

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF

NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 2021-2022

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Emirates FA Cup
Preliminary Round



1871-72 2021-22

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THE WOODS

NORTHWOOD FC V BURNHAM FC

Saturday 21 August 2021

Kick-Off 3.00pm



Respect



TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR
Shamira Hamirani



NORTHWOOD FC

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HONOURS

Isthmian League Division One North champions: 2003

Isthmian League Division Two runners-up: 2000

Isthmian League Division Three promotion: 1997

Isthmian League Cup winners: 2002

Isthmian Charity Shield winners: 2002

Isthmian Associate Members Trophy winners:

1993, 2000

Middlesex Senior Cup Winners: 2007, 2016

Middlesex Senior Cup finalists: 2000, 2002,

Middlesex Senior Cup semi-finalists:

1992, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2006, 2008, 2010

Middlesex Senior Charity Cup finalists:

1994, 2003, 2005, 2012

Middlesex Intermediate Cup winners: 1979

Middlesex Junior Cup winners: 1938

Middlesex Junior Cup finalists: 1935, 1936

London Spartan League Premier Division champions:

1992

London Spartan League Premier Division runners-up:

1990

London Spartan League Cup winners: 1990, 1992

Hellenic League Division One champions: 1979

Hellenic League Premier Division Cup finalist: 1982

Hellenic League Division One Cup winners: 1979

Middlesex League Premier Division champions: 1978

Middlesex League Premier Division runners-up:

1972, 1977

Middlesex League Challenge Cup winners:

1975, 1977, 1978

Harrow, Wembley & District League champions:

1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1948, 1949

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The Northwood FC Matchday Programme is produced by JJ Sports Promotions Ltd. For further information please contact Terry Brumpton on 07771 802 048 or email him on terrybrumpton@yahoo.co.uk

IAN'S INSIGHT

WITH NORTHWOOD FC CHAIRMAN, **IAN BARRY**



Good afternoon and welcome to The Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium for today's FA Cup tie against the team we lost to last season, Burnham. That match brings back poor memories for me for many reasons and I hope we can change our fortunes today.

A long time has now passed since we played a competitive game here and of course, many changes. A new manager, a new squad, new teams in our division and hopefully a new outlook for this season.

Many things happen at the club whilst the football season is closed and clearly, the last year and a half has been a difficult one for us all. We are still here and have renewed optimism for this season; but my message to you all is still the same; we need more help here as there is so much to do and so few people to do the jobs needed.

We are still in desperate need of some help from some 'skilled' workers such as plumbers, carpenters and electricians as well as general work in and around the stadium and clubhouse. If you can spare some time and help us, please let me know. To be honest, it's still quite embarrassing when I go to other clubs and see the size of their match day team compared to ours!

Today is an important game as we look to progress in this famous competition, despite the cut in prize money again this season it is still one of our very few opportunities to gain prize money.

Last season the atmosphere was fantastic with many of our youth parents and players creating a real community feel on match days. Long may this continue.

More from me next time and indeed next week, when we are here again in the league. Enjoy the game today.

In closing, we hope you like our new kit, named in memory of Pat Byrne and acknowledging 46 club legends with their names on the back of the shirts. We have a small number of these available to purchase in the clubhouse or they can be ordered online and personalised with names and/or numbers.

Up the Woods!

ian

The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162). The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

BEN'S BRIEF

THE THOUGHTS OF THE NEW NORTHWOOD MANAGER **BEN MURRAY**

Firstly, I would like to say that it is an absolute honour to be manager of this club which is steeped in history and I hope to bring more success to the club in the form of results on the pitch and stability of a squad that you, the fans, can relate to each week.

I look forward to the season ahead, there will be ups and downs along the way but it wouldn't be football if there wasn't. What is important for me is instilling in to my players and staff the passion for the badge and the 'old school' grit and determination that is needed each and every time we step out onto the pitch and represent Northwood Football Club.

I am always honest. With my players especially. I think it's the only way to run a close-knit group, if everyone knows where my thinking is at. But it's also important that I know where they are at too. I speak with the players 1 to 1 each week as I feel man-management is the key to a successful team.

Our first game last Saturday at Thatcham was a game that you can look at with either a half empty pint glass or a half full one. At times we looked great in our attacking phases, creating chances and controlling good possession, but our best player on the pitch was Montel Joseph in goal and that has to mean that we

were making too many mistakes and allowing them too many opportunities.

I thought we deserved the equaliser but also thought we finished the game much stronger and had four great chances to win it in the last ten minutes.

Today is the FA Cup, against a strong Burnham team who will surely have a successful season in the Combined Counties League.

The FA Cup is all about the player's mindset. It's one of the great traditions of our country and players of today's generation do not sometimes realise how much of an honour it is to say that you have taken part in the FA Cup as a player. The qualifying rounds are the toughest part in my opinion, these rounds are about pure graft and in a one-off game all form and league tables go right out of the window. We will be ready for it for sure.

Myself and my team cannot wait to kick off our first official home game here at Northwood this afternoon and hopefully I look forward to seeing you all in the bar after for a pint and to discuss the match.

Up the Woods...

BEN





WOODS OUTLOOK

WITH ALAN EVANS

WELCOME TO THE BLUES OF BURNHAM FC

This afternoon we finally get the chance to play another competitive fixture here at the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium. It's been a long time since we were able to welcome supporters into the ground - over nine months - and we are delighted to be back in action today. Not only are we back for football, we are back to play in that special of Cup competitions - the Emirates FA Challenge Cup, where many dreams are made over and over again throughout the Country each and every season. History tells us that the same opponents often crop up in successive seasons against the Woods in the FA Cup and 2021 has been no different as this afternoon we welcome our old friends from Burnham Football Club, the return of our last game in the competition. On that occasion our side failed to do themselves justice and the Blues notched a narrow 1-0 success thanks to an early penalty. Our visitors appear to be a club back on the up once again following a few years in the doldrums with new ownership and a recently-laid 3G pitch which will help lay the foundations of improved links with the local community. Perhaps we will see that first hand should there be the need for any replay which would take place on Tuesday night if we draw at 90 minutes this afternoon. It is also Burnham's first season as a Combined Counties League club this season having been switched over from the Hellenic League. We wish them well with their progress though of course only after today's FA Cup clash.

COVID LATEST

We are pretty much now back to normal operations here at the club following a long period of restrictions. However, we do remind all visitors to the ground and the clubhouse that you are responsible for your own protection and also the protection of others so please take whatever precautions you feel you need to and ensure that the season progresses without too much interruption. Please also see our website for our latest Risk Assessment.

MANAGERIAL CHANGE

It was back at the end of April, that the club's plans for the new season were somewhat interrupted by the decision made by Manager Rob Ursell to resign his post in order to return to a coaching role at Isthmian Premier side Potters Bar Town. He had made no secret of the fact that he had

found his first-ever management role difficult but was being fully supported by the club to develop but his decision was accepted and we thank Rob for his fourteen months in charge which was of course constantly interrupted by the effects of the pandemic.

We advertised for a replacement as usual and interviewed a strong shortlist of candidates before making our choice to appoint former Ashford Town (Middlesex) boss Ben Murray as the club's 25th manager since Pat Byrne was our first some fifty years ago in 1971. I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming Ben, who has been Assisting Spencer Day at Farnborough FC over the last couple of years, to Northwood FC and give him all the support he needs to get the Club challenging for the higher positions at Step 4 as soon as possible.

PLAYER ARRIVALS

Player profiles are supplied elsewhere in today's match-day programme and of course there are many new faces as none of last season's squad have remained at the club for the new campaign. However, Ben Murray's first group of recruited players does include six players who have been registered with the club before. Brothers Joakim and Ismael Ehui have both returned to the Woods for their third spells with Joakim looking to add to his 182 previous league and cup appearances. Goalkeeper Montel Joseph was with us some five years ago and made an impact over 24 matches before going off to play international football for Trinidad & Tobago. He didn't return until making one further appearance in 2017. Defender Gradi Milenge played in that same side as Montel in 2016, making 15 appearances and scoring two goals and joins from Biggleswade Town. Declan Nche made 14 appearances as a youngster back in 2017/18 and re-joins from Heybridge Swifts while Tristan Noel made just a single substitute appearance in 2019/20. We welcome these players back to the club and of course the rest of the new squad. We hope you have a long and successful spell with the Woods.

LEAGUE NEWS

The addition of an extra Division at Step 4 of the non-League Pyramid in the summer (in essence in the north of the country) meant promotion for a large number of Step 5 clubs and, as a further result, some changes to the divisional boundaries. In effect this meant we have lost

those North-East to ourselves in the Pitching-In Isthmian League South Central Division - Harlow Town, Barking, Ware, Waltham Abbey and FC Romania - to adjacent regional divisions, while we welcomed five others - Sutton Common Rovers, Binfield, Basingstoke Town, Whyteleafe and Channel Islands club Guernsey. Since then, there has been the sad news that Whyteleafe, who have lost the use of their established ground, have had to withdraw from the league so we are left one short with only 19 clubs. At present, Guernsey are awaiting a change of policy from their governing body which will allow them to readily accept visiting clubs and they may not start their season until well into September. We are due to travel there on Saturday 23rd October so please await news on whether that will be possible before booking any travel and accommodation at present. It means there will be only one certain relegation place this season but there is also the new possibility of play-offs for the two sides above that relegation spot (dependant on Points per game) against sides that finish in second place in the now increased number of sixteen feeder leagues.

