SEASIDERS

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club

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THE OFFICIAL 2026/27 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:

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VS

BUCKHURST HILL

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

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CHAIRMAN: TONY BARNES



Good evening and welcome to The Martello Ground as we welcome league newcomers Buckhurst Hill for tonight's Isthmian North League fixture.

A warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters of Buckhurst Hill, and also to tonight's match officials. I hope you all enjoy your stay and have a safe journey home later.

A look at the current league table suggests this is already an important six-pointer for both teams, as we both sit on a measly two points. However, unlike ourselves, Buckhurst have enjoyed a good start to the season, especially in the FA Cup, where they have reached the Second Qualifying Round and face Cambridge City away this coming Saturday. In the league, Buckhurst have only had two previous games, winning at home to Grays and narrowly losing away at Takeley.

The Seasiders have had a very disappointing time since demolishing Brightlingsea Regent 5-1. Okay, we probably weren't expected to progress in the FA Cup against higher-level opposition, but having worked so hard at Wingate & Finchley to bring them back here for a replay, we didn't make the home advantage count as we went down 0-2.

The real disappointment came on Friday night as we travelled to Lowestoft Town. Yes, we were missing a few players, but that was no excuse on the night. The players out there just didn't perform and, despite long periods of possession, we let ourselves down in both penalty areas. In attack, we seemed devoid of confidence, even failing from the penalty spot for the second successive game, whilst at the other end we were punished for mistakes that we simply weren't making last year.

Unfortunately for us, last season's form has deserted us so far. It is quite clear that, being one of the more fancied teams to win the league this year, everyone else considers us a big scalp and seems to be raising their game accordingly.

The players are all giving everything they have, and their work rate and effort can't be faulted, so I'm sure our fortunes will soon change, and hopefully tonight will be the night. Football can change in a matter of minutes, and confidence can return as quickly as it disappears. I'm sure Stuart and Jack are well aware of this and will ensure the players keep their heads, keep believing and keep working hard. I'm confident we will soon be moving in the right direction and climbing the league table.

Tonight is the first of three home games on the spin, and you, the crowd, can certainly play your part in our quest to return to winning ways before we are back on the road.

This will be my last game until we entertain Canvey on 3rd October. When I return, I fully expect the smiles to be back on Seasider faces.

Best wishes,
Tony

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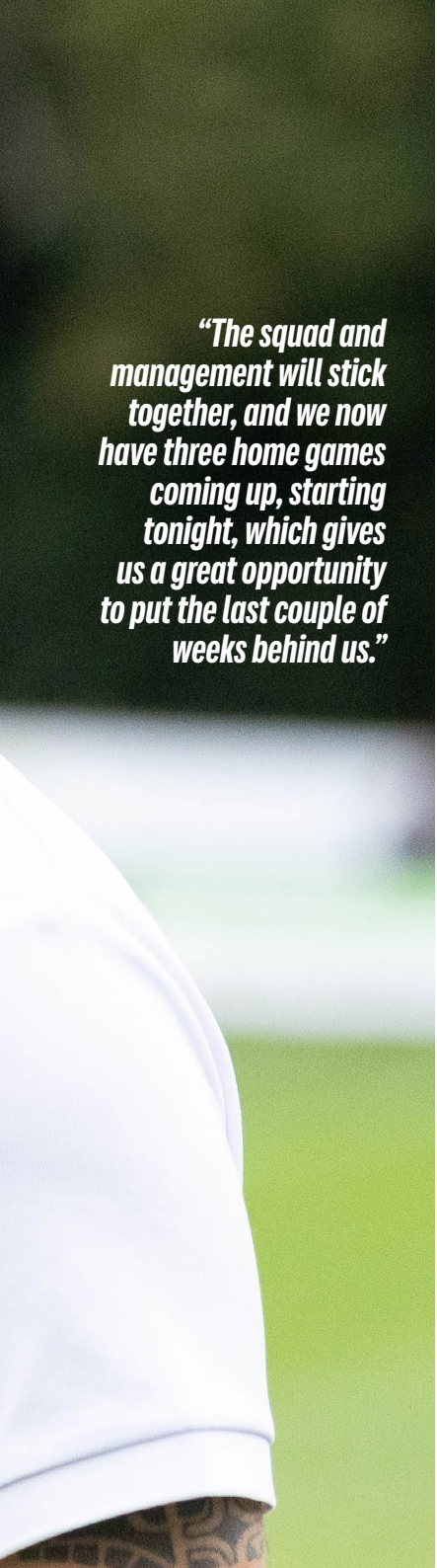


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STUART
AINSLEY



"The squad and management will stick together, and we now have three home games coming up, starting tonight, which gives us a great opportunity to put the last couple of weeks behind us."

