

the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2023/2024 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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Seasiders v Bury Town FC



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SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2023, 3PM
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE



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CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to the AGL Arena for our first home league match of the season.

Today we welcome our local rivals Bury Town and we hope they enjoy their brief outing to the Seaside. Welcome to today's match officials and all our supporters.

Today's game should be a cracker to get the home fixtures underway. Bury will be bouyant after their opening day win over Brentwood albeit disappointed to have made a quick exit from the FA Cup last time out against Wroxham.

The Seasiders started slowly in both games to date, but a great fight back saw a late equalizer at Madon & Tiptree, whilst a much improved second half at Wellingborough saw us comfortably through to the next round in the FA Cup and we look forward to a trip next Saturday to Woodford Town.

Having taken a break for the last couple of seasons I am delighted to have been voted back as Club Chairman of this fantastic football club. The club has continued to expand both on and off the pitch since I've been away and I would like to say a massive thank you to the three Chairmen - Chris, Andy and Matt for the terrific work they have done, along with all the other committee members, management

and coaches over the last two years.

Internally we may all have little gripes and concerns, or the odd disagreement as I'm sure all clubs do, but by and large this is an amazing club from top to bottom and we are the envy of so many other non-league clubs. Our loyal band of supporters are absolutely fantastic and seem to be growing every season. There must have been at least 50 who made the long trip to Wellingborough last week and I'm sure the players and management would have appreciated every single one.

It is easy for me to say, and maybe harder to achieve, but I certainly hope to play my part in continuing our success, not only from a strong first team which is the basis for success and without which we just wouldn't be able to operate as we do, but also to help the incredible junior and youth sections as well as the academy flourish for years to come.

The dream of an extended clubhouse and an all weather pitch at The AGL Arena is still very much alive and kicking and with us all pulling in the same direction I am positive we can make these a reality over the next few seasons, it certainly won't be for the lack of trying and in our facilities director we have the passion and drive to ensure we dont leave any stone unturned - he really can be like a dog with a bone which time and time again is a massive benefit to the club. Both Chris and his twin Stuart who takes care of all our media should be considered as possibly the most important assets this club has and I would urge anyone to speak to them if you feel you can help the club in anyway and join our journey to dreamland!

Enjoy the game and please stay afterwards for a drink or two and please be respectful to all the players and officials involved.

Come on you Seasiders!



FROM THE DUGOUT: **STUART BOARDLEY**

Good afternoon all and welcome back to the AGL Arena for the first home competitive game of the season. I am writing this having just watched our first two games on the iPad from Rhodes, as unfortunately a busy home and work life has meant that the only opportunity for a holiday was the first two weeks of the season! (bad timing I know)

It certainly hasn't stopped us having a promising start with a hard fought come back draw away from home against a talented Maldon side, then a convincing 4-1 win in the FA Cup, also away at Wellingborough. Thanks to Andy for holding the fort and Danny, Stu and Dougie for mucking in wherever needed to ensure the lads were fully prepared as usual.



Speaking with Andy almost daily over the last two weeks, I know, although he's felt our performances haven't reached 4/5th gear as yet he's been particularly pleased with the character shown in both games. Coming back from two goals down at Maldon and then conceding first at Wellingborough also, certainly wasn't ideal but we rose to that challenge, dug deep and gained a result which was great to see.

We had made a conscious decision in the summer to add strong characters who have

all won things throughout their careers to the squad. At times last season we just faltered at crucial times and the 'know how' brought in to the squad by our new recruits will hopefully make that all important difference.

That leads me nicely in to welcoming Josh Mayhew, Tom Bullard and Jack Ainsley to the club. All three, I've worked with before in some capacity and I'm delighted to have them on board because they are all, not only top players but also really good people too.

Each of them showed a great desire to be playing their football with us this year which allowed us to do our business early in the summer and concentrate fully on preparations for the new season.

For those of you that have been with us a while now, you've seen a side fighting relegation when Andy and I first joined the club, and have now had two seasons of chasing those playoffs without the success of a promotion. Well, our aims this year are no different in reality and we believe we have a squad capable of being in the mix of the top five once more. I'd be lying to you if I said my goal wasn't promotion because I believe this club has the foundations in place, an ambitious management team, a motivated playing squad all backed by an unwavering group of supporters who deserve something to really shout about.

I'm sure the season will certainly not be easy, there are some very good teams in the league and there will certainly be highs and lows along the way. We hope you'll all stick with us through the low points and then enjoy the highs together too.

Hope you enjoy the season,
Sea Sea Seasideers....
Boards

FROM THE CAPTAIN: **BILLY HOLLAND**

It's good to be back and great to see so many of you here to pack out the AGL Arena for our first home game of the season!

When the fixtures were released this one definitely will have caught the eye of many... we all love a local derby in Suffolk so to have this one so early in the season is great for both clubs and sets of supporters.

