

# the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect



v Heybridge Swifts



**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2025, 3PM**  
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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# VICE CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



**Good afternoon everyone, and a warm welcome to what hopefully is a sunny Martello Ground for today's Isthmian League match with Heybridge Swifts.**

We come into today's encounter on the back of an incredible 8-0 win at Sporting Bengal United last week - a game I couldn't attend due to a prior engagement. However, according to my very reliable source it was an incredible performance, overcoming many things that could have caused us problems and may have done in seasons gone by. I'm not afraid to say it, but having to go to facilities fit for step 6 at best, then a pitch fit for rugby, the pressure of a promotion push and the expectations of our magnificent travelling supporters the boys had a lot to deal with.

All that aside the boys put in a top-drawer professional performance and walked away with three clubs best result in over 50 years, an amazing day for all concerned.

So, we move on to what some would call the business end of the season, squeaky bum time, the pressure cooker of promotion or in my eyes a wonderful time to be supporting our club.

With five games to go we sit second in the

league with the Suffolk Premier Cup Final to occupy us on Wednesday night followed by 4,5 or 6 of the biggest matches in the club's history.

As hard as it is, I find it difficult not to have a little dream every now and then about going to clubs we haven't visited before, pushing ourselves against level 3 opposition on a week to week basis, looking to succeed where other Suffolk clubs have gone before us and failed, building the club over years to come looking to emulate our neighbours Needham and step 2 football. Who knows, but I dare to dream, and it starts today. Let's get behind the boys, get the job done, move on to our first silverware in a long time on Wednesday before we travel in numbers next week to Grays, even without the Felixstowe travel bus we will look to conquer in unison.

Up the SEASIDE!!!!

## **DATE CHANGE**

### **SEASIDERS v MALDON & TIPTREE**

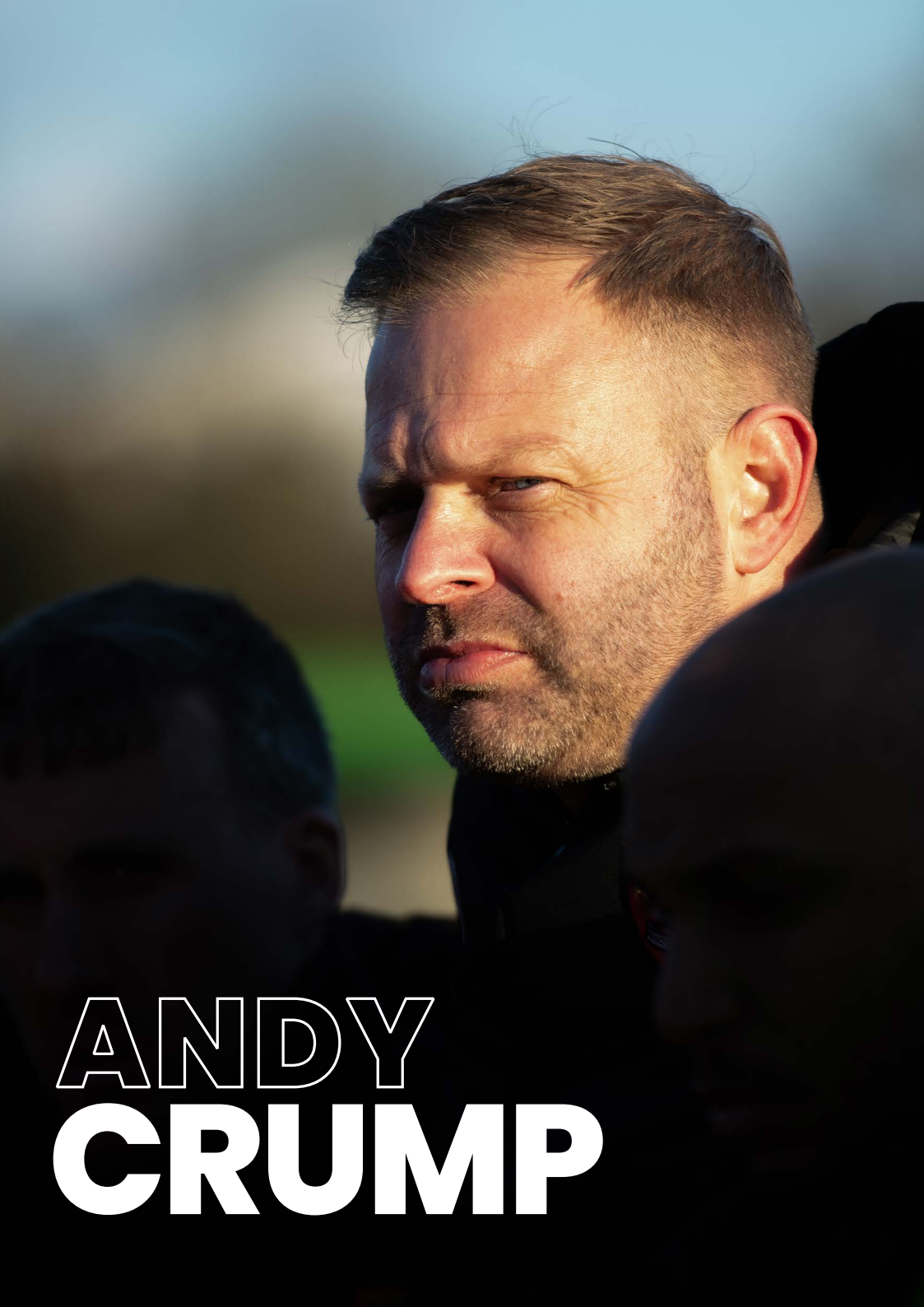
**ISTHMIAN LEAGUE**

**Friday 18th April, 7.45pm**

**MARTELLO GROUND**







ANDY  
**CRUMP**



**After one of our longest away trips of the season, a warm welcome back to the Martello Ground for this afternoon's league fixture with Heybridge Swifts.**

