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|FLEET REVIEW

EBBSFLEET UNITED V WEST HAM UNITED U2ISaturday 20 July 2024 – 3.00pm
Pre-Season Friendly #1





n early end to 2023/24 on April 20th made for a longer than usual close season – alleviated somewhat by a month of EURO2024 – but here we are back at the Kuflink Stadium, the fixtures are out and two friendlies are already behind us. Fleet football is well and truly back!

And for the curtain-raiser here at home, we welcome West Ham United's development squad for their third successive visit. Featuring a talented squad that won the FA Youth Cup as U18s in 2022/23 and finished as runners-up in the Premier League 2 last season, it will be another step up in quality for Danny Searle's Fleet after the visits to Punjab United and Cray Valley Paper Mills.

Punjab yielded six Fleet goals in our fifth successive pre-season win over our neighbours before another five rewarded the away fans in Eltham on Tuesday night as Steve McKimm's Isthmian South East champions were put to the sword.

West Ham have a number of players potentially here again having been part of their youth setup for many years and will doubtless introduce a number of their most promising U18s for the experience this afternoon also. The three previous games here have all finished 2-1 – Fleet winning in 2023 and 2021, while the Hammers were victorious in between.

This is the West Ham development squad's first friendly, with a visit to Maidenhead United to follow on Thursday. For the Fleet, we are fully into the swing of things and it might also be an opportunity for supporters to see newest signings Jephte Tanga and Tom Dallison for the first time as well.



IN THE MIDDLE...

Today's referee

The Ashford official has regularly served as assistant in Leagues One and Two while refereeing at National South level. He has run the line or been fourth official in league and cup games here since 2013 and refereed a trip to Boreham Wood in 2014. He officiated our Kent Senior Cup tie v Beckenham last season.

YOUR CLUB



CHAIRMAN ABDULLAH AAAF AL-HUMAIDI Ceo damian Irvine Direcors abdullah aaaf al-Humaidi, Dherar al-Humaidi, abdulrahman aaaf ai hanidi

CLUB SECRETARY / GENERAL MANAGER WILLIAM TAN FINANCIAL CONTROLLER NICOLA BORG-MYATT COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER ED MILLER EVENTS MANAGER CHERYL WANLESS BAR & CATERING MANAGER DEBBIE LUDLOW EVENT & RETAIL COORDINATOR MEGHAN LOVE MEDIA MANAGER KATIE HUMPHRIS CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER DAVE PLUMB MATCHDAY ANNOUNCER STEVE EAST ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS JOHN COPUS, SUE COPUS HONORARY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR JESSICA M'CQUEEN HONORARY KIT MANAGER MAGGIE DANZEY

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CLUB ANALYST MAC EGAN
ACADEMY MANAGER DANNY KEDWELL
WOMEN'S THANAGER QUINTON NAIDOO

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HONOURS

FA TROPHY 2007/08
SOUTHERN LEAGUE 1957/58
NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH 2022/23
RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER 2001/02
SOUTHERN LEAGUE, SOUTHERN DIVISION
1974/75, 1983/94
SOUTHERN LEAGUE C'SHIP CUP 1978/79
NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH PROMOTION FINAL
2010/11, 2016/17
FULL MEMBERS CUP 2000/01
KENT SENIOR CUP 1948/49, 1952/53, 1980/81,
1989/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2007/08,

KENT FLOODLIGHT CUP 1969/70 John Ullman Cup 1982/83





A WARM WELCOME BACK HERE TO THE KUFLINK STADIUM AS WE OPEN OUR THREE HOME PRE-SEASONS THIS AFTERNOON.

That welcome of course includes our opposition – one of my old clubs West Ham United where I coached in their youth sides so it's a great pleasure to have them with us today and we thank them for their part in this friendly.

It's been a couple of months, of course, since that momentous last day at Boreham Wood – we've spoken about that and how much it meant to everyone. To have so many of you there with us was huge in getting the result we needed and the opportunity to compete in the National League again this coming season.

But we move on now to a new season and we've worked hard and continue to do so in recruitment and training to make the absolute best of the

DANNY SEARLE

FRRSFLEFT UNITED MANAGER

coming campaign. I'd like to welcome all our new signings with our latest Tom Dallison and Kwame Thomas announced this week. Everyone has blended really quickly into the group and that goes a long way to hitting the ground running.

All the new signings have been the result of a carefully considered process about the types of players and the types of people we want to bring to this football club – and as you all know, we continue to run our eye over a few of the trialists in these games. Players will have to look over their shoulder this season and ensure they are really performing because we really want that competitive edge in every position.

There's plenty to look at and take on board in these warm-up matches as we make sure we're all set for August 10th. We've played some good stuff this past two games and of course there are things we can do better and things we'll develop and tweak throughout July. The only blip so far has been the injury to Rakish Bingham. It's not as bad as we feared initially but he'll be out for the start of the season and we'll be monitoring that and his recovery constantly over the coming weeks.

We go up another level this afternoon against West Ham. It's a different kind of game to what's come before against Punjab and Cray Valley and I hope an entertaining one for you all!





THE CLOSE SEASON IS A GREAT TIME FOR PREPARING BUT NOTHING BEATS HAVING THE FOOTBALL BACK ON HOME SOIL!

Welcome back to the Kuflink Stadium for the first of three home pre-season friendlies and it gives me great pleasure to open our account for the fourth season running against West Ham United's Premier League 2 runners-up.

