

SEASIDERS



THE OFFICIAL 2025/26 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:



VS
**DOWNHAM
TOWN**

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH, 3PM

CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



A very good afternoon and welcome to The Martello Ground for yet another massive league game for the title-chasing Seasiders, as we host Downham Town, who need the points for entirely different reasons as they battle at the wrong end of the table to avoid relegation.

I wish all the players, officials and supporters of Downham, as well as the all-important match officials, an enjoyable stay with us. I hope you all have a pleasurable experience, enjoy our hospitality, and have a safe journey home this evening. Sorry, but obviously I hope all three points stay here with us today! That said, I wish Downham all the very best in their final five matches after today in their quest for survival at Step 4.

The reverse fixture indicates a tough encounter ahead. It was back on a bleak January 10th that we visited Downham and returned with all the

points following a 2-0 victory, but it was far from straightforward. We were made to work very hard for the spoils, and I fully expect another tough match today.

As we approach the end of the season, the games seem to take on even greater importance each week. It is a great situation to be in, and all credit to the players and management, who seem to be shutting out all the external noise and calmly getting on with things on the pitch in a professional manner. Last Saturday was no exception, as we overcame a very good Redbridge team with two quality goals from our two quality left-footers: first, a great Toby free-kick (what a season he is having, by the way!), and second, a brilliant individual effort from super-sub Tom Warren, who it is great to see returning to full fitness after a long lay-off.

I have seen enough football over the years to realise we can't expect to see attractive, flowing football every week, certainly not in March and April, when the stakes are often so much higher and a single goal or mistake can have such an influence on the league table. It is all about results, and all we can do is continue to fight for every ball, while equally remaining cool and trying to do all the good things that have got us to this position. Yes, we could end up with 101 points for the season, which would be absolutely amazing, but even that won't currently guarantee promotion. We may end up with two winners' trophies, we may end up with nothing. All we can do as a club is be the very best version of ourselves. As supporters, we must do whatever we can to give the players

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every encouragement. If we fail, we can all look in the mirror and say we did our best; if we succeed, we can all look in the mirror with bloodshot eyes and wonder just how many beers we had the night before, and was that really Harry Wright running around the pitch in his underpants?

On paper, at least, it looks like our sternest test of the run-in may well be next Saturday, as we visit play-off contenders Bowers & Pitsea. Our fantastic travelling fans will be as important as ever. If anyone is driving and has a spare seat in their car, please let Stuart Daynes know as we try to get as many there as possible.

Enjoy today's game, happy Easter to one and all, and I look forward to seeing most of you back here on Bank Holiday Monday for the visit of Lowestoft Town.

Best wishes,
Tony

TODAY'S MASCOTS

The mascots for today's game against Downham Town are the Under 12 Reds who are sponsored by HSM Traffic Management Ltd.



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STUART AINSLEY

Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground for today's league fixture against Downham. I hope their players, management, and supporters enjoy their afternoon with us.

Today is Non-League Day, and I hope we get some good numbers through the gate, all free of charge of course, as a way of thanking everyone for the support we have received so far this season. As a club, we hugely appreciate it, and hopefully we can give you seven more performances (six in the league and the Premier Cup final) to give us the best chance of success!

Last week, we came out on top in a hard-fought game against Redbridge. I thought we were worthy of our 2-0 win, and again I have to praise the lads' attitude and application to pick up the three points. The pitch was tricky and, with the sun out for what seems like the first time in months, conditions were tough, but once again the lads found a way to get the win. A special mention to Tom Warren for getting on the scoresheet after a period out of the squad due to injury. It's great to have him back amongst the goals as we make our final push towards our targets.

I would also like to put on record our thanks to departing Under-18s manager Dan Barrack for his commitment and hard work over the last few years in what is a difficult job, and to welcome Louis Elliston as the new manager going



forward. We hope Louis can build on the strong foundations Dan has left and get some of the Under-18 lads knocking on the door of the first team in the next year or two, as we have some great talent in Felixstowe.

Enjoy the game.
Stu





SEASIDER: **PHIL GRIFFITHS**



Not many people know this...

THE RUN IN

	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	GD
Seasiders	36	26	5	5	77-35	83	+42
Jam-Makers	35	25	6	4	78-25	81	+53
Waltham Abbey	36	21	6	9	74-44	69	+30

SEASIDERS

28/4	Downham Town	H
04/4	Bowers & Pitsea	A
06/4	Lowestoft Town	H
11/4	Newmarket Town	A
18/4	Concord Rangers	A
25/4	Mildenhall Town	H

JAM-MAKERS

28/4	Witham Town	A
03/4	Takeley	H
06/4	Heybridge Swifts	A
11/4	Mildenhall Town	H
18/4	Gorleston	H
25/4	Walthamstow	A
TBC	Gorleston	A

With Maldon & Tiptree's match at Gorleston being called off prior to kick-off on Wednesday evening it threw all my workings out back into the mixing pot and I'm sure it would have left the visitors pretty riled up having travelled to the much loved Wellesley ground.

It means we remain top going into today's round of fixtures, but Maldon & Tiptree are favourites to win the league by one point should we both win all our remaining fixtures.

Being realistic, that's not likely to happen as I'm

sure there are some twists and turns yet to come. We need five more points to be assured of a top two finish which, should that be the case, would give us a home game in the play-off semi-final.

I personally strongly disagree with play offs for promotion at our level, my belief has always been and will always be. If there are two promotion spots and after 42 games you finish in one of those spots, you get promoted.