There is no hiding from the fact that we are very much at the business end of our season and Saturday's performance at Sporting Bengal saw us back to our free flowing best. There was so much more to the performance than the scoreline suggested and it would be easy to just focus on scoring eight very good goals. Whilst Tom Warren will get the plaudits (and top bunk) for his impressive hat-trick, the work rate from back to front was up there with the very best Stuart and I have seen from one of our sides. Unless you are playing on artificial pitches, you know it will be tough to go anywhere wanting to pass the ball and dominate possession for 90 minutes at this stage of the season.

Our energy allowed us to dominate the game and whilst there is a respect for the difficult circumstances our opposition are in, we don't have any room for sentiment and put in a complete performance.

It's important we reach those same levels this afternoon against a Heybridge side who in previous seasons have shown their experience in handling the pressure of the run in. At this point in our season, the most important thing about a Saturday afternoon is three points and we will make sure we are ready to grab three more today!

There are very few sides that travel to away games and dominate the



attendance figures as well as the score line, and to see our supporters make up what must have been over 75% of the attendance made for another proud moment on Saturday. Your support is something we never take for granted and I hope as many of you as possible are able to get behind the squad as we enter this final run of league and cup fixtures!

There is much still to play for over the coming weeks and congratulations to all the junior sides who have experienced success in their league and cup competitions this season. Before travelling down to Sporting Bengal Saturday, I enjoyed seeing Harry and his U9's team winning 1-0 to reach their first cup final and in doing so join a number of other age groups who will represent Felixstowe in a cup Final on the 10th May. All the very best to you all and regardless of where we all end up come May, there will be so much to be proud of!

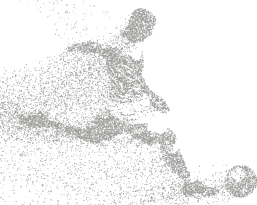
I look forward to seeing lots of you on the run in - Enjoy today's game!  
Andy

**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.



# SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



## Not many people know this...

Here we go then, final month of the regular season and the top five pretty much decided, never say never, but it would take a spectacular run by the current 6th or 7th placed sides and an equally spectacular implosion by one of the top 5 to change that status.

Brentwood Town are in the driving seat, if they win their five remaining games they will be promoted as champions, but, we are right on their heels as are Bury Town and I'm pretty confident the champions will be one of the current top three.

If it comes down to goal difference deciding the top two then it will be very, very tight between ourselves and Brentwood. The leaders currently have a +4 advantage, if we finish on level points that +4 will change as they will have to slip up

somewhere and we will gain somewhere.

Today all three of us have testing games, none more so than us, our visitors are always difficult opponents, but equally the leaders travel the short distance to Witham Town who sit in 7th place, while Bury Town have another tough test as they travel to a resurgent Maldon & Tiptree. New owners, new manager, new players, last week they drew at 5th placed Waltham Abbey and two weeks ago lowered leaders Brentwood's colours with a 2-0 win.

What we need most of all over the next four weeks is **YOU** the supporters getting behind the side as you have all season,

**Be There!**



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# FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

C Warren

# GORLESTON

Matthews

# 1

# 1

Saturday 22nd March  
2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 815

**Photos:** Stefan Peck















# Interview with **CAMERON** **FORDE-BROWN**

Today, we're joined by one of the brightest talents in the midfield, Cameron Forde-Brown, let's get to know him a little better...

**Tell us about the football team where you started your career and how that journey has led you to your current position at King's Lynn FC.**

I started my career early at grassroots and signed for Southend United u10s where I played up until the age of my first year pro at 19. The club were going through a tough financial time which was well broadcasted and led me to spend a brief spell at Millwall u21s which again furthered my development being surrounded by internationals and players who are championship level.

I then decided that 21s was no longer what I needed and wanted to kick start my career as a pro in first team football where I joined Kings Lynn Town with a plan to break into the first team, which quickly happened.

**How did the opportunity to play for Felixstowe & Walton United FC come about?**

I actually was injured this pre-season and only featured for the first two games at Lynn and off the back of a season where I didn't play as much I wanted to, so I said to myself that this season I need to go and make a name for myself regardless of the level in senior football. The gaffer told me that Felixstowe had been interested in me from the summer heading into this season off the back of Boards watching me in a Suffolk Cup game against Ipswich Town. I was on loan briefly at the time with Ipswich Wanderers before getting recalled after







eight games last season. My immediate reaction after speaking to AC on the phone was one of positivity as the clubs philosophy totally suited my play style and both Felixstowe and I could see me fitting in straight away... which has seemed to work a treat over the course of this season.

