

---

## The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 28-04-2008 08:18

---

The incomparable Tony Kempster has summarised things pretty well for the conference and below here:

<http://www.tonykempster.co.uk/playoff0708.htm>

I might head along to a game Tuesday, although it's also the Reading beer festival on Saturday which may well rule out any of the games with second legs

What's the Wimbledon view on their chances btw?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trousers Tips - 28-04-2008 08:56

---

Semi 5 --- Tue 29th Apr --- Leamington v Rushall Olympic  
Semi 6 --- Tue 29th Apr --- Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield Town

Excellent - Leamington and Stourbridge are kept apart.

It's payback time (er, if they both get through their semi final)

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 08:59

---

Mildly interesting to note that while the Conference main and Conference north both have three ex-league teams involved, there's none in the Conference south play-offs.

Anyway, Come On Sheffield!

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 28-04-2008 09:32

---

We've lost meekly in playoff semis each of the last two seasons and our form at the moment is poor. I'm keeping saturday clear just in case but don't really expect to spend any of it watching football.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 28-04-2008 10:18

---

I would have popped along to the TeamBath game but I have a rehearsal on Tuesday night.

TeamBath will bottle it, they always do in big games

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 28-04-2008 11:15

---

Come on, call them by their real name - Team Taxpayer

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 11:31

---

So what about Team Northumbria?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 28-04-2008 11:37

---

There's only one former League club in the Conference South (and I'm stretching the definition not far short of as far as possible by calling them that), and they blew it on Saturday, letting Braintree Town through instead. Hampton & Richmond, I think, will see off Eastbourne in that.

What has been going wrong at Wimbledon lately? Their form over the last couple of months has been really poor, and I fear for their chances against Hornchurch. I'll probably be travelling up for this one, by the way - it's not all-ticket is it? (I always ask this)

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 28-04-2008 11:49

---

The club that my son plays for and I coach at is TeamBath Arsenal and are nominally part of TeamBath.

I have one of the Ladies team coaches assisting me, they let the lads into the games free and they have been great in helping me in things like the Sports Relief day when they let the lads play an match at half-time.

Our chairman particularly gets pissed off with the Team Tax stuff. He supports both teams (a concept I don't understand) with his argument that the TeamBath players and students pay tax as well

We have Bath City's main shirt sponsor's son playing for us and sponsoring our kit as well as Bath City's and there is a lot more crossover between the two clubs than is publically acknowledged.

Personally however, from a football supporter's point of view, I can completely see the arguments against TeamBath and understand why they are seen as some sort of "Franchise-lite".

I go and see them occasionally but haven't even been impressed by their football. As a team that is supposed to have superior training and modern attitudes towards coaching, they play too much of the long ball game.

On the other hand, I was astonished last year, after a great season by their team, how much time was wasted by Bath City fans pouring viriol on TeamBath, going along to games and supporting the teams playing against TeamBath etc

I can't understand this in the same way that I can't understand why anyone indulges in anti-Jack singing when we are winning in a FA Cup semi-final.

In saying this, I ma happy to go and watch Bath City as well, as much to see Scott PArtridge and occasionally they have anice kit.

At the end of the day though, I don't support either team.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 28-04-2008 12:02

---

Personally however, from a football supporter's point of view, I can completely see the arguments against TeamBath and understand why they are seen as some sort of "Franchise-lite".

---

Why is it again?

Is the 'Team Taxpayer' thing because they receive funding as part of a University? Is every club who have failed to pay off the Inland Revenue in full when going through administration called the same?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 28-04-2008 13:05

---

What's wrong at Wimbledon is that we have a geriatric centre-back pairing. And a team full of mentally fragile bigheads who think they only have to turn up to win against crap teams (5 points from 24 against the four teams that went down, for christ's sake) and who shit themselves whenever they get a big crowd at home for an important game. Oh, and a manager who despite having had the job full time since July still doesn't know what his preferred starting eleven is. And he's given to impulse signings too which means that in recent games we've had as many as 5 loan signings (usually squad players from teams a division or two above us) who generally lumber round the pitch not giving a shit while trying to look like they're serious about regaining fitness after their broken leg/hernia/fit of the vapours (delete as appropriate) earlier in the season. Oh, and we've forgotten what that big, stringy oblong thing behind the opposition's number 1 is for.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 28-04-2008 15:33

---

Harry,

I sent a long and involved reply and it hasn't turned up so apologies in advance if there is any duplication.

The main complaints appear to be that TeamBath put out a league team that are subsidised by the tax payers because they have no supporters and wouldn't survive otherwise.

As far as I understand it, they have quite a lot of money coming in from other income streams e.g. the commercial department through TeamBath merchandise (rather than University Of Bath)

Secondly, people take umbrage as far the players being paid to play and train full-time so having an advantage over other teams in the league while doing spurious "Sports Science" degrees and whatnot.

Obviously, this is an accusation that could be levelled at most college basketball/baseball/gridiron players in American universities and I really do not know the ins and outs of how many players end up with the degrees.

I do not that the guy that organised my FA coaching course through TeamBath is an ex-TeamBath player so some of them must be doing something. I also deal with a couple of other ex-TeamBath players for certain issues and current players help out with lads on the match-days that I have mentioned

As far as the full-time playing and training goes, it doesn't seem to be doing them much good as they do seem to play the long ball game.

TeamBath coaches are all supposed to be coaching our teams but, as far as I know, I am the only one with a full-time coach and she is ex-TeamBath Ladies. This, however, may be as much down to the other managers' "I know what I am doing" attitudes as anything with the players.

A lot of criticism came from TeamBath fielding Andy Tilson ex-QPR, Bristol Rovers etc and obviously not a student but he was signed as player/coach and is now full-time coach. His situation is similar to Brian Parkin who is also ex-Rovers and is a coach there. Make of that what you will.

There has been some criticism for TeamBath or, at least, their players playing in university and BUSA games which has come from the University element. I don't know about this but I do know there is a separate University Of Bath team.

The situation closest to Franchise is actually TeamBath Ladies who, until this season, were Bristol City Ladies but City cut ties with them and they were on the verge of dissolving but TeamBath took them over, folded their Ladies team and took Bristol City's position two leagues higher.

---

Again, make of that what you will but there would have been no Bristol City Ladies team if this hadn't happened.

