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FA Vase
Second Qualifying Round

Swaffham Town

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Welcome to Mundford Road, home of the 'Brecklanders'

We wish you a good afternoon and welcome you to Thetford for today's Isuzu F.A. Vase, Second Qualifying Round match against Swaffham Town.

We welcome their players, management, committee and their supporters and we hope they have an enjoyable evening here at the Recreation Ground.

We also welcome this afternoon's match officials and ask that they are treated with respect both during and after the game.

Please help us make your visit and enjoyable experience by abiding by the FA Respect rules and the league's Keep It Down campaign.

Swaffham Town play their trade in Division One North of the Thurlow Nunn League where they are currently sitting bottom, we wish them well in the league campaign and fingers crossed they can pull away from the relegation positions.

Thetford is a club run by volunteers. To help the club flourish we need support from the local community.

The club run a 100 club, where for just £2 a square per month you could win a monthly cash prize as well as raising money for the club. The 100 club is well supported and always welcomes extra participants. Please contact Bob Richards on his email address (bob_richards@sky.com) for more details.

Thetford Town require extra volunteers to help keep the club running effectively.

There are numerous roles available which can enable you to develop skills and help the club. If you would like to join our team of volunteers then please contact club secretary Laura Denniss on email l.denniss@yahoo.co.uk

We club run a Thetford Town Saturday Soccer School with coaching for children aged 4-7 on the Thetford Town pitch on a Saturday morning. For more information please contact Nigel Armes on 07778 929202.

We are away this coming Tuesday to Lakenheath in the League Challenge Cup, 3rd Round, your support would be most welcome, it is the normal 7.45pm kick-off.

Enjoy today's game and have a safe trip back to your homes later.

Thetford Town Committee

Follow us on our website : www.thetfordtownfootballclub.com



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The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a river. The water is dark and has some white foam or rapids. On the right bank, there are trees with bare branches, suggesting a cooler season. In the distance, a house is visible through the trees. The overall tone is somewhat muted and natural.

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Club Officials For The 2024/25 Season

GROUND : Recreation Ground - Mundford Road - Thetford - Norfolk.

TELEPHONE NUMBER : 07764 943 461

CHAIRMAN : Nigel Armes

VICE CHAIRMAN : Glenn Scott

SECRETARY : Laura Denniss - l.denniss@yahoo.com

FIXTURE SECRETARY : Alan Churchley - fatalfie2002@yahoo.com

TREASURER : Darren Iles

WELFARE OFFICER : Nigel Tyler

YOUTH LIASON : Laura Denniss

MEDIA : Daren Iles

MANAGEMENT FOR 2023/24 SEASON

1ST TEAM MANAGER : Matt Morton

COACH : John Taylor

ASSISTANT COACH : Colin Rodgers

UNDER 23s TEAM MANAGER : Craig Bibby

UNDER 18s MANAGER : Michael & Simon

LADIES MANAGER : Luke Pickford

Thetford Town Football club Youth Managers & Coaches and all contact details can be found on our club website

WEB SITE ADDRESS : www.thetfordtownfootballclub.com

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Eastern Region Womens Football League

Norfolk Combined Youth Football League

Norfolk Womens and Girls Football League

MAJOR HONOURS TO DATE

Norfolk Senior Cup Winners: 1947/48, 1990/91

Norfolk Senior Cup Runners Up : 1981/82, 2011/12. 2018/19.

Norfolk & Suffolk League Champions : 1954/55

Jewson League Runners Up : 1989/90

Ridgeons League Division One Runners-Up : 2011/12

Anglian Combination Division 4 Champions : 1995/96

Fen Regis Shield Winners : 1995/96, 1996/97

Ladies Norfolk League and Cup Winners : 2000/01

Thurlow Nunn Challenge Cup Finalists : 2010/11, 2017/18

John Savage County Cup Winners : 2014/15



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1st Team Results and Forthcoming Fixtures For 2024/25

