



THE GUARDIAN INSURANCE LEAGUE CUP FINAL

BOREHAM WOOD v. BRAINTREE TOWN

at Dagenham & Redbridge F.C. The Victoria Road Stadium, Dagenham Thursday 8th. May 1997 K.O.7.30p.m.

Official Programme £1



The League Chairman's Message

Good Evening

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club for the Season 1996/97 League Cup Final between Boreham Wood F.C. and Braintree Town F.C.

At the commencement of the 1995/96 season the League were fortunate to secure a lucrative sponsorship deal with Guardian Insurance Limited, a Member of the Guardian Royal Exchange Group covering a four year period. Tonight marks the culmination of the second year of their Sponsorship. Representing the Company here this evening we are fortunate to have Alison Patrick who will present the Trophy. Alison will be accompanied by several of her colleagues. It should also be noted that Guardian Insurance are also sponsoring the "Safe Hands Competition" - an award to recognise goalkeepers performances.

It is also my pleasure to welcome many other guests here today, our major League Sponsors, ICIS Sportswear Limited will be represented along with many others from County Football Associations, principally from Essex and Hertfordshire together with many others.

Boreham Wood are appearing in their third Final of an Isthmian competition in three years. They will be hoping to do just that little bit better after finishing runners-up twice after penalty "shoot-outs" in the Full Members Cup. Braintree Town have reached today's Final in this their first season as members of the League. They are the first members of Division Three to have reached the Final and thus have created that record with their performances. They have also finished as runners-up in Division Three and will play in Division Two next season. Both team are to be congratulated on reaching the Final, and I have no doubt that we will all witness an exciting match played to a high level of skill, in a sporting manner but with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment.

In conclusion, may I extend my appreciation to the Officers and Management Committee of Dagenham & Redbridge F.C. led by Chairman David Andrews for staging today's match. It is the third time that this final has been played here at Victoria Road and the League is delighted to be back here again this evening.

Best wishes and thank you for your support. ALAN C. F. TURVEY Chairman and Managing Director

IS IT CUP FINAL TIME AGAIN?

The year that has passed since that glorious sunny day that we experienced last May at The Recreation Ground at Aldershot Town seems to have flown by, and with it the hopes of 81 clubs in the ICIS Football League to appear in this season's Final. Casting our minds back that year we had a record 3500 in attendance to see Kingstonian claim a 4-1 victory over Aldershot Town with a performance that even had the partisan home crowd applauding their winning performance after the ninety minutes. In fact after 17 minutes Danny Holmes had given the home side the lead and the whole place erupted as the majority of those present celebrated. Holmes was the Shots Player of the Season and the embarrassment was very much Dave Root's in the Kingstonian goal as the ball went right through his defence. Shots were to keep the lead for only sixteen minutes as the lethal Jimmy Bolton got on the end of an exchange of close passes to equalise. The 1-1 scoreline at half-time reflected the 45 minutes play which was most exciting for all in attendance and worthy of a cup final.

Kingstonian got their noses in front after 76 minutes after Akuamoah had been brought down by Winston in the penalty area, Jimmy Bolton stroking the resulting spot kick home. The result was put beyond doubt with just three minutes left, Eddie Akuamoah ran on to a loose ball, rounded Shots 'keeper, Mark Watson and put the ball in the empty net. Then in the last minute Kingstonian were awarded a free-kick and Dale Jasper obligingly converted it into the fourth and final Kingstonian goal. That K's were worth their victory is in no doubt, but those late goals certainly made the result look easier than it actually was for the Premier Division side.

That one of today's finalists were not even members of the ICIS League when the last final was played, only highlights the "glamour" of any cup competition that is open to all member clubs of a League. Braintree Town have such distinction, and they are the first members of Division Three to have reached our League Cup Final. The "Iron" are deserved finalists though - no easy route has been obtained - they have overcome no less than three Premier Division sides on their journey and not only being content with reaching this Final, they have also achieved Promotion in their first season with the ICIS League and only lost by the odd goal in three in their County Cup Final against Southend United with several first team players in the line-up on this ground a couple of weeks back.

Boreham Wood are providing consistency by appearing in Isthmian League Cup Finals having appeared in the last two Full Members Cup Finals, only to be beaten on penalty shoot-outs on both occasions. This time Bob Makin's team, will be looking to provide their Supporters with a Cup Final victory, which will in some way make up for what, after last season's league performances have been a bit of a disappointing 1996/97 season.

As always may the best team win, and may we be blessed with a feast of football - there's plenty of quality players in both sides to suggest it could well be.



Previous Guardian Insurance Cup Winners

Previously known as the Subsidiary Cup (1974/77), the Hitachi Cup 1977/85, the AC Delco Cup 1985/91

