

# the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



**SPORTING BENGAL UTD**  
Sat 18th Jan, 3pm  
Isthmian League

**GRAYS ATHLETIC**  
Tue 21st Jan, 7.45pm  
Isthmian League



**FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED FC**  
JOINT PROGRAMME



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# CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



Happy New Year!

Good afternoon or good evening and welcome to the Martello Ground for two vitally important league games in quick succession, both against opponents we have yet to meet this season - this programme serves both matches so firstly may I welcome the players, supporters and officials from Sporting Bengal United, and secondly I welcome all from Grays Athletic for our re-arranged fixture from a couple of weeks ago that was postponed due to our pitch conditions. I also welcome both sets of match officials and hope you all enjoy your short stay with us.

Up first it is Sporting Bengal United who haven't seen any action since beating a resurgent Maldon and Tiptree side 2-0 on New Years Day, prior to that they had gone 8 games without a win which included two 5-0 defeats and a 6-0 defeat, hopefully for the Seasiders it will be another 3 points to maintain our position at the league summit, but we certainly need to be on our guard as Sporting can beat anyone on their day as Brentwood and Brightlingsea will testify, that said it would certainly be a surprise if they were to inflict our first home defeat of the season.

A weeks' rest since a very impressive win at

Heybridge will no doubt have done the lads good, although I'm sure Boards has had them working in training. The Heybridge win included a brace from recent signing Ashton Boswell who we welcome to the Martello for his home debut today - Good luck Ashton and enjoy your time by the seaside!

I thought the second half at Heybridge was one of the most dominating displays of the season so far as Harry was a spectator watching nearly all the action at the other end of the pitch, but in a more evenly contested first half Harry certainly showed us what he can do when called upon with an absolute worldy of a save from a close range header. No surprise Harry has won the Golden Glove award for December - many congrats Harry!!

Tuesday evening we welcome Grays who will be playing their first game of the year after a winless run of 5 games in December - another game that I would expect 3 points from but another opponent that we can't take for granted.

Hopefully by tonight we are able to welcome back our pair of Josh's after suspension and injury and Boards can start enjoying a few nicer selection choices as the squad starts getting stronger again following so many injuries.

One player that wont be returning anytime soon is our captain Joe Whight - out since the end of September, Joe is undergoing knee surgery later this month, the club and football world are doing all they can to support Joe financially as his operation is very expensive - if anyone does feel like donating a pound or five, then please see Myself or Chris Daynes today and we will pass any monies on accordingly. Meanwhile Joe - all our very best wishes for the operation and we all look forward to seeing you back in action sometime next season - hopefully at level 3!

Enjoy both games and all have safe journeys home afterwards.

Tony

# STUART BOARDLEY



## **Good afternoon everyone, we hope you have all had a great Christmas (which now seems light years away) and a happy new year to date.**

The Christmas period has been full of ups and downs as always seems to be the case! A scrappy home win on Boxing Day against a struggling Ipswich Wanderers led us into three away games which were all very difficult in their own right. We navigated a really tricky looking fixture against Newmarket on their 3G pitch extremely well and I thought it was probably our best performance during November and December running out 4 -0 victors.

Next up was the big tie against Bury (moved from New Years Day) and unfortunately we never really got going. Although there was not a lot in the game, credit must go to Cole and his Bury side who stifled our play and made it very difficult for us on the day. Ultimately, Bury were better in both penalty boxes and that brought the end of what I have to say was a fantastic run of 17 unbeaten games! All credit must go to the players, who have been absolutely brilliant and despite the loss to Bury it took around 5 minutes (during our customary team huddle on the Bury pitch following the final whistle) for the group to already be focusing on Heybridge, bouncing back and trying to go on another unbeaten run - exactly what I'd want to hear from a managers perspective!! I had to say very little in that huddle as the senior players said it all....

On to Heybridge, and for those in the know, it's undoubtedly one of the most difficult away grounds of the campaign to come back with 3 points but 3 points was exactly what the players delivered! Ashton Boswell, a player that only joined us on the Tuesday prior to the game coming up with both goals to cap off a really solid away display. Ashton is a player we've been keeping close tabs on over the last 18 months and we thank Ipswich Town (in particular Chris Casement) for trusting us with his development and we believe he'll play a really important role for us in this final stretch of the season and I'm sure he'll be a real fans favourite.

An area of the club I've not mentioned in a while is our two EJA sides. Both continue to do incredibly well in their debut seasons with our



U15's being competitive in every game and really starting to hit form of late. Our U13's remain unbeaten in the league and really look to be in a title fight... Both teams would love your support and play their home games at Inspire Suffolk in Ipswich (details of a double header home game below);

**U15's** (11:15am kick off at Inspire)  
26th Jan - Home vs Wroxham

**U13's** (11:15am kick off at Inspire)  
26th Jan - Home vs Needham Market

On to today's fixture. Some will look at it and could be forgiven for thinking that it should be a simple 3 points. We, however are under no illusions that this could not be further from the truth. We will be preparing meticulously as always and fully appreciate the threat that this Sporting Bengal side will bring to The Martello Ground. Each and every game in this unforgiving league is a test and we know that we will need to be right 'at it' to get the points here as we now sit top of the tree and are there to be shot at!

Finally, and once again, thank you for your unwavering support both home and away. It was fantastic to see a few of our U16's side on the terraces making plenty of noise away at Heybridge.... Brilliant 🙌

Keep that noise up and enjoy today's game!  
Boards



# SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

## Not many people know this...

Happy New Year to everyone  
be you friend or foe!

When I sat down to write a piece about this afternoon's visitors (Saturday), I knew we had met before and a quick check confirmed that we indeed did face each other at the Mile End Stadium in 2005, 2nd Qualifying round of the FA Vase, a game we won 4-1.

As I started to recall & kick start my memory banks, I had this picture in my mind of the Isle of Dogs, high rise tower blocks, running tracks and canals and something "Ragged" so I had to get in touch with my mate Wiki Pedia to check it out.

The game was indeed played at the Mile End Stadium, a community facility overlooking the financial centre of Europe on the Isle of Dogs. We had a few issues getting into the stadium as they had other events going on there that afternoon and it took a little while to sort out,

there was indeed a canal close by, the Regent Canal, a calmness set amongst the hustle and bustle of London's East End, but it was on the other side of the stadium that I discovered the Ragged Museum and I would recommend that anyone who hasn't heard of the Ragged Schools to look them up on google and give yourself a fascinating hour or so's read!

### Harry Wright

Looking through our records for the season we only have one player who has played every minute of every game so far although Hugh Cullum has started every game, Harry Wright has started and completed every minute of every game to date.

36 games played 33 goals conceded.  
36 games = 3,240 minutes which gives him the very healthy record of one goal conceded on average every 98 minutes.

Some record Harry!



