

the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Waltham Abbey



SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024, 3PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



A very good afternoon to one and all and a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Waltham Abbey for what promises to be a cracking league fixture with both sides on a good run of form and sitting near the top of the league.

Welcome also to today's match officials and of course to our own fantastic fans, hope you all enjoy the afternoon and have a safe journey home.

I haven't used the word fantastic lightly, it is fully deserved having witnessed the number of supporters that made the long journey down to Haringey last week in cold, wet and windy conditions, your support was superb and brightened up an otherwise pretty dull affair. Josh's well taken winner being one of only four shots on target in the whole game.

Still, sometimes nice to win 'ugly' as it shows a bit of grit and character that we don't always recognise when scoring for fun.

It has been a while since I've written, but I need to wish our two emigrants all the best down under but of course I also hope they come back soon!

All credit to Boards and his team, Noel in particular played at the heart of the team and always kept us ticking over with his desire for the ball and his astute passing, but we've won two and drawn one since, so it shows we can adapt and great to see the likes of Josh and others up their game despite so many other injuries at this very busy time of the season.



It isn't ideal having three away games coming up over the holidays, but at least we can enjoy a home game on Boxing Day against local friends and rivals in Ipswich Wanderers - note the 1pm Kick off! The Wanderers game will be followed by our Xmas Draw - tickets available online or in clubhouse!

In the meantime, on behalf of everyone at the club may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Tony

STUART BOARDLEY



Let me start by welcoming you all to The Martello Ground where we host Waltham Abbey who we also give a warm welcome to.

Today's game sees us face an opponent who are in a rich vein of form following three wins on the spin, the highlight of which being a 7-2 demolition of title challengers Tilbury.

Before I go too much further, today marks the first home game without Zak Brown. Despite him being injured of late he's played a huge part in our success over the last few seasons and he'll be sorely missed. At times, he's the most frustrating player to manage but when he's on form, there is nobody who can go past players with such ease... I hope that despite his absence we will continue to see Zak's family at the games as they've become part of the furniture.

Over the past 10 days we've picked up four points from a possible six, with our performances meriting a little more in my opinion. Basildon away was always going to be tricky but the opportunities we created on the night left us rueing a host of missed chances with the woodwork denying us

on no less than five occasions.

Following this we travelled to Haringey Borough, which, in the best of conditions is a battle and tough place to visit but it felt as though we were not only taking on our opponents but also the dreaded storm Darragh! It meant that the players really had to dig deep in what was never going to be a classic performance and dig deep they did. On the day, standout performances for me came from our engine room with both Josh Hitter and Jordy Matthews being absolutely superb, winning so many duels and dominating the Haringey Borough midfield.

Once again the journey home was a good one... a coach, full to the brim of our fantastic supporters, with many familiar but some new faces! It really is fantastic each week to see so many Seasiders travelling by coach, car or train just to support us and for that the whole squad and management are truly humbled and grateful!

Enjoy today's game and let's hope we can continue our unbeaten home league record....

Boards



NEW SIGNING!

The Seasiders have signed central defender Fabian Claxton on loan from EFL League One side Peterborough United. Fabian joins on an initial one month deal and went straight into the squad for the game against Haringey Borough. Welcome to the Seaside Fabian!

PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

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SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this...

When I look at who we are playing next I firstly check a) have we played them before and b) how did we get on?

It's usually pretty straight forward, till I came to this week's opponents when I had to have a double take at how many Waltham's there are. I thought we were difficult enough having Walton in our name, there's a Walton & Hersham, Walton Casuals, Walton Community, Walton on Thames and even a Walton Players who joined the Liverpool Premier League in 2009 but then left in 2011.

Waltham Abbey today's opponents, (who

we have met before, back in August 2000 in the preliminary round of the FA Cup, a game we lost 3-2 here at Dellwood Avenue) are one of several Waltham's.

Carrying a two name title Are Waltham Abbey, Cross, Forest and Glendale, while probably the most famous of them all Walthamstow Avenue have an FA Cup record the envy of most Non-League clubs. They share their first name with Walthamstow Grange, Pennant, St Mary's and Trojans.

So in total ten clubs with Waltham in their name, wonder if that's a record



TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today we welcome Felixstowe & Walton United Under 11's Whites Mixed as matchday mascots for our game against Waltham Abbey. They are sponsored by Boast International and Felixstowe Pier.



