

WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingate & Finchley vs
Potters Bar Town



VS



Monday 26th
August 2024

Isthmian
Premier Division

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WINGATE & FINCHLEY FC

Hello and welcome to the Maurice Rebak Stadium! We hope that all associated with the club, the match officials and the staff, players and officials of Potters Bar Town enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

16 days into the 2024/25 season and we are already onto our fifth game of the campaign!

We last faced our local rivals Town on bank holiday Monday back in April, where the Blues won 3-1 here at Summers Lane. Our goals were scored by Ben Frempah, Ruben Carvalho and Alex Soloman.

In the reverse fixture on boxing day, it was Town who claimed a 3-2 victory, with our goals coming from Elliot Long and Zack Newton.

Our away trip to the Lantern Stadium will take place on Wednesday 1st January 2025.

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

New teams to the division

This season we welcome six new clubs to the Isthmian League Premier:

Bowers & Pitsea return after one season away in the Isthmian North

Hendon are transferred from the Southern League Premier South, where they have been competing since leaving the Isthmian League in 2018

Dartford and Dover Athletic join having been relegated from the National League South. The sides last competed in the Isthmian Premier in 2010 and 2009 respectively.

Chichester City and Cray Valley Paper Mills promoted from the Isthmian South East, both playing at this level for the first time in their histories.

Leaving the division

This season we also see six clubs departing the Isthmian League Premier:

Enfield Town won last season's playoff so are now in the National League South

Hornchurch join them having won the league

Concord Rangers and Haringey Borough relegated and join the Isthmian North

Kingstonian and Margate also faced the drop, falling into the Isthmian South Central and Isthmian South East respectively.

Cup draws

The league campaign has barely started, and somehow we already have our first cup ties of the season!

London Senior Cup – Receiving a bye in the first round, we will host Erith and Belvedere in round two, on Tuesday 29 October.

FA Cup – With the first qualifying round draw taking place last week, we have been paired with Thame United of the Southern League Division 1 Central. The tie will take place on Saturday 31st August 2024 at 3pm.

The ASM Stadium, Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3RN

FA Youth Cup

Thanks to our 4-1 win away at Fisher two weeks ago, our U18s will now host Romford in the preliminary round next Wednesday 5th September here at Summers Lane.

New vice chairman

Please give a warm welcome to one of our own Joe Sharpe, a former player and of course son of chairman Aron who returns to the club on the board of directors. Joe joins as a vice chairman alongside Nicky Rifat.

Recent games

Saturday saw the Blues win 3-2 away at Canvey Island. Goals thanks to Luke Deslandes and a Destiny Oladipo brace.

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

Today's little brain teaser concerns Potters Bar. One of the following facts is true, but which one?

- Potters Bar station is the highest on the mainline route between Kings Cross and York
- Potters Bar was the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for most of his adult life
- Potters Bar is believed to be around the point of the most southerly extension of the last Ice Age

Answer at the foot of the column

But back to the football. The Scholars from Potters Bar visit us on this Bank Holiday Monday with the schools still to return for the autumn term, unless you happen to live in Scotland. Or perhaps Albania, or Kazakhstan – my knowledge of the academic year in areas of the world other than the UK is limited. I do recall playing both football and cricket against the Scholars back in my youth, but then they were Mount Grace School and besides, were typically under 13.s or 14's.

It was, though, the site of one of my finest, or at least best struck, goals and I recall it clearly after all these years. I trust that my loyal readers will enjoy a full account of the event, which began with a speedy attack down the right wing. I was racing (I use the term loosely, obviously) towards the goal, probably roughly on the line of the near post. The winger outpaced the full back and delivered a low cross. I could see immediately that I wouldn't quite reach the ball as it crossed my path, but reckoned that if I increased my speed to what might be described as marginally faster than jogging pace, I might just, at a stretch, reach the ball.

Thus it was that I outwitted my direct opponent and extended my right leg as I slid toward the object. It was just inside the penalty area and by some extraordinary good fortune, I connected perfectly. The ball flew off my boot and soared in a graceful parabola, looping over the goalkeeper who, having left his line, could only look on as it sailed, just out of his reach and descended beneath the crossbar to settle in the back of the net. The celebrations were immense; the small crowd and

A VIEW FROM AFAR

all of the players on both sides had witnessed one of the finest own goals ever scored.

