

# WINGATE & FINCHLEY

MATCHDAY | FOLKESTONE INVICTA

TUE 25 NOV 2025 | 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\_





Hello and welcome to the Maurice Rebak Stadium! We hope that everyone associated with the club, the match officials and the staff, as well as the players and officials of Folkestone enjoy their stay in N12 this evening.

Saturday saw the Blues' nine-match unbeaten run in the Isthmian Premier Division come to a disappointing end with a 2-0 away defeat at Aveley in the driving rain, the Millers' Goalkeeper Joe Wright earning a well deserved Man-of-the-match performance with the Blues ultimately unable to find a way past him.

The Blues now sit in 10<sup>th</sup> place, 4 points off the playoff places with two games in hand.

Attention now turns to table-topping Folkestone Invicta, who lead the charge by just one point (albeit with two games

in hand over nearest rivals Brentwood Town). The seasideers are building up an unbeaten run of their own, having won five league games in a row.

The blues have a fairly poor record against Folkestone, having failed to beat them on any of the last 10 occasions, in a run stretching back nearly six years. Ahmet Rifat's side will hope to pick themselves up from Saturday's defeat and change that today.

Lastly, some fixture news to bring you: We have been drawn at home to Cheshunt in the velocity cup. The tie will be played on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, meaning our fixture against Fisher in the London Senior Cup will be moved to a later date.

As ever, highlights from tonight's game will be available on our [YouTube Channel](#) in the coming days.





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 HAS BECOME TRADITIONAL THIS SEASON, THREE STATEMENTS AT THE OUTSET, ONE OF WHICH IS A DOWNRIGHT UNTRUTH. BUT WHICH ONE? ANSWER AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE.

- FOLKESTONE HAS NOT HAD A REGULAR FERRY SERVICE TO FRANCE SINCE 2001
- THE RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURE RECORDED IN NOVEMBER IN FOLKESTONE IS 22.3°
- WALTER TULL, THE FIRST BLACK OFFICER IN THE BRITISH ARMY WAS BORN IN FOLKESTONE

FOR THE PAST TWO SEASONS, WE HAVE DRAGGED FOLKESTONE SUPPORTERS AWAY FROM THEIR SUN DRENCHED DAYS ON THE BEACH TO VISIT THE MAURICE REBAK STADIUM IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPERATURES ON A NOVEMBER TUESDAY IN FINCHLEY WILL NO DOUBT BE SIMILAR TO SUMMER ON THE COAST, THE GAME IS BEING PLAYED AFTER DARK, MEANING THAT NOT MANY OF OUR WELCOME VISITORS WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE CHOICE BETWEEN GREENSWARD AND PEBBLES.

AND SO TO COVENTRY CITY. IT HAS BEEN DRAWN TO MY ATTENTION THAT THIS SEASON, IT IS COMMONPLACE FOR THAT TEAM, WHO SPENT MANY YEARS IN THE TOP FLIGHT AND ARE THREATENING TO DO SO AGAIN, TO BE REFERRED TO IN THE MEDIA AS 'FRANK LAMPARD'S COVENTRY'. THEY COULD, OF COURSE, BE DESCRIBED AS 'LADY GODIVA'S COVENTRY', BUT SINCE THE REFERENCE APPLIES TO THE FOOTBALL TEAM RATHER THAN THE CITY ITSELF, THE FORMER ENGLAND MIDFIELDER IS PERHAPS A MORE APPROPRIATE LABEL THAN AN ANGLO SAXON NOBLEWOMAN ABOUT WHOM WE KNOW LITTLE OTHER THAN A POSSIBLY FICTITIOUS SAUCY HORSE RIDE.

SO WHEN DID IT BECOME THE FASHION TO REFER TO TEAMS AS, EFFECTIVELY, BELONGING TO THEIR MANAGER? WAS IT EVER 'MATT BUSBY'S MANCHESTER UNITED', 'JOE FAGAN'S LIVERPOOL' OR 'BOB MCGRORY'S STOKE CITY'? INDEED, WHO ACTUALLY WAS BOB MCGRORY? PERHAPS THAT IS A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER TIME (OR PERHAPS NOT – ED).

