

# the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



Seasiders v Bury Town



PARTNERS WITH  
 ISTHMIAN  
FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST 2024, 3PM  
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH

# CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



## **Good afternoon and a happy bank holiday to all of you.**

Today we face local rivals Bury Town for the third time in ten days, a warm welcome back to all the Bury players, officials and supporters and indeed a very warm welcome to today's match officials. Thanks also to our match sponsors Boardley and Roberts for their continued valuable support.

These notes have been written prior to Saturday's match at Witham Town, hopefully we have returned with another 3 points and remain top of the league and unbeaten, albeit very early days yet!

Last Tuesday's FA Cup replay against today's opponents will live long in the memory as a crowd of over 400 witnessed one of our best performances for many a year, the first half in particular that saw us go in at half time four goals

to the good was truly exceptional as we completely dominated a strong Bury Town team. Every single player performed to a high level, with Zak, Willie, Callum and Charlie causing the away side problems throughout. No pressure boys but now you have shown us what you are capable of, I'm expecting a similar result today!

Boards and Andy, with assistance from Kev have put together what looks a really exciting squad this season. We still have Jack, last seasons player of the year to welcome back into the fold, and I know Boards is still considering whether to move for one or two further additions.

The new lads, Ollie Caley-Brown, Tom Warren, Hugh Cullum, Willie Clemons and Cameron Forde-Brown have all really settled in well and all look fantastic additions to the squad and seem to fit really well into the team comradery which I know is a very important consideration of Boards'. We only want players here that want to be here for the right reasons and buy into everything we are trying to achieve.

This coming Saturday it will be back to FA Cup action as we entertain an unknown quantity in Leverstock Green from the Southern League Central division who enjoyed a penalty shoot-out win in their replay at Heybridge Swifts last Tuesday night, this followed by more cup football as we then entertain Basildon in the FA Trophy on Saturday 7th to begin what looks like a very busy September for all at the club.

Thank you all for your support and enjoy the game.

Tony

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# STUART BOARDLEY





**Good afternoon to you all and hope you've had a good bank holiday weekend. We once again welcome Cole and his Bury Town side to the Martello ground for our third game in ten days against our visitors.**

Since my last programme notes just before last weeks FA Cup fixture against Bury we've experienced the highs of a fantastic showing against Bury and then the sobering result at Witham bringing us all back down to earth with a bump. Football has a unique way sometimes, just when you think you've cracked it, of then making you think you are back to square one when in reality it's far from that!

Our performance at home to Bury last week, it must be said, in my opinion was as good a half of football as I've seen from us in my 5 years here so a massive hats off to the players but as we've said many times this week the bar has now been set and the challenge now is to try to reach and maintain those levels on a more consistent basis.

Witham Town - although first half we felt we were by far the better side, unlike against Bury we were unable to convert our chances and turn our dominance into goals. We all know that in football, if you don't score when you are on top, it can come back to bite you and that's exactly what happened! Moments before half time saw us concede a corner (frustratingly without Billy who for some reason the ref wouldn't allow on as

a sub - he later apologised!). From that point, momentum was with the home side and on the counter, as I had mentioned previously, their pace was a big contributor and soon we were three down. Credit to the lads because they kept fighting and nearly got themselves a deserved point but it wasn't to be - we learn, as there were a couple of things we were at fault for and won't reoccur (they'll stay with the changing room walls but the players are aware) but now we close the book and move on.

Today's game will be very different, Bury will maybe tweak their approach to things and although we'd all love the same result and outcome, I think we will have a completely different game in store for us.

One little adage - our newly formed U13 and U15 sides start their season shortly and would love your support. They are being run under the senior football banner with myself, John Coupe and Kev O'Donnell directly responsible for the EJA setup. Please keep a look out for their fixtures (we will keep you informed in here and on social media) as it would be fantastic for our young boys to have your support as well as you guys getting a glimpse of the FUTURE Seasideers....

