

the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2023/2024 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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Seasiders v Redbridge



TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2023, 7.45PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH

CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



A very good evening to one and all, and a warm welcome to the AGL Arena for tonight's Isthmian North league fixture against Redbridge.

A 120-mile trip on a Tuesday night is far from ideal at our level of football, and I hope traffic conditions have been favourable so we can kick off on time and also allow our visitors a safe and timely journey home. I hope you all enjoy your brief stay with us and enjoy our hospitality.

I suppose every cloud has a silver lining, and at least our players should be fresh after only playing 15 minutes of football on Saturday, and the pitch will have stayed in prime condition for tonight's game. However, my thoughts are first and foremost with Wroxham FC midfielder Haydn Davis, who suffered a horrific injury here on Saturday. Haydn suffered

a Tibia Fibula double fracture, a dislocated ankle, and ligament damage. Although in great pain, he managed to thank and be very complimentary to all those who kindly helped during his lengthy on-pitch treatment, and of course, the ambulance crew who arrived fairly promptly to take him to Ipswich Hospital. Hopefully, by now, he has been transferred closer to home to the Norwich and Norfolk Hospital.

My thoughts also go to young Bayan Aman, on a short-term loan from Colchester United and making his home debut for the Seasiders. In attempting to win the ball, Bayan committed a fairly innocuous-looking tackle, albeit from behind. It wasn't malicious, and as if he wasn't upset enough for the injured player, he was shown a red card and now faces a possible 3-match ban. Clearly, the ref was influenced by the outcome of the tackle rather than the tackle itself, and it was very disappointing to see the reaction from the Wroxham bench towards the ref and our player when most others were more concerned with Haydn's well-being.

'... let's hope we get 3 points on the board to continue what has been a great start to the season...'

On to tonight, let's hope we get 3 points on the board to continue what has been a great start to the season. Redbridge visit on the back of a thriller at Brightlingsea on Saturday. Redbridge were three-nil up within the first 15 minutes, so I hope we are on our toes from the get-go tonight! But Brightlingsea, with

their obvious quality, recovered to snatch a 3-3 draw. On reflection, a great point away for Redbridge, but at 3-nil up, you have got to expect to see the game out and return home with 3 points.

It's that time of year again; clocks go back at the weekend and the winter coats start appearing, and most importantly, it is one of the club's bigger events of the year - our annual fireworks night, this year combined with a Halloween BBQ. No longer the massive event of previous years due to council restrictions and insurance costs, but still a great night for club members, families, and guests to enjoy what is always a great firework display.

With the exception of the Wroxham game to be rearranged and the Suffolk Premier Cup quarter-final against Hadleigh on Wednesday,

8th November, it is away, home, away, home... each Saturday now through till Christmas. Keep your eyes peeled for those Christmas Draw tickets - another valuable money raiser for the club and your chance to win £500.00.

Finally, may I wish two of my close friends and colleagues well. Director of Football Kevin O'Donnell will be running the New York Marathon on Sunday, 5th November, in aid of Cancer Research UK in memory of his late mother Katie. Also, Vice Chairman Andy Clarke is attempting to lose lbs to gain £'s in aid of Alzheimers Research UK and our own 3G development fund. Good luck to you both, and for those who are able, please visit their social media fundraising pages to support.

Best wishes to all.
Tony

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FROM THE DUGOUT:
ANDY CRUMP



Good evening everyone, and welcome back to the AGL Arena for another midweek fixture under the lights against Redbridge who come here undefeated in their last eight matches with impressive results, earning them a spot in the FA Trophy first round proper. We wish George and his team the very best as they prepare for an away tie with Harringay Borough on Saturday!

After reading Tony's notes, I believe he perfectly captures the club's reflections on Saturday's events. On behalf of the players and the management team, we send our best wishes to Haydn as he begins his recovery. It quickly became evident how football brings out the best in us, and it was heartening to see the club's commitment to donating funds to Haydn from the matchday 50-50 draw, with the winning ticket holder generously contributing the other 50%.

