

WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingate & Finchley vs
Horsham



VS



Saturday 23rd
November 2024- 3.00PM KO

ISTHMIAN PREMIER
DIVISION

AIR
Fresh
PRINCIPAL CLUB SPONSOR



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
to find out more



**TRIDENT
LEAGUES**
VOLUNTEER HUB
POWERED BY ENTRIN



ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

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 Horsham enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

Despite the disappointment of not winning, our 1-1 draw with Chatham on Tuesday saw us climb up to second in the league going into this weekends' round of fixtures, just 3 points off top placed Dover Athletic.

Coming into today's game, Horsham sit in 15th place, having played only 12 league matches, the fewest in the division.

Our home tie last season saw us beat Horsham 2-0 with goals from Carvalho and Long, with the away fixture seeing Bani score to secure a 1-1 draw.

We return to cup action this Tuesday evening when we host Charlton Athletic in the third round of the London Senior Cup, with this being our last chance up at cup glory for the season. If we are victorious in this tie, we will have a home quarter final, game tbc

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 three home games in the next week.

Saturday 26th: **Charlton Ath. (H)**
(London Senior Cup)

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

This then concludes November with our NINTH fixture of the calendar month!

Saturday 7th: **Billericay Town (H)**
(Isthmian League)

London Senior Cup

After beating Erith and Belvedere 1-0 in the second round, we will now host Charlton Athletic in the third round.

Please note the date of this fixture has changed: originally scheduled for Tuesday 10th December, this game has been moved and will now be played this Tuesday 26th November, 7.45pm.

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.
Total games: 16 league, 6 cup:

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	14	3	17
Lowe	4	1	5
Georgiou	4	0	4
Frempah	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
Newton	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

To begin with, three interesting (?) facts about events on the 23rd November, but only one is true; which one? Answer at the end of the article.

- *The Cutty Sark was launched, in 1869*
- *In 1897, the first electric kettle was patented in Gary, Indiana*
- *Finchley FC played their first home match under the Summers Lane floodlights, in 1962*

Our visitors from Horsham this afternoon, no doubt travelling in their hundreds, may have found themselves, if using public transport, sharing a train with a couple of travelling home supporters. I refer, of course, to the Lady Wife and I who are making the great trek north for today's entertainment.

I suspect that home supporters in non-league football usually tend to live somewhere in the vicinity of the ground. Extraordinarily though, some people just can't be persuaded to attend. I have a very long-standing friend called Bob, who lives in Enfield. He was a decent fast bowler in his day, but his involvement in football has always tended to be of the spectating variety.

He has the good sense to be a Spurs fan, and has been known to take advantage of cheaper tickets for the elderly by attending some home games and some of the Women's matches too. He has also, unaccountably, taken to unravelling the myriad unfathomable rules of American Football at some of the games played in North London.

I have for some time, been trying to sell him the delights of a visit to the Maurice Rehak Stadium. He has yet to succumb, which probably suggests that I was wise in not adopting a career in sales, but I live in hope. Just recently, I suggested that he might like to join us for the Lewes game, just before Christmas, in the expectation that an afternoon of avoiding the festivities would appeal.

As ever, he had an excuse. This time, it is that he will be looking after his 3-year-old grandson. I pointed out that the young man could gain

A VIEW FROM AFAR

entry free of charge and what better way to introduce a toddler to the joys of grass roots football? 'He'd cause chaos!', was the response. By coincidence, that is exactly what we hope our forward line will be doing to the Horsham defence this afternoon. So it is that his initiation to the deep joy that comes from a visit to Summers Lane will have to wait until at least 2025 – perhaps he could attend the play-off final?

It did make me think of other things that might cause chaos at matches. I was once at the old White Hart Lane when the former ancient west stand was being replaced. A game took place during demolition, which stopped for the afternoon, but a large area of roofing broke free and started to flap dangerously on what was a windy day, and the fire brigade were called.

They placed some sort of heavy weight upon the untethered section, which seemed to secure it, whereupon the fire fighters stood on it and continued to watch the match. At some point, a siren was heard from their engine parked outside the ground and a mad scramble took place as they answered the call and rushed to their day jobs, leaving a heavy weight resting on a roof above 40,000 people. If we all survived that, surely we could tolerate a 3 year old running amok on the terraces?

Which statement is correct? It is the Cutty Sark. The opening floodlight game was on October 10th, with Moore, Hurst and Peters all playing on our hallowed turf and the first electric kettle was patented in 1891 in Chicago.

