



WELCOME

Good evening, and welcome to our first Cup Final of the season.

Tonight we see Aveley FC take on Potters Bar Town FC who are competing in the Final for the first time whereas Aveley previously won the League Cup in 1990 beating St Albans City FC 3-0 at the ground of Dagenham & Redbridge FC.

We did have a few queries as to why this match is being played at Aveley's ground and the answer is very simple; for a. number of years now we have selected our Cup Final grounds at the start of each season in the full knowledge that the home side might reach the Final and seemingly have an advantage. Ask Bayern Munich what they think of that after losing the 2012 Champions League Final to Chelsea!

Tonight, I am delighted to welcome the Players, Management and Officials of both Clubs to what I hope will be a thrilling Final. The Millers obviously need no introduction to their home ground and the Scholars need no introduction to Aveley, having played home and away in the League this season as well as having played each other in the FA Challenge Cup both home and away because the first tie was drawn 1-1 at Parkside with Potters Bar being victorious in the replay a few days later at the Lantern Stadium by a 2-1 score line. The following Monday they met again in the League at Parkside. And the Millers won 3-1! Little love was lost on Valentine's night this year when the return league match went the way of the Millers.

The League Cup is named after our former Chair and President, Alan Turvey, who will be forever remembered as a true Isthmian. Once again tonight we are very pleased to have Alan's daughter, Susan as our guest so that we can continue to honour Alan's memory.

We acknowledge the great support we receive from our wonderful sponsors, Velocity, providers of Artificial Turf Pitches, and the competition remains "the Alan Turvey Cup"- known as the Velocity Cup during their generous sponsorship. Next season we will have nearly thirty Clubs with Artificial Turf Pitches and well over half of those will have been supplied by today's sponsors. I am therefore most grateful to Joe Boniface and his colleagues Will Buxton and Jonathan Rogers who will be with us today. The greatest compliment I can pay them, and their Company, is that we no longer have to ask Clubs intending to install an ATP to get a quote from Velocity, they go automatically to them and the only disappointment we have is that the Football Foundation still do not acknowledge Velocity as an approved supplier. We know from the work they have done for our Clubs that their work is excellent and we welcome Velocity as our approved suppliers of Artificial Turf Pitches.

I also want to thank Craig Johnson and his team here at Aveley FC for all the hard work they do in hosting this match. I am sure that everyone here appreciates how much work goes into staging a match like this and the superb facilities as well as the hard work put in by all the volunteers here are the reasons why we choose Parkside as our favoured venue for Finals.

I also want to welcome the Match Officials without whom, of course, we do not have any matches at all. The Football Association appoint the Match Officials for this match, and it is always pleasing to see that they recognise the importance of the match by the high level of Officials appointed to it. I am pleased to welcome our Match Referee, Daniel Blades, the Assistant Referees Callum Dorling and James Black and the Fourth Official Teddy Osborn, and hope that they enjoy their short stay here at Parkside.

Finally, I want to thank our Chief Executive, Kellie Discipline, and her team for all the hard work they put into arranging our Finals. They are always the unsung heroes and the rest of us just turn up and expect everything to happen. It does not just happen like that without a lot of hard work so my thanks to Kellie, Debbie and Michelle for all their hard work.



Nick Robinson, Chairman, Isthmian League



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INTRODUCING AVELEY Club History



AVELEY FOOTBALL CLUB was formed in 1927 and played in local leagues until 1939. Club activities were then suspended during the war years 1939/45. In 1946 the club was reformed and joined the Thurrock Combination. Aveley twice won the Essex Junior Cup, firstly in 1948, then retaining it the following year.

Aveley gained Senior League status in season 1949/50 and were elected into the London League, Division One. They were Division Champions in the 1951/52 season. In the same season they moved from Lodge Meadow to their present ground, Mill Field, and were promptly nicknamed The Millers. In season 1954/55 they were Division Champions once again which was followed by election to The Delphian League in 1955/56. They competed in this league until 1962/63 with little success.

1963/64 saw Millers join the Athenian League. Full membership of the Football Association was granted in 1964/65. Season 1970/71 was probably the clubs most successful one. The first round proper of the FA Cup was reached along with the FA Amateur Cup quarter-finals, they were also Champions of the Athenian League.

Aveley were elected to the Isthmian League in season 1973/74. Here they competed without success in Division One until they were relegated to Division Two North at the end of the 1985/86 season. Millers did however achieve two cup successes during this time. The Essex Thames-Side Challenge Trophy was won in 1979/80 and the Hornchurch Charity Cup in 1982/83.

The 1989/90 campaign was a memorable one for The Millers. Promotion back to Division One was gained with a tremendous end of season run-in to finish second to Heybridge Swifts by two points. This was followed by a 3-0 victory over Premier Division St.Albans in the final of the AC Delco (League) Cup. This made Aveley the first team from the lowest division to win this competition. After this the club slipped down to Division Three and cup successes were limited to appearances in the finals of both the East Anglian Cup and the The Essex Thames-Side Challenge Trophy in 1997/98.

The 1999/2000 season started well with Aveley being un-beaten in the League at Christmas. However a turn in fortunes saw them slip and eventually finish 9th. This was followed by 6th place in season 2000/01.

A roller-coaster season 2001/02 saw the club finish third behind Hornchurch and champions Croydon Athletic and gain promotion to Division 1 North.

An excellent season for the Millers in 2002/03. Good runs in the FA Cup and Bryco Cup were capped by an appearance in the Essex Senior Cup Final. This did not go Millers way however with Chelmsford winning 5-0. The Third Qualifying Round of the FA Cup was reached, eventually losing out to Canvey Island 2-0. A good run-in saw Millers finish in sixth place in the League.

