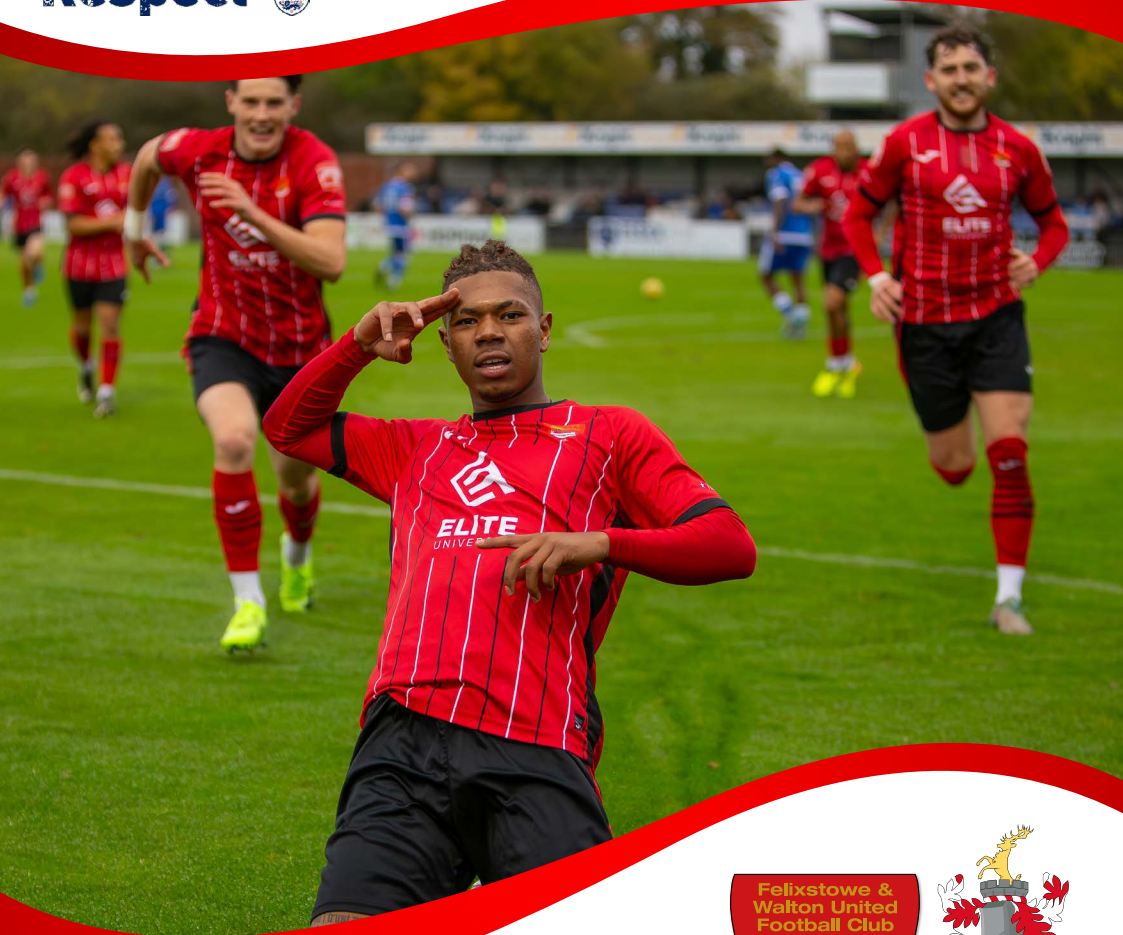


the Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 



v Brentwood Town



SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2024, 3PM
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH



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CHAIRMAN: **TONY BARNES**



A very good afternoon to one and all and a warm welcome to The Martello Ground for what promises to be a great game against fellow promotion hopefuls Brentwood Town.

In particular, I welcome all the players, supporters and management of Brentwood along with today's match officials, I hope you have had a good journey here and have a safe journey home this evening.

Well, what a fabulous two weeks we have had since our last home game, a game of attrition against a very talented and physical Walthamstow side that we just edged courtesy of Josh Mayhew and a Josh Hitter penalty, the lads showed once again their strength of character in bouncing straight back from the defeat at Tilbury a week early. Since then, however, I have witnessed some real quality football, not so much at St Ives when we defeated a very hardworking Cambridge City side who on another night could easily have converted three guilt edged chances, but as is

often the case it is what happens in the 2 penalty areas that determines games, we were lucky in our own box, whilst at the other end Charlie and Sam finished their opportunities as we have come to expect.