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.

THE BOHEMIA

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB & BREWERY

10% OFF

ALL FOOD ORDERS
ON MATCH DAY*



CRAFTED IN THE CAPITAL SINCE 2011

THEBOHEMIA.CO.UK



*PLEASE SHOW THIS EMAIL WHEN ORDERING

HORSHAM – CLUB HISTORY

Records of a football club bearing the Horsham name exist as far back as 1871 but it wasn't until a decade later that regular organised football was played in the town. A founder member of both the Sussex County FA and the West Sussex Senior League, Horsham's golden era came in the 1930s when, by now playing in the Sussex County League, they won six titles and nine cup finals.

They reached the first round of the FA Cup in 1947 for the first time and, in 1952, became members of the Metropolitan League that included the 'A' sides of clubs such as Brighton & Hove Albion, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur, winning the title at the first attempt. In 1957 they made the switch to the Corinthian League, where their six-year stay peaked with a third placed finish in 1961/62.

Horsham found themselves in the Athenian League, formed by the merger of the Corinthian and Delphian Leagues in 1963, and experienced relegation, two title wins, and a second appearance in the FA Cup first round before joining the Isthmian League in 1973. Twice Senior Cup winners in the 1970s, they ended the decade under the threat of bankruptcy and only escaped relegation to the County League at the end of the 1980s after winning a two-legged play-off match with now defunct Letchworth Garden City. Progress was eventually made and they were crowned Division Three champions in 1996.

Former Crawley Town boss John Maggs took over as manager in January 2000, taking a struggling side to Division Two runners-up inside three seasons and a promotion play-off final appearance in 2004/05. Promotion to the Premier Division was achieved the following season and the club went on to establish itself as a consistent performer, even challenging for a place in Conference South in 2007/8, as well as making history by reaching the second round proper of the FA Cup and taking eventual League One champions Swansea City to a replay, with both matches shown live on Sky TV.

Having sold their ground for redevelopment at the end of that same season, Horsham spent a financially cautious decade groundsharing at Worthing, Horsham YMCA and Lancing, during which time they dropped down to the County League for a single season before coming straight back up as champions under the guidance of former East Preston boss Dom Di Paola. In 2019 they moved into their new stadium at Hop Oast back in the Premier Division, having won a tight play-off match with Ashford United.

After the first two campaigns at their new home were cut short due to the Covid pandemic, 2021/22 saw the club lift the Velocity Trophy (the Isthmian League Cup) for the first time in their history, as well as reaching the first round of the FA Cup for a fourth time.

HORSHAM – CLUB HISTORY

2022-23 saw the club achieve a best-ever 7th place, but that was topped in 2023-24 with a 5th-placed finish and a first-ever tilt at the play-offs, suffering a painful semi-final defeat to Chatham Town on penalties.

There were also record runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy (to the 2nd and 4th rounds, respectively), including hosting ITV for live coverage of the home FA Cup tie against League 1 Barnsley, but the icing on the cake of the club's best-ever season came at the Amex Stadium with a 3-0 victory over Hastings United in the Sussex Senior Cup, the club's first win in the competition since 1976.

MAJOR CLUB HONOURS

West Sussex Football League 1899-90, 1900-01, 1925-26

Sussex County League 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38, 1946-47

Metropolitan League 1951-52

Athenian League Division Two 1969-70 Athenian League Division One 1972-73

Isthmian League Division Three 1995-96 Isthmian League Cup (Velocity Trophy) 2021-22

Southern Combination Football League 2015-16

Sussex RUR Cup 1900, 1931, 1932, 1934 (Jt), 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 (Jt), 1946, 1949 (Jt), 1951, 1952, 1957

Sussex Floodlight Cup 1977-78, 2001-02

Sussex Senior Cup 1934-35, 1938-39, 1949-50, 1953-54, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1975-76, 2023-24 Sussex Community Shield 2023-24

FA Cup 1st Round 1947-48, 1966-67, 2021-22

FA Cup 2nd Round 2007-08, 2023-24

MOST APPEARANCES Gary Charman - 616 - 1998-2022

MOST CAREER GOALS Jack Broadley - 436 - 1926-1946

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH Mick Streeter – 9 vs Portslade 17/11/1962

RECORD ATTENDANCE 7,134 vs Swindon Town - 26/11/1966 - FA Cup 1st round

HORSHAM – PLAYER PROFILES

Lewis Carey (goalkeeper) – Now in his second season at the club, having joined from rivals Lewes in the summer of 2023, Lewis is a former Bristol City apprentice who also had spells at Bromley, Tonbridge Angels, Eastbourne Borough and Thamesmead Town prior to his move to the Dripping Pan where he was voted Player of the Year in his debut season of 2018/19. One of the most consistent goalkeepers in the Isthmian League, he produced a Man of the Match display in our 3-3 draw at Barnsley in last season's FA Cup and ended the campaign with a Sussex Senior Cup winners' medal.

