

# the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Grays Athletic



**SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2025, 3PM**  
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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# CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



## **Good afternoon, and a very Happy New Year to one and all!**

A very warm welcome today to the players, officials, and supporters of Grays Athletic, today's match officials, and, of course, to all you wonderful Seasiders. I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

The New Year could have started much better. I had hoped to be writing these notes following a win at Bury on New Year's Day and enjoying a 6-point lead at the top of the table. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas. Instead, I spent the day shopping for a new dining suite in the sales – deep joy! All we managed to get out of the day was soaking wet and cold.

Rather than securing 9 points out of 9, we had to settle for 6 out of 6 instead. This came from a scrappy and fairly forgettable 1-0 win against local rivals Ipswich Wanderers on Boxing Day, followed by an excellent 4-0 away victory at Newmarket. Both opponents are struggling at the foot of the table, so these were 6 points we would have expected. However, the festive period often delivers some strange results, so credit to the lads for their professionalism and commitment in

overcoming two teams battling for survival in this league.

Today's opponents will be determined to put December behind them and restart their season, having gained only one point from their last 15. This is the polar opposite of us, as we look to maintain our excellent form, with a fantastic return of 16 points from 18 during December.

With 23 games gone and 19 still to play in the league, it's still very early days. There are some tough fixtures ahead, including a trip to Heybridge next Saturday, which will certainly not be easy.

As is often the case in early January, I've been reflecting on the past year, aided by Facebook memories. I think of the friends and supporters we've lost but also marvel at another fantastic year for the football club. So much has improved throughout the club, creating great memories, including the away days at Bishops Stortford and Boreham Wood. Never before have I felt so confident and excited about the year ahead for this wonderful club.

On the senior side, Stuart has assembled a fantastic coaching team as well as what is probably our best-ever squad of players. It's a shame we recently said *au revoir* to Noel and Zak. Meanwhile, Scott and his coaches and helpers among our junior ranks continue to amaze me with their dedication. The new EJA sides are improving every week, as is the Academy, led by Rhys Henry.

Off the field, Chris and his team perform heroics in maintaining the ground and overseeing hospitality—not just for us but for Ipswich Women as well—generating the vital funds needed to sustain football at this level and pursue our aspirations to progress to Level 3.

Enjoy the game today, and I wish you all the very best for 2025.

Tony



# ANDY CRUMP

## Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground for today's league fixture against Grays Athletic.

A warm welcome to Darren and his side, who visit us today fresh from a break on New Year's Day as, like us, their fixture fell foul of the weather.

The festive period is always a challenging time in football, particularly with quick turnarounds between games and limited time to train. Although it wasn't our finest performance, the resilience within the group on Boxing Day really pleased me. With a new management team in place, we knew Ipswich Wanderers would come here with renewed energy and a style of play that could present a slightly different challenge. We would be naïve to think teams are happy to let us have it all our own way here, and as a manager, you want to be the one that takes away that unbeaten home record that we are proud to protect. On the day, Harry Wright was a deserving Man of the Match. Although he wasn't kept busy throughout the 90 minutes, big moments decide games, and he made four outstanding saves that protected the clean sheet and secured three points.

With the quality we have throughout the squad, it's important the players know they all have a significant part to play in any success we may or may not achieve this season. Although Josh's red card hurt late on (as we knew it would mean

losing him for three games), we came away from Newmarket delighted with performances all over the pitch and pleased to get important minutes into certain players. Callum Harrison was excellent in the number 10 role, Cameron Forde-Brown again showed maturity beyond his years in midfield, and Rob Harvey was desperately unlucky not to have his hard work rewarded with another goal. 9 points in 7 days was a brilliant return over Christmas and although we didn't get a chance to extend that run at Bury on New Years Day, the squad trained well Thursday night and are ready going into 2025 for the second half of the season.

As we step into the new year, the league table makes for happy reading, but it only really matters what it says at the end of April. Consistency will be key in the months ahead. We've shown that we can go toe-to-toe with some of the best teams in the league, but the challenge now is to replicate those performances week in, week out. The second half of the season presents an opportunity to push ourselves further, and Stuart and I are encouraged by the squad's appetite to bring success for the club and our fantastic supporters.

Finally, a word of gratitude for your continued support. Your energy and noise make a huge difference to the players on the pitch, and I hope we can give you something else to cheer about today.

Here's to a successful 2025! Enjoy the game.  
Andy



## TODAY'S MASCOTS

Our mascots today are Felixsowe & Walton United Under 12 Girls Whites who are sponsored by Lottys





# SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

## Not many people know this...

Happy New Year to everyone  
be you friend or foe!

If I were the suspicious type, which of course I'm not, I'd be saying we've got them running scared following the postponement of our New Years Day fixture at the Getaway Cars Stadium. Top two in the table, 2nd hosting 1st, three points separating the two, everything to play for, ITFC no game so no distraction, the home sides average gate close to 600, the away sides travelling supporters amongst the top, if not the top in the league & both sides playing good attractive, attacking football, what's not to like, Bank Holiday football at it's best ..... **Postponed!**

I don't know who was most disappointed, the hosts missing out on an almost certain four

figure gate, the players going head to head with the opportunity to put a marker down on the first day of the year or the supporters, both home and travelling.

Today there is no let up for the lads as we host a Grays Athletic side who will still fancy their chances of a run for one of the play-off spots.