One to look out for is our U13 game on the 3rd September here at the Martello ground. Felixstowe vs Leiston 7pm kick-off.

Enjoy the game today....  
Boards



## TODAY'S MASCOTS

This afternoon we have Harry Wise and Harry Crump leading the team out against Bury Town. Harry Wise's favourite player is Sam Ford and Harry Crump's is Zak Brown. Wishing Harry C a happy birthday as he is 8 years old today!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARRY!

# ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>1</b>	<b>Bury Town</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>6</b>
2	Witham Town	2	2	0	0	6	2	+4	6
3	Brentwood Town	2	2	0	0	7	4	+3	6
4	Basildon United	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6
5	Gorleston	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6
6	Maldon & Tiptree	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4
7	Grays Athletic	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
8	Ipswich Wanderers	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4
<b>9</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>3</b>
10	Sporting Bengal United	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
11	Waltham Abbey	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
12	Brightlingsea Regent	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
13	Heybridge Swifts	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
14	Mildenhall Town	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
15	Tilbury	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
16	Cambridge City	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
17	Walthamstow	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0
18	Redbridge	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
19	Concord Rangers	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
20	Haringey Borough	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
21	Newmarket Town	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0
22	Wroxham	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0



## LEAGUE FIXTURES MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

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





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**WITHAM  
TOWN**

**FELIXSTOWE &  
WALTON UNITED**

Holland, Harrison

**3**

**2**

Saturday 24th August  
Kick off 3pm

**Attendance:** 192

Isthmian League North

**Photos:** Stefan Peck















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# SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

## Not many people know this...

By this time next month, we will have played 11 games and five of them will have been against just two opponents!

Today is our third meeting in eight days with Bury Town, then we have two meetings in quick succession coming up with Basildon United, firstly in the Isuzu FA Trophy and then in the League, both here at the Martello Ground.

All above board or luck of the draw as they say.....

Today we play Bury Town for the third time this season, then on Saturday we play host to Leverstock Green in the 1st Qualifying Round of the Emirates FA Cup, our first ever meeting, the

following week it's Isuzu FA Trophy time and we host Basildon United, two weeks before we host them in the League, so of the 320 entrants in the FA Trophy, who do you think have been drawn against each other in the 1st Qualifying Round when we play Basildon?

Now I'm not superstitious (usually) and make no connection ..... BUT .....

Did you know we currently have in Willie Clemons a current Bermudan International playing for The Seaside and I've noticed in training he's very good at triangles! just saying .....

*Seasider*





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# THE OTHER SIDE BURY TOWN

Founded in 1872, Bury Town Football Club is one of the oldest Football Club's in the country and has a proud history dating back over 140 years. The club was founded by Mr William Lake at a meeting in the Suffolk Hotel. The original name of the club was Bury St Edmunds FC and the first committee of the club elected to choose royal blue as the club's colours.

The club took up residence at Kings Road, also known as the Cemetery Road ground, in 1888. Kings Road was the first football ground in East Anglia to operate floodlights when on Monday 12th January 1953, the Blues played their first ever floodlit game against Cambridge City in front of 2,105 spectators. A total of 14 bulbs of 1500 watts illuminated the Suffolk skyline for the first time and history was created. The lights were financed by the Bury Town Supporters Club.



A notable player for the club in the early days was Reginald De Courtney Welch who appeared as a defender for Bury St Edmunds in 1877. De Courtney Welch was a member of The Wanderers side that won the first ever FA Cup in 1872 and he also played in the first ever official international match for England, against Scotland in November 1872.

The club was one of 11 founder members of the Suffolk County Football Association in 1885 and has won the Suffolk Premier Cup on 13 occasions.

The club's name was changed by a vote to Bury Town in September 1885, however 10 years later the members chose to adopt the full name of the





town back as the name, before changing to Bury United in 1908. In 1923 the club members decided that the name 'United' was no longer appropriate as there were a number of sides in Bury St Edmunds, and decided to revert to Bury Town, which has remained to this day.