In the week leading up to the game, Charlotte and Stu couldn't have chosen a better time to renew their FA Level 3 Emergency First Aid qualifications during a visit to St George's Park. Before the game, they updated us on matchday emergency protocols in the coaches' changing room. None of us could have foreseen what would unfold a couple

of hours later in the game. The experience highlights the importance of ongoing training, and we extend our appreciation to Charlotte and Stu (who likely missed a day's work in their day jobs) for using their training whilst maintaining their composure in assisting the Wroxham physio (who also did an excellent job caring for Haydn) and providing the best possible treatment on the pitch. Having the right support around us is crucial for Boards and I and Saturday highlighted how fortunate we are with the roles Charlotte, Stu, Danny, and Dougie play for the players and the club.

'Having the right support around us is crucial for Boards and I and Saturday highlighted how fortunate we are'

Turning to tonight's game, I know the players are eager to get back on the pitch in front of our home crowd. Let's hope for another positive performance to keep this run going in our league campaign!

Best wishes, Andy



TONIGHT'S MASCOTS

Huge thanks to Ethan and Lexie who are the mascots for this evening's game v's Redbridge!

Come on you Seasiders!





SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Not many people know this...

When I got home after Saturday's abandoned game, I sat for a while thinking about things, as you do, and casting my mind back to any similar incidents that had occurred during my time with the club. The 'ping' in my head was instantaneous - Dougle, Braintree, goalkeeper, WWII stretcher, old clubhouse I had to slow myself down and get events chronologically in order...

It was 1981 - I'm pretty sure because I remember Braintree & Crittall Athletic dropped the 'Crittall Athletic' bit and became just Braintree. Anyway, on the day the Braintree 'keeper and a local youngster who looked a real prospect for the future both went for a loose ball in the area. Our will o' the wisp winger got there first, followed by the 'keeper

who collected the ball and player. Football wise, the ref pointed to the penalty spot.

The player was left in a heap with a broken leg - there was a prolonged delay waiting for an ambulance, and such was the level of first aid proficiency in those days that the club produced a stretcher similar to those used in 'Dads Army', lifted the player onto the stretcher and carried him into the clubhouse with a couple of tracksuits and an old blanket to keep him warm.

The full story is much longer and for another time - suffice to say, the young player ended with a steel plate in his leg, got back to playing local football and recently had his picture in the local paper showing his retirement party from The Port of Felixstowe.



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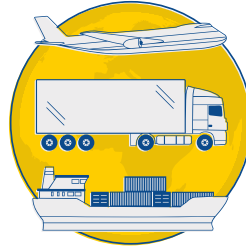
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OUR SQUAD

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



STUART BOARDLEY MANAGER

Stuart started his footballing career at Ipswich Town leaving in 2004 after 10 years. He went on to play for Torquay United, Sudbury, Leiston and Felixstowe. In 2018 he was appointed as Manager of Leiston but left in 2019 to become Manager of Felixstowe & Walton United.



ANDY CRUMP ASSISTANT MANAGER

Andy returned to Felixstowe & Walton United as Assistant Manager following the appointment of Stuart Boardley in 2019. Having enjoyed success in previous spells at the club as both player and First Team Coach.



DANNY POTTER GOALKEEPER COACH

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



STUART STEVENSON COACH

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



CHARLOTTE LONG SPORTS THERAPIST

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



DOUG FRENCH **KIT MAN**

Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and Tattingsstone, breaking his leg four times in the process. Whilst playing for Ipswich Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots. Having found his vocation in washing players dirty pants, Doug is excited for a new challenge with the Seaside.



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.



STUART AINSLEY **LEFT BACK**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent 10 years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Stuart has a sweet left foot and a great work ethic.



JOE WHIGHT **DEFENDER**

Joe came through the ITFC Youth system before playing for the likes of Needham, Bury and most recently AFC Sudbury where he captained their side. A left sided defender, Joe offers composure, a wonderful left foot and a toughness and desire to defend to the back line.



CALLUM BENNETT **RIGHT BACK**

Callum is in his second spell at the club having re-joined in late 2018. An attacking full back with one of the best ball deliveries in non-league football. Callum has plenty of experience from his time at Ipswich U18s, Stoke City U21s and Notts County.