Looking through our records for the season we only have one player who has played every minute of every game so far although Hugh Cullum has started every game, Harry Wright has started and completed every minute of every game to date.

34 games played 31 goals conceded. 34 games = 3,060 minutes which gives him the healthy record of one goal conceded on average every 98 minutes.

Some record Harry!



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# 2024 HOME FORM IN PHOTOS

2024 saw the Seaside go unbeaten at home in all competitive competitions over 90 minutes - winning 25 games and drawing 4 scoring 77 goals in the process



1 Jan LEAGUE v Stowmarket **WON 2-1**



13 Jan LEAGUE v Lowestoft Town **WON 3-0**



27 Jan LEAGUE v Basildon United **WON 1-0**



10 Feb LEAGUE v Walthamstow **WON 2-0**



24 Feb LEAGUE v Grays Athletic **WON 3-2**



9 March LEAGUE v Heybridge Swifts **DREW 0-0**





16 March LEAGUE v Brentwood Town **WON** 1-0



1 April LEAGUE v Ipswich Wanderers **DREW** 1-1



13 April LEAGUE v Witham Town **WON** 1-0



27 April LEAGUE v New Salamis **WON** 6-1



30 April LEAGUE v Bowers & Pitsea **DREW** 2-2



10 Aug LEAGUE v Newmarket Town **WON** 6-1



20 Aug LEAGUE v Bury Town **WON** 4-0



26 Aug LEAGUE v Bury Town **WON** 3-1



31 Aug FA CUP v Leverstock Green **WON** 5-1



7 Sept FA Trophy v Basildon United **WON** 4-2



10 Sept LEAGUE v Wroxham **WON** 2-1



21 Sept FA TROPHY v Enfield **WON** 2-1



2 Oct SUFF PREM CUP v Mildenhall **WON** 4-0



5 Oct FA TROPHY v Haringey Borough **WON** 4-0



8 Oct LEAGUE v Basildon United **WON** 2-1



19 Oct LEAGUE v Walthamstow **WON** 2-1



2 Nov LEAGUE v Brentwood Town **WON** 2-1



9 Nov LEAGUE v Cambridge City **WON** 2-0



12 Nov LEAGUE v Redbridge **WON** 4-0



23 Nov LEAGUE v Brightonsea Regent **DREW** 3-3



30 Nov LEAGUE v Mildenhall Town **WON** 3-0



14 Dec LEAGUE v Waltham Abbey **WON** 2-0



26 Dec LEAGUE v Ipswich Wanderers **WON** 1-0

Congratulations to Boards, Andy, the Management team and players for their incredible work in 2024. Here's hoping 2025 will continue in the same way!

Thanks to Stefan Peck and Thomas Bradford for their brilliant work behind the camera.

**NEWMARKET  
TOWN**

**FELIXSTOWE &  
WALTON UNITED**

C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison

**0**

**4**

Saturday 28th Decmber  
2024, 3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 295

**Photos:** Stefan Peck











# LEADING LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1	Daniel Ogunleye	Brentwood Town	16
2	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	16
3	<b>Charlie Warren</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>16</b>
4	Alex Hernandez	Tilbury	12
5	George Smith	Cambridge City	10
6	Prince Domafriyie	Waltham Abbey	9
7	Andrew Fennell	Heybridge Swifts	9
8	Tendi Quamina	Redbridge	9
9	Josh Lee	Newmarket Town / Maldon & Tiptree	8
10	Alejandro Machado	Grays Athletic	8
11	Kamani Mcfarlane	Witham Town	8
12	Joshua olaoluwa Osude	Witham Town	8
13	Kymani Thomas	Walthamstow / Waltham Abbey	8
14	Sam Bantick	Tilbury	7
15	Teddy Collis	Maldon & Tiptree / Brightlingsea Regent	7
16	Darren Esuka	Basildon United	7
17	Luke Hirst	Grays Athletic	7
18	Deese Kasinga Madia	Witham Town	7
19	Bilal Sayoud	Walthamstow	7
20	Thomas Stagg	Concord Rangers	7



# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

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BY JON COUCH

THERE are certain Christmas traditions that just can't be messed with. Santa Claus, roast turkey and then a rather depressing episode of EastEnders, it's what makes the festive period so enriching.

But for us Non-League fans, the most treasured tradition of them all falls amidst sore heads on Boxing Day – the good old fashioned local derby.

Sadly, it's a trait lost on the EFL these days it seems. This year, Plymouth Argyle fans were handed a 412-mile round trip to Coventry Cup in the Championship, while Crewe Alexandra embarked on a four-hour round trip to Cheltenham in League Two.

Luckily for us, scheduling local derbies is something the Non-League fixture secretaries do pretty well – and once again this year the fans gave their vote of approval.

Right across the board, attendances for the Boxing Day games were as high as ever giving home clubs, at all levels of the game, a nice little Christmas bonus to add to the coffers.

In the National League, a crowd of 8,048 crammed into Roots Hall for Southend United's visit of Ebbsfleet United, while 5,412 watched the crunch clash between Aldershot Town and Woking at the EBB Stadium and 4,355 saw the game between Yeovil Town and Eastleigh.

And all this is without the top-of-the-table clash between big guns Oldham Athletic and York City, postponed due to heavy fog. That had the potential of bringing in a five-figure crowd to Boundary Park.

