





SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024, 3PM ISUZU FA TROPHY SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND



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# CHAIRMAN: TONY BARNES



#### Good afternoon to one and all and welcome to the Martello Ground for what I hope will be an entertaining FA Trophy tie versus Enfield.

Welcome to all the players, officials and supporters of Enfield, the match officials and also thanks to Richard Bugg for kindly sponsoring today's game, I hope you all enjoy the afternoon and have a safe journey home later.

Last weekend was a mixed bag for the Seasiders, a very disappointing FA Cup exit away at Canvey Island followed by a great 4-1 away league win at Maldon and Tiptree.

I thought we were easily the better team in both games, but silly defensive errors and an off day at the other end allowed Canvey to progress and we wish them well in the next round.

48 hours later against a Maldon and Tiptree

side who had only played 20 minutes in previous six days whilst we had played 180 minutes the lads must take massive credit for their performance. Tiredness, traffic etc... could have been excuses, but they were bright, energetic and thoroughly deserved the win which included some very exciting football capped off by a brilliantly worked third goal from Noel and a further brace by the in-form Charlie Warren who could very nearly have claimed a hatrick.

No midweek fixture next week so hopefully many of you will venture into the Essex countryside once again as we visit Brightlingsea Regent.

Enjoy the game. Tony



#### PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club is owned and managed by Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club Ltd (by guarantee) registration number 10076800. The Chairman of the Company is Andrew Clarke The Directors of the Company are Christopher Daynes and Andrew Clarke.



#### Good afternoon to you all and welcome to today's visitors Enfield.

Since I last wrote programme notes we have faced Basildon, Wroxham, Canvey Island and Maldon & Tiptree with us winning three of the four games. Performances have generally been good with our one loss coming against Canvey in arguably our best footballing performance of the lot with just our end product being at fault for not progressing further in this years FA Cup. This goal shy performance was most unlike us and although really disappointing on the day we realise that it's not always going to happen in front of goal for us.

Despite this defeat, we travelled to Maldon in confident mood and soon put to bed the goal drought of a 90 minute period at Canvey with Charlie putting us ahead early on in the game. The most pleasing thing for me as manager wasn't the fantastic attacking football played on the night (and some of our goals were top class) but instead it was how resolute we were defensively. Maldon are a very good side and for me, the best we've played this season by far so when they had spells of pressure it really tested our resolve and how we stood firm against that was excellent. The players were challenged prior to the game to show real pride and determination in the way they defended and I thought they did that expertly despite us having two players unable to warm up due to their late arrival, just 48 hours recovery time from the last game and various injuries before and during the match itself!

Today, once again will pose a very different challenge to that of Monday night but a match we know we will have to be as good in both boxes once again to come away with a place in the next round of the FA Trophy.

Enjoy the game..... Boards



TODAY'S MASCOTS The mascots for today's game are the Under 12 Girls Whites team who are sponsored by Lottys - enjoy the game girls!

## ISTI-IMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

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

# SEASIDER PI-IIL GRIFFITI-IS

## Not many people know this...

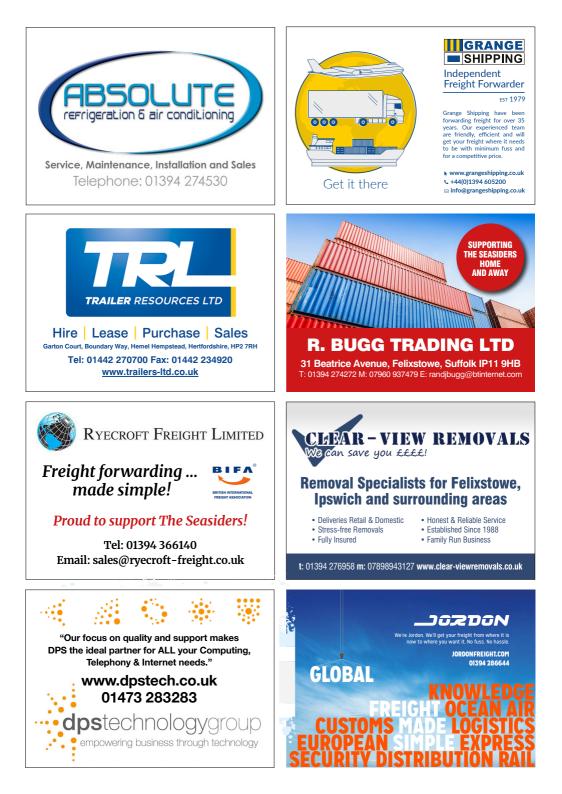
Perhaps more famous for a different kind of shooting than having a ball in front of white posts on a football pitch.

