

the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



Seasiders v Tilbury



SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2025, 3PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



A very good afternoon to one and all and welcome to The Martello Ground for another vitally important league fixture against fellow promotion hopefuls Tilbury FC.

We welcome the players, officials and supporters of Tilbury and of course today's match officials, I hope you all enjoy your brief stay with us and have a safe journey home later. Today sees 1st against 8th with three points desperately required for the Seasiders to stay at the summit but equally important to Tilbury as they strive to get back into the play off places.

After today, three of our next four league games are against top six teams so it is a very busy and important few weeks and the boys will have to be at their best at all times to keep our noses in front of Bury and Brentwood. All very exciting but very tough and still quite a way to go before we get too excited.

Last week I thought the lads were absolutely amazing with their never say day attitude, it was a miserable day at Redbridge, with a small crowd and a synthetic pitch, although travelling Seasiders

were in great voice and made up over half the 141 spectators.

The game was very even in the first half with not a lot to write about apart from some very "interesting" refereeing decisions that saw our frustrations increasing both on and off the field. The officiating didn't improve in the second half when we thought we had opened the scoring, the officials decided it was offside to the amazement of nearly everyone in the ground, I although I don't condone it, I could fully understand the gaffer's reaction which led to him seeing red.

One of my main issues with officials at our level is that so often it is someone else who suffers when they make a clear and obvious error - they apologised afterwards and said they got it wrong, but meanwhile gaffer gets a touchline ban and a fine!!

The decision seemed to spur us on even more and we had chance after chance in a dominate second half, but Redbridge defended for their lives with last ditch tackles blocks and saves... On 90 minutes the officials showed five minutes to add and like all of us there we thought it was going to be one of those days and were not looking forward to the journey home.

However, Tom Warren wasn't finished yet and duly smashed home from a tight angle into the roof of the net as the clock ticked over to 96 minutes to earn us a fantastic and valuable three points with smiles all around, followed by quite a pleasant drive home made even better as England beat the French at Twickenham!

Back on the road to London again next week with a trip to in form Walthamstow who are sure to provide another very stern test, but with our supporters in good voice again I am sure we can once again bank another three points!

Enjoy today's game and have a very good week.
Tony

STUART BOARDLEY



Good afternoon everyone to The Martello Ground where today we host Tilbury FC.

The away fixture way back in October was a game that I was not present for as I was in Germany with our U13 EJA group. Obviously I watched the footage and spoke to Andy pre and post game and in all honesty there was a feeling that on the day the right team came away with the points. It was a tough game against an experienced and tough Tilbury side, and we fully expect just as tough a test today despite them not arriving to us in the best form. Our opponents will undoubtedly be solid, having only conceded 4 goals in their last 5 outings (despite a return of just 5 points). Our recent form has also seen us stutter to 5 points out of a possible 12 but a good second half performance and last minute win against Redbridge we hope has given us a platform to kick on for the remaining 12 league games.

As a squad, we have made a conscious effort not to be too disheartened by a couple of losses and a couple of draws since the turn of the year and think it is important that we look at things with a wider sense of perspective. We can all look back at games and consider the "what if's" but every point in this league is important and hard earned so we must take the positives (last weeks second half display and togetherness) and take that into today's game.

Again looking at the positives.... One major positive for me was the following that we took to Redbridge! The coach was once again full, with the addition of many others travelling down in their own steam. To have around 70 supporters there and to be able to celebrate with them after a last minute winner was brilliant and the least they deserved after a long away day! Thank you!

One more positive for you, (and an insight into last weekend's team selection) was of course the return of Jordy Matthews not only to the squad but to the starting lineup. He has spent a couple of months on the sidelines with an injury but after just one training session we felt his tenacity was exactly what was needed at Redbridge. We had discussed his inclusion on the Friday night and I convinced him that he could do a solid 50/60 minutes for us and then we would make changes.... After 80 minutes, and a stellar performance, Jordy had cramp in both hamstrings and we then reluctantly replaced him. Jordy then went on to apologise to me in the bar after the game as he felt in his words "he was a little bit off it today" Well I don't know about you but if that was "off it", I can't wait until he's fit again!!!

These last 12 games are huge, for the fans, for the players but for the club as a collective!

Let's make some noise....

Boards





SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this...

Joining the dots

Sir John Raymond Cuthbert Quilter 3bn,
Felixstowe Dock & Railway Co, Tilbury
Docks, Quilter Road, Quilter Key,
Unexploded German Bombs

Last week I had dinner with friends in Quilter Road, Felixstowe and many years ago I was posted to Felixstowe as part of the Bomb Disposal Unit at Brackenbury Barracks (long gone), now it's a group of houses overlooking the sea at Brackenbury Cliffs.

It was the early seventies and a busy time for Bomb Disposal Units, only 30 years after the end of WWII and there were still masses of live ordnance spread over England. Two spots the German Bombers favoured was Tilbury Docks and the old Felixstowe Dock, a much smaller entity then, but it had a flying boat station where Landguard Terminal is now (roughly).

One of the tools the BDU's had was a Quilter

Key, which enabled the Bomb Disposal Engineers to remove the Aluminium Fuse from the German bomb to make it safe to move.

During the war it was trial and error, the error part being a big bang! and Sir Raymond Quilter increased the chances of successfully defusing the German UXB's with the key he invented and produced at his factory and it is a tool still used today 80 years on as & when old German UXB's are still discovered.

Quilter was also credited with inventing the static line system for deploying parachutes when our Paratroopers jumped out of the planes & gliders over France and the Netherlands.

