

WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingate & Finchley vs
Chatham Town



VS



Tuesday 19th
November 2024- 7.45PM KO

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 Chatham Town enjoy their stay in N12 this evening!

Welcome everyone back to Summers Lane for already the fourth time this month, and the sixth W&F of November.

Last Tuesday was a difficult result for the club, falling at the first hurdle in the Velocity Cup third round when we were beaten 2-1 by Tilbury.

Chatham become the fourth side we have faced on two occasions this season, and the second in the league. This comes after we were beaten 1-0 at the Bauvill in the FA Trophy third qualifying round.

The would go on to beat Bowers and Pitsea away by the same scoreline in the first round before succumbing to a 4-2 penalty defeat at Slough Town this weekend after a 1-1 draw – a tie that they were leading for most of the game.

Last season we were beat 2-1 away on Tuesday, 21st November, with our goal being scored by Chukwu. Our home fixture was due to be played on Saturday 20th January 2024, but was postponed until Tuesday 6th February, when we won 4-2 with braces from Long and Carvalho.

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.

Tuesday 19th: **Chatham Town (A)**
(Isthmian League)

Saturday 23rd: **Horsham (H)** (Isthmian League)

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

We then conclude November with our NINTH fixture of the calendar month:

Saturday 30th: **Hashtag United (A)**
(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 next week on Tuesday 26th November, 7.45pm.

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.
Total games: 15 league, 6 cup:

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	13	3	15
Georgiou	4	0	4
Frempah	4	0	4
Lowe	4	1	5
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, a small brainteaser. One of the three statements below is true, but which one. Answer at the end of the article.

- *The A2, which passes Chatham was named by the Anglo Saxons as Ermine Street*
- *Ann Widdecombe was the MP for Chatham for several years*
- *Chatham Dockyard is the main venue for filming of the BBC series Call the Midwife*

We established earlier in the season that Charles Dickens - the author that is, not the chap I once met in Glasgow – wrote Martin Chuzzlewit while staying not a mile from the Maurice Rebak Stadium, but like Charles I, who apparently hid in every oak tree in the South of England, Dickens lived all over the place. Between the ages of 5 and 11, he lived in Chatham, but there is little evidence that he ever took much interest in football or wore a scarf indicating support for either of today's teams.

To very loosely bring two stories together, as I walked to school in Finchley, I would pass the end of Dickens Avenue, where there were two huge trees. Unfortunately, they were horse chestnuts and I never noticed any 17th century monarchs hanging about.

Sadly too, neither Finchley nor Chatham are actually a city, so we cannot pretend that this evening's clash is in any way a tale of two of them. There is little evidence in any of his other books of a football reference; every club in our league begin the season with Great Expectations and most clubs have fallen upon Hard Times, but that hardly counts.

Chatham was the place that saw the construction of HMS Victory and there, at last, is a word that means something in football. The Lady Wife and I ventured into the Badlands of East Sussex on Saturday to watch the Blues at Whitehawk. This is one of the more interesting grounds in our league, situated as it is beneath the high cliffs that stop the English Channel and with, thankfully, a traditional grass pitch,

A VIEW FROM AFAR

albeit one that undulates gently with the contours of the land. As a younger man, I played on many a pitch that sloped sharply and even some that had sharp fallaway areas giving a brief illusion that you could run fast, until you realised that the ball ran even faster.

None of them quite matched the venue, which will remain nameless (all right, it was Hampstead), to which in my working days we would sometimes go for an inter-departmental table tennis competition. One of the oddities was that the building had a slight slant, and a coin toss would take place to determine whether to play uphill or down.

Chatham has no such idiosyncrasies, being blessed with a flawless flat surface and an interesting raised standing area behind one of the goals. They have also seen, appropriately, their fair share of victories in recent seasons, as did we at Whitehawk on Saturday. This evening, on what promises to be a double sweater, bobble hatted evening, both teams will be striving for three points and we trust that they will go to the better side, as long as it is the Blues.