"We are all really looking forward to the season ahead. This is a tough league and there are lots of challenges ahead of us..."

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and didn't miss us too much! We had a really good summer of preparation for the new season ahead. The friendly against Ipswich Town was a special moment for the club and as a lifelong Ipswich supporter I was of course gutted to miss that day (I did debate whether to cancel my stag do but I think my best man who had spent a year organising our holiday may have had something to say about that!).



There have been some new faces added in the summer - Jack Ainsley, Tom Bullard and Josh Mayhew have added real strength, experience and competition to the squad. They are also all top lads and have settled in so well with the group.

We go into today's game off the back of a draw in our opening league game away at Maldon & Tiptree and a win on the road in the FA Cup last weekend. We probably made hard work of both of those games but on reflection it's an unbeaten start and something to build on. Special thanks to the fans that made the trips to support us in both of those games, us players really appreciate it.

We are all really looking forward to the season ahead. This is a tough league and there are lots of challenges ahead of us, with new teams coming into the league and lots of changes of personnel at local clubs like Stowmarket and today's opponents Bury, so it won't be easy but we have a hungry group that will be doing everything we can to be as successful as we can.

Up the Seaside!







SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Neil Robert Hollis September 1948–July 2023

Welcome back everyone as we set out on another season of home games at the resplendent looking AGL Arena, today's game is actually our third match of the season, a 2-2 draw at Maldon & Tiptree a fortnight ago and a 4-1 FA Cup victory at the Dog & Duck ground in Wellingborough last Saturday sees us set fair for what is to come, but it is looking back over my shoulder that I want to dedicate my opening scribbles.

When I joined the club back in the early 70's (1970's) the club wasn't really heading anywhere, languishing mid table of the Essex & Suffolk Border League, but it was in those long gone days that the transition to where we are today began, the enthusiasm of a young manager called Dave Ashford and a gathering of willing people who wished to see a better standard of football on the peninsula

started the ball rolling, a lot of the time it seemed the ball was made of stone and the playing field was uphill.

One of those early contributors was a guy called Neil Hollis, who lived in Cornwall Road, papered his hall with pages from the Sun newspaper and built a bar in his living room. Neither he nor I were good enough for the first team so both played for the reserves and like many of us, Neil was a willing worker off the field.

I write this because Neil passed away at home on July 19th and his funeral took place last Friday, another one gone to the bar in the sky where Big Ray will no doubt have had a pint ready for him, but Neil will be remembered fondly by many of the old guard here at the AGL Arena.
RIP Old Friend.



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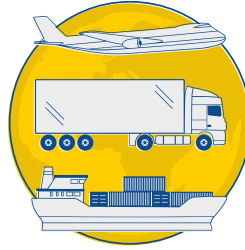
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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY TOM
BRADFORD

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Maldon & Tiptree 2
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 2

Felixstowe & Walton United rescued a point deep into added time as a Josh Hitter goal secured a deserved 2-2 away draw at Maldon & Tiptree.

he home side went into the break two goals ahead after **Louie Remi** had slotted home on 17 minutes and **George Smith's** 45 minute effort was adjudged to have crossed the line after smacking the underside of the crossbar. Felixstowe were vastly improved after the break and captain **Billy Holland** reduced the arrears on 52 minutes as he stroked home a delicious 25 yard shot.

Zak Brown saw his leveller wiped out by the offside flag and numerous chances came and went for the visitors who looked to be starting the season empty handed until the eighth minute of added time, Jack Ainsley had been put up front and his burst into the box and selfless pass across the keeper picked out **Josh Hitter** superbly who struck the equaliser, much to the delight of the large travelling support.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Joe Whight
4. Billy Holland
5. Jack Ainsley
6. Tom Bullard
7. Zak Brown
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Sam Ford
10. Charlie Warren
11. Henry Barley

SUBS

12. Stuart Ainsley
14. Callum Harrison
15. Leon Ottley-Gooch
16. Josh Mayhew
17. Josh Hitter







ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2023/24

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Enfield	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
2	Gorleston	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
3	East Thurrock United	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
4	Walthamstow	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
5	Bury Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
6	Brightlingsea Regent	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
7	Heybridge Swifts	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
8	Felixstowe & Walton United	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
9	Maldon & Tiptree	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
10	Basildon United	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
11	Lowestoft Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
12	Redbridge	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
13	Witham Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
14	Brentwood Town	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
15	Bowers & Pitsea	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
16	Stowmarket Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
17	New Salamis	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
18	Ipswich Wanderers	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
19	Wroxham	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
20	Grays Athletic	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES



SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST - 3PM

Brentwood Town	v	Basildon Utd
Brightlingsea Regent	v	Enfield
Felixstowe & Walton Utd	v	Bury Town
Grays Athletic	v	Gorleston
Heybridge Swifts	v	East Thurrock Utd
Lowestoft Town	v	Maldon & Tiptree
New Salamis	v	Bowers & Pitsea
Redbridge	v	Stowmarket Town
Walthamstow	v	Witham Town
Wroxham	v	Ipswich Wanderers

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FIXTURES 2023/24

AUGUST

SAT 12	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Holland, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 211
SAT 19	WELLINGBOROUGH <i>Ford, Harrison, Holland, Warren</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP	W 4-1	ATT 135
SAT 26	BURY TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
MON 28	STOWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

SEPTEMBER

TBC	WOODFORD TOWN	A	TBC	FA CUP FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		
SAT 9	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		
SAT 16	BOWERS & PITSEA	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 30	BASILDON UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

OCTOBER

SAT 7	REDBRIDGE	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUES 10	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 14	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	FA CUP FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		
SAT 21	WROXHAM	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		
SAT 28	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	FA CUP FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		

NOVEMBER

SAT 4	ENFIELD	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 18	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 25	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

DECEMBER

SAT 2	GORLESTON	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 9	NEW SALAMIS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 26	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 30	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

JANUARY

MON 1	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 6	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 3	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 10	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	WROXHAM	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 24	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 2	ENFIELD	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 9	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 16	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 23	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 30	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

MON 1	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 6	EAST THURROCK UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	NEW SALAMIS	H	3PM	LEAGUE

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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round **Wellingborough Town 1 Felixstowe & Walton Utd 4**

A comfortable passage into the first round qualifying for the Emirates FA Cup. Three goals in a nine minute burst midway through the second half sealed the win. A competitive opening 45 saw Felixstowe & Walton United play some good football, with the home side always looking dangerous on the break and from set pieces. The Doughboys took the lead on 37 mins with **Sam Ford** tapping in an immediate equaliser. **Callum Harrison** struck the second on 66 mins and **Billy Holland** the third a minute later. **Charlie Warren** then wrapped it up on 75 with a long range effort to the delight in f the travelling army.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Harry Blackburn
3. Joe Whight
4. Billy Holland
5. Jack Ainsley
6. Tom Bullard
7. Zak Brown
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Sam Ford
10. Josh Hitter
11. Henry Barley

SUBS

12. Callum Bennett
14. Callum Harrison
15. Leon Ottley-Gooch
16. Josh Mayhew
17. Charlie Warren
18. Stuart Ainsley







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BACK ROW L-R

Kotryna Stoknaite, Josh Hitter, Tom Bullard, Noel Aitkens, Josh Mayhew,
Leon Ottley-Gooch, Charlie Warren, Sam Ford

MIDDLE ROW L-R

Ivan Costa, Lamell Howell, Henry Barley, Jack Ainsley, Callum Robinson,
Zak Brown, Callum Harrison, Harry Blackburn, Kubi Kussan

FRONT ROW L-R

Danny Potter, Callum Bennett, Billy Holland, Stuart Boardley, Andy Crump,
Joe Whight, Stuart Ainsley, Doug French

NOT IN PHOTO Stuart Stevenson and Dan Leggett



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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2023/2024.



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.



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.



DANNY POTTER GOALKEEPER COACH

A former professional footballer/TV Star, Danny was once cast into the sky tv programme 'Dream Team' where he played for the fictional team Harchester United. Danny boasts clubs such as Torquay, Colchester and Cambridge as former employers whilst making over 100 appearances in between the sticks for the latter. Recently appointed as Goalkeeper Coach, Danny brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and professionalism to Stuart's management team.

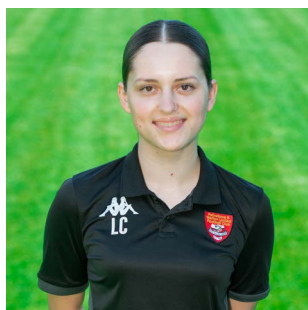




DOUG FRENCH

KIT MAN

Doug started his career in 1986 for East Anglian Customs. Spells at Walton United, Felixstowe United and Tattingstone followed where he really honed his benchwarming skills and managed to break his leg 4 times in the process. Whilst playing for Ipswich Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots when he realised he could no longer get on the end of errant passes from Boards. Having found his vocation in washing players' dirty pants, Doug is excited for a new challenge with the Seaside.



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.



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 Seaside 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.



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.



JACK AINSLEY

DEFENDER

Rejoins his home town club after a spell away at Stowmarket. Jack played professionally for Ipswich Town after coming through their academy and went on to make 4 appearances playing under the infamous Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at non-league Lowestoft and Leiston playing at Step 3 but finds himself back at the Seaside where many describe him as a "Rolls Royce" type of player who can play in any position for the team.



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.



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.



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.



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.



