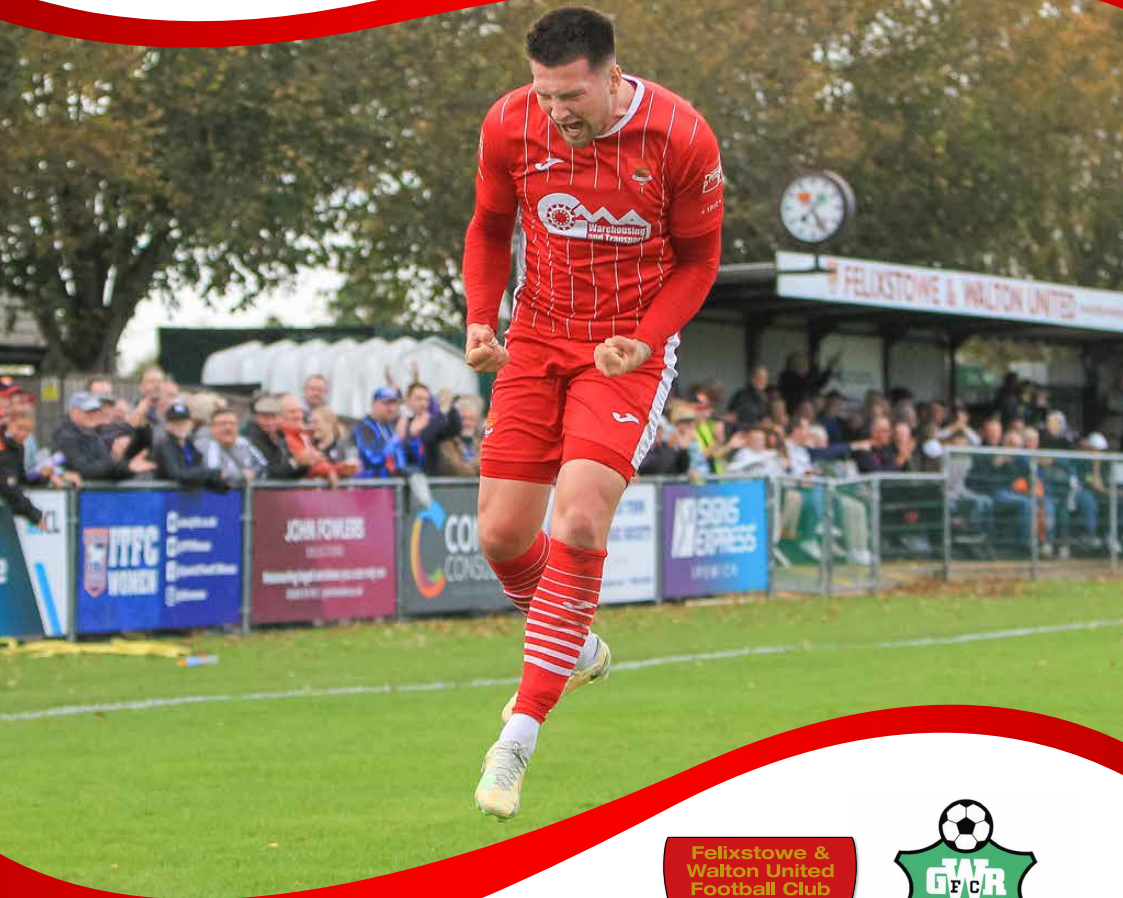


the Seaside

THE OFFICIAL 2022/2023 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Great Wakering Rovers



SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2022, 3PM
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN NORTH LEAGUE



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JOINT CHAIRMAN: **CHRIS DAYNES**

Good afternoon and a warm welcome back to the AGL Arena as we greet the players, officials and supporters of Great Woking Rovers, as well as today's match officials.

The highs and lows of football eh?! It's why we love the game but the ups and downs are a rollercoaster of emotions that does no favours to my, and I'm sure everyone else's, stress levels.

Last Saturday at 5pm we were bouncing after a 4-0 win in front of a great crowd, but Tuesday it was back to Earth with a bump as we fell to a late 1-0 defeat at Sudbury, marred also by a late red card for a lack of discipline which will impact the rest of the squad for three games.

Football is all about getting back in the saddle (or on the pitch) and putting right the wrongs from the previous game, and I'm sure the management and players will be looking to get back to form this afternoon and trying to extend our run of home league wins to nine games.

It won't be easy, Great Woking always provide a stern test and we've had some very close contests over recent seasons. Rovers drew 2-2 at Stowmarket last week so that will give them the confidence going into the game today that they can travel back down the A12 with a point or three, all the more reason that the Seasiders are at their best this afternoon.

It's a busy time at the club (as always) and the U23s visit Bury on Monday night. It would be great to see some travelling support for the side who have been doing so well of late.

Next Saturday the fixtures don't come



any tougher than a trip to Lowestoft, before we take a break from league action when Enfield Town from a level above visit the AGL Arena in the last 32 of the Velocity Trophy. Sandwiched between all those games we have a couple of events. Friday 4th November it's the Psychic Night with Stephanie Carr and a few tickets remain at the time of writing.

On Sunday 6th we have our 'members only' BBQ & fireworks within the main stadium. Tickets are completely sold out, with no entry without a ticket, however, it may be worth checking with myself in the week leading up to the event in case of any ticket returns....

