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MATCHDAY



Hullbridge Sports FC **V** Harwich & Parkeston FC

Saturday 4th April 2026

Kick off 3pm

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WELCOME TO HULLBRIDGE SPORTS FC

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the T.J. Cottis Stadium for today's Essex Senior League Premier fixture between The Bridge and Harwich & Parkeston.

May we take this opportunity to welcome the staff, officials, and players of our opponents, and hope for an entertaining and competitive match. May the best team win, and hopefully that's the team in Blue & White!

Our last home match against Benfleet on Non-League Day resulted in a 4-1 win for The Bridge in front of a fantastic crowd of 501. You can read all about that match elsewhere in the programme.

The season is now in its final stages but we still have plenty of home action (and one away!) to enjoy. Check out the fixture list in the programme. We now know that we will travel to Halstead Town for the Errington Cup Semi-Final. The game will take place at Halstead on Tuesday, 21st April at 7:45 pm, so get there to support the lads if you can.

Thanks for attending today's game, and don't forget to enjoy the clubhouse and café facilities, all part of an enjoyable afternoon at the football! Get ready to cheer your favourite team to victory, and we hope you enjoy your day at the T.J.Cottis Stadium, home of The Bridge.

MATCH DAY - The official HSFC matchday programme.

Today's match officials:

Referee: Joe Wise

Assistant: Chris Hockett & Alfie Debono

Design & content by @SimplyCreate, Gareth Thwaites, Gary Milbourn & Dave Colmer



TODAYS OPPONENTS



CLUB FACTS:

FOUNDED: 1875

NICJNAME: THE SHRIMPERS

GROUND: ROYAL OAK, HARWICH

CHAIRMAN: TONY ARMSTRONG

FIRST TEAM MANAGERS: MATT CARMICHAEL & SEAN TYNAN

History

The modern-day Harwich and Parkeston began life as Harwich FC in 1875, a date which makes the club the second oldest in Essex.

The early years involved only friendlies (played in a blue kit) and it wasn't until 1886 that club played its first competitive game – losing 6–0 at Colchester Town in an Essex Senior Cup tie! By that stage, the club had changed its name to Harwich and Dovercourt FC but in 1889 it merged with Parkeston FC as the current name was taken on.

It was also in the Essex Senior Cup that the club reached its first final but that 1891 clash also went badly, Clapton winning 7–0.

The following year, Harwich made some significant history when they played host to Belgian side Antwerp in what has been officially recognised as the first-ever meeting of an English team and a continental European team on English soil.

League football was played for the first time in 1895/96 when the North Essex League was entered – and won.

Having originally played home matches on Barrack Field and then at the seafront Phoenix Ground – where balls were often lost to the sea – the club moved to the Royal Oak ground in 1898 where they have remained ever since.

The 1898/99 season was to prove memorable for other reasons too with a run to the FA Amateur Cup final. Staged in Middlesbrough, the final saw Harwich defeated 1–0 by Stockton thanks to a controversial late goal.



However, just nine days later, the Essex Senior Cup was lifted for the first time with Leytonstone beaten 2–0.

After playing in kits of varying colour, the club switched to its current black and white stripes in 1912. Several local leagues were contested in the early part of the 20th Century but the club started to attract attention from further afield in the 1930s, now widely regarded as its greatest era. The Shrimpers, as they were by now nicknamed, won back-to-back East Anglian Cups in 1933 and 1934.

Looking to test themselves against better opposition, Harwich moved into the Southern Amateur League for the 1934/35 campaign but they actually failed to complete their fixtures due to their success in several cup competitions.

The FA Cup first round was reached for the first time, a trip to Bristol Rovers bringing a 3–0 defeat. The Shrimpers were beaten in the Essex Senior Cup final but won the Amateur Football Alliance Senior Cup – the first of what would be a unique ‘three-peat’.

Centre forward Albert ‘Tully’ Day scored 76 goals that season, some of the 402 he managed in Harwich colours. Both figures remain club records to this day.

The following season saw HPFC become founder members of the Eastern Counties League and they duly won the league and cup double, albeit they were forced to share the league title with Lowestoft – the pair drawing a play-off 3–3 at Colchester after finishing level on points.

