

the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2022/2023 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Brentwood Town
SAT 7TH JAN 3PM

v Bury Town
TUE 10TH JAN 7.45PM



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE
DOUBLE ISSUE

JOINT CHAIRMAN: **ANDY CLARKE**



**Good afternoon/evening all,
Welcome to the AGL Arena for this
dual programme covering both the
Saturday game against Brentwood
Town and the re-arranged game
against local rivals Bury Town.**

We wish all attending "A Happy & Healthy New Year" and hopefully six points for the Seaside...

Time to look back over the festive period and a quick look forward to what 2023 may bring.

Sometimes the saying "it's a funny old game" and "a game of two halves" carry little meaning - however, they can never be more appropriate than our last two matches.

A betting man would have happily put a few quid on us to easily turn over the struggling Coggeshall Town in our Boxing Day (27th) fixture, particularly when you look at recent results and the league table.

Unfortunately our opponents had not read the script and turned up with a renewed fitness, desire, hunger and belief to stay in the game and eventually take it to us.

Having gone a goal up we could never build on this and the second half saw our opponents have the lion's share. They managed a deserved equaliser and even when down to nine men created chances and should, in all fairness, taken all three points.

However, we escaped with a point. Looking back - I think that not having played for three weeks, festive parties and general Christmas apathy all contributed to a rare below par performance.

Moving on to our New Year derby against our fiercest rivals Stowmarket Town, would it be same again or would our boys rise to the occasion???? What I witnessed in the first half was one of the finest performances I have seen from the boys in a long, long time.

Without exaggeration we made Stow look like relegation candidates in the first half. Looking solid at the back with Harry coming in for the injured Milo, forming a solid barrier in the centre of our defence with the ever-young Logga.

"What I witnessed in the first half was one of the finest performances I have seen from the boys in a long, long time."

The full back and midfield pairings looking as good as I have seen them, Billy and Noel totally bossing the middle of the park, with two changes up top. The management made the bold move to change things and bring in George and Ollie, and to be honest it paid dividends - more than any of us would



have expected.

Clarkey giving the best performance I have seen since coming to the club, making some top-class defenders look ordinary at best. Ollie played a perfect 10 role and a constant thorn to Stow and capping off a fine performance with an absolutely belter of a finish.

With Stow missing a penalty (the ball was eventually found in Needham's car park) we went in three up at half time. In reality, we didn't want half time to come and there wasn't a chance Stow wouldn't get a rocket and come for us in the second half.

They didn't disappoint and had the lion's share of possession without creating too many clear cut chances. Noel hit the post at 3-0 which would have definitely been game over, however Stow pressed and pressed and were rewarded with two goals. However, they couldn't break us down a third time and all praise to the entire side for their dogged, full-blooded defending in the second half.

The lads will never know how proud I felt at the end, winning at our arch rivals and playing so well made having a beer in their



club house after an absolute pleasure, Thanks, boys!!!!

Looking forward to 2023 I'm very optimistic that we can go on and at least match our efforts of last season, if not better them.

Keeping players fit, free from suspension, maintaining that team ethic within the camp along with a decent level of consistency we should be there or thereabouts, come April.

Let's keep the AGL Arena a fortress, attendances high and make Felixstowe a place that no team wants to come!

Best wishes to all for 2023.

Regards
Andy

FROM THE DUGOUT:
STUART BOARDLEY



Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the AGL Arena for the first of a quick-fire home double. First up we welcome Rod Stringer's Brentwood Town side for our second meeting this season, the first a 1-1 draw on the opening day. Following that we face Ben Channery's Bury Town following our postponement during the country's cold snap last month.

Looking back to our last management notes as we approached the Coggeshall game we were optimistic of a positive result and performance. That, unfortunately, was as close as we came. On reflection it had been 24 days since our last game and that certainly showed in a sluggish display against what was certainly a revitalised Coggeshall team since their managerial change.

We then faced a challenge at the opposite end of the table as we faced a Stowmarket side who had lost just one league game since August and were unbeaten at home. We were quite the opposite of a previous outing, we looked sharp, ruthless and put our hosts to the sword with a really pleasing first half performance. Second half we sat off a bit more than we'd have liked so the game ended up a little bit nervy towards the end but ultimately, unlike a few times this season we defended resolutely and saw the game out.

It's been really tough of late for us as a management team to pick a squad. In the past and more often than not this has been because of injuries or unavailability but the latest difficulty has through an unusually short injury list and a really talented squad of players. It has made Fridays (normally my favourite day of the working week) a day of difficult conversations whereby we've had to leave players out of the matchday squad. This is a problem that by no means I am wishing away (and I hope I haven't jinxed it) but it demonstrates the strength of the

squad we have assembled and we are really looking forward to the second half of the season where our single aim is to get ourselves into those playoffs...

I understand we've got some young Seasiders as mascots today for the Brentwood game. The U11 girls' team will be joining us and we hope they have a fantastic time and prove to be a good omen for us!

“... it demonstrates the strength of the squad we have assembled and we are really looking forward to the second half of the season where our single aim is to get ourselves into those playoffs.”

Having our young Seasiders join us on a matchday is something both myself and the players love to do. We believe it's so important to connect our youth system with the first team in any way we can so it's great to have our young mascots again!