One final thing before I go, there are a number of people at the club going through health battles at the moment. I'm not going to name names, but rest assured we're thinking of you and wishing you the best. If there's anything we can do to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

FROM THE DUGOUT:
STUART BOARDLEY



A week of highs and lows!

Last weekend, we approached a fixture against an inform Hashtag team who posed a real threat to our 100% home record in the league. Our home record over the past year is something I'm extremely proud of and one we want to continue.

A great team performance ensued where I felt we were not only ruthless in attack but also very resolute in defence allowed us to come away with the three points.

We had watched quite a bit of Hashtag over the last few games and we decided to alter our usual system to pose them some different problems to what they may have expected. I think it's fair to say that we did that well which culminated in Hashtag changing their system at half-time to try and deal with our midfield. Ultimately, we felt we certainly deserved all three points and it set us up very nicely for a mouthwatering fixture against Sudbury on Tuesday night.



I was delighted, as was the whole of the group to see George Clarke back in the starting lineup and on the scoresheet. Another back in the squad of late is Curtis Haynes-Brown after a serious knee injury that's kept him out almost 18 months. Both players have worked so hard to get themselves to where they are and I hope you see a lot more of both in the red and white stripes over the coming weeks and months.



Onto Sudbury.... The much fancied side and big spenders in the league. Unfortunately, we just weren't quite at our best and fell short by a goal to nothing on a difficult night where, being honest, if we had nicked a point, it would not have been a deserved one.

Sudbury were just better in most departments on the night and we didn't do the things that we feel we are particularly good at. This meant that we struggled to play through their high press and as a result we became a bit hemmed in at times, something we certainly need to work on so we can find a Plan B when Plan A is not quite working!

In my last notes, I think I wrote about trying to eclipse the previous years 622 supporters against Hashtag, well once more you came up trumps with a magnificent 658! I saw a statistic today showing that average home crowds for all of our senior teams have risen quite considerably this season which is fantastic to see. The support you all provide in my opinion is unrivalled and long may that continue.

Hope you all enjoy the game!

Boards

MATCH PHOTOS

SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER
Isthmian North League

Felixstowe & Walton Utd 4

Brown, Clarke, Warren, Hitter

Hashtag Utd 0

HOW WE LINED UP:

1. Callum Robinson
2. Callum Bennett
3. Stuart Ainsley
4. Billy Holland
5. Leon Ottley-Gooch
6. Joe Whight
7. Callum Harrison
8. Noel Aitkens
9. George Clarke
10. Zak Brown
11. Charlie Warren

SUBS

12. Milo Grimes
14. Sam Ford
15. Josh Hitter
16. Tom Maycock
17. Lamell Howell

PHOTOS
BY STEFAN
PECK





Felixstowe and Walton United's attempt to get back to winning ways came with a Hashtag United shaped obstacle, but they soon found their way past it, **Zak Brown** putting them ahead. They doubled their lead with seventeen minutes remaining, **George Clarke** with that one, and the victory was comfortable when **Charlie Warren** made it three. There was still time for a fourth, that one coming to **Josh Hitter** - confirming a third win in a row for the Seasideers against the Tags, and United up to second.







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welcome back...

GEORGE CLARKE

Seasiders forward George Clarke has spent over a year on the sidelines through injury, so it has been a welcome sight to see his name back on the teamsheet this month. We spoke to him about his recovery and long awaited return to the beautiful game....

What was the injury that has kept you out for so long and how did it happen?

I've had three ankle surgeries since initially injuring it in a clash with a goalkeeper about six years ago, the latest being a complete reconstruction!

What has your treatment and recovery entailed?

After being on crutches and in a boot for a couple of months, the majority of my recovery was solely focused on getting my ankle strong again. Lots of band work, balance and stability stuff.

Have the club been supportive throughout the process?

The club have been great since the start and VERY patient!! They've supported me with regular physio sessions and made me feel valued throughout the process which does help massively mentally.

How are you feeling now? Do you consider yourself back to full fitness?

I feel pretty good currently, I still have to manage my training etc which has been fine so far but also frustrating as I can't always train with the boys. I'm still a long way off full fitness but give it another 4-6 weeks then hopefully I'll be there or thereabouts.

How did it feel to be back on the pitch again?

It feels great, I didn't quite expect to be back starting a few games this early but it's been good and has helped me a lot. Hopefully I can stay injury free and have a good season

You scored your first goal of the season on Saturday against Hashtag Utd, talk us through it...

I felt massive relief when it hit the back of the net, it's been a long 15 months, so to get a goal in a big game like that means even more. It was great hustling by Woz to win the ball back, and I was there to bury it into the bottom corner!



Was this the first of many this season?

That's the aim, I need to kick on now and make up for lost time!

That was a great result on Saturday for the Seasiders, what is the mood like amongst the boys at the moment?

The mood has been great, we've had a great run of form and everyone's buying into it. Boards and Crumpy have got one hell of a squad together this year and we all know we've got what it takes to push for promotion and go one step further than last season.



“After such a lengthy spell out we are so pleased to have George back and available for selection. Saturdays performance highlighted the quality he will bring to the side and importantly his natural ability to score goals. Given the operation and recovery he has gone through, we will need to be patient with his return but are certainly very excited to have him returning to full fitness.”

**ANDY CRUMP,
ASSISTANT MANAGER**



“I felt massive relief when it hit the back of the net, It’s been a long 15 months, so to get a goal in a big game like that means even more.”



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SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this... It's all about the numbers!