Which statement is correct? It's the Call the Midwife. The A2 was known as Watling Street and Ann Widdecombe was MP for Maidstone

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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CHATHAM TOWN – CLUB HISTORY

The club was formed in 1882 as Chatham United, when Rochester Invicta merged with the football team of the Royal Engineers Band with the intention of creating a side that was capable of holding their own with the best in the country. Harry Hobart's plan being to bring together all the best players in the Medway Towns in one team. They played their first match on 7th October that year, beating Harley Street F.C. 4-0. Owing to their strong Army connections, Chatham soon moved to a regular home on "The Lines", where they were to remain until 1889 - the beginning of season 1889/90 seeing them move to "Alderman Winch's Enclosed Ground", or as it is now better known, the Maidstone Road Ground.

Having been formed with an eye to competing in the F.A. Cup, they went on to reach the Quarter-Finals in 1888-89 - famously defeating Nottingham Forest after two replays, only to lose to the holders West Bromwich Albion. This game, which was played on "The Lines" where an admission fee could not be charged owing to Army regulations, was instrumental in the decision by the Football Association that all future matches in the competition must be played on fully enclosed grounds, where the visiting club would receive a share of the gate money.

In 1894 Chatham were founder members of both the Southern League and the original Kent League, becoming the first winners of the latter competition. They were also winners of the Kent F.A. Badge in the three seasons it was contested, and the first winners of its successor, the Kent Senior Cup, in 1888/89. They also became the first club to win the Thames and Medway Combination, the direct predecessor of the present Kent League, in 1896/97.

Chatham were forced to resign from the Southern League during the 1900/01 season, owing to financial difficulties, but they soon rebuilt the club - playing as Chatham Amateurs for a brief spell in 1901 - before winning both the Kent League and Thames & Medway Combination in 1903/04 without losing a single game in either competition. They repeated the feat the following season, losing just three games, whilst also defeating Sittingbourne 3-1 in the Final of the Kent Senior Cup.

The First World War brought an end to football in the Medway Towns, but Chatham were one of the first clubs locally to return to action in 1919 - winning both the Kent Victory Cup and the Chatham Charity Cup (for the eighth time) in a shortened season. They briefly rejoined the Southern League in 1920/21, after the formation of a Third Division for the Football League had taken half its' members, but once again withdrew at the end of the season finding that the increased travel costs were a severe drain on finances.

They once again had some success in the F.A. Cup during the 1920s, reaching the Second Round Proper in 1926/27 before losing to Norwich City - who beat them again, this time in the First Round Proper in 1928/29. They also reached the First Round Proper in 1925/26 and 1927/28, losing to Sittingbourne and Kettering Town respectively.

A third spell in the Southern League, starting in 1927/28 almost finished the club. They stuck it out for two seasons this time, but once again the increased expenses - coupled with dwindling attendances - saw them drop back into the Kent League. Things were to get progressively worse, and 1933/34 saw the club take voluntary relegation into Division Two of the Kent League, which they won in 1934/35 without accepting promotion, before opting to revert to Amateur status. Having played in both the Kent League and Kent Amateur League in 1938/39,

CHATHAM TOWN – CLUB HISTORY

they decided to play in just the latter competition the following season - only to see all football suspended with the beginning of World War Two. They played just one game that season, beating London Paper Mills 2-0 on 26th August - and would not play again until 1946.

Post War, Chatham won the Premier Division of the Kent Amateur League in 1946/47, which was to be their last honour under that name - having previously dropped the 'United' in 1898. On 7th January 1947 they merged with Shorts F.C., the combined club taking the name Chatham Town at the request of the local Council, and a place in Division One of the Kent League for the following season. There they were to remain until the League disbanded in 1959, whereupon they moved to the newly formed Aetolian League.

During this latter period they appeared in the Aetolian League Cup Final in each of the five seasons it was contested, though winning only once in 1962/63. The following year they finally captured the League Championship, as well as the Aetolian/London League Cup and then, when the Aetolian League formally merged with the London League they moved to the Metropolitan League, in 1964/65, in search of stronger opposition.

Although the club were drawing crowds of up to 1,000 playing against strong Non-League opponents as well as sides from Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, they lost no time in returning to the Kent League when it was reformed in 1968. Up until their return to the Southern League in 1983, they had won the Kent League on four further occasions, completing the League and Cup double in both 1971/72 and 1977/78.

For a brief period during the seventies they changed their name to Medway F.C., again at the request of the local Council, but happily reverted back to Chatham Town in 1979. In 1980 they achieved their biggest post-war success to date in winning the Eastern Professional Floodlight League, playing against some of the strongest Non League clubs of the day, including Maidstone United, and defeating Chelmsford City in the Final over two legs.

