UP THE GAS



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STEVE EVANS

Hello everyone and welcome to The Memorial Stadium for this evening's Emirates FA Cup First Round Proper fixture.

We come into tonight's match on the back of a disappointing run. There is no getting away from it. It's been a five-week spell of poor performances and a lack of quality. We haven't seen the best of what our team can do.

That being said, it has been a challenging time in terms of missing a handful of big, important players. That's not to blame it all on a few injuries, but we're looking forward to having some of those lads back. A couple are back this evening from suspension, in Tommy Leigh and Kofi Balmer, and I know they're both ready to get back out there and represent this Club if they're selected.

Given the October we had, we know any win right now would help boost confidence and steer us back in the right direction. Yes, tonight's game is in the Emirates FA Cup and not in the league, but that doesn't make it any less important or special. There is a real magic to this competition, and indeed in knock-out football. Just look at what Fleetwood Town did against Arsenal last week. What an incredible achievement for them, and an evening that those players and supporters will never forget. Every single member of our squad, of our team, wants to experience the same thing. Tonight's game is a big opportunity to stamp our mark against a team in the division above us and get our name in the hat for the second round.

With that in mind, I'd like to welcome Neil Harris and his Cambridge United side to BS7 for this evening's match. Neil is a manager I've got to know very well over the years and he's a person I've got the utmost respect for, and Cambridge United are a club I admire too. They seem a great match, from the outside looking in, and I have to say they were probably the best team we played against in Sky Bet League Two last season. They were organised and efficient, which earned them a deserved promotion, and they've continued to impress in League One this campaign. We know how big this test will be for us, and that we will need to be at our absolute best to progress in the competition.

As we kick off November with tonight's match, we know this is the chance to get back to winning ways in front of you, our incredible, loyal and passionate supporters. The Gasheads are what make The Mem truly special, and I know you'll be with us all the way this evening as we fight to get back to winning ways, build some momentum, and progress in the Emirates FA Cup.

Enjoy the game.

Steve Evans
First-Team Manager
Bristol Rovers Football Club



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ALFIE KILGOUR

Hello everyone,

It is great to welcome you to The Mem for this special, Friday night fixture against Cambridge United.

The Emirates FA Cup is a special competition, one which we all can remember watching s we grew up. There is a magic that comes with this tournament and, as players, it is one we look forward to every season.

Starting the campaign at The Memorial Stadium in front of our own supporters will be a real boost too. I have been fortunate enough to play at The Mem for several years and to come down as a supporter when I was younger too, and I know the impact the Gasheads have on the team. I know that it is cliché, but our supporters are truly the twelfth man, and when we're kicking towards the Thatchers End with the crowd in full voice, roaring us on, it is an amazing feeling. We get that feel-good factor at The Mem which is a huge boost for all the lads. I can certainly feel it out there on the pitch and it's up to us to give the fans something to get behind.

We've already seen the impact our supporters can have on us here at home with our club-record run of eleven straight home league wins. On a personal note, I was incredibly proud to have captained the side on the day we made history, and we are all looking to start another run. There is no reason we can't do that today.

The Emirates FA Cup will also be an opportunity for us to get back to winning ways after a tough period in the league. We know recent results haven't been good enough and we want to use today's game as a clean slate. It's important to start the month strong and put in a really good performance this evening and on Tuesday against Reading, which we can then take back into our league games next weekend.

Of course, we know that we are up against a tough opponent in Cambridge United. Neil Harris has put together dogged teams which are hard-working and disciplined. I have played against his teams for years, and they are always very organised, athletic, and in your face. We all know it's going to be a tough test. They were excellent last year; that's why they got promoted and are doing well this year. We know the challenge we're up against it's not one we are going to take lightly. We are going to have to be bang at it under the lights.

It's a test facing a team in the league above, but one that gives us the opportunity to reach the next round. The aim is to progress, to get through the second round in Decmber too and then get a step closer to a big tie in the Third Round.

Every team wants a big tie, especially in League Two and the non-league teams. You see it every year when a team gets a good run, and it's a chance to make history and memories. That's what we're playing for and, with your backing, I know we can push on in this competition.

