

WINGATE & FINCHLEY

ISTHMIAN PREMIER DIVISION

3PM KO | Maurice Rebak Stadium | Summers Ln | London | N12 0PD

Saturday 29th March 2025





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FOOTBALL
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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 Cray Valley PM enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

The final countdown of the season continues as we come to our final six games of the campaign (subject to playoffs).

Last week we beat then league leaders Billericay Town 3-1 at the New Lodge. With 1,737 in the crowd a brace from Bello and a third from Obi saw us claim an important win.

This afternoon we host 4th placed Cray Valley Paper Mills. Our last game against the Millers came on 14th December, losing 5-3. Our games came from Restrepo and an Obi brace.

This season is the first season our two clubs have met in competitive league fixtures, at least since the merger of Wingate and Finchley.

Today our push for one of the four playoff spots, with six massive games remaining!

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.

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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

If you'd like to donate, head [HERE](#).

*Article from Isthmian League website

Lewes (A)

Next Saturday we are away at Lewes. To follow us there, the address is:

The Dripping Pan Stadium, Mountfield Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2XA

Padel courts coming to Summers Lane!

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with Padel Tree, there will be Padel Courts opening at the Maurice Rebak Stadium in June 2025!

This will be Padel Tree's second club in the capital, with five courts to be installed alongside the hallowed turf at the Maurice Rebak Stadium, to allow local residents in the Finchley area access to the fastest-growing sport in the UK.

For more details please see <https://www.padel-tree.com/>

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.

Total games: 34 league, 7 cup:

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	25	3	28
Lowe	6	1	7
Drakes-Thomas	4	3	7
Frempah	6	0	6
Georgiou	4	1	5
Bello	4	0	4
Restrepo	4	0	4
Oladipo	3	0	3
Newton	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Alexandrou	2	0	2
Deslandes	2	0	2
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

As ever, three statements to begin the article, this time about Eltham, where our visitors play. Only one of them is true. But which one? Answer at the end of the feature.

- *The most prominent body of water in Eltham is the River Quaggy, a tributary of a tributary of the Thames*
- *Eltham Town were a football club that played in the Spartan League until disbanding in 1959*
- *Eltham Palace was once a hunting lodge for Henry VIII*

This is the first time that I have had the privilege of jotting down some thoughts in a programme in which we welcome today's opponents. A new team is always a pleasure, as it gives me the chance to look up something of their location and to seek, usually in vain, any connection to my own wanderings as a fan of non-league football. And so it is today – although the Lady Wife and I attended the reverse fixture earlier this season, I have never knowingly been to St Pauls Cray, where the club originated, or visited a paper mill.

Although I have in my working life visited many factories and manufacturing units, I can't honestly say that I noticed any of them having a football pitch on site. Quite a few clubs in many sports originated as work-based teams, largely I think as a way of owners being seen to provide some sort of leisure facility for their workers and probably as a means of generating some sort of loyalty. By the time I started work, just after the Boer War, a lot of big organisations had developed their own sports facilities where teams would perform every weekend and, if you were lucky, in the odd weekday competition, thus giving you an extra day off work.

In my own inglorious football 'career' I was once invited as a 'ringer' to play in a 6-a-side tournament being held at the United Banks Sports Club in Catford. A friend of mine worked for one of the banks so united and his office were not only one short, but clearly desperate. So it was that I drove down from Finchley one Sunday morning and met up with my new team mates. It was some sort of inter-departmental competition set up much like the World Cup, except of a slightly lower standard, with group games and then a progression to later knock out rounds.

What quickly became clear was that we were the second worst team in the competition; by sheer fluke, the worst lot were in the same group! We duly lost our first two games, but had the consolation of the 'easy one' to come. Confidently taking the field in what was a game of no consequence to anyone but

A VIEW FROM AFAR

the two teams involved, we found their defence surprisingly resolute until, nearing the end, I suddenly found myself free and running through on goal. The keeper, who I think was probably drafted in because he was the only one with a coloured shirt and looked as if he would rather be watering his dahlias, had picked the ball out of the net several times in earlier games and appeared resigned to doing so again. He hadn't reckoned with me, however.

After years of watching Jimmy Greaves, I rounded him (actually he just stood still and let me past) and picked my spot. Unfortunately, my spot wasn't the attractive rhododendron that grew alongside the perimeter fence, but that was where the ball decided to go.

In the event of draws, games were decided on penalties, but as time was lacking and nobody cared, we simply headed back to the changing room. This must be nearly 50 years ago, but clearly it hasn't haunted me one bit.