These have been keenly fought contests across each of the three previous encounters and we're no doubt in for the same this afternoon as we continue to prepare the squad for 2024/25.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the summer – be that through season-ticket or shirt sales, or joining us for the Euros. We had a sold-out event here on Sunday night for the England-Spain final just as

DAMIAN IRVINE

FRRSFLEFT UNITED **CFO**

we did three years ago when England and Italy met for the same honours! Alas, the result was not the one that everyone here and across the country wanted but it was a pleasure to see our Main Stand bar packed out with so many enthusiastic supporters.

Last weekend also saw a visit from London Broncos as we hosted our first ever Betfred Super League game – you always get value for money on the pitch with the Broncos when they come to the Kuflink and another exciting match went the way of the visitors Castleford Tigers.

We were back with football at Punjab the night before that saw us open our pre-season programme with a 6-1 win and then on Tuesday night added a 5-1 victory at Cray Valley Paper Mills. It was your chance to welcome our new faces from a busy and carefully planned summer of acquisitions and retentions—and may I take this opportunity to wish all our new recruits to date a fruitful and enjoyable time as they embark on the season with us to represent you as Ebbsfleet United players.

We have announced a couple more this past two weeks which brings us 'almost' to close of business and the recruitment process has been a thorough, demanding but rewarding one. We have taken our time to get exactly what we have identified as being the requirement these past few months - as usual, we hope you've enjoyed the announcements and introductions and are looking forward to seeing your new heroes (and of course your old favourites) take to the pitch here.

We host Cambridge United and Crawley Town over the next two Saturdays and in between, please do come down to the open training session we are holding from 4pm on Thursday, August 1st. Drinks can be consumed in the stands while you watch and it's the perfect opportunity to meet your squad.

Today sees our partners Lyca Health enjoy hospitality in the Main Stand lounge. We recently launched a discounted rate for season-ticket holders to avail of their health facilities and we are delighted to welcome them this afternoon. They are a crucial part of our player welfare and rehab throughout the season and of course during the summer when our new signings undergo medical and fitness check-ups. On the subject of sponsorship, may I also welcome Salt & Sage Period Proof Swimwear as club partners of the men's and women's team and sleeve sponsors of the women's team this season. You will likely have seen the launch and very important part they play in empowering our women and girls. We have perimeter board, programme advertising, match sponsorships and hospitality plus player sponsorship availability before the National League season starts up - all enquiries to info@eufc.co.uk, call 01474 533796 or pop in to see us to become involved





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PUNJAB UNITED CAMPBELL (33")



THE FLEET

TRIALIST D (4'), CHAPMAN (38'), BINGHAM (50'), Phillips (54'), Samuel (60', 60'









II.07.2024 | PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY | STEVE COOK STADIUM | ATTENDANCE: 420

Fleet made it 29 goals in five seasons of pre-season competition with our ever-wonderful hosts at Punjab United as Josh Wright took home the Steve Cook Memorial Cup at the end of an entertaining 90 minutes. Fleet got off to as quick a start as last season with

Trialist D netting on four minutes. The rest of the goals were more evenly spaced out – Ben Chapman nosing Fleet back in front after Punjab had equalised against the run of play on 33 minutes. A 2-1 half-time lead was improved significantly as a pair of headers – Rakish

Bingham and new man Giles Phillips – made it 4-1 and substitute Dom Samuel secured a brace to ring up the six. The only downside to the evening was the injury to Rakish Bingham that saw him leave the field midway through the second period.







MATCH-UP



CRAY VALLEY PM 1





THE FLEET

TANNER (8'), TRIALIST A (47'), SAMUEL (70', 88'), POLEON (80')











16.07.2024 | PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY #2 | THE ARTIC STADIUM |

Steve McKimm has built a solid side at Cray Valley that withstood the pressure of a title tussle with Ramsgate to win the Isthmian South East and the Millers started well in this one on Tuesday night. However, they were undone by a well-taken Craig Tanner goal early on before forcing Louis

John and Tyler Cordner into evasive moves as the half closed out. Trialist D extended Fleet's lead two minutes into the second half to nod home Wes Fonguck's saved effort and after that Fleet went to town – Dominic Samuel struck twice with well-taken shots from the middle and those

bookended an equally clinical Dominic
Poleon finish. In amongst all that, Cray's
French attacking midfielder Julien Anau
sent an excellent curling effort into the top
corner for a consolation goal - the type of
strike he will surely kick himself about that
it came in a pre-season match!





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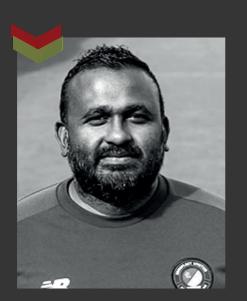
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HELLO EVERYONE AS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN RETURN TO PRESEASON TRAINING AND FRIENDLIES!

We've started pre-season with two really challenging friendlies against higher-tier opposition in Billericay Town and AFC Wimbledon.

They are quality tier-three teams and there's a reason we play these games, to test ourselves, to learn to compete and stand ourselves in good stead for 2024/25. We've not had much time to train together with people coming back from holiday etc, so I was pleased with the way everybody performed.

We will, of course, have updates for you in terms of new signings to our women's

QUINTON NAIDOO

FRRSFI FFT UNITED WOMEN'S MANAGER

squad very soon. Squads tend to transition every two years or so at this level and we're experiencing a little of that this summer. We've had some big characters leave but have retained a very good spine – at the moment we are running the rule over players to see how they adapt to us and bond in preseason. Once that process is done, we can go public with the players you'll be seeing in Fleet shirts and that's a really exciting prospect for us all.

