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SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2024, 3PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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VICE CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



Good afternoon and wishing you all a warm welcome to the AGL Arena for today's Isthmian League clash with fellow league/play-off chasing Brentwood Town.

It's difficult to know what to expect today as our meeting at their place earlier in the season wasn't a classic show of football by any stretch of the imagination. Those of you who attended will remember the pitch being so heavy and boggy - it really put pay to our flowing passing game as both sides went toe to toe in a long ball battle. A fair 2-2 score with both sides in reality not doing enough to win the game.

Hopefully today's game on a better surface will allow for a battle of football prowess rather than just dogged work rate, only time will tell.

Last weeks encounter with Heybridge Swifts was one of which I had high expectations for

from both sides. It looked very much to be the case from the start as we edged it in both in possession and chances created, with Heybridge looking to get forward on the break. Billy and Noel took charge and started to dictate the game, along with Zak showing glimpses of the lightning player we know he can be. However, this culminated with Heybridge getting more and more players behind the ball.

Come the second half it really was a case of defence against attack with a continual nine men behind the ball from the opposition.

The boys threw everything they had at them and to be honest the Swifts defended manfully and that alone saw them come away with a point in a rarely seen 0-0 draw.

The remainder of the season will be a real test of the squad depth with influential players Charlie, Joe and Bully being injured, meaning the players picked to come in need to take the opportunity at the business end of the season which I'm sure they will.

I think the fact that at this moment of the season our fate is in our own hands is as good if not better than any of us may have expected, thus making the run in both nerve racking yet very exciting to be part of.

Let's hope Saturday night sees a happy VC with Felixstowe having three points in the bag, Lowestoft dropping a point or three at Brightlingsea and somehow England winning the Six Nations. A lot of fingers will be crossed.

Regards
Andy

PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

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

FROM THE DUGOUT:
STUART BOARDLEY



Good afternoon to you all and a warm welcome to our visitors Brentwood Town, a team who, since our draw back on the 6th January, have only dropped three league points and that was against leaders Lowestoft Town a few weeks back.

Two of the form teams in the league, this promises to be a huge match for both teams in their chase for league honours this season.

We now enter a period that will, without doubt define our season. Brentwood Town are the first of three games against the top four with Bury and Lowestoft to follow. It's easy to push the old cliché 'one game at a time' and all that but the reality is that these three games will be vital to our promotion push and we are all acutely aware of that. One thing for certain is that the Brentwood game has to be our sole priority because if you take your eye off the ball or look too far ahead, this league has a unique way of

kicking you in the proverbials!

Injuries have certainly hit us hard over the last month. As you may have already heard, we've lost Charlie Warren most likely to a season-ending arm break, Tom Bullard has been sidelined after an operation to his left leg and Joe and Leon have been out with ankle ligament injuries. I'm pleased to say that Leon, as you've seen in the last week or so has recovered and with Joe and Tom back running we are really hopeful that, Charlie aside, we will be back to full strength shortly. Charlie has now had his arm operated on, pinned and is working with our physio Charlotte to retain as much of his fitness as possible ahead of his return so we wish him all the best and fingers crossed we will see him again soon.

With these positives on the horizon we couldn't be in much better shape heading into the run in so, strap yourselves in as it's sure to be an exciting ride!

Enjoy the game
Boards

IMAGE FROM OUR 2-2 DRAW AGAINST BRENTWOOD TOWN IN JANUARY



MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS
BY TOM &
STEFAN

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH **Felixstowe & Walton Utd 0 Heybridge Swifts 0**

Felixstowe & Walton United extended their unbeaten run to eleven games but could not find a breakthrough against a stubborn Heybridge defence and had to settle for a point. The first half was a fairly quiet affair with the home side seeing the majority of the possession without creating clearcut opportunities, Zak Brown, Josh Mayhew and Josh Hitter having several half chances but nothing to trouble the keeper too much. Heybridge were limited to rare breaks and one of those in the second half almost led to Luca Albon scoring but he shot wide. The Seasiders were guilty of a poor final ball on too many occasions in the second half and with the Swifts defence heading clear everything thrown at them it became a frustrating watch. The best chance came with a few minutes to go, Josh Hitter's free kick found Mayhew whose stooped flicked header was heading for the bottom corner until Joe Whitney leapt to turn the ball around the post to win his side a point.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Joshua Blunkell
2. Lamell Howell
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Jack Ainsley
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Zak Brown
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Josh Mayhew
10. Josh Hitter
11. Andre Hasanally