DATE	K.O.	OPPONENTS	H/A	COMP	RESULT
27/07/24	3.00pm	Brantham Athletic	Away	League	W 2 - 0
30/07/24	7.45pm	Great Yarmouth Town	Home	League	L 1 - 3
03/08/24	3.00pm	Ipswich Wanderers	Home	FAC EPR	D 0 - 0
06/08/24	7.45pm	Ipswich Wanderers	Away	FAC EPRr	L 0 - 1
13/08/24	7.45pm	Soham Town Rangers	Away	League	L 0 - 4
17/08/24	3.00pm	Long Melford	Away	League	W 6 - 0
24/08/24	3.00pm	Woodbridge Town	Away	League	L 0 - 1
27/08/24	7.45pm	Harleston Town	Home	League	W 2 - 0
31/08/24	3.00pm	Heacham	Away	League	W 2 - 1
03/09/24	7.45pm	Walsham Le Willows	Home	League	W 4 - 1
07/09/24	3.00pm	Stowmarket Town	Away	League	D 3 - 3
14/09/24	3.00pm	Cornard United	Home	League	W 6 - 1
21/09/24	3.00pm	Swoffham Town	Home	FAV 2QR	
24/09/24	7.45pm	Lakenheath	Away	LCC 3R	
28/09/24	3.00pm	Kirkley & Pakefield	Away	League	
01/10/24	7.45pm	Walsham Le Willows	Away	League	
05/10/24	3.00pm	Sheringham	Home	League	
08/10/24	7.45pm	Fakenham Town	Home	NSC 2R	
12/10/24	3.00pm	Hadleigh United	Home	League	
19/10/24	3.00pm	Ely City	Away	League	
26/10/24	3.00pm	Mulbarton Wanderers	Home	League	
02/11/24	3.00pm	Downham Town	Home	League	
09/11/24	3.00pm	Great Yarmouth Town	Away	League	
16/11/24	3.00pm	Heacham	Home	League	
23/11/24	3.00pm	Kirkley & Pakefield	Home	League	
30/11/24	3.00pm	Harleston Town	Away	League	
07/12/24	3.00pm	Woodbridge Town	Home	League	
14/12/24	3.00pm	Soham Town Rangers	Home	League	
21/12/24	3.00pm	Cornard United	Away	League	
26/12/24	11.00am	Lakenheath	Away	League	
28/12/24	3.00pm	Dereham Town	Home	League	
04/01/25	3.00pm	Stowmarket Town	Home	League	
11/01/25	3.00pm	Downham Town	Away	League	
18/01/25	3.00pm	Long Melford	Home	League	
25/01/25	3.00pm	Fakenham Town	Away	League	
01/02/25	3.00pm	Dereham Town	Away	League	
08/02/25	3.00pm	Brantham Athletic	Home	League	
22/02/25	3.00pm	Sheringham	Away	League	
01/03/25	3.00pm	Ely City	Home	League	
22/03/25	3.00pm	Mulbarton Wanderers	Away	League	
29/03/25	3.00pm	Fakenham Town	Home	League	
19/04/25	3.00pm	Hadleigh United	Away	League	
21/04/25	3.00pm	Lakenheath	Home	League	

League - Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division ♦ FAV - FA Vase
 FAC - F.A. Cup ♦ LCC - League Cup ♦ NSC - Norfolk Senior Cup



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Thurlow Nunn League - Premier Division

		PL	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Walsham Le Willows	11	7	0	4	4	21
2	Thetford Town	10	6	1	3	12	19
3	Fakenham Town	9	6	1	2	9	19
4	Dereham Town	9	6	1	2	6	19
5	Ely City	9	6	0	3	9	18
6	Great Yarmouth Town	7	5	1	1	7	16
7	Woodbridge Town	10	5	1	4	0	16
8	Mulbarton Wanderers	8	5	0	3	8	15
9	Brantham Athletic	8	5	0	3	5	15
10	Hadleigh United	9	5	0	4	3	15
11	Soham Town Rangers	8	3	3	2	5	12
12	Downham Town	6	4	0	2	4	12
13	Kirkley & Pakefield	11	3	3	5	-5	12
14	Stowmarket Town	8	2	1	5	-7	7
15	Cornard United	8	2	1	5	-10	7
16	Harleston Town	7	1	2	4	-6	5
17	Long Melford	9	1	2	6	-16	5
18	Lakenheath	8	0	4	4	-9	4
19	<i>Heacham</i>	9	1	1	7	-12	4
20	Sheringham	6	1	0	5	-7	3



Isuzu F.A. Vase Matches This Afternoon (League Clubs)

Brantham Athletic	VS	Sawbridgeworth Town
Brimsdown	VS	Wormley Rovers
Buckhurst Hill	VS	Newbury Forest
Clapham Community	VS	Hoddesdon Town
Coggeshall Town	VS	Barkingside
FC Romania	VS	Cornard United
Framlingham Town	VS	Dereham Town
Great Yarmouth Town	VS	Eynesbury Rovers
Hadleigh United	VS	Harlow Town
Halstead Town	VS	Haverhill Borough
Harleston Town	VS	Heacham
Harwich & Parkeston	VS	Rayleigh Town
March Town United	VS	Mulbarton Wanderers
St Neots Town	VS	Downham Town
Stansted	VS	Burnham Ramblers
Shirebrook Town	VS	Holbeach United
Stowmarket Town	VS	Histon
Woodbridge Town	VS	Whittlesey Athletic
Yaxley	VS	Kirkley & Pakefield



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Swaffham Town – History in Brief

The club itself was founded in 1892 and had a rather successful start getting to the final of the Norfolk Junior Cup two years later, the club continued through the years until its next highpoint in 1951-1952 where the Junior Cup home was bought home after winning it for two consecutive years, capping off the historical era of the club on a high.

The modern era of the club as we know it today started back in 1959 where club legends such as Bob Tuttle, Albert Hudson and Gurney Titmarsh amongst others, purchased the land on behalf of the club for as little as £250.00.

Swaffham Town Football Club has been built and is continued to be looked after by dedicated local family volunteers, who live in the town and surrounding villages and it's safe to say we are proud of the legacy left behind of those still with us and those who unfortunately are not.

The original club house itself was located further up the pitch and was a relatively small building containing changing rooms and a tiny area to have a tea after the match.