Up the Seasiders.

WEEKEND FIXTURES



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28.03.2026

Brightlingsea Regent v Bowers & Pitsea
 Concord Rangers v Cambridge City
 Felixstowe & Walton United v Downham Town
 Heybridge Swifts v Waltham Abbey
 Mildenhall Town v Grays Athletic
 Redbridge v Gorleston
 Takeley v Brantham Athletic
 Tilbury v Newmarket Town
 Walthamstow v Lowestoft Town
 Witham Town v Maldon & Tiptree
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BY JON COUCH

IN a perfect world, a life-saving defibrillator will hang up on the wall on every sports club or facility in the world and simply gather dust.

Sadly, though, there are occasions when these remarkable bits of kit are brought into use – and they might just save a life!

Take last weekend for example when The NLP became aware of three separate medical emergencies, including one where the life of an assistant referee was saved by a hero team captain

Martin Weedon, 73, - an official of more than 40 years - was running the line for Desborough Town's Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup semi-final against Belstone when he twice collapsed during the early stages of the game.

The match was immediately abandoned while Mr Weedon was treated on the pitch by Belstone captain Mitchell Swain – a firefighter by day – and the two team physios, Desborough's Carl Mallett and Alan Dunphy, of Belstone.

The heroic trio deployed the defibrillator kept at the ground to restart his heart and bring him back to life before Mr Weedon was rushed from Desborough's VPK Stadium to Kettering General Hospital, less than five miles away, to undergo treatment.

"If Desborough hadn't had a defibrillator, Martin would have died 100%," Mr Weedon's son-in-law Andy Hobbs told BBC Sport after learning of the incident from Desborough manager Neil Healey.

"It's so important that sports venues of all sizes have them because they save lives."

"Neil called me to say Martin had collapsed and had stopped breathing and they were going to use a defibrillator on him.

"Apparently he collapsed once but tried to carry on. One of the players from the opposing team was worried and told the referee he didn't like the look of him and within a few seconds, he had fallen again.

"I believe their captain is medically trained and he and the others did an amazing job, they followed the right procedures."

Sadly, Desborough wasn't the only place to be thrown into an emergency situation last Saturday.

Coventry United also revealed on Sunday that their chairman Raymond Nowack collapsed suddenly after their home United Counties League match with Northampton

ON Chenecks.

A statement read: "Thanks to the incredible work of our staff, especially our physio Lucy Stead, as well as assistance from manager Terry Anderson, Serena from the Butts Park Arena, the Northampton physio and assistant referee Kieron Large, plus the speedy response of the ambulance crew, Ray received immediate treatment and was swiftly taken to hospital He has since been released and is now resting at home."

And there was a further incident nearby, at Midland League Division Three side Leamington Hibernian, where the club revealed that an unnamed player had suffered a "heart attack" during their game with AFC Balsall.

The Step 8 club said on X: "It is in times like this that put things into perspective and shows the togetherness of the football family in coming together to help and support each other."

While it is unclear what medical procedures were deployed on the patients at Coventry and Leamington, it only serves as a fitting reminder, if one was ever needed, of the importance of installing a defibrillator at your local club's facility as a matter of priority and urgency.

In his NLP column last April, Francis Duku, a former Non-League defender and founder of The Sports Circle - a movement that aims to make communities healthier using the medium of sports & exercise - told how there are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK every year – with a survival rate of less than one in ten.

The Sports Circle are successfully working alongside the JE3 Foundation, set up to honour the legacy of former professional footballer and National League winning manager Justin Edinburgh, who went into cardiac arrest at his local gym in June 2019 and passed away five days later.

Founder of the JE3 Foundation, Edinburgh's son Charlie, is leading calls for legislative change on the installation of Automated External Defibrillators within health and sports facilities, while raising awareness of cardiac arrest, delivering CPR training and empowering every person to act fast, with the right skills and access to life-saving resources.

"Early CPR and defibrillation can significantly improve survival chances," Duku said.

"If something happened near you at a game or just in the street, would you know what to do?"

"Through the JE3 Foundation, Justin's legacy shines brightly."

The events of Desborough last weekend are certainly testament to that.

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INTERVIEW WITH: **TOBY STEVENSON**

Felixstowe & Walton United defender Toby Stevenson has been a key part of the Seaside's strong season. After making his move permanent, he's become a consistent presence and a threat at both ends of the pitch. We caught up with Toby to discuss his form, goals, and the promotion push.

Toby, you made the move permanent after a loan spell last season. What made you decide Felixstowe & Walton United was the right place for you?

After coming to Felixstowe for the tail end of last season, I really started to enjoy my football again.

It's such a great group of players and staff, and the fans are brilliant as well, so it was a no-brainer for me to sign on for this season.

You've missed just two games all season through suspension. You must be pleased





with how consistent things have been for you personally?

Yes, definitely. I've really enjoyed playing consistent football this season and hopefully can keep it up until the end of the season!

What has been the highlight of the season for you so far?

There have been a fair few highlights this season for me, but one that stands out is the Brightlingsea away game. Coming back from 3-1 down to win 4-3 late on just shows how our group never gives up, and the scenes after were great as well!

We have to talk about your goals from corners. You've got two so far and were inches away from a third on Saturday that was cleared off the line. Is that something you've been working on to perfect?

From corners, I just try to put the ball in a dangerous area where it can cause the other teams a problem, and it's been nice to see a few go straight in.