JACK AINSLEY **DEFENDER**

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



TOM BULLARD **DEFENDER**

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



HARRY BLACKBURN **RIGHT BACK/MIDFIELDER**

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



BILLY HOLLAND **MIDFIELDER**

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



NOEL AITKENS **MIDFIELDER**

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



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH **MIDFIELDER**

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



JOSH HITTER **MIDFIELDER**

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



CALLUM HARRISON **MIDFIELDER**

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



IVAN COSTA **MIDFIELDER**

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



KUBI KUSSAN **MIDFIELDER**

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



HENRY BARLEY **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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



LAMELL HOWELL **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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



CHARLIE WARREN **MIDFIELDER/FORWARD**

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



ZAK BROWN FORWARD

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



SAM FORD FORWARD

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



JOSH MAYHEW FORWARD

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

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POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Lowestoft Town	8	6	1	1	18	7	+11	19
2	Bowers & Pitsea	9	5	1	3	16	10	+6	16
3	Basildon United	9	5	1	3	20	15	+5	16
4	Heybridge Swifts	7	5	0	2	16	7	+9	15
5	Felixstowe & Walton United	7	4	3	0	20	12	+8	15
6	Walthamstow	8	4	3	1	12	7	+5	15
7	Brightlingsea Regent	7	4	1	2	15	11	+4	13
8	Redbridge	8	3	4	1	17	15	+2	13
9	Brentwood Town	9	3	3	3	12	11	+1	12
10	Maldon & Tiptree	9	3	2	4	14	17	-3	11
11	Enfield	9	3	1	5	13	20	-7	10
12	Wroxham	8	2	3	3	13	8	+5	9
13	Bury Town	7	2	3	2	12	14	-2	9
14	Gorleston	7	2	2	3	9	10	-1	8
15	Witham Town	9	1	5	3	6	12	-6	8
16	Ipswich Wanderers	8	2	1	5	7	14	-7	7
17	New Salamis	7	1	3	3	13	17	-4	6
18	East Thurrock United	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
19	Grays Athletic	8	0	4	4	9	17	-8	4
20	Stowmarket Town	9	0	2	7	10	26	-16	2



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 7.45PM

Bury Town v Brightlingsea Regent
 Felixstowe & Walton v Redbridge
 Heybridge Swifts v Gorleston



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THE OTHER SIDE REDBRIDGE FC

FORMATION, MERGERS AND NAMES

The Club's roots lie in the car industry which has long been a staple of the economy in this corner of East London and Essex, and give us several 'sister' clubs both locally and nationally. Previously known as Ford United F.C. which dated from a 1958 or '59 merger between two older clubs, Ford Sports F.C. (Dagenham) and Briggs Sports F.C., both of which were founded in 1934. Up until WW2, the latter actually began life as Briggs Motor Bodies F.C. and entered a team in the London League under that name between 1935 and '51. The Ford United Club was in serious problems at the start of 1995/6 season, however, as sponsorship was lost and disbanding seemed a real danger, until Vice-Chairman George Adams enlisted Sky Sports as sponsors, rescuing the Club. Nicknamed 'The Motormen', they play

in Blue Shirts and White Shorts. The name of Ford United was to end forever when the club was changed at the start of the 2004/05 season to Redbridge Football Club in a bid to gain more local support and become firmly established as the highest placed football club in the London Borough of Redbridge.

GROUNDS

Briggs Sports played at the Victoria Road ground, now famous as home of Dagenham & Redbridge. Ford United's old ground was the Ford Sports & Social Club in Rush Green. Romford F.C. shared the ground in 1995/6, providing valuable funds at a difficult time. Sadly, this pleasant ground was ruled unacceptable to the Isthmian League in summer of 2000 since its owners, Ford Motor Company, would grant only a yearly lease,





so some 40 years of history there came to an end. A new home was leased at Oakside Stadium the home of Barkingside F.C. who became tenants at the ground until they moved out at the end of the 2013/14 season.

