

WINGATE & FINCHLEY

MATCHDAY | CHESHUNT

TUE 2 NOV 2025 | 19.45 | MAURICE REBAK STADIUM
VELOCITY LEAGUE CUP 4TH ROUND



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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 Billericay enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon.

This evening sees Wingate take on Cheshunt in the Velocity League Cup, a competition the Blues won for the first and only time back in 2011.

Cheshunt are becoming a familiar opponent this season: the Blues faced them twice in the space of 7 days in October, first in the league and then a week later in the FA trophy, both away from home.

Ahmet Rifat's side will hope to take the momentum of their hard-fought

second-half comeback against Billericay on the weekend into tonight's cup match, with a place in the quarter-final up for grabs for the winner.

Lastly, some fixture news to bring you: our home game against Burgess Hill Town has been moved to Tuesday 16th December, and our postponed London Senior Cup tie against Fisher has been moved to Tuesday 27th January. Both matches will kick off at 7.45pm.

As ever, highlights from today's match will be available to watch on our [YouTube channel](#) in the coming days, where you can also find November's Goal of the Month shortlist.





LEAGUE RESPECT STATEMENT

"THE ISTMIAN 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 ISTMIAN 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

THREE STATEMENTS TO BEGIN WITH, ONLY TWO OF WHICH ARE TRUE; WHICH IS THE IMPOSTER? TODAY'S ARE ABOUT THE YEAR 1971, FOR REASONS THAT WILL BECOME APPARENT TO ANYONE READING ON. ANSWER AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE.

- THE WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL IN WHICH SOUTHAMPTON BEAT STEWARTON THISTLE 4-1, FEATURED ELEVEN ENGLISH WOMEN AGAINST ELEVEN SCOTS
- IN THE MEN'S FINAL BETWEEN ARSENAL AND LIVERPOOL, ONLY ONE PLAYER (JOHN TOSHACK) WAS NOT EITHER ENGLISH OR SCOTTISH
- 'IT'S A CUP FINAL KNOCKOUT' (A POPULAR TV PROGRAMME AT THE TIME) WAS HELD IN COLWYN BAY

IT MAKES A NICE CHANGE TO BE PLAYING CHESHUNT IN A CUP COMPETITION, AS IT MUST BE NEARLY SIX WEEKS SINCE WE LAST DID SO. THAT WAS ONLY ONE WEEK AFTER WE PLAYED THEM IN THE LEAGUE, SO WE CAN HARDLY BE CONSIDERED STRANGERS. I AM ALWAYS INTRIGUED TO KNOW WHETHER FAMILIARITY REALLY DOES GROW CONTEMPT OR WHETHER THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP GROW EVER STRONGER.

IN THE DAYS WHEN I, WHAT I LAUGHINGLY DESCRIBE AS 'PLAYED', REGULAR SPORT, WE WOULD ACTUALLY LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING AGAINST THE TEAMS THAT WE KNEW BEST. YOU COULD PLAY COMPETITIVELY ON THE FIELD, ENJOYING THE ODD BIT OF POKING FUN AT AN OPPONENT WHO YOU KNEW (HOPED) WOULD NOT TAKE OFFENCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO A COUPLE OF PINTS WITH THEM IN THE BAR AFTERWARDS. THOSE WHO YOU KNEW LESS WELL TENDED TO REMAIN MORE DISTANT AND WOULD OCCASIONALLY ACQUIRE A COMPLETELY UNFAIR REPUTATION OF BEING A WHINGER, OR A NASTY PIECE OF WORK.

LONG GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN CUP COMPETITIONS ENJOYED REPLAYS, SADLY. I AM OLD ENOUGH TO RECALL FIXTURES CONTINUING FOR AS LONG AS IT TOOK TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE RESULT AND IF THAT MEANT A SECOND OR THIRD REPLAY, SO BE IT; THERE WAS ALWAYS TIME TO FIT IN ANOTHER GAME THREE DAYS LATER, WHEN SCORES COULD BE SETTLED FROM THE PREVIOUS MATCH. IT WAS NOT UNKNOWN FOR GRUDGES TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE GAMES, USUALLY OVER SOMETHING VERY SIGNIFICANT LIKE HAVING TAKEN THE LAST PARKING SPOT AT THE GROUND THE SEASON BEFORE LAST.

