

SEASIDERS



THE OFFICIAL 2025/26 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:



VS
TAKELEY
SAT 1ST NOVEMBER, 3PM

VS
**BRIGHTLINGSEA
REGENT**
TUE 4TH NOVEMBER, 7.45PM



CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



Good afternoon, or, as this is a double programme and if you're reading for the first time on Tuesday, good evening.

First up we welcome league new boys Takeley to the Martello Ground, for what I believe is the first ever meeting between our two clubs. Sitting near the wrong end of table, Takeley are certainly more than capable of causing an upset today as they have already proved with good away wins at Lowestoft and more recently at Redbridge which was followed last time out by a creditable 1-1 draw at Newmarket Town. Takeley have had a good rest since the 18th October so are bound to be fired up today and will be determined to take the scalp of us high flying Seasiders. We also had a brief rest last weekend courtesy of Stanway's involvement in the FA Trophy, which sadly came to an end against Harrow Borough leaving Tilbury as our league's only representatives in the second round, although there is still local interest as AFC Sudbury continue to fly the flag for Suffolk and we wish them well in two week's time.

Our second match in four days sees us entertain another side not enjoying the best of seasons as our friends from Brightlingsea Regent pay us a visit, like Takeley they will be equally determined to start pulling away from the lower reaches of the league and are sure to provide another stiff test.

As I'm off on holiday on Wednesday and miss the games at Walthamstow and Cornard as well as Concord at home, I'm hoping for a nice six points from six so I can fly off to sunnier climes with a contented smile on my face, too much to ask for another six points and a place in the Premier Cup Semi Final before I return?



When I look at the results to date, and the very impressive defensive record we have, conceding just three league goals in 12 matches, I can only be optimistic that our good form continues, it is a great feeling going into games knowing that the opponents have to do something special to get the better of our magnificent defenders, and even if they do we've got the irrepressible Harry Wright between the sticks who



week after week has made spectacular saves and has thoroughly deserved his league Golden Glove awards for both August and September – he'll soon be selling gloves on Amazon!

Just away from the first team, I was at the Martello Ground last Monday, plodding away trying to get the new container suite fully painted. When I arrived thinking the ground would be empty due to half-term week, I was amazed to see our Academy open day in full swing, with something like 30 possible new boys interested in joining next year. Rhys, John, Kevin, Sam and all the academic teachers really are doing a great job as we become one of the best such academies in the area, put these boys together with our Juniors, EJA players and under 18's you can really sense that something special is happening in Dellwood Avenue and it is great to see so many positive comments on social media.

Keep spreading the word, keep on cheering the Seasiders, and let's all do our best to make every home game the occasion it was two weeks ago against Maldon and Tiptree.

I'll be following from a distance over next two weeks and hope to see you all back here for the Mildenhall game on 22nd November.

Best Wishes
Tony

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STUART
AINSLEY

SA



Good afternoon/good evening and welcome back to the Martello Ground for our fixtures against Takeley and Brightlingsea Regent.

Since my last notes over a week ago, we managed to grind out a 1-0 win at home against Brantham. We knew it was going to be tough after the Maldon win but credit to the lads who dug in really deep again to secure another three points. I'm sure Brantham will start picking up points soon. We then had a free weekend which hopefully gave the lads some time to rest and recover for what's going to be a very busy November with eight games in the calendar at the moment!

Moving onto this coming week, firstly Takeley on Saturday are a newly promoted side in which we face for the first time. They are an unfamiliar side

who've started the season pretty well considering the step up, we know we'll have to perform as we have done in the last few weeks to continue our good form.

Secondly, Brightlingsea Regent on Tuesday. A little more of a familiar side who were one of the best we faced last season and have unfortunately suffered some player departures due to their success with quite a few moving on up the ladder which proves how good they were. We can't take them any lighter than we did last season though as we know they've made some really good signings in the summer and will always be a tough game.

Please keep on giving the lads the great support you have done so far, it honestly makes a huge difference to them on the pitch.

Enjoy the game, Stu.

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today we welcome Felixstowe and Walton United Under 10's girls team as mascots for the game against Takeley. They are sponsored by Freightliner





SEASIDER: **PHIL GRIFFITHS**



Not many people know this...

Since our promotion to step 4, this afternoon (Saturday) will be our 239th Isthmian League North match, two of the seasons were abandoned due to Covid.

To date we have only completed five full seasons, and of those five we have finished outside the top ten (11th) once, in our first season 2019.

2022 (5th), 2023 (6th), 2024 (3rd), 2025 (2nd)

Including abandoned seasons we have played 238 league games, won 123 drawn 43 and lost 72. We have scored 435 goals, conceded 323. On average we have scored every 49 minutes and conceded every 66 minutes! A few more people know this now!

As I sit here, keyboard at the ready on Tuesday morning with no midweek game scheduled, knowing whatever midweek results come up we will go into today's game in second spot and three points would ensure we enjoy the next few days at least as league leaders.

Standing in the way of those lofty heights is a football club we have never met before from a town we've never visited before which all leads to a huge imaginary sign that says BANANA SKIN.

Takeley have won three of their 13 league games to date, one of them at Crown Meadow where they beat Lowestoft 3-1. While the trawler boys are not the force they have been in recent seasons, any side that picks up maximum points at Crown Meadow gets my respect and I'm pretty sure they get the respect of our joint managers, especially big brother Stuart who played over 60 games for the Crown Meadow side when they were a dominating force in East Anglian football.

Their last two outings have seen them pick up an excellent 1-1 draw at 6th placed Newmarket Town which followed on from a 2-1 win over 7th placed Redbridge and with Ipswich on their travels at QPR, hopefully we will have a good crowd here to create a great atmosphere.

C'mon you Seasiders!



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PLANES, TRAINS & AWAY DAYS

BY NEIL EDWARDS



Hi everyone, and welcome to the latest instalment of our away day reviews, bringing you the highs and lows of the "Away Day" experience following our club Felixstowe & Walton Utd around the country.