The 2003/04 campaign saw the club eventually finish in 14th place. Millers matched the previous season's performance and reached the final of the Essex Senior Cup. This time a much improved display saw them go down 3-1 to local rivals Thurrock. The final game of the season was another cup final. This time in the East Anglian Cup, and a visit to Spalding United. This also finished in a 3-1 defeat for the Millers.

2004/05 was a disappointing one for Millers first season in the Southern League, the club finishing in 15th place. Compensation however, came in the form of the Essex Thames-Side Challenge Trophy. Romford were beaten 1-0 in the final at The Mill Field. Simon Thomas scoring the only goal of the game. Another difficult season followed, on and off the pitch. Millers ended the season with their third manager, Steve Browne, steering them just clear of the relegation places. A poor League season in 2006/07 was again compensated for by winning the Essex Thames-Side Challenge Trophy for the second time in three seasons.

After a disappointing start to the 2007/08 campaign, November saw the arrival of Rod Stringer as Manager, and fortunes turned with the Millers putting a string of impressive results together to finish the season in Mid-Table. 2008/09 saw the foundations that were laid the previous season, bare its fruit as the Ryman League Division One North Championship was won on the last day of the season in dramatic fashion at East Thurrock United. In a tense finish to the season, Millers created a club record of 11 straight away league wins, and Rod Stringer was duly judged as the Manager of the Season for the Division.

2009/10 our first in the Isthmian Premier Division saw a great finish to the season, with 12 wins from the last 14 games, taking us into 3rd position and a home semi-final play-off against Boreham Wood. Unfortunately it was one step too far, and a 1-0 defeat saw the end of a Fantastic season.



INTRODUCING AVELEY CLUB HISTORY



During the close season Rod Stringer departed for Braintree Town, taking with him his management team, and the whole playing squad. A difficult season was endured with a last day 3–2 win at Hastings being significant as he club survived relegation by virtue of a reprieve despite finishing 4th from bottom of the table.

2011/12 was much of the same, and relegation was confirmed after a poor season. Justin Gardner took over the reins in February of 2012, and has this season assembled a strong playing squad that is currently challenging for an immediate return to the Premier Division.

2012/13 was a successful season with the team occupying a play off positions all season. Unfortunately we lost out in the semi-final at Maldon & Tiptree.

After many years of trying, the Millers were granted the green light on the 13th May 2016 allowing the club to start building as soon as possible, with Parkside due to be completed for the 2017/18 season.

In 2018/19 season, the Millers had a successful season and finished 2nd, with a month left of the season to go manager James Webster resigned and Aveley moved quickly to bring in Danny Dafter who came in with five games left and won every game to help Aveley to finish 2nd, behind Bowers & Pitsea in the Bostik North. However, that winning run ended with defeat in the Play-Off Semi Final against Heybridge Swifts, 2-0.

In preparation for the 2019/20 season Danny Dafter was appointed as full time manager.

Two games in the 2019/20 season and Danny Dafter resigned as Aveley manager, and a few weeks later he was replaced by Keith Rowland, the former West Ham United defender and Northern Ireland international.

Keith took The Millers to a historic 2019/20 which was cut short due to the Corona-Virus outbreak. Aveley made it to the Quarter Final of the FA Trophy and were second in the Isthmian North, although PPG would've seen Aveley promoted, they were denied promotion after the season was decided and later announced to be null and void.

The 2021/22 season was one to remember for Aveley Football Club, after a third of the season Manager Keith Rowland was replaced by former Concord Rangers manager Danny Scopes in October 2021.

From October 2021, Aveley went on a run of three losses for the remainder of the season and saw off strong competition from Canvey Island and Stowmarket Town to become champions of the Isthmian North for the second time in their history and promoted back to the Isthmian Premier League.





INTRODUCING AVELEY Staff & Player Profiles



DANNY SCOPES: MANAGER: Danny, former Concord Rangers Manager in the National South guided the Beachboys to the FA Trophy final taking on Football League side Harrogate Town in May 2021. Scopes also assisted the Cowley Brothers in Concord Rangers' rise from the Essex Senior League to the National South before coming first team manager in 2019.

GOALKEEPERS:

JONATHAN NORTH: Northy' joined the Millers from National South outfit Slough who Jonathan joined in the Summer of 2021 and made 48 appearances in all competitions, keeping 6 clean sheets in the league, and helping The Rebels to a 13th placed finish. Prior to joining the National South side Jonathan was a club legend at National League side Wealdstone where he made over 400 appearances across 10 years, earning himself a testimonial in August 2021.

DEFENDERS:

HARRY GIBBS: Central defender who first made his debut for Aveley back in 2016 in a 5-2 victory over Ware and went on to make 32 appearances in his first season with the club winning Young Player of the Year. During the 2017/18 season Harry made 5 appearances before leaving. Gibbo has also played for Brentwood Town & Hornchurch.

JON NZENGO: Jonathan Nzengo joined The Millers midway through September 2019 after departing Romford after starting the season with National South side East Thurrock. Jon joined Romford at the beginning of the 2017/18 season and went on to make 54 appearances scoring 9 and assisting three times. His performances caught the eye of Jon Coventry who signed him on dual registration to play in the National South.

JASON RING: Jason started his career at Burnham Ramblers at the age of 16 and then had three great seasons at Great Wakering Rovers in the Isthmian North where during the 2018/19 season. Ringo joined The Millers at the beginning of the 2020/21 season and featured 11 times, winning eight of those games and only losing three before the season was cut short. Ring went on to make 31 appearances, assisting three times.

RYAN SCOTT: Ryan started his career in the youth set up for Barnet and moved to feature for Wingate & Finchley and at the heart of Billericay Town's defence during the 2014/15 season before making the move to Jon Coventry's East Thurrock United in the 2015/16 season. Scotty helped East Thurrock win the Essex Senoir Cup and mid-table in the National South, before moving to Concord Rangers and then the Millers ahead of the 2021/22 season.

