SEASIDERS

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club

AMICI IN LUDO SUMUS

EST 2009

THE OFFICIAL 2026/27 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:

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VS CAMBRIDGE CITY

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 3PM

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CHAIRMAN: TONY BARNES



Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground for what promises to be a cracker of a game between two of the top seven clubs in the current league table, sitting just one point apart in the play-off places.

I wish all the players, supporters and officials of Cambridge City a very warm welcome, and I hope you enjoy your brief time with us. Welcome, too, to today's match officials. I hope you all have a great afternoon.

Our last match here lasted just 14 minutes before a horrific collision between Bruno Tavares and the Wroxham goalkeeper, Billy Johnson, brought an abrupt end to proceedings on the night. I am very happy to hear that both players have made a quick recovery, especially Billy, who fractured his skull and spent a few days in hospital. May I pay tribute to all our volunteers and staff for the very efficient and professional manner in which they dealt with the incident, and indeed to all the supporters of both clubs who understood the serious nature of the incident and the referee's decision to abandon the game. The rescheduled game will now take place on Tuesday 17th November, and admission will be free of charge.

Bruno himself was actually back in action for the Seasiders last Saturday when we visited a very wet and windy Buckhurst Hill. The slick playing surface seemed to benefit us as we raced into a 3-0 lead at half-time, playing some of the most fluent attacking football we have produced this season. The second half wasn't quite the same, but a final score of 4-1 away from home is something we'll take any time!

Our opponents today went down 3-2 at Canvey Island last Saturday in one of the day's more surprising results and, unlike ourselves, have also been in midweek action, with a trip to Bowers & Pitsea on Tuesday night, where they held on for a 1-1 draw following the late sending-off of skipper Jayden Randell.



Off the field today, we say a sad but fond farewell to young Jess Ayriss, who has helped the club so much behind the scenes in recent times. Jess will be playing host to today's match and match ball sponsors in the Corner Flag Suite for the last time, and we wish her all the very

best in her new job, which will hopefully lead to a long and successful career in the travel industry.

Talking of sponsors, a big **THANK YOU** to today's match sponsors, FLEXIMISE Ltd, and match ball sponsors, BRINOR FREIGHT. Enjoy the hospitality, and thank you for your continued valuable support.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at tomorrow night's Fireworks Night, which, as usual, has been very well supported by our club members and very well organised for yet another year by Chris Daynes. I'm sure we'll be in for a great show, as always, and I hope you all show your appreciation and support for Chris, as we want him to do it all again next year! 😊

Enjoy the game, and see all you fantastic travelling Seasiders down at Takeley next week. Tony.



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STUART
AINSLEY
Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club

Good afternoon, Happy Halloween and welcome to the Martello Ground for today's league tie against Cambridge City, to whom we extend a warm welcome and wish safe travels. Knowing Micky and Danny, this will be a tough game against one of the favoured sides in the league. They have quality throughout and, like us, will be hoping to keep climbing the table.

Since my last set of notes, we've started to find some consistency which was lacking at the start of the season. We had a good 2-1 win at home to Walthamstow, followed by an unfortunate evening at home to Wroxham, where we had to abandon the game due to Billy Johnson's head injury. From my view, it was a total accident, with Bruno trying to score a goal and Billy trying to stop one. I'm glad Billy is on the mend, and I would like to thank our medical team, John and Stu, along with Wroxham's medical team, for their expertise in dealing with the situation. I'd also like to thank our staff on the night, Lynne, Tony and Steve Foley, for dealing with supporters and the arrival of the ambulance. I don't think anyone could have handled the situation better. In difficult circumstances, everything was dealt with compassion and urgency, another thing we do really well as a football club.

We then picked up a 4-1 win away at Buckhurst Hill in awful conditions, where I have to thank our travelling support. We had more fans than the home team, which is a huge credit in that weather! It was a battle from start to finish on a really nice pitch. It could have been 10-5, but the lads really dug in, and I thought we deserved the three points. We really look like we're finding that consistency I mentioned, and looking at other results in our league, there are no easy games, with everyone being very competitive and capable of beating anyone.

We've had our first free midweek in what feels like years, so the lads have had a well-earned rest this week, recharged their batteries and are ready to go again today, looking for another three points towards our target.

Enjoy the game.
Stu

TODAY'S MASCOTS ARE...



Today we are delighted to welcome the **Felixstowe & Walton United Under-7s mixed** as the Seasiders' match mascots. The team will get the chance to enjoy the matchday experience, joining the players as they take on Cambridge City.

The Under-7s Mixed have their shower coats sponored by **Grange Shipping**. A huge thank you goes to the sponsor for their fantastic support.

We hope all of our mascots, along with their coaches and families, have a fantastic day at the match and enjoy the experience of representing the Seasiders.

Enjoy your day, Sea Sea Seasiders!!

GRANGE SHIPPING



SEASIDER: PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this...

I had a conversation recently. Well, maybe not a conversation, perhaps better described as an exchange of views, where the other party was having a go at match officials and seemingly branding them all the same based on a particular game he had been watching.

One of the things I do is keep records of games throughout a season, including bookings, cautions, red cards and dismissals in my stats. This week, I sat down and went through my stats for the 20 games played to date. I discarded two games: the first was an FA Cup game where the information I received was not reliable, and the second was a recent game which was abandoned at half-time.

