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v Stowmarket Town FC



MONDAY 10TH APRIL 2023, 3PM
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE



Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club



SB



FROM THE DUGOUT: **STUART BOARDLEY**

Good afternoon all and a warm welcome to the AGL Arena for what I can really only describe as a 'must win' game for us!

It looks increasingly like this fixture could go a long way in deciding our playoff fate. Chris Casement and his Stowmarket Town team visit us today as we look to do the double over them following our entertaining 3-2 win earlier in the season.

I write these notes on Saturday evening following a really disappointing defeat at near neighbours Bury. The less said about today's game the better, but I would like to apologise to all those that travelled to support us. We were not at the races against Bury for a second outing this season and our performance today was simply not to the standards we set for ourselves and for that we apologise - you deserve more.

Basildon on Tuesday night was a different story all together with what could be described as a thoroughly professional performance in which we dominated for long periods and showed a ruthless streak in the second half

to ensure we came away with three points. Both games were physically very draining and we have a few walking wounded, but we are at that stage of the season where we need to roll our sleeves up and dig in.

We also do not have any time to dwell on things with just 48 hours separating our fixtures against Bury and Stowmarket. We will be ensuring the players are in ice baths, hydrating and fuelling correctly and doing everything possible to give ourselves the best possible preparation ahead of the game.

For those of you who wonder, plans are already, and have been for many weeks, well under way for next season. New player contracts, pre-season friendlies, management staff positions are all items in the agenda whilst still concentrating on the matter in hand.... **PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION!**

I hope to see you all at the remaining games and also at the end of season awards day which promises to be a great event...

Enjoy the game,
Boards

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SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this ...

With just two more home games after today I thought I would look back over the season on how things have worked out and just jot down a few thoughts about the place.

The first thing I would have to say is a massive congratulations to all the guys behind the scenes that make the Seasiders' world go round on match days.

Having stepped back from front line duty after 'cough' years I speak with some authority when I say congratulations to these guys. Chris Daynes probably spends the vast majority of his waking hours in the week (7 days) thinking about everything, from laundry, cleaning, planning permission, building stuff, pitch, junior pitches. I'm sure if I asked, he could quickly add another 50 jobs that need doing now! He runs a team of volunteers who cover the multitude of jobs as they arise. Simply put, without a Chris, there would be no club and without the volunteers helping him, there would be no club.

We are not unique, every club has its volunteers to a greater or lesser degree - people do what they can do, sometimes more

than they should do, and we should appreciate every single second they spend at the club, trying to make it a better place to visit week on week, month on month and season on season.

The place has been transformed in the past six years from a park pitch with a fence around it to a football stadium that matches any around for atmosphere, the pitch improves every year. This season we've lost just three home games to a frozen (twice) and waterlogged (once) pitch. Six years ago, we would have lost at least double that amount. The main stand is about to have a facelift and three new stands have appeared... we average over 350 spectators every home game and none of it would be possible without our volunteers.

We have a great set of lads on the pitch, win, lose or draw and we have an equally great bunch of people behind the scenes making it all work... we should all take our Seasiders woolly hats and caps off to them and just say.

Respect!

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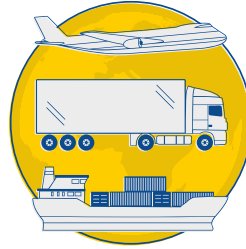
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ISTHMIAN NORTH LAST SIX MATCHES FORM