PREFACING A CLUB NAME WITH THAT OF THE MANAGER DOES SEEM TO HAVE BECOME A MORE COMMON OCCURRENCE IN RECENT TIMES, ESPECIALLY WHEN A WELL KNOWN, OR CONTROVERSIAL CHARACTER TAKES CHARGE. SEVERAL CLUBS HAVE HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO BE CITED AS BELONGING TO WAYNE ROONEY; DERBY THOUGHT THEY WERE ON TO A GOOD THING AND PRESUMABLY SO DID BIRMINGHAM AND PLYMOUTH AS THEY BOTH EMPLOYED A MAN HOPING THAT HIS UNDOUBTED TALENT WOULD RUB OFF ON THE 21ST CENTURY PLAYER, AS WELL AS BRINGING THE TELEVISION CAMERAS VISITING ON A GLOOMY FRIDAY EVENING AND GATHERING SOME MUCH NEEDED PUBLICITY. THAT WORKED OUT WELL AS WE ALL KNOW AND, WHILE HE SEEMS TO BE DOING QUITE A BIT OF PUNDITRY WORK, NOBODY HAS YET BEEN HEARD TO REFER TO 'WAYNE ROONEY'S BBC'.

SOMETIMES IT IS THE LONGEVITY, RATHER THAN THE FOOTBALLING TALENT OF THE MANAGER THAT GRANTS HIM STATUS. 'ROY HODGSON'S ENGLAND' WAS SOMETIMES HEARD, AT LEAST UNTIL ICELAND CAME CALLING (NO, NOT THE GROCERY STORE) AND NEIL WARNOCK, WHO DEFINITELY HAD MORE CLUBS THAN JACK NICKLAUS, FOUND HIS MONIKER ATTACHED TO SOME OF THEM, AMAZING THE CASUAL OBSERVER THAT HE WAS STILL MANAGING AT THE AGE OF 103.

A FRIEND OF MINE ONCE TOOK HER YOUNG NEPHEW TO A GAME WHERE MR WARNOCK WAS IN CHARGE OF ONE OF THE TEAMS AND SAT BEHIND THE DUG-OUTS; APPARENTLY THE LAD'S VOCABULARY WAS CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED THAT DAY.

ANYWAY, ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE – THERE'LL BE MORE AT THE NEXT GAME – AND WELCOME, EVERYBODY, TO THIS EVENING'S GAME AT THE HOME OF AHMET RIFAT'S WINGATE AND FINCHLEY.

**TEMPERATURE IS JUST 17.2°**

**WHICH STATEMENT IS UNTRUE? SADLY, THE HIGHEST OFFICIALLY RECORDED NOVEMBER**

# IN PICTURES – LEWES (HOME)



# IN PICUTRES- LEWES (HOME)



# UPCOMING FIXTURES – BUY TICKETS BELOW

**Saturday 29 November 2025**

**Isthmian League – Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley



15:00



Billericay Town

**Saturday 6 December 2025**

**Isthmian League – Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley



15:00



Carshalton Athletic

**Tuesday 9 December 2025**

**Isthmian League – Premier Division**

Wingate & Finchley



19:45



Burgess Hill Town

**Saturday 13 December 2025**

**Isthmian League – Premier Division**

Cray Valley (PM)



15:00



Wingate & Finchley

# UP NEXT

29.11 // MAURICE REBAK STADIUM // 15.00

**BUY TICKETS HERE**



# LEAGUE TABLE

Rank	Team	GP	GD	P
1	 Folkestone Invicta	16	32	39
2	 Brentwood Town	18	11	38
3	 Chatham Town	15	17	30
4	 Aveley	16	12	30
5	 Dartford	18	8	28
6	 Cray Wanderers	19	-4	28
7	 Dulwich Hamlet	19	4	26
8	 Billericay Town	17	6	25
9	 Ramsgate	19	-3	25
10	 Wingate & Finchley	16	6	24
11	 Burgess Hill Town	17	-2	24
12	 Whitehawk	16	-2	23
13	 Carshalton Athletic	19	-4	23
14	 St Albans City	15	5	22
15	 Lewes	18	-15	21
16	 Chichester City	14	1	20
17	 Cheshunt	16	1	19
18	 Cray Valley (PM)	18	-5	17
19	 Hashtag United	17	-13	16
20	 Canvey Island	16	-16	10
21	 Welling United	17	-23	9
22	 Potters Bar Town	16	-16	8