ACCORDING TO THE SPORTS JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (AND WHO WOULDN'T TRUST A JOURNALIST? I EXCLUDE THE DAILY MAIL, OBVIOUSLY), THE GREATEST NUMBER OF REPLAYS IN THE FA CUP IS 5. THIS WAS SURPRISINGLY RECENTLY, WELL, IT SEEMS SO TO ME, IN THE 1971/72 SEASON, WHEN ALVECHURCH WERE DRAWN AT HOME TO OXFORD CITY IN THE FOURTH QUALIFYING ROUND. A 2-2 DRAW LED TO A REPLAY IN OXFORD, WHICH FINISHED 1-1. ON THEY WENT TO THE HOME OF BIRMINGHAM CITY FOR THE SECOND REPLAY, (1-1 AGAIN), THEN A 0-0 AT OXFORD UNITED'S MANOR GROUND AND THE SAME RESULT AGAIN AT THE SAME VENUE A FEW DAYS LATER. FINALLY, BOTH TEAMS TRUDGED UP TO VILLA PARK – YES, REALLY! – TO PLAY THE 5TH REPLAY AND, TO EVERYBODY'S DISAPPOINTMENT, A DECISIVE RESULT WAS ACHIEVED.

A VIEW FROM AFAR – PETER BROWN

‘BUT WHO WON?’, I HEAR YOU CRY. WELL, IT WAS ALVECHURCH WHO PROGRESSED TO PLAY READING, SCORING THE ONLY GOAL OF THE GAME.

THE TIE LASTED FOR 11 HOURS AND 11 PLAYERS PLAYED EVERY MINUTE OF THE GAMES, ALL SIX OF WHICH WERE COMPLETED IN 17 DAYS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, DURING STOPPAGES, THE PLAYERS WHO WERE BY NOW ALL ON FIRST NAME TERMS, CHATTED WITH EACH OTHER IN A FRIENDLY WAY, ALL BECOMING AWARE THAT THEY WERE SETTING A RECORD THAT WOULD NEVER BE BEATEN. I SUPPOSE THAT ANSWERS MY QUESTION AT THE OUTSET AND I WOULDN’T MIND BETTING THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME FANS DINING OUT ON THE STORY THAT THEY SAW ALL SIX MATCHES.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THIS EVENING; NO CHANCE OF A REPLAY, PENALTIES IF NECESSARY. BUT THEY’RE ALREADY FRIENDS, OBVIOUSLY.

WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS IS MADE UP? IT’S THE SECOND ONE: PAT RICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) AND STEVE HEGHWAY (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND) ALSO PLAYED.



IN PICTURES – BILLERICAY (H)



IN PICTURES – BILLERICAY (H)



LEAGUE TABLE

| Rank | Team | GP | GD | P |
|------|---------------------|----|-----|----|
| 1 | Folkestone Invicta | 18 | 36 | 45 |
| 2 | Brentwood Town | 19 | 11 | 39 |
| 3 | Dartford | 20 | 10 | 34 |
| 4 | Chatham Town | 17 | 15 | 33 |
| 5 | Aveley | 17 | 12 | 31 |
| 6 | Burgess Hill Town | 19 | 0 | 30 |
| 7 | Cray Wanderers | 20 | -4 | 29 |
| 8 | Billericay Town | 18 | 6 | 26 |
| 9 | Dulwich Hamlet | 20 | 3 | 26 |
| 10 | Ramsgate | 20 | -3 | 26 |
| 11 | St Albans City | 17 | 7 | 25 |
| 12 | Wingate & Finchley | 18 | 5 | 25 |
| 13 | Whitehawk | 18 | -3 | 24 |
| 14 | Carshalton Athletic | 20 | -5 | 23 |
| 15 | Cheshunt | 18 | 1 | 22 |
| 16 | Lewes | 19 | -15 | 22 |
| 17 | Chichester City | 15 | -2 | 20 |
| 18 | Cray Valley (PM) | 19 | -4 | 20 |
| 19 | Hashtag United | 18 | -13 | 17 |
| 20 | Welling United | 19 | -22 | 12 |
| 21 | Canvey Island | 18 | -18 | 11 |
| 22 | Potters Bar Town | 17 | -17 | 8 |