LEAGUES

Briggs Motor Bodies won the London League in 1937 & '39, actually pipping Ford Sports to the title in '37 – the first of two successive runners-up spots. The London League Park Royal Cup (for lower division clubs) was won by Briggs Sports in '37 and their reserves in '50. Ford Sports' membership of this league ran from 1935 to '53, winning Div 2 East in 1939. Briggs played in the Spartan League from 1945, winning East Div 1 in 1947, and the League Cup in '57, '58, and '59. They enjoyed unparalleled success in the Premier Division, as their positions from '49/'50 to '58/'59 read: 1st, 2nd, 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st: following the merger on the back of 4 titles, the next Spartan winners were Staines Town. Ford Sports also played in the Spartan League during 1938, 1945 and 1952–58.

The newly merged club joined the new Aetolian League in 1959/60, and became the

first Champions, a feat they repeated in 1962: in between, they were runners-up in '61 when they also won the League Cup. Fortunes of both the club and the League began to wane in the 60's, whereupon we switched to the Greater London League in 1964. This was won in 1971, a year after being runners-up and capturing the League Cup then between 71-74 we played in the Metropolitan London League.

In 1974 we moved to the Essex Senior League, and here we were champions in 1992, runners-up in '94, and remained until earning promotion to the Isthmian (Ryman) League in 1997, on the back of another Essex Senior League title (and League Cup final appearance) and a much improved ground. We finished in 5th spot in our first season, and with Jeff Wood contributing a league's best 35 goals, Ford United won Division 3 in 1999, scoring 110 goals in 38 games in the process – also the best in the League. We continued our rapid rise in 2000, when we romped to promotion. Wood bagging a remarkable 42 goals as we finished 3rd in Division 2.

We continued our rapid rise in 2000, when we romped to promotion. Wood bagging a

remarkable 42 goals as we finished 3rd in Division 2. Another two successive promotions followed firstly with a 3rd place finish in season 2000/01 and then by becoming champions of the Ryman Division 1 in 2001/02. This coincided with a change of ground to the Oakside Stadium in Barkingside which was quickly updated to an A-grading so being able to host Ryman League football. Ryman Premier football was finally achieved but started with the departure of manager Denis Elliott and in came Craig Edwards whose first season in charge saw a 15th place finish as well as London Senior Cup runners up. The following season saw the club finish in 13th position which meant that we would qualify to enter the Nationwide Conference South in season 2004-05.

Ford United started season 2004-05 in the newly formed Nationwide Conference South under the new name of Redbridge FC in an attempt to gain more support and become recognised as the highest placed football side in the London Borough of Redbridge. Unfortunately this proved to be a bridge to

far for the club both on and off the pitch and we suffered relegation and a bottom place finish whilst also losing manager Craig Edwards halfway through the season as he was to be replaced with Ex Ford United and Fulham goalkeeper Jim Stannard. One success to come out of this season was the excellent Redbridge FC Under 18's side who as well as winning the Eastern Junior Alliance League and Cup also captured the Essex Pelly Cup and made it through to the 3rd round of the FA Youth Cup only to be beaten by previous winners Middlesbrough. The following season saw the club back in the Ryman Premier League but a second successive relegation was soon to follow which saw the club playing in the newly formed Ryman Division One North.

A change in management halfway through the season saw Ilford manager and ex Ford united player Allan Fenn join the club but was unable to stop the side from a bottom place finish. The following season was disappointing with a 16th place finish and resulted in Fenn being replaced in the summer break by ex Wimbledon and Bolton





striker Dean Holdsworth. Dean led us to a 3rd place finish and a play off final only to see us lose out in a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Canvey Island.

Unfortunately after only one season Dean moved on to become the new manager of Conference South side Newport County and this resulted in most of the squad breaking up. Ex Ford united player Jay Devereux took over and his first task was to rebuild the squad from scratch after the majority of the team moved on during the summer break. His first season finished with a respectable 9th place finish after a season which was hampered with floodlight problems at the Oakside and after the side got off to a slow start the next campaign and without a financial budget he decided it best to leave the club.

First team coach Dave Ross took over as manager for the remainder of the season. Poor winter weather affected the side at the start of 2010 and the team initially struggled with a fixture pile up but Ross managed to keep the side in the league avoiding relegation.

