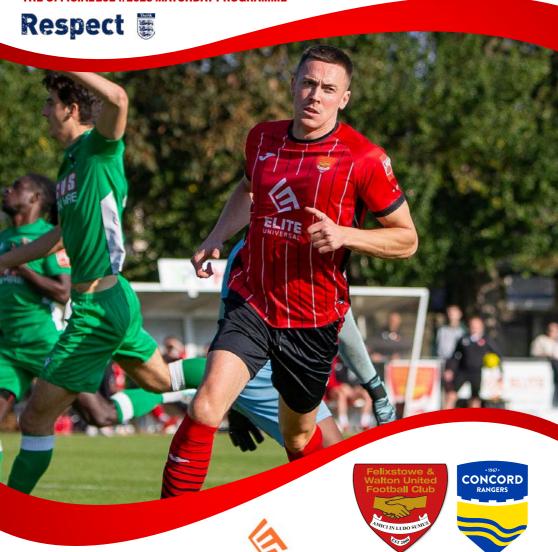
# Seasiders

THE OFFICIAL 2024/2025 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME













Concord Rangers FC



# TONY BARNES



Good afternoon to one and all and a warm welcome to The Martello Ground for today's Isthmian North league fixture against midtable but in form Concord Rangers.

These notes have been written before Tuesday's fixtures when Concord visited Wroxham, but prior to that they have won three and drawn one of their previous four games, so it promises to be a very close encounter with the Seasiders determined to put last week's defeat at Walthamstow firmly behind them.

I sincerely hope the players, officials and supporters of Concord Rangers enjoy their trip up the A12 to our wonderful club and I wish them all a safe journey home this evening.

Welcome also to todays match officials, I hope both sets of players and supporters allow you to enjoy the game and our hospitality.

Talking of hospitality, allow me to update you on the "corner flag" container suite... We have had several delays with various aspects, but things have now started to move forward and my thanks

to all those who have helped so far from inside and outside the club. Still a long way to go, but the delays will not affect our strong desire to go ahead with the planned extension to our main clubhouse, I might be a dreamer or very naive, but how great it would be to have both buildings completed and ready for use next season.

Things also seem to be moving forward as far as Felixstowe Crickets Club's new facilities which in turn will enable us to push forward with the planned artificial pitch which will make a massive difference to our community football activities, training and also add additional and sustainable income streams for years to come.

The success of Ipswich Women here over the past couple of years is also a great benefit to us as their desire and requirement for improved facilities obviously assists us too, with the next project after our recent Solar panel installation being LED floodlighting - saving energy going "green" wherever we can, can only be a good thing for all concerned including our neighbours, our junior and future players and other minority parties that we strive to help every day.

With the continued growth of the club, comes an ever-increasing demand on the volunteers, staff, coaches and officers of the club. Next year



we hope to introduce a 3rd EJA side, continue exploring our own women's team, and also begin the process of at least providing training for local disability groups. The County FA provide a lot of guidance to clubs at our level, but equally we do need to organise and provide many aspects ourselves whether it be on the administration, catering or indeed on the coaching side of things.

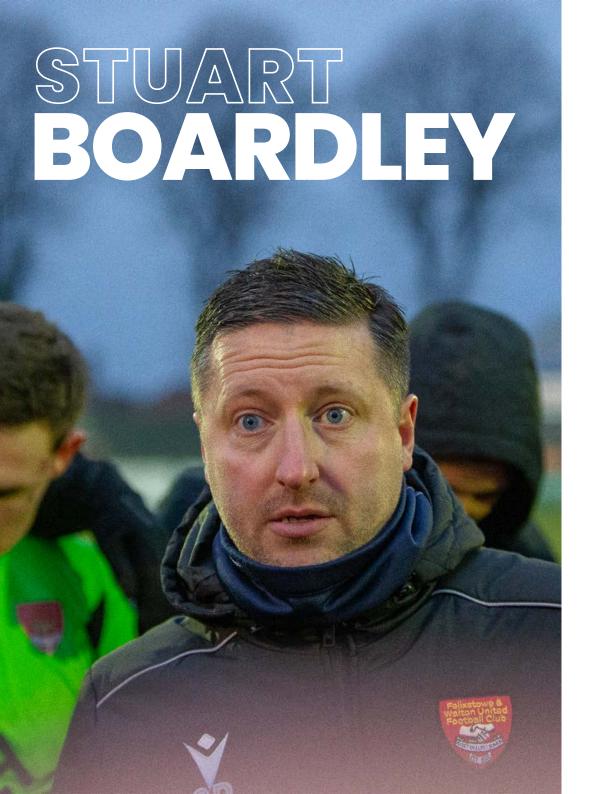
If anyone reading this believes they could help the club in any way, or indeed if you would like to get involved in football administration, finance or coaching at any level, please come and speak to me, or drop me an email to **chairman@felixtowefootball.co.uk** I would love to hear from you. This club really is on the up and we need people to help us make things happen!

Enjoy the match and look forward to seeing all you Seasiders again for a big cup game on Wednesday night as we make the short trip to Humber Doucy Lane in Ipswich to face Needham Market in the Suffolk Senior Cup Semi Final.

Best Wishes, Tony







# Good afternoon and welcome everyone to The Martello Ground.

Our visitors today - Concord Rangers arrive in a rich vein of form that has seen them collect 13 points from a possible 15 which has seen them climb to a mid-table position, I'm sure with aspirations of a real end of season push towards the top 8.

For us, mixed fortunes... We had a really good win against a strong Tilbury side at home here two weeks ago with goals from the skipper and Wazza being enough to secure the points.

Next up was Walthamstow, a really tricky place to go as many teams have found out already this season. A good crowd and a very vocal support helped them to a strong victory against us and is the first time I can remember (so it must have been a while) conceding five goals in a league game. Truth known, for large spells we were very much in the game but a crazy 15/20 minute spell in the second half where our game management and defending was not at the level we come to expect meant an uphill task that we couldn't quite reach.

This week, we've got together as a group twice making sure we rid Saturday from the memory whilst ensuring that we've taken and learnt from our errors. The mood in the camp remains high despite the loss and it's very much a forward thinking attitude where we know full well the importance of the next three or four games. That said, 100% of our focus is on today's game where we will be looking solely at avenging last Saturday's defeat.

We have also seen the return to the squad in recent weeks of Jordy and Leon who have spent some time out with injury so the return of those two and with Josh Mayhew and Ashton Boswell getting closer to returns we are certainly in a good space going into the final stages of the season.

Enjoy today's game....

