

**OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF ISTHMIAN LEAGUE** 



WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024 | 7.30pm The Alan Turvey Cup sponsored by Velocity – 23/24 Final



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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Good evening, and welcome to Parkside, the home of Aveley FC for the Final of the Isthmian League Cup between Chatham Town FC and Hashtag United FC.

Let me first thank Graham, Craig and all the directors here at Aveley for continuing to allow us to use their wonderful facilities free of charge, especially as the Club has now risen to the National League. The ATP here is one of the best which was laid by Velocity and we know that it is being upgraded as part of the requirements of Step 2 of the Pyramid. The stadium has been improved over the last 12 months and we are lucky to have such a ground at our disposal. I am sure that everyone here appreciates how much work goes into staging a match like this; the superb facilities as well as the hard work put in by all the volunteers are some of the reasons why we choose Parkside as our favoured venue for the Final of this Competition.

Tonight we will see a new name on the trophy, and I congratulate both teams on reaching the Final. I am delighted to welcome the Players, Management and Officials of both Chatham Town FC and Hashtag United FC for what I hope will be a thrilling Final. This is the first time we have had two Finalists who are in their first season in the Premier Division having both been promoted in the previous season.

The Chats originally joined the Isthmian League (then known as the Ryman League) in 2006 and remained members until 2017 but rejoined us by way of promotion in 2022 and were Champions of our South East Division in their first season back having beaten Ramsgate to the top spot. They are now looking for a third back to back promotion. I want to particularly welcome Kevin Hake who is not only one of the owners of Chatham Town, but is also the First Team Manager who has led from the front since taking over the Club.

The Tags joined the League similarly in 2022 and were Champions of our North Division in their first division having scored 101 goals and 98 points from their 38 matches. The Club were founded as recently as 2016 and are unique in Step 3 being based on membership through the internet with members throughout the world who can follow the Club's successes through their online presence. From Hashtag United we welcome Chairs Steve Carmichael-Brown, Spencer Carmichael-Brown and Derrick Pearson as well as Secretary Darren Crowley and their committee including Spencer Owen who is one the founder members. 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"- named after our former Chair and President who will be forever remembered as a true Isthmian. The Competition is known as the Velocity Cup during the generous sponsorship of Velocity.

Next season we will have some 25 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 are joining us at the match. The greatest compliment I can pay them, and their Company, is that we no longer need 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 pitches they have already installed that their work is excellent and Velocity remain our approved suppliers of Artificial Turf Pitches.

I also want to welcome the Match Officials without whom, of course, we do not have any matches at all. The Football Association appoints 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, Tolu Sangowawa the Assistant Referees Jack Smith and Andrew Crosley together with the Fourth Official Lawrence Torz-Brown, and hope that they enjoy their short stay here at Parkside.

The last, but certainly not the least, team we need to thank is that of our Chief Executive, Kellie Discipline, together with Debbie, Loreta and Michelle 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 so

my thanks to all the ladies. Please enjoy the match.

N R Robinson Chairman Isthmian Football League



#### **Running Order of Events**

7.20pm – Presentation of teams and Match Officials 7.30pm – First half 8.15pm – Half time 8.30pm – Second half Extra time and penalties if required Presentation of trophies at conclusion of match

# **CHATHAM TOWN HISTORY**

Chatham were forced to resign from the Southern League during the 1900/01 season, owing to financial difficulties, but they soon rebuilt the club - playing as Chatham Amateurs for a brief spell in 1901 - before winning both the Kent League and Thames & Medway Combination in 1903/04 without losing a single game in either competition. They repeated the feat the following season, losing just three games, whilst also defeating Sittingbourne 3-1 in the Final of the Kent Senior Cup. Senior Cup.

The First World War brought an end to football in the Medway Towns, out Chatham were one of the first clubs locally to return to action in 1919 - winning both the Kent Victory Cup and the Chatham Charity Cup (for the eighth time) in a shortened season. They briefly rejoined the Southern League in 1920/21, after the formation of a Third Division for the Football League had taken half its' members, but once again withdrew at the end of the season finding that the increased travel costs were a severe drain on finances. costs were a severe drain on finances

They once again had some success in the F.A. Cup during the 1920s, reaching the Second Round Proper in 1926/27 before losing to Norwich City - who beat them again, this time in the First Round Proper in 1928/29. They also reached the First Round Proper in 1925/26 and 1927/28, losing to Sittliburg and Kettering Town respectively. to Sittingbourne and Kettering Town respectively

A third spell in the Southern League, starting in 1927/28 almost finished the club. They stuck it out for two seasons this time, but once again the increased expenses - coupled with dwindling attendances - saw them drop back into the Kent League. Things were to get progressively worse, and 1933/34 saw the club take voluntary relegation into Division Two of the Kent League, which they won in 1934/35 without accepting promotion, before opting to revert to Amateur status. Having played in both the Kent League and Kent Amateur League in 1938/39, they decided to play in just the latter competition the following season - only to see all football suspended with the beginning of World War Two. They played just one game that season, beating London Paper Mills 2-0 on 26th August - and would not play again until 1946.

Post War, Chatham won the Premier Division of the Kent Amateur League in 1946/47, which was to be their last honour under that name - having to be their last honour under that name - having previously dropped the 'United' in 1898. On 7th January 1947 they merged with Shorts F.C., the combined club taking the name Chatham Town at the request of the local Council, and a place in Division One of the Kent League for the following season. There they were to remain until the League disbanded in 1959, whereupon they moved to the newly formed Aetolian League. During this latter period they appeared in the Aetolian League Cup Einal in each of the five seasons it was contested. period they appeared in the Aetolian League Cup Final in each of the five seasons it was contested, though winning only once in 1962/63. The following year they finally captured the League Championship, as well as the Aetolian/London League Cup and then, when the Aetolian League formally merged with the London League they moved to the Metropolitan League, in 1964/65, in search of stronger opposition search of stronger opposition.

Although the club were drawing crowds of up opponents as well as sides from Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, they lost no time in returning to the Kent League when it was reformed in 1968. Up until their return to the Southern League in 1968, up until their return to the Southern League in 1983, they had won the Kent League on four further occasions, completing the League and Cup double in both 1971/72 and 1977/78.

