

# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>  
August 2023

All the news from Roundwood ahead of our home league opener against Blackburn Rovers



Matt Taylor

## Taylor on the longer-term injured players...

“Lee Peltier has a relatively serious calf problem. He's had a scan and the results have indicated that he'll be out for a significant amount of time.

“Shane Ferguson is seeing a specialist in Germany and that might lead to an operation. We're sending him to the best in the world, it's incredible where we can get people in terms of contacts. It's frustrating because we got him to a certain level of fitness out on the pitches, but not fully integrated into the squad and he just can't get past that last little stage. We really hope it's a straightforward little bit of surgery that just puts him in the right direction and then the time frame will be minimal. There might be other aspects in there which we don't know too much about. Fingers crossed for Shane's trip to Germany.

“Jamie Lindsay is having a jab in his Achilles next week. Achilles, or any tendon injuries, they're so frustrating because of lack of blood supply. It's one which we didn't feel would take so long, but it's taken a little bit longer than what we first expected. Jamie is as frustrated as anyone else. You really feel for him because he's desperate to get out there, affect the game, and we need him at the moment. We hope that jab will settle it down but sometimes jabs just mask certain problems. We have to be cautious of that and mindful. We don't want to harm him in any further way, so time will tell in the next week or so with Jamie.”



Matt Taylor

## Taylor on players nearing a return to action...

“Eavesy is looking really positive. He's had a week's worth of training. As long as he doesn't have an adverse reaction to today's work, he'll be involved at the weekend.

“Cafu is available. We had good correspondence from the officials this week in terms of that sending off. He missed the game on Tuesday and it didn't cost us anything, but yes, he's available.

“Andre Green is closer, he's getting really close. He was with myself and the physios today, Grant Hall is in the same bracket. It's a race against time for the weekend. They hit a certain marker today, if they don't react, if we could replicate that tomorrow, they've got half a chance. We'll have to make a decision Saturday morning.

“Joshua Kayode was obviously a little bit sore, a little bit stiff, but he's not featured even in pre-season, so that's to be expected.

“Ben Wiles took a whack on his upper leg, so a dead leg-type injury. He's been off feet today as have a core group of players who've played a lot of minutes this week, so we'll probably only know really tomorrow what state he's in. He's a tough boy. He's a local lad. He'll want to play, but we can't put him out at risk.

“And then Ollie Rathbone got through 100-plus minutes. He's not one we want to be playing that long at this stage of the season, certainly not in cup competitions with no disrespect to them.”



### Last Meeting

Rotherham 4-0 Blackburn Rovers

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Odoffin, Rathbone, Ferguson and Washington all registered as the Millers secured a comfortable home win.

### Recent Results

Blackburn Rovers

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### Flying Start

Rovers have won both of their opening competitive games in 2023/24, beating West Brom on the Championship opening day before seeing off Walsall in the Carabao Cup First Round.

Matt Taylor

## Taylor on his side's safe progression into Round Two of the Carabao Cup...

"That's the only saving grace - there was no extra time, really. It's a good rule to come into that competition.

"We didn't have the luxury of resting the main core of our group. I think you probably look across the scores elsewhere, Championship level, League One level, and the teams involved in that show the luxury of a bigger squad.

"It's certainly something we've not got at this moment in time due to no fault of our own, but it was pleasing to get through the tie. Obviously, it wasn't ideal playing minutes, certainly for the ones who are going to expect to start this weekend and a couple of niggles on top of that.

"But it's needs must at the moment, so I'm pleased that they found a way to get through.

"Another trip down to Stoke. The draw is still separate at this stage, I'm right in saying. It's not too far in terms of a journey and travel, but a tough opposition. We found that out first game of the season.

"We know the strength of their squad, so I'm sure they'll make changes and we might be in a better position to do that come that fixture. It's another one to go and try and win and see where it takes us."



Matt Taylor on...

### Taylor on potential transfers in and out...

"Well, at the moment, we can't afford for anyone else to go out, so in terms of loans going out, I think that's the easiest one to answer because we can't fill a bench in a cup game, let alone the league game, so that's where we are in terms of numbers and squad size.

"We're working as hard as we possibly can. Nothing's changed, we've had a couple of offers out to Premier League clubs for a number of weeks now.

"Maybe the Carabao Cup tie, what happened in that and a couple more games further down the line, including the Premier League starting this weekend, will give us a better idea. There's still a few weeks left of the window.

"As much as we're pushing it and rushing it, no one else is in terms of our favour. We understand and appreciate that, we have to get value in everything else we spend in terms of strengthening a squad but we are looking to do that.

"I said on Tuesday, I don't know if I was right or wrong to say it, that this might be the weakest we are in terms of strength of depth and initial quality, but that's no excuse going into this weekend or any games after that. We know we've got to put our best foot forward and put on a performance."

### Taylor on facing Blackburn Rovers...

"They've changed a little bit in terms of a loss of some well-known players. I think that's the best way to describe it, some experience and some Championship know-how, some physicality.

"However, they certainly seem to have kept their identity, a good footballing team. They've got a lot of good young players, like I said, out of the Academy on the pitch and a really good way of playing fluid and move the ball well. They got a fantastic win against West Brom, that game was an incredible game to watch. It was end-to-end, a real humdinger, a lot of attacking moments, a lot of space.

"We have to put them under pressure. Our opposition are to be admired in terms of the way they function as a football club, but in terms of what to expect from them, they're only one game into it like we were.

"I hope we'll be much improved from last weekend. I'm sure Blackburn will improve on their first win and their result on Tuesday night.

"It's still difficult because usually, you're sat here talking to yourself, having watched four league games where the Championship really tells you the story and what you're going to go into at the weekend."