

SEASIDERS



THE OFFICIAL 2025/26 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:



VS
**BRANTHAM
ATHLETIC**

WED 22ND OCTOBER 2025, 7.45PM



CHAIRMAN: ***TONY BARNES***



Good evening, and a very warm welcome to The Martello Ground for tonight's league encounter with close neighbours Brantham Athletic.

A particularly warm welcome to all of you connected with Brantham and tonight's match officials, enjoy your stay with us, enjoy our hospitality, and have a safe journey home later.

Firstly, may I just thank Andy for stepping in

and writing the Chairmans notes for last Saturday's match, his notes were interesting and informative as I had missed the previous games, I do believe he must get his wife or daughter to compile the notes as they made perfect sense too!

Tonight's match is a complete contrast to Saturday when we entertained high flying Maldon and Tiptree, a team full of non league superstars, new multi-millionaire owners, fantastic support and top of the table, it really doesn't come any bigger and any more of a challenge at this level of football. The gates opened early, the food and bar staff were working flat out as over 1000 spectators enjoyed an absolutely superb game of football. Once again the Seasideers responded to their "underdogs" tag for the second time in three matches by putting on a memorable performance that saw us run out 2-1 winners and close the gap at the top to only 2 points. This win following our recent exploits in the Suffolk Premier Cup against step 3 teams just goes to show exactly what this team is capable of.

It was great to see nearly all our major sponsors in attendance on Saturday and the smiling faces and celebrations at 4.55pm will



live long in the memory, I hope that many of the crowd that may have visited for the first time on Saturday have returned tonight to help us get another three points, otherwise I'm sure Stuart and Jack will be telling the players that Saturday's game counted for nothing.

Tonight's opposition present a completely different challenge, a new manager at the helm and rooted to the bottom of the table, Brantham arrive here on the back of 13 defeats in their last 14 games and with nothing to lose what a scalp we would be for them in their quest to turn their season around. Stuart and Jack certainly don't need me to warn them of potential banana skins or complacency.

In my opinion the league fixtures have got it wrong, and our local derbies with Brantham should be Christmas, New Year or Easter fixtures to help clubs like them and us generate maximum revenues from large holiday crowds with too much travelling, how many Gorleston fans are going to make the trip down to us on 3rd January, maybe Felixstowe somehow got confused with Great Yarmouth?

Just back to Saturday's game, I apologise to those who faced a 20 minute queue at the bar, or who were expecting to buy from the sweetshop we face similar issues for every big match in that we never seem to have people come forward to offer their services, don't wait for a phone call, or don't come up to me during the game complaining and saying "I would have done that" please come forward to advance, an extra few hands on Saturday may have helped generate more beer sales, sold more 50/50 tickets, or just assisted supporters with any other issues. That said I must pay tribute to Chris and all his whole matchday team that were here, they all did an exceptional job and it was great to receive such thanks and positive feedback from the Maldon and Tiptree visitors.

Thank you for your attendance and enjoy the game, see all you Seasiders back here on Saturday week following a much deserved weekend off.

Tony

TODAY'S MASCOT

Our mascot for this evening's match against Brantham is Kasper Hurrell- Sharp who celebrated his 13th birthday this week. Here's hoping the Seasiders can get another 3 points on the board and make it an extra special birthday for Kasper.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



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STUART
AINSLEY



Good evening and welcome to the Martello Ground for this evening's league game against Brantham. I would like to congratulate Michael and Craig on their recent appointment and wish them the best for the rest of the season.

We go into tonight's game on the back of a huge three points on Saturday against Maldon. Both sides were missing key players however, the lads produced a brilliant performance in front of over 1000 people. I thought we thoroughly deserved the win in what was a great advert for non-league football. We once again defended superbly, created chances and took two which was enough for the win. I would also like to mention the support on Saturday too... we had 25 mascots and many more youth team players and coaches there to support the first team. It was so pleasing to see so many from our community. I'm sure everyone had a really good day and their support certainly contributed to the three points. We showed on Saturday we have a football club and community to be really proud of.

Moving onto tonight and we will be making sure we apply ourselves in the same way as Saturday as we know football isn't played on paper or league tables. We will have to respect Brantham and again earn the right with hard work to be able to achieve a positive result. After tonight we have a nine day break before our next game at home against Takeley, so we will take the opportunity to rest and recover and hopefully get a couple of lads fit after injury, before November which is a busy month for us.

Once again thank you for your support.
Enjoy the game,
Stu





SEASIDER: **PHIL GRIFFITHS**



Not many people know this...

After Saturday's Grand Day Out, I thought I'd look back a decade to see how we have progressed. The 2015/16 season saw us finish 4th in a Thurlow Nunn Premier Division 38 game season, behind Champions Norwich United (who have since been promoted, relegated, gone out of business and recently reformed), Godmanchester Rovers (who now play in the United Counties League (South) Runners up, Stanway Rovers who were promoted to the Isthmian League (North) for this season, ourselves and Kirkley & Pakefield in the 5th and final play-off spot.