Just 2 days shy of 6 months since Felixstowe & Walton Utd lifted the Suffolk Premier Cup on that never to be forgotten night in Needham Market, the title defence was underway. Now, as on that glorious April evening, we were facing Step 3 opposition and held no fear after despatching both Needham and Leiston last term. Our round 2 opponents were AFC Sudbury of the Southern League - Premier Central division. When including their pre amalgamation clubs Town & Wanderers they are probably Suffolks most decorated non-league club.

Isaac was on driving duties, and a lovely journey was enjoyed, with Lorro and Jed in the back, and yours truly on co-pilot duties.

Thankfully Isaac was well prepared and my map

reading skills were not needed, which was just as well as Lorro came bearing some fruity 5-a-day contributions for the trip. Gold, frankincense and cider.....well one of those anyway.

In just under an hour we were parked up and on the lookout for a bin. The sparse crowd of 114 that had assembled at the Kings Marsh Stadium was a sad reflection for a fixture of this nature. Perhaps the £14 admission for adults and £10





for concessions kept many of the Sudbury folk away. It certainly raised a few visiting eyebrows.

It has been a while since I have been in these parts, and the ground is exactly how I recalled it. The stands are of good size, with plenty of hard standing areas and ample seating. It's always a pleasure to come here and watch a game of football. The clubhouse is spacious with large round tables that can comfortably seat 12-14 people, and the bar offered plenty of options, with Cruzcampo tonight's tipples of choice. The locals were friendly when you could find them.

Most of the Seaside faithful had congregated in front of the clubhouse along the touchline. The usual suspects were all in attendance. Big Pete, Big Neil, Shaun, Jon, Cheryl, Docker Paul, to name a few. Much like our own Martello ground, there is plenty of outdoor seating in this area and for the first half we made it our base.

The first thing that struck me was how dark it looked to be out on the pitch. The surface was artificial, and they often look darker than grass, but it did look as though the lights were not up to standard. (Shades of Brantham again.....) I asked some locals that were on the steps getting an elevated view of proceedings, and they told me that the Southern League have not allowed the lights to be used for midweek games. However, Suffolk FA had deemed the lighting acceptable, so the referee had no option than to play the game. As far as I understood it everybody was made aware, with the exception of Felixstowe and Walton!!

The hosts took an early lead before Jacob Lay

scored his first goal since his summer move. A stoppage time goal meant we were behind at the break, although I hear Harry did not see the ball due to the low light levels, and neither did me or Lorro as we were in the bar getting our HT refreshments, whilst feeling smug at beating the queues that never actually materialised.

After our much needed refuel we headed behind the goal for the second half to give the attack some vocal encouragement, hoping a comeback would be forthcoming.

In my very humble opinion, the performance in the second period was probably the best football we have played this season. A 2-1 deficit was overturned, with goals from Tom Warren and an absolute worldy by Dan Gilchrist, and despite Sudbury, who incidentally had beaten Bury Town 4-0 just 4 days earlier, throwing everything including the kitchen sink at us, Harry and the defence stood firm. The final whistle sounded, and the holders were safely through. A magnificent effort to beat 3 sides from a steps 2 and 3 in this competition since March.

After applauding the boys off the pitch we returned to the clubhouse for a chat and a night cap, but sadly there were no opposition fans to chat football with. We did manage to snaffle a decent portion of pasta after the players and





coaches had all enjoyed their feed. I guess we must have looked like unused squad members to the blazered Sudbury committee member.

We said our farewells to the bar staff and made our way out into the now cold Sudbury night air, whilst Isaac went to fetch the car to save us a 50-yard walk. Within an hour we were back in the land of the (still) champions of Suffolk.

Champions of Suffolk. We know what we are.....

Since writing these notes, the Suffolk Football Association have made the draw for the quarter finals of the competition. Our reward for the victory is, surprise surprise, another road trip. I make that 8 away draws on the trot! (*) Standing between the Seaside and a 2nd successive Premier Cup semi-final will be either Cornard United or Hadleigh United, the only Round 2 fixture yet to be played. Hadleigh have already been knocked out of the cup once this season, losing in the 1st round to Ipswich U18s.

However, The Tractor Boys fielded a 15yo that night, which is contrary to competition rules, and have therefore been disqualified with Hadleigh reinstated. A trip along the A1071 beckons at the back end of November.

Before that, attention now turns to another Saturday away day, and for most, if not all of us,

a first visit to the shiny new home of Cambridge City FC. Although not in the city of Cambridge itself, our actual destination is Sawston. A logistical challenge, but one we will be finely tuned for come Saturday morning. Anyone know where the bus stop for Saffron Walden is????

Thanks for reading, enjoy the match

Up the Seaside

(*) Bishop's Stortford, Branham Athletic, Boreham Wood, Newmarket Town, Hertford Town, Grays Athletic, AFC Sudbury and Cornard Utd/Hadleigh Utd.