Hashtag United	W 8-1 v TILB..	W 2-1 v HEYB..	W 1-0 v FELI..	L 3-1 v STOW..	W 2-1 v COGG..	W 3-0 v GORL..
AFC Sudbury	L 1-0 v STOW..	D 1-1 v NEW..	W 5-0 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GORL..	W 2-0 v STOW..	W 3-0 v MALD..
Heybridge Swifts	L 3-1 v GORL..	L 2-1 v HASH..	W 1-0 v TILB..	W 1-0 v EAST..	W 3-0 v BURY..	W 2-1 v STOW..
Brentwood Town	W 2-0 v MALD..	L 1-0 v GREA..	D 2-2 v LOWE..	W 2-0 v GRAY..	D 1-1 v WITH..	W 5-1 v HULL..
Wroxham	L 2-1 v FELI..	L 2-0 v GRAY..	W 2-0 v EAST..	D 3-3 v GREA..	W 2-0 v NEW..	W 2-0 v COGG..
Lowestoft Town	W 1-0 v FELI..	W 4-2 v HULL..	D 2-2 v BREN..	L 2-1 v GRAY..	L 5-3 v MALD..	W 3-2 v BASI..
Great Wakering Rovers	W 3-2 v WITH..	W 1-0 v BREN..	L 4-1 v STOW..	D 3-3 v WROX..	W 4-3 v TILB..	L 2-1 v GRAY..
Bury Town	L 3-1 v BASI..	W 1-0 v TILB..	D 2-2 v NEW..	L 3-0 v HEYB..	W 2-1 v HULL..	W 3-1 v FELI..
Stowmarket Town	W 1-0 v MALD..	W 4-1 v GREA..	W 3-1 v HASH..	L 2-0 v AFC..	L 2-1 v COGG..	L 2-1 v HEYB..
New Salamis	W 4-3 v FELI..	D 1-1 v AFC..	D 2-2 v BURY..	L 2-0 v WROX..	W 1-0 v WITH..	D 2-2 v EAST..
Gorleston	W 4-1 v WITH..	D 0-0 v BASI..	W 1-0 v EAST..	D 0-0 v FELI..	L 2-1 v AFC..	L 3-0 v HASH..
Grays Athletic	D 2-2 v BASI..	L 1-0 v FELI..	W 2-1 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v BREN..	D 3-3 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GREA..
Tilbury	L 1-0 v BURY..	W 3-0 v HULL..	L 1-0 v HEYB..	D 1-1 v COGG..	L 4-3 v GREA..	W 1-0 v WITH..
Felixstowe & Walton United	L 1-0 v LOWE..	W 1-0 v GRAY..	L 1-0 v HASH..	D 0-0 v GORL..	W 3-1 v BASI..	L 3-1 v BURY..
Coggeshall Town	D 1-1 v MALD..	D 1-1 v TILB..	L 1-0 v WITH..	L 2-1 v HASH..	W 2-1 v STOW..	L 2-0 v WROX..
Maldon & Tiptree	D 0-0 v GREA..	L 2-0 v BREN..	L 1-0 v STOW..	D 1-1 v COGG..	W 5-3 v LOWE..	L 3-0 v AFC..
Witham Town	L 4-1 v GORL..	D 1-1 v HULL..	W 1-0 v COGG..	L 1-0 v NEW..	D 1-1 v BREN..	L 1-0 v TILB..
East Thurrock United	W 2-1 v HULL..	L 2-1 v STOW..	L 2-0 v WROX..	L 1-0 v GORL..	L 1-0 v HEYB..	D 2-2 v NEW..
Basildon United	D 2-2 v GRAY..	D 0-0 v GORL..	L 5-0 v AFC..	D 3-3 v GRAY..	L 3-1 v FELI..	L 3-2 v LOWE..
Hullbridge Sports	L 3-0 v AFC..	L 4-2 v LOWE..	L 3-0 v TILB..	D 1-1 v WITH..	L 2-1 v BURY..	L 5-1 v BREN..

LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

1	Nnamdi Nwachuku	AFC Sudbury	40
2	Jake Reed	Lowestoft Town	22
3	Derek Asamoah	New Salamis	18
4	Cemal Ramadan	Bury Town	18
5	Sam Bantick	Grays Athletic	17
6	Adam Hipperson	Lowestoft Town	17
7	Joshua Hitter	Felixstowe & Walton United	14
8	Alex Teniola	Hashtag United	14
9	Jermaine Francis	Hashtag United	12
10	Rob Harvey	Heybridge Swifts	11
11	Brian Moses	East Thurrock United	11
12	Louie Remi	New Salamis	11





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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hashtag United	35	30	1	4	91	34	+57	91
2	AFC Sudbury	35	27	4	4	82	31	+51	85
3	Lowestoft Town	34	22	5	7	78	41	+37	71
4	Heybridge Swifts	35	19	8	8	58	33	+25	65
5	Stowmarket Town	35	19	6	10	59	38	+21	63
6	Grays Athletic	35	19	6	10	55	39	+16	63
7	Felixstowe & Walton United	34	19	5	10	68	41	+27	62
8	New Salamis	35	13	12	10	58	60	-2	51
9	Brentwood Town	34	14	8	12	50	41	+9	50
10	Bury Town	35	13	10	12	34	33	+1	49
11	East Thurrock United	34	14	6	14	45	50	-5	48
12	Wroxham	34	12	11	11	47	49	-2	47
13	Basildon United	35	8	11	16	41	61	-20	35
14	Maldon & Tiptree	34	9	6	19	37	55	-18	33
15	Gorleston	34	9	5	20	42	69	-27	32
16	Witham Town	35	9	5	21	41	69	-28	32
17	Tilbury	35	7	5	23	35	70	-35	26
18	Coggeshall Town0	35	5	10	20	26	56	-30	25
19	Great Wakering Rovers	35	6	6	23	44	78	-34	24
20	Hullbridge Sports	34	5	4	25	31	74	-43	19

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2023 AT 17:11:51

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

MONDAY 10TH APRIL - 3PM KO

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





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MATCH PHOTOS

TUESDAY 5TH APRIL
ISTHMIAN NORTH

Basildon United 1
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 3

Hitter, Ottley-Gooch, Holland

PHOTOS
BY TOM
BRADFORD



Felixstowe & Walton United moved back into fifth position with a 3-1 win at an in-form Basildon United on Tuesday. Leading from a **Josh Hitter** strike on 36 minutes, Felixstowe should have been further ahead before the home side took advantage of an error at the back on 74 minutes to equalise. The Seasiders showed great character to bounce back and dominate the remainder of the game and grabbed two goals in the process, **Leon Ottley-Gooch** heading firmly past the keeper on 81 minutes and **Billy Holland** nodding into an empty net after Zak Brown had struck the bar with his effort on 86 minutes. Basildon had a couple of chances in the first half from ricochets around the area and Josh Hitter, Noel Aitkens and Ollie Canfer came desperately close to second half goals as the three points were bagged. Canfer was taken to hospital after the match after suffering a nasty gash to his forehead towards the end of the match, he will be doubtful for Saturday's trip to Bury Town and the second part of the Easter blockbuster weekend when Stowmarket visit on Monday.



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Joe Whight
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Oliver Canfer
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Zak Brown
10. Josh Hitter
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Andre Hasanally
14. Lamell Howell
15. Andy Fennell
16. Henry Barley
17. Sam Ford





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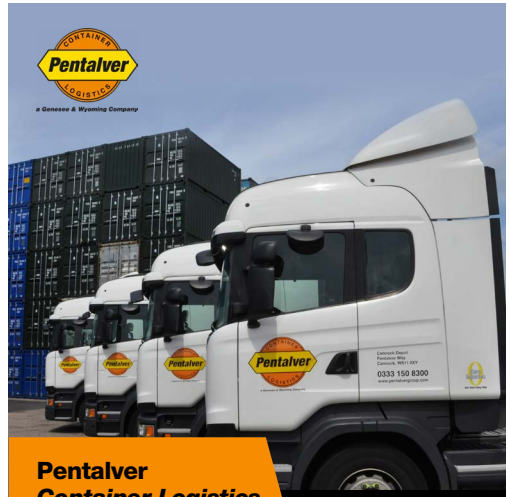
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THE OTHER SIDE STOWMARKET TOWN FC



The club was founded as Stowmarket Association FC in 1883 by a merger of Stowmarket St Peter and Stowmarket Ironworks. Originally playing at the Cricket Meadow, their first match was against Needham Market School. The club were founder members of the Suffolk County Football Association in 1885. By the late 1800s the club had dropped the word "Association" from its name, which had originally been used to distinguish it from the local rugby club.