Alongside the first-team seniors, throughout the summer we've had our girls' teams in for signing days and presentations too. It really makes them feel part of this football club as they progress their pathway from girls' to women's football.

Finally, may I thank our sponsors Grange Travel and Westways Financial once again this season and welcome on board Salt & Sage Period-Proof Swimwear which I'm sure you'll have seen launched with a really worthwhile campaign to include and empower women and girls in sport and society.



Make a Difference: You can help change a young person's life in Gravesham!

105 young people in Gravesham have been given fast, direct access to mental health support in 2023.

47 of these young people had been struggling with their mental health for **over two years** and had not accessed support. **87** have been funded as direct result of the Gravesham Community's fundraising efforts - we could not have achieved this without your vital support.

What we are doing to help our young people in Gravesham is unique in the UK! Thank you for your kind support.

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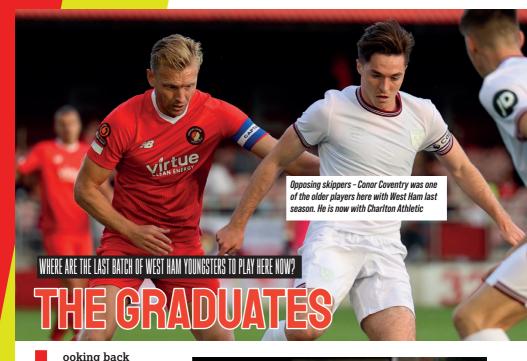
Funded by the Gravesham Community for the Young People of Gravesham.

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on the visit of a development squad, it's always interesting to see how players progress. As many as seven of West Ham's visiting side last season will have progressed beyond the U21s in the past 12 months. So just how have those seven fared since playing at the **Kuflink Stadium last** season?

JACOB KNIGHTBRIDGE

The promising former England U17 keeper

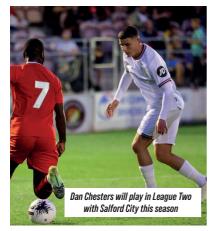


ended 13 years with the Hammers this summer, a year on from appearing at the Kuflink Stadium against the Fleet. He's only dropping a division, however, as he has signed for Championship newcomers Oxford United, having previously

been on loan at Harrow Borough.

DAN CHESTERS

One of West Ham's more senior development players this time last year having been at the club since the age of eight, the midfielder completed





a permanent move to
Salford City last month
having been loaned out
to the Manchester club
previously. He
already had
League Two

already had League Two experience from an earlier loan stay at Colchester in 2022/23.

CONOR COVENTRY

A player with plenty of loan experience at Lincoln City, Peterborough United, MK Dons and Rotherham United when he featured here for the Hammers last season. he made only one Premier League appearance for the club. The former Republic of Ireland U21 international signed for Charlton for a six-figure fee in January. He'll be linking up with ex-Fleet favourite Matt Godden at The Valley.

MICHAEL FORBES

Still part of West Ham's plans, having arrived from Northern Ireland – a route many a youth player

from the province

has taken in recent years – the centreback (*left*) intends to make big leaps on a season-long

loan at Bristol Rovers in 2024/25, having moved to the League One club earlier this month. He will play alongside former Fleet loanee Bryant Bilongo at the Memorial Stadium.

LEVI LAING

At 21 years old, the strong, technical centre-back is treading the gap between development football and a step up into the first-team squad so could still appear this afternoon – or instead be eyeing first-team squad duties.

KEENAN APPIAH-FORSON

Currently a free agent after departing West Ham earlier this summer, the midfielder spent much of last season on loan with Dagenham & Redbridge, playing alongside new Fleet signing and ex-Hammer himself Lewis Page. Appiah-Forson played in our 1-1 draw in April in Essex.

THIERRY NEVERS

A winger who promised much when he moved from Reading in 2021 aged 19. He played here twice for West Ham in preseason friendlies but after loan spells with Newport County and Bradford City, he was released in January to sign for Sheriff Tiraspol of the Moldovan Super Liga without playing a first-team game for the Hammers.



AUGUST













SEPTEMBER













OCTOBER











NOVEMBER























DECEMBER

















JANUARY contd















FEBRUARY contd

















MARCH contd



APRIL





















WEST HAM UNITED

FORMED 1895

NICKNAME THE HAMMERS

STADIUMS

London Stadium (62,500) Rush Green, Romford (U21s)

U21s LAST SEASON

REMERIEMEN 2nd ELTORIV Round of 16

YOUTH HONOURS

FA Youth Cup 1963, 1981, 1999, 2023

Premier League 2 Div.2 2020 South East Counties League 1985, 1996, 1998

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STOPPER. SKIPPER. STRIKER.

GONLKEEPER: Finlay Herrick

Stepping up from the U18 squad with the Hammers having sent two of their U21 keepers out on loan this season, Herrick made 21 appearances in the U18



Premier League last season. The teenager won the FA Youth Cup with the club he has been with since the age of six and penned his first professional deal in 2023.



NEW ARRIVAL: Luis Brown

A former Arsenal defender, son of ex-Hammers player Kenny
Brown and grandson of the legendary Ken
Brown Sr, Luis is an
England youth international capable of operating in the centre or on the left of the backline.
He spent 10 years with the Gunners, where he captained the U18s.



ONE TO WATCH: Josh Briggs

Signed from Linfield in Northern Ireland in August 2022, the centre-back won U18 honours in his first season, scoring in the FA Youth Cup Final. He is one of the latest signings on a professional contract, having signed his on turning 18 years of age in March.