The 1936/37 campaign is arguably the club’s best ever to date, three trophies being won, including the Essex Senior Cup and the ECL Cup. There was also a return to the FA Cup first round, this time current Premier League side Bournemouth proved too good, winning 5–1.

The next season saw the Royal Oak’s record attendance of 5,649 set for an Amateur Cup quarter-final defeat to Romford but soon the great 30s side would be broken up by the declaration of war.



The side was rebuilt in the late 1940s and in 1953 came the most famous day in club history – the FA Amateur Cup final at Wembley in front of a non-league record crowd of 100,000. After winning six ties to reach Wembley, the big day sadly brought a 6–0 defeat to Pegasus, a team made up of Oxford and Cambridge University players of the past and present.

The final appearance earned them another shot at the FA Cup first round. This time the Shrimpers received a home draw but blew a two-goal lead in losing 3–2 to Headington (now Oxford) United.

At the start of the 1960s, there were two more appearances in the FA Cup ‘proper’. In 1961, a trip to Torquay United ended in a 5–1 defeat, while two years later a visit to Crystal Palace’s Selhurst Park brought an 8–2 drubbing.

Harwich’s long membership of the ECL ended in 1964 when the club moved into the Athenian League and there was immediate success with the Division Two title captured in 1964/65 under manager Eric Armstrong, father of current club chairman Tony. It remains the last time the first team won a league.

There was also another Amateur Cup run, this one ending at the quarter-final stage as Whitby won a replay 3–2 after a goalless draw on the Oak.

Promotion to the Premier Division was achieved the following season as the club competed well with teams across south-east England.

Floodlights were added to the Oak in 1968, switched on by England World Cup winner Geoff Hurst as West Ham visited the ground for a celebratory friendly.

The club switched to the Isthmian League in 1973 and enjoyed some memorable days during their decade as members.

In 1975/76, Harwich enjoyed their best-ever run in the FA Trophy, beating Barnet, Stourbridge and a Weymouth team including former England international Jeff Astle before losing to Bedford in the last 16.

The following season saw the club’s sixth and most recent appearance in the FA Cup first round. Many felt the hard work had been done when Enfield were held on their own patch to a 0–0 draw but three days later the non-league giants won 3–0 on the Oak.



Harwich narrowly missed out on promotion to the top tier of the Isthmian League that season, a third-placed finish being regarded as their highest-ever in the non-league pyramid.

The early 80s saw a decline in fortunes with relegation to the Athenian League for one season before that was disbanded and so the Shrimpers returned, after a 20-year absence, to the ECL which brought reduced travel.

Former Ipswich and England star Kevin Beattie famously played for the club in the mid-80s but it wasn't until the end of the decade that success would return to the Royal Oak.

With former Arsenal defender Richie Powling as manager, Harwich lifted the Essex Senior Trophy in 1990 and the following season they enjoyed a famous FA Vase run which included memorable wins over Sudbury Town on the Oak and Cammell Laird on Merseyside. However, a quarter-final against eventual runners-up Gresley Rovers proved a step too far.

A few months later Glen Hepburn scored a post-War record seven goals in one game as Haverhill Rovers were beaten 9-0. He finished with 48 in the 1991/92 season, another record but one which would be eclipsed by Paul Smith in 1994/95 as he helped himself to 51.

Despite all the goals – and winning plenty of matches in numerous competitions – Harwich had been unable to mount a serious title challenge in the ECL until the arrival of Colin Hill as boss.

Under Hill, the long wait for a league title seemed set to end in 1996/97 but having established a 12-point lead, the Shrimpers stuttered in the second half of the season as both eventual champions Wroxham and Wisbech overhauled them. The ECL Cup was decent consolation though, Haverhill Rovers being beaten 2-0 in the final.

With the playing budget having become unsustainable, the strong 90s side broke up at the end of that season and Harwich slipped down the ECL table.

Having previously been handed relegation reprieves, Harwich finally dropped into Division One in 2003, although Mitchell Springett's side bounced straight back, finishing second to win promotion.





Still, dark days soon returned and, weighed down by the debts of the 90s, the club took the decision to quit senior football in 2010, withdrawing from the ECL mid-season.

