

the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2023/2024 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Stowmarket Town



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MONDAY 1ST JANUARY 2024, 3PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH

VICE CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



Good afternoon, everyone, and a very warm welcome to the AGL Arena for today's Isthmian League local derby against our long-standing rivals, Stowmarket Town.

Before I move on to talk about football, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Tony, myself, and the board members, to wish our supporters, volunteers, players, and staff a very "Happy New Year." Let's all look forward to a healthy and rewarding 2024.

Now, back to the football and our Boxing Day fixture (played on the 23rd) against Ipswich Wanderers. The game itself was one that will be quickly forgotten, with the opposition managing to bring us down to their very average, at best, level. The game was decided

by the odd goal in 3, with Henry capitalizing on a goalkeeping blunder to give us a much-needed 3 points.

What will be interesting from my point of view will be if Wanderers pass their upcoming March ground grading inspection. With ourselves having had to work so hard and jump through so many hoops to have our ground at the required standard, it seems the Humber Doucy Lane ground is a long way from the standard required, with an awful lot of work to be completed in a short space of time. Watch this space!

It wasn't a winning end to 2023 for us, with us enduring a 2-1 defeat to fellow promotion-chasing Bowers & Pitsea on Saturday. Always a nice place to go and play with a modern new ground along with their 3G pitch. Although over the years, we don't seem to have come away with too many points when playing either Hashtag or Bowers!

At times in the first half, it seemed we had an extra player on the pitch with our opponents struggling to come to terms with some of the exceptional passing football we produced. However, for all this quality attacking and stout defending against their route one long ball game, we went in at the break 0-0.

If you were still getting a drink at the interval, you might well have missed us giving Bowers their late Christmas gift as we proceeded to overplay at the back from the restart, getting caught and giving them what can only be called an unexpected lead. From this point on, in all honesty, we struggled to get any

real rhythm in our play, and even with Bowers being reduced to 10 men, we couldn't match the standards of the first half.

We managed to get ourselves back on level terms as a great cross-field ball picked out Joe who got behind their back 4 to put in a perfect cross to be met by the incoming Billy. Game on!

For all our endeavors, we never really caused Bowers too many problems, although we started to look more dangerous for some reason when we had Billy dismissed for a second yellow. For me, both were questionable. From here, the game opened up, and Bowers went ahead in the 90th minute with a top-draw, very cool finish. A goal worthy of winning any game, although in this instance, definitely not deserved.

This defeat means we have managed to earn 7 points from the last 21 available, yet we still sit second in the table, only 6 points behind leaders Lowestoft. Although in reality, not what one would consider to be promotion form, for me, it highlights just how well the side has done up until this point of the season.

As I said to a number of people on Saturday (and we do love a cliché), "form is temporary, but class is permanent." I firmly believe in Boards and the boys, and that with a settled, injury-free group back to somewhere near their confident best, we will again be scoring goals for fun and gaining those all-important points towards promotion or the playoffs.

Enjoy the game.