STEVE POTTS

Appointed: 09.2023

Former England Schoolboy international defender who played 500 times for and captained the Hammers from 1985-2002, ending his playing career with a season at Dagenham & Redbridge. Since 2011, he has coached West Ham's various age groups, moving up from U16, U18 and U21s, becoming the latter's lead coach last year. Sons Dan and Freddie are also players, most recently at Luton and West Ham respectively.



HAMMERS: WHO'S WHO?



Emeka Adiele

Comfortable at left-back and left wing-back, Adiele is a quick, dynamic player who shows his versatility by performing both in defence and attacking positions. He is a player who contributes heavily with assists and goals.

Josh Aiala

Signed from Chelsea, Ajala has spent the whole of his schoolboy footballing career in west London. A pacy striker, who can play off both feet and has scored goals regularly throughout his time at Chelsea, he arrived ahead of the 2023/24 season.He signed his first professional contract with the cluh in November 2023

Tyron Akpata

The energetic central midfielder signed his first contract this year. A former skipper of the U18s, where he scored three goals in 26 appearances last season, he has been elevated to U21 duty this summer.

Ryan Battrum

After winning the FA Youth Cup and U18 Premier League South title, the versatile youngster stepped up for his first U21 game in March 2023. He signed professional terms ahead of last season and now moves up to the U21s.

Kaelan Casey

At the club since he was five, the defender made his senior debut against FSCB Bucharest in the UEFA Conference League and made the bench in a Premier League game v Spurs. He was another to score in the Hammers' FA Youth Cup Final triumph at U18 level.

Regan Clayton

A quick and committed attackminded defender, the flying fullback made 31 U21 appearances in 2022/23 and became involved in first-team squads. He is another to have lifted the FA Youth Cup at U18 level.

Favour Fawunmi

A left-footed winger with bags of pace, trickery and skill, he scored 10 goals in the U18's double-winning season. He made his U21 debut in March 2023 and should make the step up to that level more consistently this season.

Mehmet Halim

Signed in 2019, Halim is a powerful running centre forward who is equally comfortable with the ball at his feet. He has been a prolific goalscorer since signing for the club but missed much of his U16 season in 2022/23 with an injury. He scored four times in 11 U18s appearances last season and is now looking to make the step up to the higher age group.

Patrick Kelly

Another Ulsterman, Kelly joined from Coleraine in July 2022. A double-winner at U18 level, he made his U21 debut in 2022 and featured 20 times last season. He played 23 times for Coleraine at senior level as a 17-year-old.

Gideon Kodua

A versatile and skilful right winger, he captained the U18s to the U18 Premier League South and FA Youth Cup double in 2023. He was rewarded with his first professional contract and that season was voted as the outstanding scholar to win the Dylan Tombides Award.

Luizao

Signed in January 2023 from São Paulo in Brazil where he had played for the senior side, the 22-year-old has turned in a string of impressive performances. He featured 18 times for the development side last season.

Callum Marshall

Scorer of West Ham's goal here last season, the signing from Linfield is another former member of that U18s double-winning side. He received his first senior international call-up playing for Northern Ireland against Denmark last June and made his Hammers first-team debut in the FA Cup earlier this year. He also played on loan for West Bromwich Albion.

Ezra Mayers

Ezra Mayers is a left-sided defender who made his U18s debut as a schoolboy. Calm in possession, and with a good range of passing too, he is often the player building the attack. He penned scholarship terms ahead of last season.

Sean Moore

Dynamic winger signed from
Northern Irish side Cliftonville
lasy July, penning a three-year
deal. He was named in the NIFL
Premiership Team of the Year
and won the NI Football Writers'
Association Young Player of
the Year award. He is an U19
Republic of Ireland international.

Lewis Orford

A lifelong West Ham fan, he played a vital part in the FA Youth Cup triumph before stepping up to the U21s and being involved in the UEFA Conference League. He signed a professional deal last season ahead of 22 appearances in the Premier League 2.

Dan Rigge

Attacking midfielder who signed on a scholarship in June 2023, before being offered a professional contract only four months later. He enjoyed an impressive debut season and was part of the young double-winning side before five appearances last year at this higher age level.



HAMMERS: WHO'S WHO?



FORWARD

KAMARAI SWYFR



OLLIE SCARLES

48 DEFENDER SFAN TARIMA

Junior Robinson Played Sunday football locally in Forest Gate before being spotted aged six. The full-back signed professional terms in

2022 and a further contract in March after an impressive season. He has played for England at U15 and U17 level.

Ollie Scarles

A versatile young defender who played for the U18s at 16 years old and he signed a scholarship deal in 2022. He made his first-team debut in the UEFA Conference League against FCSB Bucharest in November 2022.

Kamarai Swyer

Winger from Redbridge who has racked up plenty of appearances with the U18s and U21s, making his first-team debut in the UEFA Conference League, Last summer he appeared for the senior side on their pre-season Australian tour.

Sean Tarıma

Newham-born defender with the Hammers since the age of nine. He won the U18 Premier League South and FA Youth Cup and signed professional terms at West Ham at the beginning of last season.

IF YOU KNOW THEIR HISTORY...

