Seasiders THE OFFICIAL 2023/2024 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Respect 🛢



Seasiders v Enfield



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PITCHING C



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> SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2023, 3PM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH

VICE CHAIRMAN: ANDY CLARKE



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to the AGL Arena for today's Isthmian League North Division fixture against newly promoted Enfield.

It was well documented earlier in the season the difficulties Enfield were facing, however it's good to see they have dusted themselves down, regrouped and have shown in adversity the show can still go on. I look forward to what I'm sure will be a competitive game today.

Since the last programme it has been very much a case of the good, the sad and the damp around the club.

The SAD being the passing of a person who can only be described as a club legend, Graham Smart. Graham passed away of a heart attack last week and of course our heart felt sympathies go out to his wife Jan, sons Paul and Leighton, along with all of his family and many many friends. I first got to know Smarty when I came to the club as a 15 year old to play for his U16's. It didn't take long to warm to him with that beaming smile, cackling laugh and wonderfully warm sense of humour.

I think all those boys that played for him will tell you that they would be happy to run through a brick wall if he asked them to. As we went on to the U18's Smarty accompanied us on our journey as footballers and into adult life. So many laughs and memories with Graham probably not being aware of how much we all respected and loved him. That was just Smarty being Smarty.

As time went on I was lucky enough to spend many hours with a pint in hand chewing the fat in the club house, talking all sorts of subjects but mostly our love of football and this club. I always knew that when Smarty said I had played well I must have done ok.

We will all have different memories of Graham, for me the infamous "Bomb Run", bringing rabbits in the club after a days shooting (if you were there you know) but in all the warmth, smile, friendliness and the most amazing laugh is how I remember the man. RIP Smarty!



To the GOOD now and two further performances resulting in two wins that put us top of the table.

For what was to be Smarties last game we put on an exceptional performance in beating Redbridge 4–0. All four of the goals came in the second half but this didn't tell the full story as the boys produced some top quality football in both halves and in all honesty could have gone in 3–0 up at the break. I felt as soon as we went ahead it was game over and that's how it turned out. Two goals from the ever improving and consistent Charlie Warren with two quality finishes in between by the rejuvenated Sam Ford and Callum Harrison. The downside of the night being an injury to Josh Mayhew who could be out for 4–6 weeks.

Onto the salubrious surroundings of Tilbury FC for our next league match against the ground sharing Grays Athletic. On paper an easy win with us second from top and them second from bottom. However, as we all know football is played on grass and not paper and the far from perfect pitch along with a pumped up, hard working Grays side gave us problems as they went toe to toe with us from the start, thus belying their league position. In all honesty we struggled to get a grip of the game and half time was welcome.

The words of Boards and Crumpy obviously did the trick as the lads came out, dug dep & produced a proper workman like performance to take the spoils 3-0. Three top class finishes with a gem from Noel, a LEFT??? foot drive from Zak and a dink from Hitter gave us the the points - the second half showing very much deserved.

Top quality performances at the centre of defence from both Jack and Logga gave us the solid platform that was required on the day.

We finish with the DAMP and the bloody English weather that came on the night of the clubs firework display. However as hard as it tried it didn't stop hundreds turning up to witness and enjoy a first class display.

Many thanks to Chris Daynes for all his efforts again in putting on another quality event, along with a special mention to all the volunteers who helped on the night. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated by the club.

Andy

TODAY'S MASCOTS



Huge thanks to Felixstowe & Walton United's Under 8's who are the mascots for today's game v's Enfield. They are sponsored by Richardson Grab Lorry Hire.

> COME ON YOU SEASIDERS!

SEASIDER PHIL GRIFFITI-IS

Graham Smart

ne of the great privileges of my life, and one I share with hundreds of others was knowing Graham Smart - and it was a privilege to call Smarty my friend!

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Smarty on Wednesday 25th October as he and his family made their way home after a family meal.

