

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF

NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

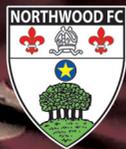
SEASON 2021-2022

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Pitching In Isthmian League South
Central Division



THE WOODS

NORTHWOOD FC V BINFIELD FC

Saturday 28 August 2021

Kick-Off 3.00pm





NORTHWOOD FC

Founded: 1926

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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 first home Pitching In Isthmian League game of the season. We extend our welcome to our visitors from Binfield FC and trust they enjoy their short stay here.

Binfield have enjoyed a very good 2021 so far, reaching the FA Vase Final at Wembley and then receiving a promotion from the Hellenic League for their exploits over the last two curtailed seasons.

Let's start with the on-pitch news and as I write these notes prior to our FA Cup replay at Burnham, I am of course hoping for a win, for lots of reasons, including the fact we would then have another home game in the next round. We have been desperate for a run in the cup for a long time and this season would be good!

Last Saturday we were the better side for a long period of the game and having dominated for the main part, the chances we created we could and should have been out of sight before half-time. Football, as we know, doesn't work like this and despite looking reasonably comfortable, an equaliser I always feared would happen, did and then we could have ended up losing had it not been for heroics from Montel in our goal. A replay it was and let's hope the trip to Burnham brings a

different outcome from last season when we left feeling very miserable.

Off the pitch, we do still struggle for match day staff, especially behind the bar and if anyone reading this feels it might be for you or a trusted member of your family or friends circle, please let me know. Reasonable rates are paid.

In the meantime, enjoy the game this afternoon, get behind the lads and let's hear you out there today.

As I mentioned last week, 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**

Thanks for all the support and encouragement shown to the lads last week during our first home game last Saturday in the FA Cup against Burnham.

I thought we were superb in the first half, played with great freedom and the lads played the football that we have been instilling into them in training sessions; it was just missing us taking our many chances.

Their gaffer at half-time on the way in said to me "this game should be over" and he wasn't wrong, but without us putting that second goal in the back of the net, our match fitness was always going to be a telling sign as the game wore on. And, so it proved.

For whatever reason Burnham came into the game having already played four competitive games to our one. I've never understood why Step 4 teams do not play more league games in August, especially after such a long break over the last couple of years.

Clubs need home games to make profit, surely more so in the summer months when juniors are still off school and the weather is still good.

We are made to play FA Cup games which are so important to club finances against teams in lower divisions who have been playing competitive games for two weeks longer than us. It just doesn't make much sense.

Anyway, it meant that we got another chance to finish the job in the replay on Tuesday. These notes were written before that game, so hopefully we are still in the draw and if so, looking forward to another home tie next Saturday.

Today we play Binfield who are a class act, a side that I have been watching for a couple of seasons now and they continue to progress as a team, which is full of experience.

We expect nothing less than a tough game but it's important that we pick up some home victories to gain the momentum that is needed to have a successful season.

As I said at the beginning, creating a positive atmosphere is so helpful to the lads and I ask that you continue to give that great support, it's worth its value in gold, or three points at least!

Enjoy the game today and we hope also to see you on Monday afternoon for the big Bank Holiday derby match away at Hanwell Town, one of the favourites for promotion this season.

It's only just down the road so I hope as many of you as possible can get to their ground to cheer on the side.

See you in the bar after the game today.

BEN





WOODS OUTLOOK

WITH ALAN EVANS

WELCOME TO THE MOLES OF BINFIELD FC

A warm welcome back to the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium this afternoon for our opening home game in the new season's Pitching in Isthmian League campaign for the 2021/22 season. And it is a newly promoted club that we have the pleasure in greeting as Binfield FC are making their first-ever visit to Northwood having made the step up from Hellenic League football where they were rewarded for their performances over the last two incomplete seasons. Our opponents spent twelve years in the Premier Division of the Hellenic League and had lost just three of 29 completed matches since the start of the 2019/20 season so it is a just reward. They were also able to strengthen their squad sufficiently to battle through and reach the Final of the Buildbase FA Challenge Vase which I'm sure will provide great memories for the club in the years to come. Binfield lost their opening Isthmian League game narrowly, 0-1 at home to near-neighbours Basingstoke Town who are mentioned by many pundits as promotion contenders. There was a very large crowd of just over 400 to witness that historic match and we hope that our visitors continue to enjoy that level of support throughout their first year at Step 4.

THE EMIRATES FA CUP VICTORY

It took two goes but we finally brushed aside the challenge of Combined Counties League side Burnham on Tuesday night in our FA Cup Preliminary Round replay. We should have been out of sight in the first-half of the original game but had only managed a 1-0 lead and Burnham forced the replay with a scrambled goal close to the end. The replay again saw us get our noses in front with two goals inside a five-minute spell in the first-half. Shakeel Morris repeated his feat of scoring for a third game running and then Declan Nche drilled in his first goal for the club soon after. When Ismael Ehui notched the third with twelve minutes to play, the victory seemed secure but Burnham did pull one back soon after. It only proved to be a consolation though as substitute Ezekiel Williams showed some great skill and composure to notch a fourth in stoppage-time. The victory puts us through to the First Qualifying Round and we have home advantage in next Saturday's tie when we play Isthmian League South-East side Chichester City here at the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium. We will be meeting

the West Sussex side for the first-ever time and they enjoyed an excellent 3-1 win away at Winchester City last weekend having lost their opening League match, 0-3 at home to VCD Athletic on the opening day of the season. It should be a cracking tie and we hope to see a big crowd here for it.

PLAYER ARRIVALS

Ben Murray has added one new player to the squad this week with defender Olu Akinode joining the club from Isthmian North side Brentwood Town. We welcome Olu to the Woods and hope he enjoys a long and successful stay with the club.

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.

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 last week can collect them from me today but if you haven't yet done so, it's never too late as there are savings to be made during the first few months of the season. 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 Croom, Terry Benning, Fergus Moore, Alistair Heselton, Steve Tobin, Paul Halbert, Gavin Hart, Rob Bullivant, Kyle Matthews, 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 our next programme as both team and individual player photos are due to be taken before this afternoon's match (take two!). Several players already have sponsors so please check the website before you commit.

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 this season, playing in the newly-renamed Surrey Premier County League which has been sponsored by New Balance. They were due to be playing at home next Saturday but this has been cancelled now as we are at home in the FA Cup. Therefore, it is likely that Spartans won't actually have a home game in September as we are at home every weekend in the month.

FIXTURES AT THE FENTON CIVIL ENGINEERING STADIUM

We do of course travel to play away at Hanwell Town on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, 30th August 2021 at 3pm and we hope that plenty of Woods supporters will get down to this local derby against a side who are highly fancied to challenge for promotion this season. After that we are now back in Emirates FA Cup action next Saturday.

Saturday 4th September

Northwood v. Chichester City

Kick-off 3pm

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

Binfield
FC
1892

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS...