Thank you for all of your support this season, and enjoy the game.

Up The Gas!

Alfie Kilgour
Club Captain
Bristol Rovers Football Club.



OPPOSITION FOCUS

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Cambridge United bounced back from their relegation to Sky Bet League Two in the 2024/25 season with an immediate promotion back to Sky Bet League One last term and arrive at The Memorial Stadium on an upward trajectory.

The U's history stretches back more than a century. Founded as Abbey United in 1912, the club adopted its current name in 1951 following Cambridge's elevation to city status. Having established themselves in local football, the U's enjoyed considerable success in the Southern League during the 1960s, winning consecutive titles before being elected to the Football League in 1970.

The move marked the start of a successful period. They were promoted from the Fourth Division after three seasons but were straight back down before Ron Atkinson took charge. Atkinson guided Cambridge to back-to-back promotions, taking them to the Second Division eight years after the club joined the Football League.

The late 1970s and early 1980s saw the club establish itself in the Second Division. However, back-to-back relegations saw Cambridge drop back to the Fourth Division before another memorable chapter arrived under manager John Beck.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Beck's side gained a reputation for their direct and effective style of play, earning back-to-back promotions and taking Cambridge to within touching distance of the inaugural Premier League.

The U's also reached the FA Cup quarter-finals in both 1990 and 1991, enjoying some of the most successful seasons in their history and regularly competing against some of the biggest clubs in the country.

Following those highs, the club experienced a gradual decline throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. Relegation from the Football League in 2005 brought an end to a 35-year stay in the professional game, with Cambridge entering the Conference National for the first time.

Several attempts to return to the EFL ended in disappointment, including a number of unsuccessful play-off campaigns, but the club remained among the league's strongest sides during their nine-year spell in non-league football.

A return to the Football League finally arrived in 2014 when Cambridge defeated Gateshead in the National League Play-Off Final at Wembley Stadium. The following years saw the club consolidate its position in League Two before enjoying another successful promotion campaign under Mark Bonner in 2020/21. That season ended with the U's earning promotion to League One, returning to the third tier for the first time since 2002.

Cambridge spent four seasons competing in Sky Bet League One before relegation in 2024/25. However, the setback proved to be short-lived as the U's responded impressively by securing an immediate return to the third tier the following season under Neil Harris

They started the 2026/27 season strongly, winning five and drawing four of their first ten league games to sit fifth in the table, but have slipped to eighth after a four-game winless run.



THE MANAGER

NEIL HARRIS

Few figures are as closely associated with a football club as Neil Harris is with Millwall. The Cambridge United manager enjoyed a playing career spanning almost two decades, but it was in South London where he made his name, becoming the Lions' all-time record goal scorer with 138 goals in all competitions and making more than 430 appearances for the club.

Born in Orsett, Essex, Harris began his senior career with Cambridge City, scoring 29 goals in 51 appearances before earning a move to Millwall in March 1998. He quickly established himself as a regular at The Den and played a key role as the club climbed through the divisions. After six years with the Lions, Harris moved permanently to Nottingham Forest and had a loan spell at Gillingham before returning to Millwall in 2007.

His second spell proved equally successful. In January 2009, Harris broke Teddy Sheringham's long-standing goalscoring record for the club, cementing his place in Millwall folklore. By the time he departed in 2011, he had become one of the most influential players in the club's history. He later finished his playing career with Southend United, retiring from professional football in 2013 after more than 490 senior appearances and over 140 career goals.

Retirement marked the beginning of an immediate transition into coaching. Harris joined Millwall's backroom staff and worked with the club's U21s side before being promoted to Assistant Manager. During this period, he worked under Steve Lomas and Ian Holloway, gaining valuable experience at Championship level.

Harris' first taste of senior management arrived in December 2013 when he was appointed caretaker manager following the departure of Lomas. He oversaw three matches before returning to his assistant role, only to step back into the dugout in March 2015 after Holloway's departure. This second caretaker spell proved more significant, with Harris entrusted to guide Millwall through the closing stages of the campaign before being appointed permanent manager the following month.