Smarty loved the football club and was so proud of being one of the inaugural founders of the club's Under 18 set up, and I discovered, after a conversation over a cup of tea with his elder son Leighton, he enjoyed putting up and taking down the floodlights in the early days, when volunteers were always few & far between.

The more I talked to Leighton, the more I learnt of just how much the club meant to his Dad - his 'Bomb Runs' were legendary, winding the floodlights up & down in the freezing cold and pouring rain... not so much, but the floodlights outnumbered the Bomb Runs.

He loved being with his mates playing for



the aptly named 'Strollers,' especially the bit after when it was teas and coffees all round. He could often be spotted with Ray Stanbridge when the bar was open, when anyone asked what they were drinking, I think they called it a sherbert!

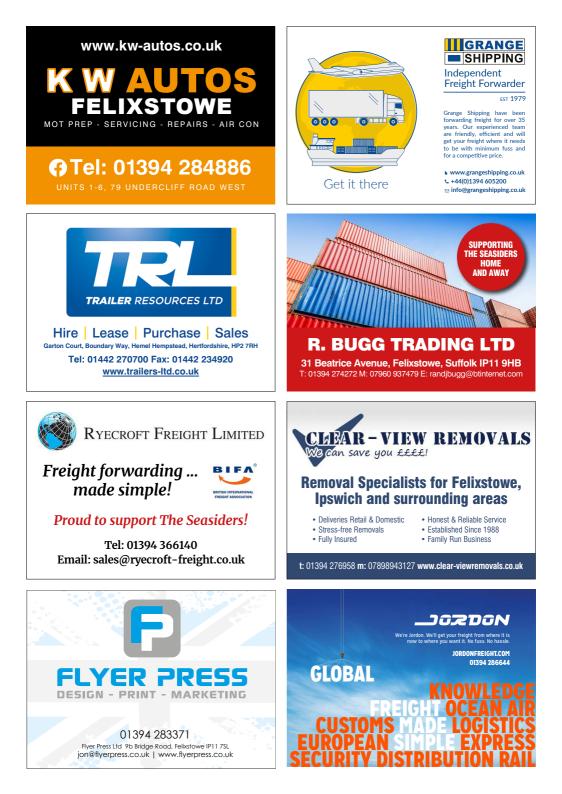
All in All, Graham Smart was just one of life's good guys, and we all loved him!



I was truly shocked and very upset by the recent news of Graham Smart's passing.

"Smarty" was a real character and a true gentleman, always stopping for a brief chat, always taking a keen interest in all things Felixstowe and Walton United. Ever since I first joined the club in the eighties Smarty was always around, a dedicated supporter with a footballing knowledge that belied his humorous nature, and I never came away from a conversation with him without a smile on my face. Smarty really was one of the best and will be sorely missed by all of us.

R.I.P. my friend and my sincere condolences to your family. **Tony Barnes**, Chairman



MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS By Stefan Peck

TUESDAY 24[™] OCTOBER ISTHMIAN NORTH Felixstowe & Walton Utd 4 Redbridge 0

The Seasiders run riot in the second half to rise to second in the Isthmian League table. **Charlie Warren** scored the first two, **Sam Ford** raced through to make it three and **Callum Harrison** put the cherry on top to make it four. Great to

see Billy Holland get ten minutes at the end after his lengthy injury lay-off.



HO\w/ \w/E LINED UP

Callum Robinson
Callum Bennett
Stuart Ainsley
Bayan Aman
Leon Ottley-Gooch
Jack Ainsley
Zak Brown
Noel Aitkens
Josh Mayhew
Sam Ford
Charlie Warren

SUBS

Callum Harrison
Josh Hitter
Billy Holland
Lamell Howell







Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club



OUR SOUAD

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 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.



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 Seasiders 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 Tattingstone, 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 Seasiders.



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 Seasiders 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 midfield 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 preseason. Ivan is an industrious central midfield 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 midfield player who enjoys moving with the ball. He has an edge to his game that has impressed the management throughout preseason.



