

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY

MATCHDAY | CANVEY ISLAND

TUE 24 FEB 2026 | 19.45 | MAURICE REBAK STADIUM  
ISTHMIAN PREMIER DIVISION



# PITCHING IN

proudly supports

## THE TRIDENT TRUST FUND

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

@PitchingIn\_





Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the Maurice Rebak Stadium for tonight's game. We hope that everyone associated with the club, the match officials, as well as the players, staff, and officials of Canvey Island enjoy their stay in N12 this evening.

Three points at last. After a run of 12 games without a win, we finally got our hands on a coveted three points last Tuesday with a 2-1 victory against local rivals Potters Bar Town.

Despite Saturday's loss away at Burgess Hill Town, Ahmet Rifat's side should be full of confidence going into today's match against relegation-threatened Canvey Island - and rightly so!

Our last fixture against tonight's opponents came in the middle of a polar-opposite run of form - in fact that night away at Canvey was the only time we dropped points in an otherwise faultless 7-match run!

A win today would be very welcome indeed - here's hoping the Blues can get another much-needed win tonight!

A reminder that we still have our Buy one, get one free offer for the next few home games - check out our social media channels for more details!

Finally - our Velocity Cup Semi-final away at Redbridge has been scheduled for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, with a 19.45 kickoff!





PARTNERS WITH



ISTHMIAN  
FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE



**Respect**

## **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 – PETER BROWN

*As usual this season, three loosely related statements, only two of which are true. Which one has sneaked in over the fence? Answer at the end.*

- Canvey Island was once marketed as 'Ye Old Dutch Island', because of the number of Dutch workers involved in the reclamation of the land*
- The decathlete Daley Thompson was born on the island*
- Daley Thompson won Gold Medals at two separate Olympic Games*

*I appreciate that many readers will look forward to these articles and will look back to previous programmes where we entertained the same opposition to ensure that there is no repetition. I did once accidentally submit the previous year's offering for one fixture which was duly published and everybody who read it was kind enough not to raise a query, seeing it as a minor aberration – thank you, whoever you are.*

*I have looked back at last year's visit of Canvey Island, which is one of my favourite away grounds, with all the many quirks that it possesses. The Lady Wife and I were once walking along the terrace at half time, clutching boxes of chips to protect them from the easterly gale, when a local looked up from his perusal of the local tide tables and announced that 'they're Canvey Island chips those, mate'. I could only compliment their quality, while feeling relieved that they were indeed produced from local potatoes and hadn't been shipped in from, say, Uzbekistan, which by an enormous coincidence, was where we were at the time of last year's end of season fixture and was referenced in the article on the day.*

*By the wonders of modern technology, our journey from Khiva to Bukhara was enhanced by being able to follow progress of the game from Summers Lane. While we were there, it became apparent that Uzbekistan had high hopes of qualifying for the World Cup for the first time and, subsequently they have! This was a cause of great excitement and I am sure that they are looking forward to their appearance this summer. It is, of course entirely possible, that the fellow in the White House might discover that some goods, for example chips, are being imported from the aforementioned Central Asian republic and being sold at emporia up and down the country, without a single tariff having been imposed. Obviously in that case, an enormous diplomatic incident might occur and 'The White Wolves' might have to change plans. Their nickname is, I assume, to distinguish them from the team that plays at Molineux.*

*They are the first team from Central Asia to qualify for a World Cup Finals and as a result of the warm welcome we received from a very friendly population, I shall be taking a close interest in their games, while not putting any money on them actually winning the tournament.*

# A VIEW FROM AFAR – PETER BROWN

Should they have any success, I'm sure the nation will be celebrating by feasting on the national dish of Plov. This consists of a huge pile of rice, mixed with various oils, some fruit and herbs and topped with a piece of fatty mutton. It was good to try it, as I always think local food and customs are part of any travel experience. Having it served at almost every meal for 10 days though, did start to become a little monotonous and I have insisted that we don't celebrate in the local style should Uzbekistan win through to the knock out stages.

None of this prevented me from buying a tee shirt from the back of a van, emblazoned with pictures of The Beatles and 'All You Need is Plov', of course.

