

the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2022/2023 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Wroxham FC



SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2023, 3M
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE

JOINT CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



Good afternoon, A warm welcome to the AGL Arena for today's encounter with our Norfolk rivals, Wroxham.

Today's game has become the re-arranged memorial match for the late "Ray Stanbridge". It will be an honour to stand with Margaret, Gary, Neil and the family to honour and pay tribute to the big fella.

To me, Ray was a gentle giant, always happy to talk (often to point out the error of my ways), encourage when needed, or more often than not, take the mickey but always in the right manner and whilst sharing a beer or two.

Characters like Ray are a rare thing these days, and the football club will be a sadder place without his presence.

Moving on to the football, we have played

three games since our last edition of the programme.

The first being the 2-1 loss at home to AFC Sudbury. In fairness, had we produced our second half performance for the full 90 minutes, I'm sure we would have got something from the game. However, a goal conceded in both halves was too much to overcome and the yellows left with the three points on their promotional charge.

On reflection the defeat was not a disgrace in any way, shape or form, when you take into consideration the ability & cost of their front three, some exceptional experience at the back and in the middle of the park, backed up by quality produced from their academy, to go toe to toe for the full 90 minutes was credit to us I feel.

Moving on to last Saturday's visit to Maldon and the game that we produced - a gutsy performance that earned us an absolutely magnificent win.

Maybe not one for the footballing purist, but one for those of us who appreciate that it can't always be pretty and sometimes you need to win ugly and that's exactly what we did.

Having gone a goal down, that man Josh Hitter (who had come off his sick bed) was to score the two goals needed for the three points. A shout out to Ollie for the exquisite cross that set up the winner, although it would be unfair to pick out an outstanding individual, with the whole team putting in a shift.

The only downside was George C picking up what looked like a serious knee injury. Presently we are waiting for the swelling to go down so he can have a scan. We all hope it's not too serious and we see him back in a red shirt sooner rather than later.



Tuesday night saw us given a bit of a football lesson in our Premier Cup match at Needham Market. It was fairly even in the opening quarter, but two lapses of concentration backed up with a very controversial penalty saw us go in 3-0 down at the break.

With the quality they possess in their side, coupled with energy and pace on a heavy pitch, it was always a tough ask.

Talking to some of the Needham staff they

were saying how very satisfying it is when you put out a match day squad with half a dozen or so players being home grown from their academy.

We are a few years behind them on that front, but I'm sure it won't be too long until John and Rhys' hard work starts to pay dividends and we produce one or two of our own players.

Our visit to Wroxham earlier in the season saw us squander a two goal lead in a match that should have been over by half time. Their never give up attitude and work rate always makes them a difficult opponent to play against, let's improve on that earlier result and maintain our play off push with three points.

Don't forget it's the fans forum after the game tonight when players and managers will be happy to answer any questions that you have.

In a nutshell "let's all raise a glass to BIG RAY, cheer on the boys to three points" and have a happy club house at 5pm.

Cheers
Andy

FROM THE DUGOUT:
STUART BOARDLEY



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the AGL Arena where we entertain an in form Wroxham.

We of course will be looking to better the result at Trafford Park back in October where a last minute equaliser denied us all three points. We are under no illusions however, about how tough a test our opponents will provide as they arrive here having only lost two in the last eight league games with those being against Sudbury and Hashtag, the two standout performers in the league so far.

Our form has been a little up and down of late with a good performance followed by an indifferent one and that's been reflected in our results with no game quite as frustrating as our midweek defeat to near neighbours, Needham Market. Needham are a good side, but I was very disappointed in our showing and can only apologise to those of you that came along to support us. We weren't at the races at all but despite this, you stayed with us, singing, and supporting even after the final whistle. The support we have at this club is nothing short of amazing and we really do appreciate the effort and lengths you all go to just to follow us home and away – THANK YOU!

Despite our slightly indifferent form, others around us have also found the going tough which has meant we've been able to better our league position and as this is



written we sit fourth with all eyes on Lowestoft who sit just above us in third. A playoff position has always been our goal this season and that remains our ultimate priority despite us really wanting a good go at the Suffolk Premier Cup - not to be!

Today we finally say goodbye to Ray Stanbridge with his family in attendance. A true legend of this football club who will be fondly remembered by all of us for many, many years to come.

After today's game we have a fans forum where we'd really love you all to stay behind and engage with us on, the season so far, new signings, whatever you like really - there's nothing that's off limits!

We hope you all enjoy the game whilst joining us in saying goodbye and remembering Ray...

Boards





IN LOVING MEMORY OF RAY STANBRIDGE

I won't go on too much as there are far better people at this football club to tell you about Ray and what he has given and achieved in his many years involved with us. All I will say is that I do, and will continue to miss our brief chats after a game where he was always so honest.

Very rarely when a manager talks to people after a game are they as honest as Ray was, they may indicate it wasn't a great game, or we didn't play particularly well but will often tiptoe around the subject trying not to cause offence. Ray was different, refreshing actually, as he would tell me exactly what he thought without any airs and graces and I always agreed, wholeheartedly with someone that I respected from the moment we first spoke.

I have never, during my time as a player or manager, heard a bad word uttered about Ray and that in itself is unique just to Ray, everyone speaks so highly of him and that in itself is certainly how I'd like to be remembered when I'm gone and I'm sure Ray feels the same.

Rest easy,
Boards

DAVE ASHFORD WITH RAY



I have had the pleasure of knowing Ray virtually all my life, he was a teammate of my Dad's for several years both on Saturday and Sundays and later when Felixstowe's Veterans team "The Strollers" was formed.

Ray was present, along with my Dad, Graham Smart and Ray Shooter at the first professional football match I attended, I stood on a Milk crate watching ITFC v Notts Forest in 1982, with each of the gentleman named on each corner of said Milk crate, it was safe to say I didn't budge from that position all game, although the stand was packed. Later, when I got more involved with the committee at the football club Ray was also someone who would listen, offer his thoughts but was never afraid to ask the tough questions. His son's Gary and Neil are a credit to him and Margaret, I think it is safe to say they both took after their Dad when it came to opposition players and referee's!

RIP Ray, you will be missed by many at the football club, but also the wider footballing community.

Matt Hope

Ray gave me my first start in Saturday men's football for Walton United back in mid 80's. I was also fortunate to play alongside both his lads Gary and Neil on numerous occasions for both Walton United and The Port of Felixstowe, enjoying many a beer along the way.

