Up The Woods

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF
NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

#09 | £2.50

WOODS



NORTHWOOD *vs* EASINGTON SPORTS

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CHERRY RED RECORDS COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION NORTH

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NORTHWOOD FC
EASINGTON SPORTS FC

COMBINED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

"THE CENTENARY SEASON"

WOODS

Northwood vs Easington Sports
Saturday 14th November 2026
Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League
Premier Division North

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Club Honours

Isthmian League South Central Division Play-off Semi-finalists:
2023

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, 1997, 1999, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2022

Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Finalists:
1994, 2003, 2005, 2012,2023

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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Northwood Football Club is a Members' Club

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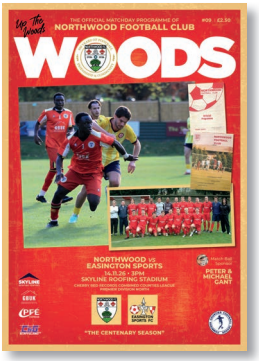

MAIN FRONT COVER IMAGE
courtesy of Paul Heasman

WOODS

The Woods, the official matchday programme of Northwood FC has been printed and designed by JJ Sports Promotions Ltd.
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JJ SPORTS PROMOTIONS

Ian's Insight



Woods Chairman, Ian Barry welcomes you all to the Skyline Roofing Stadium for today's league encounter with Easington Sports.

Good afternoon and welcome to the Skyline Roofing Stadium and our C & G Scaffolding Ltd sponsored clubhouse for our Combined Counties League Premier League North fixture. We extend that welcome to our visitors today from Easington Sports FC and trust they enjoy their short stay here.

Well, we have a long-awaited league victory under our belts now with a comprehensive win at Amersham Town last Saturday. The first-half performance especially, was great to see with some free-flowing football and good finishing. As often happens in these types of games, (cast your minds back to our game here against Penn & Tylers) unless something unusual happens, the second-half can just fade away and this happened to some extent in this match during that second forty-five minutes.

We have been particularly unlucky with absentees of late, for various reasons and we hope to welcome back some of these very shortly to bolster the squad further.

As a club, functions have been a lot quieter in recent times and the cost of living has certainly played its part in this, as well as our on-field struggles not helping with attendances. This means we need to push on and make a concerted effort to maximise our income as we enter a time when no doubt games many be called off as the poor weather hits; but we still have bills to pay!

So, if any of you wish to get involved a bit more and help us raise funds, then we are all ears. Just let me know if you feel you can help in any way.

I do need to mention our Under-18 side, under the new management of Matt Kaye, as they have started the season pretty well again, despite going through their own transition during the summer. Having seen most of their games to date including a 7-0 thrashing of the usually very strong Camberley Town side last week, I can certainly say that many of the players look very promising for the future, as well as one or two for the here and now of course! We are obviously keen to keep the talent we produce.

For today and the upcoming set of home games – this is the first of three successive Saturday's here at the Skyline, let's make sure we all get behind Scott and the team with plenty of support as we seek more of the valuable points that we need to climb the table.

Up The Woods!

Ian

Woods Outlook

Club Secretary, **Alan Evans**, brings us all the latest news from around the club.



Welcome to the Clan

A warm welcome back to the Skyline Roofing Stadium this afternoon as we return to Combined Counties League action with a visit from Oxfordshire club Easington Sports FC who, like ourselves, are currently experiencing their first season in the competition.

Our opponents were switched from the United Counties League in the summer after five years playing in that set-up and finishing last season in sixteenth place while, before that, they had been long time members of the Hellenic League. Again, like the Woods, they are clearly close to the pyramid "borders" which mean they can never be sure which league they might be switched to next!

It was during their early Hellenic League days that our two clubs previously met. The 1978-79 season saw Northwood join the Hellenic League Division One and on the way to winning that division at the first time of asking, the Woods completed the "double" over the Clan, winning 4-1 here at Northwood Park and then 5-1 in the return at Addison Road. Those nine Northwood goals were shared by just three players – Martin Ellis 4, Roger Livingstone 3 and Robin Tidd 2.

Easington made a good start to their campaign with a 2-0 victory over Amersham Town but then lost three successive matches against fellow Oxfordshire sides, at home to North Leigh and away at Kidlington and Ardley United. They also bowed out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle, beaten at home by Mangotsfield United, though they were successful in the FA Vase with a 4-1 victory against Step 6 side PFC Victoria. They have remained fairly inconsistent since, while also picking up points fairly regularly. Their best league win was arguably a 1-0 victory at Burnham at the end of September while they are currently without a win in three matches, losing to Bedfont and Broadfields United but then holding leaders North Greenford United to a 1-1 draw last Saturday. In the Vase, they beat another Step 6 side FC Deportivo Galicia 3-1 before going down 1-2 at home to Northampton ON Chenecks, who are old adversaries from their United Counties League days.

We have no match sponsor this afternoon but the Match Ball sponsors for this league game are Michael & Peter Gant and we

thank them for this kind gesture. As always, we are looking to have a match ball sponsor for all our games this season so please see the grid elsewhere in this article and if there's a date you fancy, please let me know. It's a cost of £50 for each match (next Saturday is still available) and is a great help to the club towards the costs of the match balls which we actually have to pay for this season.

League News

Last Saturday saw the Woods pick up their third win of the season with a comfortable 3-0 victory away at Amersham Town with Guiseppe Delgaudio netting his first two goals for the club while James King scored for the second successive week but this time his first league goal. The three points lifted us above our hosts in the table but still with plenty of work to do to get away from the danger zone which still includes North Leigh and winless Rayners Lane who are a little adrift in the bottom two.

There have been some changes made by the league to our fixture list so please see the centre pages of today's programme if you need to adjust your diaries or calendars. Please also note that our Christmas fixture away at neighbours Harefield United has had the kick-off time adjusted to be 1pm on the Bank Holiday Monday, 28th December 2026. If you are around for the festive period, it would be great to see plenty of Northwood supporters at the game.

Cup News

Our last Cup action of the season was the FA Vase game two weeks ago when we somehow contrived to lose at home to fellow Premier North side Reading City after an excellent performance had seen us lead 1-0 into stoppage-time. Two goals in those five added minutes, both scored by Ollie Harris who was part of the successful Ascot United squad that won the Vase in 2023, saw us eliminated which was really hard to believe but we wish our opponents well as they travel to Hythe Town in the next round in two weeks' time which is being played at Folkestone Invicta's ground on Sunday 29th November.

Player News

There was tragic news in the non-League world a couple of weeks ago when the news broke of the death of Ezekiel Williams who was playing for Hendon FC this season and had scored his first goal for the Greens just a week earlier. Further news emerged later that the skilful, 26-year-old had been attacked in Milton Keynes in the early hours of Sunday morning, 1st November before passing away two days later and since then two people have been charged with his murder.

The well-travelled and respected footballer, who had a deep faith in God, spent a short spell here at Northwood in 2021, joining from Egham Town and, under the management of Ben Murray, made six competitive appearances, scoring once, in our FA Cup replay win at Burnham.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.



Ezekiel Williams

Captain Johnny Wilson completes his three-match suspension this afternoon while we await news of how long Rafiq Bettamer will be ruled out after damaging his hands in a work-related incident last week. We also hope Kieron Lake-Bryan will be fit to return soon after returning from international duty with an ankle injury.

Match & Match Ball Sponsors - Season 2026/27

Date	Opponents	Match Sponsor	Match Ball Sponsor
Holyport	**Sat 1st August**	-	Gerry Pimm
Hutton (FA Cup)	**Sat 8th August**	Shamira Hamirani	Sean Moore
Burnham	**Tue 11th August**	-	Colin Seal
Broadfields United	**Sat 29th August**	-	Graham Mann
Harefield United	**Mon 31st August**	Dennis Goulding	Dennis Goulding
Maidenhead Town (FA Vase)	**Sat 12th September**	Shamira Hamirani	Shamira Hamirani
Rayners Lane	**Tue 15th September**	-	Alan Evans
Abingdon United	**Sat 3rd October**	-	Gerry Pimm
Midhurst & Easebourne (FA Vase)	**Sat 10th October**	Shamira Hamirani	Peter Reynolds
Redhill (League Cup)	**Sat 17th October**	Shamira Hamirani	Gerry Pimm
Penn & Tylers Green	**Tue 20th October**	Shamira Hamirani	Dennis Goulding
Reading City (FA Vase)	**Sat 31st October**	Graham Mann	Graham Mann
Easington Sports	**Sat 14th November**		Peter & Michael Gant
Bedfont	**Sat 21st November**		
Hilltop	**Sat 28th November**	Shamira Hamirani	John Bridges
North Greenford United	**Sat 12th December**	Michael Payne	
Reading City	**Sat 19th December**		
Wallingford & Crowmarsh	**Sat 9th January**		
North Leigh	**Sat 16th January**	Gerry Pimm	John Bridges
Ardley United	**Sat 6th February**	Sean Moore	
Thatcham Town	**Sat 6th March**		
Wokingham Town	**Sat 20th March**		
Amersham Town	**Tue 23rd March**	Peter Reynolds	
Kidlington	**Sat 10th April**		

A series of new players came in to assist the club prior to that Vase game against Reading City, three of them on a dual-registration deal starting with defender Simeon Olarerin who has had two very solid appearances since arriving from Hitchin Town where he has been playing Step 3 football. The 25-year-old is no stranger to our club though having been part of our Under-18s side back in 2018/19. Also arriving for a short spell from Harrow Borough is Kjay Bailey who is 21 and has progressed through their Under-23s side. He scored against the Woods in our Middlesex Senior Cup clash earlier in the season. Finally, a familiar face arrived in goalkeeper Matt Burrows who was drafted in late after stand-in 'keeper Lewis Everett was injured in a car accident. Matt was of course our successful Under-18s 'keeper last season and made one appearance for the first-team while also appearing regularly for both Broadfields United and Rayners Lane. He made the step-up to join Marlow this season where he remains dual-registered.

Two other players made their debuts in the Vase game with defender Tomas Gunasekera stepping up from the Under-18s for an impressive senior debut, while the experienced Mohab Madkour came on as a substitute having been training with the club for a while.

Under 18's

The Under-18s have enjoyed an excellent few weeks since our last programme notes with three successive wins. The first was a 4-0 defeat of Walton & Hersham in the Middlesex Senior Youth Cup which has seen us reach the quarter-finals where we will now be away at CB Hounslow & Abbots on Monday 23rd November.