# 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 HALL OF 76 POINTS AND SCORING 78 GOALS. AHMET RIFAT'S CHARGES MADE IT TO THE PLAY OFFS ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SEASON WITH A 3-0 WIN OVER CARSHALTON.

WE FACED LOCAL RIVALS ENFIELD TOWN IN THE PLAY OFF SEMI FINALS AT THE QE II STADIUM. WE NARROWLY LOST A VERY TIGHT MATCH 1-0 IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF 2,225 THAT NIGHT. A FINE SEASON WAS ENDED, BUT WHAT MEMORIES IT BROUGHT.

2024/25 SAW A REVAMPED SIDE COMPLETE A STABLE MID-TABLE FINISH.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

THE CLUB WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1936 AND JOINED THE EAST KENT WEDNESDAY LEAGUE FOR THE 1936–37 SEASON. THEY CONTINUED IN THE LEAGUE UNTIL WORLD WAR II. IN 1962 THE CLUB JOINED THE NEW DIVISION TWO OF THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE KENT COUNTY AMATEUR LEAGUE. THEY WON THE DIVISION AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT, EARNING PROMOTION TO DIVISION ONE. THE CLUB WERE DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS IN 1969–70 AND WERE PROMOTED TO THE PREMIER DIVISION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE RELEGATED BACK TO DIVISION ONE AT THE END OF THE FOLLOWING SEASON. AFTER FINISHING AS RUNNERS-UP IN DIVISION ONE IN 1976–77, THE CLUB WERE PROMOTED BACK TO THE PREMIER DIVISION. TWO SEASONS AFTER BEING PROMOTED, INVICTA WERE CHAMPIONS OF THE EASTERN SECTION PREMIER DIVISION. IN 1980–81 THEY WERE BEATEN 2–0 BY NEW ROMNEY IN THE FINAL OF THE LEAGUE CUP. THE PREMIER DIVISION WAS RENAMED THE SENIOR DIVISION IN 1984 AND CLUBS IN THE DIVISION WERE GRANTED 'INTERMEDIATE' STATUS ENABLING THEM TO ENTER A HIGHER STANDARD OF COUNTY CUP COMPETITION. THE CLUB WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RUNNERS-UP IN THE KENT INTERMEDIATE SHIELD IN BOTH THE 1985–86 AND 1989–90 SEASONS, LOSING 2–1 TO SEVENOAKS AND 6–3 TO SANGLEY SPORTS RESPECTIVELY.

FOLKESTONE FOLDED IN 1990, WITH INVICTA, NOW THE HIGHEST-RANKED CLUB IN THE TOWN, TAKING OVER THEIR CHERITON ROAD THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

UNDER MANAGER GARY STANIFORTH, INVICTA JOINED THE WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE AND COMPLETED THE DIVISION TWO LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE DURING THE 1991–92 SEASON, ALSO WINNING THE KENT INTERMEDIATE SHIELD THAT SEASON.

INVICTA ACHIEVED SENIOR STATUS AND JOINED DIVISION ONE OF THE WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE, MAKING STEADY PROGRESS IN ITS FIRST TWO SEASONS AT THIS LEVEL UNDER CLUB STALWART STANIFORTH. THE NEAREST THE CLUB CAME TO ANOTHER TROPHY DURING THESE TWO SEASONS WAS WHEN THEY LOST THE 1994 PLAAYA KENT SENIOR TROPHY FINAL 3–1 AGAINST ALMA SWANLEY AT GRAVESEND & NORTHFLEET'S STONEBRIDGE ROAD.