Hopefully I'll be reporting in a few weeks' time that these two fixtures have been fruitful in terms of points but I'm sure both games will provide a similarly tough, albeit probably very different tests.





SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Where are they now?

It's always good to see old friends getting ahead in life, and the club can be rightly proud that one old boy in particular is plying his trade at the pinnacle of English football, St George's Park.

Dan Kett, originally from Kesgrave, had his first role as a physio here at the AGL Arena looking after the first team in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division under then boss Kevin O'Donnell.

He gained great experience at the sharp end of physiotherapy after qualifying. No posh facilities with all mod cons, mind you the club has always been aware of the need for good facilities and had the best within the budget.



Stuart Ainsley receiving attention from Dan in 2015

Dan learnt his trade for a couple of seasons looking after the players and applied for the head physio's job at League two Mansfield Town when the vacancy came up in 2015. He was successful, gaining further experience with the stags before securing the position of performance and rehabilitation physio at St George's Park in 2018.

Well done Dan!

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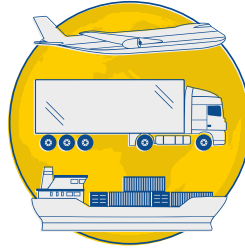
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MATCH REPORT

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Felixstowe & Walton Utd 1

Warren

Coggeshall Town 1

Callum Robinson produced a man of the match performance to secure a point in a match that a below-par Seasiders could and should have lost. Despite leading at half time through a Charlie Warren goal, Felixstowe can count themselves fortunate that a combination of poor finishing and some fine goalkeeping denied the visitors what would have been their first league victory of the season.

New Coggeshall Manager Jason Maher had brought in five new players in the past fortnight and the former Grays striker Josh Osude transformed the basement clubs attacking threat throughout the game, creating numerous golden opportunities, including five one on one chances that he could not convert.

Charlie Warren placed his 33rd minute shot into the bottom corner after good build up play from Zak Brown to give Felixstowe a half time lead, with Ryan Dear heading high into the roof of



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Joe Whight
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Andre Hasanally
8. Josh Hitter
9. Sam Ford
10. Zak Brown
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Harry Knock
14. Henry Barley
15. Harry Blackburn
16. Stuart Ainsley
19. George Clarke

Match Report:
Stuart Daynes



the net from a pinpoint cross in the 47th minute to equalise for the away side. Felixstowe failed to turn some decent possession into goal attempts and it was the visitors who time and time again were denied by Callum Robinson, the woodwork, some poor finishing and a goal line clearance that the away bench were convinced had struck the hand of a defender. Zak Brown was upended in the box for what looked like a clear penalty as the game progressed and Coggeshall got increasingly frustrated at the officials and their wasted opportunities. This frustration got out of hand in the 82nd minute with a Coggeshall player launching the ball from close range into the Felixstowe dugout and striking a coach's lower half, this led to a mass brawl that saw two red cards produced for Coggeshall and one for a so far undetermined member of the home bench. With Coggeshall down to nine men and several minutes on the clock, the home crowd sensed an opportunity to snatch the points but again it was Osude who had the best chance to win the game, and



again he was denied by Robinson when a goal looked a certainty.

Stuart Boardley spoke after the match. "We were disappointing today, we were lethargic,





we looked like we'd had a good Christmas! And that was a hard watch as we just didn't have any tempo to our play, didn't have any positivity or forward-thinking, it was just very very flat. You could argue that before the game that would be considered as two points dropped but at the end it's probably one point gained as I thought Coggeshall were the better side. Their goal was disappointing to concede but Callum has gone on to save us so many times at point blank range to keep us in the game. We just huffed and puffed and it really was a poor showing, three weeks without a game is just not conducive to

keeping yourself going, but no excuses, we weren't at the races today and they were, and they've come here and got a point. If we had of performed anywhere near to our best we would have won comfortably here today, no disrespect intended to Coggeshall, but of course I'm disappointed to only take a point home as on paper and before the game it should really have been three points for us".



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THE OTHER SIDE BRENTWOOD TOWN



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.

With Rod Stringer taking over as manager in October 2021, the aim is to take Brentwood Town FC to play at a high level.



THE OTHER SIDE PLAYER PROFILES

Rod Stringer – Manager, Rod was appointed in October 2021 and has previously achieved success wherever he has been, starting at Barkingside and Aveley, then moving on to Braintree, Bishop's Stortford and Chelmsford City.



Harry Girling – Goalkeeper signed from Tilbury in February this season, Harry has previously played for Millwall, Welling United and Leatherhead.

Jake Anderson – Goalkeeper Jake is one of the youngest in the squad having joined Brentwood two seasons ago and has had some 1st team experience.

Andy Freeman – Midfielder Andy came through the youth and under-21 teams and established himself in the 1st team by the end of the 2014/15 season, winning the player of the year award in 2015/16. Andy moved to National South club Concord Rangers during the 2017/18 season and spent 2018/19 with Aveley before returning to the Arena for the start of the 2019/20 season.



Connor Hogan – midfielder who came through the club youth system and has also played for Hornchurch, Aveley, Brightlingsea Regent, VCD Athletic and East Thurrock United before returning to Blues in summer 2019.