TOM STEPHEN: Tom Stephen joined The Millers in May 2022 after four succesful years at Bowers & Pitsea, helping fellow Essex based side to the Isthmian North title in 2018/19, and a histroic Emirates FA Cup run, ending in a narrow 1-0 defeat at Sky Bet League One side Lincoln City. Over his time at Bowers & Pitsea, Tom made 126 appearances, 89 of them coming in the Isthmian Premier League which will bring more experience at this level.

CERNY ANDO: Started his footballing career in the youth system and EFL League Two side AFC Wimbledon before moving to another League Two side Salford City in November 2020, before making his way from Under 18 to Under 21 side making numerous appearances. Ando moved back down south and featured for Kingstonian in pre-season of 2022 before signing for South Premier Central side Met Police, Cerny then signed for Cray Wanderers at the end of September 2022 and then joining The Millers at the end of December.

MIDFIELDERS:

SIJU ODEULSI: Seju Odelusi joined The Millers around mid-October and can play in a number of positionS across the team, he has previously played at this level with both Hayes & Yeading United and Leiston. Siju has also represented Westfield, Northwood, Tilbury and Witham Town.

KENNY AILERU: Kenny started his career in the Aldershot Town Youth Academy set-up and Featured for Clapton and Phoenix Sports. Kenny made his way up through Phoenix Sports Reserve side and made 24 appearances for the first team in the 2019/20 season scoring eight goals and was instrumental in more. Kenny joined The Millers mid-December and made 19 appearances, scoring three times and assisting a further 3 times.

JAMIE DICKS: Jamie joined us from Bowers & Pitsea in May 2022 after he spent five seasons with the club, making 151 appearances and scoring 19 goals, helping them win the Isthmian North back in 2018/19 and helping to establish Bowers & Pitsea as an Isthmian Premier League club and reaching for Emirates FA Cup First Round.



INTRODUCING AVELEY Staff & Player Profiles



GARRETT KELLY: Originally joining us at the end of the 2017/18 season, making 9 appearances and scoring one goal against away at Hornchurch. Garrett made 5 appearances the following season before departing to play football in Greece. Kelly came back to the UK, playing for Hornchurch and Heybridge Swifts before re-joining The Millers back in March 2022, making 7 appearances and scoring two vital goals away at Witham Town and Romford.

BRENDON SHABANI:Brendon started his career at Sky Bet League Two side Leyton Orient and after being there from the age of 12, Brendon signed his first professional contract in 2019. Brendon went on to be in and around the Orient squad involved with their FA Trophy Third Round victory over National North side Blyth Spartans. Brendon was released by Leyton Orient in the Summer just gone and signed for St Neots Town.

BENAS VAIVADA: Vaivada, a young and exciting talent joins The Millers from Margate after scoring four goals in 20 starts for the Kent side, scoring the winner against Haringey Borough which sealed Margate's place in the Velocity Trophy Final. Prior to signing for Margate, Benas played for Tower Hamlets guiding them to survival in the SCEFL, at Step 5.

CONNOR WITHERSPOON: Connor Witherspoon joined The Millers during the 2017/18 season for an undisclosed fee from Isthmian Premier League side Brightlingsea Regent where he helped the R's become Isthmian North Champions making 68 apperances for them. Prior to Brighlingsea Regent, Connor featured for Brentwood Town leading them to the Isthmian Premier League after winning the Isthmian North play-offs.

OLI COKER: Oli has been in and around the Southend United first-team for much of this season, making three appearances from the bench. It's not Oli's first loan to the Isthmian Premier League, last season making 11 appearances and scoring three goals for East Thurrock United.

HANI BERCHICHE: Hani joins The Millers after playing for Harrow Borough this season. Hani has also featured for fellow Isthmian Premier League sides Wingate & Finchley, Bognor Regis Town and Bilericay Town. Berchiche has also played in the National South for Concord Rangers.

FORWARDS:

MANNY OGUNRINDE: Manny signed for The Millers at the beginning of the 2020/21 season from Grays Athletic and went on to make 6 appearances scoring one in the opening day winner on his debut against Dereham Town. That season was then cut short and Manny signed-on for the 2021/22 season, making 39 appearances, scoring 9 and assisting on 8 occasions.

GEORGE SYKES: George joined The Millers from local rivals Tilbury during the 2019/20 season and scored on his debut in the FA trophy match away at East Grinstead. Sykes went on to score 15 and assist 10 in 27 games before the season ended early. In 2020/21 George made 10 appearances, scoring 5 and assisting twice before moving onto Brentwood Town, however, that season was stopped in November. George then re-joined The Millers at the start of the 2021/22 season, making 42 appearances, scoring 20 goals and assisting a futher 10 times, helping us win the Isthmian North.

TEMI BABALOLA: Originally from South Ockenden in Essex, Babalola spent the first years of his career with local clubs such as Woodford Town, Romford and Brentwood Town. In 2021/22, the strong frontman bagged six goals in 18 starts, whilst a season earlier he played for the Essex side in the FA Trophy Final Wembley. In November, Temi joined Isthmian League Premier side Aveley on Dual Registration.



From left to Right: Oli Coker, Garrett Kelly, Harry Gibbs, George Sykes, Jonathan North, Ryan Scott, Tom Stephen, Jon Nzengo, Kenny Aileru, Jason Ring, Siju Odelusi.



DANNY SCOPES Aveley Manager



I have been told by the good people who have been around the club for longer than me that:

"The last final, for Aveley football club was in 2011 in the Essex Senior Cup. That resulted in a loss to Billericay. You have to go back to 1990, I believe when the last cup final was won by the football club"

Just looking at the dates above, has been part of the motivation for us as a management team and players. We want to provide the football club with a final and a evening for our supporters to enjoy.