The following week we took on Camberley Town in an Isthmian Youth League fixture and returned to the top of the table with an emphatic 7-0 victory and then, on Monday night this week, an away league game at Hayes & Yeading United saw an Olivier Kostrycki hat-trick help us record a 5-2 win.

It's our last home game for quite some time this week when, on Wednesday night, 18th November, the lads take on Ascot United in another league fixture at the Skyline with kick-off at 7.45pm. It would be great to see everyone come on down to support the side in this one as well as the County Cup match the following week.

We are looking for player sponsors to support our Under-18 side which we would like your help with. It is just £30 for the full season; most of the squad are still available so please turn to the pages of the programme that covers the U18s in full and if you can help please select your favourite!

There have been some excellent crowds at our youth home games this season so thank you very much for that support.

Photographer still needed

After the retirement of long-serving club photographer James Brown, we are still currently without an official club photographer so if we are to maintain the standard of our website, programme and social media, we still need a regular replacement that can get to matches. If you are an enthusiastic amateur with a love of photography and football and can assist, then please let us know as soon as possible as we are missing out on capturing the action at present. Our thanks went to Ali Karabacak who kindly popped down to take photos when we took on Maidenhead Town in the Vase but we haven't seen him since an have been relying on a few photos from the opposition recently!

Hayes & Hillingdon FC

Hayes & Hillingdon have continued their good form in recent weeks with two successive wins here at the Skyline. They defeated St. Margaretsbury 3-1 in the tri-league Anagram Records Trophy a couple of weeks ago and now take on Ware United in the next round which is scheduled to be played here on Saturday 5th December.

Last weekend they defeated Explorers 3-0 in the Middlesex County League to make it eight successive wins in all competitions but because two of those wins were expunged from the records due to the withdrawal of Eagles Land Cricklewood, they remain 12 points behind leaders Camden United with four games in hand.

Today, they are away to Ruislip Town in the Middlesex Intermediate Cup second round, a competition that the Woods won in 1979, with our reserve side then winning it three years later. Their next home game is on Tuesday week, 24th November when they play second-placed FH Whistlers at 7.45pm.

Thanks for your support this afternoon and see you all again over the next week.

Alan

Next up at The Skyline

Just a week to wait for the first-team to be back in action here at the Skyline Roofing Stadium as we play at home to Bedfont in the return Combined Counties League game – the first return match of the season, having been well beaten 5-0 at Bedfont back in early September.

Wednesday 18th November
Woods U18s
v Ascot United
Isthmian Youth League
7.45pm

Saturday 21st November
Woods
v Bedfont
Combined Counties League
3pm

Scott Patmore

Woods manager, **Scott Patmore**, welcomes you to the Skyline Roofing Stadium and gives his latest thoughts...

Today, I would like to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Easington Sports to the Woods.

I hope the supporters share my sentiments that we have started to build something at the club and the past couple of performances certainly have put a smile on faces around the club.

We went into our FA Vase fixture against a Reading City team who were sitting in seventh place in our division and knowing I had to change the squad once more due to eligibility, I had managed to secure two new players on loan. Simeon Olarerin came in from Hitchin Town and Kjay Bailey in from Harrow.

I knew the game would be a tough one. I cannot put into words how proud our young squad made me. We dominated the game and were rewarded for our efforts when young James King put us ahead early in the second half, a goal his performance warranted. He is really building his belief and realising he is a major part of my squad. We should have finished the game off but, in added time, Reading equalised and then, incredibly, scored the winner ending our FA Vase journey in a heartbreaking way.

I sat the boys down and explained they needed to bottle the feeling and take it into our next league game which had become a must win against an Amersham team who were one point above us having played one more game. Again, preparations for the match were disrupted with Raf injuring both hands at work and with Kieron still not fully recovered from the injury he picked up on international duty. Adding to this, Simeon gets stuck in a traffic incident on the M1 causing him to arrive 10 minutes before kick-off!



However, this did not affect the way we started the game. The passion we had showed all week in training sessions soon paid off as Kingy combined with Kev down the right to slide an inviting ball for Guiseppe to open his account for the club with a neat finish. A carbon copy of the move occurred again and Guiseppe ensured the same outcome again sliding the ball past the helpless Amersham keeper. Being two up in just twelve minutes did bring in some complacency and even though James King scored a third before half-time, I do feel we let a poor Amersham back into the game. The second-half was a bit of a non-event but I have to be happy with the three points.

I do believe winning is a habit and hopefully one we can continue as we go into three consecutive home matches. Playing at home has extra pressure but with the crowd behind us we need to make our home invincible.

Thank you for your support

Up The Woods!

Scott

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Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Division North

North Greenford United have gone five points clear at the top of the Premier North table despite being held to a 1-1 draw at today's visitors Easington Sports last Saturday.

Broadfields United, having recently lost their unbeaten record, could have reduced the gap but they also drew, 2-2 at Reading City and they will have been relieved too as they were two goals down with twelve minutes remaining. Ardley United leapfrogged Burnham by virtue of a narrow 1-0 victory away at their rivals while Wokingham Town dropped out of the top five as they were well beaten 4-1 by Penn & Tylers Green who have now bounced back up to eighth place. Penn enticed well-travelled striker Marcus Mealing from Ardley United last week and he scored on his debut as usual. Kidlington moved into the top five with a good 2-0 away win at Holyport while the most exciting sounding game of the day was at Harefield United. The Hares led 3-1 after just sixteen minutes of their game against Thatcham Town and then made it 4-1 soon after the restart. Game over? No, as back came Thatcham with two goals from Levi Heholt making it a nervous finish and in the final minute the visitors scored again to draw 4-4. Bottom club North Leigh appear to be improving and they will have been disappointed to have twice lost a lead from their visit to Bedfont but managed to pick up a point in a 2-2 draw. Fellow strugglers Rayners Lane are still looking for their first win of the season in any competition but they remain unlucky as their run of narrow defeats continued, this time 0-1 at home to Abingdon United. Hilltop had drawn 0-0 with Wallingford & Crowmarsh on the Friday night at Silver Jubilee Park.

Upcoming Fixtures

Playing Today
Abingdon United vs Hilltop
Ardley United vs Reading City
Bedfont vs Amersham Town
Broadfields United vs Burnham
Holyport vs North Greenford United
Kidlington vs Rayners Lane
North Leigh vs Penn & Tylers Green
Northwood vs Easington Sports
Thatcham Town vs Wallingford & Crowmarsh
Wokingham Town vs Harefield United

Tuesday 17th November 2026
Ardley United vs Broadfields United

Saturday 21st November 2026
Amersham Town vs Wallingford & Crowmarsh
Northwood vs Bedfont

Wednesday 25th November 2026
Hilltop vs Ardley United

Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Division North Table

Up to and including Saturday 7th November 2026

			Home					Away						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	North Greenford United	18	10	1	0	36	11	3	2	2	14	8	31	42
2	Broadfields United	16	7	1	0	24	3	4	3	1	19	9	31	37
3	Ardley United	15	7	0	1	26	5	5	0	2	12	7	26	36
4	Burnham	17	4	1	3	12	9	6	2	1	22	9	16	33
5	Kidlington	15	4	1	2	19	8	5	1	2	14	11	14	29
6	Wokingham Town	17	5	3	0	20	9	3	1	5	12	17	6	28
7	Reading City	16	5	3	1	20	10	2	1	4	10	16	4	25
8	Penn & Tylers Green	16	4	2	4	22	21	3	1	2	15	8	8	24
9	Abingdon United	16	6	0	2	20	11	2	0	6	6	20	-5	24
10	Bedfont	17	4	2	3	19	12	3	0	5	13	15	5	23
11	Thatcham Town	17	4	1	3	12	11	2	3	4	13	19	-5	22
12	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	14	3	1	3	13	10	3	2	2	12	14	1	21
13	Easington Sports	15	3	2	3	12	10	3	0	4	5	11	-4	20
14	Hilltop	18	3	3	2	14	15	2	2	6	12	27	-16	20
15	Harefield United	14	2	2	2	15	12	2	3	3	12	14	1	17
16	Holyport	16	3	0	4	11	15	1	2	6	8	23	-19	14
17	**Northwood**	**15**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**6**	**12**	**2**	**1**	**5**	**9**	**23**	**-20**	**12**
18	Amersham Town	16	0	3	6	4	24	2	1	4	13	23	-30	10
19	Rayners Lane	15	0	1	4	3	8	0	4	6	5	18	-18	5
20	North Leigh	15	0	1	7	4	17	1	1	5	7	20	-26	5

A Century of FOOTBALL HISTORY

Part 9: Researched and written by **Ken Green**



We are now celebrating the Centenary of Northwood FC, which was founded in 1926 as Northwood United. As we are now in the club's 101st season – although no activity took place during World War II between 1940 and 1946 – in this season's matchday programmes over the coming weeks and months, we will bring you a whole host of stories covering the past century, telling of games, players, club officials, league titles, cup wins, and yes, the odd relegation.

Following a number of football clubs which had represented the town since the first known one, Northwood FC, in 1899 – and we have reviewed all these in previous editions of the programme – the summer of 1926 saw the formation of a new football club in Northwood, and 100 years later that club is still going strong....

As we have seen as we reviewed the former clubs in the town, this was the third iteration of a club of that name – and now, by far the longest-lasting! The club's officials elected at the A.G.M. in May 1946 were: President, Rev. C F C Walker; Secretary, Percy Herring; Team Secretary, Stanley Herring, Committee, Messrs Jennings, Denis Cox, Brille, Turner and Milton. Northwood would field two teams in the Harrow & Wembley League in the 1946-47 season.

So after a lapse of seven years, Northwood opened their post-war fixtures on 7 September 1946 with a visit to Metropolitan Railway at Wembley in friendly. Northwood had several familiar faces in the team from before the war, and they won 5-3, with Joe Gill netting all five goals! The first Northwood team was: H. Sims, S. Hughes, Fitzsimons, Allen, E. Lee, A. Walker, G. Walker, Bob Bell, Joe Gill, Albert Welch, Norman. The first league game saw a 4-1 win at Harrow Old Boys, and five of the first six games were won, including 12-1 against Ruislip Manor, Joe Gill improving on his previously mentioned goalscoring feat by getting six, whilst Albert Welch notched a hat-trick.