Ten years ago today (29/10/2012) was a Monday, and we had lost 4-0 the previous Saturday (27th) at Ely City in a Thurlow Nunn League game in front of 57 spectators. But it was a critical time for the club... we had just appointed a new manager, Kevin O'Donnell, who proved to be the first of two major positive footballing influences on the club, transforming us from a middle of the road, mid table side, languishing in the lower reaches of the Thurlow Nunn League, to a competitive, forward-looking club.

Our average home gate that season after seven games was **94** and at the end of that campaign the average was **115!** Those first **seven** games total was **631. Last Saturday, there were 658 spectators here.**

Our new facilities obviously had a positive influence on the club, but the introduction of our current management set up of Stuart and Andy has taken the club to yet another level, introducing a professional approach born of experience with Ipswich Town for Andy and Ipswich Town & Torquay United for Stuart.



Our first seven games this season has attracted **2,472** spectators, at an average **351** per game, the side play entertaining football and we regularly feature in the national top ten table of attendances of all **Step 4** clubs.

Last Saturday, we were **5th** in the attendance table of **160 step 4** clubs over three leagues. Isthmian, Southern & Northern Premier.

A great achievement...

Message from the management -

THANKS EVERYONE... *We couldn't do it without you!*



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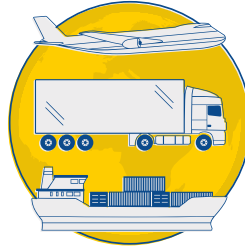
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OUR SQUAD

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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TOM MAYCOCK **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

Former Sudbury youngster Tom joins us following a season at Step 3 with Needham Market. A technically gifted left footed forward who can play a number of positions across the front line.

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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.

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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 Seasiders 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.

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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



ZAK BROWN **FORWARD**

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

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.

SPONSORS: AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

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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THE OTHER SIDE GREAT WAKERING ROVERS



Photos from previous matches against Felixstowe 7 Walton FC



The club was formed in 1919 by soldiers demobbed after World War I and finding employment in the local brickfields. Not much in memory remains of the early years of the club although the club do pose some wonderful pictures from around that period.

We first played in one of Southend's oldest leagues, the Southend & District League, where

the Rovers stayed until 1982. Rovers were the leagues most dominant clubs, especially in the 1960s and 1970s and to this day remain so on record. The switch in 1982 saw the club move to the newly formed Southend & District Alliance Football League, but sadly this league folded in 1989 leaving Rovers with a decision to move back to the Southend & District League or take a step up in standard. With what most Rovers feel to be the best squad amassed by a manager, in this case Eddie Nash, Rovers took the decision to step up to intermediate level and joined the Essex Intermediate League.

Rovers remained in the Essex Intermediate League for three seasons, winning the championships of Divisions Three and Two in successive seasons. After the latter, Rovers successfully applied to join the Essex Senior League and found themselves in Step 5 of the Non-League pyramid, which for a village club was a tremendous feat.





In the 1994–1995 season Rovers narrowly beat Sawbridgeworth Town FC for the Essex Senior League title. Rovers had collected 71 points for the season and lost just three times although the title win was only won on goal difference (18). During that season Rovers forward Paul Flack scored 28 goals, which included a haul of 4 goals away at Eton Manor as Rovers celebrated a 9–0 victory. Also included in his stunning season were two further hattricks. That season his strike partner Neil Ramsey grabbed 20 goals as Rovers hit home 82 goals.

Rovers defence of the Essex Senior crown would falter the following season, finishing 2nd behind Romford. In the 1996–1997 season Rovers would also finish second again, behind Ford United by just three points. The 1997–1998 season would be Rovers worst season in the Essex Senior League, finishing mid-table, 7th, and 36 points behind winners Concord Rangers.

The club's final appearance in the Essex Senior League saw them finish 2nd behind Bowers United. However, due to Bowers United failing to meet ground grading requirements for promotion, Rovers were promoted to the Isthmian League in their place. With Isthmian League Division Three on the horizon for the 1999–2000 season, Rovers move into Step 4 of the league pyramid was complete.

At the very first attempt Rovers were promoted to Division Two finishing behind East Thurrock Utd by three points. Promotion

to Division Two gave Rovers some stiffer opposition and the season finished with Rovers in mid-table.

In 2002 the Isthmian League then reorganised and Rovers found themselves in a new look Division One North, finishing mid-table but more than holding their own in what was a very competitive league. In 2003 the club were embroiled in a relegation fight, although this was won convincingly as Rovers finished 15 points ahead of the relegation zone. A further league reorganisation in 2004 saw the club switch to the Southern Football League Eastern Division for two seasons.

The 2004–2005 season saw Rovers miss relegation by one point due to Erith & Belvedere FC being deducted three points, but in the 2005–2006 season Rovers bounced back to finish safely in mid-table.

For the 2006–2007 season Rovers found themselves in familiar territory, switching back to the Isthmian League Division One North, where we finished 12th. Two further seasons saw Rovers finish 13th and stabilise themselves as a Ryman League club.

The 2009–2010 season brought a record number of points for the Rovers at Ryman League level, 64, but towards the end of the season manager Iain O'Connell was offered the management of Ryman Premier League side Margate leaving assistant Ryan Wilkinson and physio Cleve Taylor to take over temporary





control with 12 games to go. In a season that saw Rovers top the table for 9 weeks, the dizzy heights would eventually get to O'Connell's side as they finished in 9th place, 13 points behind the playoffs.

