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THE OFFICIAL 2022/2023 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v East Thurrock United FC



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 2023, 3PM
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE

JOINT CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to the AGL Arena for today's game with East Thurrock United.

This afternoon has now become the first of six cup finals we will play in the next month in our pursuit of a berth in the play-off spots. The only thing I can 100% guarantee is that if we win all six we will at least match last seasons endeavours with a minimum fifth position finish.

However, if I'm completely honest I think there will be more than one or two twists and turns between now and the finishing line. With Stowmarket coming into form under their new manager and us, Grays and Heybridge Sports unable to show any real consistency, it would be a brave person to call who will finish in fourth and fifth respectively. Having said that we

can't really ask for more than to have it in our own hands at this stage of the season.

Going back to our three previous games I think it's fair to say it's very much been the case of the good, the bad and the ugly. The good coming with a massive three points against play-off rivals Grays. The first half being pretty much uneventful. The tempo was upped in the second half and we got our rewards in the 58th minute with Callum Harrison netting the all important goal. Great effort and work rate from all the lads involved but a special mention to Callum Robinson who was again superb and got my vote for MOTM.

It must be reassuring for the boys to know that the fella wearing the no. 1 shirt will consistently give you a 7.5 out of 10 performance as a minimum, week in, week out. Callum must be in with a shout for one of the player of the season awards.

Up next was Hashtag United away. This got my vote as "the bad". You will be pleased to know that it was not for the performance but the 1-0 result we came away with. With a much changed line up we went toe to toe with the league leaders and to be honest I think we just shaded it until our now to regular red cards.

I sympathise with Ainslie as in my opinion neither offences were a yellow card and "SIT DOWN", neither were for dissent, just again on the wrong side of poor officiating. However a lack of discipline from Callum H, was not what was needed with him letting the man in the middle have his opinion of the ref's performance and subsequently putting us down to nine men. Still, down to nine we created a couple of half chances to sneak a point but not to be.

A big shout out to both youngsters Charlie Warren and Harry Blackburn who gave performances of strength and maturity way

beyond their years. I very much look forward to watching these lads grow into the finished article in years to come.

We will finish with "the ugly" which is the only expletive I can use for the game I witnessed at Crown Meadow when we took on a rejuvenated Gorleston. I won't go into detail except that both sides could still be playing now and neither would have scored.

That said if it's the point that gets us over the line to the play off's then "happy days" As we move on to our six finals lets all get behind the boys starting today with everyone being "loud and proud" for the boys.

I ask as many as possible to make the trip on Tuesday for the rearranged trip to Basildon, whether in cars or the minibus and turn it into a home game. You being the 12th man could make all the difference?

Enjoy the game
Andy



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FROM THE DUGOUT: **STUART BOARDLEY**

Good afternoon all and welcome to the AGL Arena. It seems an eternity since we were last here and we certainly could do with some home comforts to get us back to the types of results we have all become accustomed to over the season.

Winning just one game in the last five outings has certainly hit our playoffs hopes hard but despite this we find ourselves still in a position where our destiny is in our own hands which of course had we have been offered this at the seasons inception then we would have taken that, without any consideration at all.

The last two games since our crucial win at home to Grays Athletic have been performances of very differing natures and levels. We started with a performance at Hashtag that I felt warranted at least a share of the spoils. We had a particular game plan and felt until we were reduced to ten men, that we were well in the game and had limited a very good side (21 wins on the trot) to very few chances. It wasn't to be in the end and anyone in attendance will no doubt have been as frustrated as I was in the refereeing decisions that certainly played their part in our demise. We then moved onto Gorleston away on Tuesday evening and unfortunately our performance levels didn't reach the heights of the Hashtag game and neither team really deserved to take the three points. Although disappointed with just a single point on the night, we looked jaded and the weekend game had possibly taken more out of our legs than I had anticipated. On reflection this point may turn out to be an important one toward our total as teams around us continue to show the inconsistency that we are suffering from at present.



It was great to hear of the end of season plans this week. It will be fantastic to combine our end of season presentation evening with both an "old boys" game as well as Jordy Matthews tribute game. Jordy left us last season without a proper goodbye, mainly because he's a very unassuming guy and didn't want any fuss but also because he wasn't 100% sure he'd made the right call. Now the dust has settled, regardless of what happens in the future, its important we recognise what a fantastic player he has been for the football club over an extremely long period of time. I hope we can fill out the AGL for a full day of "Felixstowe Football" where we can all enjoy both old and new players together....

We are now down to the final five.... Yes, that's it, just five games left (well hopefully two more but we won't count our chickens just yet). Please get behind the lads, the last couple of weeks have been tough but we know its now or never for our season goals.... Lets do this!

Enjoy the game, Boards.



SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this ...

With just two more home games after today I thought I would look back over the season on how things have worked out and just jot down a few thoughts about the place.

The first thing I would have to say is a massive congratulations to all the guys behind the scenes that make the Seasiders' world go round on match days.

Having stepped back from front line duty after 'cough' years I speak with some authority when I say congratulations to these guys. Chris Daynes probably spends the vast majority of his waking hours in the week (7 days) thinking about everything, from laundry, cleaning, planning permission, building stuff, pitch, junior pitches. I'm sure if I asked, he could quickly add another 50 jobs that need doing now! He runs a team of volunteers who cover the multitude of jobs as they arise. Simply put, without a Chris, there would be no club and without the volunteers helping him, there would be no club.