I was nonetheless allowed to play again and enjoyed the experience, although never reaching any great heights. This contrasts with the heroes that we would see on the pitch at Summers Lane and elsewhere. I do wonder if the players out on the pitch today realise the impact that they have on the gathered multitudes? It is not just the multi millionaires at the top level who serve as role models. I even have a friend who is besotted by the performance of players in the red and white of Stoke City, and that is saying something!

So, as we choose the Maurice Rebak over a Bank Holiday trip to somewhere exotic, like Southend, or Bicester Village, let's hope that this afternoon's game lays down a few great memory moments. Oh, and no outstanding own goals, obviously.

Which of the facts about Potters Bar is true?

The station at Potters Bar is indeed the highest between London and York. Conan Doyle lived at Crowborough in Sussex and, as everybody knows, the Ice Age ended at East Finchley station (according to my old Geography teacher!)

By Peter Brown

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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2024 PRE-SEASON REVIEW

Sporting Bengal	BL	W5-1	Tue 02/07/2024
Royston Town	BL	W2-0	Sat 06/07/2024
Ware	A	W3-0	Tue 09/07/2024
Peterborough United	H	D0-0	Sat 13/07/2024
Brentwood Town	BL	L0-1	Tue 16/07/2024
Aldershot Town	H	D2-2	Sat 20/07/2024
Hadley	A	W3-1	Sat 27/07/2024
Welwyn Garden City	A	W6-1	Tue 30/07/2024
Watford U23	H	W1-0	Sat 03/08/2024



Watford U23 (H) – Saturday 3rd August 2024

All photos by Martin Addison

* BL – Barnet Lane training ground

POTTERS BAR TOWN

The foundations for the Mount Grace Old Scholars (Potters Bar) Football Association were laid in spring 1960. The school's first team were having a good season, but many of the boys were due to leave at Easter. It was then that Ken Barrett; the P.E. Master of Mount Grace School asked them and old 'Scholars' to support him in raising a team.

We were accepted into the Barnet & District League on 29th June 1960. Ken enlisted Bert Wright, the school's Caretaker and Sven Hammarling and then Bill Venneear. Reserve, 3rd and 4th Teams were added in the following seasons. In 1965, the Barnet & District and Finchley & District Leagues merged to form the North London Combination. By 1967/68 we had won the Premier Division and the Reserves the Division 1 title and were admitted to Division 2 of the Herts County League.

In 1976 Bill Venneear and Clive Cavalier stepped down and Peter Waller, then the 3rd Team manager, was 'persuaded' to take over. In 1978 many recommended the closure of the Club, but we continued and our three sides were relegated. But from the experience grew a desire never to repeat the mistakes again. Micky Holson became Manager and in 1981/82 we were in the Premier Division, as Division One Champions.

Clive Cavalier rejoined in 1979, and Peter Waller planned the new clubhouse and changing rooms. Construction started in July 1982 and in six months, with Frank Bentley's considerable involvement and help from members, the clubhouse opened on the 9th January 1983.

In 1990/91, we reached the FA Vase 3rd round, before we came back from a 24-point deficit to win the Herts Senior County League Premier Division and the Aubrey Cup. We accepted promotion to the South Midlands League and changed our playing name to Potters Bar Town FC, to reflect the growing stature of the club and promote the Town. Don Newman stood down as Chairman after 11 years.

We installed the Floodlight system in 1993, the Youth section was reformed in 1993/94 and FA Cup football came in 1995/96. At the end of that season, Peter Waller stepped down as Secretary, after twenty years, to become Chairman. In 1996/97, the South Midlands Premier Division title was won, but we knew there was too much work to do to apply to the Isthmian League.