The battle at the top with Maldon & Tiptree is incredibly tight. How are the squad handling the pressure of the automatic promotion race?

We are aware of how tight it is, but we just focus on ourselves and take each game as it comes, not looking too far ahead, as every game is key towards the end of the season.



That Suffolk FA Premier Cup semi-final showed real character. To be 2-0 down well into the 80th minute, score twice late on and then go on to win on penalties, what does that say about the belief within the squad?

There's massive belief in the squad we've got. It's one of the best groups I've been a part of personally, and even if we are losing late in a game, we always have that belief that we can still turn it around and win.

You're set to face Needham Market in the Suffolk FA Premier Cup Final next month. How important is it for the club to defend the trophy? How confident are the squad of retaining the title?

It's a cup final, so both teams will be wanting to go out and win it. It's been set out to us right from the start of the season by the gaffers that we want to retain the cup, and we certainly have the team to do it again. It would be nice to bring it home for everyone as well, including getting the managers some silverware in their first season.

"WE'RE GOING TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING IN THIS LAST RUN OF GAMES TO HOPEFULLY GET US OVER THE LINE"

It was great to see Tom Warren back on the scoresheet on Saturday after a long injury lay-off. How good has it been to have him back around the group, and what did that moment mean for the team?

Yeah, it's great to have Tom back. He was such a key part of the team last year, and the injury has unfortunately kept him out for a lot of this season. But he's come back and scored a key goal in a tight game on Saturday, so it was really good to see him back on the pitch doing what he does best.

Finally, how confident are you about achieving promotion this season?

I believe that we definitely have the squad to do it, but we're taking it game by game. We're going to give it everything in this last run of games to hopefully get us over the line.





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Saturday 21st March
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Caley-Brown, Stevenson
Holland (C), Whight, Ainsley, Brown
Aitkens, Mayhew, Ford, Garcia

SUBS: Gilchrist, Hitter, Santa De La Paz
Warren, Jones











PLANES, TRAINS & AWAY DAYS

BY NEIL EDWARDS

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.

Buoyed by the midweek victory at Takeley, it was straight back out on the road for the Seaside, with a final trip to Norfolk for this campaign, and a visit to The Yachtsmen of Wroxham. We have already picked up maximum points from our earlier trips to Gorleston and Downham Market, so it was with confidence that we travelled hoping for a similar return over the border. In fact, our record on the road is something to be very proud



of for the club, with 3 points picked up every time we have played away in Norfolk, Suffolk or Cambridgeshire this season.

As usual, the 0828 train from Felixstowe was our starting point, and tickets had been pre-purchased for me, Lorro, Pete, Big Neil, Carl and Mistle John. I was a little worried that Pete might be a no-show, as my neighbourhood watch significant other had informed me that Pete did not get home until 0237 that morning, after the latest St. Patricks Day(week)(month) celebrations. Those fears were soon put to bed though, as Pete was at the station and looking in fine fettle as Lorro and I arrived at 0826 (much to Neil's concern I later discovered)

Fellow F&W fan Docker Paul was on the same train but he was going to see his first love, Naarwich City, and was anxious to catch the 0906 as he was getting to Carrow Road early to meet some players and risk a restraining order (or so it seemed) and he was on his toes the moment we arrived at Ipswich

The usual hunter-gathering at Greggs for sausage rolls, sausage baps, etc was executed

and we made our way over to platform 3, which was bathed in glorious sunshine. One of our lot spotted another scarved Seaside over the tracks, soon identified as Glynn. If he was hoping for a quiet trip to Wroxham he had travelled at the wrong time. Mitch told us he had arranged to meet an old school friend, another Neil, in The Kings Head which, being the only pub on our route, was also our destination.

Mistley John boarded our train at Manningtree and gave us the heads up that there were plenty of seats available in the 4th coach from the front. Yours truly estimated where that 4th coach door would be on the platform, and frankly I was miles out. John waved as he went past us, still travelling at a decent speed. Big Neil and John had both brought train beers with them, so an array of Kronenbourgs and Czech lagers were gratefully consumed. A gaggle of Stowmarket fans boarded at our first stop, with a Thurlow Nunn visit to Thetford Town on their minds. It was not too long ago that Stow were challenging at the top of our league. It just goes to show that football club ownership is incredibly important for stability, the right person needs to be in place (Daggers fans take note....)



The floodlights of Carrow Road were soon in view, and we gathered our belongings and headed over to platform 5 to await the arrival of our third and final outward train, the Sheringham service, with first stop the quaintly named Hoveton & Wroxham, where we arrived shortly before 11am.



It was only a short walk along Station Road to The Kings Head. The pub was lovely and spacious, with a decent outside area, both covered and sun-drenched, with a prime location on the banks of the Norfolk Broads. What a lovely location for a few pre-match beers. John was first in the chair and was right to question the price. £7 for a pint of Woodforde's Wherry Ale and £6 for Lorros lager. This is Norfolk, not London.... They go after the tourists in these parts.

Big Neil soon bumped into a family member in the bar, a cousin I believe he said. Mind you, like the infamous fake sheikh, Neils cousin soon made his excuses and left. (It was probably a coincidence, but it made us chuckle)

Photographer Stef and Jeff were spotted in the neighbouring fish shop grounds, Carl and Big Neil soon joined them for some lunch, whilst the rest of us enjoyed the beers and the sunshine, and the comedic sight of Pete feeding the pigeons



with a £1 bird feed pot. There must be upwards of 30 pigeons at his feet at one stage as he did his best impression of The Bird Man of Alcatraz. As an aside, I do believe this was the first time I have seen Pete buy solids all season, and they were not even for him, although he may have had a little nibble.