Bradley House (goalkeeper) – Brad is in his second spell with the Hornets, having made a dozen appearances for the club on loan from Sutton United during the Covid-abandoned campaign of 2020/21. The early part of his career was spent as a youngster at Arsenal and then West Bromwich Albion, the latter sending him out on loan to Banbury United and Chippenham Town before his release by the Hawthorns outfit in the summer of 2020. He spent four years at Sutton, during which time he also saw service with Havant & Waterlooville and Hendon, but began the current campaign at Horsham's Premier Division rivals Chatham Town only to return to the Hornets in October this year, picking up a red card on his latest 'debut' in a 2-0 defeat of Chichester City.

Harvey Sparks (defender) – Harvey has developed into one of the most accomplished full-backs in the league since arriving from Bognor Regis Town in September 2018. Named joint Player of the Season at the end of his first campaign with the Hornets, he won the award outright in 2022 and has added winners' medals in the League Cup, Sussex Senior Cup and Division One Play-Off to his collection of silverware as well as appearing in the first and second rounds of the FA Cup. Previously at Worthing, with whom he won promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division in 2016, Harvey is the longest serving player of the current squad, beginning the season with 246 appearances to his name.

Jack Strange (defender) – Centre-half 'Strange' became an instant favourite with the Horsham faithful after signing from Kingstonian midway through the 2022/23 season. An effective presence in both penalty boxes, Jack has chipped in with some important goals and isn't afraid of bringing the ball out from the back. After his hopes of making the grade at Queens Park Rangers came to nothing, he dropped into non-league football, first with Sutton United and then Corinthian-Casuals for whom he made over 200 appearances before joining the KS in 2022.

Isaac Philpot (defender) – Horsham fans were delighted when Isaac agreed to join the club on a permanent basis in the summer, after showcasing his talents on loan during the second half of last season. A versatile defender who was spotted while playing for Cardiff University by Dorking Wanderers, the former Sutton United youngster joined his hometown club in 2017 and went on to play a major role in Wanderers' promotion from the Isthmian League to the National League's top flight as well as picking up a Surrey Senior Cup winner's medal in 2022.

Jake Elliott (defender) – Summer signing Jake brings National League South experience to the club, having spent 2021/22 at Eastbourne Borough. Initially on the books of Peacehaven & Telscombe, the tall full-back made the step up by joining Hastings United in 2019 for the first of two spells at the Pilot Field and then to Lewes where, last season, he started all but one of the Rooks' 49 matches.

Montel Agyemang (midfielder) – Beginning at Chelsea, Montel joined Leyton Orient and made his senior debut as an 18 year old in December 2014 but, after having loan spells at Royston and Grays, he dropped into non-league football permanently, first with a brief stay at Fisher and then a move to Maldon & Tiptree. He later played in the National League South with East Thurrock, Wealdstone and Welling United but has been plying his trade in the Isthmian League since 2021 with a season at Billericay bookended by two spells at Margate. It was while on Gate's books that he suffered a broken leg at the start of last season which ruled him out for twelve months. Joined Horsham this summer.

Danny Barker (midfielder) – One of the 'unsung stars' of Horsham's outstanding 2023/24 campaign, Danny dropped down a division to join the Hornets after playing National League South football for Worthing, having

HORSHAM – PLAYER PROFILES

helped the Rebels to the Isthmian Premier Division title in 2022. A former captain of Brighton & Hove Albion's U18s, injury cut short Danny's plans for a career as a pro and, instead, he spent five years at Woodside Road during which he made over 150 appearances for the south coast club.

Lee Harding (midfielder) – Lee's versatility has seen him fill in regularly at full-back over the last couple of seasons but it is for his attacking threat down the right flank that he has become a firm favourite of the Horsham faithful, who voted him as Player of the Season for 2021/22. An Isthmian League winner at both youth and senior levels with previous club Burgess Hill Town, as well as his many 'assists' Lee has weighed in with some important goals including the opener in our Velocity Trophy final win over Margate in 2022.