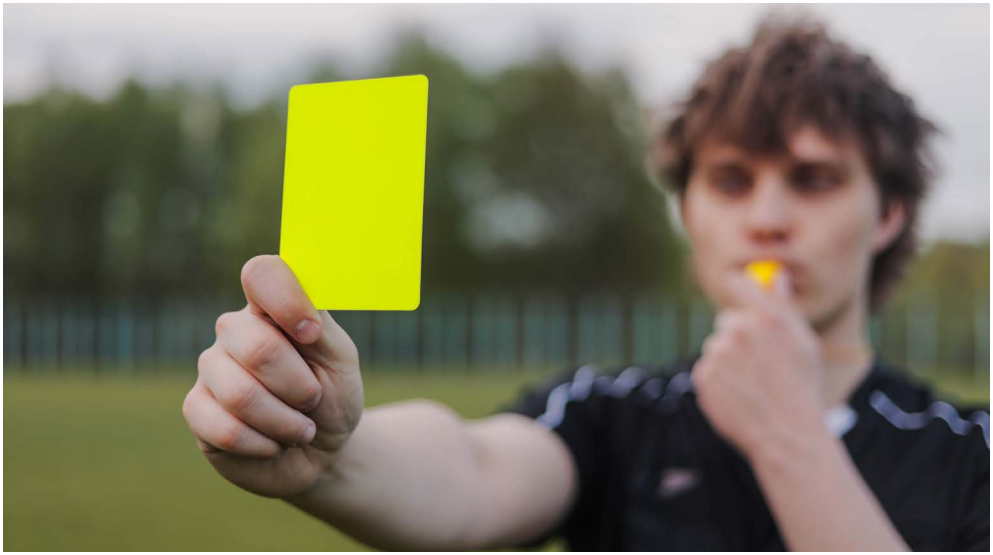
That left 18 games, with two of the match officials appearing twice. I didn't distinguish between home and away sides by name, as I thought that might unduly influence me... 'Homer', 'Did you get a ride on the visitors' bus?' etc., etc.

So, it was 18 games and 16 referees who produced a total of 61 yellow cards over the period. That's an average of 3.39 cards per match. At first glance, 61 cards seemed a lot, but the average of just over three per game seemed to me to be a realistic figure.

Of those cards, 34 were shown to home players and 27 to players from the visiting sides, which also kicked into touch the claim that referees were 'homers'.

Interestingly, one game saw the match official show a yellow card 10 times, but five were against the home side and five against the visiting side. So, if I were to discard that game as an exception, it would still leave the percentage figures the same.

My conclusion was that, overall, we have a decent standard of officials at Step 4 who make honest decisions. They don't always get it right, but then we could easily look at players and see how they compare!!



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SJP Approved 28/01/2026

SJP14332a_DS B3 (08/24)


BRUNO
TAVARES

BRUNO READY TO MAKE HIS MARK WITH THE SEASIDERS!

New Felixstowe & Walton United signing Bruno Tavares is determined to make his mark at the Martello Ground as he sets his sights on goals, victories and helping the Seasiders push for promotion.

Firstly Bruno, welcome to Felixstowe & Walton United! How pleased are you to have joined the Seasiders?
I'm really pleased to be here! Felixstowe is a club I've known about for a while, and I've always had a lot of respect for what they've achieved over recent seasons. Everyone has been really welcoming since I arrived, and I'm excited to get going properly, enjoy my football and hopefully give the supporters plenty to cheer about.

Can you tell us a little bit about how the move came about? Who made the first contact and how quickly did things progress from there?
The club made an approach while I was at Redbridge, and things moved fairly quickly from there. I had some really positive conversations with the management about their plans, how they saw me fitting into the team and what they wanted from me. It's always nice to feel wanted as a player, and from those initial conversations, I got a really good feeling about the club. Everything just seemed to fall into place naturally.

What was it about Felixstowe & Walton United that convinced you this was the right club for you at this stage of your career?
A combination of things, really. The ambition of the club, the quality of the players and the environment they've built here. Having played against Felixstowe, I already knew the quality they had, and their performances over recent seasons speak for themselves. At this stage of my career, I want to be somewhere I can enjoy my football, express myself and, most importantly, contribute to bringing success to the club. I still have a lot I want to achieve in football, and I felt Felixstowe was the right place to continue that journey. Not just this season, but for the foreseeable future.



Did you already know any of the players or coaching staff before signing, or are you getting to know everyone for the first time?
I'm still getting to know everyone properly, but having played against the lads earlier in the season, I already knew there was plenty of quality in the dressing room. Everyone has been really welcoming, which always makes settling into a new club easier. There's a good mix of personalities and experience here, and I'm looking forward to building those relationships both on and off the pitch.



Now, we can't let you get away without mentioning those TWO goals you scored against us for Redbridge earlier in the season! Do you feel you've got a bit of making up to do with the Seasiders faithful? We reckon a few goals in a Felixstowe shirt might help them forgive you!

Haha, I had a feeling this question was coming! I suppose the good news is that I'm on your side now! As a striker, you always want to score goals, regardless of who you're playing against. Hopefully, I can make it up to the supporters by scoring a few in a Felixstowe shirt instead. I'm sure they'll forgive me eventually!

For the supporters who haven't seen much of you in action yet, how would you describe yourself as a player? What can the Seasiders fans expect from you on the pitch?

I'd describe myself as a quick, direct and technically strong attacking player. I like to play with confidence, take players on, create chances and, of course, score goals. I'm comfortable playing anywhere across the front line, and I enjoy expressing myself on the pitch. I like to entertain, but I'm also very competitive. I want to make things happen whenever I'm on the ball, and hopefully that's something the supporters will enjoy watching.

Looking at the squad you've joined and the quality within the dressing room, what do you believe this Felixstowe side can achieve this season?

For me, a club like Felixstowe should be competing for the league title. The club has been knocking on the door of promotion for a while, and I'd love to help get it over the line. That shows the standards that have been set here. There's a lot of quality in this squad, and a number of the lads have played at higher levels, myself included, so there's plenty of experience and an understanding of what it takes to compete. Of course, nothing is given to you in football, and we've got to earn everything on the pitch. But I genuinely believe we've got what it takes to challenge at the top, and that's exactly where a club like Felixstowe should be aiming to finish.

Every striker loves scoring goals, so we have to ask - have you set yourself a personal goal target for the remainder of the season, or are you keeping that number to yourself for now?

I've definitely got a number in mind, but I think I'll keep that one to myself for now! I've always been someone who sets high standards personally. As an attacking player, goals and assists are what I want to contribute, but ultimately, the most important thing is helping the team win games. Hopefully, by the end of the season, the numbers will speak for themselves!

Finally Bruno, you've already had a couple of games under your belt in a Seasiders shirt, but have you got a message for the Felixstowe supporters as you look forward to the rest of the season?

Firstly, a big thank you for the welcome I've received so far! I've already seen how passionate the supporters are, and it's always a great feeling playing in front of fans who really get behind their team. I'm excited to be here, and I just want to enjoy my football, give everything I've got and hopefully create some great memories with everyone at the club. Keep getting behind us, and hopefully we'll give you plenty of reasons to celebrate!