Special mention too for 80yo Wroxham fan Don. He spotted us during his mid-morning stroll and immediately came over for a chat, asking us why we were here so early. We love nature and sunshine, was our answer.

After a good few beers had been enjoyed we set about ordering our Ubers. Not as seamless an operation as it is for Essex and London games, as we were stood outside the pub for a few minutes waiting for MS and JK to arrive, after our original request for a 6-seater fell on the modern-day app equivalent of deaf ears. We did phone Wroxham Taxis, but they said they had no taxis. Maybe they need to rethink their business plan?



We were soon on the road however, and driving past Roys Toys, Roys Undertakers, Roys Fish Bar, Roys Cars, and Roys Hairdressers. I asked our driver who Roy was, or indeed if he was Roy. The answer was indeterminable.

Stef was, as Stef often is, the first cheery and recognisable face we see when entering an away ground. Always busy, preparing cameras, chatting, telling us the starting XI, and pointing his equipment in our faces. The ground was a picture and the pitch looked OK to my untrained eyes, and there was a good positive vibe around the place. The locals were friendly and willing to



chat, and the clubhouse was busy and lively, with more red than blue I would say.

We took up a vantage point behind the far goal, and so again had Harry Wright for company for the first 45 minutes. The Seaside's opened the scoring with another goal from inform striker Josh Mayhew, and the points were sealed late on when Zak Brown finished what looked like a difficult bobbling ball with ease. Another 3 points on the road, and the pressure firmly on chasers Maldon & Tiptree, who had also enjoyed a 2-0 victory today on the road at Grays Athletic. With games running out, we remain 3 points ahead but having played 2 games more, and with an inferior goal difference. M&T are at Wroxham Tuesday night and have a midweek trip to Great Yarmouth to face Gorleston soon. After those catch-up fixtures, all clubs in our division will have played 36 games, so the picture will be much clearer. In fact, by the time you read these notes those fixtures will have been played, and we will all know what might be required down the final straight.





Other than the performance on the pitch, the highlight today was without doubt Lorro mixing it with the home fans behind the goal and teaching them some Suffolk Samba beats on their drums. It was all good humoured and the day ended with handshakes all round. This was in stark contrast to the joint statements posted by both Thetford Town and Stowmarket Town after their meeting today, and ahead of the return fixture in 7 days' time. It is not difficult to treat your opponents and their supporters with the same respect you would expect to receive yourself.

A quick beer in the bar afterwards and the ordering of more Ubers, one of which managed to come down the long Skinners Lane that links the ground to Norwich Road, whilst I had to wave the other one down on the main street just in the nick of time before the driver gave up and went back to base. We soon found the guys stood next to Roys Petrol Station. (I kid you not)

It was a short wait for the train back to Norwich for the 1900 hrs service to London Liverpool Street. We found a couple of tables and I headed

off towards the buffet car to source some liquid refreshments for the journey home. A mixture of Guinness, Bitburger and Stella was gratefully received and consumed, but not before the ticket man came along and asked about our day. In no time at all he was whipping out his equipment and taking a group photo with our permission granted for it to be posted on a Twitter/Social Media account called "Football Away Days" How could we refuse? All the boxes were ticked after all.

We said our goodbyes to Mistley John at Ipswich and got our last train of the day. It was around Nacton area that I received a WhatsApp photo message from my beloved, sat in her car at Felixstowe station with the offer of a lift home. Happy days, as the old legs were a bit tired after a busy day.

Another lovely away day with great people, a good pub in a great setting, a lovely host club, and a perfect result to keep us firmly in the title



race. Whilst it is not in our hands just yet, we need to keep on winning and applying pressure to the nervy Maldon boys. On Tuesday we will do it all again, with the semi-final of The Suffolk Premier Cup against Haverhill Rovers over at Hadleigh United's Millfield ground, as we look to defend the trophy won last season.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the match.
Up the Seasiders



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



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COACH
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STUART STEVENSON
FITNESS COACH
Shirley Ainsley



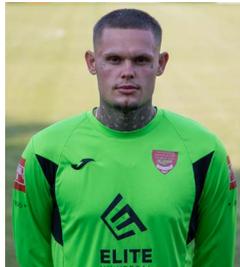
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PLANES, TRAINS & AWAY DAYS

BY NEIL EDWARDS

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.

With the season reaching the final stages and with a thrilling title race on-going, attention turned away from the brioche and ghee of the league and on to the continued defence of The Suffolk FA Premier Cup, won in such dramatic circumstances at Needham Market last April with that penalty shootout win over step 3 Leiston.

The tables were turned this time around as, after beating higher level opposition in both the semi-final and final last term, it was our turn to be the big boys after the draw pitted us against step 5 Thurlow Nunn play-off contenders Haverhill Rovers, a side scoring for fun of late with a couple of recent fixtures where they found the net 8 times.

The neutral venue chosen by the County FA was Hadleigh United’s Millfield ground. Millfield holds a special place in my heart, as in circa 2003 I played the absolute game of my life to hold a

Felixstowe based side containing the likes of Matt, Johnny and Geoff Hope, and Gareth Bolt, to a very creditable 0-0 draw, on our way to early and perhaps unjust elimination from the HUFC annual 5-a-side festival. Anyone that witnessed my performance that day are probably still wondering why a contract was not placed under my nose that same evening. According to our star defender Mark Welburn “You told us it was not a serious competition, we turned up and they were all semi pro.”

