

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

## Wingate & Finchley vs Bowers & Pitsea



VS



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October 2024- 7.45PM KO

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# WINGATE & FINCHLEY FC

**Hello and welcome to the Maurice Rebak Stadium! We hope that all associated with the club, the match officials and the staff, players and officials of Bowers and Pitsea enjoy their stay in N12 this evening!**

We return to Summers Lane for our first home game in over three weeks, since our 1-1 draw with Chichester City on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Since then we have played twice on the road. First was on 28<sup>th</sup> September when we picked up a famous 2-1 win at the Crabble against a strong Dover Athletic side, who have spent much of their recent history in the top flight of non league.

Then on 5<sup>th</sup> October we were unfortunate to lose 1-0 to Chatham Town in the third qualifying round of the FA Trophy.

We did not play Bowers last season as they were playing in the Isthmian Division 1 North, so our last ties against the Essex side came in the 2022/23 season.

The most recent fixture was here at Summers Lane on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, a 4-3 win for the Blues, with goals from Antonis Vasiliou, goalkeeper Ben Goode and a Dylan Kearney brace.

The away return leg took place on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with goals from Elliot Long and Dernell Wynter taking a 2-2 draw. That season we also met in the FA Cup first qualifying round, winning 1-0 thanks to an Ambroisine strike.

**Company Name and Number:**

Wingate and Finchley Development Ltd, 6014465

**Ground:** The Maurice Rebak Stadium, Summers Lane, Finchley, London N12 0PD. Tel: 020 8446 2217

**Company Number:** 6014465

**Training Ground:** Barnet Lane, Barnet, EN5 2DN

**League Match Ticket Prices:**

£12 adults, £8 concession, £5 for ages 11-18, under 11 free

**Chairman:** Aron Sharpe

**Vice Chairman:** Nicky Rifat, Joe Sharpe

**President:** Harvey Ackerman

**Life Vice President:** David Ackerman

**Life Vice President:** David Wolff

**Life Vice President:** Peter Rebak

**Life Vice President:** Steven Astaire

**Director:** Paul Lerman

**Secretary:** Andrew Kouroushi

**Finance:** Liam Blaney

**First Team Manager:** Ahmet Rifat

**First Team Coaches:** Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel

**First Team Goalkeeping Coach:**

Gavin King

**First Team Analyst:** Michael Smith

**Kit Manager:** Peter Barker

**Head Groundsman:** Andy Ward

**Welfare Officer:** Jonny Georgiou

**Bar Manager:** Lorraine Coleman

**Matchday Hospitality:** Tony Ward

**Programme Editor:** Joshua Palmer

# CLUB NOTES

## **Congratulations David Wolff!**

Our life vice-president David Wolff has recently received the London FA's Bobby Moore Award for 2024 Grassroots Heroes Award (sponsored by Panini!)

Congratulations David!

Mr Wolff is also chairman of the Maccabi (Southern) GB Football League (since 1970!), overseeing the organisation of the league.

His footballing career began back in the 1950s as a member of the Ivri Maccabi Youth League and is a supporter of West Ham United – once being asked to manage their under 16s team. He joined the MSFL Management Committee in December 1963 as assistant secretary, before rising to vice chairman in 1965 then chairman in 1970. During his directorship, the league has risen from 12 clubs to 66.

David has also chaired the London FA since 2022.

From all at the club, congratulations on your award David!

## **Folkestone Invicta (H)**

Following a horrible injury to our goalkeeper Prince Adegoke that saw the above tie abandoned late on, it has been decided that the game will not be replayed. The tie stands as it was at abandonment – a 3-3 draw, both sides receiving one point.

## **Happy New Year**

We would like to wish all of our Jewish supporters, friends and colleagues a happy New Year. Shana Tova from everyone at the club!



*Shana Tova!*

*Wishing all our Jewish fans a  
happy and sweet New Year*

*From everyone at W&F*

## **Cups**

Having been knocked out of both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, we turn our attentions to the remaining two competitions we are in this season:

**London Senior Cup:** We host Erith & Belvedere in the first round on 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Velocity League Cup:** In the second round, we will host the winner of the first round tie between Haringey Borough and Tilbury, which takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

The tie at Summers Lane will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Match report**

See later pages of this programme for a match report from our away game at Chatham.