The club duly returned to the Essex and Suffolk Border League under the watch of current manager Matt Carmichael.

His initial four-year spell in charge brought two ESBL Knockout Cups (2012 and 2014) but it came to end after that second success after the club decided it was unable to return to senior level.

With players leaving as a result, the club decided to take voluntary demotion to Division One for the 2014/15 season – arguably the lowest level it has ever played at. With three teams above them ineligible to go up, a fifth-placed finish proved enough for an immediate return to the Premier Division.

A return to senior football was made in 2018 when, following a reorganisation of the pyramid by the FA, a new ECL division – Division One South – was created.

Harwich finished fifth in their first season back, one which included a post-War record 12-match winning run.

After two COVID-ruined seasons, the club switched to Division One North in 2022 and enjoyed immediate success.

Boss Sean Tynan led the Shrimpers to the play-offs but after Framlingham were beaten on penalties in the semi-finals, Downham proved too good in the promotion game, winning 4-0 on their own turf.

After narrowly missing out on a return to the play-offs in 2023/24, Tynan passed the reins back to Matt Carmichael and – in the year of the club's 150th anniversary – he led the club to promotion

Stanway Pegasus were defeated in the play-off final on penalties to book the club's first-ever season in the Essex Senior League.



Honours

- Athenian League
 - Division Two champions 1964–65
 - Division Two Cup winners 1964–65
- Eastern Counties League
 - Champions 1935–36 (joint)
 - League Cup winners 1935–36, 1936–37, 1996–97
- Essex County League
 - Champions 1937–38
- North Essex League
 - Division One champions 1895–96, 1896–97, 1898–99
- Colchester & District League
 - Division One champions 1908–09
- Essex & Suffolk Border League
 - Senior Division champions 1913–14, 1920–21, 1921–22, 1922–23, 1928–29, 1931–32, 1932–33, 1933–34
 - League Cup winners 2011–12, 2013–14
- Ipswich & District League
 - Senior Division champions 1922–23
- Essex Senior Cup
 - Winners 1898–99, 1936–37
- Essex Senior Trophy
 - Winners 1989–90
- East Anglian Cup
 - Winners 1932–33, 1933–34
- Amateur Football Alliance Senior Cup
 - Winners 1934–35, 1935–36, 1936–37

Records

- Best FA Cup performance: First round, 1934–35, 1936–37, 1953–54, 1961–62, 1963–64, 1976–77
- Best FA Trophy performance: Third round, 1975–76
- Best FA Vase performance: Quarter-finals, 1990–91
- Record attendance: 5,649 vs Romford, FA Amateur Cup quarter-final



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CLUB HISTORY

Records show that Hullbridge United Football Club was formed by a group of local men, fronted by the then proprietor of the Anchor Inn, a Mr. A. W. Moss, who owned a room behind the pub known as Buff's Hall. This was where the club held its first meeting. A Mr. Brown generously allowed the club to play on his land, on the corner of Pooles Lane and Long Lane.

Hullbridge United's first colours were Green and Gold quartered shirts, White shorts, and Green socks, which, by an amazing coincidence, were the same colours as those on the flag flying outside the Anchor Inn!

As a reflection of the clubs' 75-year history, the colours were brought back for the 2022/23 season as the official away kit.





Affiliating to the Essex County FA in 1947, Hullbridge United entered the Southend & District League for the upcoming 1947–48 season. 1950–51 saw Hullbridge United reach their first Cup Finals, winning the Section 'C' Final of the Southend Charity Competition, and losing in the Southend & District League's French Cup.

In season 1951–52, Hullbridge gained promotion, winning both the Championship and the French Cup, and in the summer of 1953, the club changed its name to Hullbridge Sports. They won the 1956–57 Third Division Championship and the League's Shaw Cup.

During the late 1950's and early 1960's the club moved up and down the divisions, and in 1965–66 they won the First Division Championship and Section 'C' of the Southend Charity Competition.

A respectable fifth-place finish was achieved in the Premier Division the following season, before relegation in 1968–69. Just three seasons later, the club regained their Premier Division status, finishing runner-up to Canvey Island Amateur FC at the end of the 1971–72 season.

