford FC secured the title with two games to spare following a 4-1 home win over Gedling Miners Welfare. The Rail lost just 4 games throughout the 44-match campaign, an early set back after just five games against

Pinxton did not cause any panic. The Rail went on a twenty-game undefeated run before the much-anticipated Retford derby on Boxing Day. Coming into the fixture, the Rail had built up a comfortable lead at the top of the table and had home advantage. United won the match in front 1359 spectators thanks to goals from Lumley and Orange to close the gap and move into second spot. The second half of the campaign was very much identical to the first with just two defeats, Coalville Town completing an unexpected double. The return derby at Cannon Park saw spoils shared in a 2-2 with another four-figure crowd in attendance of 1080. Retford United had a very successful campaign themselves, losing just three games and finishing with 103 points, which in most seasons would have given them the title. Stapleford Town, Coalville Town and Staveley Miners Welfare completed the play off positions. South Normanton Athletic and FC Grace Dieu missed out by the smallest of margins after being in the title fight for most of the campaign. At the bottom Rainworth Miners Welfare had a tough campaign and were rooted to the foot of the table for the whole season. Despite suffering some heavy defeats and securing just three wins all season the Welfare to their credit battled on but fell a massive twenty-one points adrift and a goal difference of -119 to collect the wooden spoon. Strangely half of Rainworth's points came in a mini 3 game undefeated run at the start of September. Joining them in the relegation positions are Gedling Miners Welfare and Pinchbeck United, just one point separated four teams from United in 21st and Radford in 18th. Rainworth suffered two heavy 9-0 defeats, both at home to Clifton and Retford, but the highest match score was Retford United's 9-2 defeat of Sandiacre Town with Lewis Chambers scoring four and both Fox and Kane grabbing a brace apiece.

Division One Play Offs

Runners up Retford United some 14 points clear of third spot, made hard work of their game with fifth place Staveley Miners Welfare, a Buckthorp first half effort separating the two sides, Attendance 380. Coalville Town surprised hosts Stapleford Town, again a solitary first half goal through Morley was enough to see them through. Attendance 333.

Retford United made it a Town promotion double, after the penalty shoot-out final success against Coalville Town. With ground advantage United built up a two-goal lead through Ross Duggan and Oliver Wilson, But Coalville responded with two goals in as many minutes through Ryan Green (56 mins) and Ian Sahota (57 mins) to level the match. Extra-time failed to separate the teams, as a goal apiece from United's Lewis Chambers and Town's Corey Alcock send the game to penalties. Infront of an excellent crowd of 1007, the home side held their nerves better to run out convincing 4-1 victors.

UCL Reserve Division

The Divisions numbers stayed constant at 15 clubs with just two changes in members, Winslow resigned and St Ives Town joined. The Reserve Division champions were Harborough Town U21's and the youthful squad were also crowned double winners as the Bees also claimed the Reserve KO Cup. It was a momentous season the Leicestershire based club who also celebrated promotion for their first team from the Southern Premier Division, to the National League. Harborough were out on the own for most of the season and it was very much a case of who was going to challenge for second spot, The Bees lost just two games in their 28 match season, runners up N'ton ON Chenecks were the first to lower their colours in mid-September and when Moulton did the same a week later, there was a few who thought they were not so infallible. The Bees however showed their metal and went on a 22-game undefeated run to the end of the season to clinch the title by a twelve-point margin. N'ton ON Chenecks pushed them all the way, losing just four games themselves to finish well clear of Godmanchester Rovers in third spot to claim runners up spot. Rothwell Corinthians and Wellingborough Town Development, finished in the bottom two places well adrift of GNG Oadby, although in Wellingborough's case, it was a twelve-point deduction that gave them the wooden spoon position. There was two extraordinary score lines, Daventry Town defeated Rothwell Corinthians 9-3, with two players Green and Kruck helping their selves to a hat-trick. Rothwell were also involved in the other, but this time on the winning side after a 7-5 home win over Wellingborough Town Dev at Sergeants Lawn, Onyeneke scoring a hat-trick and Plowright a brace.