1974/75	Tilbury beat Croydon	3-1 *
1975/76	Slough Town beat Tilbury	4-0 at Hayes
1976/77	Hendon beat Barking	1-0 at Harrow
1977/78	Dagenham beat Leatherhead	1-0 at Dulwich
1978/79	Enfield beat Hayes	2-1 at Slough
1979/80	Enfield beat Sutton United	2-1 at Harrow
1980/81	Slough Town beat Walthamstow Avenue	4-2 at Hayes
1981/82	Levtonstone Ilford beat Kingstonian	2-0 at B'Wood
1982/83	Sutton United beat Wycombe Wanderers	2-1 *
1983/84	Sutton United beat Wycombe Wanderers	3-1 *
1984/85	Wycombe Wanderers beat Farnborough Town	
1985/86	Sutton United beat Uxbridge	3-1 at Met.Police
1986/87	Bognor Regis Town beat Hendon	3-2 at Windsor
1987/88	Yeovil Town beat Hayes	3-1 at B'stoke
1988/89	Bishop's Stortford beat Farnborough Town	1-0 at Hayes
1989/90	Aveley beat St. Albans City	3-0 at Dagenham
1990/91	Woking beat Carshalton Athletic	2-1 at Kingstonian
1991/92	Grays Athletic beat Enfield	3-1 at Dagenham
1992/93	Marlow beat Molesey	2-1 at Aldershot Tn.
1993/94	Chertsey Town beat Enfield	3-0 at Hayes
1994/95	Aylesbury United beat Slough Town	7-6 at Marlow
1994/95	result decided on penalty kicks after a 1-1# draw	
1995/96	Kingstonian beat Aldershot Town	4-1 at Aldershot Tn

* The final was played over two legs. # Extra time played. (In 1974/75 the competition was open to Division Two clubs only)

Boreham Wood: 1974/5 1st. Round 1975/6 2nd. Round 1976/7 3rd. Round 1977/8 Semi-Finals 1978/9 4th. Round 1979/0 5th. Round 1980/1 3rd. Round 1981/2 1st. Round 1983/4 2nd. Round	1985/6 1st. Round 1986/7 1st. Round 1987/8 1st. Round	/6 3rd. Round ntree Town s Braintree's first n in the competition.
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The 1996/97 Guardian Insurance League Cup

Preliminary Round:

Tring Town 1 Braintree Town 6

Egham Town 0 Collier Row & Romford 2

Flackwell Heath 1 Bedford Town 4

Lewes 0 Dorking 2

Hungerford Town 2 Metropolitan Police 1

Epsom & Ewell 3 Wivenhoe Town 2

Southall 0 Tilbury 1 Hemel Hempstead 5 Barking 2

Banstead Athletic 1 Camberley Town 0 Northwood 2 Windsor & Eton 1 Wealdstone 1 Kingsbury Town 0 Cheshunt 1 Horsham 3

East Thurrock United 1 Clapton 0 aet

Witham Town 0 Wingate & Finchley 1

Ware 0 Aveley 2 Leatherhead 2 3* Harlow Town 2 2*

Chalfont St. Peter 0 Leighton Town 1

Wembley 1 Bracknell Town 0

Hertford Town 1 Edgware Town 2

First Round:	
Carshalton Athletic	6
Whyteleafe	Q
Aylesbury United	1
Braintree Town	4
Billericay Town	2
Basingstoke Town	1
Collier Row & Romford	4*
Bromley	3.
Barton Rovers	0
Bedford Town	2.
Oxford City Chertsey Town	3.
Dorking	
Hitchin Town	Ō
Maidenhead United	1
Heybridge Swifts	2
Hungerford Town	0
Walton & Hersham	1
Grays Athletic	1
Hornchurch	0
Chesham United	3*2
Epsom & Ewell	3*1
Thame United	4
Hampton	1
Leyton Pennant	1
Purfleet	4
Canvey Island	1
Sutton United Dulwich Hamlet	20
	1
Yeading Yeovil Town	6
Molesey	1
Kingstonian	2
Tilbury	ī
Hemel Hempstead	1
Abingdon Town	0
Banstead Athletic	3
Northwood	1
Wealdstone	4*
Horsham	2*
Wokingham Town	2
Bishops Stortford	1
Worthing	0
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	<u>3</u> 6'
Bognor Regis Town East Thurrock Utd.	2"
Staines Town	1
Uxbridge	Q
Wingate & Finchley	1
St. Albans City	6
Aveley	5
Leatherhead	1
Berkhamsted Town	5
Harrow Borough	. 6
Aldershot Town	0
Enfield	3
Croydon	0
Leighton Town	
Hendon	1*
Wembley	0.
Boreham Wood	3*
Edgware Town	2
Dagenham & Redbridge	3
Marlow	C

Round by Round Results to the Final

Second Round:	Third Round:		Fourth Round:	Semi-Finals:	Final:
Carshalton Athletic 1	Braintree Town	3			
Braintree Town 2	braintree 10wn	э			
Billericay Town 1°3°			Braintree Town 2*		
+Collier Row & Romford 1	Billericay Town	_1			
Bedford Town 1	Bedford Town	0.		Braintree Town1 2	
Chertsey Town 0	Bedford Town	2*	D. K. J.T		
#Dorking 00	Heybridge Swifts	1.	Bedford Town 1*		
#Heybridge Swifts 48	Heyonage Swills	1.			Destates T
Walton & Hersham 0					Braintree Town
Gravs Athletic 3	Grays Athletic	1			
Chesham United 3*			+Chesham United 2		
Thame United 2*	Chesham United	_2			
Purfleet 3				Sutton United 0 1	
Sutton United 6	Sutton United	3			
Yeading 1*1			Sutton United 1		
Yeovil Town 1°0	Yeading	2			
Kingstonain 3*					
Hemel Hempstead 2*	Kingstonian	2"			
Banstead Athletic 6			Kingstonian 2		
Wealdstone 0	Banstead Athletic	1.			
Wokingham Town 3				Kingstonian 1 2*	
Tooting & Mitcham 0	Wokingham Town	1			
Bognor Regis Town 2			Wokingham Town 0		
Staines Town 1	+Bognor Regis Tn	_2			
St. Albans City 3	Ct. Aller Ott	0			Boreham Wood
Aveley 1	St. Albans City	2	Hamer Barrah 1		
Harrow Borough 3	Harrow Borough	4	Harrow Borough 1		
Enfield 2	Harrow Borough	4		Denshara Was di Os	
Leighton Town 1	Leighton Town	0		Boreham Wood1 3*	
Hendon 0	Leighton Town	0	Boreham Wood 3		
Boreham Wood 1	Banaham III - 1		AVISION WORL D		
Dagenham & Redbridge 0	Boreham Wood	2			
• Extra time played in match	# Match Ordered to	he re	enlayed + Club removed	from competition for rul	a infringement

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Boreham Wood Football Club, as it is now known, was formed in 1948, following the amalgamation of Boreham Rovers and Royal Retournez.