Jack Dickinson – midfielder who has come through the club youth teams and now a regular in the first team squad.

Matt Cripps – Defender Matt spent the last few seasons playing in the Isthmian Premier with Brightlingsea Regent. He was captain of the side and was a key component when they were crowned champions of the Isthmian North division. Matt was duly selected within the league team of the year.

Joe Heath – Central defender Joe had a great season playing for our Essex rivals Great Wakering Rovers where they had one of the best defensive records in the league. Joe then played for Blues in 20/21 and re-joined Brentwood Town in February 2022 after a brief spell with East Thurrock United.

Tom Richardson – Forward, a player who knows how to win promotion out of this league. In his first spell at the club Tom was part of the play-off winning team. He then joined Brightlingsea Regent and played a key role in their Championship win and has subsequently played at Conference South level for East Thurrock United and Braintree Town. Tom is first team captain at Brentwood and was the league's leading goal scorer last season.

Jack Humphrey – Central defender signed from Heybridge Swifts and made his debut against Maldon & Tiptree in October 2021.

Sam Park – One of the longest serving players in this squad, Sam has been a regular member of the 1st team squad this season. Sam progressed through the youth section and Reserves and has pretty much played everywhere on the pitch at some point.



Charlie Kendall – Midfielder signed from Tilbury in March 2022, Charlie is a former Bournemouth youth player who has also played in the Isthmian League for Basildon United and Heybridge Swifts.

Chris Gregan – Full back Chris is a summer 2022 signing having previously played for Heybridge Swifts, Bishop's Stortford, Bowers & Pitsea, Harlow Town and Chelmsford City.

George Craddock – Experienced midfielder who started his career at Northampton Town. He has also represented Welling United, Margate and East Thurrock at Conference South level. Now in his second season at Brentwood George spent the previous few seasons at Heybridge Swifts where he was club captain.

Anthony Furlonge – Full back Anthony is in his second spell with Blues, re-signing from New Salamis early this season. A former Southend United U18, Anthony has also played for Stevenage, Bishop's Stortford, Chelmsford City, Cheshunt and Great Wakering Rovers.

Daniel Ogunleye – Forward. After academy spells at Southampton and Forest Green, Daniel returned to the club last season, scoring eight goals in the team's run to the play-off final. He started this season at Coggeshall Town before returning to The Arena in November 2022.

Luke Hirst – Forward. Signed from Barking in November 2022, Luke has previously played for Hashtag United, Basildon United, Bowers & Pitsea and IFK Mora in Sweden.

Jeremiah Amoo – A wide, attacking midfielder, Jerry joined Blues early in the 2022/23 season. He was a West Ham Under-18 and has since played for Chelmsford City, Leatherhead, Bishop's Stortford, Whitehawk and East Grinstead.

Flavio Jumo – Former Basildon United forward who signed for Blues in October 2022.





MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Saturday 7th January, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton United FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

■ □ □	Stuart Ainsley
■ □ □	Noel Aitkens
■ □ □	Henry Barley
■ □ □	Callum Bennett
■ □ □	Harry Blackburn
■ □ □	Zak Brown
■ □ □	George Clarke
■ □ □	Ollie Canfer
■ □ □	Sam Ford
■ □ □	Milo Grimes
■ □ □	Callum Harrison
■ □ □	Andre Hasanally
■ □ □	Josh Hitter
■ □ □	Billy Holland (C)
■ □ □	Lamel Howell
■ □ □	Harry Knock
■ □ □	Leon Ottley-Gooch
■ □ □	Rory Porter
■ □ □	Callum Robinson (GK)
■ □ □	Charlie Warren
■ □ □	Joe Whight

red/yellow - goals - played

Brentwood Town FC

Manager: Rod Stringer

■ □ □	George Craddock
■ □ □	Matt Cripps
■ □ □	Jack Dickinson
■ □ □	Andrew Freeman
■ □ □	Anthony Furlonge
■ □ □	Harry Girling
■ □ □	Chris Gregan
■ □ □	Joe Heath
■ □ □	Luke Hirst
■ □ □	Connor Hogan
■ □ □	Jack Humphrey
■ □ □	Flavio Jumo
■ □ □	Daniel Ogunleye
■ □ □	Solomon Ogunwomoju
■ □ □	Jermaine Osei
■ □ □	Sam Park

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Referee: Mr Ayrton Hursey Assistant Referees: Mr Anthony Coulter and Mr Richard Baker

MATCH REPORT

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK

MONDAY 2ND JANUARY
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Stowmarket Town 2

Felixstowe & Walton Utd 3

Warren, Canfer, Whight

Seasiders Manager Stuart Boardley was understandably delighted to see his side produce a rip-roaring performance to start the New Year off with a bang, and three crucial points against their promotion rivals. First half goals from **Charlie Warren** (2 mins), **Ollie Canfer** (10 mins) and **Joe Whight** (24 mins pen) saw Felixstowe three up at the break before a second half revival from the home side. "We started the game really well, we had made a number of changes to the starting line-up, just to make us a bit more direct and a bit more powerful in front areas, that worked a treat. Wozza got the first goal which was a great finish having beaten his man just inside the box, then it was Clarkey who held



