

BRISTOL CORINTHIANS LEAGUE

MISSIATO CUP FINAL 2026

OVER 35s



MATHERN CASUALS V REAL THORNBURY



FRYS TARMAC STADIUM
10AM SUNDAY MAY 10TH 2026



Welcome to Cup Final Day

Welcome to the Bristol Corinthians League Cup Finals Day! We are delighted to return to Somerdale for this showpiece event. Four finals will be decided over the course of the day and the Committee wish all those taking part the best of luck.

The Bristol Corinthians League was inaugurated in a meeting at the Highbury Vaults in August 1995, with the aim of providing an opportunity for players to take part in the odd game of semi-organised 11 a side football. Eight teams took part in the first season and the first league winners were appropriately called the Poetic Champions.

Over the thirty years since, the league has grown into the biggest veterans football league in the UK (probably). Currently there are over seventy member teams across the old Avon area and beyond. There are three defined age categories, over 35's, 45's and 50's, plus a Bristol over 60's representative side which is closely associated with the BCL.

The most important principle of the league is our commitment to promoting and maintaining “Corinthian Spirit”. **We firmly believe that the spirit in which the game is played is more important than the result.** Games should be played in a competitive but friendly manner, with full respect shown to opponents and to all match officials. Examples of sportsmanship and co-operation between teams are celebrated.

The charitable aspect of the league is another cherished part of belonging to the BCL. In 2013 the decision was made at the AGM to make a small donation of £300 to the brain injury unit at Frenchay Hospital and the idea of using profits generated from membership fees to fund good causes was initiated. Since then, **the league has donated over £60,000 to a wide variety of charities.** This year, monies raised from cup finals day will be once again be donated to the South West Air Ambulance, who have been pivotal to saving the life of a BCL player during a medical emergency on more than one occasion.

We hope you have an enjoyable day whether playing in or watching the finals. The Corinthian principles on which the league is founded will be much in evidence throughout the day, so all comers should feel welcome to enjoy a feast of quality, friendly veterans football!



Mathern Casuals 35ers

Originally formed in 2005, Mathern have enjoyed league successes, relegations and the occasional cup run in all 3 age groups within the BCL.

2024/25 saw us reach the cup final against a star studded Yate team, where we deservedly came 2nd place. As most of that team better suited the 45s, it was decided that we would disband the 35s for the 2025/26 season and just focus on entering a 45's team.... However.... Summer conversations led to a new management and a host of new signings, which allowed us to enter a 35s team. With one pre-season friendly under our belt to gel, before jumping into league action, we haven't looked back and have found success in both our league and cup form. Many of the boys played together years ago, we can all still play, just in a slightly slower motion, but most importantly, with smiles on our faces.



Real Thornbury

It didn't start with trophies, or crowds, or even a proper clubhouse. It started with a group of lads, muddy boots slung over shoulders, chasing a ball across local pitches as part of Thornbury Falcons. No spotlight, no expectations - just a love for the game and for each other. That was the foundation. Not tactics. Not titles. Brotherhood.

In 2007, that same group made a decision that would define them. They stepped out on their own and built something from nothing: Real Thornbury FC. No shortcuts. No handouts. Just belief. They called themselves "The Rats" - a name that didn't ask for respect, but earned it.

They entered the Bristol Combination at the very bottom. The kind of place where dreams usually stall. But not theirs.

Week after week, season after season, they fought. Through heavy pitches, long away days, and moments when quitting would've been easier. Promotions came - not by chance, but by grit. Cups followed - not by luck, but by unity. Every win was built on the same thing they started with: each other.

They climbed higher than anyone expected. Knocked on the door of the county league. Came within touching distance of something bigger. But even when they fell short, they didn't fall apart - because Real Thornbury was never just about how far you go. It was about how you go there.

Then in 2023, a new chapter began.

Real Thornbury Vets - proof that this wasn't just a team, it was a legacy. The same badge. The same values. The same fire. And just like before, they didn't hang around. Climbing through the Bristol Corinthians leagues, showing that time doesn't weaken belief - it sharpens it.

Now, they stand on the edge of another moment: a cup final. The Missiato Cup. A chance to write another page in a story that was never supposed to get this far.

But if you ask anyone who's been there from the start, they'll tell you - this was always the plan.

Because Real Thornbury FC isn't built on facilities or finances.

It's built on loyalty. On resilience. On turning up when it's cold, when it's tough, when no one's watching.

