

WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingate & Finchley vs
Tilbury



VS



Tuesday 12th
November 2024

Velocity Cup 3rd Round

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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 Tilbury enjoy their stay in N12 this evening!

We welcome our friends from the Isthmian League North to the Maurice Rebak Stadium as we return to cup action hoping to extend our run.

This is our first meeting with the Dockers since the 2010/11 season when we met in the Isthmian North in our treble winning season.

We have competed in the same division as our opponents on several occasions: Isthmian League Div. 1 North 2002/03-2003/04 and 2006/07-2010/11, Southern League Div. 1 East 2004/05.

We have also faced Tilbury in cup competition on one occasion, away in an FA Cup second qualifying round in 1997/98 which was won 3-0 by the Dockers.

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!

Fixture changes

Hashtag Utd. (A) – Fixture moved from Sunday 1st November to Saturday 30th November, 3pm kick off

Cheshunt (H) – Fixture remains Boxing Day 26th December, kick off time moved from 3pm to 1pm.

Upcoming fixtures

Tonight is the first of FIVE home fixtures in November, with an away game in Sussex in between:

Saturday 16th: **Whitehawk (A)** (Isthmian League)

Tuesday 19th: **Chatham Town (H)** (Isthmian League)

Saturday 23rd: **Horsham (H)** (Isthmian League)

Tuesday 26th **Charlton Ath U21 (H)** (London Senior Cup)

Saturday 30th: **Hashtag United (A)** (Isthmian League)

London Senior Cup

Last week we beat Erith and Belvedere in the London Senior Cup 1-0, thanks to a 90+3rd minute goal from Jaiden Drakes-Thomas. We will now host Charlton Athletic in the third round, scheduled for Tuesday 26th November, 7.45pm kick off. Please see club website for further details on tickets or changes to the fixture.

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.
Total games played: 14 league, 5 cup

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	12	3	15
Georgiou	4	0	4
Frempah	4	0	4
Lowe	4	0	4
Oladipo	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Deslandes	2	0	3
Briscoe	1	0	3
Drakes-Thomas	1	1	2
Iontton	1	0	1

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 this article makes reference to India, three statements loosely related to Indian football, only one of which is true; but which one? Answer at the end of the article.

- *India have never qualified for the World Cup Finals*
- *Roy Hodgson managed India briefly in 1992, before taking over at Switzerland*
- *Michael Chopra became the first player of Indian descent to play in the English Premier League, appearing for Sunderland in 2007*

The Lady Wife and I have just returned from a trip to India, from where these days it is quite easy to follow the progress of Wingate and Finchley. The days of searching around an old tobacconist shop for a week old copy of the Hendon and Finchley Times are long gone; they tended to be in short supply in New Delhi anyway.

Thus I was able to discover that Tilbury defeated Haringey Borough in the last round of the Velocity Cup and have been rewarded with a visit to the Maurice Rebak Stadium this evening. I don't recall seeing Tilbury play during my football journeys, but I have looked down on many occasions from the QE2 bridge and spotted ships docked there and bound for who knows where.

We also have a friend who has embarked on cruises from Tilbury and a reference to old sports news suggests that England's cricket touring parties would often set off for Australia from there. Docking at Freemantle in Western Australia some weeks later, I suspect they could hardly tell the difference. Anyway, their current team of footballers are very welcome here this evening.

I was reminded, during our recent visit to the sub-continent, of the glorious game on a number of occasions. The most obvious was, when checking into a hotel at the Ranthambore National Park and receiving some advice about security in the tented grounds. It was a glorious location, but on the edge of jungle, so very wisely they would brief you about what to expect. Apparently there is no danger from people and in any case security guards wander around constantly, but cameras have occasionally picked up images of leopards and sloth bears looking around, presumably seeking any left over gin and tonic that residents might have left lying around.

In the streets, which were busy and seemingly chaotic, replica shirts from worldwide could sometimes be spotted. Try as I might, however, among the

A VIEW FROM AFAR

inevitable Manchester United, Barcelona and Inter Milan shirts, I didn't manage to spot a single one from the Blues, or indeed our visitors today.

What really resonated for me though, was one of the warnings that we received back at Ranthambore. Guests were strongly advised to ensure that they kept the doors to tents closed at all times (except when passing through, obviously), to prevent the incursion of insects and, more especially, monkeys. If encountering a monkey, we were advised to avoid making eye contact, as that could cause them to be very aggressive. In that respect I couldn't help thinking how similar they were to West Ham supporters.