# LEAGUE RESPECT STATEMENT



**“The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association’s statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual’s sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities. The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities.”**



# Respect

## A VIEW FROM AFAR

*As an introduction, three events that happened on this day; or did they? Only one is true, but which one? Answer at the end of the article.*

- *In 1887, Preston North End beat Hyde 26-0 in a FA Cup match*
- *In 1943, in a War Time match, Tom Finney played for Arsenal against West Ham and scored a hat trick*
- *In 1986 at The Shay, in Halifax, only 78 people paid to watch them play Aldershot in horrendous weather*

It is a pleasure to welcome our opponents back to the division for this evening's game. Nobody will forget their last visit here, apart from those who have forgotten.

As teams jockey for position at this early stage of the season and managers assess their stock, it is not unknown for a new player to be brought in and others to be jettisoned; such is the way of football. Sometimes they are total game changers, while others are hardly heard of again. For one of the more bizarre stories surrounding a transfer, I am indebted to my friend Adrian, who has twice been persuaded to lend his support to the Blues despite living in the Potteries and being a supporter of a club called Stoke City.

The story concerns Larry Lloyd, who died earlier this year. He was a towering and ruthless defender, who had become an international at Liverpool but then fallen out of favour and been transferred to then top flight Coventry City. He was unhappy there and an escape route emerged when the maverick manager of Nottingham Forest, Brian Clough came calling. Forest were a division below, but Clough sold the plan to Lloyd who said he'd consider a move.

The conversation took a strange twist when, for some reason, Lloyd mentioned that his washing machine had broken down. Shortly afterwards, a new washing machine was delivered to Lloyd's home and installed to his and Mrs Lloyd's great pleasure. It must be said that players wages, even at the top level, were somewhat lower in the 1970's. It clinched the deal and Larry Lloyd signed for Forest with a washing machine as a signing on fee.

## A VIEW FROM AFAR

Gratefully moving from Highfield Road to the banks of the Trent, he was alarmed to find an enormous row taking place at the training ground on his first day. The laundry ladies were up in arms having arrived to find that their main washing machine had disappeared. Lloyd kept quiet, knowing it was settled in his kitchen!

I suspect that various things have changed since then. Clough and Lloyd are sadly no longer with us, many players would have no idea about their kitchen equipment and would anyway leave all the discussions to their agents. It is even possible that people working in laundries might conceivably include men and I suspect the modern Nottingham Forest have something more sophisticated than a domestic washing machine at their training ground. When I was at Primary School in Finchley, the mother of one of my schoolfriends had a spell as the official kit washer for the then Finchley Football Club. As far as I know, she had no interest at all in the game and neither did any of her three sons, but living in fairly close proximity to the ground and being in possession of a washing machine clinched the job.

Which reminds me; close to where the lady wife and I live, a new housing estate contains a road named Fairley Close. I think the officials in the road naming section of Town Planning may have been having a laugh...

*Which was true? Preston beat Hyde 26-0, the highest margin of victory in a League or Cup game in England.*

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

Wingate and Finchley Football club can trace its roots back to the formation of Finchley Football Club in 1874 making it one of the oldest clubs in the country. Founded by Pa Jackson, who also was instrumental in the creation of the Corinthians, The London Football Association as well as later serving as secretary of the FA, Finchley became founder members of the Athenian League in 1912 after spells in the London League and North London League. They finished fourth in the maiden season, higher than such luminaries as Grays Athletic, Chelmsford City and Enfield.

However their stay was cut short due to the onset of World War One and they would only return for a lone season in 1929 before returning to the London League and forging success. The club's first piece of silverware was won during the 1934-1935 season when the League Cup was captured, with the taste of achievement forming Finchley went on to win the London League in 1936-1937 before World War Two scuppered their winning streak.

It was immediately after the conflict that saw Major Harry Sadow, Frank Davis, George Hyams and Asher Rebak form a Jewish Football Club believing the field of play was a ground of battling the ignorance of anti-Semitism. So in 1946 Wingate Football Club began life in the Middlesex Senior League. The club was named after General Orde C. Wingate who despite not being Jewish himself oversaw the creation of the Israeli Army during the Second World War. The club enjoyed early success and by 1952 they were promoted to the London League.