However, the second half of the season wasn't so good, and just two wins in 1947 saw Northwood finish exactly mid-table, sixth of 11 clubs. They did have a good run in the Middlesex Junior Cup, beating Metal Box 9-1 and Ashford Town 10-1 but they were knocked out by St Cuthberts of the Dauntless League. The season went on until June, in which month Northwood defeated Wealdstone reserves 2-1 to lift the Harrow Senior Charity Cup at Lower Mead, Wealdstone. Bob Bell scored a penalty, and Albert Welch grabbed the winning goal after Joe Gill had kicked the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands (it must have been allowed then!). Mr Green attended the final in order to present the cup, but to the disappointment of the spectators. the cup was not available.... such was post-War England! Northwood's winning team was: Northwood: Albert Young, C. Ivell, J. Bell, Ron Nicholls, F. Smith, Tommy Green, Bob Bell, Albert Welch, Joe Gill, A. Cowdell, Albert Walker.

The 1947-48 campaign started well for Northwood as they beat Rayners Lane 7-1 at Northwood Rec. in their opening game, Albert Welch 2, Fred Taylor 2, Roly Saunderson 2 and A. Walker scoring for this team: Albert Young, Cecil Cox, George Wooding, Ron Nicholls, Fred Taylor, Tommy Green, Bob Bell, Albert Welch, Roly Saunderson, Joey Jones, A. Walker.

Northwood went on to win their next eight league fixtures, indeed they were unbeaten all season, dropping points only with two goalless away draws, and the club romped to the Premier Division title – their first since 1937. Northwood won the Premier Division title by a nine points margin from Alperton O.B. The reserves finished fourth in Division Two.

Northwood won through to three cup finals that season, although their attempts to regain the Middlesex Junior Cup won in 1938 ended in a third round defeat to Harrow Weald Athletic. The club did lift the Harrow & Wembley League Senior Cup, defeating Alperton 3-1 in the final, but lost to Harefield United in the Northwood Hospital Charity Cup final (crowd of 900 at Northwood recreation ground). Northwood played that day in blue and white hooped jerseys as Harefield's red clashed with their normal colours. They also went down, 0-2, to Rayners Lane in the Harrow Senior Charity Cup final; Northwood's team in this game

HARROW & WEMBLEY LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION 1947/48

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northwood	22	20	2	0	80	11	42
Alperton O.B.	**22**	**15**	**3**	**4**	**79**	**35**	**33**
Rayners Lane reserves	22	12	7	3	55	40	31
South Harrow	22	13	4	5	56	36	30
Harrow Weald United	22	9	4	9	41	29	22
Wembley Reserves	22	8	5	9	46	45	21
Kingsbury Town Sports	22	8	5	9	46	45	21
Eastcote	22	7	4	11	40	49	18
Harrow St Marys	22	6	2	14	43	55	14
Gremlins	22	5	2	15	34	85	12
Grosvenor	22	5	3	16	34	82	11
Thrusters	22	2	5	15	29	77	9
Geeko II	26	5	4	17	43	93	14
Harrow Wesleyan	26	1	0	25	14	143	2

was: Albert Young, Cecil Cox, Bill Reeves, Ron Nicholls, Eric Lee, Tommy Green, Bob Bell, Albert Welch, Roly Sanderson, Joey Jones, Albert Walker.

Harrow & Wembley League Premier Division champions Northwood started off the 1948-49 season in great form as they sought to retain their title, winning their first six fixtures, scoring 32 goals whilst conceding an average of two a game – plenty of goals for the supporters! Centre-forward Ford was finding the net regularly as Northwood surged to the top of the table and at the turn of the year they had a 100% record in the league , and did equally well in the cups – except for the County Junior Cup in which they made an early exit, losing 1-3 at home to Harrow Weald Athletic. In January, though, Northwood stumbled a little, slipping to their first league defeat, 1-2 to South Harrow and drawing the next two games.

One of the best results came next, when the interestingly-named Gremlins were defeated 7-2 at Northwood Rec., and although the ground was heavy, the game was fast throughout, and goals came at regular intervals, being scored by Ford (3), Bainbridge (2), Bell and Carter. Northwood's team was: Evans, G. Wooding, Billy Reeves, Ron Nicholls, Fred Taylor, Tommy Green, Bob Bell, G. Jones, Ford, Ronnie Bainbridge, Carter.

However, the poor winter of 1948-49 meant that Northwood played just one game from early February until 9th April, when they drew 0-0 with title rivals Harrow Weald. Northwood then won four of their last five games that were played – however, due to the poor winter, five games went unplayed and rather controversially were all regarded as 0-0 draws; that wouldn't happen nowadays! Despite that, and presumably other clubs were similarly affected, Northwood clinched the Premier Division title once more – by just one point from Harrow Weald Athletic. Northwood's pre-eminence was rewarded by six players being selected to play for the League representative side, Billy Reeves, Fred Taylor, Ron Nicholls, R. Walker, G. Jones and Tommy Green all gaining League caps.

The Northwood Gazette carried a fascinating cartoon celebrating Northwood's 5-1 win away to



Newspaper cartoon of 1949 cup semi-final

Northwick Park in the semi-final of the Harrow & Wembley League Senior Cup. Northwood actually had runs to three cup finals, although in they did lose two of them, 3-7 to Ruislip Manor in the Northwood Hospital Charity Cup and 1-2 to British Oxygen in the Harrow Senior Charity Cup. But Northwood did beat Rockware in the final of the League Senior Cup, Bob Bell scoring the only goal of the game. The successful team was: Evans, Cecil Cox, A. Smith, Ron Nicholls, Fred Taylor, Billy Reeves, Bob Bell, G. Jones, R. Walker, Ronnie Bainbridge, H. Carter.



Northwood's 1948 team: Back: Billy Reeves, Roly Saunderson, Albert Welch, Albert Young, Fred Taylor, Cecil Cox, Tommy Green, Fred Turner (trainer); Front: Joey Jones, Bob Bell, Ron Nicholls, "Cudge" Walker, snr.

Yesterday TODAY



Throughout Northwood's history – which dates back one hundred years to 1926 – the club have played nine fixtures on 14th November; all previous matches are listed below, and I take a look at three of them in more detail. Researched and written by Ken Green

1931
Northwood United 9 Stanmore 4

The United obtained two points from Stanmore in this game, winning by nine goals to four. The treacherous surface of the ground spoiled what might have been a good game, and several of the goals were a direct result of the players being unable to obtain a foothold. Most of the several injuries during the game were also due to this cause.

Billy Bunce, the previous season's centre-forward, made a welcome return to the team, and the forward line showed improvement under his leadership. The United attacked from the kick-off and within a minute were a goal up. Three more goals came in fairly quick succession before Stanmore replied with one headed in from a free-kick.



1931 Three goals for Fred Taylor

The United put on two further goals (one from a penalty taken by Berry, the goalkeeper), and half-time arrived with the score 6-1. After the interval the pace slackened somewhat, and Stanmore, quick to take any little advantage, soon put on another goal.

Prince, the United left-back, received an injury which necessitated his retirement from the game, and although the forwards scored three more goals, Stanmore found it easier to get through the United's weakened defence, and added two more, making their total four against the United's nine.



1931 Northwood United

The scorers for the United were Brown 2, Taylor 3, Berry 1, Bunce 2, Stanmore right-back (own goal) 1,

Northwood United: Berry, J. Brown, Prince, James, Tom Bell, Joe Gill, Hall, Bob Bell, Billy Bunce, Fred Taylor, H. Gutteridge.

1970
Woods 4 Rayners Lane 0

The Woods triumphed to maintain their second place in the Middlesex League table in their first season. Heavy rainfall had left the pitch rather slippery but ideal for football and both sides played very attractively. Rayners Lane attacked early on but made little impression on Northwood's vastly improved defence, and Pat Madigan and Don Dibbens remained cool and collected in the middle.

When Northwood attacked they looked far more dangerous and



1981 Dave Horsford opened the scoring



1981

Two goals for midfielder Ian Harvey.

when Steve Pearce found Dave Horsford on the edge of the box, the winger beat one man and hit home a low right-foot shot.

Northwood were now in control in midfield and Pearce with Ian Harvey and Barry Gould were at their best. It was young Pearce who netted Northwood's second when he scored with a tremendous low drive from fully 25 yards and between this goal and the interval Northwood piled on the pressure, but to no avail.

In the second half Rayners Lane forced up more and more and this left them rather weak at the back. Ian Harvey made the most of this when he ran through on his own and rounded the keeper to slot home a magnificent goal.

Only ten minutes had elapsed before Harvey repeated the trick when this time he took on three men and the keeper before slipping in a fine low shot. Northwood, now 4-0 up, went looking for more, and both full backs – Harding and Bailey – frequently overlapped, as did Dibbens and Gould.

Dodd was unlucky not to score with a lob over the keeper and Horsford also had a shot well saved as Northwood produced some of their best football of the season.

Northwood: Ray Byrne, Graham Harding, Peter Bailey, Barry Gould, Pat Madigan, Don Dibbens, Ronnie Dodd, Steve Pearce, Paul Byrne, Ian Harvey, Dave Horsford.

2015
Aylesbury 0 Woods 0



Northwood were held to a goalless draw by ten-man Aylesbury who just preserved their unbeaten home record but rode their luck as the Woods misfired in front of goal.

Both sides struggled to get to grips with the wet conditions and after 14 minutes, it was Northwood who had the best chance of the half. Andy Lomas delivered a good corner and Barnet loanee Charlie Kennedy met it with a strong header which goalkeeper James Weatherill kept out with an excellent save. The Woods continued to threaten with Max Holland causing a few problems on the left. He swept past Prosper and found Michael Murray who played the ball wide to Joakim Ehui but his cross was cleared by a stretched defence.

The Woods were generally defending well and with half-time approaching there was one effort on goal each. Murray did well to find space for a shot on goal but it flew wide and then Aston Goss fired well over at the other end.

After the break, good approach work from Stead saw him exchange passes with Niko Muir and then drill a low shot which Weatherill managed to keep out. Weatherill was enjoying a man of the match performance though and made a fine save to keep out Muir's low shot shortly after Holland had seen his effort blocked by an excellent defensive tackle as the Woods continued to be denied.