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 Seasiders Youth sections and has returned to lead the forward line as the clubs 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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MATCH PHOTOS

PHOTOS By Stefan Peck

SATURDAY 28[™] OCTOBER ISTHMIAN NORTH Grays Athletic O Felixstowe & Walton Utd 3

A strange start to the game as Josh Hitter was cautioned for the first heavy tackle of the game in the sixth minute, this was followed by two further cautions, one for each side in the tenth minute. Following this, both sides were struggling

to find any real rhythm to their play. Jack Ainsley for Felixstowe and David Knight for Grays both had 20 yard drives that cleared the bar. The best chance of the first half fell to Charlie Warren who met a cross from Josh Hitter and Warren's first time effort from 10 yards cleared the bar. Just before half time a through ball was chased by Sam Ford and a defender a yard from the goal fell on the ball, a suspicion of handball with the defender ending up laying on the ball, the referee had to stop play, restarting with a drop ball to the goalkeeper. 0-0 at half time.

Felixstowe came out in the second half looking like a different team and had found their passing game and were a pleasure to watch with Noel Aitkens pulling all the strings in midfield. It was



ho\n/ \n/e Lined up

Callum Robinson
Callum Bennett
Stuart Ainsley
Noel Aitkens
Leon Ottley-Gooch
Jack Ainsley
Zak Brown
Josh Hitter
Sam Ford
Callum Harrison
Charlie Warren
SUBS
Lamell Howell

12. Lamell Howell 14. Billy Holland 15. Kubi Kussan 16. Ivan Da Costa



Aitkens who opened the scoring, collecting the ball on the edge of the penalty area from a short corner, he curled the ball perfectly into the top corner of the net on 54 minutes. The very next Felixstowe attack saw Zak Brown receive the ball 20 yards out and his fierce right foot drive gave the keeper no chance to make it 2-0. Felixstowe were well on top with Grays looking very unlikely to score or get back into the game. The last goal in the 82nd minute came when Josh Hitter made a run through the right channel to drive the ball past the keeper low just inside the far post, this was Felixstowe's 50th goal of the season in all competitions and not yet into November! The win saw Felixstowe rise to the top of the table, and were the only side in the top seven to register a victory. Report by Jeff Peck









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ISTHMIAN NORTH DIVISION TABLE 2023/24

POS		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Felixstowe & Walton United	9	6	3	0	27	12	+15	21
2	Lowestoft Town	8	6	1	1	18	7	+11	19
3	Heybridge Swifts	8	5	1	2	14	8	+6	16
4	Basildon United	9	5	1	3	20	15	+5	16
5	Walthamstow	9	4	4	1	13	8	+5	16
6	Brightlingsea Regent	9	5	1	3	19	15	+4	16
7	Bowers & Pitsea	10	5	1	4	16	12	+4	16
8	Brentwood Town	9	4	2	3	13	10	+3	14
9	Maldon & Tiptree	10	4	2	4	19	18	+1	14
10	Redbridge	9	3	4	2	17	19	-2	13
11	Wroxham	8	3	3	2	16	8	+8	12
12	Gorleston	9	3	2	4	14	12	+2	11
13	Ipswich Wanderers	9	3	1	5	9	14	-5	10
14	Enfield	9	3	1	5	13	20	-7	10
15	Bury Town	8	2	3	3	13	16	-3	9
16	Witham Town	10	1	5	4	6	16	-10	8
17	New Salamis	8	1	3	4	13	19	-6	6
18	Grays Athletic	9	0	4	5	9	20	-11	4
19	Stowmarket Town	10	0	2	8	11	31	-20	2

LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 16:59:25

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES



SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER - 3PM

V R		Basildon Ut
v N		Brentwood Tow
v G	Ĩ	Brightlingsea Reger
v E	^ ا	Felixstowe & Walto
v B	١	Ipswich Wanderer
v H	١	Lowestoft Tow
v V	V	Maldon & Tiptre
v G	V	Walthamstow
v S		Witham Tow