TOP VALUE SEASON TICKETS

Season Tickets are again available to all supporters at the massively discounted price of just £45.00 which will get you entrance to all our home Isthmian League matches (usual admission price £10 for adults, £5 for concessions). For those that bought a season ticket last season, only for the season to be severely curtailed, we did make the offer of a free replacement for the new season and it is a credit to everyone of you that no-one took us up on that offer. All those that ordered their tickets prior to the start of the season can collect them from me today and use them from our first home league game against Binfield FC next weekend. Go to the website www.northwoodfc.com and Season Tickets under the Commercial tab to pay online for yours or you can pay cash to me this afternoon if you would prefer.

You may want to consider becoming a 1926 Member. At a cost of £145, this gets you the Season Ticket but also a Player Sponsorship of your choice plus one Match-Day Sponsorship which includes hospitality for four people pre and post-match. These are limited but there are still a few memberships available.

THE PAT BYRNE MEMORIAL MATCH

Sunday 12th September at 3pm

With restrictions finally coming to an end we've finally made plans for a day in memory of our former Club President Pat Byrne who sadly passed away in April 2020. We plan to stage a football match on the above date between two sides packed with former Woods players who

all wish to pay tribute to the great man and have all made a donation to the fund towards the cost of a memorial that we will be building at the ground in his memory. It will be Byrne's Northwood Legends against Pat's Northwood heroes and there will also be a few members of Pat's family represented on the pitch and at the club on the day.

So please get the date in your diary as we'd love to see you here for the game and over a few drinks on the day. It's free entry to the game, there will be a souvenir programme to buy and we will be collecting donations towards the memorial. Amongst the players who have confirmed that they will be having a run-out are legends of the club such as Garfield Blackman, Peter Lammin, Gary Williams, Paul Watkins, Chris Gell, Lawrence Yaku, Dave Nolan, Steve Brown, Danny Yeoman, Steve Hale, Derek Payne, Andy Cook, Terry Benning, Fergus Moore, Alistair Heselton, Steve Tobin, Paul Halbert, Gavin Hart, Mark and James Burgess, Rob Ursell, Dave Lawrence, Robin Tidd, Richard McDonagh, James Shipperley, Paul Riordan and Alex Nolan while many others hope to pop down to show their support. It should be a great day for the great man.

PLAYER SPONSORSHIPS

As usual, we are looking for sponsors for our players and this season you get a choice of either being kit sponsor at £60.00 or Tracksuit Sponsor at £50.00. You can do this online via the website and the squad page, or cash if you would prefer. Hopefully we will have the player squad page up and running in next Saturday's programme as both team and individual player photos are due to be taken before this afternoon's match.

SPARTANS YOUTH (ADULT SECTION)

Our groundshare partners continue to be Spartans FC who unfortunately only managed to play two home matches in the curtailed 2020/21 campaign. They will be back in September, playing in the newly-renamed Surrey Premier County League which has been sponsored by New Balance. The fixtures haven't been announced as yet but they will be at home on Saturday 4th September against Battersea Ironside if we are not at home ourselves that day. Fixtures at the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium. Just a week to wait until we are back here at Northwood for our first Pitching-In Isthmian League home game of the season with the first-ever visit of Binfield FC, who were beaten finalists in the FA Vase back in May and promoted from the Hellenic League.

Saturday 21st August - Northwood v. Binfield - 3pm

Enjoy the game this afternoon and see you all again soon!

Alan



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS...

BURNHAM FC

The club was founded in 1878, and so Burnham FC is the second oldest club in Buckinghamshire. The club spent its first years in various local leagues, and then joined the Great Western Combination league in 1948. 16 years later they moved to the Wycombe Combination in 1964 and then spent one year in the Reading Combination for the 1970–71 season.

The team first joined a senior league in 1971 when they entered the Hellenic Football League Division One A, finishing as runners-up in their first season, followed by a runners-up position in Division One which saw them promoted to the Premier Division.

In 1975–76 they were Premier Division champions. In 1977 they switched to the Athenian League, where they achieved two runners-up finishes, and also reached the semi-finals of the FA Vase.

In 1984 Burnham switched leagues to the London Spartan League, where they were champions at the first attempt. The following year the club merged with Hillingdon F.C. to form Burnham & Hillingdon F.C., taking over Hillingdon's place in the Southern League.

In 1987 the club's name reverted simply to Burnham F.C. but performances on the pitch declined and the 1994–95 season saw the club relegated back to the Hellenic League.

In four seasons back at this level the club never finished out of the top 5, resulting in promotion back to the Southern League in 1999. Due to the renaming and restructuring of divisions they technically played in three different divisions without ever being relegated or promoted during their time in the Southern League.

Burnham have had modest success in cup competitions. Their best run in the FA Vase came in the 1982–83 season where they lost to Halesowen Town in a two legged semi-final (the home match being the club's highest recorded attendance).

In 1999–2000 they reached the 4th round of the FA Trophy where they drew Scarborough, then residing in the Conference (they had also recently been relegated from the Football League). Burnham managed a 1–1 draw at home before losing 6–0 in the replay.

In the 2005–06 season Dave Mudge's Burnham side achieved their best run in the FA Cup, losing 3–1 at home to Aldershot Town in the 1st round proper. The game was watched by one of the biggest crowds at Burnham in recent years and even saw Burnham appear briefly on Match of the Day.

Burnham completed one of their best seasons in recent memory when they finished 3rd in the Southern League Division One South & West in 2006–07.

Due to this league position they entered the promotion playoffs but lost at home in the semi-final 1–2 to eventual playoff winners Swindon Supermarine.

This outcome was mirrored three seasons later, when, under the managerial guidance of Jamie Jarvis, the Blues again lost out in the semi-final of the play-offs, this time to Chesham United. Martin Stone was appointed manager in December 2011 and under his stewardship the club enjoyed its most successful period.

After winning the Wycombe Senior Cup in 2011–12 the 2012–13 season saw the club gain promotion to the Southern League Premier Division when they finished as champions of the Division One Central. This was to be the first time Burnham had ever played at this level of football, but they had to reckon without top scorer Ryan Bird, who signed for Portsmouth. Martin Stone resigned in January 2014 with the club 8th in the Southern League Premier Division.

After just surviving relegation from the Southern League Premier Division having finished in 20th position in the 2013-14 season, the club appointed former Hillingdon Borough, Northwood and Wingate & Finchley manager Gary Meakin who joined the club from Beaconsfield SYCOB. Byron Walton, who most recently



served as SYCOB manager before leaving in 2012, joined as general manager.

Meakin resigned from his position as manager after the 0–0 draw with Chippenham Town on 29 November 2014, a result that left Burnham in 21st position. Burnham then appointed a joint managerial team of Danny Gordon and Gareth Risbridger, who both assumed the role as joint-managers, in December 2014 as Meakin's replacement.

Both Gordon and Risbridger departed the club, following their relegation from the Premier Division, in May 2015.

The board moved quickly appointing former Binfield boss Mark Tallentire as the club's new manager on 11 May 2015, but he resigned in September 2015 bringing about yet another change in manager. On 23 November, Burnham confirmed a further managerial change, with former professional player Dave Tuttle taking charge. Tuttle therefore became Burnham's third manager already during the 2015–16 season and their sixth in the last two campaigns. On 19 April 2016, Burnham lost 2–1 at home to Didcot Town. This defeat confirmed the club's second successive relegation and will see them play at a level below the Southern League for the first time since the late 1990s, when they played in the Hellenic Football League.

Burnham's chairman was quoted as saying that registering 112 players over the course of the season was "unforgivable" and was one of the contributing factors towards the club's relegation.

Following relegation, Burnham appealed against their demotion. They were ultimately unsuccessful and it was confirmed they would play in the Hellenic Football League for season 2016–17.

Despite a promising pre-season with two wins, Burnham's new first team suffered their heaviest defeat in six years when they lost 8–1 to Thame United in their first game of the Hellenic League season.

In August 2016, the club parted company with manager Dave Tuttle. The club's director of football, former Watford player and England international Luther Blissett continued to direct the coaching, along with Bliss8 assistant coaches. It was announced that a new first team manager would be recruited working within the club's development strategy. Blissett's first game in

charge resulted in a 0–11 home defeat to Thatcham Town as Burnham's poor start to the season continued.

Due to the heavy nature of this defeat, the result and highlights were available on the BBC website, and discussed briefly in The Guardian "Football Weekly" podcast. On 27 September, Burnham announced that former Watford player Gifton Noel-Williams would be taking over the managerial job at the club. He led the team to their first points of the season in October, but the club announced on 9 November that Noel-Williams had left the club. As a result, Blissett again took charge of the team

On 11 January, it was revealed that Burnham had appointed two coaches from nearby Slough Town to manage the team in their bid to avoid yet another relegation.

However, that move was met with surprise from temporary coach Luther Blissett who said they and 15 new players were appointed without his knowing, and before he had been informed his services were no longer required. The latest change to the club's structure was later confirmed by the club's official Twitter account.

