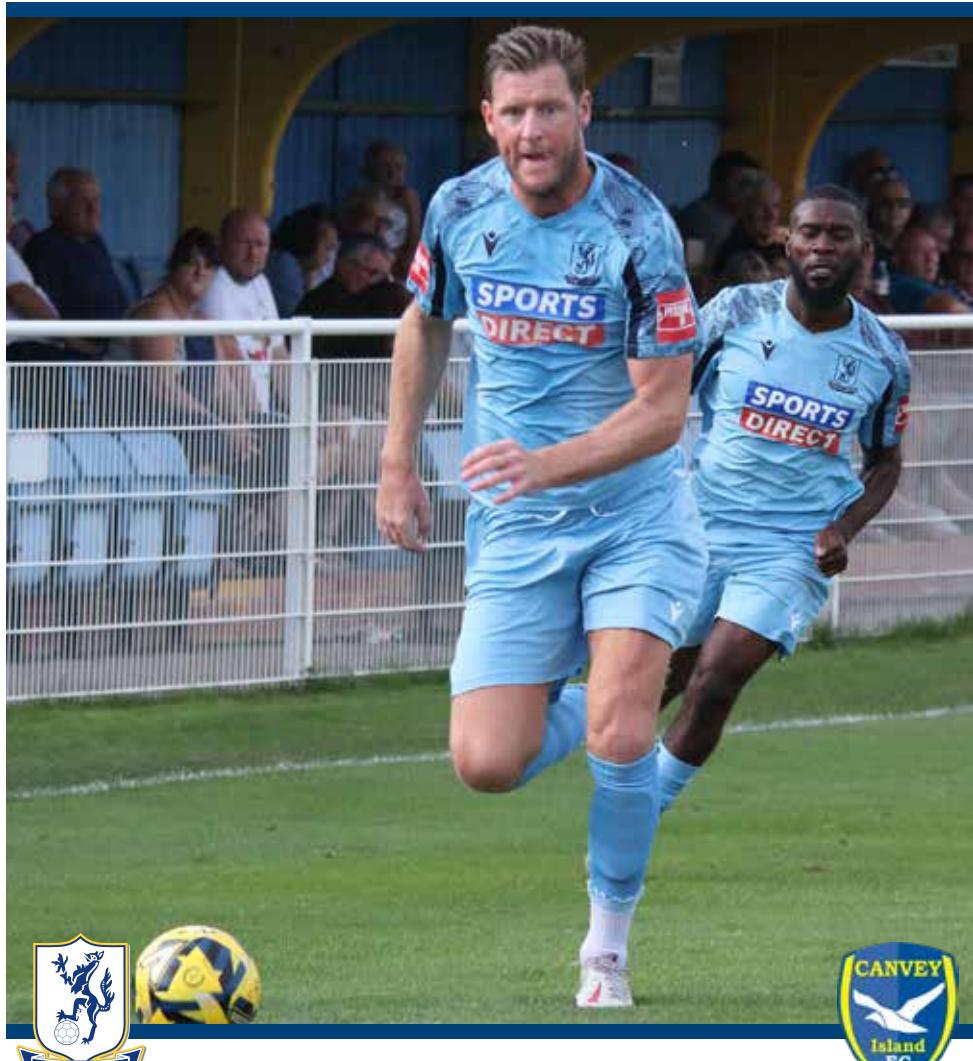


# THE TOWN

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF ENFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



## CANVEY ISLAND

PITCHING IN Isthmian Premier Division | Tuesday 20th September 2022 | 7:45PM

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £2.50

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Winners 2018/19

# WELCOME

Good evening and welcome to the QES for the visit of Canvey Island, we wish their supporters, players and officials a safe trip home tonight.

Canvey have made a very decent return to Step 3 having come up via the play-offs last season and have an identical record to us having won two, drawn two and lost two of their six games to date. Unfortunately for us though, they have also progressed in the FA Cup, at our expense! The game a couple of weeks ago was very one-sided event, with Canvey showing how good a side they are, whilst our performance that afternoon was perhaps the worst we've delivered for a long time.

Due to our cup exit and the suspension of football on the weekend of the Queen's death, we have had very little game time to put things right. We started the process very well though last Tuesday night at Brightlingsea. Andy definitely shuffled the pack, with first starts of the season for Coker and Spencer as well as bringing Joe Payne back in to the squad. As a result, was a much more progressive performance from the team, on the front foot with strong attacking intent whilst looking defensively solid. Hopefully we can carry this form in today's game and give Canvey a much tougher test than we offered them a few weeks ago.

We're currently operating with a very large squad, so we organised a friendly on Saturday against Beaconsfield in order to get much needed fitness in to a number of players legs and for Andy and the coaching team to continue to improve on our patchy start to the campaign.

Whilst mentioning the coaching team, I would

particularly like to thank Tom Festa for his contribution so far this campaign. For various reasons, work and personal, all of the coaching team have missed parts of pre-season and some games so far this year. Tom has stepped up and offered great support to Andy, going above and beyond in terms of our expectations of him. He has also helped out on the administration side, stepping in to do the team-sheet at Brightlingsea. Thank you for all of your hard work Tom, it hasn't gone unnoticed.

Away from the first team, a new term has started for our Academy and we are pleased to welcome 35 new additions to the programme. Together with returning year two students, this now gives us 50 boys in education with us - a great achievement by Billy, Ian and the team. Twelve of the boys from the programme have already made appearances for Level 7 FC this season, our new groundshare partners, giving them an early taste of senior football and accelerating their football development. Andy will monitor their performances closely and hopefully we'll have some starts of the future working their way in to the first team squad very soon.

Thank you to those who made the journeys recently to Canvey and Brightlingsea to support the team, I appreciate the cup game was a very tough watch! Hopefully the boys can reward you with three points tonight.

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## FROM THE DUGOUT

Welcome to Canvey Island FC for tonight's Pitching In Isthmian Premier League game. We know from the recent FA Cup game that we will have our work cut out tonight.

I wasn't at that game but I have seen it and been briefed all about the day. Not a day to hold in the memory and apologies to you all for the performance we put in on the day. It simply was not acceptable and not something you will see again on my watch.

We haven't had chance to rectify that performance until this week. The players came in for some harsh words and some very hard work in training after the Canvey game. Their response has been fantastic as you will have seen on Tuesday night. A dominant performance against a resolute Brightlingsea team, but more importantly one where we worked hard for each other and showed a desire to repeat what we did last season. We have new players in the building and they have started to settle in now. I believe the players we have added will ultimately prove as good as those we have lost. We have to keep the momentum now, and also a level of performance in every session every week if we are to find our way back to the top end of the table.

