

NEXT MATCH



Saturday 15th March
3PM KO
Maurice Rebak Stadium
N12 0PD





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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 Billericay Town enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

2024/25 status:41 competitive games done, 8 to go!

The past week has seen us on the road twice, on Saturday beating Horsham 2-1 in front of a massive crowd of 1,499, with goals apiece from Restrepo and Alexandrou.

Then on Tuesday we beat Hastings United 2-0 with Newton and Bello finding the net.

Our return fixture with today's visitors was on Saturday 7th December, with a narrow 1-0 loss at the New Lodge.

Last season we claimed 2-1 wins in both the home and away games vs Ricay. In the home fixture on 2nd December 2023 our goals came via Garrett-Douglas and Long, and Newton and Boachie in the reverse.

Also, please consider donating and supporting captain Billy Cracknell and secretary Andrew Kouroushi's motor neurone disease charity collection. More information on the next page.

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 & Owner: 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 Physio: Israel Ozangbo

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

Wingate and Finchley captain Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi 'marching' for Motor Neurone Disease charity

Wingate and Finchley skipper Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi will be pulling on their walking boots and packing the blister plasters as they participate in the 'March of the Day' later this month.

Wingate and Finchley skipper Billy Cracknell and Club Secretary Andrew Kouroushi will be pulling on their walking boots and packing the blister plasters as they participate in the 'March of the Day' later this month.

The March, which takes place between 21st and 23rd, sees five hundred walkers raising money for the Darby Rimmer MND Foundation, covering a route which runs from Ipswich Town to Wembley Stadium.

The duo have already quadrupled their original fundraising target, but would be grateful for further donations, as every penny counts in fighting this awful disease. The Foundation has the following aims:

- Raise awareness of MND
- Support those families facing the MND battle
- Fund important research into a cure

End of season

Somehow we are now down to the last 8 games.

Including this afternoon, we have four home ties and four on the road.

Blues make it four wins in a row with 2-0 victory at Hastings

6 points away from home inside 4 days would feel impressive in any situation. But the 2-0 win for Wingate & Finchley away at Hastings, following so quickly on the heels of a 2-1 win away at Horsham just has a little bit more sparkle than usual.

Billericay Town (A)

Next weekend we travel to Essex to face Billericay Town.

New Lodge Stadium
Blunts Wall Road,
Billericay,
Essex,
CM12 9SA

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.

Total games: 34 league, 7 cup:

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	24	3	27
Lowe	6	1	7
Drakes-Thomas	4	3	7
Frempah	6	0	6
Georgiou	4	1	5
Restrepo	4	0	4
Oladipo	3	0	3
Newton	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Alexandrou	2	0	2
Deslandes	2	0	2
Bello	1	0	1
Briscoe	1	0	1
Byron	1	0	1
Charles-Cook	1	0	1
Iontton	1	0	1
Ward-Cochrane	1	0	1
Watt	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

On this day, 15th March, one of these things happened in football history – but which one? Answer at the end of the article.

- *England played Albania in Tirana in a World Cup Qualifier in 1981 and uniquely, had six Liverpool players in the starting XI*
- *In 1932, Stanley Matthews made his debut for Stoke City in a game against Bury*
- *In 1896, a game between New Brighton and Gainsborough Trinity was abandoned after 73 minutes when the club ran out of balls! Two had burst and five were lost when being kicked into either woods, or the river that were beside the ground. This is the only league game ever abandoned for this reason.*

The Lady Wife and I ventured north for our last home game, against Whitehawk; it was officially the first day of spring and indeed, the sun shone for the first time at football since October (apart from in Glasgow, obviously). Surprisingly, the train from Sussex was not crammed with visiting supporters, so seats were available where we were able to sit comfortably and peruse the online programme.

Thus, we were among the thousands to read a classic item of predictive text nonsense, that has no doubt had our esteemed editor's inbox bombarded with amusing ripostes. It referred to our rearranged fixture at Hastings which had, the programme told us, last week 'failed an early morning pitch invasion'. Now, that immediately raised the question of who, or what, the invaders had been? Perhaps it was the local referee who had no doubt been awakened and asked to pop down to Pilot Field to see whether it would be possible to play an Isthmian League match in two inches of standing water. It was he, or she, who had made the decision that prevented the team coach from leaving North London and irritated the management of the Tunbridge Wells Services on the A21, who had no doubt brought in extra provisions in expectation of the team calling in en route, for refreshment.