As I say, from a supporters point of view, I can see the criticisms but from a parent and coach's point of view, I have had very good dealings with them and am impressed with the TeamBath approach to a lot of sports and a lot of kids, specifically, are doing a lot of sports through TeamBath.

AS far as Bath City are concerned, they get a good income from the groundshare, I assume, use of TEamBath's excellent training facilities and, when they are in the same league, a pretty much guaranteed six points every season as well

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by noj - 28-04-2008 16:05

---

I might be going to Burton v Cambridge U on Friday night, but I suspect I'll only be able to get a ticket in the Burton end on my own so not sure I'll bother.

I may instead save up my brownie points and hopefully go the final should Cambridge get there (such a policy would inevitably result in a Burton win).

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 28-04-2008 16:10

---

Aren't you in a bit of a win-win with that tie?

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by EIM - 28-04-2008 16:13

---

We're at home on Wednesday. Which was vital as no one would have turned up if we'd been playing on Tuesday night.

I've never done play-offs before. I'm probably going to cry, aren't I?

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 28-04-2008 16:17

---

They're horrid. They bring out the worst in most of our players and many of our fans, too.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by EIM - 28-04-2008 16:22

---

I'm hoping we just breeze through them. We finished second so have home advantage, we're in good form compared to the rest of the teams in the play-offs, we're a 'big game' team, and we can't be doing with more NPL div 1 North mentalness next season.

But the fact I'm able to go to the final on Saturday should see to it that we lose to Bamber Bridge.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

---

Posted by twohundredpercent - 28-04-2008 16:27

I coped with the Conference South play-off final two years ago by getting horribly, horribly drunk on the train from Brighton to Stevenage in the morning of the match. It turned out to be quite one-sided. Obviously, I don't recommend this plan of action for anybody going to a play-off match over the next few weeks.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by brian potter - 29-04-2008 11:43

Bored Of The Dance wrote:

TeamBath will bottle it, they always do in big games

I don't think they will, Bashley didn't look all that against Mangotsfield a couple of weeks ago, even though we had to resort to playing 2 youth team players just to raise a full XI. Canham will do the business for TB.

Chippenham always bottle it though, and I fully expect Halesowen to get through that one.

As for the team tax thing, it's a bit tired and lazy now. A quick look at Bath Universities latest accounts shows that Central funding only accounts for 75% of the University's income. When I worked for a Research Council, we had very clear guidelines on how our funding was spent, I'd imagine HEFCE are even stricter than we were.

I don't understand the animosity from Bath City fans either, after all before TB allowed Bath City use of their training facilities and started paying rent for Twerton, City were drifting along aimlessly, even struggling, in the Southern League and were a very poor shadow of their former selves.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by noj - 29-04-2008 11:58

Aren't you in a bit of a win-win with that tie?

Kind of. I'd still prefer Cambridge U to win, but Burton going up would be quite cool.

They'd only go and put up their prices though..

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 29-04-2008 14:30

I can understand the animosity, obviously they are local rivals, it is the level I can't understand especially in a season when they got promoted.

At last year's play-off final, I took a load of our lads to play on the pitch at half-time and they were walking around the ground in their team tops which are basically the TeamBath strip and a load of Bath City supporters who were supporting whoever TV were playing started hassling them.

Luckily, Marley, for one, wasn't bothered and gave them a load of lip back and these guy were obviously just a bunch of cunts (the BC supporter not my lads) but, you know, going along to support the opposing side of a rival is OK but you only get away with it in non-league and having a go at a load of kids? Wankers (again, not my lads)

Having said that, I will go and see both teams but it certainly makes me think that I can't be bothered going gung-ho for Bath City

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 30-04-2008 13:13

---

Well done, brian, you were spot on in pretty much all your post. 4-1 to TeamBath, Canham with a hat-trick.

I may pop along to the final at Twerton Park on Saturday

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 30-04-2008 15:19

---

Cavalry Trouser Tips wrote:

Semi 5 --- Tue 29th Apr --- Leamington v Rushall Olympic

Semi 6 --- Tue 29th Apr --- Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield Town

Excellent - Leamington and Stourbridge are kept apart.

It's payback time (er, if they both get through their semi final)

And they do.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Duncan Gardner - 30-04-2008 15:21

---

I'll be at Leamington on Saturday. The ground's in a field three miles from town, so it'll be good preparation for HMP Maze.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 30-04-2008 15:51

---

Nowt from the AFCW lot?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 30-04-2008 16:37

---

I'm not one of the "AFCW lot", but I did go last night. It was a pretty decent performance - they were two up at half-time and should really have put it beyond reach before Hornchurch pulled one back just after half-way through the second half. It was a pretty desperate last fifteen minutes, though Hornchurch didn't really create much, and the third goal (which was scored with virtually the last kick of the game) was an outstanding run and finish by John Main. Staines away on Saturday is the final, though I heard that Staines have given them 1,500 out of 2,600 tickets, so it might just be more like a home match.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 30-04-2008 17:58

---

PhoebeDisco,

Are you coming over on Saturday, and can you get in touch with Jon to see if he is too?

---

I'd send a PM, but then I'd have to start a thread to let him know he's got one...

Jon, if you're reading this thread, are you over on Saturday?

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 30-04-2008 18:32

---

I'd agree with that. Job half done and all that. Having been as excited as Lieutenant George before the big push for the last two years, I was expecting the worst last night and was surprised, delighted and relieved. We've gone further than ever before, so progress at least.

Though the ref and linesman in their half going insane for 10 min gave me the shits. I once thought it was subtle pressure from the Ryman League not wanting us to leave, but realised it's just that the jumped up ones like to show how fearless they are by giving shocking decisions against us.

Anyway, our ticket allocation has been cut to 1000, and with 1700 season ticket holders, they sold out in hours. That means Staines have 1500 themselves, which is fucking madness and I fully expect to see them on eBay with all the attendant problems for segregation.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 30-04-2008 18:47

---

Is there any truth in the stories about people going straight from the match up to Staines and getting tickets from there last night? There aren't any tickets on Ebay (I don't want one - there are many people that deserve one more than me - but I thought I'd have a look), and I'd have thought that if you got hold of one, you'd want to keep hold of it.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Jonas77 - 30-04-2008 19:05

---

Be grateful Staines gave you 1000 in the end, I think they only had to give you 600 if they followed the rule book to the max.

Should be a good game, I fancy a 2-1 home win.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 30-04-2008 20:16

---

Anyway...

