

## Team Assessment Report

CLUB	Forest Green Rovers	DATE	3/3/2009
FIXTURE	Stevenage Borough Vs Forest Green Rovers	COMPETITION	Blue Square Premier

SCOUT	Steve Simmons	TELEPHONE	07702725656
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REFEREE	S Ross (Boston)	CONDITIONS	Heavy rain & Wind. Pitch was torn up very easily.
VENUE	Broadhall Way	PITCH SIZE	110 X 70 Yards

### STARTING FORMATION

<b>25</b> Burton			
<b>06</b> Gill	<b>15</b> Preece	<b>24</b> Ayres	<b>03</b> Stonehouse
<b>02</b> Lawless	<b>04</b> Jones	<b>16</b> Fowler	<b>10</b> Platt
<b>26</b> Brown			
<b>09</b> Mangan			

### SUBSTITUTIONS

- Forest Green made no substitutions with Robinson, Rigoglioso, Ashford, Mohamed and Lloyd all on the bench.

### TEAM FORMATION OVERVIEW AND COMMENTS

Forest Green played a 4-4-2 formation through out playing a high defensive line where they employed the offside trap and were generally narrow in their style of play. Brown dropped of Mangan to add support/link up play with midfield, with Mangan advanced through out often feeding of long balls from defense with with full backs generally supporting attacks from behind the play. Jones sat deep in midfield with Lawless and Platt pushing into advanced positions to support attacks with Fowler working from box-box through out to support defense and attack.

<b>KEY POINTS</b>	
<b>TACTICAL SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Green started positively with an attacking mentality without particularly playing at a high tempo.</li> <li>• Defensively they played high up the pitch, playing the offside trap and looked to box Stevenage in their own half.</li> <li>• Attacks were often developed through the middle where defenders would distribute long to Mangan to run onto with Jones and Fowler both looking to thread through balls for Mangan to chase.</li> <li>• When under pressure and defending deep they were quick to get 10 men behind the ball with Mangan left upfield.</li> </ul>
<b>TACTICAL SUMMARY OF OPPONENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stevenage played an attacking 4-4-2 through out where Cole and Dury would look to play very high up the pitch, supporting forwards.</li> <li>• Stevenage played at a quick tempo with width where they looked to build attacks patiently from defence, playing short to feet.</li> <li>• Full backs pushed forward to support attacks through out.</li> </ul>
<b>DEFENSIVE OVERVIEW</b>	
HOW DO THEY DEFEND AS A UNIT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a unit they pushed high up the pitch and retrieving into deeper areas cohesively, very rarely becoming dislodged.</li> </ul>
HOW DO THEY DEFEND AS INDIVIDUALS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gill sat back through out and didn't overlap, only ever supporting attacks from behind the play or further advanced when taking throws.</li> <li>• Preece and Ayres both worked cohesively alongside each when pushing up and retrieving into deeper areas and were sound competing in the air.</li> <li>• Stonehouse supported attacks generally from behind the play, although prior to Forest Green taking the lead made a couple of overlapping runs.</li> </ul>
ARE THE CENTRAL DEFENDERS COMFORTABLE IN POSSESSION?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preece &amp; Ayres were composed under pressure clearing their lines with assurance and decisive when closed down.</li> </ul>
GENERAL SIZE, PHYSIQUE AND PACE OF DEFENCE?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both central Preece &amp; Ayres are tall and mobile defenders.</li> <li>• Stonehouse is short with an average build and mobile without possessing genuine pace.</li> <li>• Gill is fairly small with an average build but hasn't a genuine turn of pace.</li> </ul>

<p>HOW DOES MIDFIELD EFFECT DEFENSIVE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When under pressure the midfield unit would get behind the ball and supported defense positively with Jones breaking up play on a number of occasions.</li> </ul>
<p>HOW DO ATTACKERS SUPPORT DEFENSIVE UNIT ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brown dropped deep to add support to midfield and when under large periods of pressure dropped deep behind the ball, with Mangan advanced through out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ATTACKING OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>HOW DO THEY ATTACK AS A UNIT?</p> <p>HOW DO THEY ATTACK AS INDIVIDUALS?</p> <p>GENERAL SIZE AND PHYSIQUE OF ATTACK</p> <p>HOW DO MIDFIELDERS SUPPORT ATTACKING UNIT?</p> <p>DO WIDE MDFIELDERS PROVIDE WIDTH?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jones sits deep with Platt and Lawless pushing into advanced areas with Fowler bursting forward from midfield where they generally looked t play through the middle.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mangan plays on the shoulder, often feeding of balls from midfield/defense to run onto.</li> <li>Brown drops of to link up play with midfield and supports from deeper/narrow areas.</li> <li>Fowler occasionally travelled forward in possession into advanced areas and when off the ball would burst forward to add support.</li> <li>Platt &amp; Lawless were generally narrow in their style of play although looked push into advanced to support Mangan.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a unit they lack strength and stature plus other than Mangan lack genuine pace.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fowler often made late runs to support attacks and supported predominantly when the ball was in the final third.</li> <li>Platt and Lawless both pushed higher up the pitch into advanced areas with Brown dropping off Mangan to link up play.</li> <li>Jones sat back and looked to pick out through balls from deep.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neither Platt nor lawless provided natural width where they were often narrow in their style of play, plus lack genuine pace.</li> </ul>