The Club progressed through the Mid-Herts. League and into the Parthenon League, where it finished Runners-up on • three occasions, and Champions once.

The next step was to join the Spartan • League, where the Club finished Runnersup in 1963/64 and 1965/66, before • moving on to the Athenian League. •

- Boreham Wood F.C. made rapid progress in this League and won the Premier Division Championship, by nine points in 1973/74.
- An application was made to join the Isthmian Football League in 1974/75 and two years later the Club won the Division Two Championship, by sixteen points. After five seasons in the Premier Division, Boreham Wood were
- relegated for the first and only time in their history, at the end of the 1981/82 season.
- The 1994/95 was one of the most successful season's in the Club's history.
 The Division One Championship was won by an amazing twenty-two points,
- and resulted in promotion back to the Premier Division. The Club also reached
- the Finals of the Herts. Charity Cup and the Carlsberg Cup, as well as the Semi-Final of The London Challenge Cup
- Semi-Final of The London Challenge Cup.
- Last season was another memorable one, with the Club still in contention for
 the Premier Division Championship on the very last day of the League season.
 However, they finished in a very creditable third place, with the best away
- record in all Divisions. This is the highest position Boreham Wood have ever
 achieve, and the Club has already gained a Vauxhall Conference ground
- grading. The Club also reached the final of the Isthmian League Carlton (Full • Members) Cup again, losing in a penalty "shoot-out" to Sutton United.
- The current season has seen the team performing very well in all the Cup
 competitions entered, reaching the Second Round of the FA Challenge Cup for
- the first time. The team played well on the day at Luton Town, but the result was a disappointing 2-1 defeat. The Club has reached the last sixteen of the FA
- Umbro Trophy in each of the last two seasons, but this season went out in
 round two.
- In domestic football in Hertfordshire they have won many honours in the Senior
 Challenge Cup, the Charity Shield, the Junior Cup, the Intermediate Cup and
- the Charity Cup. They have also done well in the London Senior Cup and more
 recently the London Challenge Cup.
- The Club's Reserve Team and Youth Team have both been successful in recent
 seasons, and several players have progressed through them and into the First
 Team squad.
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 Martin Taylor (Goalkeeper) Age 35. A vastly experienced goalkeeper and rated as

- one of the best in the ICIS Football League. Joined the club from Bishop's
 Stortford in October 1992 and has since
- made over 240 appearances. He has also played for Jyderup (Denmark), Hendon
- and Woodford Town. Missed the early part of the season due to business commitments.
- Tony Joyce (Defender) 25 year old who joined from Stevenage Borough early in
- 1994. He has made over 120 appearances for Wood. His career started
- at Queens Park Rangers, but he has also played for Aldershot and Woking. A
- regular member of Stevenage's Isthmian League Premier Division Championship
- winning side in 1993/94. 12 of his 16 goals last season came from the penalty spot.
- Dave Hatchett (Utility player) Age 32. • The clubs longest serving member, he is
- now in his twelfth season with the Club he joined from Enfield. He has made over 600 appearances breaking the Club's all
- time record, and had scored 80 times.
 "Player of the Year on no less than six occasions. Dave had a well deserved
- Testimonial in 1994/95.
- Garry Nisbet (Central Defender) 33 year
 old who is a tall and commanding central
 defender who joined the club from Collier
- Row in the summer of 1994. Was Player of the Year in 1994/95 and has captained
- the side in Billy Harrigan's absence. Also played for Eton Manor, Barkingside and Walthamstow Pennant - his ambition in
- football is "to win every game". Billy Harrigan (Central Defender) Age
- 32. Was appointed Boreham Wood's Club Captain on his arrival from Bishop's Stortford in the summer of 1994. The
- captain of the "Bishop's" side that won Division One in 1993/94, Bill repeated the achievement with "Wood" in
- the achievement with "Wood" in 1994/95. Now has over 160 appearances to his credit and was player of the Year in
- 1995/96.He has also played for Walthamstow Avenue Chesham United
- Walthamstow Avenue, Chesham United Leytonstone Ilford and Middlesex Wanderers.
- Steve Heffer (Midfield) 24 year old who joined from Hendon during the summer of
- 1994. His previous clubs are West Ham
 United, Southend United, Swindon Town
 and Grays Athletic. Has made over 140
- appearances for Boreham Wood..
- Jason Shaw (Midfield) 26 year old creative midfield player who joined

Boreham Wood from Harrow Borough • during the summer of 1994 and has since

played over 160 first team games... Jason • began his career with West Ham United and also played for Redbridge Forest and • Dartford.

