

# Historic Ilford Football Club

Respect



**Saturday 1st February 2025**

**Kick off 3.00pm at Cricklefields**

**Essex Senior Football League**

**Premier Division**

**v SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN**



**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £2.00**



# **Ilford Football Club**

## **Club Officials**

**Chairman - Adam Peek**  
**President - Michael Foley**  
**Vice Chair - Steve Mahoney**  
**Secretary - Joe Kuzsel**



**Manager- Chris Davis**  
**Asst Manager - Ray Bartlett**  
**Coach - Kwame Kwateng**  
**Physio - Charlie**  
**Head Of Strategy - Kwame Kwateng**

**U18 Manager - Glen Hart**  
**U14 Manager - Ashley Diamond**  
**U13 Manager - Kevin Nash**

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**Welcome to Cricklefields for this Essex Senior League game against Saffron Walden Town. I would like to welcome the players, fans, management and committee of our visitors and we hope you have a good visit with us.**

We find ourselves back at home only 72 hours after our last game on Wednesday night here. It was good to get back to winning ways with a 2-1 win over an improved FC Clacton side. We had a lot of chances in the game to kill it off but in the end it was a 94th minute winner from Mo that saw us take all three points. I have said all season we have to beat the teams in and around us and we did that so that's all I can ask.

We have a tough schedule this month with a few midweeks and as we know on pitches that are getting tougher as we saw on Wednesday. Our focus is still to push for a top 10 finish but we have a lot of work to do.

Today we face a Saffron Walden Town who seem to be a much changed team over the recent weeks but are still in the play offs position and have a lot of quality in the side. Our record over the years against them hasn't been great so we hope we can chance that today.

We appreciate your support today and look forward to seeing you at home game in the near future. Our next home game is next Saturday 3pm where we face Sawbridgeworth Town.



**Adam Peek, Ilford FC**

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### Saffron Walden Town FC

The club was established as Saffron Walden in 1872, and are the oldest senior football club in Essex still in existence, and the 19th oldest in the world. They entered the FA Cup in 1876-77, but withdrew after being drawn against holders Wanderers, as they could not afford to travel. Two years later they made their first appearance, losing 5-0 to Upton Park in the first round. In 1882 the club were founder members of the Essex County Football Association. In 1890 club secretary Arthur Smith, the headmaster of the local Boys' National School, negotiated an annual fee of £3 with Lord Braybrooke for the use of a piece of land in Catons Lane which became known as The Meadow. Previously the club had played on the town common, but had been unable to charge spectators an entrance fee. "The Bloods", as they are known because of the red in the club colours, reached the final of the Essex Junior Cup in 1894-95, but lost 3-0 to Barking Excelsior. In 1896-97 they reached the final again, beating Leytonstone 6-1 in a replay. In 1899 they entered the Haverhill and District League, and played their first ever league match at Halstead Town. They won this league in 1908-09, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1933-34. The club also entered the Stansted and District League, the Cambridgeshire League and the Hertfordshire and Essex Border League during the same era, winning the Stansted and District League on seven occasions and the Border League once.

In 1926 the club reached the final of the Essex Junior Cup, where a record crowd of 6,000 saw them lose 2-1 to Rainham Athletic. The club moved to the Essex and Suffolk Border League and the North Essex League, before joining the Spartan League in 1933. In 1936-37 they won Division Two. After World War Two, the club moved to the Parthenon League in 1953, and after a single season, left to join the Hertfordshire County League. They had no success in this period until finishing runners-up in the Premier Division of the Herts County League in 1969. In 1971, with nine other clubs, Saffron Walden Town were founder members of the Essex Senior League. After winning the league in 1973-74, they switched to the Eastern Counties League. In October 1979 they were able to pay for a set of floodlights. Norwich City were the visitors for the first match played under the new lights. They won the Eastern Counties League in 1982-83, under manager John Ryan. After finishing sixth the following season, the club were elected to Division Two North of the Isthmian League, a new division formed as part of the reorganised "pyramid" system. After several strong pushes for promotion to Division One of the Isthmian League, a bombshell was delivered in 1996, when the Isthmian League introduced a rule change regarding the sloping pitch at Catons Lane, deeming it to have "excessive undulations".

After twelve years in the competition, Walden had to resign from the League or face massive fines, and were effectively demoted two divisions in the pyramid when they were accepted into the Essex Senior League. With the loss of the manager and almost the entire playing squad, it took the return of local player Stuart Wardley from Bishops Cleeve FC in 1998 to help turn things around. That season they came third in the league, and won the Harry Fisher Trophy and Uttlesford Charity Cup. Stuart Wardley was sold to QPR at the end of the season, where he went on to become their top scorer and Supporters' Player of the Year in his first season. The Bloods had their best season ever in 1999-2000, winning five trophies including the league title. But despite the great success, the club was unable to progress in the pyramid because of their sloping pitch. In August 2000 work began on reducing the slope. In 2000-01, the club finished second in the league despite having to play away from home for almost the whole season, and although qualifying for promotion, were unable to do so as the ground work was incomplete. By 2001 the loss of income and massive debts meant the club were in financial trouble, and tough measures were needed to get the club back on a sound footing. The 2003-04 season saw no competitive league football for the Bloods, just friendlies, as they had to sit out a year before being granted their wish for a transfer from the Essex Senior League to the Ridgions (Eastern Counties) League.

The 2004-05 season saw SWTFC back in Division One of the Ridgions competition after



### Saffron Walden Town FC

an absence of 20 years, and after a slow start, the club finished in 15th place. They improved on this in 2005-06, finishing 12th. The following season saw success in the South Midlands Floodlight Cup, as well as reaching the final of the Ridgeons League Division One Cup. 2011 was an event- Ilford v Saffron Walden Town Ilford v Saffron Walden Town Instagram - Ilfordfootballclub Twitter: @IlfordFC1881 Ilford FC history Meet Our visitors - Saffron Walden Town FC full year for Saffron Walden Town FC. Following a decision to withdraw from the Eastern Counties League for financial reasons, football activities at the club in 2011-12 focused on the youth teams. In March 2012 a public meeting in the town, which saw around a hundred people attend, agreed to form a new committee, and set in motion a huge amount of activity to bring senior football back to Saffron Walden. The new committee was chaired by Cliff Treadwell, with Paul Daw appointed as club president. With advice and support from the Essex FA, representatives from the new SWTFC committee delivered a solid case for a return to senior football at a meeting with the Football Association at their Wembley head quarters. This culminated in a return to Division One of the Eastern Counties League for 2012-13, where the team had a solid season and were in promotion contention for much of the season.

In July 2012, members voted to convert the club into a Community Benefit Society. This change in legal status was completed in August 2013 and means that the club is owned by its members. The return of some familiar faces strengthened the squad for 2014-15, and with Stuart Wardley in the manager's seat, it was a memorable season, reaching the last 32 of the FA Vase, and winning promotion to the Premier Division on the last day of the season. Despite the poor start to the 2015-16 season which saw the Bloods fail to win at home in the league before Christmas, solid results in the latter part of the season saw them finish in the top half of the table. 2016-17 saw another season of solid performances and good attendances. The team once more finished in the top half of the table, while off the field the club sadly lost their president and historian Paul Daw, who passed away in 2017 and is sorely missed. The club were in the Eastern Counties Premier for three seasons, before a lateral move to the Essex Senior League for the 2018-19 season, where they have remained since. Jason Maher was appointed first team manager since autumn 2018, having previously been assistant manager.