We are not unique, every club has its volunteers to a greater or lesser degree - people do what they can do, sometimes more

than they should do, and we should appreciate every single second they spend at the club, trying to make it a better place to visit week on week, month on month and season on season.

The place has been transformed in the past six years from a park pitch with a fence around it to a football stadium that matches any around for atmosphere, the pitch improves every year. This season we've lost just three home games to a frozen (twice) and waterlogged (once) pitch. Six years ago, we would have lost at least double that amount. The main stand is about to have a facelift and three new stands have appeared... we average over 350 spectators every home game and none of it would be possible without our volunteers.

We have a great set of lads on the pitch, win, lose or draw and we have an equally great bunch of people behind the scenes making it all work... we should all take our Seasiders woolly hats and caps off to them and just say.

Respect!

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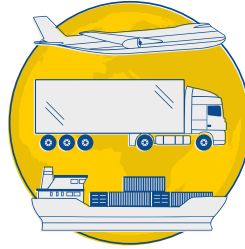
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ISTHMIAN NORTH LAST SIX MATCHES FORM

Hashtag United	W 2-1 v COGG..	W 3-2 v AFC..	W 8-1 v TILB..	W 2-1 v HEYB..	W 1-0 v FELI..	L 3-1 v STOW..
Stowmarket Town	L 1-0 v BASI..	W 2-1 v EAST..	W 1-0 v AFC..	W 1-0 v MALD..	W 4-1 v GREA..	W 3-1 v HASH..
Brentwood Town	D 1-1 v COGG..	W 2-0 v BURY..	W 2-0 v MALD..	L 1-0 v GREA..	D 2-2 v LOWE..	W 2-0 v GRAY..
Corleston	W 3-1 v HEYB..	W 4-1 v WITH..	D 0-0 v BASI..	W 1-0 v EAST..	D 0-0 v FELI..	L 2-1 v AFC..
Basildon United	W 1-0 v STOW..	W 3-1 v TILB..	W 3-1 v BURY..	D 2-2 v GRAY..	D 0-0 v GORL..	L 5-0 v AFC..
AFC Sudbury	L 3-2 v HASH..	W 3-0 v HULL..	L 1-0 v STOW..	D 1-1 v NEW..	W 5-0 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GORL..
Lowestoft Town	W 3-1 v COGG..	W 1-0 v FELI..	W 4-2 v HULL..	D 2-2 v BREN..	L 2-1 v GRAY..	L 5-3 v MALD..
Heybridge Swifts	D 2-2 v AFC..	W 3-0 v NEW..	L 3-1 v GORL..	L 2-1 v HASH..	W 1-0 v TILB..	W 1-0 v EAST..
Grays Athletic	W 2-0 v TILB..	W 2-0 v WROX..	D 2-2 v BASI..	L 1-0 v FELI..	W 2-1 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v BREN..
Wroxham	D 2-2 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v HULL..	L 2-1 v FELI..	L 2-0 v GRAY..	W 2-0 v EAST..	D 3-3 v GREA..
Maldon & Tiptree	W 1-0 v BASI..	D 0-0 v GREA..	L 2-0 v BREN..	L 1-0 v STOW..	D 1-1 v COGG..	W 5-3 v LOWE..
Great Wakering Rovers	L 2-0 v EAST..	D 0-0 v MALD..	W 3-2 v WITH..	W 1-0 v BREN..	L 4-1 v STOW..	D 3-3 v WROX..
Felixstowe & Walton United	W 2-1 v WROX..	L 4-3 v NEW..	L 1-0 v LOWE..	W 1-0 v GRAY..	L 1-0 v HASH..	D 0-0 v GORL..
New Salamis	D 1-1 v BREN..	L 3-0 v HEYB..	D 1-1 v WITH..	W 4-3 v FELI..	D 1-1 v AFC..	D 2-2 v BURY..
East Thurrock United	W 2-0 v GREA..	W 2-1 v HULL..	L 2-1 v STOW..	L 2-0 v WROX..	L 1-0 v GORL..	L 1-0 v HEYB..
Witham Town	W 2-0 v TILB..	L 4-0 v LOWE..	D 1-1 v NEW..	L 3-2 v GREA..	L 4-1 v GORL..	D 1-1 v HULL..
Coggeshall Town	D 0-0 v BURY..	L 2-1 v HASH..	D 1-1 v BREN..	L 3-1 v LOWE..	D 1-1 v MALD..	D 1-1 v TILB..
Bury Town	L 1-0 v EAST..	L 1-0 v GORL..	L 2-0 v BREN..	L 3-1 v BASI..	W 1-0 v TILB..	D 2-2 v NEW..
Tilbury	L 3-1 v BASI..	L 8-1 v HASH..	L 1-0 v BURY..	W 3-0 v HULL..	L 1-0 v HEYB..	D 1-1 v COGG..
Hullbridge Sports	L 3-0 v GORL..	L 2-1 v EAST..	L 3-0 v AFC..	L 4-2 v LOWE..	L 3-0 v TILB..	D 1-1 v WITH..

LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1	Nnamdi Nwachuku	AFC Sudbury	37
2	Jake Reed	Lowestoft Town	19
3	Derek Asamoah	New Salamis	17
4	Sam Bantick	Grays Athletic	17
5	Adam Hipperson	Lowestoft Town	17
6	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	16
7	Joshua Hitter	Felixstowe & Walton United	13
8	Alex Teniola	Hashtag United	12
9	Jermaine Francis	Hashtag United	11
10	Brian Moses	East Thurrock United	11
11	Louie Remi	New Salamis	11
12	Adam Vyse	Witham Town	11





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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

POS	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Hashtag United	33	28	1	4	86	33	+53	85
AFC Sudbury	33	25	4	4	77	31	+46	79
Lowestoft Town	33	21	5	7	75	39	+36	68
Stowmarket Town	32	19	6	7	57	32	+25	63
Felixstowe & Walton United	32	18	5	9	64	37	+27	59
Heybridge Swifts	33	17	8	8	53	32	+21	59
Grays Athletic	33	18	5	10	50	35	+15	59
New Salamis	32	12	11	9	55	56	-1	47
East Thurrock United	33	14	5	14	43	48	-5	47
Brentwood Town	32	13	7	12	44	39	+5	46
Bury Town	32	11	10	11	29	28	+1	43
Wroxham	32	10	11	11	43	49	-6	41
Basildon United	32	8	10	14	35	52	-17	34
Maldon & Tiptree	33	9	6	18	37	52	-15	33
Gorleston	33	9	5	19	42	66	-24	32
Witham Town	31	8	4	19	39	66	-27	28
Tilbury	33	6	5	22	31	66	-35	23
Great Waking Rovers	32	5	6	21	39	72	-33	21
Coggeshall Town	30	3	10	17	22	50	-28	19
Hullbridge Sports	32	5	4	23	29	67	-38	19

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023 AT 16:58:58

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL - 3PM KO

AFC Sudbury v Stowmarket Town

Grays Athletic v Basildon United

Hashtag United v Coggeshall Town

Heybridge Swifts v Bury Town

Hullbridge Sports v Gorleston

Lowestoft Town v Brentwood Town

Tilbury v Great Waking Rovers

Wroxham v Maldon & Tiptree



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THE OTHER SIDE: EAST THURROCK



The idea of forming a senior club to represent the rapidly growing area around Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope gradually evolved from the successful Corringham Social Club Sunday team towards the late 1960's. On Sunday 27th April 1969 a meeting was held at the Corringham Club, and it was agreed that we should form East Thurrock United FC. A major force in getting the new club off the ground was Brian Fayres, who was to become the "Rocks" first ever team manager.

In their inaugural season, 1969-70, the club played in the Southern Essex Combination, with home games being played at Corringham Recreation Ground, and the fledgling Rocks finished third in the table. For the next season the Rocks gained use of the former LATHOL company sports ground in Billet Lane Stanford le Hope, and with the improved facilities there, switched to the Greater London League, playing in their reserve section which in those days was a route into senior football for aspiring intermediate level clubs.

1970-71 saw the Rocks winning their first league title, becoming champions of Greater London reserve division two, and following promotion they became reserve division one champions in 1971-72. The club then gained senior non-league status, but in order to achieve this had to move to groundshare with Grays Athletic. Despite facing considerably stronger opposition, the Rocks went on to finish champions of senior division two of what had become the Metropolitan London League. The Rocks third championship and promotion in successive seasons.



Pictured here is Ray Gardner scoring for the Rocks at the Billet in the Met-London League game v Canvey Island in December 1974

So, the 1973-74 season saw the Rocks playing in the top division of the Met-London League, but after making an excellent start with wins over fancied





sides Cray Wanderers and Swanley Town, things turned somewhat sour, and they ended the season just avoiding relegation.

A period of struggle then followed. The club lost the use of Grays Rec, and had to move back to the very basic, slowly deteriorating, and now council owned Billet Ground.

The club also lost a number of key figures, as it slowly became obvious that finding a site on which to develop a home ground was a much more difficult proposition than had originally been envisaged. At the end of the 1974-75 season the committee proposed at a general meeting that the club be wound up, and only a decisive casting vote from chairman Ted Comer ensured the club survived to fight another day.

During the mid-late seventies, the club consolidated their position as members of the Met-London/London-Spartan League, while off the field the committee continued their search for a site on which to develop a ground. In 1979 the club switched from the London Spartan to the Essex Senior League.

In the early 1980's the club became interested in a site in Rookery Hill, Corringham. It had been purchased by a Housing Association, but they had subsequently been refused planning permission and had to sell the site. August 1982 saw the club exchanging contracts, and Rookery Hill was theirs. All they had to do then was convert a couple of rough farm and grazing fields into a football ground. After a lot of hard work, the club marked their first ever real home game with a 7-0 win over Coggeshall Town on 25th August 1984.



Action from the first game ever played at Rookery Hill in August 1984. Cliff Banyard scores as Rocks beat Coggeshall Town 7-0

Under manager Roger Bond the Rocks gradually improved their placings in the Essex Senior League, and after going close on two occasions, finally won promotion to the Isthmian League in 1992.