Anthony Samuels (Forward) Junior as he is popularly known is an experienced player, now aged 29 and with the speed and ability to turn defences inside out - he is also a proven goalscorer. Joined "Wood" from Leyton in October 1994 and

previously played for Leytonstone Ilford, Bromley and Collier Row. A Stoke City

- trialist, he was the leading scorer for Boreham Wood in each of the last two seasons.
- Andy Prutton (Midfield) 28 year old who joined from Harrow Borough in the summer of 1995 where he had spent the previous three seasons. His career started at Wormley Rovers before progressing to Cheshunt and Dartford.

Marc Liburd (Wing Forward) 22 year old who joined Boreham Wood in 1992/93 having started his career at Watford as a Youth Trainee. A lively winger, Marc has made over 170 appearances and has

attracted much attention from Professional Scouts.

Mark Brown (Midfield) Aged 21, Mark is an attacking and creative midfield player who made his debut this season. Hails from jersey, he was an apprentice and full professional for three years at Exeter City.

Steve Daly (Defender) 26 year old who joined from Wembley last season making his debut at Harrow Borough. He has also played for Ruislip Manor.

Rob Hollingdale (Defender/Midfield) 22 year old who joined from Wembley, his only other previous senior club for a four figure transfer fee. He made his debut against Grays last September.

Terry Robbins (Forward) Aged 32. Experienced player who joined from Barnet during the summer of 1996. A former England semi-professional International who gained six caps. His career started with Spurs and Gillingham before playing for Maidstone, Crawley and Welling

Paul Shaw (Wing Forward) 25 year old who joined from Barkingside earlier in the season.

Jamie Woodsford (Forward) Age 20. Jamie joined from Luton Town where he made ten Football League appearances. He made his debut at Sutton in March.

In the event of the match being drawn after 90 minutes, 30 minutes of extra time shall be played. If no result is then obtained, penalties on a "World Cup" basis shall decide the result.	Assistant Referees: Mr. P. Turner (Green Flag with Green Trim) Mr. I. Williamson (Green Flag with Yellow Trim) Reserve Official: Mr. G. Ives (Romford)	Jamie Woodsford 14. Russell Tanner Marc Liburd 15. Craig Duncan	10.9 %	<u>α</u> α 4 το το	BOREHAM WOOD White Shirts Black Shorts Pallow & Blue Shirts Black Shorts Blue Shorts Blue Shorts Black Shorts Blue Shorts Blue Socks Blue Shorts Martin Taylor I. Paul Catley
S-Final/1 (H) Sutton United (217) Bennett S-Final/2 (A) Sutton United (290) Grice, Simpson	2nd. Round (A) Carshalton Athletic (168) Bennett (2 · 1 pen) 3rd. Round (H) Billericay Town (161) Bennett (2), Collins 4th. Round (H) Bedford Town (254)	Tring Town Bennett (2), Simpson, (Wallace, Devereux Aylesbury United Simpson (2), Falana, Devereux	•• EE TOV	4th. Round(A)Harrow Borough(135)3S-Final/1(A)Kingstonian(216)1BrownBrown(216)1S-Final/2(H)Kingstonian(209)3Nisbet (2), T. Samuels	ROUTES TO THE FINAL BOREHAM WOOD Opponents Att. Res 1st. Round (H) Edgware Town (164) 3- D. Samuels (2), Robbins 2nd. Round (H) Dag'ham & R'bridge (126) 1- Own Geal 3rd. Round (A) Leighton Town (213) 2-

TO THE FINAL

	BO	BOREHAM WOOD		
		Opponents	Att.	Result
ound	E	ound (H) Edgware Town	(164)	3-2 aet
		D. Samuels (2), Robbins	SL	
Round	E	Round (H) Dag'ham & R'bridge (126)	(126)	1-0
		Own Goal		
lound	Ð	lound (A) Leighton Town	(213)	2-0
		P. Shaw, T. Samuels		
lound	€	lound (A) Harrow Borough	(135)	3-1
		T. Samuels (2), Brown		
1/1	P	(A) Kingstonian	(216)	1-1

3-2 aet

pponents Att.R

		Opponents	Att.Result.	Ŧ
m. Rd.	2	m. Rd. (A) Tring Town	(92)	6-1
		Bennett (2), Simpson, Gunn	n, Gunn	
		Wallace, Devereux		
Round	2	Round (A) Aylesbury United	(222)	4-1
		Simpson (2), Falana,		
		Devereux		

2-1

1-0

2-laet

2-1

3-1



Formed in 1898 as Manor Works F.C., the club has always been to the forefront of football in Braintree. Soon to celebrate it's centenary, "The Iron" got their nickname through being associated for over eighty years with the Crittall metal window company which originated in the town. As the business expanded so too did the football club which changed it's title to Crittall Athletic before opening the present Cressing Road ground in 1924 and then gaining senior status. Moving on from the local North Essex and Essex and Suffolk Border Leagues, Iron joined the then prestigious Spartan League in 1928.