They joined the newly formed Ipswich & District League in 1896, and won the title in its first two seasons and again in 1899-1900. In 1907 they won the Suffolk Junior Cup, beating Westbourne Mills 5-1, and in 1909-10 the club won the league again, with the reserve team winning the second division. They won the title again in 1921-22, before transferring to the Essex & Suffolk Border League in 1925. In 1931 the club won the Suffolk Senior Cup for the first time, beating Sudbury Town 3-1. They won it for a second time in 1933, beating Kirkley 5-2, and again the following season, with a 3-0 win over Bury Town.

At the end of the 1936-37 season the club disbanded due financial difficulties. After World War II local club Stowupland Corinthians began playing at the Cricket Meadows, and joined the Border League in 1946. In the summer of 1947 the club's name was changed to Stowmarket Corinthians, and in August it was changed again to Stowmarket Town. After legal advice, it was changed again to Stowmarket FC.

Under the management of player-coach Jackie Little, The club won the Border League, the League Cup and the Suffolk Senior Cup in 1950-51, beating Sudbury Town 2-0 in front of 10,867 supporters in the final of the latter. The League Cup and the Senior Cup were won again in 1951-52, and at the end of the season



the club joined the Eastern Counties League.

In 1957-58 they won the Senior Cup again, beating Newmarket Town 2-0. They won the trophy for a sixth time in 1961-62, beating Brantham Athletic 2-0. The following year they entered the Suffolk Premier Cup and won it, beating Lowestoft Town 3-0. A seventh success in the Senior Cup was achieved in 1965 with a 4-0 win over Orwell Works, and the Premier Cup was won again in 1977 with a 2-1 win over Sudbury Town after the original two-legged tie had ended level.

In 1983 they were renamed Stowmarket Town, and a year later moved to Greens Meadow. The club won the Premier Cup again in 1986, beating Lowestoft 1-0, and in 1991, when Haverhill Rovers were beaten 3-2 after extra time. At the end of the 2004-05 season the club were relegated for the first time in their history, dropping into Division One, where they have remained since.

After a hiatus of over forty years, the club won the Senior Cup again in 2006-07, beating Grundisburgh 2-1. In 2016-17 season they were Division One champions and were promoted back to the Premier Division. In 2019-20 the club were unbeaten 28 games into the league season, but the league was abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the end of the 2020-21 season, which was also curtailed due to the pandemic, they were promoted to the North Division of the Isthmian League.



PLAYERS/MANAGEMENT



James Bradbrook



Tom Bullard



Joe Jefford



Jack Ainsley



Kane Munday



Tommy Smith



Luke Hipkin



Jack Wilkinson



Josh Curry



Shaun Bammant



Ed Upson



Dylan Logan



Ellis Girling



Harvey Sayer



Kieran Morley



Scott Sloots



Chris Casement
PLAYER/ MANAGER



Richard Wilkins
ASSISTANT MANAGER



Nathan Munson
GOALKEEPER COACH



Mark Blenkinsop
PHYSIO



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MATCH PHOTOS

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL
ISTHMIAN NORTH

**Bury Town 3
Felixstowe & Walton Utd 1**

Brown

PHOTOS
BY TOM
BRADFORD



HOW WE LINED UP

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Joe Wight
4. Billy Holland
5. Milo Grimes
6. Leon Ottley-Gooch
7. Andre Hassanally
8. Noel Aitkens
9. Zak Brown
10. Josh Hitter
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Andy Fennell
14. Callum Harrison
15. Stuart Ainsley
16. Henry Barley
17. Sam Ford









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.