UPCOMING FIXTURES – DECEMBER

Saturday 6 December 2025

Isthmian League – Premier Division

Wingate & Finchley  15:00  Carshalton Athletic

Saturday 13 December 2025

Isthmian League – Premier Division

Cray Valley (PM)  15:00  Wingate & Finchley

Tuesday 16 December 2025

Isthmian League – Premier Division

Wingate & Finchley  19:45  Burgess Hill Town

Saturday 20 December 2025

Isthmian League – Premier Division

Wingate & Finchley  12:30  Cray Wanderers

Saturday 27 December 2025

Isthmian League – Premier Division

St Albans City  15:00  Wingate & Finchley

UP NEXT

06/12 // MAURICE REBAK STADIUM // 3:00 PM

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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 BATTING 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 4TH 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

A GENTLEMEN'S AMATEUR SIDE OF THE SAME NAME PRECEDED THE CURRENT CLUB. THEY WERE FORMED IN 1880 AND COMPETED IN THE ATHENIAN LEAGUE, HAVING FUTURE SPURS MANAGER ARTHUR ROWE AMONGST THEIR NUMBERS, BEFORE FOLDING IN 1931.

A NEW CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1946, MAKING NATIONAL HEADLINES ONLY FOUR YEARS LATER WHEN THEY KNOCKED HOLDERS BROMLEY OUT OF THE AMATEUR CUP IN FRONT OF A STILL-RECORD 5,000 SPECTATORS AT THEIR NEWLY OPENED CHESHUNT STADIUM ON THEOBALDS LANE. OVER THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS THE CLUB SWITCHED VARIOUS LEAGUES BEFORE FINALLY EMULATING THEIR OLD NAMESAKES AND JOINING THE ATHENIAN LEAGUE IN 1964, GAINING PROMOTION TO THE TOP DIVISION UNDER FORMER SPURS AND WALES WINGER TERRY MEDWIN A FEW YEARS LATER.

THE 1970'S SAW THE ARRIVAL OF JOHN DRABWELL AS MANAGER AND DURING HIS SPELLS IN CHARGE, THE LONDON CHARITY CUP, THE ATHENIAN LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE AND ENTRY INTO THE ISTMIAN LEAGUE WERE ALL ACHIEVED. IN 1978 THE AMBERS ALSO REACHED THE FA CUP 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND FOR THE FOURTH TIME, AN ACHIEVEMENT THEY HAVE YET TO EQUAL OR BETTER.

FOUR YEARS LATER THEY WERE KNOCKED OUT OF THE LAST EIGHT OF THE FA VASE, THE FURTHEST THEY'VE GONE IN ANY NATIONAL COMPETITION, AND ALSO SAW THE BEGINNING OF A YOUNG IAIN DOWIE'S CAREER WHO WOULD GO ONTO GREAT SUCCESS BOTH AS A TOP FLIGHT PLAYER, A NORTHERN IRELAND INTERNATIONAL AND EVENTUALLY AS A PREMIER LEAGUE MANAGER.

TAKEOVERS AND WITHDRAWALS SAW THE NEAR COLLAPSE OF THE CLUB IN THE MID-80'S CAUSING THEM TO TUMBLE DOWN INTO THE SPARTAN LEAGUE BEFORE RETURNING TO THE ISTMIAN LEAGUE SIX YEARS LATER.

NEW MANAGER ANDY LESE TOOK OVER IN 2002 AND GUIDED HIS SIDE TO TWO SUCCESSIVE PROMOTIONS AND THE TOP OF THE ISTMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE BEFORE HIS SUDDEN DEPARTURE AND NEAR RELEGATION IN 2005 WHEN THE CLUB WAS SWITCHED ACROSS TO THE SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE.

