

CHELTENHAM TOWN PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

vs WEST BROMWICH ALBION TUESDAY 18TH JULY 2023 KICK-OFF: 7.45PM

> vs BIRMINGHAM CITY SATURDAY 22ND JULY 2023 KICK-OFF: 3.00PM

vs BRISTOL CITY TUESDAY 25TH JULY 2023 KICK-OFF: 7.45PM

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BIRMINGHAM CITY MATCH SPONSOR:

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SHOWES







SHOWERS



Cheltenham Town through and through



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Programme Editor: James Williams Images: Alan Franklin, PA Images, GloucestershireLive.co.uk, Nizaam Jones, Wayne Tuckwell Design: Daniel Parker, duplexity.co.uk Print: Typecraft, typecraft.co.uk



ROBINS RETURN FOR PRE-SEASON



03



"WE'RE ALL REALLY HUNGRY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT WILL HOPEFULLY BE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN LEAGUE ONE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SEASON"

Hello Robins fans, and welcome back to the Completely-Suzuki Stadium for pre-season ahead of the 2023/24 campaign. I'd like to welcome the fans, players and staff of West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City and Bristol City over the coming week.

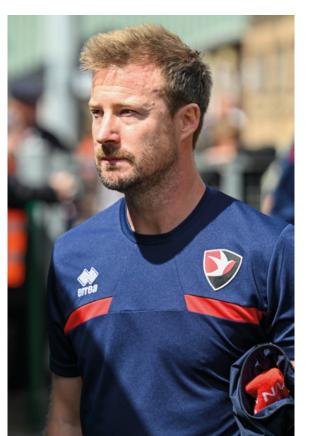
It's been great to be back. The five or six weeks went quickly and in fairness to the lads they've come back in great shape, not one beer belly on them. They've been working really hard which has been great to see.

Pre-season is important for us but it all gears towards that Shrewsbury game in a few weeks' time. We always expect a good performance from the lads, but each game is ultimately part of the process to gear toward the start of the season.

It's been an off-season with lots of change both on and off the field, but we've brought in some key figures that will help us. Rob (Street) is an exciting one, Curtis (Davies) comes with real pedigree and having Luke (Southwood) re-join the club is massive for us.

We're all really hungry and looking forward to what will hopefully be another successful season in League One. Thank you for your support and I look forward to another season with all of you right behind us.







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CURTIS DAVIES

There's a new number 33 at Cheltenham Town this Summer and you might just well have heard of him. Curtis Davies became the Robins' second signing of the window just a few weeks ago.

The 38-year-old has played Premier League football for the likes of Aston Villa and Birmingham City and even scored in the FA Cup Final back in 2014 for Hull City. Now he's ready to turn out for the Robins in red and white.

"It's an exciting time for me," began Davies. "I never thought I'd be able to get a new challenge at my age to be honest but it's one I'm looking forward to. I played with Wade [Elliott] at Birmingham, and this move nearly happened back in January.

"I tried to come on loan, but it didn't work out but I'm happy to be here now and I'm excited to get going."

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As Curtis mentioned, he played alongside the gaffer during his two-year-spell with the Blues between 2011 and 2013, in which he made over 100 appearances for the club. A relationship which was key in Davies' move to Gloucestershire.

"Literally when Derby's [County] retained list came out and I was officially released he text me straight away and saying don't forget me when you're looking for a club in the Summer," laughed Davies.

"I've been in constant conversation with him over the Summer holidays and the fact I'm here now and that it's all done and dusted – I'm happy, one for myself to have another year of football but also to try and help this team to a record finish."

Davies brings a wealth of experience in the game both





on and off the field, from international football, to playing at the highest level, to his work away from the pitch in the media. It's all experience that the defender will be hoping to pass on to his new teammates in the coming months.

"I'd like to think it's important and I think the proof will be in the pudding. Respect is earned and it's not a given so I need to make sure I'm doing the right things first to put that experience across. Out there I'll be trying to improve not only myself but those around me and hopefully I can do that."

It's a move that's caught the eye of not only Robins fans but those up and down the country. But for Davies he is dedicated to show everyone at the age of 38, he can still make a massive impact for Elliott's side this upcoming campaign.

