

# SEASIDERS



THE OFFICIAL 2025/26 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY:



VS  
**BOWERS  
& PITSEA**  
SAT 23RD AUGUST 2025, 3PM





# NEXT MATCH

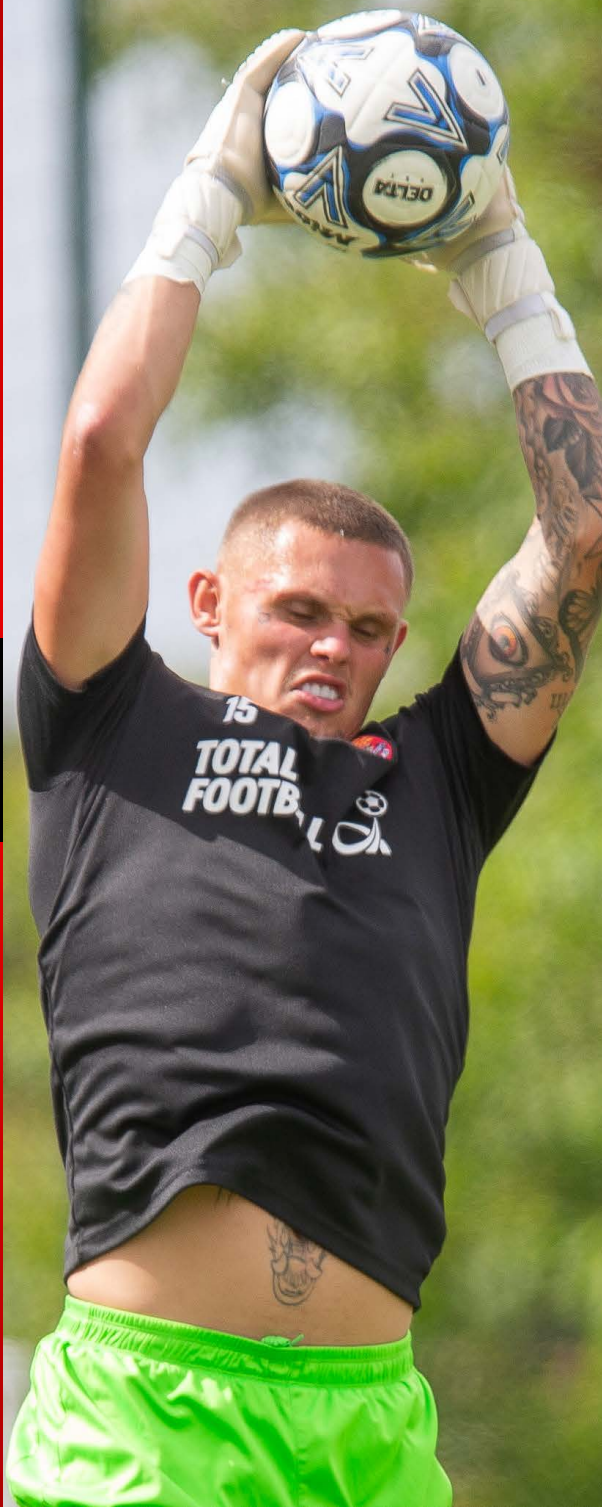
**GORLESTON  
V SEASIDERS**

**MONDAY 25 AUGUST  
KO 1PM  
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE**

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WELLESLEY ROAD  
GREAT YARMOUTH  
NORFOLK, NR30 1EF



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



# CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



## **Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground for today's Isthmian North league fixture against Bowers and Pitsea.**

A very warm welcome to all the players, coaches, officials and supporters of Bowers, I hope you have had a good journey up and wish you a pleasant and safe trip home later. We also welcome today's match officials and hope you enjoy your time with us and have a nice easy game to officiate.

Like ourselves, Bowers & Pitsea have had a mixed start to the season with just one point courtesy of a 2-2 draw at Walthamstow from their first two league games, but unlike us, they have progressed to the next round of the FA cup having dispatched Takeley 2-0 in Tuesday night's replay whilst we were suffering a 2-0 loss at home to Newmarket Town.

I was unable to attend the first match at Newmarket last Saturday, but I understand we played some great football at times but simply failed to kill them off during an impressive first half. Newmarket have clearly improved considerably and defended well with a commendable "never say die" attitude that was carried forward to Tuesday's replay. I would like to say we deserved more from the game, but have to agree that Newmarket were the team on the night that showed more fight and determination and deservedly progressed, we wish them all the very best in the next round whilst we lick our wounds and hopefully have the character to bounce back today and secure 3 more valuable points.

As always at this early stage of the season the games come thick and fast, on Monday we face Gorleston up in Great Yarmouth with a 1pm kick off after getting through all the bank holiday traffic so leave in good time!

At the time of writing this we may or may not have a fixture next Saturday dependant on how Grays get on in the FA Cup but by the time of reading this you will no doubt know the answer.\* It would be great if the boys can go into the FA Trophy on a high on the back of four straight league wins, with your support we know it is more than achievable.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend and cheer the Seasiders on to six points!