<p>DO ANY PLAYERS POSSESS GENUINE PACE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other than Mangan they haven't any one who possess a genuine turn of pace, however they do have players with good mobility.</li> </ul>
<p>HOW DO FULL BACKS SUPPORT ATTACKING UNIT?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stonehouse pushed forward on occasions in the early stages, however after taking the lead supported from behind the play through out.</li> <li>• Gill sat deep through out and supported on a few occasions from behind the play, only ever advanced when taking throws.</li> <li>• Both full backs were unproductive.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Green lack players who offer width where down the channels they are generally one paced.</li> <li>• As a team they lacked discipline, giving away needless free kicks through out.</li> <li>• They haven't a natural target man in the final third who can hold up the play or any forwards who offer as an aerial threat.</li> <li>• Burtons kicking was very poor and he was uncomfortable dealing with back passes, and when closed down by opponents.</li> <li>• Forest Green haven't a natural playmaker with the vision to pick out key penetrative passes.</li> <li>• Forest Green are slow when turning defense into attack and aren't effective on the counter attack.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defensively, although lacking genuine pace they are mobile as a unit.</li> <li>• Jones is tenacious and broke up play on several occasions.</li> <li>• Mangan offers genuine pace and movement in the final third and was able to break in behind on several occasions.</li> <li>• As a team they work hard to get men behind the ball, presenting little space in behind and stifled the opposition through.</li> <li>• They closed down diligently and didn't give opponents time in possession.</li> <li>• Defensively Ayres &amp; Preece were largely dominant when competing in the air.</li> <li>• Pushing high up the pitch they were able to have large decent spells of possession and boxed Stevenage in their own half for large periods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>KEY PLAYER (S) &amp; WHY?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mangan was key as his movement and runs in behind caused problems through out, plus he helped stretch the play.</li> <li>• Jones was often the catalyst when turning defense into attack, breaking up play on several occasions.</li> <li>• Both central defenders covered sensibly into wider areas and were overall competent in everything they did where as a defensive unit they never presented Stevenage with any clear cut goal scoring opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BEST HEADERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ayres &amp; Preece were sound when dealing with long balls using their stature to clear with distance through out, plus offered as a threat from attacking set plays.</li> <li>• Jones competes with aggression and often won balls in the air from goal kicks.</li> </ul>

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<b>MANAGER COMMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jim Harvey was dismissed from the dugout after 30 minutes after continuing to dispute with refereeing decisions.</li></ul>
<b>REFEREE COMMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At times he was very strict, but was occasionally petulant giving away free kicks through out where the game was never allowed to flow.</li></ul>

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OPPONENTS STARTING FORMATION			
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**16 Day**

**25 Henry**

**05 Ashton (67 Mills )**

**14 Roberts**

**03 Laird**

**23 Drury**

**18 Bridges**

**24 Bostwick**

**21 Cole (48 Wilson )**

**30 Vincenti (63 Anderson )    20 Morison**

OPPONENTS SUBSTITUTIONS
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- Stevenage made 3 like for like changes with Mills, Wilson and Anderson all replacing Ashton (injury)  
Cole and Vincenti (tactical)

- Bayes and Albrighton were unused substitutes.