It was up to this point in the season I compared like for like.

	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts
2015/16	11	8	2	1	22-9	26
2025/26	11	8	2	1	21-9	26

The BIG difference is with you the supporters, in 2015 those first 11 games attracted a total of 688 spectators to the six home games played and 563 spectators to the five away games played, total for the 11 games 1,251.

Average home gate 114, Average away gate 112, Total Average 113.

Roll forward 10 years to our current season and up to last Saturday our first 5 home games attracted 2667 spectators, while our first six away games drew 1655 spectators through the gate.

Average Home Gate 533 Average away gate 275 Total Average 392.

Now if my Sums are right that represents a 467.54% increase in attendances here at the Martello Ground over the last ten years AND...

Not many people knew that before today!



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A man with a beard and a cap is giving two thumbs up. He is wearing a dark jacket with a red patch on the left chest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

BY NEIL EDWARDS

PLANES, TRAINS & AWAY DAYS

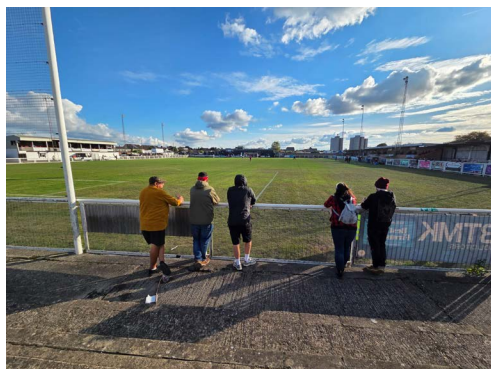
Hi everyone, and welcome to the latest instalment of our away day reviews, bringing you the highs and lows of the "Away Day" experience following our club Felixstowe & Walton Utd around the country.

Seven days on from Chadfields Visit 2.0 for 25/26 came Chadfields V3.0. Three Saturdays in five weekends made this corner of Essex seem home from home for the travelling Seaside faithful.

The Tuesday before, a total of 12 (that I counted) Felixstowe folk made the short trip back to Brantham, the scene of our recent 0-4 victory, to again enjoy the company of the Brantham Ultras and, perhaps more importantly, take a good look at the Tilbury side that we are facing today. Tilbury led 0-2 at the break without getting out of second gear, and as we enjoyed some much-needed HT refreshments the floodlights went out. You'll recall how the lights were switched off 5 minutes after the end of our game? Well, it appeared the cost

cutting had reached even more serious levels as the subs warming up at the break had to do so in total darkness. Within a minute or so of the restart the lights went out again, and after much hanging around and intermittent lights coming on and going off again, the game was abandoned around 20 minutes later. Some may say a wasted Tuesday night, but I must admit it did not feel wasted, and the bosses got a good look at our next league opponents. It feels like a roll call is in order, so here goes. Joining me at The Brantham Leisure Centre were Mistley John, Big Pete, Lorro, Jed, Stef, Jeff, Gary, Phil and last but certainly not least, the Ainsleys (with notebooks I assume)

Back to league matters, and it was my turn to drive today. Joining me were regular away-dayers Lorro, Isaac and John, who we collected via a detour past Brantham and Manningtree. We were on the lookout for the cyclists from last Saturday but alas they were nowhere to be seen. Possibly still traumatised!

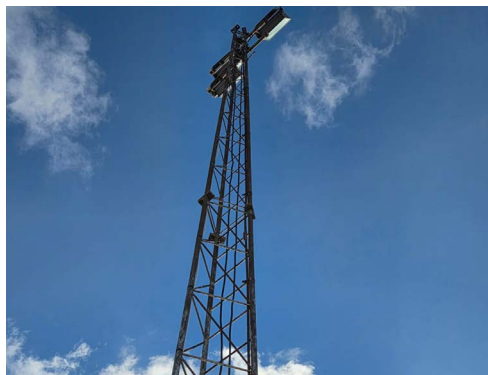


We decided on a pre-match drink in Grays, and once again visited the rather splendid Courtyard Inn on Clarence Road, and rather pleasingly only a 2-minute walk from the multi-storey car park situated above Grays Shopping Centre, where 3 hours parking was a steal at only £1.20

This pub really is a wee gem. Both times we have visited it recently it has been full of old characters and friendly folk, all happy to say hi and have a chat. The landlord remembered us from August and was happy to tell us he is a Tilbury boy, although quick to point out he resides in East Tilbury, the posh part (apparently!!!) My fellow travellers enjoyed their beers and Cool Shot Tropical Vodkas, whilst I told myself repeatedly than alcohol free beer is the best thing since sliced bread. To be fair, it beats a rail replacement bus service hands down, so I still feel like I was winning at life.

Once refreshed, and with one eye on the time, we left Grays and headed East to Tilbury, avoiding the congested areas where pony and trap racing appeared to be the afternoons

entertainment of choice. The Chadfields car park appeared a lot busier than 7 days earlier, so I sent the guys packing whilst I went to find a space and happened to park next to Phil and his lovely wife Michaela (or Michaila if one spells it her way) and Jon, himself fresh from a morning at Romford greyhound stadium.



