

Historic Ilford Football Club

Respect 



Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Kick off 7.45pm at Cricklefields

Essex Senior Football League

Premier Division

v BENFLEET



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 – Yaan Kouman
U16 Manager – Hafiz Ahmed
U15 Manager – Tony leech
U14 Manager Kelvin Nash
U13 Manager Adam Stone
Head of Youth Scott Schultz

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

So our FA cup run came to an end this weekend on what was a disappointing day for us all. The team who have played so well in the competition just had a poor day and never got going, which is a real shame as the game was there for the taking. We faced an Enfield team who on the day were just sharper and more up for it than we were, on reflection the boys know the performance was below par. We did really well to get through two rounds but it's a matter of what could have been.

We now have to move our focus back to league where out of 4 games we only have 4 points and need to start to put some wins together if we want to achieve our goals this season. Benfleet are a side on their day who can cause any team a problem and one of the toughest teams to break down so I think tonight we are in for a battle and we need to be up to that if we want the three points

Please do try one of our famous burgers the they really are fantastic and you will find our lovely Joan in the clubhouse to serve all your needs.

We hope your enjoy your visit and the game but please come and say hello if you get the chance as im normally running around on a match day trying to keep it all moving.

Enjoy the game.

Adam Peek, Ilford FC



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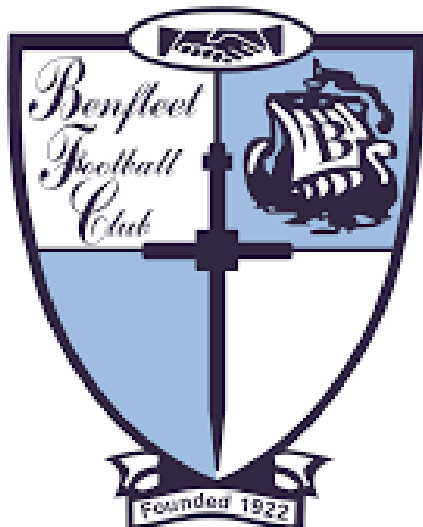
Meet Our Visitors

Benfleet FC

The club was established in 1922, and were initially named Benfleet United. After merging with Parkfields Athletic, they were renamed Benfleet Rangers. The club played in the Southend & District League and won the Essex Junior Cup in 1967–68. After winning the Premiership league title in 1971–72, the club joined the Essex Olympian League and dropped the Rangers part of the name. They were runners-up in their first two seasons in the league. In 1981 the league gained a second division, with Benfleet becoming members of Division One. They were league runners-up again in 1981–82, before the league was renamed the Essex Intermediate League in 1986. The club were subsequently champions and Essex Intermediate Cup winners in 1988–89.

In 1995–96 Benfleet finished second-from-bottom of Division One and were relegated to Division Two. In 1997, the club considered joining the Essex Senior League, however the cost of enclosing the club's Woodside Park ground proved too prohibitive. They won the Essex Premier Cup in 2002–03. The league reverted to its original name in 2005, and the club were Division Two champions in 2006–07, earning promotion to the renamed Premier Division. After three seasons in the Premier Division, they were relegated back to Division One at the end of the 2009–10 season. The 2013–14 season ended with them being relegated to Division Two, and the club resigned from the league midway through the following season.

Benfleet then re-entered the Essex Olympian League in Division Three for the 2015–16 season, going on to win the division and secure promotion to Division Two. At the end of the 2017–18 season the club successfully applied for promotion to the new Division One South of the Eastern Counties League, a three-division jump. The 2023–24 season saw Benfleet win the Division One South title, earning promotion to the Essex Senior League.