BINFIELD FC

Binfield FC first played in 1892, during the reign of Queen Victoria, making us one of the oldest Association Football clubs in the world!

The team comprised young men from the local brickworks and those who worked on the land around Binfield. The club's early years were spent in the Ascot and District League, where we enjoyed many successful seasons winning the Fielden Cup for the first time in 1924 and on eleven further occasions since.

During the 2nd World War, we joined the Great Western Combination League, winning the championship in 1947. During that period we also won the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup and the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup and it was not unusual to see crowds in excess of 1,000 at our Forest Road ground.

In 1950 we joined the Reading and District League, where we remained for the next forty years. In 1972 Binfield won promotion to the Premier Division for the first time and although relegated two years later we returned in 1976 as 1st Division Champions.

A huge crowd, reminiscent of the 1940's, packed Forest Road to witness our promotion. In 1980, the club made an important decision to move from Forest Road, where facilities were shared with the cricket club, to our current site in Hill Farm Lane.

Turning that field into the football ground we see today was a massive task. Thanks to an enormous amount of physical work by the members of the club the area was levelled and drained within three years. The members then set about building the club house.

This progress off the field was matched on it when in 1987 and 1988 we won Division 2 and then Division 1 of the Reading and District League. In 1989, we joined the high-profile Charrington Chiltonian League, winning the Division 1 title at the first attempt – a feat we repeated in 1996 – and reaching the final of the League Cup.

The following year we finished runners-up to Peppard, despite remaining unbeaten from November until the end of the campaign.

In 2001 we merged with Binfield's junior club, Binfield Forest FC, and in doing so significantly increased the membership, with over 20 teams playing every weekend – this season we will field 36 teams each week. The junior part of the club is very important to Binfield with FA Charter status having been achieved in 2007 and in 2013 we were awarded the Berks & Bucks FA and South East Regional FA Charter Status Community Club of the Year awards, culminating in the club being invited to the FA Community Shield at Wembley in August 2013. We're also in our third season of a partnership scheme with Reading FC where some of our younger players have the opportunity to train with Reading.

Our annual junior tournament every May is a major event in the club's calendar. And our entry into football for 3-6 year olds via our Sunday morning "Soccer School" is something the club is proud of.

In 2003 we added an Allied Counties Youth team which is now providing a steady stream of talented young players ready for Senior football for the Reserves and 1st Team.

Our reserves side are a vital and successful part of our club, providing progression from our youth team into senior football and regularly providing players for the 1st team squad, whilst also being successful in winning UHlsport Hellenic Division 2 East in 2012 and again in 2014 – this season sees our reserves join the Suburban League for a new challenge. Several players last season progressed from our Youth team into our Reserves with four players last season appearing for all three senior sides in the same season – this season three of those "home-grown" players are in the starting 1st team squad.

Since 2005, progress at the club has been swift, with the addition of floodlights and later a seated stand. We've continued to improve our facilities with the car park, changes to the club house and a new stand for this season. We constantly strive to improve all elements of the facilities from changing rooms to a playing surface we are extremely proud of, to benefit

everyone from our Under 6s up to our 1st Team and Veterans.

We won the FTL Hellenic League Division 1 East title in 2008-09 and gained promotion to the next level of English football, where we finished runners up in the 2010/11 UHlsport Hellenic Premier Division, 3rd in 2012/13 and 5th last season.

August 15th 2009 will long be remembered as Binfield's first game in the legendary FA Cup – and we have enjoyed some good runs reaching the 1st Qualifying round in each of the last two seasons with 400 supporters enjoying the visit of Margate in 2010 and a trip to Slough Town and narrow defeat in 2011. In 2013 the side reached the 2nd Qualifying round, losing to a 96th minute free kick as Leatherhead came from behind.

Binfield entered the FA Vase for the first time in season 2008-09 and enjoyed three rounds, before reaching the 4th round (last 32) in 2011/12 in an incredible season of cup success. The 2011/12 team is the most successful in our history, winning both the Berks & Bucks FA Senior Trophy and the AM Print & Copy Floodlit Cup in five glorious April 2012 days. We also reached the final of the Hellenic Challenge Cup.

In the last two disruptive seasons, during the pandemic, the first team were sitting in second place in the Hellenic Premier. Positions when used to calculate points per game resulted in promotion to the Isthmian League South Central, our first ever season at Step 4.

However the last season will of course be remembered for our amazing run in the Buildbase FA Vase when playing every game behind closed doors bar one, and all away from home, we reached the final at Wembley at Wembley, where we came up against a very good Warrington Rylands side and narrowly lost 3-2.

Ultimately the step up to the next tier of English non league football is the aim for the 1st team.

Overall the club aims to provide football for all in a safe, friendly environment.

CLASSIC CLASH

WITH KEN GREEN

NORTHWOOD 3 YATE TOWN 0 - SATURDAY 19 AUGUST 2006

Usually, this column looks at a notable Woods match against the day's opponents. However, as Northwood have never before played Binfield, we though we'd review a classic seasonal opening fixture.

On Saturday 19th August 2006, Northwood opened their second season in the Southern League Premier Division with a visit from Gloucestershire opponents...

Northwood got their season off to the perfect start with an opening day win over promotion favourites Yate Town. There were chances at either end in the opening stages, Woods' Lee Tunnell being denied by a brave stop from keeper Tony Court whilst at the other end, Paul Chenoweth and Darren Edwards were off target for the visitors.

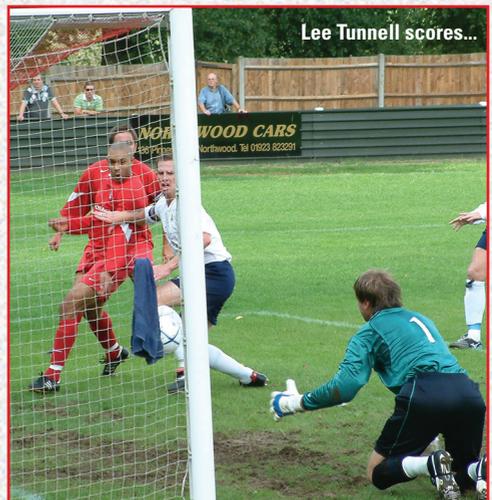
But Tunnell wasn't to be denied his debut goal in the eighth minute, converting the rebound after Court had parried Dennison's shot following a Dean Clark free-kick to the far post. Yate responded in positive fashion, putting Northwood under a spell off sustained pressure, Scott Ward grabbing Lee Jefferies header at the second attempt being the closest they came to scoring.

Woods were relying on the counter-attack and they almost extended their lead after the impressive Dennison released Dean who only had the keeper to beat, Court making a fine save to deny the Northwood number 10.