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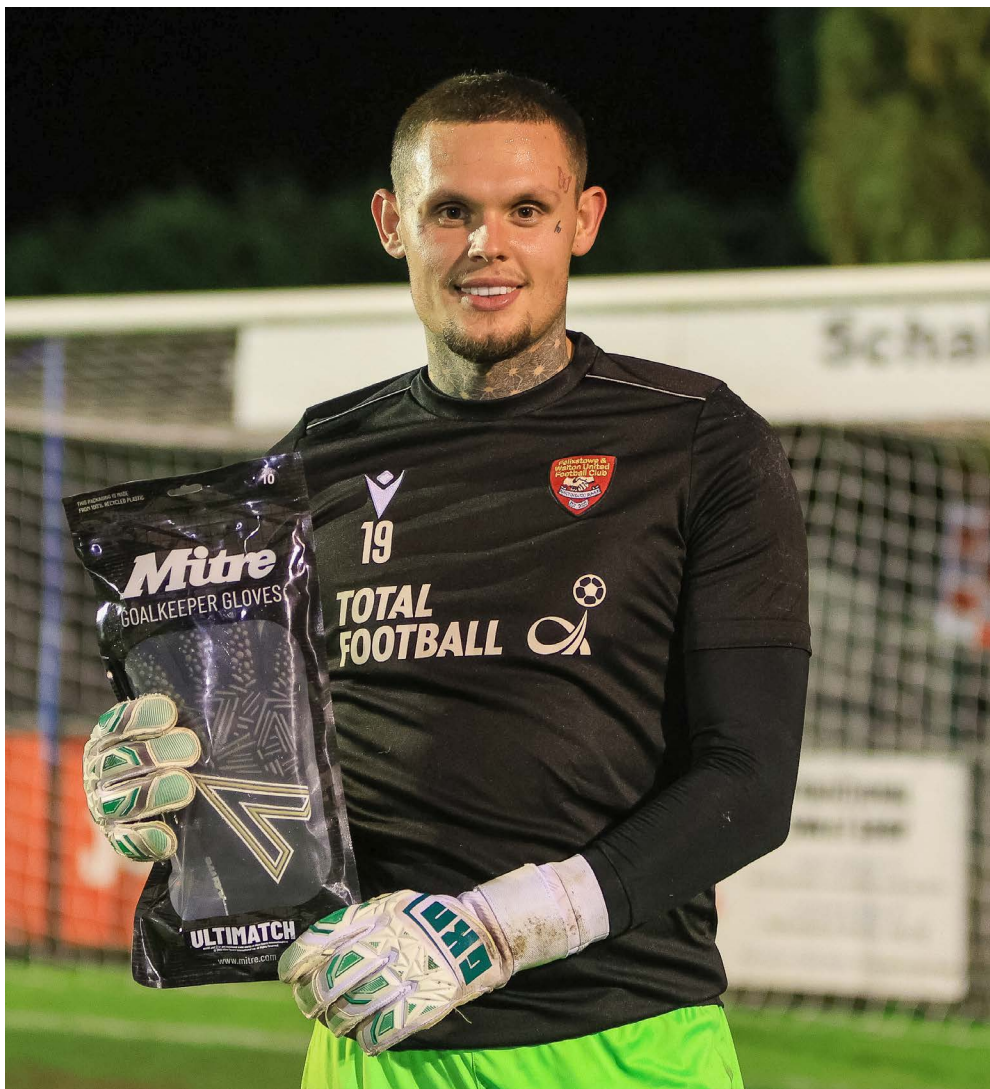
BRANTHAM ATHLETIC

1 0

Wednesday 22nd October
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Caley-Brown, Warren
Ainsley, Stevenson, Cullum, Brown
Lay, Ford, Hliter (C), Garcia

SUBS: Gilchrist, Wilkinson, Mayhew
Holland, Akhuseyin











OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2025/2026



JACK AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
Travis Perkins



STUART AINSLEY
MANAGER
Pat Haseman, Chris & Jayne Ryan



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH
COACH
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STUART STEVENSON
FITNESS COACH
Shirley Ainsley



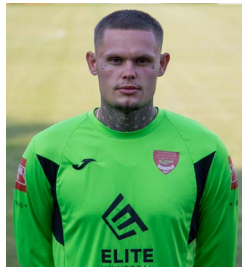
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DEFENDER
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SEASIDERS PEN PICS

MANAGEMENT

Jack Ainsley – Manager

Rejoined for a second spell at the club from Stowmarket in 2023. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their academy and went on to make four appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 2 with Lowestoft and Step 3 with Leiston but is back at the Seaside as player/joint manager with brother Stuart.

Stuart Ainsley – Manager

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City, Canvey Island and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent ten years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Having spent the last 11 years playing for Felixstowe, began his management career alongside brother Jack in May 2025.

Stuart Stevensen – Fitness 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 Seasiders 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.



Leon Ottley-Gooch – First Team Coach

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. Was appointed first team coach in May 2025.

John Abbott – Physio

John is a vastly experienced physio, qualifying in 1992 and dedicating 37 years to the NHS. Previous football clubs include Enfield Town, Tottenham and Stevenage before taking early retirement to move to Felixstowe, where he joined the seasiders in October 2024.

Alex Egelton – Goalkeeper Coach/Coach

Alex returned to Felixstowe last season 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 another season with the Seaside.

GOALKEEPER

Harry Wright

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.

DEFENDERS

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.

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.



Toby Stevenson

Ex-professional Toby scored a hat-trick on his debut for Charlton Athletic at 18 years old, the strong centre back or left back's previous clubs include Leyton Orient, Watford, Billerica and Braintree. An excellent defender at this level after joining the seasideers in early 2025.

Jack Wilkinson

Jack joined the Seasideers in October after having had a break from the game. He offers huge experience and versatility as a defender or midfielder which is a great asset to have in the squad, previous clubs include Stowmarket, AFC Sudbury and Needham Market.

Thomas Warren

Tom signed for the club in the summer of 2024 from Hadleigh United and played his first season for the Seasideers alongside his brother Charlie. Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal, scoring an impressive 17 goals in his debut season.



Callum Bennett

Callum returns to the club in 2025 after a brief spell away. Grew up at Ipswich Town Academy before spending a year at Notts County, returning back to local football with Bury Town in 2013, before signing for Felixstowe in 2014. Callum is in the top five for appearances made in the club's history.





MIDFIELDERS

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.

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.

Noel Aitkens

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

Ethan Garcia

Ethan signed for Felixstowe in the summer of 2025 after a two year spell with Walsham Le Willows where he impressed many at step 5. Only playing football for four years, a tricky winger with an eye for goal.

Olly Martin

Olly is a product of the clubs academy after more than ten years in the youth set up. An energetic and committed midfielder with an eye for a pass.

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.

Zak Brown

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

Dan Gilchrist

Dan's non league career started at Canvey Island before relocating to Suffolk where he went onto play for AFC Sudbury in the FA Cup First Round,

before moving onto Bury Town and Thetford where he had two impressive goalscoring seasons. A hard working attacking player with an eye for goal.

Jacob Lay

Jacob rejoins the club for his second spell, after leaving in 2020, Jacob has gained promotion from step 3 and played at step 2 last season for Needham Market. A tricky winger who has huge energy and workrate.

Jose Santa De La Paz

Signed for the club in October 2025. Jose is a quick and powerful winger or striker with an eye for goal and assists, with previous clubs including Newmarket Market, Bury Town, Needham Market and Ipswich Wanderers.