Despite a slight improvement to their end of season form, and managing to finish the season 17th out of 18 teams, Burnham finished in the relegation places.

However, they avoided a third straight relegation to the Hellenic Division One East for the 2017–18 season following the resignation from the Premier Division of Ardley United.

The end of the 2016–17 also saw Burnham's chairman depart, as well as one of their joint managers, Jon Palmer.

In the 2017–18 season Burnham were relegated from the Hellenic Premier Division with two games left to play, but they did manage to get to the Bluefin Sport Supplementary Cup final.

Burnham started the 2018–19 season in the Hellenic League Division One East the lowest level of the football pyramid they have played at since the late 1960s.

At the end of the 2020–21 season the club were transferred to the Premier Division North of the Combined Counties League.



CLASSIC CLASH

SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2011 - BURNHAM 2 NORTHWOOD 3

The Woods have played Burnham more than a dozen times over the years since the first meeting in August 1979, and today we recall a Zamaretto Southern League clash which was decided by a stoppage time winner!

This was actually the fourth meeting between Northwood and the Blues during the 2010-11 campaign, and in all four meetings, the team scoring first had been unable to hold on to victory!

With just two minutes on the clock, Ed Chemlal chipped forward to Ryan Bird and Burnham's top scorer flashed a shot across the face of the goal and just wide. Soon after, Ryan Tackley played a ball through to Jones, who laid it back for Wayne Jackson to strike but the ball sailed wide. Burnham then took the lead when Bird knocked a ball into Jordan Dowdican and the young striker turned Zac Gill before slotting past keeper Dan Lee to score far too easily.

Jones played a great ball through for Jake Lovell to run onto three minutes later and he should have hit the target but shot over and the Woods were made to pay for that on 22 minutes as Dowdican scored again. Finding space on the right, he cut in and sent a shot across Lee which the 'keeper was unable to keep out. After a run of heavy defeats, heads could have gone down at this point, but in fact the Woods rallied well and Jones and Tackley both went close with long-range efforts, before Wallace shot over the top following a Jackson cross.

Burnham 'keeper Sam Mazurek was finally forced into action after 40 minutes when he made a good save to deny Wallace but the Woods were still two goals behind at the half-time break. Northwood did have the wind at their backs for the second half and they looked full of ambition from the restart. Jackson headed a Wallace cross wide of the post and then Jones latched





onto a ball from Lovell to hit a crisp shot that Mazurek pushed wide of the post.

Another good break then gave Chase a chance of a debut goal but he chose to try to cut the ball back instead and it was cut out by a defender. Woods needed something more decisive and Jones was always prepared to shoot when in sight of goal, and he hit another one that was saved at the near post by the burly 'keeper. Burnham almost wrapped up the win after 61 minutes when Ben Hudell curled a free-kick up and over the defensive wall but the ball crashed back off the crossbar and was cleared to safety.

Dean Wallace let fly with a long-range effort which Mazurek could only parry and Wallace and Tackley combined a few minutes later for the later to knock in a cross which allowed Chase another chance, but this time his shot was blocked by the 'keeper.

Chase hit another effort into the side-netting after 71 minutes and time was beginning to run out for any comeback, but almost immediately Wallace played a classy chip forward into the box and Lovell was onto it quickly, side-stepped both defender and goalkeeper and fired into the net for a neat goal, his first for the

club. The Woods maintained the pressure on the home side with on-target efforts from Jackson and Jones both comfortably saved by Mazurek, but the equalising goal came after 82 minutes when Tom Windsor won a tackle in midfield and strode forward to let fly from 25 yards (pictured) with a strike that found the top corner and gave the 'keeper no chance. Again, it was his first goal for the Woods.

A draw seemed the most likely outcome but Northwood kept pushing with Lovell denied by Mazurek after a decent strike. The game was deep in stoppage-time when Lovell came up with the winner as he fired goalwards and defender Dave Tilbury's attempted block only helping the ball on its way past Mazurek and into the net. Our photos shows the Woods' celebrations!!

Burnham: Sam Mazurek, Darren Rockell, Ben Hudell, Ed Chemlal, Dave Tilbury, Matt Seedel, Luke Carroll (Tom Barlow 73m), Adrian Sear, Ryan Bird, Jordan Dowdican (Bradley Edmunds 92m), Joe Chandiram.

Northwood: Dan Lee, Chris Chase, Ryan Tackley, James Bent, Zac Gill, Mark Burgess, Wayne Jackson, Tom Windsor, Scott Orphanou (Dean Wallace 11m), Miles Jones, Jake Lovell.

MATCH REPORT



BY ROBIN PIPER

Thatcham Town 1 Northwood 1

Northwood began life under new manager Ben Murray with a hard-earned point as they shared two goals with Thatcham Town, managed by former Woods boss Jamie Leacock, in the season's opener at the Stacatruc Stadium.

New look Northwood began proceedings with a three-man defence which included Gradi Milenge, who along with Tristan Noel and goalkeeper Montel Joseph had enjoyed previous spells at the club. But with a completely revamped team which had midweek signing Joseph Chidyausiku deployed as a lone striker, the early nerves were understandable with both sides taking a while to settle into any sort of rhythm.

The hosts gradually began to find their feet and Joseph, wearing the captain's armband for Northwood, was called upon to deal with a free-kick from Brad Pagliaroli before the same player was foiled once again by the Woods skipper.

Northwood had offered little attacking threat in the early stages, but they had an opportunity to open the scoring after Matteo Esposito slid the ball through to Chidyausiku who rolled his shot beyond the advancing Chris Rackley, the former Woods keeper able to breathe a sigh of relief as he watched the effort narrowly clear the far upright.

However, the hosts were beginning to gain the upper-hand and looking increasingly threatening with Joseph producing another fine save to deny the lively Pagliaroli with his legs after the Kingfisher's danger man latched onto a long clearance from Rackley.

Woods had switched to a flat back four with Tom Unsworth and Aaron Petch occupying the full back positions and Thatcham kept up the pressure with Andy Gunn failing to get the necessary connection after finding himself free at a corner.

Northwood continued to look a little disappointed in attack although Shakeel Morris tried his luck from distance with a shot which narrowly cleared the Kingfisher's crossbar.

At the other end, Joseph's busy afternoon continued as he gathered Pagliaroli's attempted lob after the latter latched onto another long clearance from Rackley and defensive indecision almost cost the visitors dear as Balai Demeble was allowed to get a shot in on goal, but Joseph was up to the task once again.

But Woods resistance was finally broken as Pagliaroli struck a shot from just outside the box which curled beyond the reach of Joseph to give Thatcham a deserved lead on 40 minutes.

Northwood almost posted an immediate reply as Matt Ayres ran onto an Esposito through ball, but Rackley got down well to palm away the shot.

However, there was no let up for Woods as the hosts threatened again before half-time as Tinashe Gwavava picked out Alex Fragata at the far post, but his weak shot was comfortably dealt with by Joseph.

Northwood made a change at the break with Ismael Ehui replacing Chidyausiku in attack, but it was Thatcham who came out stronger as they looked to increase their advantage with Gunn twice going close from corners while Harvey Harry saw his close-range shot deflected behind after good work from Fragata.

Woods were forced into a change on 53 minutes as Ryan Avery finally succumbed to the ankle knock he picked up early in proceedings with Matt Surmon his replacement in central defence.

And Woods rejigged defence were being asked questions again as Fragata broke from midfield before being impeded in the box by the backtracking Noel with the referee pointing to the spot. However, Joseph came to his team's rescue once more as he kept out Demeble's penalty attempt to keep Northwood in the contest just before the hour mark.





There was no let up for Northwood with Harry the next to go close for the Kingfishers while Joseph performed more heroics to keep out another Pagliaroli effort.

Woods made their final substitution on 62 minutes as Noel was replaced by attacker Leo Decabo as the visitors looked for a way back into the contest. And after Joseph had been called into action once again to this time deny Lamin Ceesay, Northwood began to be more constructive in the final third with Esposito bringing out the best in Rackley with an effort from the edge of the box.

However, there was nothing Rackley could do as Morris produced a moment of magic as he found space on the edge of the box sending an unstoppable shot into the Thatcham net to draw Northwood level on 74 minutes.

Buoyed by the goal, Woods visibly grew in confidence and they threatened again as Ehui was picked out by Petch with the substitute's snap-shot being kept out by Rackley

With both sides looking for the winning goal, play flowed from end to end with the hosts having a penalty appeal waved away after a challenge on Harry while Ehui hooked an effort narrowly wide following a Petch free-kick into the box. And Woods went close again as Esposito's shot from 25 yards curled inches past the upright.

Woods maintained their strong finish to the game as Ezekial Williams sent over an enticing cross from the right which just evaded Ehui and the stretching Morris while Decabo was denied by the legs of Rackley.

But in a frantic end to the game, Thatcham thought they should have been awarded another penalty after a Surmon challenge on substitute Will Frank before teammate Ceesay fired into the side netting, the final action on an entertaining opening day encounter.

Northwood: Joseph, Unsworth, Petch, Noel (Decabo 63m), Milenge, Avery (Surmon 53m), Morris, Ayres, Chidyausiku (Ehui 46m), Esposito, Williams. Unused Subs. Coles, Nche.