I found the guys in the bar, we perused the team sheets, debated our thoughts on the line-up and headed off to find a vantage point, this being in front of the door, 3 yards from the clubhouse. Four minutes into the game and Toby Stevenson went marauding down the left, into the penalty area, and had his legs taken from underneath him. Now I'm no Level III referee and have been known to miss blatant incidents in the past (usually because my glasses are still in my pocket) but even I was pointing to the spot for this one. Up stepped Mr Reliable, Josh Mayhew, to despatch the ball into the back of the net and give the Seasiders an early lead, and a lead that remained



throughout, thanks in no small part to some heroics between the sticks by Harry Wright.

The last 10 minutes was an onslaught of sorts, and I must admit it looked like an equaliser was coming, with Brentwood last March still raw in our memories. The lads dug in deep though, if it's possible to dig on a such a hard surface, and the relief around the ground when the referee finally remembered to call time was palpable. It is days like these, and those ground out 0-1 wins, that make all the miles and early starts worthwhile. The club hierarchy are always saying how the away support really lifts the lads, so anything we can do as a collective unit we will continue to do.

After applauding the lads at FT, my fellow travellers returned to the bar and I took an opportunity to have a look at the view from the main stand, having never previously set foot in it. The main stand is a very traditional old style football stand, with decent elevation high above ground level giving what should be a very good view of the entertainment on offer. I figured this is not the case though as the roof is supported by as many as 10 posts, so I would imagine it would be a frustrating watch up there. That said, you can sense a real time capsule of a stand and if walls could talk, I am sure they would have many great stories to tell.

In contrast to our recent visits here to see us play Grays, the usual jovial atmosphere was missing throughout the afternoon, with some

Tilbury fans appearing to be, shall we say, not as welcoming as perhaps they could or should be. This column is not the place to comment on the events post-match, suffice to say everything calmed down eventually with the locals taking their feud elsewhere. Thankfully I was taking photos of the floodlights and views from the main stand at the time so missed it all unfolding.

Back in the bar all was amicable, we chatted with our hosts, and some of their old boys told us they were looking forward to the return visit, and they were already booked in for an overnighter at The Orwell. We can't wait to see them again, in far more pleasurable surroundings. Thankfully the car was still where I left it, and so we departed Chadfields for the third and final time this season. With a little bit of luck and good fortune, it may well be some time before we are back!!

All eyes now turn to a home fixture next Saturday with Heybridge Swifts, before we hit the road again for 2 games in 5 days. We start our defence of the Suffolk Premier Cup at AFC Sudbury before a first visit to the new home of Cambridge City. Once these 2 fixtures have been completed, we will have played 10 of our 15 games away from home. Plenty of memories already banked in the first 8, and many more to come as the season gathers pace.

Thanks for reading,
Up the Seasiders



Our mixed U9's mascots had a great afternoon on Saturday!
Thanks to the first team players and coaches who took part pre-game and to the teams sponsors - Reds, Emirates logistics & Whites, Richard Bugg Trading



FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Mayhew, Brown

MALDON & TIPTREE

Wordsworth

2

1

Saturday 18th October
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Caley-Brown, Warren, Ainsley, Stevenson, Cullum, Brown, Gilchrist, Mayhew, Hitter (C), Garcia

SUBS: Lay, Wilkinson, Ford, Martin, Ottley-Gooch



Schallenberg Stand













OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe
& Walton United playing squad
and management team of
2025/2026



JACK AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
Travis Perkins



STUART AINSLEY
MANAGER
Pat Haseman, Chris & Jayne Ryan



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH
COACH
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STUART STEVENSON
FITNESS COACH
Shirley Ainsley



ALEX EGELTON
GOALKEEPER COACH/COACH
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GOALKEEPER
Andy & Kim Wilding



JOE WHIGHT
DEFENDER
[@_write_club_](#)



OLLIE CALEY-BROWN
DEFENDER
Les Soall



HUGH CULLUM
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Chris Walne - Doug French



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PHOTOGRAPHER
Lorro, Jed and Neil

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SEASIDERS PEN PICS

MANAGEMENT

Jack Ainsley – Manager

Rejoined for a second spell at the club from Stowmarket in 2023. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their academy and went on to make four appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 2 with Lowestoft and Step 3 with Leiston but is back at the Seaside as player/joint manager with brother Stuart.

Stuart Ainsley – Manager

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City, Canvey Island and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent ten years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Having spent the last 11 years playing for Felixstowe, began his management career alongside brother Jack in May 2025.

Stuart Stevensen – Fitness Coach

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seaside 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.



Leon Ottley-Gooch – First Team Coach

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. Was appointed first team coach in May 2025.

John Abbott – Physio

John is a vastly experienced physio, qualifying in 1992 and dedicating 37 years to the NHS. Previous football clubs include Enfield Town, Tottenham and Stevenage before taking early retirement to move to Felixstowe, where he joined the seaside in October 2024.