Best Wishes  
Tony

\*Grays lost, so we **DO** have a game next Saturday!

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# STUART AINSLEY



## Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground for today's Isthmian North clash against Bowers & Pitsea.

Since my last set of notes, we've picked up our first three points of the season against Witham and was really pleased with the lads reaction after the opening day at Waltham Abbey, I felt we were well deserving of our 2-0 win. Hopefully the start of a good set of results in the league.

I'm writing these notes after a disappointing result in the FA Cup on Tuesday night at home to Newmarket. I thought we dominated large parts of the game again as we did Saturday in the first game, but didn't create enough clear cut chances to win either game, something we will be working on in the coming weeks. The beauty of this game is that we have a chance to put it right this coming weekend with two games in quick succession starting today against Bowers, who although haven't played them for a year, know they will be a real test for us and we'll have to improve on Tuesday's performance if we want to get a positive result.



After today we head to Gorleston on Bank Holiday Monday, a real tough place to go and get a result who are carrying on excellent form at the end of last season into this one, again we expect a real tough afternoon and we will have to perform well if we're going to get anything from there.

Lastly I would like to mention the excellent attendances we've had in the last two Tuesday night's at home, 388 last week and 384 Tuesday just gone which are excellent figures so a huge thank you to everyone who has and continues to support our football club, we'll do everything we can to tempt you back all season!

Enjoy the game  
Stu





# SEASIDER: **PHIL GRIFFITHS**



## Not many people know this...

In the last programme, which was the first programme and also most recent programme, I spoke of, or rather wrote of, our performances as a club over the last ten seasons in firstly the Eastern Counties League (under its various banners) and the Isthmian League (North). Today's notes are about players in those ten years.

Prior to the start of this season we used 140 players in all senior competitions with the most appearances attributed to Jordy Matthews on 378 with new joint manager Stuart Ainsley a close second on 372.

Ben Cranfield (Cranners) is out in front with 109 goals in 174 appearances and Miles Powell in second place with 92 goals from 292 appearances.

In my personal opinion our most successful midfield partnership was when Jordy Matthews was on the pitch with Bradley Barber, one of the best passers of the ball I have seen at this level of football, they played around 50 games together in the 2013/14 & 14/15 seasons.

If we were to field a side of the longest serving players in the clubs short history since being formed, three of our current squad would be included.

In order of appearances they would be:-

1. Jordy Matthews (378)
2. Stuart Ainsley (372)
3. Dan Davis (362)
4. Miles Powell (292)
5. Danny Crump (280)
6. Rhys Barber (278)
7. Callum Bennett (275)
8. Ben Cranfield (174)
9. Bradley Barber (172)
10. Jamal Wiggins (168)
11. Josh Hitter (162)

Between them they managed to score 396 goals with Cranners out front on 109 and Miles in second place on 92.

I wonder what's next ....



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# PLANES, TRAINS & AWAY DAYS

BY NEIL EDWARDS



**Good evening everyone, and welcome to a new feature in this seasons Seaside match day programme in which I hope to capture, and recreate in print, the highs and lows of the "Away Day" experience following our club Felixstowe & Walton Utd around the country.**

Following the opening day defeat at Waltham Abbey, the lads responded magnificently by beating a very well organised Witham Town with two late goals from Ethan Garcia and Josh Mayhew. The spring in the step was evident as we boarded the 09:28 train for Newmarket, home of the thoroughbred, so already a lot in common for us Seaside making the early start.

John was not able to make the trip this week, but Jon was. This was good news for Big Neil as he likes nothing more than dropping his aitches!! Urry up Arry come on.....

Stevie Issacs and Glyn Mitchell joined us at Ipswich station for the very overcrowded 10:20 Cambridge train. Newmarket was staging two massive sporting events today, as well as our FA Cup match, the gee-gees were running over

on The July Course. A fellow traveller and her offspring from Eye sat with us and played a very intense game of Zombie Kittens. No one knew the rules, no money was exchanged, and the kids were well behaved. The mother did admit they have never been to Felixstowe in their lives. I mentioned we were at home to Bowers & Pitsea soon. Don't think they were tempted.

Our train arrived as scheduled at 11:16, much to the relief of those standing for Cambridge and our seats were taken as soon as they were vacated. Lorro recommended a few pubs along Newmarket