Good evening and welcome to The Martello Ground for this evening's league match against Buckhurst Hill. I would like to welcome their players, management and fans, and wish them a safe journey home.

Since our last home outing, which saw us record a 5-1 win against Brightlingsea and get our points tally up and running, we visited Wingate & Finchley in the FA Cup. The lads gave everything to earn a replay back at home on the Tuesday night, where I thought we were very good again for 60 minutes. Ultimately, having put so much into the previous weekend, we just ran out of legs for the last half an hour. Wingate moved the ball really well and, at times, we couldn't handle them.

I'm proud of the effort the team gave over the 180 minutes, showing that we can compete with teams from the level above.

The fixtures are coming thick and fast, and we travelled up to Lowestoft on Friday night in the league, hoping to follow up the three points from our previous league game. We struggled at times and came away with nothing. It was a tough one to take, as we had enough chances to win the game but didn't take them, which will always leave us susceptible to losing by one or two when having to chase the game.

We're obviously going through a little bit of a tough period, but when we take a step back, we have only played four league games. We're not panicking yet. The squad and management will stick together, and we now have three home games coming up, starting tonight, which gives us a great opportunity to put the last couple of weeks behind us.

Finally, a big thank you to our fantastic fan base, who keep supporting us through the tough times!

Enjoy the game.
Stu



SEASIDER: PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this…

Reading all the pre-season stuff from around the league, yes I know, some of us need to get a life, the major prediction seemed to be that Felixstowe & Walton were nailed on favourites to win the league and gain promotion, I think the only club to disagree with that prediction was Felixstowe & Walton.

Oh that it would be that easy, but I haven't spoken to anyone at the club since the end of last season who thought we were nailed on favourites to win the league.

In the summer of '25 we lost 34 goal Charlie Warren to Bolton Wanderers, while delighted for Charlie & proud that a club of Bolton's standing should sign him. It was a big blow to the new management team who took over from Stuart and Andy.

The new management gave us a tremendous season coming within a whisker of promotion, losing out to Maldon & Tiptree on goal difference which inevitably led to approaches for our players and for the second successive season we lost our leading goalscorer, plus a player who many considered the best midfielder in the league, both going to play at a hight level.

This is not a sour grapes note, just a reality check, we haven't had the best of starts to the season but there is a long way to go. The last five seasons have seen us finish in the play-off spots, two of them as runners up, so there was bound to be some rebuilding to do, we just have to keep the faith, we have a good squad of players, in my opinion the best keeper in the league and some home grown talent coming through!

What's not to like!



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SJP14332a_DS B3 (08/24)

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED **5**

Mayhew, Jones, Statham, Hitter, Warren

BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT **1**

Rowe

Monday 31st August
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Statham, Stevenson Holland (C), Whight, Ainsley, Garcia Jones, Mayhew, Hitter, Ward

SUBS: Smith, Santa De La Paz, Warren Cullum, Harrison




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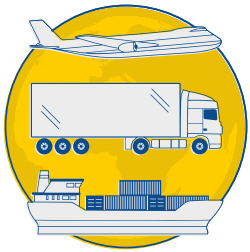
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SEASIDERS PEN PICS

MANAGEMENT

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

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

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



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 seasiders in October 2024.

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

Doug French - Kit Man
Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and 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 Seasiders.



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 Seasiders 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.

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.

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

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

Maxwell Statham
Maxwell joined the Seasiders this summer with a wealth of experience at National League South level. The 24-year-old right-sided defender came through the academies at Tottenham Hotspur and Watford before making his mark in senior football. After impressing during a standout spell at Welling

United, Maxwell became a regular at Dartford for two seasons before further spells with Hemel Hempstead Town and Chatham Town, and most recently, back at Welling United.

Brad Smith
Brad joined the club in summer 2026 after spending most of his youth career at Needham Market, progressing through the youth teams and their academy. Has joined the Seasiders with good pedigree, a versatile defender or midfielder.

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.

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.

Will Jones
Midfielder Will joined the club from Brantham Athletic in November 2025 and is a product of the AFC Sudbury Academy.

Lester Ward
A versatile full-back/winger, Lester joins the Seasiders from Chelmsford City and boasts an impressive footballing pedigree, having progressed through the academies of Colchester United, West Ham United and Arsenal.

Callum Harrison
A fan favourite and naturally gifted No.10, Callum made 109 appearances and scored 35goals during his previous spell with the Seasiders before departing last summer. Previous clubs include Needham Market, Coggeshall, Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Callum returned to the Seasiders this summer after a season at Brightlingsea Regent.













Luke Allen
Luke joined the Seasider this summer, bringing significant experience and quality in the middle of the park. Luke started out at Tottenham Hotspur and Cambridge United and has enjoyed spells with Welling United, Braintree Town, Folkestone Invicta and Aveley, as well as five successful seasons at Dartford, where he established himself as one of the division's most consistent midfielders.