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Thursday 26th December  
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Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 558

**Photos:** Stefan Peck









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Pat Haseman for Felixstowe Radio



**ANDY CRUMP**  
ASSISTANT MANAGER

Chris & Jayne Ryan



**STUART STEVENSEN**  
COACH

Shirley Ainsley



**ALEX EGELTON**  
GOALKEEPER COACH

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



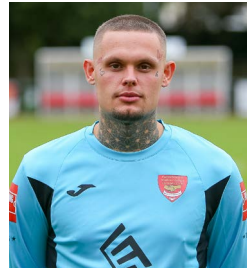
**DOUG FRENCH**  
KIT MAN

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



**CHARLOTTE ROBINSON**  
SPORTS THERAPIST

Paul Secker



**HARRY WRIGHT**  
GOALKEEPER

Andy & Kim Wilding



**STUART AINSLEY**  
DEFENDER

Chris & Jayne Ryan



**JOE WHIGHT**  
DEFENDER

Tony & Lynne Barnes



**OLLIE BROWN**  
DEFENDER

Les Soall



**JACK AINSLEY**  
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Chris Walne



**HUGO AKHUSEYIN**  
DEFENDER

Matthew Daynes



**THOMAS WARREN**  
MIDFIELDER

Suffolk Carpet Weavers/SCW Racing



**CALLUM HARRISON**  
MIDFIELDER

Richard & Jenny Bugg



**BILLY HOLLAND**  
MIDFIELDER

Winnifred Wedderburn-Soall



**CAMERON FORDE-BROWN**  
MIDFIELDER

Joe Ward



**JOSH HITTER**  
MIDFIELDER

Daniel & Cheryl Ward



**JORDY MATTHEWS**  
MIDFIELDER

Barry Caley



**CHARLIE WARREN**  
MIDFIELDER

Sharon & Gary Hills



**JOSH MAYHEW**  
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# SEASIDERS PEN PICS

## **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.

## **STUART STEVENSEN – 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.

## **CHARLOTTE ROBINSON – SPORTS THERAPIST**

Charlotte graduated from the University of Worcester in 2014 with a BSc (Hons) in Sports Therapy. She had previously worked with Leiston FC before joining the Seasideers in 2019. Her main



focus is overseeing the recovery programmes of injured players through her private practice.

## **ALEX EGELTON – GOALKEEPER COACH / COACH**

Alex returns to Felixstowe having spent many years coaching within the youth and reserve setups at the club. Alex heads up the Goalkeeping section of the club and works with the Youth section right through to the Seniors and is an important member of the First Team Management structure.

## **DOUG FRENCH – KIT MAN**

Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and Tattingsstone, breaking his leg four times in the process. Whilst playing for Ipswich Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots. Having found his vocation in washing players dirty pants, Doug is excited for a new challenge with the Seasideers.





# DEFENDERS

## HARRY WRIGHT (GK)

Harry started his career as a professional at Ipswich Town and left there in 2021 where he then went on to play for Fleetwood Town and Bury before joining the Seaside in the summer of 2024. He has quickly become a firm fans favourite and works within the clubs Academy system.

## ZAC TUVEY (GK)

Zac has impressed consistently with our U18's and despite his tender age of 16 is playing regularly both for our U18's and Haverhill Borough first team. Zac is Harry's understudy, is a fantastic shot stopper and has a bright future in the game.

## STUART AINSLEY

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

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.

## JACK AINSLEY

Rejoined from Stowmarket. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their

academy and went on to make 4 appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 3 Lowestoft and Leiston 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.

## OLLIE BROWN

Ollie was signed in the summer of 2024 from neighbours AFC Sudbury and has played in recent years for Stowmarket and Leiston. An energetic and attacking full back who loves to get forward and create chances and with a wealth of higher level experience to boot.

## HUGH CULLUM

Hugh is a local lad who left Felixstowe's youth system and progressed through the Needham Market Academy. Hugh signed back with his local club in the summer of 2024 and has immediately impressed with his consistent and confident defending.





### **HUGO AKHUSEYIN**

Hugo is an academy graduate that is now starting to flourish with his progression into the first team squad. A tough tackling and tenacious defender who likes to get forward.

### **THOMAS WARREN**

Another new signing for the summer of 2024 and joins his brother Charlie at the club. Signed from Hadleigh United, Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal.

## **MIDFIELDERS**

### **CAMERON FORDE-BROWN**

Cameron joins us on loan from Kings Lynn having impressed the management at previous loan spells with other clubs. A technically gifted and versatile midfielder, Cam has really hit the

ground running this season and continues to impress with both goals and assists that have topped off some exciting displays.

### **BILLY HOLLAND**

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 for the 22/23 season led to him being appointed captain the following year.

### **LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH**

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**

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.

### **JORDY MATTHEWS**

"Jordy" rejoins the club following a brief spell in retirement. He made his first team debut at 18 and has been a loyal and trusted midfielder for the club for many years clocking up well over 300 appearances. The term 'club legend' is often used to describe Jordy and he remains a firm fans favourite for his tenacious and all action style.







### **CALLUM HARRISON**

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

### **CHARLIE WARREN**

Having initially joined on loan from Needham Market, Charlie made an instant impact on his debut in the FA Trophy win at Hastings in 2021. Following a number of impressive performances, manager Boardley moved quickly to secure the permanent services of one of Suffolk's brightest young players.

## **FORWARDS**

### **SAM FORD**

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath 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 in 2022. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

### **JOSH MAYHEW**

Josh joined 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 brings a focal point to our attack as well as a being natural finisher who is a proven goalscorer at this level.

### **ARCHIE DUNNE**

Another promising Academy product who has recently been elevated in to the first team squad. An exciting, pacy forward who has scored a hatful of goals for the Youth sections of the club.

### **WILLIE CLEMONS**

After a successful preseason with the Seaside Willie decided that Felixstowe were the club for him despite competition from other clubs. A full Bermudan international with 30 plus caps, Willie's experience, whilst still only 30 years old will be a real asset. An attacking player with bags of quality and creativity is proving to be an exciting signing.

### **ROB HARVEY**

Signed from Brentwood Town, Rob is a player who has been on Stuart Boardley's radar for some time. Another of our first team group to work within our Academy setup, Rob is a pacy, fit and dynamic wide player who loves to be direct and excite fans.



# ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>1</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>54</b>
2	Bury Town	25	18	3	4	46	26	+20	57
3	Brentwood Town	25	16	4	5	60	31	+29	52
4	Waltham Abbey	25	14	4	7	49	28	+21	46
5	Witham Town	24	14	2	8	47	34	+13	44
6	Tilbury	23	13	4	6	37	34	+3	43
7	Brightlingsea Regent	23	12	5	6	35	28	+7	41
8	Walthamstow	23	12	2	9	43	31	+12	38
9	Cambridge City	25	12	2	11	44	40	+4	38
10	Heybridge Swifts	25	10	8	7	38	36	+2	38
11	Redbridge	26	9	6	11	46	50	-4	33
<b>12</b>	<b>Grays Athletic</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>31</b>
13	Maldon & Tiptree	24	8	5	11	23	28	-5	29
14	Mildenhall Town	25	7	7	11	22	29	-7	28
15	Concord Rangers	23	7	6	10	32	35	-3	27
16	Gorleston	22	8	2	12	26	31	-5	26
17	Basildon United	23	7	4	12	29	36	-7	25
<b>18</b>	<b>Sporting Bengal United</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>22</b>
19	Haringey Borough	26	4	7	15	36	57	-21	19
20	Wroxham	22	4	6	12	26	43	-17	18
21	Newmarket Town	23	4	5	14	33	55	-22	17
22	Ipswich Wanderers	24	2	5	17	17	53	-36	11

LAST UPDATED: WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2025 AT 21:43:16



## ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

**Saturday 18th January, 3pm**

Basildon United v Wroxham

Brightlingsea Regent v Heybridge Swifts

Cambridge City v Haringey Borough

Concord Rangers v Redbridge

Felixstowe & Walton United v Sporting Bengal United

Maldon & Tiptree v Waltham Abbey

Mildenhall Town v Brentwood Town

Newmarket Town v Ipswich Wanderers

Tilbury v Gorleston

Walthamstow v Bury Town

Witham Town v Grays Athletic



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# LEADING LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1	Daniel Ogunleye	Brentwood Town	19
2	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	18
3	<b>Charlie Warren</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>16</b>
4	Alex Hernandez	Tilbury	12
5	Tendi Quamina	Redbridge	10
6	George Smith	Cambridge City	10
7	Prince Domafriyie	Waltham Abbey	9
8	Andrew Fennell	Heybridge Swifts	9
9	Kymani Thomas	Walthamstow / Waltham Abbey	9
10	Sam Bantick	Tilbury	8
11	Josh Lee	Newmarket Town / Maldon & Tiptree	8
12	Alejandro Machado	Grays Athletic	8
13	Kamani Mcfarlane	Witham Town	8
14	Joshua olaoluwa Osude	Witham Town	8
15	Teddy Collis	Maldon & Tiptree / Brightlingsea Regent	7
16	Darren Esuka	Basildon United	7
17	Ryan Hawkins	Wroxham	7
18	Luke Hirst	Grays Athletic	7
19	Deese Kasinga Madia	Witham Town	7
20	Mekhi McKenzie	Brentwood Town	7

# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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BY JON COUCH

TAMWORTH's heroics aside, the most romantic story of FA Cup third round weekend was one which never actually materialised.

In 154 years of the competition, no father and son have ever played against each other, so when Premier League Everton pulled Peterborough United out of the hat, all talk was of the possibility of Everton full-back Ashley Young facing his 18-year-old son Tyler.

Tyler was named on the Posh bench but, in the end, a tight game at Goodison Park meant that Peterborough boss Darren Ferguson had to put the needs of his team before the purists and the young midfielder didn't get on.

And in another twist to the tale, Ashley's brother, and Tyler's uncle, Lewis Young took charge of only his second game as caretaker manager, leading out Dagenham & Redbridge at Millwall on Monday night.

Despite not quite etching their names in cup folklore, it proved a memorable weekend for the Young family – one to tell the grandchildren one day.

"It was fantastic to be there [at Everton] on Thursday night," Lewis told The NLP. It was a dream for me and the whole family all dotted around.

"We probably ended up making it nearly a sell out because the amount of us went up."

Ask any footballer of a certain age and they'll tell you it's every player's dream to see their son or daughter make their own way in the game – better still playing alongside them.

And that was the case for two former full-time stalwarts who lined up alongside their sons in Non-League last week.

Ronnie Henry says he has fulfilled the final ambition of his 23-year playing career after playing alongside son Louie for Potters Bar.

Stevenage legend Henry, 41, joined the Scholars in June after watching 17-year-old Louie play at the Lantern on loan from his former club last season.

The centre-back even admitted that the possibility of left-back Louie returning to the Isthmian Premier division side had convinced him not to hang up his boots.

Henry was made to sweat, with talk of loan moves elsewhere, but the deal was completed last week and on Tuesday night the pair lined up in Max Mitchell's back four, helping the Scholars to a 2-1 win at Canvey Island.

"I've achieved quite a few things in my career, but playing alongside Louie is right up there with any of them," Henry, who won two FA Trophies, a Conference title and

the League Two play-offs during two glittering spells at the Lamex, told The NLP.

"When I decided to play on for another year, it did depend on what Louie was going to do. And at times it looked like he would go elsewhere. So for him to come to Potters Bar and for me to play alongside him was a special, special moment.

"It's a moment that I didn't think was ever going to happen. I didn't even dream of it happening, to be honest. Even driving to the game, I thought 'This is surreal'. But when we crossed that white line, everything just felt really natural.

"It was a fantastic experience and it almost feels like 'OK, I've achieved everything I could have hoped for in football now'."

Someone who knows exactly how Henry is feeling right now is Danny Kedwell.

The Ashford United player/manager says it's an "amazing feeling" to partner his son in the Nuts & Bolts front line in the Isthmian South East division – even though he'd really rather not to!

Kedwell has been forced to dust down his predatory scoring boots in recent weeks at the age of 41 to cover an injury and suspension crisis at the Homelands, which has propelled his 16-year-old schoolboy son Preston into the spotlight having netted three goals in his first six starts in senior football.

"He's only 16, he's still at school, so to get experience of men's football at his age is fantastic," said Kedwell Snr, who scored over 250 career goals for the likes of AFC Wimbledon, Gillingham and Ebbsfleet United.

"In all my footballing career, I never thought I would ever be playing alongside my son.

"It's an amazing feeling, albeit unexpected because I don't really want to be playing at 41 to be honest! But with all the injuries and suspensions we've had, I had no choice.

"I was buzzing for him, because it's hard for him being 16 years of age and the manager's son.

"It's an easy option not to play him but he doesn't deserve that. He's had six starts this season and got three goals. As a manager, if I think you are good enough to play then you'll play, and I'll treat you the same as anyone else.

"When it comes to matchday, he's just a normal player. He's deserved his start like anyone else. He's been patient and every time he's come on he's done really well."

"He's a natural goalscorer. He knows where the goal is and has a habit of being in the right place at the right time, You just can't buy that."

**NEWMARKET  
TOWN**

**FELIXSTOWE &  
WALTON UNITED**

C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison

**0**

**4**

Saturday 28th Decmber  
2024, 3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 295

**Photos:** Stefan Peck











# THE OTHER SIDE: SPORTING BENGAL UTD FC

It all began with a football tour to Bangladesh in 1996 by a group of the best Bangladeshi players in London. There was a realisation that talent was being wasted with the divisions that existed and a solution was required to tackle these divisions. Sporting Bengal United FC was therefore established in 1996 to challenge the under-representation of Asians in football and to offer Bangladeshi and other young Asian people a chance to play football at a higher level.

Having brought together the best local Bangladeshi players, Sporting Bengal went on to win multiple UK Asian Championship titles and dominated the local leagues. It was time to explore the next level.

In only eight years, the team rose from amateur Sunday league football to semi-professional football. Having reached this level, the club broke down many barriers and was one of the first Asian teams to play in the famous FA Cup. Today, the club offers local young people of all backgrounds the opportunity to play semi-professional football.

Having initially competed in the Kent Senior

League when securing semi-professional status from 2003, Sporting Bengal moved to the Essex Senior Football League in the 2011-12 season finishing 11th in the league and reaching the FA Vase Third Round Proper in the first season. The club finished runners up in the Essex Senior League Cup in 2013-14.

Ex-Dagenham and Redbridge FC footballer, Anwar Uddin, was the most high-profile manager of the club and managed during the 2015-16 season. In 2016-17, the club reached the First Round Qualifying stage of the FA Cup for the first time after Imrul Gazi was appointed the manager. The 2018-19 season saw the team finish 8th in the Essex Senior League. After a couple Covid hit seasons, the club suffered massively and was relegated in the 2021-22 season.

However, under the management of Steve Clark, Sporting Bengal won promotion back to the Essex Senior League from the Thurlow Nunn League First Division South at the first attempt after winning a dramatic penalty shootout in the Playoff Final. The team also matched the club record run of reaching the FA Vase Third Round Proper.