Hereditary Peerage, hereditary knighthood, educated at Eton, Large estate owner, large factory owner, one of those people born with a silver spoon in their mouth.

But not too big to form & lead the first civilian Bomb Disposal squad and to take responsibility for defusing bombs himself, using his own invention.

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Our mascots for today's game against Tilbury are Felixstowe and Walton United Under 9's White and Reds. They are sponsored by Richardson Grab Lorry Hire.



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REDBRIDGE

**FELIXSTOWE &
WALTON UNITED**

T Warren

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Saturday 8th February
2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

Attendance: 121

Photos: Stefan Peck









ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Felixstowe & Walton United	30	20	5	5	62	28	+34	65
2	Bury Town	30	20	5	5	55	33	+22	65
3	Brentwood Town	30	20	4	6	70	34	+36	64
4	Waltham Abbey	30	18	5	7	63	33	+30	59
5	Brightlingsea Regent	28	16	5	7	45	30	+15	53
6	Walthamstow	28	15	3	10	54	37	+17	48
7	Witham Town	27	15	3	9	52	39	+13	48
8	Tilbury	28	14	6	8	40	38	+2	48
9	Cambridge City	29	13	4	12	47	46	+1	43
10	Heybridge Swifts	28	11	9	8	42	40	+2	42
11	Redbridge	30	11	6	13	52	54	-2	39
12	Gorleston	28	10	6	12	36	38	-2	36
13	Grays Athletic	27	10	5	12	42	39	+3	35
14	Mildenhall Town	30	9	8	13	27	33	-6	35
15	Maldon & Tiptree	30	9	6	15	29	39	-10	33
16	Concord Rangers	26	8	6	12	34	41	-7	30
17	Newmarket Town	29	8	6	15	42	62	-20	30
18	Haringey Borough	30	6	8	16	41	61	-20	26
19	Basildon United	28	7	4	17	32	51	-19	25
20	Wroxham	28	5	9	14	34	52	-18	24
21	Sporting Bengal United	27	6	4	17	29	60	-31	22
22	Ipswich Wanderers	29	2	7	20	22	62	-40	13

LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 21:44:27



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

Saturday 15th February, 3pm

Basildon United v Newmarket Town
 Brightlingsea Regent v Concord Rangers
 Cambridge City v Maldon & Tiptree
 Felixstowe & Walton United v Tilbury
 Grays Athletic v Gorleston
 Haringey Borough v Ipswich Wanderers
 Heybridge Swifts v Wroxham
 Mildenhall Town v Walthamstow
 Sporting Bengal United v Redbridge
 Waltham Abbey v Brentwood Town
 Witham Town v Bury Town



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Felixstowe & Walton
United playing squad
and management
team of 2024/2025



STUART BOARDLEY
MANAGER

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



JOHN ABBOTT
PHYSIO



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
DEFENDER

KD Construction



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH
DEFENDER

Garratt & Pearson Plumbing & Heating



HUGH CULLUM
DEFENDER

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.

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.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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BY JON COUCH

In last Sunday's NLP, we spoke exclusively to National League CEO Mark Ives to look deeper into the national 3UP campaign, officially calling for a third promotion spot into the EFL.

Backed by all 72 member clubs at Step 1 and 2 after years of planning, the proposal officially calls for a change in regulations from the current two-up system and has received widespread support from the Non-League game.

But, as we've also heard this week, the campaign has also come up against some fierce opposition and there is a lot of convincing left needed to be done if EFL clubs are to vote in favour of the proposal at the EFL's AGM this June.

Ives spoke passionately the logistics behind the campaign but also warned that unless the matter is addressed now, it risks being kicked down the road for more years to come.

"Why now is a really important question," he told The NLP. "Everybody is aware we've been having conversations privately with the EFL. They've been very constructive, very amiable conversations.

"Then we have the Independent Football Regulator coming in. Whilst there are debates ongoing at the minute between the parliamentary houses and, potentially, up to 400 suggested amendments to the Bill that are being discussed, what is sure is the regulator is coming into play.

"That brings in another dynamic from an EFL point of view because the EFL are saying while they're supportive in principle of this issue, they cannot take this forward until the other footballing matters are dealt with – the current discussions between the PL and the EFL over the

wider distribution of monies. That's a matter for the PL and the EFL, that's not a matter for us.

"We do not see them as being interdependent to the issue of three-up. If you think about them not being able to deal with anything until the matter is resolved between the PL and the EFL, which would potentially mean the regulator, the backstop and everything else kicking into play."

The National League's plea came after a wide-ranging BBC Sport interview with EFL chairman Rick Parry back in November when he accepted the need for change, commenting: "we have to acknowledge the need to look downwards as well as upwards".

But as columnist Chris Dunlavy warned in our sister paper, The Football League Paper, last Sunday, finding support from EFL clubs will be far from easy.

"It's only natural to ask why turkeys would vote for Christmas, and in the short-term it's a logical argument. Nobody wants to make themselves more vulnerable to relegation," Dunlavy writes.

"So precarious are finances throughout the EFL, however, that all but the biggest clubs could become a basket case, practically overnight. Remember Bolton, or Derby?"

"There's also a lot of money in Non-League, meaning the clubs who come up - like Stockport and Wrexham - tend to push the incumbents down.

That makes relegation at least a reasonable possibility for the majority of EFL clubs and means three-up, three-down is very much in their long-term interest.

"Unfortunately, that's not how people operate. Which is why, without legislative intervention or a financial sweetener, the National League's 3UP

campaign is a non-starter.”

