



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit

Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk

to find out more









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 Bognor Regis Town enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

Today is our penultimate home game of the season, and our third last overall. On Monday afternoon we make the short trip up to Cheshunt then next weekend we host Canvey Island back here.

Earlier this season when we travelled to Nyewood Lane on Saturday 7th September where we unfortunately fell to an unlucky 2-1 defeat in front of a crowd of 696 – our goal coming courtesy of Ogo Obi.

Last season our away trip to Bognor was infamously postponed on THREE separate occasions due to adverse weather, finally being played on the 4th attempt – a 2-2 draw. The home tie the previous week saw us lose 1-0

Probably our most memorable game against the Rocks came in 2017 in the playoff semi-final — our first in the Isthmian Premier. We would lose out that day but the Sussex side would be promoted to the National League South.

Company Name and Number:

Wingate and Finchley Development

Ltd, 6014465

Ground: The Maurice Rebak Stadium, Summers Lane, Finchley, London N12

OPD. 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 & Owner: 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 Physio: Israel Ozangbo

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

Wingate and Finchley captain Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi 'marching' for Motor Neurone Disease charity

Wingate and Finchley skipper Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi will be pulling on their walking boots and packing the blister plasters as they participate in the 'March of the Day' later this month

Wingate and Finchley skipper Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi will be pulling on their walking boots and packing the blister plasters as they participate in the 'March of the Day' later this month.

The March, which takes place between 21st and 23rd, sees five hundred walkers raising money for the Darby Rimmer MND Foundation, covering a route which runs from Ipswich Town to Wembley Stadium.

The duo have already quadrupled their original fundraising target, but would be grateful for further donations, as every penny counts in fighting this awful disease. The Foundation has the following aims:

- Raise awareness of MND
- Support those families facing the MND battle
- Fund important research into a cure

If you'd like to donate, head HERE.

*Article from Isthmian League website

Cheshunt (A)

This Monday we are away at Cheshunt. To follow us there, the address is:

The Cheshunt Stadium, Theobalds Ln, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 8RU

Padel courts coming to Summers Lane!

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with Padel Tree, there will be Padel Courts opening at the Maurice Rebak Stadium in June 2025!

This will be Padel Tree's second club in the capital, with five courts to be installed alongside the hallowed turf at the Maurice Rebak Stadium, to allow local residents in the Finchley area access to the fastest-growing sport in the UK.

For more details please see https://www.padel-tree.com/

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.

Total games: 34 league 7 cup:

Total garries. 54 league, 7 cup.			
	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	25	3	28
Drakes-Thomas	5	3	8
Lowe	6	1	7
Frempah	6	0	6
Georgiou	4	1	5
Bello	4	0	4
Restrepo	4	0	4
Oladipo	3	0	3
Newton	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Alexandrou	2	0	2
Deslandes	2	0	2
Briscoe	1	0	1
Byron	1	0	1
Charles-Cook	1	0	1
Iontton	1	0	1
Ward-Cochrane	1	0	1
Watt	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."



A VIEW FROM AFAR

As we welcome visitors from the south coast, three statements relating to the town of Bognor. Only one is true, but which one? Answer at the end of the article.

- The first Butlins Holiday Camp opened in Bognor in 1936
- In 1975, the historic meeting and handshake between the crews of the Apollo-Soyuz test project took place in space above Bognor
- Richard Branson once took part in the 'International Bognor Birdman' contest, which takes place on the pier each summer

One of the things that I have noticed when attending away games, is that one of the first topics of conversation concerns 'how did you get here?' This is a practical, rather than philosophical question and is occasionally supplemented by notes of appreciation from the home side. Some years ago, at an evening game at Burgess Hill, the programme seller asked if the Lady Wife and I had had a good journey down and was somewhat bemused to learn that we had arrived hot foot from our home, about four miles away.

Similarly, at last weeks disappointing game at Flamingo Park – I looked everywhere and couldn't spot a single pink bird standing on one leg and smelling of fish (insert your own joke here) – somebody congratulated us on having made the journey despite all of the rail closures. This was incorrect on two counts, first the trains north from Haywards Heath were, for once, operating normally and secondly that our car was parked outside in the large, but somewhat uneven, parking area. One unusual thing as we drove in was seeing a group of people picnicking at a small table alongside the Sidcup Bypass – perhaps they were feasting on the extraordinarily good value chips available from the ground.