After Playoff success in 2022-23 season, Sporting Bengal did the unthinkable again and reached the Playoff Final of the Essex Senior League Premier Division in the 2023-24 season after finishing in 5th position in the league with a club record 70 points. Sporting Bengal beat non-league giants Romford FC 3-1 in the Final to secure promotion to Step 4 football and the Isthmian Football League for the first time in the club's history.



# SPORTING BANGAL UNITED: HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**1996-98** Asian League Champions three years & Asian League Cup Winners two years in succession

**1997** League Bangla set up now known as the BFA Summer League

**1998** Appeared in the famous Nike advert at Hackney Marshes

**1998** Toured Bangladesh, playing against the under 16 and 19 National sides

**1999** Entered the London Intermediate League

**2000** Hosted Bangladesh professional club, Dhaka Mohammedan SC on their UK tour – losing 3-2

**2001** Hosted Bangladesh professional club, Dhaka Abohani Limited on their UK tour – winning 2-1

**2001** Sporting Bengal represent Bangladesh in UK Inner City World Cup and become Champions

**2001** UK Bangladeshi Football Champions

**2002** UK Asian Football Champions – held at Ibrox Stadium

**2002-03** Toured Bangladesh, losing 2-1 to National Team

**2003** UK Asian Football Champions – held at Celtic Park

**2003** Granted senior status by the London Football Association

**2003-04** Elected to the Semi-professional Kent Senior League (Step 5)

**2004** Accepted into the FA Vase and FA Cup competitions

**2005** Sporting Bengal, one of two Asian teams to play in the FA Cup at the time

**2009** UK Asian Football Champions

**2011-12** Entered the Essex Senior Football League (Finished 11th in League and 3rd Round Proper of the FA Vase)

**2013-14** Essex Senior League Cup Runners Up

**2015-16** Ex Dagenham & Redbridge FC footballer, Anwar Uddin, appointed Sporting Bengal Utd manager

**2016-17** Imrul Gazi appointed as Manager after Anwar Uddin leaves for other work commitments.

**2016-17** FA Cup history made as club progress through to the First Round Qualifying.

**2021** Appeared in a music video of popular British Bangladeshi music artist, Nish (@MusicByNish)

**2021-22** Shipon Miah appointed as manager. Steve Clark appointed as manager in December 2021

**2022-23** Equalled the club record run in the FA Vase after reaching the Third Round Proper, losing to Deal Town on penalties

**2022-23** Thurlow Nunn League First Division South – Playoff winners and promotion back to the Essex Senior League (Step 5)

**2023-24** Broke multiple club records at Step 5 level including highest league position, most points, most wins and most goals.

**2023-24** Essex Senior League Premier Division – Playoff winners and promotion to the Isthmian League (Step 4)



# Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

**Manager:** Stuart Boardley

**Assistant Manager:** Andy Crump

Hugo **Akhuseyin**  
Jack **Ainsley**  
Stuart **Ainsley**  
Ashton **Boswell**  
Ollie **Brown**  
Fabian **Claxton**  
Willie **Clemons**  
Hugh **Cullum**  
Archie **Dunne**  
Sam **Ford**  
Cameron **Forde-Brown**  
Rob **Harvey**  
Callum **Harrison**  
Josh **Hitter**  
Billy **Holland (C)**  
Jordy **Matthews**  
Josh **Mayhew**  
Leon **Ottley-Gooch**  
Zac **Tuvey**  
Charlie **Warren**  
Thomas **Warren**  
Joe **Whight**  
Harry **Wright (GK)**

## MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North  
Saturday 18th January January 2025  
Kick-off 3pm



# Sporting Bengal FC

**Manager:** Steve Clark

**Assistant Manager:** Blaine Horne

Tanvir **Ahmed**  
Tanel **Ayvaz**  
Steven **Carvell (C)**  
Joseph **Diomande**  
Joe **Gregory**  
Sidi **Haidara (GK)**  
Keanu **Hill**  
Yousuf **Hoque**  
Mustafa **Hussein**  
Timi **Joseph**  
Yassine **Kachi**  
Jay **Knight**  
Kevin **Krans**  
Brandy **Makuendi**  
Louie **Maxwell**  
Salim **Miah**  
Dami **Olusesi**  
Rian **Patel**  
Daniel **Pepple**  
Abdulai **Sarr**  
Freddy **Tandon**  
Yasin **Zougui**

## MATCH SPONSOR:

Wilson Global Logistics

## MATCH OFFICIALS:

**Referee:** Mr Michael Wright **Assistant Referees:** Mr Stephen Macken & Mr Leigh Ballinger



FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UTD FC  
PRESENTS THE 35TH ANNUAL SUFFOLK



# *Sportsman's* **DINNER**

**AT VENUE16, IPSWICH**

**THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**



MC: **Ian Richards**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**IAN**  
**HOLLOWAY**

Supported by top  
comedian  
**Paul Boardman**



**3 COURSE DINNER | AUCTION | RAFFLE**  
**TABLES OF 10 £720**

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

Tony Barnes 07584 010933 or  
Chris Daynes [clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk](mailto:clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk)

# 2024 HOME FORM IN PHOTOS

2024 saw the Seaside go unbeaten at home in all competitive competitions over 90 minutes - winning 25 games and drawing 4 scoring 77 goals in the process



1 Jan LEAGUE v Stowmarket **WON 2-1**



13 Jan LEAGUE v Lowestoft Town **WON 3-0**



27 Jan LEAGUE v Basildon United **WON 1-0**



10 Feb LEAGUE v Walthamstow **WON 2-0**



24 Feb LEAGUE v Grays Athletic **WON 3-2**



9 March LEAGUE v Heybridge Swifts **DREW 0-0**



16 March LEAGUE v Brentwood Town **WON** 1-0



1 April LEAGUE v Ipswich Wanderers **DREW** 1-1



13 April LEAGUE v Witham Town **WON** 1-0



27 April LEAGUE v New Salamis **WON** 6-1



30 April LEAGUE v Bowers & Pitsea **DREW** 2-2



10 Aug LEAGUE v Newmarket Town **WON** 6-1



20 Aug LEAGUE v Bury Town **WON** 4-0



26 Aug LEAGUE v Bury Town **WON** 3-1



31 Aug FA CUP v Leverstock Green **WON** 5-1



7 Sept FA Trophy v Basildon United **WON** 4-2



10 Sept LEAGUE v Wroxham **WON** 2-1



21 Sept FA TROPHY v Enfield **WON** 2-1



2 Oct SUFF PREM CUP v Mildenhall **WON** 4-0



5 Oct FA TROPHY v Haringey Borough **WON** 4-0



8 Oct LEAGUE v Basildon United **WON** 2-1



19 Oct LEAGUE v Walthamstow **WON** 2-1





2 Nov LEAGUE v Brentwood Town **WON** 2-1



9 Nov LEAGUE v Cambridge City **WON** 2-0



12 Nov LEAGUE v Redbridge **WON** 4-0



23 Nov LEAGUE v Brightonsea Regent **DREW** 3-3



30 Nov LEAGUE v Mildenhall Town **WON** 3-0



14 Dec LEAGUE v Waltham Abbey **WON** 2-0



26 Dec LEAGUE v Ipswich Wanderers **WON** 1-0

Congratulations to Boards, Andy, the Management team and players for their incredible work in 2024. Here's hoping 2025 will continue in the same way!

