SEASIDERS

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club

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EST 2009

THE OFFICIAL 2026/27 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:

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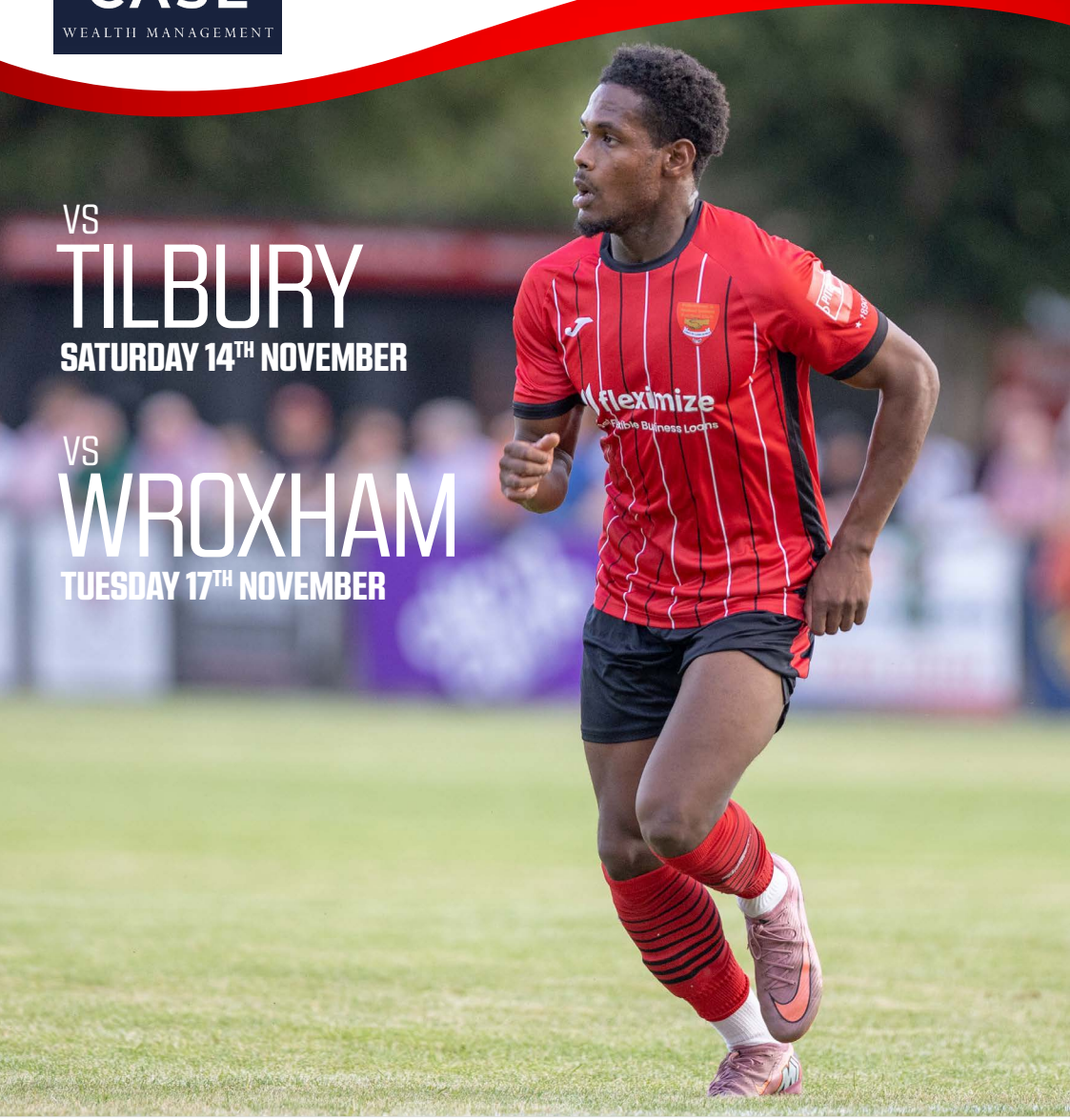

VS

TILBURY

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

VS

WROXHAM

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

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VICE CHAIRMAN: ANDY CLARKE



Good afternoon, everyone, and a warm welcome to the Martello Ground for today's encounter with Tilbury.

This programme is a double issue, so I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Wroxham, who we entertain here on Tuesday evening. Our previous meeting last month was unfortunately abandoned following a head injury to their goalkeeper, Billy Johnson. First and foremost, everyone at the club sends Billy our very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. Football results pale into insignificance on occasions like that, and we sincerely hope he is doing well. We look forward to welcoming everyone from Wroxham back to the Martello Ground on Tuesday and, hopefully, enjoying a full 90 minutes of football this time around.

Turning our attention to today's visitors, Tilbury epitomise the term mid-table, sitting comfortably in 13th spot, six points off the play-offs and six clear of the relegation places. Since we gained promotion to the Isthmian North, Tilbury have always been one of those sides who, on their day, are more than capable of holding on to a lead or snatching a late equaliser, whoever the opposition. There can be no room for complacency today, and the boys will need to be 100% on it from the get-go.

Going back to our last home game, Cambridge City were the visitors to town, a club I have the utmost respect for. They have endured some difficult circumstances over the years but have quietly gone about rebuilding their club, and they are now beginning to reap the rewards both on and off the pitch.

On this particular day, they definitely got it right on the pitch, with the Seasiders playing second fiddle to the best side I have seen to date. They won the all-important battle in the middle of the park and controlled the game, going ahead three minutes before the break. Not the end of the world; we were still in it. The second half continued in the same vein, with City making it 2-0 in the 57th minute. The most dangerous lead in football, they say, and so it would prove again, even with us down to ten after Will received a second yellow.



This team never gives up, though, and Hits got us back in it in the 67th minute. In all fairness, an equaliser didn't look likely until Max smashed home from close range following a corner. A great result against a top side. Did we deserve it? Probably not, but we'll happily take it and move on.

Next up, the minibus took us to Takeley, a ground I missed last year. I was pleasantly surprised on arrival: a nice, tight little ground, a good playing surface and a friendly welcome. With Will suspended and Jack away, a number of changes were made. That certainly didn't affect the side, though, as we played some good football and dominated the first half. Had we gone in 3-1 up, it wouldn't have flattered us, but a combination of poor finishing, good defending and Harry being on his toes to make a top save meant we went in at 0-0.