Jack Brivio (midfielder) – Club captain Briv has been at the forefront of Horsham's recent successes, leading the side to Play-off, League Cup, Senior Cup and FA Cup successes in the six years since joining the club from Burgess Hill Town. A cultured midfielder, Jack's creativity has been sacrificed over the last couple of seasons when asked to cover in the centre of defence, something he has done with aplomb, but should be back in his more favoured role this campaign. Began his career at Tonbridge Angels and scored twice to help the Hornets secure their first-ever Isthmian League Cup in 2022.

Lucas Rodrigues (forward) – Brazilian-born Lucas moved to England at the age of five and went on to progress through the youth set-up at Whitehawk, for whom he made his senior debut aged just sixteen. He was named the Isthmian League Step 4 Player of the Season for 2019/20 and racked up more than 150 appearances for the Brighton-based club before joining Horsham in the summer of 2021 for a club record fee. His dazzling wing play makes Lucas a real gamechanger, as he showed in last season's FA Cup tie at Barnsley when setting up our equalising goal in a 3-3 draw.

Charlie Hester-Cook (midfielder) – Charlie progressed through the Woking FC Academy but left the club in search of regular first team football and joined Leatherhead ahead of the 2019/20 season. His impressive performances brought him to the attention of Dorking Wanderers, who signed him and immediately loaned him back to the Tanners for the remainder of the season, during which time he was a near ever-present. Initially joining Horsham in August 2021 on one of three loan stints, the others being at Walton & Hersham and Westfield, his swashbuckling style quickly caught the eye and he made the deal permanent at the end of that year. Injury restricted him to just 28 appearances in 2022/23 and although a combination of injury and suspension saw him start just three of the last dozen games of last season, his contribution to the club's outstanding campaign saw him voted Supporters' Player of the Season.

James Hammond (midfielder) – 'Hammo' enjoyed an impressive first season with the Hornets, helping the club to Sussex Senior Cup success, a Play-Off semi-final, and an appearance in the second round of the FA Cup. Playing at the heart of the midfield, he is a tenacious, creative footballer who has developed a reputation as a dead ball expert with six of his last season's tally of fifteen goals coming from set-pieces. He made his debut as a sixteen year old with Peacehaven & Telscombe, prior to making nearly 200 appearances for Lewes, and then spent three years at National League South Eastbourne Borough from whom he joined Horsham in the summer of 2023.

Reece Meekums (midfielder) – Reece's footballing education began at Brighton & Hove Albion, for whom he played at U18 and U23 levels, before dropping into the National League with Bromley. Whilst with the Hayes Lane outfit, he had loan spells at Worthing, Eastbourne Borough and Bognor Regis Town, later joining Worthing on a permanent basis in 2019 where he collected Sussex Senior Cup and Isthmian Premier Division winners' medals. Reece joined Horsham on a dual-registration basis with the Rebels in September 2023 and initially struggled to make an impact but ended the campaign in excellent form, culminating in him scoring the opening goal in our Senior Cup final win against Hastings United. Reece made the permanent switch to Horsham this summer.

HORSHAM – PLAYER PROFILES

Joel Daly (midfielder) – Joel is a highly-rated attacking midfielder who, after playing youth football for Crawley Town, Whitehawk and Lewes, moved on to Haywards Heath Town before accepting a scholarship to play in the United States. After a four year stint at Ohio-based university side Tiffin Dragons, he returned to the UK and teamed up with his former Haywards Heath boss Shaun Saunders at Whitehawk, whom he helped earn promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division in his first season. He joined the Hornets this summer, having scored seven goals in eighty-nine appearances for the Hawks.

Daniel Ajakaiye (forward) – Dan delighted everyone by committing himself to the Hornets again this season, having become a real fans' favourite since arriving from Kingstonian two years ago. With an impressive turn of pace and a workrate to match, a debut brace on the opening day of the 2022/23 season gave an early hint of what was to come from the former West Ham United youngster, with a goal every 2.5 games in his first two seasons at Horsham, among them the 2022/23 Goal of the Season. Having failed to make the grade at Bromley as a youngster, Dan joined Kingstonian and then Hastings United where his 34 goals not only helped the Us to a third-place finish in Division One South East but earned him a move to National League South Havant & Waterlooville. He returned to the Ks a year later before agreeing to join Horsham in the summer of 2022. Dan has also had loan spells at Grays Athletic and Whyteleafe.