Tommy Lee became the manager for four seasons in the late 1990's, but a big change took place in 2001 when the club fell into financial difficulties, and local businessman Benny Bennett took control of the club. Under Benny, and new manager Lee Patterson the Rocks moved up the pyramid, making it to the Isthmian Premier in 2005.

In late October 2007 Lee was enticed away to manage National League side Braintree, and his assistant John Coventry became the Rocks new manager.

Despite suffering relegation from the Isthmian Premier by the narrowest of margins at the end of his first season, under "Covo" the Rocks went on to enjoy the most successful period in their short history to date. In 2009, Covo brought in a young striker named Sam Higgins. "Higgo" was well known to John Coventry, having been part of the Thurrock District Schools team which John had coached.

Having been with the Southend United and Millwall youth sides, at 19 years old Sam had already tried his luck with Conference South sides Fisher Athletic and Bishops Cleeve. However, it was under John Coventry at the Rocks that he was to make his name, smashing the club goalscoring records, and ending his Rocks career in 2019 with 275 club goals.

Under John Coventry the team made club history, reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup on two occasions, won two promotions, enjoyed their best ever FA Trophy run, won their first ever Essex Senior Cup, and enjoyed three brilliant seasons mixing it with the "big boys" of non-league in National South.

Sadly, the club's third season in National South ended in relegation back into the Isthmian Premier. 2019-20 was to be a sad season at Rookery Hill, as firstly much-loved club owner Benny Bennett sadly passed away, and a few months later John Coventry announced that he would be standing down at the end of the season. Then Covid hit, meaning all football at our level was brought to a halt in early March 2020.

Things looked bleak for the club's future for a while, as most of the off-field management and



Rocks lift the Essex Senior Cup for the first time after beating Chelmsford City 3-1 at Colchester in April 2019.

admin teams also departed the club at the same time as John Coventry. However, the arrival in the spring of 2020 of a new owner in Alfie Best, the founder and chairman of the Thurrock based Wyldecrest Parks residential park homes empire, along with a new admin team recruited mostly from supporters and former players, and led from the front by new chairman Steve Wiseman the club kept the show on the road.

Former Romford FC boss Paul Martin was appointed the new team manager, but sadly the club only managed nine league games before the second covid wave caused another lockdown, bringing a second successive season to a premature conclusion.

2021-22 saw football returning to something like normality, but also ended in relegation with the Rocks, returning to Isthmian North for the first time in eleven years. November 2021 saw manager Paul Martin standing down after a run of heavy defeats, and he was replaced by the former Tilbury FC management team of Marc Harrison and Liam Wallace.





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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Felixstowe & Walton Utd 1
Harrison
Grays Athletic 0

We had a clash of the titans at the seaside as Felixstowe & Walton United, in fifth, welcomed Grays Athletic, who were just above them. The Seasideers went ahead just before the hour, Callum Harrison with the opener, and that turned out to be that, a result which lifted the hosts to fourth and saw Athletic slip to sixth.

By Ian Townsend



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Leon Ottley-Gooch
6. Joe Whight
7. Henry Barley
8. Josh Hitter
9. Zak Brown
10. Callum Harrison
11. Andre Hasanally

SUBS

12. Charlie Warren
14. Andy Fennell
15. Lamell Howell
16. Oliver Canfer
17. Sam Ford





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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2022/2023.



STUART BOARDLEY MANAGER

Stuart started his footballing career at Ipswich Town leaving in 2004 after 10 years. He went on to play for Torquay United, Sudbury, Leiston and Felixstowe. In 2018 he was appointed as Manager of Leiston but left in 2019 to become Manager of Felixstowe & Walton United.

SPONSORS: Felixstowe Radio, Pat Haseman



ANDY CRUMP ASSISTANT MANAGER

Andy returned to Felixstowe & Walton United as Assistant Manager following the appointment of Stuart Boardley in 2019. Having enjoyed success in previous spells at the club as both player and First Team Coach.

SPONSORS: Chris & Jayne Ryan



KOTRYNA STOKNAITE SPORTS THERAPIST

Kotryna Stoknaite is a BSC Sports Therapy graduate from the University of Essex. During her undergraduate degree she had the opportunity to work as a Sports Therapist for the Colchester Rugby First team, as well as treating patients weekly at the university clinic.

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STUART STEVENSON COACH

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seasideers to coach the U18s which lead him on to being part of the first team staff. Stuart is an FA level 2 coach and an FA level 1 mentor.

SPONSOR: George Baker (Shipping) Ltd



GARY HAMMOND GOALKEEPER COACH

Gary is in his fifth season with the club. He was part of the double winning team with Walton Utd before the merger with Felixstowe. He has a wealth of experience having previously played for Stowmarket, Woodbridge and Ipswich Wanderers. Gary is also Club Treasurer.

SPONSORS: Ryecroft Freight Ltd



CALLUM ROBINSON **GOALKEEPER**

Callum joined the club in 2020 from Stowmarket Town. He started his career at Colchester United before playing for Wroxham, AFC Sudbury and spent time on loan at Brantham Athletic.