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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.

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KOTRYNA STOKNAITE SPORTS THERAPIST

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

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STUART STEVENSON COACH

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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CURTIS HAYNES-BROWN **DEFENDER**

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

SPONSORS: George & Shirley Ainsley



MILO GRIMES **DEFENDER**

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

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



HARRY KNOCK **DEFENDER**

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

SPONSORS: Chris Worrall



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Chris Walne



BILLY HOLLAND **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Andy Clarke



NOEL AITKENS **MIDFIELDER**

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

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



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSORS: Phil & Jan Griffiths



JOSH HITTER **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Les Soall



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Winnifred McClean



RORY PORTER **MIDFIELDER**

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

SPONSOR: Paul Secker



HENRY BARLEY **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

SPONSOR: Steve Foley Transport Ltd



LAMELL HOWELL **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

SPONSORS: Steve & Kate Garnham



CHARLIE WARREN **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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

SPONSORS: Suffolk Carpet Weavers, SCW Racing, Danny Soall



ANDY FENNEL **FORWARD**

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



GEORGE CLARKE FORWARD

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

SPONSOR: Kedan Logistics Ltd



OLLIE CANFER FORWARD

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

SPONSORS: Steven Seeley, Andy & Kim Wilding



ANDRE HASANALLY FORWARD

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

SPONSOR: Matthew Daynes



ZAK BROWN FORWARD

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

SPONSORS: Chris & Kate Daynes



SAM FORD FORWARD

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

SPONSOR: Craig Studd

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

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



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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

SAT 04	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS <i>Clarke, Whight</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 411
TUE 07	EAST THURROCK UNITED <i>Ottley-Gooch, Canfer</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	Att 198
SAT 11	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS <i>Ottley-Gooch, Hitter (2), Canfer</i>	H	2PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	Att 105
TUE 14	AFC SUDBURY <i>Hitter</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	Att 434
SAT 18	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter (2)</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 229
TUE 21	NEEDHAM MARKET	A	7.45PM	SFAPCUP 2ND R	L 5-0	Att 166
SAT 25	WROXHAM <i>Holland, Ford</i>	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	Att 363

MARCH

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

APRIL

TUE 04	BASILDON UNITED <i>Hitter, Ottley-Gooch, Holland</i>	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	Att 81
SAT 08	BURY TOWN <i>Brown</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-1	Att 707
MON 10	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 15	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 18	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 22	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE		

THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY JON COUCH

MANAGERS have this saying which is often spilled during the second half of the season that baffles and amuses us journalists in equal measure.

Some say it more regularly than others, some more genuinely than others, but the fact of the matter is – and whisper it quietly – that we actually don't believe a word they say.

Asked how they assess their team's current form or overall league position, it's quite commonplace to receive a response along the lines of: "I don't look even at the league table until around Easter".

So, I ask myself a) does a manager really not compare his team's fortunes to that of their rivals until three quarters of the season have passed; and, if so, at what point do they finally cast their eye over the standings?

Are we scoring enough goals? Are we conceding too many? Are our rivals outperforming us? One glance at a league table can answer all.

Nine times out of ten, a winning manager will not need to scroll down on their digital subscription to The NLP on a Sunday morning or rush out to the local newsagents, they know themselves whether their team have been good enough to compete in the higher reaches of the division.

One only hopes, however, that Notts County boss Luke Williams is not one of those managers who vow not to regularly check his side's progress.

Losing just two their 41 matches this season, scoring 103 goals along the way, Williams and his Magpies would be celebrating an emotional return to the Football League any other season, but in the most exciting two-horse title race in the National League for years, they

don't even find themselves on top of the pile.

That honour is bestowed on Wrexham, who lead by three points with a game in hand going into the Easter weekend.