Andy

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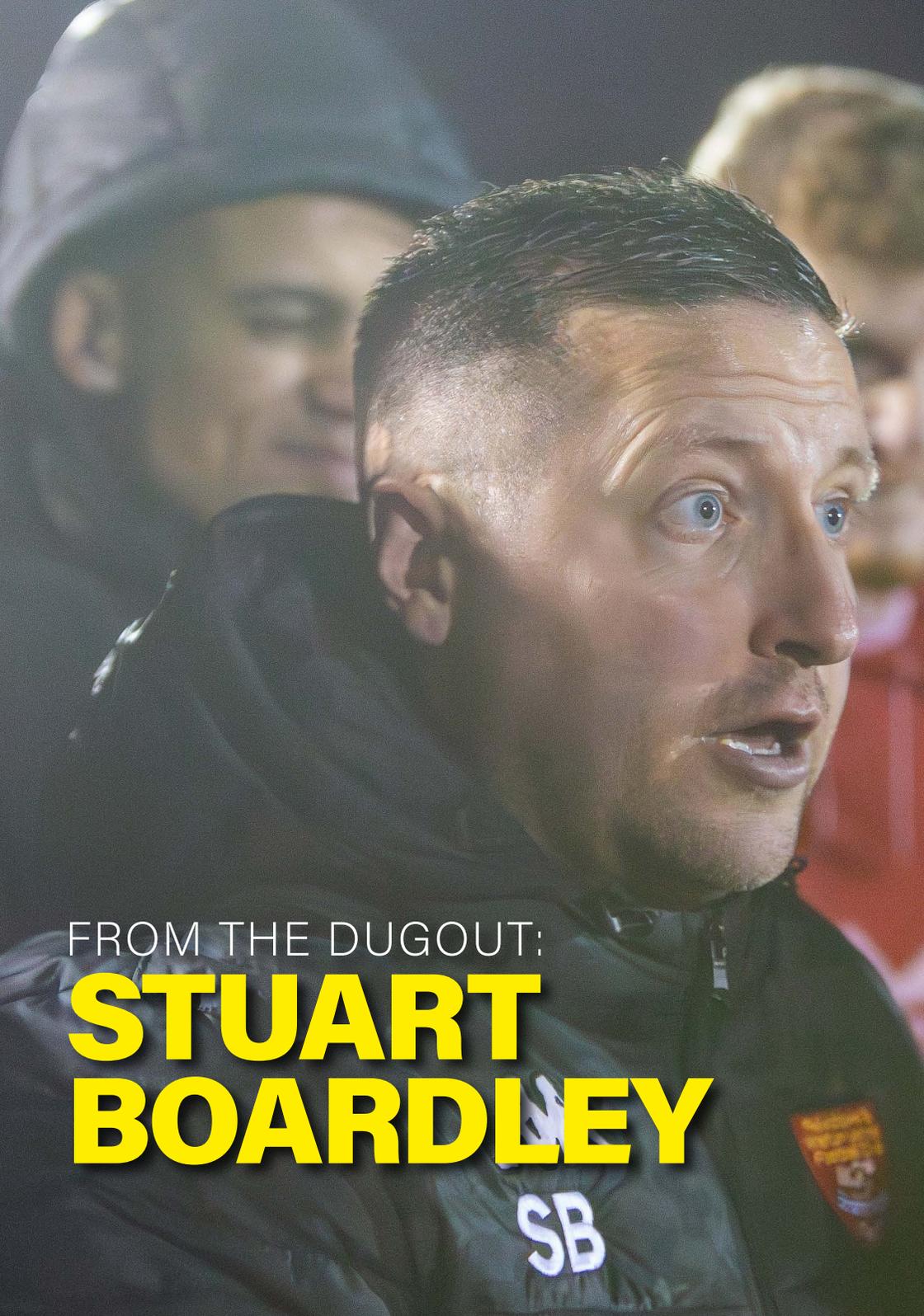
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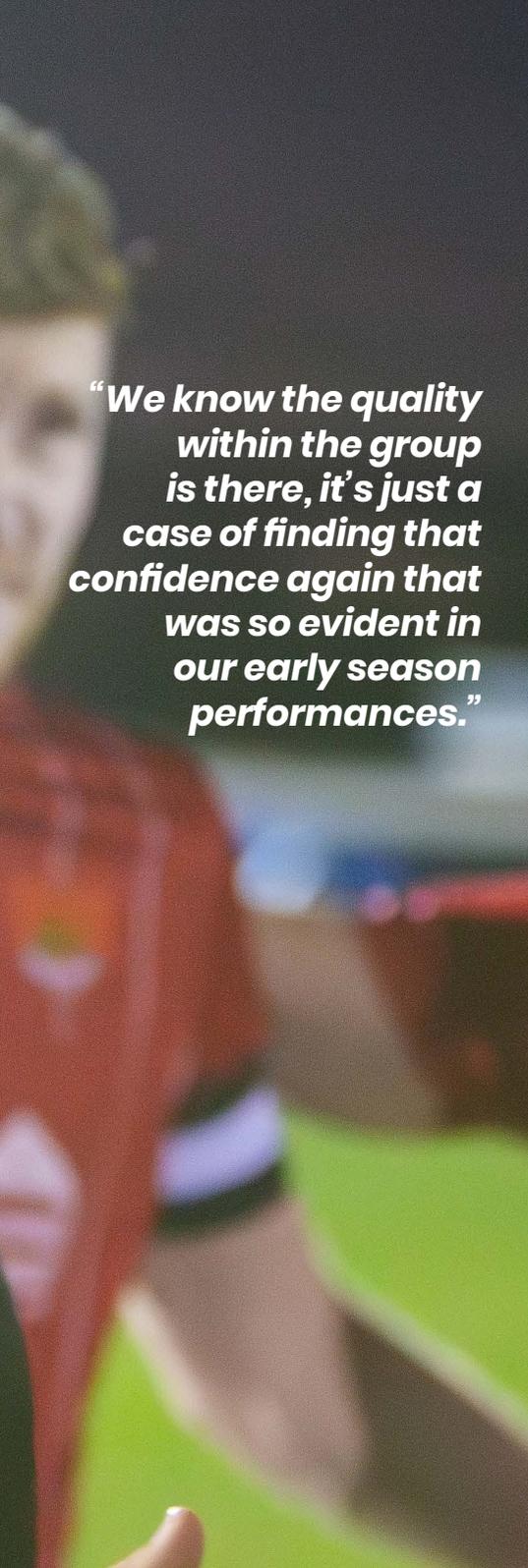
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FROM THE DUGOUT:

STUART BOARDLEY

SB



“We know the quality within the group is there, it’s just a case of finding that confidence again that was so evident in our early season performances.”

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all. I hope you and your families have had a nice break and 2024 brings us all some good times.

I write these notes whilst on the A12 travelling back from our away day trip to Bowers and Pitsea. Although our performance wasn't our best I felt we dominated large periods and deserved all three points let alone the one we looked likely to take home until their last gasp winner. A long debrief afterwards in the dressing room followed by a bit of soul searching will hopefully prove the tonic needed to get our season back on track as our late it has certainly faltered.

So... we are now at the halfway stage of the season and to be sitting in second position is a great achievement. As a collective, we are generally pleased with how the first half of the season has gone. Of course, our form leading into the turn of the year has certainly dampened spirits a little but you have to accept that all sides have tough times throughout a season and ours is now. I've said this many times outwardly and within the dressing room. The only way to get out of a difficult spell is to get your head down and work harder than ever. We know the quality within the group is there, it's just a case of finding that confidence again that was so evident in our early season performances.

We hope to see a big crowd here today against our close rivals Stowmarket Town. We will be looking to kick on and start the new year exactly as we mean to go on, with 3 big points!

Enjoy the game

Boards



SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this...

Whatever happens in local Non-League football, to me, a Seaside for 50 years, Felixstowe v Stowmarket will always be 'The Big Match' of the season.

Not necessarily the biggest, most important game of the season in terms of results, but for me and a few more of the guys who come along and watch, it's the original local derby.

When we were elected to the Eastern Counties League in the mid 70's, our local Bank Holiday derby was always against

Stowmarket, as they were the nearest club to us in geographical terms playing at that level. This was of course, before the football pyramid system came into being, and promotion/relegation was done by voting.

Now, playing football at Step 5 or higher between us and Stow' or within sensible travelling distance there are Lowestoft Town & Bury Town who were already playing at a higher level, Woodbridge Town, Brantham Athletic, Ipswich Wanderers, Whitton United, Needham Market, Leiston FC & Sudbury Town.

So... it's welcome to our friends from along the A14!

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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2023/24

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Lowestoft Town	16	13	1	2	51	17	+34	40
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	18	10	4	4	45	25	+20	34
3	Bowers & Pitsea	18	11	1	6	34	26	+8	34
4	Basildon United	18	10	3	5	37	29	+8	33
5	Brentwood Town	17	9	4	4	30	15	+15	31
6	Brightlingsea Regent	17	10	1	6	35	25	+10	31
7	Heybridge Swifts	16	9	3	4	27	19	+8	30
8	Maldon & Tiptree	17	8	3	6	36	28	+8	27
9	Bury Town	16	7	4	5	36	28	+8	25
10	Walthamstow	16	7	4	5	24	25	-1	25
11	Witham Town	17	4	6	7	23	30	-7	18
12	Wroxham	15	4	5	6	24	23	+1	17
13	Gorleston	15	4	4	7	18	21	-3	16
14	Redbridge	13	4	4	5	24	28	-4	16
15	New Salamis	16	3	6	7	23	34	-11	15
16	Ipswich Wanderers	16	4	1	11	15	31	-16	13
17	Enfield	15	4	1	10	18	41	-23	13
18	Grays Athletic	16	2	5	9	19	32	-13	11
19	Stowmarket Town	16	0	2	14	12	54	-42	2