Boards

# TODAY'S MASCOTS

Our mascots for today's game against Concord Rangers and the Under 12 Reds who will also be raising money for their Dutch exchange this year. The team are sponsored by Felixstowe Freight Club and Interfreight Worldwide Logistics Specialists.







Felixstowe and Walton U12's need your support. On 1st March, during the game against Concord Rangers, the team will be participating in a rowathon to raise much needed funds for the groups Dutch exchange this year. There will also be a bake sale with a variety of delicious cakes available to purchase, and some pub cards to try your luck at.

A massive shout out to **Liam Hunn** of **Superhero Fitness** for the loan of the rower to make this possible.





## Not many people know this...

Lionel Messi, Major League Soccer, Wilfred Zaha, Tyger Smalls, Felixstowe & Walton United...

Some may say the connection between the five is at best tenuous, I say, if it's there grab it and show it off. All the above appeared in the same BBC online article last weekend.

One of the partners of our main shirt sponsor will also be delighted to know that 'his other club' Crystal Palace, was also mentioned in the same article.

The story was about the new Major League Soccer (MLS) season and featured the sides and big players like Lionel Messi now involved on the other side of the Atlantic.



#### Quote

"Former Aston Villa boss Dean Smith is about to enter his second season in charge of Charlotte FC and he has added a familiar Premier League name to his squad. Crystal Palace legend Wilfried Zaha has joined them on loan for the season from Turkish side Galatasarav.

Among the English players in their squad are ex-Burnley midfielder Ashley Westwood, former Wigan full-back Nathan Byrne and 22-year-old forward Tyger Smalls, whose biggest English team were Felixstowe & Walton United."





That'll be us then!

Tyger played less than a handful of games for us during the ill feted 2020/2021 season that was cut short then abandoned due to the rampant Covid outburst, but he was involved in four of the five league games played.

He was involved in last weekend's MLS season opener, coming on as a 66th minute sub in a 2-2 draw at Seattle. The match was an Eastern Conference side, versus a Western Conference side. Now while I am no expert on USA geography, I do know that Charlotte, North Carolina, is on the Eastern side of the States, in the Appalachian Mountains some 175 miles from the Atlantic Ocean while Seattle is just short of 3,000 miles northwest of there about 5 miles short of the Pacific Ocean. That's some away game, at least our away games at Gorleston are on the same coast!

You can read the full BBC article online below. https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/ articles/cn4ze80wj31o







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# Interview with JOSH MAYHEW



Josh, you've been sidelined with a quadricep injury on and off for a while now. Can you take us through what happened and how you're feeling physically at the moment?

I felt a sharp pain in my quad during the warm up before the Brightlingsea game. Tried to play through it but couldn't continue. Have had a few set backs and have played with the injury off the bench to help the team when numbers have been low.

How has the recovery process been for you? What kind of treatment or rehabilitation have you been undergoing to get back on the pitch?

It's not gone how I would have liked. Maybe rushed back too soon which aggravated the injury again. I have been working with John relentlessly for the last month to hopefully be fit for the run in.

In your experience, how frustrating is it to watch from the sidelines when you're used to being on the pitch contributing to the team's success? Watching from the sidelines has been



extremely frustrating. The lads have done a great job to put us in a great position to win the league and I'm desperate to contribute.

Do you have a clear timeline for when you expect to be back to full fitness, or is it still a bit uncertain?

I'm hoping to be back in the next couple of weeks. Not planning to rush it in order to prevent anymore set backs.

Looking at the team's performance this season, it's been a successful one so far. From your perspective, what do you think has been the key to Felixstowe and Walton United's success so far?

We've been fairly consistent throughout the season. Scoring lots of goals as well as several clean sheets.

Do you feel the team has the depth and quality to continue the good form and potentially secure promotion by the end of the season?

100% if we can maintain the consistency I have no doubts we will receive our targets.

What's been the highlight of the season for you so far, both personally and as part of the team?

Boreham Wood in the FA Trophy was probably my best performance. As a team we were brilliant too and deserved to go through.





# JOSH MAYHEW:

Who spends the most time infront of the mirror? Charlie Warren

Who is the biggest sulker after a loss? Josh Hitter

Who has the worst fashion sense? Doug French

Who has the best fashion sense? Ollie Brown

Who is the dressing room DJ? Josh Hitter

Who would make the worst coach in the future? Tom Warren

Who is the most likely to get sent off for something stupid? Stu Ainsley (Dissent)

Who is the most likely to get lost on the way to an away game? Willie Clemons

Who is the worst trainer? Sam Ford

Who is the biggest diva on the pitch? Callum Harrison

Who is the team joker? Myself

Who has the best moves on the dance floor? Doug French

Which teammate would be voted 'least likely to score' in a one-on-one drill? Hugh Cullum

Who would make the worst referee?

Andy Crump is the worst referee in training

Who is the most likely to forget their boots on match day? Willie Clemons

Who would you call first in an emergency? Stu Stevenson

Who would be the most likely to get the first round in at the bar? Josh Hitter

Who is the most likely to nutmeg you in training? Charlie Warren





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# FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED Holland, C Warren

## **TILBURY**

Hernandez

Saturday 15th February 2025,3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 472

**Photos:** Stefan Peck



















## ISTI-IMIAN NORTI-I **DIVISION TABLE 2024/25**

POS		P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Bury Town	32	21	6	5	60	35	+25	69
2	Felixstowe & Walton United	32	21	5	6	67	34	+33	68
3	Brentwood Town	32	21	4	7	71	35	+36	67
4	Waltham Abbey	32	19	6	7	64	33	+31	63
5	Brightlingsea Regent	31	17	6	8	51	38	+13	57
6	Walthamstow	30	17	3	10	61	40	+21	54
7	Witham Town	29	16	3	10	54	43	+11	51
8	Tilbury	30	15	6	9	44	42	+2	51
9	Redbridge	32	13	6	13	60	56	+4	45
10	Heybridge Swifts	30	11	11	8	43	41	+2	44
11	Cambridge City	30	13	5	12	47	46	+1	44
12	Gorleston	30	11	7	12	38	39	-1	40
13	Concord Rangers	30	11	7	12	42	44	-2	40
14	Maldon & Tiptree	32	10	7	15	34	39	-5	37
15	Grays Athletic	29	10	6	13	43	41	+2	36
16	Mildenhall Town	31	9	8	14	27	35	-8	35
17	Newmarket Town	31	8	6	17	43	65	-22	30
18	Haringey Borough	32	7	8	17	43	62	-19	29
19	Wroxham	31	5	11	15	34	54	-20	26
20	Basildon United	30	7	4	19	32	58	-26	25
21	Sporting Bengal United	30	6	4	20	32	68	-36	22
22	Ipswich Wanderers	30	2	7	21	22	64	-42	13

LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 21:39:36



### **ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH FIXTURES**

#### Saturday 1st March, 3pm

Basildon United v Walthamstow Brightlingsea Regent v Tilbury Cambridge City v Newmarket Town Felixstowe & Walton United v Concord Rangers Grays Athletic v Brentwood Town Haringey Borough v Gorleston Heybridge Swifts v Redbridge Mildenhall Town v Ipswich Wanderers Sporting Bengal United v Wroxham Waltham Abbey v Bury Town Witham Town v Maldon & Tiptree



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STUART BOARDLEY MANAGER Pat Haseman for Felixstowe Radio



ANDY CRUMP ASSISTANT MANAGER Chris & Jayne Ryan



STUART STEVENSEN COACH Shirley Ainsley



CALLUM HARRISON MIDFIELDER Richard & Jenny Bugg



BILLY HOLLAND MIDFIELDER Winnifred Wedderburn-Soall



CAMERON FORDE-BROWN MIDFIELDER Joe Ward



JOSH HITTER MIDFIELDER Daniel & Cheryl Ward



ALEX EGELTON GOALKEEPER COACH Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



DOUG FRENCH KIT MAN Lorro & Jed, Neil & George



JOHN ABBOTT PHYSIO



HARRY WRIGHT GOALKEEPER Andy & Kim Wilding



JORDY MATTHEWS MIDFIELDER Barry Caley



CHARLIE WARREN MIDFIELDER Sharon & Gary Hills



JOSH MAYHEW FORWARD Howdens Martlesham/Richard & Jenny Bugg



ROB HARVEY FORWARD Capstick Dale & Partners Solicitors Ltd



STUART AINSLEY DEFENDER Chris & Jayne Ryan



JOE WHIGHT DEFENDER Tony & Lynne Barnes



OLLIE BROWN DEFENDER Les Soall



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SAM FORD FORWARD Ryecroft Freight Ltd



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THOMAS WARREN MIDFIELDER Suffolk Carpet Weavers/SCW Racing

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#### **STUART BOARDLEY - MANAGER**

Stuart started his footballing career at Ipswich Town leaving in 2004 after 10 years. He went on to play for Torquay United, Sudbury, Leiston and Felixstowe. In 2018 he was appointed as Manager of Leiston but left in 2019 to become Manager of Felixstowe & Walton United.

#### ANDY CRUMP - ASSISTANT MANAGER

Andy returned to Felixstowe & Walton United as Assistant Manager following the appointment of Stuart Boardley in 2019. Having enjoyed success in previous spells at the club as both player and First Team Coach.

#### **STUART STEVENSEN - COACH**

After hanging up his boots Stuart joined Felixstowe Utd as a fitness coach/physio, then on to Trimley to help coach his son's team from the U8s-U16s. Stuart rejoined the Seasiders to coach the U18s which lead him on to being part of the first team staff. Stuart is an FA level 2 coach and an FA level 1 mentor.

### CHARLOTTE ROBINSON – SPORTS THERAPIST

Charlotte graduated from the University of Worcester in 2014 with a BSc (Hons) in Sports Therapy. She had previously worked with Leiston FC before joining the Seasiders in 2019. Her main



focus is overseeing the recovery programmes of injured players through her private practice.

### ALEX EGELTON – GOALKEEPER COACH / COACH

Alex returns to Felixstowe having spent many years coaching within the youth and reserve setups at the club. Alex heads up the Goalkeeping section of the club and works with the Youth section right through to the Seniors and is an important member of the First Team Management structure.

#### **DOUG FRENCH - KIT MAN**

Doug started his career in 1986 and played for East Anglian Customs, Walton United, Felixstowe United and Tattingstone, breaking his leg four times in the process. Whilst playing for Ipswich Wanderers vets, Doug finally hung up his boots. Having found his vocation in washing players dirty pants, Doug is excited for a new challenge with the Seasiders.





## **DEFENDERS**

#### **HARRY WRIGHT (GK)**

Harry started his career as a professional at Ipswich Town and left there in 2021 where he then went on to play for Fleetwood Town and Bury before joining the Seasiders in the summer of 2024. He has quickly become a firm fans favourite and works within the clubs Academy system.

#### **ZAC TUVEY (GK)**

Zac has impressed consistently with our U18's and despite his tender age of 16 is playing regularly both for our U18's and Haverhill Borough first team. Zac is Harry's understudy, is a fantastic shot stopper and has a bright future in the game.

#### **STUART AINSLEY**

Stuart joined the club for his second spell in 2014 from Lowestoft Town. Previous clubs include Chelmsford City and AFC Sudbury. Stuart spent 10 years at Ipswich Town, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2005. Stuart has a sweet left foot and a great work ethic.

#### **JOE WHIGHT**

Joe came through the ITFC Youth system before playing for the likes of Needham, Bury and most recently AFC Sudbury where he captained their side. A left sided defender, Joe offers composure, a wonderful left foot and a toughness and desire to defend to the back line.

#### **JACK AINSLEY**

Rejoined from Stowmarket. Jack played professionally for ITFC after coming through their

academy and went on to make 4 appearances playing under Roy Keane. Jack went on to have spells at Step 3 Lowestoft and Leiston but finds himself back at the Seaside where many describe him as a "Rolls Royce" type of player who can play in any position for the team.

#### **OLLIE BROWN**

Ollie was signed in the summer of 2024 from neighbours AFC Sudbury and has played in recent years for Stowmarket and Leiston. An energetic and attacking full back who loves to get forward and create chances and with a wealth of higher level experience to boot.

#### **HUGH CULLUM**

Hugh is a local lad who left Felixstowe's youth system and progressed through the Needham Market Academy. Hugh signed back with his local club in the summer of 2024 and has immediately impressed with his consistent and confident defending.





#### **HUGO AKHUSEYIN**

Hugo is an academy graduate that is now starting to flourish with his progression into the first team squad. A tough tackling and tenacious defender who likes to get forward.

#### **THOMAS WARREN**

Another new signing for the summer of 2024 and joins his brother Charlie at the club. Signed from Hadleigh United, Tom is an Athletic, strong and pacy full back or winger with a fantastic left foot and keen eye for a goal.

## **MIDFIELDERS**

#### **CAMERON FORDE-BROWN**

Cameron joins us on loan from Kings Lynn having impressed the management at previous loan spells with other clubs. A technically gifted and versatile midfielder, Cam has really hit the ground running this season and continues to impress with both goals and assists that have topped off some exciting displays.