A VIEW FROM AFAR

It did bring to mind occasions when invasions, rather than inspections, had, indeed interrupted sporting events. I was once attending a Test Match at Trent Bridge when all of the players suddenly flung themselves to the ground, as if a sniper had been spotted. It wasn't that, luckily, but it was caused by a swarm of yellow and black striped flying creatures choosing that route to get to the city centre. Well, I was sitting in B Stand.

When England won the World Cup all those years ago, an event chiefly remembered for being the year after Finchley reached the Amateur Cup semi final, Kenneth Wolstenholme's memorable 'some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over' – (you now what comes next) reminds us that, err, some people were on the pitch. Nowadays, the referee would have stopped the game, the intruders would have been clamped in irons and England's 3-2 victory disputed forever as the ball didn't cross the line for Geoff Hurst's second and final goal.

I was also once standing on the terraces at Highbury for the North London derby, when the game was interrupted by a young lady running on to the pitch having forgotten to put on the clothing above her waist. Obviously, this was deeply disappointing for the packed crowd, who were enjoying the tactical battle between the two sides and certainly didn't wish to see an unclothed female. As I recall, some of the Spurs supporters were so upset at the delay, that they suggested rather loudly that it might have been a tactical ruse and that the lady in question might have been the wife of the Arsenal manager. After a judicial review, I believe the suggestion was discounted; she was at home watching the wrestling on World of Sport.

Anyway, I am sure the programme of which this forms a part will be word perfect - unless, of course, you know different...

Which event happened on this day? It was Stanley Matthews' debut. He played his last league game 33 years later.

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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2024/25 SQUAD



HAYSON, HARRY (VC)

Club Vice Captain
Position: Centre-back
Age: 24
Height: 6ft4
Hashtag Debut: 11/09/21 4-0 L v Canvey Island

Came through the Reserve team set-up and now has over 100 appearances & the record for consecutive games (43). He is now one of our top appearance makers of all-time and is a top tier centre-back.



ANDERSON, JERMAINE

Position: Full-back
Age: 24
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 05/02/24 1-0 W v Aveyley FC

Jermaine signed from Potters Bar mid-season last year & has also played at a variety of clubs across this level and the one below. A force to be reckoned with at full-back, both offensively & defensively.



APAT, MERT

Position: Centre-back
Age: 20
Height: 6ft6
Hashtag Debut: 24/11/24 8-1 W v Harwich & Parkston

Mert is a very tall centre-back that has come to us from Dartford. Formerly of the Leyton Orient set-up, Mert signed as defensive cover, but has now impressed Devs on several occasions to become a big part of the squad.



SMITH, NATHAN

Position: Full-back
Age: 37
Height: 6ft1
Hashtag Debut: 04/03/23 1-8 W v Tilbury FC

Nath has 626 appearances in the EFL and he still holds the record for most Football League appearances at Yeovil Town. He also has 2 senior international caps for Jamaica and is a great character to have at the club, whilst he's either bombing down the left wing or sureing up the defence.



BOLOVAN, ALEX

Position: Centre-midfield
Age: 23
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 10/08/24 0-2 L v Cray Wanderers

Alex signed from Woodford Town in the EFL during the Summer, the same place we found last season's top scorer. Whilst Alex went out to a couple of teams on a dual registration basis he has since returned in impressive form & features regularly.



CORNHILL, MAX (C)

Club Captain
Position: Centre-midfield
Age: 37
Height: 5ft11
Hashtag Debut: 13/08/22 1-0 L v Bury Town
Played a big part in Bowers & Pitsea's FA Cup run of 2021/22, and has also played in the National League with Dartford, whilst he lifted the Isthmian North trophy as our captain back in the 2022/23 season.



GIDDENS, JACK

Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 32
Height: 5ft11
Hashtag Debut: 10/08/24 0-2 L v Cray Wanderers

Jack signed at the start of the season from Bishop's Cleeve after over 500 appearances for them, has won this division & been included in TOT3 multiple times. As a GK, Jack is known for his kicking and penalty saving abilities.



ANDERSON, TOM

Position: Centre-back
Age: 28
Height: 6ft1
Hashtag Debut: 10/11/24 0-4 W v Chichester City

Tomo joined us for a third time after leaving at the start of the season to join Brentwood. A fan favourite, and a member of our fan-voted all-time XI (2023). Tomo rejoins to help sure up the defence for the campaign.



RUSOKE, JOSH

Position: Left-back
Age: 22
Height: 6ft2
Hashtag Debut: 10/08/24 0-2 L v Cray Wanderers

Josh is another Summer signing that didn't really get his chance until our 4-0 away win against Chichester in November, but since then the versatile LB has won both the POTM & QOTM for November whilst being an everpresent in the starting XI.