Anyway, our numerous fans seemed to have arrived by various routes, alighting at different stations from which they were able to enjoy the pleasures of south-east London buses, to reach the ground. One of our supporters was also seen to be pushing his bike into the ground, which might be a first.

As we enjoyed the warm spring sunshine, conversation turned at one point to the asymmetric nature of the large brick building that serves as the venue for changing rooms, club shop and, apparently, performances by tribute acts as advertised on posters around the ground. As with the search for flamingos,

A VIEW FROM AFAR

my quests were proving fruitless as I could find no performances lined up for anybody pretending to be the Beverley Sisters or even Ken Dodd. It was that sort of soporific afternoon; a classic mid-table clash as the season begins to wind down, minds wander and people start checking the cricket scores.

None of which has anything to do with our game today against Bognor. I always enjoy visiting Nyewood Lane. It is a pleasant ground, with an excellent multi-purpose clubhouse and decent chips, even if their first floodlights, purchased from Wembley Stadium and mounted on old telegraph poles, are no more. As the old Club Wembley seats ended up at Lewes, it seems that Sussex has acquired a few bits of the old National Stadium. I'm sure I saw the white goal line over which Geoff Hurst's second goal in 1966 may or may not have crossed, painted on the grass in a park in Storrington once – white lines do look similar though, I'll grant you.

As I write, we don't know whether we will be visiting Bognor next season; Sussex games suit me, and I always enjoy trying to catch a glimpse of the Twin Towers.

Which statement is correct?

It's the Birdman contest, in which contestants attempt to 'fly' furthest from the take off point.

The first Butlins was opened at Skegness, with the Bognor version opening in 1960. The space meet up was due to be over Bognor, but a flight delay meant that it happened over Metz, in France!

By Peter Brown

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

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!

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.

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 $4^{\rm th}$ position with a record hall 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.





THE BOHEMIA

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB & BREWERY

10% OFF ALL FOOD ORDERS ON MATCH DAY



CRAFTED IN THE CAPITAL SINCE 2011





EARLY BIRD

- Adult £135.00
- Conc. £90.00
- 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)

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

£6.43 £3.80

FULL PRICE

- Adult £185.00
- Conc. £130.00

*FULL PRICE FROM 1st AUGUST
**Concessions over 65 and Students
***Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

£8.80 £6.19





BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CLUB HISTORY

Bognor were founded in 1883 and the club became founding members of the West Sussex Football League in 1896, joining the Senior Division.

They won the championship of this league for five successive years in the early 1920s, after which they joined the Brighton & Hove District League in 1926. Just one year later, however, they joined the Sussex County League where they were to remain until 1972. The club became Bognor Regis F.C. in 1929 after King George V added the suffix 'Regis' to the seaside resort.

The club won the Sussex County Division One championship in the 1948–49 season. At the end of that season, they added "Town" to their name so as not to be confused with the local rugby club.

At the end of the 1969–70 season they were relegated, but won Division Two at the first attempt. The club won the Division One championship title the following season and were promoted to Division One South of the Southern League. In 1972–73 they reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 6–0 at Colchester United. In 1976 Jack Pearce became manager at the age of just 26, and went on to hold the position until 2007.

In 1981 the club were transferred to Division One of the Isthmian League, and were promoted at the end of the 1981–82 season after finishing second. In 1984–85 they reached the first round of the FA Cup again, beating Swansea City 3–1 in a replay after a 1–1 draw at the Vetch Field. In the second round they lost 6–2 at Reading. They reached the second round again the following season, beating Enfield in the first round, before losing 6–1 at Gillingham. They went on to reach the first round again in 1986–87 (losing 1–0 in a replay to Slough Town) and 1987–88 (losing 3–0 at home to Torquay United). In 1988–89 they beat Football League opposition again, defeating Exeter City 2–1, before losing to Cambridge United.

In 1991–92 Bognor finished in the relegation zone, but were reprieved after Dagenham and Redbridge Forest merged. However, the following season they finished bottom of the Premier Division, and were relegated to Division One. In 1995–96 they reached the second round of the FA Cup for a fourth time, before losing 4–0 at Peterborough United.

