

# Bedfont & Feltham Football Club

Founded 2012



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[www.bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk](http://www.bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk)



**FOR  
ALL**

CHARTER STANDARD

**BEDFONT & FELTHAM v EPSOM & EWELL**  
**Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup**  
**Quarter-Final**

**Tuesday 5th February 2019 - 7.45pm**

**Online version of printed programme**



**ESOTERIC  
RECORDINGS**





Division One

## Club Directory

**ASH UNITED**  
**SHAWFIELD STADIUM, YOUNGS DRIVE, GU12 6RE**

**BAGSHOT**  
**FLEET TOWN FC, CALTHORPE PARK, GU51 5FA**

**BEDFONT & FELTHAM / BRITISH AIRWAYS (GROUND SHARE) THE ORCHARD, HATTON ROAD, TW14 9QT**

**CHESSINGTON & HOOK UNITED**  
**CHALKY LANE, KT9 2NF**

**COVE**  
**OAK FARM FIELDS, SQUIRREL LANE, GU14 8PF**

**DORKING WANDERERS RESERVES**  
**MEADOWBANK STADIUM, MILL LANE, RH4 1DX**

**EPSOM & EWELL**  
**CHIPSTEAD FC, HIGH ROAD, CR5 3SF**

**EVERSLEY & CALIFORNIA**  
**HALLS WAY, OFF FOX LANE, RG27 0NS**

**FARNHAM TOWN**  
**THE MEMORIAL GROUND, MEAD LANE, GU9 7DY**

**FC DEPORTIVO GALICIA**  
**BEDFONT SPORTS FC, HATTON ROAD, TW14 9JR**

**FLEET SPURS**  
**FLEET SPURS FC, KENNELS LANE, GU14 0ST**

**FRIMLEY GREEN**  
**FRIMLEY GREEN RECREATION GROUND, GU16 6JY**

**GODALMING TOWN**  
**WEY COURT, MEADOW, GU7 3JE**

**KENSINGTON BOROUGH**  
**LEATHERHEAD FC, FETCHAM GROVE, KT22 9AS**

**SANDHURST TOWN**  
**BOTTOM MEADOW, YORKTOWN ROAD, GU47 9BJ**

**SHEERWATER**  
**WOKING FC, KINGFIELD, GU22 9AA**

**TOOTING BEC**  
**RAYNES PARK VALE FC, GRAND DRIVE, SW20 9DZ**





### An unincorporated members' Club

The Orchard, Hatton Road,  
Bedfont, Middlesex TW14 9QT  
Tel: 020 8890 7264

[info@bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk)

[www.bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk](http://www.bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk)

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**Affiliated:** Middlesex FA

**Members:** Combined Counties Football  
League, Division One

**Club Colours:** Yellow & Blue

**Change Colours:** Red & White

**2018-19 Programme Cover Design:**

Rob Healy.

**Photo:** Anders Johansen

### Management Committee:

**President:** Alan Hale

**Chairman:** Brian Barry –  
[brianbarry101@hotmail.com](mailto:brianbarry101@hotmail.com)

**Life Vice President:** John Cronk

**Life Vice President:** Derrick Smith

**Vice Chairman:** Alan Hale

**Treasurer:** Rob Healy

**General Secretary:** Derrick Smith

**Director of Football:** Scott Savoy –  
[ssavoyffc@msn.com](mailto:ssavoyffc@msn.com)

**Membership Secretary:** Jane Rescorla

**Media Manager / Photographer:** Joanna  
Ginger – [joannaginger1@btinternet.com](mailto:joannaginger1@btinternet.com)

**Media Manager / Programmes:** Rob  
Healy – [rob@bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk](mailto:rob@bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk)

**Match Day Coordinator:** Andy Smith

**Committee Member:** Adam Bessent

**Committee Member:** Steve Rescorla

### Team Management:

**First Team:**

**Manager:** Adam Bessent

**Assistant Manager:** Jake Bessent

**Assistant Manager:** John Nunn

**Physiotherapist:** Andy Nolan

**Youth Teams:**

**Under 7s:** TBA

**Under 8s:** Kris Creany

**Under 9s:** Craig Wright

**Under 10s:** Andy Mainka

**Welfare Officer:** Jodie Nelson

**Sunday Team:**

**Manager:** Ricky O'Leary

# Bedfont & Feltham v Epsom & Ewell

Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup –  
Quarter-Final

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – Kick-Off: 7.45pm

*Volume 6, Issue 18*



Good evening everyone and welcome to The Orchard for this Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup Quarter-Final match against our friends from Epsom & Ewell. We offer a special welcome to the officials, players and supporters of 'The Salts'. We hope they have an enjoyable evening of football and then have a safe journey home following the match. This welcome is also extended to the match officials. We please ask that you respect them both on and off the field of play. Without match officials, we have no match!

The Yellows' last home match was on 19<sup>th</sup> January when we beat Fleet Spurs 7-1. Goals-a-plenty from Reece Gairy, Farhad Mahboudi (2), Michael Capon (3) Tom Hayden and Cameron Daniel-Murphy. A match report can be found further inside this programme.

Following that, we suffered our second league defeat of the season in the hands of Sandhurst Town on 26<sup>th</sup> January (1-2, goal from Billy Nutbeam) and crashed out of the Middlesex FA Premier Cup last Tuesday against Enfield Borough (1-4, goal from Ashley Hitchinson). We were without a match on Saturday as our fixture v Kensington Borough was rescheduled and played earlier in the season.

We welcome Steve Betancourt back to the pitch today following a short absence as he suffered a nasty facial injury in our match against Sheerwater 4 weeks ago.

Tonight's visitors, Epsom & Ewell are celebrating their centenary season and are just a couple of points behind us in the league table. Their match at home to Farham Town was postponed at the weekend. We visited them on 8<sup>th</sup> December and fought out a 4-4 draw in a horribly wet afternoon. Reece Gairy, Kelvin Karanja and Farhad Mahboudi (2) were our scorers that afternoon.

We're 'away' to our tenants British Airways this coming Saturday, and then host Tooting Bec on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. Another cup Quarter-Final takes place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> when we visit Knaphill in the Premier Challenge Cup.

A full fixture list can be found on our website and further inside this programme.

Lastly, as this is a cup match – please note that extra-time and penalties will be played if required.

Enjoy the match and see you again soon.  
Rob – editor.



From Bedfont & Feltham FC Manager  
Adam Bessent:

Good evening everyone and welcome to The Orchard. I hope our match officials and all associated with Epsom & Ewell enjoy their short stay with us.



We ended January with a mixed bag to say the least. 7 points from a possible 12 in the league, good wins over Sheerwater and Fleet Spurs but disappointing to drop points at Bagshot and Sandhurst. Also mixed fortunes in the cups, a comfortable victory at higher league opposition in AFC Hayes but travel, weather conditions, performance and result all contributed to a forgettable night at Enfield Borough last week.