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Q&A WITH: **HARRY WRIGHT**

For today's interview we caught up with Seaside's goalkeeper Harry Wright.

Known for his sharp reflexes and commanding presence in goal, Harry has become a fan favourite for his clutch performances and undeniable passion for the game.



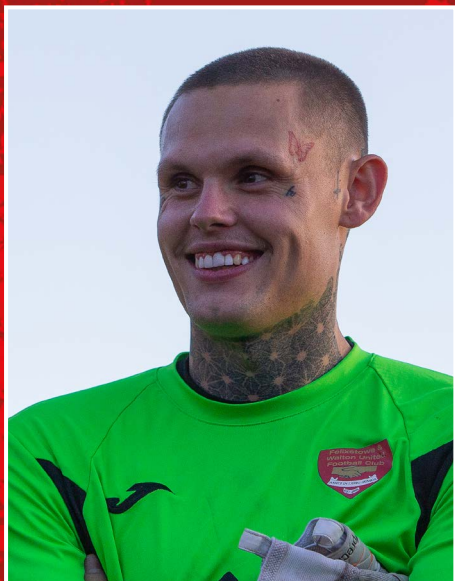
Harry, how have you found settling into the team and the town of Felixstowe? Have the fans and the community made you feel welcome?

I have settled into Felixstowe so well. The whole club players, staff, community and fans have been amazing and I've loved every bit of it.

Coming from a professional background, how have you adapted to the challenges of non-league football?

Yes, I definitely have. It's a lot more physical and the pitches and weather play a massive part, but the club and Felixstowe make it so enjoyable to play for.





You work alongside forward Sam Ford as a football/goalkeeper coach. How did that partnership come about?

Yes, as much as I couldn't wait to sign for the club, coaching with Sam and SF COACHING played a massive part in the move and I'm loving every minute of it. Sam spoke to me and asked if I would be interested and I snapped at the offer straight away

We're partway through the season—what would you say has been the highlight for you so far? Are there any specific matches or moments that stand out as particularly memorable?

The Borehamwood game was a stand out moment for the club and for me but I couldn't say one game specifically because every game has been amazing for me. But I reckon the best was seeing Jack Ainsley score at Concord Rangers!

Team spirit is a key factor in a successful season. How would you describe the atmosphere in the dressing room this year?

I would like to think I'm a big voice in the dressing room and I feel like this year it has been really good and I've adapted well to boys and the staff.





As one of the newer players, how have you contributed to building the camaraderie within the squad?

I would say so yes. Those who travel to away games would know about me getting on the mic and calling people out to do karaoke.

As we look to the rest of the season, what are your predictions for Felixstowe and Walton United? Where do you see the team finishing in the league?

The gaffer spoke to me before signing and both of us having the goal of getting this club higher and taking it as high as we can do. My aim is promotion and nothing less.

With the departures of Noel Aitkens and Zak Brown, two key players, do you think the dynamic of the team will change?

It's a massive loss losing such good players but like I've said the group is so good and we are so close that we need to stay strong and keep pushing with whoever we play.

Do you have any personal goals or milestones you're hoping to achieve before the end of the season?

My goal is promotion and to get Felixstowe out of this league.

You've quickly become a fan favourite, especially among the younger supporters. Why do you think the kids have taken such a liking to you?





I think they have because I'm a bubbly, fun, outgoing character and I love coaching them and even just having a chat with them. They are really important for the club and the community.

How does it feel to know that you're looked up to by so many young fans? Does it add any extra motivation or responsibility for you on and off the pitch?

Yes definitely, they love watching us all play and to play well and win games is the least we can do. They are amazing on match days and it gives us lads a real buzz.



Between coaching and playing, you have a lot of interaction with the younger generation. How important is it to you to inspire the next wave of footballers, and what's your message to them?

I think it's so important they are the next us, so to keep them interested and playing as much as possible is vital. My one thing for them is to keep smiling and enjoy playing football.

We know you're prone to a bit of ink, have you had any new tattoos since playing for the Seaside's?

No I haven't yet, but there is some in the pipeline so keep and eye out! 🌂

Finally, with Christmas around the corner, how do you plan to spend the festive season?

I will be with my family over Christmas but with the Seaside's on Boxing Day.