Ray was a larger than life character amongst the town ground faithful and was never shy in sponsoring a beer and sharing a word of encouragement along the way but most quotes would be unprintable nowadays.

Ray's grandson Louis currently works alongside us at Brinor, so not only was I privileged to know Ray "the local legend" but also Ray the family man, husband to Margaret, father to Gary and Neil, and doting grandfather to Harry, Emma, Louis and Freddie to who I know all worshipped "Pops".

Thanks for the memories and our thoughts remain with the family.

Colin Wedge

Transport Manger
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Ray was synonymous with this football club for over 60 years, having 1st played for the Men's Senior team at the age of 14 in 1960, playing across 3 different levels leagues whist at Felixstowe Town, before moving on to a higher level with Sudbury Town and the Lowestoft in the 1970's before returning to his hometown Club.

Ray also represented the Suffolk County Side at senior level and was a key player in the infamous Felixstowe Harpers Sunday side that went over 100 games unbeaten.

When his Senior career ended, he was a founder member of Felixstowe Town Football Club Veterans' team "Felixstowe Strollers" and enjoyed management roles as Reserve Team Manager at Felixstowe Town and Manager of Walton Utd prior to the merger.

Ray served for numerous years on the committee of the football club and undertook the role of Vice Chairman for a period of time, right up until his health failed him, he supported almost all FWUFC events, such as the Sportsman's' Dinners and was regular at ALL home matches

He was a generous man who spent his money over the bar, at the football club, for many years, he will be missed by his many friends throughout the football community in Suffolk.

Thank you for your many years' Service.

Rest in Peace Raymond.

Dave Ashford

I played football with Ray in our youth for AJAX which was the boys team for Achilles F.C. and they played in the Ipswich Boys League on Saturday mornings. We used to catch the No. 201 bus from Felixstowe along with other local lads including Pete Maskell and Dave Hope.

We then progressed to the Felixstowe Town Minors and over the years we played for various teams at many local soccer venues. Ray's considerable talent took him to Ipswich Town Youths, Sudbury and Lowestoft. As the years progressed I admired Ray's football skills and also his "diplomatic" approach to certain officials!

Along with all those associated with Felixstowe and Walton United I shall greatly miss Ray's presence at the games and in the bar.

Graham Smart



RAY WITH HIS SONS GARY AND NEIL

Today gives us an opportunity to remember and recognise the incredible contribution that Ray gave to our football club over the past 62 years. Whilst we will miss seeing him pitch side (and in the bar) his legacy will no doubt be a huge part of our football club for many years to come. He invested his time in every level of the club and was always as knowledgeable about our juniors as he was our senior sides and most of the time he was right too! Our thoughts and condolences to his family and we hope we can deliver a performance on the pitch today that he would proud of.

Andy Crump

It was an absolute privilege to have known Ray for 40+ years.

Being a keen follower of football in the town I had heard of Ray's legendary status as a player both for Felixstowe and for Harpers on a Sunday, although I was born a little too late to actually play alongside him, and indeed so many stories of his antics both on and off the pitch!

When Ray decided to have a go at football management, he took the job at Walton United despite his heart being at Dellwood Avenue he "slumbed" it for a short period in Division One of the Suffolk and Ipswich League, helping to clear the pitch of dog poo before each home game!

I was quite humbled when Ray turned to me and told me I can do better and that I should go along to Felixstowe Town and so began many friendships and such a massive part of my life.

I would run through brick walls for Ray as I held him in such high esteem and I even gave his son Gary a job when Ray told me to! (pleased to say Gary was made of the same stuff as his Dad and still works for me till this day).

Although I can probably blame Ray more than anyone for my fitness levels diminishing and my waistline increasing over the years, I wouldn't change a thing, such an honour and a pleasure to have been a friend!

Miss you mate - R.I.P.

Tony Barnes



RAY WITH OLLY MURS

I first met Ray in 1963 whilst playing at Felixstowe Minors and joining him in the first team within 3 years.

A big man and a big character, I played alongside him for a few years at Felixstowe Town, before he left to join Sudbury Town in the late 60's to play at a higher level, and a year or so later in invited me to join him there. It was at Sudbury that he picked up the nickname "Big Un" and he was affectionately known by that tag in local football thereafter. RIP "Big Un".

John Hope Snr



RAY TOP LEFT, 1968

MATCH REPORT

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Maldon & Tiptree 1

Felixstowe & Walton Utd 2

Hitter (2)

Felixstowe & Walton United made it 13 points from a possible 15 away from home in 2023 with another away win at Maldon & Tiptree. **Josh Hitter** took his goal tally to five in a week and thirteen for the season with a second half brace to seal a comeback win and another vital three points towards the playoff goal. Unfortunately, the victory was marred by a serious looking knee injury late in the game for George Clarke, with the forward stretchered off and taken to hospital.

The Seasideers were without Noel Aitkens, Leon Ottley-Gooch and Stuart Ainsley, but did welcome back Harry Knock to the bench after injury. Callum Harrison started with Henry Barley



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Charlie Warren
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Joe Whight
7. Oliver Canfer
8. Joshua Hitter
9. Zak Brown
10. Callum Harrison
11. Andre Hasanally

SUBS

12. Harry Blackburn
14. Henry Barley
15. Sam Ford
16. Harry Knock
19. George Clarke

MATCH REPORT: STUART DAYNES





and George Clarke coming on as second half substitutes.

Felixstowe were up against a strong, swirling wind off the Estuary in the first half and any attempt to play the ball above head height was thwarted by the elements, despite the conditions, it was still the away side that started the stronger with Zak Brown, Callum Harrison and Ollie Canfer all getting into the box within the first 7 minutes but seeing their crosses cleared. Maldon shot far and wide over the bar on 8 minutes before a subdued home support staged a protest against their manager, former England boss Peter Taylor, on 11 minutes. That did not halt the game and Felixstowe continued to press for the opener, which looked to have come on 20 minutes. Ollie Canfer rose on the penalty spot to attempt a challenge on the home goalkeeper, before the challenge was made the ball was dropped and Dixon-Hedge fell to the ground, allowing Canfer to slot the ball into the empty net. Unfortunately, the referee had blown his whistle instantaneously and to the incredulity of the large away support, the goal was disallowed. 4 minutes later and it was Josh Hitter coming close when he intercepted a cross over from the far left, took it down well and struck the near post with his shot as the



keeper bore down on him. Maldon had offered very little going forward thus far but as usual in this league, teams can always find a way into the game and a 5-minute spell against the run of play had Maldon ahead by one goal, but should have been by two. Firstly, on 28 minutes a home break down the right saw Felixstowe gain and then lose the ball in a dangerous position and the home forward burst into the box from an angle and fired across the goal, beating Robinson but striking the inside of the far post, flying back across the six yard box before being cleared, 5 minutes later and the goal did come, another cross from the right was sent back across the box to give Michael Finneran the simple task of converting. Billy Holland didn't care about the wind, and he tried one of his trademark



attempts from inside his own half on 30 minutes, worrying the goalkeeper for a few seconds before he recovered and caught the ball as it was about to level things up. Andre Hasanally then saw his wind-assisted cross curl just past the far post as the half drew to a close.

