

# the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2022/2023 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Heybridge Swifts FC



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ISTHMIAN  
FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023, 3PM  
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE

# JOINT CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



from long throws. One is ok, two is not learning from your mistakes and three is a bloody disgrace!

However in reality, for me, it was all about how we responded to that defeat. Monday's bank holiday game was postponed and re-scheduled and postponed and re-scheduled again and we ended up playing arch rivals Stowmarket on the Thursday evening with the boys producing a quality performance and a 3-1 win, thus crushing Stow's chances of a play-off place in the process. A quick mention to Zak Brown for the quality of his finish for the third goal. Sure I have criticised the lad when he has missed from two yards out, but there are not many players at our level who can strike a ball with such power, speed and accuracy from distance, beating a quality keeper, a great reminder of what the boy has in his locker!

## **Good afternoon all wishing you a very warm welcome to the AGL Arena for todays visit of Heybridge Swifts.**

It was hoped that today would be a dead rubber of a game for the Seasiders, however since my last notes we have suffered almost every emotion football can throw at you and today's game has become a winner takes all in the fight for play-off places. It's not often at any level of football when two sides face each other on the final day with something to play for and I'm convinced the crowd will play an enormous part today. Let's make the ground a hotbed of Felixstowe support and noise (and loving a cliché) be the twelfth man.

Our run in of finals began with us going away to Basildon and winning a game of head tennis 3-1, good start. Onto Bury Town and what promised to be a quality local derby saw us succumb to three goals all conceded



Next up Witham away or not, as again the weather put paid to our Saturday fixture. One week left with three games to schedule in. Credit where it's due and the league sided with fairness and allowed us to play Thurrock on Monday and Witham on Wednesday.

Was it a point gained or two lost as we contrived to draw 1-1 with the Essex/Kent side in a game where with a bit of luck it could have been 5-0.

No time to feel sorry for ourselves with injuries, holidays and work commitments we went to Witham (sorry to say on a "God awful pitch) looking for three points to keep the fourth place dream alive. Great team and tactical management from Boards and AC saw us come away with the three points and a 2-0 well deserved victory.

So here we are now for the "BIG ONE". Prior to summarising today I just want to put on record again, what an absolutely amazing football club we have here at Felixstowe.

Those that travel regularly to away games will appreciate this more than some but I doubt very much there is another club in the league to rival us for willing volunteers. Mike S in the car park, Paul on security, Jim "the oldest gateman in the world" Shaun on gate as well as hospitality and looking after Jim, Chris on 50-50 and always arranging the mini bus, the Herron family on the tunnel and scoreboard, Winnie and Les providing the best half time hospitality in the league, all the guys who marshall on match days and not forgetting our wonderful match day announcer Mr Steve Foley. On top of this let's not forget the tireless work of the committee with two special mentions to Mike T for the thankless hours as club secretary and Graham F, again for his incredible post match food (yet to be bettered). ALSO A MASSIVE SPECIAL MENTION FOR BECKY! Not

sure how she manages to produce a football league quality programme week in, week out, whether paper or digital. In all honesty I think I could get £100K for her in the transfer market!

*"Home, away, cold, hot, Bury or Basildon, Wroxham or Witham you are there in numbers. Never ever under estimate how much that is appreciated..."*

From here how can we not mention all of our generous sponsors, our football academy, the incredible youth section, the ITFC volunteers and most of all, **YOU**, the supporters. Home, away, cold, hot, Bury or Basildon, Wroxham or Witham you are there in numbers. Never ever under estimate how much that is appreciated by the players in particular, but the club as a whole, you are all "LEGENDS"

Win, lose or draw today it's been an enjoyable, rollercoaster of a season with many highs and lows, laughter and frustration but all under the leadership and guidance of a great managerial team. Many thanks again to Boards, Crumpy, Flapper, Stew, Kotryna and Charlotte, we are blessed to have you all.

Well that's about it for the season and I wish you all the best for a pleasant and enjoyable summer and look forward seeing you all pre-season and (see bottom of p51).

Enjoy the game  
Andy

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SB



# FROM THE DUGOUT: **STUART BOARDLEY**

**W**ell, here we are..... the last day of the season, 37 games in and we find ourselves level on points with both Grays Athletic and Heybridge Swifts knowing that a draw or better today will secure us a playoff place for the second season in succession by virtue of our superior goal difference.

Before I continue, I'd like to congratulate Hashtag United on their league winners success, they've had a great season and were deserved winners. Secondly, another big well done to both Sudbury and Lowestoft who, heading into the final day of the season have already secured a playoff spot and await the result of today's games to see who they will face.

We've recently discovered that following results of an MRI scan George Clarke will be facing a lengthy time away from the game. A damaged ACL has been found which is really tough news for Clarky to take and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him well in his recovery over the coming months.



With this potentially being the last game this season at the AGL Arena, I'd like just to say a huge thank you to a few groups of people. Firstly, the players, whose togetherness and attitude have made this season a real joy to manage. Secondly, all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to not just keep the club running but to further improve our facilities and offering to all. Thirdly, my management staff who have again given so much time to drive the club forward in more ways than is evident to many. Lastly, the supporters who have followed us home and away, who have suffered the good, the bad and the ugly but have always continued to support myself, the staff and the players - Thank you....



Today, will undoubtedly have twists and turns, much like the season has overall. We at Felixstowe seem to never do anything the 'easy' way so could we have really expected anything less than a last game, winner takes all scenario.....

Let's get the AGL rocking and get our boys over the line!

Enjoy,  
Boards

# FROM THE CAPTAIN: **BILLY HOLLAND**

Well, they say that time flies when you are having fun and that has certainly been the case this campaign...

I can't quite believe it's been eight months since we were lacing our boots ready to walk out for the first game of the season away at Brentwood. That game sticks out in my memory as I think it really reflected how far this great football club has come in the last few years. Brentwood were play-off finalists last season but we entered that game with nothing less than three points on our minds. If it wasn't for a stoppage time equaliser from the home side we would have got them, but I think the performance that day really set the tone for the opening stages of the season and re-affirmed our belief that on our day we can mix it with the best that this league has to offer. We ended up only losing one of our first ten league games, a run which saw us pick up some great results including a 4-0 win over eventual champions Hashtag United.

Fast forward to today and we sit fourth in the league, meaning a point would secure us a spot in the play-offs for the second season running and a win would see us finish one place higher than last season and set a new club record at step four. There have been bumps in the road and dips in form but I think to have maintained the league position that we have for almost two full seasons now is a credit to everybody involved.

*“...what is special about this football club is that it is made up of a group of people that are all just as important as one another to the success of the team.”*

I think you can probably count on one hand the number of weeks we have spent outside of the top six or seven since the beginning of last calendar year. Yes, we are the players out on the pitch but what is special about this football club is that it is made up of a group of people that are all just as important as one another to the success of the team. So, a big thank you from the first team group to each and every one of you for the important part that you play in our success on the pitch. We feel incredibly lucky to have you all.

On to today, Heybridge Swifts at the AGL Arena for a place in the play-offs... it doesn't get much bigger than this! Let's get behind the team and pick up those vital three points.