The 2018-19 season saw the club negotiate a 100-year lease with the town council for the use of the Catons Lane pitch, securing its future for the long term. In addition, the club shop and museum were set up. Stuart Vant was elected as chairman in June 2019. During his tenure the clubhouse franchise was taken back in-house, and this generated funds for improvements, such as refurbishment of the home dressing room, and the state-of-the-art pitch sprinklers installed in summer 2021. Last season, the Bloods had a good run in the FA Vase, reaching the last 32 before losing on penalties to Loughborough Students, who went on to reach the semi-finals. In the league, a superb finish to the season (11 wins and a draw from the last 12 games) saw them claim the runners-up spot on the last day, in front of a club record league attendance of 857. This earned them a play-off against Witham Town of the Isthmian North, but a 3-0 defeat meant that the long-awaited return to Step 4 was not to be. Stuart Vant stood down in July 2022 due to work commitments, and Jamie Sharp was elected as the new chairman, as the club celebrates its 150th anniversary this season. In November 2022, Jason Maher left the club along, with his coaching staff and several players, to join Coggeshall Town. Terry Spillane and Michael Toner were appointed as joint managers to replace him. Also in November, the club's new floodlights were switched on, made possible by an FA grant and sponsorship from local companies. Currently, plans for further improvements are being drawn up, to replace the temporary buildings at the east end of the ground. In September, Spillane and Toner left the club and saw Jason Maher return to the managers post.

Following Maher's departure from the club, they appointed Ex-Romford and FA Vase winning Dan Spinks as their new manager.



## They Said What?

### Famous Quotes!

*Their players weren't allowed to swap shirts with us at the end. I think they got theirs from a supermarket when they arrived in Australia.*

**Archie Thompson, Australia striker, after scoring 13 goals in a world record 31-0 defeat of the American Samoas, 2001.**

*Michael Owen: I've worked my nuts off to get back.*

*Interviewer: How are you feeling now?*

**Owen: My groin's a bit sore.**

*I can't watch the long ball teams like Wimbledon, Watford and Sheffield Wednesday. Football wasn't meant to be run by two linesmen and air-traffic control.*

**Tommy Docherty, 1988.**

*Edin Dzeko went down a bit theoretically there.*

**Peter Reid, Radio 5 Live summariser 2013.**

*It was difficult for us playing in the midday sun with that three o'clock kick-off.*

**David Beckham, after captaining England to victory over Paraguay, World Cup finals, 2006.**

*I'm not going to speculate on speculation.*

**David Pleat, acting Spurs manager, on speculation that Giovanni Trapattoni would be the club's next manager, 2003.**

*Why didn't Robben just pull the trigger and shoot himself?*

**Martin Keown, European Championship finals, 2012.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson is Manchester United. If you cut him, he bleeds red.*

**Alan Brazil talkSPORT presenter, 2003.**

*Then my eyesight started to go and I took up refereeing.*

**Neil Midgley, FA Cup final referee 1987.**

*This place will be under riot police control. Body search and personal belongings check will be in place. Fans are not allowed to bring drinks, poles, flares, weapons and celery.*

**TRAVEL ADVICE to Chelsea fans on the government website before their visit to Sparta Prague, Champions League, 2013.**

*I'm a season ticket holder at Tottenham Hotspur. I've been trying to get Matt (LeBlanc) along to a game - but he can't even get the hang of the name. He calls them "Chutney Hooplas".*

**Stephen Mangan, actor on his American co-star in the comedy drama Episodes, 2012.**

*I heard recently that, on average, Alex Ferguson receives two turds in the post each week. What I want to know is, who's sending the other one?*

**Letter to Viz magazine, 2009.**

*You could put his knowledge of the game on a postage stamp. He wanted us to sign Salford Van Hire because he thought he was a Dutch international.*

**Fred Eyre, former assistant manager at Wigan Athletic, on a powerful director, 1981.**

*Football is like chess, but without the dice*

**Lucas Podolski Cologne and Germany striker, 2010**



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### FIRST ROUND

|           |                                        |     |                                    |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. 02/10  | Buckhurst Hill                         | 4-2 | Cannons Wood                       |
| 2. 08/10  | Benfleet ( <i>won on pens</i> )        | 3-3 | FC Clacton                         |
| 3. 01/10  | West Essex                             | 6-0 | Hullbridge Sports                  |
| 4. 01/10  | Clapton Community                      | 0-3 | Harwich & Parkeston                |
| 5. 01/10  | Halstead Town                          | 8-0 | Newbury Forest                     |
| 6. 30/09  | Barkingside                            | 0-3 | Romford                            |
| 7. 01/10  | Harlow Town                            | 1-0 | Hutton                             |
| 8. 01/10  | Takeley                                | 6-3 | Basildon Town                      |
| 9. 08/10  | Saffron Walden Town                    | 3-2 | Stanway Pegasus                    |
| 10. 01/10 | Frenford                               | 0-3 | Great Wakering Rovers              |
| 11. 15/10 | Little Oakley                          | 2-1 | Athletic Newham                    |
| 12. 02/10 | Ilford                                 | 2-1 | Stanway Rovers                     |
| 13. 01/10 | Wivenhoe Town                          | 2-4 | Holland                            |
| 14. 08/10 | Stansted                               | 1-1 | May & Baker ( <i>won on pens</i> ) |
| 15. 02/10 | White Ensign                           | 3-3 | Barking ( <i>won on pens</i> )     |
| 16. 01/10 | Southend Manor                         | 0-1 | Rayleigh Town                      |
| 17. 02/10 | Coggeshall Town ( <i>won on pens</i> ) | 2-2 | Woodford Town                      |
| 18. 09/10 | Dunmow Town                            | 3-1 | Burnham Ramblers                   |

### SECOND ROUND

|           |                                          |     |                       |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 19. 15/10 | Halstead Town                            | 1-2 | Dunmow Town           |
| 20. 15/10 | Harwich & Parkes. ( <i>won on pens</i> ) | 0-0 | Benfleet              |
| 21. 08/10 | Barking                                  | 0-1 | Buckhurst Hill        |
| 22. 15/10 | Takeley ( <i>won on pens</i> )           | 1-1 | May & Baker           |
| 23. 15/10 | Coggeshall Town                          | 1-4 | Ilford                |
| 24. 15/10 | Harlow Town                              | 0-2 | West Essex            |
| 25. 15/10 | Saffron Walden Town                      | 3-2 | Great Wakering Rovers |
| 26. 15/10 | Rayleigh Town                            | 5-0 | Holland               |
| 27. 22/10 | Little Oakley                            | 3-1 | Romford               |

### THIRD ROUND

|           |                                    |     |                                        |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------|
| 28. 12/11 | Saffron Walden Town                | 2-0 | Braintree Town                         |
| 29. 05/11 | Witham Town ( <i>won on pens</i> ) | 2-2 | Brentwood Town                         |
| 30. 04/11 | Redbridge                          | 0-2 | Brightlingsea Regent                   |
| 31. 04/11 | Maldon & Tiptree                   | 1-1 | Hornchurch ( <i>won on pens</i> )      |
| 32. 29/10 | Walthamstow                        | 0-4 | Aveley                                 |
| 33. 13/11 | West Essex                         | 1-1 | Chelmsford City ( <i>won on pens</i> ) |
| 34. 05/11 | Waltham Abbey                      | 3-1 | Grays Athletic                         |
| 35. 28/10 | Concord Rangers                    | 0-2 | Billerica Town                         |
| 36. 05/11 | Harwich & Parkeston                | 2-1 | Bowers & Pitsea                        |
| 37. 06/11 | Ilford                             | 0-3 | Tilbury                                |
| 38. 06/11 | Takeley                            | 0-1 | Rayleigh Town                          |
| 39. 04/11 | Hashtag United                     | 5-3 | Southend United                        |
| 40. 06/11 | Dunmow Town                        | 1-9 | Heybridge Swifts                       |
| 41. 05/11 | Buckhurst Hill                     | 0-3 | Canvey Island                          |
| 42. 19/11 | Dagenham & Redbridge               | 1-0 | Colchester United                      |
| 43. 04/11 | Little Oakley                      | 3-0 | Basildon United                        |