The club played in various local leagues until 1935 when it became a founder member of the Eastern Counties League. The club spent a total of 22 consecutive seasons in the Eastern Counties League, finishing as runners up in 1937-38. The Blues claimed the ECL title in the 1963-64 season as part of an historic treble, as they also captured the ECL Knockout Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup.

This success saw the club move to the Metropolitan League and they kicked off their first ever Metropolitan game against Charlton Athletic 'A' at Kings Road in front of 1,150 spectators, Bury running out 1-0 winners. The club finished 4th in their first season and also retained the Suffolk Premier Cup.

Season 1965-66 was another successful season and another treble haul of trophies as the club stormed to the Metropolitan League title, won the Metropolitan League Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup again. By this time the club were averaging over 1,000 supporters at their home matches and interest in the club was at an all time high.

In 1968, the Blues reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup and drew Third Division side Bournemouth & Boscombe at Kings Road. 3,000 spectators assembled and witnessed Bury hold the Football League side to a goalless draw. The replay saw Bournemouth win through by 3 goals to 0 at Dean Court. The season had further success when the Blues won the Metropolitan League title for a second time.

The club's success resulted in them taking the bold step to join the Southern Football League for the 1971-72 season. The club struggled to adapt to their new surroundings and after five seasons, decided to take the decision to re-join the Eastern Counties League, a decision that proved unpopular with supporters.

On Wednesday 28th April 1976, Bury Town played their final match at the historic Kings Road ground when West Ham United were the visitors.



1,750 watched on as the sides drew 2-2, and a pitch invasion signalled the end of the Blues spiritual home.

Bury Town moved into their current Ram Meadow ground in 1978 and collected the Suffolk Premier Cup as a reward. The Blues spent a total of 11 seasons back in the ECL and their most successful moment of that time came in their final season when they reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and were drawn away at Football Conference leaders Enfield. The sides drew 0-0 at Southbury Road and returned to Ram Meadow for the replay, however in front of 2,500 supporters, the visitors sneaked home 1-0 to reach the First Round Proper.

The 1987-88 season saw ambition return to the club and Bury were promoted to the Southern League. After a few seasons of promising results and large home crowds, the Blues failed to reach the Premier Division, the closest they came was finishing 4th in 1988-89. Years of overspending on players and ground improvements finally caught up and the club drifted into decline as the crowds drifted away. On the 4th May 1996, the Blues were relegated at Redditch United from the Midland Division of the Southern League, back to the Eastern Counties League.



The club spent another 10 years in the ECL, and despite some early seasons of struggles, success coincided with the appointment of former Colchester United captain Richard Wilkins to the manager's seat. The club reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase in 2005 and then the Semi Final in 2006. Crowds rose back up and after two consecutive runners up spots in the Premier Division of the ECL, the club were



Photo courtesy of Bury Town FC and Neil Dady



promoted to the Isthmian League for the first time in their history. The stay lasted two seasons and after adjusting to a higher level in 2006-07 with a 17th place finish, the following season saw the Blues finish in 7th position.

The FA re-organisation in 2008 saw Bury moved into the Southern League for a third spell of membership. A successful campaign saw Bury finish in 7th position in the Midland Division table, reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 4-2 at Alfreton Town, and reach the Semi Final of the Southern League Cup, however in 2009-10, Bury Town clinched the Southern League Midland Division Championship on the final day of the season with a 3-0 home victory over Marlow in front of 1,550 supporters. The Blues piped Hitchin Town to the title, scoring 115 goals during the campaign and collecting 102 points to gain promotion. Another move across the pyramid saw the Blues re-join the Ryman League for the 2010-11 season, entering the Premier Division. A great season saw Bury finish third, but go out of the play off's to Lowestoft Town. There was however some silverware for the boardroom as Bury defeated Needham Market 2-0 in the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup at Portman Road.

