

# CANVEY ISLAND

v

## AFC HORNCHURCH

ISTHMIAN CHARITY SHIELD | SATURDAY 28TH JULY 2018 | 15:00 KICK OFF  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 1 | £2.00  
BOSTIK NORTH PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR 2017/18





# Canvey Island Football Club

Chairman: John Batch

Directors: Gary Britnell, Vic Bryant, Billy Heale, Michael O'Brien,  
Chris Sutton, Gary Sutton, Lesley Wright, Nicholas Wright

First Team Manager: Danny Heale First Team Assistant Manager: Brad Wellmen

Goalkeeper Coach: Stacey Shave Coach: Jerrome Sobers Physio: Adam Waller

Head Groundsman: Dave Leigh Chief Steward: Gary Wickens

## Honours

Thurrock Combination League Champions: 1955/56  
Greater London League Champions: 1967/68, 1968/69  
Essex Senior League Champions: 1986/87, 1992/93  
Diadora Division 3 Runners Up: 1994/95  
ICIS League Division 2 Champions: 1995/96  
Ryman League Division 2 Champions: 1997/98  
Ryman League Division 1 Champions: 1998/99  
Ryman League Division 1 North Playoff Winners: 2007/08  
Ryman Premier League Runners Up: 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03  
Ryman Premier League Champions: 2003/04  
Thurrock Combination League Cup: 1952/53, 1955/56  
Grays and District Charity Cup: 1957/58  
Parthenon League Cup Winners: 1958/59  
Southend Charity Cup Winners: 1960/61  
Greater London League Cup Winners: 1967/68, 1968/69  
Essex Senior League Cup Winners: 1979/80, 1992/93  
Essex Senior Trophy Runners Up: 1993/94  
Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy Winners: 1993/94  
Essex Thameside Trophy Winners: 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98, 2005/06  
Essex Thameside Trophy Runners Up: 1996/97, 2007/08  
Carlton Trophy Winners: 1995/96  
Bryco Cup Runners Up: 2002/03  
Essex Senior Cup Winners: 1998/99, 1999/00, 2001/02, 2011/12  
Essex Senior Cup Runners Up: 2000/01  
FA Vase Semi-Finalists: 1992/93  
FA Vase Quarter-Finalists: 1994/95, 1995/96  
FA Cup 1st Round Proper: 1995/96, 2003/04  
FA Cup 2nd Round Proper: 2000/01  
FA Cup 3rd Round Proper: 2001/02  
FA Trophy Winners: 2000/01  
FA Trophy Runners Up: 2003/04

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The Frost Hire Stadium, Park Lane, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 7PX

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People With Significant Interest In The Club: Mr JB Batch, Mr GL Sutton, Mr MC O'Brien and Mr VH Bryant

"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association."





# WELCOME

## TO THE FROST HIRE STADIUM

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to The Frost Hire Stadium for today's Isthmian Charity Shield match against AFC Hornchurch.

We hope that the players, officials and supporters of the Urchins, along with today's match officials, enjoy their time with us this afternoon and have a safe journey home afterwards.

We would also of course like to extend a very special welcome all of the officials from the Isthmian League who will be joining us today and thank them for the honour of inviting us to take part in this showpiece fixture.

Should the scores be level after 90 minutes, today's match will go straight to penalties to decide who will be lifting the impressive shield.

### Chosen Charities

Money raised from today's match will be donated to three charities, one chosen by each club and the other by the league.

Our chosen charity is of course The Danny Green Fund who we have supported for a number of years as our official charity partner. Their mission is to raise funds to help children with Posterior Fossa Syndrome, to fund research to help find a cure and to raise awareness of this devastating disease.

AFC Hornchurch have chosen Haven House Children's Hospice who are based in Woodford Green. They strive to provide the highest quality palliative and holistic care services to babies, children and young people and their families in the local communities.

Finally, the Bostik League have The London Playing Fields Foundation who are the capital's leading body for the protection, provision and promotion of playing fields in London.

### AFC Hornchurch

Today's visitors are the reigning Bostik North champions having won the title last season. This means they will be playing Bostik Premier football this season and we wish everyone at AFC Hornchurch an

enjoyable and successful season.

Our competitive record against the Urchins reads P 28, W 14, D 4, L 10, F 41, A 32.

Last season goals from Mitchell Gilbey and Ryan Charles saw us win the home league match 2-0 in December before a late strike from Theo Fairweather-Johnson condemned us to a 1-0 defeat in the reverse fixture in March.

### Recent Results

So far we have played four pre-season friendlies, two of which resulted in victory and the other two in defeat.

We began with a 2-1 reverse at home to East Thurrock United a fortnight ago, with second half goals from Danilo Orsi-Dadomo and Gabe Kellum cancelled out Martin Tuohy's opener.

Next we took on two Bostik South East sides, firstly with a visit from VCD Athletic. We won the match 4-1 thanks to goals from Martin Tuohy (2), George Sykes and James White. We followed this up with a trip to the Kent coast to play Herne Bay, losing 2-1 with Martin Tuohy on the scoresheet once again. Our most recent outing was on Tuesday night when we beat Redbridge 4-3 in an entertaining match, goals coming from Jordan Cox (2), George Allen and a trialist. A match report from the Redbridge match can be found in today's programme along with photos by KJA Sports Images.

### Upcoming Fixtures

After today we will play two more pre-season friendlies against Bostik South East teams before kicking off our Bostik North campaign at home to Barking on Saturday 11th August. On Tuesday night Cray Wanderers are the visitors, while next Saturday we entertain Thamesmead Town. Admission for both matches is priced at £5.00 Adults, £3.00 Concessions (over-60's, students with valid ID) and £1.00 U16's.





# NICK ROBINSON

## FROM THE LEAGUE



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to everyone to this year's Charity Shield match between Canvey Island and AFC Hornchurch.