I'm not sure what was said in their dressing room at half-time, but they came out a different side and bossed the second half, with us looking dangerous on the break. It all changed in the 73rd minute when Harry produced a worldie of a save at his near post. We immediately broke, leaving Santa one-on-one with the keeper, and 1-0 it was. We defended like Trojans, keeping our shape and putting bodies on the line when needed, to keep Takeley at bay for the final 20 minutes and come away with three good points on the road.

A special mention for Max, who I felt was outstanding at the heart of the defence and easily our man of the match. Fish and chips from the chip van and a pint on my return home certainly tasted all the better after that result.

That result leaves us sitting nicely in fifth place in what looks set to be one of the most closely contested league battles we've seen for a while. Unlike last season, we find ourselves as the chasers rather than being chased. Whether that's a good thing or not, only time will tell, but we're definitely heading in the right direction.

Enjoy the games!




STUART
AINSLEY



Good afternoon/evening, everyone, and a warm welcome to the Martello Ground for our two home fixtures against Tilbury and Wroxham.

I would like to welcome the players, management, officials and supporters of both visiting clubs. We hope you enjoy your time with us and wish you a safe journey home after the games. We know both games are going to be tough, so we will have to apply ourselves in the right way to continue our good run of form.

Since my last set of notes, we've picked up a good point at home to Cambridge. At 2-0 down and down to 10 men with 20 minutes to go, the lads again showed real character to snatch a point. That was followed up with three points at Takeley after a really solid 1-0 win. I thought the lads were terrific and again put in a real shift, defended really well and took their chance to make the weekend an enjoyable one!

A final thank you to the organisers, volunteers and paying customers who supported the club's fireworks night a couple of weeks ago, raising vital funds for the football club. It was a great night, and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Enjoy the games, and let's make the most of our two home fixtures!

Stu





SEASIDER: PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this!!





This is a story of two brothers and two brothers!

Charlie, Charlie, Zak and Tom. Charlie and Zak are brothers, as are Charlie and Tom. The two Charlies (no pun intended!) play for the same club in the North West of England, while Zak and Tom play for the second most easterly club in the UK.

Charlie the elder has had a varied route to his current home, having spent time at Ipswich Town's youth set-up, Chelsea, MK Dons, Cheltenham and Morecambe before arriving at Accrington Stanley, where he is now a member of the first-team squad.

Charlie the younger has had a similarly well-travelled career, having started at Ipswich Town as a youth before moving to Needham Market Academy. He then joined us on loan, a move which became permanent, here at the Martello Ground, where he was spotted and subsequently signed by Bolton Wanderers.

Bolton sent him out on loan to Aldershot Town last season, and this season he is gaining further experience at League Two side Accrington Stanley, joining Charlie the elder!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, as they say, our final game in October was at home to one of the fancied sides for the title, Cambridge City.

The game ended all square, as those present will recall, after we came back from 2-0 down with two late goals. However, it might have been oh so different had a stunning, goal-bound volley from 20 yards in the 19th minute, struck by Charlie the elder's brother Zak, not been stopped by Charlie the younger's brother Tom!

Tom took the full force of the volley in the face, forcing him to be substituted.

Meanwhile, up north, Charlie the younger had just given Accrington the lead against Northampton Town with a fifth-minute goal. Charlie the elder was an unused substitute in that game.

Both matches finished all square. Max Statham scored our equaliser in the 91st minute, while Northampton grabbed theirs in the 92nd minute!

with one brother from each family playing League Two football for the same club, while their siblings play Step 4 non-league football for another club, 199 miles apart, with no connection between the two clubs?

It's a funny old game!

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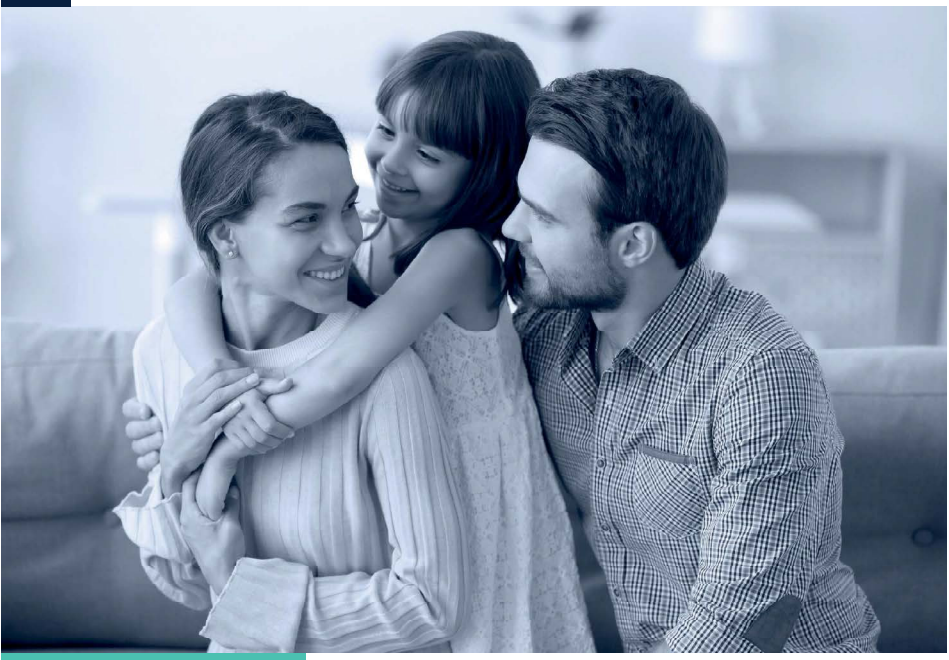

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SJP Approved 28/01/2026

SJP13570b_DS B2 (10/23)

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED 2
Hitter, Statham

CAMBRIDGE CITY 2
Anderson, Toll

Saturday 31st October
Isthmian League North
Photos: Stefan Peck

LINE UP: Wright, Brown, Stevenson
Allen, Whight, Ainsley, Hitter
Jones, Mayhew, Tavares, Warren

SUBS: Garcia, Harrison, Santa De La Paz
Holland, Statham




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TODAY'S MASCOTS ARE...



Today we are delighted to welcome the **Felixstowe & Walton United Under-9s mixed Red and White** as the Seasiders' match mascots. The team will get the chance to enjoy the matchday experience, joining the players as they take on Tilbury.