**You've been recalled to your parent club Kings Lynn FC twice during the season. How was that experience for you and how did it feel missing matches for Felixstowe in the mean time?**

To be honest it was a nice moment to see that my performances were being noticed and warranted two recalls. In the seven games that I did feature for Lynn between the two spells the gaffer and I were pleased with my progress and the level seems comfortable to me now. However there was also a part of me that didn't want to go from playing week in week out to featuring off the bench. It's funny because they say to never fall in love with a loan player but roles were reversed as even if I was miles away playing up north for Lynn I'd always be checking the Felixstowe scores hoping the boys were collecting more and more cherries! Playing games and being available for every game this season bar one or two for Felixstowe has made me into such a better player/ character and has given me a robustness and boosted my development at such a faster rate then if I was just occasionally playing here or there or playing u21 football.





**Do you feel like your time at our club has helped you develop as a player, and in what ways have you grown or improved during your loan spell?**

As a player that's come through the academy system and has never had to drop out of full time football a part of you does have that arrogance thinking you're better than the level and in a sense that this is beneath you.

However if I could ever give myself one piece of advice I'd have done this even earlier. The quality and the parts of the game that you learn by playing senior football week in week out at a younger age really do propel you at a quicker rate and there's things that if I was just playing occasionally or u21s I'd never have learnt. For me personally the biggest thing I've learnt whilst playing at Felixstowe has been decision making and really making my strengths as an individual player into super strengths which I can take throughout my career.





**Which team do you support and who is your football idol?**

Arsenal and I don't have a football idol never have done never will. I try to pick apart players at the top levels game in my position and add them into my game to become the best version of myself.

**Have you always played the CM role?**

I actually started off as a striker coming through at Southend and it was only until the last three games before our scholarship decisions that a manager thought to play me as a number 8/10 and ever since then I've played there.

**Who do you feel you have formed a good connection with on the pitch this season?**

In some dressing rooms you get clicks or groups that tend to hang around each other which then transfers onto the pitch but this Felixstowe group has a special bond where I get along with everyone on and off the pitch. If I have to say a name I'd probably say Charlie Warren as we talk alot on matchdays and within the game in terms of movement and where he and I want to be receiving the ball to create chances.

**Your spectacular goal against Sporting Bengal on Saturday definitely caught the eye. What went through your mind at the time and have you ever attempted a Paulo Di Canio-style kick like that before?**

To be totally honest there just little things I used to mess about with in the garden or over the park as a kid. That's the first time in my career to date where I've tried that in a match. Nothing really went through my mind to be honest the ball just sat up nicely in the air and my instinct took over.

**Can you talk us through one of your most memorable moments this season?**

There's been so many moments this season which I'll remember throughout the remainder of my career.. and we as a team are not done just yet creating them 🍷 but I'd probably say the Bishops Stortford game in the Cup. The night before the game I was bed bound with illness and barely got any sleep, so to open up the scoring and then smash six past them as underdogs was a nice moment.



**With the Cup Final coming up next week, how are you preparing for such a big game? What are your thoughts on our chances?**

I like to treat every game the same both mentally and physically in terms of preparation, whether it's playing bottom of the league or a Cup Final like next Wednesday. So to be honest nothing will change for me at all and I won't view the game any different to if it was a league game on Saturday.

**Looking ahead, we are still in the hunt for promotion. How confident are you in the team's chances of achieving that goal? What do you think will be the key factors in securing promotion?**

Togetherness and selflessness for sure will see us through. From the moment I walked in the door quality and scoring goals has never been an issue. We are the best team in the league, and I'm not God to behold the future but it's got that feeling that it's a promotion type of season. What will be will be!

**With the news that Boards and AC will be departing at the end of the season, has it had any impact on the mentality of the players? How has the team reacted to the announcement, and does it affect your focus going into the final stretch of the season?**

The news broke at the time where I was recalled by Lynn so I wasn't actually present for any announcements just ended up seeing it publically. But for sure us as players especially the ones who have played under them for a prolonged period will want to leave Boards and AC with something to show for all the hardwork they've put in whilst being in charge at Felixstowe.

**Finally, what are your aspirations for the rest of your career?**

To win a EFL play-off final as captain and to play in the Champions League.





# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



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BY JON COUCH

AMIDST the serious stuff confined behind the closed doors of a football club boardroom, a level of humility is so important.

Football is a different animal these days – especially at elite level – with the Beautiful Game now almost a subsidiary to a ruthless, cut-throat business enterprise.

But Non-League football, where the game is at its purest, still proudly holds its traditional values and there's one day a year in particular where that humility comes to the fore; April Fool's Day.

Fueled largely these days by their social media presence, football clubs simply can't resist playing a light-hearted seasonal prank on their supporter base and, let's face it, it gets us every time!

Take Ebbsfleet United's Liam Daish being pictured holding aloft a Usain Bolt shirt with his 100m record 9.58 emblazoned on the back after the club announced they had clinched the signing of the Jamaican sprinter.

Or, how about when the United Counties League announced they were to trial VAR – a reveal so convincing that it even fooled some FA chiefs into questioning the move around the boardroom table.