Sports Ground Development UCL Knockout Cup



A record entry of 63 teams participated in the 2025-26 KOC competition, eclipsing the 62 clubs which was the previous best in the 2021-22 season. The Preliminary Round had 31 ties, with just Eynesbury the sole team receiving a bye. The results mainly went with form, but pride of place going to Division

One Southwell City who won 4-0 at Bridge Road to dispose of Premier South hosts Histon, while lower grade Pinxton and Retford United were also victorious against Premier opposition. March Town United were the Rounds biggest winners, defeating Rainworth Miners Welfare 8-0, Florian Tsauim grabbing a hat-trick, while Clay Cross were also amongst the goals defeating Radford 6-2. The First Round, Clay Cross continued their goal scoring spree with a 7-2 home win over Gedling Miners Welfare, but the previous rounds high scorers March fell in a 2-1 home defeat to Gresley Rovers. Division One highfliers Retford United produced another upset by disposing of Premier South side N'ton Sileby Rangers 2-1 at Cannon Park. Division One side Dronfield gave much fancied Nuneaton Town a real scare, scoring in the first and last minute to record a 2-2 draw in normal time, the Premier South leaders held their nerve to progress 5-3 from the penalty spot. The Second Round draw produced some good local derbies, Nuneaton edging local rivals Coventry United 1-0, Kyle Jardine with the only goal after 27 minutes in front of a healthy crowd of 474. Retford lost to 3-0 at home to Grantham, while Gresley Rovers were soundly beaten on home soil by free scoring Clay Cross 7-0, a crowd of 223 watched them take their goal scoring tally to 20 in three rounds. Hinckley AFC edged the all Premier South tie, winning 3-1 at N'ton ON Chenecks. Moulton edged past Premier North leaders Boston Town, Nathan Amaning scoring a late equaliser to send the tie to penalties where the Brunting Road side won 4-3 from the spot. The tie of the Quarter Finals pitched two of the big boys from Prem South and North as Nuneaton hosted Grantham. The visitors looked to have snatched an exciting tie as Lee Shaw put Grantham 3-2 up in the 90 + 3 minute, but Aaron Williams scored a dramatic equaliser with the clock on 90 + 6 minutes to take the tie to penalties. It took 13 spot kicks to separate the teams, United emerging victorious 7-6 from the penalty spot, with another excellent crowd of 474 at the Oval in attendance. It was a much more closer affair at the Voltage Solutions Stadium, Coalville edging past Eastwood 1-0 through a Madundo Semahimbo strike with 15 minutes remaining to send the majority of the 355 crowd home happy, Despite scoring two goals away from home, it was not enough for Clay Cross as the cup journey ended in a 3-2 defeat Kimberley Miners Welfare in a tie played at Ilkeston Town ground. Subsequently, both Clay Cross and Kimberley were found to have breached league rules and were removed from the competition and Gresley reinstated. Both Hinckley AFC were looking to claimed their third Premier Division South scalp in this seasons competition, as they hosted Moulton. However the visitors had other ideas racing into a 2-0 interval lead, with an own goal finally separating the two sides in a 3-2 away win. Semi-Finals, Coalville produced a devastating first half performance to stun their higher grade hosts Nuneaton, a Ronnie Marley hat-trick and a pair from Jacob Carter produced an unlikely 5-1 half time scoreline. Strangely the following 45 minutes failed to produce a single goal as the Ravens held on to silence the majority of the 537 crowd. Coalville were subsequently removed from the competition after being found in breach of league rules and Nuneaton reinstated. It was a much more subdued scoreline in the other semi-final, with just a single goal separating Gresley Rovers and Moulton. A Nathaneal Ansu goal in the 21st minute settling the tie at the Moat Ground in front of 381 spectators.

Final

Nuneaton Town 1 -2 Moulton.