I'm told one of the standout memories of the old club house was the communal team bath that took the whole game to fill up. As time passed the club grew and it was decided to relocate the clubhouse to its position today, at the bottom of the infamous slope.

This took place after the late 60's and into the 70's and the works were again completed by local families such as the Leadbetters, Tuttle's, Palmer's, Hudson's, Ward's and the Titmarsh's and it's safe to say that they did a fantastic job.

The club joined the Anglian Combination and won Division Two in 1973–74. In 1990 they were promoted to Division One of the Eastern Counties League. After winning the division in 2001–02 they were promoted to the Premier Division.

However, they finished bottom of the Premier Division in their first season, and were relegated back to Division One.

The club remained in Division One until the end of the 2014–15 season, when they were promoted after finishing as runners-up.

The club progressed throughout the coming years and became the stable senior outfit it is today, drifting between the two divisions in the then Jewson league and the Thurlow Nunn league as it is known to date under managers such as Lucian Hodgkinson and Paul Hunt.

Throughout those years' memorable characters such as, Jock, Stuart Seales, David Leadbetter, Mark Blockwell and David Spalding have put on the famous black and white stripes.

In 2016–17 Swaffham finished bottom of the Premier Division, and were relegated to Division One.

They were moved to Division One North as part of league reorganisation in 2018, and went on to win the Division One North title in 2018–19, earning promotion back to the Premier Division.

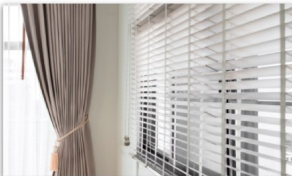
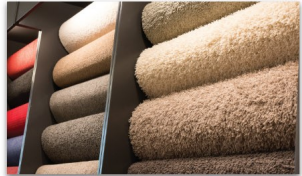
In the 2021/22 season the club struggled once again and finished bottom of the Premier Division and were relegated back to the Division one North.

The 2022/23 season saw them finish in 14th place, winning 9 off their league matches and the following season they finished they finished 3rd from bottom and in a relegation place but with other teams withdrawing from the league and the FA re-structuring we maintain our place in the Division One North.



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A Few Lines On The F.A. Vase

The FA Vase effectively replaced The FA Amateur Cup in 1974.

In that year The FA Council had decided to abolish the official distinction between amateur and professional footballers and this meant the end of The Amateur Cup and Amateur Internationals involving England.

In its first season 220 clubs entered, but they did not include those that had dominated in The Amateur Cup. Enfield, Hendon, Dagenham, Skelmersdale United and others at their level were immediately allocated to The FA Trophy.

For the first time in history, small clubs – even village clubs – had the chance of playing in a national final at Wembley.

The first Vase finalists were Hoddesdon Town from the Spartan League and Epsom & Ewell from the Surrey Senior League. The Hertfordshire side edged home 2-1 before a crowd of 9,000.

Even a competition as democratic as The Vase had its elite clubs in the early years. Billericay Town, initially of the Essex Senior League, won it three times in four seasons. Halesowen Town, then in the West Midlands Regional League, appeared in three Finals and were successful in two. They even beat a Southall side that had a young Les Ferdinand leading the attack.

Until the new Wembley opened in 2007 the record attendance for a Vase Final was the 26,489 who saw the drawn 1989 Final between Sudbury Town and Tamworth at the old Wembley. Tamworth won the replay 3-0 at Peterborough and Ian Moores, a former Division One player with Tottenham Hotspur, scored one of the goals.

The 2013-14 Vase competition was the 40th in history. Wembley had hosted 34 Finals, Villa Park and St Andrews two each, Upton Park and White Hart Lane one each. Thirty-two different clubs have got their hands on The Vase, donated by former FA Councillor Frank Adams. Whitley Bay lead the way with four wins.

Aficionados of The Vase competition tend to rate the 1992 Final between Wimborne Town and Guiseley as the best so far. Wessex League Wimborne had a modest record in the competition before then, having never ventured beyond the third round, but they embarked on a spectacular journey that took them all the way from the first round to the Final. A goal down after 14 minutes at Wembley, the Dorset side fought back to win 5-3.

When The Vase Final returned to Wembley, a record 36,232 fans saw Truro City beat AFC Totton 3-1. Whitley Bay, the 2002 winners, achieved a sensational hat-trick of Final victories from 2009 to 2011.

The Northern League's dominance continued for two more seasons, with success for Dunston UTS and Spennymoor Town before Sholing, then Wessex League champions, got their name engraved. North Shields then came from behind to win the first Final to go to extra time since 2001-02.

In 2015-16 Wembley Stadium staged the first Non-League Finals Day, which saw both the Vase and the Trophy decided back-to-back in front of almost 47,000 fans. Morpeth Town came from behind to stun Hereford 4-1 with 45-year-old Chris Swailes on the scoresheet to win the Vase with a third different club.

The 2024 winners were Romford, who beat Great Wakering Rovers 3–0 at Wembley Stadium.