This week, of course, the tricksters were out in force again – and your Non-League clubs didn't disappoint.

Many pranks involved aspects of stadia with Tiverton Town revealing their intention to paint their pitch in the club's yellow and black colours in a spirited attempt to rally the team for the final stretch of the season.

Farnborough FC announced that their pitch was to double up as a heliport, as an extension of Farnborough Airport, while neighbours Aldershot Town revealed, Del Boy style, that they had discovered a natural spring at their EBB Stadium and would be offering Aldershot Natural Spring Water in the near future. Water cheek!

Crowborough Athletic went a step further by announcing plans to move into a 'world-class'

all-seater stadium dubbed "Wembley of the Weald", while Radstock Town also unveiled plans to build a brand-new stadium on the site of an old Co-Op supermarket.

Ashington continued the theme by announcing the club were being forced to move into the grounds of the nearby Ashington Hirst Castle by the Coal Authority after a small hole was found in one of the penalty areas, caused by a collapsed seam from the former Woodhorn Colliery.

Several clubs revealed they had signed former star players – with two, ironically, snapping up the same one! Former Fulham, Wigan and Ipswich midfielder Jimmy Bullard was introduced by both SC Thamesmead and Boston Town, while ex-Tottenham favourite and TV pundit Garth Crooks was unveiled by Leighton Town.

Elsewhere, Chorley FC announced the exclusive launch of their club collectables, including a figurine of manager Andy Preece, while Tamworth confirmed that their Lamb Ground will to host competitive lamb racing on a matchday as part of their half-time entertainment. That's baa-ry believable!

And in a bold step for international relations, Dover Athletic revealed how they will play their next home game across the Channel in Calais with fans invited to attend the match aboard the new club ferry.

Bishops Cleeve unveiled a new slick oil colour shirt (which actually looked quite nice) in conjunction with a sponsorship deal with petrochemical giants INEOS, while Welsh club Colwyn Bay announced that, as from next season, the club will be known as the Turtles rather than the Seagulls, as part of our new partnership with The Blue Turtle Group, with the team running out to the song 'Turtle Power'.

So, once again for April Fool's Day, our Non-League clubs have done us proud while reminding us that amidst all our airs and graces as football fans, there is always room for a lighter side.

To quote the legendary Jimmy Greaves: "It's a funny old game".

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BENGAL UNITED**

**FELIXSTOWE &  
WALTON UNITED**

Stevenson, T Warren (3), C Warren,  
Ford, Harrison, Forde-Brown

0

8

Saturday 29th March  
2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 64

**Photos:** Stefan Peck





















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# TEAM MATES BY **OLLIE** **CALEY-BROWN**

Next up to dish the dirt on his team mates is none other than the brilliant right back himself, Ollie-Caley Brown...

**First to post on social media after a match?**

C-F-B

**Biggest gossip on the team?**

Doug

**Most likely to sleep through their alarm?** Willy

**First to fall asleep on the team bus post match?**

Hugh

**Best sense of humour?**

Mayhew



**Team prankster?**

Mayhew

**Who spends the most time in front of the mirror?**

Fordy







**Worst fashion sense?**

Doug

**Who give's the best motivational talks?**

Skip in the team huddle

**Most enthusiastic in training?**

Cal

**Who has the best hair?**

Fordy

**Most likely to be late for training?**

Too many to name....

**Last to respond to the team's WhatsApp messages?**

Sparky, too busy fitting sockets...

**Worst at keeping a straight face during a serious post match conversation?**

No comment

**Who has the best appetite?**

The Warrens, never any food left after a game, they're like vultures!

**Biggest fan of TikTok trends?**

Wobby, he loves a post

**Most likely to let rip in the changing room?**

One of the Ainsos

**First to start singing when the team wins?**

Wrighty and Hits

# ISTHMIAN NORTH

## DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Brentwood Town	37	25	4	8	87	40	+47	79
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	37	23	7	7	84	41	+43	76
3	Bury Town	37	23	7	7	67	42	+25	76
4	Brightlingsea Regent	37	22	6	9	62	42	+20	72
5	Waltham Abbey	37	21	8	8	72	39	+33	71
6	Tilbury	37	19	6	12	52	49	+3	63
7	Witham Town	37	19	5	13	65	54	+11	62
8	Gorleston	37	17	8	12	54	42	+12	59
9	Walthamstow	37	17	5	15	67	54	+13	56
10	Redbridge	37	16	7	14	73	62	+11	55
11	Grays Athletic	37	16	7	14	54	47	+7	55
12	Cambridge City	37	15	8	14	59	57	+2	53
13	Heybridge Swifts	37	12	12	13	54	59	-5	48
14	Concord Rangers	37	13	8	16	55	61	-6	47
15	Maldon & Tiptree	37	12	9	16	41	45	-4	45
16	Mildenhall Town	37	12	8	17	36	47	-11	44
17	Newmarket Town	37	10	7	20	48	75	-27	37
18	Wroxham	37	8	12	17	43	59	-16	36
19	Haringey Borough	37	7	12	18	49	70	-21	33
20	Basildon United	37	7	5	25	37	77	-40	26
21	Sporting Bengal United	37	6	7	24	35	86	-51	25
R	Ipswich Wanderers	37	4	8	25	28	74	-46	20