FOCUS ON:
BRUNO



FULL NAME: Bruno Tavares

NICKNAME: B/Bruninho/Brunski

BORN: 30 December 1998, Portugal

OCCUPATION: Hospitality Manager/Model

POSITION: Striker/Centre Attacking Midfielder

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Dover Athletic, Hastings United & Redbridge, amongst others

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: When I scored FIVE in a league match!

BEST GOAL SCORED: I would definitely say when I flicked the ball from a high goal kicked and lobbed the keeper from outside the box.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Ebbsfleet United in 2022/2023 when they won the National League South. Ridiculous team.

WHICH TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT: Manchester United ❤️

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: I really like tennis, athletics and basketball.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Anything Italian.

TAKEAWAY OF CHOICE: Pizza with BBQ base and pepperoni.

ANNOYED BY: Not winning games of football & not scoring.

FAVOURITE DRINK: Rubicon Mango.

FAVOURITE SINGER/BAND: Gunna/Brent Faiyaz/Drake & more.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: There's too many to choose from!

FAVOURITE FILM: Infinity War & Paid in Full are my two favourites.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Portugal

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Cristiano Ronaldo 🐐



ROWING AND BAKING THEIR WAY TO HOLLAND!

BACK OUR U15s' EUROPEAN ADVENTURE!

Felixstowe & Walton United U15s are fundraising for an incredible opportunity to compete in the prestigious Holland Cup in the Netherlands this Easter. To help get our team there, we are hosting a cake sale and sponsored row on Saturday, 31st October, right here at the Martello ground when the Felixstowe & Walton First Team takes on Cambridge City. Our players will be putting in the miles on the rowing machines and serving delicious treats throughout the match day.

Representing our local community on an international stage, our young players will join over 220 teams from across Europe in Almere, Netherlands, testing their skills against top-tier continental talent. This tour is far more than just football; it is a chance for our squad to build lifelong memories, experience new cultures, and grow both as individuals and as a team.

Kasper, assistant photographer to Stefan and a recent addition to our U15s squad, will also be out and about taking photos during the game, with a collection bucket by his side for anyone wishing to make a donation towards the trip!

Every donation, cake purchased, or pound sponsored directly supports our travel, accommodation, and tournament registration costs. Please come along, show your support, and grab a treat to help back the boys!

FREE ENTRY!

EJA FOOTBALL UNDER THE LIGHTS

ON MONDAY NIGHT OUR EJA U15s TAKE THEIR TURN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club

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SEASIDERS U15s (EJA)

VS

AFC SUDBURY

AFC SUDBURY U15s (EJA)

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BACK THE YOUNG SEASIDERS!

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED 2

Santa De La Paz, Whight

WALTHAMSTOW 1

Mustafa

Saturday 17th October
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Brown, Stevenson Allen, Whight (C), Statham, Garcia Jones, Santa De La Paz, Hitter, Warren

SUBS: Holland, Harrison, Mayhew Ainsley, Tavares




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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United FC playing squad and management team of 2026/2027



JACK AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
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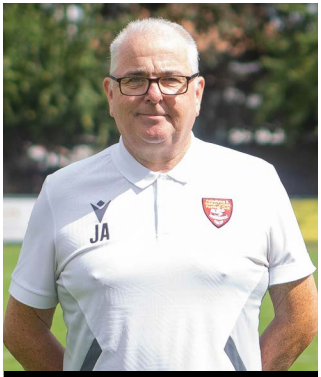
STUART AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
Pat Haseman



STUART STEVENSON
FITNESS COACH
Chris Walne



ALEX EGELTON
GOALKEEPER COACH/COACH
Neil Edwards



JOHN ABBOTT
PHYSIO
Paul Secker



DOUG FRENCH
KIT MAN
Angus & Kate



LUKE ALLEN
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FORWARD
Jeff, Stefan & Karen Peck



THOMAS WARREN
MIDFIELDER
Sharon & Gary Hills



JOE WHIGHT
DEFENDER
Joe Ward



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GOALKEEPER
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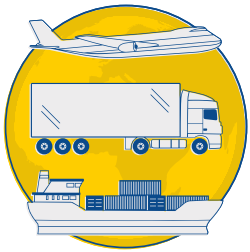


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SEASIDERS PEN PICS

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





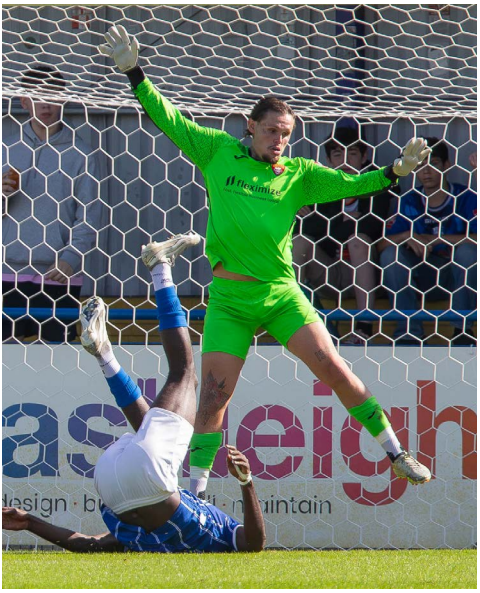









Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots. Having found his vocation in washing players dirty pants, Doug is excited for another season with the Seasiders.



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.

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.

Callum Harrison
A fan favourite and naturally gifted No.10, Callum made 109 appearances scoring 35 goals 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.

Bruno Tavares
Bruno joined the Seasiders in October 2026 from Redbridge, having impressed against Felixstowe earlier in the season. A quick, direct and technically gifted attacking player, he is comfortable anywhere across the front line. With pace, flair and an eye for goal, Bruno brings creativity, experience and attacking quality to the squad. Other previous clubs include Dover Athletic and Hastings United.





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.

It was a first-ever visit to Buckhurst Hill for The Seasiders last weekend, but no one thought to tell Storms Austen or Boelo (Boo-lah).

The alarm sounded, it was dark, and it sounded incredibly windy outside. I reached for my phone to snooze the dulcet tones of Kevin Rowland, and there they were: Greater Anglia notifications. The 08:10 train was cancelled. Tree down, power cables extinguished.