Moving into February, we have 12 important league games to go and find ourselves in the 2 Quarter-finals of the League cups. Away at the holders of the Premier Challenge Cup, Knaphill, in 2 weeks time and a tough game here tonight. Last time out at Epsom & Ewell was one of our poorest performances of the season, but we showed good determination to keep coming from behind to take a point. We'll be looking for a vastly improved display tonight and after 2 losses in a row, I know our lads are keen to put things right.

Thank you for your support, I hope you enjoy the game.

Adam



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## Fixtures involving Division One Clubs:

**Tuesday 5th February**

### **Esoteric Division One Challenge Cup 3rd Round**

***Bedfont & Feltham***

***v***

***Epsom & Ewell***

### **Division 1**

Fleet Spurs

v

Cove

Tooting Bec

v

British Airways

**Saturday 9th February**

### **Division 1**

Ash United

v

Dorking Wanderers Res

Bagshot

v

Chessington & Hook Utd

***British Airways***

***v***

***Bedfont & Feltham***

Cove

v

Kensington Borough

Farnham Town

v

Sheerwater

Fleet Spurs

v

FC Deportivo Galicia

Godalming Town

v

Eversley & California

**Tuesday 12th February**

### **Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup 3rd Round**

Epsom & Ewell

v

Godalming Town

### **Division 1**

Chessington & Hook Utd

v

Farnham Town

**Saturday 16th February**

### **Division 1**

***Bedfont & Feltham***

***v***

***Tooting Bec***

Dorking Wanderers Res

v

Cove

Epsom & Ewell

v

British Airways

Eversley & California

v

FC Deportivo Galicia

Frimley Green

v

Godalming Town

Kensington Borough

v

Ash United

Sandhurst Town

v

Chessington & Hook Utd





# Division One League Table

As at Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February

*Matches involving AC London have been removed from the table*

| POS | TEAM                         | PLD       | W         | D        | L        | GF        | GA        | GD        | PTS       |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1   | Frimley Green                | 24        | 16        | 5        | 3        | 48        | 27        | 21        | 53        |
| 2   | Sheerwater                   | 24        | 16        | 4        | 4        | 63        | 32        | 31        | 52        |
| 3   | <b>Bedfont &amp; Feltham</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>74</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>50</b> |
| 4   | <b>Epsom &amp; Ewell</b>     | <b>24</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>48</b> |
| 5   | Farnham Town                 | 21        | 13        | 4        | 4        | 46        | 19        | 27        | 43        |
| 6   | Tooting Bec                  | 22        | 12        | 5        | 5        | 51        | 28        | 23        | 41        |
| 7   | Ash United                   | 24        | 11        | 5        | 8        | 60        | 52        | 8         | 38        |
| 8   | Dorking Wanderers Reserves   | 26        | 11        | 4        | 11       | 55        | 56        | -1        | 37        |
| 9   | Sandhurst Town               | 21        | 11        | 3        | 7        | 33        | 35        | -2        | 36        |
| 10  | British Airways              | 23        | 9         | 4        | 10       | 49        | 55        | -6        | 31        |
| 11  | Chessington & Hook United    | 21        | 8         | 5        | 8        | 39        | 41        | -2        | 29        |
| 12  | Bagshot                      | 26        | 7         | 4        | 15       | 33        | 77        | -44       | 25        |
| 13  | Godalming Town               | 23        | 7         | 3        | 13       | 35        | 55        | -20       | 24        |
| 14  | FC Deportivo Galicia         | 22        | 5         | 3        | 14       | 35        | 42        | -7        | 18        |
| 15  | Eversley & California        | 21        | 5         | 2        | 14       | 38        | 53        | -15       | 17        |
| 16  | Cove                         | 22        | 4         | 2        | 16       | 28        | 50        | -22       | 14        |
| 17  | Kensington Borough           | 22        | 3         | 5        | 14       | 27        | 59        | -32       | 14        |
| 18  | Fleet Spurs                  | 22        | 4         | 0        | 18       | 36        | 68        | -32       | 12        |





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# Cup News:

## THE CHERRY RED RECORDS PREMIER CHALLENGE CUP

Bedfont & Feltham beat Tooting Bec 2-0 in the Second Round, and beat AFC Hayes 1-0 in the Third Round. The Quarter-Finals draw was made recently and we will be away to Premier Division Knaphill on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.



## THE ESOTERIC RECORDINGS DIVISION ONE CHALLENGE CUP

Bedfont & Feltham received a bye into the Second Round and beat Eversley & California 3-2 on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We are playing Epsom & Ewell at home in the Quarter-Finals tonight.

## THE MIDDLESEX FA PREMIER CUP

The Yellows hosted Park View from the Spartan League on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November and drew 2-2 at 90 minutes. The match went straight to penalties and we won 5-3.

The Second Round saw us visit Enfield Borough (also from the Spartan League) at Wingate & Finchley's Summers Lane ground last Tuesday. Unfortunately we lost 1-4. Ashley Hitchinson scored our only goal.

---

## How we reached the Quarter-Finals:

### Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup 1st ROUND

|                      |     |                 |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Farnham Town         | 0-1 | Godalming Town  |
| Cove                 | 2-1 | British Airways |
| FC Deportivo Galicia | 2-1 | AC London       |

### Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup 2nd ROUND

|                                  |            |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Eversley &amp; California</b> | <b>2-3</b> | <b>Bedfont &amp; Feltham</b> |
| <b>Epsom &amp; Ewell</b>         | <b>1-0</b> | <b>Sandhurst Town</b>        |
| Tooting Bec                      | 4-1        | Ash United                   |
| Kensington Borough               | 0-2        | FC Deportivo Galicia         |
| Sheerwater                       | 2-3        | Chessington & Hook United    |
| Fleet Spurs                      | 0-0        | Cove                         |
| (Fleet won 5-4 on pens)          |            |                              |
| Dorking Wanderers Res            | 1-2        | Frimley Green                |
| Godalming Town                   | 6-0        | Bagshot                      |

### Esoteric Recordings Division One Challenge Cup 3rd ROUND

|                         |     |                        |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Tooting Bec             | v   | Frimley Green          |
| Bedfont & Feltham       | v   | Epsom & Ewell          |
| FC Deportivo Galicia    | 5-1 | Godalming Town         |
| Fleet Spurs             | 0-0 | Chessington & Hook Utd |
| (Fleet won 4-3 on pens) |     |                        |