For a brief period during the seventies they changed their name to Medway F.C., again at the request of the local Council, but happily reverted back to Chatham Town in 1979. In 1980 they achieved their biggest post-war success to date in winning the Eastern Professional Floodlight League, playing against some of the strongest Non League clubs of the day, including Maidstone United, and defeating Chelmsford City in the Final over two legs.

In 1983 Chatham returned to the Southern League for the fourth time, this time staying there until 1988, when having failed to gain re-election they were relegated back to the Kent League - once again in severe financial difficulties, with crowds often in double figures against poorly supported



clubs, as opposed to the much healthier attendances they had enjoyed in the Kent League against more local opposition.

After struggling during their first couple of seasons back in the Kent League, the real turnabout in the clubs' fortunes came with the appointment of popular former player John Adams as First Team manager, nowever despite reaching the Third Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup in 1993/94, taking the club to the Final of the Kent Senior Trophy in 1995/96 and finishing in the top three of the Kent League for three successive seasons, he was dismissed by the club following a disastrous start to the 1996/97 season.

1997/98 was to prove one of the most difficult 1997/99 was to prove one of the most difficult seasons in the club's history. Problems with a new drainage system meant that only a handful of games could be played at Maidstone Road -which led to a brief return to their "spiritual home" on the Lines, courtesy of the Royal Engineers, as well as a brief ground-share with Gillingham at Priestfield Stadium. The club returned home Weil as a brief ground-share with Gillingham at Priestfield Stadium. The club returned home for the 1998/99 season under new manager Carl Laraman, fortunes improving immediately before in January Laraman left to take up a coaching position at Charlton Athletic. His assistant, Steve position at Chariton Athletic. His assistant, Steve Hearn, was appointed player-manager and finally led the club to the Kent League Championship, and promotion to the Dr. Martens League, in 2000/01.

The club enjoyed a good start to their first season back at this level, but a poor run of results at the end of the season led to Steve Hearn's resignation and the season led to steve reams resignation and the appointment of his assistant. Peter Coupland as his successor. After a bad start to the 2003/04 season, Clive Walker replaced Coupland. Things improved dramatically, and a season that had looked certain to end in relegation, ended instead with Chatham in a mid-table position.

The 2004/05 season saw Chatham being placed in the newly formed Southern League Eastern Division. The campaign got off to a promising start, with Chatham sitting as high as fourth in early October, however a poor run of results coupled with Clive Walker's decision to return to bis old dub Dover Athletic saw the Chata slip to his old club Dover Athletic, saw the Chats slip to 16th. Assistant Steve Binks was appointed manager and results improved towards the tail end of the season. Chatham finished the season in 11th place, and was Kent's highest placed club

Following yet another Pyramid reshuffle, the next few seasons saw the club ping-pong between the Ryman League North and South Divisions with regular mid table positions. Frustratingly the club experienced regular wins against top six and promoted sides but often followed up with defeats to bottom six sides. Season 2006/07 saw Phil Miles to bottom six sides. Season 2006/07 saw Phil Miles - another popular former player - move up to take over as Manager. December 2007 saw Phil stand down due to work commitments with Steve Binks taking over the job again, then to be followed by 1st team coach Alex O' Brien stepping up for the 2009-10 campaign. Throughout this period the club's strong youth policy provided several new established first team players and the club also achieved the coveted FA charter Standard award.

Season 2010-11 saw the club struggle on the pitch with Manager Paul Foley resigning in the final weeks of the season with Player coach Kevin Watson taking over. After achieving some great results Kevin was appointed to his first Managerial position at the age of 30 after four

seasons Kevin resigned following a run of poor results but left the club with a legacy of some very good players for the new incoming Manager Kevin Horlock in October2015, Kevin stood down at the end of the season due his commitments with Colchester United, Tony Beckingham took over in the Summer of 2016, the club now back playing in Division 1 South of the Ryman League, for their second season, after four seasons in the playing in Division I South of the Ryman League, for their second season, after four seasons in the North, Tony stood down as Manager in September 2016, Darren Anslow took over as Manager, after suffering some heavy defeats, Darren was relieved of his duties in November 2016 and Paul Piggott was installed as Manager.

Despite a number of changes within the squad Despite a number of changes within the squad and some encouraging performances toward the end of the season, the damage had already been done and Paul and his team were unable to avoid the drop and The Chats were relegated to the SCEFL Premier. Despite this, changes at boardroom level revitalised the atmosphere around the club and a number of ground improvements have been undertaken as the first sten in what will bonefully be a new era of success step in what will hopefully be a new era of success for the club

Following a disappointing start to the 2017/18 season and only 1 win in 8 league games, a management change was again instigated with Paul and his team being replaced in September 2017 with James Collins. James and his team improved the fortunes of the team immediately and within a few games had staved off the threat of relegation. 2 quarter final cuo appearances were achieved, losing both on penalties. Despite a disappointing 16th place finish, there was room for optimism as exciting signings during the close for optimism as exciting signings during the close season built a team that promised an interesting 2018/19 season.

And so it proved, an exciting league campaign saw the team go close but just fall short with a fourth placed finish but a double cup winning season saw The Chats win their first trophies for 30 years with the Kent Senior Trophy and the SCEFL challenge Cup finding their way back to Mainstone Poad Maidstone Road

Vast close season changes saw a 4C artificial pitch laid and yet more improvements to the clubhouse take place, that coupled with links to local businesses and partnerships to develop sporting gacies has made it an exciting time to be part of Chatham Town FC

Following the resignation of James Collins in

Following the resignation of James Collins in October 2019, the club turned to Scott Lindsey to take The Chats onwards. Scott brought in ex Chats player Darran Smith as his assistant, whilst retaining the experienced Tony Hine as goalkeeper coach. Ex Arsenal Carl Laraman was installed as Director of football and so, yet another chapter in Chatham Town's rich history began.

Winning community club of the year in 2020 was a huge honour for everyone at the club and one on which we hope to build as we feel it is vitally important to connect with people and businesses in the locality and to build a club with facilities that benefit everyone in the community.

Scott Lindsey left the club prior to the 2021/22 season after he was appointed assistant manager at Swindon Town FC, Chairman Kevin Hake took over as manager and guided us to promotion at the first attempt, with a step 5 record goal tally and a record goal difference.