As EIM's not here, FC United are 3-1 up on Bamber Bridge this evening. Record crowd or something, apparently.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by 1890 - 30-04-2008 20:36

---

Bum, I could have gone to that game and I'll be away on saturday...shame! Also missing Stalybridge playoffs games, grmbl...

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 30-04-2008 20:41

---

Full-time, and 3-2. Good work by all, by the sound of it.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 30-04-2008 21:11

---

Is there any truth in the stories about people going straight from the match up to Staines and getting tickets from there last night?

Yes. And it's thanks to the good offices of one such individual that YMG and I will be there on Saturday, as long as the weather permits the game to go ahead - some of the photos from the game between Staines and Ramsgate show alarming amounts of surface water on the pitch and it's heavy rain on the forecasts for the next three days.

I don't know what sort of segregation measures Staines will have in place. Apparently the tickets are all the same colour and come with no instructions regarding what turnstile they correspond to, so it's likely to be fairly chaotic, much like when we went to Fisher two seasons ago. Considering that if you factor out the visit of AFC Wimbledon back in December Staines average home attendance this season has been around 350 it ought to come as no surprise that the ostensibly "Staines" tickets will largely find themselves in the hands of Wimbledon supporters on Saturday.

NHH is entirely right about the, lets say "idiosyncratic", performance of the ref and one linesman last night. And almost certainly correct about the causes of it, but some of the overlooked handballs (including one right before they pulled a goal back) were enough to make one wonder. That said, his use of the cards was entirely appropriate, even if our solitary card was for dissent after another truly bizarre decision.

We did wobble quite noticeably after they got one back and they had a glorious opportunity to make it level almost immediately after, but their centre back sent a free header about 8 foot wide from no more than 8 yards out. Which was a relief. That apart we were generally pretty comfortable even though they threw everything they had at us.

Oh, and Jon Main's superb last-minute clincher is viewable here, although the camera angle doesn't really do it justice.

Still, no triumphalism. There's a very tough job still to do against a team who are on the back of a run that's seen them lose only one of the last 13. We are still second favourites to go up and a lot rests on the shoulders of Mr Unlucky, Steve Ferguson and how he does against the occasionally lumbering Staines fullbacks.

Fuck me, I'm excited.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by EIM - 30-04-2008 22:05

---

GET THE FOOK IN

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Jon - 30-04-2008 23:09

---

I'd send a PM, but then I'd have to start a thread to let him know he's got one...

Oh... so close to getting my first 'PM for Jon' thread it's untrue.

Anyway, CTT, yes, fairly sure I'll be over for the game on Saturday. Was in the pub with Duncan Gardner tonight and he's coming over too. PD I'm not so sure about as his knee is playing up.

Do we need tickets?

---

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 01-05-2008 05:58

---

Be grateful Staines gave you 1000 in the end, I think they only had to give you 600 if they followed the rule book to the max.

If they'd have followed the rule book to the max, I'd want to know where they thought the extra 1550 fans were coming from to watch them. Hate to think they'd want to keep them back in order to get a secondary market going.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by brian potter - 02-05-2008 11:56

---

Bored Of The Dance wrote:

Well done, brian, you were spot on in pretty much all your post. 4-1 to TeamBath, Canham with a hat-trick.

I may pop along to the final at Tweron Park on saturday

I don't usually do so well in the predictions, I called Halesowen's win as well. I can see the final going either way though.

Canham is by far the best striker I've seen in that division this season. Even when he has a poor game, as against us, he's still dangerous.

A lot of the Halesowen fans we were talking to last week don't want to go up if it means Conference North, they were a real credit to their club. The best visiting supporters, along with Merthyr, that we've had all season. Not necessarily in numbers, but in attitude.

I'm tempted to go, but doubt if I'll be able to relieve myself from family duties.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 02-05-2008 12:06

---

26 hours to go and I'm shivering with nerves and excitement.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 02-05-2008 14:04

---

Is it on the radio tomorrow, PG?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 02-05-2008 14:52

---

Yeah, WDON have cut a deal with the people who usually do the internet commentary for Staines to allow WDON to carry it. The usual Staines lot, Radio Wey or something, only have about 30 listening slots whereas WDON have much higher bandwidth - 500 unique ip addresses tuned in to our semi on Tuesday.

<http://www.wdon.com/>

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 02-05-2008 14:57

---

And remember - Jon Main IS Big Leggy.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Harry Parsons - 02-05-2008 16:30

---

Purves Grundy wrote:

Is there any truth in the stories about people going straight from the match up to Staines and getting tickets from there last night?

Yes. And it's thanks to the good offices of one such individual that YMG and I will be there on Saturday.

I was wondering why the Young Marble Giants were going for a while there.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 02-05-2008 17:02

---

Excellent. Cheers for that. Now all I have to do is manage to persuade my significant other that I would be much better off hunched over in front of my laptop than doing whatever the hell it is that other people do on bank holiday Saturday afternoons at this time of year.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 02-05-2008 18:04

---

Cavalry Trouser Tips wrote:

PhoebeDisco,

Are you coming over on Saturday, and can you get in touch with Jon to see if he is too?

I'd send a PM, but then I'd have to start a thread to let him know he's got one...

Jon, if you're reading this thread, are you over on Saturday?

Only just seen this, but I'm afraid the knee's playing up too much to travel, and it's also my sister's birthday do (why she couldn't do it on Monday, I don't know).

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 02-05-2008 18:09

---

The Stourbridge numbers are depleted by one. Leamington are winning the psychological battle already!

COME ON YOU BRAAAAAAAAKES!

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 03-05-2008 15:13

---

---

Typical, in trying to find out how TeamBath are funded, I have ended up getting into deep and meaningful with a load of Bath City supporters and am trying to find out myself for them.

Has WSC ever done a story on TeamBath's set-up? E10? Anyone?

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-05-2008 15:44

---

Exciting stuff at Staines vs Wimbledon. Staines took the lead in the first half, but Wimbledon have just levelled things up with nine minutes to play. Could yet go either way.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-05-2008 15:46

---

2-1 Wimbledon, now. Two goals in two minutes.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 03-05-2008 15:56

---

AFc messageboard down. Radio commentary intermittent. This is torture.

