

STUART AINSLIEY

TESTIMONIAL
MATCH

**SEASIDERS v
TRIMLEY RED
DEVILS**

26.07.2024
KO 7PM



FROM THE CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



Good evening to one and all and a very warm welcome to The Martello Ground to help us pay tribute to the man himself - Stuart Ainsley.

I can not think of a more deserving testimonial, and it sums Stuart up in choosing to play against his local village team in Trimley Red Devils rather than the likes of and Ipswich Town XI.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Stuart for 30 odd years - yes, I remember him chasing after the ball when one of his Dad's passes went off the pitch and down the hills at Eastwood Ho! At the age of five or six, he had more skill than most of us playing for Felixstowe Spartans at the time on a Sunday morning!

I am sure others will have detailed Stuart's footballing achievements and accomplishments on the pitch throughout his illustrious career and he can look back with pride on a very distinguished footballing CV, but far more impressive is the off the field family man Stuart has become.

Stuart is an absolute credit to himself, to George and Shirley - his fantastically supportive parents, to his amazing wife Laura and beautiful young daughters Erin and Maeva, to his teammates and to his work colleagues, highly thought of and respected, very polite (unless you are a referee 😊), just an all-round top fella!



Stuart, the pleasure has been mine, thanks for everything you have given to the club, and to me also as your employer for the last seven years, you deserve a fantastic night tonight and I truly hope it is one that benefits you and that you will remember for your lifetime.

Don't get too carried away though - you still have one more job to do for the Seasiders - promotion to step 3, what a fitting way to finish that would be!

Well done mate - enjoy!!



Stuart George Ainsley was born on January 19, 1988, to George and Shirley Ainsley at Ipswich Hospital. From a young age, Stu showed a remarkable talent for football. At just 3 years old, he was already kicking a football around the house and garden, showing neat striking of the ball with his right foot. By the time he turned 4, I encouraged him to develop his left foot as well. Stu's determination paid off, and he eventually was able to show me how good he was with his left foot, and what a cultured left-foot it has turned out to be.

Stu's formal football journey began with Trimley Red Devils, our home village club, where he started playing competitive games at

the age of 5. Training with the under-6s, he quickly became a great team player with a fierce competitive spirit that has stood him well through his career.

At the age of 9, Stu joined the Ipswich Town Academy. His time at Ipswich was marked by significant achievements, including winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. However, a personal highlight for Stu was scoring a goal at Anfield on his 18th birthday, takes some beating.

Stu eventually arrived back home to Felixstowe & Walton United where he has made many and helped build and progress this great football club in his 11 years here.

Well done Stu, Mam and Dad are very proud of you and your achievements in football and in life.

Shirley & George

STUART BOARDLEY



Good evening to you all. It will be a nice change to welcome our near neighbours Trimley to the newly named Martello Ground for tonight's match.

The two clubs probably haven't been as close as we could have been over recent years but hopefully this will encourage a bit more synergy between us both.

Pre-season has provided a mixed bag to date but generally I've been pleased with what

we have taken from it. It has provided us with lots to improve and work on but has also demonstrated to us that our summer signings have been the right ones and that with a bit more time they will all gel together with the rest of the squad nicely.

Tonight though, is obviously about one man and although I cannot be there tonight, as I am away holidaying with the family before our season starts in earnest, I couldn't let the occasion pass without a few words for 'Ainso'.

I've known Stuart for probably the best part



of 25 plus years having both gone through the ITFC youth system (albeit me a few years older) but having really only got particularly close when I joined Felixstowe as a player back in 2018. Since that point, I've obviously transitioned into the manager here and Ainsie has not only been a great player for me over the last 5 seasons on the pitch but also a great help off it too! He acts as a link between the staff and the players and always provides a calming voice (perhaps not on the pitch so much) for the younger players to lean on and also a sounding board for our ideas as staff before they are presented to the players.

To be committed to a club for ten seasons is becoming rarer and rarer as the years go by so this is not just a fantastic achievement by Stuart but it also demonstrates his love and loyalty for his home town club. You have all watched on over the years and know full well what Stuart brings on the pitch - a fantastic left foot, solid defensively, passion, leadership to name just a few of his qualities but for me it is what he does away from the pitch, that many don't see that sets him apart from his peers.