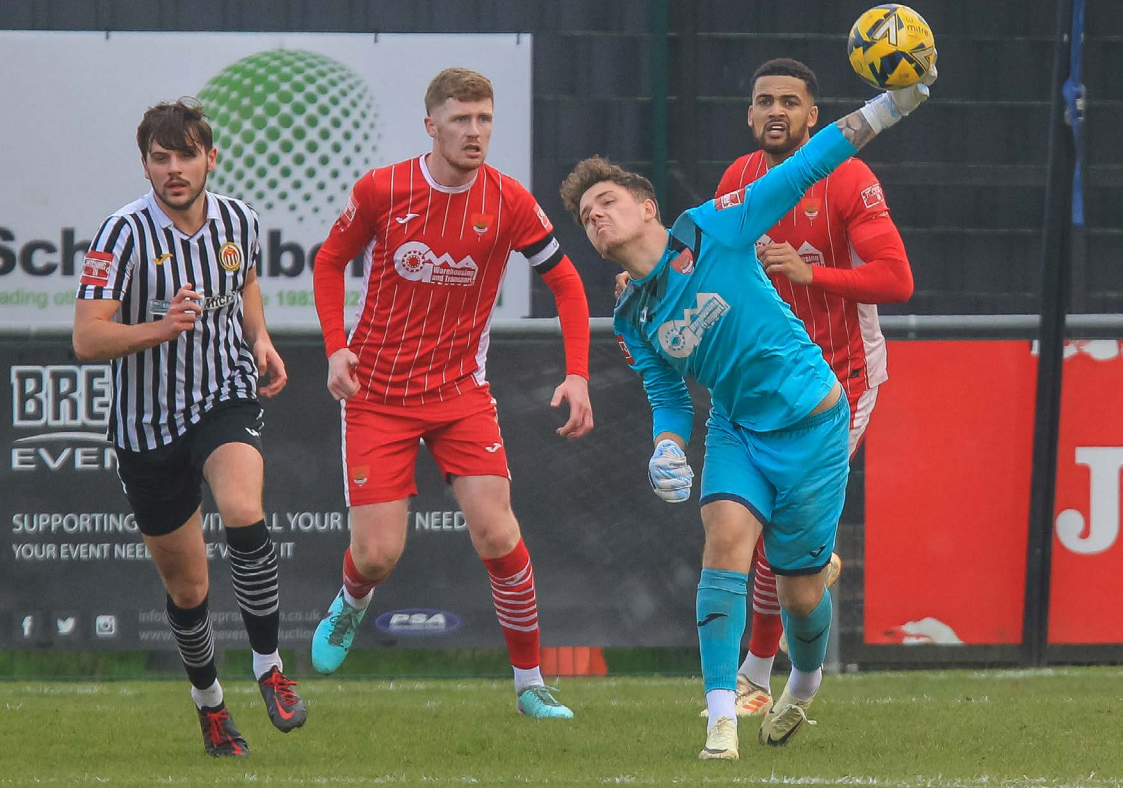
SUBS

12. Callum Bennett
14. Sam Ford
15. Henry Barley
16. Callum Harrison
17. Zac Tuvey











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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2023/24

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Lowestoft Town	29	21	2	6	79	33	+46	65
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	29	19	6	4	66	32	+34	63
3	Bury Town	27	17	5	5	71	39	+32	56
4	Brentwood Town	26	16	5	5	49	23	+26	53
5	Bowers & Pitsea	27	16	4	7	52	37	+15	52
6	Basildon United	26	14	3	9	52	41	+11	45
7	Heybridge Swifts	27	13	6	8	42	35	+7	45
8	Walthamstow	27	13	6	8	47	41	+6	45
9	Maldon & Tiptree	28	13	3	12	52	48	+4	42
10	Brightlingsea Regent	26	11	2	13	44	45	-1	35
11	Witham Town	28	9	7	12	43	51	-8	34
12	Gorleston	26	9	6	11	39	41	-2	33
13	Wroxham	26	8	7	11	37	42	-5	31
14	New Salamis	26	7	7	12	40	58	-18	28
15	Redbridge	24	6	6	12	36	50	-14	24
16	Ipswich Wanderers	27	6	3	18	29	53	-24	21
17	Grays Athletic	26	4	6	16	33	53	-20	18
18	Enfield	26	5	3	18	26	63	-37	18
19	Stowmarket Town	25	0	5	20	26	78	-52	5