Hopefully we can give them the win their support this season deserves. They have been there all the way this season, with plenty of old and new faces, that are now regulars, home and away watching the Millers.

Another motivation to do well in this competition, has been the disappointment we felt as group, in not giving the fans the FA Cup or Trophy runs they (we) all craved during this season.

The disappointment of how we lost them games, in a replay at funnily enough Potters Bar (5th time we have played this season tonight) in the last minute in the FA Cup and then late goals away to Horsham in the FA Trophy game too.

The League cup has provided us with extra games and we say as a group the more games you have played in a season then the more successful you have been as a team.

We have had to overcome some really good sides in Tilbury, Bowers, Leatherhead and Chatham, while also focussing on staying towards the top of the table all season.

Some solid performances in the first two games by the squad, lead to a cracking off the bench, late impact goal from Ollie Coker to beat a stubborn Leatherhead side and push us into the semi-final.

The Semi-final was a really good enjoyable game and a real test. An extremely experienced and high-flying Chatham Town team took us all the all the way and caused us plenty of problems we had to overcome, after also going 1-0 down to an early goal. We eventually won on penalties, with some excellent penalties from our players and a great save from our No1 Jonathan North to progress us to the final.

We are extremely excited for the final and to also be played at our home ground as the pre chosen venue before the competition started is an added bonus as hopefully our fans can come out in full support of the team.

The group will be ready in what will be close game and we will give all we have got to try and get the win on the night for Aveley FC

"1990 is a long time to wait"

Danny Scopes Aveley FC First Team Manager





MID TABLE AND a good cup run. Mid table and a good cup run. That's what I've had to keep saying to myself all season.

Back in July 2022, when we first saw the confirmed teams to play in the Isthmian Premier League this season, there was an element of trepidation in the air. This "village" club from Thurrock were the favourites to go straight back down.

I looked at the teams in the league, teams that are firmly established in this league. Teams that in the past, the thought of playing them would have been an intimidating one. Teams with a large fan base. Plus a couple who have come down from Step 2. So really a mid table finish was a respectable target for a first go round.

With one month left of the season, 5 games at the time of writing, we are sitting 4th in the league, just three points off top spot and with the way results have gone this season, anything can still happen. If you said the season stops now, would I take it? No, because we want to finish above Canvey at least. But in reality the league campaign has been a fairly successful one.

That's down to the amazing work Scopsey and his team have done with these players. Yes, there are a few changes to personnel from the opening game. This is non-league though, so that's to be expected. But the majority of the team remain the same as those

Aveley vs Potters Bar Town

who won promotion just under a year ago.

We've had our fair share of injuries as well throughout the season and our luck is probably best illustrated by Saleem Akanbi, who comes on for his league debut against Brightlingsea Regent and within less than a minute has injured his MCL and is out for the rest of the season. Captain Withers has had a length spell out. Manny comes back from a big injury to then get a dubious red card on his return and a suspension.

Despite all this though, the boys as a squad, as a team have battled through and put this club on the map in the Isthmian Prem. All of that is testament to what a fantastic job these boys have done. But what about the second part? A good cup run.

Now let's be totally honest, us Millers are still reliving and trying to emulate that amazing run in 2019/20 in the FA Trophy that took us to Notts County in the quarter final. Unfortunately, this season we didn't get past the third qualifying round, losing in the last minute to Horsham.

We were knocked out in the third round of the Essex Senior Cup on penalties to Concord Rangers. Then there was the Thameside/Thames-Side Trophy semi final last week. We won't mention that.



Wednesday 5th April 2023



So, FA Cup it is then, right? Nope. In the first qualifying round, we were given a home tie was against none other than Potters Bar Town way back in September, when it was still warm enough for just a t-shirt.

After a goalless first half it was Potters Bar who struck first, going 1-0 up in the 64th minute. It looked like that was it until Sykesy hit back in the 88th minute to force a replay. A replay that would take place the following Tuesday night.

The replay against the top two back in September, saw the then league leaders Bar go 1-0 up again in the 20th minute. The home side were in control untilhalf time approached, when Scotty headed home to level the game at the break.

It looked like penalties were on the cards, but on the 90th minute the home team got the winner and we were out. Ironically, the next league fixture was at home to Potters Bar again! Three games back to back. This time though we finished up winners with a 3-1 victory at Parkside.

That left us with the Velocity Trophy. The Isthmian Leagues league Cup tournament.

Aveley's first fixture in the tournament was a home tie on a cold, dark Monday night in October against local rivals Tilbury. The Millers acted quickly this time with a Diedrick-Roberts goal on 18 minutes, quickly followed by a Sykesy strike three minutes later on 21.



Early into the second half Tilbury got a lifeline when former Miller Alex Clark converted from the spot, but Aveley held on to get through to the fourth round.

Another cold Monday night. Another home tie. Another local derby as Bowers & Pitsea headed to Parkside in December. One of the main highlights was seeing the return of Jason Ring from a long term injury. Ringo got his first 60 minutes in nearly a year on a night that the Millers controlled. A first Millers goal for Siju Odelusi on 50 mins, before Ben Allen converted on 90mins to seal the win.

Onto the quarter final and it's the South Central Divisions Leatherhead that visit Parkside. Again a goalless first half is improved by a more exciting second. Aveley taking the lead through Ben Allen early into the second half. Leatherhead equalised on 72mins before Oli Coker gets the winner on 88mins. Another Southend loanee doing wonders at Parkside.

Monday night is clearly Velocity Trophy night, well except for the final, as we host the South East divisions Chatham Town on another chilly Monday evening. It didn't start well. Chatham taking the lead on 9 minutes.