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Joe Whight
4. Billy Holland
5. Harry Knock
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Andre Hasanally
8. Noel Aitkens
9. George Clarke
10. Oliver Canfer
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Josh Hitter
14. Zak Brown
15. Sam Ford
16. Henry Barley
17. Callum Harrison





the ball up and laid it off for Canfs who smashed it into the roof of the net from 25 yards, a superb goal. We fully controlled the first half for the entirety, start to finish, played some really good stuff and deserved to get a penalty when George Clarke was brought down in the box, Joe Whight converted that and 3-0 did not flatter us at all at half time. They had missed a penalty just before half time that came against the run of play but I thought we were simply superb first half. Second half we came out and despite the message to the players being that we don't want to change anything, we want to keep pushing for more goals, inevitably it's human nature that they do change things, they had come out with renewed energy and fire and got themselves back into the game, then another goal from a set-piece, a header at the near post which is disappointing. We also had our chances; Noel Aitkens struck the post with a stunning strike from 20 yards

which would have put the game to bed but we never seem to do things the easy way and allowed Stowmarket to get a foothold in the game. It was nervous and tense from there, except the last five minutes where we were more comfortable than at any time in the second half, but certainly the last twenty minutes of normal time were nery but we managed to hold on for a really good win. I thought Leon Ottley-Gooch was absolutely outstanding at the back and Noel came in and gave us more control over the football, which he always does so we are really pleased with a great win”.



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UNDER 23'S FIXTURES

SEPTEMBER

12 BURY TOWN H L 4-0

OCTOBER

3 HARINGEY BOROUGH H W 2-0

Clarke (P), Curtis

12 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT A W 7-2

17 BRENTWOOD TOWN H W 3-1

Ford(3)

31 BURY TOWN L 6-2

NOVEMBER

16 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS A D 2-2

21 HARINGEY BOROUGH A P-P

28 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT H W 4-2

DECEMBER

7 BRENTWOOD TOWN D 0-0

12 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS H P-P

JANUARY

18 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS A 7.45PM

23 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT H 7.45PM

FEBRUARY

6 BURY TOWN H 7.45PM

15 BRENTWOOD TOWN A 7.45PM

20 HARINGEY BOROUGH H 7.45PM

LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
Heybridge Swifts	7	4	2	1	14
F&W Utd	7	4	2	2	13
Bury Town	6	4	0	2	12
Brentwood Town	7	3	1	3	12
Haringey Borough	7	3	0	4	9
Brightlingsea Regent	8	0	1	6	1

ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	AFC Sudbury	19	16	2	1	51	19	+32	50
2	Hashtag United	19	15	1	3	46	20	+26	46
3	Heybridge Swifts	20	11	5	4	34	20	+14	38
4	Stowmarket Town	18	11	4	3	36	18	+18	37
5	Lowestoft Town	18	11	3	4	39	17	+22	36
6	Felixstowe & Walton United	18	11	3	4	41	22	+19	36
7	Grays Athletic	19	11	2	6	36	23	+13	35
8	East Thurrock United	19	10	3	6	30	28	+2	33
9	New Salamis	19	9	5	5	39	35	+4	32
10	Bury Town	19	8	6	5	21	14	+7	30
11	Brentwood Town	19	8	2	9	28	29	-1	26
12	Wroxham	19	5	7	7	25	33	-8	22
13	Basildon United	19	5	6	8	19	28	-9	21
14	Maldon & Tiptree	19	5	2	12	22	34	-12	17
15	Witham Town	18	5	1	12	26	43	-17	16
16	Hullbridge Sports	19	4	3	12	21	35	-14	15
17	Tilbury	17	4	3	10	20	34	-14	15
18	Great Wakering Rovers	20	3	3	14	24	45	-21	12
19	Gorleston	19	2	2	15	19	50	-31	8
20	Coggeshall Town	19	0	5	14	9	39	-30	5

LAST UPDATED: MONDAY 2ND JANUARY 2023 AT 17:04:50

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY - 3PM KO

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





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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.

SPONSOR: AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



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 Seaside's 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



ARMANI SCHAAR **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Armani played for Felixstowe & Walton back in 2016 before moving on to Leiston and then Lowestoft Town where he helped them avoid relegation. Armani has also had spells at Needham Market and brings with him plenty of experience playing at step 3 level.

SPONSOR: Ray Wade



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.

SPONSORS: AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



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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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 ST	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 ST	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 ND	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 RD	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

SAT 03 WITHAM TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE W 4-1 Att 364
Aitkens, Hitter, Whight 2

TUE 27 COGGESHALL TOWN H 1PM LEAGUE D 1-1 Att 464
Warren

JANUARY

MON 02 STORMARKET TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE W 3-2 Att 516
Warren, Canfer, Whight

SAT 07 BRENTWOOD TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE

TUE 10 BURY TOWN H 7.45PM LEAGUE

SAT 14 GORLESTON A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 21 LOWESTOFT TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE

TUE 24 EAST THURROCK UNITED A 7.45PM LEAGUE

SAT 28 TILBURY A 3PM LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 04 HULLBRIDGE SPORTS H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 11 GREAT WAKERING ROVERS H 3PM LEAGUE