#### **BILLY HOLLAND**

Billy started life at Ipswich Wanderers and has had spells at Needham, Leiston and AFC Sudbury. He's established himself as a mainstay in the centre of midfield. Players player and Supporters player of the year for the 22/23 season led to him being appointed captain the following year.

#### **LEON OTTLEY-GOOCH**

Leon signed for the club in 2020 and is another vastly experienced player at step 3 and 4 level. Previous clubs include Leiston, Bury Town, Hadleigh Utd and Stowmarket Town. Leon is very versatile but is predominantly a dynamic midfield player.

#### **JOSH HITTER**

Josh signed for us in 2021 having played his football at Step 3 side Leiston for the previous three seasons and gained a vast amount of experience at that level. Josh is a dynamic attack minded player who likes to arrive in the box late and score goals.

#### **JORDY MATTHEWS**

"Jordy" rejoins the club following a brief spell in retirement. He made his first team debut at 18 and has been a loyal and trusted midfielder for the club for many years clocking up well over 300 appearances. The term 'club legend' is often used to describe Jordy and he remains a firm fans favourite for his tenacious and all action style.





#### **CALLUM HARRISON**

Former Colchester United, Needham, Sudbury and more recently Chelmsford midfielder joined the Seasiders for the 22/23 campaign. A highly sought after creative and technically gifted midfield player that loves to get forward and provide the team with both goals and assists.

#### **CHARLIE WARREN**

Having initially joined on loan from Needham Market, Charlie made an instant impact on his debut in the FA Trophy win at Hastings in 2021. Following a number of impressive performances, manager Boardley moved quickly to secure the permanent services of one of Suffolk's brightest young players.

## **FORWARDS**

#### **SAM FORD**

Having spent a successful period with Arbroath that saw them just miss out on promotion to the Scottish Premiership, Sam spent the Summer with Hume City FC in Australia before returning to Felixstowe in 2022. Coming through ITFC and later West Ham's academy, Sam is a local talent who will provide real firepower in front of goal.

#### **JOSH MAYHEW**

Josh joined us from promotion winners AFC Sudbury. An experienced front man who has been prolific at Step 4 and 5 with an impressive spell at Stowmarket yielding 136 goals in 173 games. Josh's physical presence brings a focal point to our attack as well as a being natural finisher who is a proven goalscorer at this level.

#### **WILLIE CLEMONS**

After a successful preseason with the Seasiders Willie decided that Felixstowe were the club for him despite competition from other clubs. A full Bermudan international with 30 plus caps, Willie's experience, whilst still only 30 years old will be a real asset. An attacking player with bags of quality and creativity is proving to be an exciting signing.

#### **ROB HARVEY**

Signed from Brentwood Town, Rob is a player who has been on Stuart Boardley's radar for some time. Another of our first team group to work within our Academy setup, Rob is a pacy, fit and dynamic wide player who loves to be direct and excite fans.



# **ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME**

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#### BY JON COUCH

TWO rounds from gracing thew hallowed turf at Wembley Stadium, it's perfectly naturally to assume that players from the 16 clubs competing in this weekend's Isuzu FA Trophy and Vase guarter-finals are getting pretty twitchy right now.

So, as a football manager, the question is how do you channel those nerves, excitement, and perhaps a tinge of anxiety, into a winning mentality? Is it possible to keep emotions in check and feet on the ground?

Well, as Hartpury University manager Dr Martin Longworth told me this week, the answer is with great difficulty.

Dr Longworth's entire Hartpury squad are made up of current students aged between 16 and 25 with dreams of a lasting football careers, and they're making a pretty good fist of it so far, sitting pretty on top of the Hellenic League Premier Division table on the back of a 27-game unbeaten run stretching back to September.

"It's really hard to keep a 16-18-year-old's feet on the ground when you're two rounds from Wembley and we haven't shied away from that," Dr Longwell said.

"We've made it very clear that that could happen, there's no point hiding from it - it's good motivation for us.

"Yes, you've got to take each game as it comes but, ultimately, we are potentially two rounds from Wembley."

Hartpury's two-game mission starts this afternoon when Southern Counties East League side Erith & Belvedere are the visitors to the Hartpury University Stadium they share with the Rugby Championship club of the same name.



Many people's favourites for the Vase, Dr Longwell's men have won all four of their matches 1-0 to get to this stage, could history repeat itself all the way to the semi-finals this afternoon.

In the other three quarter-final ties. Southern Counties East League play-off chasers Whitstable Town take on Whitchurch Alport, of the Midland Football League, while bookies' favourites AFC Whyteleafe, of the Combined Counties Premier South, take on United Counties League Premier North opponents Bourne Town.

Re-instated Andover New Street, reprieved by Roman Glass St George fielding an ineligible player, complete the line-up with the Wessex League side hosting United Counties League side Heanor Town, making the last eight for the first time in their history.

The Isuzu FA Trophy is just as intriguing. Story of the season, undoubtedly, are Step 4 Isthmian League Division One South East club Sittingbourne FC.

Not only are the Brickies the last non-National League club standing, but they have also won through eight ties, scoring 18 goals along the way.

During that run. Rvan Maxwell's side have beaten SIX teams on higher standing, including away at National League Southend United in the last round.

According to our friends at @ FATrophyFactfile, their run to the last eight in the club's 50th FA Trophy campaign, is a competition record.

This lunchtime, Sittingbourne host National League Aldershot Town for whom a victory would equal their best Trophy performances to the semi-finals, last achieved 17 years ago.

Since the original Aldershot FC were formed 99 years ago, the club has never reached a Wemblev final.

Elsewhere, the Shots' local rivals, and three times former Trophy winners, Woking, travel to National League North opponents Oxford City who are equalling their best Trophy run from four years ago.

The Hoops will be looking to make it third time lucky against Woking in the FA Trophy having twice exited the competition at the hands of The Cards in the past.

The only other National League North club still involved are looking to prevent their opponents from avenging a past Trophy defeat. Spennymoor Town travel to National League side and 1980-81 Trophy finalists, Sutton United, hoping to replicate their 3-0 victory over the Us from six years ago.

And in the only all-National League affair, Rochdale, in just their second Trophy campaign, host an Altrincham side aiming to try to lift the Trophy for the third time in the club's history.

One thing's for sure, they'll be 16 squads of players going hell for leather this afternoon in a bid to get one step closer to Finals Day on Sunday May 11.

As the great Ossie Ardiles sung during Tottenham Hotspur's FA Cup song back in 1981, 'Ossie's Going To Wembley, His Knees Have Gone All Trembly'.

If the Vase and Trophy hopefuls aren't nervous and excited enough this weekend, they'll be plenty of trembly knees on the terraces, that's for sure.