This is the 33rd holding of the Charity Shield and we have had many illustrious winners of the Shield in the past including Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town, current members of the English Football League, and Aldershot Town and Dagenham & Redbridge both former members of the EFL.

The Charity Shield was introduced in 1978 for the League Champions to play the League Cup Winners. Over the years, with reluctance of Champions, once promoted, to put out a full team against the Cup Winners we have seen Clubs reluctant to support the Competition; this, combined with Clubs wanting to charge for travelling to the match meant that the original concept could not continue. We do therefore invite the League Champions and Cup Winners to take part but if they decline then we invite what we consider to be worthy contestants to compete for the Shield. This year Billericay Town were our "double" winners and were unable to find a date for a match against any opposition so we invited AFC Hornchurch as Division North winners to compete against Canvey Island as losing Play-Off finalists. I am sure that there will be a desire by both teams to win today's match despite it being termed a "not competitive" match!

I do want to express my very grateful thanks first to Canvey Island not only for taking part in the match but also for staging the match with no cost to the League and also to AFC Hornchurch for agreeing to take part and not charging any travelling expenses.

At this stage I must mention the very sad passing of Peter Butcher who has been connected with the Isthmian League for many years and latterly had been the Club Secretary of AFC Hornchurch. The last time I saw Peter was when he was so pleased and proud to have seen his Club gain promotion back to the Premier Division as Champions and I do therefore have very happy last memories of Peter. We will hope to see back in the Hornchurch dugout today their Manager Jim McFarlane who had his own health problems last season but I hope is sufficiently recovered to take an active role this season. Let me now come round to mentioning the Charities who will benefit from the profits of today's match. What we do is to split the profits three ways, one third to go to the League's nominated charity and one third to go to each of the competing Clubs nominated charities.

The League's Charity partner for the last season has been the London Playing Fields Foundation which has done such sterling work for the protection, provision and promotion of playing fields in London. Their work fully recognises the role that



sport can play in improving health and wellbeing, bringing communities together, reducing anti-social behaviour and raised employment and educational aspirations. The League was particularly impressed with their Coping Through Football campaign which we particularly wanted to support.

AFC Hornchurch's nominated charity is the Haven House Children's Hospice based in Woodford Green. This provides local support and respite to life limited children and their families in Essex at no cost to them. The Charity has supported over 900 families looking after children and young people aged from birth to 19 years who have life limiting or life threatening conditions.

Canvey Island's nomination is the Danny Green Fund based here in Canvey Island. Danny was a fit sporty 10 year old boy who came home from school one day and said that he felt dizzy while playing football but was otherwise okay. It subsequently transpired that he had a brain tumour and had to go through operations, several courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy but sadly lost his fight for life on 25 July 2012. The Fund has been established to fund research to help find a cure as well as to raise awareness of the devastating disease to hopefully prevent other children for suffering as Danny did.

I hope you will see that we have selected three worthwhile charities and I hope that you will all give what you can to the bucket

collection to be held today so that we can make a substantial donation to each charity.

Our final thanks today are to our Match Officials. Make no mistake that this is an appointment that every Match Official is very pleased to receive and I hope that our Officials today enjoy their day. I am pleased to say that there will be no arguments over VAR in this League!

Let me conclude by saying how sorry I am that I am not able to be with you today. This is the first Charity Shield match I have missed since 1982 but I will be attending my God-daughter's wedding in Barcelona but I will be making a personal donation to the Charity Fund and I hope that you all will do likewise.

Enjoy the game,

**Nick Robinson**  
Chairman  
Bostik Football League







# DANNY HEALE

## FROM THE MANAGER



Hello everyone and welcome to The Frost Hire Stadium for today's Isthmian Charity Shield match against our friends from AFC Hornchurch. It's certainly an honour to be chosen to take part in this match and it will be a bit different to be competing for silverware this early in the season. Today will be extra special for me as I'll be in the opposite dugout to Hornchurch manager Jimmy McFarlane. Jimmy suffered a stroke last season which was terrible news to receive, but thankfully he has come through it and will be back in charge of the Urchins this season. It will take more than that to keep Jimmy away from the game and it will be great to see him and lock horns once again.

This will also be the first time we have played Hornchurch since their secretary Peter Butcher sadly past away. Peter was a popular figure in local non-league football and it's fitting that the final match he will have seen his beloved Urchins play would have been them lifting the Bostik North title. A sad loss to the game and we'll be thinking of him today.

Onto today's match and this will be a tough test against an AFC Hornchurch side who will be a little bit ahead of us in terms of fitness due to going in a week earlier. They have beaten National League South sides Concord Rangers and Dulwich Hamlet so far in pre-season and I expect them to be as strong and power-

ful as ever. Originally we were only going to be able to use three substitutes today which would not have been ideal, but thankfully this has been changed so that we can now name seven on the bench, all of whom can be used. While winning the game isn't the be all and end all, it would certainly be a confidence booster to beat last year's champions and that's what we'll be aiming to do.

Tuesday's match against Redbridge was a typical pre-season friendly on another warm evening in which the gnats were out in full force! We gave a final run out to some trialists before making our decisions as well as giving some players who have not been around as much a full 90 minutes.

We tried some new things and conceded some goals as a result, but I thought we looked dangerous in the second half even after a number of changes. I was pleased that Jordan Cox got off the mark and I thought that he linked up well with Mitchell Gilbey.

We've got a 22-man squad at the moment that will need to be trimmed, so we've got some big decisions to make. We've got a bit more fitness work to do and then we'll be ready for Barking.