# BEDFONT & FELTHAM FC

## FIXTURES/RESULTS 2018-19

### August 2018

**Saturday 4 Home**

Saturday 11 Away

**Saturday 18 Home**

**Tuesday 21 Home**

Saturday 25 Away

**Monday 28 Home**

### **Opponents**

**BAGSHOT**

Dorking Wanderers Reserves

**SANDHURST TOWN**

**FRIMLEY GREEN**

Eversley & California

**BRITISH AIRWAYS (11.30)**

### **Result**

W 11-0

D 3-3

W 5-0

D 0-0

W 5-1

W 5-0

### **Goalscorers**

Capon (4), Karanja (2 + 1Pen), Mahboudi (2), R.Nunn, Gairy

Karanja, Gairy, Capon

Capon (3), R.Nunn, K. Russell

Capon (2), Mahboudi (2), Karanja

Capon (3), Hayden, Mahboudi

### September

**Saturday 8 Home**

**Saturday 15 Home**

Saturday 22 Away

**Tuesday 25 Home**

**Saturday 29 Home**

**ASH UNITED**

**WINSLOW UNITED (FAV2Q)**

Cove

**TOOTING BEC (PCC)**

**CHESSINGTON & HOOK UNITED**

D 3-3

W 2-0

W 4-2

W 2-0

W 2-0

Capon, Karanja (2 inc 1 Pen)

Capon, R.Nunn

Capon (2) R.Nunn, P.Nunn

Daniel-Murphy, Davis

Mahboudi, Karanja

### October

Tuesday 2 Away

Saturday 6 Away

Tuesday 9 Away

**Saturday 13 Home**

**Saturday 20 Home**

Tuesday 23 Away

Horley Town (SCC)

Godalming Town

Hillingdon Borough (MCC)

**ERITH TOWN (FAV1)**

**FC DEPORTIVO GALICIA**

Eversley & California (ERC)

D 3-3

W 2-0

L 3-4

L 1-2

W 1-0

W 3-2

Mahboudi, Karanja, Capon (Final score 3-4 Pens)

Karanja (2)

Sarfo, Capon, Gairy

Hitchinson

Capon

Capon, Karanja (2)

### November

**Saturday 3 Home**

Saturday 6 Away

**Friday 9 Home**

**Saturday 17 Home**

**Tuesday 20 Home**

Saturday 24 Away

**DORKING WANDERERS RES**

Tooting Bec

**KENSINGTON BOROUGH**

**COVE**

**PARK VIEW (MPC)**

Farnham Town

W 4-0

L 3-0

W 4-0

W 4-1

D 2-2

P-P

Capon (3), Mahboudi

Capon (2), Mahboudi, Gairy

Davis, Mahboudi, E.Hayden, Capon

Karanja, Capon (Final score 5-3 Pens)

### December

Saturday 8 Away

**Saturday 15 Home**

Saturday 22 Away

Epsom & Ewell

**EVERSLEY & CALIFORNIA**

FC Deportivo Galicia

D 4-4

W 2-1

W 3-1

Gairy, Karanja, Mahboudi (2)

Hitchinson, Pearce

Sarfo, Capon (2)

### January 2019

**Saturday 5 Home**

Saturday 12 Away

Tuesday 15 Away

**Saturday 19 Home**

Saturday 26 Away

Tuesday 29 Away

**SHEERWATER**

Bagshot

AFC Hayes (PCC)

**FLEET SPURS**

Sandhurst Town

Enfield Borough (MPC)

W 3-2

D 1-1

W 1-0

W 7-1

L 1-2

L 1-4

Capon (2), Roach

Capon

Capon

Daniel-Murphy, Mahboudi (2), Capon (3), T.Hayden

Nutbeam

Hitchinson

### February

**Tuesday 5 Home**

Saturday 9 Away

**Saturday 16 Home**

Tuesday 19 Away

Saturday 23 Away

**EPSOM & EWELL (ERC)**

British Airways

**TOOTING BEC**

Knaphill (PCC)

Chessington & Hook United

### March

**Saturday 2 Home**

Saturday 9 Away

Saturday 16 Away

**Saturday 23 Home**

Saturday 30 Away

**GODALMING TOWN**

Frimley Green

Sheerwater

**FARNHAM TOWN**

Fleet Spurs

### April

Saturday 6 Away

**Saturday 13 Home**

Saturday 27 Away

Ash United

**EPSOM & EWELL**

Kensington Borough

#### **KEY:**

FAV – Buildbase FA Vase;

ERC – Esoteric Recordings Div 1 Challenge Cup;

MCC – Middlesex FA Senior Charity Cup;

MPC – Middlesex FA Premier Cup;

PCC – Combined Counties Premier Challenge Cup;

SCC – Southern Combination Challenge Cup



# The Orchard Café & Restaurant



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# Recent Results:

## **Saturday 2nd February** **F.A. Vase - 5th Round**

|                  |     |               |
|------------------|-----|---------------|
| Cray Valley (PM) | 3-1 | Abbey Rangers |
| Irlam            | P-P | Chertsey Town |

## **Premier Division**

|                      |     |                   |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Balham               | P-P | Badshot Lea       |
| Banstead Athletic    | P-P | Colliers Wood Utd |
| Cobham               | 3-2 | Redhill           |
| Hanworth Villa       | P-P | AFC Hayes         |
| Raynes Park Vale     | P-P | CB Hounslow       |
| Southall             | P-P | Camberley Town    |
| Sutton Common Rovers | 1-4 | Spelthorne Sports |
| Walton & Hersham     | 0-2 | Horley Town       |

## **Division 1**

|                        |     |                 |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Chessington & Hook Utd | P-P | Cove            |
| Epsom & Ewell          | P-P | Farnham Town    |
| Eversley & California  | P-P | Bagshot         |
| FC Deportivo Galicia   | 2-3 | Godalming Town  |
| Fleet Spurs            | P-P | Tooting Bec     |
| Sandhurst Town         | P-P | British Airways |
| Sheerwater             | P-P | Ash United      |

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## "Your Club Needs You"

Have you ever thought about helping your local football club on match days?

If you can spare a few hours on home match days, your help would be very much appreciated.

You'll benefit from free admission to the match and being a part of your local football club.

**Pop into the boardroom or speak to a member of the club's committee this afternoon.**





# Our Visitors – Epsom & Ewell – 100 Years Up

We were founded in March 1918 as Epsom Juniors Cricket Club and played throughout the summer. In the autumn, Epsom Juniors F.C. came into being and played a handful of games from what is now known as Alexandra Recreation Ground. Competitive football followed as we entered the Surrey Junior League in 1919, and became founder members of the Sutton & District League in 1920.

A change of name in July 1922 to Epsom Town F.C. heralded the start of a very successful era. By now resident at the Horton Hospital Sports Ground, we were unfortunate to lose 2-1 after extra time at Dorking F.C.'s Pixham Lane ground to Caterham Mental Hospital in a replay of the Surrey Junior Cup Final. However, we won three other trophies that season, the Leatherhead Hospital Shield, the Sutton Hospital Cup, and the Epsom Hospital Cup. In addition, we also won the Sutton & District League, and under the forward thinking of their visionary Chairman Hugh Bradley, took the step into Intermediate Football, where we won the Southern Suburban League without losing a match. Senior football was granted as we were unanimously accepted into the Surrey Senior League for 1924/25, where we finished third.