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# THE OTHER SIDE: CONCORD CONCORD RANGERS FC

Concord Rangers began life as a team of boys headed by Steve Lant playing friendly matches during 1966 on a pitch along the Canvey Island seafront close to the Concord Beach (hence the name Concord Rangers and the nickname The Beach Boys). In 1967 Albert Lant, Steve's father and current Club President, became the team manager and took the club into competitive football. The club initially joined the Thundermite Boys Football League, before moving into the Vange and District League in 1973 where they won several league and cup honours. Concord became the first winners of the Essex Sunday Junior Trophy in 1979, managed then by Chris Crerie, by beating Bishops Park 4-0, with the final being played at Tiptree FC. Saturday football was introduced to the club shortly after when Concord joined the Mid Essex League and played their home games at Waterside Farm on Canvey Island.

In 1985 Concord secured some land at the end of Thames Road, Canvey Island, using that land to develop the clubhouse and ground with current club treasurer Jack Smith being the mastermind behind the project. Jack organised the funds, labour & materials and worked many hours on the site. A special mention also goes to the late Clive Smith (Jack's brother) as without Clive's machinery and labour Concord's pitch would not exist, also Martin Gill, Steve Barnes, Brian Godfrey, Lee and John Slater, Rob Fletcher, Pat Bennett, Roger Tipthorpe, Barry Clark. Tony Ing and many more all contributed.

Further success came the Beach Boys way in 1988/89 as they joined the Essex Intermediate League and became Divisional League & Cup Winners that year. Two years later Concord Rangers made the step up to the Essex Senior League where they spent a total of 17 seasons.





In 1991 club founder Albert Lant retired as chairman after 25 years at the helm to become Club President, with Jack Smith taking over for two years. Grant Beglan became Chairman when Jack stood down, but like his predecessor only held the role for 2 years. A number of Chairman held the role from 1995 & in 1998 the club was languishing at the bottom of the Essex Senior League, the youth section had been disbanded and the bar licence had not been renewed meaning no revenue could be made for the club.

Former Chairman Jack Smith's son Antony decided to step in and put a new committee together along with a plan to put the club back on its feet. Antony is very hands-on in his approach, which has helped guide the club through recent successes and the development on both the playing side & with the ground/facilities.

Under the guidance of manager Colin Mcbride, the Beach Boys won the Essex Senior League Cup in 1997 after beating Ford United 1-0, and the following season under Lee Patterson won the Essex Senior League Championship for the first time. Further cup success came during the 1999/2000 season with former player Steve Knott in charge as Concord beat Burnham Ramblers 3-2 to win the Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy. League success followed soon after as under manager Brain Horne the club finished as Essex Senior League runners up in 2002/03, and then won the league the following season with Ben Embury at the helm. It was during that 2003/04 season that striker Danny Heale won the Don Douglas trophy for being the leagues top scorer, notching up 32 goals for Concord Rangers.

As Concord Rangers began their 40 th Anniversary season in 2007/08, Danny Scopes and Danny Cowley become joint managers of the club. Concord ended the season winners of the Essex Senior League, and were Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy winners along with Essex Senior League Cup Finalists.

Concord also reached the Quarter-final of the FA Vase that year. Club President Albert Lant won an outstanding achievement award from the Essex County Football Association for 40 years unbroken service to Concord Rangers.

Having gained promotion from the Essex Senior League the club would have been happy with a mid table finish in their Ryman League Div 1 North debut in 2008/09, but expectations were exceeded as the two Dannys led Concord to a 5 th place finish.

This highlighted how both managers could really get the best out of the players. Beating East Thurrock United in the Playoff Semi-Final set up a final vs Waltham Abbey, in which Concord led with 10 minutes to go before future Beach Boy Harry Elmes levelled things for Abbey, taking the game to penalties which we lost 5-4.

Concord didn't have to wait long to earn promotion though, as the following season they again reached the playoff final, this time beating Enfield Town 3-1 to reach the Ryman Premier Division. The clubs first season in the Ryman Premier Division was a solid one, finishing in 8th place, which exceeded the target of simply avoiding relegation! Earning that respectful 8th spot and just missing out on a Play-Off position by two points was a great team effort.

2011/12 was a difficult season for the Beach Boys, as injuries to key players contributed to a poor start which was never wholly recovered from. Concord managed to finish the season in 14 th though and secured a third season at this level. Danny Scopes retired from his post as joint manager, and soon afterwards Glen Alzapiedi was appointed as Danny Cowley's Assistant Manager. Another poor start was made by the club in 2012/13, but this was recovered from quickly and the Beach Boys displayed a never say die attitude to earn some incredible results both at home and away. Concord found themselves in the playoffs come the seasons end along with the Ryman League Cup final. Two fantastic away performances in the play offs saw us promoted to the highest level of football we've played at and a great performance in the cup final saw us end the season with 2 trophies.

The Beachboys lost their 2013/14 first Conference South fixture, however were soon picking up points regularly with determined & professional performances against some of the biggest teams at this level. Although there were a couple of harsh results, there was a level of consistency many didnt expect to see against this





opposition, this helped Concord reach what was a spectacular 9 th place finish by seasons end. To cap it all off, The Beachboys were able to win the Essex Senior Cup against Braintree as the football season came to a close.

2014/15 was a season of historical moments, but started with 3 losses out of 4 games. Fortunes quickly turned around for the club as eventually a 7th place finish was achieved (a 13 game unbeaten run being a key contributor). The most incredible moment of the season was Concord Rangers reaching the first round of the FA Cup for the first time. Drawn away to Mansfield Town, Concord earned a 1-1 draw before losing 1-0 in the replay in front of 1500 at the Aspect Arena. The second round of the FA Trophy was reached, also for the first time. A penalty shootout filled Essex Senior Cup run saw Concord retain the trophy they'd won a year before, this time beating Billericay in the final. At the seasons end manager Danny Cowley & his assistant manager brother Nicky (who took over from Alzapiedi in September) left the club for pastures new.

2015-16 was a season of rebuilding with Adam Flanagan & Jody Brown in charge of the side which had lost a number of key players, whilst trying to maintain our National League south position. A poor start saw Brown replaced with the returning Alzapiedi as assistant manager, and things looked up. A 12 game unbeaten run at the start of 2016 helped the side reach their 3 rd Essex Senior Cup final in as many years, making history in the April when beating Heybridge Swifts to retain the cup. A mid table finish guaranteed another season of National League South football.

2017/18 saw the Beachboys put an impressive 13 game unbeaten run together at one point, however the poor start and shaky end to the season saw the side stave off relegation by just a couple of points, which saw Flan and Glen be relieved of their positions.