Enjoy the match,

**Danny**

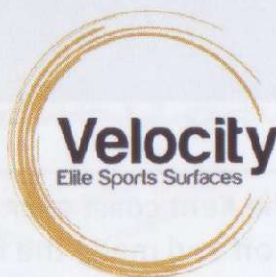




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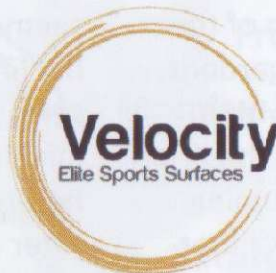
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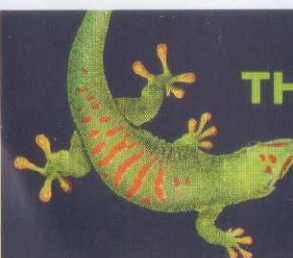
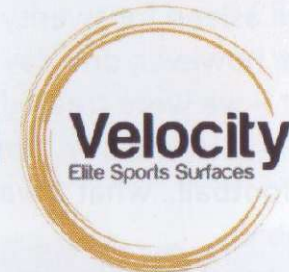
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# SIMON PITTS

## FROM THE EDITOR



Football has returned! And when I say 'football has returned' I, of course, mean that proper football has returned. This summer, we had the distraction of the World Cup. Hot weather, beer gardens, drink everywhere, embracing with a jubilant fat, hairy man and, for the briefest of moments, football was coming home. As nice as it was to have a footballing distraction, it still wasn't proper football. I may be in a minority when I say I was almost relieved when the final whistle blew in Moscow, it meant that I could start counting down.

### Saturday 22nd July

#### Herne Bay, The Altira Park Stadium

In recent seasons, I have made it no secret that I hate pre-season friendlies. Essential they absolutely are but interesting and riveting viewing they are absolutely not. I am not ashamed to admit that during a dour friendly last season, I fell asleep for twenty minutes. This season, however, one day would be different – we were treated with a beano down to Herne Bay. Sun, sea, booze and football...what a way to spend the afternoon.

An ongoing heart condition soon put pay to the 'booze' side of the trip meaning that 'sun, sea and booze' quickly turned into 'sun, sea and saveloys'. We arrived

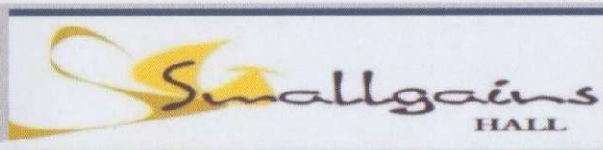
in on the Kent coast over two hours prior to kick off and made the frankly outrageous walk to the sea front, in what seemed like 40 degree heat. I made a beeline to the nearest chip shop, got myself a saveloy, chips and then set about infuriating the people of Herne Bay by hurling chips at the delighted wildlife. After an entertaining couple of hours of sausage consumption and seagull teasing, I had almost forgotten that we had made the journey for a game of football. What a way to ruin a good afternoon...

### "It's Too Hot For Football"

On the walk back to the The Altira Park Stadium, I sweated more than I think I have ever sweated from every possible orifice making me wonder if a game a football in those temperatures would actually breach the players human rights. Nonetheless, the game went ahead and was a typical friendly. A typical friendly that we lost which confirmed, as I had expected, that the highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the saveloy. As I write this, we are now four friendlies into the campaign and I am simply gagging for the season to start. Little bit of competitive action against the Urchins this afternoon though...COME ON YOU YELLOWS!



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# FIXTURES

## 2018/19

Date	Venue	Kick Off	Opposition	Competition
Sat 11th Aug	H	15:00	Barking	Bostik North
Sat 18th Aug	A	15:00	Grays Athletic	Bostik North
Sat 25th Aug	A	15:00	Cheshunt	FA Cup Preliminary Round
Tue 28th Aug	A	19:45	Bowers & Pitsea (at Aveley FC)	Bostik North
Sat 1st Sep	H	15:00	Bury Town	Bostik North
Sat 15th Sep	A	15:00	Maldon & Tiptree	Bostik North
Sat 22nd Sep	H	15:00	Brentwood Town	Bostik North
Tue 25th Sep	H	19:45	Great Wakering Rovers	Bostik North
Sat 6th Oct	H	15:00	Tilbury	Bostik North
Sat 13th Oct	H	15:00	Cray Wanderers	FA Trophy Preliminary Round
Sat 20th Oct	A	15:00	Coggeshall Town	Bostik North
Sat 27th Oct	A	15:00	Aveley	Bostik North
Sat 3rd Nov	H	15:00	Romford	Bostik North
Sat 10th Nov	A	15:00	Heybridge Swifts	Bostik North
Sat 17th Nov	H	15:00	AFC Sudbury	Bostik North
Sat 24th Nov	A	15:00	Dereham Town	Bostik North
Sat 1st Dec	H	15:00	Soham Town Rangers	Bostik North
Sat 8th Dec	A	15:00	Felixstowe & Walton United	Bostik North
Sat 15th Dec	H	15:00	Witham Town	Bostik North
Wed 26th Dec	H	15:00	Bowers & Pitsea	Bostik North
Tue 1st Jan	A	15:00	Basildon United	Bostik North
Sat 5th Jan	H	15:00	Mildenhall Town	Bostik North
Sat 12th Jan	A	15:00	Bury Town	Bostik North
Sat 19th Jan	A	15:00	Barking	Bostik North
Sat 26th Jan	H	15:00	Grays Athletic	Bostik North
Sat 2nd Feb	H	15:00	Aveley	Bostik North
Tue 5th Feb	A	19:45	Great Wakering Rovers	Bostik North
Sat 9th Feb	A	15:00	Tilbury	Bostik North
Sat 16th Feb	H	15:00	Coggeshall Town	Bostik North
Sun 24th Feb	A	15:00	Romford	Bostik North
Sat 2nd Mar	H	15:00	Heybridge Swifts	Bostik North
Sat 9th Mar	A	15:00	AFC Sudbury	Bostik North
Sat 16th Mar	H	15:00	Dereham Town	Bostik North
Sat 23rd Mar	A	15:00	Soham Town Rangers	Bostik North
Sat 30th Mar	A	15:00	Witham Town	Bostik North
Sat 6th Apr	H	15:00	Felixstowe & Walton United	Bostik North
Sat 13th Apr	H	15:00	Maldon & Tiptree	Bostik North
Sat 20th Apr	A	15:00	Mildenhall Town	Bostik North
Mon 22nd Apr	H	15:00	Basildon United	Bostik North
Sat 27th Apr	A	15:00	Brentwood Town	Bostik North