2011-12 saw the club lift the Ryman League Cup with a victory over East Thurrock United and again finished in the play off places, but lost out to AFC Hornchurch in the Semi Final. 2014-15 saw our spell in the Premier Division come to an end after 5 years with relegation to Division One North. In our last two seasons back in Division One North we have finished in 13th and 11th place. 2017-18 saw the Blues finish 9th and reach the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup.

2018-19 saw the Blues press for the play off places and a hope of a return to the Premier Division. It was a successful season with a 6th placed finished achieved, the best finish the club has had since relegation in 2015.

Following a couple of disappointing seasons, Ben Chenery left the club following 9 years in charge and was replaced by former professional Cole Skuse who turned fortunes around and saw the Club into the Play Off's at the end of the 2023-24 season, but in front of 1,222, the Blues went out to Brentwood Town in a home semi final tie.



Photo courtesy of Bury Town FC and Neil Dady

# THE OTHER SIDE PLAYER PROFILES

**COLE SKUSE – MANAGER:** A former professional who made 615 league appearances for Bristol City, Ipswich Town and Colchester United. He retired at the end of last season and was quickly appointed to his first managerial position at Ram Meadow.

**PAUL MUSGROVE – ASSISTANT MANAGER:** Paul joined with Cole Skuse ahead of the current season. Previously a manager at Stowmarket Town and Walsham-Le-Willows, he has an extensive knowledge of the local scene and lead Stowmarket to the Isthmian League play off's in their first season in the division.

**CHARLIE BECKWITH:** Goalkeeper who joined in October 2023 from Thurlow Nunn League side Lakenheath where he won both the Suffolk Senior Cup and Thurlow Nunn League Cup. Has previous experience at step 3 with Leiston.

**LUKE BROWN:** Striker Luke joined in the summer of 2023 after previously playing at Needham Market. He had a successful spell with Paul Musgrove at Stowmarket Town and also played at Hitchin Town and Soham Town Rangers.

**OLLIE CANFER:** Experienced striker who had a spell with us back in 2016-2018 before going on to play locally at Mildenhall Town, Stowmarket Town and Felixstowe & Walton where he reached the play off's last season. He had a short spell at Stowmarket at the start of this season before rejoining us in November.

**JOSH CURRY:** Josh joined the Blues ahead of the new season from Stowmarket Town. He had previously played at step 3 for Lowestoft Town and can play either in defence or midfield and links up again with Paul Musgrove who has twice signed him for both Walsham-Le-Willows and Stowmarket. He made 40 appearances for the Greens Meadow club last season and scored 4 goals.

**MIKEY DAVIS:** A summer signing from Cambridge City. Mikey was with EFL side Grimsby Town as a scholar but after leaving the Mariners he joined both Haverhill club, initially playing for Borough and then to Rovers. His performances prompted higher level Cambridge City to sign him in November 2018 and he has gone on to be a mainstay of their side over the last 6 years.

**LOUIS HENMAN-MASON:** Louis first joined the club in the 2022/23 season from Fakenham Town, but later in the season left to join Dereham Town in the Northern Premier League Midland Division. After a change of management at the start of the season, Louis re-joined from Dereham and has also spent time on loan at Fakenham this season.

**RYAN HORNE:** Midfielder who returned to the club for the 2023-24 season after leaving the previous season to go travelling. Originally joined from AFC Sudbury in 2018 and has also had spells with Soham Town Rangers and experience of step 3 at St Neots Town in the Southern League.

**RYAN JOLLAND:** Midfielder who started out with the Ipswich Town academy before joining our partnership academy at West Suffolk College. Over the years has been an important part of our side and is now one of the senior and more experienced players.