Prior to the 2018/19 season, Sammy Moore and Jack Midson were brought in to take charge of the first team, as Concord Rangers looked to make their 6 th season at this level a successful one, and a success it was as the club finished in 6 th place. However due to ground grading issues, Concord were unable to take part in the playoffs.

Moore & Midson left the club by mutual consent, after which an old favourite returned to take the helm as Danny Scopes was appointed first team manager for the 2019/20 season.

Scopesy enlisted the help of Lee Minshull, James Roach and Adam Drew for his time in sole charge of the Beachboys, and while the league form started well, it was the historic FA Trophy run that really set the tone for the year. Two seasons of prematurely ending league campaigns were the result of the pandemic, but Scopesy's reign was capped off by a historic appearance in the FA Trophy Final at Wembley, losing 1-0 to Harrogate Town.

A new dawn beckoned as in the off season Danny Scopes resigned his position as 1st team manager and Ant Smith stepped down after 21 successful years as chairman. Jack Smith Inr and John Smith assumed the interim chairman position off pitch and on the pitch under 18s manager Chris Search was brought in to lead the first team alongside Danny Green and Craig Shipman. After starting the season with a fantastic win over league favourites Dorking, the team were entertaining to watch but lacked consistency. The club went out of both FA competitions at the 1st stage but had a successful Essex Senior Cup campaign, culminating in a 4-3 defeat to Billericay in the semi final. The league campaign picked up towards the end and the management team led us to a final position of 14th and will be looking to build on this next season.

After a poor start to the 2022/23 season, and a winless run throughout September and October, the



decision was made between both the club and Chris Search to make a change in management. As November was about to get under way, former Concord player and Bowers manager Rob Small took the reigns at Thames Road, with the aim being to secure the Beachboys place in the National League South for another year. Fixture congestion played a factor towards the end of the season however, and ultimately the Beachboys were relegated back into the Isthmian Premier Division.

The summer then meant it was a time to rebuild, and former Beachboys player Sammy Collins was appointed as first team manager, bringing in an almost entirely new squad which included a number of familiar faces from his time as a player.



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WALTHAMSTOW Johnson (3), Oyebola, Sayoud

FELIXSTOWE & WALTON UNITED
Ford (2), Harvey

Saturday 22nd February 2025, 3pm

Isthmian League North

**Attendance:** 336

Photos: Stefan Peck



















# STUART AINSLEY

**Date of Birth:** 19/01/1988

Occupation: Deputy Warehouse Manager

Home town: Felixstowe

**Position:** Left back in the changing room

Previous teams: Ipswich, Chelmsford,

Needham Market, Canvey Island,

Sudbury, Lowestoft Nickname: Ainso

Team you support: Newcastle

Favourite footballer: Joelinton

Favourite food: Indian

Food you hate: Salad
Favourite music: Little Mix

Favourite film: The Inbetweeners Movie

Holiday destination: Florida

**Best concert:** Drake

**Hobbies away from football:** Spending time with family, and when I'm allowed, golf

Least favourite opposition player:

Ollie Canfer always scores against us!

**Best opposition player:** There's too many to mention who've given me the

run around...

**Best mate in football:** Jack Ainsley

(I haven't got many mates)

Adidas or Nike: Adidas

Black or colourful boots: Mid-life crisis

says colourful

PlayStation or Xbox? Neither, I'm an adult Night in or night out: Night out till

about 10pm

Favourite TV show: The Office

**Drink of choice:** Lager

Interesting fact about yourself:

I was born right footed, my dad worked on me being 2 footed, my left took over!

Match day superstition or routine:

Always put my contact lenses in

Favourite day of the week: Saturday

**Texting or talking:** Texting

**Dream car:** Aston Martin Vanquish

What annoys you the most: Doug French



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# PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NORTH ROUND UP

BY IAN TOWNSEND, TAKEN FROM WWW.ISTHMIAN.CO.UK

Leaders Felixstowe and Walton United hit the road to East London - and they faced a tough challenge, as their hosts were sixth place Walthamstow. Stow started the day six points away from the top five and very much needed a win, and were in fine form, having won their previous four and they went ahead eleven minutes before half time, Louie Johnson the scorer. The Seasiders levelled just before half time, Sam Ford with the equaliser, but two goals in two minutes in the early stages of the second half left the leaders with a mountain to climb, Tayo Oyebola's fifty fifth minute goal followed two minutes later by Bilal Sayoud making it three-one. The next goal looked crucial, and again it went to the hosts, Johnson making it four-one, and although Rob Harvey quickly got one back Johnson followed that by claiming the match ball and making it five-two. In added time lack Ainslev reduced the deficit, making it five-three, but that was that - and the Seasiders drop to second, whilst Stow are three points away from a play off spot with a game in hand.

Second place **Bury Town** were looking for a fourth win in a row, but they looked to have a tricky task, as they welcomed **Heybridge Swifts**, who - despite only one win in eight - had been very good on the road, with only two away defeats all season. That said, the Bury talisman Cemal Ramadan quickly produced some magic, putting them ahead after nine minutes, his twenty third goal of the season - but they couldn't build on that advantage and six minutes from time Connor Hogan drew the visitors level. That was that - but it was enough to lift the hosts to the top of the table.

**Brentwood Town**, in third, had slipped four points behind the leading duo after defeat in two of their previous four, and hoped to get back to winning ways as **Haringey Borough** made the trip to Essex. Borough had climbed out of the bottom four by winning their last three matches, and held the promotion chasers in this one until four minutes from time, when Benas Vaivada finally made a Blue breakthrough. That turned out to be the only goal, and it left Town two points away from the top, although still in third place.

Fourth place **Waltham Abbey** had been in fine form, and at kick off found themselves six points behind the leaders, and perhaps just as importantly eleven points clear of sixth place Walthamstow. The Abbotts had lost only one of their previous ten and headed to Norfolk to take on **Wroxham** hoping for another win, but the match had little real drama until two minutes from time when Nathan Koranteng was sent off for the visitors. There was no time for the hosts to take advantage, and the match ended goalless. Abbey remain fourth, whilst Wroxham are three points from safety- but do have two games in hand.

**Brightlingsea Regent** had opened up a six point lead over Walthamstow in the battle for fifth, and hoped to at least hold onto that advantage as they hit the road to take on another set of East Londoners, **Redbridge**. The Motormen were eleventh but had four wins from six, and in Fotsing Pitoula Wabo had a man in form, and his fifth goal of the season gave them an early lead. It was a lead they didn't hold for long, Louie Kudiabor fifteenth of

the season levelling for Regent on twenty one minutes. The hosts regained the lead eight minutes into the second half, Karl Kayembe the scorer, and quickly added a third, Tendi Quamina giving them a cushion. That cushion was given further upholstery as Solomon Ogunwomoju made it four and Wabo added a fifth, and a second for the visitors seven minutes from time- scorer unknown as we write - was not much of a consolation. Redbridge climb to ninth.