In 1983 Chatham returned to the Southern League for the fourth time, this time staying there until 1988, when having failed to gain re-election they were relegated back to the Kent League - once again in severe financial difficulties, with crowds often in double figures against poorly supported clubs, as opposed to the much healthier attendances they had enjoyed in the Kent League against more local opposition.

After struggling during their first couple of seasons back in the Kent League, the real turnabout in the clubs' fortunes came with the appointment of popular former player John Adams as First Team manager, however despite reaching the Third Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup in 1993/94, taking the club to the Final of the Kent Senior Trophy in 1995/96 and finishing in the top three of the Kent League for three successive seasons, he was dismissed by the club following a disastrous start to the 1996/97 season.

1997/98 was to prove one of the most difficult seasons in the club's history. Problems with a new drainage system meant that only a handful of games could be played at Maidstone Road - which led to a brief return to their "spiritual home" on the Lines, courtesy of the Royal Engineers, as well as a brief ground-share with Gillingham at Priestfield Stadium. The club returned home for the 1998/99 season under new manager Carl Laraman, fortunes improving immediately before in January Laraman left to take up a coaching position at Charlton

CHATHAM TOWN – CLUB HISTORY

Athletic. His assistant, Steve Hearn, was appointed player-manager and finally led the club to the Kent League Championship, and promotion to the Dr. Martens League, in 2000/01.

The club enjoyed a good start to their first season back at this level, but a poor run of results at the end of the season led to Steve Hearn's resignation and the appointment of his assistant Peter Coupland as his successor. After a bad start to the 2003/04 season, Clive Walker replaced Coupland. Things improved dramatically, and a season that had looked certain to end in relegation, ended instead with Chatham in a mid-table position.

The 2004/05 season saw Chatham being placed in the newly formed Southern League Eastern Division. The campaign got off to a promising start, with Chatham sitting as high as fourth in early October, however a poor run of results coupled with Clive Walker's decision to return to his old club Dover Athletic, saw the Chats slip to 16th. Assistant Steve Binks was appointed manager and results improved towards the tail end of the season. Chatham finished the season in 11th place, and was Kent's highest placed club.

Following yet another Pyramid reshuffle, the next few seasons saw the club ping-pong between the Ryman League North and South Divisions with regular mid table positions. Frustratingly the club experienced regular wins against top six and promoted sides but often followed up with defeats to bottom six sides. Season 2006/07 saw Phil Miles - another popular former player - move up to take over as Manager. December 2007 saw Phil stand down due to work commitments with Steve Binks taking over the job again, then to be followed by 1st team coach Alex O' Brien stepping up for the 2009-10 campaign. Throughout this period the club's strong youth policy provided several new established first team players and the club also achieved the coveted FA charter Standard award.

Season 2010-11 saw the club struggle on the pitch with Manager Paul Foley resigning in the final weeks of the season with Player coach Kevin Watson taking over. After achieving some great results Kevin was appointed to his first Managerial position at the age of 30 after four seasons Kevin resigned following a run of poor results but left the club with a legacy of some very good players for the new incoming Manager Kevin Horlock in October 2015, Kevin stood down at the end of the season due his commitments with Colchester United.

Tony Beckingham took over in the Summer of 2016, the club now back playing in Division 1 South of the Ryman League, for their second season, after four seasons in the North, Tony stood down as Manager in September 2016, Darren Anslow took over as Manager, after suffering some heavy defeats, Darren was relieved of his duties in November 2016 and Paul Piggott was installed as Manager.

Despite a number of changes within the squad and some encouraging performances toward the end of the season, the damage had already been done and Paul and his team were unable to avoid the drop and The Chats were relegated to the SCEFL Premier. Despite this, changes at boardroom level revitalised the atmosphere around the club and a number of ground improvements have been undertaken as the first step in what will hopefully be a new era of success for the club.

Following a disappointing start to the 2017/18 season and only 1 win in 8 league games, a management change was again instigated with Paul and his team being replaced in

CHATHAM TOWN – CLUB HISTORY

September 2017 with James Collins. James and his team improved the fortunes of the team immediately and within a few games had staved off the threat of relegation. 2 quarter final cup appearances were achieved, losing both on penalties. Despite a disappointing 16th place finish, there was room for optimism as exciting signings during the close season built a team that promised an interesting 2018/19 season.