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024 AT 17:29:21

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

Brightlingsea Regent	▼	Lowestoft Town
Bury Town	▼	New Salamis
Enfield	▼	Heybridge Swifts
Felixstowe & Walton Utd	▼	Brentwood Town
Grays Athletic	▼	Redbridge
Maldon & Tiptree	▼	Ipswich Wanderers
Stowmarket Town	▼	Gorleston
Witham Town	▼	Bowers & Pitsea
Wroxham	▼	Walthamstow





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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2023/2024.



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.



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.



DANNY POTTER GOALKEEPER COACH

A former pro footballer/TV star, Danny was cast into the Sky TV programme 'Dream Team' where he played for the fictional team Harchester United. Danny boasts clubs such as Torquay, Colchester and Cambridge as former employers. Recently appointed as Goalkeeper Coach, Danny brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and professionalism to Stuart's management team.



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 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.



CHARLOTTE LONG SPORTS THERAPIST

Charlotte graduated from the University of Worcester in 2014 with a BSc (Hons) in Sports Therapy. She had previously worked with Leiston FC before joining the Seasiders in 2019. Her main focus is overseeing the recovery programmes of injured players through her private practice.



DOUG FRENCH **KIT MAN**

Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and Tattingsstone, 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 a new challenge with the Seaside.



JOSHUA BLUNKELL **GOALKEEPER**

Josh joined the club in January 2024. The former AFC Sudbury keeper signed a professional contract with Wycombe Wanderers after impressing in Sudbury's televised FA Cup in 2021. Previous clubs also include AFC Sudbury, Bowers & Pitsea, Braintree Town and Kettering Town.



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.



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.



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.



JACK AINSLEY **DEFENDER**

Rejoins from Stowmarket. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their academy and went on to make 4 appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 3 Lowestoft and Leiston but finds himself back at the Seaside where many describe him as a "Rolls Royce" type of player who can play in any position for the team.



TOM BULLARD **DEFENDER**

Another who joins us from Stowmarket. 'Bully' has experience across Step 3 and 4 with long and successful spells as captain at both Leiston and Bury Town. Tom is a serial winner who's experience, defensive qualities and leadership skills will add to an already impressive back line.



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.



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!



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.



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.



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

Former Colchester United, Needham, Sudbury and more recently Chelmsford midfielder joined the Seasiders 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.



IVAN COSTA **MIDFIELDER**

Promoted into the first team squad from our Academy after a strong pre-season. Ivan is an industrious central midfield player whose work ethic and attitude is second to none.



KUBI KUSSAN **MIDFIELDER**

Another young player promoted to the first team squad from our Academy. Kubi is a technically gifted midfield player who enjoys moving with the ball. He has an edge to his game that has impressed the management throughout pre-season.



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.



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.



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.



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 Seasiders Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the clubs No. 9.



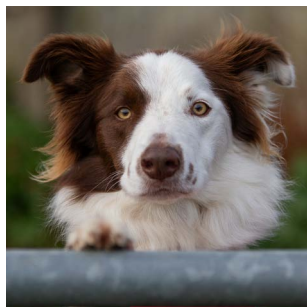
SAM FORD FORWARD

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.



JOSH MAYHEW FORWARD

Josh joins 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 will bring a focal point to our attack as well as a being natural finisher who is a proven goalscorer at this level.