Shrewsbury Town manager Gareth Ainsworth agrees.

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live Sport’s 72+ EFL podcast last week, the former Wycombe Wanderers gave a rather damning indictment of the proposal, while voicing his annoyance at being unable to compete financially with wealthy clubs coming from Non-League such as Wrexham, Notts County and Chesterfield.

Ainsworth said: “Obviously, we’re not going vote for it. Who in the right mind in the EFL will be the vote for, you know, three down, three up?”

“But that National League, believe me, very strong. And often the team that do come up. They compete well.

“And I think that’s a big argument point for them saying, look at your records, look at your Chesterfields of yours, look at your, you know, Stockports, you know.

“OBVIOUSLY, WE’RE NOT GOING VOTE FOR IT. WHO IN THE RIGHT MIND IN THE EFL WILL BE THE VOTE FOR, YOU KNOW, THREE DOWN, THREE UP?”

GARETH AINSWORTH

“They’ve all kicked on, but it could kill some really, really big league teams. You know, you Oldhams and your Torquays. They’ve really found it difficult getting back in.

“Should we not look after our teams that you know, we keep going on about the teams that are struggling. We should look after our pyramid better.

“And the teams if a team just can’t keep up financially, but no other reason than the other teams have got billionaires coming in a million is that we it’s not fair that they just sink out the league and out of obscurity.

“So my argument would be, yes. These teams have done well, but have a look at the money that they’ve had invested in them as well.”



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Saturday 25th January
2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

Attendance: 413

Photos: Stefan Peck









THE OTHER SIDE: TILBURY FC

Tilbury F.C. now have concrete proof that they were formed in 1889, and competed in the Gravesend League from 1889/1890. With the Docks being the only employer of any size in the area, all the Players and Officials of the Club were Dockers, hence the adoption of the nickname, "The Dockers", which still stands today.

The aim of the Club was to gain success at Junior level via the Essex Junior Cup, and thereby to eventually bring Senior Level Football to the Town. Tilbury soon made a name at the Junior level, with successive League championships, and an appearance in the Final of the Junior Cup in 1903/04, where they were defeated after a replay by Chelmsford Arc Works. It was to be another 5 years before they reached the Final again, in 1908/09, but this time they carried off the Trophy by defeating the County's oldest club, Saffron Walden Town.

However, at this stage, support for the club was poor. Only a couple of miles down the road, Grays Athletic were now playing in Senior ranks, and Grays Thurrock United were playing Professionally in the Southern League. Most local fans were going to these clubs, and finances for Tilbury were very tight. At the end of the 1910/11 season, the club also lost it's home ground, and the Committee decided that the club should take a break from playing while it sought a new home base.

The intended short break stretched to three seasons, and was then further extended by the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914. As a result, it was not until 1919/20 that Tilbury were able to resume, this time in the South Essex League. They became Champions of that League in 1921/22, and were again a force in the County Junior ranks. The big push for advancement into Senior ranks came in 1924/25. The Title was again captured, and so was the Essex Junior Cup. As a result, in the following season, Tilbury were invited to enter the Essex Senior Cup instead, which they accepted, as they realised that some good results would really aid their cause.

In 1926/27, Tilbury reached the 3rd Round of the Cup, the first Junior side to do so, and also became the first Junior club to knock a Senior club out of the Cup, when they played superbly to defeat the mighty Walthamstow Avenue 3-2. During the Summer, they were granted Senior status by the Essex F.A.

Disaster almost struck however. Application was made to several Leagues but, one by one, they were all rejected, and it looked as though Tilbury were doomed. At the very last moment, the Kent League stepped in and offered them a place, which was eagerly accepted. With Tilbury



remaining as one of only 5 Amateur clubs in a Professional competition, it was no surprise that they found it tough going on the field of play.

Off the field, however, the 4 seasons spent in the Kent League were a success. Tilbury enjoyed their time in the League and made many friends and contacts. It was an off-field matter, though, that led to them eventually leaving the competition. The League had expanded in size greatly since Tilbury joined, and added to the difficulty of continually crossing the Thames was the end of season fixture congestion.

This meant a great many midweek matches and, with no Floodlights in those days, those games had to kick off at 4.30pm, and Tilbury nearly always had to field weakened teams due to players' work commitments. At the end of the 1930/31 season, the Committee very reluctantly took the decision that the club would have to move on. They made an application to join the London League, one of those that had rejected them 4 years earlier, and this time were accepted.

Tilbury stayed in the London League until 1939, when the outbreak of the Second World War led to the disbandment of most Senior Leagues. During that spell, they were twice 4th in the table, and once reached the League Cup Final, but were mostly to be found in the bottom half of the League Table. In September 1939, all Football was forced to return to a more local basis, due to Travel restrictions and Fuel rationing. Along with 9 other local clubs, Tilbury formed the War Time South Essex Combination.

They completed the 1939/40 season in this League, but at the end of that campaign were forced to disband for the duration, when their ground was commandeered by the Army, as a site for the Anti-Aircraft Guns brought in to protect the Docks.

Tilbury resumed in the London League in 1946/47, and then on a new home ground, the present Chadfields in 1947/48, and embarked upon a four season spell of much success and National recognition. They reached 2 successive Essex Senior Cup Finals, were 3 times League Runners Up, and were desperately unlucky to be knocked out of the F.A. Amateur Cup at the Quarter Final stage, when reduced to 9 fit men through injury.