In September 1925, the club relocated to the old Ewell F.C. ground at West Street, which was purchased through the generosity of our future President Robert Bradshaw. In 1925/26 the Championship of the Surrey Senior League was attained, and the following season, we defeated Egham 1-0 at Egham in the League Charity Cup to complete a League and Cup "double".

Election to the London League followed, and the title was claimed in the first attempt in 1927/28. Unfortunately, we were unable to repeat this, instead finishing runners-up in 1931/32, 1932/33, 1934/35, 1936/37 and 1937/38. Cup Honours were limited, although in 1929 Redhill defeated us 3-2 in front of 4,600 at Guildford in our first Surrey Senior Cup Final, having seen off Wimbledon 4-1 in the semi-final!

The thirties were a very successful era, and we won the Surrey Charity (Senior) Shield in 1933 with an impressive 5-0 win over Woking at Kingfield. However, the proudest moment of our pre-war history was an appearance in the First Round Proper of the F.A.Cup in 1933/34. Woking (after a replay), Nunhead, Tooting & Mitcham, Beddington Corner, and Leytonstone were defeated, and a crowd of 9,485 at the Lea Bridge Speedway Stadium witnessed a 4-2 loss against the hosts Clapton Orient. At the end of that season we changed our name to Epsom F.C.

In 1939 a newly formed team, Epsom Town (no connection to the earlier name) shared the ground with Epsom F.C. However, this arrangement was suspended when war was declared, and we folded for the duration. In the meantime, Club Chairman Charles Pettett threw in his lot with Epsom Town in an attempt to boost morale by keeping the football flag flying. It was successful, as that club competed continuously throughout the war years, winning the Surrey Combination in 1939/40, and reaching the Surrey Senior Cup Final in 1944, losing 3-1 to Tooting & Mitcham, at Sandy Lane. After the war, Epsom F.C. restarted, continuing in the London League and reclaimed West Street. Temporary homes were found for Epsom Town while they competed for a season in the newly created Corinthian League, but disbanded in 1946.

In 1949 we entered the Corinthian League ourselves, where in 1952 we reached the League Memorial Shield Final in 1952, going down 2-1 to Champions Hounslow at Eastbourne after leading at half-time. Things improved further with the signing of the former English Amateur International Pat Lynch from Hendon, finishing third in 1952/53, while in 1954 we reached the Surrey Senior Cup Final for the second time in our history, losing unluckily 2-0 to Corinthian Casuals in front of 6,159 at Selhurst Park. In 1955 we won the Surrey Senior Shield with a 1-0 win over Carshalton Athletic at West Street.

We appointed our first ever Manager, Kingstonian legend Doug Whitehead in 1955 and the Corinthian League double was almost achieved in 1956/57, but two losses in the final week, along with a 2-0 defeat in the Cup Final to Maidenhead United at Dorking ensured that we ended with neither, finishing fourth. However in 1960, we finally raised the Shield with a 2-0 revenge win over Maidenhead at Vale Farm, home of Wembley F.C.

In 1960 we changed our name once again to Epsom & Ewell F.C. This was not because of any merger with Ewell & Stoneleigh as is often quoted, but was an attempt to increase support across the whole of the Borough. In 1963 the Corinthian League merged with the Athenian and Delphian Leagues, and we were placed in Division One of the new structure, but the sixties were full of poor results and we were relegated in 1965.

Despite a string of managers, most notably ex-Leyton Orient winger Jimmy Smith, and Tony Williams, now famous for his creation of the F.A. Yearbooks, our fortunes did not improve significantly and further relegations were avoided in the early seventies by the benefit of re-election. However in 1973, despite "improving" to finish second from bottom, the Athenian League ran out of patience and cut us loose. This was unfortunate timing as we had just cleared all of our debts, and in addition to a virtually new Committee, former Fulham player Pat O'Connell had taken over as Manager.

The Surrey Senior League took us in at the last minute, and the new squad, including young striker Tommy Tuite, won the League Cup, and the following season, 1974/75 achieved a second Surrey Senior League "Double"

*Continued on other side of team pages*



# ESOTERIC RECORDINGS

## DIVISION ONE CHALLENGE CUP SEASON 2018-19

### QUARTER-FINAL

## BEDFONT & FELTHAM v EPSOM & EWELL



### Bedfont & Feltham FC

Yellow & Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019. 7.45pm

### Epsom & Ewell FC

Blue & White Shirts, Yellow Shorts

| No. |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|
|     | DAVID WINDMILL (GK)   |
|     | ASHLEY HITCHINSON     |
|     | BILLY NUTBEAM         |
|     | MATT HOLLIDAY         |
|     | JAMIE PEARCE          |
|     | ELLIOTT HAYDEN        |
|     | GEORGIE ROOKE         |
|     | CHARLIE DUNCKLEY      |
|     | CAMERON DANIEL-MURPHY |
|     | PAUL NUNN             |
|     | TOM HAYDEN            |
|     | NOAH KIBREAB          |
|     | JAMES WILSON          |
|     | MICHAEL CAPON         |
|     | ROSS NUNN ©           |
|     | BILLY ROACH           |
|     | REECE GAIRY           |
|     | FARHAD MAHBOUDI       |
|     | PETE DAVIS            |
|     | KYLE RUSSELL          |
|     | STEVEN BETANCOURT     |
|     | JORDAN SARFO          |
|     |                       |
|     |                       |
|     |                       |
|     |                       |

*Don't forget to visit the tea bar and  
our clubhouse while you're  
at The Orchard today ☺*

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

**AHMED RAFIQUE**

ASSISTANT REFEREE

**NIGEL HICKES**

ASSISTANT REFEREE

**GARY CREAL**

| No. |                  |
|-----|------------------|
|     | CONOR YOUNG (GK) |
|     | REISSE GRIFFIN   |
|     | LIAM ROBERTS     |
|     | SCOTT MURPHY ©   |
|     | LLOYD CONNELLY   |
|     | SAM MORGAN       |
|     | RYAN SULLIVAN    |
|     | BOBBY BENNETT    |
|     | LUKE ELGAR       |
|     | ELLIOTT THOMPSON |
|     | SCOTT ELGAR      |
|     | TARYN SMITH      |
|     | ADAM HEAGNEY     |
|     | ROBERT HENDRY    |
|     | OLIVER MARTINEZ  |
|     | JOSHUA CAULCRICK |
|     | ROY GALE         |
|     | JAMIE WATTS      |
|     | BEN CHICK        |
|     | BILLY CARNEY     |
|     | HAKIM GRIFFITHS  |
|     |                  |
|     |                  |
|     |                  |
|     |                  |