Which statement is correct?

It's Michael Chopra. Roy Hodgson has managed almost everyone, but never India. They did qualify for the 1950 World Cup in Brazil, when every other country in their qualifying group withdrew. Ironically, India then withdrew themselves; many reasons were given, but it seems they were prioritising the Olympics!

By Peter Brown

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 4th 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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TILBURY – CLUB HISTORY

Tilbury F.C. now have concrete proof that they were formed in 1889, and competed in the Gravesend League from 1889/1890. With the Docks being the only employer of any size in the area, all the Players and Officials of the Club were Dockers, hence the adoption of the nickname, “The Dockers”, which still stands today.

The aim of the Club was to gain success at Junior level via the Essex Junior Cup, and thereby to eventually bring Senior Level Football to the Town. Tilbury soon made a name at the Junior level, with successive League championships, and an appearance in the Final of the Junior Cup in 1903/04, where they were defeated after a replay by Chelmsford Arc Works. It was to be another 5 years before they reached the Final again, in 1908/09, but this time they carried off the Trophy by defeating the County’s oldest club, Saffron Walden Town.

However, at this stage, support for the club was poor. Only a couple of miles down the road, Grays Athletic were now playing in Senior ranks, and Grays Thurrock United were playing Professionally in the Southern League. Most local fans were going to these clubs, and finances for Tilbury were very tight. At the end of the 1910/11 season, the club also lost its home ground, and the Committee decided that the club should take a break from playing while it sought a new home base.

The intended short break stretched to three seasons, and was then further extended by the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914. As a result, it was not until 1919/20 that Tilbury were able to resume, this time in the South Essex League. They became League Champions in 1921/22, and were again a force in the County Junior ranks. The big push for advancement into Senior ranks came in 1924/25. The Title was again captured, and so was the Essex Junior Cup. As a result, in the following season, Tilbury were invited to enter the Essex Senior Cup instead, which they accepted, as they realised that some good results would really aid their cause.

In 1926/27, Tilbury reached the 3rd Round of the Cup, the first Junior side to do so, and also became the first Junior club to knock a Senior club out of the Cup, when they played superbly to defeat the mighty Walthamstow Avenue 3-2. During the Summer, they were granted Senior status by the Essex F.A.

Disaster almost struck however. Application was made to several Leagues but, one by one, they were all rejected, and it looked as though Tilbury were doomed. At the very last moment, the Kent League stepped in and offered them a place, which was eagerly accepted. With Tilbury remaining as one of only 5 Amateur clubs in a Professional competition, it was no surprise that they found it tough going on the field of play.

Off the field, however, the 4 seasons spent in the Kent League were a success. Tilbury enjoyed their time in the League and made many friends and contacts. It was an off-field matter, though, that led to them eventually leaving the competition. The League had expanded in size greatly since Tilbury joined, and added to the difficulty of continually crossing the Thames was the end of season fixture congestion.

TILBURY – CLUB HISTORY

This meant a great many midweek matches and, with no Floodlights in those days, those games had to kick off at 4.30pm, and Tilbury nearly always had to field weakened teams due to players' work commitments. At the end of the 1930/31 season, the Committee very reluctantly took the decision that the club would have to move on. They made an application to join the London League, one of those that had rejected them 4 years earlier, and this time were accepted.

Tilbury stayed in the London League until 1939, when the outbreak of the Second World War led to the disbandment of most Senior Leagues. During that spell, they were twice 4th in the table, and once reached the League Cup Final, but were mostly to be found in the bottom half of the League Table. In September 1939, all Football was forced to return to a more local basis, due to Travel restrictions and Fuel rationing. Along with 9 other local clubs, Tilbury formed the War Time South Essex Combination.

They completed the 1939/40 season in this League, but at the end of that campaign were forced to disband for the duration, when their ground was commandeered by the Army, as a site for the Anti-Aircraft Guns brought in to protect the Docks.

Tilbury resumed in the London League in 1946/47, and then on a new home ground, the present Chadfields in 1947/48, and embarked upon a four season spell of much success and National recognition. They reached 2 successive Essex Senior Cup Finals, were 3 times League Runners Up, and were desperately unlucky to be knocked out of the F.A. Amateur Cup at the Quarter Final stage, when reduced to 9 fit men through injury.

The proudest moment, though, came in the F.A. Cup. In 1949/50, Tilbury fought their way through to the 1st Round Proper, eventually going down 0-4 away to a Notts County side led by the legendary England centre forward Tommy Lawton. In the previous round replay, at home to Gorleston, a crowd of 5,500 had packed into St. Chad's Road, and that is still the official Ground Record. The proceeds from this Cup run were used, a few years later, to buy the Freehold to the 13 acre site that the Ground stands on.