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 17:01:06

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

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





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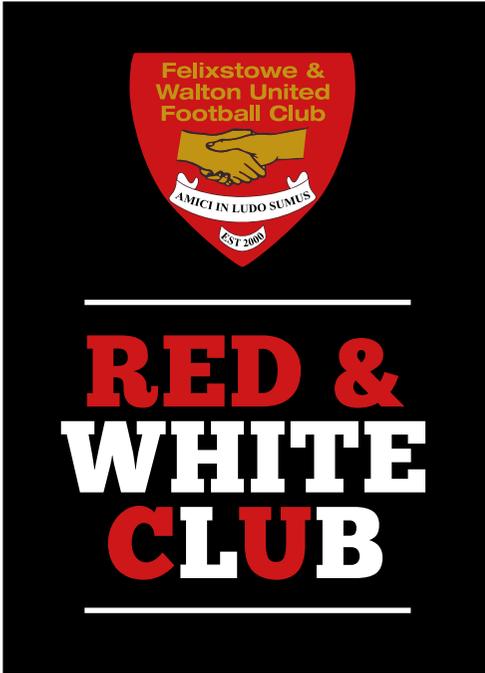


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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY THOMAS
BRADFORD

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH **Bowers & Pitsea 2 Felixstowe & Walton Utd 1**

Felixstowe earned a free kick, central outside the box in the second minute, Harrison shot was blocked by the wall. Bowers tactics were very clear, get the ball forward as soon as possible with long goalkeeper kicks deep into our half and long throw ins at every opportunity and they were bypassing their midfield. After 10 minutes Barley cut in from the left and a fierce drive was pushed round the post at full stretch from Hughes in the Bowers goal. From the resultant corner a close effort from Bullard hit the post and was cleared. In the 22nd minute a great through ball from Holland released Ford through the middle, he lobbed the ball over the onrushing keeper only to see his effort just drift wide of the post. The game became more evenly balanced as the half went on, but in the 41st minute TQ Addy reacted badly to a foul by Holland and got himself sent off for retaliation, Holland received a caution.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Charlie Binns
2. Lamell Howell
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Leon Ottley-Gooch
6. Tom Bullard
7. Henry Barley
8. Jack Ainsley
9. Sam Ford
10. Callum Harrison
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Josh Hitter
14. Josh Mayhew
15. Callum Bennett
16. Zak Brown
17. Joe Whight



Bowers manager James Collins also saw a red card or his reaction to the decision. 0-0 at half time.

Felixstowe brought on Joe Whight for Stuart Ainsley at left back for the second half. The second half started with a bang, hesitation in the Felixstowe defence was punished by the ever alert Price who scored easily in the 46th minute. Felixstowe then upped their game, Whight made two great runs down the left flashing two dangerous low crosses into the penalty area, the first one was sliced by a defender going for a corner, close to an own goal. The second cross was met by Holland who equalised from 8 yards. At this stage against ten men it looked likely that

Felixstowe would go on and win.

However things changed when Holland miscontrolled a pass near the half way line, trying to retrieve the ball he caught a Bowers player late and received his second yellow levelling the sides up 10v10. Felixstowe brought on Mayhew And Hitter, increasing their attacking options, Jack Ainsley and Warren had a couple of half chances as their drives just went past the keepers right hand post. It was Bowers who won the match in the 92nd minute, Williamson made a strong run from left to right just outside the penalty area before shooting right foot with a low drive that found the bottom corner of the net as nobody closed him down. To sum up the match, Felixstowe played the better football and had they taken their early chances we may have seen a different result, Bowers play to their strengths and are good at putting pressure on opponents defences. Felixstowe are now clinging on to second place in the league as the chasing pack are closing in on them. *By Jeff Peck*







OUR SQUAD

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



STUART BOARDLEY MANAGER

Stuart started his footballing career at Ipswich Town leaving in 2004 after 10 years. He went on to play for Torquay United, Sudbury, Leiston and Felixstowe. In 2018 he was appointed as Manager of Leiston but left in 2019 to become Manager of Felixstowe & Walton United.



ANDY CRUMP ASSISTANT MANAGER

Andy returned to Felixstowe & Walton United as Assistant Manager following the appointment of Stuart Boardley in 2019. Having enjoyed success in previous spells at the club as both player and First Team Coach.



DANNY POTTER GOALKEEPER COACH

A former pro footballer/TV star, Danny was cast into the Sky TV programme 'Dream Team' where he played for the fictional team Harchester United. Danny boasts clubs such as Torquay, Colchester and Cambridge as former employers. Recently appointed as Goalkeeper Coach, Danny brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and professionalism to Stuart's management team.



STUART STEVENSON COACH

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seaside's 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 LONG 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 Seaside's in 2019. Her main focus is overseeing the recovery programmes of injured players through her private practice.