HOME TEAM		VISITORS	
NEWMARKET TOWN		FELIXTOWE & WAGGON	
1	JAMES YOUNG	1	HARRY WRIGHT
2	BEN ROBINSON	2	OLIVE BROWN
3	HENRY HALL	3	TOM WARREN
4	EPHRAIM ROMANES	4	NOEL ALKENENS (C)
5	JAKE EADY	5	TODD STEVENSON
6	JOSH COULSON (C)	6	JACK AINSLEY
7	JORDAN FOSTER	7	ZAK BROWN
8	FINLEY WHITELEY	8	JOSH HATER
9	SHAN LEECH	9	JOSH MATHEW
10	LOUIS JENKINS	10	DAN GILCHRIST
11	ISMAIC MAYNARD	11	ETHAN GARCIA
12	JACOB MINGAT	12	HUGH COULOM
13	OSCAR DEAN	13	JACOB LAT
14	KACPER BRZDOWIEC	14	SAM FORD
15	WILL SPANIER	15	OSIVA LONGHNE
16	AUDY PHINNEY (C)	16	BILLY HOLLAND
17	JACOB BUCKLE (C)	17	CALLUM BERNETT
18	EMMANUEL OSE	18	ANDREW ANDERSON
TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS			
REFEREE	ALEX SHIPS		
ASSISTANT REFEREE	CONOR KNIGHT		
ASSISTANT REFEREE	MICHAEL FOOTER		

High Street, and a shortish walk into town soon found us re-arranging the tables in The Golden Lion, a Wetherspoons establishment. Some lovely beer (£6.05 for 3 pints, how do they do it?) food, and the added bonus of Shaun joining us via a road trip. The self-titled magnificent seven talked football, football and more football, whilst Shaun went through his social calendar for the next 3 nights. Some things once seen cannot be unseen. Cheers Shaun :(

For some unknown reason, the short walk back towards the station and ground took a little longer going in the opposite direction, and we all managed to safely navigate over the railway

line via the Weatherby Crossing.

Newmarket's Cricket Field Road home is a tidy little ground. The entrance takes you past the goal and the hospitality area, and round to the nicely appointed clubhouse. There is a decent grandstand on the north side of the ground and plenty of covered standing. The only negative for me was the toilet block near the entrance. It was described to me en-route as "grim" and I must say it did look like Frankie Dettori maybe lets his horses do their business here on non-matchdays.

The game itself was an open affair on a 4G pitch. Ethan Garcia opening the scoring early on with a John Barnes-esque v. Brazil type of goal.



The young man literally dribbled past the entire Jockeys defence before slotting home. Once Ethan is up to full fitness and can perform like that for 90 minutes he will doubtless produce many more moments like this. The hosts levelled the scores in the second half, and both sides had chances to win it, but a draw was not the end of the world as Pep Guardiola has not yet managed to get cup

replays abolished at this stage of the competition. Expect that to change though once they are relegated to the North West Counties League for their 115 earlier misdemeanours (Sorry Mr Isaacs).

With the last race and the full time whistle both being around the 4:55pm mark we knew the train home was going to be another cattle train. We had lost 3 of our fellow travellers by



this point, so Big Neil, Lorro and I made a lively getaway hoping to get the 17:18 Cambridge train, and travel the five minutes in the wrong direction to Dullingham so that we could travel back in the right direction already smugly sat down. Dullingham station was a strange place. Very quiet, a bit like Trimley station but with a full-time gardener.

The car park was strangely very busy for such a nondescript station, with many arrivals of youthful looking people that looked somewhat out of place.

My curiosity got the better of me, so I asked the next car load of arrivals where they were going, and was told there was a rave 5 minutes up the road, and we were welcome to go along. 3 nano-seconds later we decided to decline the kind offer, and before we had time to regret our decision and change our minds the 18:01 to Ipswich was in sight. Big Neil was regretting his decision to miss the rave though, especially if some Perry Como tunes were on the playlist.

As expected, there were hordes of race-goers getting on at Newmarket and spoiling our relative peace. We were, however, pleased to be reunited with Mitch, even more so when he offered me a can of Cruzcampo for the journey.

At Ipswich, a lovely station worker was pleased to see us and told us he was Billy Holland's Dad.



I am not sure if he was supposed to be on train despatch duties, but he put that to one side for a moment or two and gladly posed for photos with us. It was like meeting a proper celebrity on a day out for us!!

With nearly an hour to kill before our 19:58 train, we decided to head over to The Station Hotel for a last beer of the day. Sadly though, there was a fella on the door blocking our path, telling us that the venue had been privately hired for the evening for a "networking" event. Looking at some of the couples that arrived, I would suggest that it was possibly the Ipswich Swingers Associations bi-monthly meeting. Despite our protestations, we were not getting through the doors, so potentially our second lucky escape of the day after the Dullingham rave. We consoled ourselves with some yellow sticker goodies from M&S. Fine dining whilst waiting for our train, every little helps...

Another enjoyable day out watching The Seaside, with good company, food, beer and football. We will do it all again on August Bank Holiday Monday, when we meet Gorleston at Great Yarmouths Wellesley Road ground. A chance to see again the worlds oldest grandstand still in use today, a real relic. Our own relic, Big Neil, is not able to get to this one, can't remember why, possibly a Perry Como or Matt Munro gig or something...

Thanks for reading, up the Seaside.