SPONSOR: Barry Caley



STUART AINSLEY **LEFT BACK**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent 10 years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Stuart has a sweet left foot and a great work ethic.

SPONSORS: Chris & Jayne Ryan



JOE WHIGHT **DEFENDER**

Joe came through the ITFC Youth system before playing for the likes of Needham, Bury and most recently AFC Sudbury where he captained their side. A left sided defender, Joe offers composure, a wonderful left foot and a toughness and desire to defend to the back line.

SPONSORS: Richard & Jenny Bugg



CALLUM BENNETT **RIGHT BACK**

Callum is in his second spell at the club having re-joined in late 2018. An attacking full back with one of the best ball deliveries in non-league football. Callum has plenty of experience from his time at Ipswich U18s, Stoke City U21s and Notts County.

SPONSOR: Dave Ablitt



CURTIS HAYNES-BROWN **DEFENDER**

Curtis joined in 2020 from Stanway Rovers and has a fine Isthmian league pedigree. Previous clubs include AFC Sudbury, Lowestoft Town, Yeovil Town, Cambridge Utd, AFC Wimbledon, Macclesfield Town and Maldon & Tiptree.

SPONSORS: George & Shirley Ainsley



MILO GRIMES **DEFENDER**

Milo joins the Seasiders from Coggeshall Town where he was ever present during the last campaign. A tough tackling centre half but with ability to play out from the back. A good leader and talker for a 22 year old, and sure to become a firm fan favourite.

SPONSORS: Stefan Peck, Stan Baston, Tom Bradford, Stevan Webb & Sons Roofing



HARRY KNOCK **DEFENDER**

Harry joins the Seaside on a permanent deal following his hugely successful loan spell in 2021/22 season. Harry, a former Scholar at ITFC, quickly became a fan favourite and an integral part of the side finishing in the play offs.

SPONSORS: Chris Worrall



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

Like Charlie Warren, Harry graduated through the Needham Market academy and joins the Seaside predominantly as an attacking fullback. Harry plays with confidence in possession and supporters will enjoy seeing him create chances for our forward players.

SPONSOR: Chris Walne



BILLY HOLLAND **MIDFIELDER**

Billy started life at Ipswich Wanderers and has had spells at Needham, Leiston and AFC Sudbury. He's established himself as a mainstay in the centre of midfield. Players player and Supporters player of the year last season has led to him being appointed captain for the forthcoming year.

SPONSOR: Andy Clarke



NOEL AITKENS **MIDFIELDER**

Noel's signing for the club in 2020 caused a stir amongst the non-league world, joining from step 3 Leiston and being described by manager Boardley as "the best midfield player in this area". Noel is quick, strong, can tackle, is athletic and can really play football!

SPONSORS: Becky Wybrow, Richard & Jenny Bugg, Darren Walne



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH **MIDFIELDER**

Leon signed for the club in 2020 and is another vastly experienced player at step 3 and 4 level. Previous clubs include Leiston, Bury Town, Hadleigh Utd and Stowmarket Town. Leon is very versatile but is predominantly a dynamic midfield player.

SPONSORS: Phil & Jan Griffiths



JOSH HITTER **MIDFIELDER**

Josh signed for us in 2021 having played his football at Step 3 side Leiston for the previous three seasons and gained a vast amount of experience at that level. Josh is a dynamic attack minded player who likes to arrive in the box late and score goals.

SPONSOR: Les Soall



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

Former Colchester United, Needham, Sudbury and more recently Chelmsford midfielder joins the Seaside for the 22/23 campaign. A highly sought after creative and technically gifted midfielder that loves to get forward and provide the team with both goals and assists.

SPONSOR: Winnifred McClean



RORY PORTER **MIDFIELDER**

Rory is one of the brightest players in recent years to progress through the youth system at Felixstowe & Walton. Having worked hard in the U23's during the 2021/22 season, Rory progresses permanently into the first team squad for the up and coming season.

SPONSOR: Paul Secker



HENRY BARLEY **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Henry signed for the club in 2019 following his contract expiring at Ipswich Town. Another popular young player who had also been on loan from the then EFL Championship club the previous season.

SPONSOR: Steve Foley Transport Ltd



LAMELL HOWELL **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Lamell signed from Brightlingsea Regent in 2020. He can play on both wings or in the number 10 position and brings pace and trickery to the side. He has previously played for Stowmarket Town, Debenham FC and Brantham Athletic.

SPONSORS: Steve & Kate Garnham



CHARLIE WARREN **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Having initially joined on loan from Needham Market, Charlie made an instant impact on his debut in the FA Trophy win at Hastings. Following a number of impressive performances, manager Boardley moved quickly to secure the permanent services of one of Suffolk's brightest young players.

SPONSORS: Suffolk Carpet Weavers, SCW Racing, Danny Soall



ANDY FENNEL **FORWARD**

A recent signing from rivals Heybridge Swifts, Andy brings lightning pace and a real direct style to the forward line. He has scored goals at Step 2, 3 & 4 and lists Leiston, Needham Market and Chelmsford amongst his former clubs. Comfortable anywhere across the front three, Andy joins hoping to fire us up to Step 3.