Felixstowe looked to be heading for a frustrating afternoon as the home defence

held firm for the start of the second half, Maldon happy to try and mop up everything the Seasiders were throwing at them whilst creating absolutely nothing going forward.

Zak Brown, Canfer and Hasanally all tried to pierce the defensive line with some clever football before **Josh Hitter** popped up with the equaliser on 60 minutes. A cross over from the right found Hitter alone on the far side of the six-yard box, he outwitted the keeper and fired into the roof of the net from an almost impossible angle to the delight of the away following. Felixstowe sensed the win now and strode forward confidently at every opportunity. Hasanally created space on the left and curled a great shot just past the far post on 62 minutes before **Hitter** scored what turned out the winner on 68 minutes, Ollie Canfer sent over the cross of the season that evaded the keeper by swinging back out to the incoming Hitter who smashed in his header from a central position. The home side finally sparked to life on 80 minutes, but it took a serious injury to George Clarke that broke up another good Felixstowe move and allowed the Jammers

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treated and stretchered off the pitch made for a slightly less comfortable finish to the game but Maldon were out of ideas and it was Callum Harrison who very nearly wrapped up the match deep into added time, beating the offside trap and rounding the goalkeeper before perhaps taking one touch too many that allowed the keeper and a defender to recover and challenge before the ball could be slotted home.

to break. Clarke went down on the edge of the Maldon area, possibly getting his studs caught in the turf? And was clearly in a great deal of pain. With the home goalkeeper immediately calling for assistance for George, the referee carried on play and the home forward saw his shot brilliantly save by Callum Robinson as a goal looked a certainty, with a follow up effort going just over the bar. An 8-minute break in play whilst Clarke was



ISTHMIAN NORTH LAST SIX MATCHES FORM

1. Hashtag Utd	W 3-2 v WROX..	W 3-0 v GRAY..	W 2-0 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v MALD..	W 2-1 v NEW..	W 2-1 v COGG..
2. AFC Sudbury	W 2-1 v WROX..	W 2-0 v GRAY..	L 1-0 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v TILB..	W 2-1 v FELI..	D 2-2 v HEYB..
3. Lowestoft Town	W 2-0 v NEW..	W 1-0 v AFC..	W 3-2 v BASI..	L 2-0 v HASH..	D 2-2 v WROX..	W 2-0 v TILB..
4. Wroxham	D 1-1 v MALD..	W 1-0 v HEYB..	D 0-0 v BURY..	W 1-0 v BASI..	D 2-2 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v HULL..
5. Coggleshall Town	D 0-0 v HEYB..	W 2-1 v BASI..	W 2-1 v EAST..	W 4-0 v GORL..	D 0-0 v BURY..	L 2-1 v HASH..
6. East Thurrock Utd	L 2-1 v COGG..	D 2-2 v FELI..	W 1-0 v WITH..	D 1-1 v BREN..	W 1-0 v BURY..	W 2-0 v GRE..
7. Felixstowe & Walton Utd	L 2-1 v BURY..	W 2-0 v HULL..	D 2-2 v EAST..	W 4-0 v GRE..	L 2-1 v AFC..	W 2-1 v MALD..
8. Witham Town	W 1-0 v BURY..	D 2-2 v BASI..	L 1-0 v EAST..	L 2-1 v HEYB..	W 2-1 v STOW..	W 2-0 v TILB..
9. Brentwood Town	L 2-1 v STOW..	W 3-0 v HULL..	W 1-0 v GORL..	D 0-0 v HEYB..	D 1-1 v EAST..	D 1-1 v NEW..
10. Bury Town	W 2-1 v FELI..	W 1-0 v GRE..	D 0-0 v WROX..	D 0-0 v MALD..	D 0-0 v COGG..	L 1-0 v EAST..
11. Heybridge Swifts	L 1-0 v GRAY..	W 3-1 v HULL..	L 1-0 v WROX..	D 0-0 v BREN..	W 2-1 v WITH..	D 2-2 v AFC..
12. Stowmarket Town	W 2-1 v BREN..	W 2-1 v TILB..	L 1-0 v HULL..	D 0-0 v GRAY..	D 2-2 v GORL..	L 2-1 v WITH..
13. New Salamis	L 2-0 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v MALD..	W 2-1 v HULL..	D 0-0 v GRAY..	L 2-1 v HASH..	D 1-1 v BREN..
14. Grays Athletic	W 1-0 v HEYB..	L 2-0 v AFC..	L 3-0 v HASH..	D 0-0 v STOW..	D 0-0 v NEW..	W 2-1 v GORL..
15. Gorleston	W 4-2 v GRE..	L 1-0 v BREN..	L 4-0 v COGG..	D 2-2 v STOW..	L 2-1 v GRAY..	W 3-0 v HULL..
16. Maldon & Tiptree	D 1-1 v WROX..	L 2-1 v NEW..	D 0-0 v BURY..	L 2-1 v HASH..	L 2-1 v FELI..	W 1-0 v BASI..
17. Tilbury	L 3-1 v FELI..	W 1-0 v GRE..	L 2-1 v STOW..	L 2-1 v AFC..	L 2-0 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v WITH..
18. Hullbridge Sports	L 3-0 v BREN..	L 2-0 v FELI..	W 1-0 v STOW..	L 2-1 v NEW..	L 2-1 v WROX..	L 3-0 v GORL..
19. Basildon Utd	L 2-1 v COGG..	D 2-2 v WITH..	L 3-2 v LOWE..	L 1-0 v WROX..	D 1-1 v GRE..	L 1-0 v MALD..
20. Great Wakering Rovers	L 4-2 v GORL..	L 1-0 v TILB..	L 1-0 v BURY..	L 4-0 v FELI..	D 1-1 v BASI..	L 2-0 v EAST..

LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1.	Nnamdi Nwachuku	AFC Sudbury	28
2.	Derek Asamoah	New Salamis	17
3.	Sam Bantick	Grays Athletic	15
4.	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	14
5.	Jake Reed	Lowestoft Town	14
6.	Adam Hipperson	Lowestoft Town	13
7.	Joshua Hitter	Felixstowe & Walton United	13
8.	Alex Teniola	Hashtag United	12
9.	Brian Moses	East Thurrock United	10
10.	Joshua Stokes	AFC Sudbury	10
11.	Adam Vyse	Witham Town	10
12.	Max Cornhill	Hashtag United	9





SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this!

While today quite rightly marks the passing of club legend Ray Stanbridge, it can also mark the passing of Ray's mate Ron Churchyard, who lost his battle with cancer on the 10th December, less than 6 weeks after Ray. There was also a third loss to the club the day after Ray on November 13th when former committee man Mick Packham passed away peacefully at home.

I had the privilege of being good friends of all three, and Christmas 2022 was a sad period for me as I mourned their loss but yet remembering them all for the good times we all had together - each in their own way contributed greatly to the club over the last 50 years and their passing should not go unnoticed...

Sadly, this page looks like becoming an obituary column as we learnt that Dennis Simmonds, brother of club director Jimmy, had also passed away. For those who didn't know Dennis, he was not only a friend of the club, occasional watcher & visitor but was



also instrumental in helping the club get & install the Defibrillator, attached to the wall of the club on the cricket side... a piece of equipment that has proved to be crucial in helping save the lives of three members of the public to date.

So... as we salute Ray, we give a nod to those others who are no longer with us, and say 'Thanks for the memories'...

I couldn't let Ray's passing go without at least one anecdote from those days when we were young -

Mid 1970's (75 I think) we had a midweek away game near the end of season when we were in with a chance of winning the Essex & Suffolk Border League. Our opponents were Wivenhoe Town (village) and they were then playing on the Essex University ground, a vast area with multiple pitches, we needed at least a point to have any chance of winning the league.

80 minutes in its 1-1, Ray's playing at centre half, collects a loose ball and sets off on a dribbling run (an old term) until he gets to the halfway line on the touchline and then kicks the ball as hard as he could toward a little bunch of trees some 100 plus yards away, and off it sails on the wind, into the distance. One of the home side's staff goes chasing after it while Ray trots back to his centre half position as everyone stares at him in disbelief.

Play resumes after a couple of minutes with a Wivenhoe throw and as 90 minutes approaches Ray again gets the ball and does a repeat, this time kicking it even further. The ball's retrieved and as the throw in is taken, the ref blows for full time.

We drew 1-1.



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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Needham Market 5
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 0**

Holders Needham Market produced a five-star display in the Endeavour Automotive Suffolk Premier Cup.

The Marketmen defeated Felixstowe & Walton United 5-0 in the second round at Bloomfields last night to cement their place in the quarter-finals.

Striker Luke Ingram, who missed last season's final through injury, scored a first-half hat-trick, with Dylan Williams and Seth Chambers completing the rout in the second-half.

COURTESY OF NICK GARNHAM



HOW WE LINED UP

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SUBS

12. Callum Bennett
14. Sam Ford
15. Stuart Boardley
16. Harry Knock
19. Ivanildo Da Costa







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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2022/2023.



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.

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Pat Haseman



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.

SPONSORS: Chris & Jayne Ryan



KOTRYNA STOKNAITE SPORTS THERAPIST

Kotryna Stoknaite is a BSC Sports Therapy graduate from the University of Essex. During her undergraduate degree she had the opportunity to work as a Sports Therapist for the Colchester Rugby First team, as well as treating patients weekly at the university clinic.

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STUART STEVENSON 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's 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.

SPONSOR: George Baker (Shipping) Ltd



GARY HAMMOND GOALKEEPER COACH

Gary is in his fifth season with the club. He was part of the double winning team with Walton Utd before the merger with Felixstowe. He has a wealth of experience having previously played for Stowmarket, Woodbridge and Ipswich Wanderers. Gary is also Club Treasurer.

SPONSORS: Ryecroft Freight Ltd



CALLUM ROBINSON **GOALKEEPER**

Callum joined the club in 2020 from Stowmarket Town. He started his career at Colchester United before playing for Wroxham, AFC Sudbury and spent time on loan at Brantham Athletic.

SPONSOR: Barry Caley



STUART AINSLEY **LEFT BACK**

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.

SPONSORS: Chris & Jayne Ryan



JOE WHIGHT **DEFENDER**

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.

SPONSORS: Richard & Jenny Bugg



CALLUM BENNETT **RIGHT BACK**

Callum is in his second spell at the club having re-joined in late 2018. An attacking full back with one of the best ball deliveries in non-league football. Callum has plenty of experience from his time at Ipswich U18s, Stoke City U21s and Notts County.

SPONSOR: Dave Ablitt



CURTIS HAYNES-BROWN **DEFENDER**

Curtis joined in 2020 from Stanway Rovers and has a fine Isthmian league pedigree. Previous clubs include AFC Sudbury, Lowestoft Town, Yeovil Town, Cambridge Utd, AFC Wimbledon, Macclesfield Town and Maldon & Tiptree.

SPONSORS: George & Shirley Ainsley



MILO GRIMES **DEFENDER**

Milo joins the Seasiders from Coggeshall Town where he was ever present during the last campaign. A tough tackling centre half but with ability to play out from the back. A good leader and talker for a 22 year old, and sure to become a firm fan favourite.

SPONSORS: Stefan Peck, Stan Baston, Tom Bradford, Stevan Webb & Sons Roofing



HARRY KNOCK **DEFENDER**

Harry joins the Seaside on a permanent deal following his hugely successful loan spell in 2021/22 season. Harry, a former Scholar at ITFC, quickly became a fan favourite and an integral part of the side finishing in the play offs.

SPONSORS: Chris Worrall



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

Like Charlie Warren, Harry graduated through the Needham Market academy and joins the Seaside predominantly as an attacking fullback. Harry plays with confidence in possession and supporters will enjoy seeing him create chances for our forward players.

SPONSOR: Chris Walne



BILLY HOLLAND **MIDFIELDER**

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 last season has led to him being appointed captain for the forthcoming year.

SPONSOR: Andy Clarke



NOEL AITKENS **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSORS: Becky Wybrow, Richard & Jenny Bugg, Darren Walne



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH **MIDFIELDER**

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 midfield player.