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# FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Garcia, Mayhew

# WITHAM TOWN

# 2 0

Tuesday 12th August  
Isthmian League North  
Photos: Stefan Peck

**LINE UP:** Wright, J Ainsley, Aitkens (C)  
Brown, Caley-Brown, Canfer, Cullum,  
Hitter, Lay, Mayhew, Stevenson

**SUBS:** Ford, Garcia, Gilchrist,  
Longwe, Warren











## OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2025/2026



**JACK AINSLEY**  
**PLAYER/MANAGER**  
Travis Perkins



**STUART AINSLEY**  
**MANAGER**  
Pat Haseman



**LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH**  
**COACH**  
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**STUART STEVENSON**  
**FITNESS COACH**  
Shirley Ainsley



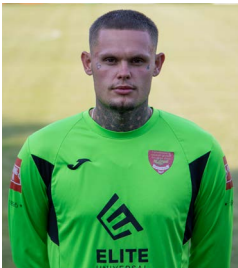
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**GOALKEEPER COACH/COACH**  
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Paul Secker



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**HARRY WRIGHT**  
**GOALKEEPER**  
Andy & Kim Wilding



**JOE WHIGHT**  
**DEFENDER**  
[@\\_write\\_club\\_](#)



**OLLIE CALEY-BROWN**  
**DEFENDER**  
Les Soall



**HUGH CULLUM**  
**DEFENDER**  
Chris Walne - Doug French



**HUGO AKHUSEYIN**  
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# SEASIDERS PEN PICS

## MANAGEMENT

### **Jack Ainsley – Manager**

Rejoined for a second spell at the club from Stowmarket in 2023. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their academy and went on to make four appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 2 with Lowestoft and Step 3 with Leiston but is back at the Seaside as player/joint manager with brother Stuart.

### **Stuart Ainsley – Manager**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City, Canvey Island and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent ten years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Having spent the last 11 years playing for Felixstowe, began his management career alongside brother Jack in May 2025.

### **Stuart Stevensen – Fitness Coach**

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



### **Leon Ottley-Gooch – First Team Coach**

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 midfielder. Was appointed first team coach in May 2025.

### **John Abbott – Physio**

John is a vastly experienced physio, qualifying in 1992 and dedicating 37 years to the NHS. Previous football clubs include Enfield Town, Tottenham and Stevenage before taking early retirement to move to Felixstowe, where he joined the seasiders in October 2024.

### **Alex Egelton – Goalkeeper Coach/Coach**

Alex returned to Felixstowe last season having spent many years coaching within the youth and reserve setups at the club. Alex heads up the Goalkeeping section of the club and works with





joining the Seaside's in the summer of 2024. He has quickly become a firm fans favourite and works within the clubs Academy system.

## DEFENDERS

### **Joe Whight**

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.

the Youth section right through to the Seniors and is an important member of the First Team Management structure.

### **Craig Studd – Kit Man**

Craig returns to the club having previously been kit man a few seasons ago. A familiar face and a huge help off the field to the management team and players, going above and beyond to make sure things are run smoothly.

## GOALKEEPER

### **Harry Wright**

Harry started his career as a professional at Ipswich Town and left there in 2021 where he then went on to play for Fleetwood Town and Bury before





### **Ollie Caley-Brown**

Ollie was signed in the summer of 2024 from neighbours AFC Sudbury and has played in recent years for Stowmarket and Leiston. An energetic and attacking full back who loves to get forward and create chances and with a wealth of higher level experience to boot.

### **Hugh Cullum**

Hugh is a local lad who left Felixstowe's youth system and progressed through the Needham Market Academy. Hugh signed back with his local club in the summer of 2024 and has immediately impressed with his consistent and confident defending.

### **Hugo Akhuseyin**

Hugo is an academy graduate that is now starting to flourish with his progression into the first team squad. A tough tackling and tenacious defender who likes to get forward.

### **Thomas Warren**

Tom signed for the club in the summer of 2024 from Hadleigh United and played his first season for the Seaside alongside his brother Charlie. Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal, scoring an impressive 17 goals in his debut season.

### **Callum Bennett**

Callum returns to the club in 2025 after a brief spell away. Grew up at Ipswich Town Academy before spending a year at Notts County, returning back to local football with Bury Town in 2013, before signing for Felixstowe in 2014. Callum is in the top five for appearances made in the club's history.





### **Toby Stevenson**

Ex-professional Toby scored a hat-trick on his debut for Charlton Athletic at 18 years old, the strong centre back or left back's previous clubs include Leyton Orient, Watford, Billericay and Braintree. An excellent defender at this level after joining the seashiders in early 2025.

## **MIDFIELDERS**

### **Billy Holland**

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 for the 22/23 season led to him being appointed captain the following year.

### **Josh Hitter**

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.

### **Noel Aitkens**

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

### **Ethan Garcia**

Ethan signed for Felixstowe in the summer of 2025 after a two year spell with Walsham Le Willows where he impressed many at step 5. Only playing football for four years, a tricky winger with an eye for goal.

### **Olly Martin**

Olly is a product of the clubs academy after more than ten years in the youth set up. An energetic and committed midfielder with an eye for a pass.

### **Usisya Longwe**

Usisya signed on loan from Ipswich Town in the summer of 2025, a midfielder with a tenacious side with great passing ability.