Just before half time however, Aveley win a penalty. Fair to say we haven't had much luck with penalties this season, but that didn't seem to effect Garrett "Ledge" Kelly, who calmly put it in the bottom corner. Kaneesque. It stayed that way through the second half and we went to a dreaded penalty shoot out for a place in the final.

Chatham having missed one penalty then had to watch as the Ledge stepped up again to take his second pen of the night. This time though, the keeper saves and nerves really kick in. However, we had Northy in goal who saves the next one leaving Kenny to slot home the final spot kick and send us through to the final. Where we will face Potters Bar for the 5th time this season.

We had a romantic evening on Valentine's Day as Potters Bar invited us over to their gaff for the fourth match up of the season. Try put on a decent spread too, the Burger aficionados, Lord David of Friend and Master Matt agreed that the offering was a worthy one.



It still sits top of the table, with Bishops Stortford, with a solid 9/10. It was so good we all went back for seconds. The burgers were better than the home team's performance as Aveley dominated this one and finished up 2-0 winners with goals from Kenny and Benas.

All that mumbo jumbo doesn't really help predict what will happen tonight. But that's why we love non-league. Anything can happen.

Tonight then, I think we can say we've had a decent season. Top four in the league, and a decent cup run. There's still so much to play for though, and we start tonight.

Aveley will be running out in their special edition white shirts tonight, hoping to bring home the trophy: We've definitely got the manager, staff and players to do it. So maybe it's down to the fans to do that bit extra.

A cup final should bring in a good crowd to Parkside. Hopefully, everyone will be in good spirits and ready to make some noise.

We'll be behind the goal as usual. The flags will be up. The drum will be beating, not necessarily in time. The Neck Oil will be flowing. We just need you. So come and join us behind the goal, let's make some noise and give the lads a push. Let's go for the cup!

Come on you Millers!!

Aveley vs Potters Bar Town

INTRODUCING THE OFFICIALS OFFICIALS PROFILES

REFEREE: DANIEL BLADES

Daniel is a Kent official in his 8th season as a referee having started aged 14. Tonight's game will be his 30th appointment this season. Away from football, he works for Santander supporting business within the hospitality, leisure and travel sector.

ASSISTANT REFEREE: CALLUM DORLING

Callum has been a referee since 2012 and a level 4 since 2020. Callum comes from a family of referees and his Dad is his biggest influence. Refereeing is his passion and he loves the match day experience and being apart of the team. Callum is very excited to be involved in the Velocity Isthmian League Cup Final and is looking forward to working with an excellent team of Officials.

ASSISTANT REFEREE: JAMES BLACK

James started refereeing in 2017 at the age of 16. He has enjoyed much personal success in terms of promotions and cup final appointments as well. Away from refereeing, James is a student at the University of Essex where he is researching athlete mental health. In his free time, particularly in the summer months, he enjoy playing local village cricket and is also an avid hiker.

4TH OFFICIAL: TEDDY OSBORN

Teddy is 26 years old, working in construction and lives in South East London and has been refereeing for 6 seasons. Outside of refereeing, Teddy love all kinds of sport, walking his dogs and photography. Highlights in his refereeing career include promotion to level 3 at the start of the 2022/23 season, making his debut as a referee in the FA Cup in September 2022 and officiating in Northern Ireland at the Super Cup NI.



INTRODUCING POTTERS BAR TOWN CLUB HISTORY



The foundations for the Mount Grace Old Scholars (Potters Bar) Football Association were laid in spring 1960. The school's first team were having a good season, but many of the boys were due to leave at Easter. It was then that Ken Barrett; the P.E. Master of Mount Grace School asked them and old 'Scholars' to support him in raising a team.

We were accepted into the Barnet & District League on 29th June 1960. Ken enlisted Bert Wright, the school's Caretaker and Sven Hammarling and then Bill Venneear. Reserve, 3rd and 4th Teams were added in the following seasons. In 1965, the Barnet & District and Finchley & District Leagues merged to form the North London Combination. By 1967/68 we had won the Premier Division and the Reserves the Division 1 title and were admitted to Division 2 of the Herts County League.

In 1976 Bill Venneear and Clive Cavalier stepped down and Peter Waller, then the 3rd Team manager, was 'persuaded' to take over. In 1978 many recommended the closure of the Club. But we continued and our three sides were relegated. But from the experience grew a desire never to repeat the mistakes again. Micky Holson became Manager and in 1981/82 we were in the Premier Division, as Division One Champions.

Clive Cavalier rejoined in 1979 and with Peter Waller planned the new Clubhouse and changing rooms. Construction started in July 1982 and in six months, with Frank Bentley's considerable involvement and help from members, the clubhouse opened on the 9th January 1983. In 1990/91, we reached the FA Vase 3rd round, before we came back from a 24 point deficit to win the Herts Senior County League Premier Division and the Aubrey Cup.

We accepted promotion to the South Midlands League and changed our playing name to Potters Bar Town FC, to reflect the growing stature of the club and promote the Town. Don Newman stood down as Chairman after 11 years. We installed the Floodlight system in 1993, the Youth section was reformed in 1993/94 and FA Cup football came in 1995/96. At the end of that season, Peter Waller stepped down as Secretary, after twenty years, to become Chairman. In 1996/97, the South Midlands Premier Division title was won, but we knew there was too much work to do to apply to the Isthmian League.

The following season, 1997/98, the club reached the quarter final of the FA Vase, going down 2–0 to Kidsgrove Athletic, only conceding in the second period of extra time. We were Runners-up in the league, but won the Challenge Trophy and the South Midlands Floodlight Cup. The Reserves went one better, winning Reserve Division One. In 1998, Peter Waller and Eddie Harvey, secured a new 21-year lease on the ground, whilst on the site the old school was demolished, replaced by a new Ladbrooke School, Care Home, new car park and Watkins Rise. Sadly, we lost Bill Venneear in November 2000, a victim of cancer. The 150 Seater Main Stand was added in May 2001.