Attendance: 147





PLAYER PROFILES

2021-22 SEASON

RYAN AVERY - Now 20, versatile Ryan played at Flackwell Heath as a youth and has since seen service at Burnham, Windsor and Thame Rangers prior to joining the Woods during the 2021 pre-season campaign.

MATT AYRES - 20-year-old midfielder who came through the FAB Academy and joins Northwood from Windsor as a new recruit in the summer of 2021 having previously played for Burnham.

ANDREW BLAKE - Andrew is only 21 but has gained experience from spells with Greenwich Borough, Leatherhead, Farnborough, Egham Town and Staines Town over the last few years and joined the Woods from Farnborough in the close-season.

JOE CHIDYAUSIKU - Joe is a striker who joined the Woods on dual-registration from Farnborough in August 2021 having been released from St Albans City in April. The 23-year-old has previously played for Dunstable Town, Bedfont Sports, Romford, Havant & Waterlooville, Bradford Park Avenue, Chelmsford City and Bracknell Town.

SAM COLES - Sam is an attacking midfielder, 20 years old and another to have graduated from the FAB Academy and Flackwell Heath Youth to play for Burnham and then Windsor. He signed for Northwood from the Stags in the summer of 2021.

LEO DECABO - Still only 19, attacker Leo came through the FAB Academy and has played for FC Deportivo Galicia and Farnborough, where he is Head Coach to their Academy, before arriving at Northwood Park in the summer of 2021.

MATTEO ESPOSITO - Matteo is a 21-year-old attacking midfielder player who joined Northwood in

the summer of 2021 having played for Royston Town last season. Has previously played at Cockfosters and Oxhey Jets.

ISMAEL EHUI - Experienced striker, 34-year-old Ish has rejoined the Woods for a third spell some seven years after his first successful spell when he netted 14 goals in 29 appearances. French-born, Ismael played a few games for Scunthorpe United in the Football League while on loan from Fulham before playing abroad in Cyprus and Belgium, latterly for FC Montegnee. He moved to Hayes & Yeading, Hendon and Flackwell Heath before a second spell at Northwood and has since played for Chalfont St. Peter, Potters Bar, Hanwell Town, North Greenford and Broadfields United.

JOAKIM EHUI - 29-year-old brother to Ismael, Joakim has also returned to Northwood for a third spell and to add to over 180 appearances for the club. Born in Lille, France Joakim was also at Fulham as a youngster and has also played for St. Albans City, Harrow Borough, Harlow Town, Hayes & Yeading, Potters Bar, Aylesbury, Chalfont St. Peter and Broadfields United.

JUAN PABLO GONZALEZ VELASCO - Pablo is a 22-year-old Colombian-born attacking full-back who was at Brentford and Tottenham as a youth before playing in Spain for CD Lugo and then Bulgaria for FC Pirin. On returning to England, he played a game for Edgware Town and has now joined the Woods, though is also dual-registered with Hendon FC.

MONTEL JOSEPH - 24-year-old goalkeeper who has returned to the club for a third spell. He originally signed in 2016 from Boreham Wood having been released by Bristol City. He impressed in that spell which ended when Montel went off to the Caribbean

to represent Trinidad & Tobago as an International. He also played on the Island for Central FC. He played one game in 2017/18 for the Woods but has since been playing for Wembley and Barking.

ARNOLD LINTURN - Defender Arnold is another 20-year-old product of the FAB Academy who has signed for Northwood having played for Basingstoke Town last season.

EXAUCE MABANZA-DITU - 20-year-old former Crystal Palace youth who joins the Woods in the summer of 2021 from Staines Town. He has also played at Dulwich Hamlet and Luton Town Cedars.

GRADI MILENGE - It's five years since Gradi played fifteen games for the Woods as a central defender when on dual-registration from Hendon. The 24-year-old was with Brentford as a youth and had previously appeared for Farnborough and Grays Athletic. Since then, Gradi, who was born in the DR Congo, has gained experience with Bedford Town, London Colney, Staines Town, Walton Casuals and Biggleswade Town from where he joins Northwood for a second spell.

SHAKEEL MORRIS - 25-year-old attacker, Shak joins Northwood from Abbey Rangers having previously been amongst the goals at Step 5 for the likes of Bedford & Feltham and CB Hounslow United.

SAMI NABBAD - Young 20-year-old goalkeeper who was at AFC Wimbledon as a youngster and has also been on the books at Hayes & Yeading United and Walton Casuals. He joins the Woods in the summer of 2021 to make a play for the number one position.

DECLAN NCHE - Strong midfielder who returns to Northwood this summer for his second spell at the club having previously made 14 appearances in 2017/18 when he arrived from Brentwood Town. Since then, the 24-year-old has played at Hanwell Town, Egham Town, Witham Town and Heybridge Swifts.

TRISTAN NOEL - Experienced, 24-year-old midfielder who joins the Woods for a second time in the summer of 2021 having previously made one appearance as a substitute back in early 2020. Tristan has also seen

service at Ashford Town (Mx), Egham Town and Bedford Sports.

TIMOTHY OBISANYA - Tall 23-year-old striker who joins the Woods having been with Farnborough last season. Prior to that he played for London Colney having also seen service at Harlow Town, Staines Town and Stotfold.

AARON PETCH - 20-year-old left-sided defender or winger who joined the Woods from Bedford Sports in the summer of 2021 having also previously played for Ashford Town (Middx).

ABZ SAHNOUN - 19-year-old winger, Abdelah who has joined the Woods in the close season having risen from the Tooting & Mitcham United Development side into the first-team over the last couple of seasons. Has signed up along with his twin brother Mo.

MO SAHNOUN - Mo has arrived from Tooting & Mitcham United this season alongside his twin brother and the 19-year-old also plays on the wing.

MATT SURMON - Matt is an assured central defender despite being only 20 years old and joins the club from FC Deportivo Galicia. He has also played at Ashford Town (Middx. and Windsor.

TOM UNSWORTH - 19-year-old full-back who has arrived at the Woods having been at Boreham Wood and Kings Langley last season. Tom started out in the Thatcham Town Youth set-up.

EZEKIEL WILLIAMS - 21-year-old midfield player who arrived at Northwood in the summer of 2021 from Egham Town. Has also played for Hayes & Yeading United and London Tigers.

PRE-SEASON REVIEW

The Woods played in seven pre-season friendly matches before the start of our Isthmian League campaign in our efforts to prepare the squad for the new season. There were a couple of games called off due to the increase in Covid cases and one or two arranged at the last minute so it was never an ideal schedule and results were not particularly important.

We started on the 3G at Rayners Lane with an unfamiliar squad but it was a returning striker in Ismael Ehui, who bagged a hat-trick, that earned a 4-2 success after Aaron Petch netted the first goal. We travelled to Holmer Green a week later and gave a lack-lustre performance which saw the home side deservedly win 2-1. Aaron Petch netted again; this time direct from a free-kick.

Our first home game since late October 2020 followed as Southern League Premier side Chesham United, under the management of former Woods players James Duncan and Michael Murray, paid us a visit. A goal late in each half meant we lost the game 0-2 but there were several good performances to build upon. We then notched back-to-back wins at Step 5 clubs.

At Flackwell Heath, goals from Shakeel Morris and the returning Joakim Ehui (a header would you believe) gave us a 2-1 success. Two days later we were pleased



to be able to provide the opposition for newly-formed club Hertford United FC, who have been founded by a good friend of the club, Gordon Boateng. Gordon did a great job when helping us out at the end of the troubled 2018/19 season and has now set up his own club who will play in the Herts County League this season. The Woods won the game 4-1 with Ismael Ehui netting another two goals, Shakeel Morris scoring again and Sam Coles bagging the final one.





We then had a late arrangement for a home game against Egham Town who have been taken over by two former Northwood Assistant Managers in Jordan Berry and Greg Phillips. Unfortunately, it produced our worst performance of pre-season as our visitors notched a 2-0 victory.

We had a few days to put things right before our final warm-up game at home to another Southern Premier side in Kings Langley. It was definitely better and we led the game through Ismael Ehui's header, his sixth goal of pre-season. We couldn't quite last home however as the visitors levelled early in the second-half and then scored a winner two minutes from time.





PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

WITH THE YOUNGSTERS

UNDER 18S GO AGAIN...

Last season promised a little before the Covid epidemic curtailed the campaign from an early stage.

Manager Paul Masters has used the break to recruit new players to add to his squad and they have enjoyed a bright pre-season campaign so far as they prepare to play their first league game this Wednesday night.

The Woods compete in the West Division once again but there has been a couple of changes with Aldershot Town moving to another division and being replaced by Ashford Town (Middlesex) who have returned after a couple of years break.

The division has also been returned to the maximum of ten clubs (it was only nine last season) with the introduction of newcomers Beaconsfield Town who are another club that has set up an Academy.

It will continue to be a very testing and competitive division without a doubt as our lads come up against many sides who operate academies so have full-time training alongside their education.

The first pre-season game saw the side come from behind to win 3-2 at Leverstock Green with goals from Will Robinson, Mayvin Vigneswaran and Josh Ward-Beckles.

The same trio of players were on the scoresheet again in an away game at Kings Langley but this time they were on the wrong side of a narrow 4-3 defeat.