After 66 minutes Ehui raced down the right and knocked in a cross which was swept over the bar by Holland but a further advantage was handed to Northwood on 71 minutes as Bowden-Haase blotted his copybook by catching Muir when challenging for a header and picking up a straight red card. The final stages saw the Moles pick up four yellow cards in quick succession but the Woods were unable to find the winning goal.

Northwood: Berkley Laurencin, Alex Nolan, Andy Lomas, Mark Burgess, Charlie Kennedy, Louis Stead, Joakim Ehui (Rob Hastings), James Burgess, Niko Muir, Michael Murray, Max Holland



2015

Michael Murray on the attack at Aylesbury

Games The Woods have played on 14th November

Date		Competition	Opponents	F-A	Scorers	Att
Sat 14 Nov 1931	H	Harrow & District League Premier Division	Stanmore	9-4	Brown 2, Taylor 3, Berry, Bunce 2, o.g	
Sat 14 Nov 1959	H	Harrow Wembley League Senior Cup round 2	South Harrow	2-3	?	
Sat 14 Nov 1964	A	Harrow & Wembley League Premier Division	Weald Rovers	3-3	?	
Sat 14 Nov 1970	H	Middlesex League	Rayners Lane	4-0	Horsford, Pearce, Harvey 2	
Sat 14 Nov 1981	H	Cold Shield Hellenic League Premier Division	Maidenhead Town	0-2		
Sat 14 Nov 1987	H	London Spartan League Premier Division	Edgware Town	1-4	Dennison	
Sat 14 Nov 1992	A	Diadora League Division 3	Camberley Town	4-1	Schwartz 2, Buckley, Devane	72
Sat 14 Nov 1998	A	Ryman League Division 2	Bedford Town	0-6		502
Sat 14 Nov 2015	A	Evo Stik Southern League Division One Central	Aylesbury	0-0		107

Match Action

Amersham Town *vs* Northwood

Saturday 7th November 2026, 3pm
Combined Counties League
Premier Division North

Amersham Town FC	0
Northwood FC	3

Delgaudio 11, 12, King 45



The Woods played their first competitive fixture at the panoramic Spratleys Meadow for over thirty-five years and it proved to be a successful one as they ended a run of five league games without a win thanks to three first-half goals.

There were five changes to the starting line-up that had gone so close to beating Reading City in the FA Vase a week earlier though the Woods were still missing skipper Johnny Wilson with suspension while a work injury ruled out Rafiq Bettamer. The Vase-tied group of Finn Rushton, Kevin Mustali (captain for the day), Ilyas Khader and Mark Osei were all restored to the squad while Sankou Jabbi and Guiseppe Delgaudio returned after injuries. It meant that both Woods U18s players, James King and Tomas Gunasekera kept their places in the starting line-up.

Amersham were just above the Woods in the table but still to record a home win this season so it was a game that Northwood were certainly targeting for a much-needed victory and there were plenty of visiting fans in attendance hoping for a turn in fortunes.

0-1 GUISEPPE DELGAUDIO (11)
Both sides started with plenty of attacking intent but it only took eleven minutes for the Woods to take the lead. King combined with the overlapping Mustali whose perfect early cross picked out Delgaudio and the Woods recent recruit steered home his first goal for the club.

0-2 GUISEPPE DELGAUDIO (12)
Just over a minute later, Mustali won the ball in his own half and fed King who got the better of his marker again, sending in another cross from the right and Delgaudio was there to knock it past former Woods goalkeeper Matt Messer for his second and Northwood were well in control.

The pressure on the Magpies defence continued and King continued to threaten. After twenty five minutes he appeared to have another assist as his ball to the back post allowed Kjay Bailey to touch home but a close offside flag ruled this one out.

It was almost a third again on thirty seven minutes as Josh Havard hit a sweet strike from 25-yards that was only palmed away by the diving Messer. King was onto the loose ball and fired it back across the six-yard box but Delgaudio was inches away from applying the finishing touch that would have completed his first-half hat-trick.

On forty minutes, Delgaudio turned supplier with a ball that found Kayne Connor on the left but the industrious midfielder saw his somewhat tame strike easily saved by Messer at his near-post.

0-3 JAMES KING (45)
It had been pretty much all Northwood and they were finally rewarded with an important third goal just before the break and it came from the big threat of King. He received a simple ball from former Under-18s teammate Havard and drove forward unchallenged from the halfway line before firing past Messer at his near-post for his first league goal.

HALF TIME:
AMERSHAM TOWN 0
NORTHWOOD 3

With a comfortable first-half lead, the Woods fans were hopeful for more of the same at the interval but the Magpies did respond well and could have pulled a goal back early on when Harry Last found himself in space from a forward ball but his header was directed straight at Rushton in goal.

On 53 minutes, Connor sent King away again down the right and he raced clear but for once took a bit too long to find the pass and his

cut-back into the danger-zone was cleared to safety.

Two minutes later, Northwood conceded a free-kick just outside the box to give Amersham a chance of a shot on goal and Marco Raposo did well with his strike, forcing Rushton to tip the ball over the bar.

Northwood settled more after this and their defence, led by a dominant Simeon Olarerin, rarely looked troubled. On 63 minutes, Delgaudio set up Connor for another chance on goal but his shot was wide of the near-post and they made their first substitution soon after with Bailey, who had shown frustration when yellow-carded a few minutes earlier, was replaced by Osei.

Northwood were not as creative as the half wore on either and introduced fresh legs with Rowan Daly and Jonathan Moura coming on for Delgaudio and Connor but they should have grabbed a fourth on 87 minutes when a big kick from Rushton sent King through on goal again but the youngster shot wide with just the 'keeper to beat.

At the final whistle, the Woods could celebrate their biggest league win of the season to date, indeed their best since April 2025 back in Southern League days, but more importantly, something to continue to build on with a string of three home matches coming up in November.

FULL TIME:
AMERSHAM TOWN 0
NORTHWOOD 3

Words: Alan Evans

Woods Line-Up

Finn Rushton, Kevin Mustali, Sankou Jabbi, Josh Havard, Tomas Gunasekera, Simeon Olarerin, James King, Kayne Connor (Jonathan Moura 84m), Guiseppe Delgaudio (Rowan Daly 78m), Ilyas Khader (Amara Fofana 88m), Kjay Bailey (Mark Osei 66m). Unused Sub: Lewis Buamah



Under 18s Youth Team Player JAMES KING scored his first league goal for the club giving us a 3-0 lead on the stroke of half-time



JOSH HAVARD went close with a fine twenty five yard strike that brought a fine save out of the home goalkeeper.

Pyramid PANORAMA

Locally around the non-League Pyramid

National League

Boreham Wood, boosted this season by funds from the reported initial £1.5M sale of Abdul Abdulmalik to Djurgardens IF in Sweden, have now surged some twelve points clear at the top of the National League after missing out in the play-offs last season. The only other local side in the top flight is of course Wealdstone who beat high-flyers Southend United in their last league game to climb away from the bottom four but then went out of the FA Cup, losing 2-0 at National League South side Dover Athletic last Saturday.

In National League South, all of our local sides are currently struggling. Hemel Hempstead Town, where ex-Woods strike Jake Tabor is playing, are just outside a bottom four that includes Chesham United, Hampton & Richmond Borough and Slough Town who are rock bottom. Chesham still field former Northwood players Steve Brown and Karl Oliyede while Slough have let Godlove Oppong join Berkhamsted on loan but still have another ex-Woods player Luke Holness in their side. Bailey Brown is currently playing at another team in the bottom four – Walton & Hersham.

Step Three

The days of lots of local clubs playing Isthmian Premier football have long gone and this season we have just three that can be said to be close by to the Woods, though all appear to be doing pretty well. Enfield Town, relegated from Step 2 last season, are close to the top at present, just two points behind leaders Welling United with a game in hand. St Albans City are just outside the play-off places in eighth (remember that play-offs in Steps 1-4 are all now down to seventh place from this season), while Wingate & Finchley are also going well in tenth. Ramsgate met Aveley last Saturday and both teams had former Woods players in their side. Aveley fielded Gio Palmer while the Rams had former Woods U18s striker Latrell Lewis on the bench and he came on to score the fourth in a 4-0 victory.

Maldon & Tiptree, promoted last season before the arrest of their "owners" (who have a trial date in January 2027) have managed to stabilise the club and have climbed out of the bottom four. Former Woods winger Evans Kouassi was a recent signing.

The three Middlesex clubs now playing their football in the Southern Premier South are all doing well with Uxbridge leading the way on top of the table following a 2-2 draw with second-placed Poole Town last weekend. Former Woods Player of the Year Troy Perez-Duah is a mainstay of the resurgent Reds midfield and, at the time of writing, were scheduled to meet mid-table Hanwell Town in a "derby" fixture on Tuesday night. Hanwell have picked up in recent weeks and they recently added ex-Woods defender Gabe Cuthbert to their back-line. The other Middlesex club also riding the crest of a wave following the installation of a 3G pitch is Hanworth Villa who are in third place in the table. Former Woods adversaries, Chertsey Town, whose squad includes ex-Woods defender Isaac Olorunfemi, are also in the play-off positions while Berkhamsted, who have been distracted by their FA Cup run, are in mid-table and another former



Abdul Abdulmalik

Woods Player of the Year, James Gurteen continues to be a regular in their defence.

We've rarely taken much of a glance at the Southern Premier Central and there's still no-one local in it thankfully but the two sides promoted from our own division last season, Leighton Town and Hitchin Town, are both playing in it. The Reds have lost their way at the higher level and have just six points from their opening 15 matches. Former Woods goalkeeper Dan Hosier was badly injured in their very first game and ruled out for the season, needing an operation, while Sydney Ibie also moved on recently to play-off seeking Peterborough Sports. Now under new management, only Kyal Williams remains from the former Northwood players at the club but he has recently been joined by another as Manu Oke-William joined after a short spell at Hanwell Town.

Step Four

Our old division, the Isthmian South Central is still the home for the majority of Middlesex clubs with six teams still competing and the best of them at present is Southall who lie in fifth place with games in hand to the teams above them which include Egham Town and leaders Jersey Bulls. Southall's side regularly incudes ex-Woods defender Aidan Tarrant who is doing really well, while Egham have three ex-Woods in their regular line-up – Connor Cullen, Brad Clayton and Excel Muhemba.