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JOSE
**SANTA
DE LA PAZ**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Jose Santa De La Paz is the focus of today's "Getting to Know You" feature. This is the fourth in a series of interviews introducing our new signings to the Seasiders faithful.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Name: Jose Santa De La Paz
Nickname(s): Mello (which means twin in Spanish)
Position: Forward
Height: 5ft 11"
Previous Clubs: Ipswich Wanderers, Newmarket, Bury Town, Brantham Athletic and Needham Market
Occupation: Trainee Teacher
Team you Support: Manchester United
Dream 5-a-side team: Pele, Messi, Ronaldo, Jose, Iker Casillas
VAR - love it or hate it?: Only when it helps my team!
Favourite Food: BBQ chicken burger
Favourite Musical Artist: Justin Bieber
Favourite Film: Rocky Balboa
First football shirt you ever owned: Manchester United
Interesting Fact about you: I am bilingual - I also speak Spanish.



move from Wanderers. Recently the club reached out again and I felt it was a no brainer and an opportunity to progress, which I couldn't pass up.

What was it about Felixstowe & Walton United that made you want to make the switch from Ipswich Wanderers?

The opportunity and progression for my football career.

How have you found the atmosphere around the team so far — both in the dressing room and at training?

Due to a break in games, I haven't experienced the dressing room atmosphere yet. Training has been great!

For supporters who might not have seen you play yet, how would you describe your playing style?

Pace and power, leaving everything on the line!

IN A BIT MORE DETAIL...

Welcome to Felixstowe & Walton United, Jose! How have your first few days at the club been — are you settling in well?

Thank you all for the warm welcome. My first few days at the club have been good, players, staff and volunteers have made me feel welcome.

Can you tell us a bit about how the move came about? When did you first hear of the club's interest?

I first heard about the club's interest in the summer, but at the time I didn't feel ready to make the

You're known for your electric pace — how do you use that speed to your advantage during games?

I use it as an advantage, because you often can't catch pace! I can always get myself in good positions of scoring.

Do you see yourself more as a winger or a striker — or are you comfortable playing across the front line?

I am comfortable playing across the front line.

How would you describe your main strengths as a player, and are there areas you're hoping to develop further while at the club?

That's a hard question. I think my main strengths are my speed and taking players on and being positive on the pitch. I am looking forward to improve my ability to link up with my team mates.

I believe you celebrate your goals by heading straight for the corner flag - is there a story or meaning behind that celebration?

In the Dominican Republic, most celebrations include dancing. So I bring a little bit of this to my football celebrations!

What are your personal goals and ambitions for this season — both for yourself and for the team?

My personal ambition for the season is to help the team with assists and goals. An ambition for the team, is to get promoted!

Finally, what message would you like to send to the Felixstowe & Walton United fans as you begin your journey with the club?

I am really looking forward to playing with such a large fan base supporting, hopefully I can score a few goals for you guys!



ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Maldon & Tiptree	12	10	1	1	26	8	+18	31
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	12	9	2	1	20	3	+17	29
3	Wroxham	14	8	3	3	24	15	+9	27
4	Gorleston	13	8	1	4	25	22	+3	25
5	Bowers & Pitsea	13	6	5	2	28	13	+15	23
6	Newmarket Town	12	7	2	3	27	14	+13	23
7	Redbridge	14	7	2	5	27	21	+6	23
8	Concord Rangers	14	7	2	5	22	17	+5	23
9	Waltham Abbey	11	6	3	2	22	13	+9	21
10	Mildenhall Town	14	6	1	7	22	26	-4	19
11	Witham Town	12	5	3	4	13	13	0	18
12	Lowestoft Town	13	4	3	6	19	23	-4	15
13	Stanway Rovers	11	3	5	3	17	12	+5	14
14	Walthamstow	13	3	5	5	16	18	-2	14
15	Heybridge Swifts	14	3	5	6	10	20	-10	14
16	Brightlingsea Regent	12	4	1	7	17	17	0	13
17	Grays Athletic	12	2	6	4	12	15	-3	12
18	Tilbury	11	3	3	5	10	14	-4	12
19	Cambridge City	14	3	3	8	14	23	-9	12
20	Takeley	13	3	3	7	11	23	-12	12
21	Downham Town	13	3	1	9	11	26	-15	10
22	Brantham Athletic	15	0	2	13	10	47	-37	2

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THE OTHER SIDE TAKELEY FC



One theory is that the name derives from the 'Teg-Ley' of 'sheep-clearing', ie a part of the forest cleared for sheep rearing. Another is that it is from the name 'Taecca', a Saxon lord who owned much land in these parts and in Oxfordshire where, strangely enough, there is a village called Tackley. Current thinking is that the name Takeley should be interpreted as "settlement next to open forest". Nearby is the Roman Stane Street, joining the ancient Roman forts of Colchester and St Albans.

Takeley Football Club is believed to have been formed in 1903, but little is known about those early times. The Club became affiliated within the Bishop's Stortford, Stansted and District Football League (BSS&DFL) at the end of the First World War. The original pitches were in Hatfield Forest, moving to Station Road opposite to their present home ground. Additional pitches for the Club at the Recreation Ground just past Takeley Park have been arranged by the good offices of Takeley Parish Council. The club is well looked after by local

businessmen:- Andrew Silvester, our President, Pat Curran, Chairman and Mick Rabey, Secretary together with local volunteers and active committee members. The manager of the First Team is Marc Das, supported by coach & assistant manager Andy Walker. Takeley's status in Non-League Football has risen beyond dreams over a short period. From early beginnings with the BSS&DFL Second Division, the Club has risen through the Essex Olympian League and now to the Essex Senior League, winning numerous trophies along the way. With a Reserve team in the Essex Senior Reserve League and two U18 teams in the Southern Floodlit and Royston & Crowe Leagues, Takeley goes from strength to strength.

Following a fire of the old wooden shack that served as changing facilities, volunteers and supporters rebuilt a first class pavilion, with excellent facilities in 2001.

2007/8 1st team promoted to Essex Senior League. Reserves promoted to Essex Olympian

league. The Club volunteers constructed a 125-seat stand, which followed the installation of a state of the art floodlighting system.