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Bury Town	W 4-2 v MALD..	W 4-1 v BRIG..	W 3-1 v HEYB..	W 3-0 v GORL..	W 4-3 v IPSW..	W 2-0 v WITH..
Felixstowe & Walton	W 2-0 v WALT..	W 2-0 v BRIG..	W 3-1 v WROX..	W 3-2 v GRAY..	W 2-1 v ENFI..	D 0-0 v HEYB..
Brentwood Town	W 2-0 v WALT..	W 3-2 v GORL..	L 1-0 v LOWE..	W 2-1 v HEYB..	W 3-0 v NEW..	W 1-0 v ENFI..
Bowers & Pitsea	W 1-0 v IPSW..	W 3-1 v STOW..	D 1-1 v GORL..	L 3-1 v LOWE..	W 3-2 v REDB..	W 3-0 v MALD..
Lowestoft Town	W 2-0 v ENFI..	W 3-1 v BOWE..	W 5-1 v REDB..	L 2-1 v IPSW..	L 2-1 v HEYB..	W 4-0 v WROX..
Walthamstow	W 2-0 v WROX..	L 2-0 v FELI..	W 4-0 v GRAY..	W 4-2 v BASI..	W 4-2 v GORL..	L 2-0 v REDB..
Witham Town	L 4-0 v BASI..	D 2-2 v IPSW..	W 2-1 v NEW..	W 3-2 v GORL..	W 5-1 v ENFI..	L 2-0 v BURY..
Basildon Utd	L 1-0 v FELI..	W 4-0 v WITH..	L 2-1 v WROX..	W 2-1 v MALD..	L 4-2 v WALT..	W 2-1 v GRAY..
Wroxham	L 2-0 v WALT..	W 2-1 v BASI..	L 3-1 v FELI..	W 3-2 v BRIG..	W 1-0 v MALD..	L 4-0 v LOWE..
Heybridge Swifts	L 2-1 v REDB..	W 2-1 v NEW..	L 3-1 v BURY..	L 2-1 v BREN..	W 2-1 v LOWE..	D 0-0 v FELI..
Gorleston	D 1-1 v BOWE..	W 4-2 v MALD..	L 3-2 v WITH..	L 3-0 v BURY..	L 4-2 v WALT..	W 2-1 v IPSW..
Madon & Tiptree	W 1-0 v ENFI..	W 4-2 v REDB..	L 4-2 v GORL..	L 2-1 v BASI..	L 1-0 v WROX..	L 3-0 v BOWE..
New Salamis	L 2-1 v HEYB..	W 3-2 v GRAY..	L 2-1 v WITH..	W 3-2 v IPSW..	L 3-0 v BREN..	L 1-0 v BRIG..
Ipswich Wanderers	D 2-2 v WITH..	D 1-1 v STOW..	L 3-2 v NEW..	W 2-1 v LOWE..	L 4-3 v BURY..	L 2-1 v GORL..
Grays Athletic	W 3-1 v WITH..	D 1-1 v WROX..	L 3-2 v NEW..	L 4-0 v WALT..	L 3-2 v FELI..	L 2-1 v BASI..
Redbridge	L 1-0 v FELI..	L 4-2 v MALD..	D 1-1 v BRIG..	L 3-2 v BOWE..	L 5-1 v LOWE..	W 2-0 v WALT..
Brightingsea Regent	L 2-0 v MALD..	L 4-1 v BURY..	L 2-0 v FELI..	D 1-1 v REDB..	L 3-2 v WROX..	W 1-0 v NEW..
Stowmarket Town	L 4-3 v NEW..	D 2-2 v ENFI..	L 3-2 v WROX..	L 4-1 v BURY..	L 3-1 v BOWE..	D 1-1 v IPSW..
Enfield	L 2-0 v WALT..	L 1-0 v MALD..	L 2-0 v LOWE..	L 2-1 v FELI..	L 5-1 v WITH..	L 1-0 v BREN..

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH: LEADING GOALSCORERS

1	Jake Reed	Lowestoft Town	26	11	Matt Price	Bowers & Pitsea	11
2	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	23	12	Ryan Curtis	Gorleston	10
3	Harvey Sayer	Lowestoft Town	23	13	Adam Hipperson	Lowestoft Town	10
4	George Smith	Maldon & Tiptree	17	14	Jack Adlington-Pile	Heybridge Swifts	9
5	Luke Brown	Bury Town	14	15	Kai Brown	Basildon United	9
6	Samir Ali	Basildon United	13	16	Samuel Ford	Felixstowe & Walton United	9
7	Louis Britton	Maldon & Tiptree	13	17	Joshua Mayhew	Felixstowe & Walton United	9
8	Callum Harrison	Felixstowe & Walton United	13	18	Mekhi McKenzie	Brentwood Town	9
9	Ben Williamson	Bowers & Pitsea	13	19	Charlie Warren	Felixstowe & Walton United	9
10	Olly Sotoyinbo	Brightingsea Regent / Walthamstow	12	20	Ben Allen	Basildon United	8