Thanks to Stefan Peck and Thomas Bradford for their brilliant work behind the camera.

# LEAGUE FIXTURES 2024/25

## AUGUST

<b>SAT 10</b>	<b>NEWMARKET TOWN</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 6-1</b>	<b>ATT 401</b>
<i>C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons</i>					
<b>SAT 24</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b>	<b>A 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 3-2</b>	<b>ATT 192</b>
<i>Holland, Harrison</i>					
<b>MON 26</b>	<b>BURY TOWN</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-1</b>	<b>ATT 624</b>
<i>Clemons, Hitter, Ford</i>					

## SEPTEMBER

<b>TUE 10</b>	<b>WROXHAM</b>	<b>H 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 210</b>
<i>C Warren, Whight</i>					
<b>MON 16</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b>	<b>A 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-1</b>	<b>ATT 166</b>
<i>C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens</i>					
<b>SAT 28</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>A 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 1-0</b>	<b>ATT 255</b>

## OCTOBER

<b>TUE 8</b>	<b>BASILDON UNITED</b>	<b>H 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 283</b>
<i>C Warren, T Warren</i>					
<b>SAT 12</b>	<b>TILBURY</b>	<b>A 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 295</b>
<i>Mayhew</i>					
<b>SAT 19</b>	<b>WALTHAMSTOW</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 269</b>
<i>Mayhew, Hitter</i>					
<b>TUE 22</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE CITY</b>	<b>A 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 133</b>
<i>Ford, C Warren</i>					

## NOVEMBER

<b>SAT 2</b>	<b>BRENTWOOD TOWN</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 347</b>
<i>T Warren, C Warren</i>					
<b>SAT 9</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE CITY</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 500</b>
<i>OG, C Warren</i>					
<b>TUE 12</b>	<b>REDBRIDGE</b>	<b>H 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>ATT 279</b>
<i>Harvey, C Warren, Ford (2)</i>					
<b>TUE 19</b>	<b>WROXHAM</b>	<b>A 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 2-2</b>	<b>ATT 221</b>
<i>Mayhew, T Warren</i>					
<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 3-3</b>	<b>ATT 357</b>
<i>Hitter (2), Forde-Brown</i>					
<b>TUE 26</b>	<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b>	<b>A 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-0</b>	<b>ATT 120</b>
<i>C Warren, J Ainsley, Harrison</i>					
<b>SAT 30</b>	<b>MILDENHALL TOWN</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-0</b>	<b>ATT 343</b>
<i>Harvey (2), Clemons</i>					

## DECEMBER

<b>TUE 3</b>	<b>BASILDON UNITED</b>	<b>A 7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 1-1</b>	<b>ATT 90</b>
<i>C Warren</i>					
<b>SAT 7</b>	<b>HARINGEY BOROUGH</b>	<b>A 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 1-0</b>	<b>ATT 220</b>
<i>Hitter</i>					
<b>SAT 14</b>	<b>WALTHAM ABBEY</b>	<b>H 3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 351</b>
<i>Clemons, C Warren</i>					

SAT 21	GORLESTON <i>Clemons, C Warren</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 139
<b>THU 26</b>	<b>IPSWICH WANDERERS</b> <i>T Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>1PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 1-0</b>	<b>ATT 558</b>
SAT 28	NEWMARKET TOWN <i>C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 295

## JANUARY

TUE 7	BURY TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 803
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Boswell (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 352
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>SPORTING BENGAL UNITED</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
<b>TUE 21</b>	<b>GRAYS ATHLETIC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>HARINGEY BOROUGH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		

## FEBRUARY

SAT 1	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 8	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>TILBURY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 22	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

## MARCH

<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 8	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 22</b>	<b>GORLESTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 29	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

## APRIL

<b>SAT 5</b>	<b>HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 12	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 19</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
MON 21	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 26</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		



# TODAY'S MASCOT

Our mascot for today's game against Sporting Bengal United is Josh Bonwick. Josh is 9 years old and a Crystal Palace fan. His favourite Seaside is Josh Hitter.

Enjoy the experience Josh!

# THE OTHER SIDE: GRAYS ATHLETIC

Although the formation of Grays Athletic was officially 1890, its origins can be traced back to 1888, when the Grays Amateur Athletic Club, which was primarily a cricket and athletic club, formed an association football branch. The modern club can be traced back to the Grays Juniors side formed in 1902, which in 1904 changed their name to Grays Athletic and in 1906 took over the Grays Recreation Ground, the club's spiritual home for the next 104 years. Senior Status was granted in 1909, whilst in 1912 the club became a founding member of the Athenian League. Over the last hundred years, the club has experienced a roller-coaster ride. Plenty of highs, along with lows, which at times have threatened the clubs' existence.

During the 1920's the club experienced its first boom period, winning the London League three times (1922, 1927 and 1930), as well as two Essex Senior Cup triumphs (1921 and 1923), to add to their first in 1915. Towards the end of World War Two, the club experienced its next successful era, led by centre-forward, Harry Brand, who went on to become the club's record scorer with 269 goals scored between 1944 and 1952. Inspired by his goals, the Blues won the East Anglian Cup and another Essex Senior Cup in 1945. The club also won the inaugural, Corinthian League Championship, a league which as well as being founder members they were instrumental in forming.

The club re-joined the Athenian League in 1958, which gradually heralded a decline in fortunes. During the late 1960s and 1970s, the club was locked in a struggle with the trustees of the Recreation Ground to secure the venue's future. This was finally sorted in 1981 when club patron Ron Billings was persuaded to buy the ground by then club director Bryan Coker and Jeff and Fred Saxton who were the club's joint managers at the time. With the future of the ground secured the club was about to enter another period of success. Businessman Jim Myers, owner of the Boys from Rathbone Street retail chain, was persuaded to come aboard as the new chairman. He set a target of Isthmian Premier



Division football, within five years (it would take six). The first step in getting there was achieved in 1983, when the club finished as runners-up in the Athenian League, earning promotion to Division Two of the Isthmian League. Just when it seemed the club's troubles had gone, disaster struck when the 400-seater wooden stand was burned to the ground after gracing the Rec for over sixty years. This led Mr Billings to undertake ground improvements, which included new changing rooms, an indoor ball court and bar development.

The 1984-85 season saw the Blues secure the Isthmian League Division Two South title. Three years later promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division was achieved after finishing as runners-up to Marlow, despite gaining 100 points during the season. The club enjoyed a nine-season stay in the Premier Division, with two fifth places, in their first two seasons at that level being the highest. In 1992 the Isthmian League Cup was won, defeating league runners-up Enfield 3-1 in the final held at Dagenham's, Victoria Road Ground. Sadly in 1997, the Blues were relegated back to Division One, with the final match of the season seeing long-standing managers Jeff and Fred Saxton step down from their roles and the playing retirement of the holder of the club appearances record, Phil Sammons (748 appearances) after fifteen seasons with the Blues.

The club's most successful period came in the early to mid-2000s, with the arrival of Mick Woodward as a director. When former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, Mark Stimson, stepped up as manager in 2002, it would herald a period of success, that no one at the club had dared to dream. The Blues were founder members of the new Conference South in the 2004-05 season and were its first champions, securing promotion to the top level of the non-league game, for the first time in its history. For good measure, the FA Trophy was also won, when Hucknall Town were defeated 6-5 on penalties, after extra-time had ended 1-1, in the final held at Villa Park.