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F.A. Vase Dates, Prize Money & Latest Winners

ROUND DATES FOR THE 2024/25 ISUZU F.A. VASE

ROUND	DATE
First Round Qualifying	Saturday 24 August 2024
Second Round Qualifying	Saturday 21 September 2024
First Round Proper	Saturday 19 October 2024
Second Round Proper	Saturday 9 November 2024
Third Round Proper	Saturday 7 December 2024
Fourth Round Proper	Saturday 11 January 2025
Fifth Round Proper	Saturday 1 February 2025
Sixth Round Proper	Saturday 1 March 2025
Semi Final 1st Leg	Saturday 29 March 2025
Semi Final 2nd Leg	Saturday 5 April 2025
Final	Saturday 10 or Sunday 11 May 2025

PRIZE MONEY FOR WINNERS & LOSERS FOR 2024/25

ROUND	WINNING CLUB	LOSING CLUB
First Round Qualifying	£550	£160
Second Round Qualifying	£725	£225
First Round	£825	£250
Second round	£900	£275
Third Round	£1,125	£350
Fourth Round	£1,875	£600
Fifth Round	£2,250	£725
Sixth Round	£4,125	£1,350
Semi-Final	£5,500	£1,725
Final	£30,000	£15,000

RECENT WINNERS OF THE F.A. VASE

2024	Romford	3 v 0	Great Wakering Rovers
2023	Ascot	1 v 0	Newport Pagnell Town
2022	Newport Pagnell Town	3 v 0	Littlehampton Town
2021	Warrington Rylands	3 v 2	Binfield
2020	Hebburn Town	3 v 0	Consett

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1st Team Stats For The 2024/25 Season

	PLAYER	APPEARANCES	GOALS	YC	RD	STARTED
1	Bond, Sam	10		1		10
2	Davies, Santiago	4				
3	Dickerson, Ryan	7				7
4	Diggens, George	10	6			10
5	Gilchrist, Daniel	8	5			4
6	Grove, Dylan	8	1			7
7	Haylett, Ryan	4	1	1		4
8	King, Cameron	9	4			8
9	Laker, Adam	9	1			9
10	Twomey, Liam	5				
11	Lott, Harvey	8	1	1		2
12	Lott, Jaydyn	10				10
13	Mann, Jake	9	3	3		9
14	Money, Kieran	9	1	1		9
15	Olpin, Callum	8		1		6
16	Reynolds, Marley	3				
17	Smith, Elliot	9	3			7
18	Smith, Thomas	3				3
19	Wells, Joshua	6				5
20	Wright, Malachi	5				

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Match Report v Cornard United

Thetford Town 6 v 1 Cornard United **Report by James Redman - 14th September 2024** Thurlow Nunn Premier Division Attendance - 150

Goals:

Thetford Town: Smith - 15', Gilchrist - 18' & 31', King - 42', Diggens - 45' & Gilchrist - 48'
Cornard United: Hughes - 53'

This Saturday afternoon saw Thetford Town host the newly promoted Cornard United. Cornard having had a tricky start to the season, securing 7 points from 7 games so far, however they did beat high flying Fakenham Town 3-0 in the FA Cup, and Stowmarket Town 5-1 away from home, also in the FA Cup, therefore they can be a dangerous side when they turn it on. Thetford Town sat 3rd before kick-off, but having played more games than a lot of teams below them, this looks an artificial position for now, therefore 3-points were vital to keep the pressure on at the top.

It was a cool yet sunny and still afternoon, once again perfect footballing weather, with the Mundford Road grass looking in great condition, one of the best in the league for sure.

Before the game, chairman Nigel Armes thanked PES Consultancy who had kindly donated goal-keeping gloves to the club, followed by an introduction to a cohort of ex-Thetford Town players who were at the game today.

In front of what was a decent sized crowd, Thetford Town lined up in their claret and blue, with Cornard United in a blue strip.

KEY MOMENTS

TT = Thetford Town CU = Cornard United

8' - TT - Cornard keeper Kellett-Green travels out to collect ball on the far back left edge of the box, he fumbles under-pressure and Diggens pounces on the ball, from a narrow angle he flashes in a shot, a sliding block from a Cornard defender turns the ball out for a corner.

12' - TT - Quick break, Gilchrist slots Diggens through, coming in off the right, his shot from just outside the box is pulled, but deflects off a defender for a corner.

14' - TT - King sends Diggens down the right, he takes the ball to the byline and chips the ball over Kellett-Green and to the far-post, the oncoming Gilchrist volleys from point-blank range, but the effort is blocked off the line, excellent move from Thetford, winding up nicely into this game.

15' - TT - GOAL (1-0) - Thetford finally get the deserved opening goal, an incisive pass from King splits the Cornard defence and sends Elliot Smith through on goal, and he makes no mistake to calmly slot the ball in, neat well worked goal from Thetford.

18' - TT - GOAL (2-0) - A quick-fire second from Thetford, amazing interplay between Gilchrist and Diggens inside the box, a 1-2 with first touch passes, and Gilchrist finishes the move, sliding the ball into the net, great skills on show for that one!

22' - TT - Another swift move, King shuffles the ball out to Diggens down the right, he takes the ball into the box and gets past the first defender, but finding himself surrounded he manages to square the ball into King who blasts wide from close range, everyone was expecting that one to go in!