Sea... Sea.... Seasiders!







# SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



## Not many people know this ...

And now the end is near ...

So here we are – The final. Curtain Day .... Or is it?

It has been a crazy 10 days and whatever the outcome, wherever we finish, a big shout out to the players & management - we all moan and groan when we drop points or lose games and are equally euphoric when we win, but as supporters none of us can point the finger at the players and accuse them of complacency or not trying.

Whatever happens this afternoon, win, lose or draw, it has been another excellent season down by the seaside. We go into the game sitting in 4th spot & could finish as low as 6th, it could be 5th or indeed 4th. Semantics aside, when you are defining your season as at worst finishing 6th in a very competitive division, you know Stuart, Andy and the team are doing something right!



What happens today!

**Hashtag United** will finish the season as champions and be promoted!

**AFC Sudbury** will finish the season as runners-up and go into the play offs as home side to the side finishing in 5th place.

**Lowestoft Town** will finish the season in third place and go into the play off at home to the side finishing in 4th place

Only two of the sides currently in 4th, 5th & 6th on 69 points will continue their season into the play off's.

**The Seasiders** are in the box seat, sitting 4th with the best goal difference (+31) of the three sides in contention.

**Heybridge Swifts** are 5th & travel to the AGL Arena to face the Seasiders with the second-best goal difference (+27).

**Grays Athletic** are 6th with the inferior goal difference of the three (+20). They host Hullbridge Sports who will be playing their third game in 5 days and sit in bottom spot in the table.

If we win today, we will travel to Lowestoft Town for the semi-final of the play off's on Tuesday 25th.

If we draw today, we will be in the play off's, but against who is dependent on the Grays result.

If we lose today, we are dependent on Grays also losing, to go to the play offs on Goal Difference which would be against AFC Sudbury!

Come on you Seasiders!



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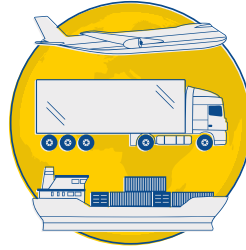
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# INTERVIEW

with **JOSH  
HITTER**

BY BECKY WYBROW

As the season draws to a close I caught up with one of the club's stand out performers and leading goalscorer Josh Hitter...

**You are Seasiders leading goalscorer this season, and the league's ninth leading goalscorer with a total of 14 league goals to date, is this something you knew you had in your locker at the beginning of the season?**

If I'm honest, I didn't expect to score as many as I have this season and is a contrast from last year. I think what has helped me is the consistent run of games and being able to be as sharp as possible going into games. Once you are on a run of scoring it seems you get a few more chances than when your'e not scoring. I'm hoping to have a few more before the end of the season, and getting into double figures playing in midfield is something that I think I've got to be delighted with.

**Which is the best goal you've scored, in your opinion?**

I'd say there are a couple to choose from - the away goal against Grays was up there but I think the free kick at home against Great Wakering Rovers pips it as you don't always hit them as sweet as that!





**You've been an integral part of the team for this campaign, and in my opinion have shown vast improvements this season, what has changed and how have those around you helped develop your game?**

It's nice to hear that. I personally think not playing for the club as much as I would have hoped to last season is something I've worked really hard to rectify. Not being involved in the playoff game against Canvey Island hurt a little, and I've made sure I've been in and amongst it to play every game this season. I went away pre-season, maybe a little hurt by not playing as much as I wanted, and I made sure I came back fitter than the previous season after the covid pandemic.

**You've played in many positions for the club, what is your preferred position that you feel draws on your strengths?**

I've played in various positions and sometimes it's a hinderance being versatile being able to play in 4 or 5 different positions! Generally the number 10 is where I've played my best football this year and playing on the right has been something I've had to get used to after not playing there since youth football. As long as the



team is winning games and playing well, if I can help in a certain position on the pitch I won't groan about it and will give my very best for the team.

**You've shown us that you're a deadly free kick taker, do you have to fight it out with Callum Harrison/Joe Whight as to take the free kicks? Who does it better?**

I think if you ask the boys they'll say themselves but I think it's healthy having three lads able to step up to free kicks and feel comfortable scoring from them. I think with the ones I've scored this season I'm still in the running to take them, but I think how you're playing that game and the confidence you have is the main factor.

**It's been a hectic end to the season with 4 games in 10 days, do you feel you have the strength in the squad to push on and keep the playoff dream alive?**

As a team we like being around each other, and I think as a group we don't want to look back at all the games we've played this year with regret and fall just short. We will be doing everything we can to put our





name in the running to get promoted. I think there will be some sore bodies by the last game of the season whenever that is, and will deserve a nice rest before preparing for next season! We have a real togetherness with the 20 boys in the squad and I think that will be the main factor that gets us through these last few games.

**How important is it to have the home crowd behind you for the last two games of the season? Does it make a difference to the players playing at the AGL?**

I mean you can see from our home form this season that we enjoy the playing at the AGL Arena! We usually put on a good show for the fans who deserve it. They've been class both home and away for us and deserve to see one if not two more games after the set league games have finished. Seeing the fans in numbers only urges you on more to perform as you can see how many people have ties with the club, and we want to ensure we repay the fans in some way in the final run in.



# MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS  
BY TOM  
BRADFORD

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Witham Town 0  
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 2**



## HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Noel Aitkens
5. Milo Grimes
6. Joe Whight
7. Henry Barley
8. Josh Hitter
9. Oliver Canfer
10. Andre Hasanally
11. Lamell Howell

## SUBS

12. Harry Blackburn
14. Charlie Warren
15. Sam Ford
16. Leon Ottley-Gooch
17. Andy Fennell







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# ISTHMIAN NORTH LAST SIX MATCHES FORM