**HARINGEY
BOROUGH**

**FELIXSTOWE &
WALTON UNITED**

Hitter

0

1

Saturday 7th November
2024, 3pm

Isthmian League North

Attendance: 220

Photos: Stefan Peck











SEASIDERS PEN PICS

STUART BOARDLEY – MANAGER

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

ANDY CRUMP – ASSISTANT MANAGER

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

STUART STEVENSEN – COACH

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seasideers to coach the U18s which lead him on to being part of the first team staff. Stuart is an FA level 2 coach and an FA level 1 mentor.

CHARLOTTE ROBINSON – SPORTS THERAPIST

Charlotte graduated from the University of Worcester in 2014 with a BSc (Hons) in Sports Therapy. She had previously worked with Leiston FC before joining the Seasideers in 2019. Her main



focus is overseeing the recovery programmes of injured players through her private practice.

ALEX EGELTON – GOALKEEPER COACH / COACH

Alex returns to Felixstowe having spent many years coaching within the youth and reserve setups at the club. Alex heads up the Goalkeeping section of the club and works with the Youth section right through to the Seniors and is an important member of the First Team Management structure.

DOUG FRENCH – KIT MAN

Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and 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 Seasideers.





DEFENDERS

HARRY WRIGHT (GK)

Harry started his career as a professional at Ipswich Town and left there in 2021 where he then went on to play for Fleetwood Town and Bury before joining the Seaside in the summer of 2024. He has quickly become a firm fans favourite and works within the clubs Academy system.

ZAC TUVEY (GK)

Zac has impressed consistently with our U18's and despite his tender age of 16 is playing regularly both for our U18's and Haverhill Borough first team. Zac is Harry's understudy, is a fantastic shot stopper and has a bright future in the game.

STUART AINSLEY

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

JOE WHIGHT

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

JACK AINSLEY

Rejoined from Stowmarket. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their

academy and went on to make 4 appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 3 Lowestoft and Leiston but finds himself back at the Seaside where many describe him as a "Rolls Royce" type of player who can play in any position for the team.

OLLIE BROWN

Ollie was signed in the summer of 2024 from neighbours AFC Sudbury and has played in recent years for Stowmarket and Leiston. An energetic and attacking full back who loves to get forward and create chances and with a wealth of higher level experience to boot.

HUGH CULLUM

Hugh is a local lad who left Felixstowe's youth system and progressed through the Needham Market Academy. Hugh signed back with his local club in the summer of 2024 and has immediately impressed with his consistent and confident defending.





HUGO AKHUSEYIN

Hugo is an academy graduate that is now starting to flourish with his progression into the first team squad. A tough tackling and tenacious defender who likes to get forward.

THOMAS WARREN

Another new signing for the summer of 2024 and joins his brother Charlie at the club. Signed from Hadleigh United, Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal.

MIDFIELDERS

CAMERON FORDE-BROWN

Cameron joins us on loan from Kings Lynn having impressed the management at previous loan spells with other clubs. A technically gifted and versatile midfielder, Cam has really hit the

ground running this season and continues to impress with both goals and assists that have topped off some exciting displays.

BILLY HOLLAND

Billy started life at Ipswich Wanderers and has had spells at Needham, Leiston and AFC Sudbury. He's established himself as a mainstay in the centre of midfield. Players player and Supporters player of the year for the 22/23 season led to him being appointed captain the following year.

LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH

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

JOSH HITTER

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

JORDY MATTHEWS

"Jordy" rejoins the club following a brief spell in retirement. He made his first team debut at 18 and has been a loyal and trusted midfielder for the club for many years clocking up well over 300 appearances. The term 'club legend' is often used to describe Jordy and he remains a firm fans favourite for his tenacious and all action style.





CALLUM HARRISON

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

CHARLIE WARREN

Having initially joined on loan from Needham Market, Charlie made an instant impact on his debut in the FA Trophy win at Hastings in 2021. Following a number of impressive performances, manager Boardley moved quickly to secure the permanent services of one of Suffolk's brightest young players.

FORWARDS

SAM FORD

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath that saw them just miss out on promotion to the Scottish Premiership, Sam spent the Summer with Hume City FC in Australia before returning to Felixstowe in 2022. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

JOSH MAYHEW

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

ARCHIE DUNNE

Another promising Academy product who has recently been elevated in to the first team squad. An exciting, pacy forward who has scored a hatful of goals for the Youth sections of the club.

WILLIE CLEMONS

After a successful preseason with the Seaside Willie decided that Felixstowe were the club for him despite competition from other clubs. A full Bermudan international with 30 plus caps, Willie's experience, whilst still only 30 years old will be a real asset. An attacking player with bags of quality and creativity is proving to be an exciting signing.