Manager

**ADAM BESSENT**

Assistant Manager

**JAKE BESSENT**

Player/Asst Mgr

**JOHN NUNN**

Physio

**ANDY NOLAN**

Manager

**SIMON FUNNELL**

Assistant Manager

**MATT DREW**

Coach/Asst Mgr

**PAUL MARSHALL**

Physio

**CHANTELLE  
FARRELL**

### GROUND RULES

**All Spectators Must Remain Behind The Pitch Barrier  
At All Times.**

~ ~ ~

**No Alcoholic Drinks In Glasses Or Cans Are Allowed  
Inside The Ground.**



# Epsom & Ewell – History continued

However, the season would always be remembered for reaching the Final of the inaugural F.A. Vase, where 9,500 saw the Blues edged out 2-1 by Hoddesdon Town at Wembley Stadium. The Athenian League welcomed us back, and promotion to the top flight was achieved in that first season. In 1976/77 we reached the Athenian League Cup Final, losing 1-0 at Chalfont St Peter.

By then, we knew that we had been invited to join the expanding Isthmian League for 1977/78, and were placed in the new Division Two. Our first match under floodlights took place against Met Police in August 1977, and the title was clinched the following April, securing a move to Division One. In 1979/80 we won the Southern Combination Cup 7-2 over Hampton on their own pitch, where the opposition were blitzed by five goals from Tuite. The following season a new clubhouse opened at West Street, and we finally won the Surrey Senior Cup, defeating Woking 2-1 at Tooting & Mitcham, although we just missed out on promotion. In 1983/84 we clinched a spot in the Premier Division as runners-up, although this time we missed out in the Surrey Senior Cup Final, defeated 4-0 by Sutton United at Imber Court.

With Adrian Hill as Manager since 1982, we survived comfortably in our first season at the new level, but Hill's departure to Croydon in 1985 started a decline. Much of the squad left with Hill, and new Manager Alan Webb had too much to do. We were relegated in 1986, and following Webb's departure soon after, Player / Manager Ricky Kidd nearly but not quite saved us from our second straight relegation. Adrian Hill replaced Kidd for a second spell at the helm in 1990, but we were placed in the new Division Three in 1991 in league reorganisation following a finish one position below the required half way mark.

In 1993 a large chapter in our history ended as we left West Street and moved in as tenants of Banstead Athletic. The decade was largely one of frustration, although we did reach the Final of the Associate Members Trophy, losing 2-0 to Bedford Town at Hendon's old Claremont Road ground.

In 2002 Adrian Hill took us back up to Division 1 South, where we topped the table for a month, eventually finishing 9th, but Hill's retirement at the end of the season led to relegation a year later and then in 2006 we were transferred into the Combined Counties League Premier Division. In October 2006 Lyndon Buckwell, a former player became our new Manager, and in his first full season (2007/08) we were back in the top ten. In 2008/09 we exceeded this achievement and finished in fourth place after heading the table for a few months. In 2009/10 the club recovered from a slow start to finish fifth and also reached the last 32 of the F.A.Vase for the first time in 21 years, bowing out 3-2 in Northamptonshire to Long Buckby. In April of 2010 we terminated our seventeen-year ground sharing agreement with Banstead Athletic and spent two unspectacular seasons at Mersham F.C. before relocating to High Road, home of Chipstead F.C. for the 2012/13 season.

The season brought significant playing success as a slow start was followed by a spectacular run of form, including a club record 12 straight League wins, which put us at the top of the table for over a month before a tough run in resulted in a final position of fifth. However, any disappointment there was tempered by the club's first silverware since 1981 when we defeated South Park 3-0 at Farnborough to win the Combined Counties League Cup. Lyndon also marked 300 games in charge of the club in early 2013. On a sadder note, 2012/13 also marked one thousand games since we left West Street.

We carried our fine form into 2013/14 and led the league with eight straight wins but couldn't hold on and had to settle for third place, our highest league finish since 1984, but the following season Lyndon Buckwell departed and Glyn Mandeville and new Assistant Matt Smith steered the club to seventh place, despite a substantial budget cut and this improved to fourth place in 2015/16.

In the summer of 2016 our club visited France and played a friendly against our twin town Chantilly, which was where the England team had been based before their Euro 2016 campaign. The players were able to meet Roy Hodgson and Gary Neville and performed admirably as ambassadors for our town.

In 2016/17 we started the season with an incredible 9-2 win at newly promoted Bedfont & Feltham in a match where we had trailed 2-0 at half time and went on to repeat our fourth place finish in the League. In addition, we reached the League Cup Final but were defeated 4-1 by Westfield at Windsor FC.

However, in the summer of 2017, we suffered a large player exodus with a substantial number joining local rivals Sutton Common Rovers and our Coach Matt Smith also left. Glyn was unable to replace them with enough players of real quality and three quarters of the season was spent at the foot of the table. Glyn's resignation in January 2018 led to the club appointing our new Coach Neil Grant into the Manager's role and although he managed to get us off the foot of the table, relegation was always likely and was confirmed in mid-April; not a great way to celebrate our Centenary!

Because of the situation Neil inherited, he never had a proper opportunity to save us from relegation, but the club saw enough to indicate that he can get us back up to Step Five this season. He remains at our club with a new Management team around him, including Simon Funnell and Sam Morgan and with a clear target of promotion back into the top flight of the Combined Counties League.

We continue at High Road for the 2018/19 season, having signed a new two year agreement with Chipstead. Meanwhile, the search continues for a new ground back in the Borough.....

# This Day in Football History:

## 5 February 1972 - The Mother Of All Cupsets



On 5 February 1972, non-League Hereford United shocked Division One Newcastle United in the Third Round of the FA Cup, winning 2-1 in extra time. Regarded as one of the biggest upsets in the Cup, it was the first time in over 20 years that a non-League club had beaten a top flight club in the competition.

The two clubs had taken dramatically different paths to their meeting. Newcastle, as all top flight clubs, entered the Cup directly in the Third Round. Hereford, meanwhile, had entered the competition in the Fourth Qualifying Round where they beat Cheltenham Town, then defeated King's Lynn (in a replay) and Northampton Town (in two replays) in the First and Second Rounds, respectively, to advance to their date with Newcastle.

The two sides met at St. James' Park on 24 January 1972, where they drew 2-2, forcing the replay at Hereford's Edgar Street ground on 5 February. The stadium was packed to its capacity of 14,313, with onlookers climbing trees and floodlights to view the match.

The muddy pitch made play difficult for both sides and they struggled to score, but Newcastle forward Malcolm Macdonald eventually found the back of the net with a header in the 82nd minute. The lead didn't last long, however, as, in the 85th minute, Hereford midfielder Ronnie Radford launched a 30-yard shot that flew into the net's top corner, causing many of the Hereford supporters to invade the pitch in celebration.