Alex Egelton – Goalkeeper Coach/Coach

Alex returned to Felixstowe last season 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 Tattingstone, 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 another season with the Seasideers.

GOALKEEPER

Harry Wright

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 Seasideers in the summer of 2024. He has quickly become a firm fans favourite and works within the clubs Academy system.

DEFENDERS

Joe Waight

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.

Ollie Caley-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



Callum Bennett

Callum returns to the club in 2025 after a brief spell away. Grew up at Ipswich Town Academy before spending a year at Notts County, returning back to local football with Bury Town in 2013, before signing for Felixstowe in 2014. Callum is in the top five for appearances made in the club's history.

Toby Stevenson

Ex-professional Toby scored a hat-trick on his debut for Charlton Athletic at 18 years old, the strong centre back or left back's previous clubs include Leyton Orient, Watford, Billericay and Braintree. An excellent defender at this level after joining the seashiders in early 2025.

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

Tom signed for the club in the summer of 2024 from Hadleigh United and played his first season for the Seashiders alongside his brother Charlie. Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal, scoring an impressive 17 goals in his debut season.





MIDFIELDERS

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.

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.

Noel Aitkens

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

Ethan Garcia

Ethan signed for Felixstowe in the summer of 2025 after a two year spell with Walsham Le Willows where he impressed many at step 5. Only playing football for four years, a tricky winger with an eye for goal.

Olly Martin

Olly is a product of the clubs academy after more than ten years in the youth set up. An energetic and committed midfielder with an eye for a pass.

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.

Zak Brown

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

Dan Gilchrist

Dan's non league career started at Canvey Island before relocating to Suffolk where he went onto play for AFC Sudbury in the FA Cup 1st round, before moving onto Bury Town and Thetford where he had two impressive goal scoring seasons. A hard working attacking player with an eye for goal.

Jacob Lay

Jacob rejoins the club for his second spell, after leaving in 2020, Jacob has gained promotion from step 3 and played at step 2 last season for Needham Market. A tricky winger who has huge energy and workrate.





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ETHAN
GARCIA

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Jacob Lay is the focus of today's "Getting to Know You" feature. This is the third in a series of interviews introducing our new signings to the Seasiders faithful.



QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Name: Ethan Garcia

Nickname(s): Garcia (all the boys at Felixstowe use a Spanish accent for it!)

Position: Left Wing

Height: 5ft 10"

DOB: 09/12/2001

Previous Clubs: Walsham-le-Willows

Occupation: Business Analyst

Team you Support: Arsenal FC

Hobbies: All sports really but mainly Padel Ball now

Favourite Food: Pizza

Favourite Musical Artist: Kendrick Lamar or Fontaines DC

Favourite Film: Inception

Matchday Superstitions: Always scrambled eggs in the morning of a game

Interesting Fact about you: I can juggle

IN A BIT MORE DETAIL...

You stepped up from the Thurlow Nunn League with Walsham-le-Willows to Step 4 football — what have been the biggest differences you've noticed in terms of physicality, tempo and quality?

I think there is less room for errors so you need to be making the right decision and also the physicality and speed of the game requires a lot more fitness and sharpness.

How have you settled into the group at Felixstowe — what's the environment like behind the scenes?

It was a bit intimidating to start with but everyone has been so welcoming that it's been easy to get along with the whole group

Be honest — did you have to do an initiation when you signed? And if so... what did you do and how did it go?

Yes I did, on the coach back from Grays I sung "what you know" by two door cinema. It was a little bit shaky but everyone else got involved which helped.





I understand you discovered football fairly late compared to a lot of players — how did that actually come about and when did you realise you wanted to take it seriously?

I never played for a team growing up but would always play at the park or in the garden and then an old school mate asked me to play and help out the local team and it went well and I've just been going up and up since.

On your own form — how do you feel you're playing right now and what parts of your game do you think have grown most since stepping up?

It's taken some getting used to the league and how Felixstowe play but I think I have started off the season well and imbedded myself into the team and i think i have definitely improved receiving the ball on the turn and scanning more.

That big win over Maldon & Tiptree felt like a marker — what did that performance and result tell you about this group's level and potential?

Yeah I think we showed just how good we can



be and how the whole squad can battle especially with some key players out injured. But there's still more games left to play so we need to keep working hard.

Looking forward, what are your personal targets for the rest of the season and what do you think this team is capable of?

I usually don't try and give myself any set in stone targets, but I think double figure goals would be a good first season and then just overall performing consistently at a good level. I think we can look to get promoted and then another win in the Suffolk cup.