### FOURTH ROUND

|           |                      |     |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 44. 26/11 | Heybridge Swifts     | 2-0 | Witham Town          |
| 45. 18/12 | Canvey Island        | 3-0 | Dagenham & Redbridge |
| 46. 19/11 | Rayleigh Town        | 0-2 | Hornchurch           |
| 47. 26/11 | Billerica Town       | 2-3 | Chelmsford City      |
| 48. 26/11 | Saffron Walden Town  | 0-5 | Tilbury              |
| 49. 10/12 | Waltham Abbey        | 2-0 | Little Oakley        |
| 50. 26/11 | Hashtag United       | 8-1 | Harwich & Parkeston  |
| 51. 19/11 | Brightlingsea Regent | 2-1 | Aveley               |

### QUARTER-FINALS

|           |                      |     |                                      |
|-----------|----------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 52. 17/12 | Waltham Abbey        | 1-3 | Chelmsford City                      |
| 53. 17/12 | Hashtag United       | 2-4 | Hornchurch                           |
| 54. 17/12 | Heybridge Swifts     | 1-0 | Tilbury                              |
| 55. 14/01 | Brightlingsea Regent | 1-1 | Canvey Island ( <i>won on pens</i> ) |

### SEMI-FINALS

|           |                  |     |                 |
|-----------|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 56. 18/02 | Canvey Island    | vs  | Chelmsford City |
| 57. 14/01 | Heybridge Swifts | 0-4 | Hornchurch      |

### FINAL (at Colchester Utd FC)

|           |                                  |    |            |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----|------------|
| 58. 18/03 | Canvey Island or Chelmsford City | vs | Hornchurch |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----|------------|



**128th game of the season (Match 14,283)**

**Wednesday 1st January 2025.**

**Biggleswade 3 AFC Dunstable 0**

**(Pitching In Southern Lge Div. 1 Central) (Played at Bedford Town) att 144.**

Strong winds and heavy rain were the theme of the day, which caused several postponements and in some cases abandonments. Indeed, parking was made easier here after the match between Real Bedford and Stotfold was called off next door late morning. But by the time I arrived at the New Eyrie, the worst of it was over, with the rain finally stopping well before the end of this match. While I was in my seat in the stand preparing my notes for the match, the ball suddenly landed in the seat in front of me. It was kicked there by the visiting keeper as he warmed up. But when he got close again moments later, I got a bit annoyed with him. I was half expecting to see him do it again during the match!

As for the game, a small part of which, I was in the company of my former MP, Alstair Burt, this was a game contested by two mid-table sides, the first half of which was played out in a good spirit. In this period both sides put a lot of energy into their play with the hosts doing a lot better today than I'd seen them do in recent matches. But despite this Dunstable shaded the first 20 minutes or so, until the pace dropped, allowing the hosts to now see more of the ball. It was they who took the lead on 40 minutes when after good work down the right the ball was pulled back to allow the scorer to side foot it home from about 15 yards out. The second half was more physical and argumentative and by the end of it the decent ref had shown five yellow cards. On about 59 minutes Biggleswade were only inches away from being awarded a spot kick following a foul, but two minutes later they were given a more obvious one for another rogue tackle, which was clearly in the box, to double their lead. Game over? Well, just about. Biggleswade now played a holding game when not in possession, but still got forward a lot. Dunstable did keep pressing, but I only recorded one serious shot from them now. By the end Biggleswade had played well and with more energy I had seen from them in recent weeks, thus fully deserving their win.

**129. (14,284) Saturday 4th January 2025.**

**Stotfold Res. 0 AFC Welwyn 1 (Spartan South Midlands Lge Div. 1) att 252.**

Due to frozen pitches, this game was one of just three matches in this league to survive the weather today, although having seen the state of Stotfold's pitch, which was perfectly playable, you did wonder why other local games didn't take place. So this worked to Stotfold's benefit as by my calculations they attracted their second highest attendance for any game here this season. But part of this was probably down to see the visitors, who are probably going to win this division play, under their new manager, namely the returning Brett Donnelly, who was manager of Stotfold until he moved on to take over at Hitchin Town. But he is still held in high regard here. So, with cousin Paul Donnelly in charge of Stotfold first team now this was always going to be a keenly fought match. But despite only a handful of serious goal scoring chances being created by both teams, this was very much a watchable game.

The first half was very close indeed. Stotfold seemed to have more possession but couldn't create much with it. Nor did Welwyn with their possession. On 30 minutes some people thought that Stotfold should have taken the lead with a header from a corner. One person said it was four feet over the line, whilst someone else said that it was marginal if it did cross the line at all. But obviously the experienced lino's view was the correct one. Then, just before half time Welwyn took the lead when the scorer got in between two defenders to lift the ball over the advancing keeper from about 15 yards out. The second half saw much of the same but now Stotfold had even more possession. But they again couldn't translate this into goals. But by the end the visitors probably won because they looked more comfortable on the ball in soaking up the hosts' pressure. But Stotfold will take comfort from this result, even though they lost, as they at least matched their opponents in commitment and work rate for the whole of the match.



**130. (14,285) Tuesday 7th January 2025.**

**Welwyn Garden City 0 Leighton Town 0**

**(Pitching In Southern League Division 1 Central) att 104.**

This was a very frosty night, so much so that it was a surprise that they played, as temperatures hovered around freezing point. But although you could hear the players clattering over the pitch it was just soft enough to take a stud, but even without any wind it was freezing cold. Why this game needed to be played tonight was a mystery to me. With most leagues made up of less teams these days there must be loads of spare midweek dates available and surely it would have been better to play this game in the spring when playing conditions are better. On the other hand, at least it gave me a game to watch this evening. But although the players did their best, they found themselves battling against the conditions as much as they did against each other and in my mind, I could see this game ending up as a nil-nil draw as early as the half hour mark.

City were favourites to win it as they were upper midtable in the league against their lower midtable opponents, but apart from having a header in the first minute, they had no other serious shots all night. Furthermore, they didn't look that interested as they seemed to slow the game down right from the start, which led to numerous stoppages for a variety of reasons. Leighton meanwhile tried to get on with it and after City had started the first half well, they came into it as the half progressed. The game was also rather physical at times, but the ref let a lot go before finally getting his yellow card out, showing it three times to Town players and none to the hosts. They created a couple of unsuccessful chances before the break and a few more at the start of the second half. Then nothing much happened for about twenty minutes, before Town gave it one last go as the match drew to a close. By the end I'd seen a lot worse nil-nil draws, but on a better night, weatherwise, this could have been a really good game to watch. So, in my opinion the game ended up Teams 0 Weather 1!