Northwood were on the back foot again as Yate forced a series of corners, Adam Mayo off target with a free-header whilst Jefferies saw his effort cleared off the line by Gavin Hart. The Northwood goal was living a charmed life but the hosts continued to look dangerous on the break, Dean



Skipper Wayne Carter leads out the Woods at the start of another season



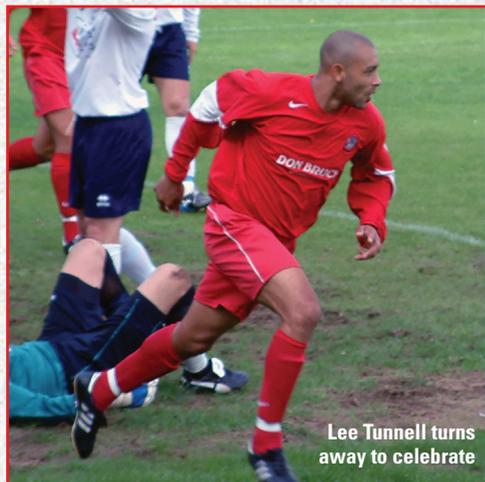
Lee Tunnell scores...



Dean Powles and Wayne Carter battle it out in midfield

squandering another opportunity as he cleared both keeper and bar after good work from Clark and Carter. And Woods finished the half well with Tunnell and Perry Norman both going close.

Northwood began the second period in a similar vein and they were rewarded with a second goal on 50 minutes. Tunnell was the catalyst, playing the perfect ball inside the Yate left-back to find Clark, who coolly slotted the ball beyond the advancing Court. That



Lee Tunnell turns away to celebrate

was the signal for a period of intense Yate pressure as Woods were unable to get hold of the ball. The visitors were encamped in the Northwood half with Chenoweth, Adam Blakemore, and Edwards seeing a succession of efforts blocked as Woods rearguard warned to the task.

In a rare Northwood attack, Dean Powles saw his long range effort sail harmlessly wide of the upright, before the Woods' midfielder saw another effort sail narrowly over following a neat interchange with Dean.

However, Northwood finally made sure of the points on 68 minutes with a fine individual goal from Hart. Dean and Tunnell were involved in the build-up, releasing Hart, who shimmied through Yate defence before slotting the ball home for Woods' third of the afternoon. That was to be the end of the scoring leaving Woods to reflect on a highly satisfactory afternoon, their first opening day win since an away victory at Oxford City in 2002 which kick-started the Ryman Division One North Championship winning season.

Northwood: Scott Ward, Dave Nolan, Ricky Alexander, Mark Dennison, Perry Norman, Wayne Carter (Elliott Buchanan), Dean Powells, Dean Clark, Lee Tunnell (Kyle Matthews), Peter Dean, Gavin Hart

MATCH REPORT



BY ROBIN PIPER

Northwood had to settle for a replay after they were pegged back by their Combined Counties Premier opponents in an entertaining FA Cup tie at the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium.

The clubs had met at the First Qualifying Round stage of last year's competition when Burnham were the victors, but Woods was hoping for a different outcome with a completely revamped squad.

Manager Ben Murray tweaked his starting line-up following last week's league opener at Thatcham Town with Arnold Linturn making his debut in central defence, fellow debutant Leo Decabo and Declan Nche coming into the midfield with Ismael Ehui leading the attack.

Northwood were quickly into their stride with Ehui forcing Burnham goalkeeper Carl Dennison into an early save before the Woods striker almost got on the end of a Ryan Avery cross following good work from Nche.

Woods continued to press with some neat, incisive approach play, Matteo Esposito releasing Decabo whose driving run culminated in a shot turned away by Dennison

Having offered little in attack up to that stage, Burnham created a couple of openings with Jayden Moore testing Montel Joseph following a quick break before the Woods skipper was quickly off his line to deny the same player.

Northwood were quickly back on the front foot with Shakeel Morris firing narrowly over after a sweeping

move before both Decabo and Ehui were denied by the legs of Dennison.

And Woods finally reaped the reward for their impressive first half performance, Morris firing in a rocket from the edge of the box on 40 minutes after good work from Esposito.

The lively Moore threatened again for the visitors before half-time but Joseph was up to the task once more, while at the other end, Dennison was called upon to tip over a 25-yard Aaron Petch freekick after Ayres' surging run was unceremoniously halted by a blue shirt. And there was still time for Morris to go close to adding a second as he ran into the box but he shot straight at Dennison.

Northwood continued in a similar vein after the break with Esposito a growing influence on proceedings, Dennison almost making a costly hash of his freekick before a jinking run and pullback from the by line just evaded Ehui in the six-yard box.

Woods kept up the tempo as they looked for a crucial second goal, Decabo finding Morris whose ball across the face of goal just evaded the stretching Ehui.

But it was perhaps inevitable after the number of chances that had been created by the hosts that the visitors delivered a sucker punch with an equaliser on 71 minutes, Moore's deflected shot sitting up for Gavin James who bundled the ball home from close range.





Northwood looked to freshen things up with a substitution on 74 minutes as Ezekiel Williams replaced Nche, but the equaliser had given the blues extra impetus with Moore looking increasingly dangerous. However, Ehui had a great chance to put his team's noses back in front but his shot cleared the bar after he had been beautifully teed up by Avery.

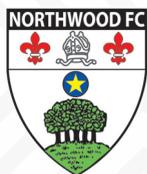
Burnham had to change things around on 82 minutes after Rashid Hamid received his marching orders for a second yellow card. However, Northwood struggled to capitalise on their numerical advantage and they were grateful for the reflexes of Joseph as he produced stunning reflex save to keep out Ethan Light's header.

With time running out for Northwood to avoid a replay, debutant Sam Coles and Matt Surmon were introduced for Morris and Linturn. But despite Petch's freekick in the final minute leading to a scramble in the Burnham box, there was to be no late drama with the honours remaining even and thoughts turning to a midweek rematch on the newly laid 3G pitch at the 1878 Stadium.

Northwood: Joseph, Avery, Petch, Decabo, Linturn, Milenge, Morris, Nche, Ehui, Ayres, Esposito
Subs: Williams (for Nche 74m), Surmon (for Linturn 87m), Coles (for Morris 87m), Unsworth, Noel

Yellow cards: Avery, Petch, Linturn, Williams
Attendance: 124





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 Montegnée. 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.

EXAUCÉ 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 Bedfont 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 Bedfont 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.

BABES IN THE WOOD

At just 20-years of age, Femi Azeez became the latest former Northwood youngster to make the step up into professional football with Championship side Reading FC, scoring two in his first three games of the new season.

Femi made 12 first-team appearances for the Woods under interim Manager Gordon Boateng when just 16 and joins a handful of other players to have broken into the Football League having played for our Under-18s or first-team.