Well done to FCUM - 4-1 winners and now in Unibond Prem.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by mafu - 03-05-2008 15:59

---

wombles promoted

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-05-2008 15:59

---

The stream is working okay here, NHH, although it did stop and restart about a minute before the second goal. Congratulations to EIM and FCUM, too.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-05-2008 16:00

---

And, obviously, to NHH, TT, PG and all the rest of you. See you in the Conference South next season!

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 03-05-2008 16:01

---

Get in!!!!

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 03-05-2008 16:34

---

Congratulations Wimbledon - and Stourbridge, who beat the Brakes 2-1.

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by Bombanero - 03-05-2008 16:46

---

Does anyone know how Sheffield FC got on at Nantwich?

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 03-05-2008 17:56

---

I went to Hampton & Richmond Borough v Fisher Athletic this afternoon

1-1 from the first leg, then goalless after 120 minutes of football today.

Hampton won 4-2 on penalties, crowd around 1400

Shocking game though, lots of effort, but absolutely no quality. Fisher missed two absolute sitters in the first half.

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by brian potter - 03-05-2008 18:01

---

According to Tony Kempster's site, Nantwich won on penalties.

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by boris - 03-05-2008 18:07

---

Oxford City 1 Uxbridge 0

City up to the Southern League Premier Division, just two divisions below United. Good stuff.

=====

**Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa**

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 03-05-2008 18:44

---

Gah! Today's game (Leamington v Stourbridge) was exactly like Fiorentina v Rangers - except instead of winning on pens, Stourbridge popped up and scored the winner 5 minutes before the end of extra time.

Still, Leamington will hopefully go up next year if they can keep most of this team together - couple of real class acts there.

---

Well done Stourbridge, Wimbledon and FCUM!!!

Also, good to meet you, Merlin the happy pig!

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Mr Shadrak - 03-05-2008 18:46

---

Having messed up in the last two playoffs, Tooting & Mitcham return to the Isthmian Premier after a 19-year absence by beating Cray Wanderers 1-0. That will also mean their first derby with Sutton United since 1985-86.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Zenits date with Satans - 03-05-2008 19:11

---

Excellent day out at Leamington (actually in some rural idyll halfway across the next county. We could see that Northampton lift tower in the distance).

Five live have just mentioned the game and all.

Ground record crowd of 1,634.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by mnb098mnb - 03-05-2008 19:14

---

The Hampton & Richmond match had the feeling of a summer fete rather than a playoff match. BBQs, stalls selling pens and badges and lots of kids running around the place.

There was a 1400 crowd there today and it was pretty packed, I have no idea how they would be able to host Conference matches.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Zenits date with Satans - 03-05-2008 19:22

---

mnb098mnb wrote:

The Hampton & Richmond match had the feeling of a summer fete rather than a playoff match. BBQs, stalls selling pens and badges and lots of kids running around the place

That sounds like the 2005 Supporters' League cup final at the venue, refereed by yours truly. Hibernian beat Norwich 1-0 as most of the 50 strong crowd shouted anti-Chelsea abuse at Hibs' ringers.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Bombanero - 03-05-2008 19:36

---

Shame about club, they've a decent team and some of them aren't getting any younger.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Jonas77 - 03-05-2008 19:38

---

What a weekend, Boris wins the London mayoral election and AFCW win promotion to the BSS..I think i'll just grab my coat as it couldn't het much worse!!

Let's see if everyones favourite supporters team can behave themselves at Bromley next season, and try to avoid the hostilities of last seasons play off defeat?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 03-05-2008 20:12

<http://images-eu.amazon.com/images/P/0843178094.01.LZZZZZZZ.jpg>

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 03-05-2008 20:12

In your face, Jonas!

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by mafu - 03-05-2008 20:22

hahahahaha. congrats PG, and other wombles

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 03-05-2008 20:30

Aaaanyway.

Preposterous as it may seem there are people out there (the sort of people who respect people more than others if they have MBAs, but people nevertheless - with votes and everything) who try to maintain that a certain team based in Buckinghamshire actually are the present manifestation of Wimbledon Football Club.

One question - when the McDons secured promotion this season was there a single ex-Wimbledon player or even club official to be found celebrating? Much less in the way that genuine Wimbledon legend Dickie Guy could be observed making a complete uninhibited exhibition of himself at the post-match celebrations down at Kingsmeadow today?

Today has banished the post-election gloom however briefly at Grundy Towers. In my entire life I have never gone so completely demented as I did when prodigal son Mark de Bolla slammed in the 85th minute free kick that put us into the Conference South (just think, jonas, if Bromley hadn't failed to make the playoffs and consequently return him to us he wouldn't have been able to make one and score the other of our goals today. Does it ache? Does it hurt? Does it burn? Poor you.)

Had we not won there would have been injustice aplenty to rail against (their captain, number 5, scoring shortly after escaping a certain red card for bringing down down main when through on goal; the penalty not given in the second half despite the linesman - who was much nearer events - frantically flagging for a spotkick) but ultimately it's probably Staines who played the better. We were wretched through almost all the second half. Right up to the moment we brought de Bolla on, in fact. Hey, Jonas: ;-)

After that it was a delirious pitch invasion then back to Kingsmeadow for canapes and sophisticated conversation. It's so great for YMG in particular. He's at school in Wimbledon surrounded by Chelsea, Man U & Liverpool types. But who was actually at a final contested by his team? Who got to meet the players afterwards and get them to sign his shirt? Who got to have a kickabout with his team's captain? Who got to run out on to his team's pitch for a post-promotion kickabout? Who actually supports and belongs, rather than simply consuming and bragging.



---

No fucking way I'm going to sleep tonight.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 03-05-2008 23:30

---

Congratulations to all, especially the Wimbledon lot. Leaving aside the local shenanigans, at least I will be able to see you twice, the first time since that cup that you won where Lawrie Sanchez presented it or when I boycotted Cardiff/Franchise to take Marley to a sodden Kingsmeadow and almost put him off football for life.

The Dolphin across the river from Twerton Park(through the bus garage) is the place to drink in Bath.

Obviously, City fans are already hyping up your game vs TeamBath as "Good vs Evil"

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 03-05-2008 23:34

---

Champions of Universal Truth, Love and Rectitude is a mantle we wear surprisingly lightly.