In National League North, Hereford recorded a club record crowd of 4,925 for the visit of local rivals and league leaders Kidderminster Harriers, while Darlington (2,419) and Marine (2,149) also announced figures of 2000+ for their matches against Scarborough Athletic and Chester respectively.

And National League South was no different with four clubs recording 2,000+; Tonbridge Angels for their Kent derby with Maidstone United, Dorking Wanderers for the visit of Worthing, Truro City for their top-of-the-table clash with Weston-super-Mare and Weymouth, with leaders Torquay United in town.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Macclesfield topped the figures for Step 3 with Robbie Savage's NPL Premier leaders reeling in 4,181 at Moss Rose for their visit of Leek Town, which ironically resulted in their first home defeat of the season.

In fact, in the NPL Premier alone, a total of 12,525 attended the 10 Boxing Day games, at an average of

1,252. That, for the seventh tier of English football, is phenomenal.

Elsewhere at Step 3, Dulwich Hamlet, no strangers to pulling in the crowds, recorded 2,883 for their 1-0 win over Carshalton Athletic, while AFC Telford United led the 4 Southern League figures with 2,047 for their ding-dong with Halesowen Town.

Step 4 was equally as impressive. A crowd of 2,503 saw ambitious Hednesford Town take on Stafford Rangers in the game dubbed El Staffico, while the Kent derby between Margate and Ramsgate at Hartsdown Park was a 2,500 sell-out with many more left disappointed.

Stalybridge Celtic showed their capacity with 2,015 for their game with Mossley while the first ever El Civico derby at Step 4, between Wythenshawe FC and Wythenshawe Town reeled in a healthy four-figure crowd with Town coming out of top, 2-0.

And where else in the world would you get a 10th-tier match reeling in a crowd of nearly 6,000?

A clash of the North West Counties League top two between Bury and Ramsbottom United attracted a whopping 5,834 supporters at Gigg Lane to watch an entertaining 2-2 draw.

It usurped the 5,451 attendance for Bury's home match with Glossop North End in July 2023 but the ex-EFL club still have a way to go to top the league's overall record, one that was set at Gigg Lane back in 2006 when 6,023 watched FC United of Manchester lose 1-0 to Great Harwood Town in Division Two – the league's Step 6 division at that time.

The loyal Bury fans were at it again on Saturday, topping the Non-League attendances with 3,843 witnessing their 5-2 win over Prestwich Heys, while Chatham Town recorded an attendance of 2,011 at the Bauvill Stadium for their visit of Bowers & Pitsea.

And Southern League clubs also showed the strength of football at Step with Premier South leaders Merthyr Town bringing in 1,679 through the turnstiles for their top-of-the-table clash with Walton & Hersham, Stratford Town 1,664 for their Premier Central game with leaders Kettering Town and AFC Totton 1,594 against south coast rivals Poole Town.

Up and down the country, clubs set records as fans turned up in their droves to prove Non-League football continues to thrive.

It was the perfect finale to a rip-roaring 2024 and raised the bat yet further for 2025. With your support, the good old local derby will be a permanent festive fixture for many more years to come.



## 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



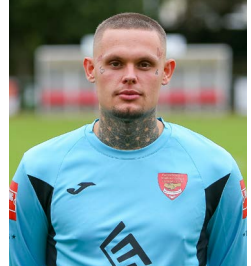
**DOUG FRENCH**  
KIT MAN

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



**ROB HARVEY**  
**FORWARD**

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**HOSPITALITY**

Stan Baston



# 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.



# ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
<b>1</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>54</b>
2	Bury Town	22	16	3	3	41	21	+20	51
3	Brentwood Town	23	14	4	5	53	30	+23	46
4	Witham Town	23	14	2	7	47	31	+16	44
5	Waltham Abbey	23	12	4	7	45	26	+19	40
6	Tilbury	22	12	4	6	35	34	+1	40
7	Walthamstow	22	12	2	8	43	28	+15	38
8	Brightlingsea Regent	22	11	5	6	32	27	+5	38
9	Heybridge Swifts	23	10	7	6	36	32	+4	37
10	Cambridge City	23	10	2	11	39	37	+2	32
<b>11</b>	<b>Grays Athletic</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>31</b>
12	Maldon & Tiptree	23	8	5	10	23	27	-4	29
13	Concord Rangers	21	7	6	8	30	30	0	27
14	Redbridge	23	7	6	10	40	47	-7	27
15	Basildon United	21	7	4	10	27	31	-4	25
16	Gorleston	21	7	2	12	25	31	-6	23
17	Mildenhall Town	22	5	7	10	19	27	-8	22
18	Sporting Bengal United	23	6	4	13	24	49	-25	22
19	Wroxham	21	4	6	11	24	40	-16	18
20	Haringey Borough	24	4	6	14	33	53	-20	18
21	Newmarket Town	23	4	5	14	33	55	-22	17
22	Ipswich Wanderers	23	2	5	16	16	51	-35	11

LAST UPDATED: WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2025 AT 17:01:35



## ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

**Saturday 4th January, 3pm**

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





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**Photos:** Stefan Peck







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# THE OTHER SIDE: GRAYS ATHLETIC

Although the formation of Grays Athletic was officially 1890, its origins can be traced back to 1888, when the Grays Amateur Athletic Club, which was primarily a cricket and athletic club, formed an association football branch. The modern club can be traced back to the Grays Juniors side formed in 1902, which in 1904 changed their name to Grays Athletic and in 1906 took over the Grays Recreation Ground, the club's spiritual home for the next 104 years. Senior Status was granted in 1909, whilst in 1912 the club became a founding member of the Athenian League. Over the last hundred years, the club has experienced a roller-coaster ride. Plenty of highs, along with lows, which at times have threatened the clubs' existence.