In the late 1970s, the club took control of 16.5 acres of farmland in Lower Road with the club moving in 1980 and the clubhouse officially opening in 1983 and, looking for a higher standard of football, Sports then joined the Essex Olympian League for the 1984–85 season and immediately won promotion after finishing third in the Second Division. At the end of the 1987–88 season, Hullbridge (now in the Second Division again) brought home the Essex Intermediate League Cup, beating First Division Benfleet in the Final.

Ground improvements were made during 1989, so the ground passed the grade for senior football, and in 1990, the Essex County FA granted the club senior status, and the club joined the Essex Senior League for the 1990–91 season and finished in a respectable 12th place.





The new floodlights were put to good use during the 1999–2000 season when the youth team reached the Third Round (last 64) of the FA Youth Cup. Visitors Blackburn Rovers won the tie 6–0 in front of a crowd of over 800.

Enrico Tiritera was installed as manager in February 2006, and in the 2008–09 season, the club attained a record 41 points over a 30–match programme and also reached the Quarter–finals of the East Anglian Cup. In 2009–10, Hullbridge reached the Quarter–finals of the Essex Senior Cup before losing narrowly 0–1 to Football League side Dagenham & Redbridge. Sports reached their first Cup Final as a senior club in 2010–11, losing the Tolleshunt D’Arcy Memorial Cup Final 2–1 to Braintree Town.

Dan Braney and Mark Bliss took over the reins from Enrico Tiritera, and they guided the team to their best–ever FA Vase Cup run, reaching the Fourth Round (last 32), before being beaten 1–3 by eventual winners Sholing FC. The team set a new points record with 53 points from a 38–game season, a new club points record, but the icing on the cake was winning the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy, the first–ever silverware as a senior club, beating Haringey Borough 1–0 in the final, Michael Edgar scoring the only goal.

Mark Bliss took sole charge of the team during the 2014/15 season, joined by coach Steve Tapley. They took the club to its highest–ever league position and points tally, finishing fourth in the Essex Senior League with 71 points, and enjoyed another good run in the FA Vase.

In 2015/16, Hullbridge appointed its youngest–ever management team, with Rob Hodgson as First Team Manager and Aaron Hunwicks as Coach. They took the club to new FA Cup heights, being beaten by Grays Athletic in the Second Qualifying Round, and they reached the last 32 in the FA Vase.





The duo continued in the hot seat at the start of the 2017/18 season, but early exits from the FA Cup, Essex County Cup, and poor league form saw an emotional farewell, and Darren Manning was installed as manager.

Manning managed to achieve his goal of keeping the club in the Essex Senior League, finishing 15th (out of 21), and the following season, Darren and assistant James Wakeling achieved a record total of 87 points, winning the Essex Senior League and being promoted to the Isthmian League for the first time in the club's history.

Both the 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons were terminated due to the COVID pandemic, and finally, in 2021–22, a full season was completed. This season is famous for 'The Great Escape' as The Bridge staged an unbelievable rescue mission after appearing to be in an impossible position in December. Newly installed managers Steve Southgate & Rob Moore, and talisman striker Tony Stokes led The Bridge on a rollercoaster ride as they survived relegation and finished 16th, with 39 points from 38 games.

The amazing run of form that produced 'The Great Escape' allowed The Bridge to survive and take their place in the Isthmian League North for the 2022–23 season, and to celebrate 75 years of Hullbridge football. However, there were no league celebrations and there was no 'Great Escape' this season as The Bridge were relegated, finishing bottom of the division with just 22 points from 38 games.

Back in the Essex Senior League for season 2023–24, hopes were high for a quick return to the Isthmian League North, and Justin Gardner took over as manager. The Bridge finished in 12th place and departed the FA Cup and FA Vase in the early rounds. Gardner departed at the end of the season, and Hullbridge locals, Steve Roberts and Tom Ranger, were put in charge for season 24/25. Their first season in charge ended in a disappointing 18th-place finish, just above the relegation places, but with an 8-point gap to relegated Stansted.





Now led by Marc Harrison and Liam Wallace, together they form a settled and unified management partnership, combining experience, familiarity, and a shared ambition to continue pushing Hullbridge Sports FC forward.

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-  Building a long term community impact programme.