As Millwall manager, Harris spent more than four years at the helm and guided the club to promotion from League One via the 2017 Play-Off Final. He also led the Lions to an FA Cup quarter-final. Spells with Cardiff City and Gillingham followed before Cambridge turned to him in December 2023.

Although his first stint at the Abbey Stadium was brief, ending with a return to Millwall in February 2024, Harris remained highly regarded in Cambridgeshire. He returned to the U's in February 2025 and could not help steer the club away from relegation from Sky Bet League One. However, he led them to an immediate return to the third tier last term with a third-place finish, adding another promotion to an increasingly impressive managerial CV.


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ROVERS U18S PROGRESS IN FA YOUTH CUP

Bristol Rovers	3
Forest Green Rovers	2

FA Youth Cup First Round,
The Memorial Stadium,
Tuesday 27 October 2026





Bristol Rovers U18s secured progression in the 2026/27 FA Youth Cup with an industrious 3-2 win over Forest Green Rovers.

Amidst changeable conditions in BS7, it was the perfect start for the young Pirates, grabbing the lead just three minutes into the contest. Playmaker Hammonds was in the right place to tuck in from six yards after a brilliant break away from the home side.

Salahi-Ali went close to doubling the lead moments later, but Forest Green unexpectedly levelled the match on ten minutes with a moment of true quality. Attacker Robinson collected the ball and fired in a pinpoint curler from distance.

The visitors could have turned the match on its head inside a quarter of an hour as Zemen Osawe burst away in possession, only for captain Henry De-Long to make a great, last-ditch tackle.

Hammonds fizzed a shot wide from 20 yards before Charlie Ball's venom-filled effort was well saved, before Rovers restored their lead with four minutes left of the first half. The industrious Salahi-Ali followed in Hammonds' effort to turn in from a narrow angle, giving the hosts the lead at half-time.

Looking to build on their lead from the first half, Rovers started the second period brightly with Ted Haines firing wide at the near post, before Salahi-Ali almost doubled his own tally with a powerful strike.

A third was not far off for the Gas, with midfielder Fowler bravely putting his head in where it hurts to nod in Charlie Ball's cross just before the hour mark, giving the Gas control of the tie.

Ciaran O'Donnell almost added a fourth for the home side, and the finish would have been deserved too at the end of a mazy run down the flank, but his attempt was into Max Connor's grateful gloves.

Forest Green would make the closing exchanges very interesting when a penalty was awarded in the first of four additional minutes, with captain Trigg stepping up to score.

And the action would not end there as Bristol Rovers goalkeeper Wilson had to make a massive, reactive save to deny the away side a leveller moments later.

But the home side held their nerve, and in doing so secured their place in the next round of the FA Youth Cup, where they will face Oxford United at The Memorial Stadium.

GAS GIRLS CRUISE INTO FA CUP SECOND ROUND

Abingdon United	0
Bristol Rovers	6

Women's FA Cup,
The Northcourt,
Sunday 25 October 2026





Bristol Rovers Women showed their ruthless side by beating Abingdon United 6-0 to progress to the Second Round Proper of the FA Cup.

The Gas Girls beat Abingdon 2-0 in the league a fortnight before and claimed another victory with a dominant performance.

McNama kicked things off by intercepting a pass on the left and bursting through on goal, but just miscalculated her finish from a promising position. Davies then played a nice ball through to Gipsy Viveash, who forced the defence to put it behind as the Gas continued to up the tempo.

And that pressure soon paid off with a predictable scorer. After Viveash found space on the right to cut in and try her luck, the ball fell kindly to Libby Davies for an easy finish to put Rovers ahead in the cup tie and further extend her goalscoring tally.

With momentum on their side, the Gas kept pushing forward. Rees found space but could not quite test Maisie Thompson, while Jodie Exley had a shot from range deflected out for a corner.

It was from the resulting set piece that Rovers doubled their advantage before the half-hour mark. Going short, Viveash rolled it to Layah Douglas, who in turn squared for Annys Turner. The defender took one touch and unleashed an effort from 30 yards, with the strike clipping a defender's head on the way into the top left corner.

It did not take long for the first decisive action of the second half, with Rees finding the back of the net within a matter of minutes. Continuing where they left off, Rovers pressed high and forced Thompson into misplacing her clearance, allowing Rees to nip in and finish across goal unchallenged for her side's third of the afternoon.