In 2002–03 they finished second in Division One South, and were promoted back to the Premier Division. After finishing tenth the following year, the club were placed in the newly established Conference South. They were relegated back to the Isthmian League Premier Division at the end of the 2008–09 season, and were relegated again the following season.

Season 2010–11 saw the club compete in the Isthmian League Division One South and they missed out on promotion back to the Premier Division by the tightest of margins. Having finished with a club record total of 96 points, they lost out in the title race to Metropolitan Police on goal difference by just one goal, having led the table by two points, going in to the last fixture. As a result, they found themselves having to participate in the end-of-season playoffs, where they lost at home to Dulwich Hamlet who had finished 31 points behind. Revenge was sweet, however in the 2011–12 they again finished second in Division One South. They

BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CLUB HISTORY

won the end-of-season play-offs, defeating Godalming Town in a thrilling semi-final, before beating Dulwich Hamlet 1–0 in the final, and thus gaining promotion to the Premier Division.

The 2012-13 season saw them finish in 14th place in the Ryman Premier. The 2013-14 season started slowly with just one point from the opening four matches. However they soon rose up the table, eventually finishing in third place and qualified for the end of season play-offs, although this ended in defeat in the semi-final at home to Lowestoft Town.

Season 2015-16 saw them miss out on the Ryman Premier title by one point and then lost in the play-offs to Dulwich Hamlet. They did however, also enjoy their best ever run in the FA Trophy by reaching the semi-finals. They beat a number of teams from higher divisions along the way, including Bath City, Maidstone United, Altrincham, Sutton United and Torquay United. But hopes of an appearance at Wembley Stadium were dashed when they were defeated in the semi-final by Grimsby Town, losing 1-0 in the first leg at Nyewood Lane, before also losing the second leg 2-1 at Blundell Park (3-1 on aggregate), despite putting up spirited displays in both legs.

Season 2016-17 saw them finish in second place for the second season running, but this time they triumphed in the play-offs, beating Wingate & Finchley in the semi-final, before victory over Dulwich Hamlet in the final, to win promotion to the Vanarama National League South for season 2017-18

Season 2017-18 unfortunately saw the club relegated back to the Isthmian League, with last season being one of consolidation and a mid table finish. However the season did at least bring the excitement of winning the Sussex Senior Cup for the first time in 32 years in May at Brighton's Amex Stadium, with a 2-1 win after extra time against Burgess Hill Town.

Robbie Blake, the former Premier League striker famous for his exploits up front for Burnley in particular, was handed the manager's job in March 2022. Previously he had acted as assistant to Jack Pearce.

In the 2022/23 season, Blake steered his side into the Sussex Senior Cup final at Brighton's Amex Stadium only to lose on penalties to Worthing. The Rocks finished 14th in the league standings in the same season.





PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE







macron

macron





uhlsport































PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



proudly supports

THE TRIDENT TRUST FUND

Providing access to grants and funding for your club, in your community

@PitchingIn_







Coach: David Birmingham
Goalkeeping Coach: Wes Hallet
Sports Therapist: Hannah Meaden

Manager: Ahmet Rifat Mana Coaches: Ricky Machel, Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou

> Goalkeeping Coach: Gavin King Physio: Israel Ozangbo Kit Manager: Pete Barker

Tyrece Briscoe
Toby Byron
Billy Cracknell
Jaiden Drakes-Thomes
Ben Frempah
Rhamar Garrett-Douglas
Charlie Grainger (GK)
Fergal Hale-Brown
Loic Hernandez
Arthur Iontton
Ryan Lowe
Zack Newton
Tommy Roberts
Ogo Obi

Ayo Tanimowo

Bobby Webb

Ben Anderson Tommy Block Matt Burgess Freddie Chester Calvin Davies Chad Field Dan Gifford Ryan Hall (GK) **Tommy-Lee Higgs Ashton Horstead Toby Kingswell Rio Long Jasper Mather Liam Murphy Lucas Pattenden Harvey Rew Craig Robson Bailey Smith Lennie Smith Doug Tuck Harvey Whyte**

Preston Woolston

NEXT UP IN N12:

End of season awards 19/04/2025 Canvey Island (ILP) 26/04/2025

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Lawrence Torz-Brown

Assistants: Belin Demirov, Thomas Healy