# FORWARDS

## Sam Ford

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath 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 in 2022. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

## Josh Mayhew

Josh joined us from promotion winners AFC Sudbury. An experienced front man who has been prolific at Step 4 and 5 with an impressive spell at Stowmarket yielding 136 goals in 173 games. Josh's physical presence brings a focal point to our attack as well as a being natural finisher who is a proven goalscorer at this level.

## Zak Brown

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.

## Dan Gilchrist

Dan's non league career started at Canvey Island before relocating to Suffolk where he went onto play for AFC Sudbury in the FA Cup 1st round, before moving onto Bury Town and Thetford



where he had two impressive goalscoring seasons. A hard working attacking player with an eye for goal.

## Ollie Canfer

Canfs returns to the club after 2 season away, gaining promotion with Bury Town, previous clubs include Brightlingsea and Mildenhall. Canfs is a fans favourite after scoring many important goals for the club in his last period with us.

## Jacob Lay

Jacob rejoins the club for his second spell, after leaving in 2020, Jacob has gained promotion from step 3 and played at step 2 last season for Needham Market. A tricky winger who has huge energy and workrate.



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BY JON COUCH

PRECISELY 104 days after Aldershot Town and Whitstable Town lifted the Isuzu FA Trophy and FA Vase respectively at a sun-drenched Wembley Stadium, Non-League's two premier cup competitions are back for another eagerly-awaited campaign.

This afternoon, the 2025-26 FA Trophy kicks off with 32 clubs from Step 4 contesting 16 preliminary round ties.

A record 336 entrants begin the 12-round Road to Wembley and perhaps slightly unfortunate to be made to qualify is Grays Athletic, who have a proud FA Trophy history having won the second of two consecutive finals 20 years ago with victory over Woking, a year after beating Hucknall Town on penalties.

They make the trip this afternoon to Eastern Counties League Premier champions Brantham Athletic, one of four clubs making their FA Trophy debuts.

Rugby Borough, Hassocks FC and last season's FA Vase runners-up, AFC Whyteleafe, are the others with their sights set on a potentially lucrative run into the latter stages and the visit of a National League big gun.

In this week's NLP, our friends at @Non-League Factfile were back with all the facts and figures ahead of this afternoon's ties – and once again there was plenty to mull over.

Four clubs are looking to equal their best FA Trophy run with victory in this preliminary round, namely Garforth Town, Wellingborough Town, Gorleston FC and Westbury United, while ten ties involve clubs that will meet each other in league games this season.

And there's plenty of scores to settle on the field too with three of the 16 ties involving clubs that have met in the FA Trophy before.

Three years ago, Hanworth Villa beat Northwood 3-0 and Bashley defeated Frome Town 4-1, both in the first qualifying round. Margate knocked out Egham Town in the second qualifying round eight years ago.

The Isuzu FA Vase is equally as fascinating with no fewer than 623 having entered – the highest tally for six years.

This weekend, 202 first qualifying round ties take place up and down the country, involving 404 clubs from Steps 5 and 6.

Seven former FA Vase winners are in action: Whitley Bay (four times, 2001-02, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11), Brigg Town (1995-96, 2002-03), Romford FC (2023-24), Thattham

Town (2018), Diss Town (1994), Stansted FC (1984) and Hoddesdon Town, the first club to lift the Vase at Wembley Stadium in 1974-75.

In contrast, 26 clubs are participating in the FA Vase for the first time with four more entering in the next round, on September 6.

The tie between Grangetown Boys Club and Leeds Ultra Football Academy guarantees there will be at least five debut clubs in the next round.

Step 6 clubs have enjoyed solid Vase campaigns in recent years and this first qualifying round draw ensured that 61 tenth-tier clubs will progress to the next round (plus Boldon Community Association who have a walkover).

At least 44 Step 5 clubs will exit in this round with a possibility of an upset in 97 ties.

Thirteen clubs will be looking to make history by tasting Vase victory for the first time, while Newcastle Blue Star, Shirehampton FC and Horbury Town are all looking for a first win at their third attempt.

The tie between Club Thorne Colliery and Horbury Town is the only tie to guarantee a club making second qualifying round tie for the first time, while three other ties will see the winners at least equal their best Vase run – Retford FC versus Appleby Frodingham, AFC Aldermaston v Bristol Telephones and St Day v Stoke Gabriel and Torbay Police.

Twenty-three ties involve clubs that have met in FA Vase before, but Stafford Town v Tividale FC is the only one to have occurred more than once before. They have one win apiece in their past Vase meetings.

And talking of grudge matches, Southern Combination side Pagham FC have had to wait 49 years for the opportunity to avenge a 7-0 defeat by Newport (IOW) – the longest of any side in the competition.

So, the first of ten rounds on the Road to Wembley starts here with the four Finals Day contenders contesting Non-League's most prestigious prizes under the arch on Sunday May 17, 2026.

It's an occasion to savour and a fitting finale to two much-loved competitions which grow in stature year on year.

Start your engines, it promises to be a bumpy ride.