Ryan Wilkinson and Cleve Taylor would be implemented as joint-managers for the 2010-2011 season and their first season in charge would offer up 44 points and 15th place in the league. Their start to the 2011-2012 season wasn't what they had hoped and after one win in their opening nine games, both offered their resignations. Rovers made first team coach Danny Heath caretaker manager and he brought temporary stabilisation back to the side as they recorded two wins and three draws from his seven games in charge.

Rovers would offer the management post to Danny Greaves, son of ex-Tottenham and England legend Jimmy Greaves. Danny saw that a clean sweep of the side was required and let go the majority of the squad, bringing in loanees whilst trying to sign up new players. Unfortunately, this plan didn't work and after a miserable run of six losses in a row, he too offered his resignation.

Rovers would offer ex-Captain and stalwart Dan Trenkel the position as manager in November 2011 in an effort to stabilise the club. However, Trenkel was playing for Redbridge FC at the time who were on a fantastic run in the FA Cup, and it would be two weeks before

he would be unveiled at the club, Danny Heath taking temporary control again, although this time losing both games.

Trenkel would bring back a number of players previously released by Danny Greaves, and opened his management career with a 2-2 draw at home to Waltham Forest, followed by a 1-1 draw at home to Harlow Town. However, although the side were performing better, results would continue to go against him and after just three wins in the remaining 21 games, including 6 draws, Rovers would find themselves bottom of the table and staring relegation into the Essex Senior League.

In 2014, they won the ESL by one point on the final day of the season, and were promoted back to the Isthmian League.

2016/17 season was probably the most turbulent the club has ever experienced. Seeing two Chairmen leaving their posts, together with two Managers also losing their jobs. In total 71 players were used in the fight against relegation without any success. As we were finally relegated after two seasons at step 4 in the FA Pyramid returning to the Essex Senior League.

Manager Iain O'Connell, in his second spell with the club has been working hard during the summer to put together a strong squad and to lay down the foundation to mount a



serious challenge for promotion to enable Great Wakering Rovers to get back to Step 4 in the FA pyramid the club expects.

2017/18 Season Rovers won the ESL again as well as the Errington League Cup and was promoted back to the Isthmian League once again.

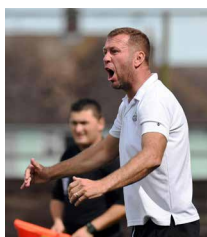
2018/19 see's Garry Kimble take over from Iain O'Connell, who stepped down as Rovers manager during pre-season to concentrate on his family.

Rovers had a up and down season with Gary Kimble leaving the club and Stephen Butterworth taking over just after Christmas on a temporary basis and managed to keep Rovers up and playing Isthmian football again for 2019-20 season.

Stephen Butterworth was given the role on a permanent basis going into 2019/20 season finishing their highest position in the club's history just outside the playoff place in 7th with 43 points.

2020/21 season was the season that wasn't, with Rovers only managing 7 league games and claiming only 8 points.

2021/22 season see's Rovers bring in Glenn Robson as interim manager following Stephen Butterworth's departure, John Coventry Snr. was then appointed manager on a permanent



basis along with John Coventry Jnr. as coach. After a string of poor results leaving the club in a precarious position, John Coventry Snr. and Jnr. were replaced until the end of the season

by former manager Iain O'Connell with Martin Tuohy as player/coach, Iain returning to the club trying to help retain our league status. Having achieved that by getting 8 points from the final 4 games Iain has agreed to take the role on a permanent basis for the 2022/23 season but Martin Tuohy has decided to retire from football to spend more time with his young family, we wish Martin all the best in his retirement.

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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2022/23

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

LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 21:37:03

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER - 3PM KO

AFC Sudbury	v	Tilbury
Bury Town	v	Maldon & Tiptree
East Thurrock Utd	v	Witham Town
F&W Utd	v	Great Wakering Rovers
Gorleston	v	Coggeshall Town
Hashtag Utd	v	Lowestoft Town



FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST

13	BRENTWOOD TOWN <i>Hitter</i>	A	D 1-1
16	GORLESTON <i>Warren, Harrison, Canfer</i>	H	W 3-2
20	DEREHAM TOWN*	A	L 2-0
27	BASILDON UNITED <i>Howell, Holland</i>	H	W 2-0
29	COGGESHALL TOWN <i>Aitkens, Harrison, Hitter</i>	A	W 3-1

SEPTEMBER

13	BURGESS HILL TOWN** <i>Whight, Harrison</i> <i>Burgess Hill Town win 3-2 on pens</i>	H	D 2-2
17	NEW SALAMIS <i>Harrison 2, Canfer 3</i>	H	W 5-0
27	WITHAM TOWN*** <i>Holland 2, Maycock</i>	H	W 3-1

OCTOBER

1	WROXHAM <i>Brown, Harrison</i>	A	D 2-2
8	MALDON & TIPTREE <i>Hitter, Holland, Whight</i>	W	3-1
11	CHERTSEY TOWN**** <i>Brown, Holland</i>	W	2-0
15	GRAYS ATHLETIC <i>Hitter, Holland</i>	L	3-2
22	HASHTAG UNITED <i>Brown, Warren, Clarke, Hitter</i>	W	4-0
25	AFC SUDBURY	L	1-0
29	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS	H	3PM

NOVEMBER

5	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM
8	ENFIELD TOWN*****	H	3PM
12	TILBURY	H	3PM
19	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS	A	3PM
26	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM

DECEMBER

3	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM
10	BURY TOWN	H	3PM
17	EAST THURROCK UNITED	A	3PM
27	COGGESHALL TOWN	H	1PM

JANUARY

2	STOWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM
7	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM
14	GORLESTON	A	3PM
21	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM
28	TILBURY	A	3PM

FEBRUARY

4	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS	H	3PM
11	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS	A	3PM
14	AFC SUDBURY	H	7.45PM
18	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	3PM
25	WROXHAM	H	3PM

MARCH

4	NEW SALAMIS	A	3PM
11	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM
18	HASHTAG UNITED	A	3PM
25	BASILDON UNITED	A	3PM

APRIL

1	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	3PM
8	BURY TOWN	A	3PM
10	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM
15	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM
22	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM

*Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

**Isuzu FA Trophy First Qualifying Round

***Velocity Trophy First Round

****Velocity Trophy Second Round

*****Velocity Trophy Third Round

GOALSCORER STATISTICS

Callum Harrison	●●●●●
Billy Holland	●●●●●
Josh Hitter	●●●●●
Ollie Canfer	●●●●
Zak Brown	●●●
Joe Whight	●●
Charlie Warren	●●
Noel Aitkens	●
Lamell Howell	●
Tom Maycock	●
George Clarke	●



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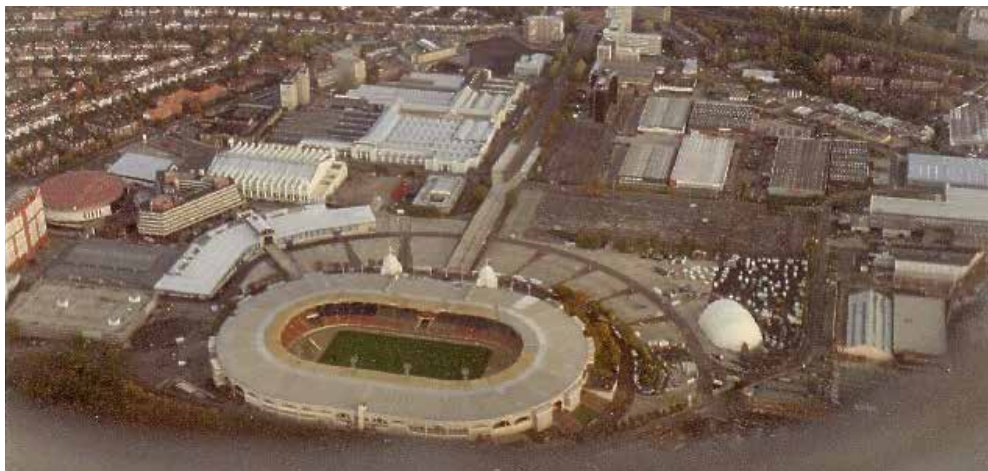


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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



YOU NEVER forget your first time! Wembley had that same impact on me as it has, and does, for many others.

Mine was an FA Vase final between Guisley and Gresley Rovers in 1991. My main memories are being slightly late and running up the steps inside as the national anthems were playing! Mainly it was seeing that famous patch of grass – and how green it looked. It wasn't an ordinary pitch. There was something about it. The goals were different too, the famous tunnel way behind the goal all capturing my imagination.

Of course, the game probably helped. A 4-4 thriller between the two sides – in those days the final went to a replay – but the six-year-old me was hooked in.

Over the years I was lucky enough to see many more FA Vase finals at the famous ground. Diss Town winning in 1994, Tiverton Town's back-to-back success a few years later.

Since working at the paper I've only missed one – Newport Pagnell Town's most recent win with a decent excuse of having a five-day old baby.

From the Northern League domination and the evolution to the fixture becoming part of Non-League Finals Day, the only real low point was watching Hebburn and Consett play their game out in front of an empty stadium because of Covid.

It was right, however, the players got their chance to play on that pristine surface.

For me, the FA Vase is a hidden gem in our footballing calendar. At the moment it's early days, but as the rounds tick on over the coming weeks and months, the dreams and aspiration will begin to grow.

There's a rawness about the competition. In the latter stages teams from the other end of the country are drawn against each other – modern technology means scouting has become easier and there are always contacts for managers to draw on for information.



on a given day and aiming to take another step on the road to Wembley.

The FA deserve credit for how Non-League Day already has that feel of an important date in the annual fixture list.

Attendances have been huge over the years – some big teams have made it there of course – and the next challenge will be to increase the neutral support on the day.

So why not this year? The FA Vase final is usually an action-packed spectacle. Even if you're side aren't in the competition, try and get along. Especially if you haven't been before.