During the 1920's the club experienced its first boom period, winning the London League three times (1922, 1927 and 1930), as well as two Essex Senior Cup triumphs (1921 and 1923), to add to their first in 1915. Towards the end of World War Two, the club experienced its next successful era, led by centre-forward, Harry Brand, who went on to become the club's record scorer with 269 goals scored between 1944 and 1952. Inspired by his goals, the Blues won the East Anglian Cup and another Essex Senior Cup in 1945. The club also won the inaugural, Corinthian League Championship, a league which as well as being founder members they were instrumental in forming.

The club re-joined the Athenian League in 1958, which gradually heralded a decline in fortunes. During the late 1960s and 1970s, the club was locked in a struggle with the trustees of the Recreation Ground to secure the venue's future. This was finally sorted in 1981 when club patron Ron Billings was persuaded to buy the ground by then club director Bryan Coker and Jeff and Fred Saxton who were the club's joint managers at the time. With the future of the ground secured the club was about to enter another period of success. Businessman Jim Myers, owner of the Boys from Rathbone Street retail chain, was persuaded to come aboard as the new chairman. He set a target of Isthmian Premier



Division football, within five years (it would take six). The first step in getting there was achieved in 1983, when the club finished as runners-up in the Athenian League, earning promotion to Division Two of the Isthmian League. Just when it seemed the club's troubles had gone, disaster struck when the 400-seater wooden stand was burned to the ground after gracing the Rec for over sixty years. This led Mr Billings to undertake ground improvements, which included new changing rooms, an indoor ball court and bar development.

The 1984-85 season saw the Blues secure the Isthmian League Division Two South title. Three years later promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division was achieved after finishing as runners-up to Marlow, despite gaining 100 points during the season. The club enjoyed a nine-season stay in the Premier Division, with two fifth places, in their first two seasons at that level being the highest. In 1992 the Isthmian League Cup was won, defeating league runners-up Enfield 3-1 in the final held at Dagenham's, Victoria Road Ground. Sadly in 1997, the Blues were relegated back to Division One, with the final match of the season seeing long-standing managers Jeff and Fred Saxton step down from their roles and the playing retirement of the holder of the club appearances record, Phil Sammons (748 appearances) after fifteen seasons with the Blues.

The club's most successful period came in the early to mid-2000s, with the arrival of Mick Woodward as a director. When former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, Mark Stimson, stepped up as manager in 2002, it would herald a period of success, that no one at the club had dared to dream. The Blues were founder members of the new Conference South in the 2004-05 season and were its first champions, securing promotion to the top level of the non-league game, for the first time in its history. For good measure, the FA Trophy was also won, when Hucknall Town were defeated 6-5 on penalties, after extra-time had ended 1-1, in the final held at Villa Park.

With players such as Jamie Stuart, Stuart Thurgood, Aaron McLean and Michael Kightly the Blues finished their first top-flight season in third place. The end-of-season play-offs were reached, but unfortunately, a poor display in the first twenty minutes of the first (away) leg of the semi-final, saw the Blues dream of EFL football ended by Halifax Town, 5-4 on aggregate. The



FA Trophy was retained, with the Blues winning it the hard way, by going through the entire competition, only facing Conference National opponents. The final, which was held at West Ham's, Boleyn Ground, saw nearly ten thousand Blues fans in the attendance of 14,000. First-half goals from Michael Kightly and Glenn Poole would send them home happy, with Grays defeating Woking by two goals to nil.

Shortly after the 2005-06 season had ended, Mark Stimson and his assistant manager, Scott Barrett, stepped down from their roles. They were replaced by former Leeds United player Frank Gray, although his reign was short, lasting only until October, when he was sacked shortly after a defeat by Bromley, in the FA Cup. It was a season where the star players of the previous few years moved on, with the club being involved in a fight against relegation from Christmas. By the season's end, former Tottenham defender, Justin Edinburgh was in charge and the Blues just avoided relegation on the final day of the season.

By the 2009-10 season, Mick Woodward had stepped down as Chairman, though still owned most of the shares. Former West Ham midfielder John Moncur became the new Chairman, joined by his friend and local businessman, Andy Swallow, who became vice-chairman.

Woodward started the season as CEO, but ended his involvement in the club by November. Andy Swallow stepped in to keep the club running. By the end of the campaign, the club finished bottom. Faced with a substantial rent increase, the club vacated its home ground of the Recreation Ground after 104 years. Rather than dropping to the Conference South, the club sought to drop a further division to the Isthmian Premier Division. Being Grays Athletic though, nothing is ever smooth! When the league allocations were revealed, Grays were initially placed in the Essex Senior League. After an appeal to the FA held at Wembley Stadium, the Blues eventually were placed in the Isthmian North Division, a drop of three levels.