Four years before West Ham won their first FA Youth Cup in 1963, there was an equally talented young set of players who fell at the final hurdle. The Hammers have long had a proud youth tradition, that 1963 cup success the first of four wins in the competition (the most recent of which was two years ago), but in 1959 their young 'Colts' side included the future illustrious names



Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst. Despite the inclusion of those two towering figures, however, West Ham were beaten 2-1 on aggregate over two legs by Blackburn Rovers. The different paths ahead of youth footballers always makes for interesting reading – seven years later Moore and Hurst would conquer the world and write themselves into English football legend. Two of their 1959 teammates, however, would go on to play for the Fleet - Micky Brooks and goalkeeper Peter Reader, who was between the posts against Sunderland in our epic FA Cup run of 1963 (the same year, of course, in which West Ham lifted the Youth Cup). Such are the highs and relative lows of a career in the professional game!



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JULY 2023

It was an eight-match friendlies programme for the new National South champs to get the wind in their sails ahead of the new challenge.

The traditional curtainraiser at Punjab came at the slightly odd hour of 10.45am but Fleet were out of bed promptly, racing into a 4-0 lead that ended 6-0. Visits to Tonbridge and Sittingbourne yielded no problems, while a Colchester value-formoney double-header (two 60-minute games) saw the EFL side earn a narrow win in both of those. Fleet returned to

winning ways against a
Leyton Orient side that
included our new signing
Jephte Tanga and we also
saw off St Albans City (in
what can only be described
as an unseasonally wet
and cold torrent – a bit
like this year!) as well as
today's visitors West Ham.
Rounding off July was
Chelsea's confident, slick

development squad and they proved too much for the Fleet with a 6-2 win – but by then everyone was just itching to get the season proper started.

Dominic Poleon scored three in pre-season as did new boy Nathan Odokonyero – and there were two goals each for David Amoo, Shaq Coulthirst, Greg Cundle and Franklin Domi as Fleet fired 21 goals in the eight games.

AUGUST 2023

An early start of the 5th



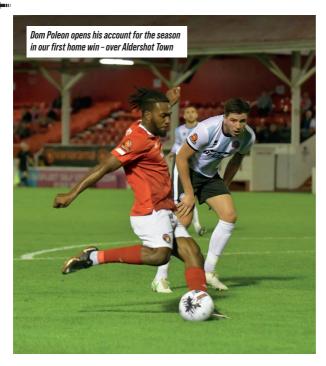
August saw six games scheduled – and Fleet couldn't have wished for a better start as Luke O'Neill's cheeky flick at the near post secured three points on live TNT Sports broadcast in the traditional David v Goliath opener of a relegated EFL team against a promoted NLS/N side.

The rest of the month saw a win one/lose one sequence that continued into early September – Aldershot, Kidderminster and York City were all beaten.

Meanwhile, there was a 4-1 defeat at Gateshead who were in control for much of the game but







the scoreline perhaps slightly flattered them – particularly as Fleet missed a late penalty.

Another defeat – but this time a narrow one – came at Barnet where Dominic Poleon scored twice in something of a to-and-fro battle before the Bees's obvious quality nosed them in front courtesy of a Nicke Kabamba hat-trick

What would have an impact on Fleet's later season, however, was the serious injury sustained by loanee signing Jack Wakely. He was really





starting to blossom in that Fleet defence but a tackle early on in the Barnet game finished his season – and Fleet's goals-against column suffered as a result.

The other defeat came in the home opener against Solihull Moors who took full advantage with their chances to open up an early 2-0 lead. However, it was another close one with Greg Cundle pulling a goal back and the Fleet were a little unfortunate not to carve out a draw – it all certainly suggested that while the level clearly



punished any lapses in concentration, the team were more than capable of holding our own.

Seven goals for Dominic Poleon in August, coupled with the wins, meant the Fleet were looking at home in the division, despite the obvious step up in quality and a tendency to concede goals a little easily.

SEPTEMBER 2023

The win one/lose one sequence ended with successive defeats to Wealdstone and Chesterfield, but again only narrowly and there seemed little cause for concern.

The first visit to
Wealdstone for a few
years came under a
searing sun – the hottest
matchday of the year
– and the two sides
were forced to play 118
minutes under it thanks
to the referee's generous
allocation of added time.

Not that Fleet could complain as, trailing 2-1 and with Chris Solly sent off, we made a superhuman effort to get back on level terms but



IFLEET REVIEW

the Stones managed to hold out despite their oneman advantage. League favourites Chesterfield, meanwhile, travelled in expectation of the three points but only just got them with a late winner at the Swanscombe End.

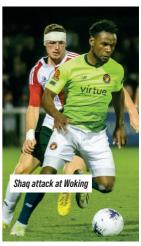
A tough draw at Woking was creditable – after falling behind to a Jim Kellermann spot kick – but then came an unexpected 6-1 defeat at Altrincham! It certainly wasn't a 6-1 type of game, especially given Fleet missed a penalty and a number of chances in the second-half, but Alty's quickfire start saw questions asked about Fleet's long-term defensive resilience.

After that long trip home, a return to winning ways thankfully followed – and it was one that would prove crucial come the end of the season). Darren McQueen scored twice to add to O'Neill's one to pull off a convincing 3-1 demolition of Boreham Wood.

It left the Fleet in 15th place by the end of Month Two – three points off the play-offs, five off the relegation zone – but the Altrincham result aside, morale was good going into October... more of which next issue.











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"Good luck to Ebbsfleet United, c'mon The Fleet!"

BY MARTYN GREEN OF THE UNTOLD GAME. FIND MORE AT THEUNTOLDGAME.CO.UK OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA @THEUNTOLDGAME



port is war... minus the shooting. Or so said George Orwell. The essayist had no great love of sport, or of football in general, but understood the tribal nature of the rivalries and how, despite FIFA's express directive, politics creeps into the game at every turn.