The following season Kris Taylor joined up with Ross to form a dual management team however after a bad start to the season which

saw the club sitting bottom of the league Ross was asked to step down. Kris Taylor was confirmed as first team manager after talks broke down with Kevin Durrant who looked all set to join the club. Taylor's tenure ended in Dec 2010 when his work commitments affected the amount of time demanded to run a club of this stature meant he was unable to give 100% to the management of the team. First team coach Jody Brown was appointed manager on a short-term basis just before Christmas 2010 and he was able to bring some stability and stave of relegation with three games of the season still remaining.

Chairman Dan Holloway moved quickly at the end of the season to make the changes that will bring the structure and stability needed at a football club at this level. Terry Spillane was appointed first team manager after a highly successful spell with Stansted with Jody Brown reverting to a coaching role.

The team ended the season well finishing 6th place just 4 points off the play off positions. However, soon after the season finished, Chairman Dan Holloway resigned from the club due to personal reasons and, with the playing budget due to be cut, manager Terry

Spillane felt it was not possible to take the team any further and he and his footballing staff left to join fellow Ryman One North side Maldon & Tiptree.

A new joint management team made up of Del Robinson and ex Gravesend and Northfleet legend Steve Portway took charge for the 2012/13 season. After a poor start to the season, the team improved in the second-half of the season and fought off survival on the last-day to finish 20th and secure another season at Ryman Level. During pre season Jim Chapman stepped down as chairman stepping aside for Imran Merchant who joined from London Bari. He brought in Ricky Eaton who joint up with the returning Dave Ross to form a dual management team.

After just one season Imran stepped down as Chairman due to personal reasons and ex Chairman Jim Chapman took control in the boardroom once again. The management team of Ricky and Dave stayed on becoming directors of the club and started to make improvements around the ground.

On the pitch however with no playing budget the team found the going tough and ended the season in 23rd place but were able to escape relegation when handed a reprieve due to Southern League side Clevedon Town being demoted over a ground grading rule.

The 2015/16 season was one of disappointment as the club struggled on the pitch winning just 8 league matches all season seeing them finish in bottom position suffering relegation back to the Essex Senior League for the first time in 19 years. Jimmy Chapman stepped down as Chairman handing over to Ricky Eaton who combined his role alongside being joint 1st team manager with newly appointed Joey May and wasted no time in making much needed improvements around the ground such as changing rooms/refreshment bar and the club house.

In Jan 2019 Ricky Eaton stepped down from his role as manager to solely concentrate on

his chairman duties and wasted no time in bringing across May & Baker manager Micky Wetherall well known to the football club and bringing in an entirely new side he managed to lead the team to a 12th place finish.

The following season Redbridge was sitting in 8th position when the season was declared null and void due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020/21 season eventually started in September however Micky decided to step down due to personal reasons and was soon replaced by ex Aveley Reserves manager George Christou however his first season was also cut short as the season was curtailed early due to the ongoing pandemic.

After two seasons of disruption due to the pandemic the 2021/22 was fully completed and George led his side to a 3rd place finish however went one better the following season finishing runners up resulting in an Inter League Play Off Final against Step Four Side Haywards Heath Town. A 3-2 victory secured promotion back to the Isthmian North Division after 7 years away in what was an unforgettable season setting new club records along the way with 10 consecutive wins and 12 consecutive clean sheets.





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FIXTURES 2023/24

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

SAT 7	BILLERICAY <i>Mayhew (2), Ford</i>	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	L 4-3	ATT 527
TUES 10	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT <i>Mayhew (3), Ottley-Gooch, Ford</i>	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 5-3	ATT 402
SAT 14	WALTHAMSTOW <i>Mayhew</i>	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 434
SAT 21	WROXHAM	H	3PM	LEAGUE	GAME ABANDONED	
TUE 24	REDBRIDGE	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE		
SAT 28	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE		

NOVEMBER

SAT 4	ENFIELD	H	3PM	LEAGUE		
WED 8	HADLEIGH UNITED	H	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP QF		

SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 18	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 25	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

DECEMBER

SAT 2	GORLESTON	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 9	NEW SALAMIS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 26	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 30	BOWERS & PITSEA	A	3PM	LEAGUE