ROB HARVEY

Signed from Brentwood Town, Rob is a player who has been on Stuart Boardley's radar for some time. Another of our first team group to work within our Academy setup, Rob is a pacy, fit and dynamic wide player who loves to be direct and excite fans.





OUR SQUAD

Introducing the
Felixstowe & Walton
United playing squad
and management
team of 2024/2025



STUART BOARDLEY
MANAGER

Pat Haseman for Felixstowe Radio



ANDY CRUMP
ASSISTANT MANAGER

Chris & Jayne Ryan



STUART STEVENSEN
COACH

Shirley Ainsley



ALEX EGELTON
GOALKEEPER COACH

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



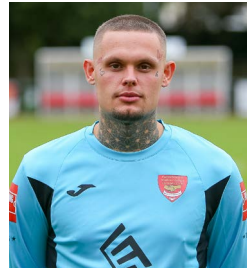
DOUG FRENCH
KIT MAN

Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



CHARLOTTE ROBINSON
SPORTS THERAPIST

Paul Secker



HARRY WRIGHT
GOALKEEPER

Andy & Kim Wilding



STUART AINSLEY
DEFENDER

Chris & Jayne Ryan



JOE WHIGHT
DEFENDER

Tony & Lynne Barnes



OLLIE BROWN
DEFENDER

Les Soall



JACK AINSLEY
DEFENDER

KD Construction



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH
DEFENDER

Garratt & Pearson Plumbing & Heating



HUGH CULLUM
DEFENDER

Chris Walne



HUGO AKHUSEYIN
DEFENDER

Matthew Daynes



THOMAS WARREN
MIDFIELDER

Suffolk Carpet Weavers/SCW Racing



CALLUM HARRISON
MIDFIELDER

Richard & Jenny Bugg



BILLY HOLLAND
MIDFIELDER

Winnifred Wedderburn-Soall



CAMERON FORDE-BROWN
MIDFIELDER

Joe Ward



JOSH HITTER
MIDFIELDER

Daniel & Cheryl Ward



JORDY MATTHEWS
MIDFIELDER

Barry Caley



CHARLIE WARREN
MIDFIELDER

Sharon & Gary Hills



JOSH MAYHEW
FORWARD

Howdens Martlesham/Richard & Jenny Bugg



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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bury Town	18	14	2	2	36	17	+19	44
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	19	13	3	3	45	19	+26	42
3	Witham Town	19	12	2	5	39	21	+18	38
4	Tilbury	17	10	3	4	30	29	+1	33
5	Waltham Abbey	18	9	4	5	34	22	+12	31
6	Grays Athletic	17	9	3	5	30	16	+14	30
7	Heybridge Swifts	19	8	6	5	29	27	+2	30
8	Brentwood Town	16	9	2	5	39	24	+15	29
9	Redbridge	19	7	6	6	37	35	+2	27
10	Brightlingsea Regent	18	7	5	6	24	25	-1	26
11	Walthamstow	17	7	2	8	32	26	+6	23
12	Concord Rangers	17	6	5	6	22	22	0	23
13	Gorleston	18	7	2	9	23	25	-2	23
14	Basildon United	17	7	2	8	21	23	-2	23
15	Maldon & Tiptree	18	6	3	9	19	23	-4	21
16	Cambridge City	17	6	1	10	26	31	-5	19
17	Mildenhall Town	17	5	3	9	16	22	-6	18
18	Sporting Bengal United	17	5	2	10	18	34	-16	17
19	Wroxham	17	3	5	9	22	37	-15	14
20	Haringey Borough	19	3	5	11	25	41	-16	14
21	Newmarket Town	18	3	4	11	27	46	-19	13
22	Ipswich Wanderers	18	2	4	12	16	45	-29	10

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 17:00:06



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

Saturday 14th December 2024, 3pm

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



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FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Harvey (2), Clemons

MILDENHALL TOWN

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Saturday 30th November
2024, 3pm

Isthmian League North

Attendance: 343

Photos: Stefan Peck









THE OTHER SIDE WALTHAM ABBAY FC



HISTORY

Waltham Abbey Youth Club, based in Waltham Abbey, first played football at "Capershotts" during the Second World War and in later years the club became known as firstly Waltham Abbey, then Abbey Sports. Both clubs gained numerous honours in the Northern Suburban League.