Two cup games followed, both away and both that could have been very tricky indeed - Bishops Stortford must hate playing us, I know last time was 7 years ago when we "slayed the giants" 2-1 at home, this time they were just one league above us but you would never have guessed watching the game - we were absolutely brilliant and controlled the game from start to finish to humiliate them by 6-1 on their own patch, a truly great performance from every single seaside, but I must give praise to Cameron Forde-Brown and Noel Aitkens who simply shone throughout and showed just how good they both are.

Last time out was a potential banana skin at in form Brantham Athletic in the Suffolk Premier Cup, this time we were clear favourites and could have taken things lightly, but a very professional display, once again with Cameron at the forefront of things with a quality hat-trick meant the result was never in danger, the Brantham locals were celebrating getting out of their own half at one stage!

Back to league action today and a very stern test awaits, like us Brentwood have enjoyed a great start to the season and also have a mouth watering tie to look forward to in the FA Trophy, they travel to Hereford from National League North, whilst we visit Boreham Wood from the National League South. It promises to be a cracker!

Enjoy the game, get behind the Seaside's and with your fantastic support we can make it 12 wins from 12 home games!

Best wishes,
Tony.



STUART BOARDLEY

Good afternoon and welcome to the Martello Ground to our visitors from Brentwood Town.

The last couple of weeks since we last penned these notes have seen us chalk up four wins, concede three goals and notch up 15 goals with as many as 6 different goalscorers.

Two really good league wins against tough opposition in Walthamstow and Cambridge produced 6 very hard earned points. I do believe that Cambridge will be a team that will challenge for play off places come the end of the season so to win away from home with a really solid performance was fantastic.

The next game I suppose was the game outsiders will look at and call an 'upset' and a really eye opening result but it was one we were confident in achieving. Of course, none of us would have predicted a 6-1 away victory but a lot of hard work had gone into watching Bishops Stortford in the lead up to the game and tactically we felt we knew how and where we could hurt them and hurt them we did. Our front 4 were excellent on the day and a solid spine throughout the team gave us a real firm footing to build from.

We then moved on to Tuesday night at Brantham where we knew our attitude and approach would more than likely decide whether we would progress to the Semi Final of the Suffolk Premier Cup. Pleasingly, the players showed no signs of complacency and were ruthless in front of goal once more to book our spot in the next round of a competition that we really want to go one better than last year in and lift that trophy!

We are delighted to announce the signing this week of Rob Harvey who joins us from todays opponents Brentwood Town. Rob is someone both AC and I have always liked as a player and when opportunity arose to sign Rob we were



very quick to secure a player that we feel can add to our attacking options.

Brentwood will undoubtedly be one of the toughest opponents we will face at The Martello Ground this season and I'm absolutely sure they will be right up there (hopefully with us) in that promotion hunt come April.

Finally, you'll have seen several of our injured players back out on the grass of late which has been a big boost and it won't be long before they'll be back in our matchday lineups. One player who unfortunately will miss the remainder of the season is our Vice Captain, Joe Whight. Results of a scan, following a hefty tackle at Brightlingsea, have unfortunately shown an ACL tear meaning we will be without Joe for the foreseeable. Everyone at the club sends Joe their best wishes as we continue to support him throughout his recovery....

Enjoy today, it could be a belter!
Boards



Q&A WITH: **CHARLIE & THOMAS WARREN**

In today's interview, we sit down with brothers Thomas and Charlie Warren, the dynamic duo who have already netted an impressive 21 goals between them this season.



Who's the better player, and why?

Be honest!

CHARLIE: I feel like we both hold different attributes within our game - I'd say I'm better technically on the ball but Thomas brings pace and is very direct.

Who's more competitive on and off the pitch?

THOMAS: We're both very competitive when it comes to football, but off the pitch competing against each other Charlie usually takes it more to heart.



Do you have any inside jokes or signals on the field that only you two understand?

CHARLIE: We train together regular over the park so we know each others game well. When playing together I usually like the ball to my feet and Thomas likes it in behind.