**131. (14,286) Wednesday 8th January 2025.**

**Ware U16 2 Hullbridge Sports U16 0**

**(Eastern Junior Alliance RT Litho Cup Quarter Final) att 70 approx.**

The car thermometer suggested that the weather was slightly colder tonight and as I neared the ground some light drizzled started up, which worried me in case it either froze on the road or worse still turned to snow. But it did neither and it soon disappeared. Furthermore, when I got out of the car at the ground it didn't feel as cold as it did on the previous night. These days, this is generally the lowest level I watch football at, although these days lots of Under 18 leagues are fielding Under 16 players, so I didn't feel too bad at watching tonight's game. In fact, because as both sides were evenly matched, both in age and ability we witnessed an excellent game. Ware were largely the better side throughout though and in the first half they put the visitors under a lot of pressure, creating at least five scoring chances. But with a mixture of good zonal marking and defending, combined with a bit of luck, the visitors held out and they had a few chances themselves.

This decent game got even better after the break as both sides sensed that with an improved work rate they could win this game. Suddenly the game became physical and on 8 minutes into the restart we witnessed a naughty tackle by one side, being followed by a naughty retaliative tackle seconds later. This led to a coming together of the players, some of whom did well to avoid being shown a card. The ref dealt with it by just talking to the players concerned. Then on 60 minutes, in this 40 minutes each way game, Ware took the lead when the scorer ran on with the ball before curling home his shot from about 40 yards out with his right foot. Then, on 75 minutes another player scored with a similarly hit shot, this time from the edge of the area. By now Hullbridge had faded, although earlier in the half they had contributed much more to the game, without deserving to win it.



WHEN Marc White and his mates decided to form Dorking Wanderers, Manchester United had just won the treble. Twenty-six years on, White and the Sussex club – who started in 1999 in the Crawley & District League – have reached the 1,000 game milestone. It sees boss White join a select club of long-serving bosses. But it only tells part of the story of a club that has risen through the divisions to the top table in Non-League.

And while last year they suffered their first ever relegation, White is determined to get his Meadowbank outfit promoted from the National League South again. White sat down with The NLP in the build-up to the milestone moment against Weston-super-Mare last weekend. “Yeah, washing the kit... On a Saturday morning I’d be stretching the socks out, thinking ‘why are they shrinking?’,” he told The Non-League Paper. “My ritual was to go to the Big Field in Brockham early and put the nets up. I’d hang out the kit, have lunch and meet the boys. I wouldn’t swap it because I really enjoyed it but I was doing everything - literally. When you get to this level, you swap those problems for money. I wouldn’t mind those problems again.”

And when he says problems, invariably at this level - where teams such as his own are a hybrid mixture of full and part-time - that means money. But there’s always been something to fork out for, even when Dorking were at their last ground, Westhumble. “I remember having to spend 12 grand to build a boardroom to stay in the division,” he says. “Floodlights, concrete paths - the demands on facilities are really high. There is a lot of funding available but what’s never available is land. That’s every club’s biggest challenge in football.” White admits it didn’t cross his mind as he entered the new millennium that Wanderers could ever become the force at the top of the Non-League pyramid that they are now.

“Never. We’d socialise at The Royal Oak - they were our original sponsor,” he continues. “I felt bad asking for £280. We were a big bunch of mates, we’d go out after the match. The winning became a bug, infectious, and we wanted more of it.” With their ever-growing following fuelled by the Bunch of Amateurs YouTube series that gives a no-holds-barred look inside the club, White and Dorking have become two of Non-League’s most recognisable names. But it’s promotion on the field he really craves.

“There is an element of thinking when you have all that success that you’re immortal,” he says of their relegation. “So when it did, it was a big shock to all of us. We’re all waiting for the next step forward, we can’t wait.”



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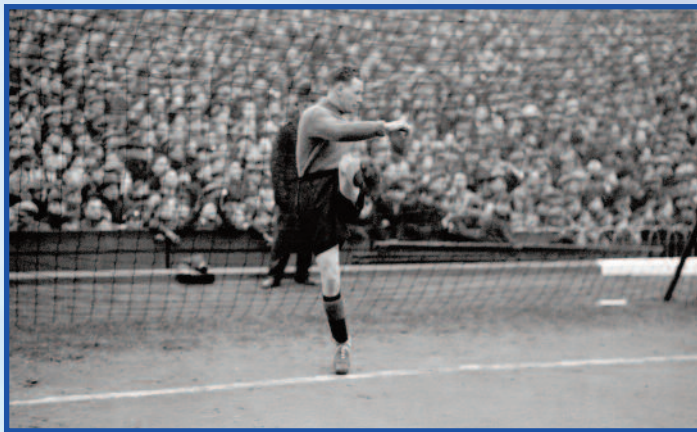
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**The Untold Game**

The 1935-36 Sunderland team was considered by contemporaries to be the greatest to have ever played the game. Bill Shankly described it as the best he had ever played against, and they swept all before them as they won their sixth league title; none would have believed that



would be the last league title won by the club, or even by a club from that football obsessed part of the country. But the season was marked by tragedy, and while captain Raich Carter would become the youngest to ever lift the First Division trophy, 22-year old goalkeeper Jimmy Thorpe would not be alongside him. In February of 1936, he had become the only player in England to have died as a result of injuries sustained in a game.

Thorpe had developed into a promising young goalkeeper during his time in the North East, and was expected to play for England at a future date. But in 1934, he was dealt a blow and diagnosed with diabetes. When he was a child, it would have been a death sentence, but the discovery of insulin in 1921 meant that it was survivable, albeit a struggle. Carter noticed that he had lost weight during the previous season - a warning sign for the illness - but Thorpe, concerned about the reaction of his teammates, sought to hide it by wearing baggier clothes. He was quite possibly the first diabetic to play First Division football. In 1936, Sunderland raced away with the league, while Chelsea were languishing in mid-table. There was no special animosity between the sides, no heated rivalry, and players on both sides had no great history of violence. It would appear to everyone as just a routine match on Sunderland's procession to the title. And even at full time, there was nothing to suggest anything had gone seriously wrong, although the game had been more physical than one might have expected. However, within a week, everyone knew it had been anything but routine.

Thorpe started the game brightly, making a number of exceptional stops to keep Chelsea's increasingly frustrated front-line at bay. It was uncharacteristic, then, that he failed to read an easy rebound off of the bar and allowed Joe Bambrick's shot to roll over the line. Two minutes later, he made a mistake from a backpass and, in a tangle of bodies, Bambrick levelled the game. Newspaper reports from the time commented that Thorpe looked disoriented and repeatedly had to lean on the goalposts to restore his composure. Something wasn't right. It was barely noteworthy that, a few minutes before the first of his mistakes, Thorpe had dived out to the feet of an onrushing Chelsea attacker and held onto the ball. The player, joined by two teammates, committed an assault against Thorpe in an attempt to regain the ball, repeatedly kicking him in the chest, neck and head. The referee allowed the violence to continue without incident, as FA rules at the time allowed, until the Sunderland defenders caught up to play and intervened. Their attempt to protect their goalkeeper had come too late. Football was not equipped at this time to deal with the fallout of the attack. A policeman was quoted as saying that Thorpe turned a 'ghastly white' im-



### The Untold Game

mediately after, but the Sunderland trainer was not permitted onto the field to see to him. It's questionable what he could have achieved anyway, in the days of the magic sponge, and without substitutes Thorpe saw out the rest of the match. He left the field with a bump on his forehead, while the referee was escorted off by two police officers, at risk of assault from the Sunderland fans for allowing the brutality. When he left Roker Park, Carter later recalled, nobody noticed anything especially wrong with him. But he collapsed at home later that night, and spent the entire weekend bedridden. He had a swollen eye socket and a serious head wound, and was taken to the hospital on the Monday following the game. Despite the efforts of doctors, he succumbed to his injuries two days later. Officially, he died of heart failure caused by his diabetes, with the comment that this was accelerated by the brutality of the Chelsea players.

