

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Delighted boss Macpherson hails maximum haul Enfield Town keep hopes alive over Easter

By Ronan Sullivan

ENFIELD Town marched on in their quest for third place in the Isthmian League Premier Division table and a play-off place as they swatted aside lowly Cheshunt 3-0 at the Dave Bryant Stadium on Monday.

A record crowd of 1,271 watched as first-half goals from Lewis Taaffe, Sam Youngs and league top scorer Marcus Wyllie saw Town race into a three-goal lead – a deficit 18th-placed Cheshunt never looked likely to overturn.

And two days on from a 4-2 win at Bognor, the team's resilience impressed manager Gavin Macpherson.

"It's a really good performance all-in. We've played better. I didn't think it was going to be fluent today. I thought it was going to be more of a battle," said Macpherson.

"And the boys, to wheel themselves out 48 hours after a game and long journey to Bognor. They deserve all the credit."

Town's goals were all of top quality.

In the 11th minute, Taaffe picked up on a loose clearance from Cheshunt's keeper outside the box, hitting the ball first-time and sending a looping shot over his head and into the net.

Then, 12 minutes later, Youngs received a pass on the edge of the area and curled a fine shot out of the goalkeeper's reach and into the top corner.

Capping off a fine first half, in-form striker Wyllie then chopped inside a Cheshunt defender - far too lax in his closing down - and



Enfield Town's Marcus Wyllie celebrates at Bognor. Image: Phil Davison

placed a shot into the left corner of the goal.

The win extended Town's unbeaten run to 12 games in all competitions.

Despite the Bank Holiday rain, the atmosphere at the Dave Bryant Stadium was buoyant from

kick-off, something Macpherson noted.

"The crowd were superb today - vocal, everything we want it to be and everything that's going to help drive us through in the run-in," he added.

"For me it's a massive thanks.

The fans were with us right from the start."

Cheshunt were not without their chances in the first half, but Town displayed their defensive nous to complement their clinical attack.

And Town conserving their energy after a busy two days and Ches-

hunt never gaining a foothold in the game meant the match fizzled out.

There was a late flashpoint, though, when Cheshunt forward Antonis Vasiliou was sent off in the 97th minute for punching Taaffe.

Town, a point above Wingate, head to Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday.

*Enfield saw their losing run in Isthmian North stretch to 11 matches over the weekend.

Matt Hurley's goal was little consolation in a 4-1 home loss to Brightlingsea Regent on Saturday, before a 1-0 reverse at Walthamstow on Monday.

Enfield head to Bowers & Pitsea this weekend.

*Enfield Borough made it three wins in a row in Thurlow Nunn League Division One South with a 3-2 success over Burnham Ramblers.

They took the lead on three minutes as top scorer Marco Magunga beat his marker and placed a shot past Preston Palmer.

But Magunga fired another chance wide before Joe Poxon levelled, although parity only lasted five minutes as James Mwanaga found the net from an acute angle, after Magunga and Gideon Sarpong had efforts blocked on the line.

Kyle Finlayter-Lynch - having hit the post in the first half - made it 3-1 on 50 minutes after being teed up by Magunga and Mario Stavrou and Luke Bailey went close to extending the lead.

Poxon was dismissed for a second bookable offence but the visitors managed a 98th-minute consolation from Aiden Brown.

Monday's trip to Brimsdown was postponed, but Borough entertain St Margaretsbury on Saturday.

SPORT: Tucker, 18, to compete for Great Britain in Croatia Enfield teen off to World Synchronized Skating Championships

ENFIELD'S Ruby Tucker has been chosen by British Ice Skating (BIS) in the Icicles Senior Synchronized skating team to represent Great Britain at the World Synchronized Skating Championships.

The event takes place in Zagreb, Croatia (April 5-6) where teams from all over the world will compete for the top spot.

Tucker, 18, started her synchronized skating journey at the Lee Valley Ice Centre, owned by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and managed by GLL, a charitable social enterprise and worker-owned cooperative, operating under the community-brand, Better.

After moving through the ranks, win-

ning multiple British Championships, she decided in June 2023 to focus on synchronized skating full time and joined the Nottingham Synchronized Skating Academy (NSSA).

Tucker now trains with the prestigious Icicles Senior and junior teams, travelling several times a week from Enfield to Nottingham for practice.

When not training in Nottingham, she still uses the excellent facilities at the brand new £30 million Lee Valley Ice Centre, which opened in June 2023 and is the only venue of its kind in south-east England with two Olympic ice pads.

Lee Valley Ice Centre offers a range of learn-to-skate courses, public skating

sessions and lessons that suit all ages and abilities, as well as having a top of the range gym and fitness class studios.

This selection is the culmination of a successful season for the Icicles, who became British Champions in January after competing across the UK and even internationally.

Tracey Wester, Chairperson of Lee Valley London Skating Club, said: "We're extremely proud of Ruby, she has worked incredibly hard to reach the high standard of skating required to maintain a position in a top level team. We send Ruby and Team Icicles our very best wishes for the forthcoming World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia"

Lee Valley Skating Club has four teams, aged between six and 72, that train weekly at Lee Valley Ice Centre. To find out more about becoming a synchronized skater, visit the club's website [lvlsc.org](https://www.lvlsc.org) or if looking to learn to skate visit: better.org.uk/leisure-centre/lee-valley/ice-centre.

You can also sponsor Ruby and Team Icicles at <https://www.gofundme.com/E/get-team-icicles-senior-to-worlds-2024?qi=d=f708b0a4c1d503b69765f87c0e287b96>

Ruby Tucker has been chosen to compete for GB on the world stage in Zagreb this weekend.