See you next season, Bored.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 04-05-2008 00:03

---

I really appreciated Purv's text, coming just as we scored a comical third goal in our meaningless game against Bristol Rovers - in terms of its sheer sense of unexpectedness, in terms of its overcoming that sense of "we're bound to fuck it up"-ness, and in its resemblance to what happened to us on this weekend two years ago. And in the context of this putrid cesspit of a football season, I'm really so happy for all Wombles, some of whose second-favourite type fans turned up in the Birkbeck tonight and helped make a great night greater.

The best story of an otherwise shit season.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Merlin the happy pig - 04-05-2008 00:06

---

Likewise Mr Tips.

Pity about the result, Banbury could have done with the gate money from several hundred brakes fans.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Jonas77 - 04-05-2008 08:58

---

I have decided to make a fresh start with the AFCW supporters, from now on I will not make any smart remarks and look forward to a couple of cracking league games next season.

Who knows we might meet again later in the season in the play offs.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 04-05-2008 09:44

---

Aahahahaha!

I wondered what would become of those photos.

You've put them into some sort of collage!

I was out again last night and you really could feel the deflation in all the pubs.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Zenits date with Satans - 04-05-2008 09:49

---

Morning CTT. As the others said, I look forward to seeing the Brakes and their support in a higher league soon. I think I owe you a taxi fare too. On me next time.

Nice to meet Merlin and thanks to Jon for the lift. I don't think he went clubbing- no stamina, these youngsters.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 04-05-2008 10:56

---

The beautiful game

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 04-05-2008 11:12

---

You know how, if you're listening to a match on the radio, you can visualise it in your head but, when you see the highlights on the television, it looks completely different to how you saw it in your head? Well, the video footage that I've seen looks exactly, in more or less every detail, like how it looked in my head.

It was a tremendously nervy afternoon, but quite pleasingly old-fashioned. In an age where, if you look hard enough, you can find more or less any football match in the world being streamed live somewhere, it made quite a nice change to be listening to a shonky radio feed which felt like it was going to give up the ghost at any moment (and did about 15 seconds after the second goal).

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by EIM - 04-05-2008 13:18

---

Well done Dons.

And us. Giddy and proud in equal measure.

Anf then, when you think things can't get any better, you find out you have a post-season friendly in Germany to look forward to.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by TonTon - 04-05-2008 14:34

---

---

All rather wonderful. And, as a friend said to me this morning, a rather spectacular way to fall off the waggon.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by ad hoc - 04-05-2008 15:04

---

Huge congrats to AFCW and FCUM.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by noj - 04-05-2008 18:50

---

Yeah, what ad hoc said. FCUM in the Unibond Premier, looking forward to trips to Matlock next year. Fantastic (pity Leek got themselves relegated though).

Cambridge United very lucky against Burton the other night, drawing two-two after being two down. Both Cambridge goals from decisions which shouldn't really have been given. Still, I'm after a home win at the Abbey so in true glory hunting style I can get a trip to Wembely.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by EIM - 04-05-2008 19:40

---

I still can't quite believe this. Three years ago, we didn't have a club. Look at us now! Our results are going to be on telly and everything!

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by teerex - 05-05-2008 13:38

---

I trust there was an audience of millions watching Exeter's triumph today, and you'll all be telling your grandkids about the most famous comeback in history, henceforth known as "That Lunchtime in Torquay".

Fantastic.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by rick derris - 05-05-2008 14:11

---

did the exeter fans go by boat? sure they did a few years ago

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 05-05-2008 14:51

---

I watched the second half of the exeter game, absolutely superb stuff

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Fixtures below (divisional references in "old money")

DIVISION 2

Saturday, 10 May 2008

Crystal Palace v Bristol City, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 12:15

-----

Sunday, 11 May 2008

Watford v Hull, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 12:00

-----

Tuesday, 13 May 2008

Bristol City v Crystal Palace, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 19:45

-----

Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Hull v Watford, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 19:45

DIVISION 3

Friday, 09 May 2008

Southend v Doncaster, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 19:45

-----

Monday, 12 May 2008

Leeds v Carlisle, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 19:45

-----

Thursday, 15 May 2008

Carlisle v Leeds, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 19:45

-----

Friday, 16 May 2008

Doncaster v Southend, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 19:45

DIVISION 4

Saturday, 10 May 2008

Darlington v Rochdale, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 17:35

-----

Sunday, 11 May 2008

Wycombe v Stockport, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L1, 18:00

-----

Saturday, 17 May 2008

Rochdale v Darlington, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 12:00

Stockport v Wycombe, Play-Offs Semi-Final, L2, 18:00

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 05-05-2008 15:50

---

DIVISION 2 final - Saturday 24 May 2008

DIVISION 3 final - Sunday 25 May 2008

DIVISION 4 final - Monday 26 May 2008

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Tony C - 05-05-2008 17:50

---

Finding themselves 1-3 down on aggregate after 70 minutes of the second leg I see Exeter finally came to life.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Jon - 05-05-2008 21:42

---

Great match, great day. Leamington will be gutted as they had most of the play, most of the chances and were quite clearly the better side as their end-of-league position showed.

But after the Stourbridge keeper pulled off a point blank save in extra time you just knew that it wasn't going to be Leamington's day. Stourbridge promptly went up the other end and scored the winner.

Nice photos Zenits – love that Killie Brakes flag plus I like the one where you can clearly see the Leamington keeper come up for a last minute corner. He got his head to it too!

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 06-05-2008 21:12

---

So congrats to Janik and Noj as Cambridge set up a battle of clubs-who've-been-in-and-out-of-the-shit-a-lot-in-the-past-decade at Wembley. A pretty entertaining game to watch too, with the Us riding their luck a bit in the first half but thoroughly deserving it in the second. Enjoyed watching that.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by hissing fauna - 06-05-2008 21:19

---

fuck me, thought we were going out of that...  
2nd half.. AMBER ARMY!!!

bring on the 18th...

\*returns to alcoholic drink\*

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 06-05-2008 21:45

---

If it hadn't been for Danny Potter, we would have been. He deserved the man-of-the-match award more than Wollaston for tapping one in and fluking another with an attempted cross.

---

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 06-05-2008 22:00

---

Agreed. How's Mark Peters been, overall, for you of late? Seemed pretty solid tonight.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 06-05-2008 22:11

---

His job is more reserve team player/coach than in the first team nowadays. It was a surprise to see him tonight. He did well enough.

One of his most recent appearances for us was as a goalkeeper...

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 06-05-2008 22:15

---

HF were you on the pitch at the end? I didn't as it seemed a bit premature/presumptuous.