AFC Sudbury	W 5-0 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GORL..	W 2-0 v STOW..	W 3-0 v MALD..	W 3-0 v COGG..	W 5-0 v BREN..
Heybridge Swifts	W 1-0 v TILB..	W 1-0 v EAST..	W 3-0 v BURY..	W 2-1 v STOW..	W 2-0 v GREA..	D 4-4 v LOWE..
Hashtag United	W 1-0 v FELI..	L 3-1 v STOW..	W 2-1 v COGG..	W 3-0 v GORL..	W 4-1 v WITH..	W 6-0 v GREA..
Grays Athletic	W 2-1 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v BREN..	D 3-3 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GREA..	W 1-0 v EAST..	W 4-1 v BURY..
<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	D 0-0 v GORL..	W 3-1 v BASI..	L 3-1 v BURY..	W 3-1 v STOW..	D 1-1 v EAST..	W 2-0 v WITH..
Wroxham	D 3-3 v GREA..	W 2-0 v NEW..	W 2-0 v COGG..	L 2-0 v GORL..	W 5-0 v TILB..	L 1-0 v MALD..
Maldon & Tiptree	D 1-1 v COGG..	W 5-3 v LOWE..	L 3-0 v AFC..	W 2-1 v HULL..	L 1-0 v GORL..	W 1-0 v WROX..
Gorleston	D 0-0 v FELI..	L 2-1 v AFC..	L 3-0 v HASH..	W 2-0 v WROX..	W 1-0 v MALD..	W 3-2 v HULL..
Brentwood Town	W 2-0 v GRAY..	D 1-1 v WITH..	W 5-1 v HULL..	D 1-1 v TILB..	L 5-0 v AFC..	D 3-3 v LOWE..
New Salamis	D 2-2 v BURY..	L 2-0 v WROX..	W 1-0 v WITH..	D 2-2 v EAST..	D 2-2 v BASI..	W 3-1 v STOW..
Bury Town	D 2-2 v NEW..	L 3-0 v HEYB..	W 2-1 v HULL..	W 3-1 v FELI..	D 2-2 v LOWE..	L 4-1 v GRAY..
Lowestoft Town	L 2-1 v GRAY..	L 5-3 v MALD..	W 3-2 v BASI..	D 2-2 v BURY..	D 4-4 v HEYB..	D 3-3 v BREN..
Tilbury	L 1-0 v HEYB..	D 1-1 v COGG..	L 4-3 v GREA..	W 1-0 v WITH..	D 1-1 v BREN..	L 5-0 v WROX..
Basildon United	L 5-0 v AFC..	D 3-3 v GRAY..	L 3-1 v FELI..	L 3-2 v LOWE..	D 2-2 v NEW..	W 1-0 v EAST..
Hullbridge Sports	D 1-1 v WITH..	L 2-1 v BURY..	L 5-1 v BREN..	L 2-1 v MALD..	L 3-2 v GORL..	W 1-0 v COGG..
Witham Town	W 1-0 v COGG..	L 1-0 v NEW..	D 1-1 v BREN..	L 1-0 v TILB..	L 4-1 v HASH..	L 2-0 v FELI..
Great Waking Rovers	L 4-1 v STOW..	D 3-3 v WROX..	W 4-3 v TILB..	L 2-1 v GRAY..	L 2-0 v HEYB..	L 6-0 v HASH..
Stowmarket Town	W 3-1 v HASH..	L 2-0 v AFC..	L 2-1 v COGG..	L 2-1 v HEYB..	L 3-1 v FELI..	L 3-1 v NEW..
Coggeshall Town	L 1-0 v WITH..	L 2-1 v HASH..	W 2-1 v STOW..	L 2-0 v WROX..	L 3-0 v AFC..	L 1-0 v HULL..
East Thurrock United	L 1-0 v GORL..	L 1-0 v HEYB..	D 2-2 v NEW..	L 1-0 v GRAY..	D 1-1 v FELI..	L 1-0 v BASI..

## LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1	Nnamdi Nwachuku	AFC Sudbury	42
2	Jake Reed	Lowestoft Town	23
3	Derek Asamoah	New Salamis	21
4	Adam Hipperson	Lowestoft Town	20
5	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	18
6	Sam Bantick	Grays Athletic	17
7	Alex Teniola	Hashtag United	16
8	Jermaine Francis	Hashtag United	14
9	<b>Joshua Hitter</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>14</b>
10	Rob Harvey	Heybridge Swifts	12
11	Max Cornhill	Hashtag United	11
12	Kyle Haylock	Lowestoft Town	11





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# ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
C	Hashtag United	37	32	1	4	101	35	+66	97
2	AFC Sudbury	37	29	4	4	90	31	+59	91
3	Lowestoft Town	37	22	8	7	87	50	+37	74
<b>4</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>+31</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Heybridge Swifts</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>69</b>
6	Grays Athletic	37	21	6	10	60	40	+20	69
7	Stowmarket Town	37	19	6	12	61	44	+17	63
8	New Salamis	37	14	13	10	63	63	0	55
9	Brentwood Town	37	14	10	13	54	50	+4	52
10	Wroxham	37	13	11	13	52	52	0	50
11	Bury Town	37	13	11	13	37	39	-2	50
12	East Thurrock United	37	14	7	16	46	53	-7	49
13	Gorleston	37	12	5	20	48	71	-23	41
14	Maldon & Tiptree	37	11	6	20	40	57	-17	39
15	Basildon United	37	9	12	16	44	63	-19	39
16	Witham Town	37	9	5	23	42	75	-33	32
17	Tilbury	37	7	6	24	36	76	-40	27
18	Coggeshall Town	37	5	10	22	26	60	-34	25
19	Great Waking Rovers	37	6	6	25	44	86	-42	24
20	Hullbridge Sports	37	6	4	27	35	79	-44	22

LAST UPDATED: THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023 AT 21:50:32

## ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES



### SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL - 3PM

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



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# MATCH REPORT

PHOTOS  
BY STEFAN  
PECK

THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Felixstowe & Walton Utd 3**

*Holland, Ottley-Gooch, Brown*

**Stowmarket Town 1**

Felixstowe & Walton United secured a vital three points in their push for the playoffs, beating rivals Stowmarket Town 3-1 at the AGL Arena on Thursday evening. The Seaside produced a sparkling performance in the twice postponed match with a 95th minute clincher from Zak Brown the icing on the cake to send the home supporters away happy. Billy Holland had put Felixstowe ahead on 35 minutes with the away side levelling things on 54 minutes following an error at the back. Leon Ottley-Gooch restored the advantage on 66 minutes before Zak stole the show in injury time.

Felixstowe were almost at full strength, with just Harry Knock, George Clarke on the injury list. Miles Grimes was rested ahead of Saturdays game at Witham and Zak Brown started on the bench following his injury withdrawal during last Saturday's loss



## HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Leon Ottley-Gooch
6. Joe Whight
7. Henry Barley
8. Josh Hitter
9. Zak Brown
10. Callum Harrison
11. Andre Hasanally

## SUBS

12. Charlie Warren
14. Andy Fennell
15. Lamell Howell
16. Oliver Canfer
17. Sam Ford







at Bury Town. Stowmarket were without the influential Tom Bullard but featured former Seasider, and brother of Stuart, Jack Ainsley.

It was a fairly tame start to the match, both sides were playing decent passing football but chances were at a premium early on with Felixstowe having the first real effort on 10 minutes, Callum Harrison firing a 20-yard free kick inches over the bar. Callum Robinson headed a long forward ball clear a minute later with Billy Holland working his magic to halt the Stowmarket forward in his tracks as he looked to take advantage of the empty goal. Ollie Canfer then crossed from the left to Josh Hitter to head just wide on 12 minutes. Harrison was having a fine game and his burst forward on 15 minutes was only stopped at the third attempt as he reached the edge of the area and his shot was blocked. Charlie Warren created space on the left shortly after to tee up Billy Holland who crossed into the box for Canfer who headed over. Canfer dispossessed Bradbrook at the byline on 28 minutes but two defenders cleared up as he looked to cross

into space. The goal Felixstowe were craving came on 35 minutes, the ball was loose in the box and **Billy Holland** struck a low shot towards the right side of the goal, it seemed to creep under Bradbrook, perhaps helped by the wet surface after a heavy shower, and spun over the line. Straight from kick off, Stowmarket had their best chance so far, an angled effort from



18 yards flew just wide of the far post with Robinson seemingly beaten. Josh Hitter shot wide on 40 minutes after racing forward onto a delightful through ball as Felixstowe looked to increase their advantage before the break. Callum Harrison nearly got that crucial second goal with a stunning strike on 42 minutes, his volley from the right beating the goalkeeper and thumping the inside of the far post, the ball was then scrambled away from the line as Holland looked to capitalise on the rebound. Bradbrook was again the saviour a minute later as the pressure increased further, Warren threading a ball through two defenders to Hitter at the left post whose close-range effort was well saved. Stowmarket had the final chance of the half and it came via a good ball through from Jack Ainsley, it set up a 35-yard effort that Robinson did well to get down to and cover.