Next best are another team making the best of a new 3G, Ashford Town (Middlesex), promoted last season and now up to ninth in the table. Hayes & Yeading, under the new management of former Woods defender Jamie Tompkins, are in tenth but with a few games in hand while Bedfont Sports are doing okay in thirteenth. Hendon also have plenty of games to catch up following recent postponements but are down in fifteenth while Harrow Borough, playing their last season at Earlsmead, are just two places and four points ahead of the relegation zone.


Godlove Oppong

We were relegated of course from the Central Division of the Southern League but there are now no Middlesex clubs left in the division. Nearest are recently relegated Potters Bar Town, who are in second place behind Winslow United, promoted from the Spartan South Midlands League last season and Hadley who are struggling near the bottom. Beaconsfield Town, where current Woods Player of the Year Freddie Ford moved to in the summer, are nicely placed in mid-table five points off the play-off places and five points ahead of the drop-zone. Aylesbury United are in the bottom four, along with Leverstock Green, and had another of the Woods former Under-18s, Chase Matthew playing for the Ducks but he has moved this week to Barton Rovers who are currently just above them in the table.

Just a one-off mention for the Northern Premier League – Division One Midlands Division as that's where ex-Woods manager Tommy Cooney has taken off, following a spell as assistant manager at Royston Town. Relegated last season, the Ives made a poor start at the lower level and moved to appoint Tommy as a replacement in mid-September. They won the first game under his charge, beating Corby Town 3-1 but since then they have lost nine league games on the trot and are marooned at the bottom at present. Lots to do to avoid the drop.

Feeder Leagues

We've covered our own division of course but in the Spartan South Midlands League, the most local side are Everett Rovers and they are down in sixteenth in their first-ever season at Step 5. Kings Langley are just outside the play-off places and Cockfosters, whose management team includes Ben Bukowski with Keagan Cole playing for last season's Vase finalists, are just inside that top five. But it's Gary Meakin's Risborough Rangers who lead the way, just ahead of the trio of Colney Heath, Harpenden Town and Tring Athletic who have all made a great start to the campaign.


Sydney Ibie

Follow the Woods throughout the season

Match by Match 2026/27

AUGUST			F-A	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6
SAT 1	**Holyport**	LGE	**2-0**	129	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Santos	McNamara	Tiryaki	Greenstreet
SAT 8	**Hutton**	FACEPR	**1-1**	132	Vaughan	Lake-Bryan	Dos Santos	Smith-Kouassi	Greenstreet	Tiryaki
WED 12	Hutton	FACEPRR	**1-2**	221	Vaughan	Lake-Bryan	Dos Santos	Fofana	Sethi	Trujillo
SAT 15	Rothwell Corinthians	FAV1QR	**5-2**	65	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Dos Santos	Havard	Sethi	**Tiryaki (3)**
TUE 18	North Greenford United	LGE	**1-3**	136	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Yone	McNamara	Sethi	Rangel
SAT 22	**Burnham**	LGE	**1-2**	117	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Yone	McNamara	**Tiryaki (1)**	Buamah
SAT 29	**Broadfields United**	LGE	**1-1**	101	Mawson-Smith	Lake-Bryan	Yone	T. James	Greenstreet	Buamah
MON 31	**Harefield United**	LGE	**2-4**	195	Mawson-Smith	Horwood	Yone	T. James	Konate	Buamah
SEPTEMBER										
SAT 5	Ardley United	LGE	**0-6**	92	Mawson-Smith	Lake-Bryan	Kelly	Fofana	Georgiou	Buamah
TUE 8	Bedfont	LGE	**0-5**	48	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Kelly	Connor	Greenstreet	Buamah
SAT 12	**Maidenhead Town**	FAV2QR	**3-1**	121	Orlowski	Lake-Bryan	Kelly	**Vincent (1)**	Greenstreet	Georgiou
TUE 15	**Rayners Lane**	LGE	**0-0**	125	Rushton	Mustali	Lake-Bryan	Connor	Buamah	Wilson
SAT 19	North Leigh	LGE	**1-0**	47	Rushton	Adewale	Mustali	Moura	Buamah	Wilson
TUE 22	Harrow Borough	MSC	**1-4**	101	Rushton	Mustali	Greenstreet	Moura	Buamah	Wilson
SAT 26	Wokingham Town	LGE	**1-4**	148	Rushton	Mustali	Dos Santos	Mason	Buamah	Wilson
WED 30	Hilltop	LGE	**3-3**	50	Rushton	Mustali	Jabbi	Moura	Buamah	Wilson
OCTOBER										
SAT 3	**Abingdon United**	LGE	**0-2**	146	Rushton	Mustali	Jabbi	Moura	Bettamer	Wilson
SAT 10	**Midhurst & Easebourne**	FAVR1	**3-0**	93	Everett	Dos Santos	Jabbi	Moura	Buamah	Bettamer
SAT 17	**Redhill**	LC	**3-3***	122	Rushton	Mustali	Jabbi	Havard	**Bettamer (1)**	Wilson
TUE 20	**Penn & Tylers Green**	LGE	**0-3**	91	Rushton	Mustali	Jabbi	Havard	Moura	Wilson
SAT 24	Thatcham Town	LGE	**0-2**	177	Rushton	Mustali	Yone	Moura	Buamah	Wilson
SAT 31	**Reading City**	FAVR2	**1-2**	106	Burrows	Olarerin	Moura	Havard	Gunasekera	Bettamer
NOVEMBER										
SAT 7	Amersham Town	LGE	**3-0**	96	Rushton	Mustali	Jabbi	Havard	Gunasekera	Olarerin
SAT 14	**Easington Sports**	LGE								
SAT 21	**Bedfont**	LGE								
SAT 28	**Hilltop**	LGE								
DECEMBER										
SAT 5	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	LGE								
SAT 12	**North Greenford United**	LGE								
SAT 19	**Reading City**	LGE								
MON 28	Harefield United	LGE								
JANUARY										
SAT 2	Broadfields United	LGE								
SAT 9	**Wallingford & Crowmarsh**	LGE								
SAT 16	**North Leigh**	LGE								
SAT 23	Abingdon United	LGE								
TUE 26	Rayners Lane	LGE								
FEBRUARY										
SAT 6	**Ardley United**	LGE								
SAT 13	**Wokingham Town**	LGE								
SAT 20	Penn & Tylers Green	LGE								
SAT 27	Burnham	LGE								
MARCH										
SAT 6	**Thatcham Town**	LGE								
SAT 13	Holyport	LGE								
TUE 23	**Amersham Town**	LGE								
SAT 27	Kidlington	LGE								
MON 29	Reading City	LGE								
APRIL										
SAT 3	Easington Sports	LGE								
TUE 10	**Kidlington**	LGE								

HOME GAMES IN BOLD; GOAL SCORER (1);
FIRST SUB; SECOND SUB; THIRD SUB; FOURTH SUB; FIFTH SUB;
YELLOW CARD; RED CARD * Redhill won 3-2 on penalties






7	8	9	10	11	Used Substitutes	OG
Lombardi	Fofana	**Enver-Marum (1)**	**Bubb (1)**	Trujillo	Ingham-Wright 53; Morris 64; Rangel 85; Akandi 90+6	
Trujillo	Fofana	**Enver-Marum (1)**	Morris	Ingham-Wright	Sethi 21; Yone 46; Akandi 58; Havard 63; Stephen-Lett 86	
Lombardi	Morris	**Enver-Marum (1)**	Smith-Kouassi	Akandi	Havard 40; Jalloh 43; L. James 58; Ingham-Wright 72; Gillespie 72	
Fofana	McNamara	**Smith-Kouassi (1)**	**Ingham-Wright (1)**	Akandi	Gillespie 58; Jalloh 66; Trujillo 66; Lombardi 66; Enver-Marum 75	
Trujillo	Fofana	**Enver-Marum (1)**	Smith-Kouassi	Akandi	Gillespie 27; Lombardi 46; Jalloh 74; Tiryaki 80; Ingham-Wright 83	
Trujillo	T. James	Smith-Kouassi	Connor	Francis	Fofana 46 (Ingham-Wright 88); Greenstreet 69; Lombardi 77	
Khan	Connor	Smith-Kouassi	**Enver-Marum (1)**	Gibson	Fofana 46; Akandi 80	
Fofana (1)	Connor	Tiryiki	Enver-Marum	Khan	Greenstreet 17; Trujillo 38; **Smith-Kouassi 46 (1)**; Akandi 55; Gibson 67	
King	McNamara	Smith-Kouassi	Morris	Mason	Greenstreet 46; Connor 56; Daly 62; Da Silva Luz 69; Akandi 74	
Akandi	Morris	Smith-Kouassi	Mason	Da Silva Luz	T. James 46; Daly 66; Lombardi 86	
Naim	Connor	**Ingham-Wright (1)**	Mason	**Da Silva Luz (1)**	James 46; Akandi 60; King 70; Daly 76; Fofana 85	
Adewale	Mason	Ingham-Wright	Mengi	Osei	Eldridge 72; Mfinda 83; Naim 87	
Osei	**Mengi (1)**	Daly	Mason	Khader	Greenstreet 11; Da Silva Luiz 76; Mfinda 80	
Khader	Fofana	Ingham-Wright	Mengi	Osei	Mfinda 55; Eldridge 63; Da Silva Luiz 66 **(1)**; Fostyk 83; Havard 88	
Eldridge	Mengi	**Akintunde (1)**	Fostyk	Osei	Campbell 46; Bettamer 59; Da Silva Luiz 73; Fofana 81; Moura 87	
Khader	Mengi	**Akintunde (3)**	Fostyk	Osei	Bettamer 46; Mason 46; Campbell 76; Eldridge 79; Mfinda 90+2	
Khader	Mengi	Akintunde	Fostyk	Osei	Mason 70; Campbell 86; Eldridge 86; Buamah 90+2	
Da-Silva	**Mengi (1)**	**Daly (1)**	Connor	**Mason (1)**	King 46; Fofana 64; Havard 77	
Khader (1)	Mengi	Delgaudio	Connor	**Osei (1)**	Moura 61; King 71; Akintunde 73; Fostyk 87	
Khader	Mengi	Delgaudio	Connor	Osei	Gardiner 25; King 51	
King	Havard	Delgaudio	Connor	Osei	Khader 69; Fofana 71	
Bailey	Connor	Daly	Fostyk	**King (1)**	Madkour 67; Campbell 71 ><Mfinda 90+3	
King (1)	Connor	Delgaudio **(2)**	Khader	Bailey	Osei 66; Daly 78; Moura 84; Fofana 88	

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NORTHWOOD FC

PROGRAMME FROM THE PAST

There have been just two previous meetings between Northwood and Easington Sports and they came almost fifty years ago when for a fleeting period, we both found ourselves playing in the First Division of the Hellenic League.