FORWARDS

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.

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.



WINGATE & FINCHLEY 0

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED 0

Saturday 5th September
FA Cup 1QR
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Statham, Stevenson Holland (C), Whight, Ainsley, Ward Jones, Mayhew, Garcia, Warren

SUBS: Smith, Santa De La Paz, Harrison Brown, Calver, Hudson




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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.

FA Cup Day was upon on us and for the ninth time in the last ten draws The Seasiders were given an away tie with our opponents Isthmian Premier League side Wingate & Finchley in the First Qualifying Round. Felixstowe & Walton had reached this stage following the 0-1 win at Woodbridge Town in the last round, whilst this was the first stage at which step 3 sides enter the competition.

As Finchley is well served by 3 underground stations on The Northern Line, it was a perfect opportunity for the train gang (since renamed The Railway Children by the Chairmans wife) to hop on the choo choo down to the smoke for the day. Alas, only 5 of us felt the train vibe, and so it was the 08:28 train that departed from Platform 1 of Felixstowe International Station carrying myself, Lorro and Big Neil on our magical adventure. Shaun was due to meet us at Ipswich but was a no-show (yellow card) and the always-reliable



Mistley John boarded at Manningtree with a case of beer to keep us all refreshed. John had asked early doors if beer was required, not so Neil who came with cans of rum and coke to drink at 08:30am. Poor guy was somewhat miffed when we declined the offer. Lorro does not touch spirits, and I certainly do not before 11am…

The journey got a bit noisier at Colchester when around 20 Col U youth got on, armed with enough beer to keep them going until Christmas, en-route to their League Two match at Swindon Town. Good lads, showed an interest in who we were and where we were going, and even accepted

Neils gift of 2 cans of rum and coke. They did let themselves down badly though with the state they left the carriage in when they left us at Stratford. Lorro to the rescue though, he cleaned up behind them whilst muttering some factually correct words regarding their lack of tidiness.

Once at Liverpool Street we decided to head to Hamilton Hall as our first port of call, before heading to Finchley. After about half an hour of chat my good friend Adam walked in, along with Mrs Adam and Daughter Adam with future son-in-law Adam (GDPR being adhered to here…) Sadly, they were not stopping or indeed coming to watch the Seasiders as the West End shops were calling out their names. To be fair it's no bad thing as Adam has been to a few F&W games with me, but the last time we won a game in his presence was St. Georges Day 2022. He is convinced he is a curse. I just think he picks tough games!!

As we prepared to leave, another 3 local faces, Kit, Dick and Ricky (Kit Jnr) were spotted in the outside area having a drink before heading off to watch their beloved Queens Park Rangers entertain Middlesbrough. If only we could wean them off Rangers and onto F&W, our bar takings would go through the roof…

Big Neil had searched for pubs close to the ground, and had found The Elephant Inn and The Bohemia, but as these did not open until Noon I suggested a stop off at the south end of Camden High Street and a quick drink in The Lyttleton Arms, which is ideally situated opposite Mornington Crescent tube station, and within view of Koko's, where I had seen Dexys Midnight Runners last year, and where I will be seeing Romford based band The Bracknall in December. If we thought the pub might be quiet on a Saturday morning, we were sadly mistaken (or happily if you like people) The place was rammed, and we soon learnt after chatting to some strange people drinking out of circular glass contraptions containing a variant of many spirits, that the afore-mentioned Koko was hosting a rave that afternoon/evening. Were we tempted to ditch the football and go to the rave? No. Not even a little bit.

I was answering a call of nature when the beers were bought. By all accounts the guys asked the bar staff to top up our pints as they looked like short measures, only to be told they sell beer in 2/3rds of a pint. What a daft idea that was. 2/3rds of a pint for the price of about a pint and a half. Maybe we were considered to be ravers too and were being priced accordingly. I'll find out when I return in December. Poor old John even managed to have the last 1/3rd of his 2/3rds of a pint knocked out of his hands by a raver that could not walk or talk without waving her arms about like Mike Channon after scoring a goal.

Back to the tube and on to Neil's pub chosen from his Good Beer Guide, The Elephant Inn on Ballards Lane. It was a brisk walk from West Finchley station to the establishment, and our excitement was building (we are The Railway Children for a reason) so you can probably imagine our faces when we approached and saw scaffolding surrounding the pub, windows all covered and a sign on the door with the words "Closed for Refurbishment" greeting us. Not too disheartened, although we may have berated Neil for longer than necessary, I knew of another pub 300 yards further along the road, a former Wetherspoons pub named The Tally Ho, so we were soon sat







with a pricey beer each and looking forward to the afternoon's entertainment. A couple of Wingate & Finchley fans were in the pub, looking resplendent in their replica home shirts which were a carbon copy of the mid-eighties Leicester City shirt worn by the likes of Gary Linekar and Alan Smith, complete with the pinstripes that were fashionable 40 years ago and now making a comeback.