FORMER FOLKESTONE, DOVER ATHLETIC, HYTHE TOWN, CRAWLEY TOWN AND SITTINGBOURNE PLAYER TIM HULME THEN TOOK OVER AS PLAYER-MANAGER FOR THE 1994–95 SEASON. INVICTA AT ONE POINT CHASED THE KENT LEAGUE TREBLE THAT SEASON, BUT ENDED UP EMPTY HANDED. THE CLUB WERE RUNNERS UP FOR A SECOND SUCCESSIVE SEASON IN THE PLAAYA KENT SENIOR TROPHY AFTER LOSING A PENALTY SHOOT OUT IN THE FINAL AGAINST DEAL TOWN AT DOVER'S CRABBLE GROUND FOLLOWING A 2–2 DRAW AFTER EXTRA TIME.

INVICTA ENTERED THE F. A. CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE 1994–95 SEASON, BEATING HAILSHAM TOWN AND THEN SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION SIDE SITTINGBOURNE BEFORE GOING OUT 2–1 AT HOME TO A WORTHING SIDE WHICH INCLUDED FORMER TOTTENHAM STRIKER MARK FALCO.

HOPES WERE HIGH FOR THE 1995–96 SEASON AS INVICTA STRENGTHENED THEIR SQUAD, BUT THINGS TURNED SOUR DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON AS HULME LEFT THE CLUB, WITH HIS ASSISTANT MICKY DIX TAKING OVER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

FORMER CANTERBURY CITY BOSS DARREN HARE WAS RECRUITED FOR THE 1996–97 SEASON, BUT AFTER A POOR START HE WAS SOON REPLACED BY ONE-TIME FOLKESTONE TOWN MANAGER DENIS HUNT, ASSISTED BY VETERAN PLAYER BOBBY WILSON.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

IT WAS DURING THIS SEASON THAT A CLUB RECORD 2,332 SAW THE CLUB PLAY HOSTS TO WEST HAM UNITED IN A BENEFIT GAME FOLLOWING FREAK FLOODS IN THE TOWN. HARRY REDKNAPP BROUGHT DOWN A STRONG WEST HAM SIDE THAT WON 6-0 AND INCLUDED PORTUGUESE WORLD CUP STAR PAOLO FUTRE, JULIAN DICKS, A YOUNG FRANK LAMPARD AND STAN LAZARIDIS.

IT WAS THE ARRIVAL OF MANAGER NEIL CUGLEY FROM ASHFORD TOWN DURING THE SUMMER OF 1997 WHICH WAS TO PROVIDE THE CATALYST FOR THE RETURN OF SOUTHERN LEAGUE FOOTBALL TO THE TOWN.

CUGLEY MADE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT AS PROMOTION WAS ACHIEVED BY FINISHING RUNNERS UP TO HERNE BAY IN 1997-98 WHEN THE CLUB ALSO FINISHED RUNNERS UP IN THE PLAAYA KENT SENIOR TROPHY FOR THE THIRD TIME AFTER LOSING 1-0 IN THE FINAL TO GREENWICH BOROUGH AT ASHFORD TOWN'S HOMELANDS GROUND.

BUT UNDER MANAGER CUGLEY THE CLUB WERE TO BE PERMANENT FIXTURES IN THE TOP THREE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DIVISION FOR THREE SUCCESSIVE SEASONS.

THE CLUB CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN 1998-99 AS SOUTHERN LEAGUE FOOTBALL RETURNED TO FOLKESTONE. INVICTA FINISHED THIRD IN THE DR. MARTENS LEAGUE SOUTHERN DIVISION BEHIND CHAMPIONS HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE AND RUNNERS UP MARGATE, WITH THE PROMOTION RACE GOING TO THE FINAL DAY OF THE SEASON. INVICTA ALSO REACHED THE FINAL OF THE 1999 KENT SENIOR CUP WHERE THEY LOST 1-0 AT HOME TO THEN CONFERENCE CLUB WELLING UNITED. THE CLUB ALSO MADE ITS MARK IN THE F.A. UMBRO TROPHY BY BEATING CONFERENCE CLUB HAYES TO REACH THE THIRD ROUND BEFORE GOING OUT 8-4 IN AN INCREDIBLE TIE AWAY TO THREE-TIMES WINNERS WOKING.