Borderville Sports Centre, Stamford. 9th May 2026. Att 381

The final was played at the well-appointed Stamford's ground and kicked off in bright Lincolnshire sunshine. Nuneaton took the lead with their first meaningful attack. Aaron Brown headed on a long throw, which left Kyke Jardin the simplest of tap ins from five yards. As the half went on Moulton looked more dangerous and Ansu had the ball in the net only to be adjudged offside. Moulton started the second period in the ascendancy, and it was only three minutes before they were level. A Lewis Isom's in swinging free kick was meet by a Steven's glancing header that flew past the Nuneaton keeper. As the game entered the final 15 minutes Moulton were the team asking all the questions and the breakthrough came with five minutes of normal time left. White threaded a superb pass down the middle and Isom won his battle between to Nuneaton defenders before firing past Bache into the far corner. It was a fitting reward for long standing Moulton manager Gary Petts who was overseeing his 200th game in charge.

Sports Ground Development UCL Reserve Division Knockout Cup

With the Reserve Division numbers down to 15 teams, just one team in the First Round draw, last season winners Bugbrooke St Michaels received a bye. The competition kicked off in September with the First Round, showcasing some remarkable scorelines. Harborough Town U21 triumphed with a 7-0 victory over Moulton FC Reserves, while Daventry Town Reserves defeated Wellingborough Whitworths Reserves 6-2. Newcomers St Ives Town Reserves faced a challenging opening match against last year's runners-up, Northampton O.N. Chenecks Reserves, who led 3-2 by halftime. However, St Ives Town Reserves rallied back to win 4-3, securing their advancement to the next stage. As the competition progressed to the quarterfinals, there were some decisive victories. Harborough Town U21 defeated Kempston Rovers Reserves 5-0, and Desborough Town Reserves booked their place in the semi-finals with a 2-0 win. The defending champions, Bugbrooke St Michaels Reserves, also advanced by overcoming Ilchester United Reserves with a score of 4-1. St Ives Town Reserves faced a closely

contested quarter-final against Godmanchester Rovers Reserves; trailing 1-0 at halftime, they managed to equalize, ending the match at 1-1. The tie went to penalties, where St Ives Town Reserves triumphed 9-8 to secure their spot in the semi-finals. The Semi-Finals were marked by strong performances, St Ives Town Reserves won decisively with a score of 5-1, preventing last year's champions from defending their title. Meanwhile, Harborough Town U21 progressed to the Final with a 4-0 victory over Desborough Town Reserves.

Final

Harborough Town U21 3-1 St Ives Town.

Brunting Road, Moulton. 13th Match 2026. Att 202

The Young Bees started the final with real intent their bright start was rewarded almost immediately as they took the lead after just two minutes with a move straight off the training ground which saw Cyprian Mtenga finish off the move with tap in from close range. Archie O'Donnell doubled the Bees lead on 20 minutes, the early goals giving Harborough confidence and they continued to control the tempo and it was not long before a third arrived, again it was O'Donnell who coolly finished. St Ives got back into the game against the run of play and reduced the deficit five minutes later though Reuben Huggin with the first period ending 3-1 in favour of Harborough. The second half proved to be a much scrappier affair compared to the open and flowing first period. Neither side was able to maintain long spells of possession as the game became more physical and fragmented. Frustration led to the dismissal of Oliver Gaillard as St Ives had to play final 20 minutes remaining with ten men and allowed Harborough to see out the game and claim the trophy.