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### PLAYER NOTES

No.	Name	Notes
1	Terry Burton	Tall, average build, left footed goalkeeper. Tested very rarely through out he had very little to do, however often looked to come of his line when dealing with crosses where he did gatherer with assurance but his decision making was hesitant at times. Despite the conditions his kicking was very poor where he struggled to find range and endangered his own defenders on occasions where he also struggled when dealing with back passes and was uncomfortable when pressured.
6	Jerry Gill	Smallish, average build, experienced, right footed, right back. One paced he very rarely supported attacks only ever occasionally doing so from behind the play and sat deep through out and didn't offer width. Defensively he cut out crosses and closed down decisively where he had a positive influence but was vulnerable to quick and clever movement around him. In possession he was sound and composed.
15	Mark Preece	Tall, slender, right footed, right central defender. Although lacking genuine pace he is mobile and quick to defend into wider areas where he used his towering stature to compete with dominance in the air. His awareness of opposing players movement was also sound and alert where he anticipated situations well, presenting very little space in behind. In possession he would pass long to Mangan or into central midfielders.
24	Lee Ayres	Tall, slender, right footed, left central defender. Similar to Preece he added height defensively and although hasn't genuine pace he is mobile and quick to close down where he cut out several through passes and made a couple of decent blocks. In possession he often distributed into midfield or long to Mangan to run onto.
3	Paul Stonehouse	Small, average build, 2 footed, mobile, left back. Although small he competed in the air where he leaps high of the ground to challenge aggressively and closed down quickly where he cut out crosses showing discipline to stay on his feet. Going forward he made a couple of overlapping runs early on but after Forest Green took the lead he took a much more cautious approach and only supported from behind the play but wasn't productive.
2	Alex Lawless	Average height and build, right footed, right midfielder. One paced and very narrow in his style of play he didn't offer width and wasn't able to attack down the outside of opponents however he delivered a number of dangerous balls into the box from deep and worked hard to track back defensively but rarely committed himself into challenges. In possession he distributed short to feet or looked to cross from deep.
4	Darren Jones	Tall, strong, predominantly right footed, central midfielder. Playing in a holding midfield role through out he added competent protection to his own backline where he was aggressive and tenacious in all challenges and broke up play on several occasions with accuracy where he was largely influential and commanding. In possession he often looked to play through balls for Mangan to run onto but lacked quality in doing so, where he over hit passes.
16	Lee Fowler	Smallish, average build, left footed, one paced central midfielder. Although supporting attacks and covering defensively equally where he worked hard from box-box he rarely broke up play and also lacked a cutting edge when in advanced areas but he spread play positively and worked hard to move into space where he was also prepared to travel forward in possession and was plus comfortable on either foot.

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10	Conal Platt	Average height, lightweight, left footed, left midfielder. Although having a decent turn of pace he offered little width where he operated narrow and rarely took on opponents, however he linked up play positively and also provided the opening goal delivering a long ball from deep. He worked hard up and down the left channel and was quick to track back and cover defensively, closing down quickly.
26	Dave Brown	Average height and build, right footed, forward. Playing just off Mangan he often dropped into deeper and narrow positions to link up play with midfield and although lacking genuine pace was mobile and quick on the turn, however lacking strength and quality with his final pass was often unproductive, although worked hard through out and covered alot of ground.
9	Andy Mangan	Average height and build, right footed forward. Possessing genuine pace he was able to break in behind on several occasions and scored with a well taken, calm, composed finish. His movement caused problems through out where he worked hard off the ball into wider areas and although lacking strength was able to turn away from opposing defenders and more than willing to take on opponents down the outside. Although competing in the air he lacked a physical presence to offer as a threat.

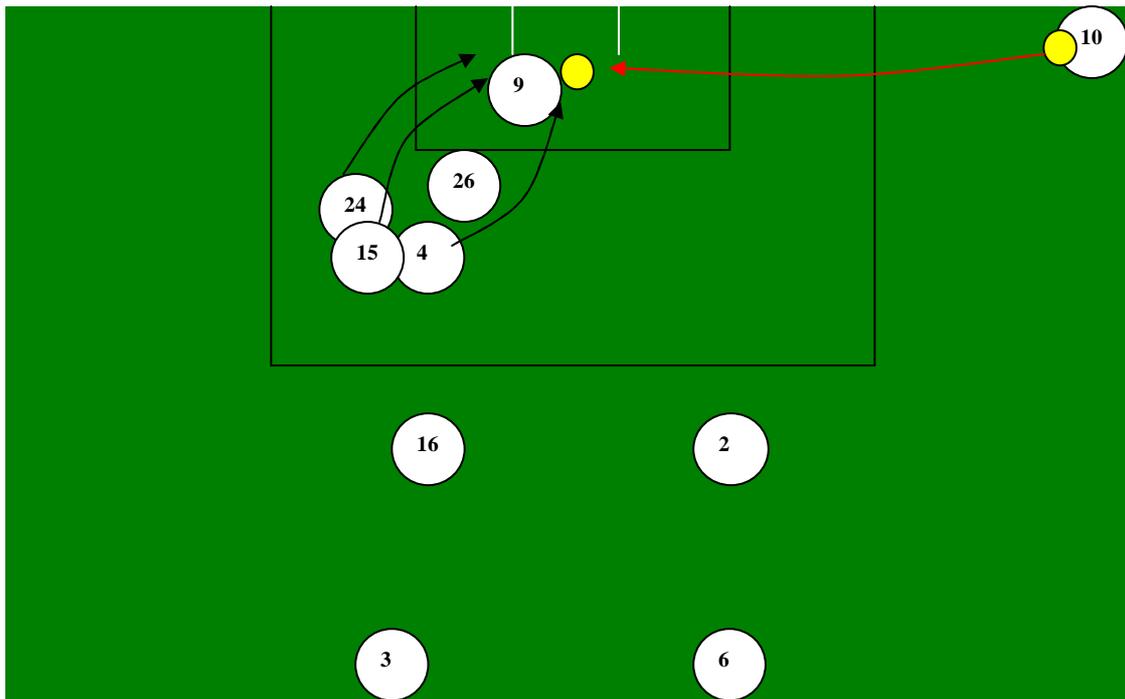
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## Set Plays