But I digress.

Arrangements were in place for a tortuous bus journey which would have seen us depart Great Eastern Square at 1440 and arrive at Hadleigh bus station at 1630, so I was not too disappointed when Pete called me to say he was not going to be back in Felixstowe in time for that bus, so Shaun had opted to drive instead. This plan suited us perfectly as, not only did it get us there much earlier, but it also meant that we had a lift home without having to rely on fellow supporters with spare seats, or boot space, if indeed they were willing to assist.



I met up with Big Neil and Lorro in The Grosvenor for a livener, and Gary and Sharon Hills were also in the house, enjoying what had been a peaceful bite to eat one minute, and a full-on pre-match chat the next.

Shaun and Pete were outside around 3, and we set off on one of Shaun's mystery drives. The mystery being how can anyone talk so much about so many different things when no one is listening. Upon arrival in the quaint market town, I directed Shaun to the leisure centre car park, adjacent to The Cock Inn. Options were limited with Hadleigh's Tuesday pub count down to a measly 3, so the plan was one in there, then head to The Kings Head and end up in The George.

The plan soon changed though as the pub was so welcoming and the beer choice was excellent, and very well priced too (Wroxham



take note) that we stayed put for the duration of the afternoon. Big Neil was on the Black Adder (5.3%) whilst I was enjoying Victoria (3.6%) which proves once again that I am the sensible one amongst us.

At dusk, we headed off towards town and the local chippy for some much needed sustenance (Shaun had long since moved his car to the club car park to get the closest space to the exit) Lovely battered sausage and chips and a stroll along the High Street, which had been decked out in a 1940s style, presumably for a forthcoming celebration?

Apologies at this point to Phil and Michaela/Mykala, who were enjoying a meal in a local restaurant and were spotted by one of us as we passed by. Phil said it was fine that we knocked on the window and waved like naughty schoolboys, and that the couple 2 tables away were rather concerned as to what was going in.

We navigated our way along Tinkers Lane, over the small river crossing and were greeted by a high-viz Hadleigh man pointing us towards the turnstiles, although tonight it was the open gate at the river end leading to the overspill car park. Ticket QR codes checked, past security, which made Oscars back in the day seem like a breeze, and off to the clubhouse for another beer to help the sausage and chips digest.

There was plenty of red and white with Haverhill also sporting the same club colours and a good atmosphere was building. Shaun had his back to me outside as I approached, and I did panic a bit, but it was all good, he was blowing up balloons with a hand pump. Much like last



season's semi-final, balloons in club colours were everywhere, thanks mainly to Pete and his bulk buy 12 months ago.



The Millfield has changed a fair bit since those heady playing days of mine. The car park is now level, and the clubhouse is probably 2 or 3 times larger than it was. A nice touch was a wall of photos dedicated to the people no longer with us that played their part in Hadleighs history. The actual building looking from pitch side is never going to win any architectural awards, but it serves its purpose for fans of The Brettsiders.

We made a beeline for the far goal in order to give Harry some much needed support. Wrighty was not in the best of moods it must be said. I think his Globophobia might have been rearing its ugly head tonight (Google it) but thankfully he was ok to start the match.

The first half was about even I would say, although perhaps we shaded it on chances.



However, neither keeper was troubled (by the ball) and so it was goalless heading into the break.

Haverhill came out of the blocks like a train, much to the locals' surprise, as they have not seen a train in these parts since 1965, and it was no surprise when they took the lead on 51 minutes. However, I do not think many present expected them to double their advantage before the hour mark. The mood on the sidelines was one was hazy disbelief. Other than the occasional rare blip/performance, our results and form this term have been magnificent, and you could hear the silence on the sidelines, if that makes sense??



There were some tired limbs out on the park, and reinforcements were brought on to freshen things up, and we did have a real good go at it, but it was looking like one of those nights, where nothing was falling for us, and Haverhill seemed to be getting the rub of the green.

All that changed however with only 3 minutes left to play. Haverhill defender Tom Williams, for a reason only he will know, chose to jump to head clear with his arm clearly raised above his head. The ball hit the arm, and the referee had the easiest decision of the night to make. Super cool Josh Mayhew stepped up to convert from 12 yards, and it was very much game on, although time was our enemy.

In a carbon copy of last seasons semi-final and final though, the lower ranked side had their hearts broken in stoppage time, and Captain Marvel Billy Holland turned on a sixpence and rifled the ball through a sea of bodies into the back of the net. Cue comeback pandemonium,



the likes we have not seen since, erm....

Brightlingsea in January. And we were not finished there either. Two great chances came and went deep into added time, before the referee blew for time. The lads had dug deep and somehow found a way to get back in the game, when 10 minutes earlier it looked like our grip on the trophy was slipping away.

I imagine Haverhill won the toss for choice of ends for the penalties, as we had to make the trek to the other end to see the action unfold up close, they did not fancy the end they had just conceded 2 late goals.

The first 8 spot kicks were all converted and so it was 4-4 going into the final round of kicks, with our successful takers being Jack Ainsley, Joe Whight, Josh Mayhew and Toby Stevenson. Then Harry did what Harry does and dived to his right to keep out the fifth Haverhill kick. And so, it was left to Sam Ford to calmly stroke the ball home and send The Seasiders to a 3rd successive Premier Cup Final.