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BBC Essex Senior Cup



2024-25 Season

FIRST ROUND

1. 27/08 Ilford	1-2 Hullbridge Sports
2. 27/08 Little Oakley	6-2 FC Clacton
3. 26/08 Saffron Walden Town	7-3 Holland
4. 25/08 Barkingside	0-3 Basildon United
5. 26/08 West Essex	2-0 Newbury Forest
6. 16/08 Benfleet	2-1 White Ensign
7. 26/08 Clapton Community	1-3 Romford
8. 27/08 Rayleigh Town (<i>pens</i>)	1-1 Barking
9. 27/08 Hutton	3-4 Lymore Gardens
10. 16/08 Harwich & Parkeston	2-1 Buckhurst Hill
11. 27/08 Basildon Town	4-1 Stansted
12. 27/08 Cannons Wood	0-7 Halstead Town
13. 27/08 Frenford	2-0 Southend Manor
14. 27/08 Dunmow Town	1-3 Burnham Ramblers
15. 27/08 Woodford Town	4-1 Wivenhoe Town
16. 26/08 Harlow Town	1-0 Stanway Pegasus
17. 26/08 Coggeshall Town	0-0 Athletic Newham (<i>pens</i>)
18. 26/08 Great Wakering Rovers	6-5 May & Baker Eastbrook Community

SECOND ROUND

19. 23/09 Halstead Town	vs Stanway Rovers Community
20. 23/09 Frenford	vs Little Oakley
21. 23/09 West Essex	vs Great Wakering Rovers
22. 22/09 Basildon United	vs Benfleet
23. 22/09 Woodford Town	vs Rayleigh Town
24. 24/09 Burnham Ramblers	vs Lymore Gardens
25. 23/09 Harlow Town	vs Hullbridge Sports
26. 22/09 Romford	vs Takeley
27. 23/09 Saffron Walden Town	vs Athletic Newham
28. 24/09 Basildon Town	vs Harwich & Parkeston

THIRD ROUND

TBA

FOURTH ROUND

TBA

QUARTER-FINALS

TBA

SEMI-FINALS

TBA

FINAL

TBA



26th game of the season. (Match 14,415) Thursday 31st July 2025. Bassingbourn 1 Willingham Wolves 2 (Friendly Match) att 25 approx.

It was good to be back at one of the more picturesque recreation grounds in the Cambs County League tonight although it's a venue I only seem to visit at this time of the year. After a meteoric rise into the Premier Division of this league a couple of seasons ago, Bassingbourn soon found it too much to cope with and they now find themselves in the more tranquil Senior B Division and they no longer run a reserve team. The visitors are operating in Division 2B this season, two levels below and they do run a reserve team. Consequently there wasn't the usual buzz about the place likely there usually is when I come here and also for a possibly unconnected reason there were no cars parked inside the ground on the grass either. Then after the teams appeared ready for the start we waited for the ref to appear. Soon a rather rotund unfit looking gentleman appeared on the pitch. Initially we thought that he was one of the managers, but it turned out that he was the ref.

Although he could barely walk, let alone run, he did a reasonable job. There was no friction and he seemed to get most of his decisions right. He appeared to be connected with the hosts though and rarely seemed to give the visitors a 50/50 decision. On this sunny but windy night Bassingbourn scored first, on 6 minutes with the goal coming from a header from a corner. But for the remainder of the half, apart from one effort late on, they didn't create any more serious scoring chances. Then again neither did Wolves but they started to have more possession as the half wore on and they did enough to claim the equaliser on 43 minutes. This goal also came from a corner, which was bundled over the line from close range. In the second half I was expecting Wolves to press on and eventually score again, but it was the hosts who started the brightest, but not for long and with regular introduction of subs the game became even. Wolves looked more like scoring though and on 86 minutes they were rewarded when in the glare of the setting sun the ball was forced home at the second attempt.

27. (14,416) Friday 1st August 2025. Milton 3 Sawston United 2 (Friendly Match) att 60 approx.