The hard work to improve the squad has continued. We have added Joe Payne who is

familiar to you all and Alex Solomon has also returned. Alex is maybe not so familiar, but he is one for the future. He is away at present having been called up to Cyprus' U21 team. We have lost a couple of players as well. Jon Muleba has moved on and I agreed this week with Blaise Riley-Snow that his opportunities might now be limited here with players back from injury. I don't particularly like a revolving door policy with the squad as you know from my time here, but we have to get the balance of the group right and that will inevitably mean one or two more changes. You may have seen or heard about potential changes in the Management team, but I'm pleased to say we are at full strength with Ian Hart able to commit to us again.

One thing that does not change is your support. Stick with us while we get it right. Consistently loud and knowledgeable as always, we are certainly looking forward to seeing and hearing you again tonight.

COYT.

**Andy Leese**  
Manager

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# Town bounce back

0-4



Adam Cunningham (27')  
Andre Coker (57', 64')  
Lyle Della-Verde (77')

Pitching In Isthmian Premier | Saturday 13th September 2022

Match Report: Martin Bentley

**Now that's better.** A dominant Enfield Town performance resulted in four goals and an emphatic win over a Brightlingsea side who started the evening one point above Town in mid-table.

Andy Leese shuffled his pack following the heavy FA Cup loss at Canvey Island, reverting to a flat back four with Juevan Spencer given a first start at right back and Joe Payne making a second, indeed arguably a third, debut following his recent move back to the Town from Cheshunt. There were also starts for Andre Coker and James Dayton, giving the Town line-up a radically different look.

The Town were into their stride from the first whistle, with Coker fizzing a shot over, Lyle Della-Verde hitting the side netting and Sam Youngs heading against the top of the bar, all in the opening 20 minutes.

The first goal arrived after 27 minutes, with Adam Cunningham's shot being deflected past home keeper Charlie Turner. Payne then had a shot well saved, and Della-Verde curled a free kick just wide as Town concluded the half well on top.

The home side enjoyed a spell of possession early in the second half, and fired a warning shot across Town's bows nine minutes into the half, Luke Woodward heading powerfully against Nathan McDonald's cross bar from a right wing cross. Within a minute, however, Town doubled their lead;

McDonald's long kick caused confusion in the home defence, and Coker ran on to the loose ball to beat Turner with a powerful finish. Coker repeated the dose six minutes later with an equally emphatic effort from the other flank, and Town were out of sight.

Still Town pressed for more goals, with substitute Jake Cass hitting the foot of Turner's post before Della-Verde added a fourth with a curling effort from Sam Youngs' lay-off.

Unfortunately, the game ended on a sour note for Della-Verde when he received a straight red card for a late tackle on the home side's Zack Littlejohn. The decision seemed harsh, with referee Hursey seemingly making no allowances for the greasy surface, and having previously punished a similar-looking offence at the other end by Regent's Dominic Locke with only a yellow card. Town comfortably played out the remaining ten minutes without alarm, however, and completed an excellent win that saw them jump to eighth place in the table.

**Town:** McDonald; Spencer, Bray, Wilson-Braithwaite, Payne; Thomas, Youngs, Dayton (Sayoud 85); Coker (Wyllie 74), Della-Verde, Cunningham (Cass 64).

**Unused:** Mclean, Shulton

**Attendance:** 201





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## A catch up with... Joe Payne

We spoke to full-back Joe about returning to the club, and his career since his last stint at Donkey Lane

**Joe, welcome back to Town. It's early days but how have you found being back so far?**  
Yeah – good environment, the boys seem decent; good bunch of lads. Just playing games and winning games and that's all you can ask for.

**It's a place you know well – how much of a factor was that familiarity in coming back?**  
Yeah, it's good – obviously I've been here twice now so this is the third time [after a loan in 18-19 and permanently in 19-20]. I've known Andy for ages, I know some of the boys, so that's key as well. I spoke to Andy and the possibility came up about coming back and I thought: "yeah, make it happen".

**Since you were last with us, you've played National League South football with Concord Rangers – how valuable an experience was that?**  
Obviously, it's the league above; it was good to get loads of games, a full season under my belt. I played 40-odd games, cup games included as well, so it was really good...

**...and I suppose Wembley wasn't a bad place to make your debut, either!**  
Yeah, it was decent. The whole day was good, experience was good. It was a blow, it was tough – I looked up at the clock and I thought there were 45 minutes but it was 2 minutes on the clock! Massive pitch...

**For those fans who may not have seen your first couple of spells with us, what kind of a player would you describe yourself as?**  
Just throw it – throw it in the box! No, I like to get forward; like to defend; like to win my 1v1 battles defensively and then concentrate on getting forward and contributing. But mainly just throw it in the box.

**Most memorable match?**  
That Wembley game – FA Trophy final against Harrogate. That's probably the highlight – every kid's dream is to play at Wembley, home of football, say you've completed it, getting on TV.



**Biggest influence on your game?**  
Probably my dad, really. He sorted it all out, used to take me all over the country watching games and playing games. Yeah, I'd probably say my dad.

**Best player you've played with?**  
Youngy [Sam Youngs]

**Interests outside of football?**  
Golf, watching TV, relaxing

**What are your hopes or aspirations with Town this season?**  
Promotion... promotion. One word – promotion.

**And finally, do you have a message for the fans?**  
Be nice and loud on the side – make sure the boys can hear us which I'm sure you will – and hopefully we get three points.



# IN TOWN TODAY... CANVEY ISLAND

**Canvey Island Football Club was established in 1926 and initially played in the Southend & District League. Unfortunately, most of the early records of the Club were lost in the devastating East Coast floods of 1953.**