The club was founded in 1944 with a mix of players from Waltham Abbey Youth Club and former juniors from Tottenham Hotspur under the leadership of the trainer and manager Wally Hickman. The secretary was Mo (Maurice) Ward. The President was Capt. Larkin.

In their early years they played to a high standard and reached the final of the Herts Junior Cup in three years out of four but lost on each occasion – including a loss to Redbourn Rovers of 4–5 after they had been leading 4–1.

Some of the leading players in the early years included left winger Dave Cook who was killed in a road crash, centre-half Robbo Robinson and inside forward Frank Blower. Frank later became a dedicated treasurer of the club with Ray Buck as a similarly dedicated club secretary.

Waltham Abbey United emerged in the late sixties and a new clubhouse was built. In 1974 the club amalgamated with the successful Beechfield Sports and joined the Metropolitan League, which later became the London Spartan League.

In 1976 the club won the Essex Junior Cup beating Maldon St Mary's 1–0 at Grays Athletics ground. Alfie Hall was the goalscorer. Later that summer the club dropped the Beechfield Sports tag on the advice of The FA. Two years later the club reached the final of the Essex Intermediate Cup (losing 1–2 to Dagenham Reserves at Epping Town FC) and won the league's Division One title, and, having gained Senior Status,

were promoted. In their first season they won the title without losing a game and were again promoted this time to the Premier Division where they remained until season 2000–01.

In 1990–91 the club were inaugural finalists in the Roy Bailey Memorial Trophy, a competition for local teams including Cheshunt, Ware, and Hertford Town.

It was won for the first time in 1994–95 when they beat Hoddesdon Town. In both 1996–97 and 2005 (in the final held over from the previous season) they beat St Margaretsbury.

In 1998–99 they won the London Senior Cup with a fine 3–2 win over Bedfont at Dulwich Hamlet's ground, Dean Green securing a hat trick to win the cup. They also secured the Spartan South Midlands Challenge Trophy beating Holmer Green 3–0 over two legs.

Recent seasons have seen a lot of changes on and off the pitch with floodlights being installed in 1990 and the ground levelled. A great amount of work has been done around the clubhouse and a 200-seater stand built. A number of seats were purchased from Maine Road and these were installed during the summer of 2005 as the club strived to improve facilities on and off the field and move up the non-league pyramid.

Season 2001–02 was spent in the Essex & Herts Border Combination to allow them to move across the pyramid. They were elected to the Essex Senior League for season 2002–03. In 2004–05, in addition to winning both the League Cup and the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy they finished in their highest position of 2nd.

On 2 May 2009, the Abbott's capped off a successful 2008–09 season by beating Concord Rangers 5–4 on penalties, after a 1–1 draw, to win the Isthmian League Division 1 North Play-offs. They played in the Isthmian League Premier Division for the first time in their history in 2009–10. However, despite winning the last two games of their season, they finished 21st and were relegated for the first time in the club's history. After 7 seasons in North Division a league restructure saw the club have been moved into the newly formed Isthmian League South Central League.



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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, C Warren

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

Holland, Harrison

MON 26 **BURY TOWN** H 3PM LEAGUE W 3-1 ATT 624

Clemons, Hitter, Ford

SAT 31 **LEVERSTOCK GREEN** H 3PM FA CUP 1ST QR W 5-1 ATT 218

C Warren (3), Ford, Whight

SEPTEMBER

SAT 7 **BASILDON UNITED** H 3PM FA TROPHY 1ST QR W 4-2 ATT 337

Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren

TUE 10 **WROXHAM** H 7.45PM LEAGUE W 2-1 ATT 210

C Warren, Whight

SAT 14 **CANVEY ISLAND** A 3PM FA CUP 2ND QR L 2-0 ATT 393

MON 16 **MALDON & TIPTREE** A 7.45PM LEAGUE W 4-1 ATT 166

C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens

SAT 21 **ENFIELD** H 3PM FA TROPHY 2ND QR W 2-1 ATT 319

OG, Harrison

SAT 28 **BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT** A 3PM LEAGUE L 1-0 ATT 255

OCTOBER

WED 2 **MILDENHALL TOWN** H 7.45PM SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP W 4-0 ATT 151

Mayhew, Forde-Brown, C Warren, Ford

SAT 5 **HARINGEY BOROUGH** H 3PM FA TROPHY 3RD QR W 4-0 ATT 315

Mayhew (2), Forde-Brown (2)