THE 1999-2000 SEASON SAW THE CLUB ACHIEVE MORE PROGRESS WITH PROMOTION TO THE DR. MARTENS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION AS RUNNERS UP TO FISHER ATHLETIC (LONDON) IN THE EASTERN DIVISION. AGAIN THERE WAS FINAL DAY HEARTBREAK FOR INVICTA AS THE CHAMPIONSHIP WENT RIGHT TO THE WIRE WITH FISHER WINNING AWAY TO NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) TO MAKE INVICTA'S FINAL DAY WIN AT WISBECH IN VEIN. INVICTA WENT DOWN 1-0 AT HOME TO HOLDERS AND EVENTUAL WINNERS KINGSTONIAN IN THE F.A. UMBRO TROPHY AND AGAIN REACHED THE KENT SENIOR CUP FINAL, BUT WENT DOWN AGAIN, THIS TIME 3-0 TO GRAVESEND & NORTHFLEET, THEIR FIFTH SUCCESSIVE DEFEAT IN A CUP FINAL AS A SENIOR SIDE. IT WAS A GOOD SEASON ALL ROUND FOR THE CLUB AS THE RESERVES WON THE KENT INTERMEDIATE CUP AND THE YOUTH TEAM WON THEIR SECTION OF THE MUSH KENT YOUTH LEAGUE AND REACHED THE 2ND ROUND OF THE TIMES SPONSORED F. A. YOUTH CUP BEFORE BOWING OUT 6-0 AGAINST A STRONG MILLWALL SIDE AT THE NEW DEN.

THE 2000-01 SEASON SAW THE CLUB COMPETE IN THE DR MARTENS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION FOR THE FIRST TIME AND INVICTA ACHIEVED THEIR OBJECTIVE OF STAYING UP. IN THE PROCESS THEY WERE THE ONLY SIDE TO WIN AWAY TO NIGEL CLOUGH'S BURTON ALBION AT ETON PARK.

THE 2001-02 SEASON SAW AN IMPROVED INVICTA SIDE BRIEFLY TOP THE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CLUB'S HISTORY DURING THE OPENING WEEKS OF THE SEASON. THE CLUB REACHED THE 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND OF THE F. A. CUP BUT WERE BEATEN 5-1 IN A REPLAY AWAY TO WELLING UNITED AFTER DRAWING THE INITIAL TIE 1-1 WITH A LUCRATIVE TRIP TO READING AS THE PRIZE. THE SEASON ENDED ON A DRAMATIC NOTE AS INVICTA 3-3 HOME DRAW WITH TAMWORTH ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SEASON DENIED THE LAMBS THE CHAMPIONSHIP – THAT GAME WAS WATCHED BY A CROWD OF 1,277, THE HIGHEST EVER HOME ATTENDANCE FOR AN INVICTA LEAGUE MATCH.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

THAT RECORD WAS BROKEN IN AUGUST 2002 WHEN THE VISIT OF NEIGHBOURS DOVER ATHLETIC ATTRACTED A CROWD OF 1,446 TO CHERITON ROAD. BUT THE 2002-03 SEASON WAS TO PROVE A DIFFICULT SEASON FOR INVICTA AS FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS TOOK THEIR TOLL. THE CLUB FINISHED BOTTOM OF THE TABLE AND WAS RELEGATED BACK DOWN TO THE EASTERN DIVISION.

THE 2003-04 SEASON WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL FOR INVICTA AS THE CLUB FINISHED FIFTH IN THE EASTERN DIVISION TO WIN PROMOTION VIA THE RE-STRUCTURING OF THE NON-LEAGUE GAME. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON WERE A CLUB RECORD UNBEATEN 24-MATCH LEAGUE RUN AND REACHING THE THIRD ROUND OF THE F. A. TROPHY BEFORE BOWING OUT AT HOME TO NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE CLUB STEVENAGE BOROUGH.