The FA, quick to try to absolve itself of blame, held a commission that eventually had Sunderland at fault for fielding an unwell player. It ignored the 52 consecutive games Thorpe had previously played, without incident, and failed to consult either Sunderland or Chelsea (who sent their condolences). This is an injustice that has never been corrected. But alongside that finding, they did also recommend that players no longer be allowed to continue to try to win the ball after the goalkeeper had it under control. It was a small concession, but it was the first attempt to protect the goalkeeper's safety. It might have been scant consolation to the family of Jimmy Thorpe, but his legacy has changed the sport.

Enjoy the game.

***Martyn Green The Untold Game***

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





# DAGENHAM F. C.

Essex Thameside Trophy, Round One

**DAGENHAM**

**V**

**ILFORD**

Monday, 30th December, 1974

Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.

---

**DAGENHAM**  
(Red)

1. I. Huttley
2. A. Rosethorn
3. J. Lye
4. K. Gray
5. N. Welch
6. D. Moore
7. J. Dear
8. J. Borland
9. N. Fox
10. M. Harkins
11. J. Holder
12. M. Springett

**ILFORD**  
(Blue and White)

1. P. James
2. A. Gibson
3. R. Eaton
4. P. Deadman
5. J. Still
6. R. Day
7. P. Scott
8. J. Butterfield
9. A. Bass
10. S. Barrett
11. A. Turley
12. M. Bennett

Referee: Mr. J. BARKER

Linesmen: Mr. N. POSNER (Red Flag) and Mr. D. RIPPE (Yellow Flag)

---

## CLUB NOTES

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Victoria Road. We hope you have all enjoyed your Christmas break. This evening we again welcome the officials, players and supporters of Ilford, this time for an Essex Thameside Trophy match. Four weeks ago our clubs met on this ground in a Rothmans Ismian League game, and drew 1-1, Dagenham's goal being scored by Mal Harkins. We also have a date with Ilford on their ground in the quarter-final of the London Senior Cup, and, of course, we have to go there for the return league match. Next Saturday the first team have a league match at Slough Town, and on the following Saturday we visit Witney Town, for the first time, in the first round proper of the F.A. Challenge Trophy. Wishing you all an enjoyable evening.

B.B.



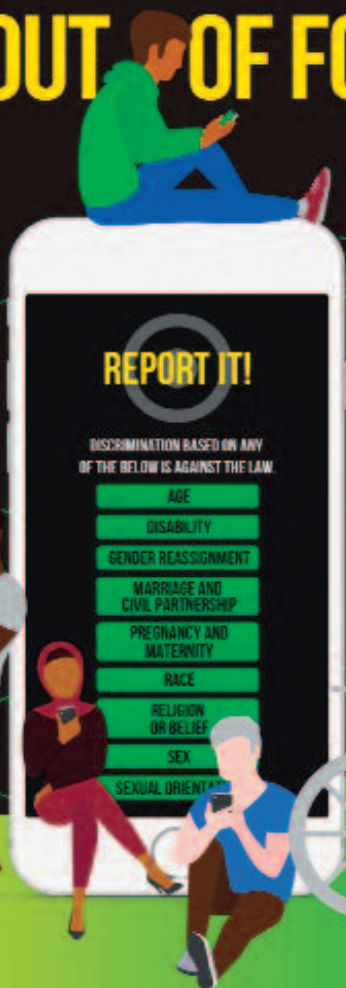
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### 1984: Halfpenny coin to meet its maker

Britain's least-loved currency, the halfpenny coin, is leaving the nation's purses after 13 years of almost universal unpopularity.

The Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, made the announcement in a written Commons answer. He said the Royal Mint would stop making the tiny coin at the end of the month, and it would cease to be legal tender in 1984. Banks are to send unused stocks back to the Royal Mint to be melted down.

The halfpenny coin's fate was sealed when it became more expensive to make than its face value. Most people don't even bother to pick them up when they drop them. Until Christmas, the Treasury had argued that the halfpenny was an important factor in the fight against inflation, but now even this defence has been dropped. Even so, the government fears that retailers will round up any items currently priced with an odd halfpence at the end.

If this happens in all cases, it will have a significant effect on the retail price index. But supermarkets were quick to reassure customers. Sir John Sainsbury, the chairman of the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, said that though some prices would rise, many more would be rounded down. "We'll probably have to put the prices up somewhere else," he said, "so shopping basket prices overall will be about the same." More uncertain will be the fate of the best-known prices ending in that odd half-penny. Second class stamps - currently 12½p - will probably go up to 13p by the end of the year, while the dog licence is likely to change for the first time in years from 37½p to 38p. The charity Age Concern believes these small rises will have a disproportionate effect on those who can least afford them. "For pensioners on a small budget especially those buying small quantities, even a halfpence counts," said Sally Greengross, the charity's deputy director.

"This can only mean further cuts in their living standards." Elsewhere, though, the demise of the halfpenny goes unmourned. Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, whose question in the Commons prompted the Chancellor to sound the coin's death knell, was happy to see it go. "Most people don't even bother to pick them up when they drop them," he said. "They are glad to be rid of them."

### In Context

There were 2.5bn halfpennies, worth £12.5m, still in circulation when the announcement was made, mostly languishing in collecting jars or behind sofas. Charities were quick to realise they could cash in on the windfall, and launched national campaigns to encourage people to hand over their unwanted halfpennies. The halfpenny coin was the last denomination to be withdrawn, although coins have been redesigned and new denominations, like the two-pound coin, introduced. However, Britain is now debating whether to give up all denominations in favour of the Euro. So far the government has held back, although 12 other European countries replaced their own currencies with the Euro on 1 January 2002.



The halfpenny has been in circulation for 13 years but few people are sorry to see it go



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# The Essex Senior Football League

## Results & Fixtures 2024-25

### Wednesday 29th January 2025

#### Premier Division

Ilford 2-1 FC Clacton

### Saturday 1st February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Athletic Newham     | v | Woodford Town       |
| Barking             | v | Halstead Town       |
| FC Clacton          | v | Romford             |
| Great Wakering Rov. | v | Hullbridge Sports   |
| Ilford              | v | Saffron Walden Town |
| Sawbridgeworth Town | v | Benfleet            |
| Stansted            | v | White Ensign        |
| Stanway Rovers      | v | Buckhurst Hill      |
| Takeley             | v | Frenford            |
| West Essex          | v | Little Oakley       |

### Tuesday 4th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Benfleet            | v | Barking             |
| Great Wakering Rov. | v | Buckhurst Hill      |
| Little Oakley       | v | Saffron Walden Town |
| Stansted            | v | West Essex          |

### Wednesday 5th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|               |   |               |
|---------------|---|---------------|
| White Ensign  | v | Ilford        |
| Woodford Town | v | Halstead Town |

### Saturday 8th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Athletic Newham     | v | Halstead Town       |
| Buckhurst Hill      | v | White Ensign        |
| Frenford            | v | FC Clacton          |
| Great Wakering Rov. | v | Little Oakley       |
| Ilford              | v | Sawbridgeworth Town |
| Romford             | v | Hullbridge Sports   |
| Saffron Walden Town | v | Barking             |
| Stansted            | v | Benfleet            |
| Stanway Rovers      | v | West Essex          |
| Takeley             | v | Woodford Town       |