***"I usually don't try
and give myself any
set in stone targets,
but I think double
figure goals would
be a good first
season and then just
overall performing
consistently at a
good level."***



FIXTURES 2025/26

AUGUST

SAT 9	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 302
TUE 12	WITHAM TOWN <i>Garcia, Mayhew</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 388
SAT 16	NEWMARKET <i>Garcia</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP PR	D 1-1	
TUE 19	NEWMARKET	H	7.45PM	EMIRATES FA CUP RR REPLAY	L 2-0	ATT 384
SAT 23	BOWERS & PITSEA	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 340
MON 25	GORLESTON <i>Holland, Hitter, Gilchrist</i>	A	1PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 121
SAT 30	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Mayhew, Hitter, Gilchrist</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 189

SEPTEMBER

SAT 6	HERTFORD TOWN <i>Ford (3)</i>	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY 1QR	W 3-1	ATT 377
SAT 13	NEWMARKET TOWN <i>Ford, Garcia</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 502
TUE 16	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC <i>Hitter, Brown, Holland, Gilchrist</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 185
SAT 20	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY 2QR	L 2-0	ATT 194
SAT 27	TILBURY <i>Mayhew (P)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 295

OCTOBER

SAT 4	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 420
TUE 7	AFC SUDBURY <i>Lay, Warren, Gilchrist</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP	W 3-2	ATT 114
SAT 11	CAMBRIDGE CITY <i>Warren, Stevenson</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 563
SAT 18	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Mayhew, Brown</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 1017
WED 22	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		

NOVEMBER

SAT 1	TAKELEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 4	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 8	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 11	WITHAM TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	CONCORD RANGERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 22	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 24	STANWAY ROVERS	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 29	WALTHAM ABBEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

DECEMBER

SAT 6	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	WROXHAM	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

JANUARY

SAT 3	GORLESTON	H	1PM	LEAGUE
SAT 10	DOWNHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 24	CAMBRIDGE CITY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 31	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 7	TILBURY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
FRI 20	STANWAY ROVERS	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE
SAT 28	TAKELEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 7	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	WROXHAM	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	REDBRIDGE	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	DOWNHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 4	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE
MON 6	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 11	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 18	CONCORD RANGERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 25	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE



WOR BELLA

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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Issabella Reay was never supposed to be a footballer. Born into the conservative stricture of late Victorian society, she was the daughter of a coal miner in Northumbria. She was destined to marry and have children or, if she was especially rebellious and somewhat academically inclined, perhaps become a teacher or a secretary. Sport, however, was never in the plans. And then the world was turned upside down by the First World War, and with it the patriarchal society that dominated Britain. As the men went to war, the women went into the factories, and Bella became a munitions worker. Men's football was suspended after a year of conflict, and women moved onto that pitch too, allowing Wor Bella to become the most prolific of Munionettes.

Football remained popular throughout the first year of the war, but by the end of the 1914-15 season it was becoming clear that it was not an important enough diversion to justify players avoiding military service. Footage of some of those teams leaving for the front still exists, parading around the pitch after the final games of the season in their uniforms, to the ovation of adoring crowds. And this presented both responsibilities and opportunities for those who remained at home.

Women flooded into the factories, but there was still an appetite for football. As the hard, dirty, often dangerous work of the munitions

girls developed, they were encouraged to join social clubs to foster a sense of comradeship. When those social clubs started to have little amateur kickabouts, they were surprised to find that crowds of people came to watch them. Before long, they developed into a thriving semi-professional scene.

By 1917, Reay was old enough to join a local munitions factory, and along with it, a football club that grew up among munitions workers and dockers around her local area of Cowpen. This club took on a few different names: Blyth United Munitions Ladies, Blyth Spartans Ladies, and Blyth Spartans Munionettes. They played at Croft Park, still the home of the present day Blyth Spartans, and attracted significant crowds. And their star player was a small, agile, deadly 17 year old forward. Wor Bella was a local hero.

Blyth joined the Alfred Wood Munitions Girls Cup, the highest profile women's football competition in the north east, and stormed their way to the final at Ayresome Park. They won 26 of their 30 games, drawing the other four. Reay scored an inconceivable 133 goals over the course of those 30 games, including four in the final against Bolckow Vaughan, becoming the best team in the region by a considerable distance.

Half way through that season, she was offered the chance to trial for a nascent English national team, but she turned it down, opting to

continue banging in goals for Blyth instead. The national selectors wouldn't go quietly, however, first selecting her for a match in a team called North of England ladies, and later to play against a Scotland side. England won, despite Reay unusually not finding the net.

And then, as quickly as she had found fame, Reay's career was over. The war finally ended, and the men came home. They returned to their jobs, and the munitionettes were expected simply to retreat back into domestic life. She continued to play exhibition matches for a number of teams over the following three years, raising money for striking coal miners and extending her prolific form for a number of teams in the north east, before in 1921, to end the threat that women's football posed to men's in terms of popularity, the FA banned women from playing the game.

Like so many women who had thrived in a game 'unsuitable for females', Bella Reay's story was expunged from the record and lost for decades. She had been a hero to her fans in the

north east, who venerated her as 'Wor Bella'. But in the end, she retired into obscurity. She married and worked on a farm.

The contribution of the munitionettes would become a pivotal point in the fight for suffrage, women being awarded the vote almost as a reward for doing their patriotic duty, but it came with a heavy slice of patriarchy. Vote, yes, but from a life that didn't intrude or threaten the men. And certainly not from a football pitch.