The goalscoring did not stop there either, as Davies grabbed her second with a smart finish. Receiving the ball inside the box, Rovers' number nine turned nicely onto her stronger right foot to give herself enough room to finish into the top left corner.

Lilia Dempsey then added the Pirates' fifth shortly after coming off the bench, getting onto Ruby Scahill's perfectly weighted through ball before finishing into the bottom corner.

And it would be six shortly after. Dempsey was involved again, running the defence ragged before putting a ball into the box that just evaded Costa, but was tapped in by Lashai McNama at the back post.

Rovers will travel to Moneyfields for the Second Round, looking to beat them again after a 3-2 triumph at The Memorial Stadium earlier this campaign.

2026/27 BRISTOL ROVERS MEN'S FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Competition	Fixture	Venue	Time / Result	Goalscorers	Attendance
Sat 8 Aug 2026	Carabao Cup - Round One	Bristol Rovers v Peterborough United	The Memorial Stadium	0 - 1	4, 810	
Sat 15 Aug 2026	Sky Bet League Two	York City v Bristol Rovers	LNER Community Stadium	3 - 2	Mola, Leigh (p)	8,156 (876 BRFC fans)
Sat 22 Aug 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Newport County	The Memorial Stadium	5 - 3	Purrington, Cavegn x2, DG, Kamwa	10,349
Tue 25 Aug 2026	EFL Trophy - Southern Group C	Bristol Rovers v Chelsea U21s	The Memorial Stadium	2 - 2 (Cobham won 4-2 on pens)	Rijks, Quigley	2,405
Sat 29 Aug 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Crawley Town v Bristol Rovers	Broadfield Stadium	0 - 2	James, Kamwa	4, 120
Tue 1 Sep 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Colchester United	The Memorial Stadium	2 - 0	James, Harrison	7, 666
Sat 5 Sep 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Rotherham United	The Memorial Stadium	1 - 0	Leigh	9, 226
Sat 12 Sep 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Grimsby Town v Bristol Rovers	Blundell Park	2 - 0	-	6, 945 (876 BRFC fans)
Sat 19 Sep 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Gillingham v Bristol Rovers	MEMS Priestfield Stadium	3 - 0	Cavegn	5, 937 (634 BRFC fans)
Sat 26 Sep 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Exeter City	The Memorial Stadium	1 - 0	Kamwa	11, 106
Sat 3 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Crewe Alexandra v Bristol Rovers	Mornflake Stadium	3 - 1	Harrison	5, 964
Tue 6 Oct 2026	EFL Trophy - Southern Group C	Wycombe Wanderers v Bristol Rovers	Adams Park	4 - 1	Harrison	
Sat 10 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Barnet	The Memorial Stadium	1 - 3	-	8,996
Sat 17 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Shrewsbury Town v Bristol Rovers	The Croud Meadow	1 - 0	Sparkes	5,329 891 (891 BRFC fans)
Tue 20 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Salford City	The Memorial Stadium	1 - 2	-	6, 895
Sat 24 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Swindon Town	The Memorial Stadium	0 - 0	-	9, 897
Sat 31 Oct 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Fleetwood Town v Bristol Rovers	Highbury Stadium	3 - 1	Russell-Denny	2, 822
Fri 6 Nov 2026	Emirates FA Cup First Round	Bristol Rovers v Cambridge United	The Memorial Stadium	7.30pm	-	-
Tue 10 Nov 2026	EFL Trophy - Southern Group C	Bristol Rovers v Reading	The Memorial Stadium	7.00pm	-	-
Sat 14 Nov 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 21 Nov 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Cheltenham Town v Bristol Rovers	EV Charger Points Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 28 Nov 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Tranmere Rovers	The Memorial Stadium	12.30pm	-	-
Tue 1 Dec 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Oldham Athletic v Bristol Rovers	Boundary Park	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 5 Dec 2026	*Emirates FA Cup Second Round*	-	-	-	-	-
Sat 12 Dec 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Accrington Stanley	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 19 Dec 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Rochdale v Bristol Rovers	Crown Oil Arena	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 26 Dec 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Walsall	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Tue 29 Dec 2026	Sky Bet League Two	Port Vale v Bristol Rovers	Vale Park	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 2 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Northampton Town v Bristol Rovers	Sixfields Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 9 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Rochdale	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Emirates FA Cup Third Round		-	-	-	-	-
Sat 16 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Tue 19 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Salford City v Bristol Rovers	Peninsula Stadium	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 23 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Swindon Town v Bristol Rovers	The Nigel Eady County Ground	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 30 Jan 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Fleetwood Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 6 Feb 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Crawley Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Tue 9 Feb 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Colchester United v Bristol Rovers	JobServe Community Stadium	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 13 Feb 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Rotherham United v Bristol Rovers	AESSEAL New York Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 20 Feb 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Grimsby Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 27 Feb 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers	SMH Group Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 6 Mar 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v York City	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 13 Mar 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Newport County v Bristol Rovers	Rodney Parade	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 20 Mar 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Cheltenham Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Northampton Town	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Walsall v Bristol Rovers	Pallett-Track Bescot Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 3 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Port Vale	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 10 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Accrington Stanley v Bristol Rovers	Wham Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Tue 13 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Barnet v Bristol Rovers	The Hive Stadium	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 17 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Gillingham	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 24 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Exeter City v Bristol Rovers	St James Park	3.00pm	-	-
Tue 27 Apr 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Crewe Alexandra	The Memorial Stadium	7.45pm	-	-
Sat 1 May 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Tranmere Rovers v Bristol Rovers	Prenton Park	3.00pm	-	-
Sat 8 May 2027	Sky Bet League Two	Bristol Rovers v Oldham Athletic	The Memorial Stadium	3.00pm	-	-