What's your favourite thing about playing alongside your brother?

CHARLIE: Our favourite thing about playing alongside each other is celebrating when we assist each other.

Who's more competitive when it comes to playing FIFA?

THOMAS: We are both very competitive when playing eachother on FIFA but Charlie once again is more competitive.

How do your parents feel getting to cheer you both on at the same time?

BOTH: Our parents are very happy to see us playing together and cheering us on, our Dad has always wanted to see us playing in the same team.

Which one of you is the Manager's favourite, and why do you think so?

THOMAS: I feel like Charlie is the Manager's favourite due to the fact he's been at Felixstowe for much longer.

If you could pick one moment playing together to date that you'll always remember, what would it be?

THOMAS: A moment we will always remember is playing Bishops Stortford away where we both scored in the game aswell as Charlie assisting me for my goal.

What's your favourite thing about having your brother as a teammate?

BOTH: Our favourite thing about having each other as teammates would be the same as mentioned previously, celebrating when one another scores.

What's your least favourite thing about having your brother as a teammate?

BOTH: There's not one bad thing we can think of about having eachother as teammates.





Who was more of a troublemaker on the pitch when you were kids?

CHARLIE: Thomas was always more of the troublemaker when we were younger. He used to love getting stuck in and making challenges.

Who's more likely to get a yellow card, and for what reason?

CHARLIE: Thomas is more likely to get a yellow being more of a defensive player and he also loves a slide tackle.

What would your brother say is his best quality as a player?

BOTH: I'd say Charlie's best attribute is close control whilst dribbling with the ball and also his finishing. Then I would say Thomas's best attribute is his pace running in behind and at defenders 1v1. He's also very good at heading the ball.

If you could change one thing about your brother's game, what would it be?

BOTH: If I could change one thing about Charlie's game it would be scoring more headers. If I could

change something about Thomas's game it would be being more clinical in front of goal.

How would your brother describe his role in the team in three words?

BOTH: I would describe Thomas's role as an **outlet from fullback** and I would describe Charlie's role as **attacking minded player**.



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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2024/25

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Tilbury	12	8	2	2	20	14	+6	26
2	Witham Town	12	8	1	3	25	15	+10	25
3	Bury Town	11	8	1	2	17	10	+7	25
4	Basildon United	12	7	1	4	17	11	+6	22
5	Felixstowe & Walton United	10	7	0	3	24	12	+12	21
6	Waltham Abbey	12	6	2	4	19	13	+6	20
7	Brightlingsea Regent	12	6	1	5	17	18	-1	19
8	Brentwood Town	9	5	2	2	21	14	+7	17
9	Gorleston	11	5	1	5	17	13	+4	16
10	Redbridge	11	4	4	3	22	19	+3	16
11	Grays Athletic	10	4	3	3	13	8	+5	15
12	Heybridge Swifts	12	3	6	3	18	15	+3	15
13	Concord Rangers	10	4	3	3	14	12	+2	15
14	Walthamstow	12	5	0	7	19	19	0	15
15	Cambridge City	10	4	1	5	15	16	-1	13
16	Mildenhall Town	12	3	2	7	12	15	-3	11
17	Sporting Bengal United	11	3	2	6	13	20	-7	11
18	Maldon & Tiptree	11	3	1	7	11	17	-6	10
19	Ipswich Wanderers	11	2	3	6	12	21	-9	9
20	Newmarket Town	11	2	2	7	17	30	-13	8
21	Haringey Borough	10	2	2	6	9	23	-14	8
22	Wroxham	12	2	2	8	12	29	-17	8