Back in the 19th century a guy called James Paris Lee designed a bolt action system that ejected spent shells and inserted a primed new shell into the gun barrel of a rifle from a magazine attached to the underside of the rifle.

He worked at the Royal Small Arms Factory which was based in North London in the borough

of Enfield and over the next 60 years the factory produced over 7,000,000 **.303 Lee-Enfield bolt action rifles** which became the standard British infantryman's weapon in both world wars until being officially replaced by the L1A1 SLR (Self Loading Rifle) in the late 1950's

The first **Royal Enfield Motor Cycle** was built in 1901 by the Enfield Cycle Company of Redditch, Worcestershire! Absolutely nothing to do with Enfield, the place!



## MALDON & TIPTREE Collis FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

C Warren(2), OG, Aitkens

Monday 16th September 2024, 7.45pm

Attendance: 166 Isthmian League North Photos: Stefan Peck











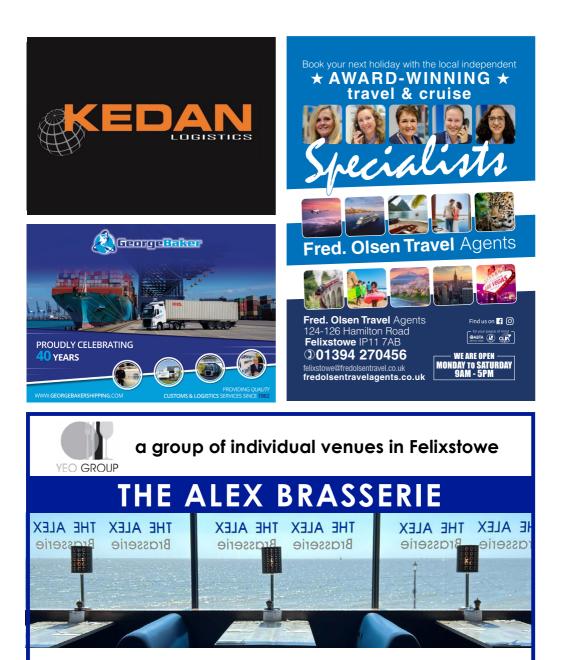
# **BILLY** HOLLAND

Sponsored by: Winnifred Wedderburn-Soall

Date of Birth: 24/03/1992 Occupation: Head of Recruitment Home town: lpswich **Position:** Central Midfielder Previous teams: AFC Sudbury. Needham Market, Ipswich Wanderers, Coplestonians Nickname: Skip Team you support: lpswich Favourite footballer: Past - Steven Gerrard, Present - Declan Rice Favourite food: Chinese Food you hate: Liquorice Favourite music: Ed Sheeran Holiday destination: Italy Best concert: Ed Sheeran at Wembley Hobbies away from football: Days out with my wife and two young children, listening to podcasts and reading Least favourite opposition player: Anyone quick **Best opposition player:** 

Probably playing against the Billericay team that had Jamie O'Hara, Jermaine Pennant and Paul Konchesky Best mate in football: |oe Whight Adidas or Nike: Nike Black or colouful boots: Colourful Night in or night out: Night in Favourite TV show: Masterchef - Love it Drink of choice: Gunness / Coke Zero Interesting fact about vourself: First water baby born in Ipswich Hospital Favourite day of the week: Sunday Texting or talking: Talking Invisibility or super strength: Invisibility (already got super strength) Dream car: A iet What annoys you the most? Zak Brown

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#### ANDY CRUMP Assistant Manager