It's built on belief.

And belief doesn't fade.

Up The Rats.

We Always Believe.



**CUP FINALS REFEREES:
MATT ROCKER, SCOTT TAMLIN, JT, WHISKEY.**



MATHERN CASUALS

Dom Broad (Capt)

Adam Webbe (GK)

Scott Hillman

Nyran Bird

Byron Anthony

Damien Broad

Christian Malcolm

Craig McCluskey *

Dominic Connor

Matthew Hibbs

Scott Jenkins

Kevin Mee

Simon Prangley

Mike Thomas *

Nathan Perry

Nic Batchelor

Rob Shipton

Zac Niblett

Andy Smith

Omar Odare

Josh Roberts

Dan Cole

**30-34 yr old players*

Rick Woodland (Manager)



REAL THORNBURY

Tom Barlow (GK)

Alex Clifford

Tom Perry

Jon Miller

Mark Willis

Andy Thomas *

Chris Allen

Steve Thompson

Michael Barton (Capt)

Dan Lever

Sam Taylor

Dan Thompson

Lee Taylor

Ash Palmer *

Andy Rice

**30-34 yr old players*

Adam Pegler (Manager)

BCL CUP FINALS 2004-2025

OVER 35s CUP

2004: Russell Athletic 3 Easton Monday 2
2005: Re-Union 4 Easton Monday 2
2006: Easton Cowboys 4 Re-Union 1
2007: Mathern Vagabonds 3 Nailsea OB 1
2008: Re-Union 3 Bathelona 3 (RU win on pens)
2009: Easton Monday 1 Re-Union 0
2010: Retainers 4 Undy 2
2011: Retainers 5 Undy 3
2012: Undy Arthritic 4 SCS Vets 0
2013: Longwell Green 2 St Mary's OB 1
2014: Longwell Green 1 Wick Gerry Hatricks 0
2015: Undy Arthritic 1 Wick Gerry Hatricks 0
2016: Undy Arthritic 4 Cil Y Coed Celts 2
2017: Rapid Viagra 2 Clevedon 0
2018: Wick Gerry Hat Tricks 1 Rapid Viagra 0
2019: Wick Gerry Hat Tricks 4 Belly 'n' Ribs 0
2020: Void – Season incomplete
2021: Fry Club Vets 1 Real St George 0
2022: Yate Town 3 Easton Cowboys 1
2023: Yate Town 4 Thornbury Town 0
2024: Yate Town 4 Easton Cowboys 1
2025: Yate Town 7 Mathern 2

OVER 35s JUNIOR CUP

2021: Bristol Pigeons 1 WCMB Avonmouth 1
(Pigeons win on pens)
2022: Thornbury Town 1 Cardiff St Pauli 1
(Thornbury win 4-2 on pens)
2023: Corinthians 3 Weston Pirates 1
2024: LA Codgers 4 Athletico Lockleaze 1
2025: KCC 3 Little Stoke 2

OVER 45s CUP

2015: St Brendan's 5 Mathern Casuals 1
2016: Mathern Casuals 1 Voyager 1
(Mathern win 21-20 on pens)
2017: Barely Athletic 1 Nailsea Vets 1
(Barely win on pens)
2018: Re-Union 2 Nailsea Vets 0
2019: Chew Magna 45's 2 Re-Union 0
2020: Void – Season incomplete
2021: Wick 45's 6 Red Star Bedminster 0
2022: Wick 45's 5 Rapid Dementia 4
2023: Chew Magna 45's 3 RedStar 45's 1
2024: Wick 45's 4 RedStar 45's 3
2025: Wick45's 5 Bury 0

OVER 50s CUP

2021: Decliners 2 Russell Athletic 1
2022: Re-Union 4 EM95 3
2023: EM95 4 Chew 50's 0
2024: Chew 50's 1 Decliners 1
(Chew win 4-2 on pens)
2025: Re-Union 2 EM95 0

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE BRISTOL CORINTHIANS LEAGUE





BURY



CHIPPING SODBURY VETS



DAFT



DECLINERS





HERITAGE UTD



KCC



LA CODGERS



MIKE COLLINS WORLD XI AND STAPLETON VETS



NICHOLAS WANDERES



PUCKLECHURCH



RED STAR



RE UNION



SHERSTON



SHIPHAM



WESTHILL VETS



WICK AND CRIBBS