2008/9 1st team won the Anagram Records Trophy 3-1 on penalties after extra time was level at 2-2. On 29 April 2008, Takeley hosted West Ham Utd in a match, with Lucas Neil former player with the Hammers and an Australian International Captain switching on the floodlights in front of a crowd of 500. Although West Ham won 4-1, with players including Jack Collison, Junior Stanislas and James Tomkins

2010/11 Takeley has a high capacity-seating stand and a newly completed wall and nets off the main road. A new canteen, independent toilet facility and Committee Room, with enhanced players and officials' facilities, renamed after the late Secretary Lee Borham. Brand new turnstiles fitted to the Clubs grounds. On 14th August Takeley 1st team play the first ever FA Cup game against Hertford Town and were featured on the front of the FA website, along with numerous other sports pages, including the BBC.

2011/12 History made for Takeley FC as the first ever women's football match took place at Station Road. Club website upgraded and modernised. 2016/17 U18's. Achieving success in their league cup final 2-1 against Hitchin Town Hawks, they then went on to beat BS Swifts on 30th April, 6-1

to clinch the league, achieving the double and finishing top of Division 1 Royston Crow Youth League five points clear.

2016/17 First Team achieved fourth in the league – Their aim at the start of the season was a top four finish! By this time, they had already won the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy and then went on to win the league cup.

Honours:

BSS&D Premier League Champions 1968-69, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77
BSS&D Division One Champions 1964-65
BSS&D Premier Cup 1968-69, 1971-72
EOFL Senior Division 1 Winners 1987-88, 2001-2
EOFL Senior Cup Winners 1978-79
EOFL Reserve Div 1 Winners 1982-83. 1999/2000
EOFL Reserve Cup Winners 1984-5
Essex Premier Cup Winners 2006-07 EOFL
EOFL Senior Division 2 Winners 1993-94
EOFL Senior Challenge Cup Winners 1988-89. 2002-03
EOFL Reserve Division 2 Winners 1997-98
EOFL Reserve Challenge Cup Winners 1983-84, 2000-01, 2001-02
West Essex Border Cup Winners 1982-83, 1983-84, 1992-93
Anagram Records Trophy Winners 2009
Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy 2016/17



FIXTURES 2025/26

AUGUST

SAT 9	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 302
TUE 12	WITHAM TOWN <i>Garcia, Mayhew</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 388
SAT 16	NEWMARKET <i>Garcia</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP PR	D 1-1	
TUE 19	NEWMARKET	H	7.45PM	EMIRATES FA CUP RR REPLAY	L 2-0	ATT 384
SAT 23	BOWERS & PITSEA	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 340
MON 25	GORLESTON <i>Holland, Hitter, Gilchrist</i>	A	1PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 121
SAT 30	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Mayhew, Hitter, Gilchrist</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 189

SEPTEMBER

SAT 6	HERTFORD TOWN <i>Ford (3)</i>	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY 1QR	W 3-1	ATT 377
SAT 13	NEWMARKET TOWN <i>Ford, Garcia</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 502
TUE 16	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC <i>Hitter, Brown, Holland, Gilchrist</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 185
SAT 20	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY 2QR	L 2-0	ATT 194
SAT 27	TILBURY <i>Mayhew (P)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 295

OCTOBER

SAT 4	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 420
TUE 7	AFC SUDBURY <i>Lay, Warren, Gilchrist</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP	W 3-2	ATT 114
SAT 11	CAMBRIDGE CITY <i>Warren, Stevenson</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 563
SAT 18	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Mayhew, Brown</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 1017
WED 22	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC <i>Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 401

NOVEMBER

SAT 1	TAKELEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 4	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 8	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 11	WITHAM TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	CONCORD RANGERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 22	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 24	STANWAY ROVERS	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 29	WALTHAM ABBEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

DECEMBER

SAT 6	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	WROXHAM	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

JANUARY

SAT 3	GORLESTON	H	1PM	LEAGUE
SAT 10	DOWNHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 24	CAMBRIDGE CITY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 31	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 7	TILBURY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
FRI 20	STANWAY ROVERS	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE
SAT 28	TAKELEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 7	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	WROXHAM	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	REDBRIDGE	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	DOWNHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 4	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE
MON 6	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 11	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 18	CONCORD RANGERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 25	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE





MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 1st November 2025
Kick-off 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Managers: Jack Ainsley and
Stuart Ainsley

Jack **Ainsley**
Stuart **Ainsley**
Hugo **Akhuseyin**
Noel **Aitkens**
Callum **Bennett**
Zak **Brown**
Ollie **Caley-Brown**
Hugh **Cullum**
Sam **Ford**
Ethan **Garcia**
Dan **Gilchrist**
Josh **Hitter**
Billy **Holland (C)**
Jacob **Lay**
Olly **Martin**
Josh **Mayhew**
Jose **Santa De La Paz**
Toby **Stevenson**
Thomas **Warren**
Joe **Whight**
Jack **Wilkinson**
Harry **Wright (GK)**

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Manager: Kieran Amos
Assistant Manager: Freddie Burrell

Charlie **Allum**
Bailey **Carless**
Sam **Chaney**
John **Clarke**
Zak **Drake**
Balogun **Lanrewaju**
Michael **LaRonde**
Albie **Marsden**
Jaden **Marzell**
Thomas **Massey**
Coby **Miles**
Olly **Miles**
Oscar **Milroy**
Jack **Mitchell**
Jarvis **Monk**
Louis **Monk**
Denim **Nnamudi**
Jamal **Obeng**
Gle **O'Hanlon**
Uko Kalu Ifeatu Olisa Michael **Oji**
George **Powell**
Lewis **Powell**
Joe **Pullen**
Bryn **Thorpe**
Jordan **Westcott**
Lewis **Wicker**

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Lee Kendrick **Assistant Referees:** Mr Jarrod Dobing and Mr Samuel Bell

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MALDON & TIPTREE

WON 1-0

WED 22ND OCTOBER, 7.45PM
BRANTHAM ATHLETIC

SAT 1ST NOVEMBER, 3PM
TAKELEY

TUE 4TH NOVEMBER, 7.45PM
BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT

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BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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Modern football, as we know, draws its inspiration from the British development of the game. In the middle of the nineteenth century, something close to the spectacle we see was developed. At the same time, the British Empire was at its peak, reaching a third of the globe and every continent. Where colonies could not be developed, trade was ubiquitous. Brits worked in ports and mines, factories and fields all over the world. One especially lucrative place at the end of that century was northern Spain, and around Bilbao workers set up sports clubs. Combined with a little Spanish flair and a lot of Spanish passion, those clubs prompted a footballing legacy that continues today.