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2025 AT 17:00:29



## ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

**Saturday 5th April, 3pm**

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





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Shirley Ainsley



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**GOALKEEPER COACH**

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



**DOUG FRENCH**  
**KIT MAN**

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



**JOHN ABBOTT**  
**PHYSIO**



**HARRY WRIGHT**  
**GOALKEEPER**

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**CAMERON FORDE-BROWN**  
**MIDFIELDER**

Joe Ward



**JOSH HITTER**  
**MIDFIELDER**

Daniel & Cheryl Ward



**JORDY MATTHEWS**  
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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 Tattingstone, 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 CALEY-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 midfield 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 OTHER SIDE HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS FC

## HISTORY:

Founded as Heybridge FC in November 1880.

Played as Maldon & Heybridge FC from August 1935 until 1939.

Reformed as Heybridge Swifts FC since 1945.

## GROUNDS:

<b>1880</b>	Land to east of the Plains near Heybridge Hall
<b>c. 1890</b>	Bentalls Ground, Colchester Road, Heybridge.
<b>1962</b>	Sadds FC, The Causeway, Maldon
<b>1965</b>	Scraley Road, Heybridge

## LEAGUES:

### Pre-War:

North Essex League, Essex & Suffolk Border League

**Post War:** North Essex League

**1949/50:** South Essex League

**1951/52:** Essex & Suffolk Border League

**1971/72:** Essex Senior League (Founder Members)

**1984/85:** Isthmian League Division Two North

**1990/91:** Isthmian League Division One

**1996/97:** Isthmian League Premier Division

**2009/10:** Isthmian League Division One North

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1893, the fans of the Heybridge FC were so unhappy with the performance of the referee that they threatened to throw him in the pond. Heybridge FC were fined £2 and banned for six weeks!





## HONOURS - LEAGUES:

### Isthmian League

Division Two North Champions 1989/90

Premier Division R/Up 2005/06

[Play Off Semi Finalists]

Division One North Play Off Finalists: 2022/23

Division One North Play Off Winners: 2018/19

Division One North Play Off Semi Finalists:

2013/14, 2017/18

Division One R/Up 1995/96 (Promoted)

League Cup Winners 2000/01 (beat Croydon 3-0)

### Essex Senior League

Champions 1981/82, 1982/83, 1983/84

Runners Up 1980/81

### Essex & Suffolk Border League:

Div. 2W Champions 1920/21

Div. 1 Champions 1930/31.

### North Essex League

Champions 1902/03 & 1924/25

## HONOURS - CUPS:

Essex Senior Cup Runners Up 2015/16

Essex Senior Trophy Winners 1981/82 (beat  
Witham Town 2-1)

Essex Senior League Cup Winners 1982/83

Essex Junior Cup Winners 1930/31

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Competition

1955/56, 1959/60, 1970/71, 1974/75,

2006/07, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2022/23

## FA COMPETITIONS:

### FA Cup

1994/95: 1st Round: Heybridge Swifts 0

Gillingham 2 (@Colchester United)

1997/98: 1st Round: AFC Bournemouth 3

Heybridge Swifts 0

2002/03: 1st Round: Heybridge Swifts 0

Bristol City 7

2017/18: 1st Round: Exeter City 3 Heybridge

Swifts 1

### FA Trophy

1996/97: Quarter Final: Heybridge Swifts 0

Woking 1

### FA Vase

1986/87: 5th Round (Last 16) Haverhill Rovers 2

Heybridge Swifts 0

## TRANSFER FEES

### RECEIVED

£35,000 Simon Royce (Southend United)

£10,000 James Pullen (Ipswich Town)

£10,000 Kris Lee (Chelmsford City)

£7,000 Richard Jolly (AFC Wimbledon)

£5,000 Ashley Vickers (Peterborough)

### PAID:

£6,400 Richard Jolly (Wealdstone)

### HIGHEST ATTENDANCES: (Post War)

2,477 v Woking (FA Trophy 1996/97)

2,046 v Bristol City (FA Cup 2002/03)

### RECORD APPEARANCE MAKER:

543 – John Pollard

### RECORD GOALSCORER:

193 – Arthur “Stumpy” Moss (1948-60)

### RECORD WIN:

1 Nov 1924 17-0 Home v Springfield  
(Essex Junior Cup)

## WELL KNOWN FORMER SWIFTS

Peter Taylor (Tottenham/former England Manager), Dean Holdsworth (Bolton Wanderers), Paul Parker (Manchester United), Julian Dicks (West Ham United - previous Swifts Manager), Billy Jennings (West Ham United), Mark Wright (TOWIE), Olly Murs (X Factor), Luis Morrison/ Jack Fowler (Love Island).





# ENDEAVOR AUTOMOTIVE SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP FINAL



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PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

BY IAN TOWNSEND, TAKEN FROM [WWW.ISTHMIAN.CO.UK](http://WWW.ISTHMIAN.CO.UK)

Brentwood score six, Felixstowe eight, Regent four, Bury three, and we've wins for Gorleston, Redbridge, Grays, Newmarket and Wroxham on a day packed with drama!