After enjoying the on-pitch celebrations and commiserating with the shell-shocked Haverhill fans, we went back to the bar for a celebratory beer or two. Every player and member of the coaching staff and backroom team were warmly greeted by the Seasiders that stayed behind with a high five, a handshake, and 1- or 2-man hugs. Great times, with Shaun patiently waiting for the lovely looking hot dogs to be passed around after everyone more worthy had enjoyed their feed.

By the time we remembered we had homes to go to, the clubhouse had just about emptied, other than the girl behind the bar and a committee

member tidying up and getting the place ready for a new day.

The defence of our trophy has so far taken us to Sudbury, Cornard and Hadleigh. The final stop on our journey will be Bury St. Edmunds, for a final with Needham Market at Ram Meadow. The Marketmen beating Bury Town 2-0 in their semi-final 24 hours after our victory. A tough match awaits in the final, but we have a never-say-die approach and will be fully prepared for it.

1428 train anyone?



If you want to see some highlights of this game take a look at @groundhopperdiaries page on YouTube. Geordie vlogger Tony was at the game, and our recent fixture against Stanway Rovers. I hope to catch up with Tony for a chat soon for a feature in the programme, and fingers crossed he will come to the Mildenhall game to hopefully see the champions crowned, and to capture it for all to see.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the match.
Up the Seasiders





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. 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 Seaside.

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

DEFENDERS

Joe Whight

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

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 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.



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, Billerica and Braintree. An excellent defender at this level after joining the seassiders in early 2025.

Jack Wilkinson

Jack joined the Seassiders in October after having had a break from the game. He offers huge experience and versatility as a defender or midfielder which is a great asset to have in the squad, previous clubs include Stowmarket, AFC Sudbury and Needham Market.

Thomas Warren

Tom signed for the club in the summer of 2024 from Hadleigh United and played his first season for the Seassiders 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.

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.





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 First Round, before moving onto Bury Town and Thetford where he had two impressive goalscoring seasons. A hard working attacking player with an eye for goal.

Jacob Lay

****ON LOAN TO IPSWICH WANDERERS****

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.

Jose Santa De La Paz

Signed for the club in October 2025. Jose is a quick and powerful winger or striker with an eye for goal and assists, with previous clubs including Newmarket Market, Bury Town, Needham Market and Ipswich Wanderers.





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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 <i>Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 401

NOVEMBER

SAT 1	TAKELEY <i>Ford (2), Hitter, Lay</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 390
TUE 4	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT <i>Ford (2), Brown</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 251
SAT 8	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Warren, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 323
TUE 11	CORNARD UNITED <i>Santa De La Paz, Lay, Holland</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP QF	W 3-1	
SAT 15	CONCORD RANGERS <i>Garcia, Warren, Santa De La Paz</i>	H	3.03PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 541
TUE 24	STANWAY ROVERS <i>Ford (2)</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 181
SAT 29	WALTHAM ABBEY <i>Ford, Santa De La Paz</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 7-2	ATT 397

DECEMBER

SAT 6	REDBRIDGE Hitter, Santa De La Paz	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 96
TUE 9	WITHAM TOWN Santa De La Paz	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 191
SAT 13	WROXHAM Ford, Garcia	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 403
SAT 20	GRAYS ATHLETIC Mayhew, Garcia, Santa De La Paz (2), Aitkens	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 5-1	ATT 342
SAT 27	LOWESTOFT TOWN Stevenson, Santa De La Paz (2), Hitter	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 600

JANUARY

SAT 10	DOWNHAM TOWN Santa De La Paz (2)	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 132
TUE 13	MILDENHALL TOWN Hitter, Holland	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 174
SAT 17	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT Ford (2), Santa De La Paz, Stevenson	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-3	ATT 311
TUE 20	GORLESTON Santa De La Paz, Ford, Hitter, Holland	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 254
SAT 24	CAMBRIDGE CITY Ford, Garcia	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 521
SAT 31	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS Garcia, Gilchrist	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 244

FEBRUARY

SAT 14	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 4-0	ATT 1394
FRI 20	STANWAY ROVERS Stevenson, Mayhew, Jones	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 501

MARCH

TUE 3	TILBURY	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 260
SAT 7	WALTHAMSTOW Holland	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 344
TUE 10	TAKELEY Mayhew (3)	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 91
SAT 14	WROXHAM Mayhew, Brown	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 210
TUE 17	HAVERHILL Mayhew, Holland, FELIXSTOWE WIN 5-4 ON PENS (Ainsley, Whight, Mayhew, Stevenson and Ford)	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK FA PREMIER CUP SF	D 2-2	
SAT 21	REDBRIDGE Stevenson, Warren	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 407
SAT 28	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		

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



Gianni Infantino's FIFA is on for a pretty spectacular run of World Cup competitions at the moment. Since the Brazil tournament in 2014, they have awarded the crown jewel of the footballing world to Putin's Russia, a Qatar that has serious human rights questions to answer, Trump's America, and then in 2030 it will be in Saudi Arabia. Not exactly a great look. But it has stopped short - so far - of allowing autocratic leaders to have an influence over what goes on during play. Laughable FIFA Peace Prizes there may be, but in 1982 one prince found himself on the pitch, arguing with the referee, and eventually convincing him to disallow a goal. FIFA corruption? What FIFA corruption?