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FIXTURES 2023/24

AUGUST

SAT 12	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Holland, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 211
SAT 19	WELLINGBOROUGH <i>Ford, Harrison, Holland, Warren</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP	W 4-1	ATT 135
SAT 26	BURY TOWN <i>Ford, Harrison, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 401
MON 28	STOWMARKET TOWN <i>OG, Ford</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 433

SEPTEMBER

SAT 2	WOODFORD TOWN <i>Holland, Brown, Hitter, Aitkens</i>	A	3PM	FA CUP FIRST QR	W 4-1	ATT 225
SAT 9	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Whight (P), Aitkens</i>	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	W 2-0	ATT 371
SAT 16	ENFIELD TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP SECOND QR	L 3-0	
TUE 19	BOWERS & PITSEA <i>Warren, Harrison, Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	ISTHMIAN LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 263
SAT 23	HERTFORD TOWN <i>Harrison (2), Holland, J Ainsley, Barley, Mayhew</i>	H	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	W 6-3	ATT 225
WED 27	LAKENHEATH <i>Mayhew, Warren (2), Barley</i>	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREM CUP	W 4-1	
SAT 30	BASILDON UNITED <i>Whight, Bullard, Warren, Brown</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-2	ATT 112

OCTOBER

SAT 7	BILLERICAY <i>Mayhew (2), Ford</i>	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	L 4-3	ATT 527
TUE 10	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT <i>Mayhew (3), Ottley-Gooch, Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 5-3	ATT 402
SAT 14	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Mayhew</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 434
TUE 24	REDBRIDGE <i>Warren (2), Ford, Harrison</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 313
SAT 28	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Aitkens, Brown, Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 226

NOVEMBER

SAT 4	ENFIELD <i>Harrison (3), Warren, Ford</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 5-1	ATT 360
WED 8	HADLEIGH UNITED <i>Hitter, Warren</i>	H	7.45PM	SP CUP QF	W2-1	ATT 208
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS <i>Warren, Harrison (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 310
TUE 14	WROXHAM	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 467
SAT 25	WITHAM TOWN <i>Harrison (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 168

DECEMBER

SAT 2	GORLESTON <i>Ford, Hitter, Warren, Harrison</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 223
SAT 9	NEW SALAMIS <i>Harrison</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 78
SAT 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 341
SAT 23	IPSWICH WANDERERS <i>Ford, Barley</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 232
SAT 30	BOWERS & PITSEA <i>Holland</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 302

JANUARY

MON 1	STOWMARKET TOWN <i>Holland, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 561
SAT 6	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Aitkens, Mayhew</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 246
SAT 13	LOWESTOFT TOWN <i>Mayhew, Holland, Harrison</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 431
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED <i>Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 340

FEBRUARY

SAT 3	REDBRIDGE <i>Bullard</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 83
SAT 10	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Ford, Hitter</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 373
TUES 13	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT <i>Mayhew, Barley</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 128
SAT 17	WROXHAM <i>Warren (2), Hitter</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 181
SAT 24	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Whight, Holland, Mayhew</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 299

MARCH

SAT 2	ENFIELD <i>Hasanally, Mayhew</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 132
SAT 9	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 455
SAT 16	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 23	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 26	LEISTON	A	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP SF @IPSWICH WANDERERS		
SAT 30	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

APRIL

MON 1	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	12.30PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 13	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 20	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 27	NEW SALAMIS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

THE OTHER SIDE BRENTWOOD TOWN FC

The original Brentwood FC dates back to the 19th century and the club saw some success in those early days, reaching the quarter-final of the FA Cup in 1886 where they were beaten 3-1 by Blackburn Rovers.

In the 1950s and 1960s the club operated as Brentwood & Warley FC and were three times winners of the Delphian League. In 1965 the club turned 'professional' becoming Brentwood Town FC.