TUE 8 **BASILDON UNITED** H 7.45PM LEAGUE W 2-1 ATT 283

C Warren, T Warren

SAT 12 **TILBURY** A 3PM LEAGUE L 2-1 ATT 295

Mayhew

SAT 19 **WALTHAMSTOW** H 3PM LEAGUE W 2-1 ATT 269

Mayhew, Hitter

TUE 22 **CAMBRIDGE CITY** A 7.45PM LEAGUE W 2-0 ATT 133

Ford, C Warren

SAT 26 **BISHOP'S STORTFORD** A 3PM FA TROPHY 1ST RP W 6-1 ATT 339

Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren, C Warren

SAT 29 **BRANTHAM ATHLETIC** A 7.45PM SUFF PREM CUP QF W 5-1

Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren

NOVEMBER

SAT 2 **BRENTWOOD TOWN** H 3PM LEAGUE W 2-1 ATT 347

T Warren, C Warren

SAT 9 **CAMBRIDGE CITY** H 3PM LEAGUE W 2-0 ATT 500

OG, C Warren

TUE 12	REDBRIDGE	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 279
<i>Harvey, C Warren, Ford (2)</i>						
SAT 16	BOREHAM WOOD	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	D 1-1 (LOST ON PENS)	
<i>Hitter</i>						
TUE 19	WROXHAM	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 221
<i>Mayhew, T Warren</i>						
SAT 23	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 3-3	ATT 357
<i>Hitter (2), Forde-Brown</i>						
TUE 26	CONCORD RANGERS	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 120
<i>C Warren, J Ainsley, Harrison</i>						
SAT 30	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 343
<i>Harvey (2), Clemons</i>						

DECEMBER

TUE 3	BASILDON UNITED	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 90
<i>C Warren</i>						
SAT 7	HARINGEY BOROUGH	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 220
<i>Hitter</i>						
SAT 14	WALTHAM ABBEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 21	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
THU 26	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	1PM	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

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Assistant Secretary	Phil Barber		
Fixtures Secretary	Les Soall	07825 058857	lgsfxt@aol.com
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Secker		

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BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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The Munich Air Disaster is a watershed moment in the history of English football. It saw the loss of a golden generation of talent, much of which had, or was expected to, make an impact on the national stage. Matt Busby's 'babes' had to be rebuild almost from scratch, taking almost a decade to win the European Cup he was so desperate for, with survivor Bobby Charlton at the heart of the new team. But alongside the seven English victims of the tragedy was a solitary non-English body. And Irish international Billy Whelan might just have become that nation's best ever player.

Whelan was born in 1935 in Dublin, and after losing his father aged only eight, he showed little serious interest in becoming a footballer.

The priesthood called to him, and would have been a far more appropriate profession for him to take up in Ireland in the 1940s and 1950s. His brothers had an influence though, with eldest brother Christy playing for Transport, and middle brother John playing for Shamrock Rovers. As a teenager, Whelan joined Home Farm, but it wasn't long before he joined Matt Busby's revolution at Manchester United. When discovering that they had made him an offer, Christy remarked 'it's about bloody time'.

A quiet 18-year old, Whelan started his career in United's reserves, making his debut in the FA Youth Cup final, and embarking on a tour of Switzerland. His ability saw envious glances from clubs across Europe, and those in South America (where the lack of a wage cap was seeing something of a revolution) enquired about his availability. But Busby was also impressed with Whelan's deft touch and a physicality that belied his age. He fast tracked him into the first team, at a



time when that just didn't really happen. 'If you're good enough, you're old enough'.

An Inside Left, he made his senior United debut in 1955, performing well enough to keep his place amongst more senior professionals. In his second season, the would-be priest started to click with his new teammates - something fans in Manchester already thought had happened - and fired in a return of 33 goals in 56 appearances. At the age of just 20, the Irishman had the world at his feet, and the weight of his national on his shoulders. He was going to change footballing history.

Matt Busby was a man possessed. He had rebuilt Manchester United after the war in his own image, dispensing with old wisdom about old players and trusting in youth. They were physical enough when they needed to be, but mesmerising with the ball at their feet. He was convinced they could take on the best in the world, and had already conquered English football. But by the



start of the 1957-58 season, he had watched a Real Madrid side of Alfredo di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas and Raymond Kopa with the first two European Cups, and he wanted a piece of that action. Manchester United, he believed, should be competing with the European elite, not just beating the domestic elite.