Oliver Hawkins (now Mansfield Town) was an example of a player who progressed from our first-team while goalkeeper

Will Norris was a regular in our youth structure up until 2011 and now, at 28, he has made Premier League appearances for both Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley.

Scott Fitzgerald memorably came through the youth set-up to make over 200 first-team games yet still made it to the pro game with Watford and Brentford. Anyway, this is Femi's story, excellently told by Olly Allen writing for The Tilehurst End.

Azeez - pictured below (top row, fourth from left) as part of Northwood's Under-18 side

"The moment the ball touched the net, it was an amazing moment. Hearing the roar of the fans, running over to them, it was incredible."

As Femi Azeez recalls his first goal in senior football, to Tim Dellor on BBC Radio Berkshire last Saturday, it's clear that he couldn't have dreamt of many better full home debuts. At 28 minutes past three, the 20-year-old had turned in Josh Laurent's cross at the back post, setting the Royals on their way to a 2-1 win over Preston North End. As he launched into a knee slide across to Club 1871, his beaming smile told of his pure euphoria. It was a goal for which he had waited his whole lifetime

Azeez was born in north-west London to a Nigerian father and Spanish mother. He has a younger brother, 18-year-old Miguel, who has been in Arsenal's academy since the age of five and is also tipped for big things. Femi joined Watford at nine years old,

but was let go by the Hornets at 14. Like many youngsters released by academies, it knocked both his confidence and love for the game and it wasn't until he was 16 that he looked to get back playing regular football again.

"I think Femi was a bit disillusioned after he left Watford," says Mark Fox, who at the time was putting together an under-18 team at Northwood FC, whose ground is a five-minute walk from Azeez's family home. "He came to our trials and didn't stand out initially, but he kept training with us and you could see there was something about him.

"He was very quiet at first because he didn't know anyone else. But he didn't have to speak much because you could see his ability on the ball, his pace and his eye for goal were fantastic. He quickly came out of his shell though and became such a big part of the club, as his whole family did. His mum and dad were so involved."

Azeez turned out for Northwood's youth sides on Wednesdays and Sundays, largely playing on the wing but also starring upfront.

"His football brain was so good, even at that age," Fox recalls. "We had a few good attacking players, and they would just switch positions during games without us telling them to. Other teams couldn't deal with it."

Towards the end of the 2017-18 season, Gordon Boateng had been placed in interim charge of Northwood's first team in the Southern League East Division - the eighth tier of English football and step four of non-league. He watched Azeez play for the under-18 team and was immediately impressed by the youngster. At 16 years old, Femi was handed his first-team debut.

"He took his opportunity with both hands," says Boateng. "He came off the bench and played well, so I gave him a start and he just continued to grow. He started the last six games of the season, which is virtually unheard of for a 16-year-old at that level. It doesn't happen."



Northwood Under 18s



Femi Azeez

Influenced by his father, Azeez's determination to succeed stood out as one of his biggest attributes.

"More than anything, his attitude was spot on," Boateng says. "He was hungry and willing to learn, he was never late to training. That comes from his upbringing, as his dad keeps him so disciplined."

"His dad is a very well-driven man," Fox echoes. He pushed both his boys to play football and has always been hugely supportive of them. Femi acquitted himself well in everything he did, whether that was his school work or football. He would always listen, take training seriously. He knew what he wanted to achieve."

Azeez made 12 appearances in total for Northwood before being signed by Wealdstone two levels higher in the National League South. Again, he started out as part of the youth side but was fast-tracked to the first-team squad, via a loan spell at Hanwell Town where he scored four goals in four games.

"I watched him in a youth game and I knew something was special about him straight away," then-Wealdstone manager Bobby Wilkinson recalls. "I brought him up to train with the senior team, because he needed to be around men to develop further.

"He listened, learned and never complained. He just wanted to be better. I put him in my squad for a National League South game, which raised a few eyebrows because he was only 17 and I left out a few big-hitters for him, but I knew he had the ability."

Wilkinson was such an admirer of Azeez's talent that he rang Reading's under-18 manager David Dodds to see if he could secure him a trial. In September 2019, the forward signed a one-year professional contract in Berkshire.

However, life was not plain-sailing in his first season as a Royal, and he failed to score in eight appearances in Premier League 2 for the under-23s. In February 2020, the opportunity arose to reunite with Wilkinson, who was now manager at Bracknell Town.

"He was at a stage where he wasn't enjoying his football and maybe Reading weren't showing him enough love," Wilkinson suggests. "He was only here [at Bracknell] on loan for about three weeks, but I got a smile back on his face again. It could have been difficult for him to come here, dropping to a level below where he was playing at Wealdstone, but it's a credit to him that he did and gave it his all."

The Royals quickly reaped the rewards of Gilkes' judgement as Azeez made sure there were no doubts over his talent last season. He was the under-23s' top scorer with 10 goals and was named in the first-team matchday squad on four occasions, making his

debut as a 90th-minute substitute against Sheffield Wednesday in March.

Left-back Ethan Bristow was in a similar position, eager to break into Veljko Paunovic's team while starring for the under-23s.

"My first impression of Femi was that he was a very humble and confident person and you could see he came to the club to achieve one thing and that was to break into the first team," Bristow explains. "Playing alongside him is brilliant. He really brings a lot to the table, especially with his pace and determination to always have an ending to an action within the game."

With several first-teamers departing this summer and the club unable to bring in any replacements due to their transfer embargo, pre-season presented a host of academy players with the opportunity to stake a claim for the Championship season. Azeez started all four friendlies, an early sign of the regard in which he is held by Paunovic.

There was therefore excitement, rather than surprise, when Azeez and Bristow started the opening-day trip to Stoke City. His full home debut came a week later, complete with that inaugural goal, before he netted against Bristol City on Tuesday night. In what has been a fairly gloomy start to the season for Reading, the youngster has been the bright spark with his pace, energy and enthusiasm.

"Playing men's football at such a young age will have helped him massively," Boateng points out. "If he had been in an academy from earlier on for example, he wouldn't have experienced senior football until later when he would have probably been sent out on loan. But he played amongst men from the age of 16, meaning he is ready now his chance has come at Reading."

"Having played with Femi at under-23 level to then starting the first game of the season with him was something special,"

Bristow says. "We both knew we had to work hard during pre-season to get a spot in the starting 11 and seeing us walk out onto that pitch showed we had done enough to get to that point. But as well as that we both know there is still a lot more to improve on to really secure a spot in the team."

You do not doubt the sincerity of Bristow's words. This is only their first step in senior football, but they are in no mood to stop here.

"The biggest thing with Femi is that he always wants to improve and be a better player," Boateng says. "He never settles for what he's got. I believe he'll be playing in the Premier League before too long. I really think that. He has all the attributes to do it, he just needs to keep working hard and stay focused."

Bristow echoes that sentiment: "Femi is the same on and off the pitch - he puts his all into anything and everything he puts his mind to and always looks to do more."