Since then, the club has led a nomadic existence, sharing first at East Thurrock United's, Rookery View Ground (2010-2012). For a season the club held the lease at the former Ford United stadium at Rush Green, which was owned by West Ham, but this deal ended in acrimony after a single season. Somewhat against the odds, the club won the Isthmian League North Division





and promotion back to the Premier Division in 2013. For the last ten seasons, Aveley F.C. hosted the clubs matches. Firstly, at their old Millfield ground, then at their new Parkview Stadium. Since 2016 the club has been supporter-owned after Andy Swallow agreed to end his interest in the club and pass them to the fans to run the club. For the past seven seasons, long-time Grays supporter, Steve Skinner has been Chairman, with another long-standing supporter, Glyn Jarvis being vice-chairman. In 2022-23, under former captain Lewis Dark, Grays reached the Isthmian North Division play-off semi-final and were runners-up in the Essex Thameside Trophy.

The 2023-24 season saw us ground-sharing with our oldest rivals Tilbury, at Chadfields. Mark Stimson had returned as manager and Lee Vehit and Gavin Holland took over the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mark's reign was unsuccessful and he was replaced by former Basildon United manager, Darren Manning in November 2023, to steer the club forward on the pitch.

In December 2023, the club received the news it had been awaiting for so many years. A joint planning application with a developer, to bring the former Thurrock F.C.'s ground at Ship Lane, West Thurrock, back into football use alongside a pre-delivery inspection car area, was approved by Thurrock Council. The final legal agreements were completed in July 2024 and Grays Athletic now has something it has never had before in its history - a ground which it owns. The work to bring the ground up to playing conditions again, after being vacant since 2018, is the next challenge for our club, but in the meantime, we will continue to share with Tilbury FC.

Our strong commitment to the local community will develop, as everyone at the club now intends for it to be around for many more years to come.



# THE OTHER SIDE: PEN PICS

**DARREN MANNING - MANAGER.** Darren joined us from Basildon United on November 21 2023 and the club were very grateful to them for allowing us to speak to Darren and confirm his appointment so quickly. He was born in Grays and was an avid supporter of Grays Athletic from an early age. He became assistant to manager, Jamie Stuart at the time when we became 100% supporter-owned in 2016. He enjoyed a very successful spell at Hullbridge Sports and took them into the Isthmian League as champions of the Essex Senior League in 2019 after nearly thirty years at that level. He has also managed Welling Town and transformed Basildon United into a promotion contender in our Isthmian League North Division, before moving to his boyhood club.

He is supported by Assistant Manager **CALLUM BOLGER.** Callum is a young, hungry coach who is also a Grays fan. He joined Darren's staff at Basildon United and has been his right-hand man ever since. His knowledge of this level and players is second to none. **TERRY SMITH** joined as our goalkeeping coach in June 2024, from Basildon United where he worked with Darren. Local man, **MITCHELL BALDOCK** is our new Strength & Conditioning Coach. **SCARLETT HOOKER** is our Sports Therapist and joined us in July 2024 from Saffron Walden Town. She is a PE Teacher. She will also be supported by Kendra Okanlawon, who is studying Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Wolverhampton.

**SIM MADGEWICK – MATCH DAY AND COACHING ASSISTANT.** A Grays supporter since he was a child, he is an essential part of our match day preparation. An early riser, he was previously a milkman, but now works for ProKit, the country's leading specialist sports retailer to grassroots football. He is also a highly successful Lawn Bowls player, winning many county and national titles and having the honour of captaining Essex to only their 3rd ever National Title in 2008. His young daughter, Millie has been hailed as the future of Grays Athletic FC, after she won the Essex FA #CelebrateEssex

"Supporter" Award in June 2018, following a poll with nearly 1,200 votes on their Twitter account.

**JOAO CARLOS - WINGER.** A Grays Athletic legend! Joao returned to the club in September 2023. The Portuguese winger had spells at Clapton, Brentwood, Aveley and Dagenham & Redbridge, where he made one Football League appearance as a substitute in 2010. He first came to Grays in 2011. After a brief spell at Concord Rangers he re-joined Grays in December 2016 and made his 400th appearance on 4 January 2020 at which point he had scored 106 goals. He left us in July 2021, after 411 appearances and 110 goals. More recently, he has represented Hullbridge Sports and Welling Town. A very popular player and a real fans favourite who has always found time to talk to supporters. Following the appointment of Darren Manning as our manager in November 2023, Joao has now also taken on a coaching role. He will support the development of younger players and help them to understand what it means to represent our community football club.

**GEORGE CRADDOCK - MIDFIELDER.** George joined us from Brentwood Town in March 2024. The central midfielder player brings real quality to the middle of the pitch. He also has experience with Heybridge Swifts, Potters Bar, Braintree, Aveley, East Thurrock and Welling United. He started his career as a youth at Northampton Town.

**KENEDI DARIRI - DEFENDER.** Kenedi joined us from Barking ahead of the 2024-25 season, where he had been since he was sixteen. He made his 1st team debut in 2020-21. He made 120 appearances, scoring 11 goals. A highly promising player, he will add pace and power to our defence.

**MICHAEL FINNERAN - DEFENDER.** Michael returned for his second spell at the club in September 2023 after representing Maldon & Tiptree where he was club captain. He started his career at Romford, moved to Grays in February 2018 and made 40 appearances. He then became part of the successful Canvey Island team between July 2019 and December 2022, helping them to promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division at the end of the 2021-22 season, beating Brentwood Town on penalties in the play-off final. Another popular player who brings important experience to our defence.