Which 'fact' is true? It's the River Quaggy

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.

HOME FIXTURES



Cray Valley PM
Saturday 29th March 2025
Kick off 3pm



Bognor Regis Town
Saturday 19th April 2025
Kick off 3pm



Canvey Island
Saturday 26th April 2025
Kick off 3pm





AWAY FIXTURES

Lewes
Saturday 5th April 2025
Kick off 3pm



Cray Wanderers
Saturday 12th April 2025
Kick off 3pm



Cheshunt
Monday 21st April 2025
Kick off 3pm



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CRAY VALLEY PM PLAYER PROFILES

MICHAEL ADEMILUYI (11) – Michael now 28 joined Valley in July 2023 having represented Cray Wanderers and Faversham Town the season before. An attacking wide player, he has a wealth of non league experience. Former clubs include Bowers & Pitsea, scoring 12 times from 45 appearances in season 2021/22 and Haringey Borough where he was a member of their Isthmian North Division promotion winning 2017/18 season. Last season he made 43 appearances for Valley scoring 7 goals.

KENNY ALIERU (27) – Kenny a wide player, now 26, joined Cray Valley (PM) in January 2025 dual registering from Aveley, scoring on his debut against Bognor Regis Town. He started his career in the Aldershot Town Youth academy set up and later went on to feature for Clapton and Phoenix Sports before joining Aveley in early December 2021 for whom he has made 104 appearances scoring 16 times.

CLEMENT ASIEDU (19) – Clement now age 21 a left sided defender joined Valley in July 2023 from Horsham YMCA where he made 52 appearances including 34 last season in the Southern Combination premier division at step 5. A product of the Volenti Academy he represented Crystal Palace as a youth player. Yet to score his first goal but made 36 appearances last season.

MARCEL BARRINGTON (14) – Striker Marcel now 28 re-joined Valley in November 2023 from Erith & Belvedere. He originally became a Miller at the end of April 2021, making 44 appearances and scoring 24 times before joining then newly promoted Isthmian Premier side Herne Bay in July 2022 where he made 38 appearances scoring 16 goals. Earlier in his career netted twice in 5 international appearances for Guyana, and won promotion from the National League South with Braintree Town in 2017/18. Last season made 21 appearances scoring 5 goals.

TOM BEERE (24) – Tom now 29 joined Valley at the start of October 2024 after a short spell with Horsham. The former Millwall trainee progressed through the Dons Academy and went on to make thirty first team appearances for AFC Wimbledon, scoring in the 2016/17 League Two Play-Off semi-final defeat of Accrington Stanley. Tom left Wimbledon in 2017 and dropped into non-league football, first with Hampton & Richmond with whom he'd had a spell on loan whilst with the Dons, and then the first of two spells at Tonbridge Angels. An experienced and combative midfielder, Tom has also played Isthmian League football for Leatherhead, Greenwich Borough, Kingstonian, Carshalton Athletic and Cray Wanderers.

SONNY BLACK (8) – Former Crystal Palace youngster Sonny joined The Millers in July 2022, winning Managers Player of the Year in his first season. He has now made 87 appearances for Valley scoring 11 goals. The 27 year old central midfielder joined from VCD Athletic and previously spent two seasons at Westfield after winning promotion from the Isthmian League South East Division with Walton Casuals in 2017/18.

DAN BOWRY (26) – The 26-year-old defender recently joined from St Albans City of the National League South. He signed for the Saints in the summer of 2023 making 48 appearances during his time at Clarence Park. A youth player with Charlton Athletic from the age of 16, he was released at

CRAY VALLEY PM PLAYER PROFILES

the end of the 2018/19 season after loan spells at Kingstonian and Hampton and Richmond Borough. He joined Cheltenham Town and underwent loan spells at Bath City and Wealdstone. In season 2021/22 he joined Kings Lynn making over 20 appearances followed by a similar number the following season at Worthing. His paternal grandparents were born in the Caribbean and this has allowed Dan the honour of representing the Antigua and Barbuda national football team on numerous occasions.

HARRISON CHAMBERLAIN (29) – Harrison Chamberlain has joined on a short term youth loan from Colchester United, making his debut against Bowers & Pitsea. The 18-year-old goalkeeper impressed for the U's under-21s last season and earned a deal with the club, signing his first professional contract ahead of the 2024-25 campaign. His arrival was initially brought about by an injury to Millers goalkeeper Max Ovenden and his loan agreement has now been extended until the end of the season.