Meanwhile Finchley, back in the Athenian League, were in the middle of their glory years with the 1952-1953 season proving to be the pinnacle. That year saw their progression to the Third Round Proper of the FA Cup. Defeated along the way were Chelmsford City, Kidderminster Harriers (1-0 at Aggborough) and Crystal Palace (3-1 at Summers Lane) before the Finches were finally beaten 2-0 at Gay Meadow against Shrewsbury Town.

Despite an Amateur Cup semi-final appearance, losing to bitter local rivals Hendon at Highbury in 1965, a sense of decline was starting to emerge. A switch to the Isthmian Premier League failed to stop the halt, and in 1980-81 Finchley were relegated to the second division.

Wingate by now had become a senior club and were competing in the Athenian League. Many players had become members of the Middlesex FA representative side and also partook on behalf of Great Britain in the Maccabiah Games. Disaster struck though in 1972 when their Hall Lane ground in Hendon was lost to the M1 extension and despite a short ground share with Finchley FC the club reverted to junior football.

Wingate finally returned to the senior game with a brief merger with Leyton FC. This partnership proved to be unsuccessful and despite a 1984-1985 League Cup victory, ironically defeating Finchley in the final, both clubs went their separate ways.

In 1991 with Finchley struggling in the Isthmian League Second Division and with mounting debts it was announced that a merger with Wingate would take place in the



# WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

summer. After extensive refurbishment and a name change of the Summers Lane ground in honour of long time Wingate supporter Harry Abrahams, Wingate and Finchley took to the field for the start of the 1991-1992 season.

Success was immediate and despite starting life in the South Midlands League the club were quickly competing in the Isthmian League and by season 2003-2004 were members of the newly formed Division One North.

In recent seasons the club has continued its growth. A brief flirtation with the Southern League was shortly followed by the arrivals of Manager Michael Stone and Chairman Aron Sharpe. Now back in the Isthmian League a youthful squad achieved seventh position in the First Division North in the 2008-2009.

Stone sadly left the club in 2009 after being offered the post of Assistant Manager at Conference giants Rushden and Diamonds. The club's first team manager in time for the start of the 2009/10 season was former Oswestry Town manager and Total Network Solutions Llansantffraid midfielder David Norman. At the end this season the Club finished in a record high position of 3rd in the Ryman Division One North, mainly thanks to a record run of 17 matches without defeat from the turn of the year, a run which included 13 wins. The Club reached the playoffs but lost out to Enfield Town in the semi-final 3-2 in an incredible match. This paved the way for what was to be a monumental and unforgettable 2010/11 season.

The Club was quickly becoming the most progressive non-league club in the area, thanks to Sharpe's focus on youth development. Bobby Aisien and Medi Alabimba had progressed from Hadley Wood and Wingate to earn professional contracts, and in 2011 over 20 of the U16-18 age group represented their County. Six boys at U16's were given scholarships with pro sides and the club developed into a community club with a Mencap disability initiative, work with schools, and it entered its fourth year of the Flex educational scheme.

A consistent league season for the First Team saw the side match their previous 3rd place league finish and earn a second crack at the playoffs. In the semi-final Harlow Town were beaten 4-2 after extra time, and promotion to the Ryman premier Division was won with a 118th minute winner over Brentwood Town in extra time of the final - The Blues winning 3-2 on their home turf.

This victory was the middle leg of a remarkable and unique Treble. Earlier that season the club had lifted the Ryman League Cup having beaten Dulwich Hamlet 2-0 at Imber Court, and London Senior Cup success was to follow shortly afterwards when Hendon were convincingly beaten 3-1 in the final.

Success flowed throughout the Club this year, with the youth teams also building on their previous season's work as they progressed superbly. The U18's won the Middlesex County Cup, and at U15 level the League Title and three Cup trophies followed (two County cups and the League cup). Even the Under 10's were getting in on the action as they lifted the Spring Cup!

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

The first season in the Ryman Premier Division in 2011/12 saw the side secure safety in this new level with a comfortable mid-table finish, ending up closer to the playoffs than from relegation. The final third of the season saw breakthroughs for youth players Liron Mannie and David Smouha who both played big roles in the first team squad. Meanwhile there was huge cup success at youth level yet again; The Under 18's won the AFA Cup, beating Valley Park after extra time, as well as the London County Cup. The Under 17's won a double as they beat Thurrock in the EJA League Cup final to add to their earlier AFA Cup success having beaten Bethwin 8-1! The Under 16's also got in on the action securing their AFA Cup title beating Woodford FC, which they added later on securing their EJA (Herts) League title.