The following season, 1997/98, the club reached the quarter final of the FA Vase, going down 2-0 to Kidsgrove Athletic, only conceding in the second period of extra time. We were Runners-up in the league, but won the Challenge Trophy and the South Midlands Floodlight Cup. The Reserves went one better, winning Reserve Division One. In 1998, Peter Waller and Eddie Harvey, secured a new 21-year lease on the ground, whilst on the site the old school was demolished, replaced by a new Ladbrooke School, Care Home,

POTTERS BAR TOWN

new car park and Watkins Rise. Sadly, we lost Bill Venneear in November 2000, a victim of cancer. The 150-seater Main Stand was added in May 2001.

For Season 2001/02, Steve Smart became Manager and by 2002/03, with Paul Surridge, we achieved 3rd place in the league and won the Herts Charity Shield. The Potters Bar Charity Cup followed in 2003/04, but 2004/05 was the most successful of his 3-year reign, winning four trophies; the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division and the Premier Division Cup, Herts Charity Shield and Potters Bar Charity Cup.

The club went on to take the title by sixteen points, remaining unbeaten in the final 19 league matches, including sixteen victories. Off the pitch, in 6 weeks Club members and Players carried out major improvements and we passed the FA Ground grading and earned promotion to the Southern League Division 1 East for season 2005/06.

Steve Smart stepped down; Kevin Lucas was appointed, and then replaced by Andy Milne. Though we were bottom for six months, we would not give up. Andy Leese agreed to join us in February 2006 and with new players our fortunes changed and we survived, finishing 16th. The club was devastated that season by the death of Ken Woodward, who had spearheaded the ground improvements.

For 2006/07, we were moved to the Ryman League Division 1 North. We enjoyed a most successful FA Cup run, losing 3-2 to full-time Woking, of the Conference National, in the 4th qualifying round, after wins against Waltham Abbey, Wealdstone, Maldon Town and Margate with a 1-2 away win. We won the Herts FA Charity Cup for the first time, but lost Kevin Wilmot as Secretary. Andy Leese left in May 2007 and we appointed Steve Browne, though he resigned in December 2008. In the summer of 2007, a spectators covered area was added and a turnstile block. All four turnstiles have a unique history, as they were all in use at the old Wembley Stadium, until it closed in 2000.

Adam Lee was appointed in 2008 and for 5 years served the Club with great distinction and commitment, always improving our league position and reached the Herts Senior Cup Final in 2012/13 for the only time. In May 2010, to celebrate our 50th year, many former players returned, including 9 who had played in the very first match in September 1960! Bert Wright, one of our 'founders', received the FA 50-Year Service Award. To commemorate the occasion, the Club reverted to Maroon shirts, the same colours that we wore in June 1960. In January 2012, Bert Wright died at the age of 93, having given the club 52 years of service. In his honour, we renamed the Main stand after him.

For 2013/14 we were back in the Southern League. In late 2013, Adam Lee stepped down, succeeded by Jack Friend, and then in early 2015, by Steve Ringrose. Our Free Season Ticket Offer was launched for 2014/15 and made the national press. Sadly, we lost Eddie Harvey. In 2015/16 we reached the semi-final of the League Cup, and then in 2016/17 we

POTTERS BAR TOWN

made the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup for the second time, including a replay win at Bath City on penalties (our best result against a team from a higher level).

In Summer 2017 the Clubroom was refurbished and in August 2018, after raising £100,000 ourselves and 3 years' work by John Gibbs, our new Changing Room complex was opened. For 2017/18 we were back in the Isthmian League Division 1 North. In September 2017, Peter Waller, celebrated 50 years of service to the Club and received an FA Award. Steve Ringrose 'promoted' James Duncan to Head Coach and several experienced players arrived.

We started with another successful run in the FA Cup, losing to National South Play Off Finalists Hampton & Richmond Borough, whilst in the FA Trophy we fell to Southern League Premier Division Champions, Hereford, both after replays. We then targeted the Play offs, being 8th in January. However, in our remaining 22 fixtures, we won 15 and drew 5 and came through to take 2nd spot and promotion, with a win on the final day. As a result, we proudly started 2018/19 in the Premier Division.

The 2018/19 season was to present two challenges:

One: Make the necessary ground improvements to reach the next level ground grading requirements which meant the addition of two new stands - one a 100-seater and the other a 100 standing. This was achieved on time thanks to the hard work of club members, supporters, fund-raising and grants.