# MATCH REPORT

## REDBRIDGE (H)

### Canvey Island

4

*Jordan Cox (18'p, 57')*

*George Allen (45')*

*Trialist (85')*

### Redbridge

3

*Calvin Poku (37')*

*Michael Ogboin (47')*

*DJ Adelekan (75')*

**Starting XI:** Harry Palmer (*Off 64'*), Jake Pitty (*Off 64'*), Jordan Brown, Jake Jolliffe (*Off 70'*), George Allen (*Off 45'*), Steve Sheehan (*Off 64'*), Frankie Merrifield, Sam Collins (c), Jordan Cox (*Off 80'*), Mitchell Gilbey (*Off 64'*), Ryan Melaugh (*Off 64'*).

**Subs:** Alex Stephenson (*On 64'*), Martin Tuohy (*On 45'*), James White (*On 64'*), Elliott Warren (*On 80'*), Trialist (*On 64'*), Trialist (*On 64'*), Jerrome Sobers (*On 70'*), Conor Gough (*On 64'*).

Canvey Island and Redbridge played out an entertaining pre-season friendly at The Frost Hire Stadium on Tuesday night, with the Gulls winning by the odd goal in seven.

Manager Danny Heale gave a start to former-Essex U18 defender Jake Jolliffe, while Frankie Merrifield also started for the first time in pre-season having returned from holiday. There was also a place on the bench for defender Alex Stephenson who previously had a short

stint with the Gulls in March 2017 on loan from Billericay Town.

In the Redbridge side was former-Canvey midfielder Joey May who is currently player/manager at the Oakside-based club.

The match started in a very open manner, with Canvey creating a chance inside the opening minute when Jordan Cox latched onto a through ball inside the area coming in from the right. However, defender Daniel Smith did well to get shoulder to shoulder with the forward and did enough to force Cox to skew his shot wide.

A minute later an excellent cross from deep on the right wing by Redbridge's Ashley Bankole found experienced striker Calvin Poku inside the area, but his header at the front post went across goal and off target.

On 14 minutes some good football from Canvey saw Jake Pitty play a pass down the right wing for Ryan Melaugh to run onto. Melaugh collected possession down by the corner flag, cutting back infield and finding the feet of Jordan Cox on the edge of the box. Cox's first touch created himself some space to shoot, but his right-footed effort flashed wide.

They came closer two minutes later when Ashley Bankole gave the ball away to Mitchell Gilbey deep on the right wing. Gilbey drove infield, playing a cross-field ball which Jordan Cox was unable to



control. However, this fortuitously found the run of Franke Merrifield instead, but his shot was saved by Lewis Greene low down.

Canvey took the lead on 18 minutes when Merrifield was tripped inside the area by Daniel Smith. Jordan Cox stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot to open his account for the Gulls. Joey May nearly equalised for the visitors on 33 minutes when he spotted Harry Palmer off his line and attempted to lob the keeper from inside his own half. The shot was heading in, but Palmer was able to backpedal and prevent the ball from dipping underneath the crossbar.

On 36 minutes Ryan Melaugh hit a well-struck low shot from 25 yards which was straight at Lewis Greene. The keeper half saved the forceful effort but the ball looped up and continued on it's way to goal before Greene kept it out at the second attempt.

Redbridge were level less than a minute later when Canvey were caught short at the back. Adam Hunt stood up a cross to the back post from the right and strike partner Calvin Poku was on hand to head home unopposed.

Canvey regained the lead with the last kick of the half after Sam Collins had played a superb ball from deep inside his own half to release Mitchell Gilbey. His subsequent shot was deflected behind, with Gilbey whipping the corner in himself to the back post where George Allen was on hand to volley in via the underside of the crossbar from a yard out.

The Motormen equalised two minutes into the second half when Steve Sheehan was dispossessed 25 yards from his own goal. The ball was played to substitute

Michael Ogboin who sidestepped Jake Jolliffe before hitting a fierce strike across goal and high into the inside side netting. Ogboin nearly scored again moments later when DJ Adelekan slid the forward through on goal. However, Harry Palmer spotted the danger and did very well to race off his line and steal the ball at the feet of his opponent just inside the box. Canvey were soon back on the attack, with a clearance into Martin Tuohy going wide of an empty net before Mitchell Gilbey volleyed wide with his left foot after a ball in from the right.

When the goal did come, it was a good one. Sam Collins played an excellent ball from the left into the feet of Mitchell Gilbey, and his touch on the edge of the area was equally impressive to tee up Jordan Cox. The striker pulled the trigger from 20 yards which Lewis Greene got a hand to but couldn't prevent from finding the top corner.

Cox came close to a hattrick two minutes later but his shot from a similar distance was this time tipped over by the keeper for a corner.

Redbridge levelled for the third time with 15 minutes to play when DJ Adelekan and Joey May both stood over a free kick 20 yards out on the left. In what seemed to be a rehearsed set piece, both players ran towards the ball before Adelekan strike a beautiful curling effort into the top corner via the inside of the post.

Canvey won the match with five minutes to play when A Trialist finished well from the edge of the box with a composed strike. The same player could have scored again soon afterwards with a volley from a tight angle which the keeper saved.