Success of the youth sides prompted three players - Ross Weinreb, Nathan Sollosi and Joe Sharpe - to earn selection to the Great Britain Maccabi Team for the world games in Israel during July 2013. Meanwhile the Barnet Mencap disability sides grew in strength as they entered the fourth season with the club, with three sides now competing in the Camden Step Leagues. The year ended on a high as McDonalds joined in lucrative sponsorship deal.

The following season, 2012-13, was a difficult one for the first team. Early season poor form led to the departure of Norman in November as ex-Northwood boss Gary Meakin came in. The Club flirted with relegation all season until a momentous 3-2 victory over Lowestoft two days before the final day secured survival. However Norman rejoined the Club in the summer as Director of Football, as veteran defender Daniel Nielsen was put in place as Head Coach. Meanwhile a new Under 21 Development squad was set up to compete in the inaugural Ryman U21 League.

There was continual success for the youth sides. The U17's added the London County Cup to an earlier EJA league title, the EJA cup and the AFA cup. These were also followed up with the League Regional Playoff title. The U16's won two cups in this season, the EJA and AFA trophies.

In 2014 the side faced another relegation fight in the league, which was lost on goal difference on the final day of the season despite a 5-0 victory over Billericay Town. However, when Worksop Town pulled out of the Southern League due to financial problems, Wingate & Finchley were the first in line to earn the reprieve back to the Ryman Premier Division.

The 2014-15 season resulted in a record finish of 12th place in the Ryman Premier League, and at the end of the season Norman departed, to be replaced by Simon Lane as Director of Football. However for the start of 2016 he was replaced by former Northern Ireland International Keith Rowland and the side finished in a stable 13th position. In August 2016 the stadium at Summers Lane was re-named after Wingate FC co-founder Maurice Rebak who had passed away in February of that year aged 95.

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

The 2016-17 season saw the club set a new record, finishing in 5th place in the Ryman Premier League and qualifying for the end of season playoffs. A last-minute defeat at Bognor Regis Town in the semi-final ended the season, but this was a magnificent achievement and saw the Blues win the League's Team Performance of the Year Award.

A ninth-place finish followed in 2017-18 as the Blues narrowly missed out on a second successive play-off berth. There was success for the Under 23 side who won the Isthmian Development League North Division at a canter. Over the summer the Club embarked on an extensive state-of-the-art refurbishment of the stadium, for the first time since 1991's merger, giving the clubhouse a much-welcomed overhaul and making the stadium one of the most impressive in non-league football.

The subsequent three seasons saw a period of uncertainty both on and off the pitch, with short management stints for ex England International Nicky Shorey, ex Premier League stalwart Glen Little and ex West Ham Academy and Wingate & Finchley favourite Steve Clarke, followed by two null and void seasons under the stewardship of Spencer Knight due to the COVID pandemic. However, during this period there were still many successes, including U18s winning County Cup in consecutive seasons and the London Champion of Champions trophy, U23 Development Squad being victorious in Herts League Cup fielding a squad largely made up of Under 18s, while both U13s and U12s secured League Titles.

In the summer of 2021, Club legends Ahmet Rifat (Director of Football) and Marc Weatherstone (Manager) were appointed as a new Management Team after nearly 1000 first team appearances between them. Later in the 2022/23 season Ahmet Rifat was to take sole charge.

Season 2024/24 will go down on record as one of our finest if not the finest. Finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> position with a record haul of 76 points and scoring 78 goals. Ahmet Rifat's charges made it to the play offs on the last day of the season with a 3-0 win over Carshalton.

We faced local rivals Enfield Town in the play off Semi finals at the QE II Stadium. We narrowly lost a very tight match 1-0 in front of a crowd of 2,225 that night. A fine season was ended, but what memories it brought.

What does 2024/25 hold, a new revamped side, and a manager and coaching squad with that extra years experience. Looking forward to the journey.

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# CHATHAM TOWN (A) – NOAH BERCOTT

## **Blues out of Trophy with narrow defeat at Chatham**

As the Blues took yet another trip across the Dartford crossing into Kent on Saturday, this time their attention was on the FA Trophy Third Qualifying Round, after an excellent win last Saturday in the league at Dover. Unfortunately, despite a rousing second half performance, the Blues weren't able to provide the crucial finishing touch, leaving Medway empty-handed with a 1-0 defeat.