### **Attacking Corner – Right – 3**

Forest Green had 3 corners from the right hand side, which were all taken left footed by Platt, with 1 aimed to the centre of the six yard box and the other 2 deep towards the far post. Preece and Ayres attacked the far post with Jones peeling away from the pack to attack the centre of the six yard box. Mangan took up a central position within the 6 yard box as Fowler and Lawless ringed the box with Gill and Stonehouse covering defensively.



#### **Key**

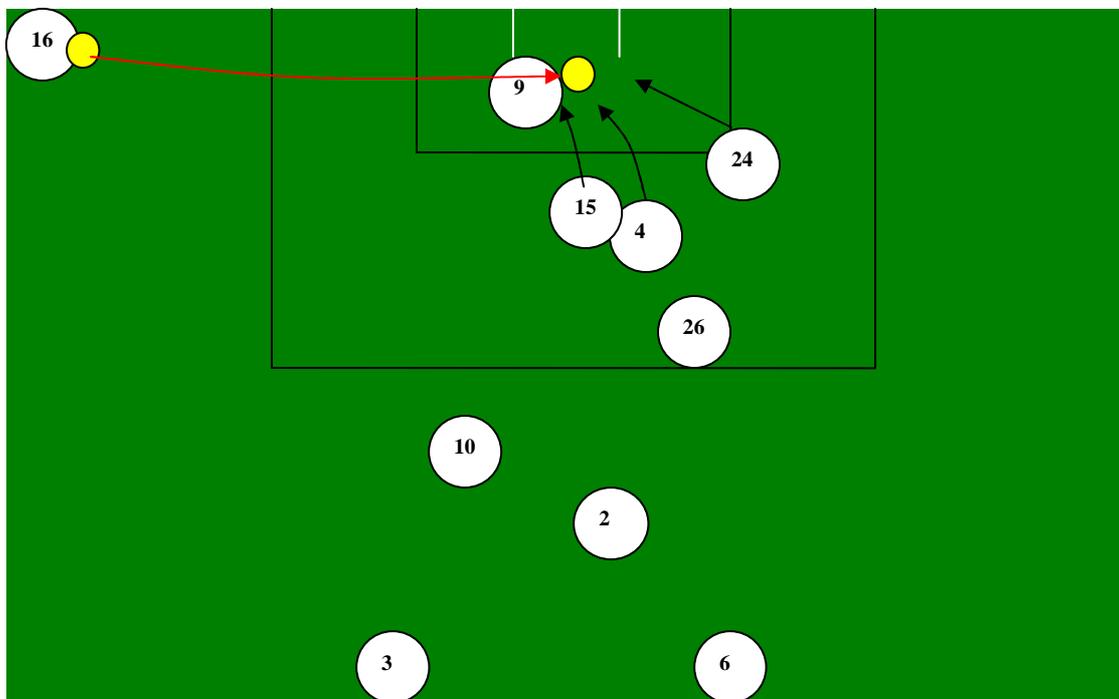
**25** Burton **06** Gill **15** Preece **24** Ayres **03** Stonehouse **02** Lawless **04** Jones **16** Fowler  
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## ***Attacking Corners – Left – 1***

Forest Green had 1 corner from the left, which was a right footed, inswinging corner taken by Fowler to the centre. Ayres attacked from a wider position at the far post with Preece and Burton attacking the centre. Platt and Lawless ringed the box with Brown on the edge of the area as Stonehouse and Gill covered defensively.