The club were very successful during their days in the local leagues, winning several cups and league titles, during which time the club appointed Denis Neville as manager; his first job after leaving his position as the Dutch National Team manager. However, the club had drifted away towards the end of the 1980s, and the very existence of CILC was in serious doubt. Local businessman and former Canvey player Jeff King took over as manager, as well as helping to generate funds to take the club forward. Canvey then enjoyed a meteoric rise up the football pyramid, with success starting in 1993 when The Gulls won the Essex Senior League and reached the semi-final of the FA Vase. Canvey then gained promotion to the Isthmian League in 1994 and won promotion from Divisions Three and Two in successive seasons. In 1995-96, after beating Conference team Hedsor Town, they reached the FA Cup First Round Proper and drew 2-2 with Football League side Brighton & Hove Albion at Park Lane in front of a then-record crowd of 3,400. 1998-99 was yet another exciting season as the club won the Division One championship and the Essex Senior Cup, beating Leyton Orient in the final. The Essex Cup was retained the following year as they defeated Purfleet in the Final, alongside a respectable fifth-place finish in their first season at Step 3, and in May 2001, the Gulls lifted the FA Trophy by beating Forest Green Rovers 1-0 in the final in front of over 10,000 people at Villa Park. Four Conference teams in succession were beaten on the run to the trophy - Stevenage Borough, Telford United, Chester City and Forest Green. They had beaten Second Division Port Vale away in the FA Cup earlier that campaign, with the following round at Southend attracting a capacity crowd of 11,400 people. The following year, they reached the Third Round for the first time. On the way they beat five teams, including two from the Second Division: Wigan Athletic at the JJB Stadium, and Northampton Town in front of a full house at Park Lane and 5 million viewers on the BBC. Burnley finally knocked them out in a memorable game at Turf Moor. 2004 saw Canvey reach the goal they had been working towards for the previous four years, as they won the Isthmian Premier with a total of 104 points; also reaching the FA Trophy final that year. The Gulls would remain a Conference side for a couple of seasons, including a respectable 14th place finish; however, the lack of success compared to previous seasons had taken its toll on the attendances, with Jeff King deciding to withdraw his financial and footballing interests from the club. The club's supporters club rallied together to allow the team to continue playing the following year in the Ryman League Division One North. After regaining promotion to Step 3 via the

playoffs in 2008, and after staying up on the last day of the season in 2015, Canvey were relegated in 2016. They almost secured an immediate return, reaching the playoff final but losing 3-1 away to Harlow Borough. The past couple of seasons have seen success return to Park Lane. Mark Bentley guided the Gulls back into the Second Round of the FA Cup, with a sensational 2-1 win at Barnet United live on the BBC to land a home tie against National League outfit Boreham Wood. Bentley's assistant manager Brad Wellmen assumed the reins in October 2021 and, assisted by coach Sammy Knott, sealed promotion back to the Isthmian Premier - again via the playoffs - after a penalty shootout in front of a crowd of 2,532. Early signs back at Step 3 have been encouraging so far, including a late success over Hornchurch and a pair of 5-1 wins against Enfield Town and Brightlingsea Regent.

#### RHYS BYRNE (Goalkeeper)

Joining on loan from Leyton Orient in August 2022, Rhys is a 20-year-old goalkeeper who made four appearances for the O's last season's Papa John's Trophy without conceding a goal.

#### BOBBY MASON (Goalkeeper)

Shot-stopper Bobby joined the Gulls in August 2020 from Great Wakering Rovers, proving to be a pivotal part of their run to the FA Cup Second Round Proper in his first season, saving five penalties in a shootout victory against Biggleswade. He was voted into the 'Team of the Second Round' and would end up producing more saves than any other goalkeeper in the entire competition. Among his former clubs are Aveley, Hullbridge Sports, Thurrock, and Witham Town.

#### REISS CHANDLER (Defender)

Reiss is a right-sided full back who arrived at Park Lane ahead of the 2022-23 season from Southend United. He spent the first half of last season on loan with Bishop's Stortford, and has also turned out for Harlow Town and Aveley.

#### MICHAEL FINNERAN (Defender)

Centre-back Michael joined in June 2019 from Bostik North rivals Grays Athletic. A local lad, Michael supported Canvey as a child, going on to play for the youth team and reserve team before leaving in search of first team football. Having cut his teeth in the Essex Senior League, he went on to captain Romford in the Bostik North before joining Grays in February 2018 where he played regularly in the heart of their defence.

#### BILLY FIRMAN (Defender)

Young defender Billy joined the first team in the summer of 2022, making the step up to senior football having previously played for the club's Under-16s side.

#### ROB GIRDLESTONE (Defender)

Rob is a central defender who signed from Maldon & Tiptree in August 2020. He came through the West Ham United academy system before joining Chelmsford City in 2014. He moved across Essex to join Concord Rangers two years later, making 76 appearances for the club and picking up the Players' Player of the Year and Supporters' Player of the Year accolades. He joined Maldon & Tiptree in 2018 and was part of their side that reached the FA Cup Second Round in 2019-20 and was on course to win the Isthmian League North before the season was null-and-voided.

#### MASON HALL (Defender)

Mason is a centre-back who signed for the club in September 2020 having last played for Heybridge Swifts. After graduating from the youth setup at Leyton Orient, he went on to have spells with Greenwich Borough and Wingate & Finchley.

#### CALLUM STURGES (Defender)

Left-sided full back Callum signed on at Park Lane from Southern League side Needham Market in the summer of 2022, having spent the last four seasons with the Marketmen. He had previously played youth football with Crystal Palace's U18s, and at Colchester United's academy.

#### ODEI MARTIN SORONDO (Midfielder)

A versatile capable in defence or midfield, Odei joined the Gulls permanently from Concord Rangers in June 2022 following a dual-registration. Odei was part of the Heybridge Swifts squad that won the Isthmian North Playoff Final in 2019 without being promoted. He joined Concord Rangers that summer, going on to play for the Beachboys in the 2020 FA Trophy Final before making the switch across the Island this summer.

#### TOBI TINUBU (Midfielder)

Comfortable either at wing back or in midfield, Tobi signed for Canvey ahead of the 2021-22 season after an impressive trial period. He played for Tower Hamlets during the previous campaign.

#### LUCA ALBON (Midfielder)

A former Charlton Athletic academy scholar, 21-year-old Luca was with the Addicks for seven years, joining Bowers & Pitsea in October 2020 following his release. He arrived at Park Lane this summer, having spent the previous six months with Cray Wanderers.

#### JOE PAXMAN (Midfielder)

Joe joined Canvey Island from Grays Athletic in the 2022-23 off-season. He has previously played for several local clubs including East Thurrock United, Thurrock, Basildon, Romford, Great Wakering Rovers, Aveley and Tilbury.

#### ELLIOTT RONTO (Midfielder)

Australian midfielder Elliott signed for Canvey from Heybridge Swifts in July 2020. He played for several clubs in his native Australia before resuming his career in the UK with Bishop's Stortford. He went on to join Witham Town before signing for Heybridge in the winter of 2018.

#### JAMIE SALMON (Midfielder)

Jamie arrived in August 2020 having previously played for Hullbridge Sports. He also counts Bowers & Pitsea, Great Wakering Rovers and Catholic United among his former sides.

#### CONOR HUBLE (Midfielder)

Attacking midfielder Conor signed from Maldon & Tiptree in August 2020. He began his career with Queens Park Rangers, moving on to Colchester United where he progressed through their academy to play in the Football League. After loan spells with Leiston he joined the Suffolk side on a permanent basis in 2015, going on to play for Billericay Town, Coggeshall Town and Maldon & Tiptree. He scored 16 times last season and was named in the 2021-22 Isthmian North Team of the Year.