In the early stages the home side had a few chances, with a combination of poor finishing and goalkeeper Charlie Grainger combining to keep the scores level. The Blues then got into their stride and created some pressure of their own, culminating in a shot being cleared off the line by the home defence.

Midway through the first half, and against the run of play, as the Blues were starting to dominate, a quick counter from Chatham saw a ball played across the box from the left wing and poked into the net from close range by Jordy Mongoy to give the home side the lead. Chatham continued to have chances throughout the rest of the first half, but were unable to double their lead.

In the second half, Wingate & Finchley came out strongly, looking for that crucial equaliser to keep them in the Trophy. Andronicos Georgiou unleashed an excellent strike early in the second half, but saw his shot from 25 yards bounce against the woodwork.

The Blues had two goals ruled offside in the second half, one in particular from Ogo Obi looking to be a marginal call. And in the dying minutes, Ogo Obi couldn't quite convert a header across goal from Ben Frempah.

A disappointing conclusion but another promising performance from Ahmet Rifat's Blues - hear from the gaffer below. Next we face Bowers & Pitsea at the Maurice Rebak Stadium on Tuesday 15th October. We look forward to seeing you back in N12!

**Wingate & Finchley:** Grainger, Cracknell, Byron, Achuba, Frempah, Drakes-Thomas (Newton 68'), Garrett-Douglas, Deslandes (Lowe 67'), Obi, Georgiou (Oladipo 76'), O'Donoghue (Hernandez 59')

**Unused sub:** Webb

**Attendance:** 537

# BOWERS AND PITSEA

After the war years, once stability had come to the nation, many new sporting clubs sprang up. One such club was our own, BOWERS UNITED, started in 1946 by Bert Salmon, playing at Gun Meadow, Pitsea, in the Southend District League as a junior club before moving across to Thurrock & Thameside Combination, he was to be joined a few years later by his brother Len Salmon, who passed away in 2002 and is still sorely missed by everyone within the club.

The biggest tribute Bowers Sport & Social Club could give him was to name his beloved football stadium after him. In 1965 Bowers United entered the Essex Olympian League and this was to be where they stayed until 1974 when the club was successful in their application to join the recently newly formed Essex Senior League. As well as moving to a new League the Club also moved from Gun Meadow (Behind the Gun Pub) into their current ground at 20 Crown avenue in 1975 a Tottenham Hotspur x1 helped open the ground on the day, Senior status was granted by the Essex FA in 1978.

Success was just around the corner as in 1980-1981 the club won their first Essex Senior League title under the guidance of ex Southend United winger Malcolm Slater. They also added the League Challenge Cup the following year. Before Slater departed the club. In 1998-99 a clean sweep of all three cups was achieved as they won the The Essex Senior League title, League Challenge Cup and the Harry Fisher Trophy under Tony Cross's all conquering team. They also won the Don Douglas Trophy for top goal scorer with David Hope as he scored 52 League and Cup goals that season.

With the club unable to apply for promotion the team was soon broken up and it was not until 2004/05 when we saw a new name on the footballing map when Bowers United took Pitsea Football clubs name to produce BOWERS & PITSEA FOOTBALL CLUB, and with a new start and a new team at the helm success was just around the corner because a strong link was established with the local community, and the clubs facilities that offered the residence a large Clubhouse, Bar and Function room Together with a ground capacity for 3000+ spectators, which includes seating for 400 in a well-appointed stand, excellent floodlighting is also an advantage at a higher level in which to play our football on.

This showed that after years of being in the wilderness, Bowers & Pitsea Football Club (formerly Bowers United) now intended to take the football side of the club forward. Michael Barnard and Barry Hubbard joined forces to try to bring success to the club both on and off the field of play. In season 2015/16 Rob Small topped his haul from the

## BOWERS AND PITSEA

previous season by winning the Essex Senior League Championship, getting to the quarter finals of the Essex Senior Cup but more impressive was reaching the semi-finals of the FA Vase where Bowers were narrowly beaten by eventual winners Morpeth Town 2-1 away after drawing the home leg 2-2. We finally achieved one of our goals to reach and play in the Isthmian League and we finished our first season in 6th place just three points outside the play-off positions.