FIXTURES 25/26

Date	Venue	Competition	Opponents	Result/ KO	F	A	Scorers
July 2025							
Sat 27	A	ESL	Saffron Walden Town	L	0	4	
Tue 29	H	ESL	LITTLE OAKLEY	L	1	4	Knott
August 2025							
Sat 2	H	FA Cup EP	BASILDON UNITED	W	3	1	Braney3 (1 pen)
Wed 6	A	ESL	Romford	W	2	1	Braney 2
Sat 9	H	ESL	HACKNEY WICK	L	1	4	Thompson-Shaw (OG)
Sat 16	A	FA Cup P	Brightlingsea Regent	L	1	2	Hart
Sat 23	H	FA Vase 1Q	STANSTED	W	5	0	Braney 2, Hauser, Zlatev
Wed 27	A	ESC 1	Ilford	W	2	1	Sonuga, Hart
Sat 30	A	ESL	Buckhurst Hill	A	2	0	Braney (pen), Briton-
September 2025							
Sat 6	H	ESL	WHITE ENSIGN	L	1	4	Knott
Sat 13	A	ESL	Frenford	W	8	0	Braney 4, Sarmiento-Ramirez, Knott, Boag, Briton-Watkins
Sat 20	A	FA Vase 2Q	Harlow Town	W 3-0 pens	2	2	Braney, Bragg
Tue 23	A	ESC 2	Harlow Town	W	3	1	Bragg 2, Braney
Sat 27	H	ESL	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS	D	1	1	Briton-Watkins
October 2025							
Wed 1	A	ESL	SOUL Tower Hamlets	L	0	1	
Sat 4	A	ESL	Barking	L	0	4	
Sat 11	H	ESL	WEST ESSEX	L	0	2	
Sat 18	H	FA Vase 1	WHITTLESEY ATHLETIC	L	0	3	
Tue 21	H	ESC 3	WITHAM TOWN	L	1	3	Briton-Watkins
Sat 25	A	ESL	Ilford	L	0	2	
Tue 28	A	PBMT 1	Romford	W 4-2 pens	1	1	K Feyl
November 2025							
Sat 1	H	ESL	ATHLETIC NEWHAM	L	1	5	Willis
Sat 8	A	ESL	Sporting Bengal United	W	3	0	K Feyl, Joseph (OG), Carvalho-Pedro



Sat 15	H	ESL	BASILDON UNITED	L	0	2	
Sat 22	A	ESL	Harwich & Parkeston	L	1	2	Devereux
Sat 29	H	ESL	WOODFORD TOWN	L	0	4	
December 2025							
Tue 2	H	PBMT 2	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS	W	2	1	Devereux 2
Sat 6	A	ESL	White Ensign	W	1	0	Nolde
Sat 13	A	ESL	Athletic Newham	W	6	2	Devereux 3 (1 pen), McFarlane 2, Sasay
Sat 20	H	ESL	HALSTEAD TOWN	W	3	2	Devereux 2, Sassi
Sat 27	A	ESL	Benfleet	L	2	3	Devereux 2

Date	Venue	Competition	Opponents	Result/ KO	F	A	Scorers
January 2026							
Sat 3	H	ESL	BUCKHURST HILL	ABAND	A	A	
Sat 10	A	ESL	West Essex	W	3	2	Devereux 2, Sassi
Tue 13	A	ECC 2	Saffron Walden Town	W	3	0	Clark 2, Willis
Sat 17	H	ESL	SOUL TOWER HAMLETS	D	1	1	Willis (Pen)
Tue 20	A	PBMT QF	Benfleet	W 8-7 pens	1	1	Mochalski
Sat 24	A	ESL	Basildon United	W	3	1	Devereux 2, Apengteng
Sat 31	A	ESL	Woodford Town	W	2	0	Apengteng, Clark
February 2026							
Tue 3	H	ESL	BUCKHURST HILL	P-P	P	P	
Sat 7	H	ESL	BARKING	P-P	P	P	
Sat 14	A	ESL	Halstead Town	L	0	1	
Sat 21	H	ESL	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	W	2	1	Devereux, Da Lomba
Tue 24	H	ESL	BARKING	W	4	2	Apengteng 2, Willis (Pen), Mochalski
Sat 28	A	ESL	Little Oakley	L	0	1	
March 2026							
Tue 3	A	ECC QF	Athletic Newham	W	4	1	Willis (Pen), Apengteng, Briton-Watkins, Devereux
Tue 10	H	ESL	FRENFORD	W	4	2	Devereux 2, McFadden, Unwin
Sat 14	A	ESL	Great Wakering Rovers	L	1	2	Hart
Wed 18	A	PBMT SF	Barking	L	1	3	Hart