29' - CU - Big chance for the visitors to peg one back, a throw-in goes to Louie Arnold on the byline, he manages to step past the defender and square the ball into the box, Berkane is open but fires his effort harmlessly over the bar, should have done better.

31' - TT - GOAL (3-0) - After the goal-scare, Thetford in clinical fashion fire in a 3rd to give them a bit of a cushion. In another fast attack, a slide rule pass from King puts Gilchrist through down the left, he takes the ball into the box and from a narrow angle he manages to steer is past Kellett-Green, brilliant finish.

Continued.....



Match Report v Cornard United - Continued

36' - TT - Gilchrist, King and Diggens link up, spreading the ball across the box, Diggens shoots from the left, his effort beats the diving Kellett-Green but hits the post, and he cannot turn in the follow-up, Kellett-Green scrambling across to make the save.

42' - TT - GOAL (4-0) - Fantastic goal from King. He starts off the move, a short corner to Gilchrist, Gilchrist waits for the run of King and fending off the defender slots him through, King charges into the box and powers the ball full-force into the roof of the net, never gets old watching Cameron King score goals like that!

45' - TT - GOAL (5-0) - Thetford find the time to net an unbelievable 5th before the break. From the left, Laker whips a ball across goal, coming in from the right, Diggens hits a first time volley, the connection is sweet and the ball beats Kellett-Green at his near post, what a cross and what a hit, sublime.

45'+1' - TT - Just before the break, King plays Gilchrist through, but his effort is saved, no first half hattrick for the Thetford Town striker, but a corner secured.

48' - TT - GOAL (6-0) - Shortly after the break, Gilchrist finally gets his hattrick! A perfect ball over from Money picks out Gilchrist, the timing of the run is perfect and he strides through alone, rounding Kellett-Green and taping the ball into the open net, fine performance from Dan and well deserved.

53' - CU - GOAL (6-1) - Cornard peg one back, good corner from substitute Lindoe, who looked sharp when he came on, the ball swings into the far-post, Thetford fail to deal with it and Hughes smashes home from close range.

61' - CU - Louie Arnold hits a vicious shot from outside the box, Dickerson gets his fingertips to the ball, enough to push it onto the crossbar and out!

65' - TT - King shrugs off a late challenge and plays Gilchrist through, just as he shoots, Hughes gets across to make a fine block, the ball spinning out for a corner.

67' - CU - Deep cross from Cornard, Berkane is open in the middle but only manages to guide his header straight at Dickerson for a comfortable save.

90' - TT - Laker has a crack from 25yds, it is hit well and dipping causing Kellett-Green to spill, it falls to Thetford captain Sam Bond on the left, he tries to beat the keeper at his near post, but the side-footed effort is just the wrong side of the woodwork, such a shame, would have been great to see Bondy bag a goal!

That was not how I was expecting that one to go, an unreal first-half performance from Thetford Town saw them completely blow away their opposition with fast, skilful and accurate attacking play that they could simply not compete with. The range and quality of the goals was unbelievable, was a real joy to watch, absolute bargain for only £5 today!

The second half was always going to be a different affair, with Thetford lowering the tempo and making 5 substitutions as they saw the game out. Cornard of course made more chances in the 2nd half, and fair play, they probably did enough to score at least another goal, but were unable to as Thetford cruised over the line to victory, putting them up to 2nd in the latest standings! Brilliant performances across the park from Thetford Town, the through balls and the running were sublime, but I have to mention Dan Gilchrist who bagged his hat-trick and got an assist which should be a big confidence booster, as well as our talisman Cameron King who scored one and had two assists to his name and our ever-present captain who defended valiantly and nearly got on the score sheet. The team has a nice shape and balance at the moment, long may it continue.

UP THE TOWN!!!

THETFORD TOWN: Ryan Dickerson, Josh Wells, Jaydyn Lott, Adam Laker, Sam Bond, Cameron King, Elliot Smith, Dylan Grove, George Diggens, Kieran Money, Dan Gilchrist.
SUBS: Malachi Wright, Marley Reynolds, Santi Davies, Callum Olpin, Harvey Lott.





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In & Around This Date In Football - 21st September

20th September 2008

Well, before the days of VAR ghost goals or phantom goals were a feature of football that caused many a discussion and argument as to whether a goal should have or shouldn't have been awarded. But if you attended the League match between Watford and Reading on 20th September 2008 there was just general amazement about the awarding of a 'goal'.. In the 13th minute of the Championship fixture Watford defender John Eustace put the ball out of play for a corner when being challenged by Reading striker Noel Hunt. But despite the ball having gone out of play yards outside the goalpost and to the astonishment of everyone in the 14,761 Vicarage Road crowd linesman Nigel Bannister flagged it as a goal. Watford protested – their manager Aidy Boothroyd was sent to the stands for protesting too much - but referee Stuart Attwell upheld the decision and a goal for Reading it was. The match ended 2-2 with that 'goal' going down as a Eustace OG.