TOM CHAMBERS (3) – Left sided defender / wing back Tom joined The Millers in the summer of 2022 and has now made 77 appearances scoring 6 goals. He joined from SCEFL Division 1 side Lewisham Borough after a spell at Whyteleafe. The 23 year old was a youth team graduate at Dulwich Hamlet – winning the Player of the Year award in 2018/19 before joining Fisher on loan.

ANDRE COKER (15) – Andre a versatile attacking player was a product of Crystal Palace Academy. Now 26 he joins from Folkestone Invicta whom he signed for at the start of last season before going on loan to Carshalton Athletic and then ending the season at AFC Croydon. He has National League and National League South experience with Maidstone United and Dartford. He enjoyed more recent spells at Cray Wanderers, Kingstonian and Enfield. For the latter he made 66 appearances scoring 18 goals over two seasons between 2021 and 2023.

ADAM COOMBES (10) – Signed for Valley in the summer of 2022 experienced striker, 32 year old Adam, has now made 79 appearances scoring 36 goals. A product of the Chelsea academy and former England Under 16 striker Adam joined from Tonbridge Angels. During a career disrupted by injury, Adam has enjoyed goalscoring success at Welling United and Billericay Town among others

KURTIS CUMBERBATCH (28) – Joined the Millers in January 2025 from Hendon, where he made 55 appearances, scoring 4 goals. An experienced midfielder, now age 29, he is well known to Steve McKimm having played for him at Carshalton Athletic in season 2022/23. A former Charlton Athletic youth player Kurtis has played in both the National League and National League South during his career. Former clubs include Billericay Town, Slough Town, Dover Athletic, Farnborough, Harrow Borough, Welling United and Hadley.

CHARLIE EDWARDS (32) – Charlie, 32 next month a midfielder recently joined the Millers from Cray Wanderers where he made 31 appearances scoring three times. He was previously with Canvey Island, followed by a brief spell at Corinthian Casuals. Prior to that his spell at Potters

CRAY VALLEY PM PLAYER PROFILES

Bar Town was his second with the club and he was previously with Wingate & Finchley, Harlow Town, Hertford Town and Waltham Abbey.

DENZEL GAYLE (7) – Jamaican born Denzel now 31 years old is currently the club's longest serving player who up to the end of last season had made 289 appearances, scoring 65 goals since joining from Erith & Belvedere in 2017. A pacy right sided raider vice captain Denzel now has two championship medals for the Millers, adding last seasons Isthmian South East to his SCEFL Premier one in 2018/19. He also appeared at Wembley in the FA Vase Final that season against Chertsey Town.

CROSSLEY LEMA (31) – Crossley 26 a defender has recently joined from Tonbridge Angels where he made 36 appearances scoring once. Crossley began his career through the youth ranks at Sutton United, before making a permanent move to Leatherhead in 2020. Subsequent clubs include Margate and Carshalton Athletic where he played under Steve McKimm winning the Robins player of the year award season 2022/23 making 46 appearances scoring 6 goals. He later joined Welling United for season 2023/24 where he played 40 times.

KIKI OSHILAJA (5) – 25 year old defender Kiki joined Valley in the summer of 2022 and has now made 78 appearances scoring twice. He joined from VCD Athletic after making 50 appearances in two seasons and being named as their Player of the Year in 2021/22. The Dulwich Hamlet youth product also previously played for Carshalton Athletic, Thamesmead Town, Sheppey United and Beckenham Town.

FREDDIE PARKER (9) – 23 year old striker Freddie Parker joined Valley in July 2023 last season he made 37 appearances, scoring 16 goals. He was previously at Sevenoaks Town who he joined at the end of February 2022, making a total of 46 appearances with 21 goals over a season and a half.. Previous clubs were Isthmian Premier sides Lewes and Cray Wanderers along with Millwall U18's.

FUMNAYA SHOMOTUN (21) – Funmaya now 27 began his career at Barnet making his football league debut for them in 2014, going on to make around 20 first team appearances along with loan periods at Staines Town, Margate and Wealdstone before being released in 2019. After a short spell at Kingstonian he moved to Sevenoaks Town in October 2022 where he made 52 appearances, scoring 10 goals. In February 2024 he joined Dartford where he played 16 games scoring twice. He started the season at Tonbridge Angels before joining Valley in September.