For those who have helped Azeez develop to this point, they have nothing but pride for a player who has overcome setbacks and shown that there is not just one route into professional football.

"Every time I see him on the team sheet and now he's scoring, I'm such a proud man to have been a part of his journey," Wilkinson says. "But I'm only one piece of the jigsaw, most of the work he has done himself and he deserves to have a fantastic career."

"I look out for what he's up to all the time," says Fox. "It's fantastic for Northwood to have a player who is now playing in the Championship. He is an example to our youth players now and I feel so proud of him."



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 as they prepared to play their first league game last 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!

The side were due to play their first League game of the season on Wednesday night at Ashford Town (Middlesex) but these notes had to be prepared prior to that being played so we can only hope that they started in a positive manner.

This coming Wednesday night. 1st September, they are straight into the FA Youth Cup with a very tough looking tie away at Uxbridge. I'm sure they would appreciate any support you can give them for what is a 7.45pm kick-off.

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	1-1	124	Joseph	Avery	Petch	Decabo	Lintum (87)	Milenge
Tue 24	Burnham	A	FACPRR	4-1	234	Joseph	Avery	Petch	Decabo	Lintum	Milenge
Sat 28	BINFELD	H	Lge								
Mon 30	Hanwell Town	A	Lge								
SEPTEMBER											
Sat 04	CHICHESTER CITY	H	FAC1QR								
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	Binfeld	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.



Key: Goalscorers in **bold**; **First Sub**; **Second Sub**; **Third Sub**; **Fourth Sub**; **Fifth Sub**; Yellow Card ; Red Card ; * Denotes own goal;
 FAC = Emirates FA Cup; FAT = FA Trophy; VT = Velocity Trophy;

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2021-22 SEASON

					SUBSTITUTES				
MORRIS 1	Ayres	Chidiyaisiku (46)	Esposito	Williams	I Ehui (46)	Surmon (53)	Decabo (63)	Coles	Nche
MORRIS 1 (87)	Nche (74)	Ehui	Ayres	Esposito	Williams (74)	Surmon (87)	Coles (87)	Unsworth	Noel
MORRIS 1	NCH 1	EHUI 1 (90)	Ayres (81)	Esposito (87)	WILLIAMS 1 (81)	Surmon (87)	Coles (90)	Unsworth	Noel



PAT BYRNE // CHRIS GELL // DAVE NOLAN // IAN HARVEY // STEVE REVELL // JOHN TOOGOOD
 DAVE BARGENT // NORMAN BRESCH // PETER LAMBIN // BARRY GOLD // LAWRENCE YAU
 TONY CHOLEUX // ROBIN TIDD // GARY WILLIAMS // ALAN MERISON // SCOTT FITZGERALD
 GAVIN HART // KEVIN DOBSON // MARTIN KELLS // WAYNE CATER // BRAD HEMMITT // JAMES BURGESS
 JOHN CHRISTIAN // MARK BURGESS // PAUL BYRNE // GARY COOPER // KEN LAVENDER
 ROGER LINGSSTONE // DANNY BUTLER // LAWRENCE HOLMES // STEVE BRANKE // MITCH SWANN
 STEVE HALE // DANNY YERGAN // PAUL WATKINS // GREG PHILLIPS // TIM VINCENT // PAUL RIORGAN
 PAUL CURRAN // JONKOR ENUI // GARFIELD BLACKMAN // PETER DAVIES // ROB BULLIVANT
 JOHN BYRNE // LEE CARROLL // RENE STREET // PAT COURN



ON THIS DAY WITH **KEN GREEN**

28 AUGUST IN YEARS GONE BY...

1976 MIDDLESEX LEAGUE RAYNERS LANE 1 NORTHWOOD 1

In 1976, Northwood let a third minute lead and a substantial margin of skill and know-how slip in their opening Middlesex League game with Rayners Lane when they dropped a point. Woods should have had the stimulus for an onslaught early on when Harman's free kick sailed tantalisingly into the box between an array of legs where Chris Curran seized on a chance to head in.

The problem was making the final pass positive enough to give the sharp Ellis and Jones (pictured) enough space to score. At the other end Gould and Merison were so effective that keeper Currell was almost redundant. Rayners Lane grew in confidence after the break, and their efforts paid off with a spectacular goal in the 75th minute that earned them their point. Northwood had several chances to clear the ball from the edge of the box, before it fell for Frimley to crack in a super drive from 25 yards. The goal stunned Northwood, and Rayners Lane went surging forward after a would-be winner, but the tide quickly ebbed. Northwood were back in the match and looking for the winner. King twice went down in the penalty area, and then Jones missed an easy chance.

Northwood: Currell, J. Harman, Gould, Merison, Heslop, Tidd, Curran, Pearce, Jones, King, Ellis. Sub. R. Harman.



Greg Phillips then thumped a shot across the bar before Northwood opened the scoring in the 33rd minute when Troy McAuliffe put a superb ball through the heart of the visiting defence for Nolan to race on to and score. Phillips went close after good work by Rob Holland but, just before the break, a high ball from Phillips saw Nolan take advantage of some hesitant defending to keep going and make it 2-0.



early stages of the second half, but John Parsons and Delicata both played well at the back with Holland outstanding. Woods, however, lived dangerously during this period, though Randall and McAuliffe both tested the visiting keeper. Nolan was denied a hat-trick by a superb save from Dobson while Pacquette (pictured) was just over before Woods grabbed a third, classic, goal when, following a great run and cross from Parsons, Pacquette beat a defender with a glancing header for the ball to go in the top corner of the net.

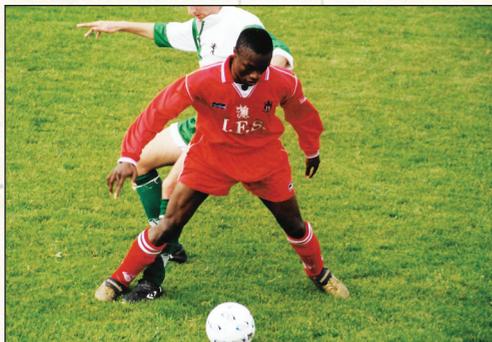
Northwood: Murphy, McAuliffe, Parsons, Delicata, Holland, Payton, Mathews, Phillips (Cronk), Nolan, Pacquette, Randall (Wilbraham).

1993 FA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND NORTHWOOD 3 ROYSTON TOWN 0

Northwood overcame Royston to chalk up their first-ever FA Cup victory, after five attempts! The Woods were on top from the start, Jason Delicata shooting just wide, while Steve Payton and Steve Matthews set up several attacks which saw Martin Randall and David Nolan both test visiting keeper Simon Dobson.