TUE 14 AFC SUDBURY A 7.45PM LEAGUE

SAT 18 MALDON & TIPTREE A 3PM LEAGUE

TUE 21 NEEDHAM MARKET A 7.45PM SUFFOLK FA PREMIER CUP 2ND ROUND

SAT 25 WROXHAM H 3PM LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 04 NEW SALAMIS H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 11 GRAYS ATHLETIC H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 18 HASHTAG UNITED A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 25 BASILDON UNITED A 3PM LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 01 EAST THURROCK UNITED H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 09 BURY TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

MON 10 STOWMARKET TOWN H 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 15 WITHAM TOWN A 3PM LEAGUE

SAT 22 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS H 3PM LEAGUE



THE OTHER SIDE BURY TOWN

Founded in 1872, Bury Town Football Club is one of the oldest Football Club's in the country and has a proud history dating back over 140 years. The club was founded by Mr William Lake at a meeting in the Suffolk Hotel. The original name of the club was Bury St Edmunds FC and the first committee of the club elected to choose royal blue as the club's colours.

The club took up residence at Kings Road, also known as the Cemetery Road ground, in 1888. Kings Road was the first football ground in East Anglia to operate floodlights when on Monday 12th January 1953, the Blues played their first ever floodlit game against Cambridge City in front of 2,105 spectators. A total of 14 bulbs of 1500 watts illuminated the Suffolk skyline for the first time and history was created. The lights were financed by the Bury Town Supporters Club.



A notable player for the club in the early days was Reginald De Courtney Welch who appeared as a defender for Bury St Edmunds in 1877. De Courtney Welch was a member of The Wanderers side that won the first ever FA Cup in 1872 and he also played in the first ever official international match for England, against Scotland in November 1872.

The club was one of 11 founder members of the Suffolk County Football Association in 1885 and has won the Suffolk Premier Cup on 13 occasions.

The club's name was changed by a vote to Bury Town in September 1885, however 10 years



later the members chose to adopt the full name of the town back as the name, before changing to Bury United in 1908. In 1923 the club members decided that the name 'United' was no longer appropriate as there were a number of sides in Bury St Edmunds, and decided to revert to Bury Town, which has remained to this day.

The club played in various local leagues until 1935 when it became a founder member of the Eastern Counties League. The club spent a total of 22 consecutive seasons in the Eastern Counties League, finishing as runners up in 1937–38. The Blues claimed the ECL title in the 1963–64 season as part of an historic treble, as they also captured the ECL Knockout Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup.

This success saw the club move to the Metropolitan League and they kicked off their first ever Metropolitan game against Charlton Athletic 'A' at Kings Road in front of 1,150 spectators, Bury running out 1-0 winners. The club finished 4th in their first season and also retained the Suffolk Premier Cup.

Season 1965–66 was another successful season and another treble haul of trophies as the club stormed to the Metropolitan League title, won the Metropolitan League Cup and the Suffolk Premier Cup again. By this time the club were averaging over 1,000 supporters at their home matches and interest in the club was at an all time high.

In 1968, the Blues reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup and drew Third Division side Bournemouth & Boscombe at Kings Road. 3,000 spectators assembled and witnessed Bury hold the Football League side to a goalless draw. The replay saw Bournemouth win through by 3 goals to 0 at Dean Court. The season had further success when the Blues won the Metropolitan League title for a second time.

The club's success resulted in them taking the bold step to join the Southern Football League for the 1971–72 season. The club struggled to adapt to their new surroundings and after five seasons, decided to take the decision to re-join the Eastern Counties League, a decision that



proved unpopular with supporters.

On Wednesday 28th April 1976, Bury Town played their final match at the historic Kings Road ground when West Ham United were the visitors. 1,750 watched on as the sides drew 2-2, and a pitch invasion signalled the end of the Blues spiritual home.

Bury Town moved into their current Ram Meadow ground in 1978 and collected the Suffolk Premier Cup as a reward. The Blues spent a total of 11 seasons back in the ECL and their most successful moment of that time came in their final season when they reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and were drawn away at Football Conference leaders Enfield. The sides drew 0-0 at Southbury Road and returned to Ram Meadow for the replay, however in front of 2,500 supporters, the visitors sneaked home 1-0 to reach the First Round Proper.

The 1987-88 season saw ambition return to the club and Bury were promoted to the Southern League. After a few seasons of promising results and large home crowds, the Blues failed to reach the Premier Division, the closest they came was finishing 4th in 1988-89. Years of overspending on players and ground improvements finally caught up and the club drifted into decline as the crowds drifted away. On the 4th May 1996, the Blues were relegated at Redditch United from the Midland Division of the Southern League, back to the Eastern Counties League.



The club spent another 10 years in the ECL, and despite some early seasons of struggles, success coincided with the appointment of former Colchester United captain Richard Wilkins



to the manager's seat. The club reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase in 2005 and then the Semi Final in 2006. Crowds rose back up and after two consecutive runners up spots in the Premier Division of the ECL, the club were promoted to the Isthmian League for the first time in their history. The stay lasted two seasons and after adjusting to a higher level in 2006-07 with a 17th place finish, the following season saw the Blues finish in 7th position.