THE CLUB SWITCHED FROM THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE TO THE ISTHMIAN (ISTHMIAN) PREMIER LEAGUE FOR THE 2004-05 SEASON AND FINISHED IN A MID TABLE POSITION. STRIKER JAMES DRYDEN BROKE BOTH THE CLUB'S RECORD SENIOR APPEARANCE AND GOALSCORING RECORDS DURING THE SEASON AND A NEW HOME LEAGUE RECORD ATTENDANCE OF 2,278 SAW INVICTA WIN 1-0 AT HOME TO LOCAL RIVALS DOVER ATHLETIC OVER CHRISTMAS. A 2,390 CROWD SAW INVICTA WIN THE RETURN 1-0 OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND.

BUT THE CLUB WAS TO SUFFER REAL TRAGEDY ON TUESDAY APRIL 12TH, 2005 WHEN STRIKER PAUL SYKES COLLAPSED ON THE PITCH AND DIED DURING A KENT SENIOR CUP SEMI FINAL AGAINST ONE OF HIS FORMER CLUBS MARGATE. INVICTA SUBSEQUENTLY PULLED OUT OF THE COMPETITION TO ALLOW MARGATE TO PLAY ANOTHER OF PAUL'S FORMER CLUBS DOVER ATHLETIC IN THE FINAL AT FOLKESTONE WHEN THE KENT FOOTBALLING COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO REMEMBER ONE OF ITS MOST POPULAR CHARACTERS.

FOLKESTONE INVICTA WENT INTO THE 2005-06 SEASON IN GOOD SPIRITS WITH A NEW SPONSORSHIP DEAL WITH LOCAL COACH COMPANY BUZZLINES. THE CLUB SUBSEQUENTLY ENJOYED ITS BEST EVER RUN IN THE F. A. CUP, GOING DOWN 2-1 AWAY TO CHESTER CITY IN THE FIRST ROUND AFTER LEADING 1-0 AT HALF TIME THANKS TO AN EARLY ADAM FLANAGAN GOAL WHICH WAS SHOWN ON MATCH OF THE DAY. THE RESERVES ALSO FINISHED AS CHAMPIONS OF THE KENTISH OBSERVER FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO AND THE CLUB ALSO ENJOYED GREAT SUCCESS AT YOUTH LEVEL.

THE 2006-07 SEASON SAW THE CLUB MAINTAIN ITS ISTHMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATUS ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SEASON WITH A 1-1 DRAW AWAY TO CARSHALTON. BU THE NEXT SEASON WAS TO SEE THE CLUB RELEGATED ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SEASON WITH A 1-0 HOME DEFEAT AGAINST MAIDSTONE UNITED IN A WINNER-TAKES-ALL ENCOUNTER.

2008-09 SAW THE CLUB IN THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH BUT A FINANCIAL CRISIS PUT PAID TO EARLY SEASON HOPES OF PROMOTION AND THE CLUB PUT ITS FAITH IN A PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG, LOCAL, UP-AND-COMING SIDE.

THAT FAITH CAME TO FRUITION DURING A TRULY REMARKABLE 2009-10 SEASON THAT SAW THE CLUB WIN PROMOTION FROM THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH AND REACH THE FINAL OF THE KENT SENIOR CUP (LOSING 3-1 TO SITTINGBOURNE).