In the late nineteenth century, Bilbao was an industrial hotbed. Abundant iron ore drew industrial workers from around the world, and in particular from Britain, where workers flocked to join the highly profitable industries along the Nervion River and at the dockyards. Once settled, these workers needed hobbies and distractions to entertain themselves, and in true British fashion they brought the culture of their homeland to the Iberian Peninsular. Social clubs and then sports clubs popped up, introducing Spain to cricket, to rugby, and especially to football.

In most places around the world, when Brits set up their football clubs, they were insular affairs. Often excluding the locals, native populations had to make their way in the sport on their own, often only decades later being permitted to play against the 'superior' British sides. In Spain,

however, there was another factor at play, one that didn't feature across much of the globe.

Spanish students had a history of visiting and studying in Britain. The historic universities attracted the first European students to the UK, and as what we now call Further Education expanded, so did the student base. Industrial education also became a popular endeavour, as young Europeans sought the learning needed to earn their fortune. Spanish students, especially around Southampton and Portsmouth, became infatuated with the game they saw the native population playing. They even adopted the language - goal, corner, offside - and brought it home to Bilbao when they returned. They set up their own clubs, and the game grew.

By 1894, during a festival held at the Hippodrome of Lamiako just outside the city, a match between the locals and the immigrants was arranged. Lamiako was little more than a field, but it was where the British teams played. The teams were made up of the exact kinds of players their clubs had been built upon; the British workers, mostly from the Nervion Shipbuilding Company, and the Spanish educated classes, the affluent young men who had been in Britain to study. It was a meeting of different cultures over a shared passion for the game.

The match itself was a whitewash, the more experienced shipbuilders running out 5-0 winners. But the effect was far greater. Over 1000 people came to Lamiako to watch, and reported being

bedazzled and bewildered by the speed, power and grace of the game they saw. For many locals - not British migrants, not the educated Spanish classes - this was their first exposure to football. It made an impact.

The defeated Spanish rewarded their opponents with roast chicken and wine, and then quickly set about forming more clubs. More egalitarian clubs too, this was no longer a game for the Spanish elite. Within just a few months, matches between Spanish and British teams were commonplace, mostly in Lamiako just as the first had been. That elite was still useful however, using its contacts to bring over British rules and, perhaps more importantly, equipment for the myriad clubs that needed it. The popularity spread, and alongside the Bilbao sports clubs that were set up, it wasn't long before similar could be found in Barcelona, Santander and San Sebastian.

In 1898, a group of six Spanish students, those who had inherited a love of football, sat in a pub, as students tend to do, putting the world to rights. Heady with the arrogance of youth,

they decided to start their own football club. It would be a local club, for local people. Only those from the Basque Country would be admitted, and it would become a mark of regional pride to belong to the club. As football became more organised and more competitive, they took part in the initial national competitions. With the collection of Basque only players, they took on all comers, travelling to Madrid to win the first ever Copa Del Rey.

That club still exists today, and still retains the Basque-only philosophy that was foundational. That they have gone on to compete at the top of Spanish football and in Europe makes Athletic Club de Bilbao not just a historical oddity, but a remarkable one. And one with roots all the way back to that first match between workers and students.


And when that match is commemorated with dinners and events, what do they serve? Roast chicken and wine.

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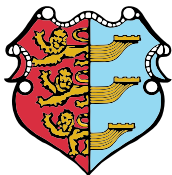
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**BRIGHTLINGSEA
REGENT FC**

THE OTHER SIDE **BRIGHTLINGSEA** **REGENT FC**



Brightlingsea Regent, previously Brightlingsea United, have completed around 100 years of competitive football. Firstly, in the Border league, between 1908/1909 to 1970 when they joined The Essex Senior league for 20 years having much success, before going on to join the then Jewson League in 1990 and then back to the Border league in 2001/2002 Brightlingsea United FC and Regent Park Rangers FC amalgamated at the start of 2005/2006 season to become Brightlingsea Regent Football Club. During this time, the squad and club have continued to grow and develop, having success in the Border league Division 1 and cup.

In 2009/2010 new Management team James Webster and Mark Gridley guided Regent to a 4th place finish and followed up the following

season in 2010/2011 by winning the Kent Blaxill Essex and Suffolk Border Premier League in a superb season by playing 34, winning 31, drawing 2 and losing just 1 game.

In season 2011/2012, James Webster added Tom Rothery to the Management team in September and they finished their first season back at Step 6 with a creditable 5th place finish. They also reached the quarterfinals of the Essex Senior Cup before losing to League 2 side Dagenham & Redbridge. The 2012/2013 season was successful for many reasons. Firstly, an FA Vase cup run, which was the longest in the clubs history before bowing out in round 3 (last 64). The club gained promotion back to step 5 and the Premier Division with a third-place finish which included a 22-game unbeaten run during



the season. In the final game of the season the team won the First Division KO Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Gt Yarmouth.

The 2013/2014 season in the Eastern Counties Premier Division again proved to be successful for Brightlingsea, gaining promotion after finishing Runners-up to Hadleigh Utd, losing out on the final day by goal difference. The club also reached the last 16 of the FA Vase and in doing so again created more history.

The 2016/2017 season saw Brightlingsea Regent crowned as champions of the Isthmian North Division, notching up an impressive 103 points and finishing 12 points ahead of their closest rivals, ensuring an historic promotion to the Isthmian Premier League.

In October 2017 long-standing manager James Webster left the club to be replaced by former assistant manager and coach Tom Rothery, assisted by Pip Boyland, who maintained the R's Isthmian Premier league standing and won the Essex FA's Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Cup.