The late 60s saw great success for the club as they rapidly rose to the heights of non-league football. Brentwood Town became a force to be reckoned with in the Southern League Premier Division, reaching the third round proper of the FA Cup in the 1969/70 season. But following their successful run the club subsequently folded and amalgamated with Chelmsford City.

The current club was founded in 1954 as Manor Athletic playing from King George's Playing Fields in Hartswood. From 1957 to 1993 the Club played at Larkins Playing Fields on the Ongar Road.

With help from the local council, Brentwood found a new home at The Brentwood Centre, where they played their first match in October 1993. In 2004 the Essex County FA officially gave the club permission to change its name and re-adopt the title of Brentwood Town FC.

Brentwood FC won the Essex Senior League title for the first time in the 2000/01 season and reached the final of the league cup in the 2005/06 season, losing 2-0 to Hornchurch.

Under the management of Steve Witherspoon and Amin Levitt the 2006/07 was the most successful in the club's



history as they won the Essex Senior League championship title and both league cup competitions to complete a treble. That also meant promotion to the Isthmian League North Division. In the 2007/08 season, the team performed well in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, and closely missed out on a play-off place, finishing sixth in the league.

The 2014/15 season saw more impressive victories, thanks to 10 players who had progressed through the youth pathway, leading the team to the Ryman North play-offs and achieving promotion to the Isthmian Premier League for the first time. This was the highest league status ever reached by the current Brentwood Town club and was obtained thanks to the skilled guidance of Adam Flanagan, the 2014/15 Manager. Adam subsequently moved on to manage Concord and Dartford in the National League South.

The biggest name in football to have played for the club has to be the great Jimmy Greaves! Jimmy signed for Brentwood in December 1975, aged 34. You could be sure that whenever Jimmy was part of the team, you could add hundreds of additional spectators to the normal gate numbers.

Thanks to the guidance and investment from the current Chairman, Jez Dickinson, the club was awarded a Charter Standard recognition from the FA in 2020 this marked the start of what the club expects to be an exciting journey progressing up the football pyramid.

Rod Stringer took over as manager in October 2021 and took the team to the play-off final where they lost on penalties to Canvey Island. In February 2023 Rod was succeeded by Craig Shipman who returned to the Arena having previously managed Brentwood Town between 2017-19 and had since been Assistant Manager at Great Wakering Rovers and 1st Team Coach at Concord Rangers.



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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

BY IAN TOWNSEND, TAKEN FROM WWW.ISTHMIAN.CO.UK

Lowestoft hit four, and we've wins for Bury, Brentwood, Bowers and Basildon in the battle for the Play Offs. Regent, Redbridge and Gorleston are our other North victors.

It seems like no time at all since **Lowestoft Town** were six points clear at the top of the Pitching In Isthmian North table, but the Trawler Boys found themselves on top of the pile only by goal difference as they kicked off against **Wroxham**. It took them only nine minutes to go ahead, and of course the goal went to Jake Reed, the number nine scoring goal number thirty one for the campaign, this one with his head. That looked to be that for the first half, but the Trawler Boys added a second three minutes into added time, Connor Deeks making an immediate impact on his return to the club. It was three-nil ten minutes from time, sixteen year old Sam Aldous with that one, and deep in added time there was a fourth - Harvey Sayer rounding off the scoring. A draw for Felixstowe saw the gap open up to two points as a result.

Felixstowe and Walton United were looking for a NINTH successive win as **Heybridge Swifts** came to call. The Seasideers were ten unbeaten, and that is now eleven, but neither side could manage a goal - a result which sees the hosts fall to two points behind the



Image from **Shirley Whitlow**.

leaders, whilst Swifts are seventh, seven points away from a top five spot.

Third place **Bury Town** have been in magnificent form. With nine wins from ten, and unbeaten since mid November, the Blues found themselves nine points behind the leading duo, and with the difficult task of defeating in-form **Witham Town** at Spa Road facing them. The Blues took the lead on the half hour, the goal coming from the familiar name of Cemal Ramadan - his twenty fifth of the season. Ramadan had a twenty sixth with twelve minutes to go, and his side held on for victory and completed a Witham double.