The visitors had the first chance of the second half, a shot fired inches wide when in a great position in the area. Charlie Warren spun on the half way line to take out two defenders

with his ball through to Ollie Canfer on 49 minutes, Canfers shot was deflected wide by the goalkeeper. It was end to end now and Robinson punched clear a dangerous ball on 50 minutes, but 4 minutes later a punch out fell straight to Jack Wilkinson who had a simple task of smacking the ball in and levelling things up. 2 minutes later and Stowmarket shot way over the bar from a good position and Noel Aitkens tried his luck from 30-yards with a floating effort that just cleared the far upright. The home side retook the lead on 66 minutes as





**Leon Ottley-Gooch** found himself in the right place to slam the ball home from 10-yards after a fine cross from the left. Callum Harrison nearly got the goal he deserved on 70 minutes, his ferocious shot from 22-yards was heading just under the crossbar until Bradbrook somehow got a hand to it and tipped it over.

Stowmarket headed wide on 78 minutes as a nervousness started to spread around the ground due to the slender home lead. The nerves were nearly settled on 80 minutes when three quick-fire chances were denied in the Stowmarket box, Aitkens, Ainsley and Hitter all seeing shots blocked and saved in a frantic 20 second spell. On 90 minutes it was hearts in mouths time as the visitors somehow were denied an equaliser, a throw in was headed back towards the near post and Robinson could only divert it on to the bar, the rebound was headed down but wide with the away supporters beginning to celebrate what should have been a certain goal. The best action was saved for the last minute of injury time, Felixstowe had managed the game well for the added 5

minutes so far and the ball then came away towards half way, **Zak Brown** turned and nodded it through, beating two defenders and racing forward, most supporters, I would guess, would be expecting him to head for the corner flag but Zak had other ideas, instead holding off further defenders and launching an absolute rocket of a shot from the edge of the D to give Bradbrook no chance whatsoever, a truly stunning strike and a fitting end to an absorbing encounter that had been well worth the three day wait!

**A**buse in all sport has now become a noticeably massive thing and especially in football. Since the advent of that day a year ago when some very high-profile players told their very distressing stories live on the Victoria Derbyshire show and subsequently brought about the advent and birth of the wonderful organisation The Offside Trust who have done amazing work with no funding from The Football association at all to help them and a very minimal amount from the PFA. Their help has given me the strength to deal with what happened to me all those years ago as it did to them.

As a young child I wanted nothing more than to watch football, play football and be a professional footballer. My uncle used to take me to watch Luton Town from the age of seven onwards at first my uncle was wonderful nothing was too much trouble and enjoyed our visits to watch Luton at home and used to get extremely excited at around noon awaiting my uncle's arrival to take me and even have a kick about in the park before the game. Unfortunately, there was an ulterior motive I later found out to this as from the age of around nine we used to go to coaching sessions with a team on our way to football under the guise of they worked for Luton Town and if I did well, I would have a chance to fulfil my dreams.

Just as the season started and the coaching session became more intense, I was told that they could help me fulfil my dreams if I did something for them after the games. At first it was nothing too bad just touching etc of parts of their anatomy, but it slowly became a lot more sinister with more of our team involved

in some sadistic and sordid acts including being raped over one hundred times, some even photographed and filmed. When we left the so-called house, we were all given gifts and told that we must never tell anyone that these things had happened.

The older I got the more the acts became more depraved, and the threats became even more dreadful should we go to the police etc or even tell what had happened. I retreated into a shell on my return home and would turn into an insular and exceedingly difficult person. Luckily once I reached the age of twelve my uncle no longer came to get me and the trips to football stopped as luckily, I found a more local club to allow me to play. This club was well run and very safe with good coaches and it made me wonder what and why the original team coaches had asked me to do the things they did. I was still fearful of telling my parents so hid the sordid things away for many many years.

About 9 years ago I was summonsed to a meeting at a solicitor's office in London after my uncle had died and left his will. I was taken to a side room and given a letter from my uncle by the solicitor that he instructed me was going to be read out at the will reading. The letter detailed my uncles and his friends sordid past and was his was of asking the family for forgiveness from his crimes, unfortunately it was to be announced that he had abused a member of the family with his friends in an unbelievably bad way and wanted forgiveness.

### **THAT PERSON WAS ME**

The family had no idea but as you can imagine it was exceptionally harrowing for me and my mum and sisters and really was difficult

for all to take, unfortunately I was blamed and called a liar by most of his side of the family meaning that I was cast aside as an outcast by that side of the family.

From that moment on I became an exceedingly difficult person to even talk to and took to drinking excessively ended up losing my wife, house, and a lot of family members. I also had to attend two court cases to see some of the dreadful people sentenced which was an exceedingly difficult experience.

As with all people that have suffered any sort of abuse, I tried to take my own life about a year ago but was found and have regular treatment from counsellors and doctors to ensure I can make the best recovery possible from these dreadful nightmares.

I apologise if this is harrowing reading, but it is the only way to get the message across and I will say I have left out the dreadful bits as no one should go through what I and my friends did for over those horrible years meaning most of us lost our childhood and still struggle dreadfully on the difficult days which we all still have.

Alan Arber, A Survivor

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE OFFSIDE TRUST

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<b>League Option</b> as above	£1000
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Offside Trust Workshop for club	£25
Offside trust workshop for League	£100

Thank you for your amazing support from everyone at The Offside Trust



# RESPECT YOUR ROOTS!



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**TEAMMATES**

Respect your teammates; be supportive - win, lose or draw.

**SELF**

Respect yourself; be the best version of yourself possible!



In November 2016, British football was rocked by a series of high-profile revelations regarding child sexual abuse. Several former professional players bravely waived their right to anonymity to speak out about their past abuse.

A number of those involved, decided to set up the Offside Trust, an organisation committed to supporting survivors and working to make sport safer for children.

Former professional footballer Steve Walters is director of the Offside Trust.