2018/2019 saw the Regent achieve their highest ever finish in the non-league pyramid, along with their best ever FA Cup and FA Trophy runs. They also retained the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Cup with a 1-0 victory at Maldon & Tiptree. After Tom Rothery stepped down from the manager's

position in September 2019, Colchester United legend Kem Izzet took the hot seat and avoided relegation in his first season in charge, In a season that was cut short in February due to Covid-19.

2020/2021 A later than usual start to the season saw Regent make an early management change as Kem Izzet departed the club in October, replaced with the management duo of Tom Austin and Ryan Salter, arriving from FC Clacton. The season was then curtailed in December and no more football was played.

2021/2022 Tom Austin and Ryan Salter resigned from their positions at the Beginning of November with the club positioned within the relegation places. The R's appointed Brett Munyard and his team of Mark Healy, Ricky Stubbs and Dave Limber who dramatically saved the club from relegation on the penultimate game of the season with a 3-0 victory over Haringey Borough to secure Step 3 football for the 6th season.

2022/2023 Brightlingsea Regent suffered their first relegation under the Regent name, finishing bottom of the Isthmian Premier Division following a 6-year spell. We now return to the Isthmian North Division for the 2023/2024 season.

2023/2024 saw the Regent have a good start back in the Isthmian North Division, losing just one of their first ten games, a defeat in the 2nd

Qualifying Round of the FA Cup to Billericay Town. Mid-season, Ryan Salter returned as Assistant Manager and the R's finished the season strong with a final position of 8th in the league.

2024/2025 Brightlingsea Regent's 2024–25 season saw Ryan Salter return as manager in November after Brett Munyard's move to Aveyley. Salter hit the ground running, winning four from four in December and earning the Vita Risk Solutions Manager of the Month award. Fletcher Hubbard starred with 12 goals, earning a move to National League side Braintree. Regent's promotion hopes ended in heartbreak with a last-minute defeat to Bury Town in the playoff final, watched by over 2,000 fans. Despite the disappointment, the season showed real progress under Salter's leadership.

HONOURS

1988-1989 - Essex Senior League Champions
1989-1990 - Essex Senior League Champions
1990-1991 - Eastern Counties Division 1 Runners Up
2005-2006 - Essex Junior Cup Runners Up
2010-2011 - Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Division Champions
2011-2012 - AV Lee Memorial Trophy Winners
2012-2013 - Eastern Counties First Division KO Cup Winners
2013-2014 - Eastern Counties League Premier Division Runners-up
2016-2017 - Isthmian League North Division Champions
2017-2018 - Essex FA Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Cup Winners



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BY JON COUCH

THE week leading up to Halloween proved to be something of a horror show for Non-League bosses everywhere as the managerial merry-go-round clicked into overdrive.

As a result, it caused endless nightmares for us at NLP Towers as the news pages had to be constantly updated and, in the case of John Coleman's Friday afternoon arrival at Aldershot Town, ripped up and rewritten completely.

We were perhaps given a sign of what was to come when Kettering Town announced the departure of Simon Hollyhead just minutes after their 4-0 defeat at Redditch United on Saturday with the former assistant at Champions League side Malmö having resigned from his Poppies' post at two days previous.

It's fair to say it wasn't a good week for Isthmian League bosses with a high percentage of departures coming in and around the M25.

Club legend Drew Cooney left East Grinstead Town after four years in charge.

Cooney made over 500 appearances for the Wasps before taking over the hotseat in 2021.

He quit after picking up just one win from his opening 11 games in charge of the Isthmian South East club.

League rivals Hastings United also made a change with former Whitehawk boss David Altendorff replacing Lee Carey in the U's hotseat, while former England manager Peter Taylor stood down at Isthmian North side Canvey Island after five months in charge following the Gulls' midweek defeat to Benfleet in the Essex Senior Cup.

Tilbury too have new joint-bosses with George Christou and Jack Toghli coming in for Marc Harrison and Liam Wallace, who left the Dockers by mutual consent.

It was all change also at Lewes after it was announced that popular former boss Craig Nelson had returned to the Dripping Pan hotseat after six months away, replacing Bradley Pritchard.

Nelson steered the Rooks to their best league start in over a decade last season before being snapped up by Tonbridge Angels.

There's no busier owner in English football right now than Bracknell Town's Kayne Steinborn-Busse. He is looking for his FIFTH manager in the space of just 17 league games after dispensing with former Wealdstone and Notts County

assistant Matt Saunders.

Saunders had just one point and an FA Cup win over Tadley Calleva to show for his seven games in charge of the Robins – a tenure which will be remembered for releasing the club's two longest serving players after questioning the commitment of the senior members of the squad.

Perhaps the highest profile departure last week was that of Altrincham chief Phil Parkinson after eight years at Moss Lane.

The 44-year-old led the Robins to two promotions in three seasons, from the NPL Premier to the National League, and then a play-off campaign in 2023–24, where they finished fourth before falling to Bromley in the semi-finals.

However, after losing a plethora of key players in the summer, including the likes of Regan Linney, Justin Amaluzor and Alex Newby, the Robins have struggled to find the same consistency this season and Parkinson leaves after a seven-match unbeaten league run.

Altrincham will now be looking to appoint a new man in charge, much like league rivals Aldershot Town, who brought in John Coleman to replace Tommy Widdrington, who left a fortnight ago, and has since rejoined Eastbourne Borough.

Harsh perhaps on Alan Dowson, who took interim charge of team affairs for Saturday's trip to Scunthorpe and told The NLP of his desire to make the most of his opportunity in the Shots hotseat.

Dowson, the former Woking, Hampton & Richmond Borough and Kingstonian boss, has now left the EBB Stadium and looking for his next challenge.

At Step 5, Richard Brodie left Glossop North End after two years in charge of North West Counties League side and is now back playing with former club Skelmersdale United at the age of 38.

Dan Bailey quit as player/manager and coach of Combined Counties Premier North strugglers Virginia Water, Mark Scott resigned from South West Peninsula Premier East side Axminster Town after a 12th successive defeat and Clay Cross Town's management team of Ian Cotton, his assistant Ian Birtley and player/coach Kieran Coupe joined United Counties Premier North rivals AFC Mansfield.

Aaannnnnd breathe. Until the next instalment anyway.

Happy Halloween everyone.