#### ALEX EGELTON GOALKEEPER COACH



STUART STEVENSON COACH



#### **CHARLOTTE ROBINSON** SPORTS THERAPIST



DOUG FRENCH KIT MAN



HARRY WRIGHT GOALKEEPER



**STUART AINSLEY** 

DEFENDER







# 

LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH DEFENDER



CAMERON FORDE-BROWN MIDFIELDER



DEFENDER

#### CALLUM HARRISON MIDFIELDER



**NOEL AITKENS** MIDFIELDER



MIDFIELDER

**TOM WARREN** MIDFIELDER



#### **CHARLIE WARREN** MIDFIELDER



#### WILLIE CLEMONS FORWARD





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#### **FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED** Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren

### BASILDON UNITED Jude, Berri



Saturday 7th September 2024, 3pm

#### Attendance: 337

FA Trophy First Qualifying Round

Photos: Stefan Peck









# HUGH CULLUM

Sponsored by: Chris Walne

Date of Birth: 20/01/2004 **Occupation:** Student Home town: Felixstowe - hoem grown Position: Centre back or right back Previous teams: Needham Market Nickname: Have a few family nicknames but none in football Team you support: lpswich Favourite footballer: Robin Van Persie Favourite food: Chinese Food you hate: Mushrooms Favourite film: I couldn't give you a favourite - but my top 2 would be The Green Mile and American Gangster Holiday destination: Mexico Best concert: Never been to one! Hobbies away from football: Golf **Best opposition player:** There's been a few - Leroy Lita and **Josh Stokes** 

Adidas or Nike: Nike Black or colouful boots: Colourful PlayStation or Xbox: Xbox Night in or night out: Night in Favourite TV show: The Walking Dead or Prison Break

**Drink of choice:** Peach Ice Tea or Fanta Fruit Twist

Interesting fact about yourself: I represented England schoolboys at Under 18 level

Match day superstition or routine: I would say stepping on the pitch with my right foot first

Favourite day of the week: Saturday Invisibility or super strength: Invisibility

**Dream car:** Audi RS6 Avant **What annoys you the most?** My brother and dog haha!

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#### FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED CWarren, Whight

#### 

2 1 Tuesday 10th September 2024, 7.45pm

Attendance: 210 Isthmian League North

> Photos: Thomas Bradford







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KUBI KASSAN Chris Worrall



ZAC TUVEY Kedan Logistics Ltd



HUGO AKHUSEYIN Matthew Daynes



WINNIFRED SOALL Stan Baston

# **FIXTURES 2024/25**

#### AUGUST

AUGUS	T					
SAT 10 C Warren (	NEWMARKET TOWN (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 6-1	ATT 401
SAT 17 Brown, C V	BURY TOWN	А	3PM	FA CUP	D 2-2	ATT 465
TUE 20	BURY TOWN ), Ford, C Warren	H	7.45PM	FA CUP REPLAY	W 4-0	ATT 446
SAT 24 Holland, Ha	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 192
MON 26 Clemons, H	BURY TOWN Hitter, Ford	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 624
<b>SAT 31</b> C Warren (	LEVERSTOCK GREEN (3), Ford, Whight	H	3PM	FA CUP 1ST QR	W 5-1	ATT 218
SEPTE	MBER					
SAT 7 Caley-Brov	BASILDON UNITED vn, C Warren (2), T Warren	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST QR	W 4-2	ATT 337
TUE 10 C Warren,	WROXHAM	н	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 210
SAT 14	CANVEY ISLAND	A	3PM	FA CUP 2ND QR	L2-0	ATT 393
MON 16 C Warren (	MALDON & TIPTREE (2), OG, Aitkens,	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 166
SAT 21	ENFIELD	Н	3PM	FA TROPHY 2ND QR		
SAT 28	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
ОСТОВ	ER					
WED 2 MILDENHALL TOWN		H	7.45P <mark>M</mark>	SUFFOLK PREMIER		
SAT 5	REDBRIDGE	Н	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 8	BASILDON	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	_	
SAT 12	TILBURY	А	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 19	WALTHAMSTOW	Н	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 22	CAMBRIDGE CITY	А	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 26	CONCORD RANGERS	А	3PM	LEAGUE		
NOVEN	IBER					
SAT 2	BRENTWOOD TOWN	Н	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 5	WROXHAM	А	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 9	CAMBRIDGE CITY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		·
SAT 16	BASILDON UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE		1.3
SAT 23	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 30	MILDENHALL TOWN	Н	3PM	LEAGUE		