During this season Chatham Town also received the Queens Award for our work in the community of which we are immensely proud as we feel that work off the pitch is just as important and goes hand in hand with the progress on it.

The following year 2022/23 in their 140th year The Chats reached the highest level in their history by becoming Isthmian League Southeast Champions and gaining promotion to Isthmian Premier league. In the same year the club also reached the Isthmian League Velocity Cup semi finals narrowly losing on penalties to eventual winners Aveley and also became runners up in the Kent Senior Cup again on penalties. Kent Senior Cup, again on penalties.

## CHATHAM TOWN PLAYER PROFILES

Mitchell Beeney – Goalkeeper Mitchell started out as a Gillingham Youth player and was signed by Chelsea academy at 17 years of age, Mitchell also has played for Sligo, Crawley & Horsham amongst his clubs prior to joining Chatham Town. A good shot stopper and known for his good distribution of the ball.

Ben Bridie-Card – Goalkeeper signed for Chats from Margate and had previously played for Maidstone United and was signed in time for Chats away FA Trophy tie at Barton Rovers. Ben made his debut in Chats I-0 win over Barton Rovers hence keeping a clean sheet in his first game. Won an Isthmian South-East Division Title winners medal with Chats in the 2022-23 campaign following an outstanding season. Went out on loan earlier in the season and has returned to first-teem fold.

Matt Bodkin – Has enjoyed a couple of spells at Chats made his debut in the 2-1 Cup win at Sheppey United and plays with his neart and another creator of goals and very popular amongst his teammates and the Chats faithful. Had an outstanding game in Chats SCEFL Challenge Cup Final Scoring Chats winner and also collected a Kent Senior Trophy winners medal with the Chats. Matt won IPS Champions medal with Chats with another excellent season in 2022-23 season and retained for this season.

**Dean Beckwith** – a classy defender who has been dominant when he pulls on the Chats shirt, a key player in the Chats promotion winning team and very well-respected player amongst his colleagues and he has played at higher levels on the nonleague circuit and his experience is vital as Chats face life in the Isthmian League. Won an Isthmian South-East Division Title winners medal with Chats in the 2022-23 campaign and retained from last season. Dean been supporting the first-team with coaching and continues to play.

Harvey Broad – a product of the Chats academy and has progressed to the first-team following a strong loan-spell at Lordswood and has earnt his place in the first-team squad. Harvey scored in Chats 4-2 semi-final win over Ashford United in the Velocity Cup. Has been rewarded with a professional contract at Coventry City for the 2024/25 season.

**Reece Butler** – A former winner of Chats Player of the Year and Players Player of the Year awards, an all-action defender/midfielder and is now one of the club's longest serving players making his 250th appearance towards the end of 2022-23 campaign away at Lancing. A former Chats Youth player and coming through our pathway scheme to reach the first team. Won KST & SCEFL Challenge Cup winners medals with Chats alongside an Isthmian South-East Division Title winners medal with Chats in the 2022-23 campaign. Reece also collected many Players of the Match awards during the 2022-23 season alongside the POTY award for 2022-23 season. Reece collected a Isthmian South-East Division Title winners medal with Chats in the 2022-23 campaign.

Simon Cooper - Simon can play along the defensive line and was captain of Kingstonian. Simon has vast experience at this level and has showed in during his time here his composure and leadership quality with some fine displays. Simon was very assured in the back-line in many Chats wins and has scored several key goals along the way. Simon can play in defence or midfield and has plenty of quality and experience for this level. Won an Isthmian South-East Division Title winners medal with Chats in the 2022-23 campaign.

**Khale De Costa** – Added to the squad late in the season and made his debut against Canvey Island in Chats 5-1 victory and has started to develop into the first-team squad.

Chris Dickson – experienced player who has a prominent record at hitting the target in the nonleague circuit and is often known as Mr Goals. Chris has represented Ghana at international level and has scored 10 goals in all competition since he signed for Chats. Unfortunately cup tied for today's game.

James Dunne – signed from National League South side Dover Athletic in order to strengthen the Chats squad as they push for promotion and the Velocity Cup. An all-bustling midfield player who has vast experience at this level.

Eze Ebuzoeme – made his debut in the 4-2 Cup win over Ashford where he took an excellent opportunity to announce his arrival with a well-taken goal which took us to todays Final. An exciting offensive player who gives the team a different edge and has made an impact since his arrival.

Jack Evans - Club captain and prolific goal scorer who has enjoyed a golden spell here at Chatham Town, he started out at Lewes before joining Gillingham's Academy and his development took in Welling United, Corby Town, Maidstone United, Dartford and he found his spiritual home here at Chats and a legend and fans favourite. A good influence on younger players at the club and well respected in the non-league circuit. He scored twenty-four goals in all competitions as he led the team to the Isthmian League Premier Division title & Kent Senior Cup Final in 2022-23 season and collected the Golden Boot & the Supporters player of the season award. Very well-respected player at the club and the real modern-day legend. Jack has won Kent Senior Trophy, promotion from SCEFL Premier & League Cup winners medals alongside many individual awards during his successful stay at the club, a great captain who leads by example.

Kareem Isiaka – A good attacking player who can play across the front line and has immense talent when on the ball and has scored sixteen times in all competition this season showing his real value to the first-team squad. Kareem has continued to improve his game this season and has been rewarded with the number of goals he is scoring. A good asset to the club.

Danny Kedwell - Started out as Chats player as a teenager and returned as a veteran following a career that has taken in Tonbridge Angels. Fisher, Lordswood, Maidstone United, Herne Bay, Welling, Grays Athletic, at AFC Wimbledon he hit the headlines by scoring 58 goals in 118 appearances when Gillingham came calling and he continued this fine form where he scored 40 goals in 119 appearances before being transferred to Ebbsfleet United where he was instrumental in helping the club to promotion as he scored 57 goals in 174 appearance producing a golden spell at three prominent clubs during eleven-year spell. Danny is also the Assistant Manager as Chats play in the Isthmian League Premier and his vast experience in the game can only benefit the mighty Chats. Danny has scored over 240 goals during a career that has spanned 20 years and this is a great record at any level. Danny helped Chats win the Isthmian South-East Division Title last season and reaching the Kent Senior Cup Final playing a key role in the run-in to clinch the league and in the run to the final.