I had planned to pick Lorro up at 7:00 am for the 07:28, but this now seemed like a fruitless exercise. Instead, I set about seeking options. It was Lorro's lad, Jed, who noticed diesel trains were running between Ipswich and Colchester, and so a plan was formulated. Mistley John would get a taxi to Manningtree Station (nothing at all moving between Harwich and Manningtree) and we would get a later train, utilising whatever rolling stock was available.

Greater Anglia had urged customers not to travel unless the journey was absolutely necessary (which ours obviously was), so we hoped we could at least start our day without too much fuss. We made a quick coffee stop at Ipswich station, where we met an Ipswich fan and his daughter who were about to embark on their journey home after seeing Ipswich Town draw 1-1 with Nottingham Forest the night before. Only problem for them, though, was that "home" happens to be Paris. Having brought their Eurostar booking forward to avoid getting home in the evening at peak riot time, they now faced the real possibility of not getting to St Pancras in time for their connection. And we thought we had problems!

Shaun joined us on the 09:43 train, and Mistley John likewise a while later, but for them, it was standing room only. This was particularly harsh on John, as no taxis were available, so he had walked the two miles from his home to the station. If you can bottle devotion, it's right there!

Despite resembling tuna at a canning factory, both journeys to Stratford went well. Lorro and I had managed to grab table seats from Ipswich, and we shared stories of F&W with another Ipswich fan on his way home to Hertfordshire, and a



Norwich City fan on the way to Charlton Athletic for their 12:30 pm kick-off. The carriage was full of Canaries, most of them deeply concerned about making kick-off.

Thankfully, it was dry when we reached Stratford and headed to the Central Line. There are a couple of pubs near Buckhurst Hill station, but these do not open until noon, so our first port of call was The Walnut Tree on the Leytonstone High Road. Another in the classic Wetherspoons model of "pack 'em in", it was like being back on the train. Some decent quality beer was on offer, though, with John and I enjoying the JHB (Jeffrey Hudson Bitter) from Oakham Brewery, and it was very nice indeed. Big Neil would have approved, I'm sure, as this particular brew was the Gold medal winner at the 2025 CAMRA East Anglia/East Central Area Champion Beer of Britain Awards in the Session Pale, Blond and Golden Ales category (thanks 'tinternet for that info).

A downpour outside (where else?) had me reaching for my Uber app, as the appeal of heading back to the tube and then walking the 10-12 minutes to the ground was quickly disappearing—much like the throng of West Ham fans who were now leaving for The London Stadium. How they must miss Upton Park. Instead, we had a very happy and chatty driver, Ivan, for the next half an hour as he took us north through Woodford to our destination. He kindly made a slow approach past Winston Churchill's former Woodford residence from when this was his constituency, pointing out the neighbouring statue which, according to our driver-cum-tour guide, is one of just two in the UK.

On to the Roding Lane ground, and dodging the puddles, we soon found our way to the clubhouse. It's very small and totally devoid of draught beers, with only cans available at £3.50 to £4.00 a time. If The Stags are to remain at Step 4, there are a number of improvements they will need to make to their ground to meet the grading criteria, including clubhouse improvements and perimeter fencing, to name but two. But first and foremost, they need to get some points on the board—although they can start to focus on that after our fixture.





At 2:56 pm, we headed outside to watch a game of football which was to be played in very wet and windy conditions. The overriding feeling was just one of gratitude that the game was on and that we did not have to come back here on a Tuesday night in November or December. Although, deep down, we always knew at any time the man in the middle might decide to call it a day and end the contest. All we could do was watch and hope.



By half-time, the points were all but secured and heading back to Suffolk. Goals from Tom Warren, Josh Hitter and Josh Mayhew sent us sheltering with the job seemingly done. The warmish HT pasta was most welcome, although there was not a lot of room for Vice Chairman Andy Clarke to serve it up. If we thought the points were safe, we had not reckoned on Buckhurst, and having made three changes at the break, they were back in the game on the hour mark with one of the new boys finding the net. A mini-panic of sorts was unfurling in front of our very eyes, but our fears were finally put to bed with 10 minutes left when an own goal restored our three-goal advantage, allowing us to once again enjoy what was left of the match.

At full time it was back to the clubhouse to find out via Mrs Mistley that no trains were running at all that evening, meaning we would have to sleep in the goals tonight or head to Soho for the evening. Soho sounded like the better option, until some kind soul insisted we go home on the coach with the sensible supporters and players. A quick tally of numbers confirmed there was enough room for us, and we were all very grateful for the kind gesture.

Of course, the players needed a post-match drink, so it would have been rude for us not to board with supplies too, and they certainly made the journey easier as I am not the best coach traveller in the world.

Sadly, Harry's famous beatbox-karaoke machine was out of charge, so it was a quieter trip than I had been expecting. I did, however, manage to learn the words to a new song:

HIIIIIIIIT-ER……..
HIIIIIIIIT-ER……..
HIIIIIIIIT-ER……..

Thanks for reading and enjoy the match.
Up the Seasiders!





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BY JON COUCH

SELECTING the TV picks for FA Cup matches always sparks lively debate.

Ultimately, you can't please all of the people all of the time, but every year it seems there are ties, invariably involving Non-League sides, who can consider themselves unfortunate to miss out.

That is indeed the case once again in this year's first round proper draw – there are so many good ties to choose from.

Let's be honest, TV companies – in this year's case TNT Sports, and to a lesser extent, the BBC - have to ensure that viewing figures reflect the vast amounts of money they spend on securing TV rights for the world's most famous cup competition.

But there are always some ties who will rightly feel aggrieved they've been overlooked.

Take Boreham Wood v Wigan Athletic for example. Luke Garrard's Wood are setting the National League alight so far this season, while League One strugglers Wigan lifting the trophy at Wembley as recently as 2013, under Roberto Martinez.

And there are many more too. Hornchurch must've thought they were in with a shout for their visit of Blackpool, similarly Kidderminster Harriers for their home tie with Doncaster Rovers or even Carlisle United against League Two leaders Salford City.

But AFC Rushden & Diamonds' story is surely deserving of a place in the spotlight when they travel to Burton Albion.

Elliot Sandy's men have beaten higher opposition three times and won six games to get to the first round for the first time in their history as a club – and fanbase – who have started again after their previous guise folded. It's what the FA Cup is all about.

Instead, we've got an all-League One clash between Peterborough United and Reading because Posh boss Robbie Savage will be up against his son Charlie.