JANUARY

MON 1	STOWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 6	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 3	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 10	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 17	WROXHAM	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 24	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 2	ENFIELD	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 9	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 16	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 23	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 30	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

MON 1	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 6	EAST THURROCK UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 13	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 20	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 27	NEW SALAMIS	H	3PM	LEAGUE

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."
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Massimo Bonini was considered the best young player in the world in the early 1980s. He had collected a number of youth caps for Italy and impressed their selectors, and was integral to the 1982 Juventus team that won the Scudetto. He was a tireless midfielder, adding bite to Michel Platini's beauty, and progression to Marco Tardelli's power. But while his teammate would - famously - score in that summer's World Cup final, one of the most iconic moments in football,

Bonini wouldn't even be at the tournament. Invited to join the squad, and vocal about the importance of playing for his national team, he was expected to line up alongside his Juventus teammate. The only problem was that Bonini didn't consider himself Italian. He was from San Marino. And they didn't have a football team.

After beginning his career with Sammarinese club Juvenes, Bonini made the small step up to the Italian fourth tier in 1977, where he joined Bellaria. A good first season saw him make a step slightly higher up the pyramid, to Forlì in Serie C. One more step up to Serie B followed, and in a season marked by the Totoneri match fixing scandal, he helped Cesena to promotion.

Moving up four divisions in five years is quite a feat, but it got even more impressive for the Cesena man. Instead of lining up in Serie A in the black and white stripes of Cesena, Giovanni Trapattoni came calling and offered him a much more famous striped shirt. Bonini accepted, and joined an exciting Juventus side.

In his first season in Turin, Bonini continued his impressive form. Starting the season as a rotation option, he slowly replaced club icon Giuseppe Furino. Juventus crashed out of the

European Cup early on, but as his partnership with Tardelli flourished they hit their stride, and Bonini won the first silverware of his career, the Serie A title. Liam Brady scored the decisive goal.

Rebuffing attempts to join the Italy senior squad, Bonini watched on as many of his teammates became world champions. Over the summer, Trapatoni signed two absolute stars of the tournament, Zbigniew Boniek, and Michel Platini. It took time to balance the side, and Roma won the title, but Bonini was now an important piece of the puzzle. In the European Cup, Juventus reached the final. Bonini played every game.

Trapatoni took the shackles off in the following season – at the insistence of Platini – and Juventus flew. Boniek, Platini and Paulo Rossi formed a potent attacking trio, with Tardelli given license to join from deep. Bonini's role in stabilising the side grew ever more important. He was technically able and tactically adept, but it was his work rate that impressed the most, covering every blade of grass and allowing the attacking talents to showcase their abilities. Such was his role in the team that, after being caught smoking in the dressing room, Platini reassured people: 'You shouldn't be worried if I smoke. The important thing is that Bonini doesn't because he also has to run for me.'

Bonini's running certainly gave Platini a platform. On their way to the 1984 Scudetto, Platini was top scorer. He also won the Ballon d'Or. Juventus lost just four times, and were the top scorers in Serie A. With a final flourish, they added the Cup Winners Cup, without losing a match.

The following season, Bonini finished with a tragic trophy. The Turin side finished 7th in the league as they turned their attention to Europe. The Sammarinese played every game as they romped to the final, and met



a Liverpool side who looked unstoppable. Ian Rush and John Wark were scoring goals for fun, and were joined by the impossibly brilliant Kenny Dalglish. The promise of goals and excitement was high when they lined up, at Heysel Stadium. Juventus won, but the result was insignificant. They were presented the trophy in a sombre dressing room.

Juventus found more challenging domestic rivals on their return, and a resurgent Milan side, alongside a Diego Maradona-inspired Napoli, provided stiff competition. Juventus and Bonini won the league once more in 1986, but the Sammarinese had moved on by the time the club won it again, in 1990.

Bonini moved to Bologna in 1988, but more important discussions were taking place. As he came to the end of a stellar career, UEFA finally gave him the chance to play international football. San Marino played their first ever match in 1990, a 4-0 defeat to Switzerland. That would set the tone for their subsequent existence, but to Bonini, just lining up for his country was a victory. In 1992, he went back to Juvenes, and saw out his career playing in, and for, the country of his birth.