### Tuesday 11th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Barking             | v | Takeley             |
| Halstead Town       | v | Saffron Walden Town |
| Sawbridgeworth Town | v | Little Oakley       |
| Stansted            | v | Stanway Rovers      |
| West Essex          | v | White Ensign        |

### Wednesday 12th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|        |   |                     |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| Ilford | v | Great Wakering Rov. |
|--------|---|---------------------|

### Saturday 15th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                   |   |                     |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| Benfleet          | v | Stanway Rovers      |
| Buckhurst Hill    | v | Barking             |
| Frenford          | v | Great Wakering Rov. |
| Halstead Town     | v | Sawbridgeworth Town |
| Hullbridge Sports | v | Ilford              |
| Little Oakley     | v | Takeley             |
| Romford           | v | Saffron Walden Town |
| West Essex        | v | Athletic Newham     |
| White Ensign      | v | FC Clacton          |
| Woodford Town     | v | Stansted            |

### Tuesday 18th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| Benfleet | v | Romford |
|----------|---|---------|

#### Errington Challenge Cup

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Halstead Town       | v | Takeley             |
| Little Oakley       | v | Athletic Newham     |
| Saffron Walden Town | v | Great Wakering Rov. |

### Wednesday 19th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Buckhurst Hill | v | FC Clacton |
|----------------|---|------------|

#### London Senior Cup

|               |   |                      |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Woodford Town | v | Tooting & Mitcham U. |
|---------------|---|----------------------|

### Friday 21st February 2025

#### Premier Division

|               |   |                     |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Woodford Town | v | Sawbridgeworth Town |
|---------------|---|---------------------|

### Saturday 22nd February 2025

#### Premier Division

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Athletic Newham     | v | Romford             |
| FC Clacton          | v | West Essex          |
| Hullbridge Sports   | v | Halstead Town       |
| Ilford              | v | Benfleet            |
| Saffron Walden Town | v | Buckhurst Hill      |
| Stansted            | v | Little Oakley       |
| Stanway Rovers      | v | Barking             |
| Takeley             | v | Great Wakering Rov. |
| White Ensign        | v | Frenford            |

### Tuesday 25th February 2025

#### Premier Division

|               |   |                 |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Little Oakley | v | Woodford Town   |
| Stansted      | v | Athletic Newham |

#### London Senior Cup

|         |   |            |
|---------|---|------------|
| Barking | v | Erith Town |
|---------|---|------------|

#### Peter Butcher Memorial Trophy

|               |   |                     |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Halstead Town | v | Great Wakering Rov. |
|---------------|---|---------------------|

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Middlesex County SL  
Midland FL  
Mid-Essex FL  
Mid-Sussex YL  
Newbury SL  
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Suburban FL  
Surrey County Intermediate FL  
Swindon SL  
Tandridge Youth FL  
Thames Valley Counties Womens FL  
Thurrock Association SL



# The Essex Senior Football League

## League Table (29th January)

| <u>PREMIER DIVISION</u> | <u>P</u>  | <u>W</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>L</u>  | <u>F</u>  | <u>A</u>  | <u>PT</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Stanway Rovers          | 24        | 17       | 6        | 1         | 63        | 26        | 57        |
| Takeley                 | 24        | 16       | 5        | 3         | 55        | 22        | 53        |
| Woodford Town           | 23        | 16       | 5        | 2         | 47        | 14        | 53        |
| Great Wakering Rovers   | 23        | 15       | 3        | 5         | 51        | 23        | 48        |
| Saffron Walden Town     | 23        | 14       | 4        | 5         | 54        | 29        | 46        |
| Barking                 | 23        | 14       | 4        | 5         | 45        | 29        | 46        |
| Romford                 | 24        | 13       | 4        | 7         | 48        | 29        | 43        |
| Athletic Newham         | 24        | 10       | 5        | 9         | 42        | 34        | 35        |
| White Ensign            | 22        | 10       | 4        | 8         | 37        | 34        | 34        |
| Buckhurst Hill          | 23        | 9        | 6        | 8         | 46        | 38        | 33        |
| Little Oakley           | 21        | 7        | 7        | 7         | 32        | 34        | 28        |
| Benfleet                | 21        | 8        | 1        | 12        | 38        | 39        | 25        |
| Frenford                | 25        | 7        | 4        | 14        | 42        | 51        | 25        |
| <b>Ilford</b>           | <b>23</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>24</b> |
| West Essex              | 22        | 6        | 5        | 11        | 30        | 40        | 23        |
| Halstead Town           | 23        | 7        | 2        | 14        | 42        | 73        | 23        |
| Hullbridge Sports       | 25        | 6        | 2        | 17        | 42        | 62        | 20        |
| Sawbridgeworth Town     | 23        | 3        | 4        | 16        | 29        | 70        | 13        |
| Stansted                | 22        | 3        | 3        | 16        | 21        | 57        | 12        |
| FC Clacton              | 24        | 2        | 4        | 18        | 24        | 75        | 10        |

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# The Essex Senior Football League

## Leading Goalscorers

|                      |                                                   |    |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| George Okoye         | Stanway Rovers                                    | 16 |
| Juwon Akintunde      | Barking                                           | 12 |
| Harry Talbot         | Great Wakering Rovers                             | 12 |
| Harry Brown          | Great Wakering Rovers                             | 11 |
| Solomon Ofori        | Saffron Walden Town                               | 11 |
| Suley Zuhdu          | Buckhurst Hill                                    | 11 |
| Darren Mills         | Little Oakley                                     | 10 |
| Tyreece Robertson    | Buckhurst Hill                                    | 10 |
| Kieran David         | Sawbridgeworth Town                               | 9  |
| Jordon Elongo        | Frenford                                          | 9  |
| Max Jobson           | Benfleet                                          | 9  |
| Leonardo Pedro       | Athletic Newham                                   | 9  |
| Charlie Morris       | Hullbridge Sports/Saffron Walden Town<br>/Romford | 9  |
| Sam Shaban           | Barking                                           | 9  |
| Dean Ager            | Halstead Town                                     | 8  |
| Jamie Bennett        | Stanway Rovers                                    | 8  |
| Correy Davidson      | Stansted                                          | 8  |
| James Eveleigh       | Halstead Town                                     | 8  |
| Kennedy Feyi         | Romford                                           | 8  |
| David Gokou-Siakouri | Woodford Town                                     | 8  |