LAST UPDATED: WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 22:14:17



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES

Friday 1st November 2024

Basildon United v Tilbury

Saturday 2nd November 2024

Brightlingsea Regent v Walthamstow

Felixstowe & Walton United v Brentwood Town

Grays Athletic v Maldon & Tiptree

Haringey Borough v Wroxham

Heybridge Swifts v Concord Rangers

Mildenhall Town v Redbridge

Sporting Bengal United v Ipswich Wanderers

Waltham Abbey v Newmarket Town

Witham Town v Gorleston



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**BRANTHAM
ATHLETIC**

Lee

**FELIXSTOWE &
WALTON UNITED**

Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren

1

5

Tuesday 29th October
2024, 7.45pm

Suffolk Premier Cup
Quarter Final

Photos: Stefan Peck











JACK AINSLEY

Sponsored by: KD Construction

Date of Birth: 17/09/1990

Occupation: Steel Worker/Fabricator

Home town: Felixstowe

Position: Centre Back

Previous teams: Ipswich Town,
Lowestoft, Leiston, Stowmarket

Nickname: Jacko/Ains

Team you support: Newcastle

Favourite footballer: Alan Shearer

Favourite food: Fajitas

Food you hate: Olives

Favourite music: All types of music

Favourite film: Not a fan of films!

Holiday destination: Spain

Best concert: Drake

Hobbies away from football:
Watching my son play football

Best mate in football: Stuart Ainsley

Adidas or Nike: Nike

Black or colourful boots: Colourful

PlayStation or Xbox: PlayStation

Night in or night out: Night in

Favourite TV show: Catchphrase

Drink of choice: A cup of tea

Interesting fact about yourself:

I have England caps

Match day superstition or routine:

Don't have either

Favourite day of the week: Friday

Texting or talking: Texting

Invisibility or super strength: Invisibility

Dream car: Lamborghini Urus

What annoys you the most:

People dropping litter



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OUR SQUAD

Introducing the Felixstowe & Walton United playing squad and management team of 2024/2025



STUART BOARDLEY
MANAGER



ANDY CRUMP
ASSISTANT MANAGER



ALEX EGELTON
GOALKEEPER COACH



STUART STEVENSON
COACH



CHARLOTTE ROBINSON
SPORTS THERAPIST



DOUG FRENCH
KIT MAN



HARRY WRIGHT
GOALKEEPER



STUART AINSLEY
DEFENDER



JOE WHIGHT
DEFENDER



OLLIE BROWN
DEFENDER



JACK AINSLEY
DEFENDER



LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH
DEFENDER



HUGH CULLUM
DEFENDER



HUGO AKHUSEYIN
DEFENDER



NOEL AITKENS
MIDFIELDER



CAMERON FORDE-BROWN
MIDFIELDER



CALLUM HARRISON
MIDFIELDER



CHARLIE WARREN
MIDFIELDER



JOSH HITTER
MIDFIELDER



TOM WARREN
MIDFIELDER



JORDY MATTHEWS
MIDFIELDER



BILLY HOLLAND
MIDFIELDER



ZAK BROWN
FORWARD



JOSH MAYHEW
FORWARD



WILLIE CLEMONS
FORWARD



SAM FORD
FORWARD



KUBI KUSSAN
FORWARD



ARCHIE DUNNE
FORWARD



ZAC TUVEY
GOALKEEPER



SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITHS

Not many people know this...

As somebody famous once said "It's a funny old game!" Whenever Brentwood comes up on our fixture list I am reminded of days long gone when I was a young soldier stationed in Kent but hailing from Bedford.

In 1963 they opened what to us young soldiers was the eighth wonder of the world, a tunnel underneath the River Thames that connected Kent to Essex, it made a huge difference to those of us who lived north of the river when we went home for the weekend and pretty quickly we worked out a good meeting point before crossing where people could swap cars for the crossing and final destination, be it Maidstone, Chatham, Brompton etc. when returning to camp.

That meeting point was Brentwood, it was a whole different road system then in the early 60's and now seems an odd gathering point, but not then. Four to a car cost 2/6d which in today's money is 12.5p, but in those days on squaddie wages was a significant sum.

But it did make me aware of other Non-League football teams such as Brentwood and Billericay, Maidstone and Dover, rather than just my hometown teams Kempston Rovers and Bedford Town, and a few short years later I began my love affair with Felixstowe Town which became Felixstowe & Walton United and here we are today hosting Brentwood Town.

PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club is owned and managed by Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club Ltd (by guarantee) registration number 10076800. The Chairman of the Company is Andrew Clarke The Directors of the Company are Christopher Daynes and Andrew Clarke.