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

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



DAN LEGGETT **DEFENDER**

After some time out of football, Dan rejoins the group to fulfil the potential that was identified some time ago. An aggressive left sided centre back who is very comfortable on the ball and happy to play out from the back, Dan will undoubtedly improve his game working regularly within the first team setup.



TOM **BULLARD** **DEFENDER**

Another who joins us from Stowmarket. 'Bully' has experience across Step 3 and 4 with long and successful spells as captain at both Leiston and Bury Town. Tom is a serial winner who's experience, defensive qualities and leadership skills will add to an already impressive back line.





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!!



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 midfielder player.



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.



IVAN **COSTA** **MIDFIELDER**

Promoted into the first team squad from our Academy after a strong pre-season. Ivan is an industrious central midfielder player whose work ethic and attitude is second to none.





KUBI KUSSAN

MIDFIELDER

Another young player promoted to the first team squad from our Academy. Kubi is a technically gifted midfield player who enjoys moving with the ball. He has an edge to his game that has impressed the management throughout pre-season.



CALLUM HARRISON

MIDFIELDER

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



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.



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.



JOSH MAYHEW

FORWARD

Josh joins us from promotion winners AFC Sudbury. An experienced front man who has been prolific at Step 4 and 5 with an impressive spell at Stowmarket yielding 136 goals in 173 games. Josh's physical presence will bring a focal point to our attack as well as a being natural finisher who is a proven goalscorer at this level.



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.



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 Seasiders Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the clubs No. 9.



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.

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THE OTHER SIDE BURY TOWN

Founded in 1872, Bury Town Football Club is one of the oldest Football Club's in the country and has a proud history dating back over 140 years. The club was founded by Mr William Lake at a meeting in the Suffolk Hotel. The original name of the club was Bury St Edmunds FC and the first committee of the club elected to choose royal blue as the club's colours.

The club took up residence at Kings Road, also know as the Cemetery Road ground, in 1888. Kings Road was the first football ground in East Anglia to operate floodlights when on Monday 12th January 1953, the Blues played their first ever floodlit game against Cambridge City in front of 2,105 spectators. A total of 14 bulbs of 1500 watts illuminated the Suffolk skyline for the first time and history was created. The lights were financed by the Bury Town Supporters Club.



A notable player for the club in the early days was Reginald De Courtney Welch who appeared as a defender for Bury St Edmunds in 1877. De Courtney Welch was a member of The Wanderers side that won the first ever FA Cup in 1872 and he also played in the first ever official international match for England, against Scotland in November 1872.

The club was one of 11 founder members of the Suffolk County Football Association in 1885 and has won the Suffolk Premier Cup on 13 occasions.

The clubs name was changed by a vote to Bury Town in September 1885, however 10 years later the members chose to adopt the full name



of the town back as the name, before changing to Bury United in 1908. In 1923 the clubs members decided that the name 'United' was no longer appropriate as there were a number of sides in Bury St Edmunds, and decided to revert to Bury Town, which has remained to this day.

The club played in various local leagues until 1935 when it became a founder member of the Eastern Counties League. The club spent a total of 22 consecutive seasons in the Eastern Counties League, finishing as runners up in 1937–38. The Blues claimed the ECL title in the 1963–64 season as part of an historic treble, as they also captured the ECL Knockout Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup.

This success saw the club move to the Metropolitan League and they kicked off their first ever Metropolitan game against Charlton Athletic 'A' at Kings Road in front of 1,150 spectators, Bury running out 1–0 winners. The club finished 4th in their first season and also retained the Suffolk Premier Cup.

Season 1965–66 was another successful season and another treble haul of trophies as the club stormed to the Metropolitan League title, won the Metropolitan League Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup again. By this time the club were averaging over 1,000 supporters at their home matches and interest in the club was at an all time high.

In 1968, the Blues reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup and drew Third Division side Bournemouth & Boscombe at Kings Road. 3,000 spectators assembled and witnessed Bury hold the Football League side to a goalless draw. The replay saw Bournemouth win through by 3 goals to 0 at Dean Court. The season had further success when the Blues won the Metropolitan League title for a second time.

The clubs success resulted them taking the bold step to join the Southern Football League for the 1971–72 season. The club struggled to adapt to their new surroundings and after five seasons, decided to take the decision to re-join the Eastern Counties League, a decision that proved unpopular with supporters.

On Wednesday 28th April 1976, Bury Town played their final match at the historic Kings Road ground when West Ham United were



the visitors. 1,750 watched on as the sides drew 2-2, and a pitch invasion signalled the end of the Blues spiritual home.

Bury Town moved into their current Ram Meadow ground in 1978 and collected the Suffolk Premier Cup as a reward. The Blues spent a total of 11 seasons back in the ECL and their most successful moment of that time came in their final season when they reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and were drawn away at Football Conference leaders Enfield. The sides drew 0-0 at Southbury Road and returned to Ram Meadow for the replay, however in front of 2,500 supporters, the visitors sneaked home 1-0 to reach the First Round Proper.