CEM TUMKAYA (6) – Versatile defender Cem now 26 made his Millers debut as a 16 year old. At the end of last season he had amassed 256 appearances scoring 16 goals for the Millers. After a brief spell with Dulwich Hamlet at the start of last season he returned to the Artic Stadium and added a second championship winning medal to his collection. The Isthmian South East being added to the SECEFL Premier one earned in season 2018/19. Cem also played at Wembley in the FA Vase final that same season.

MATTHEW VIGOR (14) – Matthew Vigor now 20 joined Valley in July 2023 from Crystal Palace a product of their academy appearing for their U18 and U21 sides. A creative central midfielder he

CRAY VALLEY PM PLAYER PROFILES

made 49 appearances for Valley last season scoring 14 goals. He received the young player of the year award for his efforts. The season before during a 5 month loan spell with Isthmian Premier side Carshalton Athletic he made 25 appearances scoring 5 goals.

DANNY WALDREN (17) – 35 year old versatile defensive midfielder who signed for Valley in Nov 2023 and went on to make 28 appearances scoring 10 goals. He brought with him a wealth of experience. Joined from Beckenham Town where he was club captain and a member of their promotion winning side in 2021/22. He has also enjoyed promotion with two previous clubs Bromley, where he made 188 appearances, to the National League in 2014/15 and Billericay Town in 2017/18. Other past clubs include Dulwich Hamlet, Welling United and Romford.

BARNEY WILLIAMS (2) – 29 year old defender Barney joined the Club from Barking in May 2022 and has now made 83 appearances scoring 5 goals. He was a model of consistency last season picking up managers, players and supporters player of the year awards. He also won goal of the season for a stunning volley at Broadbridge Heath. Made over 70 appearances in the National League for Welling United and Braintree early in his career, Barney also spent four successful seasons at Cray Wanderers – winning promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division in 2018/19.

STEVE McKIMM (Manager) – Steve was appointed Cray Valley first team manager at the beginning of June 2023 bringing with him his assistant Barry Moore. They had worked together at Tonbridge Angels for eight years and the season before at Carshalton Athletic. The managerial duo of McKimm and Moore guided the Angels to an Isthmian League Premier Division play-off semi-final spot in 2015/16 before promotion to the National League South was secured via the Isthmian Premier play-offs in 2018/19. His first season at Valley brought immediate success winning the Isthmian South East Division meaning the club will play at step 3 for the first time. A knack for cup runs over the years, last season saw Valley reach the FA Cup first round proper, going out to Charlton Athletic in a replay.



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



AIR
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CRAY VALLEY PM CLUB HISTORY

Records held by Kent FA show that Cray Valley Paper Mills FC (CVPM) was founded in 1919 - the team originally playing in green and white, matching the livery of the paper mills vehicles and company banner - and was supported by the Nash family who owned the paper mills until its closure in 1981

Playing in the newly formed Sidcup and Kent League Division 2, the Club's first match was a 1-0 victory against Hamilton House FC on September 20th 1919, followed by a 7-0 victory in our first away match at Sidcup Invicta. CVPM went on to win the division in their first season - gaining promotion to the Bromley & District League Division 1. The following season they were again champions - also winning the Kent County Junior Cup, defeating Sittingbourne Paper Mills 3-0 in the Final. Their next success came as members of the Kent Amateur League Western Section in 1932/33 - winning the Divisional title that season before finishing runners-up in 1936/37.

Records between the late-fifties and the early-seventies are scarce, until 1975 when CVPM joined the South London Alliance League, winning Division 1 in 1979/80 and the Premier Division in 1980/81 - their final season playing at the sports ground of the mills at St Pauls Cray in Kent.

Following a "nomadic existence" CVPM arrived at their present home at Badgers Sports Ground in Middle Park Avenue, Eltham for the season 1998/99, by which time "Paper Mills" had been abbreviated to "(PM)" in the Club's name.

The Club continued to enjoy success in the South London Alliance - winning Division 1 in 1983/84 and finishing as runners-up in the Premier Division in 1988/89 - before joining the Spartan League, gaining promotion to Division 1 in 1990/91 by finishing as runners up, only missing out on the title on goal difference. They moved to the re-structured Spartan Midland League in 1997/98, - finishing as runners up in their first season - and became founder members of the London Intermediate League - reaching the Final of the League Cup in 1998/99 - before, under the management of Mark Edwards, being elected to Division One of the Kent County League in 2001/02.

During Edwards' reign, CVPM enjoyed regular success - winning Division 1 West in 2002/03 before winning the Premier Division by 11 points in 2004/05. They were also victorious in the London Intermediate Cup in 2003, 2004, 2010 and 2011.