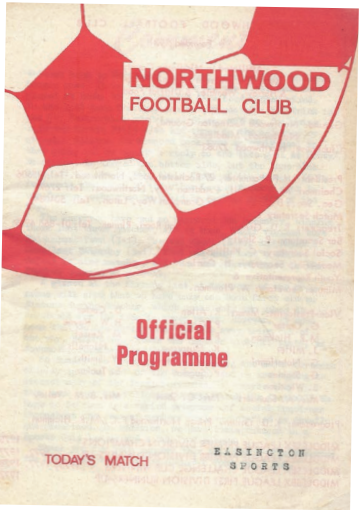
Easington joined the Hellenic League in 1971 and played in this tier through the decades before finally being promoted to the Premier Division in 2019. Despite this, they never actually completed a season in the top tier of the league as two cancelled seasons of Covid followed and then they were switched to play in the United Counties League, where they stayed until this season.

For the Woods it was completely different. They were promoted from the Middlesex County League into the Hellenic in 1978 and won promotion to the Premier Division at the very first attempt, winning the title ahead of Kidlington and Morris Motors, who joined them in promotion. Further back in the table (Easington Sports finished tenth), were Rayners Lane and Thatcham Town, meaning five of the sides from the division are grouped together this season as Combined Counties League Premier North teams. Abingdon United finished bottom of the Premier Division that same season.

So, the only previous game between the two clubs here at Northwood Park came on Saturday 30th September 1978 and a few of the pages from the matchday programme are reproduced here including the cover, the team line-ups and a player profile of skipper Alan Merison who went on to become a very successful Northwood Manager before passing away far too young in 2014.

The current table that appeared in this edition showed that Easington Sports had made an excellent start to the campaign, sitting in second place behind Kidlington with five wins, two draws and just one defeat from their eight matches played. A win could take them top, while Northwood were in sixth place having also won five but lost the other three. The previous week, the Woods had lost 1-0 at bottom club Dowty Staverton who had previously lost all five games played while Sports had crashed 1-5 at home to Maidenhead Town; their first defeat of the season!

This game went the way of the Woods though with two goals from top scorer Martin Ellis joining one each from Roger Livingstone and Robin Tidd which completed a 4-1 victory.





NORTHWOOD
v
EASINGTON SPORTS

Hellenic Football League
Division One 1978/79
Saturday 30 September, 3 pm

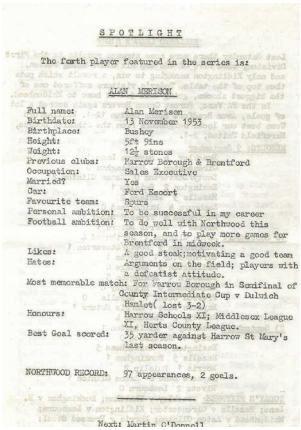
Today's Teams

NORTHWOOD		EASINGTON
Blue & White shirts		Red shirts
Blue & White shorts		Black shorts
Dave RUSSELL	1	M TITT
Norman HESLOP	2	B STEVENS
Steve NEVELL	3	T PAGUE
Steve PEACOCKE	4	K DARVILL
Alan MERISON	5	I HUNTING
Martin O'DONNELL	6	G HOWLETT
Scotie TIDD	7	B MARSH
Ian MARVEL	8	G WILCH
Roger LIVINGSTONE	9	J HAY
Martin ELLIS	10	D RIGATO
Gary COOPER	11	J LOWE
John POWELL	12	S HANN
Neil BUNDLEY		

Man in the Middle

Today's referee is Mr T J GODBERT (Reading)
The Linesmen are: Messrs P E JENKIN & F H OTTLEY

Next home matches 7 October v Abingdon Town Reserves
14 October v Buckingham Athletic 3 pm



SPOTLIGHT

The forth player featured in the series is:

ALAN MERISON

Full name:	Alan Merison
Birthdate:	13 November 1953
Birthplace:	Bushey
Height:	5ft 9ins
Weight:	12½ stone
Previous clubs:	Harrow Borough & Brentford
Occupation:	Sales Executive
Married?	Yes
Car:	Ford Escort
Favourite team:	Spurs
Personal ambition:	To be successful in my career
Football ambition:	To do well with Northwood this season, and to play more games for Brentford in midweek.
Likes:	A good steak; motivating a good team
Hates:	Arguments on the field; players with a defeatist attitude.
Most memorable match:	For Harrow Borough in Semifinal of County Intermediate Cup v Enfield Heater(lost 3-2)
Honours:	Harrow Schools XI; Middlesex League XI, Herts County League.
Best Goal scored:	35 yarder against Harrow St Mary's last season.
NORTHWOOD RECORDS:	97 appearances, 2 goals.

Next: Martin O'Donnell

Visiting The Skyline...

Easington Sports

Formed **1946** | Nickname **THE CLAN** | Ground **ADDISON ROAD**

Images courtesy of Megan Bottoms



The Club was formed in the immediate post-war period of 1945/46 to fulfil the sporting and social needs of the young people of the Easington housing estate in Banbury, many of whom were returning from war service.

The Club, then known as 'The Clan', soon prospered, as there was an obvious need for such a facility, and formed a cricket, tennis and ladies section.

Football was, however, the main branch of the Club's activity, and they began playing in the local Junior Leagues as Easington Sports F.C.

The football was played on pastureland to the west of Wykham Lane, and for a few years endured the lack of facilities enjoyed today by almost all clubs. (No water available on site, no real changing facilities to name but two of the privations to be met on a cold winter's afternoon).

Fortunately, this situation was soon to change after tireless fund raising by stalwarts such as Gordon Vivash, Tim Fountain and many other committed club members, the prospect of a new ground owned by the Club became a reality.

The purchase of the Addison Road ground and the building of a clubroom, together with the Club's entry to the Oxfordshire Senior League was the beginning of senior football for Sports, and to their credit they proved to be a formidable force at that level. Sports became winners and finalists in the Senior Cup and led the Premier League table on two occasions in the early and mid-fifties. In view of their success at county level the Club sought entry and was accepted into the old Warwickshire Combination, which at that time counted professional and semi-professional teams including Aston Villa 'A' and West Bromwich Albion 'B'.

Although having moderate success in this competition, as with many other amateur clubs; finance played its part in the decision to return to the Oxfordshire Senior League, where the expenses, in particular travelling, were much more in line with the club's limited income. Looking to raise their standards once more, the Club sought entry to the Hellenic League. Subject to certain ground improvements they were readily

Captain TOM SMITH



accepted and remained as members until 2021. In 2018/19 Ben Milner and squad won promotion to the Premier League being crowned Champions before two Covid affected seasons.

A review of the NLS saw Sports move into the United Counties League South and a new challenge.

In our first season in the UCLS, Matt Giles managed the squad to 14th with impressive wins including those against Coventry United and Rugby Town.

In 2021/2022 Andy Sharman managed the Development squad to the UHL Division 2 title and OFA Intermediate Cup Final. With Matt Giles stepping down, Andy Sharman was appointed manager with Tommy Kinch and Mark Boyland assisting.

The group remained committed to ensuring young local players continued with an opportunity to play at Step 5 football.

In 2025 / 26 the club endured success with our Ladies team winning the TVCWFL Div 2 title and our FA Youth Cup team reaching the first round for the first time in our history.

Following a lateral move application we look forward to new challenges in the Combined Counties League.

Last Saturday the Sports played out an impressive 1-1 home draw with league-leaders North Greenford United and stood thirteenth in the Premier Division north league table following the game.

AT THE HELM



Andy Sharman

Andy has a long association with Easington Sports after being appointed as Development Team Manager back in October 2021, where with the support of Ian Leonard, Craig Robinson and Craig Pearman they managed the Development squad to league success and OFA Intermediate Cup Final.

He was then appointed first team manager in May 2022



Addison Road

Woods Under 18's

The Woods U18s have played three matches since our last programme notes and have won all three, moving into the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Senior Youth Cup while also moving clear at the top of the Isthmian Youth League West Division table.

It couldn't have gone much better for Matt Kaye's youngsters as they started with a home game against Walton & Hersham in the County Cup. This Swans side is their Allied Counties team rather than the Isthmian side who we are yet to meet this season and look to be real title rivals. It took time for the Woods to win the battle though and it was almost half-time when Olivier Kostrycki put them ahead from the penalty-spot. Two quick goals after the restart, through Ruben Machado and Kostrycki with his second, made it safe and then new signing Marcell Belanszky added a fourth with five minutes to go to secure a 4-0 victory.

The following week we entertained a usually tough Camberley Town side here at the Skyline but had no problems when romping to a 7-0 success, despite resting top scorer Kostrycki. James King opened the scoring and after an own-goal had doubled that lead, Ted Gooch headed a third before half-time. Both King and Gooch added their second goals soon after the break and the scoring was completed by Ruben Machado and Robbie Bunker who was making his starting debut in the absence of skipper Caleb Wright.

On Monday night, the side played Hayes & Yeading for the fourth time this season, this time away for the first time with the match being staged on Burnham FC's 3G pitch. It was a fairly even first-half but Ted Gooch scored from a free-kick after just ten minutes and Tomas Gunasekera headed in a Jack Boardman free-kick on 26 minutes to give the Woods a great advantage. Olivier Kostrycki got in on the act soon after the restart and although Hayes rallied with a quick reply, Kostrycki then scored two more to complete a second-half hat-trick. Again, the home side hit back but that was the end of the scoring so three more points secured with a 5-2 victory.

It has been great to see both James King and Tomas Gunasekera start matches for the first-team in recent weeks and more than hold their own. Both look to be great prospects and perhaps a couple more might be worth a look in senior football soon.

This week you can watch the side yourselves as they are back here at home to Ascot United on Wednesday night, 18th November in another League fixture with kick-off at 7.45pm. They are then back in action next Monday night as their defence of the Middlesex Senior Youth Cup continues with an away tie at fairly unknown opposition in CB Hounslow & Abbots. Any support at either game would be much appreciated for sure.