The Under-9s mixed are sponored by **A.C. Webb Electrical Contractors and S Brownlee Building Contractors**. A huge thank you goes to the sponsors for their support. We hope you all have a fantastic day at the match and enjoy the experience of representing the Seasiders!



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FOCUS ON: JOE WHIGHT



FULL NAME: Joe Whight
NICKNAME: Whighty
BORN: Ipswich
OCCUPATION: Logistics Coordination
POSITION: Centre half
PREVIOUS CLUBS: ITFC, Bury Town, Needham Market, AFC Sudbury
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Cup Finals
BEST GOAL SCORED: Panenka
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Jose Santa
WHICH TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT: Al Nassr
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf or darts
FAVOURITE FOOD: Asian
TAKEAWAY OF CHOICE: KFC
ANNOYED BY: Zak Brown
FAVOURITE DRINK: White Monster/Guinness
FAVOURITE SINGER/BAND: Bob Marley
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: The Traitors
FAVOURITE FILM: Up
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Italy
PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Dannyboy83

OUR SQUAD

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



JACK AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
Apex Container Logistics Ltd



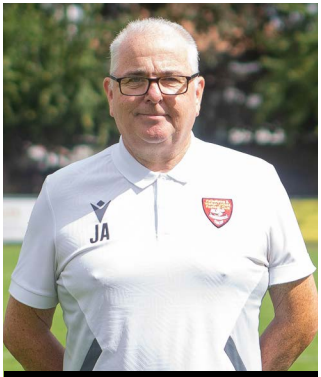
STUART AINSLEY
PLAYER/MANAGER
Pat Haseman



STUART STEVENSON
FITNESS COACH
Chris Walne



ALEX EGELTON
GOALKEEPER COACH/COACH
Neil Edwards



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PHYSIO
Paul Secker



DOUG FRENCH
KIT MAN
Angus & Kate



LUKE ALLEN
MIDFIELDER
Adam Simmons



ZAK BROWN
FORWARD
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Les & Winnifred Soall



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MIDFIELDER
Graham Long Car Centre



JOSH MAYHEW
FORWARD
The Hurrell Family



JOSE SANTA DE LA PAZ
FORWARD
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MIDFIELDER
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DEFENDER
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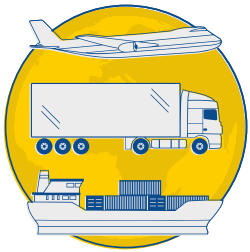
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SEASIDERS PEN PICS

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





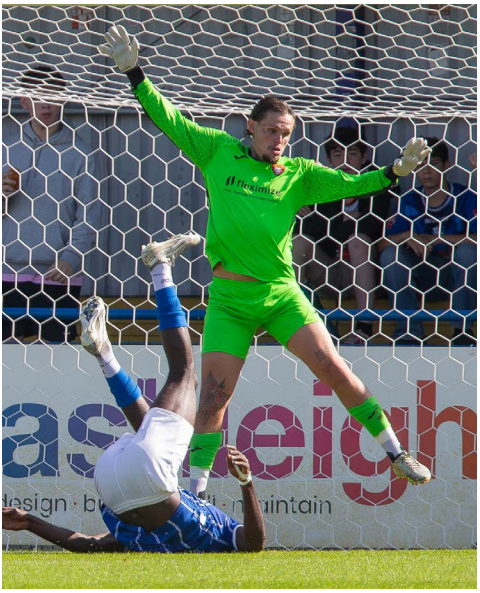









Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots. Having found his vocation in washing players dirty pants, Doug is excited for another season with the Seasiders.



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.

All roads led to Takeley for our latest away day adventure, with the memory of the comeback draw against Cambridge City seven days earlier still fresh in our minds. The last passenger train to call at Takeley was in 1952, and these days no railway lines operate from the Colchester and Chelmsford area across to Bishop's Stortford. As a result, a 70-minute car journey takes over three hours by train, via either London Liverpool Street or Cambridge.

Lorro and I were booked to travel on the supporters' minibus, but as some other fans needed transport, we surrendered our seats in favour of a lift in my old mate Mark's car. I have known Mark, or Sarge as he is known, for just shy of 30 years. Over the course of those years, he has entertained me and infuriated me to my wits' end in equal measure, but a lift to the footie is a lift to the footie at the end of the day!

Pick-up was arranged for 11.45am, and Sarge was bang on time. He was accompanied by 80-year-old John, his partner's second cousin, all the way from Chalfont St. Peter in Bucks. Time to enrol a new supporter, if only for the day.

We picked up Lorro before hitting the A14, and then at Seven Hills we left the A14. Thankfully, I was paying attention, as Sarge was driving on autopilot and heading towards his office near Portman Road. Back on the right road, we enjoyed a pleasant journey chatting about all things football with Lorro, Sarge and John, to the backdrop of an 80s indie playlist. Sarge kindly explained that it was like an indie playlist from today, but from the 80s. Who knew?

We arrived in Takeley around 1pm and headed for The Four Ashes Public House, on the main





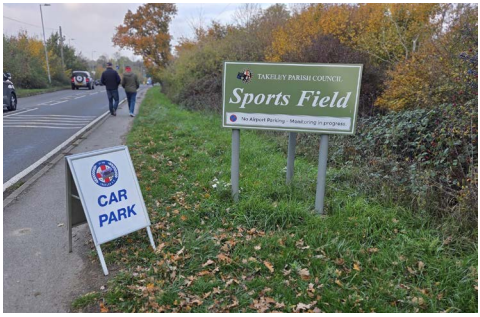
crossroads leading to The Full Vision Stadium. Mistley John was already in situ, as were two other Seasiders, Graham and his wife (name not known, big apologies!), who joined us at our table once they had eaten their lunch. It was a lovely little pub, quite busy with Leeds v Tottenham on the main screen, and a menu offering about 20 different pizzas, all hand-prepared and cooked to order. Were we tempted? You bet. Did we partake? Erm… no. Seasider Graham and his wife had ordered on arrival, and eventually one of their two pizzas arrived, with the rather grumpy sole member of staff explaining that she could only cook one at a time. At this point, we decided we would eat at the ground.

After the pizzas were finished, with leftovers shared between Lorro and the elder of the two Johns, talk turned to the forthcoming Seasiders Christmas Quiz Night, to be held at The Martello



Ground on Wednesday, December 16th (6.30pm for a 7pm start). Teams can have up to six people at £10 per person, which includes a sharing platter of festive food for each team. You can book by emailing **clubhouse@felixstowefootball.co.uk**. Yes, I have unashamedly plugged that event, so please do get booked in!