Kian Garlinge – a product of the Chatham Town academy which promotes a pathway to success for those young players demonstrating the potential and attitude required for first team level. Kian has showed good ability on and off the ball with his array of skills and has earnt his place in the firstteam squad with his individual displays, a good outlook for the future for this talented 18-year-old.

Steve Gody – recently added to the Chatham Town first-team squad and was named as substitute for the Kent Senior Cup semi-final against Ebbsfleet United.

**Rowan Liburd** – Joined the first team team in recent months and scored in the 6-3 home win over Billericay Town at the Bauvill Stadium. Rowan has shown immense strength in winning many battles and has scored five goals since his signature.

Francis Mampolo – Recent signing to help the promotion push and he scored against Kingstonian in Chats 4-1 win & also in the 2-2 draw at Cray Wanderers proving his worth in front of goal. Francis has made an immediate impact and could play a vital part in helping Chats win the Velocity Cup Final and achieve the club's promotion aspirations.

Jamie Mascoll – another recent addition to the first-team squad who has made the number three position his own. Jamie has been brought in to strengthen the back line and has settled in very quickly and his performances have justified his inclusion to the Chats first-team.

Sid Nelson – a former Millwall academy player and has made an impressive start in the Chats defence and becoming a firm favourite with the club's supporters. Sid is hard-working, tough tackling positive defender who is comfortable in possession and his ball distribution is proving key as Chats make that final push to go up to the National South via the play-offs.

Ashley Nzala – joined Chats late last season making his debut against Aveley. Ashley has taken his chances this season and excites the crowd when he get on the ball and looks to attack the goal at every opportunity. Ashley has netted 14 times in all competitions this season including an impressive brace in the 5-0 away victory at Folkestone Invicta in the Kent Senior Cup. A crowd favourite and is fondly known as 'Bazza' by the Chats fans.

Jordy Robins – A talented player who is key to the first team squad enjoying a very promising career in football at the higher level. Jordy has put in some impressive displays in the Chats shirt. An unsung here of the older fans who appreciate his work rate and distribution of the ball and real quality. Jordy was instrumental in our promotion winning season in 2021-22 and as we clinched the Isthmian South-East Division Title in 2022-23 season and reaching the Kent Senior Cup Final. A player that is improving year on year and now a vital member of the Chats squad and leads by example, a very talented player who is of high ability especially with his ball control skills and distribution.

Jamie Yila – Jamie is a 23-year-old forward/winger who has brought more attacking options to our team as we push for promotion and trophies. Has previous history with Cray Wanderers, where he scored 12 goals for the Isthmian Premier League outfit showing his ability to play at this level and he also featured recently for Chelmsford City the National League South side. Jamie is enjoying a very good season and has netted 21 times so far this season in all competitions, Jamie is well-known in the non-league circuit which bears well for someone so young, and he is a firm crowd favourite.

Harvey Bradbury – Harvey has only recently signed for the Chats from Farnborough Town. Has also played for amongst others, Dartford, Welling Town and Millwall. Scored on his debut against Cray Wanderers. Already proving to be a handful for opposition defenders

Sam Sene-Richardson – Sam is not yet 17 but has already made a couple of substitute appearances for the first team. Came through the Charlton Athletic Academy and has settled into life at Chatham Town with ease. He is full of energy and shows a confidence on the ball that belies his age. Has a great future ahead of him

# **CHATHAM TOWN FC NOTES**

## Manager Notes

Good Evening and welcome to Aveley's ground for this Velocity Cup Final between Chatham Town and Hashtag United. I hope you've had a good journey here and I am wishing you safe travels home tonight.

Our journey in the cup this season saw us take on a Three Bridges in the third-round, away from home. It was a tricky game which saw us go on to win 4-2 but with the form Three Bridges have been in this season, everyone will know that was a difficult one to navigate. In round four we had a home draw against Basildon United, which saw us progress with a 3-1 victory. I remember vividly we decided to bring on 16-year old Sam Sene-Richardson at half-time as it was 0-0, and he helped changed the game for us. It's brilliant to see such talented Academy scholars taking the next step with our first team as we also handed debuts to Connor Tilley and YJ Ogundipe in that same fixture.

Up next saw the highly anticipated fixture against Billericay Town in the quarter-finals. It was a tough away battle which ultimately ended in a draw and so a penalty shootout was required to determine the winner. We came out on top following some well-taken pens and top saves from Mitch Beeney. Then most recently we booked our spot in the final having defeated Ashford United 4-2 at the Bauvill. We were delighted that we could go one step further this season as it was really difficult to accept last years semi-final defeat against Aveley.

Tonight we expect a really tough battle against Hashtag United. In the two occasions that we've played them in the Isthmian Premier League this season we managed a draw away and a defeat at home, so we know what we can expect. The opportunity to win a trophy at this point in the season means we have the chance to gain momentum and confidence ahead of a crucial end to our season, with the chance to gain promotion to National League South via the play-offs.

Our away support has been absolutely fantastic all-season and I am really looking forward to hearing the noise and getting behind the lads today. Be our twelfth man and I assure you we will be doing our upmost to bring this trophy back to the Bauvill tonight.

Up The Chats.

Kevin Hake

## **Club Official Notes**

The club has come on in leaps and bounds over the past few seasons. We are currently playing at the highest level we have ever achieved in our 142-year history and at the time of writing are well placed to reach the play offs and progress even further with promotion to Step 2 in the Football Pyramid.

Today will be the 4th cup final in 5 years – winning two of the previous 3 – only losing last year's Kent Senior Cup narrowly on penalties.

Our fan base has steadily grown in recent seasons and our attendance records are being broken on a regular basis. Our away following is impressive, and I expect a good turnout tonight.

So, it is a great experience at the moment being a Chats fan, Kevin Hake, our Chairman and Manager along with his backroom staff have assembled another great squad of players who constantly defy the odds with a progression that we could have only dreamed of a few years ago.

We have reached today's Final by beating Three Bridges, Basildon United, Billericay Town and Ashford United and giving some of our youngsters and academy graduates some game time along the way.