In 1950/51 Tilbury moved into the Corinthian League. Apart from one League Cup Final, this was to be a barren 7 year spell, and at the end of that time they returned to the London League. The move into the Corinthian ranks had coincided with the gradual break up of the successful but ageing post-War side. The move back to the London League now coincided with the coming together of an extremely talented bunch of local young players that brought great success in the coming seasons.

In 1957/58, Tilbury finished 3rd in the London League, but in each of the next 4 campaigns were the undisputed Champions. On 3 occasions they also captured the League Cup. Also, in 1960/61, the Essex Senior Cup was won for the first time, when Walthamstow Avenue were beaten 4-1 (aet) in the Final, just 3 weeks after they had won the Amateur Cup at Wembley.

1962/63 saw Tilbury move into the Delphian League. This was to be the Winter of the "Big Freeze", which almost totally disrupted all Sport throughout the Country for a period of almost

TILBURY – CLUB HISTORY

3 months. This was to coincide with that League's last ever season. In 1963/64, that League joined the expanded Athenian League set up, becoming the bottom Division of a 3 Division set up. The Athenian League being the Premier Division, the Corinthian League being Division One and the Delphian, Division 2.

Tilbury were inaugural Champions of Division Two, also winning the Essex Senior Cup again. 5 seasons later, they completed the climb to the Premier Division, by winning the Division One championship. 5 seasons were spent in the Athenian Premier Division before, in 1973/74, they joined the newly formed Isthmian League Division 2, which was later re-named Division One.

In 1974/75, they became the first ever winners of the Isthmian League Cup, and 12 months later were the Division 1 Champions. 5th place in their first Premier Division season was the best Tilbury could achieve in their 5 season stay, before being relegated back to Division 1.

However, during that spell, in 1977/78, Tilbury enjoyed a remarkable run in the F.A. Cup, as they started in the Preliminary Round and fought their way right through to the 3rd Round Proper, going down 0-4 away to Stoke City. Storm clouds were already forming, and just 2 seasons later relegation followed amid financial crisis so severe that the Club almost died.

Since then, Tilbury have found things tough. They have suffered relegation on several occasions, but have mostly bounced back fairly quickly, but the successes of previous years have never been re-captured.

In 2004/05, Tilbury finished their one season in the Southern League Division One East in rock bottom position, and were relegated to the Essex Senior League. They bounced back immediately, and earned a return to Isthmian ranks, and have managed to remain there since. The past 2 seasons were moderately successful, with two 11th place finishes in the League, and in 2008/09 Tilbury won the Isthmian League Cup and the East Anglian Cup, these were their first Trophies in 30 years.

2010/2011, with a new manager in Paul Vaughan and a tie-up with South Essex College Academy, the club hoped to build for the future. With an inexperienced squad, the first half of the campaign was a real struggle, and by Xmas Tilbury were in danger of relegation. However, as he gained experience, Vaughan gradually rebuilt and reinforced his squad, and the 2nd half saw a run of results that steered the Club to safety well before the end of the season.

2011/12 saw Tilbury greatly exceed their expectations, as Vaughan's squad stayed in and around the promotion race all season, clinching a play-off place with a game to spare. Sadly, though, it ended in extra time defeat against Needham Market. Success spread through the club as well, with the newly formed Reserves, comprised mainly of players under 21 years old, coming second in the Essex Senior Reserve League, and winning the League Cup.

Unfortunately, this level could not be maintained over the next few seasons, as Tilbury continually lost some of their better players to higher level clubs, and Vaughan was

TILBURY – CLUB HISTORY

continually having to rebuild his squad. The Club's Academy proved its worth in this respect, as Tilbury still managed to finish in a respectable position.

In October 2014, Paul Vaughan stepped down as Manager, and the Club acted quickly to appoint player Gary Henty as the new boss, and he acted quickly to appoint former Tilbury player Danny Smith as his assistant and another ex-"Docker" George Young as Coach.

Tilbury finished that season in a comfortable lower mid-table position, but showed great improvement in 2015/16, at one time being as high as 5th, on the back of a very long unbeaten run. This included good runs in both the Essex Senior Cup and F.A. Trophy, with no fewer than 3 National League sides being defeated.