Back to the point I was making: Graham and his wife (specialist subject: medieval literature) agreed to join our team, so we are now at full strength with six confirmed. All I need to do is break the news gently to my fellow Seasiders/ Grosvenor quiz team members, Gary, Phil and Mykyla/Michala, that I will be going rogue that night. If you're reading this, guys, and I've not mentioned it already… soz!



On to the football, and the short journey to the Takeley overspill car park and into the ground soon saw my fellow passengers settled in the compact clubhouse. Meanwhile, I enjoyed a nice hot cup of tea and a slice of Battenberg in the boardroom, and Lorro kindly delivered a lovely drop of London Pride to me, before it went flat, to wash the cake down.

We already knew we were in for a tough afternoon and were also without three key players following last weekend's meeting with Cambridge City. Jack Ainsley was unavailable, top scorer Tom Warren had taken a Zak Brown piledriver full in the face and was having his face repaired, while young Will Jones had been red-carded and had to sit this one out.

The first half was goalless. I thought we shaded it, though we knew we would need to step up a gear or two if we were going to turn one point into three. Around the 73rd minute, Harry Wright produced a sensational save, diving full length





to his right. Just seconds later, Jose Santa De La Paz was through on goal, one-on-one with the keeper, and calmly slotted the ball into the net. A tense closing 15 minutes saw the hosts knocking on the door, but much like last season, the Seasiders defended stoutly. The final whistle pierced the misty Essex air, with celebrations aplenty both on and off the pitch.

At full-time, Sarge headed off to get his car while Lorro and I had a chat with Tom, Will and the Ainsley seniors (even typing this, I know it comes across differently from what I am trying to say!). We probably chatted for longer than Sarge wanted us to, as a "where are you?" phone call was received, and we eventually headed outside for the journey home.

Sadly, an earlier fatality on the A12 near Colchester (our thoughts are with everyone affected) meant our journey home took quite a bit longer than we had anticipated. We were caught in a long tailback of traffic diverted through the city and back onto the main road via Ipswich Road. On the bright side, this did allow for an emergency comfort break for all four of us at McDonald's, and a cheeseburger from the Saver Menu for Lorro's tea.

All in all, a great day out, three points gained and a Chalfont St. Peter branch of the Seasiders Supporters' Club created.

On to current matters, and we have two tough home games in the next four days. We welcome a tough Tilbury side on Saturday. Sadly, I will be absent for this one, so hopefully someone will keep me updated during the afternoon.

Then, on Tuesday night, Wroxham make a quick return for the rearranged fixture following Billy Johnson's terrible injury in the original meeting last month. It will be good to see the Wroxham players and staff again in much happier circumstances than when we said goodbye last time. Here's hoping John Abbott, his team and their Norfolk counterparts have nothing to do this time around. Legends, each and everyone of them.

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





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BY MATTHEW BADOCK

AND then there were nine.

The FA Cup first round turned out to be fairly fruitful for Non-League clubs.

Yes, there were some heavy defeats from EFL clubs not wanting to get caught in the headlines.

But we also enjoyed some memorable upsets and a decent progression of Non-League clubs into the second round. Seven clubs booked their place in the draw on Saturday – Step 3 Guiseley, National League South duo Dover Athletic and Salisbury, as well as National League foursome Kidderminster Harriers, Carlisle, Barrow and AFC Fylde.

Wimborne Town joined them on Sunday thanks to their upset of League Two Crawley Town and, on Monday night, Plymouth Parkway became the third Step 3 to join the party after winning the all-Southern League Premier South clash.

It could have been more. How it could have been. Altrincham ran Notts County close in thickest of fog, eventually losing on penalties, Hornchurch were pegged back against Blackpool and only fell in extra time.

On Sunday, Stafford Rangers led Grimsby 2-0 and then 3-2 in extra-time before seeing their dream finished in a shoot-out. Cray Wanderers led ten-man Stockport County 2-0 but suffered a late turnaround before extra-time defeat. When the dust has settled they will no doubt all look back with pride.

The second round draw delivered too. Dover – who upset Wealdstone 2-0 – pulled the big one out with a home date against former FA Cup winners Leicester City.

Wimborne's reward for their famous victory is League One high-flyers Bradford City, who stuck seven past Marine last weekend.

NPL Premier Guiseley beat Sutton to reach round two – and will now face Notts County at home.

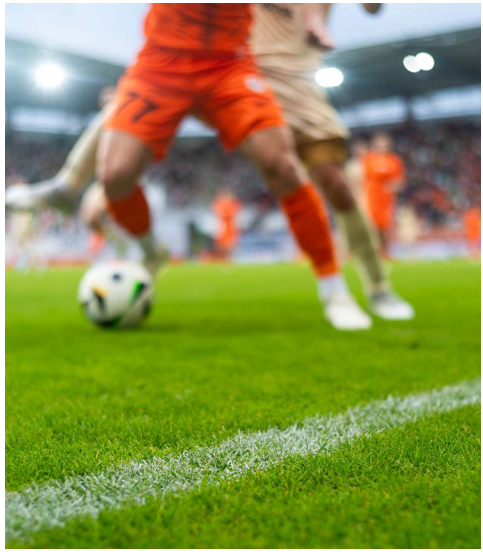
The third team of the Step 3 trio, Plymouth Parkway, take on Barnet in the south-west.

Salisbury – fresh from seeing off Sholing – host Blackpool and AFC Fylde will welcome Luton Town.

Carlisle United's impressive win over Salford City sees them make the trip to last season's National League winners York City.

And then there's Kidderminster Harriers, who stuck three past Doncaster Rovers in their first round win, making the trip to fellow National League side Barrow, managed by former manager Adam Murray, in the only all Non-League tie.

The games take place in early December. Certainly one will be remaining. But how many more can join them?







FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED EJA U14S 2
AFC SUDBURY EJA U14S 1

Wednesday
28th October
BY STEFAN PECK



















Well done to our two Ollie's from the U13 EJA group. Both lads joined the U14 squad for the cup win against AFC Sudbury on Wednesday evening.