20th September 2011

When fans of Turkish side Fenerbahçe invaded the pitch in a pre-season friendly against Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk the Istanbul club expected to be playing behind closed doors for a while as a punishment. Instead the Turkish FA ordered that a match be played with no males over the age of 12 being allowed entry. So on 20th September 2011 a crowd of 41,000 women and children were present for Fenerbahçe's League match with Manisaspor. Players from both clubs flew flowers to the fans before the match - you just can't see that happening at Millwall !! - and no crowds problems followed in the 1-1 draw.

21st September 1949

England were beaten for the first time on home soil by a foreign country. The Republic of Ireland won 2-0 at Everton's Goodison Park.

21st September 1983

Pat Jennings became the first Irishman to win 100 international caps when helping Northern Ireland to a 3-1 victory over Austria in a Euro qualifier in Belfast.

21st September 1985

Charlton Athletic beat Stoke 2-0 in front of an 8,858 crowd who witnessed the clubs' last match before a period of exile from their home ground, The Valley. Money problems, sadly. There were ground-shares with Crystal Palace and West Ham before Charlton finally returned home in 1992.

21st September 1994

Gary Lineker announced that he would be retiring from playing football after picking up a toe injury while playing for Nagoya Grampus Eight in Japan and would be joining the BBC. Not a bad couple of careers for someone whose final school report read 'Must devote less of his time to sport if he wants to be a success.' .

22nd September 1971

Leeds United were once one of the top sides in Europe...honestly! When the UEFA Cup replaced the Fairs Cup at the start of the 1971/72 season UEFA invited the two clubs with the best records in the Fairs Cup to play-off for the honour of keeping the old trophy. One was Barcelona, who won the first Fairs Cup final in 1958, with the other being Leeds who had defeated Juventus to win the last Fairs Cup final in 1971. On 22nd September 1971 in front of 35,000 at the Nou Camp Leeds were beaten 2-1 by Barcelona.

22nd September 1984

In a first Division fixture at Loftus Road visiting Newcastle United were 4-0 up against QPR at half-time. It was 5-5 at the final whistle!.

22nd September 2005

Jonathan Woodgate didn't make the best of debuts for Real Madrid following his move from Newcastle – he scored an own goal and was sent off against Athletic Bilbao.



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Let's Introduce The Two Squads

Thetford Town

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Ryan Dickerson (GK)
Santi Davies
Sam Bond
Adam Laker
Ryan Haylett
Josh Wells
Dan Gilchrist
Malachi Wright
Elliott Smith
Jake Mann
Cameron King
George Diggins
Callum Olpin
Kieran Money
Dylan Grove
Liam Levy Twomey
Harvey Lott
Jaydyn Lott
Matt Morton

Swaffham Town

Kieran Bruce
Luke Coldham
Neil Goodbourn
Freddie Hailstone-Todd
James Karanicolas
Ika Kortua
Charlie Lambe
Gino Livoti
Ethan Lloyd-Patrick
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Let's Meet Our 'Brecklanders' For 2024/25

Tom Smith - Goalkeeper who signed from UEA and became the regular keeper in his first season. Now entering his 3rd season at the club, rated as one of the best keepers in the league.

Sam Bond - Team captain, long serving defender who plays right back or centre half. Always gives 100% every game. A favourite with both sets of fans and referees !!!!.

Elliot Smith - Normally plays in midfield but can also play at Centre half. A great tackler who rarely loses a 50/50. Also represents the RAF team.

Dan Gilchrist - Striker who was previously with AFC Sudbury and Bury Town. Another player entering his 3rd full season with the Town. Was the leagues top scorer in his first full season.

Cam King - Midfielder, A former Scotland U21 international. Cam returned to the club after stints at Shamrock Rovers and King's Lynn. Had a great season creating chances for his team mates and scoring goals as well. On his day worth the entry fee just to watch him.

Jake Mann - Plays in centre midfield good tackler and passer of the ball also chips in with his share of goal.

Adam Laker - Signed 3 seasons ago from Mildenhall Town and was a regular last season playing in several positions but mainly at right back. Can also get the odd spectacular goal.

George Diggins - Signed from Sheringham 2 season ago. He has formed a great partnership up front with Dan Gilchrist.

Kieran Money - Talented midfielder. Likes to get forward and scores his share of goals. Last seasons supporters player of the season.

Ryan Haylett - Highly rated full back who became a fans favourite with his tough tackling and attacking play up the wing.

Callum Olpin - Joined on a permanent deal from Wroxham last season after a loan spell. Had a great season and was voted managers and players player of season.

Dylan Grove - Can play left wing or left back with bags of pace and skill, this is his second season at Town.

Malachi Wright - Youngster who broke into the first team end of last season.

Josh Wells - Skilful defender who returns to the club after spells with Middlesbrough, Lakenheath and Newmarket Town.

Santi Davis - Youngster who spent end of last season at Long Melford to gain some first team experience, great to have him back. Looking to get a regular start this season.

Matt Morton - Former Town player now manager. Has gradually improved the team over his time in charge with a 2nd and 4th finish in last 2 seasons.

John Taylor - First team coach with lots of experience. He is a legend at Cambridge Utd where he made over 500 league appearances, scoring over 150 goals. Is a great asset to the club.