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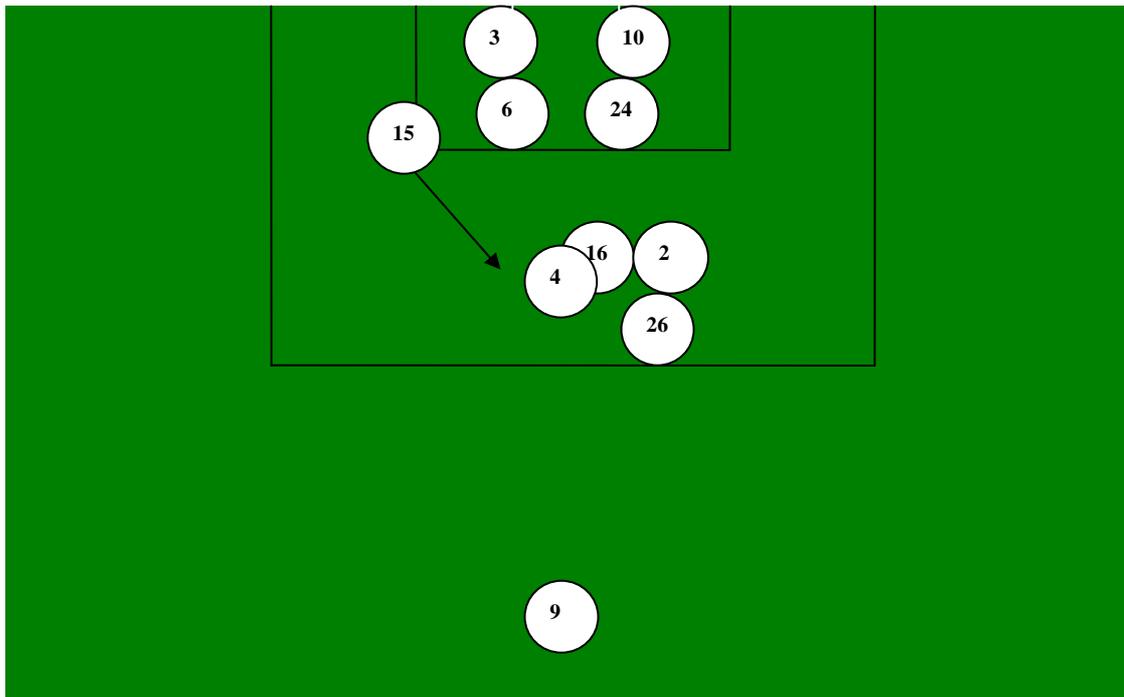
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## ***Defensive Corners – 7***

Forest Green had 7 corners to defend, where they organized quickly with Stonehouse and Platt covering the near/far post while Gill and Ayres zonal marked from the centre. Preece occasionally added additional cover at the far post but tended to pick up an opponent along with Jones, Fowler and Lawless who man marked. Brown ringed the box with Mangan remaining up field.



### **Key**

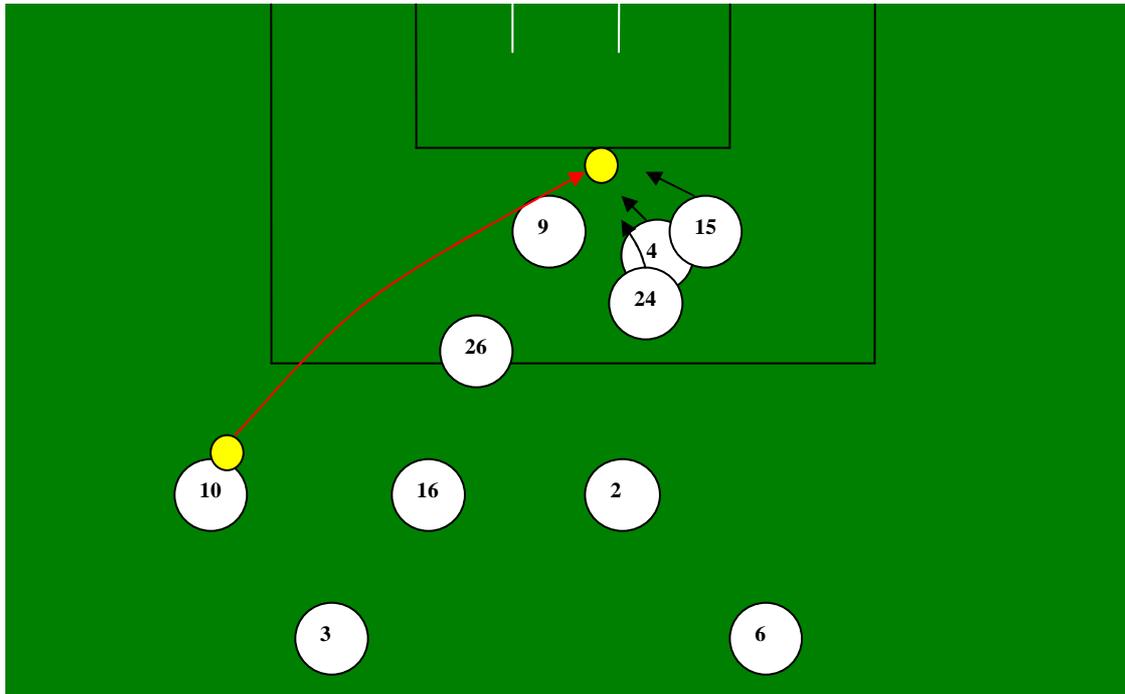
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### **Free Kick – Left – 25 Yards**