GEORGE CLARKE FORWARD

George joined the Seaside from Stowmarket Town in 2020 and has previously played for Ipswich Town, AFC Sudbury, Needham Market, Brightlingsea Regent and Brantham Athletic. George is a powerful and dynamic centre forward that is looking to make his mark following a lengthy spell on the sidelines through injury.

SPONSOR: Kedan Logistics Ltd



OLLIE CANFER FORWARD

Ollie made a dramatic impact when he joined the club in November 2019, signing from Mildenhall Town. "Canfs" burst onto the scene scoring 9 goals in 13 games. The fans love his non-stop running and desire to cause defensive headaches for the opposition.

SPONSORS: Steven Seeley, Andy & Kim Wilding



ANDRE HASANALLY FORWARD

Andre joins the Seaside following a successful loan spell from Colchester United in the 2021/22 season. A versatile forward with the ability to create as many as he scores.

SPONSOR: Matthew Daynes



ZAK BROWN FORWARD

A sought after and highly rated young striker with blistering pace and a great goal scoring record. At just 17, Zak penned a two year pro contract with ITFC where he was a regular marksman in the U23's. Zak started life in the Seaside's Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the club's No. 9.

SPONSORS: Chris & Kate Daynes



SAM FORD FORWARD

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath last season that saw them just miss out on promotion to the Scottish Premiership, Sam spent the Summer with Hume City FC in Australia before returning to Felixstowe. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

SPONSOR: Craig Studd

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination.

Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162). The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community."



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MATCH PHOTOS

TUESDAY 21st MARCH
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Hashtag United 1
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 0**

PHOTOS
BY TOM
BRADFORD



After twenty consecutive wins it was becoming difficult to describe any challenge as 'tough' for Hashtag United, but fourth place Felixstowe & Walton United looked to make life difficult for the Tags. United were missing Aitkens, Whight and Bennett through suspension, Canfer who was unavailable and Hitter who was injured, and during the first half lost Ottley-Gooch and Haynes-Brown through injury, but managed to get to the break level. The opening goal arrived with only five minutes to go, and it went to Jermaine Francis for the Tags- his sixth in three matches. Immediately the Seasiders somehow went down to nine men, Callum Harrison and Stuart Ainsley both sent off, and the Tags held on for yet another three points to retain their nine point lead with six matches left.

By Ian Townsend



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Harry Blackburn
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Curtis Haynes-Brown
7. Callum Harrison
8. Ieuan Ottley-Gooch
9. Andy Fennell
10. Zak Brown
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Andre Hasanally
14. Henry Barley
15. Lamell Howell
16. Sam Ford
17. Josh Hitter







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FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST

SAT 13	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	Att 167
TUE 16	GORLESTON <i>Warren, Harrison, Canfer</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	Att 332
SAT 20	DEREHAM TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP PRELIM RND	L 2-0	Att 229
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	Att 283
MON 29	COGGESHALL TOWN <i>Aitkens, Harrison, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 157

SEPTEMBER

TUE 13	BURGESS HILL TOWN <i>Whight, Harrison - Burgess Hill Town win 3-2 on pens</i>	H	7.45PM	FA TROPHY 1 ST	D 2-2	Att 185
SAT 17	NEW SALAMIS <i>Harrison 2, Canfer 3</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 5-0	Att 317
TUE 27	WITHAM TOWN <i>Holland 2, Maycock</i>	H	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 1 ST	D 3-1	Att 239

OCTOBER

SAT 01	WROXHAM <i>Brown, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	Att 180
SAT 08	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter, Holland, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 460
TUE 11	CHERTSEY TOWN <i>Brown, Holland</i>	A	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 2 ND	L 2-0	Att 203
SAT 15	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Hitter, Holland</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	Att 309
SAT 22	HASHTAG UNITED <i>Brown, Clarke, Warren, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 4-0	Att 658
TUE 25	AFC SUDBURY	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	Att 320
SAT 29	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS <i>Hitter, Clarke</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 334

NOVEMBER

TUE 08	ENFIELD TOWN <i>Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 3 RD	L 2-1	Att 209
SAT 12	TILBURY <i>Ford, Warren</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 329
SAT 19	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS <i>Brown, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 148
SAT 26	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Whight</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 343

DECEMBER

SAT 03	WITHAM TOWN <i>Aitkens, Hitter, Whight 2</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	Att 364
TUE 27	COGGESHALL TOWN <i>Warren</i>	H	1PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	Att 464

JANUARY

MON 02	STOWMARKET TOWN <i>Warren, Canfer, Whight</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	Att 516
SAT 07	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Clarke, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	Att 310
SAT 28	TILBURY <i>Brown, Clarke, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 170
TUE 31	BURY TOWN <i>Holland</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 404

FEBRUARY

SAT 04	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS <i>Clarke, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 411
TUE 07	EAST THURROCK UNITED <i>Otley-Gooch, Canfer</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	Att 198
SAT 11	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS <i>Otley-Gooch, Hitter (2), Canfer</i>	H	2PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	Att 105
TUE 14	AFC SUDBURY <i>Hitter</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 434
SAT 18	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 229
TUE 21	NEEDHAM MARKET	A	7.45PM	SFAPCUP 2ND R	L 5-0	Att 166
SAT 25	WROXHAM <i>Holland, Ford</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 363

MARCH

SAT 04	NEW SALAMIS <i>Whight, Fennell, Ford</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 4-3	Att 127
TUE 07	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	Att 264
SAT 11	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Harrison</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	Att 406
SAT 18	HASHTAG UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	Att 335
TUE 21	GORLESTON	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	Att 104

APRIL

SAT 01	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 04	BASILDON UNITED	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 08	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
MON 10	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 22	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



EVERY SO often in Non-League football something will spark a new major talking point.