Well done to Hashtag United for reaching the final, let's hope todays match is as entertaining as our Isthmian Premier League meetings this season.

Enjoy the game - Andy Bonneywell -Secretary Chatham Town



# MATCH OFFICIALS

## Referee – Tolu Sangowawa

Tolu started refereeing back in 2017 in his hometown of Chingford, London. After spending time studying in Nottingham, Tolu progressed through the ranks and started operating primarily on the Isthmian League in early 2023. Day to day, Tolu combines his refereeing commitments with a day job in marketing, working in the heritage industry."

## **Assistant Referee – Jack Smith**

Jack's refereeing career started back in 2018 at the age of 17. He started at youth football and quickly progressed into adult football, which enabled him to have increased development opportunities. Throughout his refereeing career, he has had the opportunity to referee in a variety of grounds from park pitches to stadium pitches, notably The Den for a Corporate game. Jack progressed onto officiating in the Isthmian League in February 2023. Jack currently works on the Railway at night so getting out and refereeing during some daylight on weekends is nice way to break up his routine.

## Assistant Referee – Andrew Crossley

Andrew played football at Step 5 for around 20 years and then decided after injury to become a Match official. He has enjoyed officiating through the levels in the game and meeting great players and officials and is delighted to be appointed to the game this evening.

## 4th Official – Lawrence Torz-Brown

Lawrence has been operating as a level 3 referee since the summer of 2019 and has a large wealth of experience at this level including fourth official duties in the National League. When he is not refereeing, he is very proud to work for the London Fire Brigade as a firefighter.



# **ROUTE TO FINAL**

		FIRST ROUND			
Badshot Lea (SC)	6	Binfield (SC)	0		104
Bowers & Pitsea (N)	2	Maldon & Tiptree (N)	1		103
Broadbridge Heath (SE)	1	Chichester City (SE)	1	(3-4 pens)	69
East Grinstead Town (SE)	0	South Park (Reigate) (SC)	3		76
Enfield (N)	w/o	East Thurrock United (N)	scr		N/A
Phoenix Sports (SE)	1	Erith & Belvedere (SE)	5		126
Sittingbourne (SE)	3	Sevenoaks Town (SE)	3	(4-3 pens)	89
Thatcham Town (SC)	0	Marlow (SC)	4	- 1 P P	75
Westfield (SC)	3	Raynes Park Vale (SC)	2		117
* East Thurrock United we	nt int	o liquidation prior to playing	at En	field.	
		SECOND ROUND			
Badshot Lea (SC)	1	Ascot United (SC)	0		78
Brightlingsea Regent (N)	5	Crays Athletic (N)	0		116
Chertsey Town (SC)	2	Southall (SC)	1		278
Corinthian Casual	1	Westfield (SC)	1	(1-4 pens)	83
Enfield (N)	2	Bowers & Pitsea (N)	1		114
Erith & Belvedere (SE)	2	Basildon United (N)	2	(5-6 pens)	85
pswich Wanderers (N)	3	Witham Town (N)	0		75
Lancing (SE)	1	Chichester City (SE)	5		120
Leatherhead (SC)	0	Chipstead (SC)	1		135
New Salamis (N)	2	Walthamstow (N)	3		65
Northwood (SC)	2	Marlow (SC)	1		115
Ramsgate (SE)	2	Ashford United (SE)	4		238
Sheppey United (SE)	1	Heme Bay (SE)	2		198
Sittingbourne (SE)	1	Hythe Town (SE)	1	(3-4 pens)	102
South Park (Reigate) (SE)	6	Merstham (SE)	1		95
Three Bridges (SE)	3	Burgess Hill Town (SE)	2		114
		THIRD ROUND			
Ashford United (SE)	1	Hythe Town (SE)	1	(7-6 pens)	206
Billericay Town (P)	2	Bowers & Pitsea (N) *	0		328
Cheshunt (P)	w/o	Hornchurch (P) **	scr		N/A
Chichester City (SE)	1	Hastings United (P)	2		78
Enfield Town (P)	0	Brightlingsea Regent (N)	1		158
Hashtag United (P)	2	Concord Rangers (P)	1		137
Herne Bay (SE)	1	Folkestone Invicta (P)	1	(2-3 pens)	187
Ipswich Wanderers (N)	2	Haringey Borough (P)	4		74
Kingstonian (P)	3	Dulwich Hamlet (P)	2		104
Northwood (SC)	0	Badshot Lea (SC)	3		103
South Park (SC)	2	Chipstead (SC)	2	(1-3 pens)	106
Three Bridges (SE)	2	Chatham Town (P)	4		94
Walthamstow (N)	1	Basildon United (N)	1	(2-4 pens)	97
Chertsey Town (SC)	2	Westfield (SC)	2	(3-5 pens)	270

Wingate & Finchley (P)	0	Potters Bar Town (P)	1		96
		ayer in their Second Round 2 emoved from the competiti			
** Hornchurch withdrew	from	the competition			
		FOURTH ROUND			
Ashford United (SE)	3	Westfield (SC)	1		146
Badshot Lea (SC)	2	Chipstead (SC)	1		55
Chatham Town (P)	3	Basildon United (N)	1		453
Cheshunt (P)	1	Billericay Town (P)	1	(4-5 pens)	180
Folkestone Invicta (P)	0	Hastings United (P)	2		292
Haringey Borough (P)	1	Potters Bar Town (P)	1	(6-5 pens)	84
Hashtag United (P)	7	Brightlingsea Regent (N)	2		155
Kingstonian (P)	2	Whitehawk (P) *	2	(2-4 pens)	91
* Played at Whitehawk.					
		QUARTER FINALS			
Ashford United (SE)	0	Hastings United (P)	0	(4-2 pens)	330
Badshot Lea (SC)	1	Hashtag United (P)*	1	(3-4 pens)	92
Billericay Town (P)	1	Chatham Town (P)	1	(2-3 pens)	238
Whitehawk (P)	1	Haringey Borough (P)	2		146
* Played at Hashtag Unite	ed.				
		SEMI FINALS			
Chatham Town (P)	4	Ashford United (SE)	2		703
Hashtag United (P)	2	Haringey Borough (P)	1	-	127
	FI	NAL (Wednesday 17th April)			
Ch	hathai	m Town (P) Hashtag Unite	d (P)		
	-curr	ns that didn't enter this seas Premier Division Town, Canvey Island, Carshal		thictic	

Cray Wanderers, Horsham and Lewes.