**MAX MAUGHN:** A bright young prospect who joined Bury Town in the summer of 2019 after being released by Colchester United. He was





picked up by the U's from local side Cornard United and Ben Chenery has high hopes for Max who is a skilful midfielder.

**ETHAN MAYHEW:** Ethan joined the club from Hadleigh United of the Thurlow Nunn League in the summer of 2023. A highly rated prospect who was a product of the AFC Sudbury academy, who will be looking to establish himself as a step 4 player this season.

**LEWIS O' MALLEY:** Lewis joined from local rivals AFC Sudbury in July 2022. Lewis can play in either defence or midfield and was captain of the Sudbury side that reached the FA Cup First Round last season. He also found the net on 5 occasions, including an important goal against Dartford in the 4th Qualifying Round.

**TAYLOR PARR:** Primarily playing as a centre half, Taylor was with Cambridge United as a youth player before playing two seasons at Royston Town. He then spent 3 seasons as part of a successful St Neots Town side before making a move back to Royston Town. He moved to Cambridge City in 2021 and spent three years with them, making 107 appearances and scoring 14 goals.

**CEMAL RAMADAN:** Cemal re-joined the club in early November 2018 after a short spell with Leiston. He was our leading goalscorer last season with over 30 goals which caught the eyes of many clubs higher up the pyramid, however he is now back at Ram Meadow and looking for goals again.

**ED UPSON:** A Bury born former professional who progressed through the Ipswich Town academy and winning the FA Youth Cup before going on to play for Yeovil Town, Millwall, MK Dons, Bristol Rovers, Newport County and Stevenage. Joined the Blues from Stowmarket Town in the summer of 2023.

**JOE WHITE:** Another player who has progressed through the West Suffolk College academy scheme, a strong central defender who has worked his way into the team over the last couple of seasons and now a regular name on the team sheet.



# FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Harrison (2), Brown, Warren

# BURY TOWN

# 4 0

Tuesday 20th August  
7.45pm

**Attendance:** 446

Emirates FA Cup  
Preliminary Round Replay

**Photos:** Stefan Peck and  
Tom Bradford









# Dave Ashford







# FIXTURES 2024/25

## AUGUST

**SAT 10**   **NEWMARKET TOWN**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**   **W 6-1**   **ATT 401**

*C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons*

**SAT 17**   **BURY TOWN**   **A**   **3PM**   **FA CUP**   **D 2-2**   **ATT 465**

*Brown, C Warren*

**TUE 20**   **BURY TOWN**   **H**   **7.45PM**   **FA CUP REPLAY**   **W 4-0**   **ATT 446**

*Harrison (2), Ford, Warren*

**SAT 24**   **WITHAM TOWN**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**   **L 3-2**   **ATT 192**

*Holland, Harrison*

**MON 26**   **BURY TOWN**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 31**   **LEVERSTOCK GREEN**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

## SEPTEMBER

**SAT 7**   **BASILDON UNITED**   **H**   **3PM**   **FA TROPHY FIRST QUALIFYING**

**TUE 10**   **WROXHAM**   **H**   **7.45PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 14**   **CAMBRIDGE CITY**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**MON 16**   **MALDON & TIPTREE**   **A**   **7.45PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 21**   **BASILDON UNITED**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 28**   **BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

## OCTOBER

**SAT 5**   **REDBRIDGE**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 12**   **TILBURY**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 19**   **WALTHAMSTOW**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 26**   **CONCORD RANGERS**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

## NOVEMBER

**SAT 2**   **BRENTWOOD TOWN**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**TUE 5**   **WROXHAM**   **A**   **7.45PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 9**   **CAMBRIDGE CITY**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 16**   **BASILDON UNITED**   **A**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 23**   **BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**

**SAT 30**   **MILDENHALL TOWN**   **H**   **3PM**   **LEAGUE**



## DECEMBER

SAT 7 HARINGEY BOROUGH A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 14 WALTHAM ABBEY H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 21 GORLESTON A 3PM LEAGUE