By Matt Badcock, Editor-at-large

LEAGUE FORM GUIDE

Brentwood Town	W 3-1 v MALD..	W 1-0 v COGG..	W 2-0 v BASI..	W 2-1 v GREA..	W 5-3 v WITH..	W 2-1 v BASI..
Lowestoft Town	W 3-0 v WROX..	W 3-0 v WITH..	W 6-1 v GORL..	W 2-0 v TILB..	D 0-0 v HULL..	W 3-1 v GRAY..
Grays Athletic	W 3-2 v NEW..	W 2-0 v WROX..	W 2-0 v TILB..	W 3-2 v FELL..	L 3-1 v LOWE..	W 3-0 v GORL..
AFC Sudbury	W 5-2 v GORL..	D 2-2 v BURY..	W 3-1 v NEW..	W 2-0 v HULL..	D 2-2 v BASI..	W 1-0 v FELL..
Stowmarket Town	W 1-0 v WROX..	D 2-2 v EAST..	W 2-0 v BASI..	W 3-2 v MALD..	W 2-0 v GORL..	D 2-2 v GREA..
East Thurrock Utd	W 1-0 v BREN..	D 2-2 v STOW..	D 1-1 v HULL..	W 1-0 v BURY..	W 3-2 v WROX..	W 2-0 v GORL..
Heybridge Swifts	W 2-1 v MALD..	D 2-2 v NEW..	W 1-0 v GORL..	L 2-0 v HASH..	W 2-0 v WITH..	W 5-1 v TILB..
Hashtag Utd	D 1-1 v STOW..	W 3-1 v BREN..	W 3-1 v TILB..	W 2-0 v MALD..	W 2-0 v HEYB..	L 4-0 v FELL..
F&W Utd	W 5-0 v NEW..	D 2-2 v WROX..	W 3-1 v MALD..	L 3-2 v GRAY..	W 4-0 v HASH..	L 1-0 v AFC..
Bury Town	W 1-0 v BASI..	W 2-0 v GORL..	L 1-0 v EAST..	W 2-1 v COGG..	L 1-0 v TILB..	D 2-2 v HULL..
Gt Wakering Rovers	L 2-1 v BASI..	L 1-0 v HULL..	W 3-0 v MALD..	W 2-1 v COGG..	L 2-1 v BREN..	D 2-2 v STOW..
Witham Town	W 2-1 v GRAY..	W 4-0 v GREA..	L 3-0 v LOWE..	D 2-2 v COGG..	L 2-0 v HEYB..	L 5-3 v BREN..
Hullbridge Sports	W 1-0 v GREA..	D 1-1 v EAST..	L 3-2 v WROX..	D 0-0 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v AFC..	D 2-2 v BURY..
Wroxham	L 3-0 v LOWE..	L 2-0 v GRAY..	D 2-2 v FELL..	W 3-2 v HULL..	L 3-2 v EAST..	D 3-3 v NEW..
New Salamis	W 2-1 v GREA..	L 5-0 v FELL..	L 3-2 v GRAY..	D 2-2 v HEYB..	L 3-1 v AFC..	D 3-3 v WROX..
Basildon Utd	W 2-1 v GREA..	L 2-0 v STOW..	L 2-0 v BREN..	L 3-1 v GORL..	D 2-2 v AFC..	L 2-1 v BREN..
Gorleston	L 6-1 v LOWE..	L 1-0 v HEYB..	W 3-1 v BASI..	L 2-0 v STOW..	L 2-0 v EAST..	L 3-0 v GRAY..
Tilbury	L 3-1 v HASH..	L 3-0 v HULL..	L 2-0 v GRAY..	L 2-0 v LOWE..	W 1-0 v BURY..	L 5-1 v HEYB..
Coggeshall Town	L 4-0 v LOWE..	L 1-0 v BREN..	L 2-1 v GREA..	L 2-1 v BURY..	D 2-2 v WITH..	D 0-0 v MALD..
Maldon & Tiptree	L 2-0 v HASH..	L 3-1 v BREN..	L 3-0 v GREA..	L 3-1 v FELL..	L 3-2 v STOW..	D 0-0 v COGG..

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Felixstowe go second, Swifts hit five, Rocks win again – and Brentwood deliver the comeback of the day



IMAGE COURTESY OF **SHIRLEY WHITLOW**

Lowestoft Town remained unbeaten at start of play but saw their one hundred percent record come to an end at **Hullbridge Sports** last weekend. They'd perhaps the toughest possible opponents as they looked to get back to winning ways, as their nearest challengers Grays Athletic came to call – and it was the visitors who broke the deadlock six minutes after the break, Sam Bantick's eighth of the

season giving them the lead. That awoke the hosts, who roared back to take the lead, Adam Hipperson with the equaliser and Charlie Norman with the second, and the visitors then went down to ten men as Joshua Osude saw red. Shortly afterwards Rhys Logan made it three-one, and that turned out to be that – the Trawler Boys ending the day with an eight point lead at the top.

Heybridge Swifts lost their first league game last weekend, but quickly bounced back to defeat **Witham Town** in midweek and were quickly ahead against Tillbury, Kieran Jones getting his fourth of the season in only the second minute. By the eighteenth minute it was three-nil, Darren Phillips and Rhys Henry adding to the tally, and Phillips made it four from the spot on twenty five minutes as the Dockers dithered. On thirty six minutes it was five-nil, Rob Harvey adding his name to the scoresheet, but after that the hosts slackened their pace and the last goal of the game came right at the end. It was a Dockers consolation through Darnell Kithambo, although it's doubtful they'll take any consolation from it. Swifts go third.

Stowmarket Town have been in superb form, up to fourth as we kicked off and with only one defeat this season. Nine games without defeat in all competitions, they welcomed a **Great Waking Rovers** side who were soon behind, Reggie Lambe opening the scoring in

the thirteenth minute. Rovers didn't give up and drew level from the spot with twenty minutes left, Alex Hernandez keeping his nerve, but that just spurred on the hosts, and Kane Munday looked to have given them the points with a goal in the last minute. Celebrations were premature, however, as Kewin Kwiek immediately drew the visitors level - and that was that. Town drop to sixth.