The 1987-88 season saw ambition return to the club and Bury were promoted to the Southern League. After a few seasons of promising results and large home crowds, the Blues failed to reach the Premier Division, the closest they came was finishing 4th in 1988-89. Years of overspending on players and ground improvements finally caught up and the club drifted into decline as the crowds drifted away. On the 4th May 1996, the Blues were relegated at Redditch United from the Midland Division of the Southern League, back to the Eastern Counties League.



The club spent another 10 years in the ECL, and despite some early seasons of struggles, success coincided with the appointment of former Colchester United captain Richard Wilkins to the manager's seat. The club reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase in 2005 and then the Semi Final in 2006. Crowds rose back up and after two consecutive runners up spots in the Premier Division of the ECL, the club were



promoted to the Isthmian League for the first time in their history. The stay lasted two seasons and after adjusting to a higher level in 2006–07 with a 17th place finish, the following season saw the Blues finish in 7th position.

The FA re-organisation in 2008 saw Bury moved into the Southern League for a third spell of membership. A successful campaign saw Bury finish in 7th position in the Midland Division table, reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 4-2 at Alfreton Town, and reach the Semi Final of the Southern League Cup, however in 2009-10, Bury Town clinched the Southern League Midland Division Championship on the final day of the season with a 3-0 home victory over Marlow in front of 1,550 supporters. The Blues piped Hitchin Town to the title, scoring 115 goals during the campaign and collecting 102 points to gain promotion. Another move across the pyramid saw the Blues re-join the Ryman League for the 2010-11 season, entering the Premier Division. A great season saw Bury finish third, but go out of the play off's to Lowestoft Town. There was however some silverware for the boardroom as Bury defeated Needham Market 2-0 in the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup at Portman Road.

2011-12 saw the club lift the Ryman League Cup with a victory over East Thurrock United and again finished in the play off places, but lost out to AFC Hornchurch in the Semi Final. 2014-15 saw our spell in the Premier Division come to an end after 5 years with relegation to Division One North. In our last two seasons back in Division One North we have finished in 13th and 11th place. 2017-18 saw the Blues finish 9th and reach the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup.

2018-19 saw the Blues press for the play off places and a hope of a return to the Premier Division. It was a successful season with a 6th placed finish achieved, the best finish the club has had since relegation in 2015.

Following a couple of disappointing seasons, Ben Chenery left the club following 9 years in charge and was replaced by former professional Cole Skuse who will be looking to turn fortunes around.



THE OTHER SIDE PLAYER PROFILES



COLE SKUSE – MANAGER A former professional who made 615 league appearances for Bristol City, Ipswich Town and Colchester United. He retired at the end of last season and was quickly appointed to his first managerial position at Ram Meadow.

PAUL MUSGROVE – ASSISTANT MANAGER Paul joined with Cole Skuse ahead of the current season. Previously a manager at Stowmarket Town and Walsham-Le-Willows, he has an extensive knowledge of the local scene and lead Stowmarket to the Isthmian League play off's in their first season in the division.

LUKE BROWN Striker Luke joined in the summer of 2023 after previously playing at Needham Market. He had a successful spell with Paul Musgrove at Stowmarket Town and also played at Hitchin Town and Soham Town Rangers.

JOSH CURRY Josh joined the Blues ahead of the new season from Stowmarket Town. He had previously played at step 3 for Lowestoft Town and can play either in defence or

midfield and links up again with Paul Musgrove who has twice signed him for both Walsham-Le-Willows and Stowmarket. He made 40 appearances for the Greens Meadow club last season and scored 4 goals.

OLLIE FENN Joined on a month's loan from Needham Market in February 2016 but made the permanent switch in 2017. Ollie previously played for Ipswich Town Academy and Irish Premier League side Galway United and is one of the more experienced members of the squad and club captain.

WILL GARDNER Defender Will re-joined from Soham Town Rangers after a couple of seasons representing the Greens in the Isthmian North. He previously had a short spell with us after leaving Haverhill Rovers in the Eastern Counties League and after a couple of years more experience at Soham in this division he is a valuable addition to the side.

RYAN HORNE Midfielder who returned to the club for the 2023–24 season after leaving the



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previous season to go travelling. Originally joined from AFC Sudbury in 2018 and has also had spells with Soham Town Rangers and experience of step 3 at St Neots Town in the Southern League.

RYAN JOLLAND Midfielder who started out with the Ipswich Town academy before joining our partnership academy at West Suffolk College. Over the years has been an important part of our side and is now one of the senior and more experienced players.