This is nothing against the Savages. But the £50,000 broadcast fee would have been huge for Diamonds and helped to build even more of a legacy from this run. They might not make it this far again for a number of seasons, whereas, Peterborough play Reading again in December!

That's not to say we don't have some mouth-watering match-ups to look forward to.

In perhaps the tie the round, Oxford City kick us off this Friday night with the visit of League One big guns Leicester City, who lifted the trophy with a 1-0 win over Chelsea at Wembley just five years ago!

Isthmian Premier side Cray Wanderers host current League One leaders Stockport County on Sunday, just before Step 4 Wimborne Town, of Southern League Division One South, take on League Two strugglers Crawley Town.

And the TV games on Saturday are no-brainers also. Stafford Rangers, fresh from their 5-0 thumping of Gateshead in the last round, welcome Grimsby Town, of League Two, in a tasty lunchtime serving, while Altrincham, with all their cup pedigree, take on Notts County in what promises to be a teatime humdinger.

But perhaps the most pleasing TV pick has been saved for Monday night when Plymouth Parkway and Berkhamsted meet in an all-Southern League Premier South clash.

It's not often that TV companies plump for live all-Non-League clashes at this stage of the competition but there's certainly no complaints our end!

NON-LEAGUE TV PICKS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6
Oxford City v Leicester City (ko 7.45pm, live on TNT Sports 1/HBO Max)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7
Altrincham v Notts County (ko 5.30pm, live on TNT Sports/HBO Max and BBC Two/iPlayer)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8
Stafford Rangers v Grimsby Town (ko 12pm, live on TNT Sports 1/HBO Max), Cray Wanderers v Stockport County (ko 2.15pm, live on TNT Sports 3/HBO Max and BBC Two/iPlayer), Wimborne Town v Crawley Town (ko 3pm, live on TNT Sports 1/HBO Max)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9
Plymouth Parkway v Berkhamsted (ko 7.30pm, live on TNT Sports 1/HBO Max)

*includes the live Second Round Proper draw prior to kick-off

ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2026/27

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Gorleston	14	9	3	2	25	14	+11	30
2	Newmarket Town	13	9	2	2	25	14	+11	29
3	Hashtag United	14	8	3	3	41	13	+28	27
4	Redbridge	13	8	2	3	30	24	+6	26
5	Little Oakley	13	8	2	3	24	23	+1	26
6	**Cambridge City**	**12**	**8**	**1**	**3**	**36**	**13**	**+23**	**25**
7	**Felixstowe & Walton United**	**14**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**28**	**23**	**+5**	**24**
8	Wroxham	13	7	2	4	29	18	+11	23
9	Concord Rangers	13	6	3	4	29	22	+7	21
10	Walthamstow	16	6	2	8	24	22	+2	20
11	Bowers & Pitsea	15	5	5	5	22	28	-6	20
12	Canvey Island	14	5	3	6	20	22	-2	18
13	Tilbury	15	4	6	5	19	23	-4	18
14	Witham Town	12	5	2	5	22	23	-1	17
15	Takeley	12	5	1	6	15	21	-6	16
16	AFC Sudbury	15	4	3	8	27	27	0	15
17	Mulbarton Wanderers	12	4	2	6	17	17	0	14
18	Grays Athletic	14	4	1	9	20	28	-8	13
19	Buckhurst Hill	13	3	2	8	18	26	-8	11
20	Brightlingsea Regent	14	2	5	7	16	24	-8	11
21	Fakenham Town	13	2	2	9	15	30	-15	8
22	Lowestoft Town	14	2	1	11	10	57	-47	7

LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026 AT 21:52:23



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Warren, Hitter, Mayhew, OG

Saturday 24th October
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Brown, Stevenson Allen, Whight (C), J Ainsley, Hitter Jones, Mayhew, Tavares, Warren

SUBS: Garcis, Harrison, Santa De La Paz S Ainsley, Holland




flexlimize




fleximize


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fleximize




8
10


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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** Harrison, Warren, Mayhew	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**	**W 3-2**	**ATT 193**
SAT 19	**HASHTAG UNITED**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**	**D 0-0**	**ATT 435**
TUE 22	**AFC SUDBURY** Warren (2)	**H**	**7.45PM**	**LEAGUE**	**D 2-2**	**ATT 356**
SAT 26	MULBARTON WANDERERS Hitter, Whight, Garcia	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 280
TUE 29	FAKENHAM TOWN Holland, Warren, Garcia	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 3-3	ATT 122

OCTOBER

SAT 3	**CANVEY ISLAND** Garcia (2), Mayhew	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**	**W 3-1**	**ATT 510**
WED 7	GORLESTON	A	7.45	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 122
SAT 10	WITHAM TOWN Santa De La Paz (2)	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 236
TUE 13	**IPSWICH WANDERERS** OG, Warren	**H**	**7.45PM**	**SUFFOLK FA PREMIER CUP**	**L 3-2**	**ATT 324**
SAT 17	**WALTHAMSTOW** Santa De La Paz, Whight	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**	**W 2-1**	**ATT 324**
SAT 24	BUCKHURST HILL Warren, Hitter, Mayhew, OG	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 83
SAT 31	**CAMBRIDGE CITY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**		

NOVEMBER

SAT 7	TAKELEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	**TILBURY**	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**
TUE 17	**WROXHAM**	**H**	**7.45PM**	**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 @3PM

PITCHING IN

PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday 31st October

Buckhurst Hill v Little Oakley
Concord Rangers v Gorleston
Fakenham Town v Bowers & Pitsea
Seasiders v Cambridge City
Grays Athletic v AFC Sudbury
Hashtag United v Brightlingsea Regent
Lowestoft Town v Takeley
Newmarket Town v Tilbury
Walthamstow v Canvey Island
Witham Town v Mulbarton Wanderers
Wroxham v Redbridge

THE OTHER SIDE
CAMBRIDGE CITY FC

CLUB HISTORY - EARLY YEARS

The club was formed in 1908 as Cambridge Town, the direct descendant of the earlier Cambridge St Mary's club which had folded at the end of the 1907-1908 season following a dispute with the local Cambs FA. As a torchbearer for amateur football in the days when many clubs viewed the professional game with disdain, the new club affiliated itself with the recently established Amateur Football Association rather than the local FA. Trophy success came early, with a notable victory being achieved in the International Du Nord Trophy in 1912 after beating host club Tourquennois in Northern France.