Leaders **Brentwood Town** held onto their three point advantage despite defeat last weekend, because none of their closest challengers could win either. The Blues were back on their own patch, **Mildenhall Town** the visitors, and went ahead after only nine minutes, Daniel Ogunleye from the spot- and four minutes later it was two-nil, Ade Cole doubling their advantage. Hall hit back four minutes later, Jordon Nicholson halving the arrears, but the next goal, just before the hour, went to the hosts- Jesse Olukolu making it three-one. Ogunleye made it four-one with twenty four minutes left, and on sixty eight minutes claimed the match ball, making it five-one. Still they weren't finished, Benas Vaivada making it six-one, but finally the punishment ended there for the visitors. The Blues remain three points clear.

**Felixstowe and Walton United** hadn't been at their best of late, taking five points from the previous fifteen available, and the Seasiders needed to rediscover their mojo as they travelled to take on a rather desperate **Sporting Bengal United**. The East Londoners were eight points



from safety and in danger of their Isthmian stay becoming a rather brief affair, without a win in thirteen matches- and their desperation grew after only two minutes as Toby Stevenson put the Seasiders ahead. Fifteen minutes later Thomas Warren made it two, and the same player made it three five minutes before half time. A minute into the second half the other Warren, Charlie, made it four, and on the hour Sam Ford added a fifth. The Seasiders didn't rest, and six minutes later had a sixth goal, Callum Harrison with it. It was seven-nil nineteen minutes from time, Cameron Forde-Brown with that one, and still the goals didn't stop, Thomas Warren completing his hat trick with the eighth with twelve minutes to go. Finally, a little mercy was shown, the Seasiders stopping at eight- and staying second, three points behind the leaders. Sporting are now eleven points from safety with five matches remaining. Image from **Stefan Peck**.



**Bury Town** had taken five points from the previous fifteen available to them, and welcomed a **Walthamstow** side who had very much lost their way during the same period, taking just two points from eighteen. All the pressure was on the hosts, and they fell behind after only three minutes, Louie Johnson putting the East Londoners ahead- but they hit back in double-quick fashion, levelling on ten minutes courtesy of Cemal Ramadan and going ahead only a minute later, Luke Brown with that one. Ramadan made it three-one six minutes into the second half, his twenty sixth goal of the season, and that was where the scoring ended. Bury remain third, three points away from the summit.

Fourth place **Waltham Abbey** saw a twelve match unbeaten run come to an end last weekend, but with only six points between themselves and the leaders certainly shouldn't be discounted from the title race. The Abbotts played host to a **Maldon and Tiptree** side who had only one defeat from six and who deservedly defeated the leaders last time out- and the match waited fifty five minutes for a goal. When it arrived it went to the hosts, Lewwis Spence the scorer, but the Jammers struck back on ten minutes later, Kai Brown levelling the scores. The Abbotts went down to ten men eleven minutes from time, Hassan Nalbant dismissed, and quickly the visitors took advantage, Kien Connolly putting them ahead. The ten men hit back, Prince Domafriyie making it two-two, but nobody could find a winner. The Abbotts slip to fifth- but have an eight point cushion over the chasing pack in the battle for a play off place.

Fifth place **Brightlingsea Regent** had opened up a six point gap between themselves and the chasing pack in the fight for a play off place - and indeed were only seven points behind the leaders as we kicked off. Regent were very much the form team amongst the title contenders, losing two of their last ten and winning seven of them, and they hoped to at least maintain that six point advantage as they travelled to **Heybridge Swifts**. The visitors have seen forward Louie

Kudiabor turn down a number of approaches of late, and he proved his worth once more, scoring his seventeenth of the season to give his side the lead eight minutes before half time, and he got his eighteenth in added time to give his side a two-nil lead at the break. Just after the hour Michael Okafor made it three, and Kudiabor claimed the match ball five minutes later making it four-nil.

Swifts got a goal back three minutes from time, Charlie Stimson scoring it, but it didn't stop Regent climbing to fourth- still seven points behind the leaders but nine clear of sixth place.

Sixth place **Tilbury** couldn't really have had a tougher challenge as they travelled to ninth place **Gorleston**. Thirteen points away from a play off place, it looked to be too late for the Greens to get involved in our end of season party, but they were FIFTEEN matches unbeaten so posed a rather difficult test for the Dockers, who, six points away from fifth place, very much needed a win. We waited until four minutes from time to get a goal, and when it came it went to the hosts, Joe Jefford scoring it- and in added time Ryan Curtis made it two-nil, securing three points. Gorleston climb to eighth, and are twelve points away from the top five. Tilbury now have eight points to make up and five matches in which to do it.

**Witham Town** had rediscovered their form, but were seven points away from the top five at kick off so needed to win, win and win again (and perhaps win some more) if they were to have any chance of bridging that gap. Witham had a difficult challenge as they travelled to face a **Grays Athletic** side who were in their best form of the season and looking to make it six wins from six- and Athletic went ahead on forty nine minutes, Alex Moss the scorer. Three minutes later it was two-nil, Louie Remi doubling the lead, and it took until a minute from time for Town to get on the scoresheet, Rowan Dorling the scorer. It made no difference to the destination of the points, as they stayed with the hosts, who are eleventh.



## PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**Redbridge**, in tenth, welcomed **Concord Rangers** in a mid table battle. The Motormen had lost for the first time in six matches last time out, and wanted a reaction- and it seemed they might get one when Tendi Quamina put them ahead just before half time. The Beachboys levelled seven minutes into the second half courtesy of new signing/returning striker Steve Cawley, but an own goal restored the lead for the hosts eleven minutes from time and this time the hosts held onto it.

Fourth bottom **Haringey Borough**, one point from safety, were rather determined to pick up three points as **Cambridge City** headed to White Hart Lane. Borough had gone five matches without a win and, despite drawing their last three, very much needed to start picking up three points rather than one. They went ahead on fifteen minutes, Scott Mitchell the scorer, and looked as if they'd take three vital points- only for Alfie Mason to level in added time. Borough are now three points from safety.

Bottom side **Ipswich Wanderers** were thirteen points from safety at kick off with a maximum of eighteen available to them, so looked to be about to lose their hard earned Step Four status. Wanderers

hoped to keep their hopes alive for at least another week as they welcomed **Newmarket Town**, the travelling Jockeys also firmly resident in the relegation battle as they were only two points above the drop zone. Town were ahead after eighteen minutes, Oscar Dean with the opener, and they held on to their lead and the points, confirming relegation for Wanderers. The Jockeys have created a four point safety net.

**Wroxham**, one place and one point above the drop zone at kick off, hosted a side seven points behind them and in dire trouble. **Basildon United** had a winless run stretching back twenty five matches, a period which had delivered four points from seventy five available, and despite looking more solid of late needed to start winning again if they were to have any chance of staying up. The Yachtsmen were ahead on eighteen minutes, Ryan Hawkins keeping his cool from the spot, and it soon got worse for the Bees, Michael Toner dismissed eight minutes later. On sixty four minutes Ryan Miles made it two-nil, and within two minutes it was three, Craig Parker with that one. The scoring stopped there, Wroxham three points clear of the relegation places after Haringey Borough conceded a late equaliser. Basildon are ten points from safety with five matches left.

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# FIXTURES 2024/25

## AUGUST

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

## SEPTEMBER

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

## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

<b>SAT 2</b>	<b>BRENTWOOD TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>ATT 279</b>
<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
<i>Mayhew, T Warren</i>						
<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 3-3</b>	<b>ATT 357</b>
<i>Hitter (2), Forde-Brown</i>						



TUE 26	CONCORD RANGERS <i>C Warren, J Ainsley, Harrison</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 120
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<b>SAT 30</b>	<b>MILDENHALL TOWN</b> <i>Harvey (2), Clemons</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-0</b>	<b>ATT 343</b>
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## DECEMBER

TUE 3	BASILDON UNITED <i>C Warren</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 90
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SAT 7	HARINGEY BOROUGH <i>Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 220
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<b>SAT 14</b>	<b>WALTHAM ABBEY</b> <i>Clemons, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 351</b>
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SAT 21	GORLESTON <i>Clemons, C Warren</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 139
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<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>
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SAT 28	NEWMARKET TOWN <i>C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 295
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## JANUARY

TUE 7	BURY TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 803
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SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Boswell (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 352
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<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>SPORTING BENGAL UNITED</b> <i>Holland, J Ainsley, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-2</b>	<b>ATT 347</b>
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<b>TUE 21</b>	<b>GRAYS ATHLETIC</b> <i>T Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 3-1</b>	<b>ATT 312</b>
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<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>HARINGEY BOROUGH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 0-0</b>	<b>ATT 413</b>
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## FEBRUARY

SAT 1	MILDENHALL TOWN <i>J Ainsley</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 240
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SAT 8	REDBRIDGE <i>T Warren</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 121
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<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>TILBURY</b> <i>Holland, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 472</b>
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SAT 22	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Ford (2), Harvey</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 5-3	ATT 336
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## MARCH

<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b> <i>J Ainsley, Harrison, Hitter, T Warren, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 5-2</b>	<b>ATT 510</b>
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WED 5	NEEDHAM MARKET <i>Hitter, T Warren</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREM CUP SF	D 2-2 (WON ON PENS)	ATT 422
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SAT 8	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Clemons, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 746
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SAT 15	WALTHAM ABBEY <i>C Warren</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 286
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<b>SAT 22</b>	<b>GORLESTON</b> <i>C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 1-1</b>	<b>ATT 815</b>
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SAT 29	SPORTING BENGAL <i>Stephenson, T Warren (3), C Warren, Ford, Harrison, Forde-Brown</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 8-0	ATT 63
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## APRIL

<b>SAT 5</b>	<b>HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
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WED 9	LEISTON	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP FINAL @NEEDHAM MARKET FC		
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SAT 12	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
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<b>FRI 18</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
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MON 21	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
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<b>SAT 26</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
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# CLUB CONTACTS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Andrew Clarke		springcroftcdr@outlook.com
Director of Operations	Chris Daynes	07415886803	clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk
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.secker1@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		

## OTHER CONTACTS

Facilities Manager	Chris Daynes		clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk
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Photography	Stefan Peck		

**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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# HORSES, DICTATORS AND SCANDALS: PERUGIA'S GOLDEN AGE

**BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME**

Find more at [TheUntoldGame.co.uk](https://TheUntoldGame.co.uk) or on social media @TheUntoldGame



Italian football is certainly full of colourful characters. From the playing staff to the board, there has been a swirl of money, dodgy connections, and the allure of immortality in the peninsula. Despite the antics of those in Milan, Turin and Rome, Italian football's traditional powerhouses, it's possible that the man most associated with crazy calcio is in fact Luciano Gaucci, a former bus driver and racehorse owner who decided to spend his fortune not on the glamour of a European powerhouse, but the romantic appeal Perugia. He delivered a golden age, and not a small number of scandals.