This was a left footed outswinging free kick taken by Platt from 25 yards, which was attacked by Ayres, Preece and Burton, however was cleared by an opposing defender.



### **Key**

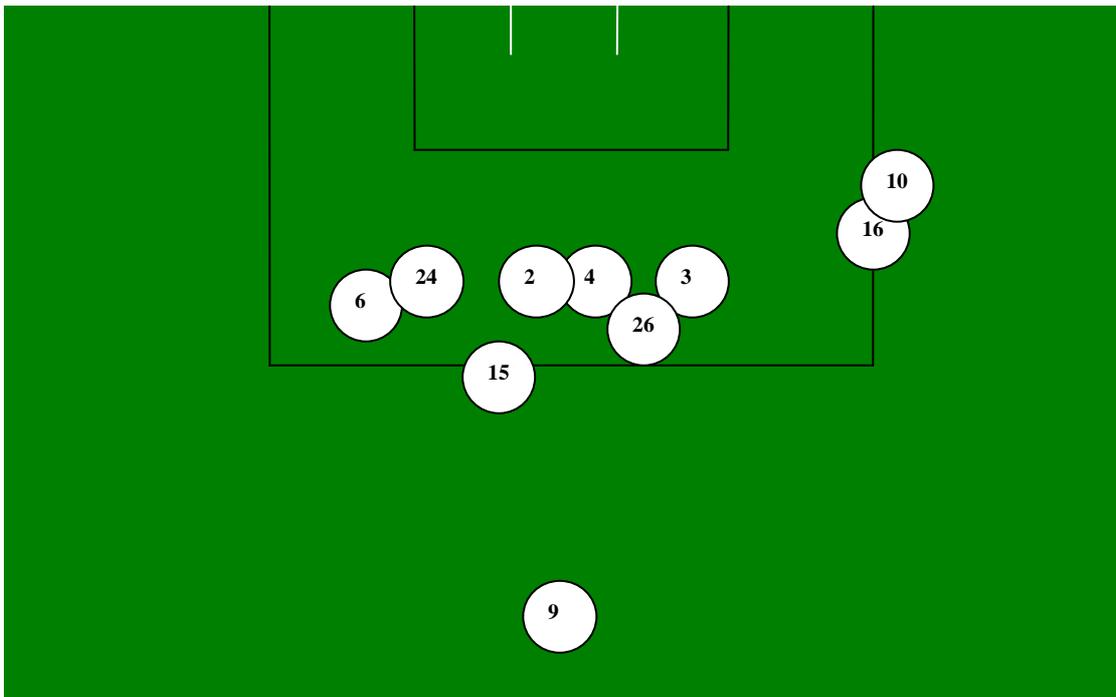
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### ***Defensive Set Play***

Forest Green organized from defensive set plays in wider areas with Platt & Fowler forming a 2 man wall with Mangan remaining up field as the others would pick up opponents



### ***Other Info/ Throw Ins***

- Forest Green won very few free kicks in advanced positions.
  - Gill & Stonehouse took throws from the left and right short to feet, occasionally looking to throw long in advanced area, but struggled to find range.
  - Forest Green rarely look to build up play when winning free kicks from defense where they looked to deliver high up the pitch.
-