It is perhaps a small victory that, having lost her playing career right in its infancy, she lived for another sixty years. That was long enough to see women's football reinstated by the FA. Her tale might have been written out of the story of women's football, but at least the injustice that had cost her notoriety and affection across the north east had been overturned.

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ISTHMIAN NORTH

DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Maldon & Tiptree	10	9	1	0	24	6	+18	28
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	11	8	2	1	19	3	+16	26
3	Wroxham	13	7	3	3	22	15	+7	24
4	Bowers & Pitsea	12	6	5	1	28	12	+16	23
5	Gorleston	12	7	1	4	24	22	+2	22
6	Newmarket Town	11	6	2	3	23	14	+9	20
7	Redbridge	13	6	2	5	24	20	+4	20
8	Concord Rangers	13	6	2	5	20	16	+4	20
9	Waltham Abbey	10	5	3	2	19	12	+7	18
10	Mildenhall Town	12	5	1	6	20	23	-3	16
11	Lowestoft Town	11	4	3	4	18	19	-1	15
12	Witham Town	10	4	3	3	9	10	-1	15
13	Heybridge Swifts	13	3	5	5	10	17	-7	14
14	Stanway Rovers	10	3	4	3	17	12	+5	13
15	Walthamstow	11	3	4	4	15	16	-1	13
16	Grays Athletic	12	2	6	4	12	15	-3	12
17	Tilbury	11	3	3	5	10	14	-4	12
18	Takeley	13	3	3	7	11	23	-12	12
19	Brightlingsea Regent	10	3	1	6	13	12	+1	10
20	Downham Town	12	3	1	8	11	25	-14	10
21	Cambridge City	13	2	3	8	11	23	-12	9
22	Brantham Athletic	12	0	2	10	9	39	-30	2

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 16:58:15

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THE OTHER SIDE **BRANTHAM** **ATHLETIC FC**

The Club was founded in 1887, and were founder members of the Ipswich & District League, winning Division Two of the league in 1898. The club adopted the name Brantham Crown for some time and returned to Division One of the Ipswich & District League in 1905. In 1906 they reverted to their original name, and the following year left the Ipswich & District League again to join Division Two of the South East Anglian League. They returned to Division One of the Ipswich & District League for the 1908–09 season, but left again in 1910 to join the Harwich & District League. After playing in it for a single season they joined the Essex & Suffolk Border League, before switching back to Division Two of the Ipswich & District League in 1912, also playing in Division Two of the (now renamed) East Anglian League, winning both in 1913–14.

After World War I the club played in the Ipswich & District League from 1919 until 1925, the year in which they reached the final of the Suffolk Senior Cup, losing 1–0 to Kirkley. That year they also switched back to the Essex & Suffolk Border League. The club won the Senior Cup in 1927 with a 3–0 win over Lowestoft Town. After finishing bottom of the Essex & Suffolk Border League in 1931–32 they returned to the Ipswich & District League. After World War II they re-joined the Essex & Suffolk Border League, although they also played in the Ipswich & District League between 1947 and 1950. They won the Essex & Suffolk Border League Cup in 1948–49, beating Colchester United 4–0 in the final.[3] The club won the Senior Cup for a second time in 1959–60, defeating Christchurch Athletic 3–2.[4] In 1972–73 they won the Essex & Suffolk Border League and retained the title the following season. In 1975–76 they

won the league again, also winning the League Cup (with a 1–0 win against Wivenhoe Town after extra time) and the Senior Cup. A league and League Cup double was repeated the following season, with Brantham beating Wivenhoe's 2–0 in the cup final.

The club applied to join the Eastern Counties League in 1977, but were rejected as the ECL secretary claimed that they wouldn't "attract people to watch them in other parts of the region".

However, the following year they were successful and were admitted to the league. They achieved their highest-ever finish of fourth in 1982–83, the same season in which they reached the fifth round of the FA Vase, losing 1–0 at home to VS Rugby in front of a then-record crowd of 594. The following season they won the Suffolk Premier Cup, beating Lowestoft Town 2–0. When the league gained a second tier in 1988, the club was placed in the Premier Division. However, they were relegated to Division One in 1992–93 after finishing second from bottom.

Two years later they were relegated to the Suffolk & Ipswich League after finishing eighteenth out of 19 clubs. Suffering from financial problems, the club merged with SIL club Stutton to become Brantham & Stutton United. After winning the League Cup in 1997, the club reverted to its old name in 1998. They were relegated to Division One in 1999–2000, and despite making an immediate return to the Senior Division, they were relegated again the following season. They were promoted to the Senior Division after finishing second in 2004–05. They won the title in 2007–08, and were promoted back to the Eastern Counties League. After finishing third in 2009–10, the club were promoted to the Premier Division.