'This type of progression is key to our ethos throughout our EJA system, providing new challenges for our players at all stages of their development. This synergy between age groups is prominent within our system and the two Ollie's are the latest two to have demonstrated the ability and attitude to handle the step up - Well done lads'

Stuart Boardley - Head of EJA





FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED EJA U15S 1
AFC SUDBURY EJA U15S 3

Monday
2nd November
BY STEFAN PECK














AWAY







THE OTHER SIDE: TILBURY FC



Tilbury F.C. now have concrete proof that they were formed in 1889, and competed in the Gravesend League from 1889/1890. With the Docks being the only employer of any size in the area, all the Players and Officials of the Club were Dockers, hence the adoption of the nickname, "The Dockers", which still stands today.

The aim of the Club was to gain success at Junior level via the Essex Junior Cup, and thereby to eventually bring Senior Level Football to the Town. Tilbury soon made a name at the Junior level, with successive League championships, and an appearance in the Final of the Junior Cup in 1903/04, where they were defeated after a replay by Chelmsford Arc Works. It was to be another 5 years before they reached the Final again, in 1908/09, but this time they carried off the Trophy by defeating the County's oldest club, Saffron Walden Town.

However, at this stage, support for the club was poor. Only a couple of miles down the road, Grays Athletic were now playing in Senior ranks, and Grays Thurrock United were playing Professionally in the Southern League. Most local fans were going to these clubs, and finances for Tilbury were very tight. At the end of the 1910/11 season, the club also lost it's home ground, and the Committee decided that the club should take a break from playing while it sought a new home base.

The intended short break stretched to three seasons, and was then further extended by the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914. As a result, it was not until 1919/20 that Tilbury were able to resume, this time in the South Essex League. They became Champions of that League in 1921/22, and were again a force in the County Junior ranks. The big push for advancement into Senior ranks came in 1924/25. The Title was again captured, and so was the Essex Junior Cup. As a result, in the following season, Tilbury were invited to enter the Essex Senior Cup instead, which they accepted, as they realised that some good results would really aid their cause.

In 1926/27, Tilbury reached the 3 rd Round of the Cup, the first Junior side to do so, and also became the first Junior club to knock a Senior club out of the Cup, when they played superbly to defeat the mighty Walthamstow Avenue 3-2. During the Summer, they were granted Senior status by the Essex F.A.

Disaster almost struck however. Application was made to several Leagues but, one by one, they were all rejected, and it looked as though Tilbury were doomed. At the very last moment, the Kent League stepped in and offered them a place, which was eagerly accepted. With Tilbury remaining as one of only 5 Amateur clubs in a Professional competition, it was no surprise that they found it tough going on the field of play.

Off the field, however, the 4 seasons spent in the Kent League were a success. Tilbury enjoyed their time in the League and made many friends and contacts. It was an off-field matter, though, that led to them eventually leaving the competition. The League had expanded in size greatly since Tilbury joined, and added to the difficulty of continually crossing the Thames was the end of season fixture congestion.

This meant a great many midweek matches and, with no Floodlights in those days, those games had to kick off at 4.30pm, and Tilbury nearly always had to field weakened teams due to players' work commitments. At the end of the 1930/31 season, the Committee very reluctantly took the decision that the club would have to move on. They made an application to join the London League, one of those that had rejected them 4 years earlier, and this time were accepted.

Tilbury stayed in the London League until 1939, when the outbreak of the Second World War led to the disbandment of most Senior Leagues. During that spell, they were twice 4 th in the table, and once reached the League Cup Final, but were mostly to be found in the bottom half of the League Table. In September 1939, all Football was forced to return to a more local basis, due to Travel restrictions and Fuel rationing. Along with 9 other local clubs, Tilbury formed the War Time South Essex Combination.

They completed the 1939/40 season in this League, but at the end of that campaign were forced to disband for the duration, when their ground was commandeered

by the Army, as a site for the Anti-Aircraft Guns brought in to protect the Docks.

Tilbury resumed in the London League in 1946/47, and then on a new home ground, the present Chadfields in 1947/48, and embarked upon a four season spell of much success and National recognition. They reached 2 successive Essex Senior Cup Finals, were 3 times League Runners Up, and were desperately unlucky to be knocked out of the F.A. Amateur Cup at the Quarter Final stage, when reduced to 9 fit men through injury.

The proudest moment, though, came in the F.A. Cup. In 1949/50, Tilbury fought their way through to the 1st Round Proper, eventually going down 0-4 away to a Notts County side led by the legendary England centre forward Tommy Lawton. In the previous round replay, at home to Gorleston, a crowd of 5,500 had packed into St. Chad's Road, and that is still the official Ground Record. The proceeds from this Cup run were used, a few years later, to buy the Freehold to the 13 acre site that the Ground stands on.

In 1950/51 Tilbury moved into the Corinthian League. Apart from one League Cup Final, this was to be a barren 7 year spell, and at the end of that time they returned to the London League. The move into the Corinthian ranks had coincided with the gradual break up of the successful but ageing post-War side. The move back to the London League now coincided with the coming together of an extremely talented bunch of local young players, that brought great success in the coming seasons.

In 1957/58, Tilbury finished 3rd in the London League, but in each of the next 4 campaigns were the undisputed Champions. On 3 occasions they also captured the League Cup. Also, in 1960/61, the Essex Senior Cup was won for the first time, when Walthamstow Avenue were beaten 4-1 (aet) in the Final, just 3 weeks after tby winning thehey had won the Amateur Cup at Wembley.



1962/63 saw Tilbury move into the Delphian League. This was to be the Winter of the "Big Freeze", which almost totally disrupted all Sport throughout the Country for a period of almost 3 months. This was to coincide with that League's last ever season. In 1963/64, that League joined the expanded Athenian League set up, becoming the bottom Division of a 3 Division set up. The Athenian League being the Premier Division, the Corinthian League being Division One and the Delphian, Division Two.

Tilbury were inaugural Champions of Division Two, also winning the Essex Senior Cup again. 5 seasons later, they completed the climb to the Premier Division, by winning the Division One championship. 5 seasons were spent in the Athenian Premier Division before, in 1973/74, they joined the newly formed Isthmian League Division Two, which was later re-named Division One.

In 1974/75, they became the first ever winners of the Isthmian League Cup, and 12 months later were the Division One Champions. 5th place in their first Premier Division season was the best Tilbury could achieve in their 5 season stay, before being relegated back to Division One.