DEOEMO					
DECEMB					
	HARINGEY BOROUGH	Α	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 14	WALTHAM ABBEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 21 (	GORLESTON	Α	3PM	LEAGUE	
THU 26 I	PSWICH WANDERERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 28	NEWMARKET TOWN	Α	3PM	LEAGUE	
JANUARY					
WED 1 E	BURY TOWN	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 4 (	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 18	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 25	HARINGEY BOROUGH	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
FEBRUAR	RY CONTRACTOR				
SAT1 N	MILDENHALL TOWN	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 15	TILBURY	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	
	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE	
			of m	LENGOL	
MARCH					
	CONCORD RANGERS	н	3PM	LEAGUE	
	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	
	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	
	GORLESTON	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	
			UT III	LENGUL	
APRIL					
	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	н	3PM	LEAGUE	
	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PW	LEAGUE	
	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
	PSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 26	WITHAM TOWN	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	

#### **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."

# THE OTHER SIDE

Founded in August 1893 as Enfield Spartans by John Bruce Skinner the club spent their initial season playing friendlies. They entered their first league the Tottenham & District Junior Alliance for the season 1894-95. Moving to the larger Tucker's Field they joined the North Middlesex League in 1896 which was won in 1901-02 and 1902-03 after which 'senior' status was attained.

In 1900 the Spartans was dropped which was accompanied by a move to Cherry Orchard Lane in 1903 and they joined the London League (Div2) which was won in 1911 and promotion to the Premier Division. In 1912 Enfield FC was invited to become a founder member of the Athenian League and in 1913-14 the Middlesex Senior cup was won for the first time.

Football was suspended during WW1 and on resumption they spent a season in the Middlesex & London league before returning to the Athenian League in 1921 a championship that was not won until 1961-62 and was retained in 1962-63. In1934-35 Enfield finished second in the league reached the semi-finals of the FA Amateur Cup and won the London senior Cup for the first time before moving to a new purpose-built stadium at Southbury Road in 1936. The Athenian league was suspended during WWII although the E's did compete in the Herts. & Middlesex Combination for a short period. In 1945 Jack Rawlings and Len West both gained international caps and Hendon were defeated 1-0 in the Middlesex Senior Cup final at White Hart Lane in 1959-60 England Amateur international centre forward Tommy Lawrence netted a club record 49 goals in one season. In 1963 Enfield Hendon Hitchin and Sutton were invited to join the Isthmian League Enfield were particularly successful during this period as they finished champions on seven occasions including two hat tricks. In 1966-67 and 1969-70 the FA Amateur Cup was won and there were further visits to the twin towers (Wembley) as they reached the 1963-64 and 1971-72 finals. Enfield also won the European Amateur Cup in 1970 and the Hitachi Challenge

Cup in 1979 and 1980 as well as the Middlesex and London senior cups on numerous occasions. During this 1970s period Enfield defeated football league clubs, Wimbledon & Northampton Town in the FA Cup.

Enfield joined the Alliance Premier League (Now Conference) in 1981-82 and found immediate success. Having finished runners up at the first attempt they went one better in 1982/83 by securing the championship on the last day of the season at the home of the previous champions Runcorn. This was won for a second time in 1985/ 86, but relegation overtook them in a disastrous 1989-90 campaign. During the 1980s the FA Trophy was won in 1982 and 1988 with "Lincoln City" being beaten en route. Also, during this period Football League clubs Wimbledon (again) Hereford, Port Vale, Exeter & Orient all succumbed to Enfield in the FA Cup. Enfield won the 1994-95 Isthmian league title by fourteen points and the following season finished level on points but lost the title to Hayes on goal difference by just one goal 1996-97 season saw them finish runners up for a second successive season; But Enfield did have more FA Cup success during the 1990s defeating Aldershot, Torquay, Cardiff & Chesterfield. The Southbury Road stadium was controversially sold for development in 1999, Decline set in and after struggling to preserve their Premier Division status during 1999-2000 & 2001-02 2003. The E's were relegated for only



the second time in their history at the end of the 2002-03 season followed by a second successive relegation in 2003-04 into division 2.