**ARON GORDON - WINGER.** Aron re-joined us from Haringey Borough in September 2021, after he had made 23 starts for The Blues in the 2018-19 season, scoring six goals. He has also played for Waltham Abbey and Redbridge after representing Doncaster Rovers and Watford at youth level. His brother, Nathan played for us in the 2011-12 season when he also scored six goals, from 15 starts. Aron has now played over 150 games for us and is a real fans favourite, with his blistering pace, an eye for goal and a smile to go with it.

**DANNY GOULD - WINGER.** A versatile player, comfortable playing wide on either side of the pitch. Danny re-joined us in October 2024, from his boyhood club, Histon. He graduated from the Histon Scholarship Programme in 2016 and swiftly became a first-team regular and fans favourite. He originally signed for us in August 2021, but was back at Histon by December 2021 and he was their top scorer last season. He made 237 appearances for the "Stutes", scoring 34 goals.

**MATTHIAS HENRY-ROSE - DEFENDER.** Matthias joined us from Southern Counties East League Premier Division side, Rusthall FC in September, just after his 20th birthday. He also had spells in Academy football with Barnet and Dartford. He is a left-sided player who will bring more depth to the squad.

**LUKE HIRST - FORWARD.** Luke joined us from Barking ahead of the 2024-25 season. He had a couple of prolific seasons there, scoring 48 goals in 59 appearances, playing under Darren Manning for a short period. He also had a short stint at Enfield, scoring against us in the first league game of last season. He was with us in the pre-season of 2020-21, but suffered a bad injury in our friendly against Hashtag United. He has also represented Brentwood Town, Bowers & Pitsea, Hashtag United and Basildon United and had spells abroad with IFK Mora in Sweden.

**JACK HUMPHREY - DEFENDER.** Jack became Darren Manning's third signing in his first week as our new manager, joining us on 24 November 2023. Jack was previously with our League rivals, Brentwood Town. He was a youth player at Leyton Orient and he has also represented Potters Bar Town, Welwyn Garden City, Tring Athletic, Wingate & Finchley, Maldon & Tiptree, Heybridge Swifts and Histon.

**ISAAC LONG - DEFENDER.** 2024 after a successful trial period during pre-season. He made his debut for Isthmian South East side, Phoenix Sports in the last game of the 2023-24 season in their 2-1 win over Sevenoaks Town. He was also a member of the successful Bowers & Pitsea U18 side that won their league in 2021-22 and played in 37 games across two years for them.

**ALEJANDRO MACHADO - MIDFIELDER.** Spanish-born, Alejandro joined us from Basildon United in December 2023. He started in the Real Madrid youth setup before moving to England. He has also played for Northern Premier League Guiseley AFC, Essex Senior League, Woodford Town and Isthmian South Central Division, South Park.

**ALEX MOSS - DEFENDER.** Alex joined us from Basildon United ahead of the 2024-25 season and made 31 appearances for the Bees last season, after he joined from Maldon & Tiptree in September 2023. He was previously at Hullbridge Sports where he made 69 appearances. Darren knows Alex well from his managerial spells at Hullbridge and Basildon and is looking for him to add strength to our defensive line.

**JAYDEN PEGLAR - GOALKEEPER.** Jayden joined us on a dual registration from Southern League, Bishop's Stortford in September 2024. He was a member of the Colchester United Under 18 squad and also had a loan spell at Sheppey United. He made an impressive debut in our penalty shoot-out win at Walthamstow in the Velocity Trophy, saving two penalties helping us to a 4-2 victory.

**ALBERT PERRY - FORWARD.** The young forward joined us from Essex Olympian League Premier Division side, Toby FC in March 2024. Albert can play anywhere across the forward line and adds a different dynamic up front. He came through the youth set-up at Basildon United before moves to Basildon Town and Witham Town.

**LOUIE REMI - WINGER.** Louie joined us from Maldon & Tiptree in March 2024. He made 20 appearances for New Salamis in the 2022-23 season, scoring 11 goals and also made six appearances towards the end of the season for Maldon, scoring once. The wide player has an eye for goal and is an important addition to our attacking options.



**DANNY SAMBRIDGE – GOALKEEPER.** Date of Birth 29 October 1992. Danny joined us from Coggeshall Town in the 2019 close season. He is a local lad who went to William Edwards School in Grays and fondly remembers that the first time he ever played football was in the indoor ball court at our old Recreation Ground in Bridge Road, Grays. His previous clubs include Dagenham & Redbridge, Witham Town, Heybridge Swifts and Maldon and Tiptree. Danny has played nearly 500 senior games, 200 of those whilst at Heybridge Swifts which included the first round of the FA Cup and the 2nd round of the FA Trophy. He was voted Player of the Season for 2022-23 by our supporters and has made over 160 appearances for us between the sticks before the start of the 2024-25 season.

**DHILLON SANDHU-NELSON - WINGER.** Dhillon has signed again for us in July 2024 and is another product of our successful youth section. He made his debut as a 17-year-old in a 3-2 win at home to Felixstowe & Walton in October 2022.

**ELLIOTT SARTORIUS - MIDFIELDER.** Elliott, an attacking midfielder, joined us from Waltham Abbey in February 2024 and scored an important equalising goal on his debut against Wroxham in the 90th minute as a 67th-minute substitute. He also represented Bowers and Pitsea, St Neots

Town and Wealdstone and was originally in the Lincoln City Youth Academy.