Kuwait went into the 1982 World Cup, their first, on the back of some strong performances on their home continent. They developed a reputation as a tough, physical side, and won the 1980 Asian Cup, seeing off South Korea on home soil to end a run of three straight Iranian victories. It's fair to say that spirits were high heading into the showpiece in Spain, but these spirits were dampened somewhat when the draw was made. Kuwait were placed in a group with three European sides; England, a capable Czechoslovakia, and a very strong France. Even at their best, coming home with any dignity at all could be a struggle.

As it happened, the Middle Eastern side gained a very credible draw in their opening fixture, 1-1 against the Czechs, and looked forward to games against two of the traditional

giants of the game. France were defeated by England in their own opening fixture, however, and looking to put that right for fans who had made the short journey over the Pyrenees. With the likes of Michel Platini and Alain Giresse, they were a formidable proposition in Valladolid.

The game went much as expected, with France opening the scoring through Bernard Genghini just after the half hour. Platini doubled the lead right on the stroke of half time, and Didier Six scored within three minutes of the restart to effectively put the game to bed. France, with the match won, took their foot off the gas, and Kuwait's physicality meant they were able to find a foothold. Abdullah al-Buloushi gave them a consolation in the 75th minute, and then things got a little strange.

In the 79th minute, Alain Giresse finished off a move that sliced through a stationary Kuwaiti defence, but as he ran off celebrating, the Kuwait players surrounded the referee. They complained that they had heard a whistle, and thinking it was the referee, they stopped. Giresse would later claim that he had heard nothing like the referee's whistle, but the atmosphere was loud and jovial, and there were whistles in the crowd, so it wasn't impossible. The referee tried to dismiss the players, but they were insistent that the goal shouldn't stand. As the delay went on longer, the fans grew restless, and one in particular felt the need to stretch his legs.

Sheikh Fahad, brother of the Emir of Kuwait and head of the Kuwaiti Football Association,

initially stood and beckoned his players to leave the field. But amidst the confusion, they didn't get the message, so he marched down to pitchside. Giresse claims that his aides rolled a red carpet out for him to enter the playing surface, but this isn't visible on the surviving footage. Either way, Fahad marched onto the field and confronted the referee, angrily insisting that the goal should be disallowed and, if not, he would be withdrawing his players.

The delay continued while the referee tried to regain control, but as fans grew more ornery and it became clear that he would have to abandon the match, he reversed his decision and disallowed the goal. The match resumed, and France found their fourth anyway, but the fallout went beyond the final whistle.

The referee, Miroslav Stupar, was withdrawn from selection for the rest of the tournament, and eventually FIFA banned him from refereeing top level international competition again. Kuwait went on to lose their final match 1-0 against England, and haven't qualified for a World Cup since.

Almost their entire history at the tournament boils down to the Sheikh Fahad controversy.

Outside of the Emirate, it is seen as a disgraceful interference by a politician in a sporting competition. Within Kuwait, however, it is still remembered as an act of justice that saw the right outcome in the end, even if in an unorthodox fashion. Mostly it has been overshadowed by the other controversy at that World Cup, when Germany and Austria contrived to get the correct scoreline for both to qualify, the Disgrace of Gijon, which forced FIFA to change the rules of their competition and have final group games played at the same time.

It's something we're unlikely to see again, but if it were ever to happen, it might just be this summer. If Christian Pulisic is perceived to have been treated unfairly, who wouldn't put it past Donald Trump to march down to the pitch and demand the referee give him a favourable outcome? Not me.

Enjoy the game.




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THE OTHER SIDE: DOWNHAM TOWN FC



A BRIEF HISTORY

Downham Town are one of the oldest Clubs in Norfolk, formed in 1881. The Club played junior football, mainly in the King's Lynn area, until after the second world war.

The Saints as the Club were then known were elected to the Premier Division of the Peterborough League in the 1949/50 season and took on senior status. Town won a string of honours during their time in the Peterborough League winning the league in 1963, 74, 79, 87 and 88 and the Peterborough Senior Cup in 1962, 63, 67, 72 and 87 before moving to the newly formed Division One of the Eastern Counties League in 1988. The Club was run by a Committee and selected the teams until they appointed their first manager in 1952.

The Manager was the former Tottenham Goalkeeper Percy Hooper, a year later George Heagren moved from King's Lynn to become player coach.

That period was very successful, the Norfolk Senior Cup was won for the first time in 1964 beating Norwich Electricity 3-2, they also beat them in the 1966 final. Downham lost to Horsford Utd. 2-1 in 1968 and to Gorleston 2-1 in the 1969 finals. The

last semi-final was against Fakenham in 1999 losing 2-0 at the Memorial Ground. In 1993 David Batch was appointed manager and was the youngest Senior Manager in England. The team also clocked a Jewson Division One record 15-0 victory over Bury. Ricky Martin also finished top scorer with 30 goals.

More recently Paul Neary was appointed as Manager In August 2017 and brought four new players to the Club to complement the large number of loyal local players already with us, we finished the season in tenth place in the league and with a trip to Carrow Road for the Norfolk Senior Cup final narrowly losing to Norwich Utd.

In October 2018 P Neary left the club to take a fulltime coaching role at the UEA, Craig Dickson and Dale Stokes were appointed joint managers and took over from Paul and continued the progression we had seen in the previous season finishing 8th in their first season.

The following years were ruined with Covid 19 meaning we had 2 interrupted seasons, during the 19/20 season Downham had been top of the table for a large part of this season and were sitting 3rd in the promotion places when the FA decided that the leagues would be null and void despite the club

having played over 75% of our league games, the following season was cut short and the FA decided to use the 2 seasons games to decide promotion and the club lost out on promotion by 1 point.