The proudest moment, though, came in the F.A. Cup. In 1949/50, Tilbury fought their way through to the 1st Round Proper, eventually going down 0-4 away to a Notts County side led by the legendary England centre forward Tommy Lawton. In the previous round replay, at home to Gorleston, a crowd of 5,500 had packed into St. Chad's Road, and that is still the official Ground Record. The proceeds from this Cup run were used, a few years later, to buy the Freehold to the 13 acre site that the Ground stands on.





In 1950/51 Tilbury moved into the Corinthian League. Apart from one League Cup Final, this was to be a barren 7 year spell, and at the end of that time they returned to the London League. The move into the Corinthian ranks had coincided with the gradual break up of the successful but ageing post-War side. The move back to the London League now coincided with the coming together of an extremely talented bunch of local young players, that brought great success in the coming seasons.

In 1957/58, Tilbury finished 3rd in the London League, but in each of the next 4 campaigns were the undisputed Champions. On 3 occasions they also captured the League Cup. Also, in 1960/61, the Essex Senior Cup was won for the first time, when Walthamstow Avenue were beaten 4-1 (aet) in the Final, just 3 weeks after they had won the Amateur Cup at Wembley.

1962/63 saw Tilbury move into the Delphian League. This was to be the Winter of the "Big Freeze", which almost totally disrupted all Sport throughout the Country for a period of almost 3 months. This was to coincide with that League's last ever season. In 1963/64, that League joined the expanded Athenian League set up, becoming the bottom Division of a 3 Division set up. The Athenian League being the Premier Division, the Corinthian League being Division One and the Delphian, Division Two.

Tilbury were inaugural Champions of Division Two, also winning the Essex Senior Cup again. 5 seasons later, they completed the climb to the Premier Division, by winning the Division One championship. 5 seasons were spent

in the Athenian Premier Division before, in 1973/74, they joined the newly formed Isthmian League Division Two, which was later re-named Division One.

In 1974/75, they became the first ever winners of the Isthmian League Cup, and 12 months later were the Division One Champions. 5th place in their first Premier Division season was the best Tilbury could achieve in their 5 season stay, before being relegated back to Division One.

However, during that spell, in 1977/78, Tilbury enjoyed a remarkable run in the F.A. Cup, as they started in the Preliminary Round and fought their way right through to the 3rd Round Proper, before going down 0-4 away to Stoke City. The storm clouds were already forming though, and just 2 seasons later relegation followed, amid a financial crisis so severe that the Club almost died.

Since then, Tilbury have found things tough. They have suffered relegation on several occasions, but have mostly bounced back fairly quickly, but the successes of previous years have never been re-captured.

In 2004/05, Tilbury finished their one season in the Southern League Division One East in rock bottom position, and were relegated to the Essex Senior League. They bounced back immediately, and earned a return to Isthmian ranks, and have managed to remain there since.

The past 2 seasons were moderately successful, with two 11th place finishes in the League, and in 2008/09 Tilbury won the Isthmian League Cup and the East Anglian Cup, these were their first Trophies in 30 years.

2010/2011, with a new Manager in Paul Vaughan, and a tie-up with South Essex College Academy, saw the Club hoping to build for the future. With an inexperienced squad, the first half of the campaign was a real struggle, and by Xmas Tilbury were in real danger of relegation. However, as he gained experience, Vaughan gradually rebuilt and reinforced his squad, and the 2nd half of the campaign saw a run of results that steered the Club to safety well before the end of the season.

2011/12 saw Tilbury greatly exceed their expectations, as Vaughan's squad stayed in and around the promotion race all season, clinching a play-off place with a game to spare. Sadly, though, it ended in extra time defeat against Needham Market. Success spread through the club as well, with the newly formed Reserves, comprised mainly of players under 21 years old, coming second in the Essex Senior Reserve League, and winning the League Cup.

Unfortunately, this level could not be maintained over the next few seasons, as Tilbury continually lost some of their better players to higher level clubs, and Vaughan was continually having to rebuild his squad. The Clubs Academy proved its worth in this respect, as Tilbury still managed to finish in a respectable position.

In October 2014, Paul Vaughan stepped down as Manager, and the Club acted quickly to appoint player Gary Henty as the new boss, and he acted quickly to appoint former Tilbury player Danny Smith as his assistant and another ex-"Docker" George Young as Coach.

Tilbury finished that season in a comfortable lower mid-table position, but showed great improvement in 2015/16, at one time being as high as 5th, on the back of a very long unbeaten run. This included good runs in both the Essex Senior Cup and F.A. Trophy, with no fewer than 3 National League sides being defeated.

However, as the season entered its final few weeks, their poor disciplinary record came back to bite them, with player suspensions taking their toll leading to a fall down the Table to 11th. That pattern was repeated in 2016/17. The first half of the season saw Tilbury in or just below the Play-Off places, but in the second half of the campaign a dramatic loss of form of just 3 wins from 22 games saw them plummet down as low as 17th.

The season was rescued in the final month, in which Tilbury went unbeaten, winning three and drawing two of the final five League matches, climbing back up to a respectable 12th position. On the cup front, Tilbury had a fine run through to the Semi-Final of the Essex Senior Cup, before going down narrowly to National South side East Thurrock United.

Unfortunately, Tilbury suffered a terrible run of results in October of 2017. A heavy defeat in the F.A. Trophy brought about the resignations of manager and assistant, Gary Henty & Danny Smith, plus coach George Young.