Sat 21	H	ESL	ILFORD	D	0	0	
Sat 28	H	ESL	BENFLEET	W	4	1	Anderson 2, McFarlane, Devereux
April 2026							
Sat 4	H	ESL	HARWICH & PARKESTON	3:00 pm			
Sat 11	H	ESL	ROMFORD	3:00 pm			
Tue 14	H	ESL	BUCKHURST HILL	7:45 pm			
Sat 18	H	ESL	SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN	3:00 pm			
Tue 21	A	ECC SF	Halstead Town	7:45 pm			
Sat 25	A	ESL	Hackney Wick	3:00 pm			

KEY:

ESL – Essex Senior League – Premier

FA Cup – Emirates FA Cup

FA Vase – Isuzu FA Vase

ESC – BBC Essex Senior Cup

PBMT – Peter Butcher Memorial Trophy

ECC – Errington Challenge Cup



MATCH REPORT



WE ARE THE BRIDGE

The Bridge - 4

Benfleet - 1

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE - PREMIER

45 SAM TAYLOR

2 BILLY WILLIS (C)

3 LEO CLARK

4 ROWAN BALESTRERI

5 TOM ANDERSON

6 OLLIE JENKINS

7 KELSON MCFARLANE

8 JEAN PAUL JHONNES-RAMOS

9 ELLIS DEVEREUX

10 PATRICK DA LOMBA

11 JACK UNWIN



12 MO MALIK

14 KAMEL SASSI

15 HARRY BARHAM

16 JACK AYRES

17 MARSHALL MAY



45 JOSH WAKEFIELD

3 BILLY SHULVER

5 JAKE GODFREY

7 JACOB WIGGINS

8 AARON RUSSELL (C)

10 TAYLOR LAWRENCE

11 AARON AKOMAN

12 BILLY PURDY

15 MASON SHAVE

17 CAMERON HARRIS

19 SAMUEL JOBBINS



2 JACK FROST

4 BROOK WILKINS

14 CALLUM LEGG

16 RILEY PRENDERGAST

18 NATHAN SAUNDERS





MATCH REPORT cont.

Well, what a great night this was! The last game of Non-League Day and a big crowd turned out at Lower Road to see The Bridge in fine form as they romped to a 4-1 win over local rivals Benfleet, with over 500 in attendance and a great atmosphere in the T.J. Cottis Stadium.

Everything was set up, and The Bridge didn't disappoint as they started the game well and continued it throughout. The Bridge stated their intentions early as Ellis Devereux headed wide from a Kelson McFarlane cross, and then both Kelson and Jack Unwin had shots go wide of the Benfleet goal. Kelson was involved a lot in the game, and Fleet goalkeeper Josh Wakefield was called upon to turn a good effort from Kelson wide for a corner that resulted in the first Bridge goal.

Leo Clark sent the corner to the back post, and Tom Anderson evaded the visitors' defence to head home despite an attempt to head it off the line that failed as The Bridge took the lead. The visitors hadn't really threatened the Hullbridge goal at this stage until a long throw was headed on and then headed wide by Mason Shave. You could say it was a close shave, but it wasn't really!

The Bridge continued to have the upper hand, and Ellis Devereux's cross was caught by keeper Wakefield before a superb pass from JP Jhannes-Ramos set McFarlane free, and he made no mistake, chipping the keeper for 2-0. Jack Unwin received a yellow card, and Jake Wiggin's free kick that followed was headed wide by Cameron Harris as Benfleet tried to strike back, but to no avail.



MATCH REPORT cont.

Benfleet didn't give up, though, and as the ball bounced around the Hullbridge penalty area, it fell to Aaron Russell, who fired in a shot, but it went wide. JP Jhonnes-Ramos then played another superb ball, this one with the outside of his right foot, that sent Kelson McFarlane through on goal, and he chipped keeper Wakefield, but the keeper just reached it and stopped the attempt.