Enfield was being run by a new committee from November 2003 as they started the long hard journey to remove the club from the former owners failed business. The new committee that came into the club during the 2003/04 season had a successful first season in Ryman division 2 which saw the E's win promotion into the Southern League East division 1 with a mid-table finish secured. Season 2006/07 saw the E's moved back to Ryman division 1 with another mid table finish. But another cruel twist forced the E's to resign and rename as Enfield 1893 FC after the fight to remove the club from the former owner's debt was lost and E's found themselves in the Essex senior League. The E's finished season 2007/08 level on points but as in the 1994/95 season lost out on goal difference. Hoping to go one better than in 2008/09 The E's finished second again and reached the final of the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy losing 3-1, For the 2009/10 season Enfield moved closer to the Borough of Enfield by ground sharing at Broxbourne Borough FC after a run in the FA Cup that ended in defeat by Conference South highflyers Chelmsford City the season petered out with Enfield finishing fourth in the League. 2010 Enfield Back in the borough after 11 years away A twist of fate in February 2010 saw Brimsdown Rovers who were struggling financially contacted the Enfield Board to let them know that Brimsdown Rovers FC would be resigning from the Spartan South Midland League at the end of the 2009/10 season to field only youth teams from the 2010/11 season onwards and also to see if we would be interested in moving back into the Borough to play at Goldsdown Road which we have accepted also some members of the Brimsdown Football committee will be joining the Enfield committee. In our first season back in the borough at Goldsdown Road we reached the League cup final losing to Stansted FC and also becoming the Essex Senior League champions but were denied promotion to step four due to the Goldsdown Road ground not meeting certain criteria. The 2011/12 season hopes where we would go one better than last season by winning the league and gaining promotion to step 4 but



after a good run in the FA Vase to the fourth round the season fell away and we finished in seventh place in the league.

In the 2012/13 season we finished 9th in the league & a good run in the FA Vase to the fourth round again. The 2013/14 season was a good one finishing in 3rd spot with 91pts, the winning team had 92pts & going out in the 2nd round of the FA Vase. Under a new management team in the 2014/15 season & moving to the Harlow Arena, because Brimsdown didn't meet ground grading we finished disappointing in 16th position & going out in the 1st round of the FA Vase. The 2015/16 we finished in 20th position & going out in 1st qualifying round of FA Vase.

The 2016/17 finishing in 19th position & made to the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Vase. In 2017/ 18 season Enfield finished in 9th position & made it to the 3rd round of the FA Vase. In 2018/19 season Enfield finished in 14th position and made it to the 2nd round of the FA Vase. The 2019/2020 & 2020/ 2021 seasons were not completed due to the Covid pandemic. In season 2021/22 Enfield finished 5th in the league, reached the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and won the Errington Challenge Cup, beating Cockfosters 3-2 at Great Wakering FC.

Enfield won the Essex Senior League Championship in 2022/23 and gained promotion to step 4 competing in the Isthmian League Division One North (2023/24) season. In the FA Cup we reached the 2nd Qualifying Round and in the FA Vase we reached the 2nd Round. In 2023/24 season we finished in 18th position. In 2024/25 season we have been moved to the Southern League Central Division and we will play our home games at Hertford Town's ground.