DOUG FRENCH **KIT MAN**

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



CHARLIE BINNS **GOALKEEPER**

Charlie joined the club on loan from Ipswich Town. The 18-year-old has featured for Town's U18s and U21s this season having joined the Blues in the summer on a two-year professional deal.



STUART AINSLEY **LEFT BACK**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent 10 years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Stuart has a sweet left foot and a great work ethic.



JOE WHIGHT **DEFENDER**

Joe came through the ITFC Youth system before playing for the likes of Needham, Bury and most recently AFC Sudbury where he captained their side. A left sided defender, Joe offers composure, a wonderful left foot and a toughness and desire to defend to the back line.



CALLUM BENNETT **RIGHT BACK**

Callum is in his second spell at the club having re-joined in late 2018. An attacking full back with one of the best ball deliveries in non-league football. Callum has plenty of experience from his time at Ipswich U18s, Stoke City U21s and Notts County.



JACK AINSLEY **DEFENDER**

Rejoins 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.



TOM BULLARD **DEFENDER**

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



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

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



BILLY HOLLAND **MIDFIELDER**

Billy started life at Ipswich Wanderers and has had spells at Needham, Leiston and AFC Sudbury. He's established himself as a mainstay in the centre of midfield. Players player and Supporters player of the year last season has led to him being appointed captain for the forthcoming year.



NOEL AITKENS **MIDFIELDER**

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



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH **MIDFIELDER**

Leon signed for the club in 2020 and is another vastly experienced player at step 3 and 4 level. Previous clubs include Leiston, Bury Town, Hadleigh Utd and Stowmarket Town. Leon is very versatile but is predominantly a dynamic midfield player.



JOSH HITTER **MIDFIELDER**

Josh signed for us in 2021 having played his football at Step 3 side Leiston for the previous three seasons and gained a vast amount of experience at that level. Josh is a dynamic attack minded player who likes to arrive in the box late and score goals.



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

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



IVAN COSTA **MIDFIELDER**

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



KUBI KUSSAN **MIDFIELDER**

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



HENRY BARLEY **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Henry signed for the club in 2019 following his contract expiring at Ipswich Town. Another popular young player who had also been on loan from the then EFL Championship club the previous season.



LAMELL HOWELL **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Lamell signed from Brightlingsea Regent in 2020. He can play on both wings or in the number 10 position and brings pace and trickery to the side. He has previously played for Stowmarket Town, Debenham FC and Brantham Athletic.



CHARLIE WARREN **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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



ZAK BROWN FORWARD

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



SAM FORD FORWARD

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath last season that saw them just miss out on promotion to the Scottish Premiership, Sam spent the Summer with Hume City FC in Australia before returning to Felixstowe. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.



JOSH MAYHEW FORWARD

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

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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH
Ipswich Wanderers 1
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 2

The opening goal came in the moments before the break, **Sam Ford** taking his tally for the season to double figures, but the hosts levelled with twenty one minutes left, Byron Lawrence sending the home fans wild. They were soon rather less wild, as **Henry Barley** quickly restored the visitors advantage, and this time they held on to it to close to within three points of the Trawler Boys.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Charlie Binns
2. Lamell Howell
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Jack Ainsley
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Zak Brown
8. Josh Hitter
9. Sam Ford
10. Callum Harrison
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Callum Bennett
14. Henry Barley
16. Tom Bullard
17. Harry Blackburn
20. Josh Mayhew









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PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE OTHER SIDE STOWMARKET TOWN FC



The club was founded as Stowmarket Association FC in 1883 by a merger of Stowmarket St Peter and Stowmarket Ironworks. Originally playing at the Cricket Meadow, their first match was against Needham Market School. The club were founder members of the Suffolk County Football Association in 1885. By the late 1800s the club had dropped the word "Association" from its name, which had originally been used to distinguish it from the local rugby club.

They joined the newly formed Ipswich & District League in 1896, and won the title in its first two seasons and again in 1899-1900. In 1907 they won the Suffolk Junior Cup, beating Westbourne Mills 5-1, and in 1909-10 the club won the league again, with the reserve team winning the second division. They won the title again in 1921-22, before transferring to the Essex & Suffolk Border League in 1925. In 1931 the club won the Suffolk Senior Cup for the first time, beating Sudbury Town 3-1. They won it for a second time in 1933, beating Kirkley 5-2, and again the following season, with a 3-0 win over Bury Town.