#### CALLUM BOYLAN (Forward)

Callum is a young attacker who signed ahead of the 2022-23 season. The son of Canvey Island's record goalscorer, Lee Boylan, he has previously played for Basildon United and Bowers & Pitsea.

#### EVANS KOUASSI (Forward)

No stranger to Enfield Town, well-travelled forward Evans joined Canvey from Heybridge Swifts in July 2020. He netted 32 times last season and provided a similar number of assists, earning himself a place in the Isthmian North Team of the Year. His previous clubs include - among others - Wealdstone, Chelmsford City, Bishop's Stortford, Billericay Town, Concord Rangers, Aveley, and Potters Bar Town, as well as having had a stint here at Donkey Lane in 2015-16.

#### DANNY PARISH (Forward)

Striker Danny joined the Gulls in the summer of 2022 from Hastings United. A product of the Brentford youth system, he had prolific spells at Ashford United and Maldon & Tiptree before a spell with Wealdstone.

#### BRADLEY SACH (Forward)

Attacker Bradley arrived from Bowers & Pitsea in January 2022 having previously played for Boreham Wood, Aveley, and Potters Bar Town - for whom he scored here in 2019. He hit 10 goals last season, including five in Canvey's astonishing 13-0 victory over Romford in April.

#### IN CHARGE: BRAD WELLMEN

An experienced coach who joined the club in the summer of 2013 having spent 16 years coaching in the USA with Chicago Fire, Brad also had coaching experience in the academies at West Ham and Norwich City before joining Canvey. He was promoted to assistant manager at Park Lane in November 2017 and then to manager in November 2021, leading the club to promotion via the Isthmian North playoffs in his first season.



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**WE'VE MET BEFORE:**

## Town v Canvey Island

Jim Cunneen looks back at our previous encounters

Canvey's drop into the Isthmian League is well documented and we travelled there in November 2006 for our away league game in monsoon conditions. Canvey had made the expected bright start to their league programme and we expected a tough game. We made life difficult for ourselves with a listless performance and gifted them two goals. Canvey deserved their win and our real bright spot was Ricci Crace's excellent effort. 393 were there. The return game, in March 2007, coincided with the return to winter weather and 242 saw us win ugly! The only goal came from Owusu Afriyie with a stunning shot just before the break. We didn't play well in truth, but the three points cemented our third place spot.

Our form was mixed, to say the least, when Canvey came to us in November 2007. We started brightly and might have had a couple early on – Rudi Hall hit a post – but once the visitors took the lead in the 18th minute that was it. Canvey added a second in the second half and took the points home. 253 were there. The return game took place at the end of April and Canvey needed the win to be sure of their play off place. They got it: 2-0. Poor defending from free kicks allowed them a couple of goals and our poor league season finished in front of an impressive 613.

After a couple of weeks without a game because of the weather in February 2012 we played Canvey Island in a friendly on the all-weather pitch at The Hive, Edgware. Leon Osei scored both our goals in a 2-2 draw which was a good workout. We went to Canvey for a league game in November 2012 and what an eventual game it was. Liam Hope put us one up from the spot in the 17th minute but we lost goalie Noel Imber through injury at the same time and defender Lee White went in goal. What followed was a real see-saw game with us putting a tremendous battling performance to win 4-3! Liam Hope scored a hat trick and Joe O'Brien scored the other. All played out in front of 382. We could have done with some of that battling commitment when Canvey came to us in April 2013. With Town needing points to ensure our safety from relegation, we put in an awful, shapeless and passionless performance and lost 0-2. They also missed a penalty! 330 were there.

Town went to Canvey in September 2013 but failed to take a grip on this game and returned from the Essex coast empty handed. Jermaine Osei struck for Town but it was not enough. Tryon Smith had put the Gulls ahead from the spot after a handball. They extended the lead mid-way through the half and Osei's late strike was not enough to inspire a comeback. 461 were there. The return game in January 2014 was astonishing! With added time remaining Town were dead and buried at 1-3. Liam Hope had given us an early lead from the spot before 3 second half goals had given the Islanders an apparent win. When Hope scored his second in the 92nd minute it looked like a consolation but a corner from Joe Stevens in the 95th went straight in and gave us an unlikely point in front of 435.

The away game in August 2014 was watched by 352 and we lost 1-2. We had loads of possession and were worth the lead that Liam Hope gave us in the 21st minute from the spot. They levelled after 61 minutes and they nicked



a winner in the very last minute. It looked like the home game was going to go the same way in January 2015. We scored an early goal through Claudio Vilcu and then despite having most of the possession let them back in to lead 2-1. Bobby Devyne came off the bench to level for us on his debut and then in last minute Nathan Livings scored the winner (above) to give us a 3-2 win! 265 were there.

We went to Canvey at the end of August 2015 with only one win under our belt and only one goal in a highly disappointing start to the season. And that dismal trend continued with a 0-2 defeat – both goals coming in the first 20 minutes from Martin Tuohy. Our cause was not helped by having Alex Cathline sent off but it was another poor performance in front of 326. When Canvey came to us in December we were on a bit of a run and slowly climbing the table. Although we fell behind, a brace of goals from Tyler Campbell gave us a 2-1 win in front of 386.

Canvey came to us for the first home game of season in August 2016 and we were disjointed and disappointing in a 1-1 draw. The fact that Nathan McDonald was man of the match speaks volumes. He had already saved a penalty before they opened the scoring and it was only after 90 minutes that Tyler Campbell levelled for us. 404 were there. The return game in October saw Town fall behind after only 3 minutes before ex Towner Hayden-Smith picked up a straight red and town responded to win 5-1. Samir Bihmoutine set the ball rolling, Ricky Gabriel and then a Billy Crook penalty made it 3-1 and two goals in a minute from Dernell Wynter completed the rout. 325 were there. A mere two weeks later and Canvey came to us for an FA Trophy game. The Islanders were 2-0 up after 32 minutes thanks to George Sykes' brace and it seemed we were on our way out even when Billy Crook pulled one back with an hour gone! However Bobby Devyne scored twice after 88 and 89 minutes to give us an unlikely win.

The sides' last meeting was earlier this month as we met at Canvey Island for an FA Cup First Round Qualifier and an abysmal performance saw us lose 1-5. The least said the better! Jake Cass scored our consolation goal, while an Evans Kouassi hattrick and strikes from Danny Parish and Jamie Salmon dumped us out of the cup in front of 346.



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# Trouble at the top

Every manager has his or her sell-by date but the brutal swiftness with which Scott Parker was sacked as Bournemouth manager late last month was disbelieving in the extreme, writes Andrew Warshaw...