Once again, the Club turned to a former player to take over. Joe Keith returned to the club and brought in a few new signings over the next few weeks, and guided the club to a safe final position. However, this run could not be maintained, and in October of the next season, with the Club lying second from bottom, the Management Team was changed again.

Marc Harrison, a former Under 16 side Manager at Tilbury, had enjoyed a very successful spell with Basildon United, and now returned to Chadfields, bringing Liam Wallace with him as his Assistant. Making several new signings, they immediately brought about a big improvement, and took the club right up to 7th place, before a final day defeat away to the Division Champions sent them back to a final 10th place finish.

2019/20 got off to a slow start for the Club, but once they got going they rapidly climbed up the League Table. By March, Tilbury were sitting comfortably in 4th position, and seemed certain of a place in the Promotion Play-Offs. Then, the Covid 19 virus created a Pandemic that swept across the World, and caused the Isthmian and many other Leagues to be declared Null & Void, with all Football coming to a close.

2020/21 got off to an even better start, and Tilbury found themselves as the early season League Leaders. Once again, however, the Covid Pandemic raised it's head. The situation across the Country deteriorated greatly and Lockdown once more came into force. As in the previous campaign, that signalled, eventually, the abandonment of the season, and denied Tilbury what seemed a near certain place at least in the Play-Offs. With all restrictions lifted from July 12th 2021, and with most of the squad retained plus one or two quality additions, the Club are hoping that fate does not intervene again, and that they can challenge for the honours.

2022/23 witnessed the club relegated from the Isthmian North Division.

2023/24 Tilbury FC competed in the Essex Senior League winning the title on the last day of the season bouncing straight back up to the Isthmian League Division 1 North.



PEN PICS: TILBURY FC

GEORGE MARSH

Goalkeeper in his second stint as a Docker. Re signed for the club in December 2024.

ALFIE FRY

Defender, signed for Tilbury FC July 2023.

KIERAN JONES

Midfielder 19 years old signed for Tilbury in September 2024 from Bowers & Pitsea FC.

JACK HAYES

Defender, signed for The Dockers in July 2023 moving across with Marc Harrison and Liam Wallace from East Thurrock United.

JACK MCQUEEN

Defender, Signed for the club July 2023.

JAMIE REYNOLDS

Midfield, an Experienced player that signed for the Dockers following a spell at Cheshunt FC.

JORDAN CLARK

Midfield, Joined the Dockers in close season before the 2024/25 campaign started joining his brother Lewis in the Tilbury FC ranks. Previously played for Hornchurch FC.

OLI SPOONER

Midfield, Club Captain and another player that has come through the Tilbury FC youth system. A fantastic player that is on his 3rd stint back at the club. Other clubs include Basildon United and East Thurrock United.

LEWIS CLARK

Defender, Signed July 2024 from Redbridge FC.

CONNOR MARTIN

Defender 25 years old. Signed for Tilbury Fc in July 2022 Had his season cut short due to a shoulder injury. Returned to the club in August 2023.

MACAULEY JOYNES

Defender, signed for the club in August 2023 from local rivals Grays Athletic. A vastly experienced player.

ALEX HERNANDEZ

Attacker 23 years old. A well known prolific striker signed for Tilbury from National league south Aveley in September 2024.

SAM BANTICK

Attacker, Joined the club from Enfield in close season before the 2024/25 season. A proven player that can never be underestimated.

CAMERON BROADIE

Midfield. Signed for the Dockers September 2024.

LINDEL STEWART

Attacker signed for the club in October 2024 from Dover.

DAN TRENDALL

Attacking Midfielder signed for the Dockers in 2023.



MARC HARRISON



JACK HAYES



CONNOR MARTIN



OLI SPOONER



ALFIE FRY



LEWIS CLARK



JACK MCQUEEN



JORDAN CLARK



DAN TRENDALL



MACAULEY JOYNES

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MILDENHALL TOWN

Chippis

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

J Ainsley

1

1

Saturday 1st February
2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

Attendance: 240

Photos: Stefan Peck











SEASIDERS GOALSCORER STATS

1	CHARLIE WARREN	26
2	CAMERON FORDE-BROWN	10
3	THOMAS WARREN	10
4	SAMUEL FORD	7
5	CALLUM HARRISON	7
6	JOSHUA MAYHEW	7
7	JOSHUA HITTER	6
8	WILLIE CLEMONS	5
9	JACK AINSLEY	3
10	ZAK BROWN	3
11	ROB HARVEY	3
12	ASHTON BOSWELL	2
13	BILLY HOLLAND	2
14	JOE WHIGHT	2
15	NOEL AITKENS	1
16	OLLIE CALEY-BROWN	1



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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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



Leaders **Felixstowe and Walton United**, ahead of Bury Town only on goal difference, headed to East London to take on **Redbridge**. The Seaside's had gone three without a win, and it looked as if that run would extend to four as the game was goalless in added time- and then, with seven added minutes played, the visitors finally made a breakthrough with the last kick of the game, courtesy of Tom Warren- that late goal ensuring that they held on to top spot.

Second place **Bury Town** ended a four match winless spell by defeating **Ipswich Wanderers** four-two last weekend, and hoped that would spark another positive run. The Blues welcomed Grays Athletic to Ram Meadow, the visitors in twelfth place and with only one win from ten. Cemal Ramadan tends to guarantee a Bury goal,

and he put them ahead from the spot on the half hour, and that was soon followed by a red card for Athletic's Alex Moss. Twenty three minutes from time Ramadan struck again, his twenty second of the season, and five minutes from time victory was sealed as Max Maughn added a third. Bury looked to be going top- only for the latest of Felixstowe winners to keep them second on goal difference.