At the end of the 1936-37 season the club disbanded due financial difficulties. After World War II local club Stowupland Corinthians began playing at the Cricket Meadows, and joined the Border League in 1946. In the summer of 1947 the club's name was changed to Stowmarket Corinthians, and in August it was changed again to Stowmarket Town. After legal advice, it was changed again to Stowmarket FC.

Under the management of player-coach Jackie Little, The club won the Border League, the League Cup and the Suffolk Senior Cup in 1950-51, beating Sudbury Town 2-0 in front of 10,867 supporters in the final of the latter. The League Cup and the Senior Cup were won again in 1951-52, and at the end of the season





the club joined the Eastern Counties League.

In 1957–58 they won the Senior Cup again, beating Newmarket Town 2–0. They won the trophy for a sixth time in 1961–62, beating Brantham Athletic 2–0. The following year they entered the Suffolk Premier Cup and won it, beating Lowestoft Town 3–0. A seventh success in the Senior Cup was achieved in 1965 with a 4–0 win over Orwell Works, and the Premier Cup was won again in 1977 with a 2–1 win over Sudbury Town after the original two-legged tie had ended level.

In 1983 they were renamed Stowmarket Town, and a year later moved to Greens Meadow. The club won the Premier Cup again in 1986, beating Lowestoft 1–0, and in 1991, when Haverhill Rovers were beaten 3–2 after extra time. At the end of the 2004–05 season the club were relegated for the first time in their history, dropping into Division One, where they have remained since.

After a hiatus of over forty years, the club won the Senior Cup again in 2006–07, beating Grundisburgh 2–1. In 2016–17 season they were Division One champions and were promoted back to the Premier Division. In 2019–20 the club were unbeaten 28 games into the league season, but the league was abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the end of the 2020–21 season, which was also curtailed due to the pandemic, they were promoted to the North Division of the Isthmian League.



FIXTURES 2023/24

AUGUST

SAT 12	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Holland, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 211
SAT 19	WELLINGBOROUGH <i>Ford, Harrison, Holland, Warren</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP	W 4-1	ATT 135
SAT 26	BURY TOWN <i>Ford, Harrison, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 401
MON 28	STOWMARKET TOWN <i>OG, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 433

SEPTEMBER

SAT 2	WOODFORD TOWN <i>Holland, Brown, Hitter, Aitkens</i>	A	3PM	FA CUP FIRST QR	W 4-1	ATT 225
SAT 9	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Whight (P), Aitkens</i>	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	W 2-0	ATT 371
SAT 16	ENFIELD TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP SECOND QR	L 3-0	
TUE 19	BOWERS & PITSEA <i>Warren, Harrison, Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	ISTHMIAN LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 263
SAT 23	HERTFORD TOWN <i>Harrison (2), Holland, J Ainsley, Barley, Mayhew</i>	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	W 6-3	ATT 225
WED 27	LAKENHEATH <i>Mayhew, Warren (2), Barley</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREM CUP	W 4-1	
SAT 30	BASILDON UNITED <i>Whight, Bullard, Warren, Brown</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-2	ATT 112

OCTOBER

SAT 7	BILLERICAY <i>Mayhew (2), Ford</i>	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	L 4-3	ATT 527
TUE 10	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT <i>Mayhew (3), Otley-Gooch, Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 5-3	ATT 402
SAT 14	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Mayhew</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 434
TUE 24	REDBRIDGE <i>Warren (2), Ford, Harrison</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 313
SAT 28	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Aitkens, Brown, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 226

NOVEMBER

SAT 4	ENFIELD <i>Harrison (3), Warren, Ford</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 5-1	ATT 360
WED 8	HADLEIGH UNITED <i>Hitter, Warren</i>	H	7.45PM	SP CUP QF	W2-1	ATT 208
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Warren, Harrison (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 310

TUE 14	WROXHAM	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 467
SAT 25	WITHAM TOWN <i>Harrison (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 168

DECEMBER

SAT 2	GORLESTON <i>Ford, Hitter, Warren, Harrison</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 223
SAT 9	NEW SALAMIS <i>Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 78
SAT 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 341
SAT 23	IPSWICH WANDERERS <i>Ford, Barley</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 232
SAT 30	BOWERS & PITSEA <i>Holland</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 302

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH
**Felixstowe & Walton Utd 0
Maldon & Tiptree 1**