# Essex Senior Football League

## Grounds Map & Directory



Athletic Newham



Barking



Benfleet



Buckhurst Hill



FC Clacton



Frenford



Great Wakering Rovers



Halstead Town



Hullbridge Sports



Ilford



Little Oakley



Romford



Saffron Walden Town



Sawbridgeworth Town



Stansted



Stanway Rovers



Takeley



West Essex



White Ensign



Woodford Town





# Ilford Football Club

## 1st Team Results, Fixtures, Scorers, Etc

| DATE       | OPPOSITION                   | C         | R   | SCORERS                  | ATT |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| Sat 27 Jul | Takeley                      | Lge       | 0-1 |                          | 111 |
| Tue 30 Jul | Benfleet                     | Lge       | 3-6 | Appiah (2), Habib        | 197 |
| Sat 3 Aug  | Newport Pagnell Town         | FACEP     | 3-3 | Olatunji, Habib, Akpele  | 230 |
| Wed 7 Aug  | <b>Newport Pagnell Town</b>  | FACEP rep | 0-3 |                          | 42  |
| Sat 10 Aug | FC Clacton                   | Lge       | 1-0 | Habib                    | 60  |
| Tue 13 Aug | <b>Newport Pagnell Town</b>  | FACP Rep  | 0-2 |                          | 130 |
| Sat 24 Aug | Harlow Town                  | FAV1Q     | 0-2 |                          | 224 |
| Sat 31 Aug | Great Wakering Rovers        | Lge       | 0-1 |                          | 128 |
| Tue 3 Sep  | Sawbridgeworth Town          | Lge       | 0-1 |                          | 37  |
| Mon 16 Sep | <b>Romford</b>               | Kge       | 1-3 | Adu                      | 101 |
| Wed 25 Sep | <b>Buckhurst Hill</b>        | ECC       | 2-2 | Akpele (2)               | 32  |
| Sat 28 Sep | <b>Stanway Rovers</b>        | Lge       | 1-2 | Appiah                   | 52  |
| Wed 2 Oct  | <b>Stanway Rovers</b>        | ESC1      | 2-1 | Izekor, Appiah           | 41  |
| Sat 5 Oct  | <b>Halstead Town</b>         | Lge       | 3-1 | Olatunji, Akpele (2)     | 43  |
| Sat 12 Oct | Saffron Walden Town          | Lge       | 0-3 |                          | 251 |
| Tue 15 Oct | Coggeshall Town              | ESC2      | 4-1 | Kaan (2), Junior, Appiah | 55  |
| Tue 22 Oct | Barking                      | Lge       | 2-2 | Adu, Wazola              | 54  |
| Sat 26 Oct | <b>Hullbridge Sports</b>     | Lge       | 1-0 | Akpele                   | 64  |
| Wed 30 Oct | <b>Halstead Town</b>         | PBMT      | 1-2 | Emmanuel                 | TBA |
| Fri 1 Nov  | Buckhurst Hill               | Lge       | 2-2 | Izekor (2)               | 85  |
| Wed 6 Nov  | <b>Tilbury</b>               | ESC3      | 0-3 |                          | 76  |
| Sat 9 Nov  | <b>Woodford Town</b>         | Lge       | 0-2 |                          | 67  |
| Sat 16 Nov | <b>Stansted</b>              | Lge       | 3-1 | Izekor (2), Habib        | 72  |
| Wed 20 Nov | <b>Barking</b>               | Lge       | 2-2 | Adam, Appiah             | 92  |
| Sat 23 Nov | <b>Frenford</b>              | Lge       | 2-3 | Akpele, Konate           | TBA |
| Wed 27 Nov | Romford                      | Lge       | 1-1 | Dousa                    | 91  |
| Sat 30 Nov | Little Oakley                | Lge       | 1-1 | Adu                      | 64  |
| Sat 14 Dec | Stanway Rovers               | Lge       | 0-1 |                          | 90  |
| Sat 21 Dec | West Essex                   | Lge       | 3-1 | Junior (2), Emmanuel     | 136 |
| Sat 28 Dec | <b>Athletic Newham</b>       | Lge       | 1-1 | Konate                   | 77  |
| Sat 25 Jan | Halstead Town                | Lge       | 1-3 | Akpele                   | 228 |
| Wed 29 Jan | <b>FC Clacton</b>            | Lge       | 2-1 | Akpele, Habib            | 71  |
| Sat 1 Feb  | <b>Saffron Walden Town</b>   | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Wed 5 Feb  | White Ensign                 | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Sat 8 Feb  | <b>Sawbridgeworth Town</b>   | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Wed 12 Feb | <b>Great Wakering Rovers</b> | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 15 Feb | Hullbridge Sports            | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Sat 22 Feb | <b>Benfleet</b>              | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 1 Mar  | <b>Little Oakley</b>         | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 8 Mar  | <b>Takeley</b>               | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 15 Mar | Frenford                     | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Fri 21 Mar | Woodford Town                | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Sat 29 Mar | <b>White Ensign</b>          | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 5 Apr  | <b>Buckhurst Hill</b>        | Lge       | H   |                          |     |
| Sat 12 Apr | Athletic Newham              | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Sat 19 Apr | Stansted                     | Lge       | A   |                          |     |
| Sat 26 Apr | <b>West Essex</b>            | Lge       | H   |                          |     |



## Reserve Team Results, Fixtures, Scorers, Etc

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>OPPOSITION</u>          | <u>C</u> | <u>R</u> | <u>SCORERS</u>                               |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| 16 Aug      | <b>Hutton</b>              | Lge      | 4-4      | Lewis (2), Pasichniak, Kovalchuk             |
| 30 Aug      | <b>White Ensign</b>        | Lge      | 2-0      | Pasichniak, Ukonu                            |
| 20 Sept     | <b>Southend Manor</b>      | Cup      | 3-2      | Kovalchuk, Erdei                             |
| 27 Sept     | <b>Redbridge</b>           | Lge      | 1-7      | Abasov                                       |
| 5 Oct       | Herongate Athletic         | ECC1     | 2-7      | Abasov, Ukonu                                |
| 19 Oct      | Takeley                    | League   | 2-6      | Kovalchuk, O.g.                              |
| 25 Oct      | <b>Cambridge Heath</b>     | ECC2     | H-W      | <i>(Match awarded to Ilford)</i>             |
| 1 Nov       | <b>Heybridge Swifts</b>    | Lge      | 3-3      | Kovalchuk, bell, Owootomo                    |
| 15 Nov      | <b>May &amp; Baker</b>     | Lge      | 5-1      | Kovalchuk (2), Owootomo<br>Bell, Pasichniak  |
| 22 Nov      | Heybridge Swifts           | LCMT2    | 4-7      | Huluba (3), Kovalchuk                        |
| 30 Nov      | <b>Goldfingers Seconds</b> | ECC3     | 3-0      | Lewis, Owootomo, Kovalchuk                   |
| 13 Dec      | Southend Manor             | Lge      | 7-2      | Abasov (2), Erdei (2), Radim, Pasichniak (2) |
| 17 Jan      | May & Baker                | Lge      | 3-1      | Francis-Hendricks, Sahin Abasov,             |
| 25 Jan      | Exerter Old Boys           | LCC4     | 1-10     | Pasichniak Ukono                             |
| 1st Feb     | <b>Southend Manor</b>      | Lge      | H        |                                              |
| 7 Feb       | <b>Buckhurst Hill</b>      | Lge      | H        |                                              |
| 14 Feb      | Hutton                     | Lge      | A        |                                              |
| 22 Feb      | Redbridge                  | SC       | A        |                                              |
| 28 Feb      | Heybridge Swifts           | Lge      | A        |                                              |
| 7 Mar       | <b>Buckhurst Hill</b>      | SC       | H        |                                              |
| 15 Mar      | Redbridge                  | Lge      | A        |                                              |
| 18 Mar      | Buckhurst Hill             | Lge      | A        |                                              |
| 29 Mar      | White Ensign               | Lge      | A        |                                              |