We then entertained a Brentford FCCT team here at Northwood and another really close encounter ended with the Bees winning 3-2.

So, plenty of goals at both ends so far! If anyone can make the trip to Ashford Town (Middlesex). on Wednesday, or to Uxbridge for our FA Youth Cup game the following Wednesday, I'm sure the youngsters would appreciate your support.

THE 2021/2022 FIXTURE LIST

Date	Opponents	V	Comp	F-A
Wed 25 Aug	Ashford Town (Middx)	A	IY Lge	
Wed 1 Sep	Uxbridge	A	FAY Cup	
Thu 9 Sep	UXBRIDGE	H	IY Lge	
Thu 23 Sep	Camberley Town	A	IY Lge	
Thu 7 Oct	WEALDSTONE	H	IY Lge	
Thu 21 Oct	HAMPTON & RICHMOND B	H	IY Lge	
Thu 28 Oct	Marlow	A	IY Lge	
Thu 4 Nov	Bedfont Sports	H	IY Lge	
Mon 15 Nov	Beaconsfield Town	A	IY Lge	
Wed 24 Nov	Hayes & Yeading United	A	IY Lge	
Thu 2 Dec	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)	H	IY Lge	
Mon 6 Dec	Uxbridge	A	IY Lge	
Thu 16 Dec	CAMBERLEY TOWN	H	IY Lge	
Mon 10 Jan	Bedfont Sports	A	IY Lge	
Thu 20 Jan	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	H	IY Lge	
Thu 27 Jan	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	H	IY Lge	
Wed 2 Feb	Wealdstone	A	IY Lge	
Wed 9 Feb	Hampton & Richmond B	A	IY Lge	
Thu 17 Feb	MARLOW	H	IY Lge	

KEY: IY Lge = Isthmian Youth League; FAY Cup = FA Youth Cup;
MCY Cup = Middlesex County Youth Cup

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ashford Town (Middx)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaconsfield Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfont Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camberley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton & Richmond B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hayes & Yeading United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marlow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uxbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wealdstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

DATE	OPPONENT	V	COMP	RES	ATT	FIRST XI
AUGUST						
Sat 14	Thatcham Town	A	Lge	1-1	147	Joseph Unsworth Petch Noel (63) Milenge Avery (53)
Sat 21	BURNHAM	H	FACPR			
Sat 28	BINFIELD	H	Lge			
Mon 30	Hamwell Town	A	Lge			
SEPTEMBER						
Sat 04	Emirates FA Cup 1QR					
Sat 11	STAINES TOWN	H	Lge			
Tue 14	Marlow	A	Lge			
Sat 18	BASINGSTOKE TOWN	H	Lge			
Sat 25	UXBRIDGE	H	Lge			
OCTOBER						
Sat 02	Tooting & Mitcham United	A	Lge			
Sat 09	HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN	H	FAT 2QR			
Sat 16	SUTTON COMMON ROVERS	H	Lge			
Sat 23	Guernsey	A	Lge			
Sat 30	BRACKNELL TOWN	H	Lge			
NOVEMBER						
Sat 06	Bedfont Sports	A	Lge			
Sat 13	SOUTH PARK	H	Lge			
Sat 20	Chipstead	A	Lge			
Sat 27	ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)	H	Lge			
DECEMBER						
Sat 04	Chertsey Town	A	Lge			
Sat 11	Binfield	A	Lge			
Sat 18	THATCHAM TOWN	H	Lge			
Mon 27	HANWELL TOWN	H	Lge			
JANUARY						
Mon 03	CHALFONT ST PETER	H	Lge			
Sat 08	Westfield	A	Lge			
Sat 15	Basingstoke Town	A	Lge			
Sat 22	MARLOW	H	Lge			
Sat 29	Uxbridge	A	Lge			
FEBRUARY						
Sat 05	TOOTING & MITCHAM UNITED	H	Lge			
Sat 12	GUERNSEY	H	Lge			
Sat 19	Sutton Common Rovers	A	Lge			
Sat 26	BEDFONT SPORTS	H	Lge			
MARCH						
Sat 05	Bracknell Town	A	Lge			
Sat 12	South Park	A	Lge			
Sat 19	CHIPSTEAD	H	Lge			
Sat 26	Ashford Town (Middx)	A	Lge			
APRIL						
Sat 02	CHERTSEY TOWN	H	Lge			
Sat 09	WESTFIELD	H	Lge			
Sat 16	Chalfont St Peter	A	Lge			
Sat 23	Staines Town	A	Lge			

NEW KIT

THE PAT BYRNE MEMORIAL LEGENDS ECOKIT BY HOPE & GLORY

Northwood Football Club is delighted to launch the Club's new first-team kit for the 2021/2022 season in honour of former Club President Pat Byrne who sadly passed away in April last year.

Pat Byrne was a true legend at Northwood FC having been with the club for 65 years in a variety of roles which included as a player, manager, benefactor, supporter and latterly Life President. He is sorely missed by everyone at the club but will certainly be remembered with this bespoke kit which has been designed with Pat at the forefront of our minds but also pays tribute to many of his favourite players and managers that he witnessed over the years.

A total of 46 other Northwood "Legends" have their names woven into this unique kit which the club hope will strike a chord with all those that have played or managed the club during Pat's long dedication to the Woods.

We are again indebted to Adam Fecher and his family as Northwood Hygiene Products have agreed to continue to sponsor the Woods for the new season under their Rhino Kitchen Towel brand. It will be the third season of this sponsorship and considering the last two seasons have been very much restricted, the Companies support could not be taken for granted. It is very much appreciated. Northwood Hygiene Products have a very proud environmental heritage, and their Rhino kitchen towel brand supports Care for Wild, the largest orphan Rhino sanctuary in the world. Based in South Africa the sanctuary works closely with the local community to support their mission, which is to rescue, re-habilitate and re-release orphaned rhinos and prevent them falling victim to poachers, predators or starvation.

Furthermore, our new kit, supplied by Hope & Glory Sportswear, will be made of rPET – that is Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate – plastic bottles to you and us – which are melted down to produce a fine yarn. Each kit has been produced using approximately 16 plastic bottles and production uses considerably less Carbon, Water and Energy than usual polyester manufacture methods.

Club Chairman, Ian Barry, also paid tribute to Pat Byrne and the significance of the new kit for the coming season; "Pat, as everyone knows, was instrumental in making this club what it is today, especially during many tough times when his unconditional support helped us overcome many difficult hurdles. We will never forget him and coupled with many legends' names on the shirts, makes this a fantastic kit for us all to pay tribute to everything he stood for."

The kit is available for online and personalised purchases for everyone while we do have some unnumbered stock available here at the club in most sizes.

ON THIS DAY WITH **KEN GREEN**

21 AUGUST IN YEARS GONE BY...

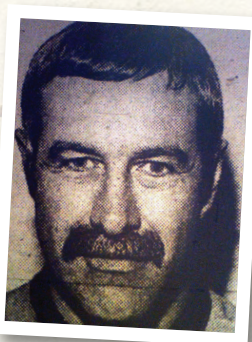
1982**HELLENIC LEAGUE
NORTHWOOD 0
ALMONDSBURY GREENWAY 2**

In 1982 Northwood found themselves hoping that they would not meet too many sides of the calibre of their opening day opponents, Hellenic League newcomers Almondsbury Greenway, who had been promoted that summer from the Gloucestershire County League.

The former FA Vase finalists – they were beaten by thrice winners Billericay Town at Wembley in 1979 – showed tremendous finishing

power through goals by Kerr and Price to prevent John Toogood (pictured) turning in a blank scoresheet for another outstanding performance.

Northwood's team was: Toogood, Davies, Lammin, Gould, Revell, Nelmes, Boyle, James, Floodgate, Ellis, McCarthy.

**1993****DIADORA LEAGUE
DIVISION 3
NORTHWOOD 2
LEIGHTON TOWN 0**

Two goals from Martin Randall and a penalty save by Rick Murphy saw Northwood make a great start to the new campaign in 1993, and they commenced brightly, with Randall and Rob Holland going close. Visiting goalkeeper Mark Townson was beaten in the eighth minute when good work by Jason Delicate and Brian Cronk in front of goal set up Randall to pick his spot.

It was not long before David Nolan was finding his form, and from one of his excellent runs Cronk almost made it 2-0. The visitors began to settle down, though, and were awarded a penalty in the 37th minute for a trip. Murphy, however, was equal to the occasion and saved Steve Drewe's kick in great style.



A fine move early in the second half saw Troy McAuliffe find Randall (pictured) in space and he cleverly sent the keeper the wrong way before slotting home his second goal. Murphy had to make another cracking save, this time from Steve Kirkby, and also had to deal well with another good shot from Steve Norman, but Woods were comfortable winners.

Northwood: Murphy, McAuliffe, Parsons, Payton, Holland, Delicata, Matthews, Crook, Nolan, Wilbraham, Randall. Subs: Phillips, Pacquette.

1999**FA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND
NORTHWOOD 8
CLAPTON 0**

Woods went goal-crazy in 1999, although the first fifteen minutes saw their fellow Division Three opponents force the pace. But things dramatically changed in the 16th minute when a Lawrence Yaku flick-on from Dave Sargent's measured cross saw visiting defender Francis Sizab score past his own goalkeeper Dave Jolly, who was not too, er, jolly with his teammate!