Monday's game between the two at the Racecourse Ground promises to be an absolute classic, dare I suggest, the biggest game in Non-League history?

The fact that neither Williams or Parkinson aren't the first managers to be celebrating a promotion or title-winning campaign up and down the country shows just how many top performances we have enjoyed so far this term.

By our reckoning, Worksop Town were the first English champions of 2022-23 after sauntering to the Northern Premier League East division having lost just once all season. They were followed on top of the winners' rostrum by North Ferriby, who continued their rise back to the top tiers by clinching the Northern Counties East Premier division, similarly Macclesfield FC, who made it back-to-back promotions from Step 5 to Step 3 by cruising to the Northern Premier League West title.

And then there's Berkhamsted, who are also celebrating title success after a storming campaign in Southern League Division One Central.

One thing's for sure, the Easter bunny will be delivering more title success this weekend with the likes of Ebbsfleet United and South Shields among a number of clubs chasing confirmation this Bank Holiday.

One thing's for sure, you can be certain that Fleet boss Dennis Kutrieb and Mariners chief Kevin Phillips will have lived through every permutation and will know exactly what their teams have to do to ensure success.



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PARTNERS WITH
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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

AFC Sudbury played their match at **Maldon & Tiptree** on Good Friday, and it was a very good Friday for the Yellows and for striker Nnamdi Nwachuku, who scored a first half hat trick in a three-nil win. Nnamdi took his tally to a rather incredible FORTY SIX for the season, a tally which includes six hat tricks- he's going to need to build an extension just to hold match balls at this rate.

That result saw the Yellows close to within three points of leaders **Hashtag United**, who had looked a little more vulnerable of late, needing very late goals to defeat Felixstowe and Walton United and Coggeshall Town, and of course losing to Stowmarket Town in between those two. The Tags were on the road to **Gorleston**, who had been impressive recently, but the visitors went ahead on eight minutes, Matthew Wooldridge breaking the deadlock. Before the half hour mark it was two-nil, Alex Teniola making his side more comfortable - and right before the end of the match they added a third, Jermaine Francis ensuring that his side restore their six point advantage - and there are only three games to go.

Third place **Lowestoft Town** started the day with a five point advantage in the battle for the final home play off spot. They were also on the road, travelling to **Basildon United**, and the Trawler Boys were ahead after only eight minutes, Jake Reed's twenty second of the season. Reed added another ten minutes

later, and then completed his hat trick with only twenty seven minutes on the clock. After the break Ben Allen got one back for the hosts, and then it was all hands on deck as Callum Fitzer reduced the arrears once more. The visitors held out, and their advantage in the battle for that home advantage is now six points.

Stowmarket Town have been hit hard by the manager/performance/goalkeeper of the month awards curse (yes, they won all of them for March), losing both matches since the start of April. Our fourth place side faced the stern test of visiting **Heybridge Swifts**, who started the day only a point behind in sixth spot and had won their last three- and just how stern a test was demonstrated after only nine minutes, Myles Anderson putting Swifts ahead. On twenty one minutes Matt Price made it two-nil, but soon after the restart Chris Casement got one back. Stow's comeback hit difficulties when Ed Upson saw red soon afterwards, and soon they went down to nine, Jack Ainsley the next to be dismissed. Unsurprisingly they couldn't find an equaliser, and Swifts take their fourth place, Stow down to fifth.

Felixstowe and Walton United had to fight hard to win at Basildon United in midweek, but win they did, and they occupied fifth spot at kick off courtesy of a better goal difference than Heybridge Swifts. The Seasiders travelled for a local derby, **Bury Town** their hosts - the

Ram Meadow side also picking up a late midweek win and finally looking as if they'd found their mojo, with only one defeat from their last four bringing to an end a very poor run. The visitors went ahead on twenty five minutes, Zak Brown with the opener, but they were quickly pegged back, Joe White levelling from the spot seven minutes later. Town took the lead with seventeen minutes to go, White once more doing the damage, and made it three when Max Maughn scored with just seven minutes left. United drop to seventh, one point outside of the top five.