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Charlie Binns
2. Lamell Howell
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Jack Ainsley
6. Joe Whight
7. Zak Brown
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Josh Mayhew
10. Callum Harrison
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Henry Barley
14. Sam Ford
15. Harry Blackburn
16. Callum Bennett







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Club Secretary	Phil Barber		
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Director of Football	Kevin O'Donnell		

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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Leaders **Lowestoft Town**, with Felixstowe and Walton United only three points behind, looked to bounce back from their defeat at Bury Town as they travelled to take on bottom side **Stowmarket Town**. The Trawler Boys took only seven minutes to go ahead through Harvey Sayer, and Sayer must have enjoyed the moment so much he wanted to repeat it, as repeat it he did, only two minutes later to make it two-nil. It was three just after the half hour, Adam Hipperson with that one, and Jake Reed's twentieth of the season was their fourth, ten minutes after the restart. Hipperson scored again, making it five-nil on the hour, and right at the end the visitors made it six or rather the hosts scored a sixth for them. The Trawler Boys are once more six points clear.

Basildon United, who climbed to fifth after their midweek win over New Salamis, were on top form from the off against third place **Brightlingsea Regent** in this clash of the promotion hopefuls, and went ahead after just three minutes, Callum Fitzer with the goal. It took until ten minutes from time for the next goal to arrive, and again it went to the hosts, Brad Warner making it two-nil. Regent got a goal back just before the end, Derek Asamoah giving them hope, but there was no time to build on that. The Bees are up to fourth, Regent slip to sixth.

Ipswich Wanderers played host to promotion hopefuls **Brentwood Town**, and Wanderers,



IMAGE FROM SHIRLEY WHITLOW

who had lost their previous five, were quickly ahead - Matt 'Steak Bake' Blake, a former golden boot winner, opening the scoring on eight minutes. Town struck back almost immediately, Samuel 'Cheese and Onion Pasty' (we might have made that one up) Jeremiah levelling just four minutes later. Five minutes before the break the visiting Blues went two-one up through Andy Freeman, and just before the break it was three-one, Matt Cripps giving Town a cushion. After the break the Blues went goal crazy, Freeman adding a fourth, Shad Ngandu getting a fifth, and Daniel Ogunleye making it six eleven minutes from time - a result which lifts them back into the top five.

Gorleston welcomed **Heybridge Swifts**, and ninety minutes brought some entertainment

but no goals. Swifts slip to seventh, the Greens are thirteenth.

Maldon & Tiptree hoped to bounce back from their derby day defeat against Heybridge Swifts as **Walthamstow** came to call, and the Jammers were ahead eleven minutes before the break, Louis Britton taking his tally for the season to twelve. Harry Phillips doubled the lead just before the hour mark, and two minutes later added a third, before Britton made it four with twenty two minutes remaining. That was that, the Jammers up to eighth, Walthamstow down to tenth.

Bury Town, four games unbeaten and having scored fifteen goals during that time, welcomed **Grays Athletic** to OCS Ram Meadow - and quickly added yet another goal, Cemal Ramadan doing what he does best after sixteen minutes. Just after the half hour Luke Brown doubled the advantage for

the hosts, and it was as good as game over when Ramadan made it three five minutes into the second half. Athletic tried to make a match of it, Kien Connolly pulling a goal back with sixteen minutes to go, but it was too little, too late. Town are ninth.

Witham Town hoped to get back to winning ways after two defeats, and they went ahead against **Wroxham** when Jeffrey Cobblah took his tally for the season to double figures - but just before the break it all went wrong for the hosts, Oliver Bell seeing red and Ryan Hawkins immediately levelling for the Yachtsmen. The second half saw two quick goals, one for each side, Andrew Cesay restoring Town's advantage and Ryan Miles levelling for the visitors - but that was that, the sides ending the day in eleventh and twelfth.

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THE ORIGINAL BUFFON

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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Gianluigi Buffon is one of the greatest goalkeepers the game has ever seen. A precocious teenager so talented that when he broke into Parma's first team at 16, he was told he would be his country's number one by the time he was twenty. 'Why would I wait that long?' was his confident reply. But goalkeeping was in Buffon's genes. Some three decades before Gianluigi arrived in the world, and half a century before he sat atop it, his grandfather's cousin was making his debut for Portogruaro. It wasn't long before he was on the move to Italian giants Milan, where Lorenzo Buffon would become a legend.