- dbridge
- w Salamis
- ays Athletic
- field
- ry Town
- ybridge Swifts
- oxham
- rleston
- owmarket Town



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PITCHING

PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE













Founded in August 1893 as Enfield Spartans by John Bruce Skinner the club spent their initial season playing friendlies. They entered their first league the Tottenham & District Junior Alliance for the season 1894-95. Movina to the larger Tucker's Field they joined the North Middlesex League in 1896 which was won in 1901-02 and 1902-03 after which 'senior' status was attained. In 1900 the Spartans was dropped which was accompanied by a move to Cherry Orchard Lane in 1903 and they joined the London League (Div2) which was won in 1911 and promotion to the Premier Division. In 1912 Enfield FC was invited to become a founder member of the Athenian League and in 1913-14 the Middlesex Senior cup was won for the first time.

Football was suspended during WWI and on resumption they spent a season in the Middlesex & London league before returning to the Athenian League in 1921 a championship that was not won until 1961-62 and was retained in 1962-63. In1934-35 Enfield finished second in the league reached the semi-finals of the FA Amateur Cup and won the London senior Cup for the first time before moving to a new purpose built stadium at Southbury Road in 1936. The Athenian league was suspended during WWII although the E's did compete in the Herts. & Middlesex Combination for a short period. In 1945 Jack Rawlings and Len West both gained international caps and Hendon were defeated 1-0 in the Middlesex Senior Cup final at White Hart Lane in 1959-60 England Amateur international centre forward Tommy Lawrence netted a club record 49 goals in one season. In 1963 Enfield Hendon Hitchin and Sutton were invited to join the Isthmian League Enfield were particularly successful during this period as they finished champions on seven occasions including two hat tricks.

In 1966-67 and 1969-70 the FA Amateur Cup was won and there were further visits to the twin towers (Wembley) as they reached the 1963-64 and 1971-72 finals. Enfield also won the European Amateur Cup in 1970 and the Hitachi Challenge Cup in 1979 and 1980 as well as the Middlesex and London senior cups on numerous occasions. During this 1970s period Enfield defeated football league clubs, Wimbledon & Northampton Town in the FA cup.

Enfield joined the Alliance Premier League (Now Conference) in 1981-82 and found immediate success. Having finished runners up at the first attempt they went one better in 1982/83 by securing the championship on the last day of the season at the home of the previous champions Runcorn. This was won for a second time in 1985/86, but relegation overtook them in a disastrous 1989-90 campaign. During the 1980s the FA Trophy was won in 1982 and 1988 with "Lincoln City" being beaten en route .Also during this period Football League clubs Wimbledon (again) Hereford, Port Vale, Exeter & Orient all succumbed to Enfield in the FA Cup. Enfield won the 1994-95 Isthmian league title by fourteen points and the following season finished level on points but lost the title to Hayes on goal difference by just one goal 1996-97 season saw them finish runners up for a second successive season: But Enfield did have more FA Cup success during the 1990s defeating Aldershot, Torquay, Cardiff & Chesterfield. The Southbury Road stadium was controversially sold for development in 1999, Decline set in and after struggling to preserve their Premier Division status during 1999-2000 & 2001-02 2003. The E's were relegated for only the second time in their history at the end of the 2002-03 season

followed by a second successive relegation in 2003-04 into division 2. Enfield was being run by a new committee from November 2003 as they started the long hard journey to remove the club from the former owners failed business.