RELEGATION BACK TO THE LOWER ISTMIAN DIVISIONS CAME AFTER THREE NAIL-BITING SEASONS AND ANOTHER FRUSTRATING TEN YEARS WOULD FOLLOW AS THE CLUB'S NEW CHAIRMAN AND OWNER, DEAN WILLIAMSON, WENT THROUGH SEVERAL MANAGERS BEFORE APPOINTING CRAIG EDWARDS IN JANUARY 2018.

INITIALLY STEERING HIS SIDE AWAY FROM RELEGATION, EVERYTHING THEN CLICKED FOR EDWARDS AND HIS TEAM HALFWAY THROUGH THE FOLLOWING CAMPAIGN AND PROMOTION TO THE ISTMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE WAS ACHIEVED WITH VICTORY IN THE PLAY-OFF FINAL AGAINST BRACKNELL TOWN.

TODAY'S VISITORS - CLUB HISTORY

WITH LEVEL-THREE FOOTBALL FINALLY REGAINED AND MAJOR PLANS FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GROUND IN HAND, THINGS WERE LOOKING GOOD FOR THE AMBERS. HOWEVER, TWO SEASONS OF LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FRUSTRATED PLAYERS & STAFF ALIKE AS THE COVID PANDEMIC SAW THE 19/20 AND 20/21 CURTAILED. WORKING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITHIN HEALTH GUIDELINES THE CLUB RETAINED MOST OF THE SQUAD BUILT FOR STEP THREE, AND MADE A FLYING START TO LIFE IN THE ISTMIAN PREMIERSHIP IN THE CLUB'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

A FANTASTIC FA TROPHY RUN SAW THE CLUB ADVANCE FURTHER THAN EVER BEFORE FINALLY GOING OUT TO VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS STOCKPORT COUNTY 1-0 IN THE 5TH ROUND. THE TROPHY RUN COINCIDED WITH A SLUMP IN LEAGUE FORM AND A BACKLOG OF FIXTURES, THE AMBERS RECOVERED IN THE LATTER STAGES OF THE SEASON SECURING A PLAY OFF PLACE WITH ONE GAME IN HAND, AND WINNING THE HERTS FA SENIOR CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME. PLAY OFF WINS, AWAY FROM HOME, OVER BISHOP'S STORTFORD & HORNCHURCH SAW CHESHUNT FC START THE 22/23 SEASON AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID ACHIEVED IN THEIR 75 YEAR HISTORY.

LIFE AT STEP 2 OF THE PYRAMID WAS SHORT-LIVED AFTER THE TEAM DIDN'T RECOVER FROM A POOR START TO THE SEASON & SPENT MOST OF THE YEAR IN AND AROUND THE RELEGATION PLACES, RELEGATION ASIDE, IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE WITH THE CLUB LEARNING A LOT FROM IT ON AND OFF THE PITCH, AND HAVING HAD A TASTE OF NATIONAL LEAGUE FOOTBALL THE OBJECTIVE IS TO DO IT AGAIN. WITH THE FAN BASE GROWING THE STADIUM HAS HAD ADDITIONAL SEVEN STEP TERRACING ADDED TO BOTH ENDS OF THE GROUND AND ANOTHER 250 SEATS ADDED TO THE SPORTS BAR STAND. THE CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW WITH WALKING FOOTBALL, INCLUSIVE TEAMS, A WOMEN'S TEAM AND AN EVER EXPANDING YOUTH SECTION ALL SEEING SUCCESS OVER RECENT SEASONS.

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PARTNERS WITH
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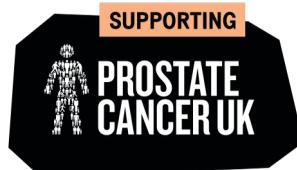


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PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE



MANAGER: AHMET RIFAT

COACHES: DIOGO NOBRE, JONNY GEORGIU, OLA WILLIAMS

GOALKEEPING COACH: GAVIN KING

PHYSIO: ISRAEL OZANGBO

KIT MANAGER: PETE BARKER

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

MANAGER: MEL GWINNETT

PRESTON EDWARDS (GK)

AYMEN AZAZE (GK)

HENRY BLACKLEDGE (GK)

TEDDY JEFCOATE (GK)

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DAVID ROMER

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LUKA CHALWELL

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SAM GRANVILLE

GEORGE HUNT

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MOE SHUBBAR

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