SPONSORS: Phil & Jan Griffiths



JOSH HITTER **MIDFIELDER**

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.

SPONSOR: Les Soall



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Winnifred McClean



RORY PORTER **MIDFIELDER**

Rory is one of the brightest players in recent years to progress through the youth system at Felixstowe & Walton. Having worked hard in the U23's during the 2021/22 season, Rory progresses permanently into the first team squad for the up and coming season.

SPONSOR: Paul Secker



HENRY BARLEY **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Henry signed for the club in 2019 following his contract expiring at Ipswich Town. Another popular young player who had also been on loan from the then EFL Championship club the previous season.

SPONSOR: Steve Foley Transport Ltd



LAMELL HOWELL **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Lamell signed from Brightlingsea Regent in 2020. He can play on both wings or in the number 10 position and brings pace and trickery to the side. He has previously played for Stowmarket Town, Debenham FC and Brantham Athletic.

SPONSORS: Steve & Kate Garnham



CHARLIE WARREN **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

SPONSORS: Suffolk Carpet Weavers, SCW Racing, Danny Soall



ARMANI SCHAAR **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Armani played for Felixstowe & Walton back in 2016 before moving on to Leiston and then Lowestoft Town where he helped them avoid relegation. Armani has also had spells at Needham Market and brings with him plenty of experience playing at step 3 level.

SPONSOR: Ray Wade



GEORGE CLARKE FORWARD

George joined the Seaside from Stowmarket Town in 2020 and has previously played for Ipswich Town, AFC Sudbury, Needham Market, Brightlingsea Regent and Brantham Athletic. George is a powerful and dynamic centre forward that is looking to make his mark following a lengthy spell on the sidelines through injury.

SPONSOR: Kedan Logistics Ltd



OLLIE CANFER FORWARD

Ollie made a dramatic impact when he joined the club in November 2019, signing from Mildenhall Town. "Canfs" burst onto the scene scoring 9 goals in 13 games. The fans love his non-stop running and desire to cause defensive headaches for the opposition.

SPONSORS: Steven Seeley, Andy & Kim Wilding



ANDRE HASANALLY FORWARD

Andre joins the Seaside following a successful loan spell from Colchester United in the 2021/22 season. A versatile forward with the ability to create as many as he scores.

SPONSORS: Matthew Daynes



ZAK BROWN FORWARD

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 Seaside's Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the club's No. 9.

SPONSORS: Chris & Kate Daynes



SAM FORD FORWARD

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath last season 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. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

SPONSOR: Craig Studd

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination.

Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162). The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating 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 the community."



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FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST

SAT 13	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	Att 167
TUE 16	GORLESTON <i>Warren, Harrison, Canfer</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	Att 332
SAT 20	DEREHAM TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP PRELIM RND	L 2-0	Att 229
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	Att 283
MON 29	COGGESHALL TOWN <i>Aitkens, Harrison, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 157

SEPTEMBER

TUE 13	BURGESS HILL TOWN <i>Whight, Harrison - Burgess Hill Town win 3-2 on pens</i>	H	7.45PM	FA TROPHY 1 ST	D 2-2	Att 185
SAT 17	NEW SALAMIS <i>Harrison 2, Canfer 3</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 5-0	Att 317
TUE 27	WITHAM TOWN <i>Holland 2, Maycock</i>	H	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 1 ST	D 3-1	Att 239

OCTOBER

SAT 01	WROXHAM <i>Brown, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	Att 180
SAT 08	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter, Holland, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 460
TUE 11	CHERTSEY TOWN <i>Brown, Holland</i>	A	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 2 ND	L 2-0	Att 203
SAT 15	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Hitter, Holland</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	Att 309
SAT 22	HASHTAG UNITED <i>Brown, Clarke, Warren, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 4-0	Att 658
TUE 25	AFC SUDBURY	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	Att 320
SAT 29	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS <i>Hitter, Clarke</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 334

NOVEMBER

TUE 08	ENFIELD TOWN <i>Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	VELOCITY CUP 3 RD	L 2-1	Att 209
SAT 12	TILBURY <i>Ford, Warren</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 329
SAT 19	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS <i>Brown, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 148
SAT 26	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Whight</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 343

DECEMBER

SAT 03	WITHAM TOWN <i>Atkens, Hitter, Whight 2</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	Att 364
TUE 27	COGGESHALL TOWN <i>Warren</i>	H	1PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	Att 464

JANUARY

MON 02	STOWMARKET TOWN <i>Warren, Canfer, Whight</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	Att 516
SAT 07	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Clarke, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	Att 310
SAT 28	TILBURY <i>Brown, Clarke, Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 170
TUE 31	BURY TOWN <i>Holland</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 404

FEBRUARY

SAT 04	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS <i>Clarke, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 411
TUE 07	EAST THURROCK UNITED <i>Otiley-Gooch, Canfer</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	Att 198
SAT 11	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS <i>Otiley-Gooch, Hitter (2), Canfer</i>	H	2PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	Att 105
TUE 14	AFC SUDBURY <i>Hitter</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 434
SAT 18	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 229
TUE 21	NEEDHAM MARKET	A	7.45PM	SFAPCUP 2ND R	L 5-0	Att 166
SAT 25	WROXHAM	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 28	GORLESTON	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		

MARCH

SAT 04	NEW SALAMIS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 07	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 11	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 18	HASHTAG UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 25	BASILDON UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

APRIL

SAT 01	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 08	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
MON 10	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 22	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

THE OTHER SIDE WROXHAM



Wroxham FC were established in 1892 by GE Preston, a former captain of the Norfolk County team, and initially played on Wroxham Park. The club played friendly matches until joining the East Norfolk League and the Norwich City Junior League. In 1935 they joined the East Anglian League, before dropping down to the Norwich and District League in the 1950s, a time during which they suffered a record 24-0 defeat.

In 1963 the club became founder members of the Anglian Combination. A successful spell during the mid-1970s saw the club rise through the divisions. In 1975 the club won its first major trophy, the Norfolk Junior Cup. The following season they won Division Two, and the season after, Division One. In 1981 the club won the Knock-Out Cup, and in 1981-82 they won the Premier Division, retaining the title in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, also winning the knock-out cup in 1983 and 1985. They did another league and cup double in 1986-87

In 1988 the club joined the newly formed Division One of the Eastern Counties League. They won the division in their first season, beating Halstead Town to the title on goal difference. After finishing twelfth in their first season in the Premier Division, the club have never finished lower than eighth. They won the title with a record 99 points in 1991-92, before beating their own record with 100 points and another title the following season, the club's centenary, in which they also won the League Cup and the Norfolk Senior Cup. In 1993-94 they won a third consecutive title. After a gap of two seasons, the club won the Premier Division again with 109 points in 1996-97, also winning the Senior Cup again. They retained the title and the Senior Cup in 1997-98, before winning the League for a third time in a row in 1998-99.