MAX MAUGHN A bright young prospect who joined Bury Town in the summer of 2019 after being released by Colchester United. He was picked up by the U's from local side Cornard United and Ben Chenery has high hopes for Max who is a skilful midfielder.

ETHAN MAYHEW Ethan joined the club from Hadleigh United of the Thurlow Nunn League in the summer of 2023. A highly rated prospect who was a product of the AFC Sudbury academy, who will be looking to establish himself as a step 4 player this season.

LEWIS O'MALLEY Lewis joined from local rivals AFC Sudbury in July 2022. Lewis can play in either defence or midfield and was captain of the Sudbury side that reached the FA Cup First Round last season. He also found the net on 5 occasions, including an important goal against Dartford in the 4th Qualifying Round.

CEMAL RAMADAN Cemal re-joined the club in early November 2018 after a short spell with Leiston. He was our leading goalscorer last season with over 30 goals which caught the eyes of many clubs higher up the pyramid,

however he is now back at Ram Meadow and looking for goals again.

JOSE SANTA DE LE PAZ Jose joined after a successful trial ahead of this season. He was previously with the Needham Market academy and last season was playing for Brantham Athletic in the Thurlow Nunn League. A lightning quick striker who will be a handful for defences this season.

OLIVER SIMS A product of the Colchester United Academy, the attacking midfielder was released by the U's and joined his home town club Cornard United where he had a successful spell before being recruited by new manager Cole Skuse and stepping up to step 4 for the 2023-24 season.

ED UPSON A Bury born former professional who progressed through the Ipswich Town academy and winning the FA Youth Cup before going on to play for Yeovil Town, Millwall, MK Dons, Bristol Rovers, Newport County and Stevenage. Joined the Blues from Stowmarket Town in the summer of 2023.

JOE WHITE Another player who has progressed through the West Suffolk College academy scheme, a strong central defender who has worked his way into the team over the last couple of seasons and now a regular name on the team sheet.

JED WIGLEY A product of the West Suffolk College academy who returned to the club in the 2022-23 season after a number of seasons away playing for Walsham-Le-Willows. He came into the club during a difficult spell and put in a number of good performances as the season drew to a close.

OLIVER YUN Another highly rated prospect to join the club this summer, Oli joined from Dereham Town and has a years experience in the Northern Premier League already. The new management team were quick to get him signed early in the summer amid much interest from other clubs.

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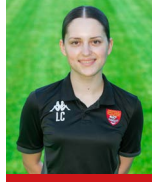
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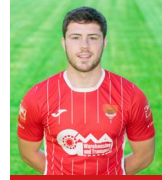
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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

BY IAN TOWNSEND, TAKEN FROM WWW.ISTHMIAN.CO.UK

Enfield start with a fine victory, Gorleston continue where they left off, and we've wins for East Thurrock, Walthamstow, Bury, Regent and Swifts as the North Division returns

Enfield saw their Isthmian return start as well as they could possibly have hoped, as they took an early lead at the top of the table by defeating **Grays Athletic** three-nil at the R&D Advisors Stadium (Bishop's Stortford). The opening goal arrived just before the break, Athletic old boy Luke Hirst giving the hosts the lead. Former Hendon, Walthamstow and Canvey man Samrai Gebrai made it two with fourteen minutes remaining, and another former Athletic star, Sam Bantick, came off the bench and added a third just before the end.

Gorleston continued their fine form from the end of last season by defeating **New Salamis** three-one, the Greens playing a league fixture for the first time at their new home in Great Yarmouth. Luke Johnson gave them an early lead, and they doubled it on the hour when Ryan Curtis made it two. With six minutes remaining Luke Johnson added a third, and a late goal for Tala Lo Seye was nothing but a consolation for the visitors.

A goal in each half gave **East Thurrock United** an opening day win over **Wroxham**, Ayo Adukoya opening the scoring five minutes before the break, Gael Kileba making it two with twenty minutes to go; whilst the battle of the new boys at Ipswich Wanderers was won by visitors Walthamstow, Callum Ibe and Jordon Watson scoring in the second half to earn their side a two-nil victory.

Bury Town got off to a winning start as they entertained **Brentwood Town**. Cemal Ramadan maintained his usual deadly form in front of goal he's already got three for the season, following twenty four in the previous campaign when giving the hosts the lead just before the half hour, and Luke Brown made it two just after the restart. A late George Craddock goal for the visitors made little difference to the outcome. Image courtesy of Bury Town.



Brightlingsea Regent picked up the first three points of the new season on Friday night, a goal from Harry Honesty giving them victory at **Bowers & Pitsea**, whilst last season's defeated Play Off Finalists Heybridge Swifts saw a late own goal at Stowmarket Town give them three points to start the new campaign.