The new committee that came into the club during the 2003/04 season had a successful first season in Ryman division 2 which saw the E's win promotion into the Southern League East division 1 with a mid table finish secured. Season 2006/07 saw the E's moved back to Ryman division 1 with another mid table finish. But another cruel twist forced the E's to resign and rename as Enfield 1893 FC after the fight to remove the club from the former owners debt was lost and E's found themselves in the Essex senior League. The E's finished season 2007/08 level on points but as in the 1994/95 season lost out on goal difference. Hoping to go one better than in 2008/09 The E's finished second again and reached the final of the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy losing 3-1, For the 2009/10 season Enfield moved closer to the Borough of Enfield by ground sharing at Broxbourne Borough FC after a run in the FA Cup that ended in defeat by Conference South high flyers Chelmsford City the season petered out with Enfield finishing forth in the League. 2010 Enfield Back in the borough after 11 years away A twist of fate in February 2010 saw Brimsdown Rovers who were struggling financially contacted the Enfield Board to let them know that Brimsdown Rovers FC would be resigning from the Spartan South Midland League at the end of the 2009/10 season to field only youth teams from the 2010/11 season onwards and also to see if we would be interested in moving back into the Borough to play at Goldsdown Road which we have accepted also some members of the Brimsdown Football committee will be ioining the Enfield committee.

In our first season back in the borough at Goldsdown Road we reached the League cup final loosing to Stansted FC and also becoming the Essex Senior League champions but were denied promotion to step four due to the Goldsdown Road ground not meeting certain criteria. The 2011/12 season hopes were we would go one better than last season by winning the league and gaining promotion to step 4 but after a good run in the FA Vase to the fourth round the season fell away and we finished in seventh place in the league. In the 2012/13 season we finished 9th in the league & a good run in the FA Vase to the fourth round again. The 2013/14 season was a good one finishing in 3rd spot with 91pts, the winning team had 92pts & going out in the 2nd round of the FA Vase. Under a new management team in the 2014/15 season & moving to the Harlow Arena, because Brimsdown didn't meet ground grading we finished disappointing in 16th position & going out in the 1st round of the FA Vase.

The 2015/16 saw a change of management again & finishing in 20th position & going out in 1st qualifying round of FA Vase.

The 2016/17 finishing in 19th position & made to the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Vase.

In 2017/18 season Enfield finished in 9th position & made it to the 3rd round of the FA Vase.

In 2018/19 season Enfield finished in 14th position and made it to the 2nd round of the FA Vase.

The 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 seasons were not completed due to the Covid pandemic.

The 2021/2022 season saw Enfield finished 5th in the Essex Senior League whilst also reaching the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup. We also won the Errington Challenge Cup, beating Cockfosters 3-2 at Great Wakering FC.

GOALSCORER STATS

J. Mayhew	Z. Brown	
S. Ford	 N. Aitkens	
C. Warren	 H. Barley	
C. Harrison	J. Whight	•
B. Holland	T. Bullard	3
J. Hitter	L. Ottley-Gooch	٠





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FIXTURES 2023/24

AUGUST

SAT 12	MALDON & TIPTREE Holland, Hitter	А	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 211
SAT 19	WELLINGBOROUGH Ford, Harrison, Holland, Warren	A	3PM	EMIRATES FA CUP	W 4-1	ATT 135
SAT 26	BURY TOWN Ford, Harrison, Hitter	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 401
MON 28	STOWMARKET TOWN OG, Ford	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 433
SEPTE	MBER					
SAT 2	WOODFORD TOWN Holland, Brown, Hitter, Aitkens	A	3PM	FA CUP FIRST QR	W 4-1	ATT 225
SAT 9	BRENTWOOD TOWN Whight (P), Aitkens	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 Warren, Harrison, Ford	H	7.45PM	ISTHMIAN LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 263
SAT 23	HERTFORD TOWN Harrison (2), Holland, J Ainsley, Barley	H , Mayhe	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	W 6-3	ATT 225
WED 27	LAKENHEATH Mayhew, Warren (2), Barley	А	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREM CUP	W 4-1	
SAT 30	BASILDON UNITED Whight, Bullard, Warren, Brown	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 4-2	ATT 112
OCTO	BER					
SAT 7	BILLERICAY Mayhew (2), Ford	А	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	L 4-3	ATT 527
TUES 10	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT Mayhew (3), Ottley-Gooch, Ford	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 5-3	ATT 402
SAT 14	WALTHAMSTOW Mayhew	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D1-1	ATT 434
TUE 24	REDBRIDGE Warren (2), Ford, Harrison	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 313
SAT 28	GRAYS ATHLETIC Aitkens, Brown, Hitter	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 226
NOVE	WBER					
SAT 4	ENFIELD	н	3PM	LEAGUE		
WED 8	HADLEIGH UNITED	Н	7.45PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER	CUP QF	Vision Marine

SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
TUE 14	WROXHAM	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
SAT 25	WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach
DECE	MREK				against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form
SAT 2	GORLESTON	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	of discriminatory abuse whether it by
SAT 9	NEW SALAMIS	А	3PM	LEAGUE	reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and
SAT 16	MALDON & TIPTREE	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity,
SAT 23	IPSWICH WANDERERS	А	3PM	LEAGUE	sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported
SAT 30	BOWERS & PITSEA	А	3PM	LEAGUE	to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 /
JANU/	ARY				Kick it Out 020 7253 0162). The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the
MON 1	STOWMARKET TOWN	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and
SAT 6	BRENTWOOD TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps
SAT 13	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	to address them and providing access
SAT 20	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	А	3PM	LEAGUE	and opportunities for all members of the community."
SAT 27	BASILDON UNITED	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
FEBR	UARY				
SAT 3	REDBRIDGE	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 10	WALTHMANSTOW	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 17	WROXHAM	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 24	GRAYS ATHLETIC	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	

MARCH

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

APRIL

MON 1	IPSWICH WANDERERS	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 13	WITHAM TOWN	H	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 20	GORLESTON	А	3PM	LEAGUE	
SAT 27	NEW SALAMIS	H	3PM	LEAGUE	

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THE ARROW AND THE AND THE ARTIST

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Alfredo di Stefano - the blonde arrow - was one of the greatest players ever to kick a ball. A master in the midfield, he was involved in each of Real Madrid's five consecutive European Cup triumphs from 1956 to 1960, an achievement that will likely never be repeated, and became probably the first legend at the newly built Santiago Bernabeu stadium. But his dalliances with the difficult politics of the day that made him a controversial figure in Spain, where he was on the verge of signing for anti-Franco Barcelong before the Generalissimo intervened to have the pre-eminent star of his generation turn out for his side instead, in the capital. Unbeknownst to di Stefano, this wouldn't be the only time he would be caught up in political turmoil.

Like many Spanish republicans, Jesus del Rio and Dora Canales fled the country to escape the excesses of the Franco regime. In 1943, they settled in Venezuela along with thousands of their compatriots, Dora having given birth to a son en route. For Paul del Rio, then, political principles and acts that could have you disappeared, even killed, were in his blood. As the teenager grew up, it became clear that Venezuela wasn't exactly the democratic paradise the family had envisaged when fleeing Spain. The elder del Rio joined the underground Democratic Action movement against military dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez. When Paul came of age it was his turn, taking up the fight against new strongman Romulo Betancourt. He joined the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), and looked for a way to garner some national media attention.

It so happened, in 1963, that the most famous team in the world was coming to the country for a tour. A small tournament was due to take place between Real Madrid, Porto, and Sao Paulo, and a plan began to form in the leadership of the FALN. Alfredo di Stefano, the blonde arrow, was past his best, but still among the most noteworthy footballers of his generation, and would likely be the most famous person in the country at the time. But the Argentine had struggled with the heat during his brief spell in Colombia, and had similar problems in Venezuela. While his teammates went and enjoyed the hospitality of Caracas, he stayed in the hotel, alone, and vulnerable.

Enjoying an evening snooze, he was interrupted by a group of men claiming to be anti-drugs police. They politely requested he joined them at the station, and he dutifully got changed and followed them down, into the back of a van. Only then did the gravity of the situation become apparent to him, as one of the group explained. He had been kidnapped by the FALN. The group needed the incident to make national press, where mention of them had been suppressed. Despite assurances that he would not be harmed, he was bound and blindfolded, and driven away to an unknown fate.