North Division

Brentwood Town, Bury Town, Felixstowe & Walton United, Gorleston, Heybridge Swifts, Lowestoft Town, Redbridge, Stowmarket Town and Wroxham.

South Central Division Ashford Town (Middx), Guernsey, Hanworth Villa, Hartley Wintney, Metropolitan Police, Sutton Common Rovers and Uxbridge.

South East Division Beckenham Town, Cray Valley PM, Horndean, Littlehampton Town and Three Bridges.





## LEAGUE CUP FINAL HISTORY

3-0

Season	Winners	Runners-up	Venue	Scor
1974-75	Tilbury	Croydon	(Two-legs)	3
1975-76	Slough Town	Tilbury	Hayes	4-
1976-77	Hendon	Barking	Harrow	]-
1977-78	Dagenham	Leatherhead	Dulwich	7-
1978-79	Enfield	Hayes	Slough	2
1979-80	Enfield	Sutton United	Harrow	2
1980-81	Slough Town	Walthamstow Avenue	Hayes	4
981-82	Leytonstone-Ilford	Kingstonian	Boreham Wood	2-
982-83	Sutton United	Wycombe Wanderers	(Two-legs)	2
983-84	Sutton United	Wycombe Wanderers	(Two-legs)	3
984-85	Wycombe Wanderers	Farnborough Town	(Two-legs)	5
985-86	Sutton United	Uxbridge	Metropolitan Police	2
986-87	Bognor Regis Town	Hendon	Windsor	
987-88	Yeovil Town	Hayes	Basingstoke	
988-89	Bishop's Stortford	Farnborough Town	Hayes	
989-90	Aveley	St. Albans City	Dagenham	3
90-91	Woking	Carshalton Athletic	Kingstonian	
991-92	Crays Athletic	Enfield	Dagenham	
92-93	Marlow	Molesey	Aldershot	
93-94	Chertsey Town	Enfield	Hayes	3
94-95	Aylesbury United	Slough Town	Marlow	1-1(7-6 on penal
195-96	Kingstonian	Aldershot Town	Aldershot	
96-97	Boreham Wood	Braintree Town	Dagenham	
97-98	Sutton United	Oxford City	Harrow	
98-99	Aldershot Town	Boreham Wood	Slough	
		Maidenhead United	Basingstoke Town	
99-2000	Farnborough Town	Croydon	Purfleet	
000-01	Heybridge Swifts		St. Albans City	
001-02	Northwood	Hampton & Richmond Boro	Hornchurch	
002-03	Yeading	Canvey Island		
003-04	Thurrock	Dunstable Town	Bishop's Stortford	
004-05	Slough Town	Hampton & Richmond Boro	Staines Town	
005-06	Fisher Athletic	Billericay Town	Grays Athletic	1
006-07	Ashford Town (Middx)	Dover Athletic	Bromley	
007-08	Ramsgate	AFC Sudbury		)-0 (5-4 on penal
008-09	Tilbury	Harrow Borough	Staines Town	
009-10	Leatherhead	Wealdstone		)-0 (4-3 on penal
010-11	Wingate & Finchley	Dulwich Hamlet	Metropolitan Police	
011-12	Bury Town	East Thurrock Utd	Staines Town	
012-13	Concord Rangers	Dulwich Hamlet	Maidstone Utd	3-2 (A
013-14	Maidstone United	AFC Sudbury	Maidstone Utd	
014-15	Hendon	Grays Athletic	Whyteleafe	
015-16	Kingstonian	Faversham Town	Carshalton Athletic	
016-17	Billericay Town	Tonbridge Angels	Carshalton Athletic	
017-18	Billericay Town	Metropolitan Police	Aveley	
018-19	Enfield Town	AFC Hornchurch	Aveley	1
019-20			Sea	son null & v
020-21			Se	eason curtai
021/22	Horsham	Margate	Aveley	4
2012/22	Avelov	Dottors Bar Town		-2

Potters Bar Town

Aveley

2022/23

Aveley



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# HASHTAG UNITED FC HISTORY

Hashtag United Football Club was founded in 2016 by YouTube creator Spencer Owen, initially set up as a group of friends playing a charity match to honour a childhood friend. Over the next two years, Hashtag played friendlies and exhibition matches in an innovative league format devised by Spencer. The team had points targets set for a group of games, and if the targets were achieved, the team would be rewarded by The Chairman and would progress to the next level. The team played in this format across 7 countries against pro football staff teams, fellow YouTube creators, sponsor/brand teams, non-league and Sunday sides.



The squad was bolstered by the addition of YouTube creators Theo Baker and Charlie Morley, and then graduates of the Hashtag Academy talent series which had run on Spencer's channel. Several thousand applicants were whittled down over a series of football challenges which eventually saw 16-year-old Scott Pollock emerge victorious. After impressing for Hashtag, Scott joined Northampton Town, making his senior debut in the 2018/19 season.

During this initial chapter the club also participated in the Next Level 7-a-side YouTube league and were invited to play in front of thousands of fans in the annual Wembley Cup alongside some of their footballing heroes.

In 2018 the club applied for entry into the FA's National League System, looking to make the considerable transition from exhibition team to a competitive club in the 10th tier of English football. They were granted a place in the Eastern Senior League Division 1 (South) for the 2018/19 season and appointed experienced non-league manager Jay Devereux to lead the transition, with home games being played at Haringey Borough's stadium. Despite a tough start, thanks to two long winning runs the team ended the season as champions, ensuring promotion at the first time of asking. The squad for the club's Essex Senior League campaign was further bolstered by the addition of more experienced nonleague players and several from the second Academy series including winner Joshua Osude. At the point at which the 2019/20 season was voided, the team sat second with games in hand over the league leaders, and in two cup semi-finals.