With players such as Jamie Stuart, Stuart Thurgood, Aaron McLean and Michael Kightly the Blues finished their first top-flight season in third place. The end-of-season play-offs were reached, but unfortunately, a poor display in the first twenty minutes of the first (away) leg of the semi-final, saw the Blues dream of EFL football ended by Halifax Town, 5-4 on aggregate. The



FA Trophy was retained, with the Blues winning it the hard way, by going through the entire competition, only facing Conference National opponents. The final, which was held at West Ham's, Boleyn Ground, saw nearly ten thousand Blues fans in the attendance of 14,000. First-half goals from Michael Kightly and Glenn Poole would send them home happy, with Grays defeating Woking by two goals to nil.

Shortly after the 2005-06 season had ended, Mark Stimson and his assistant manager, Scott Barrett, stepped down from their roles. They were replaced by former Leeds United player Frank Gray, although his reign was short, lasting only until October, when he was sacked shortly after a defeat by Bromley, in the FA Cup. It was a season where the star players of the previous few years moved on, with the club being involved in a fight against relegation from Christmas. By the season's end, former Tottenham defender, Justin Edinburgh was in charge and the Blues just avoided relegation on the final day of the season.

By the 2009-10 season, Mick Woodward had stepped down as Chairman, though still owned most of the shares. Former West Ham midfielder John Moncur became the new Chairman, joined by his friend and local businessman, Andy Swallow, who became vice-chairman.

Woodward started the season as CEO, but ended his involvement in the club by November. Andy Swallow stepped in to keep the club running. By the end of the campaign, the club finished bottom. Faced with a substantial rent increase, the club vacated its home ground of the Recreation Ground after 104 years. Rather than dropping to the Conference South, the club sought to drop a further division to the Isthmian Premier Division. Being Grays Athletic though, nothing is ever smooth! When the league allocations were revealed, Grays were initially placed in the Essex Senior League. After an appeal to the FA held at Wembley Stadium, the Blues eventually were placed in the Isthmian North Division, a drop of three levels.

Since then, the club has led a nomadic existence, sharing first at East Thurrock United's, Rookery View Ground (2010-2012). For a season the club held the lease at the former Ford United stadium at Rush Green, which was owned by West Ham, but this deal ended in acrimony after a single season. Somewhat against the odds, the club won the Isthmian League North Division



and promotion back to the Premier Division in 2013. For the last ten seasons, Aveley F.C. hosted the clubs matches. Firstly, at their old Millfield ground, then at their new Parkview Stadium. Since 2016 the club has been supporter-owned after Andy Swallow agreed to end his interest in the club and pass them to the fans to run the club. For the past seven seasons, long-time Grays supporter, Steve Skinner has been Chairman, with another long-standing supporter, Glyn Jarvis being vice-chairman. In 2022-23, under former captain Lewis Dark, Grays reached the Isthmian North Division play-off semi-final and were runners-up in the Essex Thameside Trophy.

The 2023-24 season saw us ground-sharing with our oldest rivals Tilbury, at Chadfields. Mark Stimson had returned as manager and Lee Vehit and Gavin Holland took over the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mark's reign was unsuccessful and he was replaced by former Basildon United manager, Darren Manning in November 2023, to steer the club forward on the pitch.

In December 2023, the club received the news it had been awaiting for so many years. A joint planning application with a developer, to bring the former Thurrock F.C.'s ground at Ship Lane, West Thurrock, back into football use alongside a pre-delivery inspection car area, was approved by Thurrock Council. The final legal agreements were completed in July 2024 and Grays Athletic now has something it has never had before in its history - a ground which it owns. The work to bring the ground up to playing conditions again, after being vacant since 2018, is the next challenge for our club, but in the meantime, we will continue to share with Tilbury FC.

Our strong commitment to the local community will develop, as everyone at the club now intends for it to be around for many more years to come.



# THE OTHER SIDE: PEN PICS

**DARREN MANNING - MANAGER.** Darren joined us from Basildon United on November 21 2023 and the club were very grateful to them for allowing us to speak to Darren and confirm his appointment so quickly. He was born in Grays and was an avid supporter of Grays Athletic from an early age. He became assistant to manager, Jamie Stuart at the time when we became 100% supporter-owned in 2016. He enjoyed a very successful spell at Hullbridge Sports and took them into the Isthmian League as champions of the Essex Senior League in 2019 after nearly thirty years at that level. He has also managed Welling Town and transformed Basildon United into a promotion contender in our Isthmian League North Division, before moving to his boyhood club.

He is supported by Assistant Manager **CALLUM BOLGER.** Callum is a young, hungry coach who is also a Grays fan. He joined Darren's staff at Basildon United and has been his right-hand man ever since. His knowledge of this level and players is second to none. **TERRY SMITH** joined as our goalkeeping coach in June 2024, from Basildon United where he worked with Darren. Local man, **MITCHELL BALDOCK** is our new Strength & Conditioning Coach. **SCARLETT HOOKER** is our Sports Therapist and joined us in July 2024 from Saffron Walden Town. She is a PE Teacher. She will also be supported by Kendra Okanlawon, who is studying Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Wolverhampton.

**SIM MADGEWICK – MATCH DAY AND COACHING ASSISTANT.** A Grays supporter since he was a child, he is an essential part of our match day preparation. An early riser, he was previously a milkman, but now works for ProKit, the country's leading specialist sports retailer to grassroots football. He is also a highly successful Lawn Bowls player, winning many county and national titles and having the honour of captaining Essex to only their 3rd ever National Title in 2008. His young daughter, Millie has been hailed as the future of Grays Athletic FC, after she won the Essex FA #CelebrateEssex

"Supporter" Award in June 2018, following a poll with nearly 1,200 votes on their Twitter account.

**SAM WALKER - RESERVES MANAGER.** Sam joined us in October 2024. He has spent 13 years as a coach and now has his own coaching business. He has also worked overseas and gained knowledge from current and former professional players. He told the club: "It's an honour to be a part of this fantastic football club and I look forward to the journey ahead. My goal is to help the players develop on and off the pitch and hopefully progress players into the first team! We will strive to play attacking, entertaining football and work hard off the ball whilst representing the Grays philosophy and style of play".

**SAMIR ALI - FORWARD.** Date of Birth 5 June 2001. Samir joined us from Premier Division, Bowers & Pitsea in November 2024. He was previously at Basildon United, where he played under our manager, Darren Manning and became a regular scorer and maker of goals. He signed for Darren at Basildon after a prolific scoring spell at Burnham Ramblers in the Thurlow Nunn League.

**TYLER BRAMPTON - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 30 January 1997. Tyler signed for us in November 2024 from Maldon & Tiptree. Manager, Darren Manning has been an admirer of Tyler for several years and was very pleased to bring him to our club. He has represented a number of clubs, always with distinction. He started his career as a youth at Colchester United and has also played for Heybridge Swifts, Coggeshall Town, Waltham Abbey, Billericay Town and FC Clacton.