We started the day with only one point between third and eighth, and **Brentwood Town** were hoping to overturn that deficit as they entertained **Witham Town**. They got off to a terrible start, Abdul Rasheed scoring for the visitors in the very first minute, but levelled through Andy Freeman just before the half hour - something that obviously angered Rasheed as he added two more almost immediately to claim a hat trick and put his side three-one up. Just before the break Charlie Kendall made it two-three, and the equaliser arrived midway through the second half, George Craddock making it three-three. The comeback was complete with thirteen minutes left, Freeman getting his second of the match for four-three, and it was five-three six minutes later, Marlon Agyakwa with the fifth as the visitors wondered how they'd lost. Rasheed deserves the match ball - but will he want it?

AFC Sudbury added Aveley goalkeeper David Hughes to their squad prior to their trip to **Basildon United**, but the Bees were also busy in the transfer market this week. The Yellows entered the match unbeaten and, although they started the day in sixth place, have three games in hand to make up the nine point gap between themselves and the leaders. Josh Stokes opened the scoring for the visitors seven minutes before the break, but shortly after the restart the Bees stung, Kye Jude with the equaliser - and the hosts then went ahead, Wilson Chingoka with their second. You ignore Nnamdi Nwachuku at your peril, and the Sudbury striker got his sixteenth of the campaign to level with nine

minutes remaining, but both sides had to settle for a point.

Bury Town, in ninth, knew they could climb as high as third with victory over **Hullbridge Sports** - but they were soon behind, Darius Ghinea opening the scoring on the quarter hour with a goal from a free kick. The Ram Meadow faithful had seen their side lose two of their last three, but they were given something to cheer when Cemal Ramadan drew them level just before the break - and cheered even louder a minute later when Ramadan's thirteenth of the season made it two-one. Sports weren't finished, however, and they took a point when Emmanuel Folarin levelled two minutes from time.

East Thurrock United had gone five league matches without defeat and seemed to have found their North Division mojo as they welcomed **Gorleston**, and so it proved as they were two up inside eighteen minutes, Ben Steward with both of them. That's six matches unbeaten now for the Rocks, and up to tenth.

New Salamis welcomed **Wroxham** to Coles Park. The hosts were four games without a win in League, Velocity Cup and Trophy, and were ahead in this one on fourteen minutes, Derek Asamoah striking for the eighth time this season - but the Yachtsmen were quickly level and soon ahead, Brad Spooner and Shaun Taylor turning things around. The hosts then hit back to equalise through George Lutaaya, and midway through the second half Asamoah put them ahead - but again the Yachtsmen struck back, Ryan Miles equalising - his ninth of the season. That was the end of the goals, Salamis in twelfth, Wroxham in seventeenth.

Coggeshall Town and **Maldon & Tiptree** are both desperate for points, but they had to settle for one each - and no goals.

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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 A 7.45PM

NOVEMBER

16 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS A 7.45PM

21 HARINGEY BOROUGH A 7.45PM

28 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT H 7.45PM

DECEMBER

7 BRENTWOOD TOWN A 7.45PM

12 HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS H 7.45PM

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	4	3	1	0	10
Brentwood Town	6	3	0	3	9
F&W Utd	4	3	0	1	9
Bury Town	4	2	0	2	6
Haringey Borough	4	2	0	2	6
Brightlingsea Regent	6	0	1	5	1

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: **THE ORANGE FREE STATE FOOTBALL TEAM**

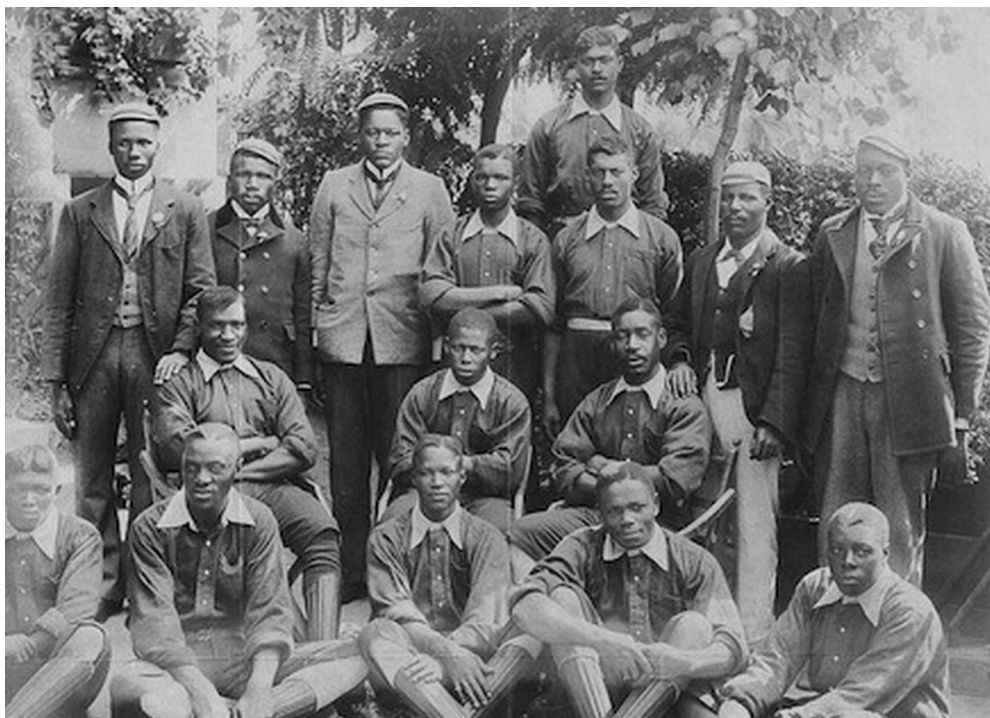
BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