It was good to be back here again, especially as my family hail from the village and I reacquainted myself with a gentleman who knew my late grandfather. I also know the secretary Fraser Confrey very well and he told me about what was going on at the club. Last season, despite early optimism, they finished bottom of the Cambs County League Premier Division, but because other sides either folded or withdrew their sides from the Premier Division, they were given a reprieve from relegation. So to avoid the same thing happening again this season they have replaced most of last season's side with a new team. Early signs are good and as a Step 7 side they recently beat Step 5 side Potton United in a friendly. Also, the pitch has been upgraded and it looked like a billiard table tonight. This is mostly a tree lined ground, but if they were taken away, you would be staring at the A10 and the slip road into Milton, along with the car park behind Tesco's. The game was a good one, and was the best of all the pre-season friendlies I'd seen up to this point. Sawston took the lead on 7 minutes when the ball was headed in from a corner after the ball was headed back to the scorer. They then looked good for a while and they defended well. But gradually Milton made better use of their increasing amounts of possession and on 32 minutes they equalised when the ball was slid home from a left side cross. Then just before the break they took the lead with a header from a deep cross from the right. Soon after the restart a player told the ref, "The ball's got thorns in it." "Is it OK?" "Yes!" and they carried on with it until it got a puncture. On 71 minutes Milton scored again when the scorer got to a long through ball before the keeper did and then on 79 minutes Sawston completed the scoring with a well struck shot from 20 yards out. The only minor blot on the evening was when for no particular reason a Milton player put in a naughty tackle. This turned out to be an excellent game and had it been a league match then I would have been very pleased with the commitment both sides showed.



28. (14,417) Saturday 2nd August 2025. Stotfold 0 Redbridge 4 (Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round) att 175.

Today was something of a disaster for the hosts who ended up getting soundly beaten. Having watched the visitors draw 2-2 away to Welwyn Garden City two Fridays previous to this game, I was of the opinion that although they looked to be a useful side, they also looked beatable, by a side with similar capabilities, namely Stotfold. They had a good pre-season, but unfortunately, the one game they really wanted to play, on the previous Tuesday, got called off and because of this they didn't look quite fully match fit in today's game and energy levels weren't quite as high as they should have been. It didn't help either that the Redbridge team were full of giants compared with the hosts mostly much smaller looking players.

In the first half though, things were fairly even until Redbridge scored on 20 minutes when the ball was bundled in at the far post, following a corner. They then got on top for a while, but as we neared hal time Stotfold started to come into the game. But unfortunately in this period, on 42 minutes, Redbridge scored again with a shot from about 12 yards out, with the scorer left in space. Stotfold started the second half brightly and were now playing four at the back and two up front as opposed to three and one and they now looked like they might score. But on 59 minutes everything went wrong and it was in effect game over. The Stotfold keeper miscontrolled a back pass and it rolled quickly into the net behind him. Then on 64 minutes the visitors claimed a fourth goal when the scorer turned and hit the ball home from 15 yards out. The hosts kept trying but they seemed to become demoralised. I was pleased for the Redbridge followers who behaved impeccably during the match, and their no histrionics from them at any point in the afternoon.

29. (14,418) Monday 4th August 2025. Great Shelford 'A' 2 Soham Town Rangers U23 2 (Great Shelford Memorial Shield Group A) att 30 approx.

It's a wonder that anyone turned up to watch this game at all, as apart from when the hosts announced the competition on 3rd July together with the draw, there has been no mention of it on Twitter or X (Twix!) since then, including on the day of the match. So, I took a chance and went and I was obviously pleased that it was on when I got there. But some of the fixtures had subsequently since been rearranged as one of the teams, Hemingfords United, had withdrawn and had not been replaced. There were other problems as well. Shelford had two sides in the competition, which they called 'A' and 'B' and one appeared in Group 'A' and the other in Group 'B'. Fair enough, but were they of equal strength like you would expect? Apparently not as Shelford 'A' were their first team and Shelford 'B' were their reserves.

On with the game then and I noticed that the ref was the same chap who reffed the game at Milton on Friday night. He had a bit more to do tonight. Because there were fewer people here this evening than usual there wasn't that much of an atmosphere, but eventually most of the park benches surrounding the pitch were occupied. In the first half there was not that much going on. Soham looked to be the fitter side but Shelford, who won the Cambs County League Premier Division (again) last season had their moments. The second half was better and much more lively. Soham took the lead on 50 minutes when the ball was lifted over the keeper from a narrow angle. Then on 61 minutes Shelford were given a spot kick for handball from which they scored and six minutes later they took the lead with a direct free kick from by side of the penalty area, easily beating the two man wall. Then on 80 minutes Soham latched on to a cross from the right. Both sides went for it now and things became tense, with the Shelford manager shouting out, "Keep your 'effing' discipline!"