We are proud to work with and support fellow survivors. In addition to Steve, the Offside Trust family includes the amazing ambassadors listed below and several others who wish to remain anonymous:

Gary Cliffe, former youth team player at Manchester City  
Dion Raitt, former youth team player at Peterborough United  
Alan Arber, former Norwich City player  
Callum Hancock, professional boxer

Our aims are:

- To raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding across all sports at all levels
- To provide survivors with advice guidance and resources to aid the healing journey
- To campaign for legal and regulatory changes to improve safeguarding in sport

Our objectives are:

- To secure partnerships with clubs at all levels, in all sports
- To engage with survivors and signpost them to the appropriate professional support
- To engage with survivors within the Offside Trust Support Network
- To support charitable helplines with specific focus on survivors in sport
- To change the law on child sexual abuse being exempt from 'Double Jeopardy'
- To lobby for 'Mandatory Reporting' to be adopted in UK law
- To engage with political and judicial bodies to strengthen legal support for survivors

Since 2016, the Offside Trust has received the support of supporters, clubs, players and former professionals throughout the sporting world. We focus on all sports, not just football. We are grateful for the support that we are getting from everyone including the people in cricket, rugby, golf and boxing, helping to raise further awareness across sport.

The Offside Trust works alongside governing bodies, charities and organisations that deal with safeguarding.

If you are a survivor of child sexual abuse in sport, there are a number of resources available.

The FA have commissioned a dedicated NSPCC helpline for adults who were abused in childhood within the football industry from grassroots to Premier League. If you would like to speak to somebody the free NSPCC helpline for guidance and support is available 24 hours a day on **0800 023 2642**. Our friends at Survivors Manchester (<https://www.survivorsmanchester.org.uk/>) and Samaritans (<https://www.samaritans.org/>) have help and support available if you need to talk.

If you think that a child is in immediate danger please dial 999.

If you are a child who needs help, please call [Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk/) on 0800 11 11.



# THE OFFSIDE TRUST

www.offsidetrust.com

"No child should suffer the way we did. Please never let this happen again."



"We must learn from the past, watch the present and create a better future"

"We're the ones that have to live with the impact of his crimes every single day."

"Why can't they admit they had a duty of care and they failed. They failed abysmally."



"Sport has a moral obligation to safeguard children!"

- "We must stop the most horrific abuses of position and trust from ever happening to children in sport."

"Children should be safe to play the sports they love. Free from harm and without fear."

## NOTES

"The safeguarding of children in sport must always come first. To put the reputation of any individual, club or organisation first is simply inexcusable. In fact it's criminal."



"Sorry son. I never protected you. It was the one job I had to do. I failed."



"IT BROKE MY HEART. MY FATHER KNEW ABOUT MY ABUSE, BUT NEVER SAID ANYTHING UNTIL HIS FINAL DAY."

"It's the responsibility of every person to safeguard a child."

"Courage to speak is the first and hardest step for adult survivors. Overcoming stigma, shame, ignorance and re-victimisation is a continual journey."

**SEE ABUSE.  
REPORT IT.  
#TAKE A STAND.**



FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UTD  
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# SENIOR PRESENTATION DAY

**SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2PM-11PM**



**3pm** - Jordy Matthews Testimonial

Felixstowe & Walton Utd v Seasiders Legends

**5.30pm-7pm** - Annual Awards Presentation

**7pm-9pm** - Race Night

**9pm-11pm** - Disco/Live Music

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# OUR SQUAD

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



## STUART BOARDLEY MANAGER

Stuart started his footballing career at Ipswich Town leaving in 2004 after 10 years. He went on to play for Torquay United, Sudbury, Leiston and Felixstowe. In 2018 he was appointed as Manager of Leiston but left in 2019 to become Manager of Felixstowe & Walton United.

**SPONSORS:** Felixstowe Radio, Pat Haseman



## ANDY CRUMP ASSISTANT MANAGER

Andy returned to Felixstowe & Walton United as Assistant Manager following the appointment of Stuart Boardley in 2019. Having enjoyed success in previous spells at the club as both player and First Team Coach.

**SPONSORS:** Chris & Jayne Ryan



## KOTRYNA STOKNAITE SPORTS THERAPIST

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

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## STUART STEVENSON COACH

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seasideers to coach the U18s which lead him on to being part of the first team staff. Stuart is an FA level 2 coach and an FA level 1 mentor.

**SPONSOR:** George Baker (Shipping) Ltd



## GARY HAMMOND GOALKEEPER COACH

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

**SPONSORS:** Ryecroft Freight Ltd



## **CALLUM ROBINSON** **GOALKEEPER**

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

**SPONSOR:** Barry Caley



## **STUART AINSLEY** **LEFT BACK**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent 10 years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Stuart has a sweet left foot and a great work ethic.

**SPONSORS:** Chris & Jayne Ryan



## **JOE WHIGHT** **DEFENDER**

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

**SPONSORS:** Richard & Jenny Bugg



## **CALLUM BENNETT** **RIGHT BACK**

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

**SPONSOR:** Dave Ablitt



## **CURTIS HAYNES-BROWN** **DEFENDER**

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

**SPONSORS:** George & Shirley Ainsley



## **MILO GRIMES** **DEFENDER**

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

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



## **HARRY KNOCK** **DEFENDER**

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

**SPONSORS:** Chris Worrall



## **HARRY BLACKBURN** **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

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

**SPONSOR:** Chris Walne



## **BILLY HOLLAND** **MIDFIELDER**

Billy started life at Ipswich Wanderers and has had spells at Needham, Leiston and AFC Sudbury. He's established himself as a mainstay in the centre of midfield. Players player and Supporters player of the year last season has led to him being appointed captain for the forthcoming year.

**SPONSOR:** Andy Clarke



## **NOEL AITKENS** **MIDFIELDER**

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

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



## **LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH** **MIDFIELDER**

Leon signed for the club in 2020 and is another vastly experienced player at step 3 and 4 level. Previous clubs include Leiston, Bury Town, Hadleigh Utd and Stowmarket Town. Leon is very versatile but is predominantly a dynamic midfield player.

**SPONSORS:** Phil & Jan Griffiths



## **JOSH HITTER** **MIDFIELDER**

Josh signed for us in 2021 having played his football at Step 3 side Leiston for the previous three seasons and gained a vast amount of experience at that level. Josh is a dynamic attack minded player who likes to arrive in the box late and score goals.

**SPONSOR:** Les Soall



## **CALLUM HARRISON** **MIDFIELDER**

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

**SPONSOR:** Winnifred McClean



## **RORY PORTER** **MIDFIELDER**

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

**SPONSOR:** Paul Secker



## **HENRY BARLEY** **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

**SPONSOR:** Steve Foley Transport Ltd



## **LAMELL HOWELL** **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

**SPONSORS:** Steve & Kate Garnham



## **CHARLIE WARREN** **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

**SPONSORS:** Suffolk Carpet Weavers, SCW Racing, Danny Soall



## **ANDY FENNEL** **FORWARD**

A recent signing from rivals Heybridge Swifts, Andy brings lightning pace and a real direct style to the forward line. He has scored goals at Step 2, 3 & 4 and lists Leiston, Needham Market and Chelmsford amongst his former clubs. Comfortable anywhere across the front three, Andy joins hoping to fire us up to Step 3.