Quarter-final draw:

Edgware & Kingsbury
v. Broadfields United

CB Hounslow & Abbots v. Northwood

Hampton & Richmond Borough v. Cockfosters or Rayners Lane v. PFC Victoria

Barnet v. Bedfont Sports

Fixtures & Results 2026/27

AUGUST			
Wed 26	**Hayes & Yeading United**	LGE	**3-0**
	Kostrycki 2, Heaven		
SEPTEMBER			
Wed 2	Everett Rovers	FAY	**5-1**
	Gunasekera, Gooch, Harrison, Brooks, Clark		
Wed 9	**Tooting & Mitcham United**	LGE	**7-0**
	Gardner 2, Kostrycki 2, Haire 3		
Wed 16	**Hayes & Yeading United**	FAY	**0-1**
Mon 21	Kingstonian	IYC	**0-6**
Mon 28	Tooting & Mitcham United	LGE	**5-1**
	King, Kostrycki 4		
OCTOBER			
Wed 7	**Hayes & Yeading United**	MXY	**2-0**
	King, Machado		
Wed 21	**Aldershot Town**	LGE	**3-4**
	Gardner, Kostrycki, King		
Wed 28	Walton & Hersham	MXY	**4-0**
	Kostrycki 2, Machado, Belanszky		
NOVEMBER			
Wed 4	**Camberley Town**	LGE	**7-0**
	King 2, OG, Gooch 2, Machado, Bunker		
Mon 9	Hayes & Yeading United	LGE	**5-2**
	Gooch, Gunasekera, Kostrycki 3		
Wed 18	**Ascot United**	LGE	
Mon 23	CB Hounslow & Abbots Quarter Final	MXY	
Mon 30	Walton & Hersham	LGE	
DECEMBER			
Wed 9	Sutton United	LGE	
Mon 14	Aldershot Town (at Bracknell Town)	LGE	
JANUARY			
Thu 7	Woking (at Knaphill)	LGE	
Thu 14	Camberley Town	LGE	
Wed 20	**Woking**	LGE	
Wed 27	**Walton & Hersham**	LGE	
FEBRUARY			
Tue 2	Ascot United	LGE	
Wed 17	**Sutton United**	LGE	

Top Scorers (to date)

14 – Olivier Kostrycki. 5 – James King. 4 – Ted Gooch.
3 - Connor Haire, Calum Gardner, Ruben Machado.
2 – Tomas Gunasekera. 1 - Marci Belanszky, Finley Brooks, Robbie Bunker, Alfie Clark, Blake Harrison, JJ Heaven, Own Goal.

FAY = FA Youth Cup; **IYC** = Isthmian Youth League Cup; **MXY** = Middlesex Youth Cup

U18's Squad & Sponsorship

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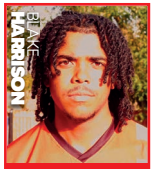
BLAKE HARRISON
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JACK BOARDMAN
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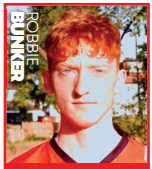
ROBBIE BUNKER
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TOMAS GUNASEKERA
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR


CALEB WRIGHT
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LEE-JON LATIFI
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR


RUBEN MACHADO
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CONNOR HAIRE
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR


LUKE ATKINSON
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JAMES KING
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FINLEY BROOKS
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TED GOOCH
SPONSORED BY TONY GOOCH


JUDE FLEMMING
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REUBEN NORNOO
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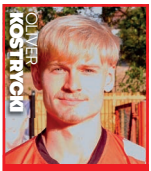
OLIVER KOSTRYCKI
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MAREK MYSZCZYNSKI
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MATT KAYE
MANAGER
THE ARSENAL LADS & BEN


KARL SCOTT
ASSISTANT MANAGER
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TOM LEWIS
COACH
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Isthmian Youth League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	**Northwood**	**6**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**30**	**7**	**23**	**15**
2	Walton & Hersham	3	3	0	0	15	2	13	9
3	Aldershot Town	5	3	0	2	8	12	-4	9
4	Woking	5	2	2	1	11	8	3	8
5	Hayes & Yeading	4	2	0	2	8	10	-2	6
6	Camberley Town	3	2	0	1	4	8	-4	6
7	Ascot United	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
8	Sutton United	4	0	1	3	1	10	-9	1
9	Tooting & Mitcham	6	0	0	6	7	26	-19	0

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WOODS ROLL CALL 2026/27

** Dual-registered

	2026/27 SEASON										WOODS CAREER						
	League				Cup				Total		League		Cups		Overall		
Player	Starts	Sub	Total	Goals	Starts	Sub	Total	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Woods Debut
Amara Fofana	4	5	9	1	4	2	6	0	15	1	9	1	6	0	15	1	*Holyport (H) Aug '26*
Lewis Buamah	10	1	11	0	2	0	2	0	13	0	11	0	2	0	13	0	*Burnham (H) Aug '26*
Kayne Connor	8	1	9	0	4	0	4	0	13	0	9	0	4	0	13	0	*Burnham (H) Aug '26*
Kieron Lake-Bryan	7	0	7	0	4	0	4	0	11	0	12	0	4	0	16	0	*Beaconsfield Town (H) Mar '26*
Jonathan Moura	5	2	7	0	3	1	4	0	11	0	7	0	4	0	11	0	*North Leigh (A) Sept '26*
Mark Osei	7	1	8	0	2	0	2	1	10	1	8	0	2	1	10	1	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
Finn Rushton	8	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	10	0	8	0	2	0	10	0	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
Kevin Mustali	8	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	10	0	8	0	2	0	10	0	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
Arnold Mengi	6	1	7	1	3	0	3	1	10	2	7	1	3	1	10	2	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
Josh Havard	3	0	3	0	3	4	7	0	10	0	3	0	7	0	10	0	*Hutton (H) Aug '26*
**Parris Mason	5	2	7	0	2	0	2	1	9	1	7	0	5	2	12	2	*Enfield Town (H) Feb '23*
Johnny Wilson	7	0	7	0	2	0	2	0	9	0	7	0	2	0	9	0	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
Ilyas Khader	5	1	6	0	2	0	2	1	8	1	7	0	1	1	8	1	*North Leigh (A) Sept '26*
James King	3	1	4	1	1	3	4	1	8	2	5	1	3	1	8	2	*Ardley United (A) Sept '26*
Lucas Da Silva Luz	1	3	4	0	2	1	3	2	7	2	4	0	3	2	7	2	*Ardley United (A) Sept '26*
Rowan Daly	1	3	4	0	2	1	3	1	7	1	7	0	4	1	11	1	*Southall (A) Nov '25*
**Kacper Orlowski	4	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	4	0	2	0	6	0	*Holyport (H) Aug '26*
**Sankou Jabbi	4	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	4	0	2	0	6	0	*Hilltop (A) Oct '26*
Rafiq Bettamer	1	2	3	0	3	0	3	1	6	1	3	0	3	1	6	1	*Wokingham Town (A) Sept '26*
Maksym Fostyk	3	0	3	0	1	2	3	0	6	0	3	0	3	0	6	0	*Harrow Borough (A) Sept '26*
Ronny Mfinda	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	0	5	0	15	0	3	0	18	0	*Bracknell Town (A) Dec '19*
Guiseppe Delgaudio	3	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	4	2	3	2	1	0	4	2	*Redhill (H) Oct. '26*
Javan Campbell	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	*Wokingham Town (A) Sept '26*
Charlie Mawson-Smith	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	*Broadfields United (H) Aug '26*
Michael Kelly	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	8	0	2	0	10	0	*Beaconsfield Town (H) Aug. '24*
Adeyemi Adewale	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	*Rayners Lane (H) Sept '26*
**Kjay Bailey	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	*Reading City (H) Oct '26*
**Simeon Olarerin	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	*Reading City (H) Oct '26*
Tomas Gunasekera	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	*Reading City (H) Oct '26*
**Noah Vaughan	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	*Hutton (H) Aug '26*
Lewis Everett	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	*Midhurst & Easebourne (H) Oct '26*
**Matt Burrows	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	*Barton Rovers (A) Nov '25*
Mohab Madkour	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	*Reading City (H) Oct '26*

ALSO PLAYED THIS SEASON BUT NO LONGER WITH CLUB

10-Freddie Greenstreet, Nathaniel Akandi. **9**-Reon Smith-Kouassi (2 goals), Zach Ingham-Wright (2 goals). **7**-Liam Enver-Marum (5 goals), Brandon Trujillo. **6**-Mehdi Yone, Mustafa Tiryaki (4 goals), Luca Lombardi, Rodney Dos Santos. **5**-Pierce McNamara, Tolu James, George Eldridge. **4**-Juwon Akintunde (4 goals), Alex Sethi. **3**-Armani Morris, David Gillespie, Yayah Jalloh. **2**-Abdullah Khan, Archie Morris, Chris Rangel, Tommy Gibson, Harvie Gardiner, Lucas Georgiou, Shakeel Naim. **1**-Bradley Bubb (1 goal), Kenzo Konate, Khalil Francis, Luke Horwood, Dan Vincent (1 goal), Craig Stephen-Lett, Louis James.

Match Action

Northwood *vs* Reading City

Saturday 31st October 2026,
3pm kick-off
FA Challenge Vase
Second Round Proper

Northwood FC	King 49	1
Reading City FC	Harris 90+1, 90+5	2



It was heartbreak for the young Northwood side, which included six teenagers, that were looking for their fourth win in the FA Vase this season as they let slip a narrow lead, conceding two goals in stoppage-time to bow out of the competition against fellow Combined Counties League side Reading City.

As in the previous round, the Woods faced selection problems with five players from the previous week's line-up cup-tied and they were joined by a foot injury to main striker Guiseppe Delgaudio which ruled him out along with Kieron Lake-Bryan who continued to suffer with his ankle issue picked up on international duty. Manager Scott Patmore was also hit by the absence of stand-in goalkeeper Lewis Everett who was injured in a car accident and also ruled out so it was a busy couple of days on recruitment.