1999 RYMAN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO EDGWARE TOWN 1 NORTHWOOD 1

This clash with Edgware in 1999 was spoiled by an over officious referee who managed to book seven players and send two Northwood men for an early shower. The game was competitive, as all local derbies should be, but did not warrant such a high number of cards. Sent off for Northwood were 'keeper Paul Riordan (53) and



Rene Street (89), Fitzgerald, Watkins and Gell also had their names taken.

Northwood started well on the back of three wins and 15 goals in a week, Paul Watkins going close to beating home 'keeper Andy Carter, with a good near-post header. Then Lawrence Yaku combined well with Scott Fitzgerald, whose shot was cleared.

On ten minutes, a long ball out of defence saw Edgware caught out and Yaku (pictured) ran on to beat Carter. Woods almost made it two five minutes later when another good header from Watkins was just off target.

The home side came more into the game on 20 minutes and both Leon Constantine and Virgil Mathew went close, and as Woods hit back Fitzgerald saw a good volley thump against a defender to safety on 40 minutes.

After the break, Northwood were reduced to ten men when Riordan rushed out of his area and instinctively handled the ball with an attacker bearing down on him. Manager Tony Choules was forced to put full-back Richard Dee in goal. Yaku was in the thick of it again when a long Dee goal kick caught out the home defence, but with just Carter to beat, the prolific striker was marginally wide.

With time running out, Street appeared to win the ball from Bola Omoylele, but the referee awarded a controversial penalty and Street was even more controversially sent off to the dismay of the Northwood fans, Constantine converted the 89th-minute spot kick to earn a point for Edgware.

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

2017

EVO-STIK LEAGUE

NORTHWOOD 2

HAYES & YEADING UNITED 0

In a game which benefitted from a very spirited start the Northwood faithful will have been encouraged by the energetic showing of Tayshan Hayden-Smith, with the pacy attacker regularly attacking the Hayes back line in the early

running. With Northwood attempting a variety of set-piece plays whenever the chance presented themselves, Hayes were well matched to deal with any pressure.

The home side, however looked continually threatening with right-back Pat Kelly and marauding centre-midfielder Evans Kouassi pulling the strings, searching for that opening goal. And without either side having a clear-cut chance for the first 15 minutes, up stepped Tommy Boxer in a sea of white shirts who was able to benefit from some poor Hayes defending to head over the advancing Jack Smith to give the Woods the lead.

Then, merely 8 minutes after conceding the first goal, the Hayes net rippled once again after a magnificent solo run from Kouassi before he scuffed a shot that crept past the diving Smith.

But Hayes & Yeading came storming forward through Spyros Mentis and Gurkan Gokmen, the latter of whom brought out the best in goalkeeper Harry Voss just minutes before the break.

Northwood keeper Harry Voss (pictured during the game) dealt with everything comfortably as Hayes tried to get back into the match in the second half, and Lewis Hobbs showed what his parent club Barnet was missing with some excellent positional play to deny and frustrate the opposition. Such frustration became apparent in Hayes' captain, Mentis who, after having already been booked in the first half for a late challenge on Williams, was flirting with the law again with a few late challenges flying about the pitch. Hayes were as lucky to end the game with 11 men as Northwood were to get their clean sheet. And in the end, a result that warrants Voss' outstanding performance in goal, the Woods came away with a 2-0 victory to the delight of the home crowd.

Northwood: Voss, Kelly, Adamson, Hewitt, Boxer (Nyariki), Hobbs, Chingoka (McDonnell), Kouassi, Williams, Abdullahi (Hall), Hayden-Smith





TODAY IN THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

Bognor Regis Town vs Haringey Borough
Bowers & Pitsea vs East Thurrock United
Brightlingsea Regent vs Leatherhead
Carshalton Athletic vs Bishop's Stortford
Cheshunt vs Margate
Cray Wanderers vs Worthing
Folkestone Invicta vs Enfield Town
Horsham vs Merstham
Kingstonian vs Hornchurch
Potters Bar Town vs Lewes
Wingate & Finchley vs Corinthian Casuals

SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Ashford Town (Middx) vs Bedfont Sports
Basingstoke Town vs Hanwell Town
Bracknell Town vs Sutton Common Rovers
Chertsey Town vs South Park
Chipstead vs Chalfont St. Peter
Northwood vs Binfield
Tooting & Mitcham United vs Thatcham Town
Uxbridge vs Westfield

NORTH DIVISION

Barking vs Heybridge Swifts
Basildon United vs Grays Athletic
Brentwood Town vs AFC Sudbury
Bury Town vs Hullbridge Sports
Canvey Island vs Felixstowe & Walton United
Coggeshall Town vs Romford
Dereham Town vs Hashtag United
Maldon & Tiptree vs Stowmarket Town
Witham Town vs Tilbury

SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Burgess Hill Town vs Phoenix Sports
Corinthian vs Ashford United
East Grinstead Town vs Whitstable Town
Faversham Town vs Chichester City
Herne Bay vs Three Bridges
Lancing vs Cray Valley PM
Ramsgate vs Hastings United
Sevenoaks Town vs Haywards Heath Town
VCD Athletic vs Hythe Town



SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Marlow	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Westfield	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Chalfont St. Peter	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Uxbridge	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Chertsey Town	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Bedfont Sports	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Basingstoke Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bracknell Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hanwell Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Northwood	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Thatcham Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Guernsey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staines Town	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Chipstead	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Binfield	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ashford Town (Middx)	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sutton Common Rovers	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
South Park	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Tooting & Mitcham United	1	0	0	1	0	3	0



Shakeel Morris fires us into the lead with a terrific shot during last week's home game with Burnham in the Emirates FA Cup

LUCKY 13

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

SIX OF THE BEST...

1. Who was the England manager when David Beckham (below) made his first senior appearance?



2. Who became the Premier League's oldest goalscorer when he scored for West Ham United against Portsmouth in December 2006?

3. Tony Mowbray was manager of which club between 2010 and 2013? Was it A) Ipswich Town, B) Kilmarnock or C) Middlesbrough?

4. Which English Football League club play their home games at Kenilworth Road?

5. Who scored Scotland's goal when they beat England 1-0 at Wembley in November 1999?

6. Which player scored his first goal for Boca Juniors in 1981, his first Barcelona in 1982, Napoli in 1984 and Sevilla in 1992?

BEGINNING WITH B...

All of the answers to the following questions begin with the letter 'B'...

1. Surname of the Birmingham City manager
2. Name of Derby County's ground prior to Pride Park
3. Manager of Leeds United for just 44 days in 1974
4. Nationality of former Walsall striker, Kyle Lightbourne
5. Which two London clubs are nicknamed The Bees?
6. Name both goalkeepers in the 1986 FA Cup Final

THE DECIDER...