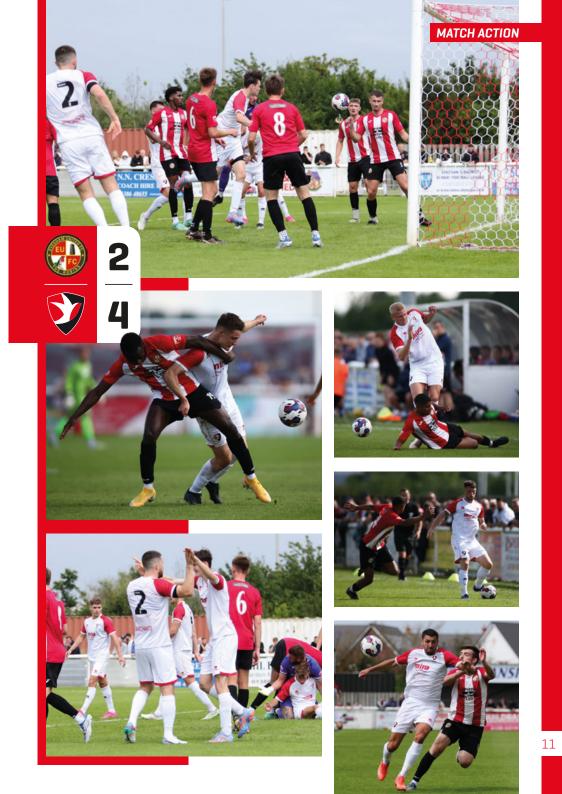
"I think my message is that I'll do what I've done in every single place I have been at, I will always *"I WANT TO TRY AND ACHIEVE SOMETHING THIS YEAR AND I'LL BE TRYING MY VERY BEST TO DO THAT FOR CHELTENHAM TOWN"*

give my all for the shirt and first and foremost, not the name on the back. I haven't come here for a jolly up, I haven't come here to just wave goodbye to my career.

"I want to try and achieve something this year and I'll be trying my very best to do that for Cheltenham Town."









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WEST BROMWICH ALBION

FOUNDED 1878

NICKNAME The Baggies

MANAGER Carlos Corberan

STADIUM The Hawthorns

CAPACITY 26,850

STAR PLAYER John Swift 2022/23 9th, Championship

 Image: Head of the 2021/22 season but have failed to mount a serious bid to return to the Premier league since relegation. An inconsistent start to lass season under former manager Steve Bruce proved dtrimental to West Brom's season, but there's reved outprism for the club, ahead of a first full

It's been a good start to pre-season for the Baggies having put in some good performances, winning 3-0 against Port Vale before defeating Shrewsbury Town 3-1 behind closed doors. The likes of Brandon Thomas-Asante, Adam Reach and Jayson Molumby were on target in the Baggies' victories.

season under new manager Carlos Corberan.

Their preparations all gear up toward their opening game of the 2023/24 campaign, which sees the Baggies travel north to take on Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park, before a return to the Hawthorns to the host Swansea City.

The midfield duo of John Swift and Jed Wallace arrived at the club last year and played a pivotal role in the squad last term. Together they accrued a total of 29 goal involvements between them, just under half of the team's Championship goals for the season. Okay Yokuslu is another of the Baggies important assets, the Turkish midfielder having played 38 times last campaign.

Former Cheltenham Town loanees Caleb Taylor and Josh Griffiths have also both featured this preseason, albeit on other sides of the continent. Taylor made 45 League One appearances for the Robins



last season and has featured for the Baggies since his return to the Midlands. Griffiths meanwhile was a part of the England U21 squad who were recently crowned European Champions.

The Baggies have been quiet in transfer market so far this summer, with the only real movement being away from the club. But that puts testament to the depth of Corberan's squad. With the number of quality players in the midfield and experience at the back, they might just be a real goal scorer away from mounting a strong season in the Championship this term.

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West Bromwich Albion will have their eyes firmly set on another promotion hunt this season, after narrowly missing out on the Championship playoffs back in May.



WORDSEARCH

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ANSWERS: Spot the Ball: B, Who Am I? Rob Street





IDGE

6







MATCH ACTION





BIRMINGHAM CITY



NICKNAME Blues MANAGER John Eustace STADIUM St Andrews CAPACITY 29,409

STAR PLAYER Krystian Bielik 2022/23 17th, Championship It's a new dawn at Birmingham City Football Club with the Blues having been taken over by new owners last week, ending a long saga of troubles at St Andrews.



City finished in 17th at the close of the 2022/23 Championship season, a finish that would've felt very familiar for the Second City club. In fact, the Blues haven't finished in the top half of the Championship since the 2015/16 season, but under new leadership with a new direction and a brighter future, could that be about to change.

John Eustace and his side have played twice already this pre-season, including a 1-0 win over Solihull Moors and a 2-1 victory over FC Cartagena, ending the sides on pitch action of their trip to Spain. Welsh internationals Jordan James and recent signing Tyler Roberts were on target in the victory, as was Lukas Jutkiewicz in the 1-0 win at the Armco Arena.

The Blues are no strangers to the Completely-Suzuki Stadium having made the trip to Gloucestershire last pre-season. The Robins ran out 1-0 winners on that occasion, thanks to a goal late on from former striker Alfie May.

First up for Eustace and his team in the league this term is a trip to Wales to take on Swansea City before they return to Cheltenham once again, as we take on City in the first round of the Carabao Cup. They then head back to St Andrews to host recently relegated Leeds United.