#### Witham Town travelled to Newmarket Town.

Witham, in the top five for most of the season, had slipped nine points away from fifth place, albeit with two games in hand, and had won only one of their previous six; whilst the Jockeys had seen a good run stutter a little of late, with two defeats from their last three. The match looked destined to end without a goal, and then, in added time, Issac Skubich stepped up to win it for Witham, who are seventh.

**Concord Rangers** hoped to go four unbeaten and deepen **Sporting Bengal United**'s misery

when the two sides met on the Island. The East Londoners started the day seven points from safety after losing six in a row - and indeed eight of their last nine- and it didn't start well for them on this occasion, either, Connor Brooks putting the Beachboys ahead on eleven minutes. The visitors Joe Gregory drew his side level from the spot fifteen minutes later, but the hosts were ahead again six minutes before half time, Sherquan Toussaint restoring the lead- and this time they held onto it. Rangers are thirteenth.

Maldon and Tiptree's new owners have been making changes on and off the field, and were hopeful of picking up three points as **Basildon United** made the trip. The Jammers went ahead twelve minutes before the break, Samuel Kuffour with the goal, and just after the hour Gary Hooper made it two-nil. In the closing stages Kuffour added a third and new signing Amine Sassi a fourth, and somehow there was still time for Kai Brown to make it five-nil. The Jammers are up to fourteenth, whilst the Bees have gone nineteen matches without a win, and are four points from safety.



#### PUBLICATION OF OWNERSHIP:

Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club is owned and managed by Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club Ltd (by guarantee) registration number 10076800. The Chairman of the Company is Andrew Clarke The Directors of the Company are Christopher Daynes and Andrew Clarke.

# **FIXTURES 2024/25**

AUGUS	-
•	NEWMARKET TOWN (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemo
	BURY TOWN
	BURY TOWN 2), Ford, C Warren
SAT 24 Holland, H	WITHAM TOWN Parrison
	BURY TOWN Hitter, Ford
	<b>LEVERSTOCK GREEN</b> (3), Ford, Whight
SEPTE	MBER
SAT 7 Caley-Bro	BASILDON UNITED wn, C Warren (2), T Warren
TUE 10 C Warren,	WROXHAM Whight
SAT 14	CANVEY ISLAND
	MALDON & TIPTREE (2), OG, Aitkens
CAT 21	ENFIELD

C Warren (3), Ford, Forde-Brown, Clemons					
SAT 17 BURY TOWN	A	3PM	FA CUP	D 2-2	ATT 465
Brown, C Warren TUE 20 BURY TOWN	Н	7.45PM	FA CUP REPLAY	W 4-0	ATT 446
Harrison (2), Ford, C Warren SAT 24 WITHAM TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	L 3-2	ATT 192
Holland, Harrison					
MON 26 BURY TOWN Clemons, Hitter, Ford	H	ЗРМ	LEAGUE	W 3-1	ATT 624
SAT 31 LEVERSTOCK GREEN C Warren (3), Ford, Whight	H	ЗРМ	FA CUP 1ST QR	W 5-1	ATT 218
SEPTEMBER					
SAT 7 BASILDON UNITED Caley-Brown, C Warren (2), T Warren	Н	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST QR	W 4-2	ATT 337
TUE 10 WROXHAM C Warren, Whight	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 210
SAT 14 CANVEY ISLAND	Α	3PM	FA CUP 2ND QR	L 2-0	ATT 393
MON 16 MALDON & TIPTREE C Warren (2), OG, Aitkens	Α	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-1	ATT 166
SAT 21 ENFIELD OG, Harrison	Н	3PM	FA TROPHY 2ND QR	W 2-1	ATT 319
SAT 28 BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	Α	3PM	LEAGUE	L1-0	ATT 255
WED 2 MILDENHALL TOWN Mayhew, Forde-Brown, C Warren, Ford  SAT 5 HARINGEY BOROUGH Mayhew (2), Forde-Brown (2)	H	7.45PM 3PM	SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP  FA TROPHY 3RD QR	W 4-0	ATT 151 ATT 315
TUE 8 BASILDON UNITED  C Warren, T Warren	H	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 283
SAT 12 TILBURY Mayhew	А	3PM	LEAGUE	L 2-1	ATT 295
SAT 19 WALTHAMSTOW Mayhew, Hitter	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 269
TUE 22 CAMBRIDGE CITY Ford, C Warren	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 133
SAT 26 BISHOP'S STORTF <mark>ORD</mark> Forde-Brown, OG, Mayhew (2), T Warren,	A C Warren	3PM	FA TROPHY 1ST RP	W 6-1	ATT 339
SAT 29 BRANTHAM ATHLETIC Forde-Brown (3), Ford, T Warren	A	7.45PM	SUFF PREM CUP QF	W 5-1	1
NOVEMBER					
SAT 2 BRENTWOOD TOWN T Warren, C Warren	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 347
SAT 9 CAMBRIDGE CITY OG, C Warren	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 500
TUE 12 REDBRIDGE Harvey, C Warren, Ford (2)	Н	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 279
SAT 16 BOREHAM WOOD Hitter	A	3PM	ISUZU FA TROPHY	D 1-1 (LOST ON PI	ENS)