Cambridge Town amalgamated with an earlier Cambridge United club in May 1914, joined the Cambs FA, and in turn gained entry into the FA Cup and the FA Amateur Cup for the first time, whilst retaining their AFA links. The club's best ever run in the Amateur Cup came in 1928 when they reached the semi Final only to lose to Leyton at Fulham's Craven Cottage ground. Town had successes in the Southern Amateur League, winning the title five times between 1920 and 1931. The club joined the Spartan League in 1935, winning the Premier Division in 1948 & 1949 before stepping up to the Athenian League in 1950. Cambridge was granted City status in 1951 and with it the club's name change to Cambridge City

Southern League Champions

City left the amateur game in 1958 and joined the Southern League, gaining a place in the Premier Division of the Southern League at the first attempt. City won the Premier Division in 1962/63, edging out local rivals Cambridge United in an enthralling title race with the local derby at Milton Road being witnessed by over 11,500 people. City were regular challengers for the title and had the highest attendances in non-league football up until the mid-1960s. But City lost their way and were relegated to Southern League Division 1 in 1968. Promotion back to the Premier Division followed in 1970, the same year that Cambridge United were elected to the Football League.

CAMBRIDGE CITY PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALI DIXON, IAIN WALKER AND BEN SAICH



Strife in the 1970s
City finished Southern League runners up in 1970/71, but the latter years of the decade were a real struggle. Relegation in 1975/76 saw crowds dwindle and the Club fall into decline. In 1977, Directors decided that the club should join the Isthmian League. At the time this was seen as a backward step by many supporters. With scenes that would be repeated 30 years later, a subsequent fans' protest forced most of the Board to resign. The club thus remained in the Southern League.

Better times
After the redevelopment of the ground in the mid 1980's, City gradually improved and a new generation of fans mobbed their heroes after the 1985/86 Southern League Southern Division championship was won on the last day of the season. The goal scoring exploits of Gary Grogan were instrumental in City's recovery, according him a 'City Legend 'status. Since the turn of this century, City have reached the 1st round proper of the FA Cup four times and the 2nd round once, a record far better than achieved by the more illustrious City sides of the 1960s.

Ups and downs
Recent seasons have been a roller-coaster ride for the City faithful. City's best season for 30 years saw them finish runners up in the inaugural Conference South season in 2004/05, going on to lose in the play-offs. Off the field the ground had been sold to pay off mounting debts and matters took a turn for the worse in 2006 when the then Board announced an agreement to allow City to be absorbed into





Cambridge United. With City on the brink of extinction, supporters were galvanised into a campaign which eventually forced Directors to resign, to be replaced by members of the Cambridge City Supporters' Trust. The opening league match of 2006/07 was arguably the most memorable since the early 1960s – not merely because City won with a stoppage time winner at Havant & Waterlooville, but because it offered irrefutable proof that that City had survived a blatant attempt to kill it off and were very much alive and kicking. City celebrated their centenary in 2008, but were demoted at the end the 2007/08 season due to over-zealously applied ground regulations. This decision ended 22 consecutive seasons in the 2nd tier of non-league football. City lost out to Gloucester City in the 2008/09 play-off. In the 2009/10 season, City won the Southern League Cup for the first time and finished one point shy of a playoff place. With the ground sold, a groundshare agreement was in place with Newmarket Town for the 2010/11 season but a last minute offer from the landlord meant that City had another season in its own stadium and celebrated by securing a place in the playoffs with a 4th place finish in the league. However, this was met with disappointment again as the team lost at Salisbury City. Another reprieve following a new deal with the landlord gave City two more seasons at Milton Road, 2011/12 and 2012/13. Once again the play-offs were reached but again an away defeat in the semi final, this time at Oxford City. This disappointment was however tempered by the news that the club has secured a site on which to build a new stadium and training complex in Sawston. City ultimately missed out on a play-off spot in the 2012/13 season, but the club enjoyed a FA Cup run, with a televised first round proper home tie with MK Dons producing a fantastic night with a nil nil draw at Milton Road before losing in the replay at Stadium MK. With the lease on the stadium finally coming to an end, April 27th 2013 saw the last ever first team match at the ground before a large crowd with mixture of tears and smiles. Adrian Cambridge had the honour of scoring the last ever goal at Milton Road in the one nil victory over Redditch United.

New era

A new era for the club commenced in August 2013 starting with a ground-share at Histon FC. City once again reached the play-offs that season but once again tasted semi final defeat, this time at home to St Albans City. The 2015-16 season saw City move to share at St Ives Town FC. Manager Gary Roberts



left in the summer of 2016 after 13 years at the club. His replacement Dan Gleeson had a short and ultimately unsuccessful spell in charge, former player Robbie Nightingale taking over as manager in December 2016. Robbie won his first game in charge to boost City's hopes of avoiding the drop. City's playing record improved culminating in five wins and a draw in their last six games but ultimately it was not enough and the club was relegated to step four for the first time. Hopes of bouncing straight back were dashed when City lost in the play-off to Hartley Wintney. In the summer of 2019 City were moved laterally to The Isthmian League. City's debut season in the league seemed on course for an exciting conclusion with the club on an unbeaten 7 game run in February & March, with no goals conceded, and the play-offs were in sight. However, as well all know the global pandemic saw the season declared null and void as was the 2020-21 season . Another league switch occurred in the summer of 2021, City being placed in the Northern Premier League. After three below par seasons in the NPL Midland Division, Robbie Nightingale's 7 ½ years in charge came to an end, signing off with by winning the Cambs Invitation Cup for the first time in 7 years. City were back in the Isthmian North for the 2024-25 season and the club started the season sharing at Westwood Road in St Ives under the guidance of new manager Jamie Cureton. After over 10 ½ years of ground sharing City moved into their new Stadium in Sawston on 30th November 2024, losing the opening match 2-1 to Tilbury watched by 1,459 people. Mickey Spillane replaced Jamie Cureton as manager in October 2025 and he enters his first full season in charge with the internal fit-out of the main stand facilities finally completed.