Brentwood Town saw a long unbeaten run come to an end against Brightlingsea Regent last weekend, but got back to winning ways by scoring the only goal at Tilbury on Tuesday night. The Blues were at home to relegation threatened **Sporting Bengal United**, the visitors three points from safety after a run of ten matches which had brought only one victory and seven defeats.

They did, however, defeat Brentwood two-nil in November, so were be looking to complete a double- and they had the best possible start, shocking the home fans after just two minutes Keanu Hill the scorer. The hosts levelled ten minutes before half time, Lyle Della-Verde with the equaliser, and six minutes into added time at the end of the half they went ahead, Connor Witherspoon the scorer. Town added a third thirteen minutes from time, Daniel Ogunleye unsurprisingly the scorer, and five minutes later Jesse Olukolu added a fourth to put the gloss on a comfortable win. Brentwood stay third, a point behind the leading duo.

Fourth place **Waltham Abbey** had eight wins from ten and a six match unbeaten run as they headed to take on bottom side **Ipswich Wanderers**. The Abbotts started the day six points behind the leaders in the battle for the title, and eight points clear of sixth place Walthamstow in the battle for a play off spot, and they went ahead just before the half hour, Prince Domafriyie scoring for the eleventh time this season. That turned out to be that, and they increase the gap between themselves and sixth to eleven points. Wanderers are now thirteen points from safety.

Brightlingsea Regent have been in sparkling form, a run of eight wins from ten lifting them into the top five, but they needed to be at their best as they travelled to **Newmarket Town**, the Jockeys looking for a sixth unbeaten match after winning four of their last five. When the sides met in October they delivered a seven goal thriller, Regent coming from three-two down to win with two goals in added time, and the scoring in this one started early, Louie Kudiabor putting the visitors ahead after just nine minutes. The next goal arrived fifteen minutes from time, Harry McDonald making it two-nil, and that was that for scoring. A red card at the end for Tom Williams just rubbed salt into the Jockeys wounds- and

Regent now have a five point lead over sixth place Walthamstow in the battle for a play off place.

Gorleston welcomed a **Basildon United** side under new management once more and looking desperately for some new points. The travelling Bees had lost their previous six, taken two points from the last thirty available, and hadn't won since mid October, and they fell behind in this one on twenty minutes, Adam Tann putting the Greens ahead. That turned out to be the only goal of the game, and it saw Gorleston end the day in twelfth, United in the bottom four.

Maldon and Tiptree, with new owners and a new manager, started a new era with the visit of **Haringey Borough**. The Jammers quickly put a smile on the face of the new trio and most of the four hundred and seventy seven watching on, with an opening goal after just six minutes, Kai Brown the scorer. The visitors drew level twelve minutes before half time, Matt Young scoring from the spot- and in added time at the end of the half an own goal put Borough in front. Borough very much needed the points, and they got them, too, holding on for victory to climb out of the bottom four.

Mildenhall Town travelled to **Wroxham**, nineteenth v fifteenth. Hall were eight points clear of the bottom four and had lost only two of their previous ten, having become rather difficult to defeat, and they went ahead in this one after nineteen minutes, although sadly the Yachtsmen scored it for them. Seven minutes into the second half Hall scored one for themselves, Ryan Swift making it two-nil, but the hosts set up a frantic finale when Ryan Hawkins got a goal back sixteen minutes from time. Frantic it may have been, but the outcome remained unchanged, and Hall climb to fourteenth- whilst their hosts are two points from safety.

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.

FIXTURES 2024/25

AUGUST

SAT 10	NEWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 6-1	ATT 401
<i>C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons</i>						
SAT 17	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP	D 2-2	ATT 465
<i>Brown, C Warren</i>						
TUE 20	BURY TOWN	H	7.45PM	FA CUP REPLAY	W 4-0	ATT 446
<i>Harrison (2), Ford, C Warren</i>						
SAT 24	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 192
<i>Holland, Harrison</i>						
MON 26	BURY TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 624
<i>Clemons, Hitter, Ford</i>						
SAT 31	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	H	3PM	FA CUP 1ST QR	W 5-1	ATT 218
<i>C Warren (3), Ford, Whight</i>						

SEPTEMBER

SAT 7	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST QR	W 4-2	ATT 337
<i>Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren</i>						
TUE 10	WROXHAM	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 210
<i>C Warren, Whight</i>						
SAT 14	CANVEY ISLAND	A	3PM	FA CUP 2ND QR	L 2-0	ATT 393
MON 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 166
<i>C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens</i>						
SAT 21	ENFIELD	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 2ND QR	W 2-1	ATT 319
<i>OG, Harrison</i>						
SAT 28	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 255

OCTOBER

WED 2	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP	W 4-0	ATT 151
<i>Mayhew, Forde-Brown, C Warren, Ford</i>						
SAT 5	HARINGEY BOROUGH	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 3RD QR	W 4-0	ATT 315
<i>Mayhew (2), Forde-Brown (2)</i>						
TUE 8	BASILDON UNITED	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 283
<i>C Warren, T Warren</i>						
SAT 12	TILBURY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 295
<i>Mayhew</i>						
SAT 19	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 269
<i>Mayhew, Hitter</i>						
TUE 22	CAMBRIDGE CITY	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 133
<i>Ford, C Warren</i>						
SAT 26	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	A	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST RP	W 6-1	ATT 339
<i>Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren, C Warren</i>						
SAT 29	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC	A	7.45PM	SUFF PREM CUP QF	W 5-1	
<i>Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren</i>						