**THU 26 IPSWICH WANDERERS H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 28 NEWMARKET TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

## JANUARY

WED 1 BURY TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 4 GRAYS ATHLETIC H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 11 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 18 SPORTING BENGAL UNITED H 3PM LEAGUE**

**SAT 25 HARINGEY BOROUGH H 3PM LEAGUE**

## FEBRUARY

SAT 1 MILDENHALL TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 8 REDBRIDGE A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 15 TILBURY H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 22 WALTHAMSTOW A 3PM LEAGUE

## MARCH

**SAT 1 CONCORD RANGERS H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 8 BRENTWOOD TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 15 WALTHAM ABBEY A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 22 GORLESTON H 3PM LEAGUE**

## APRIL

**SAT 5 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 12 GRAYS ATHLETIC A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 19 MALDON & TIPTREE H 3PM LEAGUE**

SAT 21 IPSWICH WANDERERS A 3PM LEAGUE

**SAT 26 WITHAM TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE**

# CLUB CONTACTS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Andrew Clarke		springcroftcdr@outlook.com
Director of Operations	Chris Daynes	07415886803	clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Club Secretary	Mike Titchener	07513 376708	secretary@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Treasurer	Gary Hammond	07803 244721	treasurer@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Director of Football	Kevin O'Donnell		
Chairman of Youth Football	Scott Dunne	07790 820396	sjd_sw@yahoo.co.uk
Head of Media/Press Officer	Stuart Daynes	07717 577497	media@felixstowefootball.co.uk

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

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

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

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

## OTHER CONTACTS

Facilities Manager	Chris Daynes		clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk
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Commercial Manager			commercial@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Programme Designer	Becky Wybrow		beckywybrow.design@gmail.com
Photography	Thomas Bradford/Stefan Peck		



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# AFTER THE GOAT

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



We have spent the last 20 years inundated with Greatest of All Time. Tennis, Formula 1, American Football, Gymnastics, Sprinting and of course football, where two players have vied for that particular moniker for longer than some of their fans have been alive. It's become such a commonplace argument that sometimes people forget just how rare it is to find a player of such exceptional ability, let alone two. Deep into the twilight of their careers, they have both moved into semi-retirement in less prestigious leagues, and the footballing world must begin to come to terms with a future lacking Messi and Ronaldo. But just what kind of hole do these greatest ever players leave when they move on?

By 1991, Napoli had enjoyed the most successful period in their history. Two Scudetti, a UEFA Cup, and two domestic trophies is a spell that hasn't since been repeated in Southern Italy. Spearheading this success was the last footballer to unambiguously earn the title of 'greatest ever', Diego Maradona. Among footballing mortals, he was Napoli's Mars, the God of War. So when he failed a drugs test, and a year later left for Spain, the whole city was thrown into turmoil. What followed was a decline that could have been a Roman tragedy, with heroes falling from the heights of Vesuvius into the Tartarus of Serie C.

Building the entire club around Maradona was not just cultural. Napoli had taken out a massive loan to pay a world record fee for the Argentinian in 1984, and their transfer business throughout the 1980s, while successful on the pitch, had loaded the club with debt. The loss



of their talisman was masked in the short-term by the emergence of a talented crop of youngsters, among them Gianfranco Zola who admirably filled the number 10 shirt. They were competitive for a couple of years, but the Tangentopoli Scandal, which tore Italian politics apart, claimed club president Corrado Ferlaino and the cracks were exposed. When he returned a year later to try to save the club, without the questionable resources he had called upon before, there was a fire sale.

Zola and Fabio Cannavaro went to the new project at Parma, Ciro Ferrara went with head coach Marcello Lippi to Juventus, Benito Carbone to Inter. Power in Italian football was, once more, decidedly in the north. In the 1996/97 season, Napoli finished just four points above the relegation zone. But they were far from their nadir.