LEAGUE

W 6-1

ATT 401

	WROXHAM	Α	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 2-2	ATT 221
	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	D 3-3	ATT 357
	CONCORD RANGERS  Ainsley, Harrison	А	7.45PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 120
_	MILDENHALL TOWN	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-0	ATT 343
Harvey (2), (		1		22/1002	San Grand Un village	
<b>DECEMB</b>	BER					
TUE 3 C Warren	BASILDON UNITED	A	7.45PM	LEAGUE	D 1-1	ATT 90
SAT 7 Hitter	HARINGEY BOROUGH	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 220
SAT 14 Clemons, C	WALTHAM ABBEY Warren	H	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 351
	GORLESTON	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-1	ATT 139
<b>THU 26</b> T Warren	IPSWICH WANDERERS	H	1PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 558
	NEWMARKET TOWN Forde-Brown, T Warren, Harrison	А	3PM LEAGUE	W 4-0	ATT 295	
JANUAR'						
TUE 7	BURY TOWN	Α	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 2-0	ATT 803
SAT 11	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 2-0	ATT 352
Boswell (2) SAT 18	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	W 3-2	ATT 347
	insley, C Warren		Jr M	LEAGUE	W 3-Z	A11 341
TUE 21 T Warren	GRAYS ATHLETIC	Н	7.45PM	LEAGUE	L 3-1	ATT 312
SAT 25	HARINGEY BOROUGH	Н	3PM	LEAGUE	D 0-0	ATT 413
<b>FEBRUA</b>	RY					
SAT1	RY MILDENHALL TOWN	A	3PM	LEAGUE	D1-1	ATT 240
SAT 1 <i>J Ainsley</i> SAT 8		A	3PM	LEAGUE LEAGUE	D1-1 W1-0	ATT 240 ATT 121
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15	MILDENHALL TOWN REDBRIDGE TILBURY				THE RESERVE	
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren  WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0	ATT 121
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren  WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0 W 2-1	ATT 121  ATT 472
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren  WALTHAMSTOW	A	3PM	LEAGUE	W 1-0 W 2-1	ATT 121  ATT 472
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha. MARCH SAT 1	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren  WALTHAMSTOW rrvey	А <b>Н</b> А	3PM 3PM 3PM	LEAGUE LEAGUE LEAGUE	W 1-0 W 2-1	ATT 121  ATT 472  ATT 336
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha: MARCH SAT 1 WED 5	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren WALTHAMSTOW rvey  CONCORD RANGERS	A H A	3PM 3PM 3PM	LEAGUE LEAGUE LEAGUE	W1-0 W2-1 L5-3	ATT 121  ATT 472  ATT 336
SAT 1 J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha. MARCH SAT 1 WED 5 SAT 8	MILDENHALL TOWN  REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren WALTHAMSTOW VIVEY  CONCORD RANGERS NEEDHAM MARKET	A H A	3PM 3PM 3PM 3PM 745PM	LEAGUE LEAGUE LEAGUE SUFFOLK PREMIER CUE	W1-0 W2-1 L5-3	ATT 121  ATT 472  ATT 336
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J Ainsley SAT 8 T Warren SAT 15 Holland, C V SAT 22 Ford (2), Ha: MARCH SAT 1 WED 5 SAT 8 SAT 15 SAT 22 APRIL SAT 5 SAT 12 SAT 12 SAT 19	MILDENHALL TOWN REDBRIDGE  TILBURY Warren WALTHAMSTOW rvey  CONCORD RANGERS NEEDHAM MARKET BRENTWOOD TOWN WALTHAM ABBEY GORLESTON  HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS GRAYS ATHLETIC	A H A A H H A	3PM 3PM 3PM 3PM 7.45PM 3PM 3PM 3PM 3PM 3PM	LEAGUE  LEAGUE  LEAGUE  SUFFOLK PREMIER CUP LEAGUE  LEAGUE  LEAGUE  LEAGUE  LEAGUE  LEAGUE	W1-0 W2-1 L5-3	ATT 121  ATT 472  ATT 336

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# LUCKY NUMBER THIRTEEN

#### BY MARTYN GREEN, THE UNTOLD GAME

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When Bob Paisley's Liverpool won the league in 1979, they secured the right to continue their run in the European Cup. Arguably the best team in the world at that moment in time, they had been humbled the previous season by Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest, but losing to a strong English team with a charismatic manager was no shame; they had beaten Liverpool to the title, after all. The Merseysiders would set that right in 1980. They got an easy enough draw in the first round; Dinamo Tbilisi had won the Soviet league, but they were relative minnows. But they had reckoned without a team inspired by the tragic genius of Vitaly Daraselia.

Daraselia was born in 1957 in Ochamchire, a town in the far west of Georgia, sitting on the banks of the Black Sea. A midfielder of obvious talent, he was picked up by Amirani Ochamchire and played just one season with his hometown side before moving on.

The structure of football in the Soviet Union encouraged the development of regional superpowers that would compete in the Soviet Top League. While intra-national rivals existed, each side in the Top League was supported as representatives of their nation in the wider USSR, encouraging an increased fanbase. As every player was technically under a state contract, and those contracts controlled by the nation's government, talent was shifted to the place where it could most likely make the country look good and, even more proudly, beat the Moscow teams. For young Vitaly, that meant he quickly found himself in Tbilisi, and a vital component of Dinamo's efforts to win some silverware.

That silverware came quickly, and Dinamo won the Soviet Cup in his first season, but it would

take another couple of years for their dominance to start to take effect. It was a golden era at the club, where Daraselia's talents were complemented by Vladimir Gutsaev, who had a knack for scoring goals, and a strong back line including Aleksandr Chivadze and goalkeeper Otar Gabelia, who played for the Soviet national side. In 1978, that talent finally led the side to the Soviet title, after a tight race with the Ukrainian giants of Dinamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk. The three biggest Russian clubs finished further back. Daraseila was instrumental in the free scoring side, and joined his teammate in the national side.

Their foray into the European Cup started with that win against Liverpool, but was halted in the next round by Hamburg (who would go on to lose to Forest in the final). But Dinamo did win the Soviet Cup for the second time, giving Daraselia a chance to shine in Europe once more. The 1981 Cup Winners' Cup would prove to be the pinnacle of his career.

In the final, against Carl Zeiss Jena, Daraselia was his usual composed presence in the midfield. When the East German side took the lead, he encouraged the Georgian's to a rapid response, celebrating Gutsaev's equaliser just four minutes later. Watching the footage, it's clear that Tbilisi were the better side, controlling the ball and creating most of the chances, but unable to find a way into the lead. That was before David Kipiani dropped deep, picking up the ball on the half way line. Daraselia drifted up field into space, and was found by his teammate. He almost lazily loped with the ball toward the penalty area as defenders closed in, before coming alive. Jinking inside the first one, and sending the second one slide past, he drilled the ball low to the goalkeepers right

for the winner. It was a magnificent goal, forgotten to time for the lack of western representation in the match. Dinamo won the trophy, only the second club from the Soviet Union to win on the European stage.

The European trophy international recognition for Daraselia, who was called into the Soviet side for the 1982 World Cup. Legend says that Konstantin Bekov was prevented from calling up more than four Dinamo players, having embarrassed the Moscow regime enough by naming eight Dinamo Kyiv players in his squad. He started the first two games of the tournament. But they would be his last for the Soviet Union.

In December of that year, he was being driven in the mountains around Zestaponi when the driver lost control of the car. Speculation was that a second vehicle had forced them from the road, but nobody was ever found. The car plunged into the river, where Daraselia presumably attempted to escape, but was washed away. The man who got married on the 13th, won the Cup Winners' Cup on the 13th, and considered it his lucky number, was missing for 13 days after dying on the 13th.

Fate has a tragic sense of irony. Enjoy the game.



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