For Season 2001/02, Steve Smart became Manager and by 2002/03, with Paul Surridge, we achieved 3rd place in the league and won the Herts Charity Shield. The Potters Bar Charity Cup followed in 2003/04, but 2004/05 was the most successful of his 3 year reign, winning four trophies; the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division and the Premier Division Cup, Herts Charity Shield and Potters Bar Charity Cup. The club went on to take the title by sixteen points, remaining unbeaten in the final 19 league matches, including sixteen victories.

Off the pitch, in 6 weeks Club members and Players carried out major improvements and we passed the FA Ground grading and earned promotion to the Southern League Division 1 East for season 2005/06. Steve Smart stepped down; Kevin Lucas was appointed, and then replaced by Andy Milne. Though we were bottom for six months, we would not give up. Andy Leese agreed to join us in February 2006 and with new players our fortunes changed and we survived relegation, finishing 16th. The club was devastated that season by the death of Ken Woodward, who had spearheaded the ground improvements.

For 2006/07, we were moved to the Ryman League Division 1 North. We enjoyed a most successful FA Cup run, losing away by 3-2 to full-time Woking, of the Conference National, in the 4th qualifying round, after wins against Waltham Abbey, Wealdstone, Maldon Town and Margate by 2-1 away. But we won the Herts FA Charity Cup, for the first time, but lost Kevin Wilmot, as Secretary. Andy Leese left in May 2007 and we appointed Steve Browne, though he resigned in December 2008.

In the summer of 2007, a spectators covered area was added and a turnstile block. All four turnstiles have a unique history, as they were all in use at the old Wembley Stadium, until it closed in 2000. Adam Lee was appointed in 2008 and for 5 years served the Club with great distinction and commitment, always improving our league position and reached the Herts Senior Cup Final in 2012/13 for the only time.

INTRODUCING POTTERS BAR TOWN CLUB HISTORY



In May 2010, to celebrate our 50th year, many former players returned, including 9 who had played in the very first match in September 1960! Bert Wright, one of our 'founders', received the FA 50 years service Award. To commemorate the occasion, the Club reverted to Maroon shirts, the same colours that we wore in June 1960. In January 2012, Bert Wright died at the age of '93, having given the club 52 years of service. In his honour, we renamed the Main stand after him.

For 2013/14 we were back in the Southern League. In late 2013, Adam Lee stepped down, succeeded by Jack Friend, then in early 2015, by Steve Ringrose. Our Free Season Ticket Offer was launched for 2014/15 and made the national press. Sadly, we lost Eddie Harvey. In 2015/16 we reached the semi-final of the League Cup, and then in 2016/17 we made the 4th qualifying round of the F.A. Cup for the second time, including a replay win at Bath City on penalties (our best result against a team from a higher level). In Summer 2017 the Clubroom was totally refurbished and in August 2018, after raising £100,000 ourselves and 3 years work by John Gibbs, our new Changing Room complex was opened.

For 2017/18 we were back in the Isthmian League Division 1 North. In September 2017, Peter Waller, celebrated 50 years of service to the Club and received an FA Award. Steve Ringrose 'promoted' James Duncan to Head Coach and several experienced players arrived. We started with another successful run in the FA Cup, losing to National South Play Off Finalists Hampton & Richmond Borough, whilst in the FA Trophy we fell to Southern League Premier Division Champions, Hereford, both after replays. We then targeted the Play offs, being 8th in January. However, in our remaining 22 fixtures, we won 15 and drew 5 and came through to take 2nd spot and promotion, with a win on the final day. As a result, we proudly started 2018/19 in the Premier Division.

The 2018/19 season was to present two challenges: One: Make the necessary ground improvements to reach the next level ground grading requirements which meant the addition of two new stands – one a 100-seater and the other a 100 standing – this was achieved on time – thanks to the hard work of club members and supporters and fund-raising and grants. Two: Establish ourselves at step three. This we did – finishing 16th in the in the Bostik Premier League despite the departure of our management team in the season, but we again promoted from within with Lee O'Leary stepping up to player/manager and being joined by Scott Cousins as joint manager. It was another season of significant progress.

The shortened 2019/20 season was another successful one as the club solidified its position at Step three and gained national interest as we took Barnet to a replay in the FA Cup Fourth Round Qualifying, whilst the home game being shown on the BBC with a crowd Of 2011 in attendance. The 2020/21 season was also curtailed, with the last game being played in October, a 3-1 loss against Leatherhead. The season's termination did not prevent us from continuing to make progress on and off the pitch however, as on the pitch we were able to enjoy 3-0 wins against both Cheshunt and Cray Wanderers, the latter ending our opponent's 17 game unbeaten run. Off the pitch, further improvements were made to the renamed LA Construction Stadium, as a state-of-the-art sprinkler system, a perimeter barrier around the pitch and a new draining system were all installed, whilst the main grandstand was changed to a maroon and white colour with new seats and a repaint in order to match the new club colours.

The 2021 to 2022 season started with Lee O'Leary as Manager but Lee resigned in January. Sammy Moore was appointed Scholars manager at the end of January, taking charge of his first game on the 1st of February when we were second bottom, losing 2–3 to Cray Wanderers. Sammy got our season back on track and we finished our highest ever league position of 13th in the Isthmian Premier. For the 2022/2023 season onward the Stadium was renamed The Lantern Stadium.



INTRODUCING POTTERS BAR TOWN STAFF & PLAYER PROFILES



MAX MITCHELL: MANAGER: Max Mitchell joined the club as Lee Protheroe's assistant having been manager at Welwyn Garden City, but was given the job after Protheroe's resignation. Mitchell had a very successful tenure in charge of The Citizens before leaving for The Scholars, and his experience will prove vital to having a strong end to the campaign. Mitchell has also managed the likes of Walthamstow, Hertford and St Margaretsbury.