Four minutes later Scott Fitzgerald raced on to a through ball from Danny Yeoman and beat the advancing Jolly with a low shot into the corner. From then on it was almost all one-way traffic.

On 39 minutes, the industrious Chris Gell played the ball out to Dave Nolan, who squared to Yaku, who buried the ball into the back of the net at the cemetery end of Chestnut Avenue.



Fitzgerald made it four just before half-time from Sargent's low cross. Those spectators coming out of the bar a few minutes late might have missed the fifth, scored again by Yaku from another Sargent cross.

A minute later, Yaku completed his hat-trick from a Yeoman through ball: His first effort came off the post, but he sharply put away the rebound. On 52 minutes, Gell hit a quality strike for number seven.

Paul Watkins was jubilant when he hit number eight from a well-struck John Parsons (pictured in action) corner soon after his header had hit the bar, and Northwood would entertain Stowmarket Town in the next round.

Northwood: Riordan, Dee, Parsons, Watkins, Street (Williams), Yeoman, Nolan, Gell (Burgess), Fitzgerald (Conway), Sargent, Yaku.

2010

ZAMARETTO LEAGUE BEACONSFIELD SYCOB 0 NORTHWOOD 1

Eleven years ago, after losing in midweek at Hitchin, Northwood returned to winning ways with a narrow victory at Beaconsfield Sycob. In the very first minute Kyle Matthews curled a shot goalwards from 30 yards which looked to dipping in until goalkeeper Carl Dennison just managed to push the ball onto the crossbar.

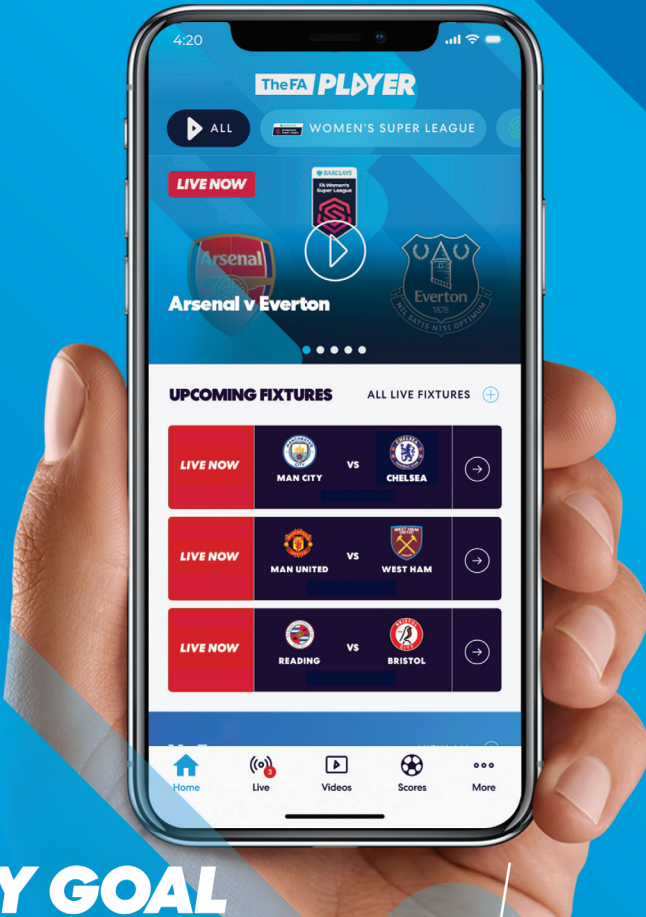
With both sides pressing, it was still end to end stuff and Sycob forced a save from Mitch Swain then Leon Osei played a good ball through for Matthews to link up with Scott Orphanou but his strike was well over the top.

Osei looked to have a great chance to score on 36 minutes when a free-kick reached him just inside the box and though he stepped outside one challenge, his shot was blocked by a second with a corner the only reward. Swain then made another good save to deny Smith's shot but Scott Raper was fouled when attempting to clear the rebound and was unable to continue. An excellent ball from Lovell found Constant – both later to play for Woods – but his shot was well-saved by Swain and soon after, another strike from McLeish drifted wide of the post. Gradually, Sycob created less and Northwood began to threaten more, with Osei getting involved and his pass down the channel got Matthews in on goal but he knocked his shot just wide of the far post.

After 77 minutes the Woods got the breakthrough as Osei set up Matthews (pictured during the game) for a cross which picked out Hicks, and he managed to steer his header perfectly over the keeper and into the top corner for what proved to be the winner.

Northwood: Swain, Raper (Lindsay), Tackley (Jackson), Burgess, Sonuga, Christian, Matthews, Wallace (Hicks), Orphanou, Osei, Sharples. Subs (not used): Lewis, Cato.





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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST QUIZ OF THE NEW SEASON, HOW GOOD IS YOUR FOOTBALLING KNOWLEDGE, SEE HOW YOU FARE WITH THESE THIRTEEN QUESTIONS...

NICKNAMES...

1. What is the nickname of West Bromwich Albion FC?
2. What is the nickname of Sheffield United FC?
3. What is the nickname of Fleetwood Town FC?
4. What is the nickname of Scunthorpe United FC?
5. What is the nickname of York City FC?
6. What is the nickname of Reading FC?

SIX OF THE BEST...

1. Goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer played for Middlesbrough and Fulham, amongst others. For which country did he play international football?

2. Which English footballer signed for Bari from Aston Villa in July 1991?
3. Who won the 1995 FA Cup Final thanks to a Paul Rideout strike?
4. Can you name the club where David Ginola played his first game in the Premier League?
5. Which Scottish manager was in charge of Arsenal prior to the appointment of Arsene Wenger in 1997?
6. Stan Ternent signed both Ian Wright and Paul Gascoigne for which northern England football club?

THE DECIDER...

1. Which Scottish club plays their home games next to the sea at Gayfield Park?



ANSWERS:
 NICKNAMES: 1. Baggies, 2. The Blades, 3. The Cod Army, 4. The Iron, 5. The Minstermen, 6. The Royals.
 SIX OF THE BEST: 1. Australia, 2. David Platt, 3. Everton, 4. Newcastle United, 5. Bruce Rioch, 6. Burnley.
 THE DECIDER: 1. Arbroath.

FA CUP HISTORY

Our first ever FA Cup match was here at Chestnut Avenue on Saturday, 2nd September 1989 against Hampton, then in Division One of the Isthmian League while the Woods were still competing in the London Spartan League. The visitors showed their class and raced into a 3-0 lead but the Woods battled hard in the second-half and scored a deserved and historic first-ever goal in the competition through Andy Edey.

The same player also scored our first-ever away goal in the FA Cup the following season when a Preliminary Round match at Isthmian League side Ruislip Manor ended 2-1 to our near-neighbours. Defeats at other Isthmian clubs, Hertford Town and Molesey followed over the next two years and it was not until 1993/94 that Northwood finally notched their inaugural FA Cup victory. Royston Town were the visitors and it was Dave Nolan who led the way, scoring twice in a 3-0 success with Henry Pacquette also on target. Sadly the run was not to continue as the Woods slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Kingsbury Town in the next round. Brian Cronk netted a consolation goal late in the game.

In 1994/95 Northwood reached the heady heights of the Second Qualifying Round for the first-ever time. A tough battle against Combined Counties side Godalming & Guildford had ended 3-2 and then Doctor Martens League side Erith & Belvedere were beaten 3-0. It earned the Woods a home tie against Isthmian Premier Division side Dulwich Hamlet. They gave a good account of themselves but in the end the class told and the South-East London side won the game 4-1. The late Daren Morris, who had scored in each round, netted the Northwood goal.

The following season we were blessed with further home ties and the Woods again made the most of it when Ford United were beaten 3-2, legendary skipper Chris Gell scoring his first-ever FA Cup goal and Sean Glynn slotting home the only penalty we scored in the competition until 2010 – some fifteen years later. As a reward, we played at home to Uxbridge. What should have been a good game was made into somewhat of an anti-climax as Northwood's Tony Ponnou was sent-off virtually straight after the kick-off following a rash tackle. Although the ten men kept out the opposition



Henry Pacquette v Royston Town 1993

**Rob Holland v Royston Town 1993**

from two divisions higher for an hour, they finally fell apart and lost 0-5, our heaviest defeat in the FA Cup to date.

In 1996/97, Northwood notched up another milestone as their Preliminary Round win at Sussex County League Pagham was their first-ever away win in the competition. The reward for this victory was a trip to Doctor Martens outfit Tonbridge AFC and it ended in a comfortable 2-0 victory for the Kent side.

The next two seasons were just a matter of playing one game away from home and taking no further part in any excitement that followed!! In 1997/98 the Woods travelled down to Sussex once again where Horsham proved too strong, winning 3-1. The following season it was into Oxfordshire against another Doctor Martens side Witney Town. The home side tried to make it easier for Northwood by having a player sent-off midway through the first-half but the Woods could not get into gear and crashed out 3-0.