During the recession of the 30's the Crittall firm took on many men from the depressed area of Wales and the North, providing them with jobs and housing. As a result the football

- club benefited also and the playing standards rose to top amateur level. Crowds of 2,000 were commonplace at Cressing Road, so with great enthusiasm the club stepped up to become founder members of the Eastern Counties League in 1935. Around this period
- there were several memorable occasions, such as when a special train was chartered to
- convey over 1,000 Iron supporters to see them beat Ipswich Town in an FA Cup tie at Portman Road. The there was a crowd of 15,000 for an Amateur Cup game against
- mighty Dulwich Hamlet at Champion Hill. Apart from one season in the short lived Essex County League, Iron kept on enjoying success in the Eastern Counties League until the outbreak of the Second World War which put a six year brake on competitive soccer.
- Based as they are, midway between East Anglia and the London area, Iron were always caught in a "No Mans Land" situation and switched periodically between leagues in the
- two areas. They played in the London and Eastern Counties Leagues and as interest waned, dropped down to the Border League. Gates fell away and despite an attempt to
- restore former glories by entering the Greater London and then Metropolitan Leagues it was still a period of struggle. Even returning to the Eastern Counties League in 1970 failed to regenerate any real interest.
- By now company interest and subsidy had virtually gone and the club found it necessary to seek new means of raising income, albeit at a modest level. To assist in this and foster
- a closer identity to the town, the club became Braintree and Crittall Athletic in 1968. Following a take over of the company, the ground was sold to the local authority, but the
- club were able to remain as tenants, although by now the facilities were way below those
 required of a senior club. All links with Crittall's finally ended in the early 80's and the
 present title of Braintree Town was adopted. From here the club's fortunes were to
- change dramatically and coincided with the emergence of the new Clubhouse thanks to the generosity of the then Club President. This heralded a completely new era and with
- vastly improved facilities the club was able to enlist better players once again. Braintree football was really back in business and two Eastern Counties League
- Championship in successive years plus several major Cup triumphs saw the club go from strength to strength, both on and off the field. They also became a Limited Company. In
- 1991 they made a successful application to join the Beazer Homes League but unfortunately over their five years of membership the Southern Division became
- increasingly biased towards the West Country to the detriment of the Home Counties.
 With the likelyhood of this situation becoming still worse Braintree Town were left with
- no alternative but to seek their football nearer their home. happily a switch to the ICIS
 League was achieved and in this, their first full season they have achieved promotion to
- Division Two for season 1997/98. This season they also reached the Final of the Essex
 Senior Cup where, as holders they were narrowly beaten on this ground by a Southend
- Uited side with several players with regular first team experience contained therein by a narrow 2-1 margin.

 PAUL CATLEY 23 year old goalkeeper who is a product of the Club's Youth teams. Played his first senior game as a 16 year old and had

- three seasons in the first team before moving
 to Bury Town and Sudbury Town. Returned to Cressing Road last season.
- TONY CHERRY Goalkeeper who returned to Cressing Road last season and who has
- provided valuable experience and cover in the Number One jersey. Started his career at
- Cressing Road before assisting other local clubs.
- GARY CULLING Defender, aged 24. Another of the clubs local lads to make the grade via the
- youth team. Gary developed into a class player and was signed two seasons back by
- Colchester United where he had a number of First Team appearances before returning to
- Cressing Road. Has now made over 250 appearances.
- RUSSELL TANNER Age 24. Defender who joined the club from Chelmsford Youth in
- 1989 and soon established a regular place with his enthusiastic approach to the game. Has
- made over 240 appearances for the club despite several long injuries.
- TREVOR GUNN 30 year old solid, no nonsense central defender who returned to the
- club from Bishop's Stortford last season. Has also seen service with Sudbury Town and
- Cambridge City.
 JOHN BISHOP Central Defender. Age 27.
- Now in his eighth season. Has always been a popular player and is undoubtedly a key
- member of the side. Had a short spell at Sudbury Town at the start of the season. Now
- has over 250 appearances for the club.
- SHANE BAILEY Midfield player, age 23 who stepped up through the Club's ranks to earn a regular first team spot before moving to Bury
- Town and Sudbury Town. Came back to the club last season and has re-established himself
- on the Cressing Road scene. ALAN VINCENT Age 30. A hard working,
- ALAN VINCENT Age 50. A hard working, tough tackling midfield player who returned after several years at neighbouring Witham
- Town. Is certainly never short of effort.
- ALAN PEASE Defender. Certainly one of the most talented young players to emerge from
- the Youth and Reserve teams in recent years.
 Given his first senior outing in 1995, he has
 continued to make good progress. Although

missing most of last season through injury, he has firmly knocked on the door again this term.

NICKY SIMPSON Defender. Another of the clubs promising products, he came through the ranks to make an immediate senior impact with his exceptional pace and vigour. Uses this to good effect when he gets forward to pierce opposing defences.

ADRIAN OWERS Midfield. Club Captain and inspirational leader who fully deserves the accolades for many masterly displays last season. A class player who saw Football League service with Brighton & Maidstone. He has also had a spell in the Vauxhall Conference here at Victoria Road with Dagenham & Redbridge and played in the memorable FA Cup tie with

Leyton Orient.

WADE FALANA Forward. A sensational and instant success after joining Braintree from Fisher '93 last season. He scored 47 goals in 45 games last term to equal the post-war Club record and has continued this season. During the close season he had trials with barnet and an offer from Cambridge United, but has continued in the same rich goalscoring vein this season and is the leading scorer in ICIS League Division Three.

MICKY BENNETT Forward. Was a member of the Colchester United side which won the Vauxhall Conference in 1992/93 and moved to Braintree for a first spell in 1993/4. He was transferred to Brentford where he spent the best part of the season, but was back at Cressing Road for the start of the 1994/5

season. He returned for a third spell just before Christmas after recovering from a broken leg sustained whilst here playing for Dagenham & Redbridge. Is the second leading scorer in ICIS League Division Three.

GARY COLLINS Midfield. A strong tackling player, who has been unfortunate with injuries over the past three seasons.

NEIL GRICE Midfield. Made his return to Cressing Road early in 1997 after spells with Sudbury Town and Bury Town. Known to have the best left foot for "dead ball" kicks in local football.