The 2020/21 season was also curtailed, but not before the club had a chance to make a dramatic debut in the FA Cup. A narrow victory over Park View in the Extra Preliminary round was followed by an extraordinary game against Felixstowe & Walton United, which ended in the second-longest penalty shoot out in FA Cup history, The Tags winning 13-12. The following round again saw the team pitched against higher opposition, with the BBC Sport cameras in attendance for the tie against Soham Town Rangers. Another penalty shootout victory followed, setting up a huge challenge against Braintree Town in the Second Qualifying Round. Despite Hashtag taking the lead in the dying minutes, Braintree equalised immediately and

then went on to win the shootout, The Tags' penalty luck finally running out.

At the time the league season was suspended, Hashtag sat top of the Essex Senior League, and in May 2021 the FA awarded the club promotion to the Isthmian League Division One North by virtue of their PPG record in 2019-21. After a solid first season where the team finished 8th, they went on a remarkable 21game winning streak a year later, finishing the league as champions with 97 points. The 23-24 season sees us play in the Isthmian Premier Division for the first time.

During the pandemic, Hashtag merged with two wellestablished local football clubs, Forest Glade Youth and AFC Basildon. The former, established over the past 30 years, has meant that we can now offer a pathway for boys and girls from the age of 3 to senior football, and counts an Inclusive and a walking football team amongst over 40 operating from our Barleylands site outside Billericay, overseen by co-chairman and Forest Glade founder Derrick Pearson. On the women's side, one of Essex's most successful women's teams (as Basildon Town, C&K Basildon and AFC Basildon) is now playing as Hashtag United FC Women in the FA Women's National League Southern Premier Division, after winning the title in the 22-23 season. In March 2024 they won the FA Women's National League Cup, beating Newcastle United at Kenilworth Road.

Hashtag have also been a successful esports (competitive gaming) team, with professional FIFA players competing at the world's top tournaments.



# HASHTAG UNITED FC PROFILES

#### Josh Strizovic - Position - GK

Josh is on his second spell with the club this season, on loan from Dagenham & Redbridge. His former clubs include Folkestone Invicta and Harrow Borough.

#### Harry Haysom - Position - CB

Harry was brought into the first team fold in summer 2021 after impressing with the Reserves, and then went on to sweep the board in that year's season's Player of the Season awards and missed out on the club's consecutive appearance record by 1 game. His 22/23 season was hampered by an injury halfway through but he returned to see us over the line and his rapid progress has continued this season. Previous clubs include Leigh Ramblers, Concord Rangers U18

#### Matthew Wooldridge - Position - FB

Matt impressed at both ends of the pitch during the 2021 Hashtag Academy series (our talent search), where he reached the final 4. He is now our highest appearance maker, played more minutes than any other player in 22/23 and has been awarded the club's Young Player of the Season two years running.

Previous clubs include Stanway Rovers, AFC Sudbury and Ipswich Town Academy.

#### Tom Anderson - Position - CB/MF

A player well-known to management from his early days in nonleague, Tom rejoined us in February 2022 after spells at Aveley and Great Wakering Rovers. Counting Tilbury, East Thurrock and Basildon Utd amongst other former clubs. Tom was a member of the Hashtag side awarded promotion from the ESL after the two Covid-affected seasons.

#### Greg Halford - Position - CB/FB/MF

Greg joined the club in August 2022 and came with a wealth of experience, with over 400 pro appearances as high as the Premier League for clubs such as Wolves, Sheffield United, Portsmouth, Nottingham Forest and Colchester United, where he started his career. Greg made the PFA League One team of the year in 2006. He has also played in every position bar goalkeeper!

#### Nathan Smith - Position - CB/FB

Nathan joined us early in March 2023 from Concord Rangers, and comes with significant pro experience. He is Yeovil Town's all-time Football League appearance-maker, and won League 2 and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy with Chesterfield FC, where he was MOTM in the final.

#### Ryan Sammons - Position - FB

Experienced Ryan joined us in November 2023 after a long spell playing over 300 games at East Thurrock. His other former clubs include Grays Athletic, and Ryan also previously represented England schools U18s.

#### Jermaine Anderson - Position - FB

Jermaine joined in early 2024 from Potters Bar Town. His other clubs include Brightlingsea Regent, Tilbury, Tower Hamlets and Great Watering Rovers, where he was previously with Tom Anderson.

#### Percy Kiangebeni - Position - MF

Percy, or PK Humble as he's far better known, joined The Tags in the 2022 close season after starring for Enfield Town in the Isthmian Premier. He brings playing experience up to Step 2, as well as a magnetic personality off the pitch, and when he's not featuring in our content, he can be seen as part of the Filthy Fellas team. Previous clubs include St Albans City and Concord Rangers.

#### Max Cornhill - Position - CM

Max joined us in summer 2022 from landlords Bowers & Pitsea, where he starred in their historic 21-22 FA Cup campaign. Max brings a huge amount of experience in the centre of the park, having played as high as Conference Premier with Dartford, plus the likes of Chelmsford City, East Thurrock United and Romford.

#### Misha Djemaili - Position - MF

Utility man Misha joined us in pre-season from Steyning Town, and has previously appeared for the likes of Corinthian Casuals, Ebbsfleet United and Leatherhead. In 2024 he was named as part of the English Universities representative squad.

#### Sam Cornish - Position - CM

Wingate & Finchley's Player of the Season joined us ahead of our Isthmian Premier debut and counts Colchester United, Maldon & Tiptree and Potters Bar Town amongst other former clubs.

#### Toby Aromolaran - Position - Forward/Wing

A sentence we never expected to write...but Toby rejoined us early in the 21-22 season after a stint - and a runners-up finish - in the Love Island villa! He initially joined the club in the 20-21 season, notably scoring key goals in our first FA Cup appearances, and has previously played for Tilbury, Coalville Town and Loughborough Uni.

#### Alex Teniola - Position - Striker

Another familiar face on and off the pitch, Alex "Teniola Time" Teniola joined in the summer of 2022 from Coggeshall Town. Alex also has higher level experience and has played for the likes of Dulwich Hamlet, Tonbridge Angels, Heybridge Swifts, Aveley and Chelmsford City. Off the pitch, he is an accomplished content creator, and will be familiar as a member of the Baiteze Squad.

#### Sak Hassan - Position - Wing

Sak joined in pre-season after impressing against us for title rivals AFC Sudbury last time out. He has also spent time at Hornchurch, Barking and Redbridge…as well as internationally for Somalia.