Soon after, another great pass sent Pat Da Lomba through, but the linesman stopped him with his raised flag before he could make it 3-0. As half time approached, there was just time for Aaron Akoman to receive a yellow card for foot up, and the whistle blew with The Bridge holding their 2-0 advantage.

Two goals behind, Benfleet had to up their game if they were going to get back into the match, and after half-time, they did just that as they came out for the second half on the attack. They were awarded a free kick about 25 yards out and, ex-Bridge skipper Jake Wiggins fired it towards goal where 16-year-old debutante Sam Taylor tipped it onto the bar superbly, but Aaron Akoman was first to the rebound and headed home for 2-1.

With Benfleet back in the game, it was going to be interesting which way the game would go next. It could have been the Bridge who went further ahead, but when Jack Unwin put the ball in the net following a free kick, the goal was ruled out for a foul on the keeper by Ellis Devereux. Jack was getting more involved in the game now, and after a good run, his shot went wide, and then Kelson McFarlane played Jack in with a lovely, disguised pass, and Wakefield made a good save from Jack's shot on target.



MATCH REPORT cont.

Benfleet then had a couple of chances, one over the bar and one that required a good save from Sam Taylor as Akoman hit the target, and when the rebound fell to Taylor Lawrence, his shot went wide.

Ellis Devereux had a decent effort saved by Wakefield, and then a Kelson McFarlane corner was headed home by Tom Anderson, but again the goal was ruled out for a foul. Another Bridge attack saw Patrick Da Lomba's shot tipped wide for a corner, which McFarlane delivered, and Tom Anderson headed against the bar, but Ellis Devereux was on hand to force home the rebound. 3-1 to The Bridge!

The Bridge were now on top, and when Jack Unwin was fouled, McFarlane delivered a dangerous free kick that was touched on its way into the net by Tom Anderson, and it was 4-1.

There was little Benfleet could do to salvage the situation now, although Mason Shave and Jake Wiggins both had shots go wide, as did Marshall May for Hullbridge, but there was no further score, and The Bridge ran out comfortable 4-1 winners.

As I say, what a great evening and nice to see so many in attendance at Lower Road. Non-League Day is always a good day for fans to experience the joy of Non-League when they wouldn't necessarily do so otherwise, and I'm sure anyone watching this match would have enjoyed the game, and I, for one, enjoyed the game and the result!



MATCH REPORT cont.



COYB!



MAN OF THE MATCH: TOM ANDERSON

Another MOM performance from Tom, who is making a habit of this! Defensively sound again and even found time to contribute a couple of goals as well! Another top performance.



ESL LEAGUE TABLE

		Home				Away				Total				Pts			
		P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L		F	A	+/-
	1 Little Oakley	17	12	1	4	17	11	5	1	34	23	6	5	69	29	+40	75
	2 Great Wakering Rovers	18	13	4	1	16	9	3	4	34	22	7	5	86	39	+47	73
	3 Soul Tower Hamlets	17	12	3	2	15	9	4	2	32	21	7	4	75	40	+35	70
	4 Barking	18	13	2	3	15	6	4	5	33	19	6	8	88	46	+42	63
	5 Ilford	16	8	5	3	18	10	4	4	34	18	9	7	63	40	+23	63
	6 Buckhurst Hill	15	9	3	3	15	8	1	6	30	17	4	9	69	38	+31	55
	7 Saffron Walden Town	17	6	6	5	16	9	3	4	33	15	9	9	82	55	+27	54
	8 Halstead Town	17	9	5	3	17	6	2	9	34	15	7	12	61	56	+5	52
	9 Woodford Town	17	7	0	10	17	8	6	3	34	15	6	13	61	59	+2	51
	10 Benfleet	14	8	4	2	18	6	4	8	32	14	8	10	60	50	+10	50
	11 Hullbridge Sports	15	5	3	7	18	9	0	9	33	14	3	16	57	59	-2	45
	12 Harwich & Parkeston	17	6	5	6	14	5	1	8	31	11	6	14	41	64	-23	39
	13 Hackney Wick	17	6	1	10	17	6	2	9	34	12	3	19	54	84	-30	39
	14 Basildon United	17	5	3	9	17	5	1	11	34	10	4	20	40	69	-29	34
	15 White Ensign	17	5	1	11	16	4	5	7	33	9	6	18	54	64	-10	33
	16 Romford	16	2	4	10	18	5	5	8	34	7	9	18	49	81	-32	30
	17 West Essex	17	2	5	10	17	5	3	9	34	7	8	19	41	71	-30	29
	18 Sporting Bengal United	15	2	3	10	18	5	4	9	33	7	7	19	44	72	-28	28
	19 Athletic Newham	18	4	4	10	15	2	3	10	33	6	7	20	50	86	-36	25
	20 Frenford	16	4	2	10	17	1	4	12	33	5	6	22	34	76	-42	21