**MATAS SKARNA - DEFENDER.** Matas joined us on loan from Concord Rangers in February 2024, a move which became permanent in March 2024. He is a Lithuanian Under 17 international, who previously represented Hashtag United before his move to Concord Rangers in September 2023. He was struck on the ankle by a firework from a nearby property which landed on the pitch when he was playing in a game for Hashtag on 5 November 2021, but thankfully he did not require hospital treatment.

**SHANE TEMPLE - FORWARD.** Shane joined us in December 2024 from Cambridge City. He started his career as a youth at Braintree and Sudbury. He also had spells at Maldon & Tiptree, Concord Rangers, Basildon United - where he played under Darren Manning - and Witham Town.

**SID WALKER - MIDFIELDER.** Sid joined us from Basildon United ahead of the 2024-25 season. He joined Basildon in 2022 and made 67 appearances over two seasons. He has also represented Brentwood Town, played Under 18 football for Essex and played briefly for Romford. Darren knows him well from his time at Basildon and expects him to become an important part of our midfield.



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# FIXTURES 2024/25

## AUGUST

<b>SAT 10</b>	<b>NEWMARKET TOWN</b> <i>C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 6-1</b>	<b>ATT 401</b>
<b>SAT 17</b>	<b>BURY TOWN</b> <i>Brown, C Warren</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA CUP</b>	<b>D 2-2</b>	<b>ATT 465</b>
<b>TUE 20</b>	<b>BURY TOWN</b> <i>Harrison (2), Ford, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>FA CUP REPLAY</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>ATT 446</b>
<b>SAT 24</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b> <i>Holland, Harrison</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 3-2</b>	<b>ATT 192</b>
<b>MON 26</b>	<b>BURY TOWN</b> <i>Clemons, Hitter, Ford</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-1</b>	<b>ATT 624</b>
<b>SAT 31</b>	<b>LEVERSTOCK GREEN</b> <i>C Warren (3), Ford, Whight</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA CUP 1ST QR</b>	<b>W 5-1</b>	<b>ATT 218</b>

## SEPTEMBER

<b>SAT 7</b>	<b>BASILDON UNITED</b> <i>Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA TROPHY 1ST QR</b>	<b>W 4-2</b>	<b>ATT 337</b>
<b>TUE 10</b>	<b>WROXHAM</b> <i>C Warren, Whight</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 210</b>
<b>SAT 14</b>	<b>CANVEY ISLAND</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA CUP 2ND QR</b>	<b>L 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 393</b>
<b>MON 16</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b> <i>C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-1</b>	<b>ATT 166</b>
<b>SAT 21</b>	<b>ENFIELD</b> <i>OG, Harrison</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA TROPHY 2ND QR</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 319</b>
<b>SAT 28</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 1-0</b>	<b>ATT 255</b>

## OCTOBER

<b>WED 2</b>	<b>MILDENHALL TOWN</b> <i>Mayhew, Forde-Brown, C Warren, Ford</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP W 4-0</b>		<b>ATT 151</b>
<b>SAT 5</b>	<b>HARINGEY BOROUGH</b> <i>Mayhew (2), Forde-Brown (2)</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA TROPHY 3RD QR</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>ATT 315</b>
<b>TUE 8</b>	<b>BASILDON UNITED</b> <i>C Warren, T Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 283</b>
<b>SAT 12</b>	<b>TILBURY</b> <i>Mayhew</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 295</b>
<b>SAT 19</b>	<b>WALTHAMSTOW</b> <i>Mayhew, Hitter</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 269</b>
<b>TUE 22</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE CITY</b> <i>Ford, C Warren</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 133</b>
<b>SAT 26</b>	<b>BISHOP'S STORTFORD</b> <i>Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren, C Warren</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>FA TROPHY 1ST RP</b>	<b>W 6-1</b>	<b>ATT 339</b>
<b>SAT 29</b>	<b>BRANTHAM ATHLETIC</b> <i>Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>SUFF PREM CUP QF</b>	<b>W 5-1</b>	

## NOVEMBER

<b>SAT 2</b>	<b>BRENTWOOD TOWN</b> <i>T Warren, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>ATT 347</b>
<b>SAT 9</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE CITY</b> <i>OG, C Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 500</b>

<b>TUE 12</b>	<b>REDBRIDGE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>ATT 279</b>
<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>						
<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 3-3</b>	<b>ATT 357</b>
<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>						
<b>SAT 30</b>	<b>MILDENHALL TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-0</b>	<b>ATT 343</b>
<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>						
<b>SAT 14</b>	<b>WALTHAM ABBEY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 351</b>
<i>Clemons, C Warren</i>						
SAT 21	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 139
<i>Clemons, C Warren</i>						
<b>THU 26</b>	<b>IPSWICH WANDERERS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 1-0</b>	<b>ATT 558</b>
<i>T Warren</i>						
SAT 28	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 295
<i>C Warren, Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison</i>						

## JANUARY

<b>SAT 4</b>	<b>GRAYS ATHLETIC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
TUE 7	BURY TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>SPORTING BENGAL UNITED</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>HARINGEY BOROUGH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		

## FEBRUARY

SAT 1	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 8	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>TILBURY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 22	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

## MARCH

<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 8	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 22</b>	<b>GORLESTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		

## APRIL

<b>SAT 5</b>	<b>HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 12	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 19</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
MON 21	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 26</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		

# 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	lgfxt@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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Programme Designer	Becky Wybrow		beckywybrow.design@gmail.com
Photography	Thomas Bradford/Stefan Peck		

**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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# CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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The 1935-36 Sunderland team was considered by contemporaries to be the greatest to have ever played the game. Bill Shankly described it as the best he had ever played against, and they swept all before them as they won their sixth league title; none would have believed that would be the last league title won by the club, or even by a club from that football obsessed part of the country. But the season was marked by tragedy, and while captain Raich Carter would become the youngest to ever lift the First Division trophy, 22-year old goalkeeper Jimmy Thorpe would not be alongside him. In February of 1936, he had become the only player in England to have died as a result of injuries sustained in a game.