He won't thank me for saying this as he does a lot of what he does without seeking thanks, praise or reward but instead does it because of a genuine love for our football club. He is always

the first to volunteer for anything that we ask the players to do, ranging from help with mascots, watching the youth section, attending events at the club and much much more. He takes on the role of fines master every year, helps with moving sprinklers, manages the players kitty and generally when the players provide a donation, a card for ill health or a gesture of this nature to those involved with the club, it is always Stuart that will be at the heart of it. You can see that Stuart is just one of those guys that, like his brother Jack, has been brought up the right way and I'm sure that George and Shirley as well as Laura and the kids will be very proud tonight.

I for one hope that once his playing career does come to an end (and I'm sure that won't be just yet), that those at the helm do everything in their power to ensure Ainsie is involved at the club for as long as possible in whatever guise that may be. People like him don't come around too often at football clubs and it's quite simple... Felixstowe and Walton United FC are incredibly lucky to have him!

Enjoy your evening mate and I'm sorry I can't be there to share it with you - beers are on me next week!

Gaffer





THE YELLOW CARDS...



interview with
**STUART
AINSLEY**

Ahead of his testimonial match this coming Friday, we put a few questions to the man himself, Stuart Ainsley.

Tonight we welcome Trimley Red Devils to the newly named Martello Ground for your testimonial match. Why was this fixture the one for you to mark this special occasion?

I started my career at Trimley when I was six and have lived in Trimley all of my life so it felt like that was the standout fixture for me.

How did signing for Felixstowe & Walton United come about?

It was summer 2015 and we had just won the play-off final at Lowestoft to go into the conference north. I was working in Thurrock at the time so playing in the north didn't really work for me. Kev O'Donnell was the manager at the time and I really liked the ambition he and the club had and made my decision really easy to sign for Felixstowe who were playing in the Thurlow Nunn league at the time.





With over 350 appearances for the club to date, what is your Seasiders highlight?

The FA Cup win against Bishop Stortford in 2016 stands out, they were step 2, we were step 5. It was probably the best result the club has ever had, Liam Hillyard with a last minute winner!

Which fixtures do you look forward to playing in the most?

I've always enjoyed playing against former teams, Canvey Island and Lowestoft are the two that stand out we've played in the last few years, both great clubs with good people and fan base.

Who have enjoyed playing alongside the most during your time at the club?

I would have to say my brother first for obvious reasons but closely followed by Dan Davis and Jordy Matthews, both would give everything they've got for 90 mins for the lads and the club.

Which opposition player have you least enjoyed playing against?

A young Josh Stokes nearly retired me a couple of years ago at away at Sudbury, ran rings around me all night and made me feel old! He's now a championship player at Bristol City.

What is your favourite goal scored?

Goals have dried up in the last few years so there not too many to chose from, but the one I remember was against Westfield in the FA Trophy, I cut in from the the left a found the bottom corner from 20 yards with my right foot!



What is your best achievement to date in football?

Would have to be winning the FA Youth Cup at Ipswich, it's what every club in the country wants to win at that age.

How many cards do you think you've tallied up during your time at the club?

I would guess at an average of ten a season, so probably around 90/100 or so, one in three games isn't too bad...

A few familiar faces will be returning for tonight's game, who are they and what made you pick these guys?

Yes I've invited a few legends back... Jordy Matthews, Dan Davis and Josh Kerridge. We have spent a lot of time together on and off the pitch over the years and all three are naturally fit so won't struggle with a good run around!

How was the club changed since you first signed?

Obviously the facilities at the club are so much better now, the old clubhouse was still in use when I first signed and the fan base has increased massively. I think we were averaging around 80 on the gate when I first signed and now closer to the 400 mark shows how far the club has come in the local community.

What would you like to achieve in football before hanging up your boots?

I would love to help get this club to step 3 by winning the league, winning a trophy would top off my time here as it's the one thing that's been missing.

Who has been your biggest inspiration in the game?

I've always been thankful to Bobby Robson for bringing my dad down from Newcastle when he was 15, had he not done that dad would have never met my mum. I also always loved watching Ashley Cole growing up, being a left back he was the best around at the time.





THAT SWEET LEFT FOOT...
and the tongue!





SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS



Stuart made his first appearance for the Seasiders on a cold January afternoon in 2010 at Walsham Le Willows in front of 74 spectators who had braved the elements to watch the sides played out a less than thrilling affair that ended 2-1 in the Seasiders favour, thanks to a goal from Dwayne Wright and an own goal.