Parker was dismissed after just FOUR games of the new season. Okay, Bournemouth had just been thumped 9-0 by Liverpool. And okay, without Parker they took four points from their subsequent two games and have steadily improved since. But so much for getting promoted! In fact, it has got to the stage when going up to the Premier League has become a poisoned chalice for managers. It's almost as if staying in the relative comfort of the Championship is a better bet in terms of pressure though not, obviously, from a financial standpoint.

There are exceptions of course, such as Brentford's Thomas Frank who has bucked the trend of struggling for survival and is doing a fantastic job on relatively limited resources compared to the big boys. Clearly both Frank and Brentford are a perfect match but has Premier League football really reached the point when managers can be fired at the first sign of failure? Why not give them a mandatory period of time, say 10 games, before owners can legally wield the axe. You have to feel sorry for Parker who was clearly blamed for Bournemouth's start by club owner Maxim Demin. It wasn't only about results, or performances. Or whether Parker had lost the dressing room. It was mainly for speaking out honestly about not being backed sufficiently in the transfer market.

How many times have we seen owners and chairmen - those who pull the purse strings - refuse to take any of blame and the manager becoming the scapegoat. Rarely has this been more starkly illustrated than in the case of Parker. Not only that. Bournemouth were not even bottom of the league when Parker was fired, plus they had played three of the top teams in the country in Manchester City, Liverpool and Arsenal.

Explaining the decision, Demin delivered a lecture on how people must "show belief in and respect for one another", implying Parker had been too defeatist. The real truth is he couldn't actually handle the truth. Nottingham Forest have sunk over £150m into remaining a Premier League club, and Fulham have spent around £50m, but Bournemouth's outlay was half that, plus three free transfers. Parker couldn't lie when he went on tv to explain the Liverpool debacle. Wouldn't lie. Then got sacked for his troubles. What a sorry state of affairs.

You wonder too whether, by the time you read this, Leicester City's Brendan Rodgers might have gone the same way, again for being honest. Whilst Premier League clubs forked out a record £1.9 billion in the transfer window - smashing the



previous record of £1.4 billion in 2017 and dwarfing the rest of Europe - not all of them splashed the cash. Some actually reined in their spending, not least Leicester who soon found themselves bottom of the league after letting a string of their biggest stars leave including goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and key defender Wesley Fofana.

"I understand the fans' frustration. They see all their rivals getting players in and we're not getting any," conceded Rodgers. "With the greatest respect, we have not had the help in the market this team needed."

I'll leave you with a couple more eye-watering statistics which illustrate the gap between top-flight football and the rest of the game. The Premier League clubs spent more than Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and the German Bundesliga put together while Chelsea forked out more in a single window than any other club in Premier League history. Roman Abramovich might have departed but under their new owners buying success still seems to be the maxim at a club that dispensed with, wait for it, more than £250 million.

Nice work if you can get it – but seemingly not nice enough even for Chelsea who have now, in trademark fashion, sacked their manager too, bringing in Graham Potter to replace Thomas Tuchel. On this occasion, it's hard to feel much sympathy for a club who have become accustomed to ruthlessly dismissing the manager at the first sign of a wobble.

After 13 managers in 19 years, one might have hoped that the end of the Abramovich era might spark a little longevity for the man in the hotseat. Fat chance. Instead, it's a case of plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose.

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# 200 up for Sam

We caught up with popular midfielder Sam after reaching 200 appearances for the club

**Sam, congratulations on 200 appearances on the Town – you must be delighted to bring up a milestone like that?**

Yes of course, it is a privilege to have played so many games for such a good club. Hopefully there are many more to come.

**Did you know when you'd hit the two hundred mark?**

I knew it was coming up as Neil text me in the week saying I was one or two games off of the milestone. I think I am just a touch shy of how many games he has been involved in though!

**Do you have any favourite memories or matches during that time?**

The play-off run last year was great, obviously it is a shame how it ended but the way everyone came together especially in the last few months of the season was amazing. I've been lucky enough to be around some good changing rooms but the connection we had last year with each other, the staff and the fans was really special. Hopefully we can get back to that this season.

**Best player(s) during that time?**

There has been a lot of good players during my time here, obviously a few have gone on in to full time football and it is hard to not say Mo after the amount of goals he has scored but for me it has to be the skipper Scotty Thomas. Maybe this is from a selfish point of view as his positioning and understanding of the game makes my life so much easier playing in midfield with him!

**How well do you remember joining the club, and how it came about?**

It's been a few years now but I remember I had come off the back of a good season with Chesham where I had scored a few goals and had some decent offers. The gaffer had just joined here and persuaded me to come. I came because of him to be honest - I had a lot going on with work at the time and I knew he trusted me and I wanted to keep enjoying my football. I guess I was lucky in a way as I had no idea that I was joining such a good club.

**You've skippered the side of late, and are one of the more experienced heads in the dressing room – how have you taken to being a leadership figure within the team?**

Obviously I enjoy being skipper when Scotty's not available and as you say I think it comes more naturally with experience; I must have played close to 500 games now so I'd like to think I understand the game a bit. The key aspect of being a leader is earning the respect of your team mates and the only way to do that is to be an exceptional player or in mind and many at this levels case go and work your nuts off every time you step on the pitch and set the example there.

**You made 48 appearances last term, winning man of the match eight times and scooping Fans' Player and Players' Player of the Season – how do you reflect on that, it must be satisfying to look back on last season individually?**

Funnily enough it was comfortably the worst start to a season I have ever had; I picked up a knock at the end of pre-season and missed the first few games, then Scotty had a knock and I ended up playing a lot of games deeper than I normally would. I don't think I scored my first goal until November, but yeah after my 'winter break' to Barbados I came back flying to be fair and managed to maintain my levels to the end of the season. Of course, it is a great feeling to win those awards but I would have traded them all for promotion, except maybe goal of the season as I liked that one!

**It's only a few weeks in, but what have you made of our start to the season?**

It's safe to say it's been a slow start to the season. It was never going to be easy coming off the highs and ultimate low at the end of last season and also losing a few key players. Saying that the levels and expectations have been set, we have made some very good signings so I fully expect us to start picking up results and moving in the right direction very soon.

**Finally, do you have a message to the fans?**

It is hard to put into a few lines how great the fans have been since I came here. I've been lucky to have played in some big games but the atmosphere they created for that play-off game was crazy, it was so much fun to play in. Just stick with us and we will bring back some good times again this season, Up the Town!