GOALKEEPER:

LOUIS CHADWICK: Goalkeeper Louis Chadwick arrived at the club on loan from Cambridge United, who he signed a professional deal with in July. The 20-year-old can distribute the ball well and was one of the first signings made by new boss Mitchell.

DEFENDERS:

KYAN GULLIVER: Kyan Gulliver joined the club in February, making his debut in a goalless draw against Brightlingsea. The 23year-old defender has played for Tilbury and FC Romania before making the switch to the Scholars.

MAX JESSOP: Max Jessop made his debut in a 1-2 defeat against Lewes having played for Mitchell at Welwyn Garden City in the past. The 22-year-old defender will be hoping to finish the season strongly after making the step up to Isthmian Premier League level.

ALIEU NJIE: Defender Alieu Njie has played for Wingate & Finchley, Welwyn Garden City and Walthamstow before signing for Bar. He scored his first goal for the club from a corner in a 1-1 draw against Margate, and will play a key part in keeping goals out along the backline as well.

JOSH RUSOKE: A graduate of Arsenal's academy, Josh Rusoke joined The Scholars at the start of Protheroe's tenure in the centre of defence. The former Basildon defender has slotted into the team well for current manager Mitchell as well.

JOE RUSSELL: Joe Russell arrived at the Club from Welwyn Garden City, having worked with Mitchell previously. The defender has plenty of experience and will be a calming influence to Bar's young backline.

FINALY TITCHMARSH: Finlay Titchmarsh has asserted his position in the side in his maiden year at the club. He scored his first goal for the club in a 3-0 win against Billericay and has been able to contribute in both defence and attack for Bar. The young defender has huge potential and played over 36 times for Royston last season. The 19-year-old was previously with Vanarama National League side Barnet and Southern League outfit Royston Town.

MIDFIELDERS:

THEO ALEXANDROU: Stevenage youngster Theo Alexandrou joined the club as part of Mitchell's new squad in March. The winger has previously played for Cambridge City, with his last goal for them coming as recently as two weeks before his first appearance for Bar, where he made his debut against Horsham in a 1–1 draw.

WILSON CHINGOKA: Fan favourite Wilson Chingoka has left a real impact on the Bar Army despite having only recently arrived at the club. The former Basildon United midfielder is well known for his intricate passing, which he used to assist youngster Maxise Evans against Lewes in a 2-1 loss in March.

CALVIN DICKSON: Calvin Dickson joined the club in the early stages of last season and made his debut on the 26th of October in a 0–2 loss against Ware in the Hertfordshire County Cup First Round. A versatile defender and midfielder, Dickson is a player who isn't afraid to get stuck in, Dickson is an important member of Mitchell's squad.

SAM DOWRIDGE: Winger Sam Dowridge is a product of Southampton's academy, and has played for Havant & Waterlooville, Stevenage and Bognor Regis, also playing in Cyprus and Australia. He made his debut for the club in a 2–1 loss against Lewes on the 26th of March.

MAKISE EVANS: Stevenage loanee Makise Evans cemented himself in Potters Bar history against Lewes, as his cool finish late on in the tie to complete a superb passing move made him the youngest goal scorer in the club's history, aged 16 years and 217 days. He will be hoping to continue to create lasting memories for Bar in his spell in Maroon.

INTRODUCING POTTERS BAR TOWN STAFF & PLAYER PROFILES



CHEYCE GRANT: Winger Cheyce Grant made his debut in a defeat against Horsham, and has previously played for Mitchell at Welwyn Garden City, as his first signing in charge of his last club. Grant has also played for Berkhamsted, Borehamwood and Hendon, and he is a product of Tottenham's academy.

MAX GRANVILLE: Young central midfielder Max Granville made his debut for Bar in March's win against Kingstonian. The former Stevenage and Biggleswade man will be hoping to force his way into the starting 11 despite being only 18 years old.

DESSE KASINGA-MADIA: Deese Kasinga-Madia joined the club having come through Newcastle's academy, lasting playing at U18s level for them in 2018. The winger last played for Sudbury and was also part of the setup at Brentford's academy.

ADAM MARTIN: Having played for Farnborough and Beaconsfield this season and a former pro, Adam Martin has added to Bar's midfield, becoming the club captain despite his brief stint in the team. The 33-year-old, who scored a late winner against Kingstonian on his birthday in a 3-2 win, brings a wealth of experience to the middle of the park. The Englishman also featured for local rivals Enfield Town as recently as 2018, also playing for AFC Wimbledon.

CONNOR MCSHANE: Connor McShane made the step up to Step 3 for the first time signing for Bar, having previously played for Windsor FC. McShane made his debut for the club off the bench in a 3–2 win against Kingstonian.

FORWARDS:

ROMAINE BARNES-WALLACE: Romaine Barnes-Wallace is also a new addition for The Maroons. In his first season in senior football, the attacker will be hoping to break into the first team, having played for Norseman Youth U18s last campaign.

REECE BECKLES-RICHARDS: Former Cheshunt striker Reece Beckles-Richards made the switch to the Scholars late on in the season with the rest of Mitchell's new additions. In the curtailed 2019/20 season, he netted 11 times in 22 games, form he will hope to rediscover at the Lantern Stadium.

CHARNCEY DASH: Experienced striker Charncey Dash adds knowhow to a relatively young Scholars side having signed in early March. Dash scored 32 goals in 31 games for St Margaretsbury in the 2018/19 season, and his first for the Scholars came against Kingstonian, doubling Bar's lead in an eventual 3-2 win.