# NEWMARKET TOWN

Leech

# FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Garcia

# 1

# 1

**Saturday 16th August**  
FA Cup Preliminary Round  
**Photos: Stefan Peck**

**LINE UP:** Wright, Caley-Brown, Warren, Aitkens (C), Stevenson, J Ainsley, Brown, Hitter, Mayhew, Gilchrist, Garcia

**SUBS:** Cullum, Lay, Ford, Longwe, Holland, Bennett, Hudson











# THE OTHER SIDE: ***BOWERS & PITSEA***



## **Bowers & Pitsea Club History**

After the war years, once stability had come to the nation, many new sporting clubs sprang up. One such club was our own, BOWERS UNITED, started in 1946 by Bert Salmon, playing at Gun Meadow, Pitsea, in the Southend District League as a junior club before moving across to Thurrock & Thameside Combination, he was to be joined a few years later by his brother Len Salmon, who passed away in 2002 and is still sorely missed by everyone within the club. The biggest tribute Bowers Sport & Social Club could give him was to name his beloved football stadium after him.

In 1965 Bowers United entered the Essex Olympian League and this was to be where they stayed until 1974 when the club was successful in their application to join the recently newly formed Essex Senior League. As well as moving to a new League the Club also moved from Gun Meadow (Behind the Gun Pub) into their current ground at 20 Crown avenue in 1975 a Tottenham Hotspur x1 helped open the ground on the day, Senior status was granted by the Essex FA in 1978.

Success was just around the corner as in 1980-1981 the club won their first Essex Senior League title under the guidance of ex Southend United winger Malcolm Slater. They also added the League Challenge Cup the following year. Before Slater departed the club.

In 1998-99 a clean sweep of all three cups was achieved as they won the The Essex Senior League title, League Challenge Cup and the Harry Fisher Trophy under Tony Cross's all conquering team. They also won the Don Douglas Trophy for top goal scorer with David Hope as he scored 52 League and Cup goals that season.

With the club unable to apply for promotion the team was soon broken up and it was not until 2004/05 when we saw a new name on the footballing map when Bowers United took Pitsea Football clubs name to produce BOWERS & PITSEA FOOTBALL CLUB, and with a new start and a new team at the helm success was just around the corner because a strong link was established with the local community, and the clubs facilities that offered the residence a large Clubhouse, Bar and Function room Together with a ground capacity for 3000+ spectators, which includes seating for 400 in a well-appointed stand, excellent floodlighting is also an advantage at a higher level in which to play our football on. This showed that after years of being in the wilderness, Bowers & Pitsea Football Club (formerly Bowers United) now intended to take the football side of the club forward. Michael Barnard and Barry Hubbard joined forces to try to bring success to the club both on and off the field of play.

In season 2015/16 Rob Small topped his haul from the previous season by winning the Essex

Senior League Championship, getting to the quarter finals of the Essex Senior Cup but more impressive was reaching the semi-finals of the FA Vase were Bowers were narrowly beaten by eventual winners Morpeth Town 2-1 away after drawing the home leg 2-2.

We finally achieved one of our goals to reach and play in the Isthmian League and we finished our first season in 6th place just three points outside the play-off positions. This followed with a third-place finish in season 2017/18 which saw us narrowly miss out on promotion, losing in the play-offs to Canvey Island.

The 2018/19 season saw us reach the Premier League as we finished the campaign with 92 points, 29 wins, 5 draws and 4 losses with a very healthy 71 goal difference.

Season 2019/20 saw our first ever season in the topflight and although sitting 14th the season was abruptly ended due to the Covid19 outbreak. and with the upgrade to a 3g pitch and new stands, changing rooms, bar and turnstiles things are heading in the right direction.

Season 2021/22 saw us hit another milestone as we reached the FA Cup 1st round, Gallantly losing to Lincoln City 1-0. This was also to be Rob Small's last season at the managers helm as his departure was to herald a new era for the club.

The summer of 2022 saw the departure of not only Rob Small, but every member of the previous year's playing squad. New Manager James Collins, brought in from Faversham Town, was left with the nigh impossible task of assembling a full squad in time for the new campaign that could compete against relegation.

Despite a valiant effort in the 2022/23 season, including an upturn in form after Christmas, Bowers succumbed to relegation. The 2022/23 season did see some success for James Collins' men, as they overcame Grays Athletic 3-2 to win the Thameside Trophy for the first time in the clubs' history. This despite playing over 80 minutes with midfielder Oscar Shelvey in goal!

A successful 2023/24 season culminated in Bowers achieving promotion back to the Isthmian Premier Division, at the first time of asking, with Play Off Final Penalty Shoot Out win over Brentwood Town. Bowers had struggled in the early part of the since, but a run of 9 straight victories saw them cement their play off place.

A dramatic penalty shoot out win in the semi final against Felixstowe & Walton United, after a 2-2 draw, got Bowers into the final, where David Hughes was the shootout hero once more, saving 2 penalties in both the Semi Final and Final despite having a torn rotator cuff.