Wroxham won the Norfolk Senior Cup again in 2000, 2002, 2004, the Premier Division



in 2006–07, and the Senior Cup again in 2008. In 2009–10 the club reached the final of the FA Vase but lost 6–1 to holders Whitley Bay. In 2015, in a thrilling Norfolk Senior Cup Final, they beat local rivals Dereham Town 3–2 after extra time.

Since the club was formed, Wroxham F.C. have played at several venues. The first was just off Norwich Road and subsequent grounds were at The Avenue and Keys Hill. The Avenue ground has now reverted to agricultural use, whilst the others have been built upon.

Around the time of World War II, Wroxham moved to their current ground, Trafford Park, a field close to the railway line in Skinners Lane. The club took with them an old timber pavilion that was erected and used as a primitive clubhouse. Fifteen years later this was replaced by prefabricated buildings, which were themselves flattened to make way for a new permanent clubhouse that was opened in 1994.

The current main stand, the Les King Stand, was built in 1990, replacing an earlier structure that had stood on the same site for around 10 years. The capacity at Trafford Park is 2,000 but the record attendance to date is 1,262 for the FA Vase semi-final against Whitehawk in 2010.

Wroxham finally took the opportunity to take promotion to Step 4 joining the Isthmian Division 1 North in season 2012/13 and played for 5 seasons with mixed fortunes.

After a disappointing 2016–17 season, The Yachtsmen returned to Step 5 with a new management team of Ross Potter & Tom Parke. After a promising start the team were soon out of the prestigious FA Cup failing for the first time in 22 years to get past the first hurdle. Form dipped around mid-season as the more experienced partnership of Jamie Godbold & Andy Reynolds were brought in. While we reached the semi-final of the League Cup, eventually losing to Brantham Athletic, League form remained erratic and we finished 13th in the table. This was the lowest finish we have ever had in the Eastern Counties Premier Division.



Goldbold & Reynolds shocked the club by announcing they would be leaving to join their old club Lowestoft Town. The Board acted quickly by appointing Reserve Manager Jordan Southgate assisted by ex-Norwich City Hall of Fame player Adam Drury, to take charge. They put together a youthful squad and finished a credible 7th in 2018/19.

Behind the scenes Club Chairman Lee Robson has done an amazing job developing a Wroxham Juniors section with teams at most age group from U7 to U18. With a strong Academy and U18's we hope to develop players who want to play the Wroxham way for the future. Wroxham saw Women's football for the first time at the Club with an Eastern Region Premier Division team (formerly Acle United) gracing Trafford Park.

2019/20 saw the Yachtsmen finish the truncated campaign in fifth place (although the League subsequently declared all results void) having hovered around the runner-up spot for much of the season, conceding only 18 goals in 25 matches – a total bettered only by table-topping Stowmarket Town. However, the Club's major successes of the season came in the FA Vase with a run to the quarter final. Two home attendances of around 1000, against Stowmarket Town in the 5th Round and Bitton AFC in the quarter final, generated much local interest and raised the profile of the Club regionally. Prior to the cessation of all football the Yachtsmen were defeated by Dereham Town in the semi-final of the Norfolk Senior Cup.

The 2020/21 campaign was also curtailed by COVID despite us leading the table with 10 straight wins.

We were not promoted to the Isthmian League until last season when we finished 2nd to Gorleston but went up as one of the top 10 Step 5 clubs on a Points Per Game analysis by The FA.

With some exciting young signings, allied to the experience already at the Club, it is hoped that the progress of the past few seasons can be maintained and bettered.



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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hashtag United	28	24	1	3	71	26	+45	73
2	AFC Sudbury	27	22	3	2	64	25	+39	69
3	Lowestoft Town	26	17	4	5	57	27	+30	55
4	Felixstowe & Walton United	26	16	4	6	58	30	+28	52
5	Heybridge Swifts	28	14	8	6	46	27	+19	50
6	Grays Athletic	27	15	4	8	42	29	+13	49
7	Stowmarket Town	26	14	6	6	46	28	+18	48
8	East Thurrock United	28	13	5	10	40	41	-1	44
9	New Salamis	27	11	8	8	47	46	+1	41
10	Bury Town	27	10	9	8	25	20	+5	39
11	Wroxham	28	9	10	9	37	42	-5	37
12	Brentwood Town	26	10	5	11	35	35	0	35
13	Maldon & Tiptree	28	8	4	16	31	45	-14	28
14	Witham Town	26	8	2	16	34	53	-19	26
15	Basildon United	26	5	8	13	26	43	-17	23
16	Tilbury	26	5	4	17	25	50	-25	19
17	Hullbridge Sports	27	5	3	19	25	54	-29	18
18	Gorleston	26	5	3	18	32	62	-30	18
19	Coggeshall Town	26	3	7	16	18	44	-26	16
20	Great Wakering Rovers	27	3	4	20	31	63	-32	13

LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2023 AT 21:45:11

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

SAT 25TH FEB - 3PM KO

Brentwood Town	v	Coggeshall Town
Bury Town	v	Gorleston
Grays Athletic	v	Tilbury
Gt Wakering Rovers	v	Maldon & Tiptree
Hashtag Utd	v	AFC Sudbury
Heybridge Swifts	v	New Salamis
Hullbridge Sports	v	East Thurrock Utd
Lowestoft Town	v	Witham Town
Stowmarket Town	v	Basildon Utd





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PARTNERS WITH
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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Hashtag United make it seventeen wins in a row – and go four points clear – whilst we've important Pitching In Isthmian North wins for Maldon, East Thurrock, Gorleston and Witham

We've run out of superlatives to describe the performances of **Hashtag United**, and last night they picked up their seventeenth consecutive win to go four points clear at the top of the table – but they had to fight, because hosts **Coggeshall Town** certainly didn't gift wrap victory for their visitors.