However, during that spell, in 1977/78, Tilbury enjoyed a remarkable run in the F.A. Cup, as they started in the Preliminary Round and fought their way right through to the 3rd Round Proper, before going down 0-4 away to Stoke City. The storm clouds were already forming though, and just 2 seasons later relegation followed, amid a financial crisis so severe that the Club almost died.

Since then, Tilbury have found things tough. They have suffered relegation on several occasions, but have mostly bounced back fairly quickly, but the successes of previous years have never been re-captured.

In 2004/05, Tilbury finished their one season in the Southern League Division One East in rock bottom position, and were relegated to the Essex Senior League. They bounced back immediately, and earned a return to Isthmian ranks, and have managed to remain there since.

The past 2 seasons were moderately successful, with two 11th place finishes in the League, and in 2008/09 Tilbury won the Isthmian League Cup and the East Anglian Cup, these were their first Trophies in 30 years.

2010/2011, with a new Manager in Paul Vaughan, and a tie-up with South Essex College Academy, saw the Club hoping to build for the future. With an inexperienced squad, the first half of the campaign was a real struggle, and by Xmas Tilbury were in real danger of relegation. However, as he gained experience, Vaughan gradually rebuilt and reinforced his squad, and the 2nd half of the campaign saw a run of results that steered the Club to safety well before the end of the season.



2011/12 saw Tilbury greatly exceed their expectations, as Vaughan's squad stayed in and around the promotion race all season, clinching a play-off place with a game to spare. Sadly, though, it ended in extra time defeat against Needham Market. Success spread through the club as well, with the newly formed Reserves, comprised mainly of players under 21 years old, coming second in the Essex Senior Reserve League, and winning the League Cup.

Unfortunately, this level could not be maintained over the next few seasons, as Tilbury continually lost some of their better players to higher level clubs, and Vaughan was continually having to rebuild his squad. The Clubs Academy proved its worth in this respect, as Tilbury still managed to finish in a respectable position.

In October 2014, Paul Vaughan stepped down as Manager, and the Club acted quickly to appoint player Gary Henty as the new boss, and he acted quickly to appoint former Tilbury player Danny Smith as his assistant and another ex-"Docker" George Young as Coach.

Tilbury finished that season in a comfortable lower mid-table position, but showed great improvement in 2015/16, at one time being as high as 5th, on the back of a very long unbeaten run. This included good runs in both the Essex Senior Cup and F.A. Trophy, with no fewer than 3 National League sides being defeated.

However, as the season entered its final few weeks, their poor disciplinary record came back to bite them, with player suspensions taking their toll leading to a fall down the Table to 11th. That pattern was repeated in 2016/17. The first half of the season saw Tilbury in or just below the Play-Off places, but in the second half of the campaign a dramatic loss of form of just 3 wins from 22 games saw them plummet down as low as 17th.

The season was rescued in the final month, in which Tilbury went unbeaten, winning three and drawing two of the final five League matches, climbing back up to a respectable 12th position. On the cup front, Tilbury had a fine run through to the Semi-Final of the Essex Senior Cup, before going down narrowly to National South side East Thurrock United.

Unfortunately, Tilbury suffered a terrible run of results in October of 2017. A heavy defeat in the F.A. Trophy brought about the resignations of manager and assistant, Gary Henty & Danny Smith, plus coach George Young. Once again, the Club turned to a former player to take over. Joe Keith returned to the club and brought in a few new signings over the next few weeks, and guided the club to a safe final position. However, this run could not be maintained, and in October of the next season, with the Club lying second from bottom, the Management Team was changed again.

Marc Harrison, a former Under 16 side Manager at Tilbury, had enjoyed a very successful spell with Basildon United, and now returned to Chadfields, bringing Liam Wallace with him as his Assistant. Making several new signings, they immediately brought about a big improvement, and took the club right up to 7th place, before a final day defeat away to the Division Champions sent them back to a final 10 th place finish.

2019/20 got off to a slow start for the Club, but once they got going they rapidly climbed up the League Table. By March, Tilbury were sitiing comfortably in 4 th position, and seemed certain of a place in the Promotion Play-Offs. Then, the Covid 19 virus created a Pandemic that swept across the World, and caused the Isthmian and many other Leagues to be declared Null & Void, with all Football coming to a close.

2020/21 got off to an even better start, and Tilbury found themselves as the early season League Leaders. Once again, however, the Covid Pandemic raised it's head. The situation across the Country deteriorated greatly and Lockdown once more came into force. As in the previous campaign, that signalled, eventually, the abandonment of the season, and denied Tilbury what seemed a near certain place at least in the Play-Offs. With all restrictions lifted from July 12th 2021, and with most of the squad retained plus one or two quality additions, the Club are hoping that fate does not intervene again, and that they can challenge for the honours.

2022/23 witnessed the club relegated from the Isthmian North Division.

2023/24 Tilbury FC competed in the Essex Senior League winning the title on the last day of the season bouncing straight back up to the Isthmian League Division 1 North.

MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 14th November 2026
Kick-off 3pm

Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Managers: Jack Ainsley and Stuart Ainsley

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)**

Tilbury FC

Managers: George Christou and Jack Toghili

James **Barlow**
Bradley **Bennett**
Jake **Brocklebank**
Joe **Elliott**
Tyler **Forbes**
Billy **Lawlor**
Soumen **Nandi**
Bobby **Rea**
Luke **Reeve**
Rasheed **Salau**
Charlie **Stimson**
Josh **Taylor**
Freddie **Townsend**
Malaki **Toussaint**
Connor **Wheatley**
Ronnie **Winn**

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BALL SPONSOR:
RB TRADING

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Liam Botten **Assistant Referees:** Mr Oliver Sadd and Mr Matthew Whitworth