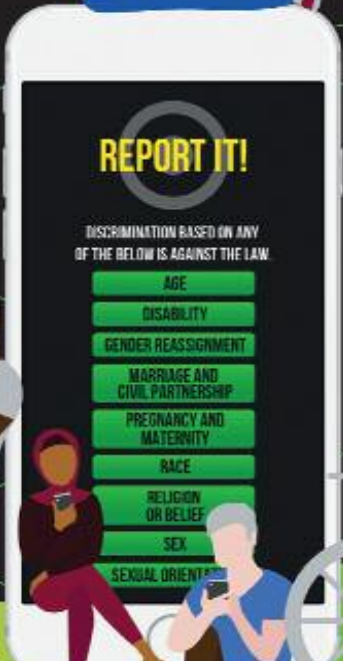
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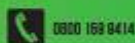
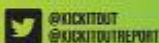
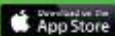
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We all know that FIFA has its problems. Allegations of corruption, occasionally nonsensical laws, and a rivalry with UEFA (which has its own problems) that threatens to have players on the pitch 365 days per year. But, for better or for worse, they are the appointed stewards of the global game, and anyone seeking any kind of footballing prestige must be a member. We take membership for granted in this country; it's not even something we consider. But in other parts of the world, FIFA membership is disputed and denied. And that's why, despite being around for nearly a century, Zanzibar is still seeking acknowledgement from the footballing elites.



Zanzibar, for those like me who thought it might be a clothes shop, is an island chain off the coast of Tanzania. It is a territory within its mainland neighbour's control, and its clubs can take part in African club competitions like the Champions League, with all clubs competing at the 15,000 seater Amaan Stadium on the main island. But because it is within a larger nation, Zanzibar cannot become a full member of either CAF or FIFA, meaning its national sides are limited in the games it can play. Nothing official, nothing recognised. They have played 204 matches in a century - a glacial two games per year - and more than half of those have been against near neighbours Tanzania (45 games), Kenya (41) and Uganda (33). They hadn't faced a team from even as close as West Africa for 15 years before this year's edition of the Mapinduzi Cup, where they lost to Burkina Faso.

It has competed with other unaffiliated teams in competitions organised by the Federation of International Football Independents (FIFI). At the 2006 FIFI World Cup, held in Hamburg - or more specifically, the Republic of St. Pauli in a district of Hamburg - Zanzibar finished runners up, losing the final to the side from North Cyprus, a semi-autonomous region of Turkey. The competition was just six unaffiliated teams (Monaco withdrawing), consisting of Greenland, refused entry for their ties to Denmark, Tibet, a St. Pauli side to represent the hosts, and Gibraltar. It's the British territory that provides the most encouragement to the people of Zanzibar.

The British territory hasn't had a football federation anywhere near as long as Zanzibar, only playing their first match in 1993, although a Gibraltarian side played Spanish side Sevilla seven decades before that. After the 2006 FIFI World Cup, they were invited to a Four Nations tournament, taking on an England, a Scotland and a Wales side after Northern Ireland withdrew. The support of three long-standing, well established FIFA members seems to have been key.

Gibraltar's first application to join FIFA was in 1999, and rejected. In 2008, they were rejected again, although they had the support of their Four Nations opponents. Spain threatened to withdraw all clubs from UEFA competition if Gibraltar were recognised. The case went as far as the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and CAS ruled in Gibraltar's favour. In 2013, they were admitted to UEFA, and then FIFA. Zanzibar have used the British example - four nations in one - to argue that their application should be accepted. The Gibraltarian



example only strengthens their claims. And yet their request remains unheard. They made their first application in 2011, and it was rejected. In 2017, they appeared to be making progress when they became CAF's 55th member, opening the door to more prestigious international competitions. But their membership was quickly revoked, with CAF President Ahmad Ahmad later claiming her couldn't admit two associations from the same nation. Zanzibar were relegated back to associate status.