**JOAO CARLOS - WINGER.** Date of Birth 2 April 1989. A Grays Athletic legend! Joao returned to the club in September 2023. The Portuguese winger had spells at Clapton, Brentwood, Aveley and Dagenham & Redbridge, where he made one Football League appearance as a substitute in 2010. He first came to Grays in 2011. After a brief spell at Concord Rangers, he re-joined Grays in December 2016 and made his 400th appearance on 4 January 2020 at which point he had scored 106 goals. He left us in July 2021, after 411 appearances and 110 goals. More recently, he has represented Hullbridge Sports and Welling Town. A very popular player and a real fans favourite who has always found time to talk to



supporters. Following the appointment of Darren Manning as our manager in November 2023, Joao has now also taken on a coaching role. He will support the development of younger players and help them to understand what it means to represent our community football club.

**KENEDI DARIRI - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 18 December 2001. Kenedi joined us from Barking ahead of the 2024-25 season, where he had been since he was sixteen. He made his 1st team debut in 2020-21. He made 120 appearances, scoring 11 goals. A highly promising player, he will add pace and power to our defence.

**MICHAEL FINNERAN - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 3 May 1994. Michael returned for his second spell at the club in September 2023 after representing Maldon & Tiptree where he was club captain. He started his career at Romford, moved to Grays in February 2018 and made 40 appearances. He then became part of the successful Canvey Island team between July 2019 and December 2022, helping them to promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division at the end of the 2021-22 season, beating Brentwood Town on penalties in the play-off final. Another popular player who brings important experience to our defence.

**ARON GORDON - WINGER.** Date of Birth 28 January 1997. Aron re-joined us from Haringey Borough in September 2021, after he had made 23 starts for The Blues in the 2018-19 season, scoring six goals. He has also played for Waltham Abbey and Redbridge after representing Doncaster Rovers and Watford at youth level. His brother, Nathan played for us in the 2011-12 season when he also scored six goals, from 15 starts. Aron has now played over 150 games for us and is a real fans favourite, with his blistering pace, an eye for goal and a smile to go with it.

**QUBA GORDON - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 17 January 1998. Quba joined us in January 2025 from Hashtag United. The tall, powerful defender was previously at Heybridge Swifts and Maldon & Tiptree. He has also represented Boreham Wood in the National League.

**MATTHIAS HENRY-ROSE - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 16 September 2004. Matthias joined us from Southern Counties East League Premier Division side, Rusthall FC in September, just after his 20th

birthday. He also had spells in Academy football with Barnet and Dartford. He is a left-sided player who will bring more depth to the squad.

**LUKE HIRST - FORWARD.** Date of Birth 29 September 2000. Luke joined us from Barking ahead of the 2024-25 season. He had a couple of prolific seasons there, scoring 48 goals in 59 appearances, playing under Darren Manning for a short period. He also had a short stint at Enfield, scoring against us in the first league game of last season. He was with us in the pre-season of 2020-21, but suffered a bad injury in our friendly against Hashtag United. He has also represented Brentwood Town, Bowers & Pitsea, Hashtag United and Basildon United and had spells abroad with IFK Mora in Sweden.

**ISAAC LONG - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 27 March 2005. Isaac signed for us in July 2024 after a successful trial period during pre-season. He made his debut for Isthmian South East side, Phoenix Sports in the last game of the 2023-24 season in their 2-1 win over Sevenoaks Town. He was also a member of the successful Bowers & Pitsea U18 side that won their league in 2021-22 and played in 37 games across two years for them.

**ALEJANDRO MACHADO - MIDFIELDER.** Date of Birth 7 November 2000. Spanish-born, Alejandro joined us from Basildon United in December 2023. He started in the Real Madrid youth setup before moving to England. He has also played for Northern Premier League Guiseley AFC, Essex Senior League, Woodford Town and Isthmian South Central Division, South Park.

**ALEX MOSS - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 29 May 2002. Alex joined us from Basildon United ahead of the 2024-25 season and made 31 appearances for the Bees last season, after he joined from Maldon & Tiptree in September 2023. He was previously at Hullbridge Sports where he made 69 appearances. Darren knows Alex well from his managerial spells at Hullbridge and Basildon and is looking for him to add strength to our defensive line.

**JAYDEN PEGLAR - GOALKEEPER.** Date of Birth 12 January 2006. Jayden joined us on a dual registration from Southern League, Bishops Stortford in September 2024. He was a member of the Colchester United Under 18 squad and also

had a loan spell at Sheppey United. He made an impressive debut in our penalty shoot-out win at Walthamstow in the Velocity Trophy, saving two penalties helping us to a 4-2 victory.

**ALBERT PERRY - FORWARD.** Date of Birth 7 January 2002. The young forward joined us from Essex Olympian League Premier Division side, Toby FC in March 2024. Albert can play anywhere across the forward line and adds a different dynamic up front. He came through the youth set-up at Basildon United before moves to Basildon Town and Witham Town.

**LOUIE REMI - WINGER.** Date of Birth 28 August 2000. Louie joined us from Maldon & Tiptree in March 2024. He made 20 appearances for New Salamis in the 2022-23 season, scoring 11 goals and also made six appearances towards the end of the season for Maldon, scoring once. The wide player has an eye for goal and is an important addition to our attacking options.

**DANNY SAMBRIDGE – GOALKEEPER.** Date of Birth 29 October 1992. Danny joined us from Coggeshall Town in the 2019 close season. He is a local lad who went to William Edwards School in Grays and fondly remembers that the first time he ever played football was in the indoor ball court at our old Recreation Ground in Bridge Road, Grays. His previous clubs include Dagenham & Redbridge, Witham Town, Heybridge Swifts and Maldon and Tiptree. Danny has played nearly 500 senior games, 200 of those whilst at Heybridge Swifts which included the first round of the FA Cup and the 2nd round of the FA Trophy. He was voted Player of the Season for 2022-23 by our supporters and has made over 160 appearances for us between the sticks before the start of the 2024-25 season.

**DHILLION SANDHU-NELSON - WINGER.** Date of Birth 19 November 2004. Dhillion has signed again for us in July 2024 and is another product of our successful youth section. He made his debut as a 17-year-old in a 3-2 win at home to Felixstowe & Walton in October 2022.

**ELLIOTT SARTORIUS - MIDFIELDER.** Date of Birth 29 July 2002. Elliott, an attacking midfielder, joined us from Waltham Abbey in February 2024 and scored an important equalising goal on his

debut against Wroxham in the 90th minute as a 67th-minute substitute. He also represented Bowers and Pitsea, St Neots Town and Wealdstone and was originally in the Lincoln City Youth Academy.

**MATAS SKARNA - DEFENDER.** Date of Birth 1 May 2005. Matas joined us on loan from Concord Rangers in February 2024, a move which became permanent in March 2024. He is a Lithuanian Under 17 international, who previously represented Hashtag United before his move to Concord Rangers in September 2023. He was struck on the ankle by a firework from a nearby property which landed on the pitch when he was playing in a game for Hashtag on 5 November 2021, but thankfully he did not require hospital treatment.

**SHANE TEMPLE - FORWARD.** Date of Birth 5 January 2003. Shane joined us in December 2024 from Cambridge City. He started his career as a youth at Braintree and Sudbury. He also had spells at Maldon & Tiptree, Concord Rangers, Basildon United - where he played under Darren Manning - and Witham Town.

**SID WALKER - MIDFIELDER.** Date of Birth 19 December 2003. Sid joined us from Basildon United ahead of the 2024-25 season. He joined Basildon in 2022 and made 67 appearances over two seasons. He has also represented Brentwood Town, played Under 18 football for Essex and played briefly for Romford. Darren knows him well from his time at Basildon and expects him to become an important part of our midfield. The club also has a flourishing youth section, with young boys and girls learning the game and together with their parents, becoming an integral part of our community football club.