The Seed Growers started well, but were undone by the in-form Toby Aromolaran, who delivered his tenth goal of the season midway through the first half, finding the bottom corner. Town hit back, hitting the post, but of course the ball was soon up the other end and Alex Teniola decided it was time for him to score his thirteenth of the campaign and give the visitors a cushion. Emmanuel Okunja almost gave the visitors breathing space when striking the post with sixteen minutes to go, but instead they had to weather a storm, Josh Osude getting one back four minutes later. More pressure at both ends came to naught, and the Tags had that crucial three points.

Much of our fixture list focused on battles at the wrong end of the table. One exception saw **Brentwood Town**, under new management, try to get off to a winning start under Craig Shipman as **New Salamis** came to call – but both sides had to be satisfied with a point. Matt Cripps gave his new boss a flying start, opening the scoring for Town on twelve minutes, but they held the lead only for twenty two minutes more before Derek Asamoah equalised – and that turned out to be that.

East Thurrock United haven't given up their promotion ambitions just yet, and the Rocks eased to three points against bottom side **Great Wakering Rovers**. Johnny Ashman started things off with a fifth minute opener, Harry Hope scored a second on twenty

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minutes, and that turned out to be that. Thurrock are now five unbeaten, whilst Rovers are without a win since October 8th.

Maldon & Tiptree travelled to take on **Basildon United**. The Bees had gone seven matches without a win, and that run is now up to eight as the Jammers got the only goal of the game nine minutes from time. Michael Finneran scored it, and it means the visitors open up a five point gap on their fifteenth place hosts, the Bees falling a place but remaining five points clear of the bottom four.

Tilbury, only a point above the drop zone, welcomed the side one place and four points above them, Witham Town - but that was two places and seven points by full time. The Dockers had only one win and eight defeats from their previous ten matches, and both of those numbers increased by one as Town grabbed two first half goals to seal victory. Abdul-Rasheed Ajana-Salaugot the opener

just before the half hour, and three minutes later Michael Bareck continued his fine start to his Witham career by scoring his third goal in three matches.

Finally, we had a bottom four battle as **Gorleston** welcomed **Hullbridge Sports**. The Greens were four without a win, whilst Sports had lost eight of their last nine, so this one was incredibly important to both sides and it ended in a comfortable victory for the hosts, who move level on points with their visitors and find themselves a point from safety. Connor Deeks opened the scoring on the hour, and nine minutes later Jacek Zielonka made it two, fifteen minutes after emerging from the bench. The substitute added a third eight minutes from time, and that was that.

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

SOMETHING very special is unfolding right before our eyes in the National League – and it's likely to raise the bar for many years to come.

For the last few weeks at NLP Towers, we've cautiously held off talking about a "two-horse race" for the title but gripping late drama on Saturday felt like a decisive moment.

The first twist in the tale came at Huish Park where, held 1-1 by Yeovil Town, Notts County appeared to be struggling in pursuit of a sixth straight National League victory. But, with five minutes to go, the ruthless league leaders managed to find a way through, courtesy of Ruben Rodrigues, and then clicked through the gears in stoppage-time with top scorer Macaulay Langstaff adding two more to complete a rather comfortable – if not flattering – 4-1 victory.

It was the same also at Aldershot Town's EBB Stadium where Notts' title rivals Wrexham were similarly not having things their own way.

Two-nil and 3-1 leads were quickly cancelled out by the stubborn Shots but the Hollywood finish was pure box office – a 96th-minute winner from substitute Sam Dalby helping the Red Dragons to a dramatic 4-3 victory.

Defeat for Woking at Altrincham and Chesterfield's failure to beat Solihull Moors meant that the gap between second and third was extended to a mind-boggling 17 points and, given the form of these two big guns, it would take a huge turnaround in order for that deficit to be clawed back. Saturday's finale also put the National League statisticians on red alert.

As it stands, no fewer than FOUR long-lasting league records could potentially be broken this season – and maybe even by a

team who could still be playing Non-League football next year!

With only one automatic place up for grabs, it is still very much all to play for. Failure to finish on top of the summit will not only mean that the runners-up will have a psychological setback to recover from, but also a gruelling two-legged play-off semi-final and final to overcome if they are to, at long last, fulfil their promotion aspirations.

The first major National League record in sight of the top two is for Most Points in a Season. Crawley Town's best of 105, set in 2010-11, is in grave danger of being surpassed by both Notts and Wrexham, who are closing on three figures with a quarter of the season still left to play.

As it stands, County led the way with 83 points from 34 matches, while Wrexham trail by five with two games more to play. They are still a way off but on current points-per-game ratio both would end the season on 112 points.

The last time the top two ended on the same points was way back in 1991-92, while no two teams have ever finished the season with 100+ points. History may well be beckoning. Another long-standing record under serious threat is most Wins in a Season.

With the total of 31, first achieved by Aldershot Town in 2007-08, has stood for 15 years. Crawley, in 2010-11 and Fleetwood, in 2011-12, both took a share, but it has never been surpassed.

County, currently with 25, need just seven wins from 12 games to take the record outright, while Wrexham need eight from 14. With wins and points come goals – and that is another area which separates these two from the rest.

A hat-trick at Huish Park on Saturday and two more against Southend United on Tuesday night, took Langstaff's tally for the season to 32 – an incredible feat for a striker enjoying his first season in the top-flight since joining from Gateshead in National League North in the summer.

Closest rival Paul Mullin followed up his brace for Wrexham at Aldershot on Saturday with two more against Scunthorpe United on Tuesday night, taking his league tally for the season to 26, although the 28-year-old former Cambridge United hitman has bagged eight more in the FA Cup.

Both are in pursuit of Ricky Miller's incredible total of 40 for Dover Athletic back in 2016/17. Langstaff needs eight goals from 12 games, Mullin a goal a game from Wrexham's remaining 14.

With these two hitman, and others, on fire, it's no surprise to see both Notts County and Wrexham chasing the team goal totals too.

This is the record which stands longest of all with no one able to topple the total of 103 set by Barnet in 1990–91 and equalled by Hereford in 2003–04. However, with Notts County currently on 88 and Wrexham on 83, this the one mark most likely to be toppled.

It's been almost a decade since any side hit the 100-goal mark but, at the current goals-per-game ratio, both Notts and Wrexham would bag 119!

It's fair to say both of these big guns have given the National League plenty in the way of entertainment this season – but their lasting legacy to the Non-League game may offer English football's fifth tier a whole new dimension for the future.

The EFL chief executive Rick Parry revealed this week they are finally considering introducing a third promotion spot for National League clubs. These ridiculous numbers can only help strengthen that argument.