BISHOPS STORTFORD

Scott

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED

Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren, C Warren

1

6

Saturday 26th October
2024, 3pm

Attendance: 339

FA Trophy First
Round Proper

Photos: Stefan Peck













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FIXTURES 2024/25

AUGUST

SAT 10	NEWMARKET TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 6-1	ATT 401
<i>C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons</i>						
SAT 17	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP	D 2-2	ATT 465
<i>Brown, C Warren</i>						
TUE 20	BURY TOWN	H	7.45PM	FA CUP REPLAY	W 4-0	ATT 446
<i>Harrison (2), Ford, C Warren</i>						
SAT 24	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 192
<i>Holland, Harrison</i>						
MON 26	BURY TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 624
<i>Clemons, Hitter, Ford</i>						
SAT 31	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	H	3PM	FA CUP 1ST QR	W 5-1	ATT 218
<i>C Warren (3), Ford, Whight</i>						

SEPTEMBER

SAT 7	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST QR	W 4-2	ATT 337
<i>Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren</i>						
TUE 10	WROXHAM	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 210
<i>C Warren, Whight</i>						
SAT 14	CANVEY ISLAND	A	3PM	FA CUP 2ND QR	L 2-0	ATT 393
MON 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 166
<i>C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens</i>						
SAT 21	ENFIELD	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 2ND QR	W 2-1	ATT 319
<i>OG, Harrison</i>						
SAT 28	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 1-0	ATT 255

OCTOBER

WED 2	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP W 4-0		ATT 151
<i>Mayhew, Forde-Brown, C Warren, Ford</i>						
SAT 5	HARINGEY BOROUGH	H	3PM	FA TROPHY 3RD QR	W 4-0	ATT 315
<i>Mayhew (2), Forde-Brown (2)</i>						
TUE 8	BASILDON UNITED	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 283
<i>C Warren, T Warren</i>						
SAT 12	TILBURY	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 295
<i>Mayhew</i>						
SAT 19	WALTHAMSTOW	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 269
<i>Mayhew, Hitter</i>						
TUE 22	CAMBRIDGE CITY	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 133
<i>Ford, C Warren</i>						
SAT 26	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	A	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST RP	W 6-1	ATT 339
<i>Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren, C Warren</i>						
SAT 29	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC	A	7.45PM	SUFF PREM CUP QF	W 5-1	
<i>Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren</i>						

NOVEMBER

SAT 2	BRENTWOOD TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 9	CAMBRIDGE CITY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 12	REDBRIDGE	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE
SAT 16	BASILDON UNITED	A	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 19	WROXHAM	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE
SAT 23	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	H	3PM	LEAGUE
TUE 26	CONCORD RANGERS	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE
SAT 30	MILDENHALL TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE

DECEMBER

SAT 7	HARINGEY BOROUGH	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 14	WALTHAM ABBEY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE
THU 26	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 28	NEWMARKET TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE

JANUARY

WED 1	BURY TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 4	GRAYS ATHLETIC	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 18	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 25	HARINGEY BOROUGH	H	3PM	LEAGUE

FEBRUARY

SAT 1	MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 8	REDBRIDGE	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 15	TILBURY	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 22	WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE

MARCH

SAT 1	CONCORD RANGERS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 8	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 15	WALTHAM ABBEY	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 22	GORLESTON	H	3PM	LEAGUE

APRIL

SAT 5	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 12	GRAYS ATHLETIC	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 19	MALDON & TIPTREE	H	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 21	IPSWICH WANDERERS	A	3PM	LEAGUE
SAT 26	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE

**CAMBRIDGE
CITY**

**FELIXSTOWE &
WALTON UNITED**

Ford, C Warren

0

2

Tuesday 22nd October
2024, 7.45pm

Attendance: 133

Isthmian League North

Photos: Stefan Peck









THE OTHER SIDE BRENTWOOD TOWN

The original Brentwood FC dates to the 19th century and the club saw some success in those early days, reaching the quarter-final of the FA Cup in 1886 where they were beaten 3-1 by Blackburn Rovers.

In the 1950s and 1960s the club operated as Brentwood & Warley FC and were three times winners of the Delphian League. In 1965 the club turned 'professional' becoming Brentwood Town FC.

The late 60s saw great success for the club as they rapidly rose to the heights of non-league football. Brentwood Town became a force to be reckoned with in the Southern League Premier Division, reaching the third round proper of the FA Cup in the 1969/70 season. But following their successful run the club subsequently folded and amalgamated with Chelmsford City. The current club was founded in 1954 as Manor Athletic playing from King George's Playing Fields in Hartswood. From 1957 to 1993 the Club played at Larkins Playing Fields on the Ongar Road.