## GEORGE CLARKE FORWARD

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

**SPONSOR:** Kedan Logistics Ltd



## OLLIE CANFER FORWARD

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

**SPONSORS:** Steven Seeley, Andy & Kim Wilding



## ANDRE HASANALLY FORWARD

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

**SPONSOR:** Matthew Daynes



## ZAK BROWN FORWARD

A sought after and highly rated young striker with blistering pace and a great goal scoring record. At just 17, Zak penned a two year pro contract with ITFC where he was a regular marksman in the U23's. Zak started life in the Seaside's Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the club's No. 9.

**SPONSORS:** Chris & Kate Daynes



## SAM FORD FORWARD

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath last season that saw them just miss out on promotion to the Scottish Premiership, Sam spent the Summer with Hume City FC in Australia before returning to Felixstowe. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

**SPONSOR:** Craig Studd

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

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



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# MATCH PHOTOS

MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Felixstowe & Walton Utd 1  
East Thurrock Utd 1**

PHOTOS  
BY STEFAN  
PECK



The visiting Rocks knew they were safe from involvement in drama at either end of the table, and were in poor form, having lost six of their last seven matches and taken only one point from the last twenty one available to them. That said, they didn't arrive at the AGL Arena ready to roll over, and it took the hosts until the fifty fourth minute to open their account, Charlie Warren with the goal. Soon afterwards the visitors were awarded a penalty, but they couldn't take advantage of that opportunity, Callum Robinson pulling off a save, and with only a minute to go it looked as if the Seaside had held on for three points. Jesse Olukolu, however, had other ideas, and fired a shot goalwards, the ball deflecting past Robinson to earn the visitors a point.

*By Ian Townsend*

## HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Andre Hasanally
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Zak Brown
10. Callum Harrison
11. Charlie Warren

## SUBS

12. Harry Blackburn
14. Joshua Hitter
15. Sam Ford
16. Lamell Howell
17. Henry Barley











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# FIXTURES 2022/23

## AUGUST

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

## SEPTEMBER

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

## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

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

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY

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

## FEBRUARY

<b>SAT 04</b>	<b>HULLBRIDGE SPORTS</b> <i>Clarke, Whight</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>Att 411</b>
<b>TUE 07</b>	<b>EAST THURROCK UNITED</b> <i>Ottley-Gooch, Canfer</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 2-2</b>	<b>Att 198</b>
<b>SAT 11</b>	<b>GREAT WAKERING ROVERS</b> <i>Ottley-Gooch, Hitter (2), Canfer</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>2PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 4-0</b>	<b>Att 105</b>
<b>TUE 14</b>	<b>AFC SUDBURY</b> <i>Hitter</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 2-1</b>	<b>Att 434</b>
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b> <i>Hitter (2)</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>Att 229</b>
<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>WROXHAM</b> <i>Holland, Ford</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>	<b>Att 363</b>

## MARCH

<b>SAT 04</b>	<b>NEW SALAMIS</b> <i>Whight, Fennell, Ford</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 4-3</b>	<b>Att 127</b>
<b>TUE 07</b>	<b>LOWESTOFT TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 1-0</b>	<b>Att 264</b>
<b>SAT 11</b>	<b>GRAYS ATHLETIC</b> <i>Harrison</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 1-0</b>	<b>Att 406</b>
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>HASHTAG UNITED</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 1-0</b>	<b>Att 335</b>
<b>TUE 21</b>	<b>GORLESTON</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 0-0</b>	<b>Att 104</b>

## APRIL

<b>TUE 04</b>	<b>BASILDON UNITED</b> <i>Hitter, Ottley-Gooch, Holland</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-1</b>	<b>Att 81</b>
<b>SAT 08</b>	<b>BURY TOWN</b> <i>Brown</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>L 3-1</b>	<b>Att 707</b>
<b>THU 13</b>	<b>STOWMARKET TOWN</b> <i>Holland, Ottley-Gooch, Brown</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 3-1</b>	<b>Att 403</b>
<b>MON 17</b>	<b>EAST THURROCK UNITED</b> <i>Warren</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>D 1-1</b>	<b>Att 308</b>
<b>WED 19</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b> <i>Canfer 2</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>Att 211</b>
<b>SAT 22</b>	<b>HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		



# THE OTHER SIDE HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS FC

## HISTORY:

Founded as Heybridge FC in November 1880.  
Played as Maldon & Heybridge FC from August 1935 until 1939.  
Reformed as Heybridge Swifts FC since 1945.

## GROUNDS:

<b>1880</b>	Land to east of the Plains near Heybridge Hall
<b>c. 1890</b>	Bentalls Ground, Colchester Road, Heybridge.
<b>1962</b>	Sadds FC, The Causeway, Maldon
<b>1965</b>	Scraley Road, Heybridge

## LEAGUES:

Pre-War:  
North Essex League, Essex & Suffolk Border League  
Post War: North Essex League  
1949/50: South Essex League  
1951/52: Essex & Suffolk Border League  
1971/72: Essex Senior League (Founder Members)  
1984/85: Isthmian League Division Two North  
1990/91: Isthmian League Division One  
1996/97: Isthmian League Premier Division  
2009/10: Isthmian League Division One North

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1893, the fans of the Heybridge F.C. were so unhappy with the performance of the referee that they threatened to throw him in the pond. Heybridge FC were fined £2 and banned for six weeks!



## HONOURS – LEAGUES:

### Isthmian League

Division Two North Champions 1989/90

Premier Division R/Up 2005/06

[Play Off Semi Finalists]

Division One North Play Off Winners: 2018/19

*[Not promoted due to FA Step 4 play-off farce!]*

Division One North Play Off Semi Finalists:

2013/14, 2017/18

Division One R/Up 1995/96 (Promoted)

League Cup Winners 2000/01 (beat Croydon 3-0)

### Essex Senior League

Champions 1981/82, 1982/83, 1983/84

Runners Up 1980/81

### Essex & Suffolk Border League:

Div. 2W Champions 1920/21

Div. 1 Champions 1930/31.

### North Essex League

Champions 1902/03 & 1924/25

## HONOURS – CUPS:

Essex Senior Cup Runners Up 2015/16

Essex Senior Trophy Winners 1981/82 (beat Witham Town 2-1)

Essex Senior League Cup Winners 1982/83

Essex Junior Cup Winners 1930/31

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Competition

1955/56, 1959/60, 1970/71, 1974/75,

2006/07, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17

## FA COMPETITIONS:

### FA Cup

1994/95: 1st Round: Heybridge Swifts 0

Gillingham 2 (@Colchester United)

1997/98: 1st Round: AFC Bournemouth 3

Heybridge Swifts 0

2002/03: 1st Round: Heybridge Swifts 0

Bristol City 7

2017/18: 1st Round: Exeter City 3 Heybridge

Swifts 1

### FA Trophy

1996/97: Quarter Final: Heybridge Swifts 0

Woking 1

### FA Vase

1986/87: 5th Round (Last 16) Haverhill Rovers 2

Heybridge Swifts 0

## TRANSFER FEES

### RECEIVED

£35,000 Simon Royce (Southend United)

£10,000 James Pullen (Ipswich Town)

£10,000 Kris Lee (Chelmsford City)

£7,000 Richard Jolly (AFC Wimbledon)

£5,000 Ashley Vickers (Peterborough)

### PAID:

£6,400 Richard Jolly (Wealdstone)

### HIGHEST ATTENDANCES: (Post War)

2,477 v Woking (FA Trophy 1996/97)

2,046 v Bristol City (FA Cup 2002/03)

### RECORD APPEARANCE MAKER:

543 – John Pollard

### RECORD GOALSCORER:

193 – Arthur “Stumpy” Moss (1948–60)

### RECORD WIN

1 Nov 1924 17-0 Home v Springfield

(Essex Junior Cup)

## WELL KNOWN FORMER SWIFTS insiders

Peter Taylor (Tottenham/former England Manager), Dean Holdsworth (Bolton Wanderers), Paul Parker (Manchester United), Julian Dicks (West Ham United – previous Swifts Manager), Billy Jennings (West Ham United), Mark Wright (TOWIE), Oilly Murs (X Factor), Luis Morrison/ Jack Fowler (Love Island).





# HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS PLAYER PROFILES



PLAYER	DEBUT	PREVIOUS CLUBS
Callum <b>CHAFER</b>	14 Aug 2021	Bowers & Pitsea, AFC Hornchurch, Romford, Redbridge
Joe <b>WHITNEY</b>	14 Feb 2023	Barking
Thomas <b>WRAY</b>	19 Feb 2023	Dartford
Jack <b>MOCHALSKI</b>	20 Dec 2022	Aveley, Coggeshall Town, Great Wakering Rovers, Soham Town Rangers
Callum <b>TAYLOR</b>	18 Oct 2022	Welwyn Garden City
Freddie <b>PRICE</b>	7 Jan 2023	Colchester Utd
Quba <b>GORDON</b>	13 Aug 2022	Hendon, Welling United, Maldon & Tiptree, Brentwood Town, Haringey Borough, Boreham Wood
Myles <b>ANDERSON</b>		Aberdeen, Blackburn Rovers, Monza, Chievo, L'Aquila, Torquay, Hartlepool, Weymouth, Hampton and Richmond, Braintree Town, Beaconsfield
Ryan <b>BOSWELL</b>		East Thurrock Utd, Tilbury, Bowers and Pitsea, Brentwood Town, Romford
Matthew <b>PRICE</b>	16 Jan 2018	Billericay Town, Brentwood Town, Canvey Island, Coggeshall Town, East Thurrock Utd, Horsham, Tooting and Mitcham
Lee <b>NOBLE</b>	6 Aug 2022	Tilbury, Cray Valley PM, Dartford, Concord Rangers, Brentwood Town
Rob <b>HARVEY</b>	6 Aug 2022	Brentwood Town, Leiston, Coggeshall Town, Braintree Town, Millwall, Brightlingsea Regent
Louie <b>ARROWSMITH</b>	1 Oct 2022	Southend Utd
Rhys <b>HENRY</b>	22 Jan 2022	Felixstowe & Walton, Maldon & Tiptree, Needham Market, Leiston, AFC Sudbury, Harlow Town, Lewes, Thurrock, Team Bury, Cheshunt, Southend United
Tyler <b>BRAMPTON</b>	6 Aug 2022	Coggeshall Town, FC Clacton, Waltham Abbey, Maldon & Tiptree, Billericay Town, Colchester United
Alex <b>STEPHENSON</b>	28 Aug 2021	Canvey Island, Billericay Town, Braintree Town, Bishops Stortford, Aveley, Southend Manor
Sam <b>CARTER</b>	13 Nov 2021	Great Wakering Rovers, Tilbury, Brentwood Town
Kieran <b>JONES</b>	21 Aug 2022	Barking, Grays Athletic
Benjamin <b>SARTAIN</b>	29 Sep 2015	Frenford FC, Bowers & Pitsea, Basildon United, Maldon & Tiptree, Grays Athletic
Scott <b>KEMP</b>	25 Feb 2023	Maldon & Tiptree, Witham Town, Haverhill, AFC Sudbury
Sam <b>PARK</b>	25 Feb 2023	Brentwood Town
Steve <b>TILSON</b> Manager		<u>Player:</u> Southend United, Canvey Island, Brentford, Witham Town, Bowers, Basildon United. <u>Management:</u> Southend Utd, Lincoln City, Canvey Island, Basildon Ladies

# THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

## **SO, ULTIMATELY, Football Association chiefs finally made the only sensible call they could have made in granting an extension to the season for clubs at Steps 5 and 6.**

But even though that affords the likes of Sandhurst Town, Brook House, Horndean and Bacup Borough a bit of breathing space from their ridiculous end-of-season fixture avalanche – Sandhurst having to play 11 games in 10 days at one point – there is a bigger picture to consider here.

Tackling congested fixture pile-ups come March and April is no new dilemma for clubs these days, and therein lies the problem.

On average, you can expect to lose at least two or three league fixtures over the course of the season, but on the odd year of extraordinary weather patterns such as this, contingency plans have to be put in place.

It's not necessarily the regulation league season which is causing the problem – there are enough Saturdays and Tuesdays in the calendar to comfortably take in a 46-game season – but the numerous cup competitions which clubs are often obliged, or felt pressured to, compete in.

Take my old friends down at Fleet Town, for example. These days, the Blues ply their trade in the Wessex League Premier but that just scratches the surface of a gruelling first-team campaign which also takes in FA Cup, FA Vase, Wessex League Cup, Hampshire Senior Cup, Southern Combination Cup, Russell Cotes Cup and Aldershot Senior Cup.

Eagle-eyed readers of The NLP's extensive fixtures page may have noticed that there

are some regional or district cup competitions still trying to get through delayed second or third round matches. Indeed, for some, the backlog of fixtures is often so great that the competitions have, in the past, been carried over into the pre-season of the following campaign.

Sadly, though, one of Non-League football's great institutions is also implicated here – the County Cup.

This week, we saw two instances of National League clubs having to all but relinquish their challenge for honours at the semi-final stage due to fixture clashes.

Firstly, in Hampshire, we heard that Aldershot Town had been informed by the Hampshire Senior Cup sub-group that their semi-final tie against Basingstoke Town HAD to be played on Tuesday April 18.

But the Shots – proud six-time County Cup winners – had already rearranged their crucial National League game with Wealdstone for that date, meaning that despite their best efforts to arrange an alternative date, they had no choice but to fulfil their fixture but field their Under 21 academy side.

"The club wanted to move the fixture to give our supporters an opportunity to attend both our League fixture with Wealdstone and Cup fixture with Basingstoke but regret that unfortunately a choice between the two will have to be made," a club statement confirmed.

"We're incredibly proud of their achievements so far in this year's Hampshire Senior Cup and will be supporting the youngsters from Wealdstone."

And, it was the same story along the

south coast at Worthing.

Following the postponement of their National League South game with Cheshunt to a waterlogged pitch last week, the match was put back to the only available date left available, Tuesday April 25.

This, however, had been listed just 24 hours before the Rebels' already scheduled Sussex Senior Cup semi-final against Hastings United.

Despite constant dialogue with the National League and Sussex County FA to see if the congestion could be eased, a solution could not be found owing to "multiple factors", again meaning Worthing will have to field an under-strength side for the Hastings game with play-offs still very much in the offing.