*WHICH STATEMENT WAS INCORRECT? DALEY THOMPSON WAS NOT BORN ON CANVEY ISLAND,  
BUT DEAN MACEY WAS, THOMPSON WAS BORN IN NOTTING HILL.*



# IN PICTURES – POTTERS BAR (HOME)



# IN PICUTRES – POTTERS BAR (HOME)



# LEAGUE TABLE

POS	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	<b>Folkestone Invicta</b>	32	56	77
2	<b>Aveley</b>	31	32	64
3	<b>Brentwood Town</b>	32	13	58
4	<b>Chatham Town</b>	29	29	53
5	<b>Billericay Town</b>	31	15	51
6	<b>Cray Wanderers</b>	32	4	49
7	<b>Dartford</b>	30	11	48
8	<b>Ramsgate</b>	31	9	47
9	<b>Burgess Hill Town</b>	31	-4	46
10	<b>St Albans City</b>	32	12	43
11	<b>Chichester City</b>	30	-3	42
12	<b>Whitehawk</b>	28	-1	41
13	<b>Dulwich Hamlet</b>	30	2	40
14	<b>Lewes</b>	30	-25	38
15	<b>Cheshunt</b>	29	-1	37
16	<b>Hashtag United</b>	32	-17	32
17	<b>Wingate &amp; Finchley</b>	29	-8	30
18	<b>Carshalton Athletic</b>	31	-14	29
19	<b>Cray Valley PM</b>	31	-20	28
20	<b>Potters Bar Town</b>	31	-33	23
21	<b>Canvey Island</b>	29	-28	22
22	<b>Welling United</b>	29	-29	22

# UPCOMING FIXTURES

**Saturday 28 February 2026**

**Isthmian League - Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley  15:00  Brentwood Town

**Tuesday 3 March 2026**

**Isthmian League - Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley  19:45  Burgess Hill Town

**Saturday 7 March 2026**

**Isthmian League - Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley  15:00  Dartford

**Tuesday 10 March 2026**

**Velocity Cup**

Redbridge  19:45  Wingate & Finchley

**Saturday 14 March 2026**

**Isthmian League - Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley  15:00  Cray Valley (PM)

# B

# O

# G

# O

# F

31/1 - RAMSGATE

03/02 - POTTERS BAR  
07/02 - CANVEY ISL

10/02 - BURGESS HILL  
14/02 - CHESHUNT

28/02 - BRENTWOOD  
07/03 - DARTFORD

14/03 - CRAY VALLEY



**BUY A TICKET ONLINE TO ANY OF THE ABOVE HOME GAMES AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY TICKET TO BE USED AT ONE OF THE OTHER LISTED FIXTURES. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**



### Wingate & Finchley FC tickets and events

Wingate & Finchley FC upcoming events on FIXR. Buy tickets now.



# UP NEXT

28/02 // MAURICE REBAK STADIUM // 3.00PM



[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

# 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.

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY – CLUB HISTORY

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 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.

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY – CLUB HISTORY

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.

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY – CLUB HISTORY

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 2023/24 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.

2024/25 saw a revamped side complete a stable mid-table finish.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

The Club was founded in 1926, but unfortunately most of the early records of the Club were lost in the devastating East Coast floods of 1953. The Club were very successful during their days in the local leagues, winning many cups and league championships in the process. During these years, the club appointed Denis Neville as manager, his first job after leaving his position as the Dutch National Team manager.

However, the club had drifted away towards the end of the 1980's, and the very existence of Canvey Island FC was in serious doubt. When it looked as though the end was near, local businessman and former Canvey player Jeff King took over as manager, as well as helping to generate funds to take the club forward.

Canvey then enjoyed a meteoric rise up the football pyramid, the success starting in 1993 where The Gulls won the Essex Senior League and reached the semi-final of the FA Vase.

The Club then gained promotion to the Isthmian League in 1994 and won promotion from Division Three and Division Two in successive seasons. In 1995/96 after beating Conference team Hednesford Town in the FA Cup they reached the First Round Proper and drew 2-2 with Football League team Brighton & Hove Albion at Park Lane in front of a then ground record crowd of 3,400. The replay was lost at Brighton in front of a crowd of over 7,000. As well as winning Division Two the team were also winners of the Carlton Trophy and Thames-side Trophy.

The season 1998/99 was yet another exciting one for the supporters as the Club won the Division One championship and the Essex Senior Cup, beating Leyton Orient in the final. Season 1999/2000 was the Club's first season in the Premier Division of the Ryman League and they finished a very creditable fifth in the League and retained the Essex Senior Cup, defeating Purfleet in the Final.

The following season had seen the team win the FA Trophy by beating Forest Green Rovers 1-0 in the final in front of over 10,000 people at Villa Park and thousands more watching live on television. To win the FA Trophy they had to beat four Conference League teams in succession - Stevenage Borough, Telford United, Chester City (over two legs) and Forest Green.