This followed with a third-place finish in season 2017/18 which saw us narrowly miss out on promotion, losing in the play-offs to Canvey Island. The 2018/19 season saw us reach the Premier League as we finished the campaign with 92 points, 29 wins, 5 draws and 4 losses with a very healthy 71 goal difference. Season 2019/20 saw our first ever season in the topflight and although sitting 14th the season was abruptly ended due to the Covid19 outbreak. and with the upgrade to a 3g pitch and new stands, changing rooms, bar and turnstiles things are heading in the right direction. Season 2021/22 saw us hit another milestone as we reached the FA Cup 1st round, Gallantly losing to Lincoln City 1-0.

This was also to be Rob Smalls last season at the managers helm as his departure was to herald a new era for the club. The summer of 2022 saw the departure of not only Rob Small, but every member of the previous year's playing squad. New Manager James Collins, brought in from Faversham Town, was left with the nigh impossible task of assembling a full squad in time for the new campaign that could compete against relegation. Despite a valiant effort in the 2022/23 season, including an upturn in form after Christmas, Bowers succumbed to relegation. The 2022/23 season did see some success for James Collins' men, as they overcame Grays Athletic 3-2 to win the Thameside Trophy for the first time in the clubs' history.

This despite playing over 80 minutes with midfielder Oscar Shelvey in goal! A successful 2023/24 season culminated in Bowers achieving promotion back to the Isthmian Premier Division, at the first time of asking, with Play Off Final Penalty Shoot Out win over Brentwood Town. Bowers had struggled in the early part of the since, but a run of 9 straight victories saw them cement their play off place. A dramatic penalty shoot out win in the semi final against Felixstowe & Walton United, after a 2-2 draw, got Bowers into the final, where David Hughes was the shootout hero once more, saving 2 penalties in both the Semi Final and Final despite having a torn rotator cuff

# MATCH PREVIEW

## Match Preview - Bowers & Pitsea (H)

The Blues are back at home! After a number of away games in recent weeks, the Blues are back at the Maurice Rebak Stadium for the first time since we drew with Chichester over three weeks ago. Since then, we travelled to Dover Athletic and secured an excellent 2-1 win, before seeing a narrow 1-0 defeat knock us out of the FA Trophy against Chatham last Saturday.

## Our Opponents

Bowers & Pitsea have returned to the Isthmian Premier League this season after just one season away. In 2022/23, Bowers found themselves occupying 19th place, the final relegation spot, and were subsequently relegated to the Isthmian North Division. In Step 4, Bowers had a great season, not dropping out of the playoff positions after November, and only finishing five points behind the eventual champions, Lowestoft Town. In the playoffs, Bowers held their nerve in not one, but two penalty shootouts, beating Felixstowe & Walton in the semi-final after a late equaliser from F&W took the game to extra time. A tight game against Brentwood Town ended 1-1 after 120 minutes in the final, before Bowers won the penalty shootout to secure their return to the Isthmian Premier at the first time of asking.

Bowers & Pitsea have found themselves in both the Isthmian North and Premier throughout much of the last decade, promoted into that division in the 2015/16 season, spending a few years there before further promotion to the Isthmian Premier in 2018/19.

So far this season, Bowers & Pitsea have seven points from nine games (W2 D1 L6) which puts them in 20th place of 22 in the Isthmian Premier League; nine places but only four points below the Blues, however Bowers have played a game more. Most recently, Bowers have had some good results, bouncing back from a 2-0 home defeat to early pacesetters Lewes with an excellent 4-1 win over Dulwich Hamlet and following that up with a 3-0 win over Real Bedford in the FA Trophy.

Did you know? Formerly known as Bowers United, the club absorbed Pitsea FC in 2004, taking on their name in the process.

## Head to Head

Our last clashes with Bowers came in 2022/23, as the Blues rallied throughout the second half of the season to finish 16th on 48 points, while Bowers were relegated, the season ending with Bowers in 19th with 33 points. In that season, the sides faced each other three times. First, the Blues came out on top in an FA Cup clash with a 1-0 win thanks to a goal from defender Yannis Ambrosine, who now finds himself amongst the Bowers squad in 2024/25.



# MATCH PREVIEW

Our trip to the Len Salmon Stadium ended in a 2-2 draw but it was the clash at the Maurice Rebak Stadium which stole the headlines that season. Bowers had an excellent start to the second half to take a three goal lead in the 75th minute before the Blues scored FOUR times in the final minutes of the game; a Dylan Kearney double from the penalty spot (82' and 86') before goalkeeper Ben Goode netted an unlikely equaliser (90+4') and there was still time for Antonis Vasiliou to net a winner in the 8th minute of additional time to break Bowers hearts on Valentine's Day.