LEE WILSON Defender. Big centre back signed during the close season from Sudbury Wanderers where he was captain of the successful Jewson League outfit. Was previously with another Suffolk club, Comard United.

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				1000											-	-	-		-
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Final 96/7 Tables

PREMIER DIVISION:

PREMIER DIVISION:								
Veguil Town	PI	W 31	D 8	L 3	Gf 83	Ga 34	GD P 4910	ts
Yeovil Town	42			3	91	29)5
Enfield	42	28	11 13	11	87	70		57
Sutton United	42	18		13		43		55
Dag'ham & R'bridge	42 42	18 17	11 14	11	57	43		55
Yeading					58			55
St. Albans City	42	18	11	13	65	55 54		55
Aylesury United	42	18	11	13	64			52
Purfleet	42	17	11	14	67	63		
Heybridge Swifts	42	16	14	12	62	62		52
Boreham Wood	42	15	13	14	56	52		58
Kingstonian	42	16	8	18	79	79		56
Dulwich Hamlet	42	14	13	15	57	57		55
Carshalton Athletic	42	14	11	17	51	56		53
Hitchin Town	42	15	7	20	67	73		52
Oxford City	42	14	10	18	67			52
Hendon	42	13	12	17	53	59		51
Harrow Borough	42	12	14	16	58	62		50
Bromley	42	13	9	20	67	72		48
Bishop's Stortford	42	10	13	19	43			43
Staines Town	42	10	8	24	46			38
Grays Athletic	42	8	9	25	43			33
Chertsey Town	42	8	7	27	40	98	-58	31
DIVISION ONE:								
DIVIDION OF	PI	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	GD F	rts
Chesham United	42	27	6	9	80	46		87
Basingstoke Town	42	22	13	7	81	38	43	79
Walton & Hersham	42	21	13	8	67	41		76
Hampton	42	21	12	9	62	39		75
Billericay Town	42	21	12	9	69	49	20	75
Bognor Regis Town	42	21	9	12	63	44	19	72
Aldershot Town	42	19	14	9	67	45	22	71
Uxbridge	42	15	17	10	65	48	17	62
Whyteleafe	42	18	7	17	71	68	3	61
Molesey	42	17	9	16	50	53	-3	60
Abingdon Town	42	15	11	16	44	42	2	56
Leyton Pennant	42	14	12	16	71	72	-1	54
Maidenhead United	42	15	10	17	57	57	0	52
Wokingham Town	42	14	10	18	41	45	-4	52
Thame United	42		10	19		69	-12	49
Worthing	42		11	20			-19	44
Barton Rovers	42		11	20		58	-27	44
Croydon	42		10	21			-17	43
Berkhamsted Town	42		9	22			-19	42
Canvey Island	42						-19	41
Mariow	42		6				-43	39
Tooting & Mitcham	42						-45	32
a children and a children and			1.1		0.000	0.000	004560	

DIVISION TWO:

DIVISION I WO.		121220			0272			
C. Row & Romford Leatherhead Wembley Barking Horsham Edgware Town Bedford Town Banstead Athletic Windsor & Eton Leighton Town Bracknell Town Wivenhoe Town Chalfont St. Peter Hungerford Town Metropolitan Police Tilbury Witham Town Egham Town Cheshunt Ware	PI 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42	W 28 30 23 22 20 21 21 17 17 17 14 14 14 11 10 9 7	D 12 5 11 13 11 14 8 5 13 12 9 9 13 13 7 7 10 9 3 8	L 2 7 1 7 9 8 13 16 15 15 21 21 23 30 27		86 101	GD 60 71 47 29 30 24 34 23 3 12 7 7 -8 -9 -3 -9 -28 -39 -64 -36	Pts 96 95 80 79 77 74 71 68 64 63 60 55 55 49 49 30 29
Dorking	42	7	6	29			-60	27
Hemel Hempstead	42	5	6	31	34	125	-91	21
DIVISION THREE	PI	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	GD	Pts
Wealdstone	32	24	3	5	72	24	48	75
Braintree Town	32	23	5	4	99	29	70	74
Northwood	32	18	10	4	60	31	29	64
Harlow Town	32	19	4	9	60	41	19	61
Aveley	32	17	6	9	64	39	25	57
East Thurrock Utd.	32	16	6	10	58	51	7	54
Camberley Town	32	15	6	11	55	44		51
Wingate & Finchley	32	11	7	14	52		-11	40
Hornchurch	32	11	6	15	35		-16	39
Clapton	32	11	6	15	31		-18	39
Lewes	32	10	8	14	45		-8	
Kingsbury Town	32		4	17	41		-13	
Hertford Town	32			16	55		-10	
Epsom & Ewell	32			19			-16	
Flackwell Heath	32						-35	
Tring Town	32						-41	
Southall	32				28		-41	22
Notes:	52	0	4	22	20	00		22
NULES.						in h	a d 0	noi-

In Division One, Maidenhead United have had 3 points deducted - ineligible player