The FA Cup

There was a full house of 40 teams from the two topflight divisions in this season's competition. There was a slight improvement in results in this season's competition, with a single member club progressing to the Second Qualifying Round stage, compared to last season when all sides had exited the competition by the First Round Qualifying stage. The Extra Preliminary Round paired ten all UCL ties, three producing 4-1 scorelines, N'ton Sileby Rangers winning at Aylestone Park, Newark and Sherwood at GNG Oadby and Sherwood Colliery at home to Bugbrooke. In total 18 teams progressed through to the Preliminary Round. The Preliminary Round was a goal feast, with the eighteen ties and two replays producing 71 goals. The UCL sides produced some good performances against higher grade teams, Atherstone Town securing a 2-0 away win at Bedworth, while Skegness did it the hard way, overcoming newly promoted Lincoln United after a replay at Asby Road. Histon defeated Eastern Counties side Woodbridge 5-2, thanks to four second half goals. March also disposed of another Eastern Counties scalp in Ipswich Wanderers 2-0. Eastwood CFC had a good win on the road, winning 4-0 at Coton Green, a 3-0 half time lead giving them a good cushion. The eight survivors in the First Round Qualifying, had little to cheer about, Eynesbury defeated ex UCL side Arlesey Town 3-1 at Hall Road, after being 0-1 down at the break. Luke Young had them quickly back on level terms and two late goals from Lewis Lynn saw the safely through. Boston Town secured a draw with Northern Premier Midland league Sporting Khalsa, a late Matthew Cotton goal in the 93rd minute earning the Poachers a creditable replay. Sporting winning the tie 2-0 back in the West Midlands.

Eynesbury Rovers' enjoyed their best FA Cup run in 30 years, the last time the club had been to the Second Qualifying Round was in 1995/96 when they lost 1-6 to Wisbech Town in a replay. Only twice in their history had the progressed further, in season 1955/56 they reached the Third Qualifying Round, losing 1-4 at home to Bedford Town and the season before they went one better, progressing to the Fourth Round Qualifying where they lost 1-3 away at Cambridge United. Rovers present FA Cup run came to an end at Needham Market, a run of four games. Needham who play their football in the Southern League Premier Division Central, two steps above Rovers, raced into a 3-0 lead after just 25 minutes, most of which was played in a torrential thunderstorm. As the weather improved, so did Rovers and a brace of goals by Luke Young kept them in the contest, but the hosts ran out 4-2 victors. Young's first a simple tap in from 12 yards, but his second was a well taken after he pounced on a Bradbrook spilled shot from Lynn and from a tight angle beat the keeper. Despite the result. the Rovers hierarchy will be pleased with £5,944 collected from the cup prize fund



The FA Vase

The FA Vase Road to Wembley kicked off in August, with 29 clubs representing all three Divisions attempting to make the first hurdle. The draw produced six all UCL ties, with a total of 18 teams progressing. Nuneaton Town were the highest scorers, winning 8-0 away a Highgate United, Deeping Rangers and Gresley both scored five to defeat Allextown & New Parks and Telford Town. Clipstone, N'ton Sileby Rangers Retford Town and Southwell City were all comfortable winners with four goals to their credit. The Second Preliminary Round produced a glut of goals, with a 106 being scored across the 30 matches concerning UCL clubs. Five and sixes was the order of the round, with Sandiacre Town, Easington Sports, Ashby Ivanhoe, Coventry United and Sherwood Colliery all hitting the higher tally, while Radford FC and Clifton All Whites hit five to progress safely through. It was a productive day for the league with 29 clubs progressing to the First Round Proper. In Round One the draw produced 22 ties involving member clubs and these were a much tighter affair with near on a quarter requiring penalty kicks to decide the winners. One of the most entertaining games was at Cannon Park, where Newark Town and Kimberley MW shared 23 goals. The tie finished 5-5, before Kimberley won 7-6 from the penalty spot after being 4-2 at the interval, which kept the 167 spectators entertained. The Second Round Proper saw just eight of the remaining 20 club's progress. There were some notable casualties, with Daventry Town, Newport Pagnell, Aylestone Park and March Town all falling at this hurdle. On the positive side there was impressive wins for Clay Cross and Radford who both won convincingly on the road. Nine clubs reached the Third Round Proper, including N'ton ON Chenecks for the second season running, but unfortunately it was as far as they got, losing 3-0 at home to Bilston. Clay Cross were removed from the competition due to a rule infringement with G.N.G. Oadby being reinstated and then produced the performance of the round to knock out much fancied Nuneaton Town 3-1. Grantham lost 5-2 at Gornal as did Radford 5-0 at home to Heather St John's, but there were excellent victories for Coventry United, Gresley Rovers, and Sherwood Colliery. The numbers were down to just four in Round Four, Gresley lost to Bilston who took their second UCL scalp in two rounds and Sherwood came unstuck 2-1 at Droylsden. Pride of place went to Coventry United who defeated fellow UCL Premier South adversaries G.N.G. Oadby 6-0 at the Butts Arena, with five different scorers on the team sheet in front of crowd of 127 Coventry United where the leagues last representatives as the competition reached the Fifth Round, where they were drawn against strong Northern League outfit North Shields. The Northern outfit have a good cup pedigree; the club has been FA Amateur Cup winners in 1968-69 and more recently in the FA Vase winners in 2014-15. An early goal from Charlie Faulkner after 29 minutes settled the homes sides nerves and Nehemia Zazi looked to have sealed the win with a 79-minute second, but the visitors scored a late response through Ben Sampson with the last kick on 90+9 minutes. Attendance 347. The Quarter Final stage witnessed both AFC Stoneham and Coventry United making club histories by reaching this stage of the competition for the first time. The Wessex League runaway leaders proved to be a step too far as United's memorably FA Vase run came to an end in deepest Hampshire. First half goals from Matthew Bainbridge and Oliver Jenkins had the hosts 2-0 in front at the break, United cause was not helped when they were reduced to 10 men after just 25 minutes through the sending off Charlie Faulkner following a challenge on home keeper Callum Lee. A second goal by Bembridge sealed the win on 72 minutes in front of a decent crowd of 446 at the Stoneham Lane Football Complex. AFC Stoneham would go on to win the FA Vase following a 4-2 penalty shootout success over Spartan South Midlands League side Cockfosters