The 21/22 season saw the club again in contention for promotion but sadly we lost the play off final (the first ever play offs in the Thurlow Nunn league) to Harlestone.

Season 22/23 saw the club attain promotion to the Thurlow Nunn Premier League and play step 5 football for the first time, we also gained entry to the FA cup for the first time. The promotion was the rewards of several years of progression at the club and we have plans for how we develop and move the club forward over the coming seasons.

Season 23/24 saw the club have its best ever season, in our first season at step 5 we finished a creditable 7th after spending most of the season in the play-off positions, we also reached the final the LCC for the first time losing to Harlow Town in the 89th min. The club did win its first trophy in a long time with a very memorable night at Carrow Road when we beat Gorleston 4-2 in the Norfolk Senior Cup final our run in the senior cup also saw us beat Wroxham 2-1 on their own pitch in the 1/4 finals, Sadly Craig Dickson stepped down as Joint Manger of the club after nearly 28 years involvement in the club due to family reasons, Dale Stokes continues as 1st team manager and is joined by Danny White as assistant with Ryan Charalambous joining as first team coach.

And just as we thought it couldn't get much better along comes the 24/25 season where despite not really performing in the cup competitions we were in and around the top of the table from October till the end of the season, the season started poorly losing our first 2 league games and then we seemed to Kick into gear, the top of the table saw several clubs come and go and with 3 games to go we had the championship in our own hands but a draw at Walsham Le Willows meant we could do nothing but watch the teams at the top play out for comfortable wins in their last 2 games

This saw a repeat of the 22/23 season where we entered the play offs with home advantage in the semi final and ran out comfortable winners over Ely City, the second semi final saw Walsham beat Fakenham on their own ground and Downham Had home advantage in the final and after a very tough game where both teams had spells on top we edged out Walsham with a penalty kick in the 75th minute the difference between the 2 teams and history was made again with the club now playing step 4 for the 25/26 season.



ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2025/26

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Felixstowe & Walton United	36	26	5	5	77	35	+42	83
2	Maldon & Tiptree	35	25	6	4	78	25	+53	81
3	Waltham Abbey	36	21	6	9	74	44	+30	69
4	Bowers & Pitsea	36	19	8	9	80	44	+36	65
5	Stanway Rovers	36	18	10	8	57	35	+22	64
6	Gorleston	35	19	5	11	59	52	+7	62
7	Wroxham	36	16	10	10	48	40	+8	58
8	Redbridge	36	17	6	13	64	55	+9	57
9	Concord Rangers	36	16	7	13	58	46	+12	55
10	Witham Town	36	15	9	12	56	52	+4	54
11	Tilbury	36	14	11	11	52	44	+8	53
12	Newmarket Town	36	14	5	17	57	56	+1	47
13	Brightlingsea Regent	36	13	8	15	52	55	-3	47
14	Walthamstow	36	12	9	15	54	52	+2	45
15	Cambridge City	36	11	12	13	43	43	0	45
16	Takeley	36	12	7	17	39	63	-24	43
17	Grays Athletic	36	10	8	18	38	51	-13	38
18	Mildenhall Town	36	11	3	22	47	70	-23	36
19	Lowestoft Town	36	9	7	20	50	78	-28	34
20	Downham Town	36	7	9	20	36	64	-28	30
21	Heybridge Swifts	36	7	7	22	29	68	-39	28
R	Brantham Athletic	36	2	4	30	20	96	-76	10

LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026 AT 21:45:10

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**TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2026 - 7.45PM
@BURY TOWN FC**



CLUB CONTACTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
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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	Ruth Ward		secretary@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Youth Safeguarding/Welfare	Kathryn Maclean	07809 673414	
Fixtures Secretary	Les Soall	07825 058857	lgsfxt@aol.com
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Secker	07539 455089	paul.secker1@hotmail.com
Hospitality	Winnifred Soall	07900 591367	winnifred.mcclean@aol.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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Photography	Stefan Peck		



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Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
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FOOTBALL
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ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 28th March 2026
Kick-off 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Managers: Jack Ainsley and
Stuart Ainsley

Jack **Ainsley**
Stuart **Ainsley**
Hugo **Akhuseyin**
Noel **Aitkens**
Callum **Bennett**
Zak **Brown**
Ollie **Caley-Brown**
Hugh **Cullum**
Sam **Ford**
Ethan **Garcia**
Dan **Gilchrist**
Josh **Hitter**
Billy **Holland (C)**
Will **Jones**
Jacob **Lay**
Olly **Martin**
Josh **Mayhew**
Jose **Santa De La Paz**
Toby **Stevenson**
Thomas **Warren**
Joe **Whight**
Jack **Wilkinson**
Harry **Wright (GK)**

Downham Town FC

Manager: Craig Dickson
Assistant Manager: Simon Bird

Simon **Bird**
Jack **Gould**
Eoin **McQuaid**
Jake **Miller**
Luke **Reed**
Jacob **White**
Arturs **Visocanskis**
Harley **Murkin**
Matthew **Castellan**
Nick **Castellan**
Ben **Terry**
Dylan **Edge**
Lagshan **Sivakumar**
Charlie **Royle**
Nathan **Davies**
Lucas **Poll**
Dylan **Kirk**
William **Moxon**
Charlie **Congreve**

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Referee: Mr Lee Kendrick **Assistant Referees:** Mr Samuel Bell and Mr Calin Rogojan