The FA re-organisation in 2008 saw Bury moved into the Southern League for a third spell of membership. A successful campaign saw Bury finish in 7th position in the Midland Division table, reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 4-2 at Alfreton Town, and reach the Semi Final of the Southern League Cup, however in 2009-10, Bury Town clinched the Southern League Midland Division Championship on the final day of the season with a 3-0 home victory over Marlow in front of 1,550 supporters. The Blues piped Hitchin Town to the title, scoring 115 goals during the campaign and collecting 102 points to gain promotion. Another move across the pyramid saw the Blues re-join the Ryman League for the 2010-11 season, entering the Premier Division. A great season saw Bury finish third, but go out of the play off's to Lowestoft Town. There was however some silverware for the boardroom as Bury defeated Needham Market 2-0 in the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup at Portman Road.

2011-12 saw the club lift the Ryman League Cup with a victory over East Thurrock United and again finished in the play off places, but lost out to AFC Hornchurch in the Semi Final. 2014-15 saw our spell in the Premier Division come to an end after 5 years with relegation to Division One North. In our last two seasons back in Division One North we have finished in 13th and 11th place. 2017-18 saw the Blues finish 9th and reach the final of the Suffolk Premier Cup.

2018-19 saw the Blues press for the play off places and a hope of a return to the Premier Division. It was a successful season with a 6th placed finished achieved, the best finish the club has had since relegation in 2015.



THE OTHER SIDE PLAYER PROFILES



MANAGER – BEN CHENERY Ben became manager of the Club in June 2014 after spending 2 years as Assistant Manager. He previously has managerial experience with Chelmsford City and has played professional football for Cambridge and Luton, as well as playing for a host of top flight non-league clubs, and is best remembered for scoring the winning goal for Canvey Island in the 2001 FA Trophy Final at Villa Park.

SHAUN AVIS Striker Shaun joined from Thurlow Nunn League side Lakenheath FC in October 2022, just shortly after he had hit 100 goals during 2 spells with the Heath. Has also played locally at Mildenhall Town, Newmarket Town and Saffron Walden Town. He played at Step 4 during Mildenhall's brief spell in the Isthmian League and his goalscoring record has given him a chance to step up again.

CHARLEY BARKER D.O.B 26-12-1998: Midfielder Charley joined having been with St Neots Town in the Southern League last season. The 23 year old began his career in the youth ranks at

Leyton Orient, and then spent time with Cheltenham Town, Wingate & Finchley and Northwood. He then joined Isthmian Premier Division side Haringey Borough and played in their live televised FA Cup 1st Round match with AFC Wimbledon and was part of the successful side that reached the play offs.

OLLIE FENN Joined on a month's loan from Needham Market in February 2016 but made the permanent switch in 2017. Ollie previously played for Ipswich Town Academy and Irish Premier League side Galway United and is one of the more experienced members of the squad and club captain.

WILL GARDNER Defender Will re-joined from Soham Town Rangers after a couple of seasons representing the Greens in the Isthmian North. He previously had a short spell with us after leaving Haverhill Rovers in the Eastern Counties League and after a couple of years more experience at Soham in this division he is a valuable addition to the side.



MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Tuesday 10th January, 7.45pm



Felixstowe & Walton United FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

■ □ □	Stuart Ainsley
■ □ □	Noel Aitkens
■ □ □	Henry Barley
■ □ □	Callum Bennett
■ □ □	Harry Blackburn
■ □ □	Zak Brown
■ □ □	George Clarke
■ □ □	Ollie Canfer
■ □ □	Sam Ford
■ □ □	Milo Grimes
■ □ □	Callum Harrison
■ □ □	Andre Hasanally
■ □ □	Josh Hitter
■ □ □	Billy Holland (C)
■ □ □	Lamel Howell
■ □ □	Harry Knock
■ □ □	Leon Ottley-Gooch
■ □ □	Rory Porter
■ □ □	Callum Robinson (GK)
■ □ □	Charlie Warren
■ □ □	Joe Whight

red/yellow - goals - played

Bury Town FC

Manager: Ben Chenery

First Team Coaches: John Kennedy
and Alex Rossis

Physiotherapist: Jim Crease

■ □ □	Shaun Avis
■ □ □	Charley Barker
■ □ □	Alfie Cutbush
■ □ □	Ollie Fenn
■ □ □	Will Gardner
■ □ □	Joe Hood
■ □ □	Ryan Jolland
■ □ □	Jack Maher
■ □ □	Lewis O'Malley
■ □ □	Cameron Nicholls
■ □ □	Cruis Nydazayo
■ □ □	Cemal Ramadan
■ □ □	Joe Yaxley
■ □ □	Lee Watkins
■ □ □	Joe White
■ □ □	Charlie Woods

MATCH SPONSOR:
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MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Paul Quick **Assistant Referees:** Mr Christopher Humphrey and Mr Jak Clark



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

AFC Sudbury take three more points – just whilst Hashtag hit four. Brentwood also get four, Swifts get back to winning ways, Felixstowe win our match of the day, whilst Wroxham, Grays and Maldon continue their winning runs.

Bottom v top might have looked like an away win certainty, but an improving **Coggeshall Town** made **AFC Sudbury** work incredibly hard to maintain their four point lead. The match had only one goal, and it arrived just six minutes from time, Josh Stokes with it – but by that point the Yellows were down to ten men, Harrison Chatting seeing red. The Seed Growers remain ten points from safety, but will be buoyed by their recent performances despite still searching for their first league victory.