So when the first European Championship was created in 1960, it is unsurprising that the Cold War loomed large in everybody's minds. UEFA, working across the Iron Curtain, wanted to unify Europe in football, but some of western Europe's giants pulled out in protest at the invitation of communist teams. Which left the way open for the worst result of all, by their reckoning; Soviet victory.

The inaugural Euros
– called the European
Nations Cup – was
very unlike the modern
tournament. The opening
rounds were played over
two legs, home and away,
rather than concentrated
in a single nation. Some
16 of UEFA's 33 members

withdrew, including Italy, the 1954 World Champions West Germany and all four Home Nations.

The Soviet team, boasting stars like Valentin Ivanov (who would share the Golden Boot at the 1962 World Cup), Igor Netto and the great Lev Yashin, kicked off their campaign in Moscow in September 1958 against a waning Hungary side. In front of 100,000 fans, they saw off their opponents 3-1. The return leg in Budapest, one day short of a whole year later, was a more sedate affair - just the

80,000 fans – and was settled by a single goal to set up a tie against Spain.

The quarter-finals were due to take place in December 1959 and March 1960, but Spain at the time was under the rule of fascist dictator General Franco, and competing with the communists as equals was not an option.

He withdrew his nation from the competition, making the Soviet
Union the first team to ever qualify for the main tournament of the European Championships. They were joined by Czechoslovakia, who defeated Romania, Yugoslavia who saw off Portugal, and France, who came out on top of a pulsating, high-scoring affair against Austria.

France, the only western country to have made it to the semis, were chosen as the hosts of the final tournament, to be held in summer 1960. The Soviets were drawn against a tough Czechoslovakia side but with Yashin at his brilliant best, there was nothing their opponents could do to halt the USSR.



Yugoslavia beat France in the other semi-final. avoiding the Cold War playing out on the football field, but that didn't mean the final wasn't dripping with Eastern European political tension. Respective leaders Tito and Stalin had ended the Second World War as firm allies but as early as 1948 the two men stopped seeing eye-to-eye. Yugoslavia was expelled from the communist economic bloc and set itself apart, more receptive to western overtures. If George Orwell is right, and sport is just war without the shooting, then the final was seen as a fight for the soul of communism.

Yugoslavia started the brighter as the Soviet team struggled to cope with the muddy pitch in Paris. They scored in the 43rd minute, but at half time everything changed. Legend has it that the Soviets wore

studs for the second half and they scored right after the break, but the two sides cancelled each other out before entering a relatively new innovation; extra time.

The extra 30 minutes proved too much for Yugoslavia, who were not used to the added demands. The Soviet team, theoretically mostly soldiers, were fitter and in the second half of extra time, a headed goal secured the first ever European Championships for the Soviet Union.

The victory was tainted by the withdrawal of so many sides, but Real Madrid were impressed and made offers for five Soviet players – all were refused. Political tensions at the time made it untenable for any of the Soviet champions to cross the Iron Curtain. Not that it diminished their greatness in any way.

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TYLER CORDNER



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6 LOUIS JOHN



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8 JIM KELLERMAN



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Born: 11.04.1994

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13 HARRISON FIRTH



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2023/24 GOALS 0 138

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SHARON OATLEY & SHARON STOCKLEY