Two: Establish ourselves at step three. This we did, finishing 16th in the in the Bostik Premier League despite the departure of our management team in the season, but we again promoted from within with Lee O'Leary stepping up to player/manager, joined by Scott Cousins as joint manager. It was another season of significant progress.

The shortened 2019/20 season was another successful one as the club solidified its position at Step three and gained national interest as we took Barnet to a replay in the FA Cup Fourth Round Qualifying, whilst the home game being shown on the BBC with a crowd of 2011 in attendance.

The 2020/21 season was also curtailed, with the last game being played in October, a 3-1 loss against Leatherhead. The season's termination did not prevent us from continuing to make progress on and off the pitch however, as on the pitch we were able to enjoy 3-0 wins against both Cheshunt and Cray Wanderers, the latter ending our opponent's 17 game unbeaten run.

Off the pitch, further improvements were made to the stadium, as a state-of-the-art sprinkler system, a perimeter barrier around the pitch and a new draining system were all installed, whilst the main grandstand was changed to a maroon and white, with new seats and a repaint in order to match the new club colours.

POTTERS BAR TOWN

The 2021/22 season saw a return to football and a season completed. We went out of the FA Cup in the first qualifying round away to Stowmarket Town but enjoyed our best run to date in the FA Trophy before losing 3-1 away to Braintree Town of the National League South in the second round proper. With an unprecedented wet winter, the club was hampered by having a number of home game postponed due to a continuing waterlogged pitch which put us behind in league fixtures – a lot of mid season work was put into the pitch to aid its recovery.

Lee O’Leary resigned as manager, but the club appointed the experienced Sammy Moore which saw a change in the team’s performances and the Club achieved a final position of 13th with 53 points, their best yet at step three. Moore oversaw a strong start to the 2022/23 season that left the Scholars shocking the league at the top of the table, a position the team stayed in as late as November.

Moore left the Club after 10 months in charge, and Lee Protheroe was promoted from his role as coach, taking his place in the dugout. His tenure was short lived, as he resigned in March with the team safe and in our first ever Velocity Cup final. It was left to Max Mitchell and Liam Hope to manage the team to the final, which ended 3-0 to Aveley on a difficult night for Bar, but wins against Carshalton and Margate to end the season left fans feeling optimistic, after equalling our best finish of 13th and 53 points.

In the 2023/2024 Season the Scholars from the re-named Lantern Stadium had a poor start to the season, a good middle and a poor end. At one stage we had an outside chance of making the playoffs, but because of drainage issues with the pitch we had to play so many games in a short time span that we ended up 15th in the table with 51 points. As a result of this we are in the process of having a 3G surface installed and will start the season playing our home games at Kings Langley FC.

SEASON TICKETS 2024/25



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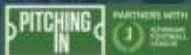
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- Conc. £130.00 £6.19

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Kit Manager: Pete Barker

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Loic Hernandez
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Ryan Lowe
Zack Newton
Michael O'Donoghue
Tommy Roberts
Ogo Obi
Ferdinand Oko
Destiny Oladipo
Khristopher Oti
Lonit Talla
Ayo Tanimowo
Bobby Webb

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Paul Stratton

Assistants: Leigh Ballinger, Brian Taylor



Manager: Max Mitchell

Assistant Manager: Liam Hope

Hamid Abdel Salem
Brandon Adams
Daniel Aldana
Thomas Avgoustidis
Ore Bello
Steve Cawley
Shane Cojocarel
Isaac Currie
Jamie Dicks
Layne Eadie
Calvin Ekpiteta
Samrai Gebrai
Ryan Hayes
Rickie Hayles
Ronnie Henry
Ryan Herval
Max Jessop
Prosper Keto
Leigh Rose
Finn Rushton
Seb Stacey
Ben Ward-Cochrane
Albert Wood

NEXT UP IN N12:

Romford U18 (FAYC) – 05/09/2024

Chichester City (ILP) – 21/09/2024

TBC (FAT) – 05/10/2024

Bowers & Pitsea (ILP) – 15/10/2024