With help from the local council, Brentwood found a new home at The Brentwood Centre, where they played their first match in October 1993. In 2004 the Essex County FA officially gave the club permission to change its name and re-adopt the title of Brentwood Town FC.

Brentwood FC won the Essex Senior League title for the first time in the 2000/01 season and reached the final of the league cup in the 2005/06 season, losing 2-0 to Hornchurch.

Under the management of Steve Witherspoon and Amin Levitt the 2006/07 was the most successful in the club's history as they won the Essex Senior League championship title and both league cup competitions to complete a treble. That also meant promotion to the Isthmian League North Division. In the 2007/08 season, the team performed well in the FA Cup

and FA Trophy, and closely missed out on a play-off place, finishing sixth in the league. The 2014/15 season saw more impressive victories, thanks to 10 players who had progressed through the youth pathway, leading the team to the Ryman North play-offs and achieving promotion to the Isthmian Premier League for the first time. This was the highest league status ever reached by the current Brentwood Town club and was obtained thanks to the skilled guidance of Adam Flanagan, the 2014/15 Manager. Adam subsequently moved on to manage Concord and Dartford in the National League South.

The biggest name in football to have played for the club has to be the great Jimmy Greaves! Jimmy signed for Brentwood in December 1975, aged 34. You could be sure that whenever Jimmy was part of the team, you could add hundreds of additional spectators to the normal gate numbers.

Thanks to the guidance and investment from the current Chairman, Jez Dickinson, the club was awarded a Charter Standard recognition from the FA in 2020 this marked the start of what the club expects to be an exciting journey progressing up the football pyramid.

Rod Stringer took over as manager in October 2021 and took the team to the play-off final where they lost on penalties to Canvey Island. In February 2023 Rod was succeeded by Craig Shipman who returned to the Arena having previously managed Brentwood Town between 2017-19 and had since been Assistant Manager at Great Wakering Rovers and 1st Team Coach at Concord Rangers.

In October 2023 Keith Rowland, the former West Ham and QPR defender, who has previously managed at Aveley and Wingate & Finchley succeeded Craig Shipman. The 2023/24 season saw the team reach the Isthmian play-off final once again, only to be beaten on penalties for the second time in three seasons. There is a new 3G pitch at the Brentwood Arena and confidence is high before the start of the 2024/24 season that the Blues can get back to the Isthmian Premier.

THE OTHER SIDE PLAYER PROFILES

Keith Rowland – 1st Team manager

Keith had an illustrious playing career, making 19 international appearances for Northern Ireland, and he played in the Premier League for Coventry City and West Ham United for whom he made 91 first team appearances. In 1998 Keith moved to Queens Park Rangers where he made 56 league appearances.

After retiring from playing, Keith coached at Aveley and then followed manager Rod Stringer to Braintree Town in May 2010 where he was first-team coach. Rowland later returned to Braintree as Assistant Manager to Alan Devonshire and in 2016 he was appointed manager of Wingate & Finchley, bringing them success in the Isthmian League Premier Division. In 2019, Keith returned to Aveley as manager until 2021 and most recently Keith has managed Tilbury from 2021 to 2022.

Melvin Minter – Goalkeeper

Signed from Bowers & Pitsea in January 2023, Melvin has previously played for Kings Langley, Darlington and Concord Rangers.

Andy Freeman – Midfielder

Andy came through the youth and under-21 teams and established himself in the 1st team by the end of the 2014/15 season, winning the player of the year award in 2015/16. Andy moved to National South club Concord Rangers during the 2017/18 season and spent 2018/19 with Aveley before returning to the Arena for the start of the 2019/20 season.

Connor Hogan – Midfielder

Came through the club youth system and has also played for Hornchurch, Aveley, Brightlingsea Regent, VCD Athletic and East Thurrock United before returning to Blues in summer 2019.

Matt Cripps – Defender

Matt previously played in the Isthmian Premier with Brightlingsea Regent. He was captain of the side and was a key component when they were crowned champions of the Isthmian North division. Matt was duly selected in the league team of the year.