Zanzibar has no shortage of footballing talent, with many of its best players representing Tanzania. Much like the Basque Country, they would have an international side to compete or even surpass the nation that is blocking their progress. They continue to play in CECAFA tournaments, an affiliate of CAF, but until they are given full membership they will struggle to find matches to play, and struggle to improve. Before this year's Mapinduzi Cup, they had managed to find just one opponent in the previous five years. Zanzibar remain stranded in a strange middle ground. Trying to maintain their footballing standards in a system that rejects them, and propping up the very team that is blocking their ascension into CAF and FIFA membership in their own competitions.

So while we (rightly) complain about FIFA and there are some talks about breaking free of it, there are those who are just desperate to join in.

Enjoy the game

Martyn Green The Untold Game

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media

@TheUntoldGame



**Mlandege FC win eighth
Zanzibar Premier League title in 2025.**

1939: Britain and France declare war on Germany



Neville Chamberlain broadcast the news to the nation at 1115 hours

Britain and France are at war with Germany following the invasion of Poland two days ago. At 1115 BST the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, announced the British deadline for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland had expired.



He said the British ambassador to Berlin had handed a final note to the German government this morning saying unless it announced plans to withdraw from Poland by 1100, a state

of war would exist between the two countries. Mr Chamberlain continued: "I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received and consequently this country is at war with Germany." Similarly the French issued an ultimatum, which was presented in Berlin at 1230, saying France would be at war unless a 1700 deadline for the troops' withdrawal was adhered to.

King George has called upon "my people at home and my peoples across the seas". He continued: "I ask them to stand calm, firm and united in this time of trial. The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield. But we can only do the right as we see the right and reverently commit our cause to God." A War Cabinet of nine members has been set up with two new ministers, including Winston Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty, the post he held at the outbreak of World War I. Lord Hankey becomes Minister without Portfolio. Anthony Eden will take over as Dominions Secretary with special access to the War Cabinet. Mr Eden resigned from the post of Secretary of Foreign Affairs last year because he disagreed with the policy of appeasement.

The National Service (Armed Forces) Act has been passed making all men between 18 and 41 liable for conscription. The armed forces have already been mobilized for war and in July the first Territorial Army conscripts were called up. Latest reports from Poland say the Germans have bombed a number of towns and cities, some with little or no strategic importance. About 1,500 are reported to have been killed or injured in the attacks on Friday and Saturday. In his broadcast to the nation, Mr Chamberlain spoke of his sadness that "the long struggle to win peace" had failed. He continued: "I cannot believe that there is anything more or anything different that I could have done and that would have been more successful."

Yesterday there was anger in the House of Commons over the Government's apparent delay in taking action against Germany. Labour's deputy leader Arthur Greenwood had accused the Prime Minister of vacillating when "Britain and all that Britain stands for are in peril". Today's declaration of war was received with rousing cheers. As Mr Chamberlain informed the House Britain could not take part in a five-power conference proposed by Italy while Poland was being invaded. It has also been received with great enthusiasm in the Polish capital, Warsaw, where crowds took to the streets outside the British and French embassies cheering and singing.

In Context

Hitler's increasingly aggressive foreign policy led to the invasion of the Czech lands (Bohemia and Moravia) in March 1939. Britain and France subsequently agreed to support Poland in the event of a German invasion. But their agreement did little to deter Hitler, who attacked Poland on 1 September 1939. The outbreak of war led to large-scale evacuation of women and children from London and other large cities. Other emergency measures were also declared. For months there were no air raids during the period now known as the "phoney war" and many evacuees returned home. Fighting on the mainland began in earnest when Germany attacked Norway in April 1940 followed by the Low Countries and finally France on 21 June.