# MATCH PHOTOS

## REDBRIDGE (H)







by KJA Sports Images





# ISTHMIAN CHARITY SHIELD

## PREVIOUS RESULTS

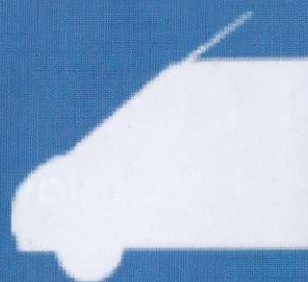
- 1978/79 - Enfield 2-1 Dagenham  
1979/80 - Enfield 0-1 Barking  
1980/81 - Enfield 2-1 Sutton United  
1981/82 - Slough Town 1-4 Wycombe Wanderers  
1982/83 - Leytonstone-Ilford 3-2 Sutton United  
1983/84 - Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 Sutton United  
1984/85 - Harrow Borough 1-3 Sutton United  
1985/86 - Sutton United 1-3 Wycombe Wanderers  
1986/87 - Sutton United 1-5 Yeovil Town  
1987/88 - Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 Bognor Regis Town  
1988/89 - Yeovil Town 4-0 Bromley  
1989/90 - Bishop's Stortford 1-2 Redbridge Forest  
1990/91 - Slough Town 2-0 Aveley  
1991/92 - Woking 3-1 Redbridge Forest  
1992/93 - Woking 5-1 Grays Athletic  
1993/94 - Chesham United 4-1 Marlow  
1994/95 - Stevenage Borough 0-5 Chertsey Town  
1995/96 - Enfield Town 1-2 Aylesbury Town  
1996/97 - Hayes 4-2 Kingstonian  
1997/98 - Yeovil Town 1-0 Boreham Wood  
1998/99 - Sutton United 1-6 Kingstonian  
1999/00 - Aldershot Town 2-1 Sutton United  
2000/01 - Farnborough Town 0-2 Dagenham & Redbridge  
2001/02 - Heybridge Swifts 4-0 Farnborough Town  
2002/03 - Northwood 4-2 Gravesend & Northfleet  
2003/04 - Aldershot Town 4-2 Yeading  
2004/05 - Canvey Island 2-3 Thurrock  
2010/11 - Dartford 0-1 Leatherhead  
2011/12 - Leatherhead 2-1 Wingate & Finchley  
2012/13 - Dulwich Hamlet 3-1 Faversham Town  
2013/14 - Bury Town 0-0 Needham Market (Needham Market Won 5-3 On Penalties)  
2014/15 - Maidstone United 4-0 Hendon  
2015/16 - Hampton & Richmond Borough 1-0 Kingstonian





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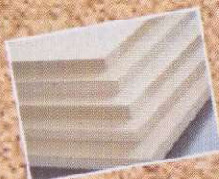


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# PLAYER INTERVIEW

## GEORGE SYKES

**Q. You had another good season last time out, how do you look back on the campaign as a whole?**

A. In a tough division I thought we did well to reach the playoffs. Obviously we would have liked to have been challenging to win the league, but aside from a ten-game run of results in October I don't think we were consistent enough to mount a serious threat. As a result our target at the start of 2018 was to make the playoffs, and that is something we achieved.

We did really well against Bowers in the semi-final, but the final was always going to be about the fine margins and they got the rub of the green at vital times. We were all devastated not to have gone up but it's made us all

**Q. Towards the end of the season who went through a bit of a goal drought by your standards. What do you put this down to?**

A. To be honest, I don't know. Since being at Canvey I haven't really had a dry spell so I suppose I was due one, but that went on for quite a while. I didn't really think about it too much at the time until the last handful of games when the pressure was on us to get the results we needed to make the playoffs. I did think at the time that if I had maybe kept on scoring that we could have put more pressure on at the top of the league, but in the end it wasn't to be.

**Q. While the goals may not have been flowing you were still a constant threat, especially coming in off the left wing. Is playing out wide something you have considered?**

A. I think Danny gets annoyed with me a bit if I drift out there too often, but a lot of my goals do tend to come from out there. Perhaps I do need to stay a little bit more central at times, and if I did I might have pinched a couple of goals from being in the right place at the right time.

**Q. You've attracted plenty of interest from other clubs over the years, what keeps you at Canvey Island?**

A. I really enjoy it here and I have a good relationship with Danny. There have been some up's and down's during my four years here on and off, but last season was certainly an enjoyable one despite not going up.

**Q. Finally, what is the attitude inside the dressing room ahead of today's Isthmian Charity Shield match against AFC Hornchurch?**

A. We'll be treating it as a proper match, the fact that we have to name a squad and have a limited number of substitutions will ensure that. They won the league last year and achieved what we set out to do, so this will be a really good marker for us as to where we are ahead of the new season.



# CLUB HISTORY

## AFC HORNCHURCH

The club's history dates back to 1923 when the team were formed as Upminster Wanderers. They played in the Romford League until 1938 when they stepped up to the Spartan League, at the same time dropping the 'Wanderers' from their name as an original Upminster club had folded several years earlier.

When action resumed after the war Upminster were worried about a shortage of players and returned to the Romford League for 1945-46, winning the title and the Essex Junior Cup, before returning to the Spartan League.

Promoted to the Premier Division in 1951, they joined the Delphian League a year later, changing their name to Hornchurch & Upminster as they prepared to move into the new Hornchurch Sports Stadium. They took up residence there in November 1952 and have remained there ever since. It is actually in Upminster, though in 1960 that town was dropped from the club's title and it became Hornchurch FC.

By then, in 1959, the club had been elected to the Athenian League. They were to win the Division One championship in 1967 but were relegated in 1969 and promoted back again in 1971.

1974/5 saw the club reach the fifth round of the very first FA Vase competition where they lost to eventual finalists Epsom & Ewell by one goal. That performance helped the club gain election to the Isthmian League. In 1978, the club once again suffered relegation but three years later they were back after achieving the runners-up slot behind Feltham.