Willie O'Sullivan became manager in season 2009/10, before leaving in January of the following season 2011/12, at the end of which the Club effectively gained two "promotions" - moving from the "Step 7" Kent County League to the "Step 5" Kent League.

With Steve Chapman then taking over at the helm, their first season at that level saw them finish in a highly creditable 11th position while the following two seasons saw further progress, with 8th and 7th placed finishes, while reaching the semi-final of the London Senior Cup - narrowly losing to eventual winners AFC Wimbledon.

CRAY VALLEY PM CLUB HISTORY

2012/13 saw their debut in the FA Vase, followed by a first appearance in the FA Cup the following season - beating Lancing away in a replay, before losing to Redhill in the Preliminary round.

After Paul Gross took over from Chapman for the 2014/15 season, The Millers finished 7th in the newly named Southern Counties East Football League (SCEFL) - a late season slump resulting in a disappointing 10th place finish the following season.

Under James Collins, the 2016/17 campaign saw the Club finish in a very creditable 4th place in the league, and reach the Final of the Kent Senior Trophy - losing 2-1 to League Champions Ashford Town. They also became the lowest ranked team ever to win the London Senior Cup when, on a memorable night at Dulwich Hamlet, The Millers beat Ryman Premier Division opponents Metropolitan Police 2-1. It was also a successful season for the Club's youngsters - the Reserves winning the Suburban League South Division before losing to Metropolitan Police Reserves in the League Cup Final.

Kevin Watson was appointed as manager early in the 2017/18 campaign, guiding The Millers to 6th place, while again reaching the final of the London Senior Cup – on this occasion being beaten by Balham. The centenary season 2018/19 saw the Club again scale new heights – winning the SCEFL title by a single point, accruing 91 points from 38 matches while scoring 108 goals with a goal difference of +72, and securing promotion to the Isthmian League. The Club also made their first appearance at Wembley – Combined Counties League side Chertsey Town beating Valley 3-1 after extra time in the FA Vase Final in front of a crowd of 42,962.

Their first season in the Isthmian League South East Division (Step 4) came to a premature end due to the Covid-19 outbreak, when they were in 3rd position and looking set to challenge for further promotion. While the 2020/21 season was also curtailed in December 2020 due to Covid-19, there was still time for The Millers to embark on a record breaking run in the FA Cup, reaching the First Round Proper for the first time. Season 2021/22 finally saw The Millers complete a full season at step 4, achieving their highest ever finish in 5th place to secure a play off spot - a 1-0 defeat in the semi-final at Ashford United ending any promotion hopes. Following Kevin Watson's departure in November 2022, his assistant Tommy Osborne took over the reigns but narrowly missed out on a play off spot, finishing in 6th place.

A new era now beckoned with a complete managerial change in preparation for the 2023/24 season with the appointment of Steve McKimm. What followed contributed to a truly remarkable season. Isthmian South East Champions and with it promotion to step 3 for the first time, 97 points, 103 goals scored with just 32 conceded. Reached the FA Cup First Round Proper taking Charlton Athletic to a replay at the Artic Stadium in front of a capacity crowd of 1,550 along with a FA Trophy Second Round Proper appearance for the first time.

Updated May 2024



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Zack Newton

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Camilo Restrepo

Tommy Roberts

Destiny Oladipo

Ayo Tanimowo

Ben Watt

Bobby Webb



Manager: Scott McKimm

Assistant Manager: Barry Moore

Coach: Mark Watson

Goalkeeping Coach: Joe Docherty

Physio: Sam Codling

Kit Men: Mark Higgins & Steve Dodds

2 Barney Williams

3 Tom Chambers

4 Arthur Lee

5 Kiki Oshilaja

6 Cem Tumkaya

7 Denzel Gayle

8 Sonny Black

9 Freddie Parker

10 Adam Coombes

11 Michael Ademiluyi

14 Marcel Barrington

15 Andre Coker

16 Matt Vigor

17 Danny Waldren

19 Clem Asiedu

21 Fumnaya Shomotun

24 Tom Beere

26 Dan Bowry

27 Kenny Aileru

28 Kurtis Cumberbatch

29 Harrison Chamberlain (GK)

31 Crossley Lema

32 Charlie Edwards

NEXT UP IN N12:

Bognor Regis Town (ILP) 19/04/2025

Canvey Island (ILP) 26/04/2025

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Michael Scott

Assistants: Oliver Townsend, Leigh Ballinger