WOOLDRIDGE, MATT

Position: Full-back
Age: 23
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 15/08/21 1-1 D v Coggeshall Town

Our club record appearance maker, Matty is a fullback/midfielder with an eye for a goal. Having missed less than 20 games since he signed after impressing in our academy series, Matty has also played starring roles in both of our TST appearances.



DJEMALI, MISHA

Position: Attacking-midfield
Age: 24
Height: 6ft
Hashtag Debut: 15/08/23 1-4 W v Concord Rangers

Versatile midfielder Misha joined us during preseason of last year. He went on to be one of our top goal contributors last season with 13 goals & 6 assists, and is a player with a habit of popping up in the right areas!



CHRISTOU, JOE

Position: Midfielder
Age: 24
Height: 6ft11
Hashtag Debut: 14/09/24 2-1 L v Hornchurch

Joe signed for the Togs from Hornchurch in the league above and made his debut as a substitute in the 2-1 defeat to his former club in the FA Cup 2nd round qualifying. An experienced warrior in the middle. Joe has really impressed so far.



KIANGEBANI, PERCY

Position: Centre-midfield
Age: 27
Height: 5ft11
Hashtag Debut: 13/08/23 1-0 L v Bury Town
Eccentric personality Percy, also known as 'PK Humble' is a man that displays that same madness on the pitch too. Despite being sent off (harshly) on his debut, PK played a starring role in our 22/23 title winning season & has been an ever-present in the XI - when fit.



OLUKOGA, AYO

Position: Centre-midfield
Age: 27
Height: 5ft8
Hashtag Debut: 10/08/24 0-2 L v Cray Wanderers

Energetic midfielder Ayo spent pre-season with us and comes with an impressive CV that most recently saw him at Lewes. A physical player that does the simple things quite brilliantly. Ayo has been a big part of this season's squad.



AROMOLARAN, TOBY

Position: Forward
Age: 25
Height: 5ft10
Hashtag Debut: 02/09/2020 2-1 W v Park View

Love Island regular, Toby joined us from Tibury in 2020 and since then he has recorded 26 goals & 33 assists in his top 5 of both appearances, placing him in the top 5 of both goals and assists in club history. Positions he will most likely improve come the end of 2024/25.



CARVALHO, PEDRO

Position: Forward
Age: 26
Height: 5ft11
Hashtag Debut: 13/08/22 1-0 L v Bury Town

Signed from our landlords at the time Bowers & Pitsea, Pedro joined us at the start of our Italian North winning campaign. After a professional opportunity fell through he returned last year to pick up where he left off!



HASSAN, SAKARIYA

Position: Forward
Age: 23
Height: 5ft8
Hashtag Debut: 12/08/23 2-2 D v Dulwich Hamlet

The Somali starboy has 2 international goals to his name, having played 10 times for Somalia, including a world cup qualifier against Riyadh Mahrez. Sak was also our top assister last season, with some serious dribbling ability to cut through defences.



OSUDE, JOSH

Position: Forward
Age: 25
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 02/11/24 3-0 L v Cray Wanderers

Josh became the first player to re-sign for the club for the third time a few weeks ago in our defeat to Cray Wanderers. Also known as the 'Black Sonic', Josh is famous for his incredible speed and will strike fear into defences across the Isthmian League!



MAHDI, HUSSEIN

Position: Forward
Age: 24
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 13/08/24 1-2 W v Convey Island

New lad Hussein Mahdi came over on the recommendation of creators 'Chunkz' & 'Sharky', friends of the club. Hussein has been dual registered at a step 4 side, but has recently come back into the fold and bolstered the squad's attacking options.



MAY-PARROTT, LUKE

Position: Forward
Age: 21
Height: 5ft9
Hashtag Debut: 25/11/23 1-1 D v Cheshunt

'The Parrott' signed midway through last season after racking up the goals at step 5 side Woodford Town. He would go on to become our top contributor last season with 16 goals & 8 assists in 2103 minutes. A goal contribution every 87.7 minutes!

MANAGERS



JAY DEVEREUX
MANAGER
Age: 40

Hashtag Career: Dave started the club when we started our non-league journey having been assistant manager at East Thurrock United back when our chairman Spencer was making contact there. Dave had also played of every level of non-league, but had no interest of that due to injury. He has even seen all 3 of our promotions since our entry into the FA's football set-up.



JOE KEITH
ASSISTANT MANAGER
Age: 41

After a playing career that saw him make over 250 EFL appearances, Joe was head of Coaching at Essex & London Othello. Joe eventually ventured into non-league where he won an Isthmian League Cup with Bury Town in 2019/20, and after leaving the playing career he connected with Dave of East Thurrock before joining him here.