It was a false dawn, to say the least. Apart from a tenth-place finish out of 21 in 1995, it would be 19 years before Urchins again finished in the top half of their table. They survived several brushes with relegation before losing their Division One place in 1986 and continued to struggle in Division Two North. Matters became even worse in 1989 when a fire destroyed the clubhouse and it took many years to recover. Inevitably, Urchins

found themselves in Division Three when the regionalised divisions were scrapped in 1991 and an appearance in the final of the Associate Members Cup – a competition for the bottom two divisions – in 1994 was a rare taste of success.

Mick Marsden was appointed manager in February 1998 and in his second season in charge of the club took them to fourth place. After that, 2000/1 was disappointing as far as league performances were concerned, but the team had an excellent run in the FA Vase before being knocked out by eventual finalists Berkhamsted in an exciting replay.

Things were soon to change dramatically as the club was taken over and restructured. Second place in Division Three in 2002 brought promotion to Division One North as the league was reorganised and another runners-up spot followed in 2003 to take Urchins into the Premier Division for the first time. Much work was also done on the near-derelict stadium, allowing the club to take its place in the new Conference South after finishing fifth in 2003-04, though the season was more notable for a run to the second round of the FA Cup in which Darlington were beaten 2-0 before Tranmere stole a controversial 1-0 victory in front of TV cameras and a capacity crowd at Bridge Avenue.

The dream continued a little longer as, under former Dagenham manager Garry Hill, the team stormed to the top of Conference South. It seemed too good to be true, and it was. On a grim Thursday in November the entire squad was released.

They had reached the first round of the FA Cup before the collapse and the tie at Boston United was fulfilled by six debutants and a collection of youth-team players, who took an early lead and gave a valiant show before going down 5-2. The season descended into chaos. Almost 100 players wore first-team shirts as new manager Tony Choules contrived to avert relegation despite



a ten-point deduction. Indeed, without it the club would have finished in a remarkable ninth place. But the off-pitch affairs could not be resolved and the club reformed under the name AFC Hornchurch, to be placed by the FA in the Essex Senior League. Former youth manager John Lawrence took charge in May 2005.

A brand-new Urchins squad proceeded to run away with the championship and also won the league's two cup competitions, becoming the first side to achieve the treble.

Even so, Lawrence was replaced by former Thurrock manager Colin McBride for the return to the Ryman League and Urchins romped to a second successive title, amassing 103 points to finish 21 clear of runners-up Harlow. They also won the Essex Senior Cup for the first time in the club's history, beating Great Wakering 2-1 at Southend United's Roots Hall.

Success continued in the Premier Division as Urchins finished fourth to secure a play-off place but lost 3-1 in the semi-final to AFC Wimbledon in front of a crowd of 2,897 on a memorable night at Kingsmeadow.

The following season also proved to be an eventful one. The biggest thrill, and the most bitter disappointment, was a 1-0 defeat by Peterborough United at a packed Bridge Avenue in the first round of the FA Cup. Urchins held their opponents for 90 minutes and even had a goal disallowed but their hearts were broken by a goal by Craig Mackail-Smith in added time. In the league Urchins were fourth going into the final day but a 2-1 defeat at Sutton meant that they finished sixth and missed the play-offs.

Things were still not right off the field and manager Colin McBride took control of the club as chairman midway through the 2009-10 campaign in an effort to sort out the problems caused by the previous regime. His assistant Jimmy McFarlane took over team affairs, initially as caretaker though later to be confirmed in the job. Urchins finished ninth in the league after being in and around the play-off places throughout the season. It was a similar story in 2010-11, when Urchins were unable to sustain their play-off bid in the closing weeks and missed out by four points, finishing tenth.

But the 'two Macs' achieved their ambition the following season as Urchins recovered from three successive defeats in August to storm into play-off

contention. They topped the table more than once, eventually having to settle for the runners-up spot behind Billericay. Bury were beaten 3-1 in the play-off semi-finals and a tense final against Lowestoft was goalless after 90 minutes. After taking the lead in extra time only to be hauled back to level terms, Urchins snatched a 2-1 victory with a 119th-minute goal by Michael Spencer and returned to Conference South seven years after the unhappy ending to their first attempt.

It proved to be a difficult season and, despite a brief flirtation with the play-off spots, six dropped points to bottom club Truro proved decisive as Urchins finished 20th, two points short of safety. A second Essex Senior Cup triumph, coming from behind to beat Grays Athletic 2-1 in the final at Dagenham, provided some consolation.

Back in the Ryman League and shaking off the disappointment, Urchins enjoyed a 15-match unbeaten run early in the 2013-14 season and maintained their challenge for promotion to the very end. A poor finish to the season threatened to derail promotion hopes but Urchins scraped into fifth place on the final day and then reached the play-off final with a 1-0 victory at Kingstonian. So, for the second time in three seasons, Urchins faced Lowestoft Town in the final. This time, though, it was away from home, and with four key men missing through injury or suspension. Others had to play while less than properly fit and Lowestoft won 3-0.

The following season started with high hopes but the club's landlords, the local council, closed the stadium to install new floodlights, forcing all the pre-season friendlies and the first eight league games to be played away from home. Just one point came from those matches and left Urchins facing a season-long fight to avoid the drop. With six weeks to go they had finally lifted themselves out of the bottom four and looked on course for survival, only for form to desert the team completely as just two points came from the last ten games.

Urchins had high hopes of regaining their Premier status quickly but it was not to be as two seasons plagued by serious injuries ended with them losing the 2016 play-off final and the 2017 play-off semi-final. However, it was third time lucky last season when they won the Bostik North by 13 points, amassing 103 in total with a goal difference of +62.





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# IT'S JUST NOT CRICKET

## WIFE CARRYING

*A look at one of the world's more unusual activities that people have convinced themselves are sports.*

We'll start off this new column for this season with a sport that originates in Finland known to the locals as Eukonkanto, and to us as Wife Carrying.