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The Essex Senior Football League

Results & Fixtures 2024-25

Wednesday 27th August 2025

BBC Essex Senior Cup Round 1

Cannons Wood	0-7	Halstead Town
Frenford	2-0	Southend Manor
Ilford	1-2	Hullbridge Sports
Rayleigh T. (pens)	1-1	Barking
Woodford Town	4-1	Wivenhoe Town

Little Oakley	v	Ilford
Saffron Walden T.	v	Athletic Newham
Sporting Bengal U.	v	Harwich & Parkeston
White Ensign	v	West Essex

The Emirates FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round

Bury Town	v	Woodford Town
Leiston	v	Hackney Wick
Soul Tower Hamlets	v	Flackwell Heath

Friday 29th August 2025

Premier Division

Sporting Bangal Utd	2-0	Basildon United
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Saturday 30th August 2025

Premier Division

Buckhurst Hill	0-2	Hullbridge Sports
Halstead Town	2-0	Great Wakering Rovers
Little Oakley	2-2	Barking
Romford	2-2	Athletic Newham
West Essex	1-3	Harwich & Parkeston

The Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

Enfield	3-1	Ilford
Knaphill	1-2	Hackney Wick
Soul Tower Hamlets	4-1	Ascot United
Newmarket Town	2-3	Woodford Town

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Premier Division

Hackney Wick	v	Frenford
Ilford	v	Benfleet
Soul Tower Hamlets	v	Saffron Walden Town
White Ensign	v	Woodford Town

Friday 5th September 2025

Premier Division

Woodford Town	v	Romford
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Saturday 6th September 2025

Premier Division

Athletic Newham	v	Halstead Town
Barking	v	Sporting Bengal United
Basildon United	v	West Essex
Frenford	v	Little Oakley
Great Wakering Rov.	v	Saffron Walden Town
Harwich & Parkes.	v	Buckhurst Hill
Hullbridge Sports	v	White Ensign
Ilford	v	Hackney Wick
Soul Tower Hamlets	v	Benfleet

Saturday 13th September 2025

Premier Division

Benfleet	v	Barking
Buckhurst Hill	v	Great Wakering Rovers
Frenford	v	Hullbridge Sports

Saturday 20th September 2025

Premier Division

Athletic Newham	v	Sporting Bengal United
Harwich & Parkes.	v	White Ensign
Saffron Walden T.	v	Little Oakley
Woodford Town	v	Basildon United

The Isuzu FA Vase 2nd Qualifying Round

Benfleet	v	West Essex
Cannons Wood	v	Great Wakering Rov.
Halstead Town	v	Coggeshall Town
Harlow Town	v	Hullbridge Sports
Hoddesdon Town	v	Buckhurst Hill
Ilford	v	May & Baker
Little Oakley	v	Colney Heath
Lynmore Gardens	v	Frenford
Saffron Walden T.	v	Hackney Wick
Soul Tower Hamlets	v	Bridon Ropes
Saffron Walden T.	v	Hackney Wick

Monday 22nd September 2025

Essex Senior Cup Round 2

Basildon United	v	Benfleet
Romford	v	Takeley
Woodford Town	v	Rayleigh Town

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Essex Senior Cup Round 2

Frenford	v	Little Oakley
Halstead Town	v	Stanway Rovers
Harlow Town	v	Hullbridge Sports
Saffron Walden T.	v	Athletic Newham
West Essex	v	Great Wakering R.

Wednesday 24th September 2025

Essex Senior Cup Round 2

Basildon Town	v	Harwich Parkeston
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London Senior Cup Round 1

Sporting Bengal U.	v	Athletic Newham
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Berkshire Youth Development FL
Blackwater & Dengie Youth FL
Braintree & North Essex SL
Brentwood SL
Chelmsford SL
Cheshire FL
Chiltern Church FL
Combined Counties FL
Croydon Municipal SL
Echo Junior FL
Essex & Suffolk Border FL
Essex Olympian FL
Essex County Womens FL