KEN FENYI: Striker Ken Feyi is a new arrival at the club, having previously played for Kings Langley, Margate & Brightlingsea. The 26-year-old will want to make his mark on the side in the run in.

EMMANUEL OKUNWOBI: Emmanuel Okunwobi signed for Bar in late March, making his debut alongside several others in the late win against Kingstonian. The attacker has played for Edgware and has joined an exciting attacking setup with the Scholars.

LEWIS SMITH: Attacker Lewis Smith scored his first goal for the club by opening the scoring against Kingstonian in March. The former Tilbury & East Thurrock striker made his 1st app for The Scholars against Hornchurch on the 11th of February.



Back row: Left to right: Ken Feyi, Connor McShane, Kyan Gullivar, Theo Alexandrou, Makise Evans, Louie Chadwick, Ali Njie, Keir Dickson, Ladi Okunwobi, Adam Martin, Cheyce Grant.

Fron row: Left to right: Sam Dowdridge, Wilson Tawongaishe, Fin Titchmarsh, Lewis Smith, Nick Mountford, Max Mitchell, Emelie Fitzgerald, Max Granville, Max Jessop, Josh Rusoke, Deese Kasinga.



MAX MITCHELL Potters bar town manager



Good Evening Scholars, a warm welcome to all of you for tonight's league cup final, a game which we have to embrace the underdog tag, given the circumstances around the location and the team we are up against in Aveley, who have had a great first season at step 3 and are gunning for a promotion. A task where I feel we are more than capable of causing an upset as we have prepared extensively over the last few weeks both on and off the pitch.

To the supporters 'the bar army' I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the players and the management team for your support this season, you have been fantastic since my arrival to the club and your energy tonight will be essential to the outcome, we have all been working towards over the last few weeks. You have been superb around matchday and at times have been the difference between winning and losing games of football.

The last few months have been difficult for all involved at the club, but feel we are now on the right path with a clear vision for the future, which is something we all need to be excited about moving forwards.

Over the last few weeks, we have started to set the expectations and culture of the team, the players have been working extremely hard in training and in games and picked up more positive results of late due to the level of togetherness the group have shown towards each other, which is a testament to how far we have come in such a short space of time. I feel we have assembled a more competitive and hungrier group of players who are both fighting for shirts and for each other which is key for longer term success.

The game tonight is a great opportunity for players to showcase themselves and leave an impression on the game as a team, as we plan to dig our heels in and make things really difficult for an opponent who will be well coached and well drilled and on a good run of form leading into the business end of the season. We fully understand the game status and how close we are to lifting silverware and believe the pressure of the game should be felt more by the opposition than us on the night.

Whatever the outcome of tonight I can openly say we are extremely proud of the players and will make sure we will give 100% and show a never say die attitude until the final whistle. Lastly, I'd like to thank the chairman, the committee and the volunteers for their tireless work this season. I feel a good energy around the club at the moment and believe we can come out with a positive result and keep building on the hard work we have all shown in recent weeks.

Hope you all enjoy tonight's fixtures and have a safe journey home, let's get right behind the players for the duration of the game and let's see what we can achieve over the next few hours.

Up The Bar #UTB

Warmest Regards,

Max Mitchell 1st Team Manager



FROM THE SCHOLARS CHAIR PETER WALLER

I am very proud the Club have made the 2023 Velocity Cup Final and on this neutral venue I am sure everyone is looking to give a good account of ourselves and are coming here to win.

It is more pleasing after the roller coaster season we have had and the latest squad, under recently appointed Manager Max Mitchell and his management team, is improving by every game.

Whilst our league form varied, we seemed to pick up in these Cup matches, whilst still giving opportunities to squad members as well and once we got to the semi final, against an impressive Whitehawk side, everyone wanted to make the Final.

Cups are not normally our priority, the last win was in 2013, but we have never won this League Cup, or any, whilst at Step 3 or 4, so tonight we will have a go to win it. On paper, Aveley may be higher in the table, but they know that we beat them in the FA Cup and we will try to inflict another Cup defeat on them, so they can then concentrate on the League!

I'd like to thank everyone who is travelling from Potters Bar to support us tonight and I urge the Supporters Club and all of the BarArmy to keep the vocal support going throughout.

I'd like to thank Aveley FC and the League, for their hospitality tonight and to Velocity, for sponsoring the competition.

Up The Scholars. Peter Waller, Chairman,







PITCHING C

PARTNERS WITH

Manager: Danny SCOPES

JONATHAN NORTH (GK) **JASON RING** JON NZENGO SIJU ODEULUSI TOM STEPHEN RYAN SCOTT HARRY GIBBS CERNY ANDO **KENNY AILERU** JAMIE DICKS GARRETT KELLY BRENDON SHABANI BENAS VAIVADA CONNOR WITHERSPOON HANI BERCHICHE OLI COKER MANNY OGUNRINDE **GEORGE SYKES** TEMI BABALOLA NICK DEMBELE



Manageri Max MITCHELL

LOUIE CHADWICK (BK) FIN TITCHMARSH (VC) JOE RUSSEL **ROMAINE BARNES-WALLACE** ALI NJIE KYAN GULLIVAR CALVIN DICKSON **JOSH RUSOKE** LEWIS SMITH ADAM MARTIN (C) WILSON TAWONGAISHE SAM DOWDRIDGE MAX GRANVILLE MAX JESSOP CONNOR MCSHANE THEO ALEXANDROU CHEYCE GRANT REECE BECKLES-RICHARDS DEESE KASINGA CHARNCEY DASH LADI OKUNWOBI MAKISE EVANS KEN FEYI

MATCH OFFICIALS; REFEREE: DANIEL BLADES ASSISTANT: CALLUM DORLING ASSISTANT: JAMES BLACK 4TH OFFICIAL: TEDDY OSBORN