In extra time, Newcastle struggled to regain their composure. Hereford midfielder Ricky George, who had come on as a substitute in the 83rd minute, took advantage and scored in the 103rd minute, sparking another pitch invasion. Newcastle were unable to rally and Hereford held on for the win.

Radford's equalizer was later voted Goal of the Season. Hereford's Cup run ended in the next round at the hands of West Ham, but they took some comfort from winning their division and earning promotion to the League.



# aspen

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By Derrick Smith

## Bedfont & Feltham 7-1 Fleet Spurs

A fantastic 7-1 win against lowly Fleet Spurs saw the Yellows overtake Frimley Green and go back to the top of the Division One table.

Michael Capon scored a hat-trick and Farhad Mahboudi a brace; whilst Cameron-Daniel Murphy's and Tom Hayden's goals added to the flurry.

The Yellows welcomed Fleet Spurs to the Orchard on Saturday 19th Jan as they looked to seal 3 points after their 1-1 draw at Bagshot the previous week.

The home side started to apply pressure from the start and after 8 minutes they took the lead through Daniel Cameron-Murphy. 1-0.

Unfortunately that lead was taken away by the visitors one minute later when an uncharacteristic error by Yellows keeper David Windmill let Ben Dainton lob home from 25 yards to equalise. 1-1.

This shook the home side and they battled back and on 21 minutes leading scorer Michael Cameron scored to put the home side 2-1 up.

Three minutes later Farhad Mahboudi added a third to put The Yellows firmly in control. 3-1. Michael Capon added a further goal on 37 minutes to take the homeside into the interval 4-1 up.

After the break the homeside took the pressure up a level and they were playing and moving the ball around far quicker and it was making it very difficult for the visitors defence to stop the repeated attacks. Michael Capon completed his hat-trick on 70 minutes when he slotted home. 5-1.

On 84 minutes Farhad Mahboudi fired home with an assist from Billy Roach following an excellent interchange of passes from the home sides forwards. 6-1.

The final goal was added on 90+2 minutes when Tom Hayden completed the scoring to give The Yellows a 7-1 victory to return to the top of the Div 1 table.

The visitors keeper Mark Appleleby made several good saves to prevent The Yellows winning by a bigger margin and the Fleet Spurs side kept going despite the scoreline.

We wish Fleet Spurs FC players and officials all the best for the rest of the season.

After their 1-0 away win at AFC Hayes in the PCC Cup on 15/01/19 prior to the Fleet Spurs game their next league game will be on Saturday 26th January away at Sandhurst Town.

It will be another hard task but if The Yellows can keep their form the progress in the fight for promotion will continue.

# Meet the Yellows

|  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Jamie Pearce</b><br>Defender  | <b>Paul Nunn</b><br>Midfield  | <b>Ross Nunn</b><br>Forward   | <b>Kyle Russell</b><br>Forward   | <b>Michael Capon</b><br>Forward   |
|    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Pete Davis</b><br>Forward   | <b>Elliott Hayden</b><br>Defender   | <b>Matt Holliday</b><br>Defender  | <b>Reece Gairy</b><br>Forward  | <b>Georgie Rooke</b><br>Defender  |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>John Nunn</b><br>Midfield   | <b>Farhad Mahboudi</b><br>Forward   | <b>Ashley Hitchinson</b><br>Defender  | <b>James Wilson</b><br>Midfield  | <b>Jordan Sarfo</b><br>Forward  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Cameron Daniel-Murphy</b><br>Midfield   | <b>Charlie Dunckley</b><br>Defender   | <b>Tom Hayden</b><br>Midfield   | <b>Noah Kibreab</b><br>Midfield  | <b>Billy Nutbeam</b><br>Defender  |
|  |  |  | Thank you to<br>John Nunn ☺  |   |
| <b>Kelvin Karanja</b><br>Forward   | <b>David Windmill</b><br>Goalkeeper   | <b>Jake Bessent</b><br>Goalkeeper   |  |   |



# Meet The Players: Steven Betancourt

**Age:** 25

**Position:** Midfielder/Defender

**Fun fact:** Betancourt is currently responsible for the financial turmoil at Bedfont. After getting his pants pulled down in contract negotiations with Steve, Adam Bessent now faces a difficult task of restructuring the wage bill in order to accommodate the Colombian defender.



***We get to know a little bit more about Steven...***

**What is your favourite football memory?**

*Beating Staines Town in the cup final, Rambo scoring a last minute winner and not celebrating at all.*

**Best team you've ever been a part of other than this current Bedfont squad (obviously)?** *Walton and Hersham u18s.*

**Which Bedfont player is first on the scene when things get tasty?**

*Apparently it's Cam but I think he's soft.*

**Which Bedfont player should be playing at the highest level out of the squad?** *Me.*

**Slowest in the squad?** *Elliott Hayden.*

**Biggest moaner in the team?** *Bill Roach (wants to be me so bad).*

**If you could pick one Bedfont player for your 5aside team and why?** *Rambo because it's Rambo.*

***Thanks to Billy... Next up we meet the Gaffer – Adam Bessent.***

**Which player has the biggest ego in the squad?** *Me and rightly so.*

**Who would you not want a scrap with in the squad?** *Paul Nunn. The 1 lung thing scares me.*

**Quick-fire round:**

**Nike or Adidas?** *Adidas.*

**Yellow or Red kit?** *Red.*

**Blonde or Brunette?** *Brunette.*

**League or Cup?** *Cup.*

**Xbox or PlayStation?** *PlayStation*

**Tuesday nights or Saturday Afternoons?** *Tuesday nights.*

**Boobs or bum?** *Bum.*

**Steven *in action* on the pitch © Jo Ginger.**



# Bedfont & Feltham FC History:

Bedfont & Feltham Football Club was founded in May 2012 following the amalgamation of Feltham FC and Bedfont Football and Social Club, taking Feltham's place in Division One of the Combined Counties Football League.

Feltham had already entered the 2012–13 FA Vase under their own name so the club played as Feltham FC until the start of the 2013–14 season. Two Sunday sides played in the West Middlesex Sunday Football League under the Bedfont & Feltham name; one finishing second in Division One and the other winning Division Two.

The Yellows' first two seasons saw them finish in a respectable fifth place in the Division One table having been early front-runners. They reached the First Round Proper of the FA Vase in 2013-14 and also won the Middlesex Premier Cup.

The club became eligible to compete in the FA Cup for the first time in 2014-15, and reached the First Round Qualifying. The same season also saw the club win the Division One Challenge Cup and become runners-up in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup competition.

For season 2015-16, the club restructured its squad and Youth set-up. The club started strongly and for the second time in its short history made the First Round Qualifying in the FA Cup and the FA Vase competitions. This season saw the Yellows finish as runners-up in Division One, earning promotion to the Premier Division of the Combined Counties Football League. The club also reached the final of the RPM Records Division One Challenge Cup for the second consecutive season.