Club chairman Barry Hunter commented: "Naturally this creates a huge conflict as it schedules us to play four games in eight days, which is not possible without compromise.

"We would also plan to speak with the Sussex FA at the end of the season in the hope we could work with them and other clubs to find ways to avoid the congestion experienced this season."

Barry is right, discussions do need to be had. Most supporters have some very fond

memories from their club's respective County Cup competitions and take great pride in claiming regional bragging rights should their club be lucky enough to lift the trophy.

But the fact remains that County FAs such as Hampshire and Sussex can't expect the likes of Aldershot and Worthing to put their whole season on the line at this crucial stage when there is still so much to play for in the league. If anything, they should be supporting their member clubs in their quest to achieve a highest possible league position. I mean, it's in their best interests, right?

The plight of Aldershot and Worthing – and no doubt other clubs up and down the country – will once again place the future of the County Cup into doubt.

Personally, I like to think they still have a part to play in the fabric of a Non-League season, but unless there is more understanding and flexibility in the fulfilling of priority fixtures, then the more difficulty I have in making an argument for it to remain on the modern-day fixture list.

Something, somewhere along the line surely has to give.

---

# SEASIDERS CLUB CONTACTS

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Club Secretary	Phil Barber		
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# ITALY'S FIRST GIANTS

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

Find more at [TheUntoldGame.co.uk](http://TheUntoldGame.co.uk) or on social media @TheUntoldGame



Italian football is home to some huge names. Milan, Inter, and Juventus epitomise what was once the dominant nation in Europe, and between them have a history beyond imagination. But among the storied names, among the memorable feats, sits a club who haven't seen anything remotely like glory in over a century, and whose chances of seeing any soon are remote in the extreme. Nestled just above Roma, Napoli and Fiorentina in the table of Italian success, with as many titles as all of them put together, are the unlikely heroes of Italian football: Pro Vercelli.

Situated equidistant between Milan and Turin, in the crowded footballing corner of northwest Italy, the small town of Vercelli seems an unlikely place for a generation of champions to have sprung up. The area is more famous for the growing of rice, an industry that dates back centuries, and for once being the home of the oldest public university in the world. It is not the kind of place you expect to find a team with seven league titles to their name; only six clubs in Italy have more.

The club was formed out of a local gym, who wanted something more competitive to do with their time than simply working out. This, it would prove, was fortuitous. Playing their first competitive match in 1903, they were made up mostly of health conscious teenagers, trying to be as fit as they could while they enjoyed themselves. Italian football, at the time, was already tending toward the more experienced end of the spectrum, making the upstarts from Piedmont, in some cases, nearly two decades younger than their opponents. Alongside



**GUIDO ARA**

their beginnings in the gym, they outlasted their opponents repeatedly, and quickly made their way through the nascent Italian league system. By 1907, they had won their regional competition, and for the first time, were admitted to the national Italian championship.

The side was made up entirely of Italians, and mostly of Vercellians. One of them, midfielder Giuseppe Milano, made himself something of a hometown hero after his debut at the tender age of 19 in 1906, helping



**PRO VERCELLI 1908**

guide Pro Vercelli into the top flight. In 1908, he was joined in the newly promoted side by two more homegrown stars, Carlo Rampini and Guido Ara. All three would usher in an era of success that, at that time, was unprecedented in Italian football, and all three would join an Italy side under Vittorio Pozzo that was taking its first steps. Milano was his captain.

With their superior fitness, the midfield dynamos of Ara and Milano, and the rampant goalscoring of Carlo Rampini, Pro Vercelli upset the early giants of Italian football, beating Juventus in the qualification rounds and then Inter and Sampdoria (under their historic names, US Milanese and Andrea Doria) in the final group stage to lift their first Italian championship. A year later, they achieved the feat again, and looked set for a period of dominance in Italian football.

The 1909-10 season, however, saw a revamp in the league system. Rather than a number of qualifying rounds followed by a championship group, the FIGC decided that it would be best to create what is now a traditional league division, with teams competing for points over the course of a season. A hard fought campaign saw the league finish with the newly named Internazionale level on points at the top with Pro Vercelli, with an (irrelevant)

inferior goal difference. A championship decider was hastily arranged, which clashed with commitments Pro Vercelli had already made. In protest, the two-time champions only sent a youth team to play the decider, which they duly lost. It was the only blip in what would become a phenomenal pre-war period.

Hurt by this turn of events, Pro Vercelli went home and prepared for their greatest period. Determined, experienced and aggrieved, Over the following three seasons they would lose only twice, securing three league titles before finally slipping just before the First World War. Five titles, the most successful club in Italian football.

Following the conflict, Guido Ara took charge of a new Pro Vercelli, leading them to two more titles in 1921 and 1922, a sparkling twilight for the old champions. But professionalisation made it difficult to compete with the bigger clubs, and slowly the large cities exerted their dominance. This was proven no more effectively than with the emergence of Silvio Piola. Pro Vercelli's record goalscorer brought with him dreams of a return to glory in the early 1930s, with the chairman of the small town club declaring that he wouldn't sell Piola for 'all the gold in the world', because it would be the death of his club. In 1934, however, the allure of Lazio became too strong. Piola moved to the capital and became Italian football's highest ever scorer. Proving the chairman correct, Pro Vercelli were relegated at the end of that season for the first time. They have never made it back to the top flight.

Enjoy the game.

**PRO VERCELLI**



# PITCHING IN

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@PitchingIn\_





# PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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# MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League  
Saturday 22nd April, 3pm



## Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

### MATCH SPONSOR:

Brooks & Wood

### BALL SPONSOR:

Transcend Freight

## Heybridge Swifts FC

Manager: Steve Tilson

Therapist: Stuart Bevis

Goalkeeper Coach: James Good



Stuart **Ainsley**

Myles **Anderson**



Noel **Aitkens**

Louie **Arrowsmith**



Henry **Barley**

Ryan **Boswell**



Callum **Bennett**

Tyler **Brampton**



Harry **Blackburn**

Sam **Carter**



Zak **Brown**

Callum **Chafer (GK)**



George **Clarke**

Quba **Gordo**



Ollie **Canfer**

Rob **Harvey**



Andy **Fennell**

Rhys **Henry**



Sam **Ford**

Kieran **Jones**



Milo **Grimes**

Scott **Kemp**



Callum **Harrison**

Jack **Mochalski**



Andre **Hasanally**

Lee **Noble**



Curtis **Haynes-Brown**

Sam **Park**



Josh **Hitter**

Freddie **Price**



Billy **Holland (C)**

Matthew **Price**



Lamel **Howell**

Benjamin **Sartain**



Harry **Knock**

Alex **Stephenson**



Leon **Ottley-Gooch**

Callum **Taylor**



Callum **Robinson (GK)**

Joe **Whitney (GK)**



Charlie **Warren**

Thomas **Wray (GK)**



Joe **Whight**

### MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Michael Scott Assistant Referees: Mr Daniel Baines and Mr Luke Woolf

red/yellow - goals - played