NOVEMBER

SAT 2	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 347
<i>T Warren, C Warren</i>						
SAT 9	CAMBRIDGE CITY	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 500
<i>OG, C Warren</i>						
TUE 12	REDBRIDGE	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 279
<i>Harvey, C Warren, Ford (2)</i>						
SAT 16	BOREHAM WOOD	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	D 1-1 (LOST ON PENS)	
<i>Hitter</i>						

TUE 19 WROXHAM A 7:45PM LEAGUE D 2-2 ATT 221
Mayhew, T Warren

SAT 23 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT H 3PM LEAGUE D 3-3 ATT 357
Hitler (2), Forde-Brown

TUE 26 CONCORD RANGERS A 7:45PM LEAGUE W 3-0 ATT 120
C Warren, J Ainsley, Harrison

SAT 30 MILDENHALL TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE W 3-0 ATT 343
Harvey (2), Clemons

DECEMBER

TUE 3 BASILDON UNITED A 7:45PM LEAGUE D 1-1 ATT 90
C Warren

SAT 7 HARINGEY BOROUGH A 3PM LEAGUE W 1-0 ATT 220
Hitler

SAT 14 WALTHAM ABBEY H 3PM LEAGUE W 2-0 ATT 351
Clemons, C Warren

SAT 21 GORLESTON A 3PM LEAGUE W 2-1 ATT 139
Clemons, C Warren

THU 26 IPSWICH WANDERERS H 1PM LEAGUE W 1-0 ATT 558
T Warren

SAT 28 NEWMARKET TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE W 4-0 ATT 295
C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison

JANUARY

TUE 7 BURY TOWN A 7:45PM LEAGUE L 2-0 ATT 803

SAT 11 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS A 3PM LEAGUE W 2-0 ATT 352
Boswell (2)

SAT 18 SPORTING BENGAL UNITED H 3PM LEAGUE W 3-2 ATT 347
Holland, J Ainsley, C Warren

TUE 21 GRAYS ATHLETIC H 7:45PM LEAGUE L 3-1 ATT 312
T Warren

SAT 25 HARINGEY BOROUGH H 3PM LEAGUE D 0-0 ATT 413

FEBRUARY

SAT 1 MILDENHALL TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE D 1-1 ATT 240
J Ainsley

SAT 8 REDBRIDGE A 3PM LEAGUE W 1-0 ATT 121
T Warren

SAT 15 TILBURY H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 22 WALTHAMSTOW A 3PM LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 1 CONCORD RANGERS H 3PM LEAGUE

WED 5 NEEDHAM MARKET A 7:45PM SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP SF @IPSWICH WANDERERS

SAT 8 BRENTWOOD TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 15 WALTHAM ABBEY A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 22 GORLESTON H 3PM LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 5 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 12 GRAYS ATHLETIC A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 19 MALDON & TIPTREE H 3PM LEAGUE

MON 21 IPSWICH WANDERERS A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 26 WITHAM TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE

BURY TOWN

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
WITHAM TOWN (AWAY)

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY
HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS (HOME)

SATURDAY 1 MARCH
WALTHAM ABBEY (AWAY)

SATURDAY 8 MARCH
CAMBRIDGE CITY (HOME)

SATURDAY 15 MARCH
HOME TILBURY (HOME)

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT (AWAY)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH
WALTHAMSTOW (HOME)

SATURDAY 5 APRIL
MALDON & TIPTREE (AWAY)

SATURDAY 12 APRIL
REDBRIDGE (HOME)

SATURDAY 19 APRIL
SPORTING BENGAL UNITED (AWAY)

MONDAY 21 APRIL
MILDENHALL TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 26 APRIL
WROXHAM (AWAY)

BRENTWOOD TOWN

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
WALTHAM ABBEY (AWAY)

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY
HARINGEY BOROUGH (HOME)

SATURDAY 1 MARCH
GRAYS ATHLETIC (AWAY)

SATURDAY 8 MARCH
FELIXSTOWE & WALTON (HOME)

SATURDAY 15 MARCH
NEWMARKET TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
MALDON & TIPTREE (AWAY)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH
MILDENHALL TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 5 APRIL
WITHAM TOWN (AWAY)

FRIDAY 11 APRIL
TILBURY (HOME)

SATURDAY 19 APRIL
WROXHAM (AWAY)

MONDAY 21 APRIL
BASILDON UNITED (HOME)

SATURDAY 26 APRIL
WALTHAMSTOW (AWAY)

ABOUT THE OTHERS....

Things are looking tight at the top of the table, with the season approaching its final stages, here's a look at how the remaining top 5's league fixtures look. There are sure to be lots of twists and turns between now and April 26th!