Birmingham have been busy in the last few weeks in the transfer market and have brought in some key players. Two of which are Dion Sanderson and Krystian Bielik. The pair have been on loan on two different occasions from Wolves and Derby County respectively over the past few seasons but have



now both committed permanently to the club. The signings of Siriki Dembele and Ethan Laird are also very exciting for Blues fans, as is the acquisition of Koji Miyoshi, who joined from Belgian outfit Royal Antwerp.

There will certainly be a sense of excitement around the club as they head into a new era in Birmingham as Eustace looks to build on his first full campaign. Worldwide Jet Charter & Aircraft Management BUSINESS TRAVEL | SPORTING EVENTS | GROUP TRAVEL | MEDICAL FLIGHTS

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MATCH ACTION



BRISTOL CITY



STADIUM

Ashton Gate CAPACITY 27.000

STAR PLAYER Alex Scott

2022/23 14th, Championship

It's another season of Championship football in store for Nigel Pearson and his Bristol City side and their aim as ever will be to reach the Premier League, for the first time.

The Robins had vet another mid table finish last season as they closed the term in 14th place, ten points away from the last play-off position. But for City, the main takeaway of the campaign had to be the talented crop of young players they have on show. From Tommy Conway to Sam Bell, to Alex Scott the young ace who clubs up and down the country have got their eye on. The Robins have some serious talent at their disposal, who will for sure play a big role once again this season.

Pre-season preparations have begun well for City with the Robins dismantling National South side Torquay United 6-2 in their pre campaign opener. Goals from Bell, Anis Mehmeti and Harry Cornick helped Pearson's side to victory over the Seagulls, led by former Cheltenham manager Gary Johnson.

Last pre-season Cheltenham travelled to take on City at the Robins High Performance Centre, with the hosts running out 2-0 winners thanks to second half goals from George Tanner and the previously mentioned Conway.

Pearson and his squad kick-of their 2023/24 Championship season in a few weeks' time as they welcome Preston North end to Ashton Gate before a trip to the capital to take on Millwall.

The likes of Jason Knight, Haydon Roberts and Ross McCrorie are impressive signings for the club as is experienced defender Rob Dickie, who signed a three-year-deal, joining from Queens Park Rangers. Those names alongside the mix of youth and



experience already present at BS3 could make for an exciting season ahead.

City will be looking to get back on track to where they were nearly five years go now, establishing themselves once again as a top half second tier club in the hunt for the glory of top flight football for the first time since 1980.











2023/24 FIXTURES

AUGUS	ST	
Sat 5	Shrewsbury Town	A
Sat 12	🏶 Bolton Wanderers	H
Tue 15	Reading	A
Sat 19	© Portsmouth	A
Sat 26	📕 Northampton Town	H
SEPTE	MBER	
Sat 2	🧐 Barnsley	H
Sat 9	💿 Peterborough United	A
Sat 16	💐 Exeter City	A
Sat 23	Stevenage	H
Sat 30	🖲 Lincoln City	A
остов	BER	
Tue 3	Fleetwood Town	H
Sat 7	🖘 Derby County	H
Sat 14	S Wycombe Wanderers	A
Sat 21	🙆 Cambridge United	H
Tue 24	Blackpool	A
Sat 28	🦉 Port Vale	A
NOVEN	IBER	
Sat 11	🐵 Wigan Athletic	H
Sat 18	Burton Albion	A
Sat 25	🛡 Oxford United	H
Tue 28	🔍 Charlton Athletic	A
DECEM	IBER	
Sat 9	🍯 Bristol Rovers	A
Sat 16	Leyton Orient	H
Sat 23	Carlisle United	A
Tue 26	Shrewsbury Town	H
Fri 29	© Reading	H

JANUA	RY 2024	
Mon 1	🗴 Northampton Town	A
Sat 6	Portsmouth	Н
Sat 13	🏶 Bolton Wanderers	А
Sat 20	🖻 Carlisle United	Н
Sat 27	🕾 Derby County	A
FEBRU	ARY	
Sat 3	S Wycombe Wanderers	H
Sat 10	🉆 Cambridge United	A
Tue 13	③ Blackpool	H
Sat 17	🖉 Port Vale	H
Sat 24	😂 Wigan Athletic	A
MARCH	1	
Sat 2	Burton Albion	Н
Tue 5	O Charlton Athletic	H
Sat 9	🗟 Oxford United	A
Sat 16	🧐 Barnsley	A
Sat 23	Peterborough United	H
Fri 29	© Fleetwood Town	A
APRIL		
Mon 1	😂 Exeter City	Н
Sat 6	Leyton Orient	A
Sat 13	Ø Bristol Rovers	Н
Sat 20	📱 Lincoln City	Н
Sat 27	® Stevenage	A



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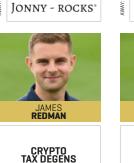


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