The Club secured the Eastern Counties Cup 2018 with a 4-2 win over Thetford Town. After two truncated seasons through the global Pandemic, the club managed to find way through with help from all behind the scenes and have come out a stronger club. We went in to the 2023/24 season full of optimism and hope, knowing it's going to be a hard one, but led by the newly appointed Chairman Roger Peck off the field and by 1st Team Manager Pip Boyland on the pitch, unfortunately





the season got away from us and at Christmas we parted company with Pip and his team. Roger and Darren appointed interim management of Stef, Duncan and Kirk to hold the fort until new management team of Tom Austin & Jack Sibbons could take the reins. In 2024/2025 season, optimism was for a steady season, perhaps the play-offs but no one could foresee the season ahead. Jack & Tom gelled together a group of talented and committed players. As the season went on, the play-offs became the objective for the committee, but Jack & Tom had different ideas – promotion was their sole agenda. So we enter the last game of the season, had having had the chance to win the league a few weeks earlier, but results went against us. Last game, sitting 2nd on goal difference of -3 to Fakenham, could we overturn such a difference – well 3 up by half time, with Fakenham 2 up...goal difference now -2 – by full time 6-0 win, Fakenham won, but only 2-1 – therefore, champions with a 5 goal swing.... euphoria erupted around the ground. Tom, Jack and all those players and coaches will be forever legends of the club.

Now with new management team of Kevin Coyle and Alex Rossi, we start our first season at Step 4. We know it will be a challenge, but the club and management are up for that.

UPDATE: In October 2025 Michael Brothers and Craig Clarke were announced as the new Men's First team Management, taking charge with immediate effect.



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MALDON & TIPTREE

WED 22ND OCTOBER, 7.45PM
BRANTHAM ATHLETIC

SAT 1ST NOVEMBER, 3PM
TAKELEY

TUE 4TH NOVEMBER, 7.45PM
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CLUB CONTACTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Andrew Clarke		springcroftcdr@outlook.com
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Club Secretary	Ruth Ward	07745 062337	secretary@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Treasurer	Gary Hammond	07803 244721	treasurer@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Director of Football	Kevin O'Donnell		
Chairman of Youth Football	Scott Dunne	07790 820396	sjd_sw@yahoo.co.uk
Head of Media/Press Officer	Stuart Daynes	07717 577497	media@felixstowefootball.co.uk

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Safeguarding/Welfare Officer	Lynne Barnes		lynnehakes@btinternet.com
Hospitality	Winnifred Soall	07900 591367	winnifred.mcclean@aol.com
Welfare Officer	Kathryn Maclean		
Assistant Secretary	Phil Barber		
Fixtures Secretary	Les Soall	07825 058857	lgsfxt@aol.com
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Secker	07539 455089	paul.secker1@hotmail.com

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

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Commercial Manager			commercial@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Programme Designer	Becky Wybrow		beckywybrow.design@gmail.com
Photography	Stefan Peck		



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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Our weekend started on Friday evening, as sixth place **Redbridge** looked to get back to winning ways as **Mildenhall Town**, in twelfth, came to call. The Motormen were seven unbeaten until defeat against Takeley on Monday; whilst Hall were three without a win, and had particularly struggled on the road, winning only once away from home this season. What a match the two gave us - a seven goal thriller, with the visitors coming from three-one down to somehow win four-three!

Hall had a fine start, Ben Nolan scoring after only five minutes, but the turnaround was speedy, Malachi Napa taking three minutes to level and Solomon Ogunwomoju putting the hosts ahead on fifteen minutes. Twelve minutes into the second half it was three-one, Ayo Olukoga creating a cushion, but as it turned out the cushion needed to be somewhat larger. Nineteen minutes from time Luke Brown pulled it back to three-two, and eight minutes from time Ryan Swift got an equaliser. Five minutes after that came a spectacular winner from Brown, a fine goal to seal a fine comeback victory for the visitors - who end the weekend in tenth.

Onto Saturday, and our match of the day came from the Suffolk seaside, as third place **Felixstowe and Walton United** hosted leaders **Maldon and Tiptree**. The travelling Jammers, our only unbeaten side, had dropped only two points out of the first thirty available to them; whilst the Seasiders, five points further back, were nine unbeaten and hadn't lost a League match since the opening day.

Felixstowe made the breakthrough, Josh

Mayhew putting them ahead on twenty three minutes, but the Jammers were level just before half time, Anthony Wordsworth with the equaliser. The Seasiders were ahead once more two minutes into the second half, Zak Brown making it two-one, and this time they held their lead, ending the Jammers unbeaten record and cutting their lead at the top to two points.

Second place **Wroxham** travelled to take on a **Tibury** side who weren't in the best of form, with only one win in eight, and who were about to change managers. Wroxham were undoubtedly favourites as they had only one defeat in nine, but it was the Dockers who went ahead, Jack Hayes scoring four minutes before half time. In added time at the end of the second half the hosts added a second, Lester Ward making it two-nil, and the Dockers held on for the points - and climb to seventeenth. Wroxham slip to third.