THE OTHER SIDE
CAMBRIDGE CITY FC



MANAGEMENT TEAM

MICKEY SPILLANE
Mickey was appointed as our manager in October last season. He has 39 international caps for the Republic of Ireland at Under-17, Under-18, Under-19 and Under-21 levels. His English playing career began with four seasons at Norwich City. Subsequent moves took him to Brentford, Dagenham & Redbridge, Southend United, Cambridge United, Sutton United and Lowestoft Town, before he joined Chelmsford City, where he made over 110 appearances. He was appointed assistant manager to Robbie Simpson in January 2020.

ROB MOORE
Rob joined City alongside Mickey in October last season as first-team coach. He was also a coach with Chelmsford City's academy and previously managed Hullbridge Sports.

DANNY CROW
Danny enjoyed a successful playing career, with spells at Luton Town, Cambridge United and Norwich City, among others. He left his role as assistant manager at Wroxham to become assistant manager at City in October last season.

NICK KEYS
Nick joined City as goalkeeping coach in 2024, having previously worked with Jamie Cureton at Maldon & Tiptree. He began his career at the old Wimbledon Academy before moving to Colchester United and then spent nearly 20 years playing non-league football. His former clubs include Hornchurch, Bowers & Pitsea, Tilbury and Maldon & Tiptree.

PLAYERS

JAMES PHILP (28)
James is a goalkeeper who previously played for

St Neots Town, Haverhill Rovers and Hashtag United. More recently, he was with AFC Sudbury, from whom City signed him in October 2024. He was voted Supporters' Player of the Year last season.

GENE GHAG (19)
Gene is a goalkeeper who has progressed through our youth setup to become a member of the first-team squad. Whenever called upon, he has proved himself to be a very capable goalkeeper. Last season, he played for Great Wakering Rovers on dual registration and also had a trial at Colchester United.

CHARLIE NORMAN (28)
Charlie is a full-back who spent his early years at Sheringham and Norwich City. During the 2022/23 season, he helped Lowestoft Town reach the play-off semi-finals. The following season, he helped them win the title and secure promotion to the Southern Premier Division. He made 38 appearances at that level before switching to Wroxham last season, where he was ever-present in their pursuit of a play-off place.

TRAVIS DODSWORTH (23)
Norwich-born full-back Travis joined Wroxham at the age of 16 and progressed through to their reserve team. He has been almost ever-present over the past four seasons, earning the club's Player of the Year award last season. He was also voted into the Isthmian League North Division Team of the Season by fellow managers.

CHARLIE LEWIS (28)
Charlie was born in Cambridge and currently lives just three miles from City's ground. A defender, he spent the previous three seasons with AFC Sudbury in the Southern Premier Division. His former clubs include Histon and St Neots Town.

JAYDEN RANDELL (25)
Centre-half Jayden learned his trade in Dagenham & Redbridge's youth setup. He has since played for Wealdstone, Aveley (in two separate spells), Concord Rangers and Maldon & Tiptree. He joined City in July 2024 and was appointed club captain.

RYAN FRYATT (32)
Ryan is a product of Norwich City's academy and plays at centre-half. After ten seasons with King's Lynn Town and a short spell at Kettering Town, he joined Peterborough Sports, where he played a major role in their promotion to the National League. Last season, while at Sports, he also had two short loan spells with Spalding United and St Ives Town.

REECE HARRIS (34)
Reece has vast experience in non-league football, from Step 1 downwards, and is comfortable playing in either midfield or defence. He captained AFC Sudbury to promotion from the Isthmian North Division in 2022/23. His former clubs include Braintree Town and Welling United, and he also won promotion from the Isthmian Premier Division with Concord Rangers.

ALEX WARMAN (29)
Alex is a midfielder who progressed through Bishop's Stortford's academy, making 60 first-team appearances. He later joined Enfield, where he made 100 appearances and enjoyed promotion from the Essex Senior League. During the 2023/24 season, he helped Ware reach the Southern League Division One play-off semi-finals, narrowly missing out on promotion after defeat to Bedford Town. Alex joined City in the summer of 2024.

JAIDEN BABALOLA (27)
Jaiden is a goalscoring central midfielder who previously played for Concord Rangers, Saffron Walden Town, Romford and Redbridge.

DANNY NORTON (29)
Danny joined City in the summer of 2024, but injury restricted his appearances and eventually forced him to take a break from playing football. He is also City's fitness coach. His former clubs include Witham Town, Basildon United, Tilbury and Bowers & Pitsea.

SAM CHANEY (30)
Sam is a versatile player who can operate in midfield or at full-back. A product of Torquay United's academy, he progressed to their first

team and spent six seasons playing in the National League. He has since appeared for Potters Bar Town and Ware, and spent last season at Takeley.

LEWIS HAYES (19)
Lewis is a product of Chelmsford City's academy and is therefore well known to manager Mickey Spillane. A midfielder, he has gained experience at this level with Concord Rangers and has also made several appearances for Chelmsford City in the National League South.

JACK THOMPSON (22)
Jack was part of the Bowers & Pitsea side that won promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division in the 2023/24 season. A central midfielder, he previously played for Concord Rangers before joining City in the summer of 2024. He was voted Supporters' Player of the Year last April.

FREDDIE HOCKEY (21)
Freddie is a versatile attacking player who can operate anywhere across the front line or in a supporting role just behind the striker. A product of Colchester United's academy, he later joined City manager Mickey Spillane at Chelmsford City. Last summer, he signed a contract with Braintree Town and had a loan spell at Billericay Town earlier this season.

CHARLIE ROYLE (21)
Forward Charlie spent time in Norwich City's academy before joining King's Lynn Town at the age of 16. He was the leading goalscorer for their Under-19 side and was awarded a contract in the summer of 2023. He subsequently enjoyed loan spells at Heacham, Soham Town Rangers and Wroxham. Last season, he scored 13 goals for Downham Town and resisted Mickey Spillane's attempts to lure him to City.

SAMRAI GEBRAI (29)
Samrai joined City in the summer of 2024 and quickly became a fans' favourite. A left winger, he unfortunately sustained an injury that kept him out for most of last season. It was not until October this season that he was able to rejoin the squad.



FLETCHER TOLL (22)
King's Lynn-born striker Fletcher scored an impressive 100 goals in three seasons at Steps 4 and 5 with Heacham, Downham Town and Corby Town. This remarkable achievement earned him a contract with his hometown club.