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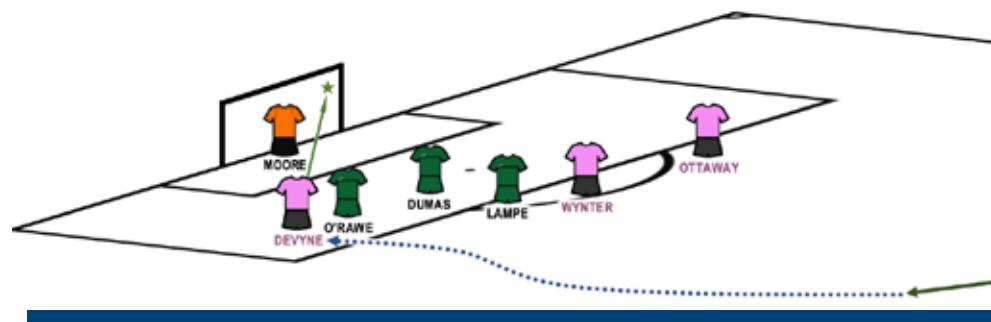


# BEHIND THE GOAL

Ahead of this evening's game with Canvey Island, we looked through the archives to an FA Trophy tie six years ago against tonight's opponents...

Enfield Town and Canvey Island lined up for their FA Trophy tie in October 2016 with the sides having remarkably already met twice that campaign. Town had stormed to a 5-1 victory at Park Lane in the league just a week earlier, but with 35 minutes gone most inside Donkey Lane could tell this would be an altogether different proposition as a couple of strikes from George Sykes put the Gulls two to the good. Enter Bobby Devyne – introduced with 20 minutes remaining with the score still 0-2. “I remember that I started on the bench”, he recalls. “I wasn’t happy about that lol. No, I remember the crowd being really up for it. It was a game we really wanted to win and perform well.” Town, donning their pink strip in aid of Cancer Research UK, certainly bucked their ideas up and raised their performance after his substitution: little more than 90 seconds later and Billy Crook pulled one back from the edge of the box. However, it would be the final few minutes where Devyne would make his mark – equalising in the 88th with a bobbling shot which

just about evaded goalie Lewis Moore and his defenders, before he struck the winner merely a minute later. After good work from another sub, Tom Collins, to hassle the ball back and play a pinpoint pass into the path of the Town forward, Devyne surged towards goal, produced a neat couple of stepovers, and rifled a left-footed shot beyond the despairing goalie and into the top-right corner. “I just wanted to get the defender into the box – once I got him in there back-peddling, I knew if I shifted it and made good contact with the ball he couldn’t block the shot; luckily it went in the top corner”. Cue jubilant scenes as Bobby set off to celebrate on the sidelines, with the rest of the team – including manager Brad Quinton – sprinting over to pile in. “It was great. There was a real togetherness, we all really enjoyed playing with each other. With great characters in the dressing room like Jordy, Kirby, Ricky, Scott, Percy. Just to name a few.” But as for his favourite Town goal? “Either the Goal against Grays at home – or Wingate and Finchley.”



# AROUND THE CLUB

## BLUES IN BUTLER'S BAR

We may not have a home game that weekend, but don't miss out on our latest fundraising gig the night before in Butlers Bar.

On Friday, Oct 7, the five-piece Blues Chapter bring their unique brand of driving Texas hotshot blues to the club with a mixture of their own compositions and covers of the likes of Gary Moore, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Joe Bonamassa. These guys really know how to tear up a stage, led by the rasping vocals of charismatic front man Sky Wood and the brilliant guitar playing of Jesse Thomas. It might be best to book early for this one since people have been known to have been turned away in the past for Blues Chapter gigs. They are, quite frankly, probably the finest young blues band in London – and all left-handed to boot – save the date!

Bar & doors open from 7:30pm and tickets cost just £10 (email Christine Hamilton at [ianchrisham@hotmail.com](mailto:ianchrisham@hotmail.com)). Tickets may also be available on the door depending on how many are left.

## NEW ARRIVALS

In case you missed it, Town have bolstered their squad with two returning faces to the defence. The first is Joe Payne, who re-joins for a third spell after his first on loan from Barnet, then a permanent stint in 2018-19. He has since been with Potters Bar and Concord Rangers, and marked his return to the side by keeping a clean sheet in last week's 4-0 win at Brightlingsea. Also re-joining us is defender Alex Solomon, who signed during the second half of last season. Alex was part of the academy setup at Crystal Palace and then Leyton Orient, and has also spent time with Leicester City. He recently spent time in Sweden with Ytterhogdals IK. Extra congrats are in order to Alex, who was recently called up to Cyprus' Under-21 squad to face Malta. Welcome back, both!



## SAM'S DOUBLE-UP

Congratulations to our midfield maestro Sam Youngs on notching up his 200th game for the club at last weekend's match at Canvey Island. Sam joined us from Chesham United, making his Town debut against Cheshunt on 25th July 2017. Since then, he has racked up a double century of appearances for us. Sam's honours from last season were:

- Jets Player of the Year
- Supporters' Player of the Year
- Players' Player of the Year
- Goal of the Season

Says it all - and one of the nicest guys you could hope to meet.

Play it again Sam!

Les Gold



# MEET THE OWNERS

In recent seasons we have gained several new supporters. It's fantastic that some of those have also become members of Enfield Town FC Supporters Society and therefore owners of Enfield Town Football Club. If you are not currently an owner but you are a Town supporter you can join online at [membermojo.co.uk/etfcs](http://membermojo.co.uk/etfcs) or pick up a membership form from the club shop

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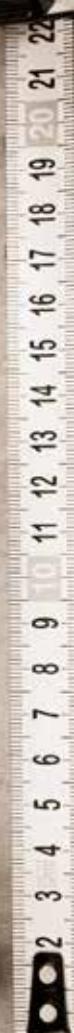


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## This week in Town history...

A LOOK BACK AT ENCOUNTERS FROM THE PAST TWO DECADES



18th September 2004  
FA Cup, First Qualifying Round  
**Harlow Town 0-1 Enfield Town**



21st September 2013  
Isthmian League Premier Division  
**Enfield Town 2-2 Lowestoft Town**

This FA Cup qualifying tie was Town's last visit to Hammerskjold Road prior to the Hawks' home ground move to Barrows Farm, and 263 were in attendance for a game that started in cagey fashion. Neither side gave too many concessions during the opening exchanges in a first half played on a saturated pitch with continuous rain showers throughout. Eventually Town were awarded an indirect free kick at close range but although Rudi Hall hit it hard against the wall, it was cleared away and the chance came to nothing. As both sides found control increasingly difficult given the conditions, Town survived a scare midway through the second half when Harlow forward Marc Salmon found himself through on goal with only Andy Hall to beat. Though he struck his shot firmly to Hall's right, the Town 'keeper reacted superbly to tip the ball around the post. Back came the visitors; Dean Nyman curling a 35-yard shot towards Hawks keeper Glenn Jackson's left-hand corner which he did well to touch over. The eventual winner arrived on 79 minutes as Dean Nyman rose highest to head a cross past Jackson. In injury time Nyman thought he had a second, but he was thwarted by an offside flag. A good day for Town, and especially for club photographer Phil Davison, whose shot of the winning goal (above) was his first photograph of a goal to be published in the press.