That season, the draw saw United take on Shamrock Rovers, a special game for Whelan. He had won four caps for his nation, but still felt he didn't have the trust of national manager Johnny Carey, who would be in attendance. He had also received criticism at home for abandoning the League of Ireland, so this would be a chance to show them exactly why.

In cold and blustery conditions in Ireland, Shamrock gave everything to compete with the exciting young side Busby had put together, but to no avail. Despite holding the English champions for most of the first half, Tommy Taylor broke the deadlock just before half time. In the second half, the visitors ran riot, with Whelan scoring two of the five additional goals United added. It was a personal success for him,

but it was a high point. He was informed that his mother was unwell, and his form dipped. A young Bobby Charlton took his place in the starting XI.

There was no question of his ability at Old Trafford, and he was expected to be back to his best in no time. He asked to be excused from travel to Yugoslavia for the quarter-final because he wasn't expected to play, and wanted to visit home. But Busby wanted him to fly, to be available in case of an injury.

What happened on the night of 6th February 1958 requires no explanation. The icy runway, the loss of so much life, the memorial every February suffice. The headlines, in England at least, went to Duncan Edwards, the jewel at the heart of the Busby Babes, who fought for his life for two weeks before finally succumbing to his injuries. But Ireland lost a star that night too.

Never a confident flyer, as the plane started to attempt its take off in Munich Whelan is said to have remarked 'this may be death, but I'm ready.' It was tragically prophetic.

Enjoy the game.

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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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

It was a day of terrible weather and very few goals, but Felixstowe, Swifts and Redbridge came out on top

Bury Town had an enforced absence, so **Felixstowe and Walton United** had the chance to eat into their five point lead as they travelled to North London to face **Haringey Borough**. The Seasiders were ten matches unbeaten, but draws in three of their last five had slowed their challenge somewhat; whilst Borough, three points away from safety, were without a win in six - and indeed had only one win from their previous ten. The match was goalless until eighteen minutes from time, and the goal, when it arrived, went to the visitors - Josh Hitter making the breakthrough. That turned out to be that, the Seasiders now only two points behind the leaders after defeating these opponents for the second time this season.

Witham Town, a point behind Felixstowe in third place, were also in London, as they headed to **Redbridge** - a rather shorter trip. Witham are having a fine season, and had only two defeats from ten matches, whilst the Motormen were in tenth after a rather inconsistent campaign, but had won five of their eight home matches so we suspected would pose a tough challenge. The match looked as if it was ebbing to a goalless draw, but seven minutes from time the hosts made the breakthrough, Joseph Elliott with the goal. The Motormen held on to go ninth, whilst Witham remain third. Since Redbridge were promoted

the sides have met four times, and Witham are still without a win - the Motormen winning three.

Heybridge Swifts once again tried to banish their home hoodoo, as they welcomed **Walthamstow**. Swifts have been superb on the road but had won only once on their own patch. Stow were five unbeaten, and were looking for a third successive win - victory which, if it arrived, would take them to within a point of their hosts with two games in hand. The hosts hit the ground running, and were ahead after only nine minutes, Andrew Fennell's ninth of the season, before doubling their advantage fifteen minutes later, Scott Sloots taking his tally for the season to six. On sixty four minutes Walthamstow had a lifeline, Jared Small halving the deficit, but that was as good as it got for the visitors, Swifts up to seventh - a point away from the top five.

Bottom side **Ipswich Wanderers** hoped to begin to pick up points as they welcomed **Gorleston**, and they needed to, given that they were eight points away from safety at kick off. Wanderers had lost their previous six matches, and indeed had picked up one point from the previous thirty available, whilst the Greens had ended a three match losing run by defeating Grays in midweek. The match was goalless until eighteen minutes from time, and when that changed it was the visitors who went ahead, Lewis Johnson the scorer - but Wanderers didn't despair and were soon level, Jose De La Paz scoring the equaliser five minutes from time. The scoring stopped there.



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Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

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

MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 14th December 2024
Kick-off 3pm



Waltham Abbey FC

Manager: Billy Holland

Assistant Manager: Spencer Harrison

Richard **Asamoah**
Amrit **Bansal-McNulty**
Nicholas **Brown**
Kieron **Cathline**
Troy **Chiabi**
Luke **Deslandes**
Prince **Domafriye**
Aaron **Eyoma**
Jason **Hallett**Babadi **Kamara**
Nathan **Koranteng**
Edwin **Mensah**
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