Brentwood Town started the weekend in fourth, and after a run of one defeat in ten were looking for another three points as **Enfield** came to call. The Blues had lost only once in three months, whilst the travelling E's had conceded five against Witham in midweek and had lost five in a row, so the hosts were undoubtedly favourites, but it took them until the fifty third minute to go ahead, Sam Jeremiah with the opening goal. The opening goal turned out to be the only goal, and the Blues stay fourth – and are now eight points clear of sixth place.

Bowers and Pitsea, in fifth place, were on the road to **Maldon & Tiptree**. The gap between Bowers and the Jammers was seven points at kick off, much of that engineered by a run of one defeat in ten for Bowers and a run of three straight defeats for their hosts. Bowers went ahead right on half time, Solomon Addy with the opening goal, and ten minutes from time the same player added another from the spot, making it two-nil to the visitors. Thomas Stagg added a third right at the end, and that was that. Bowers stay fifth, and have a seven point cushion between themselves and the chasing pack.

Walthamstow were on their own patch for an East London derby, **Redbridge** making the journey. Stow had been in fine form, winning their last three and scoring four goals in each of them, whilst the Motormen had one win from ten – and indeed five points from an available thirty – but it was the visitors who broke the deadlock just before half time, Bradley Bennett opening the scoring. Redbridge doubled their advantage with twenty two minutes left, Samson Uwandu making it two, and they held on for a valuable three points, whilst their hosts slipped to eighth.

Basildon United were back in action and back on their own patch, **Grays Athletic** making the trip. In eighth place, the Bees had a seven point gap to make up between

themselves and the final, so a home win was undoubtedly a must, but they had the worst possible start as in the first minute the visitors went ahead, Jack Humphrey with the opening goal. The Bees levelled eleven minutes before half time, Ben Allen's third goal in four matches giving the home fans something to shout about, and ten minutes from time Allen added another to put his side ahead for the first time – and they held on for three points, and climbed to sixth – but that gap remains seven points.

Brightlingsea Regent and **New Salamis** met at the Taydal in a mid table battle, four points and four places between the sides at kick off. Regent had taken only one point from their previous nine matches, a terrible run which has seen their promotion hopes depart, whilst the visitors had been consistently inconsistent all season long. The match started late and with a number of players still not present due to traffic issues, and it appeared to be ebbing towards a goalless draw, and then, right at the end, Daniel Brock found a winner for the hosts, who are tenth.

Finally, **Ipswich Wanderers** and their bunch of bananas welcomed **Gorleston**, and with both fruit and greens present this looked to be a healthy day out! Wanderers had only two wins from ten, and they fell behind in this one right on the stroke of half time, Joe Jefford giving the visitors the lead, but the rather less nutritiously named Matt 'Steak Bake' Blake levelled for the hosts on sixty four minutes, keeping his cool from the spot. Thirteen minutes later it was once more advantage Gorleston, Ismael Fatadjo making it two-one, and this time they held onto their lead to go twelfth.

Follow the Pitching In Isthmian League on Instagram. We're also on Facebook and Twitter.

SOCCER, SOCIALISM AND THE STASI

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



It is an age of financial dominance by a rich, privileged elite, while the rest of football scrabbles for crumbs from the Premier League table, and even in that rarified air the cost of challenging is beginning to fall foul of sustainability rules. It could be easy to imagine a level playing field between all clubs, a kind of socialist footballing landscape where everyone is created equal, and everybody has a chance. Unsurprisingly, that was the theory of football played behind the iron curtain, where works teams became commonplace and players were owned not by clubs, but by the state. But in East Germany, to paraphrase George Orwell, all clubs are created equal, but some are more equal than others.

In general, a quick glance at East German football doesn't appear to be problematic. Union Berlin, Lokomotive Leipzig, Hallescher Chemie, works teams embodied the socialist principle. But some teams weren't linked to industry. Berliner FC Dynamo, for example, were the team of the secret police. And that presented a far larger problem than the dominance of oil nations.

BFC Dynamo were the pet project of Erich Mielke, who was head of State Security in the GDR for three decades until the wall fell. That had worrying implications. To begin with, Vorwärts Berlin (the army team, who had hitherto dominated) were uprooted and forced to leave the city. Dynamo gave themselves first choice on any and all of Berlin's young footballers. Using the state apparatus he



also ensured they had the best facilities, and the best training, usually in both East and West Germany. Players fitness was exceptional. And there was widespread doping, often without the players' knowledge, because who was going to stop the Stasi doing what they wanted?