15 GREG CUNDLE



TOTAL GDALS 0 99

Born: 20.03.1997

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16 FRANKUN DOM



TOTAL ROALS GDALS 0 66

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Goalscorer(s) in bold

DATE **OPPONENTS** F-A VENUE, ATTENDANCE REFEREE LINE-UP **AUGUST** SAT 5 ROCHDALE 1-0 Crown Oil Arena / 2,830 G.Rhodes Cousins O'Neill 1 Wakely Wright 📙 Cissé 📙 1-2 A.Bannister N'Neill **SAT 12 SOLIHULL MOORS** Kuflink Stadium / 1,360 Cousins Martin -Solly [Wright Cissé 🗌 2-0 Kuflink Stadium / 1.561 I Durkin O'Neill Wriaht Clifford **TUE 15** ALDERSHOT TOWN Cousins Martin Wakely _ SAT 19 GATESHEAD 1-4 International Stadium / 947 P. Marsden Cousins Solly O'Neill Wakely Wright Clifford SAT 26 KIDDERMINSTER H. 3-0 Kuflink Stadium / 1.356 J.O'Connor O'Neill 1 Solly Nomi Cousins Wakely Wrinht MON 28 BARNET The Hive / 1.888 N McNamara N'Neill 2-3 Cousins Martin | Wakely Wright Cissé **SEPTEMBER** SAT 02 Kuflink Stadium / 1.724 M.Russell YORK CITY 4-1 Cousins O'Neill Martin | Solly Wright Nomi 1 1-2 P.Cooper O'Neill Wright Clifford SAT 09 WEALDSTONE Grosvenor Vale / 1422 Cousins Martin Solly | SAT 16 CHESTERFIELD 0-1 Kuflink Stadium / 2,063 P.Johnson Cousins O'Neil Martin | White | Hollis Wright **TUE 19** WOKING 1-1 Laithwaite Community Stadium / 2,418 A.Ajibola Cousins Cissé Solly White Wrinht Clifford SAT 23 **ALTRINCHAM** 1-6 J. Davidson Stadium / 1,683 R Ricardo Coursins Solly White Wright Nomi ORKING WANDERERS Wright THE 28 N-1 Kuflink Stadium / 1.304 F.Hallam Cousins N'Neil Hollis White Nomi **BOREHAM WOOD** 3-1 Kuflink Stadium / 1.524 A.Farme Cousins O'Neill 1 Hollis White Solly Wright | OCTOBER THE 03 EASTLEIGH 2-5 Silverlake Stadium / 1.542 I Durkin N'Neill Hollis Solly | Cousins White | Wright 0-2 SAT 07 **FC HALIFAX TOWN** Kuflink Stadium / 1,559 M Crusham Cousins N'Neil Hollis White Solly [Wright SAT 14 2-2 Kuflink Stadium / 1.134 S.Hughes Cousins Cissé Hollis White Domi Edser **SLOUGH TOWN FAC 40 TUE 17 SLOUGH TOWN FAC 40R** 0-2 Arbour Park / 779 S.Parkinson Cousins O'Neill Hollis White Domi Wright | SAT 21 AFC EVIDE 1-1 Mill Farm / 1.056 D.Richardson Cousins N'Neill Hollie White Clifford Cissé | **TUE 24** SOUTHEND UNITED 0-3 Roots Hall / 6.339 R Watkins Cousins Snllv Hollis White Olagunju Wright G.Rhodes **SAT 28** DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE 0-1 Kuflink Stadium / 1,605 Cousins O'Neill Solly [Olagunju Domi Wright Kuflink Stadium / 237 T.Osborn O'Neill Kenlock Clifford 1 Edser 2 THE 31 **CRAY WANDERERS KSC2** Cousins Cissé **NOVEMBER** SAT 11 HARTLEPOOL UNITED 2-2 Suit Direct Stadium / 3,594 D.Watson Cousins O'Neill Kenlock Olagunju Clifford 1 Wright **SAT 18 OXFORD CITY** Kuflink Stadium / 1.326 R.Ricardo Cousins Solly Kenlock Olaquniu 🗍 Clifford | Wright Kuflink Stadium / 1.159 **TUE 21** MAIDENHEAD UNITED 1-1 A Farmer N'Neil Kenlock Wright Cousins Olaquniu Cissé SAT 25 OLDHAM ATHLETIC 4-1 Boundary Park / 6,429 F.Hallam Cousins O'Neill Kenlock Olagunju Cissé Wright [DECEMBER SAT 02 KIDDERMINSTER H. 0-2 Aggborough / 2,071 R Atkin Cissé Wright [N'Neill Kenlock Cousins SAT 09 **BISH STORTFORD FAT3** 1-11 Kuflink Stadium / 586 (*3-5 on pens) F.Hallam Cousins O'Neill 📙 Kenlock White Cissé Edser SAT 16 BARNET 1-1 Kuflink Stadium / 1.488 J.Oldham Cousins Martin Kenlock White [Chapman Wright SAT 23 YORK CITY 1-1 LNER Community Stadium / 4.344 J.Mulligan Cousins Kenlock White Wriaht Martin Chanman Kuflink Stadium / 1,988 **TUE 26** BROMLEY 2-3 P.Johnson Cousins N'Neill Kenlock White Martin | Wright | BROMLEY SAT 30 1-5 Hayes Lane / 4,031 M Russell Cousins N'Neill 1 Kenlock White Chapman Wright IANIIARY SAT OR WEAT DSTONE 2-0 Kuflink Stadium / 1,511 S Parkinson Martin Kenlock White Snllv Wright Cousins 0-1 **SAT 20** Kuflink Stadium / 1,547 G Parsons HARTLEPOOL UNITED Cousins 0'Neill Kenlock Skura Cissé Wright **TUE 23** MAIDENHEAD UNITED 1-0 York Road / 985 A.Dale Cousins Olagunju Kenlock Skura [Cissé Wright **SAT 27** OXFORD CITY RAW Charging Stadium / 1,157 A.Jackson Cousins O'Neill Kenlock Olagunju Cissé Wright FEBRUARY SAT 03 Kuflink Stadium / 1,859 **OLDHAM ATHLETIC** 0-0 R.Ricardo Cousins O'Neill 📗 Kenlock Skura [Cissé Wright SAT 10 SMH Group Stadium / 8,033 S.Morland O'Neill CHESTERFIELD Cousins | Kenlock Skura Cissé Wright **SAT 17 FASTI FIGH** 3-0 Kuflink Stadium / 1,617 G.Rhodes Cousins O'Neill Kenlock Skura Bilongo Wright 1-0 Kuflink Stadium / 1,525 **TUE 20** WOKING J.Richardson Cousins O'Neill Kenlock Skura Bilongo Wright **SAT 24 DORKING WANDERERS** 4-1 Meadowbank / 1,858 S.Mulhall Cousins O'Neill 1 Kenlock [Skura Bilongo Wright MARCH SAT 02 **DOCHDALE** Kuflink Stadium / 1.723 Skura Bilongo Wright 2-1 J.Westgate Cousins N'Neill Kenlock Kuflink Stadium / 362 THE 05 **BECKENHAM TOWN KSCOF** 4-1 N Dunn Haigh White Fogarty Cissé Fanimo 1-4 **TUE 12** ALDERSHOT TOWN EBB Stadium / 2,377 A.Byrne Cousins White Kenlock Bilongo Wright | SAT 16 GATESHEAD 4-2 Kuflink Stadium / 1,560 I N'Connor Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skura | Bilongo Wright Kuflink Stadium / 867 **TUE 19 CHATHAM TOWN KSCSF** 5-3 J.Dann-Pye Haigh Solly Bilongo Cissé Nomi Fanimo FRI 29 SOUTHEND UNITED 1-1 Kuflink Stadium 4.019 L.Impev Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Bilongo Wright Skura APRII MON 01 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE 1-1 Chiqwell Construction Stadium / 1.860 F.Hallam Skura 2 Bilongo Wright Cousins Chapman Kenlock | SAT 06 2-1 Kuflink Stadium / 1,642 I Durkin Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skura Bilongo 📙 Wright _ AFC FYLDE TUE 09 SOLIHULL MOORS ARMCO Arena, Damson Park / 1,073 E.Swallov Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skura Chapman Wright SAT 13 0-2 **ALTRINCHAM** Kuflink Stadium / 1.915 G Parsons Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skura Bilongo Wright THE 16 N-N Wham Stadium, Accrington / 1,351 G Rhodos Wright | FC HALIFAX TOWN Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skurz Rilnnan **WED 17** MAIDSTONE UNITED KSC F 0-4 Hayes Lane, Bromley FC / 747 Haigh Manktelow | Shoolbred K.Demoste Solly Fanimo Cissé SAT 20 **BOREHAM WOOD** LV Bet Meadow Park / 3.011 R.Massev-Ellis Cousins Fogarty Kenlock Skura Bilonao Wriaht