The sport can trace its roots back to the 1800's, although there is some confusion as to how it came to be. All involve a man by the name of Herkko Rosvo-Ronkainen, or Ronkainen the Robber to his mates. He was considered to be a robber in the late 1800s, lived in a forest, and ran around with his gang of thieves causing harm to the villages. Some believe that Rosvo-Ronkainen and his thieves were accused of stealing food and women from villages in the area he lived in, then carrying these women on their backs as they ran away. Others think that Rosvo-Ronkainen trained his thieves to be "faster and stronger" by carrying big, heavy sacks on their backs, from which evolved this sport.

From these criminal origins, the sport of wife carrying now sees contests held around the world in countries including Australia, USA, Hong Kong, Estonia and the UK.

The rules are very specific for international competition, with the official track length being 253.5 metres.

- The track has two dry obstacles and a water obstacle about one metre deep.
- The wife to be carried may be your own, a neighbour's, or you may have found her further afield. She must, however, be over 17 years of age.
- The minimum weight of the wife to be carried is 49 kilograms. If she weighs less than 49 kg, she will be burdened with a rucksack containing additional weight to bring the total load to be carried up to 49 kg.
- All participants must enjoy themselves.
- The only equipment allowed is a belt worn by the carrier and a helmet worn by the carried.
- The contestants run the race two pairs at a time, so each heat is a contest in itself.
- Each contestant takes care of his/her safety and, if deemed necessary, insurance.
- The contestants have to pay attention to the instructions given by the organizers of the competition.
- There is only one category in the World Championships, and the winner is the couple who completes the course in the shortest time.
- Also, the most entertaining couple, the best costume, and the strongest carrier will be awarded a special prize.

The reigning world champions are Vytaut-



tas Kirkliauskas and Neringa Kirkliauskienė of Lithuania who completed the course in 65 seconds. This was the first time that Lithuania had won the ultimate honour since it was first contested in 1997, with Estonia having won eleven, Finland nine and Russia one.

The United Kingdom Wife Carrying Race was established in 2008 and takes place in Dorking, Surrey each year. The winner of the first race was Joel Hicks, but his greatest moments in the sport were still to come.

In 2015 Joel ran the race carrying "Tiny Tina", a male friend in drag who was 7'4" and 22 stone.

He was at it again a year later, this time carrying two wives. He may have finished last, but his legacy as a legend of the sport was well and truly secured.

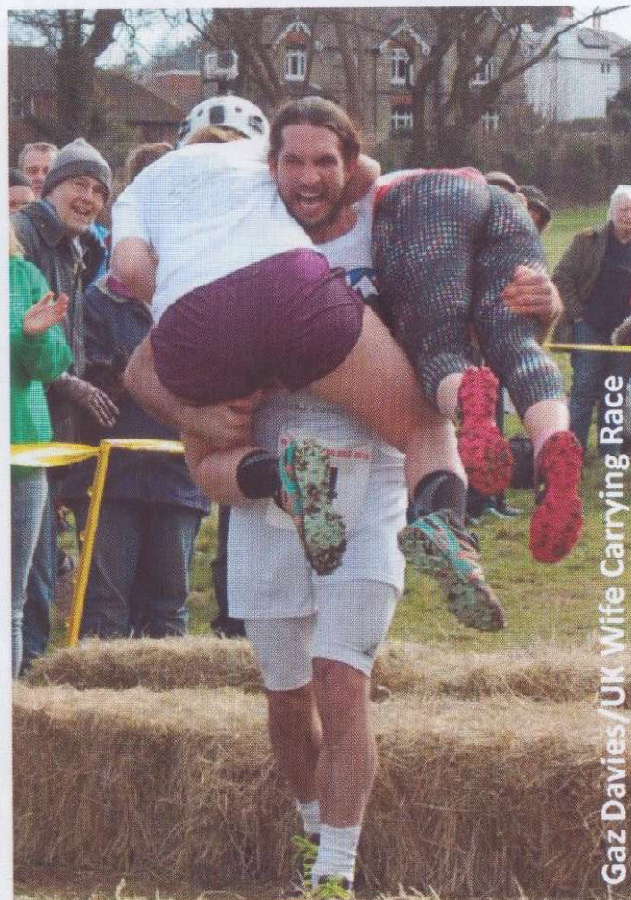
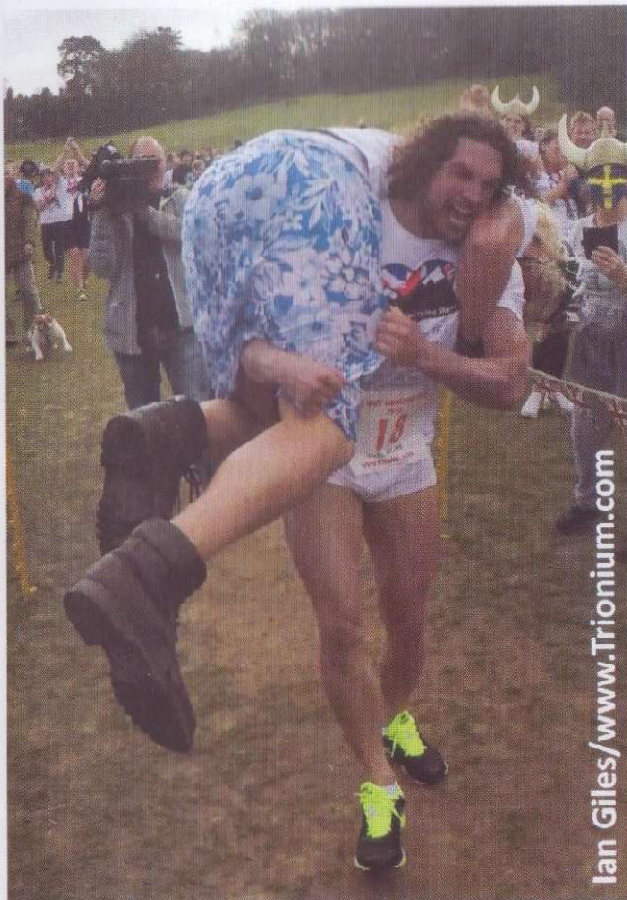
So I suppose if you've read this far you're

probably thinking to yourself, "Dorking's not that far, I'll give that a go next year." Well, be warned, the UK Wife Carrying Race website starts with the disclaimer of:

"Wife carrying can be a dangerous activity, which can lead to any one or more of the following injuries: slipped disk, broken legs and arms, spinal damage, facial injury, skull fracture, hernias, and other sundry injuries and illnesses, and potentially including death....but don't let that put you off!"

The 2019 event will take place at 10.30 on Sunday 3rd March 2019 at The Nower in Dorking. The UK course is 380m with 15m of ascent and 15m of descent.

More info at [www.trionium.com/wife](http://www.trionium.com/wife).







# ON THIS DAY IN FOOTBALL HISTORY

## 28TH JULY 1962 & 1985

First programme of the season and your first 'On This Day In Football History' has gone all a bit German. One story about the birth of one of the biggest powerhouses in world football and another story about the English actually beating the Germans.

### 28th July 1962

In 1962, it had become apparent that German football was in need of a drastic re-shuffle and rebrand. On this day that year, the Bundesliga was created in the West German city of Dortmund. The Bundesliga would go on to produce some of the greatest teams in Europe and is currently one of the most elite leagues in the world.

Germany went football mad in the 1870's when the game was introduced by a group of English expatriates. By the early 1900's, football in Germany was massive and there were already 86 official clubs. In January 1900, the Deutscher Fußball-Bund (DFB) was founded and created a collection of regional leagues known as the Oberligen. By the 1950's, Germany's status as footballing giants had begun to drop. Many of the nations best players had left for other countries and the national team was struggling. Many critics blamed the DFB's league structure on the countries faltering football reputation and called for a national professional league.

After Germany's elimination from the 1962 World Cup at the hands of Yugoslavia, newly elected DFB President Hermann

Gosmann called for an immediate change. On 28th July 1962, a new league consisting of the 19 best teams from across Germany was created, the Bundesliga was born. Its first season was played in 1963-64, with FC Köln claiming the first title.

### 28th July 1985

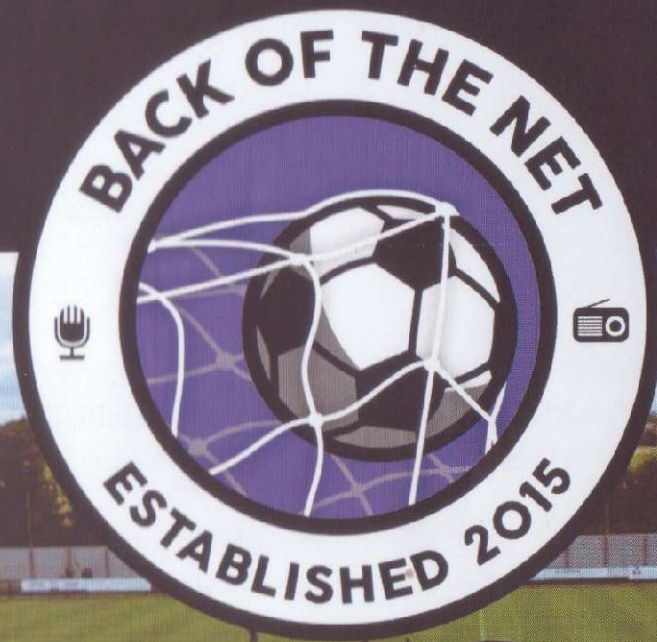
I am not sure if you have ever heard this but, in 1966, England beat West Germany at Wembley to win the World Cup. On this day in 1985, just two days short of the 19th anniversary of Three Lions greatest moment, legends from England and West Germany met again at Elland Road in a charity match to raise money for the Bradford Fire Disaster Fund.

On May 11th 1985, a fire broke out at Valley Parade, home of Bradford City FC. The afternoon had started with jubilant celebrations, the Bantams had been presented with the Division Three trophy before their game against Lincoln City. Those celebrations soon turned to disaster as a fire broke out during the first half inside one of the packed wooden terraces. 56 people tragically lost their lives.

On 28th July 1985, the England Legends ran out 6-4 winners against the Germans in front of 20,000 people at Elland Road. Geoff Hurst was tormentor in chief once again, scoring another hat-trick. £50,000 was raised and went towards the Bradford Fire appeal.



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**ASSISTANT:** Brad Wellmen

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James WHITE	4
Steve SHEEHAN	5
George ALLEN	6
Mitchell GILBEY	7
Sam COLLINS (c)	8
Jordan COX	9
Martin TUOHY	10
Josh HUTCHINSON	11
Elliott WARREN	12
Frankie MERRIFIELD	14
George SYKES	15
Marlon AGYAKWA	16
Harry PALMER	17



## AFC HORNCHURCH

**MANAGER:** Jimmy McFarlane  
**ASSISTANT:** Colin McBride

1	Callum CHAFER
2	Dave COLLIS
3	Jay PORTER
4	Jordan CLARK
5	Nathan COOPER
6	Kenzer LEE
7	Connor HOGAN
8	Lewis SPENCE
9	Sean MARKS
10	Theo FAIRWEATHER-JOHNSON
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### Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 31st July - Cray Wanderers - Home - Friendly - 19:45

Saturday 4th August - Thamesmead Town - Home - Friendly - 15:00

Saturday 11th August - Barking - Home - League - 15:00