1. Who did Sutton United face in their first-ever Football League game?



02 SIX OF THE BEST...

ANSWERS:
 IX OF THE BEST: 1. Glenn Hoddle, 2. Teddy Sheringham, 3. C) Middlesbrough, 4. Luton Town, 5. Don Hutchison, 6. Diego Maradona
 BEGINNING WITH B: 1. Bowyer, 2. Baseball Ground, 3. Brian Clough, 4. Bermudan, 5. Brentford and Barnet, 6. Bruce Grobbelaar and Bobby Milms.
 THE DECIDER: Forest Green Rovers.

OPENING DAY GAMES

The Woods first entered the Isthmian League back in 1992 having been promoted from the London Spartan League, as it was named then. Starting in Division Three, the club had to achieve three promotions to make it to the Premier Division due to the lop-sided state of the non-League Pyramid in those days. Now there is just one step to bridge the gap to the Premier level.

Anyway, this is Northwood's 20th season in the Isthmian League – we have also spent ten years as members of the Southern League due to boundary changes!

So, I thought I would take a look back at the opening home fixtures in our Isthmian League seasons as we start another home campaign this afternoon.

The full record is as follows:

Played: 19; Won: 11; Drawn: 3; Lost: 5;
Goals Scored: 37; Goals Against: 27; Points: 36

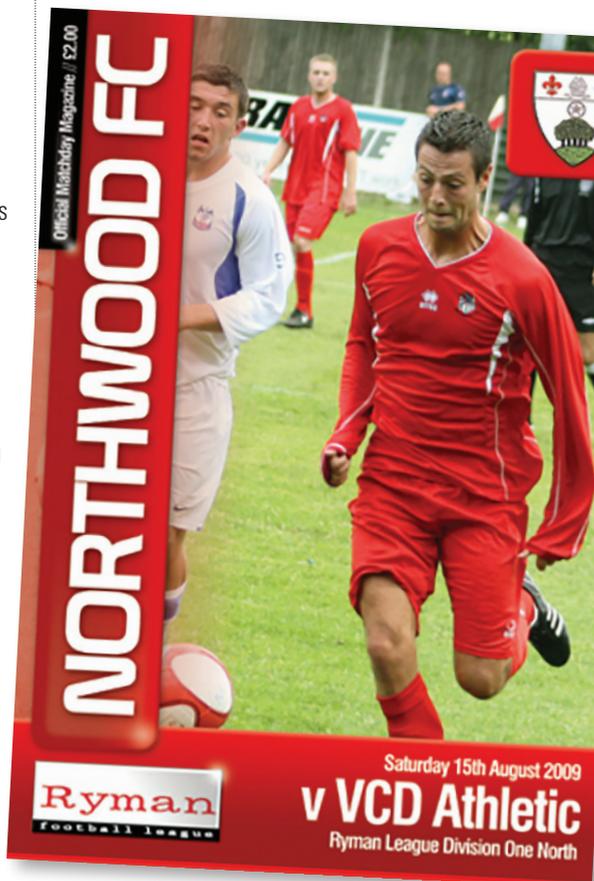
So, all in all, a pretty good start to our Isthmian League seasons but it didn't get off to a winning start as the 1992/93 season ended in a 1-1 draw against Royston Town with Vic Schwartz netting the Northwood goal in front of a crowd of 126.

Our first opening home game victory came a year later though when Leighton Town were beaten 2-0 thanks to a double-strike by Martin Randall and the crowd was improved too with 148 people through the gate.

The Woods biggest victory for an opening Isthmian League home game came in 2008

when a big crowd of 201 witnessed a stunning 4-0 victory over Enfield Town. Defender Brad Hewitt netted twice for the only time in his career and there was one each for John Christian and Terry Davies.

That isn't the biggest attendance at a first home Isthmian game for a season though. In fact, there have been two recorded crowds of over 300. In 2000, the Woods drew 2-2 with Bedford Town in



front of 308 people with Rene Street and Lawrence Yaku on target. But that was surpassed in our first year as an Isthmian Premier club three years later. Aylesbury United were our opponents, the game ended in a 1-1 draw and Chris Moore netted the Northwood goal witnessed by a bumper crowd of 345.

The average crowd for the nineteen matches to date has been 166 so it will be interesting to see what the crowd will be for this afternoon's fixture against Isthmian newcomers Binfield who recorded a fine opening day crowd of over 400 for their "derby" match against Basingstoke Town.

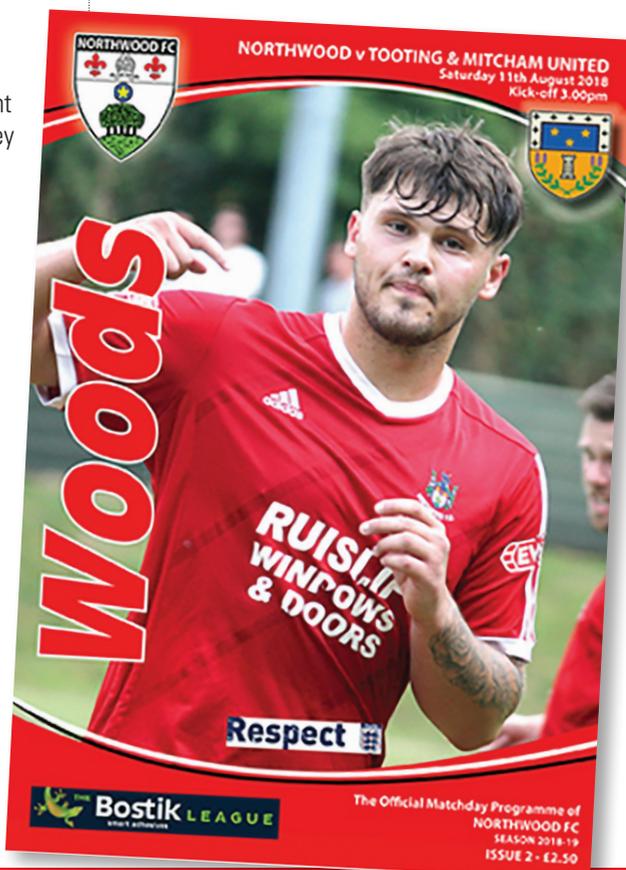
While there were two instances of players scoring hat-tricks in the opening home games while we were playing in the Southern League (Scott Orphanou v Bedfont Town in 2010 and Michael Murray v Arlesey Town in 2015), there has only been one player to have bagged three times in the Isthmian League opening home matches and that was recently. In 2018 Tooting & Mitcham United led 3-1 until close to the end but then James Ewington, having opened the scoring, netted twice more before Carl Pearce bagged a stoppage-time winner in a thrilling 4-3 success.

The lowest attendance came early on in 1995, the only time it has dipped below three figures, as just 96 people saw a 4-1 thrashing of Kingsbury Town. There was only 10 more the following season as Lewes were also defeated 4-1 with Paul Halbert netting two.