Essex Veterans FL

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Hitchin SL
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Middlesex County SL
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Mid-Essex FL
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Newbury SL
Northern Cup Final
Sevenoaks & District FL
Southend Borough Combination FL
Southend Borough Comb. Vets FL
Southend Charity Cup Final
Southend Junior FL
Southend & Basildon SL
Southern Sunday FL
Southern Veterans FL
Suburban FL
Surrey County Intermediate FL
Swindon SL
Tandridge Youth FL
Thames Valley Counties Womens FL
Thurrock Association SL
West Sussex FL



The Essex Senior Football League

League Table (2nd September 2025)

<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>
Woodford Town	4	4	0	0	12	4	12
Saffron Walden Town	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
Little Oakley	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Barking	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
Great Wakering Rovers	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Harwich & Parkeston	5	3	0	2	7	9	9
Soul Tower Hamlets	4	2	2	0	13	7	8
Halstead Town	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Benfleet	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
White Ensign	4	2	0	2	10	9	6
Hullbridge Sports	5	2	0	3	6	11	6
Sporting Bengal United	5	1	2	2	6	11	5
Ilford	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Romford	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
Hackney Wick	4	1	1	2	8	10	4
Frenford	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Buckhurst Hill	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Basildon United	5	1	0	4	4	6	3
West Essex	5	0	2	3	5	11	2
Athletic Newham	5	0	2	3	7	15	2

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Ilford Football Club History

From Our Famous Past



ILFORD FC V DULWICH HAMLET - 1974 - QF FA AMATEUR CUP
IT'S FEBRUARY 1974 AND ILFORD (WEARING RED) TAKE ON DULWICH HAMLET AT LYNN ROAD IN THE QUARTER FINAL STAGE OF THE FA AMATEUR CUP. ILFORD HAVE ALREADY PUT OUT KINGSTONIAN, BROCKENHURST AND HIGHGATE UTD. IN THIS SHOT THE HOME SIDE DEFENDS THE LEY STREET END, WITH RIGHT BACK DENNIS BOWHILL SHIELDING THE BALL. ALSO IN THE SHOT, GIANT CENTRE HALF PETER ANDERSON AND (RIGHT) CAPTAIN PADDY BETSON. A TITANIC DUEL ENDS WITH THE SCORES LEVEL AT 1-1. A WEEK LATER AN EVEN CLOSER REPLAY SEES ILFORD SNATCH AN HEROIC 1-0 VICTORY AND EARNING THE SIDE A SEMI-FINAL SHOWDOWN AT THE DEN VERSUS LEATHERHEAD.