CLUB CONTACTS

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ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Maldon and the Dockers take the headlines, Jockeys get four, whilst Wroxham, Gorleston, Redbridge, Rangers, Regent and City are also victorious
25 OCT 2025

With leaders Felixstowe and Walton United not playing, **Maldon and Tiptree** knew that a point against **Downham Town** would send them back to the summit- and they were given a boost on seventeen minutes with the match goalless, as Arturs Visocanskis saw red for the visitors. Despite that, Town kept the Jammers at bay until the sixty fourth minute, when Anisius Lewis finally got a goal, and the visitors remained in the match until the very end, when keeper Jasper Briggs also saw red. The Jammers held on to go top once more.

Wroxham were celebrating a milestone for boss Jordan Southgate - his three hundredth match in charge. The Yachtsmen had **Witham Town** hoping to spoil their party, but the hosts went ahead just after the hour, Shaun Taylor the scorer, and the same player then added a second sixteen minutes from time. That was that, third place and party time!

Bowers and Pitsea, in fourth, headed to fifth place **Gorleston** in our match of the day. It looked as if we'd reach the break without a goal, but a

red card for the visitors Alex Golder was immediately followed by a Greens penalty, and Alby Matthews stuck that away to give Gorleston the lead. Bowers stuck to their task, but couldn't find a goal- and right at the end they found a second red card, Luke Wilson dismissed. Gorleston are up to fourth, Bowers down to fifth. Sixth place **Newmarket Town** travelled to take on bottom side **Brantham Athletic**, and the Jockeys took only three minutes to go ahead, Louis Jenkins with the opener. An own goal made it two-nil on twenty one minutes, and Stan Leech surely ensured all three points with the third goal ten minutes into the second half- his eighteenth of the season. Nine minutes from time Will Gardner added a fourth, and only goal difference is keeping Newmarket out of the top five.

Redbridge, in seventh at kick off, hoped to bounce back after two defeats as they travelled to take on a **Lowestoft Town** side who had lost three of their last four. The Trawler Boys went ahead on twenty five minutes, Ashton Blogg with the opening goal, but the Motormen were quickly level, Joe Johnson with the equaliser, and went ahead two minutes after the break, Malachi Napa the scorer. The hosts hopes departed right at the end, Prince Sikiru making it three-one, with only goal difference separating Redbridge, who stay seventh, and fifth place Bowers and Pitsea.

Concord Rangers made the journey to East London, **Walthamstow** their hosts. The Beachboys, with only two defeats from ten, went ahead four

minutes before half time when Bobby Kelman scored his sixth of the season, and they made it two immediately after the break, Kelman again the scorer. Brian Garzon got a goal back just before the hour, but it wasn't enough, and the eighth place Beachboys are the fourth of four sides tied on twenty three points.

Mildenhall Town hoped to make it three wins from three as they hosted **Brightlingsea Regent**, and they had a rather positive start, going ahead from the spot after only five minutes, Danny Setchell putting it away. Nineteen minutes from time Jake Clowsley drew the visitors level, and, spurred on by that, they went ahead two minutes later, Harry McDonald with that one. Ola Bello made it three-one three minutes from time, and that result lifts Regent up to fifteenth.

Cambridge City, in twenty first and under new management, hoped to kick start their season as **Heybridge Swifts** came to call. City went ahead in the last minutes of the first half, George Smith scoring from the spot, and on fifty seven minutes Jett Murphy made it two. Smith added a third with eleven minutes remaining, and City are up to nineteenth.

Big wins for Town and the Abbotts, whilst the Motormen triumph in the Cup

29 OCT 2025

Bottom side **Brantham Athletic** were looking for a first win of the season at the fifteenth time of asking, but they had what looked like a difficult task as **Waltham Abbey** made the trip. The Abbotts were looking for a third League win in a row- although the hosts might have been boosted by the knowledge that their visitors had lost their last three matches on the road in all competitions. Any confidence that statistic might have given Athletic looked wasted as the visitors went ahead after only six minutes, Abdirahman Mohamud with the opener, and things quickly got worse for the home fans as the same player made it two

eight minutes later. Athletic rallied, and Teddy Stacey got a goal back just before half time, but Mohamud claimed the match ball when making it three-one just after the hour. The scoring stopped there, and the Abbotts are ninth but only two points away from the top five with one, two or even three games in hand of the sides above them.

Brightlingsea Regent looked to be on the up, winning three in a row and climbing the table at a rate of knots. Regent welcomed **Witham Town** to the Taydal, the visitors four places but only two points better off at kick off but lacking in consistency of late. Witham went ahead on the quarter hour mark, Darius Ghinea opening the scoring, and it quickly got worse for Regent as Josh Riza saw red. The ten men rallied, however, and drew level on twenty six minutes, Daniel Rowe lifting the ball over the keeper for the equaliser, but Witham were ahead once more three minutes into the second half, Archie Mcfadden making it two-one. Ghinea added a third for the visitors eight minutes later, and in added time Sam Bantick added a fourth. Witham are eleventh.

Stanway Rovers welcomed **Walthamstow**, both sides tied on thirteen points but far further down the table than they'd like. Rovers were six League matches without a win, but had drawn their last three; whilst Stow were three without a win and hoping to avoid a third successive League defeat.

After a goalless first half...we had a goalless second half, too. Rovers are thirteenth, Stow are fourteenth.

Our Velocity Cup ties this week began on Monday, as **Redbridge** took on **Grays Athletic** in an all-North Second Round tie. Athletic went ahead from the spot on eight minutes, Jack Stone the scorer, but Malachi Napa took only ten minutes to reply for the Motormen. A minute into the second half Prince Sikiru put the hosts ahead, but only two minutes later Oscar Shelvey levelled for Athletic- and that was that, so off to spot kicks we went, Redbridge winning seven-six!



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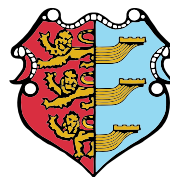


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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Tuesday 4th November 2025
Kick-off 7.45pm



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Billy **Holland (C)**
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Ola **Bello**
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MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Alexander Shipp **Assistant Referees:** Mr Calin Rogojan and Mr Aaron Etti