**Town:** A Hall, Campbell, Baldwin, Gant, R Hall, Negus, Wright (Francis), Hall, Riley, Brotherton (Pamplin), Nyman (Massala)

Town showed commendable spirit and character, coming back from two goals down to grind out a point at home to Lowestoft. It was the hosts who started the brighter; their attacking shape almost paying immediate dividends inside a minute when a long ball found Liam Hope, but Blues goalie Ashlee Jones produced a brilliant one-handed stop. Adam Wallace then threatened, only to be denied by a last-ditch challenge, and the visiting Trawlerboys would grow into the game as the half wore on. After a few shots in anger, they went ahead on 38 minutes as Curtis Haynes-Brown burst down the flank and squared for Lee Smith to convert. Lowestoft made it 2-0 shortly after half-time as Michael Frew latched onto a neat pass from the edge of the area to fire across Noel Imber and into the bottom-left corner. However, Enfield pulled a goal back within five minutes as Chris Wild out-jumped everyone to nod in a corner at the far post. With the score at 1-2, Town goalie Imber kept his side in the game with a vital stop to touch Robert Eagle's dipping effort around the post, and with seven minutes to go, Town drew level as Tyler Campbell's defence-splitting pass found Corey Whiteley, who tucked home into the bottom corner to equalise.

**Town:** Imber, Lockie, Stevens, McCluskey, Kirby, Wild, Allen, Osei (Campbell), Hope (Matata), Wallace, Whitley.

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[www.enterpriseenfield.org/ebusiness-programme](http://www.enterpriseenfield.org/ebusiness-programme)

020 8443 5457 [ebusiness@enterpriseenfield.org](mailto:ebusiness@enterpriseenfield.org)

## Mike North – Enfield football hero

My brother, Mike passed away on 27th August aged 77 after a long illness. He had been in hospital for most of the last 4/5 months with cancer of the oesophagus but was at home when he died.

Some of you will remember him as a regular at the QEII stadium but his Enfield football journey starts way back before that. Enfield football has been ingrained in the North family for as long as I can remember. Our Dad, in carrying on the tradition of his own Dad and Uncle Charlie from the late 1920s, took us to E's matches as boys. Mike could never quite remember exactly when he started regularly attending, he anecdotally told of being taken to his first game in his pushchair with his Grandad, which would have likely been in 1948/9.

This was the era of the old Athenian League and the three Ronnies in the Enfield ranks: Mitchell, Spendlove and Phipps. Dave Potter was another player particularly remembered. We lived at Forty Hill, and we would cycle to matches – over the New River bridge in Carterhatch Lane and then up Donkey Lane and across the playing fields to the Stadium. There were no turnstiles in those days, and we could wheel our bikes through and left them at the back of the grassy bank on the far side of the ground. We always watched from that side, on the halfway line, a position that Mike stayed with for the rest of his life. Some of you may recall in recent years seeing him struggle round on his walking sticks to the far side at the QEII to get there; appropriately, the North side of the ground.

That first visit all those years ago lead to his lifelong love for the E's who he followed through the Tommy Lawrence and Isthmian years into the new semi-professional era with the abolition of amateurism in the 1970s. He saw the E's reach their pinnacle of winning the Gola (now National) League just missing out on election to what is now League 2, the winning of the FA trophy, plus numerous FA cup expeditions including the trip to Barnsley. He then sadly saw the decline of the club facilitated by financial irregularities and was ready to join the Towners on the collapse of the old club and founding of the new.

Mike would attend as many games as he was able each season, home and away, travelling numerous miles alongside his good friend

John Henderson and myself. As mentioned, supporting football in Enfield is a family tradition. Our dear sister Lesley, who died in 2015, was always kept up to date with the latest performances whilst she lived away from North London.



Mike also introduced his children Alison and Trevor to the E's in the 1980s, taking them to many games including Wembley in 1988, and they have followed his lead in supporting Town. Alison sponsored one of the seats in the North Stand during the move to the QES and Trevor is an ETFC member. They both come to games whenever they can.

But Enfield football, whilst a passion for Mike, was only a part of his life. He had many other interests including music in a variety of genres and bird watching. His own family was of the utmost importance. He considered himself the luckiest man in the world when he married Carole 51 years ago, and they have enjoyed a strong unshakable marriage. No matter whatever he had on his plate he always found time for others and put them first. He was always warm and cheerful, friendly and good humoured even through his various health problems in his later years. Everyone loved him and everyone who met him and considered him a friend will mourn his loss.

Love you, my dear Bruv. Rest in peace.