UCL Statistics 2025/26

UCL Premier Division North Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Boston Town FC	38	25	6	7	55	81
2	Sherwood Colliery F.C.	38	23	8	7	45	77
3	Grantham Town FC	38	21	11	6	34	74
4	Belper United FC	38	23	3	12	22	72
5	Newark Town FC	38	21	6	11	26	69
6	AFC Mansfield	38	19	7	12	21	64
7	Eastwood CFC	38	18	8	12	9	62
8	Hucknall Town FC	38	16	7	15	-4	55
9	Clay Cross Town FC	38	16	6	16	15	54
10	Gresley Rovers FC	38	16	5	17	-5	53
11	Melton Town FC	38	14	5	19	-16	47
12	Skegness Town FC	37	12	9	16	-19	45
13	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	38	12	7	19	-1	43
14	Kimberley Miners Welfare FC	37	12	6	19	-12	42
15	Wisbech Town FC	38	11	9	18	-19	42
16	Deeping Rangers FC	38	12	6	20	-24	42
17	Blackstones FC	38	11	6	21	-30	39
18	Newark & Sherwood United FC	38	10	8	20	-15	38
19	Heanor Town FC	38	10	7	21	-20	37
20	Harrowby United FC	38	9	6	23	-62	30 *

* adjustment made

UCL Premier Division South Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Nuneaton Town FC	38	27	7	4	57	88
2	Coventry United FC	38	26	6	6	64	84
3	Atherstone Town CFC	38	24	7	7	35	79
4	March Town United FC	38	22	9	7	45	75
5	Aylestone Park FC	38	20	9	9	27	69
6	Lutterworth Town FC	38	19	7	12	32	64
7	Histon FC	38	18	10	10	17	64
8	Moulton FC	38	17	6	15	-2	57
9	Newport Pagnell Town FC	38	17	5	16	18	56
10	Eynesbury Rovers FC	38	17	6	15	9	54 *
11	Hinckley AFC	38	15	5	18	11	50
12	Northampton O.N.Chenecks FC	38	15	5	18	-6	50
13	Leicester Nirvana FC	38	14	8	16	-13	50
14	Daventry Town FC	38	13	7	18	-13	46
15	Godmanchester Rovers FC	38	12	10	16	-20	46
16	Easington Sports FC	38	9	8	21	-36	35
17	Northampton Sileby Rangers FC	38	8	8	22	-37	32
18	Yaxley FC	38	7	5	26	-62	26
19	Bugbrooke St.Michaels FC	38	7	2	29	-43	23
20	G.N.G Oadby Town FC	38	6	4	28	-83	22