Last week it was the revelation from the PFA warning players about changes to player contracts from July 1 that they say they can't support. However, the PFA don't have an agreement in place to represent Non-League footballers.

In case you missed it, here's the rundown. The FA is introducing a document that National League System clubs wanting to place players on contract must now sign. It comes into effect this summer, specifically from July 1.

Minimum conditions will apply to all new contracts, as well as renewed ones – including extensions.

In a statement, the FA explained it has updated the arrangement 'to better reflect current employment legislation and to provide each party with greater certainty.'

The NLP understands that the existing contract, which has been used for some time, no longer complies with UK employment law.

Lawyers hired by the game's governing body, in addition to others consulted for a second and separate opinion, both concluded that it needed amending to protect against legal challenges.

The big focus has been on injured players. Under the new contract, if a player suffers an injury while playing, they will only receive their full wages for 12 weeks at Step 1, and six weeks if playing at Step 2 or below.

If the player is still ill or injured after this initial period on full wages, the club can reduce their wages to Statutory Sick Pay – a little over £99 per week – until they are fit again.



In addition, a contract can be terminated, with three months' notice, if in the opinion of a club-instructed medic the player is unable to play for a period of four months.

Every contracted player will also be entitled to receive holiday pay, awarded pro-rata if they are not engaged for a full calendar year. Those on a 39-week deal would be entitled the equivalent of four weeks' leave.

A lot of the focus has been on the injury aspect of the new contract. A reminder, clubs must conform to the minimum standards when they sign a player on contract.

However, they can offer to continue paying players in full if they sustain an injury – much as they do now. For that to happen, players 'opt in' to the arrangement by ticking a box.

Macclesfield, on course to be promoted to the Northern Premier League's top flight this season, have already said they will do exactly that. Boreham Wood have expressed support for players too and it will be interesting to see how the game reacts as time goes on.

National League players have quickly mobilised, impressively so. Yeovil Town captain

Josh Staunton gathered the 24 Step 1 captains into a WhatsApp group and they've released a statement calling for talks on the situation.

Their stance has garnered support from their peers and, on social media, fans seem to have their backs.

Staunton told us: "In the League we'd have the PFA. Unfortunately we don't have anyone so we had to make sure we had togetherness or else it would get dismissed really quickly and we'd be bowing down to something we don't believe in. Ultimately, as a person, you have to stand up for what you believe in, don't you?"

So, what are the likely consequences? One immediate and obvious impact is on clubs' wage bills – well, those with contracted players who are now entitled to holiday pay.

The more players they have on deals, the more money they must find. It remains to be seen if that leads to fewer contracts being offered.

Ironically, should that happen, there would be an increase in non-contract players who have even fewer rights and benefits.

Competitions that make up the National League System, together with the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), were consulted by the governing body on the changes.

It means officials have been able to warn clubs they were coming, and to prepare.

Northern Premier League chairman Mark Harris has urged clubs to think carefully before deciding how they will adjust to changes in the contracts. He said: "We can help by passing on information, but we can't give legal advice. Like any businesses, clubs have to seek their own. And that's how it should be; every player is different, and so is every negotiation.

"The PFA was closely involved in discussions up to the point of launch, and it's since made its position clear.

"It remains to be seen how many clubs use the discretion they have to go above and beyond the minimum standards attached to the new contract."

It seems this story will run for a while yet.



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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

TUESDAY 21st MARCH
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Gorleston 0
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 0**

In Pitching In Isthmian North, Gorleston welcomed Felixstowe and Walton United. The first meeting between the two sides this season had delivered a five goal thriller, and it seems that all the thrills had been used up, as last night neither side could find a goal. The Greens move to ten points clear of the bottom four - a seven match unbeaten run continuing - whilst the Seasiders moved back into the top five, going above Grays Athletic on goal difference.

By Ian Townsend



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Harry Blackburn
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Joe Whight
7. Callum Harrison
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Andre Hasanally
10. Zak Brown
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Oliver Canfer
14. Henry Barley
15. Lamell Howell
16. Sam Ford



GUNDI: THE BULGARIAN HERO

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame



At first it seems a simple question. Who is the greatest Bulgarian to have ever played the game? The nation boasts just one Ballon d'Or winner, and that man, Hristo Stoichkov, became a legend both for his country and for Barcelona, one of the giants of the European game. He is rightly regarded as one of the finest footballers of his generation. So why is it that if you ask the question in Bulgaria, you'll likely get a different answer?

Georgi Asparuhov – Gundi – was born in the middle of the Second World War, in Sofia, and spent most of his childhood in the post-war chaos demonstrating his prodigious talent in the city's youth league. As he turned 15 in the late 1950s, he was invited for a trial at city heavyweights Levski Sofia, and duly taken on as a member of their under 16 side. It wasn't long before he made his mark there as well, with his manager Konstantin Georgiev reporting to the first team that 'there is nothing we can do with him' to make him better. 'The boy is a born footballer.'