Second place **Hashtag United** had been in fine form, with nine wins from ten – and made it ten wins from eleven with a comfortable victory at **Witham Town**. The hosts made it easy for them by going down to ten men before the half hour, Luke Ige seeing red, but they were already a goal down by then, Percy Kiangebeni with the opener. Six minutes before the break Kiangebeni made it two, and there was time for a third before the break, Thomas Anderson with that one.



EQUESTRIAN IMAGE FROM **STEVE SCREECH**

Alex Teniola added his eighth of the season in the early stages of the second half, and that was that- the Tags four points behind the leaders. That's three wins in a row for United against Witham, and ten goals scored.

Stowmarket Town lost for the first time since August 16th as they fell to defeat at Wroxham last time out, and it was two defeats in two as they welcomed **Felixstowe and Walton United**. The Seasideers got off to a flyer, Charlie Warren opening the scoring on two minutes, and it was two-nil on ten minutes as Ollie Canfer added another. The third arrived midway through the first half, Joe Whight with that one, but if the visitors thought the game was as good as over they were wrong, as the hosts woke up in the last half an hour. Chris Casement got a goal back just after the hour, and with eleven

minutes left Ollie Sotoyinbo made the closing stages interesting – but the equaliser didn't arrive, and only goal difference keeps Felixstowe out of the top five.

Lowestoft Town ended a four match winless run by defeating neighbours Gorleston comprehensively last time out, and they were quickly ahead at **Bury Town**, Sam Johnson opening the scoring after just seven minutes. They then made life rather difficult for themselves as keeper Luke Holt saw red with only nineteen minutes on the clock, defender Sam Nunn ending up in goal. When Ashley Boatwain equalised for the hosts it looked as if they would go on and win; however they couldn't capitalise on their advantage and the ten men held on for a point. Bury also ended up with ten men, Cruis Nydazayo seeing red just before the end.

Heybridge Swifts took a run of three straight defeats – and five without a win – to **Great Waking Rovers**, and got back to winning ways, if only just. The only goal of the game went to Sam Carter after twenty eight minutes, and it was enough to send Swifts back up to third.

We'd a local derby as **East Thurrock United** welcomed **Grays Athletic**. The visitors looked to be approaching their best once more, winning three of their last four and – of course – hitting seven last weekend, and they delivered another win in front of five hundred and fifty two at Rookery Hill. Sam Bantick has been a big part of their best moments this season, and he opened the scoring seven minutes before the break with his fifteenth of the campaign. The goal action then came to an end until the final moments, Cheyce Grant making it two-nil to the visitors before Jordan Peart got one back for the Rocks. Athletic climb to seventh, a point behind fifth place Lowestoft.

New Salamis and **Basildon United** managed a goal each – both coming from the spot.

Michael Salako gave the hosts the lead nine minutes before the break, with Derek Asamoah's seventeenth of the season earning his side a point with seventeen minutes remaining.

Brentwood Town got back to winning ways against **Tilbury** – the Dockers boss John Coventry losing his position as a result. Solomon Ogonwomoju gave the Blues a fifth minute lead only for Charlie Morris to quickly equalise, but the hosts were ahead eight minutes before the break, George Craddock making it two-one. It was three for the Blues just after the hour, James Folkes with the goal, but the Dockers quickly reduced the arrears, David Knight bringing it back to three-two. Six minutes from time Daniel Ogunleye got a fourth for the hosts, and secured three points.

Wroxham's best run of the campaign – culminating in that victory over Stowmarket Town last time out – had seen them climb to the heady heights of thirteenth place; and it got even better for the Yachtsmen, who extended their unbeaten run to seven with victory at **Gorleston**. Ryan Curtis opened the scoring for the visitors on twenty five minutes only for the hosts to level before the break through Adam Tann. The winner arrived six minutes from time, Jordan King sending his side up to twelfth.

Finally, **Maldon & Tiptree**, fresh from that morale-boosting win over local rivals Heybridge Swifts last time out, finally climbed out of the bottom four with a win over **Hullbridge Sports**. The winning goal came from new signing Terrell Egbri after sixteen minutes, and it sent the Jammers up to the heady heights of fourteenth place.

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

NEW YEAR, new you? If you're anything like me, those resolutions will already be a little frayed around the edges.

But as the big clock struck midnight to bring in 2023, it's only natural to look back at the previous 12 months and look ahead to what might be in the ones ahead.

You may have caught it in last week's NLP, but each year we ask a group of people who, like us, love Non-League football and ask the same question – what would you like to see in the coming year.

My own answer, three-up, three-down from the National League into the EFL aside, centres around concussion substitutes. I really believe it's time temporary subs were allowed to give the experts time to assess any potential concussion and ensure the player is given the right care.

We saw it a couple of times in the World Cup where a player clearly played on when he shouldn't have. Allowing some time for him to go off to a quiet part of the stadium and let those in the know run through their protocols is only right. Hopefully it comes in.