# FIXTURES 2025/26

## AUGUST

SAT 9	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 302
<b>TUE 12</b>	<b>WITHAM TOWN</b> <i>Garcia, Mayhew</i>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 388</b>
SAT 16	NEWMARKET <i>Garcia</i>	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP PR	D 1-1	
<b>TUE 19</b>	<b>NEWMARKET</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>EMIRATES FA CUP RR REPLAY</b>	<b>L 2-0</b>	<b>ATT 384</b>
<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>BOWERS &amp; PITSEA</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
MON 25	GORLESTON	A	1PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 30	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

## SEPTEMBER

SAT 6	HERTFORD TOWN	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND		
<b>SAT 13</b>	<b>NEWMARKET TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
TUE 16	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 20</b>	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 27	TILBURY	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

## OCTOBER

<b>SAT 14</b>	<b>HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 11	CAMBRIDGE CITY	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>TUE 14</b>	<b>BRANTHAM ATHLETIC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>MALDON &amp; TIPTREE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
FRI 24	STANWAY ROVERS	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		

## NOVEMBER

<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>TAKELEY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 8	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
TUE 11	WITHAM TOWN	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 22	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 29</b>	<b>WALTHAM ABBEY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		

## DECEMBER

SAT 6	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE		
<b>SAT 13</b>	<b>WROXHAM</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
<b>SAT 20</b>	<b>GRAYS ATHLETIC</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>		
SAT 27	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

# JANUARY

<b>SAT 3</b>	<b>GORLESTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 10	DOWNHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
<b>SAT 24</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE CITY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 31	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE

# FEBRUARY

<b>SAT 7</b>	<b>TILBURY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 14	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
<b>FRI 20</b>	<b>STANWAY ROVERS</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7.45PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 28	TAKELEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE

# MARCH

<b>SAT 7</b>	<b>WALTHAMSTOW</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 14	WROXHAM	A	3PM	LEAGUE
<b>SAT 21</b>	<b>REDBRIDGE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
<b>SAT 21</b>	<b>DOWNHAM TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>

# APRIL

SAT 4	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE
<b>MON 6</b>	<b>LOWESTOFT TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
SAT 11	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 18	CONCORD RANGERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>MILDENHALL TOWN</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>



# STRUGGLES OF ZANZIBAR

BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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



We all know that FIFA has its problems. Allegations of corruption, occasionally nonsensical laws, and a rivalry with UEFA (which has its own problems) that threatens to have players on the pitch 365 days per year. But, for better or for worse, they are the appointed stewards of the global game, and anyone seeking any kind of footballing prestige must be a member. We take membership for granted in this country; it's not even something we consider. But in other parts of the world, FIFA membership is disputed and denied. And that's why, despite being around for nearly a century, Zanzibar is still seeking acknowledgement from the footballing elites.

Zanzibar, for those like me who thought it might be a clothes shop, is an island chain off the coast of Tanzania. It is a territory within its mainland neighbour's control, and its clubs can take part in African club competitions like the Champions League, with all clubs competing at the 15,000 seater Amaan Stadium on the main island. But because it is within a larger nation, Zanzibar cannot become a full member of either CAF or FIFA, meaning its national sides are limited in the games it can play. Nothing official, nothing recognised. They have played 204 matches in a century - a glacial two games per year - and more than half of those have been against near neighbours Tanzania (45 games), Kenya (41) and Uganda (33). They hadn't faced a team from even as close as West Africa for 15 years before

this year's edition of the Mapinduzi Cup, where they lost to Burkina Faso.

It has competed with other unaffiliated teams in competitions organised by the Federation of International Football Independents (FIFI). At the 2006 FIFI World Cup, held in Hamburg - or more specifically, the Republic of St. Pauli in a district of Hamburg - Zanzibar finished runners up, losing the final to the side from North Cyprus, a semi-autonomous region of Turkey. The competition was just six unaffiliated teams (Monaco withdrawing), consisting of Greenland, refused entry for their ties to Denmark, Tibet, a St. Pauli side to represent the hosts, and Gibraltar. It's the British territory that provides the most encouragement to the people of Zanzibar.

The British territory hasn't had a football federation anywhere near as long as Zanzibar, only playing their first match in 1993, although a Gibraltar side played Spanish side Sevilla seven decades before that. After the 2006 FIFI World Cup, they were invited to a Four Nations tournament, taking on an England, a Scotland and a Wales side after Northern Ireland withdrew. The support of three long-standing, well established FIFA members seems to have been key.

Gibraltar's first application to join FIFA was in 1999, and rejected. In 2008, they were rejected again, although they had the support of their Four Nations opponents. Spain threatened to withdraw



all clubs from UEFA competition if Gibraltar were recognised. The case went as far as the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and CAS ruled in Gibraltar's favour. In 2013, they were admitted to UEFA, and then FIFA.

Zanzibar have used the British example - four nations in one - to argue that their application should be accepted. The Gibraltarian example only strengthens their claims. And yet their request remains unheard. They made their first application in 2011, and it was rejected. In 2017, they appeared to be making progress when they became CAF's 55th member, opening the door to more prestigious international competitions. But their membership was quickly revoked, with CAF President Ahmad Ahmad later claiming he couldn't admit two associations from the same nation. Zanzibar were relegated back to associate status.