The following season, more players were



sold, and Napoli were disastrously ill-equipped for the fight they were about to undertake. Four managers, and the emergence of a new talisman in Roberto Ayala, weren't enough to stop the club conceding a disastrous two goals per game. They finished the season with just two wins, and their three-decade stay in the top flight was over.

A new owner - Giorgio Corbelli - saw the club as a proving ground for his own footballing ideas. Despite Walter Novellino performing heroics to haul the club back into Serie A at the second attempt, he was jettisoned for the entertaining Zdenek Zeman. Zeman is something of an antithesis in Italian football, and would later get a Pescara side to Serie A with some of the most swashbuckling football ever seen. In Naples, he lasted six games. His outrageously attacking side was entrusted to Emiliano Mondonico, a man who seemed to think Fabio Capello was a gung-ho enthusiast. He got the side playing admirably, and with a bit of a transfer gamble in January, Napoli fought until the final day of the season, when they suffered relegation. Unfortunately, those gambling debts came due too.

The ancients were big believers that nature rewarded and punished, so when heavy rain

caused the near-collapse of the San Paolo, Neapolitans could be forgiven for thinking they were being seriously punished. They spent the 2001/02 season playing at various smaller grounds across the south. Corbelli was arrested at the end of that season in another corruption scandal, and while Napoli stayed up in 2003, but 2004 they had reached the very depths of Italian professional football, Serie C.

With debts of €79 million, there was a very real chance that the club would disappear forever. To the fans credit, even in the third tier, 50,000 of them continued to fill the stadium. That enthusiasm would be the spark that saved them, convincing film producer Aurelio de Laurentis to part with €39 million to rescue the former giants.

De Laurentis' time in charge took a while to get going. It took two attempts to get out of Serie C, before a return to the top flight. But in 2022/23, three decades after Maradona's departure, the Scudetto returned to Naples. Maybe the fall and rise of the iconic club isn't just down to the loss of the GOAT, but it's amazing how the trajectory of a story can change around one man.

Enjoy the game.



# PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

## Bury Town go top - just - and we also have wins for Brentwood, Basildon, Gorleston, Grays, Abbots and Regent



**Felixstowe and Walton United** had been scoring goals for fun as they travelled to **Witham Town**, but their hosts were also in fine form, and they stopped that Seasiders steamroller in its tracks! Witham went ahead in added time at the end of the first half, Luke Ige with the opener, and ten minutes into the second half Josh Osude's fourth goal of the season doubled their advantage. On sixty four minutes they went three-nil up, Deese Kasinga Madia surely making their lead unassailable, but the visitors then roused themselves, and substitutes Billy Holland and Callum Harrison reduced the arrears to three-two. That, however, was that, and Witham are second, United slipping to ninth.

**Brentwood Town** officially opened their new 3G pitch and their newly refurbished clubhouse as they welcomed **Walthamstow** - and the two sides delivered a match suitable for the occasion. Stow went ahead on eight minutes, Kymani Thomas with the opener, and although Shad Ngandu's goal drew the Blues level a Thomas penalty ensured the visitors took a lead into the break. Within two minutes of the second half starting the hosts were level, Benas Vaivada with the equaliser, and on fifty five minutes Ngandu had what proved to be the last word, getting the winner from the spot. Town are third- and that's their third consecutive win over Stow.

**Basildon United** were superb on occasions last season, and the Bees have had a superb start to this season, winning each of their four matches in League and Cup so far. Their latest victims were **Cambridge City**, the Bees winning three-one on the road to go fourth. Ruben Bartlett-Antwi opened the scoring just after the half hour, and seven minutes into the second half Kye Jude made it two. City got a goal back, George Smith scoring from the spot, but in added time at the end of the match United made the points secure, Darren Esuka making it three-one.