Just as troublingly, any player doing well in East Germany was 'invited' to join BFC. But 'invited' didn't quite tell the full story. Players were told that it was a life in the capital, or the end of their sporting careers. Unsurprisingly, Dynamo hoovered up the best of East German talent, first from Dynamo Dresden (another police team) and then elsewhere,, and equally unsurprisingly, they became the most successful club east of the wall.

It wasn't just players. In one match against Dynamo Dresden, the referee sent off a Dresden player for a minor offence, and then played on until BFC scored a winner. It was an embarrassment for the players, but nobody

dared question it. Refereeing decisions were regularly given to BFC at the expense of other teams. One goal, given for BFC, was so obviously offside that broadcasters were banned from showing it. A penalty given to BFC in 1986, when there were no opposition players anywhere near the 'fouled' striker, was named the 'penalty of shame'. This was after a player had been sent off for leaving the wall in front of a free kick. Officials were very aware of the Stasi's eyes over their shoulders.

Ironically, this club propped up by an arch socialist attracted Berlin's neo-Nazi community. Violent, racist, and hated across the country, they came up with a chant to demonstrate exactly how little they cared. 'Grandpa was in the SS, Dad was in the Stasi, I'm with BFC' rang out across the terraces, and hooliganism was rife.

Leaving East Germany was a dangerous gambit at the best of times. When you were supposed to represent the Stasi, it was near-suicidal. But that didn't stop some players from trying. In 1980 a tour of West Germany, Lutz Eigendorf, one of their star players, slipped his minders and sought asylum. In response, the Stasi imprisoned three more players for 'deserting the republic', as a very public warning to the others. It also sent 50 agents west, who then tracked Eigendorf's every move. He played for Kaiserslautern and then Eintracht Braunschweig, where he was a vocal critic of the East German regime. He died just a few years later, in a car crash, and nobody could rule out the involvement of the Stasi. When BFC fans started a Lutz Eigendorf fan club in his memory, they were put under Stasi surveillance.

On the international stage, Mielke's influence was limited, and BFC struggled. Despite their domestic dominance, they couldn't cheat their way to victory in Rome, or Madrid. Against others sides east of the iron curtain, they had to contend with Mielke's counterparts in Romania and Ukraine. And then there was Moscow. If BFC were drawn against a club from Moscow, often it was all over. Not even the Stasi could undermine the plans of the KGB in the motherland.

At home, though, the tactics reached a crescendo in the 1980s. BFC won ten titles in a row, a run that ended with the collapse of the Berlin wall. Overnight, that dominance wilted, as 22 players immediately defected to the west. Mielke was arrested for embezzlement, and then put on trial for murder. He couldn't help his club anymore.



BFC struggled on for a decade after the collapse of the wall, but then filed for insolvency in 2001. They survived, and now ply their trade in the fourth tier, not quite the title-winning glory of their dark heyday. But they retain some of the more distasteful elements of their fanbase. History never dies completely.

Enjoy the game.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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



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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North
Saturday 16th March 2024, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

🟡	🟡	🟡	Jack Ainsley
🟡	🟡	🟡	Stuart Ainsley
🟡	🟡	🟡	Noel Aitkens
🟡	🟡	🟡	Henry Barley
🟡	🟡	🟡	Callum Bennett
🟡	🟡	🟡	Joshua Blunkell (GK)
🟡	🟡	🟡	Zak Brown
🟡	🟡	🟡	Tom Bullard
🟡	🟡	🟡	Sam Ford
🟡	🟡	🟡	Callum Harrison
🟡	🟡	🟡	Josh Hitter
🟡	🟡	🟡	Billy Holland (C)
🟡	🟡	🟡	Lamell Howell
🟡	🟡	🟡	Josh Mayhew
🟡	🟡	🟡	Leon Ottley-Gooch
🟡	🟡	🟡	Charlie Warren
🟡	🟡	🟡	Joe Whight

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MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Dario Matthewson **Assistant Referees:** Mr Alfie Davidson and Mr Jason Ding