The Premier Division experience in 2016-17 started tough with a 2-9 home defeat to Epsom & Ewell on the opening day of the season. This seemed to pave the way for the

club's worst season since its formation: Finishing second from bottom in the Combined Counties Football League's Premier Division. This resulted in relegation back to Division One.

The club was knocked out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle and of the FA Vase at the second. On a brighter note, they reached the semi-finals of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup and the quarter-finals of the Middlesex FA Senior Charity Cup having unceremoniously exited all other cup competitions in earlier rounds. This prompted the club to appoint Garry Haylock as Manager in late April 2017.

Life back in Division One in season 2017-18 started very poorly and in consequence, Garry Haylock departed in October 2017 to be replaced by Dan Huxley. The poor run experienced in 2016-17 continued, with the club exiting the FA Cup and FA Vase competitions in the opening rounds. The club reached the Quarter-Finals of the Middlesex Premier Cup; Third Round of the Division One Challenge Cup; Second Round of the Middlesex Charity Cup and Second Round of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.

The squad saw a number of changes throughout the season and found it difficult to bond. This resulted in a bottom four finish. Dan Huxley announced his resignation at the end of the season.

The club quickly appointed former Staines Lammas manager Adam Bessent. He will attempt to arrest the mediocrity that has dogged the club since relegation two seasons ago.

The Club has retained the FA Charter Standard and is now in its sixth season. The current set-up sees a revived Sunday side and Youth teams from Under 7s to Under 10s.

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**By Matt Badcock**

EVERY SEASON in the FA Cup there is a shock. Whether it was AFC Wimbledon beating West Ham United in convincing manner last Saturday night or Barnet's magnificent run to the fourth round – and now a replay. The Bees have won away at League sides Bristol Rovers and Sheffield United before sharing a six-goal thriller with Brentford on Monday night to set-up another clash at Griffin Park.

But even though these upsets so often happen, we still hear the same tired line trotted out about the “magic of the cup”.

Invariably it is “alive and well” or the “romance still exists”. Well, of course. At these levels it never stopped. Just because some Premier League sides choose to rest players, that doesn't stop the lower league and Non-League clubs thriving in the competition.

My theory is it's just become an easy thing to say. It's an easy line for all of us in the media or on the terraces. It's so often repeated that eventually we just believe it.

But I've seen enough great FA Cup days in my time on The NLP to know that the FA Cup will keep creating memories and history every year. And maybe Barnet can keep adding to that in the next fortnight. Good luck to the Bees!

DAN SPARKES' wonder free-kick for Barnet in the 3-3 draw with Brentford was straight out of the top drawer. He's always been a player that has impressed when I've seen him over the years.

But it also serves as a reminder of perhaps one of the greatest double acts in recent Non-League memory when he was at Braintree.

In the same side as striker Sean Marks, the pair finally got on the scoresheet together against Nuneaton Borough for goals.

If only Marks & Sparkes had been able to repeat the feat in the same game as former Grimsby striker Lenell John-Lewis...

GOOD NEWS The FA are addressing an issue that often crops up around club and league allocations in the summer.

The provisional division line-ups are released on the understanding things can change between then and the leagues' AGMs.

Often a club has gone bust in between time and the domino effect can see teams moved leagues through no fault of their own.

Last season Shaw Lane withdrew late and the knock-on effect hit clubs across the country.

Wimborne were promoted to Step 3, while Banbury and Hednesford Town, at the same level, and Fleet Town at Step 4 were moved laterally across divisions.

For Fleet particularly it was a crushing blow they would never have seen coming.

The FA were bound by regulations at the time but revealed to us in last week's NLP that they've acted to change them. From now it is most likely only clubs from the same divisions will be affected – and not those hundreds of miles away.

IT was a real pleasure to speak to Ramsbottom United chairman Harry Williams recently.

His tales of more than 50 years at the Northern Premier League club were a joy to listen to as Rammy gear up to welcome AFC Fylde in the FA Trophy.

He still insists players buy some raffle tickets before they get their wages and he spends hours tending the ground that now bears his name.

In his 53 years since setting the club up, he's missed just three games. It's people like Mr Ramsbottom that keep Non-League going across the country. We applaud you all.



# The Ball is Round



## The myth of the curse of the Manager of the Month by Stuart Fuller

Ask any manager at any club around the world and they will tell you they don't care for plaudits of being the manager of the month until the season has ended. Despite being top of the Bostik League South Division for two-thirds of last season, our very own Darren Freeman didn't win a single monthly award, something that also happened when he was in charge of the very successful Whitehawk side that gained three promotions in just a few years.

But against his wishes the gaffer won the award for September in the Bostik League Premier Division, which is a fantastic achievement for him, Ross and Codge, after just a few games back at this level. In September we took seven points from a possible nine, the best record in the division. It wasn't just the results though, it was who they were against. Wins at Margate and Wingate & Finchley plus a draw against second place Enfield Town. Whilst they didn't count towards the award, we could also add in five unbeaten FA Cup ties, including the 8-1 thrashing of Molesey. Few could argue it wasn't a deserved reward for a fantastic month.

Yet ringing Darren and telling him the news was a job that Barry and I had to flip a coin for. His immediate reaction was to say he'd refuse to accept it and wouldn't attend the presentation ceremony. When I told him that as a representative of the Isthmian League board I would fine him he grudgingly accepted but, wary of the superstition of the "Curse of the Manager of the Month", he immediately banned any further talk of the award. Results in the first half of October seemed to bear out his suspicions. Consecutive defeats to Worthing, Bath City and Potters Bar Town represented the worse run of form The Rooks had had for over eighteen months. But is there really a curse? Statistics suggest that it is all in the manager's mind.

Last season the Manager of the Month in the Bostik League Premier Division won an average of 1.8 points per game in the month after they won the award. Whilst this was a slight drop from just over 2 points per game for the month in which they won it, it is still a very impressive return, almost Play-off form. The situation in the Bostik League North and South Divisions wasn't too different, with a return of 1.6 and 1.5 points respectively. But certainly not the level of poor form that most managers think.

The numbers don't tell the whole story. For all the money and hype around Billericay Town, their joint managers, Glenn Tamplin and Harry Wheeler, won the Manager of the Month award five times thanks to some excellent performances. Excluding April's award, their subsequent month performance ranged from 3 points per game in September to just 1 point per game in January. Likewise, Dulwich Hamlet's Gavin Rose only gained an average of 1 point per game in November after winning October's award, whilst Greenwich Borough's Paul Barnes could only gain 0.8 points per game in April after scooping March's award.

So next time you hear a manager talk about the curse of the award, take a careful look at their next set of results. No manager, well apart from a certain Portuguese one in NorthWest England, wants to really big up their abilities, and that's why they created the curse. If you don't believe me, then you can ring Darren and give him the good news next time!