Essex Senior Football League

Grounds Map & Directory 2025-26 Season



Athletic Newham



Barking



Basildon United



Benfleet



Buckhurst Hill



Frenford



Great Wakering Rovers



Hackney Wick



Halstead Town



Harwich & Parkeston



Hullbridge Sports



Ilford



Little Oakley



Romford



Saffron Walden Town



Soul Tower Hamlets



Sporting Bengal United



West Essex



White Ensign



Woodford Town





Ilford Football Club

1st Team Results, Fixtures, Scorers, Etc

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPOSITION</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>SCORERS</u>	<u>ATT</u>
26/07/2025	Buckhurst Hill	Lge	1-3	Luzolo	92
29/07/2025	Frenford	Lge	3-1	Addai, Akpele, Luzolo	54
02/08/2025	Leverstock Green	FACEP	1-0	Luzolo	97
06/08/2025	WEST ESSEX	Lge	0-0		125
09/08/2025	Great Wakering Rovers	Lge	1-2	Luzolo	107
16/08/2025	Ware	FACP	2-2	Luzolo, Adu	121
20/08/2025	WARE	FACP Rep,	1-1	Trush (<i>won on pens</i>)	TBA
23/08/2025	ROMFORD	FAV1Q	2-0	Hobi, Habib	105
25/08/2025	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS	ESC1	1-2	Tansele	73
30/08/2025	Enfield	FAC1	1-3	Adu	TBA
03/09/2025	BENFLEET	Lge	H		
06/09//2025	HACKNEY WICK	Lge	H		
13/09/2025	Little Oakley	Lge	A		
20/09/2025	MAY & BAKER EC	FAV2	H		
22/09/2025	BENFLEET	ESC2	H		
27/09/2025	Basildon United	Lge	A		
01/10/2025	HALSTEAD TOWN	Lge	H		
04/10/2025	Woodford Town	Lge	A		
11/10/2025	HARWICH & PARKESTON	Lge	H		
18/10/2025	Soul Tower Hamlets	Lge	A		
25/10/2025	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS	Lge	H		
01/11/2025	White Ensign	Lge	A		
08/11/2025	Athletic Newham	Lge	A		
15/11/2025	ROMFORD	Lge	H		
22/11/2025	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	Lge	H		
29/11/2025	Sporting Bengal United	Lge	A		
06/12/2025	West Essex	Lge	A		
13/12/2025	FRENFORD	Lge	H		
27/12/2025	Barking	Lge	A		
03/01/2026	Saffron Walden Town	Lge	A		
10/01/2026	BUCKHURST HILL	Lge	H		
17/01/2026	Halstead Town	Lge	A		
24/01/2026	Romford	Lge	A		
31/01/2026	LITTLE OAKLEY	Lge	H		
07/02/2026	ATHLETIC NEWHAM	Lge	H		
14/02/2026	Hackney Wick	Lge	A		
21/02/2026	WHITE ENSIGN	Lge	H		
28/02/2026	SOUL TOWER HAMLETS	Lge	H		
07/03/2026	Harwich & Parkeston	Lge	A		
14/03/2026	BASILDON UNITED	Lge	H		
21/03/2026	Hullbridge Sports	Lge	A		
28/03/2026	BARKING	Lge	H		
04/04/2026	SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN	Lge	H		
11/04/2026	Benfleet	Lge	A		
18/04/2026	WOODFORD TOWN	Lge	H		
25/04/2026	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS	Lge	H		
TBA	TBA	PBMT	?		



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#ITSOKAYTOTALK

We are a peer to peer support group for men. Come have a brew and a chat!



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 unforseen tax bill. With hopes for the new ground dashed, a hasty groundshare with Leytonstone was contrived.

he 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



Wednesday 3rd September 2025



Todays Teams



Colours: Blue & White
Manager: Chris Davis

Colours: Yellow
Manager: Leo Scott



ILFORD FC

FROM:
JOEL APPIAH (C)
MICHAEL OKAFOR
JEREMY ARTHUR
EMMANUEL WAZOLA
LOUIS HIOBI
WILKINSON BOATENG (GK)
ABDUL SHOBOWALE
TYLLA ADDAI
GREG AKPELE
SAIKOU JATTA
MAKSYM TRUSH
DANIEL MOROZ
BENJI EBOH
CHRIS BARBOSA
VASYL PASICHNIAK
ANDREW TAFENI
DION TANSELE
ABDUL RAHMAN
MICHAEL ADU
NIK AHMADI
NICKAL LUZOLO
MOHAMED HABIB
MUAMAR OSMAN

FROM:
FLORENT GISLETTE
JACK FROST
BILLY SHULVER
MATTHEW STEVENS-BROWN
JAKE GODFREY
CALLUM LEGG
BILLY CARTER
GIANNI FRANKIS
LUCAS POLYBLANK
MAX JOBSON
MASON SHAVE (C)
TOBY DICKINSON
SAMUEL JOBBINS
NATHAN SAUNDERS
ISAAC LONG
MACK POLYBLANK
AARON RUSSELL
TAYLOR LAWRENCE
JAYDEN OSHITOLA
JOSH WAKEFIELD
SONNY HARTMAN

BENFLEET FC

THE MATCH OFFICIALS



Referee:

BRUNO MARQUES

Assistant Referees:

MARK POULTER

&

MARK BATE

NEXT HOME MATCH:

**Saturday 6th
September 2025**

v

**HACKNEY WICK
at Cricklefields 3.00pm**

*Essex Senior FL
Premier Division*