Our offer to share an Uber was declined by the locals, probably because it was about a 5-minute walk to the ground, and so we headed off with our driver Konstantin and looked for the floodlights.

We arrived shortly after 2:30pm, handed over our hard-earned cash and entered the ground. I must say it was a lovely old ground, quirky to say the least, but decent. The football pitch and rugby pitch sit side by side and are separated by a single grandstand structure with seating on two sides, similar to that at Headingley between the cricket and rugby league pitches. I did not venture into the main stand as I had already seen beforehand that the sight lines left a little to be



desired, with the stand set quite a distance back from the pitch and with the dug outs obscuring the near side of the pitch. Instead, we headed to the clubhouse and found the usual array of travelling Seasider supporters, those sensible enough to travel on the door-to-door coach and the independent car travellers.

On to the game, and a hard-working performance from every player earnt the Seasiders a replay, holding the higher-level step 3 side to a goalless draw. We very nearly nicked it at the death, but the home keeper made a point blank save with his legs to deny Jose Santa De La Paz. A celebratory pint was enjoyed in the clubhouse at full time, and the lads were serenaded with some beautiful musical numbers as they arrived for their post-match fayre and a well-deserved beer of their own.

We opted for an Uber back to West Finchley as our legs were a little heavy by now, and changed at Tottenham Court Road for the Central Line back to Liverpool Street. Big Neil jumped on the train as we arrived at the platform but Lorro, 5 yards behind him, saw the doors close immediately and off Neil went without us. Maybe he was going to telephone The Elephant Inn privately and pass on our disgust… It was all good though, as we knew we would see him back at LST. Once there, Lorro and John headed to get food whilst I went to the M&S on the concourse for our liquids for the last part of our journey. We found a table on the 19:30 train, by which time Big Neil told us he had caught the earlier 19:00 service. We would need to drink his beers ourselves as I had bought for 4

A lovely journey home, in good spirits following the result, and no sign of the QPR or Colchester boys on our train. Back in Ipswich by 20:45 and reunited with Neil who had been waiting for nearly three quarters of an hour for the 20:58 train home. He was pleased to see us, I think.

A great day out, always good to see the Seasiders play in the capital, especially a new ground as it was for most of us in attendance.



Thanks for reading and enjoy the match this evening.

Up the Seasiders



ISTHMIAN NORTH
DIVISION TABLE 2026/27

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hashtag United	4	4	0	0	13	1	+12	12
2	Redbridge	6	4	0	2	14	11	+3	12
3	Wroxham	4	3	0	1	12	4	+8	9
4	Bowers & Pitsea	6	2	2	2	10	11	-1	8
5	Concord Rangers	3	2	1	0	8	5	+3	7
6	Gorleston	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7
7	Takeley	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7
8	Little Oakley	4	2	1	1	7	7	0	7
9	Grays Athletic	5	2	1	2	7	8	-1	7
10	Lowestoft Town	6	2	1	3	9	14	-5	7
11	Cambridge City	3	2	0	1	8	3	+5	6
12	Witham Town	3	2	0	1	6	5	+1	6
13	Mulbarton Wanderers	4	2	0	2	5	4	+1	6
14	Tilbury	4	1	2	1	2	4	-2	5
15	Canvey Island	4	1	1	2	6	7	-1	4
16	Newmarket Town	4	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4
17	Walthamstow	5	1	1	3	5	10	-5	4
18	**Buckhurst Hill**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**+1**	**3**
19	AFC Sudbury	5	1	0	4	6	10	-4	3
20	**Felixstowe & Walton United**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**6**	**11**	**-5**	**3**
21	Brightlingsea Regent	5	0	2	3	4	11	-7	2
22	Fakenham Town	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1

Last updated: Saturday 12th September 2026 at 16:55:52

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THE OTHER SIDE
BUCKHURST HILL FC

CLUB HISTORY

Buckhurst Hill Football Club in 2025/26, celebrated its 40th Birthday and in doing so, had their best season at senior level with promotion to Isthmian League North.

The club was initially formed in 1985 by Richard Brand and Alfie Sacre with the objective of providing youth football in the local community.

From humble beginnings our first team was put together and Richard and Alfie were soon joined by Ray Sherrin (who is still our Club President today) to run the club, and with increased local awareness more volunteers came forward to help facilitate more teams.

Our first youth team success was our under 15's who were winners of the Echo League Cup A division in season 1985/86 and our first youth league title was in 1986/87 when Richard Brand and our under 14's won the Echo B division. Over the coming years and throughout the Nineties further success was achieved through our youth teams.