Zanzibar has no shortage of footballing talent, with many of its best players representing Tanzania. Much like the Basque Country, they

would have an international side to compete or even surpass the nation that is blocking their progress. They continue to play in CECAFA tournaments, an affiliate of CAF, but until they are given full membership they will struggle to find matches to play, and struggle to improve. Before this year's Mapinduzi Cup, they had managed to find just one opponent in the previous five years.

Zanzibar remain stranded in a strange middle ground. Trying to maintain their footballing standards in a system that rejects them, and propping up the very team that is blocking their ascension into CAF and FIFA membership in their own competitions.


So while we (rightly) complain about FIFA and there are some talks about breaking free of it, there are those who are just desperate to join in.

Enjoy the game.




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# ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Maldon & Tiptree	2	2	0	0	9	3	+6	6
2	Wroxham	2	2	0	0	5	2	+3	6
3	Gorleston	2	2	0	0	5	3	+2	6
4	Newmarket Town	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2	6
5	Heybridge Swifts	3	2	0	1	3	4	-1	6
6	Stanway Rovers	2	1	1	0	5	1	+4	4
7	Waltham Abbey	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
8	Grays Athletic	2	1	0	1	6	4	+2	3
9	Tilbury	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	3
10	Witham Town	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	3
<b>11</b>	<b>Felixstowe &amp; Walton United</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>3</b>
12	Mildenhall Town	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
13	Downham Town	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
14	Redbridge	2	1	0	1	5	8	-3	3
15	Lowestoft Town	2	1	0	1	2	5	-3	3
<b>16</b>	<b>Bowers &amp; Pitsea</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1</b>
17	Walthamstow	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
18	Brantham Athletic	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1
19	Takeley	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
20	Cambridge City	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
21	Brightlingsea Regent	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
22	Concord Rangers	3	0	0	3	3	7	-4	0

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025 AT 17:30:27

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**NEWMARKET  
TOWN**

Dean (2)

**0**

**2**

**Tuesday 19th August**  
FA Cup Preliminary Round  
Replay

**Photos:** Stefan Peck

**LINE UP:** Wright, Caley-Brown, Warren,  
Aitkens (C), Stevenson, J Ainsley, Brown,  
Hitter, Mayhew, Gilchrist, Garcia

**SUBS:** Cullum, Lay, Ford, Longwe,  
Holland, Canfer, Tuvey









# CLUB CONTACTS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Director of Football	Kevin O'Donnell		
Chairman of Youth Football	Scott Dunne	07790 820396	sjd_sw@yahoo.co.uk
Head of Media/Press Officer	Stuart Daynes	07717 577497	media@felixstowefootball.co.uk

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

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Hospitality	Winnifred Soall	07900 591367	winnifred.mcclean@aol.com
Welfare Officer	Kathryn Maclean		
Assistant Secretary	Phil Barber		
Fixtures Secretary	Les Soall	07825 058857	lgsfxt@aol.com
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Secker	07539 455089	paul.secker1@hotmail.com

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

President	Dave Ashford	07850 618940	dave@dhashford.co.uk
Life Vice Presidents:	Andy Wilding, Tony Barnes, Mick Gosling, Chris Ryan, Jayne Ryan, Phil Griffiths, Jim Seymour		

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Programme Designer	Becky Wybrow		beckywybrow.design@gmail.com
Photography	Stefan Peck		



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



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# Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

**Managers:** Jack Ainsley and Stuart Ainsley

Hugo **Akhuseyin**

Jack **Ainsley**

Stuart **Ainsley**

Noel **Aitkens**

Callum **Bennett**

Zak **Brown**

Ollie **Caley-Brown**

Ollie **Canfer**

Hugh **Cullum**

Sam **Ford**

Ethan **Garcia**

Dan **Gilchrist**

Josh **Hitter**

Billy **Holland (C)**

Jacob **Lay**

Usisya **Longwe**

Ollly **Martin**

Josh **Mayhew**

Toby **Stevenson**

Thomas **Warren**

Joe **Whight**

Harry **Wright (GK)**

## MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North  
Saturday 23rd August 2025  
Kick-off 3pm



# Bowers & Pitsea FC

**Managers:** Luke Wilson and Joe Flowers

Luca **Albon**

Joe **Burton**

Harry **Carter**

John **Elongo**

Jon **Evans**

Mikey **Faulkner**

Alex **Golder**

Quentin **Monville**

Declan **Nche**

Kai **Regrave**

Jamie **Salmon**

Ben **Sartain**

George **Scales**

Riley **Scopes**

Elton **Tetty**

Joe **Whitney**

Luke **Wilson**

**MATCH SPONSOR:**

CASE WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT

## MATCH OFFICIALS:

**Referee:** Mr Stuart Jessop **Assistant Referees:** Mr Sully Mapplebeck and Mr Harvey Newstead