**Gorleston** welcomed **Redbridge** to Great Yarmouth, the Greens looking to win their fourth match in a row, after two cup victories and victory over Walthamstow have given them a perfect start to the campaign. Last season's meetings



both finished one-nil, on both occasions a triumph for the hosting side, and the two teams decided not to change that pattern as Gorleston got the only goal of the game just before the hour, Joseph Duffy seeing them into fifth.

**Bury Town** fans hoped that their midweek cup defeat at the hands of Felixstowe was something of an aberration, and so it looked as the Blues got back to winning ways - and went to the top of the table - with a two-nil win over **Wroxham**. A goal in each half was enough for victory, Joe White opening the scoring on eleven minutes, Michael Davis getting the second midway through the second half.



**Grays Athletic** were the hosts for **Sporting Bengal United**. Grays drew their opening fixture against Mildenhall Town but bowed out of the Cup on Sunday after delivering a below-par performance against Witham Town, but they picked up their first League win of the campaign after Elliott Sartorius kept his nerve from the spot on sixty four minutes. They climb to seventh.

**Maldon and Tiptree** welcomed **Tilbury**, and it was much ado about nothing-nothing, neither side managing a goal. The Jammers are sixth, the Dockers fifteenth.

**Ipswich Wanderers** welcomed **Heybridge Swifts** to the Doucy. Wanderers had won each of their three matches prior to this one, and they remain undefeated, but they couldn't make it four, the match ending goalless.

**Waltham Abbey** were hosts for **Mildenhall Town**. The Abbotts began the league season with a narrow defeat at Sporting Bengal before getting back to winning ways in the cup last weekend, and they added a first league win of the season with the only goal of the match. Ollly Miles scored it after just nine minutes, and the visitors made their chances of a comeback look rather small after keeper Josh Pope saw red just before the break.

**Haringey Borough** welcomed **Brightlingsea Regent** to Coles Park. Both sides started the League campaign with defeat, and history was perhaps against the visitors as the previous nine meetings between the sides had seen one Regent victory, seven for Borough, and one draw - but it turned out that Regent weren't interested in history, as they scored a goal in each half to triumph. Walker Shabazz-Edwards was their hero, as he got both goals, on sixteen and eighty one minutes, lifting his side to twelfth.



BY NEIL PAYNE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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



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# MATCHDAY SQUADS

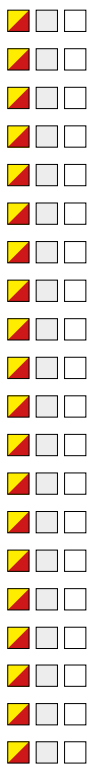
Isthmian League North  
Monday 26th August 2024, 3pm



## Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump



red/yellow - goals - played

- Jack **Ainsley**
- Stuart **Ainsley**
- Noel **Aitkens**
- Ollie **Brown**
- Zak **Brown**
- Willie **Clemons**
- Hugh **Cullum**
- Archie **Dunne**
- Sam **Ford**
- Cameron **Forde-Brown**
- Callum **Harrison**
- Josh **Hitter**
- Billy **Holland (C)**
- Kubi **Kussan**
- Josh **Mayhew**
- Leon **Ottley-Gooch**
- Charlie **Warren**
- Tom **Warren**
- Joe **Whight**
- Harry **Wright (GK)**

## Bury Town FC

Manager: Cole Skuse

Assistant Manager: Paul Musgrove

- Charlie **Beckwith**
- Luke **Brown**
- Joseph **Carroll**
- Ollie **Canfer**
- Josh **Curry**
- Ben **Curtis**
- Mikey **Davis**
- Ryan **Horne**
- Ryan **Jolland**
- Max **Maughn**
- Ethan **Mayhew**
- Lewis **O'Malley**
- Taylor **Parr**
- Cemal **Ramadan**
- Tom **Thulborn**
- Ed **Upson**
- Joe **White**



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Referee: Mr Benjamin Bowles Assistant Referees: Mr Thomas Ling & Mr Louis Dawson