We introduced mini soccer and in the 1999/2000 season our under 7's won our first league trophy in the Barking mini league. Now forty years on, the club has 37 youth teams boys and girls starting from Under 7's through to Under 18's, plus we have our successful mini kickers for boys and girls aged 4 through to 6 on Saturday mornings.

Our youth teams play in the Eastern Junior Alliance, Echo, Essex Girls and Brentwood Community League. We have now become one of the most successful youth clubs not only in Essex but throughout the country with numerous County and National Cup successes and league titles, and over 50 boys who have come through our system go on to play at professional level, and our girl's section has also delivered the same success with Daisy Sherrin the current Under 18's England Lionesses goalkeeper. Our youth section is integral to our future to provide a pathway to our men's senior team alongside our ambitions to have a senior ladies team as well.

The last three seasons have been one of our most successful periods at youth level with numerous leagues and county cup success across all our age groups which bodes well for the future.

The club decided to branch out into Senior football in 2004 when it joined the Herts County League. The aim was to have a senior team for the youths to progress into and the club then then joined the Essex Olympian League in 2008/09, moving up into the Premier Division in 2010/11.

To help support our youth system we restructured our senior section in 2014 to provide a progressive pathway for our homegrown players with the addition of our under 18's, and under 23's to help develop them to men's football and our first team, and we are now reaping the benefits with so many part of the first team squad.

A relegation was suffered in 2016/17 but the following season the club won the Division One title meaning a quick return to the Olympian's top division. That season also saw the Stags lift the Essex Premier Cup for the first time.

The following season the club achieved a double as the Olympian League Premier Division was won along with a second Essex Premier Cup success.

The club then made the bold decision to make the step up into Step 6 and saw the first phase of the ground development.

This included turning the pitch around, concrete walkways, pitch barrier fencing, new

dugouts, and new goals. This was achieved with 70% funding from the Football Foundation.

In 2021 we won the Olympian League Premier again and our promotion was confirmed to step six and for the first time in the Club's history Senior Men's football in the Thurlow Nunn League. The promotion into the Thurlow Nunn League saw the club also embark on the second phase of ground development with a 100-seat covered stand, floodlights, the Stags Kettle serving delicious hot food and the Buckhurst Hill Bar, the stand and floodlights were achieved with more support from the Football Foundation and the Premier League Stadium Fund.

We have continued to improve our facilities over the last couple of years with a covered stand that holds 100 fans, tarmacked one side of the ground, built new turnstiles and kiosks and a new Tannoy system to improve our match day experience.

In what was a season of historic milestones, as the club embarked on its first season as a senior club and finished runners-up and with-it promotion into the Essex Senior League.

The FA Vase was also entered into for the first time in the club's history and the Stags had a wonderful run, starting off in the 1st Qualifying Round against Enfield, before going on to beat Newbury Forest, Great Yarmouth Town, and Gorleston before finally succumbing to Wroxham in Round Three.

In 2026, our fifth season at senior level, saw the club finish 4th in the Essex Senior League and go on to win the play off's with a 1-0 win over Barking, with our scorer, Arthur Massingham, who came through the youth team see the cub promoted to Isthmian League. The match was played in front of over 1000 people and 75 mascots and our youth players being part of the celebration, which embodies the community spirit within our club.

Long serving manager Mark Williams of 8 years, now takes the side in to Step 4 of the non-league pyramid.

Our ambitions for the club are high, as we start our next chapter and step 4 football, we will now embark on our next stage of ground improvements with increased seating and standing facilities,



new perimeter fencing and infills, toilet blocks and more. Further plans are going on behind the scenes and development plans in place with local partners to double the size of our clubhouse, put in classrooms to home BTEC Educational programs and restaurant.

This will require an incredible amount of work and support from the Football Foundation as well as raising funds ourselves through sponsorship and fundraising as these improvements need to be complete by March 2027. However this is a challenge we will relish and excited about what the future holds.

With the icing on the cake an all-weather floodlight 4G Facility for all our teams to train on, as well as provide the facility to the wider community including, Schools, walking football, Disability Football as well as a centre for the local send school we are in partnership with to build.

These would be game changing not just for Buckhurst Hill Football Club, but the wider community provide inclusion for all.

We are ambitious, with a vision, balancing on and off field operations to provide a sustainable business model and a legacy for years to come.

Thank you to all our volunteers, committee members, the local parish/district and county councillors and our sponsors for your continued support.

Watch this space.

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BY JON COUCH

IT'S fair to say the summer 2026 Non-League transfer window will be remembered for years to come. Groundbreaking in fact.