Gundi didn't stick around in the youth teams for long, and he was in the first team, at just 17, against Botev Plovdiv. Tall and imposing, the Levski coaches thought he was a natural centre back, despite Gundi's belief in his attacking talents. Grateful, however, he lined up at the back, but he couldn't contain his own talents. He quickly became known for both goalscoring and for dribbling out of defence, often embarrassing his opponents. When he was called up for Bulgaria's youth teams, and excelled. In a tournament in Austria, he jinked past two players and scored from almost the



halfway line. Everyone agreed, he was an attacker, and that's where he played from then on.

National Service threatened to stall Gundi's career just as he made his breakthrough, but he was allowed to continue playing for the club nearest to where he was stationed; Botev Plovdiv. In his two seasons, he transformed them from mid-table fodder to genuine title contenders, finishing third and then second. But his heart was in Sofia, and when he was released from the military he went back to Levski. By now he had become an imposing striker. Tall, strong, fast, he was a defence's nightmare. In 1965 Levski won their first title in 12 years, with Gundi scoring 27 in 29. He then went off with the national team to a difficult World Cup qualifier against Belgium, which Bulgaria were expected to lose. In a performance

described as 'divine' he scored twice to send his country to the finals, and would be nominated for the Ballon d'Or, ahead of Franz Beckenbauer and Ferenc Puskas.

With Levski in now European Cup action, it was inevitable that some European giants would come knocking. After three goals against Benfica, the Portuguese champions made an approach, with Eusebio declaring that he craved to play alongside the Bulgarian. Milan were the most persistent though, making repeated offers. Bulgaria, under strict communist control refused to let him leave the country.

The 1966 World Cup was a disappointment for Bulgaria, but Gundi flourished. In a group of death with Brazil, Portugal and Hungary (with Ballon d'Or winner Florian Albert). Gundi scored his side's only goal, but was unable to carry the team himself with so much talent against him. He left disappointed, but with his reputation further enhanced.

Unfortunately, his heroics just made him more of a target in what was an increasingly violent Bulgarian league. Injuries threatened to finish his career early, but it was to end in far more tragic circumstances.

Having been injured once too often, and unable to play for Levski, Gundi was invited to a celebration by Botev Plovdiv, who still loved him from his two season spell there a decade earlier. He took his international teammate Nikola Kotkov with him for the ride, and picked up a hitchhiker on the road. As he made his way down the Hemus motorway, his Alfa Romeo lost control and smashed into a truck. The car was set alight, and all three men died. Kotkov was 32, Gundi was 28.

In 1999, he was voted (ahead of Stoichkov) as Bulgaria's greatest ever player. He was placed 40th on FIFA's list of the greatest players of the twentieth century. It is impossible to guess how his reputation might have changed had he moved to Western Europe, but one suspects he might be much more readily remembered. For Gundi, though, he achieved his dream. One audacious attempt by Milan to



lure him across the Iron Curtain, with the promise of \$500,000, a contract level with the highest paid player in Italy, and most importantly, safe passage out of the Communist bloc, he responded by saying 'there is a country called Bulgaria, and in this country there is a team called Levski. You may not have heard of it, but I was born there and there I shall die.' Tragically, he was right.

Enjoy the game.

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MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Saturday 1st April, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley
Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

■ □ □	Stuart Ainsley
■ □ □	Noel Aitkens
■ □ □	Henry Barley
■ □ □	Callum Bennett
■ □ □	Harry Blackburn
■ □ □	Zak Brown
■ □ □	George Clarke
■ □ □	Ollie Canfer
■ □ □	Andy Fennell
■ □ □	Sam Ford
■ □ □	Milo Grimes
■ □ □	Callum Harrison
■ □ □	Andre Hasanally
■ □ □	Curtis Haynes-Brown
■ □ □	Josh Hitter
■ □ □	Billy Holland (C)
■ □ □	Lamel Howell
■ □ □	Harry Knock
■ □ □	Leon Ottley-Gooch
■ □ □	Rory Porter
■ □ □	Callum Robinson (GK)
■ □ □	Charlie Warren
■ □ □	Joe Whight

red/yellow - goals - played

East Thurrock Utd FC

Manager: Marc Harrison
Assistant Manager: Liam Wallace
Coach: Drew Kilner
Goalkeeper Coach: Dan Tolley

■ □ □	Johnny Ashman
■ □ □	Ryan Boswell
■ □ □	Sam Carter
■ □ □	Harry Critchley
■ □ □	Jack Hayes
■ □ □	Alex Hernandez
■ □ □	Harry Hope
■ □ □	Jack McQueen
■ □ □	Brian Moses
■ □ □	Anthony Page (GK)
■ □ □	Jordan Peart
■ □ □	Isaac Skubich
■ □ □	Oli Spooner (C)
■ □ □	Ben Stewart
■ □ □	Mackenzie Vincent
■ □ □	Frankey Williams

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MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Alexander Shipp **Assistant Referees:** Mr Alfie Davidson and Mr Lian Chinery