Last updated: Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 21:44:50



SPONSORS



YOUR CONSTRUCTION PARTNER



Talisman Specialty



Rooks Electrical



Strokes Swim School Ltd





Happy Hour
Friday 4pm to 7pm




All draught beers
£3.50




Bottles from £3



FIRST TEAM MANAGEMENT

Marc Harrison
First Team Manager

Marcus Spremulli
First Team Coach

Michael Barrett
First Team
Physiotherapist

Liam Wallace
First Team Assistant
Manager

Hayden Thwaites
First Team Coach

HSFC COMMITTEE

Mark Kemp
Chairman

John Gilbert
Director

Glenn Frost
Procurement

Tony Smith
Secretary

Lee Baker
Youth Football Lead

Lisa Wyatt
Child Welfare Officer

Gareth Thwaites
Chief Executive

Kevin Barnard
Funding & Project Planning

David Allen
Treasurer

Ashley Knott
Director

Kris Harris
Sponsorship Manager

Gary Milbourn
Media & Comms



Hullbridge Sports 1947 Limited

Hullbridge Sports Legal Structure

Hullbridge Sports 1947 Limited is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registration Number: 16203262

Registration Date: 23rd January 2025

Principal Contact:

Gareth Thwaites CEO
gareth@hullbridgesports.co.uk
07960-728577



Hullbridge Sports Association

Hullbridge Sports Association Legal Structure

Hullbridge Sports Association is a Registered Charity.

Charity Number: 1105274

Registration Date: 3rd August 2004

Principal Contact

Mark Kemp, Trustee / Club Chairman
mark@hullbridgesports.co.uk
01827-343677



THE SQUADS

MATCHDAY – HULLBRIDGE SPORTS V HARWICH & PARKESTON FC FC ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE PREMIER

HULLBRIDGE SPORTS

Manager: Marc Harrison

Assistant Manager: Liam Wallace

Coaches: Marcus Spremulli & Hayden Thwaites

Physio: Michael Barrett

Marlon Agyakwa	Julian Sarmiento-Ramirez
Tom Anderson	Kamel Sassi
Jack Ayres	Sam Taylor (GK)
Jaiden Babalola	Jack Unwin
Harry Barham	Billy Willis
Michael Bett (GK)	
Louis Bragg	
George Briton-Watkins	
Leo Clark	
Alex Crouch	
Ellis Devereux	
Ethan Evison	
Lewis Greene (GK)	
Connor Hart	
Oliver Jenkins	
Jean Paul Jhannes Ramos	
Freddie Lawless	
Mo Malik	
Marshall May	
Archie McFadden	
Kelson McFarlane	
Jack Mochalski	
Troy Osei-Bobie	
Darren Phillips ©	
Wyan Reid	

HARWICH & PARKESTON

Managers: Matt Carmichael & Sean Tynan

Assistant Manager: Gareth Heath

Coaches: Glenn Eldridge, Mark Sharp & John Watkins

Physio: Colin Rogers

Louis Bloom
Charlie Canham
Alfie Canning
Brad Cook (GK)
Jack Cosby
Jenson Goode
Reece Harte
Gareth Heath
Luke Hopwood
Reuben Keeys
Joe Knight
Luke Mayhew
Oakley McNair
Tiwa Odufuye
Zachary Pedro
Brandon Rusby
Tyler Sullivan
Tom Watkins
John Watkins
Liam White
Jack Wood