Shamir Fenelon (forward) – Sham is a big game player with an impressive footballing CV. Capped twice at U21 level for the Republic of Ireland, the powerful forward made two senior appearances for Brighton & Hove Albion and also boasts Football League experience with Torquay United, Rochdale, Tranmere Rovers and Dagenham Redbridge. On his release by the Seagulls in 2015, he joined Crawley Town before going on to make close on a century of appearances for Aldershot Town. Sham joined Horsham for the 2021/22 season, ending his debut campaign as the club's top goalscorer, and although not a prolific 'goalgetter', he has made a habit of finding the net in some vital fixtures including our first equaliser in last season's 3-3 FA Cup draw against Barnsley at Oakwell.

Ola Ogunwamide (forward) – Ola is an exciting attacking talent who joined the Hornets in the summer from rivals Lewes. Beginning his career at Barking in 2018, his impressive form for Division One North Tilbury, for whom he either scored or assisted twenty-five goals in forty appearances in 2019/20, led to a move to Hornchurch in December 2021 for the first of two spells. He made sixty appearances for the Urchin before spending a month at Concord Rangers in February 2023 and returning to Hornchurch for the remainder of the season. The pacy wide man started last season at Bishop's Stortford but made the switch to Lewes in the October, with one of his seven goals in thirty-four games earning the Rooks victory over Horsham in April.

Joe Turner (forward) – A summer signing from Ramsgate, Joe's footballing career began at various clubs around Surrey, including Cove and Knaphill, during which time he represented England Universities before joining Wealdstone. He then made further stops at Metropolitan Police and Kingstonian, and even spent four months overseas in New Zealand with Richmond Athletic. Turning down an offer to play for professional A-League club Wellington Phoenix, he returned home and joined Tonbridge Angels where he scored 67 goals and contributed 54 assists in 261 appearances, winning their Player of the Year award a record three times. After a six year stay with the Kent club, he joined AFC Totton for the 2023/24 season only to make the switch to Ramsgate in February, helping them reach the Division One South East play-offs.

Chris Dickson (forward) – Arriving with heaps of pedigree, 'Dicko's' glittering career includes Football League appearances for Charlton Athletic, Gillingham, Bristol Rovers and Dagenham & Redbridge, lifting the Cypriot First Division title with AEL Limassol, scoring against Marseille in the Europa League, a brief spell in the Chinese Super League, assisting two goals to help Hornchurch win the FA Trophy at Wembley in 2021, and scoring in the penalty shoot-out for Chatham Town in last season's play-off semi-final defeat of the Hornets. As if that wasn't impressive enough, he has also represented his country, Ghana, in two internationals. Despite his long and colourful career, Dicko's hunger for goals is as keen as ever.

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



Fresh
AIR
Principal Club Sponsor

PITCHING IN

proudly supports

THE TRIDENT TRUST FUND

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

@PitchingIn_





Manager: Ahmet Rifat

Coaches: Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel

Goalkeeping Coach: Gavin King

Analyst: Michael Smith

Kit Manager: Pete Barker

Prince Adegoke

Tyrece Briscoe

Toby Byron

Billy Cracknell

Jaiden Drakes-Thomes

Ben Frempah

Rhamar Garrett-Douglas

Andronicos Georgiou

Fergal Hale-Brown

Loic Hernandez

Arthur Ionnton

Ryan Lowe

Zack Newton

Tommy Roberts

Ogo Obi

Ferdinand Oko

Destiny Oladipo

Khristopher Oti

Lonit Talla

Ayo Tanimowo

Bobby Webb



Manager: Dominic di Paola

Goalkeeping Coach: Stuart Owens

Coaches: Jimmy Punter, Sami el-Abd

Physio: Marco Fernandex

Kit Manager: Darren Etheridge

Montel Agyemang

Daniel Ajakaiye

Danny Barker

Jack Brivio

Lewis Carey (gk)

Joel Daly

Chris Dickson

Jake Elliott

Shamir Felon

James Hammond

Lee Hardin

Charlie Hester-Cook

Bradley House (gk)

Reece Meekums

Ola Ogunwamide

Isaac Philpot

Lucas Rodrigues

Harvey Sparks

Jack Strange

Joe Turner

NEXT UP IN N12:

Charlton Ath. (LSC) – 26/11/2024

Billericay Town (ILP) – 07/12/2024

Lewes (ILP) – 21/12/2024

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Harry Price

Assistants: Andreas Anastasiou, Bimi Sherifi