* adjustment made

UCL Division One Table

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Retford FC	44	34	6	4	82	108
2	Retford United FC	44	31	10	3	98	103
3	Stapleford Town FC	44	27	8	9	36	89
4	Coalville Town FC	44	28	10	6	54	82 *
5	Staveley Miners Welfare FC	44	25	7	12	40	82
6	FCV Grace Dieu	44	22	15	7	44	81
7	South Normanton Athletic FC	44	23	11	10	35	80
8	Dronfield Town FC	44	18	10	16	-3	64
9	Clifton All Whites FC	44	19	6	19	-11	63
10	Sandiacre Town FC	44	18	8	18	2	62
11	Pinxton FC	44	18	7	19	0	61
12	Dunkirk FC	44	16	11	17	-3	59
13	Southwell City FC	44	15	11	18	-6	56
14	Swallownest FC	44	14	8	22	-18	50
15	West Bridgford FC	44	14	8	22	-25	50
16	Clipstone FC	44	15	5	24	-23	47 *
17	Shirebrook Town FC	44	12	9	23	-31	45
18	Radford FC	44	9	15	20	-18	42
19	Sleaford Town FC	44	11	9	24	-25	42
20	Holwell Sports FC	44	11	9	24	-34	42
21	Pinchbeck United FC	44	9	14	21	-29	41
22	Gedling Miners Welfare FC	44	9	8	27	-46	35
23	Rainworth Miners Welfare FC	44	3	5	36	-119	14

* adjustment made

UCL Reserve Division

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Harborough Town FC Under 21	28	25	1	2	92	76
2	Northampton ON Chenecks Reserves	28	20	4	4	52	64
3	Godmanchester Rovers Reserves	28	18	3	7	49	57
4	Bugbrooke St.Michaels Reserves	28	14	5	9	15	47
5	Buckingham Development	28	14	4	10	13	46
6	St Ives Town FC Reserves	28	14	3	11	28	45
7	Desborough Town Reserves	28	12	6	10	10	42
8	Wellingborough Whitworth Reserves	28	13	1	14	-17	40
9	Kempston Rovers Reserves	28	11	3	14	5	36
10	Moulton Reserves	28	9	5	14	-13	31 *
11	Irchester United Reserves	28	8	5	15	-17	29
12	Daventry Town Reserves	28	9	2	17	-29	29
13	G.N.G Oadby Town Development	28	7	3	18	-60	24
14	Rothwell Corinthians Reserves	28	4	3	21	-82	15
15	Wellingborough Town Development	28	8	0	20	-46	12 *

* adjustment made

Leading Goal Scorers

Pos	Player Name	Team	Appearances	Overall Goals	Goals
	▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
1 🏆	Matthew Cotton	 Boston Town FC	46	34	31
2	Timothy Gregory	 Clay Cross Town FC	42	31	31
3	Ryan Ingram	 Sherwood Colliery F.C. First, AFC Mansfield	41	26	25
4	Kieran Knight	 Sherwood Colliery F.C. First	50	29	24
5	William Robson	 Ashby Ivanhoe FC	41	21	21

Premier Division North

Premier Division South

Pos	Player Name	Team	Appearances	Overall Goals	Goals
	▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
1 🏆	Kyle Jardine	 Nuneaton Town First Team	51	42	38
2	Lewis Collins	 Atherstone Town CFC First	46	37	35
3	Ryan Lee Harkin	 Coventry United FC	53	34	34
4	Connor Jake Barnes	 Histon FC	41	26	26
5	Cameron Dunn	 Coventry United FC	52	31	26

Pos	Player Name	Team	Appearances	Overall Goals	Goals
	▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
1 🏆	Lewis Chambers	 Retford United FC	45	42	42
2	Ronnie Morley	 Coalville Town FC	53	39	38
3	Iren Bruce Wilson	 Retford FC	44	33	33
4	Abdul Bakare	 Radford FC	37	32	28
5	Mason Booth-Davis	 South Normanton Athletic First	28	21	21