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THE ECL FROM 1948 to 1958 - THE GOLDEN YEARS

Extracts taken from The Eastern Counties Football League History by Mick Blakeman

While it may not be very original to refer to football in the post-war era as 'The Golden Years', it is difficult to look back at the ECL in that period and think of it in any other terms.

In its early years, the league had faced a series of challenges and having come through with flying colours, was then ready to thrive in the boom created by the spirit of post-war optimism.

The 1948 influx of the 'A' teams of some of London's leading Football League clubs raised ECL standards both on and off the field and over the next few years, many of the formerly purely amateur clubs began to employ professionals in increasing numbers, both as players and as coaches.

Interest was at record levels and today, clubs can only look in envy at the gates on the opening day of the 1949-50 season.

Bury Town v Colchester United Reserves - attendance 1800

Chelmsford City Reserves v Arsenal 'A' - 4800

Gillingham Reserves v Chelsea 'A' - 4600

Harwich & Parkeston v Newmarket Town - 1500

Kings Lynn v Gorleston - 5300

Lowestoft Town v Ipswich Town 'A' - 4000

Tottenham Hotspurs 'A' v West Ham United 'A' - 3700

To emphasise the point further, in 1954-55 Cambridge United finished 4th in the ECL, watched by an average home attendance of 3013, a higher figure than in at least half-a-dozen of their later season in the Football League.

Reserves and 'A' Teams figured strongly in the list of league champions for the period but both Gorleston and Kings Lynn added their names to the roll of honour while Clacton, Cambridge United, Yarmouth, Spalding and March were amongst those whose title chances could rarely be discounted.

The number of different clubs with a chance of winning the league obviously helped the level of interest while the overall improvement in the standards of play was perhaps best demonstrated by the increase in success in the F.A. Cup.

In the 30 years immediately before the formation of the ECL, only Lowestoft, Chelmsford and Harwich (once each) had ever reached the competition Proper. In the ECL's first 6 completed seasons, between 1935 and 1948 four clubs (again once each) could claim that distinction but in the 10 seasons covered by the 'Golden Years' the league was represented in the First Round 11 times and in the Second Round, 3 times.

Both Yarmouth and Cambridge United beat Football League opposition for the first time ever and Gorleston almost did the same in a three game epic with Leyton Orient.

When you also consider that in 1953 Harwich & Parkeston played in front of a 100,000 crowd at Wembley in the F.A. Amateur Cup Final against Pegasus, it is difficult to argue with the statement that these were indeed the golden years.

The next article - THE ECL FROM 1958 to 1964 - TURBULENT TIMES AHEAD

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Under 23s & U18s Round-Up Page - Season 2024/25

THURLOW NUNN U23s LEAGUE - NORTH DIVISION

	PL	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Ipswich Wanderers U23	3	2	1	0	5	7
2 Soham Town Rangers U23	2	2	0	0	6	6
3 Woodbridge Town U23	2	2	0	0	3	6
4 Framlingham Town U23	3	2	0	1	0	6
5 Diss Town U23	2	1	1	0	1	4
6 Whitton United U23	1	1	0	0	1	3
7 Lakenheath U23	2	0	1	1	-1	1
8 Needham Market U23	3	0	1	2	-6	1
9 Thetford Town U23	2	0	0	2	-3	0
10 Walsham Le Willows U23	2	0	0	2	-3	0
11 Stowmarket Town U23	2	0	0	2	-3	0

NEXT FOUR FIXTURES - SEASON 2024/25

Date	Opponents	H/A	Comp	Kick-Off
24/09/24	Feltwell United	Home	NJC 1R	7.45pm
28/09/24	Diss Town U23	Home	League	3.00pm
05/10/24	Stowmarket Town U23	Away	League	3.00pm
19/10/24	Walsham Le Willows U23	Home	League	3.00pm

THURLOW NUNN YOUTH LEAGUE - CAMBRIDGE DIVISION - 2024/25

	PL	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Bury Town U18	3	3	0	0	9	9
2 Walsham Le Willows U18	2	2	0	0	10	6
3 Swaffham Town U18	3	1	1	1	-6	4
4 Newmarket Town U18	2	1	0	1	1	3
5 Personal Best Soccer U18	3	1	0	2	3	3
6 Sporting 87 U18	3	1	0	2	2	3
7 Lakenheath U18	2	0	1	1	-5	1
8 Downham Town U18	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Thetford Town U18	2	0	0	2	-14	0

NEXT FOUR FIXTURES - SEASON 2024/25

Date	Opponents	H/A	Comp	Kick-Off
26/09/24	Swaffham Town U18	Away	League	7.45pm
02/10/24	Walsham Le Willows U18	Home	League	7.45pm
22/10/24	Lakenheath U18	Away	League	7.45pm
07/11/24	Walsham Le Willows U18	Away	League	7.45pm

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Thetford Ladies Up-Date Page - Season 2024/25

The Thetford Town Ladies team are an established football team, who are continuing to grow and develop. we play in the Eastern Region Women's Football League Division 1 North. The team are managed by Manager - Luke Pickford and Assistant Manager - Amber Browne.