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Saturday 11th January  
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Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 352

**Photos:** Stefan Peck









# CLUB CONTACTS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Andrew Clarke		springcroftcdr@outlook.com
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Club Secretary	Mike Titchener	07513 376708	secretary@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Treasurer	Gary Hammond	07803 244721	treasurer@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Director of Football	Kevin O'Donnell		
Chairman of Youth Football	Scott Dunne	07790 820396	sjd_sw@yahoo.co.uk
Head of Media/Press Officer	Stuart Daynes	07717 577497	media@felixstowefootball.co.uk

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

Safeguarding/Welfare Officer	Lynne Barnes		lynnehakes@btinternet.com
Hospitality	Winnifred Soall	07900 591367	winnifred.mcclean@aol.com
Welfare Officer	Kathryn Maclean		
Assistant Secretary	Phil Barber		
Fixtures Secretary	Les Soall	07825 058857	lgsfxt@aol.com
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Secker	07539 455089	paul.secker@hotmail.com

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

President	Dave Ashford	07850 618940	dave@dhashford.co.uk
Life Vice Presidents:	Andy Wilding, Tony Barnes, Mick Gosling, Chris Ryan, Jayne Ryan, Phil Griffiths, Jim Seymour		

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Photography	Thomas Bradford/Stefan Peck		

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The European Cup final of 1960 is, by many, considered to be the greatest game of football ever played. Real Madrid secured their fifth European title in five years, the first five years of the competition. The legendary Alfredo di Stefano scored a hat trick, but was outdone by his teammate Ferenc Puskas who scored four. A massive 127,000 were in attendance in Glasgow, among them Alex Ferguson, and many times that have claimed to have been there. And Real Madrid manager Miguel Munoz had only been in the job for a month, though he would stay for 14 years. But there was another side in that final, and Eintracht Frankfurt came within 90 minutes of upsetting the footballing order.

Frankfurt were a provincial team with no history of success. Any impetus they were beginning to gain in the first half of the twentieth century was snuffed out by the rise of Nazism, and at the end of the war they took their place as an average side in their regional league. Football

before the Bundesliga saw the winners of regional divisions qualify for national playoffs, which Frankfurt managed in 1953 and, crucially, 1959.

In 1960, many associations still refused to acknowledge the European Cup, and so thanks to the withdrawal of their Finnish opponents in the first round Frankfurt's first foray into continental competition was against Swiss opposition. Young Boys were three times Swiss champions and well-versed in football at this level, and were expected to win.

A rain soaked first leg saw Young Boys' ground only three quarters full. The Swiss champions entered the game with confidence, but after just four minutes Hans Weilbacher fired a free kick past the despairing goalkeeper. The home side equalised, but in the final quarter of the match Frankfurt went on the rampage, first with a twenty yard strike and then a penalty to all but secure qualification. A fourth, late on, confirmed it, and Frankfurt ensured the second leg was a

stodgy 1-1 draw.

Tougher opponents awaited in the next round. Wiener Sport-Club, the Austrian champions from Vienna, came to Frankfurt for the first leg of their quarter finals, and were far more solid than their Swiss counterparts. They reckoned without winger Erich Meier, however, who chose this game to display his brilliance down the left. He created the first goal after 17 minutes, and was a constant threat throughout the game. Sport-Club equalised before half time, but on the hour Meier danced through the defence yet again, placing a shot in the corner. Frankfurt held on to take a valuable lead into the second leg.

An energy sapping Derby against Offenbacher was between the games, which Frankfurt won 3-2 but was hardly the best preparation for an important European tie three days later. Sport-Club knew they needed a goal, and pushed forward hard. It took half an hour for them to level the tie, and at half time a tired Frankfurt feared their journey was over. Tired legs continued to defend resolutely, and then Erwin Stein had his moment. The ball broke to him in the Viennese' half, and he sprinted past the defence, powering home a finish. Frankfurt held on, and progressed. The first time a German side had gone this far in the competition.

The semi-final saw them drawn against an enthusiastic Rangers. The final in Glasgow was a serious carrot for the Scots, and they were determined to beat their Catholic rivals in becoming the first Scottish side to win the European Cup. Rangers had won their domestic league 30 times by this point, and were renowned across the continent. Frankfurt had won their league just once, and were barely known beyond their city. Rangers players put bets on how many goals they would win by, foretelling their hubris. That was a serious mistake.

The first leg was a massacre, but the first half

was tense, with each side scoring once before the break. Six minutes after the break, however, Alfred Pfaff nutmegged the goalkeeper to restore the Germans' lead. Four minutes later, he got his second. Rangers pressed forward, leaving themselves open, and on 75 minutes conceded again to all but end the tie. And keeper George Niven was apoplectic. His mood was not helped by conceding twice more, as the overconfident Scottish champions lost 6-1. Another six goals conceded in the second leg, losing 6-3, put the seal on Rangers miserable semi-final. In Germany, the victory was celebrated so completely that Adidas took out adverts showing the side wearing their boots.

The magical ending would elude the Germans, however. In front of 127,000 people, with an estimated 70 million watching at home, they took the lead, but merely annoyed the Spanish giants. Puskas, Di Stefano, Paco Gento, there was just too much quality in the side. Possibly the greatest array of attacking talent to that point put Frankfurt to the sword and scored six before they conceded again. Frankfurt were disappointed, but not shamed.

As so often in football, the gods did not give us the fairytale, and Real Madrid won another European Cup.

Enjoy the game.



### **PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:**

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club is owned and managed by Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club Ltd (by guarantee) registration number 10076800. The Chairman of the Company is Andrew Clarke The Directors of the Company are Christopher Daynes and Andrew Clarke.



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## MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North  
Tuesday 21st January 2025  
Kick-off 7.45pm



# Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

**Manager:** Stuart Boardley  
**Assistant Manager:** Andy Crump

Hugo **Akhuseyin**  
Jack **Ainsley**  
Stuart **Ainsley**  
Ashton **Boswell**  
Ollie **Brown**  
Fabian **Claxton**  
Willie **Clemons**  
Hugh **Cullum**  
Archie **Dunne**  
Sam **Ford**  
Cameron **Forde-Brown**  
Rob **Harvey**  
Callum **Harrison**  
Josh **Hitter**  
Billy **Holland (C)**  
Jordy **Matthews**  
Josh **Mayhew**  
Leon **Ottley-Gooch**  
Zac **Tuvey**  
Charlie **Warren**  
Thomas **Warren**  
Joe **Whight**  
Harry **Wright (GK)**

# Grays Athletic FC

**Manager:** Darren Manning  
**Assistant Manager:** Callum Bolger

Samir **Ali**  
Tyler **Brampton**  
Joao **Carlos**  
Kenedi **Dariri**  
Michael **Finneran**  
Aron **Gordon**  
Quba **Gordon**  
Matthias **Henry-Rose**  
Luke **Hirst**  
Isaac **Long**  
Alejandro **Machado**  
Alex **Moss**  
Jayden **Peglar**  
Albert **Perry**  
Louie **Remi**  
Danny **Sambridge (GK)**  
Dhillion **Sandhu-Nelson**  
Elliott **Sartorius**  
Matas **Skarna**  
Shane **Temple**  
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