YOUR COMPLETE RESULTS & STATS FROM SEASON 2023/24

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THE FINAL WHISTLE

TODAY'S FRIENDLIES

CRAY VALLEY PM V SEVENOAKS TOWN
DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE V WEST HAM
DOVER ATHLETIC V WELLING UNITED
FLEETWOOD TOWN V ROCHDALE
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN V BARNET
HERNE BAY V FOLKESTONE INVICTA
HORNCHURCH V BRAINTREE TOWN
MAIDSTONE UNITED V WOKING
OLDHAM ATHLETIC V LINCOLN CITY
ST ALBANS CITY V TOTTENHAM XI
TAMWORTH V WALSALL
TONBRIDGE ANGELS V MARGATE
WIGAN ATHLETIC V AFC FYLDE

UP NEXT FOR EUFC

TONBRIDGE (A) Tues, 23 July A repeat of last season's (very warm!) friendly which Fleet prevailed in thanks to a Josh Wright penalty (his second goal at Longmead in successive years). Jay Saunders' Tonbridge side finished 14th in last season's NLS. with a little help from Nathan Odokonvero on loan and former Fleet favourite Sean Shields.

A FRIENDLY FROM THE PAST



1999

FLEET 1-0 WEST HAM UNITED | Attendance: 2,051

A game arranged as part of Jimmy Bullard's £35,000 move from the Fleet to West Ham, this pre-season friendly in front of a healthy crowd saw the man himself line up for the Hammers in a largely youthful visiting squad, although first-teamer Samassi Abou was also in the team. Bullard almost made it an instantly glorious return, smashing a shot off the inside of the post on three minutes but the Hammers faded in the second-half after wasting a number of solid opportunities in the first 45. The Fleet switched their play from long-ball to more attractive stuff in the second-half and were rewarded a minute from the end when sub Paul Booth rode a challenge and slotted home from the edge of the box.

Fleet: Tarr (Desborough 46), Sewell (Chaplin 46), Skinner (Anderson 46),
LSFC Crawley (Booth 46), Wilkins (Gowler 76), Edwards.

Smith (Wilson 76), Jackson, Powell (Reinelt 65), Spiller, Hegley.

FLEET REVIEW

Editor, Design and Layout Ed Miller

Photography Dave Plumb, Simon Lapwood, Ed Miller, Tom Harris

CLUB OWNERSHIP

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INS AND OUTS This week



CHECKING IN... Highly-rated Maidenhead full-back Zico Asare has signed for Harrogate Town. Southend player of the season Gus Scott-Morriss has penned a new deal at Roots Hall, Returning across the Irish Sea. defender Havden Muller arrives at Sutton from Dundalk. And former National League hotshot striker Macauley Langstaff (Gateshead, Notts County) has departed Notts to join Millwall.

▼ AND SHIPPING OUT...
Hanwell Town's former
Eastbourne, Welling
and Hemel striker Josh
Oyinsan has joined
ITV2 reality show Love
Island, where he will
join up with former
Dartford defender
Ronnie Vint.





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LUKE O'NEILL	2
LEWIS PAGE	3
JOSH WRIGHT	4
TYLER CORDNER	5
LOUIS JOHN	6
JIM KELLERMANN	8
RAKISH BINGHAM	9
WES FONGUCK	10
DOMINIC SAMUEL	12
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DOMINIC POLEON **GREG CUNDLE** FRANKLIN DOMI **TOBY EDSER JEPHTE TANGA GILES PHILLIPS** NATHAN ODOKONYERO **BEN CHAPMAN** TOM DALLISON **CRAIG TANNER KWAME THOMAS**



HEAD COACH · STEVE POTTS

DONDRE ABRAHAM GK **EMEKA ADIELE** JOSH AJALA TYRON AKPATA RYAN BATTRUM **JOSH BRIGGS LUIS BROWN KAELAN CASEY REGAN CLAYTON FAVOUR FAWUNMI** MEHMET HALIM FINLAY HERRICK |GK|

GIDEON KODUA LUIZAO **CALLUM MARSHALL EZRA MAYERS SEAN MOORE LEWIS ORFORD DAN RIGGE JUNIOR ROBINSON**

PATRICK KELLY

OLLIE SCARLES KAMARAI SWYER **SEAN TARIMA**

REFEREE NICK DUNN ASSISTANTS STEVE BROWN, PAUL YATES FOURTH OFFICIAL AYDEN GILLESPIE