Our north-east reporter Mark Carruthers is banging the drum for three-up, three-down in 2023 – it's got to happen soon enough, surely, and a sentiment echoed by BBC Surrey Sport commentator Rob Worrall, who said, 'Without doubt, an additional promotion place from the National League to the EFL. It simply HAS to happen now, with benefits to all – including those 'big' clubs that keep dropping down!'

His colleague at the NL Full Time podcast, Rich Worton, agrees but has an equally seismic change he'd like to be introduced too.

'Is it too obvious to say 'three up, three down' between the EFL and the National League? If it is, then I'd go for a different choice,



and say that the implementation of the Crouch report's recommendations and the appointment of an independent regulator for football would be hugely positive, and a sign that the government does care about the national game, rather than just doing so when it is expedient."

Our executive editor Jon Couch would like to see the way games are postponed handled differently. In this current cost of living climate, clubs arriving at grounds only for the game never likely on to be called off is frustrating to say the least.

Another of our regular reporters, Andy Mitchell, is hacked off with how some approach the FA

Trophy. He says: "Stop dismissing FA Trophy. The influx of clubs from the Football League has seen the FA Trophy relegated from the non-league FA Cup to a par with the Papa John's Trophy.

It has a Wembley final and provides memories that last a lifetime – the big guns should take it seriously." Indeed.

What would you like to see changed or introduced in Non-League in 2023? As long as it's not VAR we'll all be fine!

By Matt Badcock, Editor-at-large

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It isn't even five minutes into the 1958 World Cup final when Nils Liedholm picks up the ball. He beats the first man, and then the second. Finding himself in space, he shoots, and the net billows. The Swedish home crowd erupts, and they lead Brazil. On the touchline, at the pinnacle of a remarkable career, stands an Englishman. George Raynor may not be much remembered in his homeland, but his services to football earned him a Swedish knighthood, and he could be the most consistently successful international manager England has ever produced.



Sent to Iraq as a fitness instructor to the Ninth Army, the former footballer encouraged his sport. When Prime Minister Nuri Al-Said decided that his country needed a football team, there was one obvious candidate. Raynor became the first manager of the Iraq national side, overseeing exhibition matches against Lebanon and Syria, as well as



representative teams from the British and Polish militaries.

Following the war, Raynor returned home, but his progressive style was difficult to implement. After losing his job at Aldershot, he met with another forward-thinker, Sir Stanley Rous, who suggested the Sweden needed a coach to prepare for the 1948 Olympics. Not an easy task for a country that still demanded amateur football. But Raynor was blessed, and Sweden were dripping with talent. Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm were the creative force, while Gunnar Nordahl was an unbelievably prolific striker. Under Raynor, the Swedes scored a remarkable 22 goals in their four games as they romped to the gold medal. It is still Sweden's greatest footballing triumph.

Following that success, there was clearly a lot of European interest in Raynor's players,

and Gren, Liedholm and Nordahl all moved to Milan, forming the famous Gre-No-Li. Nordahl's two brothers, also integral parts of the national team, went to Italy too. Unfortunately, this was the end of their international careers, as Raynor was unable to call up professional players.

Not for the last time, Raynor had to rebuild. Committed to the improvement of Swedish football he took charge at AIK alongside his international commitments, winning the Swedish Cup twice before turning his focus to Brazil in 1950.

Such were the limitations, Raynor's World Cup squad of 22 players included 14 who hadn't been good enough to make the Olympic squad just two years earlier. But after four years in charge, Raynor had his team purring. Their first match was against Italy, the nation that had deprived them of so many players and the reigning world champions. Sweden dispatched them, 3-2. It was the *Azzurri's* first loss at a World Cup. A draw with Paraguay saw them into the final group stage, but losses to Brazil and Uruguay cost them a chance at the big prize. Sweden ran out a creditable third.

Raynor would repeat his third place finish at the 1952 Olympics, despite ten more of his World Cup squad leaving for professional football, before the job of constantly rebuilding the side became too much. In 1954, to the dismay of Swedish football fans, he left for Juventus.

Unfortunately, his club career didn't match his international one. Quickly moved out of Turin, he initially did well to save Lazio from relegation. Sweden, catastrophically, failed to qualify for the 1954 World Cup without him, something that finally prompted the FA to consider professionalism. Suddenly a whole host of exceptional Swedish talent was available once more.

Raynor moved back to England and took charge of third division Coventry City as Sweden prepared to host the 1958 World Cup. But it was too strong a love affair, and when the Englishman was dismissed from his post in the Midlands, Scandinavia came calling again. One last shot at the big prize, with a home



crowd and the cream of Swedish talent.

Raynor's Sweden looked every bit the force that surprised Europe for much of the previous decade, beating Hungary and Mexico before drawing with Wales, with qualification secured. They saw off a strong Soviet side in the quarter finals and the reigning champions, West Germany, in the semi-final, setting up an exciting tie with Brazil. Sadly, for Swedish hopes, this was merely the swansong of their golden age, while their opponents were right at the start of theirs, which would eclipse all others. Vava equalised and then gave Brazil the lead, before Pele took charge as Brazil romped to their first World Cup victory. It was the last international match for Raynor, and he returned to his homeland.

Recognising his brilliance, and with English football desperately needing to evolve, the only work he could find was with non-league Skegness Town.

Enjoy the game.

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