Record deals being negotiated left, right and centre with Abdul Abdulmalik's £1.5m transfer from Boreham Wood to Swedish top-flight outfit Djurgardens IF topping the lot and finally surpassing the £1m paid by Leicester City for a certain Jamie Vardy in 2012. Whatever happened to him?

But the success stories don't stop there.
In this week's NLP, we plotted the rise of three more former Non-Leaguers who completed huge moves into the Premier League in this summer transfer window.

Iliman Ndiaye, now a Senegal international, sealed his £65m move from Everton to Manchester City on the same evening Sorba Thomas landed his Premier League dream when Hull City bought him from Stoke City.

Ndiaye, 26, and Thomas, 27, are the two biggest success stories to emerge from Wood's PASE Academy set-up.

Under the guidance of Wood boss Luke Garrard and academy head coach Cameron Mawer, the pair starred in the club's Elite youth team, collecting national titles and back-to-back-to-back league triumphs.

And it wasn't long before they were breaking into Garrard's first team. Ndiaye was quickly picked up by Sheffield United where – after a loan spell with Hyde United – he started to make the name that has seen him go onto Marseille, Everton and now Champions League-chasing City.

Thomas was more of a regular, playing 77 times and becoming a huge part of a promotion push before Huddersfield Town swooped.

"We've got a really exciting crop at Bedford Town and I always tell the players, 'Yes, it is about what you do on the pitch consistently, but things aren't always going to go smoothly for you'," Mawer, who heads up Bedford's academy alongside his role St Neots Town boss told us.

"It's the ones who can take that rejection and get through it. If you're not in a pro club at 16, 17, there's a lot of outside distractions that can take you off the path.

"It's the ones who stay focused, keep going and keep building every day. Sorbs and Iliman had it.

"I have probably coached thousands and thousands of kids. What separates those two is that mentality to keep going.

"Nothing could take them off the pathway – girls, alcohol, nights out, friends, making money. They had no interest in that, they just had interest in being the best player on the pitch and getting to where they want to get to."

And more was yet to come.
Also on transfer deadline day, 25-year-old winger Femi Azeez completed a move to Brighton & Hove Albion after lighting it up in the Championship for Millwall.

It completes a remarkable rise from the Southern League East Division to the Premier League in eight years.

Having been in Watford's academy, Azeez left and joined Northwood's youth system where he was handed a first-team debut aged 16 by Gordon Boateng.

It was in Wealdstone's youth side where then Stones' boss Bobby Wilkinson first caught a glimpse of the talented youngster.

And it wasn't long before he was starting against Uxbridge in the Middlesex Senior Cup before making his league debut at home to Eastbourne Borough in December 2018.

"I watched him in the youth team, I think on a Sunday afternoon, at Wealdstone on the pitches out the back," Wilkinson, the current Swindon Supermarine boss told us. "I spotted him in ten

seconds! I brought him in with me and put him in the men's side. I just had an unbelievable feeling about this boy.

"There was just something about him. In this day and age, scouts don't look long term.

"I didn't think straightaway he was going to develop right then. But what I did do was bring him straight into men's football, put him on the bench and let him play in front of good crowds.

"I made sure if we were winning – or we couldn't win the game – we'd give him 20 minutes.

"We guided him all the way through that year and did it with a purpose for where he is now.

"There's lots of people who have been part of his journey. But they won't take away that year he spent with us."

At the same time, we ran the inspirational tale of Manasse Kianga, who rose from Step 5 Rossington Main all the way to the Champions League with Slovan Bratislava!

The 24-year-old made 115 appearances for Main across five years at Oxford Street, scoring 51 goals, but now he finds himself lining up in front of crowds in excess of 20,000 after helping the Slovak champions reach the league phase of the Champions League.

'Manny', as he is more affectionately known, moved to England with his family in 2017 at the age of 15 and found his home in DN11 when he joined Rossington in 2019, establishing himself as a firm fan favourite from the off.

His spell at Rossington was punctuated by brief spells across the Non-League circuit, including with Sheffield FC, until difficulties obtaining a permanent work-permit forced a move back to South Africa.

But his chapter in football in Europe was not closed, signing for Slovak third-tier side Lokomotíva Košice the following year and after four goals in 11 appearances, earning Kianga a move to the top tier with Slovan in 2026 under former Barcelona and Manchester City star Yaya Touré.

Ndiaye, Thomas, Azeez and Kianga are all examples of the opportunities that can become available for Non-League players across the pyramid with the right application and dedication.

It also serves to prove once again that the English Pyramid is the envy of the world.