Stuart North



# ENFIELD TOWN FC

PITCHING IN Isthmian League Premier Division 2022-23 FIXTURES

DATE	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	ATT	STARTING XI	SUBS
<b>AUGUST 2022</b>						
Saturday 13	FOLKESTONE INVICTA	D1-1	8	421	McDonald, Mclean, Kirwan, Bray, Thomas, Richmond, Taaffe**, Youngs, Cass*, Wylie, Della-Verde***	Cunnington*, Riley-Snow**, Sayoud***, Soulja-Osekanongo, Spencer
Tuesday 16	Hornchurch	L2-3	17	492	McDonald, Mclean, Kirwan**, Bray, Thomas*, Richmond, Taaffe***, Youngs, Cass, Wylie, Riley-Snow	Della-Verde*, Sayoud**, Spencer***, Soulja-Osekanongo, Cunningham
Sunday 21	Kingstonian	D0-0	20	275	McDonald, Mclean, Kirwan**, Bray, Riley-Snow**, Richmond, Youngs, Cass, Cunningham***, Wylie*, Della-Verde	Sayoud* Soulja-Osekanongo**, Taaffe***, Dayton, Spencer
Saturday 27	BOWERS & PITSEA	W2-0	11	381	McDonald, McLean, Kirwan, Bray, Richmond, Sayoud*, Shulton, Youngs, Dayton**, Della-Verde*** Cass	Cunnington* Spencer**, Taaffe***, Wilson-Braithwaite, Riley-Snow
Monday 29	Potters Bar Town	L1-2	14	531	McDonald, McLean, Wilson-Braithwaite, Bray, Taaffe, Youngs, Shulton, Sayoud*, Della-Verde** Cass, Cunningham	Coker* Wylie**, Taaffe***, Spencer, Riley-Snow, Dayton
<b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b>						
Saturday 3	Canvey Island (FAC)	L1-5	-	346	McDonald, McLean, Wilson-Braithwaite, Bray, Shulton, Youngs, Taaffe*, Sayoud, Youngs, Della-Verde**, Cass, Wylie***	Spencer* Dayton**, Cunningham***, Thomas, Connolly, Marfo, Coker
Tuesday 13	Brightlingsea Regent	W4-0	8	201	McDonald, Spencer, Wilson-Braithwaite, Bray, Payne, Thomas, Youngs, Dayton***, Coker***, Della-Verde, Cunningham*	Cass*, Wylie**, Sayoud***, Shulton, Mclean
Tuesday 20	CANVEY ISLAND	7.45pm				
Saturday 24	Margate	3.00pm				
<b>OCTOBER 2022</b>						
Saturday 1	Corinthian-Casuals	3.00pm				
Saturday 15	LEWES	3.00pm				
Saturday 22	Cray Wanderers	3.00pm				
Saturday 29	HERNE BAY	3.00pm				
<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>						
Saturday 5	HASTINGS UNITED	3.00pm				
Saturday 12	Carshalton Athletic	3.00pm				
Saturday 19	BILLERICAY TOWN	3.00pm				
Saturday 26	Wingate & Finchley	3.00pm				
<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>						
Saturday 3	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	3.00pm				
Friday 9	Aveley	7.45pm				
Tuesday 13	HORNCHURCH	7.45pm				
Saturday 17	Folkestone Invicta	3.00pm				
Monday 26	POTTERS BAR TOWN	3.00pm				
<b>JANUARY 2023</b>						
Monday 2	Haringey Borough	3.00pm				
Saturday 7	KINGSTONIAN	3.00pm				
Saturday 14	Bowers & Pitsea	3.00pm				
Saturday 21	Hastings United	3.00pm				
Saturday 28	CARSHALTON ATHLETIC	3.00pm				
<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>						
Saturday 4	Billericay Town	3.00pm				
Saturday 11	WINGATE & FINCHLEY	3.00pm				
Tuesday 14	BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT	7.45pm				
Saturday 18	Canvey Island	3.00pm				
Saturday 25	MARGATE	3.00pm				
<b>MARCH 2023</b>						
Saturday 4	Bognor Regis Town	3.00pm				
Saturday 11	Lewes	3.00pm				
Saturday 18	CORINTHIAN-CASUALS	3.00pm				
Saturday 25	Herne Bay	3.00pm				
<b>APRIL 2023</b>						
Saturday 1	CRAY WANDERERS	3.00pm				
Saturday 8	Horsham	3.00pm				
Monday 10	HARINGEY BOROUGH	3.00pm				
Saturday 15	Bishop's Stortford	3.00pm				
Saturday 22	AVELEY	3.00pm				
TBA	BOGNOR REGIS TOWN					
TBA	HORSHAM					

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION  
2022/23 LATEST TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
1 Aveley	6	5	0	1	11	10	+1	15
2 Horsham	6	4	1	1	16	5	+1	13
3 Hornchurch	6	4	0	2	14	6	+8	12
4 Potters Bar Town	6	4	0	2	9	6	+3	12
5 Cray Wanderers	6	3	2	1	10	7	+3	11
6 Folkestone Invicta	6	3	2	1	10	9	+1	11
7 Lewes	6	2	3	1	6	5	+1	9
8 ENFIELD TOWN	6	2	2	2	10	6	+4	8
9 Margate	6	2	2	2	9	5	+4	8
10 CANVEY ISLAND	6	2	2	2	10	8	+2	8
11 Bognor Regis Town	6	2	2	2	13	12	+1	8
12 Bishop's Stortford	6	2	2	2	8	8	0	8
13 Hastings United	6	2	2	2	6	6	0	8
14 Kingstonian	6	1	4	1	6	6	0	7
15 Carshalton Athletic	6	2	1	3	9	10	-1	7
16 Haringey Borough	6	1	3	2	7	9	-2	6
17 Brightlingsea Regent	6	2	0	4	7	16	-9	6
18 Bowers & Pitsea	6	1	2	3	6	12	-6	5
19 Corinthian-Casuals	6	1	2	3	8	16	-8	5
20 Wingate & Finchley	6	0	4	2	7	9	-2	4
21 Herne Bay	6	1	1	4	7	12	-5	4
22 Billericay Town	6	1	1	4	6	12	-6	4

Up to and including Wed 15th September

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

TONIGHT	
Bishop's Stortford v Bowers & Pitsea	
Corinthian-Casuals v Folkestone Invicta	
Enfield Town v Canvey Island	
Haringey Borough v Billericay Town	
Herne Bay v Hornchurch	
Lewes v Aveley	
Potters Bar Town v Brightlingsea Regent	
Wingate & Finchley v Horsham	
TOMORROW NIGHT	
Cray Wanderers v Hastings United	
Kingstonian v Bognor Regis Town	
SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER	
Aveley v Herne Bay	
Billericay Town v Lewes	
Bognor Regis Town v Wingate & Finchley	
Bowers & Pitsea v Kingstonian	
Brightlingsea Regent v Haringey Borough	
Canvey Island v Corinthian-Casuals	
Folkestone Invicta v Potters Bar Town	
Hastings United v Carshalton Athletic	
Hornchurch v Cray Wanderers	
Horsham v Bishop's Stortford	
Margate v Enfield Town	





## TOWN

Manager: Andy Leese

From:

Nathan McDonald  
Adi Connolly  
Rian Bray  
James Richmond  
Rian McLean  
Alex Solomon  
Dequane Wilson-Braithwaite  
Wynford Marfo  
Nathan Smith  
Josh McLeod-Urquhart  
Joe Payne  
Ryan Kirwan  
Juevan Spencer  
Scott Thomas  
Scott Shulton  
Gucci Soulya Osekanongo  
Sam Youngs  
James Dayton  
Bilal Sayoud  
Lewis Taaffe  
Andre Coker  
Lyle Della-Verde  
Marcus Wyllie  
Adam Cunningham  
Jake Cass



## CANVEY ISLAND

Manager: Brad Wellmen

From:

Rhys Byrne  
Bobby Mason  
Charlee Jackson  
Mason Hall  
Rob Girdlestone  
Michael Finneran  
Billy Firman  
Callum Sturgess  
Reiss Chandler  
Tobi Tinubu  
Odei Martin Sorondo  
Luca Albon  
Joe Paxman  
Elliott Ronto  
Jamie Salmon  
Conor Hubble  
Callum Boylan  
Danny Parish  
Evans Kouassi  
Bradley Sach

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Matthew Fletcher

Assistant Referees:

Zak Demetriades & Colman O'Meara

## NEXT AT THE QEII

**Horsham**

Tuesday 27th September 2022 @ 7.45pm  
Pitching In Isthmian Premier Division



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