

18th January
2024

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the trip to
face Middlesbrough at The Riverside



Leam Richardson

Richardson on the new off-field structure which has seen Rob Scott appointed as Director of Football...

"I think the decision was made with the crossover of a change of management with the Chairman and the Board of Directors with the club wanting to evolve in a certain way.

"Rob has been here a long time and he knows the club inside out.

"He'll try and make those positive steps with the infrastructure and how the club evolves moving forwards.

"From a football point of view it won't change too much. From a footballing aspect, it can only be good for the club.

"I think the challenges within the levels of football throughout the pyramid are obvious.

"There are things that you have to deal with, whether that be the coaching, education or the staff.

"As a manager you want as many departments functioning at maximum capacity as possible because ultimately you're as good as your support network.

"If the club can evolve and go forward like this with good people and practices in place then the manager has a better chance of success."



Leam Richardson

Richardson on facing Boro again so soon after the clash on Boxing Day in the reverse fixture...

"We can take a bit of everything [out of the Boxing Day game] as we have done with most games.

"It is still only a matter of weeks since I've been in the building and I'm still learning about people, players and what people's strengths and limitations are.

"We're trying to evolve as a group of people.

"From the game the scoreline was positive for us but there was a lot in that which could be better.

"We'll expect a real healthy challenge as they all are in the Championship.

"We've seen them go out and spend millions of pounds on players and they've got loans from clubs like Leeds United. They are the challenges we have to meet head-on and relish."

"That's something which has given us a little bit of comfort, and we'll be looking more of the same again.

"We want another typical Rotherham-style home performance. We're looking forward to it.

I know there will be a bit of a shakiness in the atmosphere from the fans, but we've got to force the issue and get them back on our side after what was a disappointing Sunday."



Last Meeting

Rotherham 1 - 0 Middlesbrough
Tuesday 26th December 2023

The Millers prevailed in the Boxing Day clash thanks to a Cohen Bramall strike which proved to be the only goal of the game in a closely contested encounter at AESSEAL New York Stadium.

Recent form

Middlesbrough

W L L W W

Friends Re-United

Rotherham United could come up against a duo of former players once more in Matt Crooks and Dan Barlaser.

The pair have made a combined total of 42 appearances between them in the league for Boro in 2023/24.

Leam Richardson

On what the structure will mean for recruitment...

"The owner has the final say because he signs the cheques!

"It's a collaboration. It would never be a one-way street and I would never put a player and a pressure onto anybody if it wasn't good for the football club and I wouldn't expect someone to do the same the other way around.

"It will be a collaboration and a process to be positive and enforce positive movements going forwards, whether that be the signing of a player, member of staff or whatever it may be to make the football club grow."

"We're very aware that the club has been at different levels for 10 years now.

"They will be challenging themselves on how they can sustain themselves at different levels.

"How they can improve the infrastructure, the environment and the culture. It's all relevant but it's important and you've got to have those strong relationships fundamentally from the top because the habits and the ethos then filters down."

On whether any targets are close to finalizing deals...

"It's a daily conversation.

"We're trying our best and every department is doing its best within that.

"We know the challenges that lie ahead and we know the depth of squad that we need to meet those challenges.

"Fingers crossed we can keep moving forwards and get some real quality to add to the squad before the window closes."



Sean Morrison

On how the players maintain their belief that they can stay in the division...

"That's the great thing about football is that there is always another game and an opportunity to put something right.

"The gap isn't so big that it is impossible to close.

"We've got a game on Saturday and then a break before games come thick and fast.

"We have missed him, regardless of any results.

"What Jamie stands for as a person as well as a player is imperative, he brings a lot to the team.

"If you manage to string a couple of results together the table begins to look much healthier.

"We've got a very, very good group here and that's another reason as to why we can keep the belief because the changing room is a great group of lads.

"Nobody is looking elsewhere or at next season, everyone is focused on the job at-hand which is to keep Rotherham in this league."

Sean Morrison

On away form...

"We've maybe been a little bit disjointed away from home. Our shape sometimes fell away a little bit easier than it would at home.

"The home form has taken care of itself and the away form we know we need to improve if we want to climb the league.

"I'm sure the manager knows the statistics and knows that we need to address that so hopefully we can start putting points on the board as soon as possible."

Leam Richardson

On injuries...

"[Grant Hall is] coming along slowly. It's still very frustrating for Grant who wants to be out there training and playing.

"He's recently had another injection with his hip injury so it is more of a 'watch this space'. We'll keep our fingers crossed with Grant that he can be back sooner rather than later.

"[Kioso] has been training this week."