LOWESTOFT TOWN 2
Baker, Upton

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED 0

Friday 11th September
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Garcia, Stevenson Holland (C), Whight, Ainsley, Hitter, Jones Mayhew, Santa De La Paz, Ward

SUBS: Hudson, Smith, Warren, Calver




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FIXTURES 2026/27

AUGUST

SAT 8	REDBRIDGE Warren	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 4-1	ATT 80
SAT 15	**MULBARTON WANDERERS**	**H**	**3PM**	**FA TROPHY PRELIMINARY RND**	**L 2-0**	**ATT 300**
TUE 18	WROXHAM	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 4-0	ATT 265
FRI 21	WOODBRIDGE TOWN Santa De La Paz	A	7.45PM	EMIRATES FA CUP	W 1-0	ATT 371
MON 31	**BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT** Mayhew, Jones, Statham, Hitter, Warren	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**	**W 5-1**	**ATT 462**

SEPTEMBER

SAT 5	WINGATE & FINCHLEY	A	3PM	FA CUP	D 0-0	ATT 207
TUE 15	**WINGATE & FINCHLEY**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**FA CUP REPLAY**	**L 2-0**	**ATT 243**
FRI 11	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 368
TUE 15	**BUCKHURST HILL**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**		
SAT 19	**HASHTAG UNITED**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**		
TUE 22	**AFC SUDBURY**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**		
SAT 26	MULBARTON WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 29	FAKENHAM TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		

OCTOBER

SAT 3	**CANVEY ISLAND**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
WED 7	GORLESTON	A	7.45	LEAGUE
SAT 10	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 13	**IPSWICH WANDERERS**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 17	**WALTHAMSTOW**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
TUE 20	**WROXHAM**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 24	BUCKHURST HILL	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 31	**CAMBRIDGE CITY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**

NOVEMBER

SAT 7	TAKELEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	**TILBURY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 21	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 28	CONCORD RANGERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE

DECEMBER

SAT 5	**NEWMARKET TOWN**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
FRI 11	**LOWESTOFT TOWN**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 19	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE
MON 28	**LITTLE OAKLEY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**

JANUARY

SAT 2	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 9	CAMBRIDGE CITY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 16	**TAKELEY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 23	TILBURY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 30	**BOWERS & PITSEA**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**

FEBRUARY

SAT 6	AFC SUDBURY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 9	**GORLESTON**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 13	**MULBARTON WANDERERS**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 20	CANVEY ISLAND	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	**CONCORD RANGERS**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**

MARCH

SAT 6	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	**FAKENHAM TOWN**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 20	HASHTAG UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	**GRAYS ATHLETIC**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
MON 29	LITTLE OAKLEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 3	**REDBRIDGE**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
SAT 10	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	**WITHAM TOWN**	**A**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**

TODAY'S FIXTURES
ALL KO @7.45PM

Tuesday 15th September

Cambridge City v Tilbury
Canvey Island v Wroxham
Felixstowe & Walton Utd v Buckhurst Hill
Hashtag Utd v Takeley
Walthamstow v Gorelston
Witham Town v Concord Rangers

PITCHING IN

PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

‘NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF FREAKS’



BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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

In 1960, the chairman of Dundalk Football Club went excitedly to his board and explained that he had found a player who could change their fortunes. Jimmy Hasty was playing across the Northern Irish border in Newry, where he could not stop scoring, and Jim Malone was adamant that he should be brought south. The board saw just one problem; Hasty had one arm, and in the words of one member ‘the club is not in the business of signing freaks.’ But Malone had made his decision, he wanted the one-armed striker at his football club, and he was determined to make it happen. So he didn’t wait for the board’s approval, he signed a personal cheque and brought Jimmy Hasty to Dundalk.

Hasty was born in the north of Belfast in 1936, and quickly fell in love with football as a child in the docklands area of the city. But, times being as they were and football not being the path to riches it is today, at 14 the young man got his first job, at Jennymount Mill. It was that day that would change his life completely. On his first day at the mill, he got his arm caught in the machinery and it was dragged and broken. The injuries he sustained were so severe that doctors had no option but to amputate. For most, at such a tender age, that would spell the end of any semblance of a footballing career. Especially in the physical environment of the 1950s and 1960s.But not for Jimmy Hasty, who was determined to play the game he loved regardless of his misfortune.

Hasty moved around Belfast’s teams as a young player, nobody seeming able to find a place for the one-armed wonder in their side, before signing for Second Division Newry Town in 1959. Here he finally found his groove, playing 55 times in his first season for the club, and scoring 38 goals, as Newry won the league. It was here that Jim Malone would spot him, and decide he was the man to turn Dundalk’s fortunes around. He wrote his cheque, ignored the board who were against the signing, and brought him south of the border. He would prove to be an inspired addition.