### **SOUTH DIVISION**

|                  | <u><b>P</b></u> | <u><b>W</b></u> | <u><b>D</b></u> | <u><b>L</b></u> | <u><b>F</b></u> | <u><b>A</b></u> | <u><b>PT</b></u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Redbridge        | 8               | 6               | 0               | 2               | 37              | 14              | 18               |
| Heybridge Swifts | 8               | 5               | 3               | 0               | 23              | 14              | 18               |
| <b>Ilford</b>    | <b>7</b>        | <b>4</b>        | <b>2</b>        | <b>1</b>        | <b>25</b>       | <b>18</b>       | <b>14</b>        |
| Hutton           | 9               | 4               | 2               | 3               | 21              | 23              | 14               |
| Buckhurst Hill   | 7               | 2               | 3               | 2               | 15              | 13              | 9                |
| Southend Manor   | 9               | 2               | 2               | 5               | 18              | 27              | 8                |
| White Ensign     | 8               | 1               | 2               | 5               | 12              | 24              | 5                |
| May & Baker EC   | 8               | 1               | 0               | 7               | 12              | 30              | 0*               |



Ilford Football Club began life in 1881 as one of many hundreds of village teams, yet unlike the majority was to rise to considerable heights and to national acclaim. The Club was a founder-member of the Southern League in 1894, its owners' refusal to adopt professionalism leading to its withdrawal two years later and being replaced by an emergent Tottenham Hotspur. The pro-am debate which dominated soccer at the time did not prevent Ilford from securing a first (Isthmian) League title in 1907 [and a famed 3-3 draw vs Manchester City was earned in the same month]. Numerous County Cup triumphs were to follow in this period. The famed Leicester Fosse side (now Leicester City) were beaten by Ilford on their own ground, while captain Joe Dines (shortly to sign for Liverpool) returned from the Stockholm Olympics in 1912 with a gold medal as part of the all-conquering GB team.

World War 1 decimated Ilford's squad and general membership, although remarkably only 5 players were counted among the Fallen. Tragically these included schoolboy hero Dines (cut down by German machine gun fire in Sept 1918 -a mere 6 weeks before the Armistice). Remarkably, the Ilford FC team assembled in the '20's was to be its most celebrated - with back-to-back Isthmian titles(1922/1923), plus consecutive FA Amateur Cup Final victories in 1929 and 1930. The decade also witnessed several now-famous European tours, with exhibition matches against Spanish giants, Barcelona and victory over Ajax in a packed Olympic Stadium, Amsterdam. \*It is often assumed quite wrongly that soccer in the near continent then was in its infancy, yet Barca paraded among the world's best players in four titanic battles against Ilford -two drawn- and with British ambassadors and government Officials on VIP lists these games often assumed the status of a diplomatic event.





A further Amateur Cup Final was reached in 1936 and home gates would not uncommonly reach 7000-8000 (or higher). World War Two ended the careers of most of this squad -and the life of youth international winger Ernie Braund, scorer in the '36 Final (killed piloting his spitfire on a training flight). The post-war era saw Ilford's iconic Lynn Road Stadium employed for numerous representative games.



The London 1948 Olympiad brought huge crowds to Ilford, as France crossed swords against India (the latter's first international match since Independence) while eventual winners Yugoslavia took on Turkey. Into the '50's and England met West Germany at Lynn Road in an amateur international (featuring among others Karl-Heinz Schnellinger of World Cup 1966 fame). Many professional clubs were to visit Lynn Road in this period and Ilford played and beat a strong West Ham side at the old ground in 1962.

The end of the minimum wage at the turn of the 1960's, adding to a growing elitism in the game, brought about a sharp decline in amateur soccer. Despite earning Wembley visits in both 1958 and '74 as Amateur Cup finalists (the '74 final vs Bishops Stortford registering the swansong for the hallowed tournament), Ilford Football Club was sliding, quite dramatically and clearly lacking coherent direction. With bills escalating and gates declining it was announced that the Club was to relocate to a new, purpose-built stadium at Fairlop. Catastrophically the sale and demolition of Lynn Road, with little consultation, preceded a hefty and scandalously unforeseen tax bill. With hopes for the new ground dashed, a hasty groundshare with Leytonstone was contrived.

the succession of mergers and ground sales beyond this point is well-documented. The demise not only of Ilford, but of Leytonstone and



Walthamstow Avenue (all three boasting pasts which eclipse some League 1 and even Championship clubs of today) was an avoidable tragedy serving no-one -save the owners of the current Dagenham and Redbridge FC.

A reborn Ilford Football Club emerged in 1987 in a flurry of publicity. The campaign to secure a home base in the town, spearheaded by the Foley family and a group of dedicated former supporters, proved to be the longest-running campaign in the history of Redbridge politics. Cricklefield was finally acquired in 1993-4 and successful Lottery awards at the turn of the millennium assisted the development of infrastructure which secured a return to the Isthmian (Ryman) League in 2004 (under manager, Allan Fenn) and after a gap of 25 years. A League and Cup 'double' was to be celebrated at the first attempt.



Despite failure to maintain momentum and with often crippling finances -and with modern demographics witnessing a total erosion of traditional support- Ilford FC today counts 143 years since its foundation within the Town which it still proudly serves... There is very cautious optimism that development proposals [detailed elsewhere] may yet witness the revival which many individuals have worked tirelessly for....But the club also needs support like never before -and this includes from London Borough of Redbridge and those who manage areas of sport/leisure on its behalf... If trophies were awarded for actually contributing to the demise of local football clubs [in IFC's case a club with an unrivalled heritage], it would not be hard to nominate a few contenders... Many clubs may feel the same way!



**Ilford Football Club**

**Lynn Road - Our Home Until 1977**



**Instagram - [Ilfordfootballclub](#)**

**Twitter: [@IlfordFC1881](#)**



**Saturday 1st February 2025**

## Today's Teams



Colours: Blue & White  
Manager: Chris Davis

Colours: Red & Black  
Manager: Dan Spinks



**ILFORD FC**

**SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN FC**

### FROM:

WILKINSON BOATENG  
MICHAEL ADU  
MICHAEL OKAFOR  
JEFF ILEMUNDIA  
NIK AHMADI  
ABDUL SHOBOWALE  
AHMED DOUSA  
JACQUES LEURS  
EMMANUEL WAZOLA  
KAAN JUNIOR  
MICHAEL OLATUNJI  
JOEL APPIAH  
DANIEL EMMANUEL  
TOBI TINUBU  
MEKHI ROBERTS  
JEREMY ARTHUR  
GREG AKPELE  
BABS SONUPE  
DAAYAN SALIFOU  
SAIKOUTIJAN JATTA  
ADAM JABAR  
LAWRENCE OLORUNFEMI  
BENJAMIN EBOH  
NICKAL DAVID LUZOLO  
MO NUR HABIB  
PHILLIP HAYFORD  
CHRIS BARBOSA  
KAI PETERS

### FROM:

JAMES ASKEW  
ALFIE BANKS  
HARRY BARHAM  
GEORGE COTON  
CORREY DAVIDSON  
SAM DEERING  
JORDAN ELONGO  
TAMBESON EYONG  
CONOR HOSKINS  
ROMAN HUNT  
JAMIE HURSIT  
LEE HURSIT  
HELDER BORGES DA MOURA  
BRYAN MBENZA  
FREDDIE MILLER  
RICKY MODESTE  
WILL NEWELL  
SOLOMON OFORI  
EMMANUEL OKUNJA  
THOMAS SKELTON  
MICHAEL TURNER

## THE MATCH OFFICIALS



### Referee:

KADIR NAZIF

### Assistant Referees:

FLORIN RENTEA

&

CHRIS HOCKETT



### NEXT HOME MATCH:

Saturday 8th  
February 2025

v

**SAWBRIDGEWORTH T.**  
at Cricklefields 3.00pm  
*The Essex Senior  
Football League  
Premier Division*