And so it proved, an exciting league campaign saw the team go close but just fall short with a fourth placed finish but a double cup winning season saw The Chats win their first trophies for 30 years with the Kent Senior Trophy and the SCEFL challenge Cup finding their way back to Maidstone Road.

Vast close season changes saw a 4G artificial pitch laid and yet more improvements to the clubhouse take place, that coupled with links to local businesses and partnerships to develop sporting legacies has made it an exciting time to be part of Chatham Town FC.

Following the resignation of James Collins in October 2019, the club turned to Scott Lindsey to take The Chats onwards.

Scott brought in ex Chats player Darran Smith as his assistant, whilst retaining the experienced Tony Hine as goalkeeper coach. Ex Arsenal Carl Laraman was installed as Director of football and so, yet another chapter in Chatham Town's rich history began.

Winning community club of the year in 2020 was a huge honour for everyone at the club and one on which we hope to build as we feel it is vitally important to connect with people and businesses in the locality and to build a club with facilities that benefit everyone in the community.

Scott Lindsey left the club prior to the 2021/22 season after he was appointed assistant manager at Swindon Town FC, Chairman Kevin Hake took over as manager and guided us to promotion at the first attempt, with a step 5 record goal tally and a record goal difference.

During this season Chatham Town also received the Queens Award for our work in the community of which we are immensely proud as we feel that work off the pitch is just as important and goes hand in hand with the progress on it.

The following year 2022/23 in their 140th year The Chats reached the highest level in their history by becoming Isthmian League Southeast Champions and gaining promotion to Isthmian Premier league. In the same year the club also reached the Isthmian League Velocity Cup semi finals narrowly losing on penalties to eventual winners Aveley and also became runners up in the Kent Senior Cup, again on penalties.

HASTINGS UNITED – MATCH REPORT

Blues battle to second 2-1 victory in a week to go third

Wingate & Finchley claimed a 2-1 victory over Hastings United on Saturday, their second win by the same scoreline in the space of a few days, in a tightly contested match, featuring plenty of action and decisive moments.

The first half saw both teams exchange chances, with Hastings' dangerman Davide Rodari coming close in the 19th minute, only to be denied by Charlie Grainger in the home goal against his former side. Ogo Obi also went close in the 11th minute for the Blues, but both sides struggled to break the deadlock. At the half time whistle, it remained goalless despite numerous set-pieces and near misses.

The breakthrough finally came in the 68th minute when Zack Newton seized the initiative to pounce on some confusion in the Hastings defence after a pass backwards, Newton getting between goalkeeper and ball, and the keeper fouling the Blues attacker. Obi stepped up and converted the penalty confidently, to give the home side a 1-0 lead. Just two minutes later, Wingate's half time substitute Ryan Lowe doubled the lead. Man of the match Zack Newton again was involved, taking on his man on the right flank to put a cross into the box which Obi met but the rebound fell to Lowe who netted from close range to make it 2-0. A similar story to midweek, where two quick goals put the Blues in a strong position, but the game was not wrapped up yet.

Hastings kept pressing and found a late lifeline in the 90th minute when substitute Finley Chapman scored in a one-on-one with the keeper, bringing the score to 2-1. As five minutes of extra time were added, the visitors fought for an equaliser but couldn't break through Wingate's defence. The Blues held firm to secure a hard-earned win in a game that could have swung either way to move up a place to sit in third place.

We will be back at home on Tuesday night as we welcome Isthmian North high-flyers Tilbury to N12 in the Velocity Cup Third Round, with a tie against Hendon awaiting the winner in the next round. Tickets are available in advance [online](#), or on the gate on matchday.

Wingate and Finchley: Grainger, Cracknell ©, Byron, Achuba, Frempah, Drakes-Thomas (Iontton 78'), Garrett-Douglas, Newton (Briscoe 72'), Obi (Ismaili 85'), Georgiou (Lowe 46'), Hernandez (Webb 88')
Unused subs: None

Goals: Obi 68' (p), Lowe 70'

Attendance: 269

By Noah Bercott

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



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Toby Byron
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Arthur Iontton
Ryan Lowe
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NEXT UP IN N12:

Chatham Town (ILP) – 19/11/2024

Horsham (ILP) – 23/11/2024

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Derrick Laing

Assistants: Emre Arslan, Dwayne Uylett