When Hasty made his debut at Oriel Park in November 1960, there was a larger than expected crowd for the game against Cork City. He was a curiosity - in footballing terms, he was a ‘freak’, just as the board had argued - and people turned out to see what this one-armed man could do on the football pitch. While not much was expected of Hasty initially, he scored a goal in that game, and generally impressed everyone with his technical ability. By the time the referee blew his final whistle, Jimmy Hasty wasn’t so much the oddity that people came to see, but the impressive goalscorer he would show himself to be. Brilliant in the air, exceptional balance, and able to play with both feet. He scored five more goals in his next four matches, enjoying an impressive start to his time in Ireland.

His missing arm even became something of an advantage to Hasty’s game. Defenders were initially not entirely sure about making robust challenges on a player that they weren’t sure should be on the pitch, but Hasty was strong and not looking for sympathy. He also learned to

lean into a defender when jumping for a ball in such a way that it gave him an enormous advantage without appearing as such to the referee. Hard to give a foul for a hand on an opposition player when there is no hand at all!

Hasty stayed in Dundalk for six years, scoring 103 goals. In 1963, he helped the club to their first league title in 30 years, top scorer in the side while crowds around the league were boosted when he played. Following that league success, he was given a platform in Europe, where Dundalk beat FC Zurich in Switzerland, Hasty scoring in a 2-1 win. Although they went on to lose the tie, it was the first away win for an Irish side in Europe, and widely celebrated. Zurich ended up going all the way to the semi finals where they were beaten by Real Madrid, so they were no pushovers. Hasty finished that season as the league's joint top scorer, as Dundalk finished second.

A couple of injury plagued seasons followed, before Hasty left the club and played one final season for Drogheda. He retired in 1967, having made a career nobody thought he would.

Sadly for Hasty, his story has a tragic ending. After retiring and marrying his childhood sweetheart, he returned to Belfast and raised two boys while working at a bookmakers. But Belfast in the 1970s was an extraordinarily dangerous city. In 1974, a car pulled up alongside the one-armed former player and gunned him down while he was on his way to work. There was nothing anyone could do to save him, and his death was claimed by the Ulster Volunteer Force, although no individual has ever been charged.

But he shouldn't be remembered as a victim. Instead, he should be remembered as a man who overcame extreme adversity to follow his dreams, and made an enormous success of doing so.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green
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CLUB CONTACTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Barnes		chairman@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Andrew Clarke		springcroftcdr@outlook.com
Director of Operations	Chris Daynes	07415886803	clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Club Secretary	Ruth Ward	07745 062337	secretary@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Treasurer	Gary Hammond	07803 244721	treasurer@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Chairman of Youth Football	Stuart Harrington-Rutterford		stuarthr@outlook.com
Head of Media/Press Officer	Stuart Daynes		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, Scott Dunne, Tam Ward		

OTHER CONTACTS

Facilities Managers	Jess Ayriss and Laura Robinson	martinfwfc@gmail.com
Commercial Manager	Martin Brooks	commercial@felixstowefootball.co.uk
Programme Designer	Becky Wybrow	beckywybrow.design@gmail.com
Photography	Stefan Peck	



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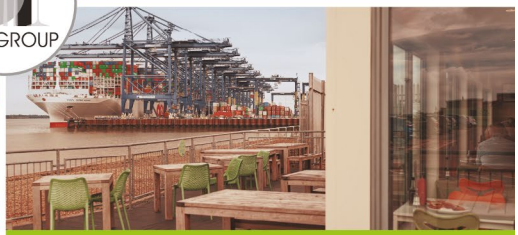
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PITCHING IN

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PITCHING IN

PARTNERS WITH
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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Tuesday 15th September 2026
Kick-off 7.45pm

Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Managers: Jack Ainsley and Stuart Ainsley

Jack **Ainsley**
Luke **Allen**
Zak **Brown**
Hugh **Cullum**
Ethan **Garcia**
Callum **Harrison**
Josh **Hitter**
Billy **Holland (C)**
Will **Jones**
Josh **Mayhew**
Jose **Santa De La Paz**
Brad **Smith**
Maxwell **Statham**
Toby **Stevenson**
Lester **Ward**
Thomas **Warren**
Joe **Whight**
Harry **Wright (GK)**

Buckhurst Hill FC

Manager: Mark Williams
Player Coach: Ted Buchanan
Head Coach: Jack Harries

Josh **Banfield**
Tyler **Dolan**
George **Edwards**
Ollie **Fernandez**
Max **Gnandi**
Callum **Maltese**
Arthur **Massingham**
Jack **McQueen**
Dimitri **Nicolaou**
Eves **Nyahunda**
Christian **North**
Bradleigh **Rowland**
Shane **Temple**
Ollie **Williams (C)**
Suley **Zuhdu**

MATCH SPONSOR:

Wilson Global Logistics

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Thomas Whay **Assistant Referees:** Ms Samuel Bell and Mr Louis Dawson