ISTHMIAN NORTH
DIVISION TABLE 2026/27

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Gorleston	16	10	4	2	30	17	+13	34
2	Hashtag United	16	9	3	4	44	15	+29	30
3	Newmarket Town	15	9	3	3	30	20	+10	30
4	Redbridge	15	9	2	4	32	26	+6	29
5	**Felixstowe & Walton United**	**16**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**31**	**25**	**+6**	**28**
6	Little Oakley	16	8	3	5	25	26	-1	27
7	Cambridge City	14	8	2	4	38	16	+22	26
8	Concord Rangers	16	7	5	4	34	26	+8	26
9	Walthamstow	18	8	2	8	30	24	+6	26
10	**Wroxham**	**15**	**7**	**3**	**5**	**32**	**22**	**+10**	**24**
11	Witham Town	14	7	2	5	28	24	+4	23
12	AFC Sudbury	17	6	3	8	32	29	+3	21
13	**Tilbury**	**17**	**4**	**8**	**5**	**23**	**27**	**-4**	**20**
14	Bowers & Pitsea	17	5	5	7	22	33	-11	20
15	Takeley	14	6	1	7	19	22	-3	19
16	Buckhurst Hill	16	5	3	8	23	27	-4	18
17	Canvey Island	15	5	3	7	22	27	-5	18
18	Mulbarton Wanderers	14	4	3	7	18	22	-4	15
19	Grays Athletic	16	4	2	10	21	31	-10	14
20	Fakenham Town	16	3	4	9	20	33	-13	13
21	Brightlingsea Regent	16	2	6	8	16	27	-11	12
22	Lowestoft Town	15	2	1	12	10	61	-51	7

Last updated: Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 21:39:46

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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** Hitter, Statham	**H**	**3PM**	**LEAGUE**	**D 2-2**	**ATT 518**

NOVEMBER

SAT 7	TAKELEY Santa De La Paz	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 145
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

Saturday 14th November

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

PITCHING IN

PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE OTHER SIDE
WROXHAM FC

IMAGES BY GEORGE PURVIS

CLUB HISTORY

Wroxham FC were founded in 1892 by G. E. Preston, a former Norfolk County captain, and initially played at Wroxham Park. The club began by playing friendly matches before joining the East Norfolk League and the Norwich City Junior League. In 1935, they entered the East Anglian League, later moving to the Norwich and District League in the 1950s.

In 1963, Wroxham became founder members of the Anglian Combination. A successful spell in the mid-1970s saw the club rise through the divisions. In 1975, they won their first major trophy, the Norfolk Junior Cup. Promotion followed in consecutive seasons, with the club winning Division Two and then Division One. Further silverware arrived with the Knockout Cup in 1981 and the Premier Division title in 1981–82. They retained the league title in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, adding Knockout Cup victories in 1983 and 1985. Another league and cup double followed in 1986–87.

In 1988, the club joined the newly formed Division One of the Eastern Counties League, winning the division at the first attempt on goal difference. After finishing 12th in their debut Premier Division season, Wroxham never finished lower than eighth. They won the Premier Division with a record 99 points in 1991–92, then surpassed that total with 100 points the following season, the club's centenary year, while also lifting the League Cup and Norfolk Senior Cup. A third consecutive title followed in 1993–94.

After a two-year gap, Wroxham won the Premier Division again in 1996–97 with 109 points. They retained the league title and Norfolk Senior Cup in 1997–98 before securing a third successive league title in 1998–99. Further Senior Cup victories followed in 2000, 2002 and 2004, along with another Premier Division title in 2006–07 and a further Senior Cup triumph in 2008. In 2009–10, Wroxham reached the FA Vase Final, losing 6–1 to holders Whitley Bay.

Since their formation, Wroxham have played at several venues, including Norwich Road, The Avenue and Keys Hill. The Avenue has since returned to agricultural use, while the other sites have been redeveloped. Around the time of the Second World War, the club moved to Trafford Park, a field near the railway line on Skinners Lane. An old timber pavilion was relocated to serve as a basic clubhouse.



Fifteen years later, it was replaced by prefabricated buildings, which were themselves replaced by a permanent clubhouse that opened in 1994.

The current main stand, the Les King Stand, was built in 1990, replacing a structure that had stood for around a decade. Trafford Park has a capacity of 2,000, with a record attendance of 1,262 for the FA Vase semi-final against Whitehawk in 2010.

Wroxham accepted promotion to Step 4 in 2012–13, joining the Isthmian League Division One North and competing there for five seasons. After a difficult 2016–17 campaign, the club returned to Step 5 under Ross Potter and Tom Parke. A promising start was followed by an early FA Cup exit, the first time in 22 years that the club had failed to progress beyond the opening round.

Mid-season form dipped, and Jamie Godbold and Andy Reynolds were appointed. Despite reaching the League Cup semi-final, league form remained inconsistent, and Wroxham finished 13th, their lowest-ever Eastern Counties Premier Division finish. Godbold and Reynolds subsequently departed for Lowestoft Town.

The club appointed Reserve Team Manager Jordan Southgate, assisted by former Norwich City Hall of Fame player Adam Drury. Together, they assembled a youthful squad that finished a creditable seventh in 2018–19.

Off the pitch, Chairman Lee Robson oversaw the development of Wroxham Juniors, establishing teams from Under-7s through to Under-18s. With a strong Under-18s group, the club aimed to develop players in the Wroxham way. Women's football also arrived at Trafford Park, with the Eastern Region Premier Division side formerly known as Acle United joining the club.

In 2019–20, Wroxham finished the truncated season in fifth place, although the campaign was later declared null and void. They had spent much of the season near the top of the table, conceding only 18 goals in 25 matches, a defensive record bettered only by champions Stowmarket Town.

The club's standout achievement was a run to the FA Vase quarter-finals, with two home crowds of around 1,000 for matches against Stowmarket Town and Bitton AFC. Before football was halted, Wroxham were beaten by Dereham Town in the Norfolk Senior Cup semi-final. The 2020–21 season was also curtailed by COVID-19, despite Wroxham leading the table with ten consecutive wins.

Promotion to the Isthmian League finally arrived in 2022 after Wroxham finished second to Gorleston and qualified as one of the top ten Step 5 clubs on a points-per-game basis. Following a rocky start to





the 2022–23 season, the team adapted to Isthmian League football and finished mid-table. With consolidation achieved, the club set its sights on further progress.

At the end of the season, Chairman Lee Robson relocated to Wales, and James Blower took over the role. In 2023–24, despite financial constraints, fixture congestion, including seven games in less than two weeks, and a series of injuries, Wroxham again finished mid-table.

In 2024–25, Jordan Southgate returned to the club and appointed experienced assistant Danny Crow. Their aim was to steer the team away from relegation danger and restore mid-table stability. Relegation was ultimately avoided on the final day of the season.

Away from league action, Wroxham reached the Norfolk Senior Cup Final in May 2025 for the first time in a decade, facing Norwich City Under-21s at Carrow Road. Despite taking an early lead, the Yachtsmen were beaten by their full-time professional opponents.