That takes us to the 1999/2000 season and we started the campaign with a stunning 8-0 defeat of Clapton. Lawrence Yaku bagged a hat-trick and Scott Fitzgerald two as the victory earned the Woods the title of Axa-team of the week in the national papers. In the first qualifying round the Woods beat Eastern Counties League side Stowmarket Town. Gavin Hart notched a rare goal and Lawrence Yaku a not so rare one. It was Doctor Martens opposition again for only our second-ever Second Qualifying Round fixture, home advantage for the visit of Premier Division Rothwell Town. Three times the Woods led the match, the final time with a goal scored after 89 minutes. Each time Rothwell hit back, the third equaliser deep into stoppage-time. The replay was disappointing and the Woods crashed out 2-0 with Scott Fitzgerald sent-off.

Our preliminary round fixture for the next season, 2000/2001, took us back to Rothwell Town, newly relegated to the Eastern Division. This time the Woods made no mistake with Dave Sargent scoring two rare (not penalty) goals to reverse the defeat of the previous year. Then, a convincing 4-1 win at East Thurrock United was followed by an amazing turnaround 4-3 success at Hemel Hempstead Town. It was one of the most exciting games of that season or perhaps any season. Hemel were cruising at 3-1 ahead with ten minutes to go and the Woods had been reduced to ten men after the dismissal of Paul Watkins. Suddenly, Northwood stormed back.

Lawrence Yaku reduced the arrears before Steve Hale scored twice to win an incredible game 4-3. In the following round, Sky TV cameras were here at Chestnut Avenue to witness Lawrence Yaku's brilliant hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Uxbridge. We were in the final qualifying round for the first time and it brought us a home tie against Grays Athletic. It was a hard-fought cup-tie but after Steve Hale gave the Woods the lead, Grays cruelly levelled with the very last kick of the game. It was Grays who went on to play Reading at the Madejski Stadium when they won the replay 1-0 a few days later.

The following season we had to overcome Bishop's Stortford in the Preliminary Round. A tough fixture for sure and we were held to a 3-3 draw here. A Lawrence Yaku goal won the replay and he scored twice more in a 3-2 victory at Great Wakering Rovers that followed. Ipswich Wanderers were well-beaten, 5-1 at the next stage but although the third qualifying round trip to Kettering Town produced a good performance it ended in a 3-0 defeat having lost goalkeeper Paul Riordan to an early injury.

Continued overleaf...



Lawrence Yaku at Hemel Hempstead 2000

The next two seasons were a big disappointment. In 2002/03, we began with a tricky away game at Spartan South Midlands Leaguers Haringey Borough but came through thanks to a single long-range effort from Wayne Carter. At the next stage we played hosts to Wisbech Town who had dropped from the Doctor Martens to the Eastern Counties League during the summer. The Woods never really fired on all cylinders and were beaten at home in the FA Cup for the first time since 1995, losing 2-1. The following year it happened again as we met up with Vase winners AFC Sudbury, a side we had beaten several times in the Vase in previous years. This time it was the Suffolk side who gained revenge with a 4-2 victory.

In 2004/2005, we were drawn away at near-neighbours Brook House and were given a bit of a fright when held to a 1-1 draw at Farm Park, Gavin Hart scoring. But Dean Clark became only the second Northwood player ever to hit an FA Cup hat-trick when the Ryman Division Two side were beaten 3-0 in the replay. Fellow Southern Premier side Cheshunt away was the reward and the Woods threw any chance away when having Stuart Reeks sent-off in the first-half. The Ambers went on to a decisive 3-0 win.

The following year we finally had a bit of fortune in the draw, given a home tie against a side from way down in the pyramid, as March Town United came to Chestnut Avenue. While never looking entirely convincing, the Woods won 3-0 thanks to two goals from Fergus Moore and one from Ryan Kirkland. It was Aylesbury United at home in the next round but the Woods were held to a goalless draw and the replay went the way of the Ducks as they moved into the next stage with a 2-0 success.

In 2006/07 we were again unlucky with the draw, being paired away to Ryman Premier side Harrow Borough. It wasn't a good day. Makeshift centre-half Dean Powles was injured early so

reserve defender Aaron Coldman came on for his debut and we held out until eleven minutes from time when Harrow netted the opening goal. They went on to win 2-0 with the Woods finishing with ten men after goalkeeper Rob Bullivant was also injured - Coldman donning the gloves in the closing stages.

That brings us to the 2007/08 season where again we lasted just two games. At home to big-rivals Uxbridge in the opening game, a goal from Jerome Hall proved to be enough to sink a side which included a whole host of ex-Northwood players. As satisfying as that was, a tough trip to Ryman Premier side Boreham Wood proved our downfall, losing by a single early goal.

The 2008/09 season paired us at home to Ryman Division One South side Metropolitan Police and it was another of those off-days as we crashed to a very disappointing 0-2 defeat.

There was another home draw in 2009/10 and the Woods notched a 3-1 win over St. Margaretsbury with Garry Senior scoring two headers and Patrick Lawrence scoring late on after the visitors had taken an early lead. This led to a home tie against Wingate & Finchley in the next round and two first-half goals from Eugene Ofori appeared to have given the Woods a great advantage but then a harsh penalty saw the visitors pull one back before the break and go on to level and force a replay. It all went wrong in the second-half of the replay, as Eugene Ofori was red-carded and we crashed out 3-1 with John Christian scoring the consolation goal.

The following season again paired us with Wingate & Finchley, this time at Summers Lane first and the only real incident of the 0-0 draw was the early injury to Kyle Matthews that ruled him out for much of the next eighteen months. When the visitors took the lead in the replay the

writing appeared to be on the wall but the Woods rallied well with Leon Osei heading in an equaliser, Aaron Cato netting a second and then John Christian wrapping up a 3-1 win from the penalty-spot. This was the first penalty that Northwood had been awarded in an FA Cup game since 1995!! There was even time for Christian to miss a further penalty a few minutes later! Unfortunately, the away tie at North Greenford United that followed proved a disaster, losing 2-1 despite taking the lead through Scott Orphanou.

2011/12 was just as disappointing, losing 2-1 to a stoppage-time goal at Beaconsfield Sycob after Wayne O'Sullivan had given the Woods the lead from the penalty-spot but in 2012/13 the side battled through to the Third Qualifying Round for only the third time ever and after a gap of a decade.

Away to unbeaten Spartan League leaders Aylesbury United (played at Leighton Town FC) started the campaign and it was our youngsters who inspired the win with two goals each for Jack Hutchinson and Romaine Walker in a 5-2 victory; Reece Yorke netting the other goal. The reward for that one was a really tough away tie at Chesham United but the Woods battled hard for much of the game and snatched victory by a single goal scored by Walker again, this time from the penalty-spot. Spartan League side AFC Dunstable at home was next up and after James McCluskey netted on five minutes it seemed as if victory was assured. Complacency set in perhaps and when Reece Yorke was sent-off rather controversially, the ten men had to really defend. The visitors finally levelled with fifteen minutes to go and then John Christian missed a penalty late on. It meant a replay but this time there was no mistake with a 3-0 victory. Scott Raper scored a rare goal and then Adamson Ajayi netted twice.



**Eugene Ofori scores v
Wingate & Finchley 2009**

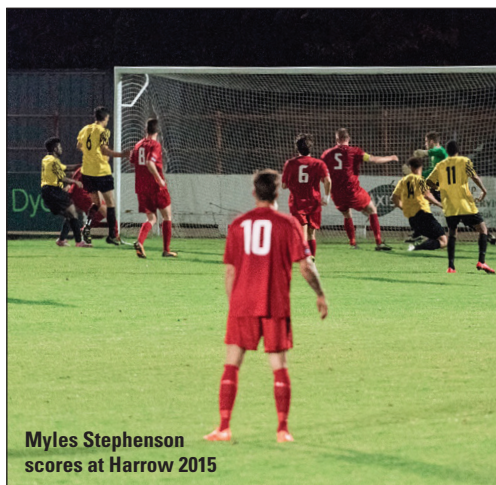
Boreham Wood, two divisions higher, at home were the Woods Third Qualifying Round opponents and it proved a disaster. Gary Meakin chose this game to rest goalkeeper James Reading and gave a debut to 18-year-old Jack Middleton. It ended in a 4-0 defeat and interestingly two of the goals were scored by players who have played for Northwood either before or since – Inih Effiong and Rob Hastings!

It was a tough draw in 2013/14, at home to the re-born United Counties League side AFC Rushden & Diamonds. The visitors took a 2-0 lead in the first-half and despite an attempt at a comeback and a Niko Muir goal, the Woods were out.

Both games played in the following season needed replays. We were held to a 1-1 draw by Kings Langley here at Northwood Park with Sam Byfield netting for the Woods but then came off best in a 3-1 replay victory with goals from Nana Asamoah, Rob Hastings and then an own goal. Away at Barton Rovers a late George Nicholas goal earned another 1-1 draw but this time, having led twice through Joakim Ehui and Sam Byfield, it was Barton who pounced for a late winner in a 3-2 scoreline.

There was a tough opening game in the 2015/16 season, away at Aylesbury United – this time played at Thame United FC – having lost at home to the same opponents just a week earlier. The Woods were 1-0 down with five minutes to go but goals from George Nicholas and Michael Murray earned a fine 2-1 success. Next up was at home to Premier Division neighbours Harrow Borough but Northwood battled well throughout and held them to a goalless draw. The replay was even better, keeping another tight defence but then netting a late winner from substitute Myles Stephenson, the future music star of

Continued overleaf...