Daniel Ogunleye – Forward

After academy spells at Southampton and Forest Green, Daniel returned to the club last season, scoring eight goals in the teams run to the play-off final. He started this season at Coggeshall Town before returning to The Arena in November 2022.



Connor Witherspoon – Midfielder

Connor came through the Brentwood Town youth team and rejoined Brentwood in September 2023 after spending six years at Aveley where he made 175 appearances and gained two promotions along with one league cup.

Romel Aarons Royal – Defender

Centre back Romel is an early season signing who was previously with Cray Valley PM.

Shad Ngandu – Midfielder

Shad is another former Brentwood youth player who returned to the Arena in November 2023 after a spell with Hythe Town. Shad has also played for Aveley, Great Wakering and Waltham Abbey.

Mekhi McKenzie – Forward

Centre forward signed from Clacton Town in October 2023. Mekhi scored on his debut at Bowers & Pitsea.

Jon Nzengo – Defender

Former Romford and East Thurrock United full back who made over 120 appearances for Aveley before signing for Brentwood in November 2023.

George Sykes – Forward

George was a youth player at Barnet where he progressed into the first team squad making several first team appearances in League Two and Conference Premier. He has also played at Bishop's Stortford, Tilbury, Canvey Island, and between 2019 - 2023 played at Aveley where he was a prolific goal scorer. He joined Brentwood Town in November 2023 from Enfield Town and marked his debut with a goal against Wroxham.

Jesse Olukolu – Midfielder

A fast right winger, Jesse has previously played at Brightlingsea Regent, Grays Athletic, Tilbury, Romford, Basildon United, Clapton.

Marlon Agyakwa – Forward

Marlon has previously played at Southend United, Canvey Island, Tilbury, Didcot Town, Oxford City, Bowers & Pitsea,

Sam Park – Midfielder

Returned to the club from Heybridge Swifts in

June 2024. Sam started his career with Brentwood from a young age, making his debut in 2019. He would go on to make 34 appearances, scoring two goals, before departing for the Swifts in February 2023. During his time at Heybridge, Sam strike secured a 1-0 victory over Felixstowe & Walton United which sent them into the Isthmian North Play-Off Semi-Final in the 2022-23 season. Last season he made 23 appearances and produced seven goals.

Benas Vaivada – Midfielder

Joined from Bowers & Pitsea where he made 36 appearances and scored 11 goals last season, where he was an Isthmian League North Play-Off Winner. Vaivada also featured in the Aveley squad that won the Isthmian League Premier Play-Offs in 2022-23, as the Millers were promoted to the National League South. At the start of his career, Vaivada played for Tower Hamlets in the Southern Counties East Football League, before signing for Margate in January 2022, where he made 25 appearances and scored 4 goals.

Tom Anderson – Defender

Tom signed for Blues from Hashtag United at the start of the 2024/25 season making his debut at Redbridge in the opening fixture. Tom has previously played at East Thurrock United, Tilbury, Basildon United and Great Wakering Rovers.

Lee Noble – Midfielder

Lee returns to Brentwood at the start of the 2024/25 season having played in the club's youth teams before progressing into the 1st team that won promotion to the Isthmian League in 2007. Lee then played twelve successful seasons at Dartford FC and was with Heybridge Swifts last season.

Kai Brown – Forward

Signed from Cheshunt in September 2024, having previously had spells with Aveley, Basildon United, Grays Athletic, Canvey Island, Whitehawk, Hastings United and Burgess Hill Town. As a youth, Kai was on the books at Ipswich Town.

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The *pibe* is a concept that captures the Argentinian imagination. It might translate as a kind of talented rascal, one whose supreme ability is matched only by their wily, hard-won street smarts. It is the niggly quality that ensures that Lionel Messi will never be quite as revered as Diego Maradona, the latter being forged in the kind of fiery struggle that eluded Messi at *La Masia*. But the concept of the *pibe* has a history far longer than Diego Maradona, a history almost as long as formal Argentinian football itself. And in the 1940s, a team of *pibes* was created, one that still lights up the collective memory of the South American nation.