For the 2025–26 season, Wroxham fielded three adult men's teams: the First XI in the Isthmian League North, the Reserves in the Thurlow Nunn League and a new Development Squad in the Anglian Combination. This structure created a clear pathway for youth players to progress into adult football and ultimately the first team.

The season ended with the first team finishing eighth in the Isthmian League North, having spent the entire campaign in and around the play-off places. The Reserves finished fifth in the Thurlow Nunn First Division North but were ineligible for the play-offs under league rules.

The Development Team enjoyed a successful debut campaign, while the Women's Team capped the season by winning the County Cup at Carrow Road, a superb achievement for the club.

After a promising start to the 2026-27 season, in early November Jordan Southgate decided to resign as 1st team manager. At the present time Southgate's Assistant Manager, Ryan Fuller has been appointed as Caretaker Manager.



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BROTHERS IN ARMS



BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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

Thomas Tuchel's recent decision to call up Borussia Dortmund's Jobe Bellingham was perhaps the standout talking point of the recent international squad announcement. It's rare for members of the same family to both demonstrate enough talent to play at the highest level, and the last two to appear on the pitch together for England were Gary and Phil Neville, although the Chalobah brothers have both also played for England, albeit not together. Before that, it was Bobby and Jack Charlton, who lifted the World Cup together in 1966. And that is the entire list of postwar international brothers. It was more common before the war, with a dozen different sets of brothers called up, including the three Bambridges, the only time three brothers have made it to international level, but even then the sight of them all playing together was rare. But just where do England's fraternal footballers rank alongside those of other nations?

Like most things when it comes to the England team, the answer is unfortunately underwhelming. The Nevilles combined for a total of 144 caps, a number that doesn't seem impossible for Harry Kane to reach on his own before he retires. That doesn't even crack the top 30 of international brothers, and isn't even the most joint appearances of British brothers.

That particular honour falls to Jonny and Corry Evans, the Northern Irish brothers who combined for 179 caps. Jonny is one of only four players to have over 100 caps for that team, which helps bump up the numbers, but Corry chips in with a respectable 71 caps too. But even another 35 caps doesn't break the top 10, and the Evans brothers sit joint 14th in the list of all time brotherly appearances.

The de Boer brothers - Frank and Ronald - are one of the most distinguished sets of brothers on the list, and come in exactly level with the Evans' in 14th. Frank's 112 caps makes up almost two thirds of their combined total of 179. The Ravelli brothers of Sweden clocked up 184 caps in the 1980s and 1990s, to sit just outside the top 10, alongside the Stocklasa brothers, Martin and Michael, of Liechtenstein.

10th place goes to the Malaysian brothers of Aidil Zafuan and Zaquan Adha, brothers who unusually don't share a surname - in this particular Malaysian tradition there is no formal surname. Qatari Akram and Ali Afif are joint 8th with 190 caps between them, both of whom are still playing for the national team so should move above the significantly more prestigious Danish brothers of the Laudrups, also on 190 caps. They didn't lift the 1992 European Championship trophy together because Michael decided that, given how impossible it would be for Denmark to win the tournament, it would be better to simply stay on holiday. Which probably felt like a mistake in hindsight! They did combine to win the Confederations Cup in 1995 though.

Seventh placed Andorran brothers Ildefons and Antoni Lima are the first brothers in the list to

have combined for over 200 caps, with 201, just behind Saudi Arabians Abdullah and Mohammed Al-Darya on 202. Phil and James Younghusband are in fifth, with 204 caps between them. The pair were youngsters at Chelsea but never made an appearance for the Premier League club. When they were released, Phil went to play in the Philippines, but James had a non-league career in England before joining him. Ahead of them with 214 caps are the UAE brothers Mohammad Omar and Zuhair Bakheet, a second set of brothers who don't share a surname.

Which brings us to our top three, which includes two sets of very recognisable names. In third place, with a combined 215 caps, are the Man City duo of Yaya and Kolo Toure, probably the most successful set of brothers in the list, with five Premier League titles, two La Liga titles, and a Champions League between them - admittedly Yaya is doing most of the heavy lifting there. Kolo has more caps though, and the pair combined to win the African Cup of Nations in 2015.

Ahead of them in the list, but probably not in much else, are also Premier League brothers, Jordan and Andre Ayew. Despite Andre retiring from international football in 2024, they are the best matched brothers on the list, with only two caps between them; Jordan just leads with 122 to Andre's 120, for a combined 242.

But clear at the top of the list, by some considerable margin, are Ibrahim and Hossam Hassan, Egyptian brothers who spent most of the careers together, both for club and for country. Ibrahim collected 125 caps and is considered



Bryan Berlin / WikiPortraits

one of the greatest defenders in African history, but he is eclipsed by Hossam, who is second of Egypt's appearances list with 176 caps, and still one goal ahead of Mo Salah as his nation's top goalscorer. Combined, that's a whopping 301 caps. More than double what the Nevilles managed.

So, can the Bellinghams make their way onto the list? Jude is one of the best footballers in the world, one of the first names on the England team sheet, and at only 23 has amassed a ridiculous 60 caps already. Jobe is 21, and has some catching up to do, but if he can reproduce anything like his brother's form, who knows where they might end up.

Enjoy the game.

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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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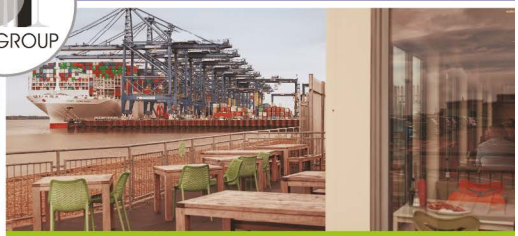

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Zak **Brown**
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Billy **Holland (C)**
Will **Jones**
Josh **Mayhew**
Jose **Santa De La Paz**
Brad **Smith**
Maxwell **Statham**
Toby **Stevenson**
Bruno **Tavares**
Thomas **Warren**
Joe **Whight**
Harry **Wright (GK)**

Wroxham FC

Caretaker Manager: Ryan Fuller

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Alfie **Bell**
Tom **Coombe**
Adam **Crookes**
Lucas **Densley**
Ethan **Flack**
Jordan **Forbes**
Ryan **Forbes**
Ryan **Gray**
Ryan **Hawkins**
Luke **Holt**
Benji **Hopcroft**
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Jordan **King**
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