By Jon Couch



George Baker

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'BLACK MAN WITH THE WHITE FACE'

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame



Sir Stanley Matthews is arguably the greatest footballer England has ever produced. The first ever winner of the Ballon d'Or, he played first division football until he was 50 – still a record – and is the only player to have been knighted whilst still playing. He is also the only player to have had an FA Cup final named after him, unfortunately for Stan Mortensen who became the first player in over half a century to score a hat-trick in the Matthews Final of 1953. But what is less well known about the Wizard of the Dribble is his work against prejudice and racism. A signatory of a letter opposing racism and defending racial equality whilst still a player, when he hung up his boots he headed for the febrile and volatile atmosphere of apartheid South Africa.

'Our Stan', as he was affectionately known, already had history with African football, having developed his own celebrity during the Second World War. Clean eating, never booked, the consummate gentleman, Matthews was a propagandist's dream to compare to fascism, and a series of exhibition matches were held across the empire to improve morale. From 1953, he travelled to the continent every summer to coach kids, even turning down a recall to the England squad for the 1958 World Cup so that he could. In 1956, he played an exhibition in newly independent Ghana, having been invited by President Nkrumah to aid the development of a national character, ironically, free of British influence. So when he arrived in South Africa, he knew what he was walking in to.

For perhaps the first time in his life, Matthews



disregarded the rules. Flagrantly. Apartheid South Africa allowed the coaching of children, but an all black team was forbidden.

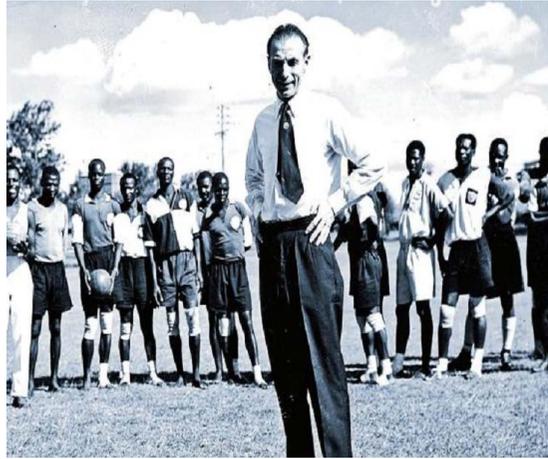
Understanding the attention that his name brought, and correctly gambling that the South African government would want to avoid the international attention that arresting the first footballing celebrity might bring, he brought some players together in Soweto and put them all in the same kit. Too modest to have named them himself, they became known as Stan's Men, and they had as big an impact on South African football as anyone.

In order to train his team, Matthews needed to flout the rules again. White people were banned from the townships into which the black population had been forced, but that wouldn't stop him. Every week, without fail, he would make his way into Orlando township to impart the wisdom of his significant experience. But he learned also, what it was like to be black in South Africa, how the

country worked, and most pertinently, what a dream it would be for his players to play against Brazil. Fortunately, the name Sir Stanley Matthews still opened a few doors, and just as importantly, attracted funding.

Black South Africans had their international travel so severely restricted that it was effectively banned, and needed a permit to move around even inside the country. But in 1975 Matthews arranged a tour of the three times World Champions by Stan's Men. Again, wanting to avoid an international incident, the South African government made an exception for him, though that didn't prevent high levels of anxiety. 'At the airport I was riddled with nerves...' Matthews would later write. 'Large, forbidding men in light blue suits and dark glasses with inscrutable looks on their faces watched our every move.' Some reports claim there was even a spy on the plane. But, without trouble, Sir Stanley and his young charges boarded, and became the first black team to tour outside of South Africa.

Their first game was against Gama Filho University, and was an embarrassing 8-0 defeat. But that didn't really matter. A few days later, having adjusted, Stan's Men improved to a 2-2 draw. More importantly for the players were the training sessions, with Brazilian giants like Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco de Gama. They met the legendary Zico and learned from the best in the world, and enjoyed Copacabana Beach. Matthews also met the infamous Ronnie Biggs during the tour, who had found his way to South America after the



Great Train Robbery. Even the most notorious of criminal was caught in the starlight that Sir Stanley Matthews brought.

Upon returning from Brazil, the team was disbanded and the players subject to death threats by those desperate to reiterate to them the way things were at that time in South Africa. Matthews returned to England, but his stand against racism, in the only way he knew, was not forgotten. He shone a light on apartheid, while giving young black players a chance to live their dreams. He spoke of all that football had given him, and the desire to give it back, but perhaps Stan's Men captain Gilbert Malloa captured the experience better than anyone when he called Matthews 'black man with a white face'.

Enjoy the game.

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MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Saturday 25th February, 3pm

Felixstowe & Walton United FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

■ □ □	Stuart Ainsley
■ □ □	Noel Aitkens
■ □ □	Henry Barley
■ □ □	Callum Bennett
■ □ □	Harry Blackburn
■ □ □	Zak Brown
■ □ □	George Clarke
■ □ □	Ollie Canfer
■ □ □	Sam Ford
■ □ □	Milo Grimes
■ □ □	Callum Harrison
■ □ □	Andre Hasanally
■ □ □	Josh Hitter
■ □ □	Billy Holland (C)
■ □ □	Lamel Howell
■ □ □	Harry Knock
■ □ □	Leon Ottley-Gooch
■ □ □	Rory Porter
■ □ □	Callum Robinson (GK)
■ □ □	Charlie Warren
■ □ □	Joe Whight

red/yellow - goals - played

Wroxham FC

Manager: Jordan Southgate

First Team Coach: Lewis Plowman

Goalkeeper Coach: Darren Plowman

Physio: Becky Edge

■ □ □	Harry Barker
■ □ □	Harley Black
■ □ □	Ryan Curtis
■ □ □	Travis Dodsworth
■ □ □	Ismael Fatadjo
■ □ □	Ryan Hawkins
■ □ □	Joshua Hazell
■ □ □	Tom Huckerby
■ □ □	Jordan King
■ □ □	Robbie Linford
■ □ □	Ryan Miles
■ □ □	Callum Olpin
■ □ □	Conley Poynter
■ □ □	Jack Robinson
■ □ □	Chris Skipper
■ □ □	Bradley Spooner
■ □ □	Harry Sutton (GK)
■ □ □	Ollie Sutton (GK)
■ □ □	Shaun Taylor
■ □ □	James Wilson

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MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Peter Wilson **Assistant Referees:** Mr Christopher Perkins and Mr Rhys Collins