## CANVEY ISLAND Dorrell (2) FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Saturday 14th September 2024, 3pm

Attendance: 393

FA Cup Second Qualifying Round

Photos: Thomas Bradford



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# CLUB CONTACTS

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Hospitality Welfare Officer Assistant Secretary **Fixtures Secretary** Health & Safety Officer

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President Life Vice Presidents:

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# GLORY AND DISASTER IN THE NORTHLAND

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame

Northland is a hard place. One of three administrative zones of Sweden, it is, unsurprisingly, in the north. Frozen, bitter winds swirl snow storms around the towns and when the powder subsides, it leaves behind rain and mud. In short, it's not the kind of place where you would expect a football team to find a playable pitch, let alone glory at the highest level. In its biggest town, Umea, ice hockey is the sport of the masses, and football has only had a fleeting relationship with the Allsvenskan, the Swedish top flight. But, not too long ago, there was a team in that town that dominated Europe.

Umea IK were founded in 1985, in the town that spawned the exceptional talents of Gunnar Nordahl, and immediately joined the women's fourth tier. Manager Roland Arnqvist had a simple mission. Simple, but not easy. He wanted this team, from this frozen backwater, to find success on the biggest stage. With the support of the ownership, they set about making this happen.

In only their second season, Umea won the league, and with it promotion to the third tier. By 1991, in the mostly amateur arena of women's football, Umea were professional. Ish. Players were paid 35 krona per game, not exactly a life changing amount, but enough to increase the frequency of training, and begin attracting some more talent. Initially, however, the club relied on the talents of Umea natives.

By 1995, they were in the top flight. Arnqvist had by this time moved upstairs, overseeing playing style and recruitment from the directors box. Frida Ostberg, Malin Mostrom, and goalscoring sensation Hanna Ljunberg grew up in the town



they then electrified. By the turn of the century they were pulling in crowds of nearly 10,000 people. Only five mens teams, including once European regulars Malmo, IFK Goteborg and AIK could call on a bigger attendance, and none of them are in Northland. To the delight of their fans, the year 2000 also saw their first league title.

When Sweden lost the World Cup final against Germany in 2003, five of the eleven on the pitch plied their trade at Umea. But with great success comes greater expectation, and recruitment got more expansive and more expensive.

Ma Xiaxiou was recruited from China in a move that marked a shift in in strategy. Umea natives were fine, but if you really wanted to make a stir you needed a little international starlight. She was joined by Swiss superstar Ramona Bachmann. Umea lost the Women's Cup final - the precursor to the Women's Champions League - to Frankfurt in 2002, but defeated Danish opponents Fortuna Hjorring the following year. After that victory, having conquered all before them, they went one further, and signed the best player in the world, the Brazilian Marta.

Umea would win seven league titles between 2000 and 2008. In 2006, they didn't lose a single game, winning the league by 21 points. Having won a second Women's Cup in 2004, they reached the final in 2007 and 2008. But here, at the very zenith of their existence, the rot set in for a spectacular collapse.

Arnqvist left the club before that second Women's Cup defeat, leaving them without direction after 25 years. They won the league, but the following season Marta moved on too, back across the Atlantic to Los Angeles (although she retains Swedish citizenship). Bachmann followed soon after, to Atlanta, and it started a hemorrhaging of international stars. With players leaving, the side weakening, and attendances falling, the direction was obvious. By 2011, the club restructured to avoid bankruptcy, and slipped to mid-table. But 2016 would be a disaster.

Umea started the season poorly, with injuries to key players, but there was hope that their return would turn the team's fortunes around. But in the summer break, news broke that the club needed 1.8 million krona to survive. The cost of flying so close to the sun had been immense, and having struggled along for nearly a decade, time was up. The coaching staff were unceremoniously sacked, finding out their fate on the local news rather than from the board. Eight players wrote an open letter in support of their coaches, expressing their lack of desire to play for anyone else. Umea went nearly a month without any manager at all, all the while losing games, before Daniel Doverlind was brought in to oversee a sinking ship.

The relegation decider against Kristianstad had a touch of northern irony about it. Delayed because of the snow, both team's players had to clear the pitch themselves. What remained underneath was a bog, cut up by the men's team. In the sticky mud of Umea, Kristianstad fought out a draw. Twelve years after becoming European Champions, Umea IK were relegated. The journey was over.

The reconstituted Umea IK now plies it's trade as a yo-yo club between the first and second flight, never troubling the elite of the game. But, for a brief moment among the optimist of a new millennium, they were the brightest of sparks.

Enjoy the game.





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