Maldon & Tiptree attempted to consign their terrible start to the 22-23 campaign to history by going two up against **Felixstowe & Walton United** by half time, Louie Remi and George Smith with the goals. The highly-fancied Seasiders finally roused themselves after the break, Billy Holland quickly halving the deficit, but the away fans must have resigned themselves to defeat before Josh Hitter grabbed an equaliser right at the end.

Anyone who left **Basildon Town's** match with **Lowestoft Town** before the end will be kicking themselves this morning, as all the action of note arrived in the last five minutes! Clyde Semazzi looked to have given the Bees the

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 be 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."

points, but right at the end Adam Hipperson struck for the Trawler Boys to earn them a draw.

New boys **Redbridge** went ahead at **Witham Town** after eighteen minutes, and looked assured of three points when they were still ahead as the last minute dawned, but left with only a point to show for their efforts. Ben De Lacy-Turner gave the visitors that lead, but right at the end Andrew Trivanhu levelled for Witham.

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



A SUNNY weekday morning, a little before 9.30am and a corner kick away from Wembley Stadium, Hanwell Town are opening up their ground for assessment.

It's part of the intensive drive to look in depth at all Step 3-6 grounds in the National League System by the end of October, with National League clubs to get the same treatment later in the season.

The NLP has been invited along to see what we'd traditionally know as a ground grading in action.

Launched at the end of July, the FA and Premier League have joined forces to launch the Stadium Accreditation Programme.

For the first time since ground grading was introduced over 15 years ago, the process has been digitalised with a new tool called StadiumPower.

Think of this process as a giant audit of Non-League grounds to essentially answer the questions: What have we got? Where are the challenges and areas of need? And, crucially, how can funding be best utilised?

"Up until now, although many will be surprised at this, there has been no central database capturing not just facility information but also the nuances around it,"

Mark Harris, chairman of The FA's Stadium Accreditation sub-committee, tells The NLP.

"So digitalisation will give us a central database of facilities. It will allow us to identify areas of non-compliance but, more importantly, look at common areas of non-compliance.

"It's about identifying big issues that can then be linked to funding. I don't want to set any hares running but, as an example, if we found there were high numbers of perimeter fencing not compliant for whatever reason,

that enables a business case to be put together to talk to funding partners like the Premier League Stadium Fund and say: There is a common need here. Let's look at whether we should focus some funding on the bigger problems club face.

"It is not there as a bigger stick to beat clubs with. It's to bring transparency and also ensure impartiality."

That and consistency are key. Previously, grading at Steps 1-4 was handled centrally by The FA, with Steps 5 and 6 overseen by leagues themselves.

Naturally, and understandably, that has led to a variation across the country. Stadium Accreditation assessors – 25 of them all trained together – are now undertaking the mammoth task to visit around 820 individual National League System grounds.

As part of this year one assessment, at least 400 individual items at each stadium are being recorded – of those, 160 linked to the ground grading criteria for 2023-24.

There are nine sections to be filled in by the assessor, accompanied by a league observer.

It starts with general information like ground details and who uses the pitch. Then entrances and exits, clubhouse details, how big is the clubhouse and how many can it hold. Spectator information and capacities, standing and seating.

Others areas include Medical & Safety, Pitch & Floodlights, Transport & Parking, Media & Broadcast.

With the app, photos and videos can now be taken and instantly uploaded to give a literal picture of what each ground has.

A key part of this fact-finding information

will link into those extras. The FA can get an idea of suitable ground stock for England youth games as well as to aid the exploding growth of women's football to help clubs get permanent bases. Likewise, it will help the FA Competitions team at Wembley HQ with their planning.

Women's Super League games require an anti-doping room. Is there one available? It all goes into the app.

An important note, nothing in respect to the actual grading criteria has changed. But the in-depth collection of data will be reviewed by The FA's now monthly-meeting Stadium Accreditation Sub Committee.

"It may well be that arising from this first round of inspections that it actually highlights some changes we may need to think about making to criteria going forward," Harris says.

StadiumPower will allow clubs to keep

tabs on their own improvements, give transparency on other clubs and there will be a public-facing element so the everyday fan can see what facilities they may attend. Another feature of the app will be a stadium simulation tool where a club can, at the click of a button, see what work is required should they be promoted to the level above.

"This is about trying to move the mindset from compliance to opportunity," Harris says. Nearly three hours on and there are still areas to be looked at, measured and photographed. But it's another one ticked off the list with the vision for a stronger Non-League game at the end of it.

BY MATTHEW BADCOCK

For the full version of this article, please visit www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com

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IT'S CHILE UP NORTH

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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We often think of the coming of South American talent to England as a fairly modern phenomenon. Halcyon days of barely playable mud patches, violent conduct being met with a stern word from the referee, and, in the main, British and Irish players filling out teams across the country, seem just a few decades away (until you remember that the Premier League is three decades old, and then you remember just how old you are). But as the birthplace of football, Britain has always had a unique attraction to the

footballing world, and South Americans were setting records while rationing was still in place. One of those early pioneers set the First Division alight with his tricky feet and clinical finishing. That man was Jorge 'George' Robledo.