**Myles Stephenson
scores at Harrow 2015**

X-Factor with his group Rak-Su. Next up was a winnable home tie against Didcot Town and when Michael Murray swept in a half-volley after just three minutes it was looking good. The visitors had other ideas, were level fifteen minutes later and then won it 2-1 with an early second-half goal.

2016/17 provided arguable the worst FA Cup result in Northwood's history. Away to near-neighbours Sun Sports, the side never raised a gallop at any stage and bowed out with a dismal 2-0 reverse.

The following year was the first of a series of years where the FA began to think Northwood was in the West Country somewhere, paired away to Swindon Supermarine. Big crowd, a pretty good performance under new manager Simon Lane but a 1-0 defeat with the killer goal coming in the fifth minute of stoppage-time.

In 2018/19, Dean Barker was the new manager and we were drawn at home to Hellenic League side Longlevens. It ended in a comfortable 3-1 victory after Ben Pattie had given the Woods the lead from an effort from 45 yards. James Ewington scored the other two goals. The reward was Kings Langley at home for the second time in four years though this time our opponents were in a higher division rather than lower! The tie ended in a 0-0 draw but this time the replay was a step too far as the Kings were 3-0 up inside the first half an hour and despite a Miguel Lopes De Matos strike, it ended 3-1.

There was another new manager for the opening game in 2019/20, this time Scott Dash took charge of our return to Longlevens. This time the Gloucestershire side took full advantage of being at home with a narrow 1-0 success.

Which takes us to last season, another new manager in Rob Ursell, and a home game against yet another Gloucestershire club in Slimbridge. Goalkeeper Hafed Al-Droubi made his Woods debut and, after a competitive 1-1 draw in ninety minutes with Calvin Dickson netting, the resulting penalty shoot-out (with no extra-time scheduled) saw Northwood triumph 4-2 with Al-Droubi making an important save and Ryan Phillips scoring the winning spot-kick. That took us away to Hellenic League side Burnham but again produced a disappointing display and the home side took full advantage to win 1-0 with a hotly disputed early penalty.

FULL FA CUP RECORD

Played 72 Won 28 Drawn 12 Lost 32 Goals Scored 114
Against 111

Top Goalscorers in the FA Cup

Lawrence Yaku 16 Goals

Steve Hale 7 Goals

Chris Gell 5 Goals

Dean Clark, Scott Fitzgerald, Daren Morris, Dave Nolan,

Romaine Walker 3 Goals each



Garry Senior scores v St Margaret'sbury 2009

NORTHWOOD COMPLETE FA CUP HISTORY

SEASON	ROUND	OPPONENTS	V	W/L/D	F-A	GOALSCORERS
1989/1990	Prem.Rd	Hampton	(H)	L	1-3	Edey
1990/1991	Prem.Rd	Ruislip Manor	(A)	L	1-2	Edey
1991/1992	Prem.Rd	Hertford Town	(A)	L	2-3	Vincent, Pacquette
1992/1993	Prem.Rd	Molesey	(A)	L	1-3	Devane
1993/1994	Prem.Rd	Royston Town	(H)	W	3-0	Nolan 2, Pacquette
	1st Qual.	Kingsbury Town	(A)	L	1-2	Cronk
1994/1995	Prem.Rd	Godalming & Guildford	(H)	W	2-1	Morris, Romain
	1st Qual.	Erith & Belvedere	(H)	W	3-0	Ponnou, Holmes, Morris
	2nd Qual.	Dulwich Hamlet	(H)	L	1-4	Morris
1995/1996	Prem.Rd	Ford United	(H)	W	3-2	Ponnou, Gell, Glynn (Pen)
	1st Qual.	Uxbridge	(H)	L	0-5	
1996/1997	Prem.Rd	Pagham	(A)	W	4-1	Richardson 2, Gell, Halbert
	1st Qual.	Tonbridge AFC	(A)	L	0-2	
1997/1998	Prem.Rd	Horsham	(A)	L	1-3	Holmes
1998/1999	Prem.Rd	Witney Town	(A)	L	0-3	
1999/2000	Prem.Rd	Clapton	(H)	W	8-0	OG, Fitzgerald 2, Yaku 3, Gell, Watkins
	1st Qual.	Stowmarket Town	(H)	W	2-0	Hart, Yaku
	2nd Qual.	Rothwell Town	(H)	D	3-3	Yeoman, Fitzgerald, Williams
	Replay	Rothwell Town	(A)	L	0-2	
2000/2001	Prem.Rd	Rothwell Town	(A)	W	2-0	Sargent 2
	1st Qual.	East Thurrock United	(A)	W	4-1	Hale, Gell, Yaku 2
	2nd Qual.	Hemel Hempstead Town	(A)	W	4-3	Sherry, Yaku, Hale 2
	3rd Qual.	Uxbridge	(H)	W	5-1	Yaku 3, Hale, Street
	4th Qual.	Grays Athletic	(H)	D	1-1	Hale
	Replay	Grays Athletic	(A)	L	0-1	
2001/2002	Prem.Rd	Bishop's Stortford	(H)	D	3-3	Yaku 2, Gell
	Replay	Bishop's Stortford	(A)	W	1-0	Yaku
	1st Qual.	Great Wakering Rovers	(A)	W	3-2	Cook, Yaku 2
	2nd Qual.	Ipswich Wanderers	(H)	W	5-1	Hale 2, Williams, Yaku, Cook
	3rd Qual.	Kettering Town	(A)	L	0-3	
2002/2003	Prem.Rd	Haringey Borough	(A)	W	1-0	Carter
	1st Qual.	Wisbech Town	(H)	L	1-2	Moore
2003/2004	1st Qual.	AFC Sudbury	(H)	L	2-4	Nolan, Knight
2004/2005	1st Qual.	Brook House	(A)	D	1-1	Hart
	Replay	Brook House	(H)	W	3-0	Clark 3
	2nd Qual.	Cheshunt	(A)	L	0-3	
2005/2006	1st Qual	March Town United	(H)	W	3-0	Kirkland, F Moore 2
	2nd Qual	Aylesbury United	(H)	D	0-0	
	Replay	Aylesbury United	(A)	L	0-2	
2006/2007	1st Qual.	Harrow Borough	(A)	L	0-2	
2007/2008	Prem. Rd.	Uxbridge	(H)	W	1-0	Hall
	1st Qual.	Boreham Wood	(A)	L	0-1	
2008/2009	Prem. Rd.	Metropolitan Police	(H)	L	0-2	
2009/2010	Prem. Rd.	St. Margaretsbury	(H)	W	3-1	Senior 2, Lawrence
	1st Qual	Wingate & Finchley	(H)	D	2-2	Ofori 2
	Replay	Wingate & Finchley	(A)	L	1-3	Christian
2010/2011	Prem. Rd.	Wingate & Finchley	(A)	D	0-0	
	Replay	Wingate & Finchley	(H)	W	3-1	Osei, Cato, Christian (pen)
	1st Qual	North Greenford United	(A)	L	1-2	Orphanou
2011/2012	Prem. Rd.	Beaconsfield Sycob	(A)	L	1-2	O'Sullivan (pen)
2012/2013	Prem. Rd.	Aylesbury United	(A)	W	5-2	Hutchinson 2, Walker 2, Yorke
	1st Qual	Chesham United	(A)	W	1-0	Walker (pen)
	2nd Qual	AFC Dunstable	(H)	D	1-1	McCluskey
	Replay	AFC Dunstable	(A)	W	3-0	Raper, Ajayi 2
	3rd Qual.	Boreham Wood	(H)	L	0-4	
2013/2014	Prem. Rd.	AFC Rushden & Diamonds	(H)	L	1-2	Muir
2014/2015	Prem. Rd.	Kings Langley	(H)	D	1-1	Byfield
	Replay	Kings Langley	(A)	W	3-1	Asamoah, Hastings, Own Goal
	1st Qual	Barton Rovers	(A)	D	1-1	Nicholas
	Replay	Barton Rovers	(H)	L	2-3	Ehui, Byfield
2015/2016	Prem. Rd.	Aylesbury United	(A)	W	2-1	Nicholas, Murray
	1st Qual	Harrow Borough	(H)	D	0-0	
	Replay	Harrow Borough	(A)	W	1-0	Stephenson
	2nd Qual	Didcot Town	(H)	L	1-2	Murray
2016/2017	Prem. Rd.	Sun Sports	(A)	L	0-2	
2017/2018	Prem. Rd.	Swindon Supermarine	(A)	L	0-1	
2018/2019	Prem. Rd.	Longlevens	(H)	W	3-1	Pattie, Ewington 2
	1st Qual	Kings Langley	(H)	D	0-0	
	Replay	Kings Langley	(A)	L	1-3	Lopes De Matos
2019/2020	Prem. Rd.	Longlevens	(A)	L	0-1	
2020/2021	Prem. Rd.	Slimbridge	(H)	W	1-1	Dickson (Won 4-2 on penalties)
	1st Qual	Burnham	(A)	L	0-1	