Perugia before Gaucci had one very bright, heartbreaking season, finishing second in Serie A in 1979 despite delivering an unbeaten season. The following year, they were embroiled in one of Italian football's many scandals, and relegated after being hit with a points deduction for match fixing. Five years in the top flight, and one magical season, ended in disgrace. Six years later they were at it again, and once again relegated. In the span of little more than a decade, Perugia had gone from an unbeaten campaign in Serie A to a place in Serie C. This was where the bus driver found them.

Gaucci had found that driving buses didn't fulfil his ambition, so his fortune was made after starting a cleaning business. When he had made enough money there, he turned to horses, founding a breeding and racing stable. After selling one of his champions, he was able to buy into football, and made grand promises of returning Perugia

to the top flight. By 1993, he was beginning to see results, and scandal.

Perugia had a strong 1992-93 season, making the playoffs in Serie C. Gaucci, funding the promotion charge, sold a horse to Emanuel Senzacqua. Selling a horse wouldn't usually have been noteworthy, but Senzacqua was also a Serie C referee, and was scheduled to take charge of the game against Siracusa. When Perugia did enough to progress, complaints were lodged, and the connection too obvious to ignore. For that season, Perugia's promotion was suspended. It should have signalled the end to Gaucci's association with the game, but instead they were promoted the following season, and secured consecutive promotions.

The club bounced between Serie A and Serie B for a couple of seasons, before settling in the top flight after promotion in the 1997-98 season. Gaucci reportedly had a library of 1000 tapes of players across the world, and Perugia became a hotbed of talent. Fabio Grosso, Gennaro Gattuso and Marco Materazzi joined, as well as Hidetoshi Nakata for a brief period before his form earned him a move to Roma. But this group of players were treated to some... interesting methods by their new coach, Serse Cosmi, as well as coaching a team among the elite of Italian football, was a part-time DJ. He used to take his players to the city's stripclubs and screen erotic movies the night before games. Whatever his unusual approach for team bonding, it seemed to work. Perugia sustained



their top flight status for five years, the longest period since the 1970s. They qualified for Europe, and in 2003 even won the Intertoto Cup.

Gaucci used the period to buy a second club, Viterbese, and appointed the first female manager in the men's game. He then tried to sign a female player for Perugia, insisting of Birgit Prinz that 'she's very good' but also that 'she is very beautiful and has a great figure'. His antics, in Serie A, were on show to a much wider audience.

Prinz, perhaps wisely, never signed for Gaucci's team, but he had other ways to court the media attention he craved. Encouraged by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, he invited the son of Muammar Gaddafi to the club. The Libyan leader had a stake in Juventus, and Berlusconi thought it might help relations between the two countries for Perugia to court his son. Not for investment, but as a player. The forward tested positive for nandrolone before his debut and was banned for three months, and when he did finally set foot on the pitch, to nobody's surprise he wasn't up

to standard. Despite the hiring of Diego Maradona and Ben Johnson as consultants, 'even at twice his current speed he would still be twice as slow as slow itself', wrote La Repubblica.

Gaucci also signed South Korean forward Ahn Jung-hwan. The forward was significantly better than Gaddafi, and something of a fan favourite, but Gaucci sacked him after the 2002 World Cup, when he scored the goal that knocked Italy out. It was a pattern of increasingly erratic behaviour that would end in tears.

In 2005, Gaucci was arrested on fraud charges. The accusations, given his history, were believable, and his subsequent flight from the police all but confirmed them. His sons were arrested, while funding for the team dried up. Perugia went into administration, and were relegated all the way back down to the third tier. For Il Grifoni, it was to be expected. Any time they brush with greatness, the football gods seek to punish them.

Enjoy the game.



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Cameron **Forde-Brown**  
Rob **Harvey**  
Callum **Harrison**  
Josh **Hitter**  
Billy **Holland (C)**  
Jordy **Matthews**  
Josh **Mayhew**  
Leon **Ottley-Gooch**  
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Zac **Tuvey**  
Charlie **Warren**  
Thomas **Warren**  
Joe **Whight**  
Harry **Wright (GK)**

## MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North

Saturday 5th April 2025

Kick-off 3pm



# Heybridge Swifts FC

**Manager:** Julian Dicks

**Assistant Manager:** Adrian Whitbread

Joseph **Adewunmi**  
Jack **Adlington-Pile**  
Kojo **Apenteng**  
Liam **Boxall**  
Eddie **Carrington**  
Callum **Chafer (GK)**  
Mark **Chidi**  
Harry **Critchley**  
Billy **Crook**  
Alfie **Cutbush**  
Rohan **Taheny-Clarke (GK)**  
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