Football is the biggest sport in the world, and is played across the globe, enjoyed by billions. This spread, in large part, is due to the influence of European empires, and in particular the British Empire, as it sought to exert its control over a third of the planet. But in many colonies, including African colonies, it's earliest inception was intended

as a whites-only game, usually played between colonisers rather than indigenous peoples. For the native populations, they often had to adopt the game outside of the organisational structures. Nowhere was that truer than in South Africa, where Cecil Rhodes presided over the all-white South African Football Association. Interesting, then, in 1899,



the footballing authorities in that country took the decision to send an all black team to Europe. Just a few months before the start of the Second Boer War, the Orange Free State Football Team docked in Southampton.

Football in South Africa grew slowly and erratically, moving from a jumpers for goalposts style amateurism, through a comical and trivial form of entertainment before eventually ending at the kind of organised competition we understand in the late 1880s. By 1897, funded by diamond magnate Cecil Rhodes, Corinthians made their way to the country with the kind of punishing schedule that would make Jurgen Klopp faint; two months, 23 games, and a major boost for the popularity of football in the colony. Two years later, it was time to return the favour.

The British press welcomed the team, led by Joseph Twayi, with open arms, even if the welcome was tinged with racist undertones. The touring team was said to be fast, powerful and athletic, although the *Manchester Times* did admit their own ignorance over the specifics of the squad and its quality, while the *Scottish Sport* acknowledged that the players had only been playing for a few years, and lacked the tradition of the game already claimed at home. By contrast, the South African press was appalled. The whole affair is farcical as it is unsportsmanlike,' reported the *Cape Argus*, suggesting that "every white man south of the Zambezi... will regret the whole proceedings" of a team of black players appearing to represent their nation. But the tour would not be stopped.

Sadly, this was to be no David versus Goliath tale, and the visiting side, quite apart from being exotic curiosities, were no real match for the more storied clubs they were up against. Thousands of people turned out to see them, but it was reported that their interest turned to amusement and laughter at the Orange Free State side's ineptitude. They lost 5-3 to Sunderland, 7-3 to Middlesbrough and 9-3 to Scarborough as

the local press turned on them, referring to them as 'alleged footballers'. The tour continued north into Scotland, where six more games were lost heavily, in front of large crowds. The *Scottish Sport* reported that 'to treat the game between the Kaffirs and Hibs seriously would be one door off sacrilege' and suggested that they visitors combine with the 'lady footballers' who had similarly struggled to gain recognition for their sport in the nineteenth century.

The inability of the Orange Free State team to compete provoked outrage at home, and local newspapers started receiving letters from angered white people in South Africa. One declared that the idea of black players playing against white players would never be considered there, and that the side in no way represented football in the country. Another, who wrote to the *Sporting Times*, actually used the phrase 'equality is revolting' while explaining that a black person is 'not a human being'.

The criticism forced a response from the team, and Twayi told his story in the press. Having been prevented from partaking in the game as a younger man, he learned to play by watching others on dirt, when time away from his grocery would allow it. This was the story of most of the squad, amateurs doing their best, not even used to playing on grass, suddenly thrust into the spotlight in unfamiliar surroundings, with thousands of opposition fans in attendance, on a surface most of them had never set foot on. The desire to play in the country came from their extreme loyalty to it, and when the Boer War broke out they were still in England, and came out on the side of the British. Regardless of the results, their tour broke new ground both for non-white football in this country, and for football in the colonies. If nothing else, that's something to celebrate.

Enjoy the game.
Martyn Green, *The Untold Game*.

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MATCHDAY SQUADS

PITCHING IN Isthmian North League
Saturday 29th October, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton United FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump

red/yellow	Stuart Ainsley
goals	Noel Aitkens
played	Henry Barley
	Callum Bennett
	Harry Blackburn
	Zak Brown
	George Clarke
	Ollie Canfer
	Sam Ford
	Milo Grimes
	Callum Harrison
	Curtis Haynes-Brown
	Josh Hitter
	Billy Holland (C)
	Lamel Howell
	Harry Knock
	Tom Maycock
	Leon Ottley-Gooch
	Rory Porter
	Callum Robinson (GK)
	Armani Schaar
	Charlie Warren
	Joe Whight

red/yellow - goals - played

Great Woking Rovers FC

Manager: Ian O'Connell

Assistant Managers: Joe Flower / Andy Dixon

Physio: Stephen Patient

red/yellow	Callum Boylan	goals
played	Joe Burton	
	Danny Cossington	
	Sam Dowridge	
	Perry Dunn	
	Eusebio Da Silva Ca	
	Harry Fairs (GK)	
	Alex Hernandez	
	Joe Hunter	
	Billy Johnson	
	Kewin Kwiek	
	Rob Lacey	
	Archie McFadden	
	Adam Newton	
	Trevor Owusu	
	Matt Rose	
	Reece Stringer	
	Ben Summers	
	James White	

MATCH SPONSOR:
FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Mr Peter Wilson **Assistant Referees:** Mr Matthew Fear and Mr Kevin Harrington