The stewards seemed to be actually encouraging people on. Or at least they were making no efforts whatsoever to stop it.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Jonas77 - 07-05-2008 10:28

---

I only managed to watch the Torquay vs Exeter game online yesterday, what a great game (well the 2nd half anyway).

I knew it ended 4-1, so happily watching the game and wondered when the goals started to kick in as it seemed to take an age.

Good stuff!!

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 07-05-2008 11:05

---

E10 Rifle wrote:

So congrats to Janik and Noj as Cambridge set up a battle of clubs-who've-been-in-and-out-of-the-shit-a-lot-in-the-past-decade at Wembley. Et tu, E10?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 07-05-2008 11:08

---

The Conference South play-off final has been moved from Stevenage to Gravesend - moving it from one of the best grounds in the Conference to one of the worst. It always seemed a strange choice of venue for the CS play-off final, considering that it's pretty out of the way for most CS clubs.

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Jonas77 - 07-05-2008 11:11

---

06/05/08 Play-Off Final At Stevenage Borough FC Updated : Boro's play-off final has been switched - again - back to the original venue of Stevenage Borough FC - Kick-off Is At 19:30

You really couldn't make it up..

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 07-05-2008 11:44

---

Stevenage turned out to be enough of a pain in the arse to get to from Brighton two years ago. I wouldn't much fancy making that trip from Eastbourne. Especially if it's for an evening kick-off.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by boris - 07-05-2008 11:50

---

I smell the evil hand of Setanta behind this decision making.

Meanwhile, in the Conf National, it would appear that of the two teams of Oxford rejects, Cambridge are better than Torquay. Let's hope Steve Basham has the final word.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by EIM - 07-05-2008 22:14

---

FC United 4-1 Skem

Hilariously dodgy third penalty decision. But the dirty, haranguing bastards had it coming.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by twohundredpercent - 08-05-2008 06:37

---

Just seen those FC United highlights. They were extraordinarily bad decisions for the second (and third) penalties.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by EIM - 08-05-2008 11:16

---

I feel this >-< much sympathy for them.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-05-2008 21:40

---

Losing to Eastbourne tonight is probably a blessing in disguise for Hampton & Richmond. I really don't think they have the organisation or general wherewithall to thrive in the Conference National right now. I don't know what Eastbourne's situation is, but I wish them well. As it is I'm looking forward to visiting the Beveree again even though there is the

---

overwhelming probability of losing to the buggers yet again despite playing them off the park. Always happens. At least their supporters are deliciously easy to wind up.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 08-05-2008 21:55

---

I think that Eastbourne are reasonably well off and, as a reasonably sized and affluent town which is relatively remote (it's about 45 minutes by train from Brighton), I suspect that it's better placed to cope in the Conference than Lewes. I doubt if their ground needs much work doing to it, either.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 10-05-2008 12:57

---

Barrow join Eastbourne in the Conference. I don't remember the exact details, but I'm pretty sure they only dropped out of the league due to an administrative relegation (one of Forest Green's escapes), so I feel some sympathy and am glad to see them back.

Course, I don't actually want to see them next season, I would rather have an academic interest in this league. But I would make Exeter the faves for next Sunday.

That Barrow and Eastbourne have won their respective play-offs gives a good indication of the true randomness of these events. Barrow would have started as the Conference North set as favourites, having ended the season with a 17 game unbeaten run, 13 of them wins. Fairly obvious. Eastbourne, on the other hand would probably have been the outsiders for the Conference South, having blown automatic promotion by only winning one of their last 8 matches, collecting only 6 points in the process. Yet they also triumphed.

So being bang in form or horribly out of it is not necessarily relevant. Which means the current Championship scoreline of Crystal Palace 0-1 Bristol City isn't as surprising as it first seems.

Come on the Robins! Jordan and Warnock in the Premiership?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Tony C - 10-05-2008 13:02

---

Listening to Five Live commentary it seems that Bristol City are playing Palace off the park.

Warnock's gloating visage all over place would be unthinkable if Palace made it.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 10-05-2008 13:04

---

Well, they were...  
Dumb penalty given away and Palace are level. Damn.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Janik - 10-05-2008 13:10

---

Woo! Brilliant sounding goal from David Noble wins the match for the Bristolians. C'mon!

---

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by pawlu - 10-05-2008 13:38

---

Now that is a goal. Here's hoping that Warnock, Jordan and Derry stay another year in the Championship.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by gerontophile - 10-05-2008 20:19

---

I made the mistake of watching this, and rooting for Bristol City (that was the mistake).

It was 90+ minutes of good stuff. Great stuff, and what a goal in injury time. Neil Warnock is a selfish twatbag. Keith Curle is a really tall person. Whoever squirted Gary Johnson deserves a knighthood... I didnt see it, but that really fucked Palace.

I fully expect those stripey south Londoners to get through. Noramlly, I would slag them off. Their so-called youngsters were average, and they can only get better. However, Robins will be more direct. Todays game was more about what you CANT do, than what you might.

Bring on Hull.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 11-05-2008 11:06

---

Seems to be quite a few empty seats at watford v hull

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 11-05-2008 11:25

---

Watford have a goal disallowed for no obvious reason, and now Hull lead 2-0. Pretty ropey defending.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 15-05-2008 09:02

---

There does seem to be a theme to the playoffs so far

Perhaps we are going to see the first pitch invasion at the new wembley at the Div 2 playoff final

Hull City or Bristol City in the premiership next year will be "interesting"

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Purves Grundy - 15-05-2008 09:19

---

If Bristol do go up will they have the worst goal difference of any promoted side in history, ever? I mean, +1. That's just pathetic.

---

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by brian potter - 15-05-2008 18:57

---

We took a couple of hammerings along the way, notably 6-0 at Ipswich. But it's not as if we were particularly suspect at the back, only 5 teams conceded fewer goals than Bristol City.

Also, we still won 20 games, which is more than anyone who finished below us. Are our victories less valuable because we didn't roll many teams over, but won 15 games by a one goal margin? Are you advocating bonus points for games that are won by wide margins?

And it's Bristol City to you, as a supporter of a team where the proper name is important, you should be able to appreciate that.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Auntie Beryl - 15-05-2008 18:58

---

Meanwhile, in Tier 3, Leeds score to level the tie but would still go out on away goals as things stand. Long way to go yet...