La Maquina - The Machine - conjures up an

image of a ruthlessly efficient behemoth in the English-speaking world. But machines can be beautiful and intricate as well as powerful and functional. When Carlos Peucelle arrived in Buenos Aires, he held the latter view, a belief instilled after seeing the majesty of the Austrian side of Hugo Meisl in the 1930s. The Danubian Waltz had transformed football into a dance of beauty and grace, away from the physicality of the English game. But for the rise of the Nazis, they may well have won the World Cup in 1938. Instead, they were subsumed into a Greater Germany side, and most of their players refused to play. For Peucelle, though, they were the model to follow.

Peucelle, and coach Renato Cesarini, needed to transform a side built on physicality. Adolfo Perdernera was already at the club, and his movement was such that it sometimes felt as though the ball wasn't much of a concern at all. He would ostensibly play as the front man in the new look side, but Peucelle was determined that positions would be relative and fluid. Perdernera played on the wing, played deeper, and was perhaps the first example in history of a False Nine. He is a River legend, and was Alfredo di Stefano's hero.

Perdernera, though, was secondary to Angel Labruna in a forward line that matched the greatest of the day. At least, he was if you ask the right people. The genius of *La Maquina* is that each player played such a vital role that picking a star is impossible. Labruna moved into the space that Perdernera left, and played all but one season with River. 294 league goals make him the club's highest ever scorer, while 515 appearances is a close second on the list behind goalkeeper and teammate Amadeo Carrizo. When he finally left the club after twenty years, River went almost that long before winning another title.

Jose Manuel Moreno though, according to some, outshone them both. Better than Pele, if you believe Uruguayan contemporary Walter Gomez, he honed his agility dancing the tango in Buenos Aires nightclubs. Strength, precision, and imagination stood him out in a phenomenal side. 'Pele broke into a sweat', Gomez said. 'Moreno played in tails.' He was the first to leave River, and damaged his reputation by turning out for Boca, but was no less important. He was ranked fifth on the list of greatest ever South American players in 1999, behind only Pele, Maradona, di Stefano and Garrincha.

It is fitting that picking the best player is such a difficult task. While each player - along with Juan Carlos Munoz (considered one of River's greatest ever players) and Felix Loustau (considered one of River's greatest ever players) - theoretically had a position from which to affect the game, they swapped and moved in dizzying patterns that made them impossible to track. Peucelle's side neatly carried the torch of Total Football from the Austrian *Wunderteam* in the 1930s, handing it to the Hungarian *Golden Team* of the 1950s. In Europe, only Torino could hold a candle to their brilliance, though the two never met.

La Maquina won four league titles and three domestic cups in the 1940s, as well as three Copa Aldao, contested between the champions of Argentina and Uruguay. Their success might have been greater, but the goal was to entertain as much as it was to win, hence their unofficial nickname in the stands; the Knights of Anguish. They captured the imagination while infuriating their supporters by not seeing games out as ruthlessly as they could, and perhaps should.

Alfredo di Stefano was birthed into *La Maquina*, in a football sense, and in many ways overshadowed the five that preceded him, going on to dominate European football with Real Madrid. But in Argentina, the quintet that changed the game, that produced such magic, have gone down as legends.

Nothing is testament to how magical moments can capture the imagination than the final, mystifying statistic about *La Maquina*. They played at River together for a collective 68 years, but they were only all on the field at once just 18 times. Their impact was far greater.

Enjoy the game.

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Isthmian League North

Saturday 2nd November 2024, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

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Assistant Manager: Andy Crump



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Noel **Aitkens**



Ollie **Brown**



Zak **Brown**



Willie **Clemons**



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Archie **Dunne**



Sam **Ford**



Cameron **Forde-Brown**



Rob **Harvey**



Callum **Harrison**



Josh **Hitter**



Billy **Holland (C)**



Kubi **Kussan**



Jordy **Matthews**



Josh **Mayhew**



Leon **Ottley-Gooch**



Zac **Tuvey**



Charlie **Warren**



Tom **Warren**



Joe **Whight**



Harry **Wright (GK)**

Brentwood Town FC

Manager: Keith Rowland

Romel **Aarons Royal**



Marlon **Agyakwa**



Tom **Anderson**



Kai **Brown**



Matt **Cripps**



Andy **Freeman**



Connor **Hogan**



Mekhi **McKenzie**



Melvin **Minter (GK)**



Shad **Ngandu**



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