Earlier in the season the Club had another great FA Cup run and after beating Braintree Town, King's Lynn and Cambridge City they were drawn against Port Vale from the Second Division of the Football League. In an exciting match at Park Lane they drew 4-4 after being 4-2 down with only two minutes left to play. However, even better was to follow as they went to Port Vale and beat them 2-1 after extra time.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

They were then drawn at home to Football League neighbours Southend United. To accommodate the number of people wishing to see the game, Canvey agreed to transfer the match to Southend's Roots Hall ground. A capacity crowd of 11,400 people saw the game, with record gate receipts for a game at Southend, and Canvey were narrowly beaten.

These tremendous cup runs took their toll in the League. With a large number of matches being postponed on opponents' grounds because of waterlogged pitches, it meant they had to complete the season with ten league games in fifteen days and consequently dropped points that may have taken them to the league title and a place in the Conference League. However, it was still a fine performance to finish runners-up in their second season in the Premier Division.

The Club had enjoyed a then record-breaking season the following year when they reached the 3rd Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time. On the way they beat five teams including two from the Second Division of the Football League, Wigan Athletic at the JJB Stadium, and Northampton Town in front of a full house at Park Lane and five million television viewers on 'Match of the Day Live'. Burnley finally knocked them out in a memorable game at Turf Moor.

They finished runners-up in the Ryman Premier League, despite winning thirty games and scoring 108 goals, and in defending the FA Trophy the team had a fine run before narrowly losing away to the eventual winners, Yeovil Town. The team did, however, end the season with silverware when winning the Essex Senior Cup, beating Dagenham & Redbridge in the final.

Canvey had another fine League season the previous year, finishing runners-up in the Ryman Premier League. Although this was another superb performance, finishing thirteen points clear of the third placed club, it was tinged with disappointment as it was the third season running the Club had finished runners-up in their quest to reach the Conference League. Towards the end of the season the Club had a ground record attendance of 3,553 when playing the eventual champions Aldershot Town in a midweek League game. However, the disappointment was a mark of how far the Club had progressed over the last decade, since winning the Essex Senior League.

The next season saw Canvey reach the goal they had been working towards for the previous four years, as they won the Ryman Premier League by a margin of nineteen points. Canvey also reached the FA Trophy final and the 1st Round of the FA Cup. The League was clinched at Easter with seven games still to play and the team finally finished with a total of 104 points. The FA Trophy run included wins over Conference teams Farnborough Town and Telford United, in the two-legged semi-final, before losing 3-2 in an exciting final at Villa Park against Hednesford United. After a fine run in the FA Cup the team was narrowly beaten at home 3-2 by Third Division neighbours Southend United, after a 1-1 draw at Roots Hall.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

Canvey's first season in the Conference they finished in 18th position in the League table, achieving their initial aim of consolidation. The season started well with a draw at Carlisle United, in front of a 7,000 crowd, on the opening day and just one defeat in the first seven games, against the eventual champions Barnet. After this the Club lost some key players through injury for several months and struggled in the middle part of the season but came back strongly at the end to seal their status for a second season.

The following season saw the club achieve its highest ever league position, as they earned a respectable 14th place. However, the lack of success compared to previous seasons had taken its toll on the attendances, so much so that Jeff King made the decision to withdraw his financial and footballing interests from the club. However, the supporters of the club rallied together to allow the team to continue playing the following year in the Ryman League Division 1 North.

John Batch take over as manager for the 2006/07 campaign, with his reserve side from the previous season making up the bulk of the squad. A learning curve for all concerned very nearly ended up in promotion, though The Gulls narrowly missed out on a playoff place, finishing 6th on the last day of the season.

Canvey went one better the following season, gaining promotion to the Ryman Premier League through the Playoffs. A run of 5 wins from our final 6 games earned us a place in the playoffs, and after beating AFC Sudbury away 3-2 after extra time, The Gulls travelled to Redbridge for the final. After the match finished 1-1 after extra time, Canvey won a nail biting penalty shootout 5-4 to earn promotion. During this season, Canvey also knocked out Ryman Premier League side Maidstone United from the FA Trophy, and reached the final of the Essex Thameside Trophy.

Manager John Batch stood down in January 2012, with the club lying in 10th place in the Ryman Premier League, with first team coach Glen Alzapiedi stepping up to take over as manager. He guided the club to lift the Essex Senior Cup for the first time in a decade with a 1-0 victory against League One side Colchester United at Thurrock FC's Ship Lane. Having defeated another Football League side, Dagenham & Redbridge, on penalties in the semi-finals, a headed goal from Rob King with 7 minutes to play won Canvey the cup without having conceded a goal throughout the competition.