TTLFC is a team which welcomes players from all over Norfolk and Suffolk, from ages 16+. New players are welcome at any point, and if interested, please contact the club or management team.

Thetford Town Ladies are an ambitious and keen footballing group, and would welcome any new players on board.

With a 3 year plan put in place and continuous support from the club, the ladies team have targets and goals set out to achieve.

If you'd like to continue to follow the TTLFC further and keep an eye on upcoming games and news, then please check out our Twitter page

EASTERN REGION WOMENS LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE NORTH - 2024/25

	PL	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Harpenden Town Women	4	4	0	0	9	12
2 AFC Dunstable Women	4	3	1	0	9	10
3 Histon Ladies	4	3	1	0	7	10
4 Wootton Blue Cross Women	5	3	0	2	8	9
5 Mulbarton Wanderers Ladies	4	2	1	1	1	7
6 Real Bedford Ladies Reserves	4	2	0	2	8	6
7 Whittlesey Athletic Ladies	4	2	0	2	-2	6
8 Newmarket Town Ladies	4	1	2	1	4	5
9 Stevenage Women Development	4	1	0	3	-8	3
10 Thetford Town Ladies	4	1	0	3	-9	3
11 Biggleswade United Ladies	4	0	1	3	-5	1
12 Kings Lynn Town FC Ladies	5	0	0	5	-22	0

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES - SEASON 2024/25

Date	Opponents	H/A	Comp	Kick-Off
22/09/24	Stevenage Women Development	Away	League	2.00pm
29/09/24	Whittlesey Athletic Ladies	Home	League	2.00pm
06/10/24	Toby Ladies	Home	L Cup	1.30pm
13/10/24	Newmarket Town Ladies	Home	League	2.00pm
20/10/24	Wootton Blue Cross Ladies	Away	League	2.00pm
27/10/24	Kings Lynn Town Ladies	Home	League	2.00pm
10/11/24	Harpenden Town Women	Home	League	2.00pm

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The 'Brecklanders' Half Time Quiz

1. How many teams make up the Vanarama National League ?
2. Which League Two club is based in Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire ?
3. Which club played at a ground called 'The Nest' until they moved to their current ground in 1935
4. Which Welsh club was formally known as Riverside AFC before changing its name in 1908 ?
5. Who are the current sponsors of the English Football League ?
6. How many seasons had the Premier League been going at the end of the 2023/24 season ?
7. Everton had points deducted last season, there are only two other clubs to have had points deducted whilst in the Premier League, name them ?
8. On the 5th December 2023 which Premier League Manager was sacked from his position, being the first to be sacked in the Premier League.
9. Who was the highest scoring Englishman in the 2023/24 season ?
10. Which Premier League club had the fewest yellow cards in the 2023/24 season ?

Answers to Half-Time Quiz Below



The 'Brecklanders' Half Time Quiz - Answers

1. 24
2. Grimsby Town
3. Norwich City
4. Cardiff City
5. Sky Bet
6. 32 years
7. Middlesbrough (96/97) & Portsmouth (09/10)
8. Paul Heckingbottom
9. Cole Palmer (22)
10. Manchester City (52)





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We Met Have Met Swaffham Town Before - 2016/17

Tuesday 12th August 2016

Thurlow Nunn Premier Division

Swaffham Town 0
Thetford Town 2

Swaffham Town - Alphabetically

Mark Allibone
Nick Castellan
Ben Champion
Jahy Chima
Scott Cruickshank
Ashley Keegan
Toby Millward
Jake Platten
Aaron Porter
Daniel Tindall
Alex Vincent

Subs:

Matthew Blackford Used
Ben Harris Used
Sam Loomes Used
Sary Rahma
Aaron Watson

Thetford Town - Alphabetically

Luke Bailey
Ross Bailey
Kingsley Barnes
Sam Bond
Johnny Conroy
Cameron King Goal
Alex McIntosh
George O'Mahoney
Ryan Pearson
Robbie Priddle Goal
Ryan Sanders YC

Subs:

Jordan Attree Used
Dave Coomber-Willis
Ryan Fuller Used
Dean Mortimer Used

YC - Yellow Card / RC - Red Card

Tuesday 06th September 2016

Thurlow Nunn Premier Division

Thetford Town 3
Swaffham Town 0

Thetford Town - Alphabetically

Jordan Attree Goal
Luke Bailey
Ross Bailey
Kingsley Barnes
Sam Bond
Ryan Fuller
Cameron King Goal
Max Melanson
Alex McIntosh
Ryan Sanders Goal
Bruno Tavares

Subs:

Johnny Conroy Used
Dave Coomber-Willis Used
Robbie Priddle Used
Daniel White

Swaffham Town - Alphabetically

Mark Allibone YC
Nick Castellan
Ben Champion
Jahy Chima
Scott Cruickshank
Ashley Keegan
Toby Millward
Sary Rahma YC
James Thompson
Daniel Tindall
Alex Vincent

Subs:

Matthew Blackford Used
Aaron Porter Used
Luke Reid Used
Michael Thompson

YC - Yellow Card / RC - Red Card

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