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 19:00

---

There isn't an "away goals count double in the event of a draw" rule this year.

I'm not sure if there has been one in recent years actually, it seems to change back and forth.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Purves Grundy - 15-05-2008 19:39

---

And it's Bristol City to you,

Noted. Sorry.

Still, I'm confused now. I thought you were Kettle. Who did you used to be?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by mnb098mnb - 15-05-2008 19:57

---

I don't think there has ever been away goals used in domestic competition. It's a "European" thing.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 19:58

---

No, I am pretty sure there was at one point an "away goals" rule in the FL play-offs because I remember thinking " Oh right, you could have done it the year it meant we would have beaten Stoke!"

---

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by brian potter - 15-05-2008 19:59

---

I was brian potter on the old board too. Judge Roughneck for a while.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 20:00

---

From wiki;

In English football, two-legged fixtures in the League Cup are only subject to the away goals rule after extra time; even if one team leads on away goals after 90 minutes of the second leg, extra time is played regardless.

The semi-finals of the promotion playoffs in the Football League, despite being two-legged, ceased to employ the away goals rule from 2000. As away goals scored in extra time counted double, the side finishing lower in the league gained an advantage by playing away in the 2nd leg, thus giving them 30 more minutes to score an away goal. The rescindment of the away goals rule has affected the results of several play-off semi-finals.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 15-05-2008 20:18

---

Ipswich proposed that the away goals rule be scrapped for the playoffs in the summer of 1999, after we'd been knocked out that way by sides finishing lower twice in three years. Backed up by the fact that every side that had won on away goals in the playoffs had been the lower of the two, the clubs voted unanimously in favour of scrapping them.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by rick derris - 15-05-2008 20:25

---

sunderland got relegated on the away goal rule in 1987

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 20:34

---

Oh shit, Leeds are through.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 20:37

---

An injury time goal in both legs of the tie, blast!

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by twohundredpercent - 15-05-2008 20:37

---

I was considering Leeds this morning. Had I the time, I would have bet £10 on Leeds to win the League 1 play-offs. No idea of the price - I would have guessed 4/1.

If (or rather WHEN) they go up, take the £40 profit and bet on them to get promoted outright. At a guess, about 10/1 or so. A no lose £40 and you'd stand to win £1600.

I should get out more. Or stay in.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by statto99 - 15-05-2008 21:04

---

Oh, this is where you all are! No wonder I was feeling so lonely on the other thread.

So, let the party begin then folks, eh?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by statto99 - 15-05-2008 22:13

---

Lads! Lads! I've got Pomagne and everything!

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Mr Beast - 16-05-2008 07:14

---

Is David Prutton - who has effortlessly slipped into his role as a mediocre 3rd Division player - in a Slade tribute band?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 17-05-2008 15:05

---

Fucking hell - Rochdale are one game away from escaping from the fourth division, after thirty-four years.

What a way for them to complete their centenary season if it happens.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Tony C - 17-05-2008 21:06

---

It's been coming, though.

They've made good steady progress since Keith Hill took over. Their away form particularly has been outstanding.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 17-05-2008 23:28

---

---

The Div 4 play-off final has shaped up nicely - two clubs who both deserve to go up against each other. It's the anti-CL final.

There's been a notable upsurge in old-school pitch invasions at this year's games too - almost every game has ended with a gleeful old-fashioned pitch-swarmering - not the Carlisle one, mind, obviously.

Final hopes now: Exeter, Hull, Doncaster (please, please, please Doncaster) and Stockport.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 17-05-2008 23:43

I want Rochdale up because:

- 1) They're closer
- 2) We've been linked with Liam Dickinson and he'd probably be easier to sign if Stockport stay down

I don't want Rochdale up because:

- 1) I still have nightmares remembering this game. Tony Ford was 42 when he scored that winner.
- =====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by rick derris - 17-05-2008 23:55

when did the dale start playing in black and white stripes?

had half an eye on the first half, couldnt work out why dale were palying in their red away kit as clearly darlo were in black and white

with that dodgy pen i realised

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by lorenzo - 18-05-2008 09:08

The stripes are for this season only rick, it's their centenary so they've reproduced their original strip.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Nathan Helena Handcart - 18-05-2008 09:18

Stockport are owned by their trust, who are all lovely, lovely people. And Robinsons is made in Stockport. And Stockport has the largest brick structure in Europe. It's a no-brainer.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Lord Mauleverer - 18-05-2008 11:33

(please, please, please Doncaster)

I've had distinctly mixed feelings about LUFc this season for obvious reasons, and was disappointed not to see the foundation of any "FCUL" as Bates dragged us ever further down into shame and embarrassment at his \*\* and loathsome antics.

---

So it's always nice, in these difficult times, to encounter some nicely provocative anti-Leeds sentiment, just to stiffen my otherwise faltering level of emotional commitment to the heirs to the heros of Revie legend.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by ShortyMedlocke - 18-05-2008 12:01

---

And Robinsons is made in Stockport  
Indeed it is - get them out of this division so we don't have to suffer it again - not fit to wash dishes in...

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Tony C - 18-05-2008 12:08

---

Things that really infuriate me number 1435;

From the Times today:

"The bubbly was a cheap, sweet and sickly Italian spumante but there was no doubting the sincerity of the celebrations as Rochdale won through to their first appearance at Wembley."

How condescending was that?

Why should the sincerity of the celebrations ever be in doubt?

No doubt the writer is counting down the days to the CL final when the real business begins and real 'bubbly' can be quaffed.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by E10 Rifle - 18-05-2008 12:15

---

So it's always nice, in these difficult times, to encounter some nicely provocative anti-Leeds sentiment

It's not provocative anti-Leeds sentiment, but rational (I used to quite like them). Just that I can't wish them anything but horrible failure while Bates remains at the club, even though there's some decent Leeds posters on this forum. The thought of him looking out grinning smugly over 40,000 celebrating Leeds fans at Wembley next week turns my stomach. He'll see it as vindication - and there'll be even less pressure to remove him than there has been already.

That, and the rank injustice of the game at Elland Road on October 13 2007, has fixed my opinions on this.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by mnb098mnb - 18-05-2008 17:10

---

Back in the league!