Final League Tables for matches played during the 1996/1997 season

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The 96/7 ICIS League Season

When the ICIS League season started on 17th. August, it did so with two clubs in membership, neither of whom were with us last season. Our hosts tonight, Dagenham & Redbridge returned to the Premier Division while at the other end of the League and the County of Essex as well Braintree Town one of tonight's finalists moved to us from the Southern Football League. Little did we know how much these two sides would contribute to the "good times" of the League this season. In the Premier Division on that opening day, Yeovil Town our eventual Champions quietly opened their account with a 3-2 win along the A13 at Grays Athletic, but it was Kingstonian last season's Guardian Insurance Cup winners who had the best win - 5-1 against today's other finalists Boreham Wood in a match that did not kick-off until 4p.m. due to traffic snarl ups on the infamous M25. No one scored more than three goals in Division One, and in Division Three the new boys - Braintree Town only drew in Sussex at Lewes 1-1. The feature of the early weeks of the season was the large number of cup ties in a host of cup competitions that had as always to be played, and this season was no different with F.A. Cup replay commitments playing havoc with mid-week fixtures. There were nine such replays in the First Qualifying Round. However by the end of the month not only were the first two FA Cup qualifying rounds played, which meant that over half the clubs who entered the competition had been eliminated, but also the first couple of rounds of the Guardian Insurance Cup were also behind us and the draw for the Second round proper paired the remaining 32 clubs. By the end of September most clubs in the top three Divisions had played seven or eight games, Yeovil Town topped the Premier Division, Basingstoke led One, Leatherhead, were on top in Two and, Harlow Town led Three, although in their case they had only played four games.

Considering the final placings, it was a good pointer to the promotion race. The Management "roundabout" was beginning to turn, Worthing boss Mark Falco, the former Spurs player resigned, and former Wolves and Charlton man, Mike Bailey left Leatherhead - even when they topped the league. The F.A. Carlsberg Vase got under way for our clubs the first week in October with member clubs involved in 24 of the ties. More ex-Football League players parted company with ICIS clubs in October with Micky Hazard and Paul Price, the management duo at Hitchin Town being sacked by the club, former team boss Andy Melvin resumed control. The first set of Guardian Insurance "Safe Hands" awards included Braintree's Paul Catley and at Boreham Wood the club played hosts to the Polish National team 48 hours before their match with England. There was no game, but a full training session took place at Meadow Park which was filmed by SKY TV. By the middle of October, bookmakers William Hill had more or less decided the Premier Division Championship was going to be the two horse race it turned into with Yeovil quoted at 13/8 and Enfield slightly behind them at 15/8. Down in Surrey, Chertsey Town were rocked by the resignation of Chairman Dave Rayner. Meanwhile Dagenham goalkeeper Paul Gothard was recognised with a Safe Hands Award for his performances in October - it was just the first of many accolades for the player who next week plays at Wembley in the FA Umbro Trophy Final, and has also been called into the England semi-professional squad several times this season.

Into November and no less than six of our clubs, Hendon, Dagenham & Redbridge, Bromley, Enfield, Boreham Wood and St. Albans City had all made it through to the First Round of the F.A. Cup - again it was a better showing than the Conference. The best positional change in the Premier Division was that of Oxford City who had moved from 18th. to 4th. in the month, largely thanks to goals scored by Howard Forinton who led the Premier Division goalscorer, a fact that didn't go unnoticed in other parts of the League. November saw Bromley transfer Dean Wordsworth to Crystal Palace, no doubt the money came in useful, but they were to sadly miss his goals for the remainder of the campaign.

The final qualifying round of the F.A. Trophy saw the debut of quite a few of our clubs in the season's competition, including Dagenham & Redbridge, 3-1 winners at Aldershot Town. Three of our clubs survived to the Second Round of the FA Cup, including Boreham Wood, but sadly none reached the third round. In mid-December the first Representative match of the season saw the ICIS League play an FA XI and beat them 1-0 with a goal from Al-James Hannigan mid-way through the first half. It was Graham Roberts first game in charge of the League squad, which once again, following in the footsteps of John Still, Geoff Chapple and Terry Brown proved to be a stepping stone towards the Conference for the "Glovers" boss. Half the Boxing Day fixtures fell to the weather as did the following Saturday and New Years Day as well. One game that was played on Boxing Day was here at Victoria Road, with Heybridge Swifts the visitors. It was to prove to be a black day for both Dagenham & Redbridge and the Isthmian League as well, for it marked the death of League and Club President, Barry East who suffered a heart attack just after the interval.

The second Saturday in January saw a small number of games completed, but a backlog, that was to take the rest of the season to sort out had been created. Luckily the weather relented for the third Saturday and a complete League programme was augmented by both the fourth round of the FA Carlsberg Vase where Banstead took another step towards the semi-finals by beating Reading Town away 2-0 and the FA Umbro Trophy with five clubs progressing to Round Two however, Yeovil went down to Hayes after a three match saga. In the lower divisions the championship race was well under way, with only Collier Row and Romford looking not to be in contention - a look at the number of games played would however, suggest that they were far from out of things.

In February Fred & Jeff Saxton celebrated their 1,000th game in charge at Grays Athletic, it is a truly staggering performance by the brothers who, unless you know them really well are still as difficult to tell one from another. The League Representative side played again in February - against Combined Services at Hendon and won again, this time 2-1. Howard Forinton was again in the line-up, but by then Graham Roberts in his Yeovil team boss role had taken the "hot-shot" to Huish Park, it was to prove an admirable bit of business for the West Country side as the season neared its conclusion.

The League Championship had by the beginning of March become the two-horse race earlier expected, but it was Enfield who were setting the pace, they had edged in front and opened a four point lead, but Yeovil had a game in hand. In Division One Aldershot sold Darren Adams to Conference side Dover Athletic, Dave Boyce joined the Club from Salisbury City and Ricky Dennis signed from Conference neighbours Farnborough, "Shots" were lying third at the time but after slipped slowly out of the race for the top flight. At the bottom of the Premier Division, Neil Price the former Watford player left Hendon, he was replaced by Frank Murphy who earlier in the season had been with Dulwich Hamlet - it appeared to be a "magic" choice by Hendon supremo Ivor Arbiter as Hendon climbed the table in the closing weeks of the season to a place of relative safety. Just two of our clubs were left in the FA Umbro Trophy 3rd. Round, Daggers drew at Morecambe and won the replay but it was Heybridge Swifts with a fine 3-0 win over Kidderminster who stole the glory - and they were well worth their win as well.