Alzapiedi left the club in July 2012 and was replaced by former-Canvey captain Steve Tilson, who five years previously was managing in the Championship with Southend United. Tilson's reign only lasted one season before he was replaced with another ex-Canvey player in Danny Heale.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

After staying up on the last day of the season in 2015. Canvey were relegated on the same day of the following season for the first time due to league position in 19 years. The club's first season in the Bostik North nearly ended in an immediate return, reaching the playoff final but losing 3-1 away to Haringey Borough.

The Gulls picked up their first piece of silverware in six years ahead of the 2018/19 season, beating reigning Bostik North champions AFC Hornchurch 2-1 to win the Isthmian Charity Shield.

Former-Southend United and Gillingham played Mark Bentley took over as manager in October 2018. After finishing 9th in the Isthmian Division One North in his first season, his next two seasons were cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the 2020/21 season did turn out to be a memorable one, with Bentley leading the Gulls into the 2nd Round Proper of the FA Cup. Wins against Ware, Dereham Town, Biggleswade, Bedford Sports and Cray Wanderers earned Canvey an away tie against higher-division Banbury United in the 1st Round. Live on BBC television, goals from Conor Hubble and Elliott Ronto saw Canvey progress 2-1 and land a home tie against National League outfit Boreham Wood.

With a home match against Millwall the reward, Canvey were beaten 3-0 at Park Lane. However, much-needed television revenue was brought thanks to the match being shown live on BT Sport.

Manager Mark Bentley stepped down from his role in October 2021 with the club top of the Isthmian League North, leaving to join the new first team coaching team at Southend United. Assistant manager Brad Wellmen stepped up into the role, assisted by coach Sammy Knott.

Wellmen and Knott achieved a second-place finish, earning qualification into the playoffs. A 3-1 win at home to Felixstowe & Walton United in the semi-final setup a final at Park Lane against Brentwood Town. In front of a crowd of 2,532, Canvey fell behind early but levelled before the breakthrough Matthew Price. The two sides could not be separated after 120 minutes, meaning that promotion would be decided on penalties. Brentwood failed to convert two of their spot kicks, while Canvey scored all four of theirs to spark wild celebrations.

The following season back in the Isthmian Premier saw Canvey involved in a late title charge, where they were eventually made to settle for 3rd. In the playoffs, they were narrowly defeated by eventual winners Aveley.

The 23/24 season saw the club finish 14th after a campaign wrought with injuries in the squad, though they managed a derby 'double double' over local rivals Concord Rangers and Billericay Town for the first time in over a decade.

# ANVIL MOBILE

HOME OF 5G



**THE BOHEMIA**  
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB & BREWERY

**10% OFF**  
ALL FOOD ORDERS  
ON MATCH DAY\*



CRAFTED IN THE CAPITAL SINCE 2011

THEBOHEMIA.CO.UK



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



# 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](http://Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



**TRIDENT  
LEAGUES**  
VOLUNTEER HUB  
POWERED BY ENTAIN



ISTHMIAN  
FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE



**MANAGER:** AHMET RIFAT

**COACHES:** DIOGO NOBRE, JONNY GEORGIU, OLA WILLIAMS

**GOALKEEPING COACH:** GAVIN KING

**PHYSIO:** ISRAEL OZANGBO

**KIT MANAGER:** PETE BARKER

AYYUBA JAMBANG

BENJAMIN WATT

BEN FREMPAH

BILLY CRACKNELL

CAIN KELLER

CAMILO RESTREPO

CAOILAN MCGETTIGAN

CASEY SHANN

CHARLIE GRAINGER (GK)

CHARLIE STALLARD

EDDIE ALLSOPP

FERGAL HALE-BROWN (GK)

GIANLUCA BOTTI

LOIC HERNANDEZ

MACKYE TOWNSEND-WEST

RHAMAR GARRETT-DOUGLAS

ROMEO AKINOLA

RYAN LOWE

SAM BEEDIE

SAM CORNISH

STEFAN ILIC



**MANAGER:** GLEN KNIGHT

**COACHES:** MIKE REED, MICHAEL FINNERAN

**GOALKEEPING COACH:** LIAM DANIELS

CHARLIE WARREN (GK)

BEN STEWARD

OLIVER REEVE

KWABENA YEBOAH

LUKE O'NEIL

KENEDI DARIRI

ELLIOTT RONTO

JACK PAXMAN

CALUM NEWSON

ABDI MOHAMAD

MATAS SCARNA

FINLAY DORRELL

MICHAEL FINNERAN

DUANE AFORI-ACHEAMPONG

ANDREW SESAY

CONOR HUBBL

## **MATCH OFFICIALS**

**REFEREE:** PAUL STRATTON

**ASSISTANTS:** STEPHEN VIEIRA, AIDAN JONES