Thorpe had developed into a promising young

goalkeeper during his time in the North East, and was expected to play for England at a future date. But in 1934, he was dealt a blow and diagnosed with diabetes. When he was a child, it would have been a death sentence, but the discovery of insulin in 1921 meant that it was survivable, albeit a struggle. Carter noticed that he had lost weight during the previous season - a warning sign for the illness - but Thorpe, concerned about the reaction of his teammates, sought to hide it by wearing baggier clothes. He was quite possibly the first diabetic to play First Division football.

In 1936, Sunderland raced away with the league, while Chelsea were languishing in mid-table. There was no special animosity between

the sides, no heated rivalry, and players on both sides had no great history of violence. It would appear to everyone as just a routine match on Sunderland's procession to the title. And even at full time, there was nothing to suggest anything had gone seriously wrong, although the game had been more physical than one might have expected. However, within a week, everyone knew it had been anything but routine.

Thorpe started the game brightly, making a number of exceptional stops to keep Chelsea's increasingly frustrated front-line at bay. It was uncharacteristic, then, that he failed to read an easy rebound off of the bar and allowed Joe Bambrick's shot to roll over the line. Two minutes later, he made a mistake from a backpass and, in a tangle of bodies, Bambrick levelled the game. Newspaper reports from the time commented that Thorpe looked disoriented and repeatedly had to lean on the goalposts to restore his composure. Something wasn't right.

It was barely noteworthy that, a few minutes before the first of his mistakes, Thorpe had dived out to the feet of an onrushing Chelsea attacker and held onto the ball. The player, joined by two teammates, committed an assault against Thorpe in an attempt to regain the ball, repeatedly kicking him in the chest, neck and head. The referee allowed the violence to continue without incident, as FA rules at the time allowed, until the Sunderland defenders caught up to play and intervened. Their attempt to protect their goalkeeper had come too late.

Football was not equipped at this time to deal with the fallout of the attack. A policeman was quoted as saying that Thorpe turned a 'ghastly white' immediately after, but the Sunderland trainer was not permitted onto the field to see to him. It's questionable what he could have achieved anyway, in the days of the magic sponge, and without substitutes Thorpe saw out the rest of the match. He left the field with a bump on his forehead, while the referee was escorted off by two police officers, at risk of assault from the Sunderland fans for allowing the brutality.

When he left Roker Park, Carter later recalled, nobody noticed anything especially wrong with



him. But he collapsed at home later that night, and spent the entire weekend bedridden. He had a swollen eye socket and a serious head wound, and was taken to the hospital on the Monday following the game. Despite the efforts of doctors, he succumbed to his injuries two days later. Officially, he died of heart failure caused by his diabetes, with the comment that this was accelerated by the brutality of the Chelsea players.

The FA, quick to try to absolve itself of blame, held a commission that eventually had Sunderland at fault for fielding an unwell player. It ignored the 52 consecutive games Thorpe had previously played, without incident, and failed to consult either Sunderland or Chelsea (who sent their condolences). This is an injustice that has never been corrected.

But alongside that finding, they did also recommend that players no longer be allowed to continue to try to win the ball after the goalkeeper had it under control. It was a small concession, but it was the first attempt to protect the goalkeeper's safety. It might have been scant consolation to the family of Jimmy Thorpe, but his legacy has changed the sport.

Enjoy the game.



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# Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

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**Assistant Manager:** Andy Crump

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Stuart **Ainsley**  
Ollie **Brown**  
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Willie **Clemons**  
Hugh **Cullum**  
Archie **Dunne**  
Sam **Ford**  
Cameron **Forde-Brown**  
Rob **Harvey**  
Callum **Harrison**  
Josh **Hitter**  
Billy **Holland (C)**  
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Josh **Mayhew**  
Leon **Ottley-Gooch**  
Zac **Tuvey**  
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Thomas **Warren**  
Joe **Whight**  
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## MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North  
Saturday 4th January 2025  
Kick-off 3pm



# Grays Athletic FC

**Manager:** Darren Manning

**Assistant Manager:** Callum Bolger

Joao **Carlos**  
George **Craddock**  
Kenedi **Dariri**  
Michael **Finneran**  
Aron **Gordon**  
Danny **Gould**  
Matthias **Henry-Rose**  
Luke **Hirst**  
Jack **Humphrey**  
Isaac **Long**  
Alejandro **Machado**  
Alex **Moss**  
Jayden **Peglar**  
Albert **Perry**  
Louie **Remi**  
Danny **Sambridge**  
Dhillon **Sandhu-Nelson**  
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Matas **Skarna**  
Shane **Temple**  
Sid **Walker**

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## MATCH OFFICIALS:

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