Banstead Athletic's fine run in the F.A. Carlsberg Vase finally came to an end, beaten over two legs by Whitby Town, but the month's real headline was the attendance for the Yeovil Town v. Enfield game at Huish Park. A staggering 8,007 got in and another 1500 were outside as the two sides fought out a 2-2 draw, by this time Yeovil were back on top by a point. There was the usual rush of transfers on deadline day, and Yeovil had announced that Howard Forinton and his colleague Jerry Gill would both join Birmingham City for the 1997/98 season, in a deal reported to reach six figures. Heybridge bowed out of the Trophy against Woking, but Dagenham marched into the semi-finals to play Gloucester City. After three games it was the Daggers, as everybody here at Victoria Road knows who will play at Wembley this season - and our very best wishes go with them. The usual frantic rush of matches seemed to envelop everybody this season and the Championship of all four divisions was undecided until the last few games.

The final tables show the winners and losers in those battles. Three clubs who have played in the Premier Division previously return there next season as do three who have played in Division One from Division Two. The faces in Division Two from Division Three will all be new faces. Special congratulations though to Collier Row & Romford who made up all their games to win teh Divisin Two Championship on the last day. The Associate Members Trophy was won on Tuesday night by Leighton Town with a last minute goal from Paul Firth and last night in the Full Members Cup, Alan Devonshire's Maidenhead United side from Division One beat Premier Division opponents, Aylesbury United 3-0. Micky Creighton opened the scoring midway through the first half, but it took until the final minutes before Garry Attrell made it 2-0 after 81 minutes. Like the previous evening, there was a last minute goal, this time from Francis Duku. Which just leaves this evening......



THE ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

This is the Ninety-second season of The ICIS Football League as we know it today and although it cannot claim to be the oldest competitive competition in the land it certainly can claim to be one of the most innovative. Originally formed for the 1905/6 season, three men of vision saw the need in the London area for a really strong amateur league. Those men, Tom Kirkup, for many years Secretary of the London F.A., George Clarke, Hon. Treasurer of Ilford F.C. and Frank Evans, Hon. Secretary of Clapton F.C. met and sent out invitations to six clubs to attend a meeting at the Winchester Hotel in Old Broad Street to informally discuss he subject.

The meeting met with enthusiasm and soon the representatives of the six clubs present -London Caledonians, Clapton, The Casuals, Civil Service, Ealing and Ilford had persuaded their committees of the value of such a competition. The late Harry Huband was approached to become Hon. Secretary and the Isthmian League was officially formed on March 8th. 1905 with Lord Kinnaird as President and Percy Timbs as Chairman.

Much had been made in those far off days of the re-birth of the modern Olympics in Athens in 1896 and as such Greek names were very much the "in thing", thus Isthmian with its Greek connotations became the name of was to become the senior amateur league in the South of England. London Caledonians were the first winners and Clapton were runners-up. It wasn't long before the League started an expansion programme which in due course led to the 88 club set-up of recent season in four separate divisions. We currently have a complement of 83 clubs, and hope to welcome new clubs to our ranks for next season, taking numbers back to closer to the full 88. Braintree Town, one of tonight's finalists are of course, the latest club to have been welcomed to the Isthmian ranks, they made the move from the Doc. Marten's League in a well publicised change last summer and have been most successful in their initial season. They are a well run and forward looking club - exactly indicative of the type of club the Isthmian League seeks for membership.

The League can boast of three clubs who have gone on to Football League membership. Wimbledon now in fact a Carling Premiership club joined the Isthmian ranks in 1921 and stayed until 1964. The former Maidstone United were also members between 1959 and 1971 and of course Wycombe Wanderers are now in the Football League Division Two some nine years on from leaving our ranks.

Member clubs now play a part in promotion to the Vauxhall Conference, and Hayes, last year's champions, have, after a few initial problems found a momentum that will keep them in the Conference ranks again next season, when no doubt they will be able to build on this season's experiences. Yeovil Town, our Champions this season will return to the Conference with our best best wishes for next season - our member clubs will miss their swelled ranks of supporters and the friendliness of club officials.

Professionalism and sponsorship was first embraced in the early 70's and we were the first league to award three points for a win. During the 1980's the present management structure under the guiding hand of present Chairman and Managing Director Alan Turvey transformed the League from two to four divisions and the highly successful sponsorship of Vauxhall Motors was obtained. The league enjoyed six years of that sponsorship agreements That was followed by four seasons of sponsorship by Diadora UK. Now we have completed two seasons of our term with ICIS and with Guardian Insurance as our League Cup sponsors. We trust that our new sponsors are still suitably impressed with what they have seen.

Braintree Town Football Club

1



Back Row (L to R): Tony Hall (Manager), John Bishop, Adrian Owers, Neil Grice, Gary Collins, Lee Wilson, Paul Catley, Trevor Gunn, Gary Bennett, Shane Addington, Tony Last (Physio) Front Row: Alan Vincent, Russell Tanner, Nicky Simpson, Gary Culling, Shane Bailey, Club Mascot, Alan Pease, Simon Marshall Photo by Jon Weaver

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