WALTHAM ABBAY

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
BRENTWOOD TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY
WROXHAM (AWAY)

SATURDAY 1 MARCH
BURY TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 8 MARCH
NEWMARKET TOWN (AWAY)

SATURDAY 15 MARCH
FELIXSTOWE & WALTON (HOME)

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
WITHAM TOWN (AWAY)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH
MALDON & TIPTREE (HOME)

SATURDAY 5 APRIL
BASILDON UNITED (AWAY)

SATURDAY 12 APRIL
CONCORD RANGERS (HOME)

SATURDAY 19 APRIL
BRIGHTLINGSEAS REGENT (AWAY)

MONDAY 21 APRIL
REDBRIDGE (HOME)

SATURDAY 26 APRIL
MILDENHALL TOWN (AWAY)

BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
CONCORD RANGERS (HOME)

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY
GRAYS ATHLETIC (AWAY)

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY
REDBRIDGE (AWAY)

SATURDAY 1 MARCH
TILBURY (HOME)

TUESDAY 4 MARCH
IPSWICH WANDERERS (AWAY)

SATURDAY 8 MARCH
WALTHAMSTOW (AWAY)

SATURDAY 15 MARCH
WROXHAM (AWAY)

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
BURY TOWN (HOME)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH
HEYBRODGE SWIFTS (AWAY)

SATURDAY 5 APRIL
GRAYS ATHLETIC (HOME)

SATURDAY 12 APRIL
CAMBRIDGE CITY (AWAY)

SATURDAY 19 APRIL
WALTHAM ABBAY (HOME)

MONDAY 21 APRIL
GORLESTON (AWAY)

SATURDAY 26 APRIL
HARINGEY BOROUGH (HOME)

CLUB CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION: "The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities. The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all 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 our communities."



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Sometimes, the difference between immortality and obscurity is just the width of a goalpost. In 1978, football fans across the globe knew that there would be brand new winners of the World Cup. The final, between hosts Argentina and an era-defining Netherlands side, was always going to be a classic. Mario Kempes gave the hosts the lead in the 38th minute, but the Oranje forced their way back into the game through Dick Nanninga. And then, in the dying seconds, a long free kick bounced between the Argentina centre backs, and the goalkeeper hesitated, stranded in no-man's land. Rob Rensenbrink burst through on the left, got his foot on the ball, and sent it goalwards. This was his moment. But the ball came back off the woodwork. Argentina won the final in extra time. And the Dutch are still waiting.

Rensenbrink grew up to the north of Amsterdam, and was the rarest of things in Dutch football; a talent who Ajax missed. He started his career with DWS, a now amateur club who were enjoying a moment in the sun, but despite runs in Europe

and the occasional competition at the top of the Eredivisie, they couldn't provide a platform for his precocious talents. At 22, he was on the move.

Feyenoord were just one year away from beating Celtic in the 1970 European Cup final, and interested. But they were inspired by the brilliant Coen Moulijn who occupied the same position as Resenbrink. And Ajax were building something truly special under Rinus Michels, but here the young winger would have to compete with Piet Keizer and, of course, Johann Cruyff. He confounded the commentators, and moved to Club Brugge in Belgium.

Brugge were the nearly men of Belgian football. Their solitary league title to their name had come in 1920. But they were competing at the top of the league and thought Resenbrink might be the man to tip them over the top. And he started brightly, scoring goals and firing Brugge to a Belgian Cup win against Standard Liege. In his second season, they pushed Anderlecht all the way to the title and got to the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup. But for Rensenbrink, there was another move to make.

His Brugge manager Constant Vanden Stock moved to become President of Anderlecht, and he took the Dutchman with him. They won the league in two of his first three seasons at the club, but Rensenbrink's thoughts had started to turn back to international recognition. He had played for the Netherlands while at DWS, but not since he moved to Belgium. That changed after a poor showing at Euro 72.

For the 1974 World Cup, the Dutch were drawn in a qualifying group with Belgium. As fate would have it, the game against Rensenbrink's adopted

homeland would be the deciding game, at the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam. The Belgian back line was strong, and even a Dutch frontline with Rensenbrink's inside knowledge and the genius of Johann Cruyff couldn't breach it. And in the dying seconds, it was the Dutch defence who lost their composure. Stepping out at the wrong time, Jan Verheyen collected the ball in behind and stroked home. Three defenders played him inside, but somehow, the linesman's flag spared Dutch blushes. Total Football was nearly ended in its infancy.

In West Germany, Rensenbrink was vital to the Dutch progress. He started all but one game as Michels edged toward the final, being preferred to Keizer on the opposite flank to Cruyff, and scored an important goal against East Germany. In the semi-final against Brazil - a brutal affair - he was injured and hobbled off. Michels took the risk of starting him against the hosts in the final, but with the game slipping away and the injury taking its toll, he was replaced in the second half.

Anderlecht failed to win the title between 1974 and 1978, but did win two Cup Winner's Cups

and lose the final of a third as he dominated the European competition. But the real shockwaves were happening back in Amsterdam.

In the lead up to the 1977 World Cup, Johan Cruyff was the victim of a kidnap attempt. The psychological toll on him and his family led to his withdrawing from international football. The Dutch went to Argentina without their talisman, and Rensenbrink was expected to take up the mantle. He did so with aplomb.

A hat trick against Iran, followed by goals against Scotland and Austria, he formed a formidable partnership with Johnny Rep, driving his side to a second successive final. And then that miss.

At 31, Rensenbrink was coming toward the end of his career. That final was his last game for the Netherlands, and he had two more years at Anderlecht before moving to the United States. He never moved into coaching, and never capitalised on his brush with greatness. For Rob Rensenbrink, his whole career is frozen in an agonising, frustrating moment of time, inches from immortality.



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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 15th February 2025
Kick-off 3pm



Tilbury FC

Manager: Marc Harrison

Assistant Manager: Liam Wallace

Sam **Bantick**
Cameron **Brodie**
Jordan **Clark**
Lewis **Clark**
Alfie **Fry**
Jack **Hayes**
Alex **Hernandez**
Kieran **Jones**
Macauley **Joynes**
George **Marsh**
Jack **McQueen**
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Jamie **Reynolds**
Oli **Spooner**
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