Former Woods Under-18 keeper Matt Burrows came in on dual-registration from Marlow, Simeon Olarerin, another who played U18 football at the club, arrived from Hitchin Town and Kjay Bailey from Harrow Borough; both on similar arrangements. Tomas Gunasekera, following some solid performances for the current Woods U18s, was called up for his senior debut alongside the more experienced Rafiq Bettamer who was thankfully back in action after family issues had seen him miss the last two games.

The Cityzens arrived for the first-ever meeting between the two clubs in good form, some eleven places higher in the table with only one change from the starting line-up that had won 3-2 at Kidlington the previous week and were playing their first game in the Vase this season having received a "bye" thanks to a long run in the competition the previous year.

The Woods kicked into the setting sun in the first-half and started well with Rowan Daly looking sharp up against the Reading defence in the opening stages. But it was the visitors who had the first squeak of a chance on six minutes when they broke two-on-two but Jonathan Moura made a superb tackle to thwart the danger.

The Cityzens also recorded the first effort on target with Ewan Lynch trying his luck from outside the box on 11 minutes but it was comfortable for Burrows in goal. A minute later, it swung to the other end as Josh Havard brought the ball forward and picked out Olarerin on the left. His cut back found Kayne Connor but his low shot deflected which made it easy for goalkeeper Charlie York.

After 25 minutes, a good turn and pass put Liam Baker in ahead of Moura down the left and he drove into the box before slotting past Burrows but the ball rolled just wide of the far post. It had been the best chance of the game so far but just two minutes later, Moura went close himself as he found space to hit a good shot from distance which flashed just over and onto the net.

The Woods new-look defence was playing pretty solidly, though one back pass from Gunasekera looked a little short and Lynch was almost onto it before it made a safe passage to Burrows. The young defender then picked up the first yellow card of the game on 37 minutes with a late tackle on Oliver Bourne. From that free-kick, Jenson Mansel did get a header at goal but without the power to beat Burrows.

But it was Northwood who finished the half the better with both Kjay Bailey and James King finding some success down the flanks. King set up Havard who couldn't get a shot off but it rolled back to King who then found Connor whose shot was blocked and cleared.

Then, some good work from Olarerin led to a chipped ball in from Connor that Daly couldn't get a clean header to. The ball ran loose and Havard was there with a good touch but his shot was blocked.

HALF TIME:
NORTHWOOD 0
READING CITY 0

Half-time and still level, the Woods came out for the second-half with renewed confidence and they rewarded after just four minutes.

1-0 JAMES KING (49)
Olarerin won the ball in defence and played it forward where Bailey



dummied it through to Daly. He slipped it through to an unmarked James King who raced into the space before slotting the ball past York for his first senior goal to put the Woods in front.

Northwood conceded a free-kick in a dangerous area soon after but Burrows managed to get down to keep out Ollie Harris's direct strike to the near-post, though he needed to grab at the loose ball too to thwart a lurking visitor's forward.

After 54 minutes, Bailey chipped a neat ball into the middle which was only half-cleared. Daly revived it and played it neatly to Havard who tried to sweep it goalwards from twenty yards but it was always just too high to test the keeper.

There was another good opportunity for Northwood on the hour when a clever backheel from Daly put Bailey through on goal. His pace took him into the box and he got a shot off under pressure from a Dan Williamson tackle but York managed to block his effort. From the resulting corner, it was recycled and King managed to knock in an inviting cross with Daly inches away from applying the finishing touch.

Within a minute, the Woods almost gifted the Cityzens an equaliser as Burrows made a hash of a clearance from a back pass. It was straight to Lynch, who had Harris to his left but he opted to shoot and Burrows redeemed himself by blocking with his leg.

It was a bit of a purple patch for Reading as soon after, there was another opportunity as Williamson raced down the right and his cross fell to Harris but he poked his effort wide. Then, Lynch stole in down the right and saw his low strike pushed wide at the near-post by Burrows. From the corner, a powerful header saw Burrows react well to push the ball up and over the bar.

Mohab Madkour replaced Maksym Fostyk for his debut and the Woods still looked dangerous on the break. King, Connor and Madkour all combined to play Bailey into the area and as he twisted away from Baker, he had his leg taken away but the Referee waved away the penalty appeals.

Javan Campbell replaced Daly, alongside a couple of replacements for the visitors, and on 75 minutes he could have made an almost instant impact. It was a superb run from King that created the chance, cutting in from the right and getting past two defenders to get into the box before shimmying past a third. With just the keeper to beat, he chose to cross square to Campbell but the ball cannoned off him and was cleared.

The Cityzens turned up the pressure, including several corners that tested the Woods defence but they stayed strong, making several important blocks during a couple of scrambles while also still looking dangerous on the break as the game reached stoppage-time.

1-1 OLLIE HARRIS (90+1)
In the very first minute of time added on, a long-kick forward from the keeper was headed on straight into the path of Harris who chipped Burrows. It looked in but the Woods keeper managed to get back to claw it away. However, the ball was quickly retrieved and an accurate cross picked out Harris again and this time he made no mistake with a low strike.

1-2 OLLIE HARRIS (90+5)
Back level, the game was headed for penalties as the game entered to final minute of the time added on. City substitute Shane Cooper-Clark, a Vase winner with Thatcham Town eight years ago, floated an angled ball out to the right and Harris showed a great first touch to take the ball past Bettamer and fired past Burrows for a cool left-footed finish to win the game.

FULL TIME:
NORTHWOOD 1
READING CITY 2

Words: Alan Evans

Woods Line-Up

Matt Burrows, Simeon Olarerin, Jonathan Moura, Josh Havard, Tomas Gunasekera, Rafiq Bettamer, Kjay Bailey, Kayne Connor, Rowan Daly (Javan Campbell 71m (Ronny Mfinda 93m)), Maksym Fostyk (Mohab Madkour 67m), James King.

Unused Sub: Lucas Da Silva Luz, Amara Fofana

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Ivorian, Amara is a 23-year-old central midfielder who has been playing in France for AS Ararat Issy in the French League De Paris.



SPONSOR
Graham Mann

22-year-old defender who has represented Anguilla as an International, joined Northwood from Dorking Wanderers in March 2026 having previously played for Edgware & Kingsbury.



SPONSOR
Dennis Goulding

Josh comes into first-team contention having made 30 appearances in midfield for the successful Under-18s. Only just turned 18, further progress would be great to see.



SPONSOR
Sean Moore

23-year-old goalkeeper who arrived from Broadfields United in September 2026. Finn started out in the Wingate & Finchley before joining Potters Bar Town and playing plenty of games at Step 3. He has also played for Marlow, Enfield, Barking and Buckhurst Hill.



SPONSOR
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Arriving from AFC Welwyn in September 2026, the 28-year-old is an experienced and versatile player who can play in several positions. He can list New Salamis and St. Pantelimon amongst his former clubs, where he enjoyed plenty of success.



SPONSOR
Available

Young defender, 17, who arrived in September 2026 on dual-registration from Egham Town having also been involved at AFC Croydon Athletic. He played in the Blackburn Rovers Academy having previously been with Sutton Common Rovers.



SPONSOR
Colin Seal

Experienced defender who joined from AFC Welwyn in September 2026 and takes over as club captain. The 34-year-old will provide a steadying influence and has previously played for Rayners Lane over several seasons and Broadfields United.



SPONSOR
Available

29-year-old midfielder who joined for a second spell in September 2026 on dual-registration from Harrow Borough. He was previously with Woods in February 2023 and has also played at Hampton & Richmond Borough, Molesey as well as a spell in Norway for Honefoss BK.



KAYNE CONNOR

SPONSOR
Available

22-year-old midfielder who has over ten caps for Anguilla. He played in the Caribbean country for Roaring Lions and has also had spells with Chalfont St. Peter, Burnham and North Greenford United.



JONATHAN MOURA

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Experienced, 26-year-old midfielder, Jon moved to Northwood from AFC Welwyn in September 2026 having previously played at Edgware & Kingsbury. The Brazilian also had a very successful spell at St. Pantelimon.



MARK OSEI

SPONSOR
Available

Young attacking winger who has arrived at Northwood from AFC Welwyn having previously been with Edgware & Kingsbury. Only 21 with plenty of pace and skill.



ILLYAS KHADER

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Available

Young and skilful, 18-year-old winger who arrived in September 2026 from AFC Welwyn along with new manager Scott Patmore having also played for him at Rayners Lane and at Burnham. Bags of potential and can play anywhere across the front line.



LUCAS DASILVALUZ

SPONSOR
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Lucas is a tricky winger, just 20, who joined the Woods in September 2026 having seen previous service at Hayes & Yeading, Edgware & Kingsbury and Croxley Green.



LEWIS EVERETT

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Available

Experienced goalkeeper, Lewis has joined the Woods in October 2026 as back-up goalkeeper to Finn Rushton. The 27-year-old has seen service at Rayners Lane, Hanwell Town, Harrow Borough, Wealdstone and AFC Welwyn, amongst others.



SANKOU JABBI

SPONSOR
Available

Sankou is 23-years-old and joined the Woods in October 2026 on dual-registration from Leverstock Green. The former Watford Academy youngster is a pacy, left-sided player who has started his Woods career very well.



JAMES KING

SPONSOR
Gerry Pimm

James is a current member of the Woods U18 side, having made his debut as a 15-year-old and now with close to 40 appearances under his belt. Has made his first-team debut in September 2026 and has made a significant impression.



RAFIQ BETTAMER

SPONSOR
Available

31-year-old defender who has joined the Woods in October 2026 after a spell out of the game with injury. Former clubs include London Tigers, Staines Town, Uxbridge, Bedfont Sports, Hillingdon Borough, Broadfields United and Harrow Borough.

GUISEPPE DELGAUDIO

SPONSOR
Available

24-year-old striker who joined the Woods from Kings Langley in October 2026. He started out with Amersham Town, Enfield Borough and Leverstock Green before a spell with Tring Athletic. Moved back to Leverstock Green before spells at Rayners Lane and AFC Welwyn last season.



ROWAN DALY

SPONSOR
Available

Rowan had progressed through from the Woods successful Under-18s side having scored 14 goals in 25 games during the 2025-26 season. He made his first-team debut in November 2025 and, still only 18, he returned to action recently, scoring in an FA Vase game.

MAKSYM FOSTYK

SPONSOR
Available

Young attacking midfield player who hails from Ukraine. The 21-year-old joined the Woods in September 2026 having previously played for NW London and AFC Welwyn.

Woods Management



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