OPERATING WITH A SMALL SQUAD, INVICTA WERE DENIED THE CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER BEING DOCKED TEN POINTS FOR ENTERING INTO A CVA AGREEMENT BUT WERE PROMOTED VIA THE PAY-OFFS.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

CROYDON ATHLETIC CLINCHED THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A 0-0 DRAW ON A MEMORABLE NIGHT AT INVICTA AFTER BOTH TOWNS HAD PAID TRIBUTE TO RIFEMAN PETER ALDRIDGE OF A COMPANY 4 RIFLES, WHO HAD DIED IN AN EXPLOSION IN AFGHANISTAN, AGED JUST 19, BECOMING THE 250TH UK SERVICEMAN TO DIE IN THE CAMPAIGN. NEW INVICTA CHAIRMAN LYNN WOODS' EFFORTS IN STAGING THE COMMEMORATION WERE REWARDED WITH A 2,134 CROWD.

INVICTA – WHO CONCEDED JUST 23 GOALS IN 42 LEAGUE GAMES – RECOVERED FROM THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF MISSING OUT ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP BY WINNING THE PLAY-OFFS. A THRILLING SEMI FINAL SAW THE CLUB COME BACK FROM 2-0 DOWN AT HALF TIME AGAINST LEATHERHEAD TO FORCE A 2-2 DRAW AFTER EXTRA TIME AND WIN 5-3 ON PENALTIES. GODALMING TOWN WERE THEN BEATEN IN THE FINAL AS INVICTA RETURNED TO THE ISTHMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE. THE CLUB ALSO WON THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH FAIR PLAY AWARD DURING 2009-10 AND AGAIN IN 2012-13.

BUT CONTINUING FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS MEANT THAT THE CLUB FOUND LIFE BACK IN THE ISTHMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE DIFFICULT AND IT WAS RELEGATED BACK DOWN TO DIVISION ONE SOUTH IN 2010-11.

FOR THE 2011-12 AND 2012-13 SEASONS THE CLUB REACHED THE SEMI FINALS OF THE PLAY OFFS, LOSING AWAY TO DULWICH HAMLET AND MAIDSTONE UNITED RESPECTIVELY.

IN 2013-14 THE CLUB FINISHED AS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH RUNNERS UP AND REACHED THE PLAY OFF FINAL AFTER BEATING HASTINGS UNITED 3-2 AFTER EXTRA TIME IN THE SEMI FINAL BUT LOST THE FINAL 3-1 ON PENALTIES AT HOME TO LEATHERHEAD FOLLOWING A 1-1 DRAW AFTER EXTRA TIME. THE CLUB ALSO HAD YOUNG STRIKER JOHAN TER HORST SIGNED BY PREMIERSHIP CLUB HULL CITY DURING MAY 2014. FOLKESTONE INVICTA WON BOTH THE DIVISION ONE SOUTH'S FAIR PLAY AND RESPECT AWARDS IN 2013-14, THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE SEASON THAT IT HAD BEEN AWARD FOR ITS DISCIPLINARY RECORD.

THE CLUB AGAIN FINISHED AS RUNNERS UP IN THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH DURING 2015-16 AND THE SEASON WAS AGAIN TO END IN HOME PLAY-OFF HEARTBREAK AS INVICTA LOST THE FINAL 3-0 AGAINST MERSTHAM AFTER BEATING WHYTELEAF 2-1 AFTER EXTRA TIME IN THE SEMI FINAL

IT WAS A DIFFERENT STORY IN 2015-16 AS INVICTA WON THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP BY 24 POINTS AND MANAGER NEIL CUGLEY COMPLETED 1,000 MATCHES AS THE CLUB'S MANAGER.

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2016 THE CLUB PREPARED FOR LIFE BACK IN THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION AND SOLD STRIKER HARRY SMITH TO LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CLUB MILLWALL THE CLUB ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE OF STAYING IN THE PREMIER DIVISION WHICH WAS CONFIRMED WITH A 3-0 FINAL DAY WIN AWAY TO GRAYS ATHLETIC AMID A PARTY ATMOSPHERE AT AVELEY AND ALSO WON THE DIVISION'S RESPECT AWARD.