2026/27 BRISTOL ROVERS MEN'S PLAYER STATISTICS

NAME	Sky Bet League Two		Carabao Cup		Vertu Trophy		Emirates FA Cup		Total	
	App (sub)	Goals	App (sub)	Goals	App (sub)	Goals	App (sub)	Goals	App (sub)	Goals
1. Brad Young	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
2. Tom James	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2
3. Jack Sparkes	6 (1)	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	8 (1)	1
4. Kofi Balmer	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
5. Alfie Kilgour	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-
6. Clinton Mola	14	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	1
7. Shaq Forde	13 (1)	-	1	-	(1)	-	-	-	14 (2)	-
8. Reiss Russell-Denny	1 (10)	1	(1)	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	2 (12)	1
9. Joe Quigley	2 (8)	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	5 (8)	1
10. Bobby Kamwa	8 (4)	3	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	8 (5)	3
11. Jack Aitchison	1 (5)	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3 (5)	-
14. Ben Purrington	8 (2)	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	10 (2)	1
17. Ciaran Kelly	7 (2)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	8 (2)	-
18. Mees Rijks	-	-	(1)	-	1	-	-	-	1 (2)	1
19. Ellis Harrison	5 (5)	2	-	-	(2)	1	-	-	5 (7)	3
20. Promise Omochere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Richie Smallwood	11 (1)	-	1	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	13 (2)	-
22. Keenan Gough	6 (2)	-	(1)	-	1	-	-	-	7 (3)	-
23. Macauley Southam-Hales	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	4	-
24. Tommy Leigh	6 (1)	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	8 (1)	2
25. Ryan Howley	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
26. Riley Harbottle	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
27. Philip Sanyaolu	(3)	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (4)	-
28. Arvin Appiah	1 (2)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2 (2)	-
29. Fabrizio Cavegn	12 (1)	3	(1)	-	-	-	12 (2)	-	3	
30. Ollie Dewsbury	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-
32. Charlie Binns	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
33. Ryan De Havilland	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
34. Stan Dunne	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-



Byron Anthony
Southampton FA Cup 2009

Ellis Harrison
Cambridge 2015

FRIDAY NIGHT ROVERS

Bristol Rovers Club Historian Keith Brookman looks back at our previous Friday night fixtures...

Tonight's game against Cambridge United will be the 24th time Bristol Rovers will have played a Friday night fixture since the year 2000, and of the previous 23, we have won seven, drawn seven and lost nine.