#### Pedro Carvalho - Position - Wing

Originally signed from Bowers & Pitsea, Pedro was a key component of the 22-23 league-winning side, and has recently returned to The Tags after a brief period overseas.

#### Camilo Restrepo - Position - Forward

Camilo is another recent recruit, joining in September after experience with the likes of East Thurrock and Romford. He is an accomplished futsal player, having represented England, and also Bloomsbury in the Futsal Champions League.

#### Luke May-Parrott - Position - Forward

Luke joined us in November after a lightning fast start to the season in the Essex Senior League at his former club Woodford Town, where he spent several seasons. He quickly found his feet at this level, bagging goals regularly since.

#### Farai Tsingano

Farai is the last man standing from our historic 18/19 league-winning side and has been with us ever since, although serious injury has restricted his appearances in recent years.

#### Jay Devereux - Position - Manager

Jay has had 25 years experience of non-league football, having coached and played at every level of the non-league pyramid. His playing career was cut short due to injury so he moved into coaching with Barking, then managed the reserve side at Dagenham & Redbridge and also Redbridge. He also spent 7 seasons at East Thurrock United as assistant manager, where he helped them to progress to National League South and 2 FA Cup 1st round appearances.

#### Joe Keith - Position - First Team Coach

In joining Hashtag, Joe reunited with his old East Thurrock United colleague Devs. Joe brings a wealth of experience to the club, having previously also coached at the likes of Aveley, Canvey Island and Tilbury after a playing career including Colchester United, Leyton Orient and Brentford.

# HASHTAG UNITED FC NOTES

## Manager Notes

It's an honour for us to be taking part in our first cup final.

Our cup run this season has seen us overcome some tight encounters, with a penalty shoot out and late goals, but I have no doubt that Chatham will prove our toughest test. Kevin has built another exceptionally strong squad that looks on course for a phenomenal 3rd straight promotion.

We, ourselves have had a sound first season at Isthmian Premier League level. I have loved the challenge of the step up in quality and constant test of our ability and resolve. It looks as though next season it will be even tougher but this I certainly feel confident that we have something to build on. If we are fortunate to overcome tonight's opponents and lift the Velocity Cup, it will be difficult to argue that our season hasn't been a successful one.

Enjoy the game!

Devs

## **Club Supporters / Club Official Notes**

#### ANOTHER HASHTAG FIRST

I've been writing our own programme notes for over 5 years now now and undeniably one of the phrases I've overused over that time is "history-making". When you're a club as young as we are, and when you've experienced the memories we have, major milestones are naturally the first, and therefore will be forever written in our club history and honours list. In the 6 seasons since our first step in the NLS (less, depending on how you're viewing the pandemic years) some of us here today, from fans to staff and committee, have been lucky enough to have witnessed it all, from our first game to our first goal, first win and today, our first senior men's cup final.

How far we've come since that first (long-awaited) league win; the first league title and promotion, the first FA Cup run, first women's match, first women's, reserves and youth trophies...the list naturally continues, but what's particularly special is this fact that a core group have witnessed it all, together. A lot has been said about how we as a club operate in a different way, with social media to the fore, but at the heart of our success over these early years has been a stable foundation and a consistent presence, all built around what is still a family business. In over 300 competitive games since our bow at Little Oakley in the Eastern Senior League, we've been led - in more ways than one - by a grand total of one manager, Jay Devereux, who'll stand in front of our dugout today. The player who scored our first league goal, Marcus Stamp, will be the one you see filming the boys on the pitch before the game. The fan we gave a lift home after his 4 hour trek to the Essex coast for that first away day is now one of our PA announcers. We're proud to be sharing another first with them, and indeed with all of our fans, staff, players and volunteers today.

We also value our global community, of course, and we know of several fans who'll be flying in for the game today, including one from Australia! When you spend much of your time making videos for social media, whilst you're never short of immediate, and sometimes very excitable feedback, for the most part many of your fans are unseen. Definitely not forgotten or unappreciated, and we pride ourselves on reading every single comment we receive, but however close we try to bring them to the club, the fact is that these fans are remote. Because of this, it feels extra special when you meet someone who has travelled to a game, whether from another country or just down the road, because they've seen one of your videos. So this one's for you, Harrison, Emer, Ciara and every one of our match-going fans, wherever you've come from today. Win or lose, you're part of another chapter of Hashtag history.

Neil Smythe



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# **TEAM LINE UPS**

## CHATHAM TOWN FC

Dean Beckwith Matt Bodkin Mitchell Beeney (GK) **Harvey Bradbury** Ben Bridle – Card (GK) **Harvey Broad Reece Butler** Simon Cooper Khale Da Costa **James Dunne** Jack Evans (Club Captain) Eze Ebuzoeme **Kareem Isiaka** Danny Kedwell **Rowan Liburd Francis Mampolo** Jamie Mascoll Sid Nelson Ashley Nzala **Jordy Robins Miquel Scarlett** Sam Sene-Richardson **Jamie Yila** 

Kevin Hake – Manager Danny Kedwell – Assistant Manager Tony Hine – GK Coach Kevin Thorburn – Coach George Howard – Coach Alex O'Leary - Coach Kieran Quarrington – Lead Sports Therapist Adam Clement - Physio John Mitchell – Kit Man Tim Moffatt - Coach

## HASHTAG UNITED FC

Blue & Yellow

Josh Strizovic (GK) Matthew Wooldridge Jermaine Anderson Nathan Smith **Thomas Anderson** Harry Haysom (VC) **Greg Halford** Max Cornhill (C) Sam Cornish Percy Kiangebeni Misha Djemaili Sak Hassan Pedro Carvalho **Camilo Restrepo Toby Aromolaran** Luke May-Parrott Alex Teniola Farai Tsingano

Manager: Jay Devereux Assistant Manager: Joe Keith Coaches: Larry Bayford/Paul Prosser Goalkeeper Coach: Benji Sewell Strength/Conditioning Coach: Danny Kerrigan Physios: Tyler Overton, Jack Amos Kitman: Mikey Rumin

Referee: Tolu Sangowawa Assistant: Jack Smith Assistant: Andrew Crossley 4th Official: Lawrence Torz-Brown





The Isthmian Football League strongly support the recent Football Association statement that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to The FA for action. (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162)