Born in the mining town of Iquique to a Chilean father and an English mother, Robledo's stay in the nation of his birth was short, and marked by political instability. His parents made the decision when he was just five that they would be safer in England, and migrated to Yorkshire. Robledo grew up facing prejudice, and his ability was not discovered early enough to stop him heading down into the mines. Playing part-time for Huddersfield, he was spared conscription during the Second World War as a member of a protected profession. This allowed his talent to be spotted by Second Division Barnsley, and his career picked up from there.

Finally able to dedicate himself fully to football, Robledo's ability improved. At the age of 20, the Football League returned following the end of the war, and Robledo made his debut. A hat trick against Nottingham Forest on his debut signaled what was to come, as Barnsley sought promotion to the First Division. Robledo's 45 goals in 105 appearances weren't enough to secure promotion over the next three years, but they were enough to attract the attention of First Division scouts. In 1949 Newcastle paid the not inconsiderable sum of £26,500 to take the Chilean into the top



GEORGE AND HIS BROTHER TED

flight, along with his brother Ted, who George insisted was part of the deal.

At Newcastle, Robledo found himself forced to play as an inside left, linking up with the preferred Jackie Milburn. He scored 11 goals in his first season, but even playing second-fiddle to Wor Jackie couldn't hide his talent, and the country of his birth came calling. With the 1950 World Cup on the horizon, he made his Chile debut, and was named in the squad for the showpiece in Brazil. He made his debut in the first group game against, of all teams, England, and scored in the final group game against the USA, but it wasn't enough for qualification. Still, not bad for a miner who didn't speak Spanish.

Returning to Newcastle the following season, Robledo only got better. He scored 14 goals for the Toon, and became the first South American to play in an FA Cup final, helping his side beat Blackpool 2-0. The following season was where the Chilean would really carve his name into the history of English football, though. Newcastle retained the FA Cup against Arsenal, and Robledo scored 33 league goals, and 39 in all competitions.

Another eighteen goals would follow in

1952-53, but it would prove to be Robledo's final season in the north east. Money was pouring into South American football as it tried to raise its standard, and Chilean club Colo-Colo came calling. Newcastle accepted an offer of £25,000 for George, who was top scorer in the Chilean league in his first two seasons, and made 153 appearances over five years, winning the league in 1956. After a year out of football, George returned for one final season O'Higgins before retiring for good, in 1960. And becoming a PE teacher in a school in Vina del Mar until his death in 1989.

Oddly, his goal against Arsenal in the 1952 FA Cup final was immortalised in a child's artwork, a painting called Walls and Bridges. Usually, a painting by an 11 year old would be forgotten, but when that 11 year old grows up to become John Lennon, it's quite something.

Robledo's record of 33 league goals in a season was the most of any non-British player in the top flight, a record that stood for 71 years. It is testament to his impact on the game that it took the unbelievable feats of a certain, colossal Norwegian, playing for the most immensely rich side in the league, to beat it.

Enjoy the game



WALLS AND BRIDGES, JOHN LENNON



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League

Saturday 26th August, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

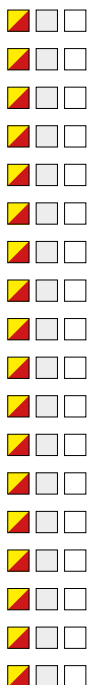
Bury Town FC

Manager: Cole Skuse

Assistant Manager: Paul Musgrove

First Team Coach: Mark Jolland

Physio: Jim Crease



red/yellow - goals - played

Jack **Ainsley**
 Stuart **Ainsley**
 Noel **Aitkens**
 Henry **Barley**
 Callum **Bennett**
 Harry **Blackburn**
 Zak **Brown**
 Tom **Bullard**
 Sam **Ford**
 Callum **Harrison**
 Josh **Hitter**
 Billy **Holland (C)**
 Lamel **Howell**
 Josh **Mayhew**
 Leon **Ottley-Gooch**
 Callum **Robinson (GK)**
 Charlie **Warren**
 Joe **Whight**

Luke **Brown**
 Danny **Cullum**
 Josh **Curry**
 Ben **Curtis**
 Ollie **Fenn**
 Louis **Henman Mason**
 Ryan **Jolland**
 Max **Maughn**
 Ethan **Mayhew**
 Lewis **O'Malley**
 Cemal **Ramadan**
 Jose **Santa De La Paz**
 Ollie **Sims**
 Ed **Upson**
 Oliver **Yun**
 Joe **White**



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Ryecroft Freight

BALL SPONSOR

VKVP Haulage

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Richard Carter **Assistant Referees:** Mr Ben Green and Mr Stuart Jessop