Division One

Reserve Division

Pos	Player Name	Team	Appearances	Overall Goals
	▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
1 🏆	Archie Bon O'Donnell	 Harborough Town FC Under 21	27	32
2	Jordan Richards	 Wellingborough Whitworth Reserves	29	30
3	Alfie Doherty	 Bugbrooke St.Michaels Reserves	28	21
4	Connor gibbins	 Northampton ON Chenecks Reserves	29	21
5	Reuben Huggins	 St Ives Town FC Reserves	29	19

UCL Photo Gallery



National Competitions

FA Cup (Top)

Eynesbury Rover's had the distinction of being the last UCL left in this seasons FA Cup. Eventually losing 4-2 at higher grade Needham Market in the Second Qualifying Round.

FA Vase (Bottom)

Coventry United set a club record by reaching the Quarter Finals of the FA Vase where they lost 3-0 away at AFC Stoneham



Nuneaton Town

UCL Premier Div South Champions



Boston Town

UCL Premier Division North Champions
UCL Champions Trophy Winners



Moulton

UCL Knock Out Cup Winners
After a 2-1 win over Nuneaton
Town at Stamford



Retford FC

Division One Champions



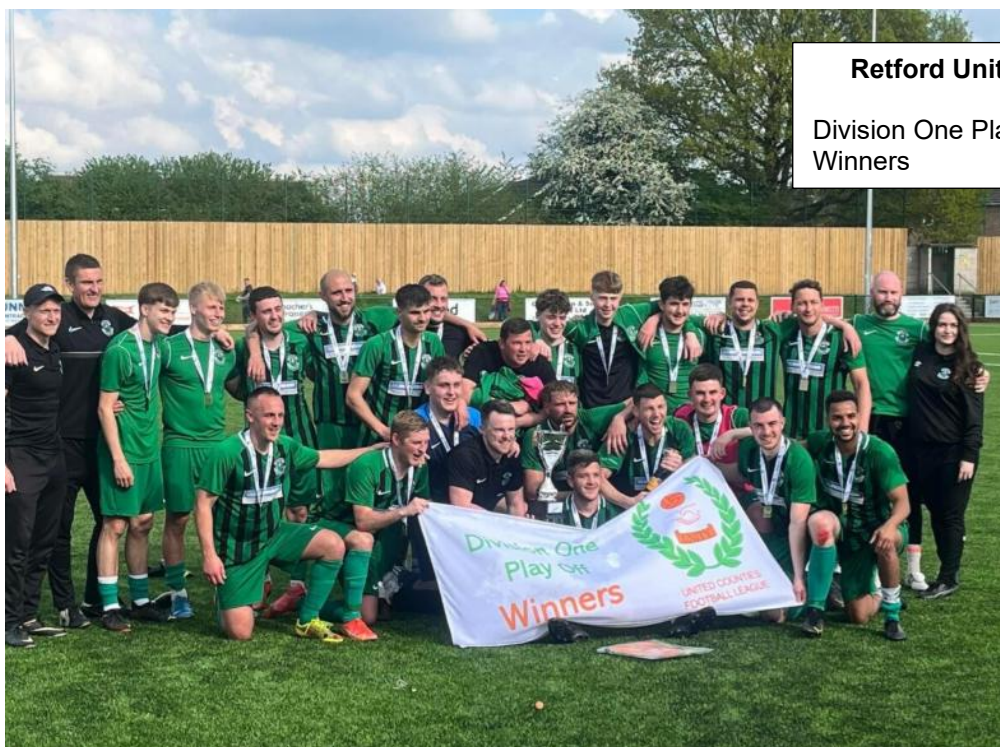
Coventry United

UCL Premier Division South Play Off Winners



Grantham Town

UCL Premier Division North
Play Off Winners



Retford United

Division One Play-Off
Winners



Harborough Town Under 21's
Double Winners
Reserve Division Champions
Reserve Division KOC Winners