Grays Athletic hoped to bridge the gap between themselves and the top five as they travelled to face relegation-threatened **Great Waking Rovers**. Athletic had only one win from their previous four, whilst Rovers had looked much improved, losing only one of their last five, but had an eight point gap between themselves and safety. Rovers opened the scoring four minutes before the break, David Knight with the goal, but they were ahead for just those four minutes, Callum Leahy quickly levelling. Right at the end the visitors got a winner, Callum Watts lifting them to sixth place- only goal difference keeping them out of the top five.

We had a mid table battle as **East Thurrock United** played host to **New Salamis**. The Rocks underwent major change a few weeks ago and had consequently lost their last four - and they were quickly behind once more, Nathan Mandla scoring after just five minutes. Salamis added another fifteen minutes later, Harrison Georgiou with that one, but with seven minutes to go the Rocks made a match of it, Ayo Odukota with the lifeline. They made the most of it, and right at the end Max Fiddes delivered an equaliser.

Coggeshall Town saw their relegation fight boosted with six points this week, as apart from defeating Stowmarket Town they were awarded three points for victory over Great Waking Rovers in February - a match which

was abandoned with seconds remaining after a serious player injury with the Seed Growers ahead. That still left them seven points from safety as we kicked off - and they had a difficult match, **Wroxham** coming to call. It took until thirteen minutes from time for a goal to arrive, and Coggeshall scored it- but in the wrong end, the Yachtsmen taking the lead. The visitors scored one of their own to make it two-nil with three minutes remaining, Ryan Hawkins taking his tally for the season to double figures, and they held on for victory. The Seed Growers are seven points from safety with only three matches remaining.

Witham Town started the weekend with a seven point gap between themselves and the danger zone - and had a massive match, as **Tilbury** came to call. Victory could - depending on other results - even ensure Town's safety, but with the Dockers having fallen into the automatic relegation positions this week things are even more desperate at Chadfields - and they were given something of a boost when, with the game goalless, Town saw Rhys Madden sent off. They Dockers took advantage, Alex Clark putting them ahead just after the restart, and they held on for three points - but are still six points behind their hosts with three matches to go.

Brentwood Town had the opportunity to condemn visitors **Hullbridge Sports** to - at best - a relegation play off, and it looked grim for Sports when Solomon Ogunwomoju scored after just three minutes. Sports levelled on eighteen minutes through Martin Tuohy, but within ten minutes were behind again, Matt Cripps restoring home advantage - and it was three-one just before the break, Ross Wall the scorer. Wall added another twelve minutes after the restart to make it four, and got his hat trick with thirteen minutes left- five-one the score.

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GUNDI: THE BULGARIAN HERO

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



At first it seems a simple question. Who is the greatest Bulgarian to have ever played the game? The nation boasts just one Ballon d'Or winner, and that man, Hristo Stoichkov, became a legend both for his country and for Barcelona, one of the giants of the European game. He is rightly regarded as one of the finest footballers of his generation. So why is it that if you ask the question in Bulgaria, you'll likely get a different answer?

Georgi Asparuhov – Gundi – was born in the middle of the Second World War, in Sofia, and spent most of his childhood in the post-war chaos demonstrating his prodigious talent in the city's youth league. As he turned 15 in the late 1950s, he was invited for a trial at city heavyweights Levski Sofia, and duly taken on as a member of their under 16 side. It wasn't long before he made his mark there as well, with his manager Konstantin Georgiev reporting to the first team that 'there is nothing we can do with him' to make him better. 'The boy is a born footballer.'