However, as the season entered its final few weeks, their poor disciplinary record came back to bite them, with player suspensions taking their toll leading to a fall down the Table to 11th. That pattern was repeated in 2016/17. The first half of the season saw Tilbury in or just below the Play-Off places, but in the second half of the campaign a dramatic loss of form of just 3 wins from 22 games saw them plummet down as low as 17th.

The season was rescued in the final month, in which Tilbury went unbeaten, winning three and drawing two of the final five League matches, climbing back up to a respectable 12th position. On the cup front, Tilbury had a fine run through to the Semi-Final of the Essex Senior Cup, before going down narrowly to National South side East Thurrock United.

Unfortunately, Tilbury suffered a terrible run of results in October of 2017. A heavy defeat in the F.A. Trophy brought about the resignations of manager and assistant, Gary Henty & Danny Smith, plus coach George Young. Once again, the Club turned to a former player to take over. Joe Keith returned to the club and brought in a few new signings over the next few weeks, and guided the club to a safe final position. However, this run could not be maintained, and in October of the next season, with the Club lying second from bottom, the Management Team was changed again.

Marc Harrison, a former Under 16 side Manager at Tilbury, had enjoyed a very successful spell with Basildon United, and now returned to Chadfields, bringing Liam Wallace with him as his Assistant. Making several new signings, they immediately brought about a big improvement, and took the club right up to 7th place, before a final day defeat away to the Division Champions sent them back to a final 10th place finish. In 2019/20 saw Harrison take Tilbury into the Play-Off positions, but their hopes were dashed when, in March, the League was declared Null & Void due to the Covid 19 Pandemic that had swept the World.

2020/21 got off to an even better start, and Tilbury found themselves as the early season Leaders. Once again, Covid raised its head. As in the previous campaign, that signalled, eventually, the abandonment of the season, and denied Tilbury what seemed a near certain place at least in the Play-Offs. With all restrictions lifted and with most of the squad retained plus some additions, the Club are hoping that fate does not intervene again.

HASTINGS UNITED – MATCH REPORT

Blues battle to second 2-1 victory in a week to go third

Wingate & Finchley claimed a 2-1 victory over Hastings United on Saturday, their second win by the same scoreline in the space of a few days, in a tightly contested match, featuring plenty of action and decisive moments.

The first half saw both teams exchange chances, with Hastings' dangerman Davide Rodari coming close in the 19th minute, only to be denied by Charlie Grainger in the home goal against his former side. Ogo Obi also went close in the 11th minute for the Blues, but both sides struggled to break the deadlock. At the half time whistle, it remained goalless despite numerous set-pieces and near misses.

The breakthrough finally came in the 68th minute when Zack Newton seized the initiative to pounce on some confusion in the Hastings defence after a pass backwards, Newton getting between goalkeeper and ball, and the keeper fouling the Blues attacker. Obi stepped up and converted the penalty confidently, to give the home side a 1-0 lead. Just two minutes later, Wingate's half time substitute Ryan Lowe doubled the lead. Man of the match Zack Newton again was involved, taking on his man on the right flank to put a cross into the box which Obi met but the rebound fell to Lowe who netted from close range to make it 2-0. A similar story to midweek, where two quick goals put the Blues in a strong position, but the game was not wrapped up yet.

Hastings kept pressing and found a late lifeline in the 90th minute when substitute Finley Chapman scored in a one-on-one with the keeper, bringing the score to 2-1. As five minutes of extra time were added, the visitors fought for an equaliser but couldn't break through Wingate's defence. The Blues held firm to secure a hard-earned win in a game that could have swung either way to move up a place to sit in third place.

We will be back at home on Tuesday night as we welcome Isthmian North high-flyers Tilbury to N12 in the Velocity Cup Third Round, with a tie against Hendon awaiting the winner in the next round. Tickets are available in advance [online](#), or on the gate on matchday.

Wingate and Finchley: Grainger, Cracknell ©, Byron, Achuba, Frempah, Drakes-Thomas (Iontton 78'), Garrett-Douglas, Newton (Briscoe 72'), Obi (Ismaili 85'), Georgiou (Lowe 46'), Hernandez (Webb 88')
Unused subs: None

Goals: Obi 68' (p), Lowe 70'

Attendance: 269

By Noah Bercott

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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Ben Nightingale

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Lindell Stewart

Dan Trendall

Quelle Weekes

NEXT UP IN N12:

Chatham Town (ILP) – 19/11/2024

Horsham (ILP) – 23/11/2024

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Nick Reece

Assistants: Rikki Woolford, Daniel Smith