Gorleston headed to **Waltham Abbey** as Green faced Green. The Suffolk side started the weekend in fourth place, and were looking for a third win in a row, whilst the Abbotts seemed to have left a poor spell behind them when walloping Tilbury last weekend - and they were soon ahead in this one, Nicholas Brown opening the scoring on nine minutes. The travelling Greens were quickly level, Alby Matthews taking only three minutes to equalise, but the Abbotts regained their lead just after the half hour, Nicholas Brown making it two-one. Matt Price made it three-one fourteen minutes from time, but Matthews quickly pulled it back to three-two from the spot,

Gorleston with nine minutes to find an equaliser. We did have another goal, but it went to the hosts, Aaron Eyoma making it four-two in added time- and there was still time for Eyoma to make it five-two, too. The Abbotts are ninth.

Bowers and Pitsea, ten League matches unbeaten after a last-gasp equaliser against **Stanway Rovers** in midweek, were the hosts for bottom side Brantham Athletic, who were eight points from safety and still looking for a first win. After thirty eight minutes with no goals, the next fifteen had four- all of them for Bowers! Rene Batlokwa put them ahead, and just after the break Ross Wall made it two. A minute later Mikey Faulkner got the third, and six minutes after that Kai Redgrave added a fourth. The goals started suddenly, and they stopped there, Bowers up to fourth.

Newmarket Town, who hammered **Downham Town** four-nil in midweek, hoped to climb back into the top five as they welcomed Takeley. The visitors, in seventeenth place, were hoping to build upon their victory over Redbridge in midweek, but it was the Jockeys who went ahead six minutes before half time, Louis Jenkins the scorer. The hosts went down to ten men just after the hour, Jake Eady dismissed, and the visitors took advantage to level with eighteen minutes left, Jamal Obeng with the equaliser. That was that, the Jockeys sixth, Takeley eighteenth.

Concord Rangers seemed to have lots of upward momentum as they welcomed **Stanway Rovers**, the Beachboys looking for a third win in a row and a seventh victory from nine matches. Rovers were five without a win, although they had drawn their last two, and it was the hosts who got the opening goal, Khris Oti adding to the two goals he scored in midweek. Rangers went down to ten men on sixty six minutes, substitute Kai Odufot-Torres dismissed two minutes after coming on, and Rovers were able to take advantage, Harrison Chatting scoring an equaliser five minutes from time. Rangers are eighth, Rovers fourteenth.

Witham Town, comfortably in mid table, welcomed a side who were still looking to find form, third bottom **Cambridge City** hoping to climb out of the bottom four with victory. Witham were looking for a third win in a row, whilst their visitors were looking to avoid a fourth consecutive defeat - and City at least did that, but neither side could score.

Brightlingsea Regent, second from bottom and three points from safety, were the hosts for **Walthamstow**. Regent seem to have spent the season so far suffering from a Play Off hangover, after reaching our Promotion Final at the end of last season, but were hoping to build on their victory over Waltham Abbey last time out; whilst Stow had lost only one of their previous six.

Regent went ahead on twenty two minutes, Shane Temple continuing his fine run in front of goal, and three minutes later it was two-nil, Dan Rowe doubling the lead. Jake Clowsley made it three-nil eight minutes into the second half, and the goals stopped there- Regent up to nineteenth.

Grays Athletic travelled to take on **Heybridge Swifts**. Athletic were six unbeaten- although only one of those was a victory; whilst Swifts had gone nine without a win and were looking nervously over their shoulder at the bottom four. The hosts made the breakthrough with only twelve minutes left, Andrew Fennell the scorer, and they held on to climb too thirteenth.

Downham Town welcomed **Lowestoft Town**, both looking to recover from midweek defeats. Downham had won two and lost five of their previous seven, whilst the travelling Trawler Boys were looking to avoid a third consecutive defeat. Lowestoft made the breakthrough after thirty minutes, Aaron Bullent with the opener, and early in the second half a red card for the hosts William Moxon made things easier for the visitors. They were easier still when Gabriel Overton quickly added a second goal, and the scoring stopped there. Lowestoft are eleventh, Downham twentieth.



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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Wednesday 22nd October 2025
Kick-off 7.45pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

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Noel **Aitkens**
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Zak **Brown**
Ollie **Caley-Brown**
Hugh **Cullum**
Sam **Ford**
Ethan **Garcia**
Dan **Gilchrist**
Josh **Hitter**
Billy **Holland (C)**
Jacob **Lay**
Olly **Martin**
Josh **Mayhew**
Toby **Stevenson**
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Brantham Athletic FC

Managers: Michael Brothers and
Craig Clarke

Toib **Adeyemi**
Deyonte **Anthony**
Ben **Batho**
Nidal **Berri**
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Kevin **Coyle**
Jack **Dudfield (GK)**
Jamie **Eveleigh**
Matthew **Hayden**
Dion-Curtis **Henry (C/GK)**
Harry **Honesty**
Will **Jones**
Ben **Judge**
Ambrosio **Preira**
Chris **Regis**
Olubiyi **Shobowale**
Teddy **Stacey**
Sam **Wade**

MATCH SPONSOR:
SCHALLENBERG

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Nathan Oakes **Assistant Referees:** Mr Louis Dawson and Mr Matthew Fear