A day went by, as di Stefano recalled in his autobiography, and he became convinced that they were going to kill him. As he waited for the bullet, he met with the leader of the operation, Maximo Canales. He was, in fact, the twenty-year old Paul del Rio. The pair spent 70 hours together, playing chess, talking. Del Rio explained again that the star wouldn't be harmed, and that they just needed the publicity. Di Stefano, unsurprisingly, not believing him, refusing to eat, and even more convinced of his death with each justification from the revolutionary.

In fact, del Rio was being honest. The group had originally considered kidnapping Stravinsky when he made a musical tour of the country, but given his age they worried about killing him accidentally. They didn't want to murder. Their target was Betancourt, and del Rio was a rising star of the movement, having committed a daring maritime seizure of a cargo ship just months before. The story was suppressed, but



this time it wouldn't be. Over the following days, the FALN received the international attention they craved. After three days, he was released to the Spanish embassy.

Remarkably, the day he was released, di Stefano actually played for Real Madrid to a standing ovation. The ordeal behind him, he returned to Spain, and soon left Madrid for Espanyol where he would see out his playing days. Del Rio had a harder time. Imprisoned by Betancourt, he eventually had his citizenship taken away and fled to Cuba. 12 years after the kidnapping, and with Maximo Canales long behind him, del Rio was permitted to return, and made his political points with a paintbrush for the rest of his life.

In 2005, Real Madrid celebrated their centenary. Florentino Perez invited club legends of the past to a ceremony, including di Stefano, Perez being ever the controversial showman, del Rio. The Real Madrid President was thwarted though, but di Stefano's refusal to play along. While the two men spoke, the Argentine refused to shake his hand, admonished him, and refused a picture for the baffled press. Which was a surprise to precisely nobody, except Florentino Perez.

Enjoy the game.

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PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

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

FA TROPHY

NITCHING

We had a battle of the Blues as **Billericay Town** welcomed **Bury Town** but, in truth, it wasn't so much a battle, more a massacre. Billericay took thirty five minutes to go ahead, Bradley Stevenson scoring for the tenth time this season - but by the time we reached the break the Blues had added three more, Ben Wells with number two, Ade Azeez with the third and Stevenson striking again, to leave shellshocked Bury wondering what had happened. The second half was quieter, but six minutes from time Moses Emmanuel made it five-nil.

Haringey Borough are having a strange season, very good in Cup competitions, struggling badly in the League but on this occasion their league malaise followed them into a knockout competition, Pitching In Isthmian North visitors **Redbridge** ensuring that the giant was slain. The Motormen went ahead just after the hour through Dean Hall, and made it two from the spot five minutes before the end, Solomon Oguwomuju converting. Borough then came alive, and Nadum Melvin-Lambert quickly got a goal back, but that was too little, too late.

<u>NORTH</u>

With Lowestoft Town having a Saturday off, Felixstowe and Walton United had the chance to replace them at the top of the Pitching In Isthmian North table if they could win at **Grays** Athletic and they did it in style. The Seasiders have been scoring goals for fun, more than any other side in the Division over the season so far and four in victory over Redbridge in midweek, and they added three more at Chadfields to record a comfortable win. All of the goals came after the break, Noel Aitkens giving the Seasiders the lead on fifty seven minutes, Zak Brown hitting a shellshocked Athletic with a second almost immediately, and Josh Hitter adding the third eight minutes from time. The Seasiders are two points clear but of course the Trawler Boys now have a game in hand. Athletic are still searching for a first victory.

Third place **Bowers and Pitsea** knew that they could also mathematically go top of the table with victory, but they delivered a defeat as **Brentwood Town** left the Len Salmon with three points. Town saw a five match unbeaten run ended by Heybridge Swifts last time out, but they were quickly back to winning ways, Daniel Ogunleye putting them ahead after just eight minutes and they doubled that advantage ten minutes before the break, Mekhi McKenzie making it two. That was that, and Town are up to eighth, only one place behind their hosts.