We lost the first three Friday night matches of the millennium, all in the league, against Bury, Bristol City and Swansea City. In 2004/05 we played both league matches against Southend United on a Friday night, winning 2-1 at The Mem and losing the return at Roots Hall 2-0.

Following our goalless draw against Northampton Town in October 2005, we drew 1-1 in a Friday night FA Cup Second Round tie against Port Vale in December. There was also an FA Cup Third Round tie against Hereford United in January 2007, when we were 1-0 winners at The Mem.

That was followed by a goalless draw against Shrewsbury Town at their old Gay Meadow ground, the point gained thanks to a last-minute Steve Phillips penalty save. On Friday 12th October 2007, we travelled to Hartlepool and lost 1-0; not a great start to a weekend!

One year later, on the Wirral, we were 2-0 winners against Tranmere Rovers, and our next Friday night fixture was a home game against Scunthorpe United, who travelled to Bristol on 20th November 2008, and their 2-1 win saw them take over at the top of League One.

Southampton were 3-2 winners in a First Round FA Cup tie at The Mem in 2009, while there was a 2-2 draw against Peterborough United in a league match in March 2011. That same year, in October, we recorded our best win under Paul Buckle by beating Rotherham 5-2 at The Mem, and we were 2-1 winners against Barnet when they arrived at The Mem in February 2013.

In 2013/14 we again played both league games against Southend on Friday nights, both of which ended in draws; 1-1 at Roots Hall and goalless at The Mem. Gateshead came calling on a Friday night in our Conference season, when we were 3-2 winners, and in October 2015 we travelled to the Abbey Stadium, Cambridge, and were 2-1 winners in a league encounter.

Another Friday night FA Cup tie in November 2017 ended in a 4-2 defeat at Notts County, while Charlton Athletic left The Mem pointless following their 2-1 defeat on 29th December 2023.

Steve Evans and Paul Raynor marked their first game in charge of Rovers with an away game at Crewe Alexandra on Friday 19th December last year when their new charges gained a point from a 1-1 draw.

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GREAT PLACES TO PLAY

BRISTOL ROVERS

MANAGER
STEVE EVANS

BRAD YOUNG (GK)	1
TOM JAMES	2
JACK SPARKES	3
KOFI BALMER	4
ALFIE KILGOUR	5
CLINTON MOLA	6
SHAQ FORDE	7
REISS RUSSELL-DENNY	8
JOE QUIGLEY	9
BOBBY KAMWA	10
JACK AITCHISON	11
BEN PURRINGTON	14
CIARÁN KELLY	17
ELLIS HARRISON	19
RICHIE SMALLWOOD	21
KEENAN GOUGH	22
MACAULEY SOUTHAM-HALES	23
TOMMY LEIGH	24
RILEY HARBOTTLE	26
PHILIP SANYAOLU	27
ARVIN APPIAH	28
FABRIZIO CAVEGN	29
CHARLIE BINNS (GK)	32
RYAN DE HAVILLAND	33

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

MANAGER
NEIL HARRIS

1	JAKE EASTWOOD (GK)
2	LIAM BENNETT
3	CALLUM PERRY
4	DOMINIC BALL
5	PATRICK BAUER
6	KELL WATTS
7	ISAAC HEATH
8	OWEN MOXON
9	LOUIS APPÉRÉ
10	BEN KNIGHT
11	SULLAY KAIKAI
12	CALLUM STEAD
13	GABRIEL BREEZE (GK)
14	GASSAN AHADME
15	CATHAL HEFFERNAN
17	PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU
19	SHAYNE LAVERY
21	SHANE MCLOUGHLIN
22	ZAK BRADSHAW
27	GLENN MCCONNELL
29	SAM CURTIS
38	GEORGE HODDLE
44	RA'EES BANGURA-WILLIAMS

REFEREE
JAMIE O'CONNOR

ASSISTANT REFEREES
OLIVER BICKLE AND RYAN MCILRAVEY

FOURTH OFFICIAL
STEVE DURNALL

PUMA
HOTCHKINS GROUP
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Poplar Insulation
Brunel GROUP