

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February 2023

# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of Tuesday's match against Reading...



Matt Taylor

## On Leo Hjelde...

"As you know, a Saturday game to a Tuesday game is a quick turnaround.

"He had no chance of playing against Blackpool, he was too sore in terms of the ankle ligament damage he got in the Sheffield United game.

"We will have to assess him ahead of the game and make a decision."



Matt Taylor

## On Cohen Bramall's performance...

"Cohen came in for us for the Blackpool game and he did extremely well.

"I couldn't fault what he did against arguably their biggest threat [Josh Bowler] on the outside of the pitch, plus he gave us an attacking outlet as well.

"I've spoken at length in the local press and recent interviews about how we need competition for places.

"With competition for places, you can't fail. You have to perform if you want to play and that goes into training as well."



Matt Taylor

## On a three-game-week...



"Every stage of the season feels like the 'business end' when you're in it.

"It is constant and there are a lot of points up for grabs this week.

"If we want to achieve our objectives this season, we need to make sure we're putting points on the board.

"The next game is always the most important.

"We knew the Blackpool game was a big one for us but it is gone now and our full focus is on Tuesday and once that game finishes, it's on to Coventry. It's a constant cycle.

"It sounds obvious, but we need to win games of football and if we can't win, we need to make sure we're not getting beat.

"We've become incredibly resilient in the last few weeks and we need to keep adding to that and adding layers to our performance levels.

"We have to win games of football, we have to pick up points.

"I want the players to start looking up at that league table rather than over our shoulders.

"I want that mentality to go through the team."

### Last Meeting

Millers 4 v 0 Reading

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022

A scintillating first half performance saw the Millers to a convincing win over the Royals. Richard Wood, Conor Washington, Chiedozie Ogbene and Jamie Lindsay were on target.

### Last Five Results

Reading

**L D L D L**

Matt Taylor

## On preparing to face the Royals...

### The boss talks Reading...

"It's a quick turnaround for us going from Saturday to Tuesday. Yesterday the players rested and recovered and we have assessed the opposition.

"We didn't go into too much detail because we didn't want to overload them with information.

"The key for us is to ensure that the players who play a part are ready and motivated to go on Tuesday night and I'm sure they will be.

"We're going down today after training and we'll make sure that the players are rested and get a good night's sleep.

"We'll try to make sure it isn't too long of a day on Tuesday in preparation for the game. It's a two game week and the first two of those games are away from home, so of course that takes its toll, but the squad is in a great position to be able to cope with it."

### Matt Taylor

#### On what to expect from a Paul Ince side...

"I'm expecting a similar test as to what we had at the weekend.

We know that they will be full of effort, endeavor and quality.

"They've got some good players, haven't they? As have every team in this league.

You expect that in every single game you play at Championship level.

"We are competing as much as we can and as much as we keep speaking about opposition teams, I want to keep adding to ours."



*Royals manager Paul Ince.*



**Grant Hall in action against Blackpool...**

Matt Taylor

## On whether he'll shuffle the pack...

"That depends on the bodies we have available to us.

"Jordan Hugill is still not quite right, he's got a bit of a chesty cough and he's not physically quite where we want him to be.

"Grant Hall played his first 90 minutes for a few months at the weekend as well, so we'll have to assess where we are and make a decision.

"Obviously, I don't want to put anybody at risk, that goes without saying, but again, we have to make a decision because every game is so important."

#### On Grant Hall...

"As I said, it was his first 90 minutes for some time and we did contemplate taking him off because we know what he's not had in terms of game time.

"We decided against it, because I felt that sometimes when you're in a defensive rhythm it is so difficult to come on as a substitute and get up to the speed of the game.

"Hally signalled to me that he was okay. It was probably a bit of a risk and we did look after him last week. Credit to him for playing 90 minutes, I didn't want to change the backline, they were where they needed to be for the game."

## Matt Taylor

### On Tom Eaves' performance...

"I was pleased with Tom when he came on.

"I thought he had a good impact on the game.

"He showed good legs, as well as a physical presence for us at that top end of the pitch.

"There were almost a few moments where he held it up and played off one of our breaking players and he did it very well at times.

"Just like Jordan did before him, Tom did a lot of hard work up there without getting any clear cut chances."