INVICTA STEPPED UP A GEAR LAST SEASON SCORING OVER 100 GOALS IN THE BOSTIK LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION AND REACHING THE PLAY OFFS WHERE THEY LOST 4-0 IN THE SEMI FINAL AWAY TO HENDON. IT HAD BEEN AN EXCITING END TO THE SEASON AS THE CLUB LOST ON PENALTIES IN THE KENT RELIANCE SENIOR CUP FINAL AWAY TO MAIDSTONE UNITED AND FINISHED THEIR SCHEDULED LEAGUE PROGRAMME WITH A 2-2 DRAW AWAY TO BILLERICAY TOWN WHERE A STOPPAGE TIME JAMIE O'HARA SCREAMER DENIED THEM A LEAGUE 'DOUBLE' OVER THE CHAMPIONS.

# TODAY'S VISITORS – CLUB HISTORY

DESPITE WINNING ITS LAST FIVE MATCHES DURING APRIL, INVICTA NARROWLY MISSED OUT ON THE PLAY OFFS ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE 2018-19 SEASON.

INVICTA WERE STILL VERY MUCH IN THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION PROMOTION RACE AND IN THE SEMI FINALS OF THE LEAGUE CUP WHEN THE 2019-20 SEASON CAME TO A HALT DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

THE START OF THE CURTAILED 2020-21 SEASON WAS A STRANGE TIME WITH COVID PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES AND WITH ELITE LEVEL SPORT CONTINUING BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS, INVICTA WAS FOR A SHORT SPELL ONE OF THE BEST SUPPORTED CLUBS IN THE COUNTRY.

2021-22 SAW INVICTA GO FURTHER IN THE F A TROPHY THAN THE CLUB HAD EVER GONE BEFORE – LOSING 5-1 BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS AWAY TO NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUB WREXHAM; REACH THE FOURTH ROUND QUALIFYING OF THE F A CUP WITH A THRILLING 3-3 AWAY DRAW AND THEN 3-2 HOME DEFEAT AGAINST NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUB EASTLEIGH AFTER EXTRA TIME. INVICTA ALSO REACHED THE SEMI FINALS OF THE LEAGUE CUP (LOSING TO EVENTUAL WINNERS HORSHAM) AND THE FINAL OF THE KENT SENIOR CUP (LOSING 6-2 AGAINST DARTFORD AT CHATHAM TOWN FC) BUT JUST MISSED OUT ON A PLAY OFF PLACE. IAN DRAYCOTT BROKE THE CLUB'S ALL-TIME SENIOR GOALSCORING RECORD LAST SEASON WHEN THE CLUB ALSO WON THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION FAIR PLAY AWARD.

# 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

**MANAGER:** JAY SAUNDERS

**COACHES:** LLOYD BLACKMAN, TOMMY PARKINSON

**PHYSIO:** PAUL SMITH

**KIT MANAGER / DATA ANALYST:** ANDY MORRIS

AYYUBA JAMBANG  
BENJAMIN WATT  
BILLY CRACKNELL  
CAIN KELLER  
CAMILO RESTREPO  
CAOILAN MCGETTIGAN  
CASEY SHANN  
CHARLIE GRAINGER (GK)  
CHARLIE STALLARD  
FERGAL HALE-BROWN (GK)  
GIANLUCA BOTTI  
KYRON HORSLEY-MCKAY  
LOIC HERNANDEZ  
MARK CHIDI  
MACKYE TOWNSEND-WEST  
RHAMAR GARRETT-DOUGLAS  
ROMEO AKINOLA  
RYAN LOWE  
SAM BEEDIE

TED COLLINS (GK)  
ISAAC OGUNSERI (GK)  
BEN MASON  
MONTEL MCKENZIE  
KEVIN LOKKO  
JOEL-MICHAEL ODENIRAN  
LIAM SMITH  
IKE ORJI  
DILLON SIMMONS  
MIKEY BERRY  
ADAM LOVATT  
RONNIE DOLAN  
DEAN RANCE  
JACK JEBB  
JOSH STROUTS  
DONELL THOMAS  
JAKE HUTCHINSON  
ADE YUSUFF  
JOE PIGOTT

## MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** FABIO ROQUE

**ASSISTANTS:** JAY KNIGHT, JAMES BARRY