RYAN KING (18)
Ryan is captain of our Under-18 side, having progressed through the club's youth system. An aggressive midfielder who is also stylish and composed on the ball, he made several appearances for the first team last season.

PHILIP MENDY (18)
Philip is a product of our youth setup and featured in the first-team squad on several occasions last season. He is comfortable playing at left-back or on the left side of midfield.

ZAC HEAD (17)
Zac is a product of our youth setup and played an integral role in the team's impressive FA Youth Cup run last season, which saw them reach the First Round Proper. He plays in midfield.

FREDDIE CROFT (17)
Freddie is another product of our youth setup who played an integral role in the team's impressive FA Youth Cup run last season, helping them reach the First Round Proper. He plays in midfield.

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PAYNE AND GAIN



BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME
Find more at **TheUntoldGame.co.uk** or on social media **@TheUntoldGame**

Form is temporary. Class is permanent. Or so the old saying goes. The idea that a player doesn't lose their ability just because they are having a bad spell on the pitch is well established, and with good reason. But we rarely look at the other side of that equation; that a previously struggling player can have good games, but they will go away again. That's not always true, though. Sometimes, a player can have an average career, and in one game can turn it all around, reaching heights they never before imagined, and breaking records along the way. For Joe Payne, scoring 10 goals in a single match did just that.

The 1935-36 season was a little bit special in terms of breaking the single match goalscoring record. In a country where nobody had, officially, scored more than seven goals, fans learned with amazement that Ted Drake of Arsenal equalled that record on 14th December, against Aston Villa. Then, less than a fortnight later, on Boxing Day, Bunny Bell scored eight for Tranmere Rovers against Oldham. After that outrageous feat, it seemed the record would stand for a considerable time. But in April, for Luton, Joe Payne upped the ante once again.

Payne was born in 1914 in a Derbyshire mining community, and did what young men did in that community; he went underground. Bringing up coal during the week, he joined the colliery team in Bolsover as a teenager, where he developed as a half back - essentially a midfielder playing so deep that he would double as an extra defender. When Luton Town sent a scout to watch the works teams in the area, he liked the look of Payne, along with two of his teammates, and took them back to Bedfordshire with him. It was 1934, and Payne became a professional.

He made just two appearances for the first team in that first season, spending much of his time at Biggleswade Town, with whom Luton shared an arrangement for getting their players up to speed, and in Luton's reserves. But the following season, he joined the first team. Solid and workmanlike, he was a decent half back but found his playing time limited. But as the season wore on through the winter, Luton suffered injuries and struggled to field a full team. On 13th April 1935, they hosted Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road, but didn't have a centre forward. Payne was pushed up field. It was a decision that changed his life.

The ten goals he scored that day - out of position - were a Football League record that still stands to this day. But, crucially for Payne, the effect was far greater than simply a place in the record books. He spent the rest of the season leading the line, no longer 'out of position' but in the position he found so natural when finally given the chance to play there. He scored both goals the following week as Luton won 2-0 at Newport

County, and kept scoring in the final few weeks of the season as his side pushed for promotion, ultimately missing out by a single point.

Luton realised what a star they had an unearthed, and in 1936-37 made him their starting striker. He repaid their faith tenfold, scoring 55 goals as they stormed the league, winning promotion. Payne had gone from an average lower league footballer to a star everyone was talking about. His exploits placed him joint third on the single season scoring charts, along with Ted Hartson of Mansfield Town, who also scored 55 goals that season. They are still joint third today.

Among those talking about Payne were the England selectors. At the end of that season, he earned a cap for the England team in a friendly against Finland. He continued his fine form, scoring two goals in the 8-0 win in Helsinki. It was his only appearance for the Three Lions, but for a player who was playing part time for a mining team just a few years earlier, it was a remarkable pinnacle of an extraordinary career.

The following year he moved on to Chelsea, his Luton record reading an incredible 72 appearances, 83 goals. In the First Division he found his feet again, despite Chelsea struggling. He scored 21 goals in 35 appearances, almost a third of the team's goals overall. But defensively, they were a shambles, conceding 80 and surviving relegation by a single point. Only the two sides below them conceded more, but with Payne's scoring record, nobody in the bottom half of the table had scored more goals.

At 25, Payne was entering the best years of his life, but sadly not the best years of his career. The following season kicked off, but on 1st September 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland, and two days later Britain was forced to declare war. The football season was suspended, and Payne's career stalled. He returned to football at the end of the war, for West Ham and then Millwall, but persistent ankle injuries stopped him from achieving the heights he had once known. He finished his career at Worcester City, before retiring back to his spiritual home in Bedfordshire.

Like so many promising players in the 1930s, Joe Payne saw his career sacrificed for the pursuit of something far greater than football. But he will always be the man who scored 10 goals in a single match.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green
The Untold Game
Find more at
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or scan the QR code
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PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club is owned and managed by Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club Ltd (by guarantee) registration number 10076800. The Chairman of the Company is Tony Barnes. The Directors of the Company are Christopher Daynes and Andrew Clarke.

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"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities. The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities."

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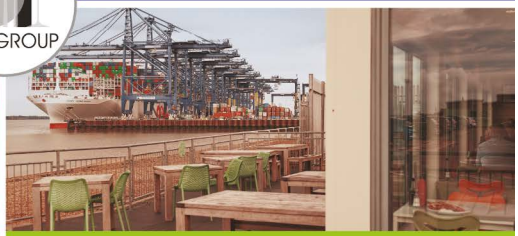
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Jack **Ainsley**
Luke **Allen**
Zak **Brown**
Ethan **Garcia**
Callum **Harrison**
Josh **Hitter**
Billy **Holland (C)**
Will **Jones**
Josh **Mayhew**
Jose **Santa De La Paz**
Brad **Smith**
Maxwell **Statham**
Toby **Stevenson**
Bruno **Tavares**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

Cambridge City FC

Manager: Mickey Spillane
Assistant Manager: Danny Crow

Jaiden **Babalola**
Sam **Chaney**
Freddie **Croft**
Travis **Dodsworth**
Ryan **Fryatt**
Samrai **Gebrai**
Gene **Ghag**
Reece **Harris**
Lewis **Hayes**
Zach **Head**
Freddie **Hockey**
Ryan **King**
Charlie **Lewis**
Rohat **Matyar**
Philip **Mendy**
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