## **Last Time Out**

It was FA Trophy duties for both sides last weekend, with contrasting outcomes. The Blues had a narrow 1-0 defeat at Chatham Town, while two goals for Alex Teniola and one for TQ Addy saw Bowers to a 3-0 win over Step 4 side Real Bedford.

## **Players To Watch**

Alex Teniola's two goals on Saturday were his second and third in his four matches so far for the visitors, after he opened his account for Bowers against Dulwich Hamlet the week before. Teniola previously played for Hashtag United for two seasons, scoring 18 goals in their promotion campaign and 14 goals last season in the Isthmian Premier. Teniola himself has a large social following through his "TeniolaTime" content. Bowers have three past Blues in their ranks, with midfielder Brian Garzon joining Bowers in recent weeks after his departure earlier this season, defender Dexter Peter who left the Blues in 2022, and the aforementioned Yannis Ambrosine who departed during 2022/23. All three ex-Blues will be ones to watch as they return to the Maurice Rebak Stadium.

For the Blues, Loic Hernandez has made a couple of cameo appearances from the bench in recent weeks as he returns to fitness, and provides extra competition in the Blues defence. Meanwhile midfielder Ryan Lowe stepped up his return to the side on Saturday with 30 minutes off the bench, after he made an excellent start to the campaign in the Blues midfield, netting twice.

Tuesday's game is a 7.45pm kick off and tickets can be purchased in advance here or on the gate. Our bar opens approx 90 minutes before kick off and hot food can be purchased in the ground. Cash and card is accepted at all pay-points. We look forward to welcoming you to the Maurice Rebak Stadium on Tuesday!

# SEASON TICKETS 2024/25



## EARLY BIRD

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult £135.00 £6.43
- Conc. £90.00 £3.80
- Under 18 FREE

\*EARLY BIRD AVAILABLE UNTIL 31st JULY

\*\*Concessions over 65 and Students.

\*\*\*Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5  
(U18 Season tickets only available on early bird)

## FULL PRICE

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult £185.00 £8.80
- Conc. £130.00 £6.19

\*FULL PRICE FROM 1st AUGUST

\*\*Concessions over 65 and Students

\*\*\*Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5



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# PITCHING IN

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**Manager:** Ahmet Rifat

**Coaches:** Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel

**Goalkeeping Coach:** Gavin King

**Analyst:** Michael Smith

**Kit Manager:** Pete Barker

**Prince Adegoke**

**Toby Byron**

**Billy Cracknell**

**Luke Deslandes**

**Evangelos Empochontsif**

**Ben Frenpah**

**Rhamar Garrett-Douglas**

**Andronicos Georgiou**

**Fergal Hale-Brown**

**Loic Hernandez**

**Arthur Iontton**

**Ryan Lowe**

**Zack Newton**

**Michael O'Donoghue**

**Tommy Roberts**

**Ogo Obi**

**Ferdinand Oko**

**Destiny Oladipo**

**Khristopher Oti**

**Lonit Talla**

**Ayo Tanimowo**

**Bobby Webb**



**Manager:** James Collins

**Assistant Manager:** Laurence Collins

**Coach:** Alan Warner

**TQ Addy**

**Samir Ali**

**Yannis Ambroisine**

**Brandon Aveiro**

**Temi Babalola**

**Jacob Bland**

**Tobias Braney**

**Rhys Byrne (GK)**

**Rio Campbell**

**Archie Cane**

**Lewis Chambers**

**Montrell Deslandes**

**Henry Douglas**

**Alfie Evans**

**Valckx Fernandes**

**Brian Garzon**

**Rohdell Gordon**

**Joseph Halsey**

**David Hughes (GK)**

**Malakai Hyman**

**Kieran Jones**

**Junior Nkwonta**

**Dexter Peter**

**Tariq Straker**

**Alex Teniola**

**Donell Thomas**

**Jack Turner**

**Joseph Waight**

#### **NEXT UP IN N12:**

Erith & Belvedere (LSC) – 29/10/2024

Carshalton Ath. (ILP) – 05/11/2024

Hastings United (ILP) – 09/11/2024