There have been just five defeats in those nineteen years. The first was in 1998 when we were beaten 3-2 by Hertford Town and just a year later Ford

United recorded an emphatic 3-0 win here at Northwood Park. Our second Premier Division season saw us start with a 3-1 defeat against Tonbridge Angels, Dean Papali scoring for the Woods while Canvey Island notched a 2-0 success in 2007. Our only loss since then came two years ago when Westfield pulled off a bloodless 3-0 victory here at the Northwood Stadium.

Last season, the first home isthmian League game wasn't until the end of September due to the later start to the campaign and a Devonte Totesaut goal saw us notch a 1-0 win over FC Romania.



MATCH REPORT



BY ROBIN PIPER

Burnham 1 Northwood 4

FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay

Northwood progressed to the next round of the FA Cup with an emphatic replay win over Burnham at the 1878 Stadium.

Ben Murray was able to name a starting eleven which was unchanged from the first encounter as Woods looked to progress to the First Qualifying Round and a home time against Chichester City.

On a perfect evening for football and on their newly laid 3G pitch, the hosts forced Northwood to do some defending in the opening minutes, wide men Firas Chniba and Jayden Moore forcing corners while Mitchell Dunstall wasn't too far away with a long range effort.

Having withstood the early pressure, Woods began to show as they moved the ball around with confidence. And the visitors almost forced Burnham into conceding the opening goal as the determined Matt Ayres chased down an attempted back pass, the hurried clearance falling to Matteo Esposito who's shot on his weaker foot was wide of the target.

Play switched to the other end as the Blues broke quickly with Moore firing in a near-post shot which was well saved by Northwood stopper Montel Joseph.

But it was the Woods who opened the scoring on 17 minutes as Esposito's slide rule pass split open the Burnham backline

with Shakeel Morris running onto the ball and delivering a cool finish for his third goal in as many games.

And four minutes later, Northwood's evening got better as they extended their lead after Esposito and Ismael Ehui combined to set up Declan Nche who fired in a low shot from just outside the box which flew into the opposite corner of the Burnham net for his first goal for the club.

The hosts looked to respond and another mazy run and shot from Chniba led to the Woods conceding a corner before a free-kick from Moore was comfortably dealt with by Joseph.

But Northwood continued to ask questions as they kept up the tempo with a strong finish to the first half – a sweeping move involving Morris and the impressive Matt Ayres ending with Esposito's shot being deflected behind before Ehui turned and sent a shot on the turn narrowly wide after more good work from Ayres.

And Woods' final move of the opening period saw Nche surge into the Burnham box and send a ball across the face of goal which just evaded the on-rushing red shirts.

The second-half was slow to ignite with both sides enjoying an equal share of possession and a well-drilled Northwood preventing any serious threats to their goal. However, the Blues did win a free-kick in a central position on the edge of the box, but the wall did its job to avert the danger.

Northwood were looking increasingly assured and they had a great opportunity to put the tie to bed as a ball over the top





from Ryan Avery sent Ehui clear, but home keeper Carl Dennison was quickly off his line to smother the shot which rebounded off the Woods striker and almost into the Burnham net.

However, Ehui wasn't to be denied as he produced an emphatic finish, following a great run from left-back Aaron Petch, to score his first goal since returning to Northwood colours and to make it 3-0 on 78 minutes.

Ezekiel Williams replaced Ayres on 81 minutes, the latter having struggled on with a wrist injury following a fall early in the second half, while Esposito made way for Matt Surmon as Woods looked to shore things up for the closing stages. However, Burnham gave themselves a glimmer of hope as



substitute Manny Williams pulled a goal back on 87 minutes with a low shot which crept over the line after Joseph got a hand to the veteran striker's effort.

But there were to be no further dramas for Northwood, and they put the icing on the cake in stoppage time with a fourth goal, Williams producing a fine finish to open his account for the club after Ehui created the opening.

Ehui made way for Sam Coles as the clocked ticked down on a wonderful evening for Murray and his evolving team, a sweet moment for the Woods supporters who suffered the disappointment of defeat on the same ground in last season's competition and who could now celebrate their team's safe passage into the next round.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



THE FA's restructure at Steps 4-6 this summer solved some problems but not all.

Clubs who had performed consistently over the curtailed seasons of 2019-20 and 2020-21 were awarded promotion on points-per-game.

In total, 110 clubs were upwardly moved as a new Northern Premier League Midlands division was formed at Step 4, two new Step 5 divisions administered by the Combined Counties League and the United Counties League and the Step 6 structure reduced to 17 divisions.

But vacancies across Steps 1-4, due to the resignations of clubs over the past two years, still remained although it was never the FA's intention to fill them as part of the restructure.

Instead, the vacancies will be filled ahead of the 2022-23 season via reprieves as laid down in the FA rules.

Providing no club goes under or fails its ground grading during this season, this is what should happen:

At Step 2, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (four clubs in total). The bottom clubs in National League North and South will be relegated (two clubs in total). Step 2 is increasing to 24 teams in each league from the 2022-23 season.

At Step 3, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (eight clubs in total). Of the 16 clubs finishing in relegation positions, seven will be reprieved, comprising the clubs finishing 4th bottom in each Step 3 division plus three of the four clubs that finish 3rd bottom with the best unweighted points-per-game record.

The 3rd bottom club with the worst PPG record across the Step, plus all 2nd bottom and bottom placed clubs will be relegated.

At Step 4, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (16 clubs in total). Sixteen Step 5 champion clubs are automatically promoted and replace the bottom and 2nd bottom clubs at Step 4.

Nine clubs with the best points-per-game are reprieved due to the vacancies at Steps 1-4 and the number of clubs at Step 2 increasing. This will leave seven Step 4 clubs playing off against seven Step 5 runners-up with the remaining eligible Step 5 clubs promoted.

Although reprieves are usually awarded to clubs with the best PPG records, the FA Alliance Committee has the power to vary that model.

Get your calculators and spreadsheets at the ready for the final weeks of the season!

	Promoted	Relegated
Step 2	Champion and play-off winner (4 clubs in total)	Bottom clubs in NL North and South (2 clubs in total)
Step 3	Champion and play-off winner (8 clubs in total)	16 clubs in relegation positions - 7 clubs with the best PPG reprieved, 9 clubs relegated
Step 4	Champion and play-off winner (16 clubs in total)	8 bottom-placed clubs and 8 second-bottom clubs relegated. 9 of the 16 third and fourth bottom clubs with best PPG are reprieved. Remaining 4th and 3rd bottom clubs go into play-offs vs Step 5 runners-up



PARTING SHOT...

The lads celebrate Shakeel Morris's superb goal on Saturday to put us 1-0 ahead in our Emirates FA Cup tie with Burnham.

Although the visitors equalised and forced a replay we reached the next round courtesy of a fine 4-1 victory at Burnham on Tuesday evening.

We now face a home tie, in the next round, against Chichester City which takes place next Saturday.