Brightlingsea Regent, newly reinforced up front with the signing of Derek Asamoah, were on the road to the Norfolk Broads where they faced **Wroxham**. Regent started the



IMAGE FROM ROY WARNER

day in fifth place, but they ended it in sixth, ending up on the wrong end of a five goal thriller. The Yachtsmen were unbeaten on their own patch, and they came from two down to win this one as they kept Asamoah quiet. After a goalless first half Kojo Apenteng put Regent two up, but Josh Hazell got one back for the hosts with twenty one minutes left. A few minutes later Regent went down to ten men, Harry Critchley seeing red, and with only four minutes left Joao Rangel seemed to have earned the hosts a point with an equaliser. It was then the Yachtsmen's turn to lose a player, goalscorer Hazell dismissed with two minutes left, but right at the end the home ten men got the better of the away ten men, Rangel scoring again to make it three-two. Wroxham are eleventh.

Heybridge Swifts hoped to crash into the top five with victory over Walthamstow - whilst Walthamstow hoped to crash into the top five with victory over Heybridge Swifts! It turned out that both sides ended up in the top five, but there was no crashing involved, as the match ended one-one. George Ironton put the East Londoners ahead on nineteen minutes, Lee Noble levelled for the hosts just before the break, and that was that.

Maldon & Tiptree welcomed Stowmarket

Town. With three wins from four the Jammers had finally found some form, and began to climb the table as a result - and that climb continued, a five-one hammering seeing them up to ninth. Louis Britton was the architect of the victory, scoring a hat trick with goals on twenty, eighty two and ninety minutes, that's eight goals in six matches for the Jammers number nine. The Jammers opened the scoring through George Smith before Britton made it two, and just after the break it was three-nil, Louie Remi with that one. Jack Newman got one back for the visitors with nineteen minutes left on the clock, but three one auickly became four and five as Britton claimed the match ball.

Gorleston were back in Great Yarmouth, and Witham Town made the trip to the seaside as fourteenth took on fifteenth. The Greens had lost their way a little, and came into this match without a win in six and having lost their last three, but they found their way once more, although most of the action arrived in the last four minutes, and all of the action came from Luke Johnson the Greens number seven getting his second hat trick of the campaign - and indeed this time he did even better, scoring four goals. The Greens were given a helping hand when Liam Whipps was dismissed on twenty six minutes, and Johnson got the opener seven minutes later. There were only four minutes left when he made it two, and his third and fourth arrived right at the end, the Greens up to twelfth.

Ipswich Wanderers looked to be on the up, having taken seven points from their previous nine, and that continued with a two-nil win over **New Salamis**. Jamie Eaton-Collins got both goals for the hosts, on twenty and twenty three minutes, and the visitors went down to ten men four minutes from time, Pan Boxer seeing red. Wanderers are up to thirteenth

Follow the Pitching In Isthmian League on Instagram. We're also on Facebook and Twitter.

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MATCHDAY SQUADS

Isthmian League North Saturday 4th November, 3pm



Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC

Manager: Stuart Boardley Assistant Manager: Andy Crump



Jack Ainsley Stuart **Ainsley** Noel Aitkens **Bayan Aman** Henry Barley Callum Bennett Harry Blackburn 7ak Brown Tom Bullard Sam Ford Callum Harrison Josh Hitter Billy Holland (C) Lamell Howell Josh Mavhew Leon Ottley-Gooch Callum Robinson (GK) Charlie Warren Joe Whight

Joshua Bardouleau Cody Cosgrove George Edgeworth (GK) Dylan Florence Frankie Franz Tyler Hope Jack Johnson Rigers Kabashi lack leech Deo Lima Morgan Mahoney Junior Mubiavi Jay Nash Harry Norman Reece Price-Placid Billy Purdy



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Referee: Mr Joshua Evans Assistant Referees: Mr Kahlan Sannerude and Mr Jak Clark