Lorenzo's career started in the chaos of post-war Italian football. The first national

championships had been created under fascism, and with the financial struggles of football following the war, that required a restructure. Despite a mid-table finish, Portogruaro were dropped into the vast, regional, amateur fourth tier, and turned to their academy for an immediate return to Serie C. Buffon would probably not have been given such an early start in a higher division, but at that level, he was given the gloves. And so nearly, he achieved immediate success. Portogruaro struggled to score goals, but Buffon's performance in goal kept them in the title race right to the end of the season. In the end, they were massively outscored by San Dona, who took the single promotion place, but the young goalkeeper had done enough to grab the attention of at the top of the tree.

Milan were in a period of rebuilding that would define them for a decade. Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm joined their Swedish compatriot Gunnar Nordahl in the famous Gre-No-Li attacking line, which meant the signing of a backup goalkeeper happened without much fanfare at all. Content to warm the bench as a profession, Buffon had to wait until January of 1950 to make his debut for the Rossoneri. He stood out in a 5-1 win, and was given a second game, then a third, a game against Juventus which was the first Serie A game to be televised live. Milan destroyed their opponents, winning 7-1, and while the super Swedes took the headlines, Buffon was now undroppable.

Despite their win, Milan failed to take the Scudetto away from Turin until the following season, when they were so dominant that they failed to win any of their final five games, and still secured the title. The power was shifting to the city, and Inter made their own claim on the Italian title, bolstered by their own young goalkeeper Giorgio Ghezzi. He and Buffon developed a rivalry both on and off the pitch.

Ghezzi went to the World Cup in 1954 as first choice, owing to Inter's back-to-back titles, but a poor showing soon had the Azzurri turning to Buffon. Ghezzi suffered a double blow. Edy Campagnoli was a catwalk model and tv star, and Ghezzi's girlfriend. But when he was dropped by the national team, she dropped him as well. In a move that could have come straight from her tv shows, she ended up in Buffon's arms. They married in 1958, and Ghezzi reportedly never recovered from the rejection.

Milan returned to title-winning form following the World Cup, and qualified for the European



Cup. He saw them to another title in 1957, and Milan made the European Cup final in 1958, but without an injured Buffon in goal they conceded 3 and lost in injury time to Real Madrid.

In fact, injuries would prove to be his downfall. Following that European Cup defeat, the Milan board started to question Buffon's injury record and looking for a replacement. He played one more season for the Rossoneri before another soap-opera twist. Ghezzi, following his heartbreak, had left the city of Milan on the eve of Buffon and Campagnoli's wedding and spent a year at Genoa. Milan made their move and brought him in. Buffon went the other way, and was unable to prevent his new side's relegation, because once again he'd spent most of the season on the injury table. But Inter had struggled to replace Ghezzi, and saw an opportunity. He joined the Nerazzurri, and resumed his rivalry with Ghezzi.

Juventus won the 1961 title, but all attention was on the Milan rivalry. Buffon and Inter won the first tie, before Ghezzi and Milan won the return. But it was less about results, and more about who would get that coveted number 1 jersey at the 1962 World Cup. Buffon suffered a blow in 1962, conceding the title to Milan and Ghezzi, but he had conceded the fewest goals. The call came, and he was off to Chile. He had won once again.

Sadly, after keeping a clean sheet in the first game, he got injured once more. Italy crashed out of the World Cup, and neither Buffon or Ghezzi would play for them again. Buffon won the Scudetto the following year, but his time was coming to an end. He retired in 1965 after short spells at Fiorentina and Ivera.

His cousin's grandson would eventually go on to surpass him, but Lorenzo will always be the original Buffon.

Enjoy the game.



MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Monday 1st January 2024, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump



Jack **Ainsley**



Stuart **Ainsley**



Noel **Aitkens**



Henry **Barley**



Callum **Bennett**



Charlie **Binns (GK)**



Harry **Blackburn**



Zak **Brown**



Tom **Bullard**



Sam **Ford**



Callum **Harrison**



Josh **Hitter**



Billy **Holland (C)**



Lamel **Howell**



Josh **Mayhew**



Leon **Ottley-Gooch**



Charlie **Warren**



Joe **Whight**

red/yellow - goals - played

Stowmarket Town FC

Manager: David Lorimer

Assistant Manager: Liam Hawkins

James **Askew (GK)**



Mileeq **Banya**



Joseph **Carroll**



Charlie **De Lara-bell (GK)**



Luis **Fernandes**



Zach **Gayfer**



Igor **Graboswki**



Benjamin **Haddoch**



Kieran **Morley**



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