When asked why he turned down Italy and waited for the possibility of playing for the worst team in the world, Bonini's answer was simple. 'Simply because I am from San Marino, and proud of it.'

Enjoy the game.



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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

Lowestoft Town ease clear, Basildon's good form continues, and we've wins for Jammers & Swifts on a four draw North Saturday

Leaders **Lowestoft Town** welcomed second place **Bowers & Pitsea**, and we expected a close encounter, but it took only nine minutes for the Trawler Bots danger man Jake Reed to open the scoring, and ten minutes before the break he headed home to make it two-nil, his thirteenth of the season. Reed had now scored in seven consecutive matches, and his contributions were enough to see his side go three points clear at the top. Bowers stay second.

Walthamstow welcomed **Grays Athletic**, the visitors still looking for their first win of the season but it was the hosts who went ahead on the hour, Damaray Anyadike with the opening goal. Two minutes from time Athletic got themselves a point, David Knight with the equaliser. Stow slip out of the top five, Grays are nineteenth.

Brightlingsea Regent must have thought the sky had fallen in on them in the first fifteen minutes of their match against **Redbridge**. That's how long it took for the travelling Motormen to go three goals up, James Barlow, Solomon Oguwomoju and Abs Thompson with those goals- but whatever was said in the dressing room at half time it

IMAGE FROM **SHIRLEY WHITLOW**



had the desired effect, as within six minutes of the restart Regent had two back, Manny Ogunrinde and Zack Littlejohn giving the home fans hope. That hope was fulfilled as Regent levelled with eighteen minutes left, Charles Brown-Bampoe with the equaliser could they push on and win? They couldn't finally, the goals were over, and both sides had to be happy with a point, but we suspect Regent were happier.

Basildon United have been in fine form of late, and they welcomed **Enfield** hoping to deliver another three points. Kai Brown has been the Bees main man so far this season, and their number seven once again delivered the goods, scoring for his sixth match in a row and for the twelfth time this season to give them the lead with twenty one minutes left. Brown's thirteenth was unlucky for the E's, as it made it two-nil with six minutes left, and the visitors were then reduced to nine men, both Frankie Franz and Jack Leach dismissed. The Bees continue to fly, up to third.

Brentwood Town welcomed **Heybridge Swifts**, and it appeared that we were going to have a goalless draw, but right at the end Swifts got a winner, Lee Noble with the goal. The visitors also got a red card, Ross Wall sent off, but they won't mind too much as the three points takes them up to fourth.

A Louis Britton double on eighteen and twenty four minutes saw **Maldon & Tiptree** looking comfortable against **Gorleston** at the Wallace Binder Ground and the Jammers held on to that lead and the clean sheet to climb into the top ten.

New Salamis travelled to **Witham Town** hoping to build on a fine performance last time out, but the hosts made the breakthrough on twenty five minutes, Jeffrey Cobblah with his seventh of the campaign but the visitors were level at the break, Josh Williams with the goal, and Derek Asamoah's twelfth of the campaign put his side ahead with twenty three

minutes remaining. The hosts weren't done, and they levelled through Andrew Sesay, leaving thirteen minutes for both sides to find a winner. Neither side managed that, and they had to be content with a point apiece.

Ipswich Wanderers looked to have found form, winning two in a row, and went ahead against **Stowmarket Town**, Charley Barker with the goal just before the half hour. Right before the break Stow levelled, Jamie Bennett with the goal, and twelve minutes after the restart Ollie Sims put them ahead. Right at the end, with three points packed up and heading off with the visitors, Wanderers managed to take one for themselves, Tyler Corlett delivering a late, late equaliser. Our best wishes to Stow, who woke up to find much of their ground flooded this morning.

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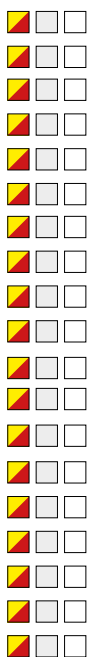
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