Gundi didn't stick around in the youth teams for long, and he was in the first team, at just 17, against Botev Plovdiv. Tall and imposing, the Levski coaches thought he was a natural centre back, despite Gundi's belief in his attacking talents. Grateful, however, he lined up at the back, but he couldn't contain his own talents. He quickly became known for both goalscoring and for dribbling out of defence, often embarrassing his opponents. When he was called up for Bulgaria's youth teams, and excelled. In a tournament in Austria, he jinked past two players and scored from almost the



halfway line. Everyone agreed, he was an attacker, and that's where he played from then on.

National Service threatened to stall Gundi's career just as he made his breakthrough, but he was allowed to continue playing for the club nearest to where he was stationed; Botev Plovdiv. In his two seasons, he transformed them from mid-table fodder to genuine title contenders, finishing third and then second. But his heart was in Sofia, and when he was released from the military he went back to Levski. By now he had become an imposing striker. Tall, strong, fast, he was a defence's nightmare. In 1965 Levski won their first title in 12 years, with Gundi scoring 27 in 29. He then went



off with the national team to a difficult World Cup qualifier against Belgium, which Bulgaria were expected to lose. In a performance described as 'divine' he scored twice to send his country to the finals, and would be nominated for the Ballon d'Or, ahead of Franz Beckenbauer and Ferenc Puskas.

With Levski in now European Cup action, it was inevitable that some European giants would come knocking. After three goals against Benfica, the Portuguese champions made an approach, with Eusebio declaring that he craved to play alongside the Bulgarian. Milan were the most persistent though, making repeated offers. Bulgaria, under strict communist control refused to let him leave the country.

The 1966 World Cup was a disappointment for Bulgaria, but Gundi flourished. In a group of death with Brazil, Portugal and Hungary (with Ballon d'Or winner Florian Albert). Gundi scored his side's only goal, but was unable to carry the team himself with so much talent against him. He left disappointed, but with his reputation further enhanced.

Unfortunately, his heroics just made him more of a target in what was an increasingly violent Bulgarian league. Injuries threatened to finish his career early, but it was to end in far more tragic circumstances.

Having been injured once too often, and

unable to play for Levski, Gundi was invited to a celebration by Botev Plovdiv, who still loved him from his two season spell there a decade earlier. He took his international teammate Nikola Kotkov with him for the ride, and picked up a hitchhiker on the road. As he made his way down the Hemus motorway, his Alfa Romeo lost control and smashed into a truck. The car was set alight, and all three men died. Kotkov was 32, Gundi was 28.

In 1999, he was voted (ahead of Stoichkov) as Bulgaria's greatest ever player. He was placed 40th on FIFA's list of the greatest players of the twentieth century. It is impossible to guess how his reputation might have changed had he moved to Western Europe, but one suspects he might be much more readily remembered. For Gundi, though, he achieved his dream. One audacious attempt by Milan to lure him across the Iron Curtain, with the promise of \$500,000, a contract level with the highest paid player in Italy, and most importantly, safe passage out of the Communist bloc, he responded by saying 'there is a country called Bulgaria, and in this country there is a team called Levski. You may not have heard of it, but I was born there and there I shall die.' Tragically, he was right.

Enjoy the game.



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MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Monday 10th April, 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**
- Andy **Fennell**
- Sam **Ford**
- Milo **Grimes**
- Callum **Harrison**
- Andre **Hasanally**
- Curtis **Haynes-Brown**
- 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

Stowmarket Town FC

Manager/Player: Chris Casement

Assistant Manager: Richard Wilkins

- Jack **Ainsley**
- Shaun **Bammant**
- James **Bradbrook**
- Tom **Bullard**
- Chris **Casement**
- Josh **Curry**
- Ellis **Girling**
- Luke **Hipkin**
- Joe **Jefford**
- Dylan **Logan**
- Kieran **Morley**
- Kane **Munday**
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BALL SPONSOR:

Source One Consulting

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Jack Willmore **Assistant Referees:** Mr Richard Baker and Mr Stephen Tymms