Exeter City give Oxford United, Wrexham and Halifax Town some hope (and Crewe fans can breathe a little more easily) by winning the Conference playoff final against Cambridge United.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Fred Keenor - 18-05-2008 17:28

---

---

Lord Mauleverer wrote:  
(please, please, please Doncaster)

So it's always nice, in these difficult times, to encounter some nicely provocative anti-Leeds sentiment, just to stiffen my otherwise faltering level of emotional commitment to the heirs to the heros of Revie legend.

Leeds supporter in "We feed off your dislike of us" shocker! Zzzzzzzzzzz.

Do they give you a handbook with these lines in when you're unlucky enough to go to Elland Rd for the first time?

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by gerontofiel - 18-05-2008 17:30

---

congratulations to you and Exeter.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by TonTon - 18-05-2008 20:00

---

Bloody well done Exeter. Very very very pleased.

As for Leeds - nowt against them really until Bates. Now can't wish them anything but the worst, football-wise.

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by battylad - 18-05-2008 20:13

---

For fucks sake E10 - HOW MANY TIMES - It never crossed the line:

<http://209.85.62.26/5840/194/upload/p6483470.gif>

\*Insert smiley here\*

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by battylad - 18-05-2008 20:14

---

"Leeds supporter in "We feed off your dislike of us" shocker! Zzzzzzzzzzz.

Do they give you a handbook with these lines in when you're unlucky enough to go to Elland Rd for the first time?"

Honestly, handbooks are not required...

=====

### Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by ykikamoocow - 19-05-2008 14:35

---

Judging on performances so far I'm gonna stick my neck out and predict the following victors;

---

League Two: Stockport - although Rochdale showed great character to come back and win on pens County will be much more difficult to break down. Not only that, as it's Rochdale's first Wembley appearance then it could prove over-rawing even if (God Forbid) they get Lisa Stansfield to sing God Save The Queen.

League One: Leeds - teams who just miss out on promotion don't fare too well in the play offs and Leeds scored with virtually the last kick in both legs against Carlisle, speaking volumes for their nerve which is more important than talent in these games.

Championship - Bristol City - they beat an in-form Palace whereas Hull thrashed a Watford side who have seriously lost the plot. Like the Dale, Hull are Wembley virgins and this may count against them.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Havencheese - 20-05-2008 08:14

ykikamoocow wrote:

League Two: Stockport - although Rochdale showed great character to come back and win on pens County will be much more difficult to break down. Not only that, as it's Rochdale's first Wembley appearance then it could prove over-rawing even if (God Forbid) they get Lisa Stansfield to sing God Save The Queen.

...Autechre could just as easily freak everyone out.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by ian.64 - 21-05-2008 07:43

From the Beeb 'Gossip' section:

Bristol City are paying for their players to tour Wembley stadium ahead of Saturday's Championship play-off final. "Some of the lads have not been there before so it will get rid of some of the early excitement," said manager Gary Johnson. (Times)

Pay to take a gander at a venue they'll be playing at in a few days time? This is a bit unfair, isn't it? Can't the FA in their benign munificence just let them have a free look around?

No. Hang on. If 'Good sense' and 'intelligence' refuse to sit in the same sentence with the words 'The FA', then perhaps I'm stretching it a tad with 'benign munificence'.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 21-05-2008 09:35

Want: Rochdale, Doncaster, Hull

Expect: Stockport, Leeds, Bristol fucking City

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by Fred Keenor - 21-05-2008 11:49

I'll happily join you in a pincer movement of negativity towards a Bristol City win, BDG.

Firstly because I really don't want them up for obvious rivalry reasons and secondly because I'd quite like D2 being so concentrated on M4 corridor derbies with them, us, Reading and Swansea.

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs thread

Posted by TonTon - 21-05-2008 11:53

---

Obviously I want Stockpot, and not-Leeds. What's the other game?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by dotmund - 21-05-2008 11:57

---

I want Rochdale to go up because they've never ever been promoted before, and I will be fascinated to see if they'd dare revert to their blue kit for 08/09 if they did.

Also, they are the only team in the football league this season to not completely ruin a black and white striped shirt with some whore's trinket arrangement; different size stripes, asymmetry, Kevin Keegan's face embossed on the back in velvet, etc etc.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Fred Keenor - 21-05-2008 12:01

---

Rochdale have been promoted before, haven't they?

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by dotmund - 21-05-2008 12:07

---

Never on footballing achievement... their sole movements around the football leagues has been done on election only. They were even in the basement division when they reached the League Cup final.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 21-05-2008 12:10

---

Rochdale's last and only promotion was in 1969

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/football/football\\_league/article3953138.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/football/football_league/article3953138.ece)

They have been in the bottom division of English football since 1974

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by mnb098mnb - 21-05-2008 12:12

---

dotmund wrote:

I want Rochdale to go up because they've never ever been promoted before, and I will be fascinated to see if they'd dare revert to their blue kit for 08/09 if they did.

I seem to remember seeing a Rochdale 08/09 kit design with blue and black stripes. Though I could quite easily have dreamt it.

=====

---

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 21-05-2008 12:28

---

Cambridge United (alright, it's too late, but the thought of having to go to Devon's making me cranky)  
Rochdale (purely for the centenary/lack of promotion thingy)  
Hull City (although I wouldn't be heartbroken if it was the other City, as long as whoever it is doesn't get relegated next season)  
The one between the two scummy teams: probably Leeds, the idea of Doncaster Rovers being two divisions above us is too, too much to bear.

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Fred Keenor - 21-05-2008 12:35

---

I seem to remember seeing a Rochdale 08/09 kit design with blue and black stripes. Though I could quite easily have dreamt it.

I think I put a link up about that, they were planning to debut their "Inter" kit on the last home game of last season, halfway down this page.

Just to clarify, Rochdale's previous promotion through league achievement

=====

## Re:The end of season lottery of the playoffs threa

Posted by Big Daves Gussett - 21-05-2008 12:37

---

I'm friends with a Rochdale fan. A true gent. I had a spare ticket for the England v Italy Under-21 game at Wembley last year - the first proper match at the newly refurbished stadium. I asked him if he wanted to accompany me and he shuffled uncomfortably, looked at his shoes, and said: "Thanks and all, but the thing is, I've never been to Wembley and I've always said that I'll only go to watch Dale. I know I might have to wait until I'm 80, but there it is...". I'm elated that his faith in Rochdale has paid off for the daft bugger.

Fred, at least if City get promoted they'll make Derby look like Tele Santana's Brazil.

=====