SEASON TICKETS 2024/25



EARLY BIRD

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult **£135.00** **£6.43**
- Conc. **£90.00** **£3.80**
- Under 18 **FREE**

*EARLY BIRD AVAILABLE UNTIL 31st JULY

**Concessions over 65 and Students.

***Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5

(U18 Season tickets only available on early bird)

FULL PRICE

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult **£185.00** **£8.80**
- Conc. **£130.00** **£6.19**

*FULL PRICE FROM 1st AUGUST

**Concessions over 65 and Students

***Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5



Fresh
AIR

Principal Club Sponsor

HASHTAG UNITED CLUB HISTORY

Initially created by YouTuber (& current co-chairman) Spencer Carmichael-Brown, Hashtag was created in 2016 as a team full of friends playing a charity match to honour a childhood friend. For the next 2 years Spencer & the team participated in exhibition matches in a league format that took place across 7 different countries. Facing pro football staff teams, fellow creators, brand teams, non-league & Sunday sides, the views began to stream in as the channel continued to grow.

At the start of 2017, the Hashtag Academy was created. A series that whittled down thousands of applicants to just one player through a variety of challenges until the final player was offered the chance to play for the club. The first ever academy series proved to be a fruitful one, with the winner a 16 year old Scott Pollock who would go on to be signed by Northampton Town a year later, and make his debut in the 2018/19 season. Scott was scouted after impressing in the 3rd Wembley Cup final (2017); a unique one-off game that pitted YouTubers up against each other alongside some retired pro footballers such as Steven Gerrard, Robbie Fowler, David James, and Emile Hesky to name just a few.

This was also the first of the Wembley Cup series that featured 'Hashtag United' as they battled it out against 'Tekkers Town' captained by 'The F2'. Following the success of the Wembley Cups & the Hashtag Academy series, the club applied for entry into the National League Pyramid, and were granted a place in the Eastern Senior League Division One South for the 2018/19 season. For this transition, a manager was required, Through his dad's physiotherapy work in non-league, Spencer had filmed content at East Thurrock United- which is where he met Jay Devereux. 'Devs' was appointed as the First Team manager before the season began and he remains in charge today.

Home games were played at Haringey Borough's 'Coles Park' that season, and it was a season to remember... After adding some non-league experience to the original squad, the team finished the season as champions, ensuring promotion at the first time of asking. Despite one or two changes to the side, the core of the squad remained for the next challenge: promotion to Step 4, the Isthmian League. Further additions were made including the winner of the 2nd Academy Series, Josh Osude, but the campaign was cut short due to the Coronavirus pandemic, with the team sitting in 2nd with games in hand over the league leaders.

A dramatic debut in the FA Cup 2020/21 saw us reach the 2nd Round Qualifying, on the way winning the second longest penalty shoot out in FA Cup history (13-

HASHTAG UNITED CLUB HISTORY

12) against Felixstowe & Walton, and beating higher opposition Soham Town Rangers, before being beaten by Braintree Town on penalties after conceding a heartbreaking last minute equaliser, just moments after Toby Aromolaran thought he'd won it.

With the pandemic rumbling on in the background the season was curtailed again in 2021. This year however, the FA decided to implement promotions based on points-per-game across the 2 previously interrupted seasons, meaning the Tags were promoted into the Isthmian League North Division. After finishing outside the play-offs during our first season; a few reinforcements later, including the addition of content creator 'PK Humble', current club captain Max Cornhill & ex-Premier League defender Greg Halford, prepared us for a title charge in 22/23.

A season-long battle ensued with AFC Sudbury and after a 21 game win-streak we were promoted with one of the league's best totals of 98 points. Last season saw us compete in our first season at the level and finish in a respectable 13th position. As for this season, Devs has added some serious firepower to his squad with 3 previous winners of the division in Jack Giddens (Bishop's Stortford), Darren Foxley (Bishop's Stortford) & Sam Higgins (Canvey Island). With some other high-profile signings Devs will be hoping that our upwards trajectory can continue in our 2nd season at the 7th tier of English Football



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Max Haysom

Percy Kiangebeni

Hussein Mahdi

Luke May-Parrott

Ayo Olukoga

Josh Osuide

Josh Rusoke

Nathan Smith

Matt Wooldridge

NEXT UP IN N12:

Hashtag United – ILP – 15/03/2025

Cray Valley PM – ILP – 29/03/2025

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Neil Fyfield

Assistants: Luke Smith, Bradley Hallybone