# Game of The People

Old and new... both should always have their place

FOOTBALL fans, by and large, are nostalgists, especially those that remember the days when pitches were muddy, shirts were not emblazoned with multiple sponsors, and football managers actually said something meaningful in post-match interviews.

Ask any non-league fan, for example, their favourite locations and they will invariably tell you the old wooden ground at Clapped-out Rovers is full of character and "proper". At the same time, they will bemoan the plethora of "cookie-cutter" constructions that have sprung up in recent years.

On a personal basis, I love old grounds, but I also admire some of the new stadiums that are appearing all over Europe. There's no denying that European football has its heritage stadiums, grounds like the San Siro, the Bernabeu, Munich's 1970s classic, the Olympic Stadium and the Ernst Happel (formerly Prater) in Vienna. These have all hosted major club and international fixtures, and as such, they deserve a metaphorical blue plaque in recognition of their place in football history. The old Nep in Budapest, too, is worthy of mention in this category, even though it has made way for a new ground in the Hungarian capital.

As a child, I remember being fascinated by the geography of football and where nations played their international games. It fuelled an interest in travel and I was always excited about the prospect of moving around the continent to watch football in places like Belgrade, Prague, Paris, Brussels, Madrid and Lisbon. That early obsession with European football (which was not usual back in the late 1960s, early 1970s), has stayed with me to the present day but it was really only in the past decade that I have been able to realise my ambition of visiting all the major football grounds and clubs that I read about all those years ago. I'm still working on it, even as the UK tip-toes out of the European Union.

While it has been good to visit the homes of Ajax, Juventus and Real Madrid, most clubs have, of course, remodelled or relocated their grounds since the days when Johan Cruyff and his team-mates played at Ajax's modest De Meer stadium. Ajax's Arena is a massive, relatively new ground, not one of my favourites, but nevertheless, an impressive location. True, De Meer had that "character" stadium



GAME OF THE PEOPLE

addicts enthuse about, but just because something is new does not mean it does not warrant praise.

I was recently in Madrid for the World Football Summit and managed to get to see Real Madrid in the Bernabeu and also take a tour of the new Atletico ground, the Wanda Metropolitano. While the Bernabeu is an imposing stadium and dominates the neighbourhood, Atletico play in an area close to the airport. It is a beautiful ground, has good access points and you can definitely "breathe". This is an aesthetic football home that is a "must-see".

Similarly, another piece of "eye candy" is Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux, which was built for Euro 2016. Frankly, this is the most beautiful stadium I have ever seen, designed by the famous architect firm Herzog & de Meuron. Along with another of this company's creations, the Allianz in Munich, the Bordeaux stadium is a modern classic. Before Chelsea's owner, Roman Abramovich, shelved plans for Stamford Bridge, these fellows were working on a quite spectacular rebuild in South-West London.

There certainly seems to be a trend to build "statement" grounds which become part of the image, brand and status of big clubs. In Britain, we've had lots of new stadiums over the past 20 or so years, many have a fairly antiseptic look about them, but they are certainly functional and have, in many cases, acted as the catalyst to improve clubs and spectator comfort. It is easy to get all misty-eyed about cow-shed stands, dreadful sanitation and leaking roofs, but there are many positives about the new breed of stadium, even if some of them do look like they have come from the same kit. Gone are the days of inner-city grounds, most new builds require a hike out of the centre, but in most cases, change has been a positive. Why? Because a versatile stadium, that can offer the community more than a fortnightly game, is a huge asset for a football club. That's the world we live in today.

For me, if every stadium was like that gleaming white monument to football in Bordeaux, that world would be a much better place. That said, I also like to see old-style grounds with huge floodlights and rusty turnstiles. Don't we all?

**With thanks to Neil Jensen –  
gameofthepeople.com**

# Division One Transfer News



## **Chessington & Hook**

In: Conor Harlowe (signed from Tooting Bec)  
In: Beau Lee  
In: Sebastian Morally (signed from Colliers Wood)

## **Frimley Green**

In: Lloyd Foot  
In: Dan Thorogood

## **Eversley & California**

In: George Brathwaite-McGuinness  
In: Louis Hoptroff

## **Godalming Town**

In: Jordan Clements  
In: Donte Lodge-Francis  
In: Richie Mbele  
In: Reece Weekes

## **Farnham**

In: Adam Guest

## **Kensington Borough**

In: Bastian Dugamin  
In: Ashley Marshall

## **FC Deportivo Galicia**

In: Cleiton Sanches

## **Tooting Bec**

Out: Conor Harlow (departed for Chessington & Hook)

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Next Up for the Yellows...

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### *Introducing Sideburn Bob - The People's Champion*

*Since 1974 #sideburnbob has been gracing Non-League football programmes either as a front cover or inside a programme for various advertising, as far as I am aware he was first spotted in the 1974 Derby County Ram Boutique advert and thereafter in other various League Club programmes first appearing on the 1976 Kilmarnock programme as a front cover, from there on in fronting 100s of non-league programmes with his glory years being 1980's & 90s.*

*The mystery of exactly where Bob came from continues. Tony Williams who many of you will know from his Non-League publications wrote in the non league grounds of Great Britain that he had first spotted Bob in a 1950s football magazine and had pasted him into a scrapbook. Doubt remains on this siting as nothing was ever spotted again for over 20 years until the Ram Boutique advert. Popular suggestion is he is in fact clipart which is more plausible as Bob looks like a 70s character and famous footballer Malcolm MacDonald with his ever present partner looking like Rodney Bewes from the Likely Lads which older readers will have fond memories of. So, why do I love this character? Well simply because it brings back memories of programmes collected throughout the years. He is an iconic figure for me - some of my first memories of attending games within Non-League.*

*Throughout the 2017-18 season, there were many clubs surprisingly interested in issuing programmes with the iconic image either on the front cover or within the programme itself. Prolific issuers were Portland United, Sholing Sports and Bedfont & Feltham and big thanks goes to those 3 programme editors - and of course, to all the other editors that issued.*

*#sideburnbob the People's Champion will continue to be an iconic figure for me and the search is on for his history and collecting programmes.*

*Tony Candland.*

*Follow Tony on Twitter: @sideburnbob1*

*Sideburn Bob badges are also available from Tony as above, and Rob Healy: @robhealy73 and from the Bedfont & Feltham FC website.*

# BEDFONT & FELTHAM FOOTBALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

## Clubhouse Open 7 days a week

★ **Monday - Wednesday 5pm - 11pm** ★

★ **Thursday & Friday 3pm - 11pm** ★

★ **Saturday 12noon - 11pm** ★

★ **Sunday 12noon - 10.30pm** ★

*Enjoy the facilities.  
Membership available!*



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