Highlight of the day was that the MotM (Star Man) awarded by someone from the home side to one debutant Stuart Ainsley!

Stuart's home debut came on the 27th February 2010 in front of 98 spectators as we beat Hadleigh United 1-0 with the goal coming from Keith Hetherington.

His first goal for the club came on the 10th April 2010 here at the then "Town Ground" against Dereham Town in front of 89 spectators.

He played 16 games for us in the second half of the 2009/10 season but was off to pastures new at the end of it, looking to play at a higher level which he did successfully before rejoining

for his second spell at the start of the 2014/15 season when we were a far stronger team and club with better support and ambitious eyes on Step 4 football.

In the decade since Stuart's return we have built a new clubhouse, increased our support four-fold, opened an Academy and become an established step four club with those ambitious eyes now looking upwards at step 3 football.

A special night tonight for Stuart who celebrates his testimonial season with a game against a club where he has close ties, with many of his friends part of the Red Devils family, enjoy your evening Stuart!

Matches played (appearances/goals)

Thurlow Nunn League 168 - goals 17
Isthmian League 171 - goals 5

Total games played - 339

Total goals scored - 22



What a pleasure it was playing for many years with Stuart Ainsley. My years at Felixstowe were the best of my career and his experience was something you could always rely on. And he's still going which is of no surprise what so ever. Felixstowe through and through and certainly a club legend. And what a left foot!

Quite a few times the squad would be treated to Ainsos erotic dance moves to little mix. The best memory of that is the coach back after winning promotion from the thurlow nunn.

As a teammate, manager, coach, ref or lino, you'd certainly have had a good old fashioned telling off from him at some point. No one was safe. And that's down to his passion which is second to none and you wouldn't change that one bit.

Ainso is certainly one of the main reasons the club has great support and links with the youth section. He would be the one arranging for players to coach or watch the youth teams, so a huge credit must go to him for that. And that shows his character, not only a great players but a genuine good bloke.

Thanks for the memories Ainso, and thanks for funding the Suffolk FA over your career with all the bookings.

JOSH KERRIDGE



Stuart Ainsley, what can I say? A legend of local football. A great player, great team mate, but most importantly... a great man! You'd struggle to find somebody who doesn't get on with Ainso (unless they are a referee). Stick his photo in the hall of fame and never take it down! All the best mate, the first team love ya. ONE MORE YEAR, ONE MORE YEAR...!

BILLY HOLLAND



I am so pleased for Ainso that his brilliant time as a Felixstowe stalwart is being marked in this way. He is someone who, when you're up against it as a team will die for the cause. Off the pitch he is an absolute gentleman, however on the pitch he's without exception the angriest player I've ever played with.

Watching Ainso belt out Little Mix 'Touch' in the showers after a win is one of my fondest memories of playing at this great club 🍆

I was honoured when asked to make a cameo appearance in this match, apologies in advance to anyone that receives my one of trademark hospital passes.

DAN DAVIS



Ashford's
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0520.



THE FAMILY MAN...





MATCHDAY SQUADS

Stuart Ainsley Testimonial Match
Friday 26th July 2024, 7pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley

Assistant Manager: Andy Crump



red/yellow - goals - played

- Jack **Ainsley**
- Stuart **Ainsley**
- Noel **Aitkens**
- Callum **Bennett**
- Zak **Brown**
- Tom **Bullard**
- Hugh **Cullum**
- Archie **Dunne**
- Sam **Ford**
- Callum **Harrison**
- Josh **Hitter**
- Billy **Holland (C)**
- Kubi **Kussan**
- Josh **Mayhew**
- Leon **Ottley-Gooch**
- Zak **Tuvey**
- Charlie **Warren**
- Tom **Warren**
- Joe **Whight**
- Harry **Wright**

Trimley Red Devils FC

Manager: Craig Childow

- Aaron **Durrant**
- Jordan **Clarke**
- Lewis **Oakes**
- Nathan **Baker**
- Dan **Stagg**
- Adam **Hart**
- Sam **Garwood**
- Diego **Couto**
- Josh **Knights**
- Shane **Murphy**
- Ross **Driver**
- Evan **Bolt**
- Ryan **Childow**
- Sam **Osborne**
- Dom **Arnold**
- Ben **Punter**



MATCH SPONSOR:



MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Sully Mapplebeck Assistant Referees: Chris Winter and Sam Bell