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PROGRAMME

July 18 2026 — 1pm

FLEET REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF EBBSFLEET UNITED FC

WELCOME TO THE MORROW STADIUM

PRE-SEASON #1



1946-2026 | 80TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



EBBSFLEET UNITED v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR U21





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REFEREE

NICK DUNN

The Ashford referee has visited us in pre-season and in the Kent Senior Cup previously and works as the Referee Development Lead at the Kent FA. He has recently been promoted to serve as a Level 2-qualified official and was the assistant referee for the 2021 National League promotion final.



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COMPLETE RESULTS 2025/26

Date	Opposition	Score	Venue / Attendance	Referee	Starting Players					
AUGUST 2025										
Sat 9	Dagenham & Red.	2:0	Chigwell Cons. Stadium / 1,601	A.Merchant	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 16	Chippenham Town	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,275	D.England	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Tue 19	Chelmsford City	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,636	S.Hughes	Cousins	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 23	Slough Town	0:2	Arbour Park / 796	J.Allsop	Cousins	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Fielding	Nelson
Mon 25	Bath City	1:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,395	Z.Cunningham	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 30	Hampton & Richmond	2:3	Beveree Stadium / 736	C.Hathway	Cousins	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
SEPTEMBER										
Tue 2	Hemel Hempstead T.	0:0	Vauxhall Road / 724	J.Crossley	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 6	Hornchurch	1:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,566	C.Martland	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 13	Ashford T. (Midx) FAC	5:0	Kufink Stadium / 574	F.Roque	Bellagambi	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 20	Torquay United	0:1	Plainmoor / 3,246	M.Norton	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Nelson
Sat 27	Faversham Town FAC	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 874	T.Ellsmore	Bellagambi	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Fielding
OCTOBER										
Sat 4	Eastbourne Borough	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,395	T.Breen	Cousins	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Tue 7	Cray Valley (PM) KSC	4:1	Artic Stadium / 129	S.Finnigan	Bellagambi	Seaman	Manktelow	Nelson	Fielding	Kennedy
Sat 11	Solihull Moors FAC	2:0	Kufink Stadium / 849	C.Walchester	Bellagambi	Seaman	Dallison	Olagunju	Fielding	Kennedy
Sat 18	Dorking Wanderers	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,501	C.Fisk	Bellagambi	Seaman	Dallison	Olagunju	Fielding	Kennedy
Tue 21	Enfield Town	1:3	QE II Stadium / 736	W.Briers	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Dallison
Sat 25	Salisbury	2:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,113	T.Sangowawa	Bellagambi	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Hessenthaler
NOVEMBER										
Sat 1	Grimsby Town FAC	1:3	Blundell Park / 3,392	J.O'Connor	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Manktelow
Tue 4	Maidstone United	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,765	A.Merchant	Bellagambi	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 8	AFC Totton	2:0	Testwood Stadium / 1,330	S.Swan	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Manktelow
Tue 11	VCD Athletic KSC	2:1	Oakwood / 112	H.Clark	Macaulay	Passley	Anthony	Chapman	Nelson	Manktelow
Sat 15	Sittingbourne FAT	5:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,047	J.Bloxham	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 18	Weston-super-Mare	0:1	Optima Stadium / 795	H.Warner	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 22	Chesham United	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,119	B.McDonald	Hall	Seaman	Passley	Olagunju	Nelson	Chapman
Tue 25	Horsham	1:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,044	T.Ellsmore	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Chapman
Sat 29	Farnborough	1:1	Cherrywood Road / 754	J.Allsop	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Edser
DECEMBER										
Sat 6	Worthing	1:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,372	C.Hathway	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 13	Braintree T. FAT	3:1	Kufink Stadium / 572	J.Crossley	Hall	Passley	Nelson	Ehmer	Chapman	Kennedy
Sat 20	Chelmsford City	1:0	Melbourne Stadium / 1,557	H.Jones	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Fri 26	Tonbridge Angels	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,695	M.Conn	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 30	Dover Athletic	2:1	Crabble / 813	A.Hursey	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Ehmer	Nelson	Hessenthaler
JANUARY 2026										
Sat 10	Forest Green Rov. FAT	0:2	Kufink Stadium / 887	R.Watkins	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Ehmer
Sat 17	Chippenham Town	4:1	Hardenhuish Park / 649	S.Duchene	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 20	Maidstone United KSC	0:4	Gallagher Stadium / 503	A.Ajibola	Macaulay	Manktelow	Anthony	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 24	Dagenham & Red.	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,540	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 27	Maidstone United	0:3	Gallagher Stadium / 2,085	T.Breen	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Kennedy
Sat 31	Maidenhead United	3:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,089	S.Hughes	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
FEBRUARY										
Tue 3	Hemel Hempstead T.	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 895	J.Bloxham	Hall	Fielding	Coker	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 7	Salisbury	1:1	Ray Mac Stadium / 860	T.Ellsmore	Hall	Passley	Coker	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 10	Enfield Town	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,015	G.Parsons	Hall	Passley	Peake	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 14	AFC Totton	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,215	R.Wharton	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 17	Bath City	2:2	Twerton Park / 745	S.Read	Hall	Chapman	Fielding	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 21	Chesham United	1:4	The Meadow / 767	C.Fisk	Sandford	Passley	Peake	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 24	Horsham	1:1	Fusion Aviation Stadium / 846	W.Briers	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 28	Farnborough	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,197	B.Tomlinson	Hall	Passley	Peake	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
MARCH										
Sat 7	Torquay United	3:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,467	K.Morgan	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 10	Eastbourne Borough	3:1	Priory Lane / 791	D.Baines	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Barnes
Sat 14	Dorking Wanderers	1:3	Meadowbank / 1,738	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 17	Maidenhead United	3:2	York Road / 821	J.Crossley	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 21	Weston-super-Mare	1:3	Kufink Stadium / 1,215	A.Merchant	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Barnes
Sat 28	Slough Town	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,625	S.Hughes	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
APRIL										
Fri 3	Tonbridge Angels	2:1	Longmead Stadium / 1,597	S.Read	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Mon 6	Dover Athletic	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,642	C.Hathway	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 11	Hornchurch	0:1	Hornchurch Stadium / 1,220	T.Breen	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 18	Hampton & Rich.	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,686	K.Morgan	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 25	Worthing	0:2	Woodside Road / 4,002	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy

Substitutes

Hessenthaler	Chapman	Moncur	Coley	Appiah	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Samuel	Passley, Fielding, Peake, Bellagambi		
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Moncur	Coley	Samuel	Edser	Cosgrave	Passley	Kennedy	Peake	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Samuel	Seaman, Fielding, Peake, Bellagambi		
Hessenthaler	Kennedy	Peake	Cosgrave	Samuel	Moncur	Coley	Barnes	Edser	Seaman	Emher, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Cosgrave	Chapman	Barnes	Kennedy	Samuel	Peake	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Samuel	Coker, Passley, Fielding, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Moncur	Kennedy	Dallison, Nelson, Peake, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Moncur	Dallison, Nelson, Peake, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Peake	Cosgrave	Barnes	Chapman	Coley	Seaman	Hessenthaler, Olagunju, Cousins	
Kennedy	Edser	Peake	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Passley	Chapman	Barnes	Manktelow	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Seaman	Edser	Manktelow	Samuel	Moncur, Nelson, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Edser	Appiah	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Fielding	Barnes	Moncur, Peake, Coley, Bellagambi		
Barnes	Peake	Moncur	Coley	Samuel	Domi	Cosgrave	Edser, Olagunju, Cousins			
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Edser	Coley	Samuel	Moncur, Barnes, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave	Nelson	Edser	Moncur	Samuel	Barnes, Coley, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Edser	Appiah	Coley	Manktelow	Samuel	Peake	Moncur	Cosgrave	Barnes, Cousins
Barnes	Peake	Edser	Appiah	Samuel	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Coker	Manktelow	Moncur, Coley, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Kennedy	Coley	Cosgrave	Passley	Samuel	Domi	Peake	Barnes	Appiah, Anthony, Cousins
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Appiah	Samuel	Coley	Manktelow	Coker	Passley, Cosgrave, Domi, Cousins		
Hessenthaler	Kennedy	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Macaulay	Moncur	Passley	Samuel	Cosgrave	Domi, Peake
Domi	Peake	Moncur	Samuel	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Coley	Seaman	Barnes	Coker	
Domi	Peake	Moncur	Samuel	Barnes	Cosgrave	Seaman	Edser	Coley	Hessenthaler	
Hessenthaler	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Edser	Cosgrave	Moncur	Peake	Dallison	Samuel, Hall
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Samuel	Edser	Coker	Coley	Dallison	Moncur, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Edser	Moncur	Samuel	Coley	Peake	Dallison, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Samuel	Coley	Coker	Seaman	Appiah	Cosgrave, Moncur, Nelson, Macaulay		
Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Moncur	Samuel	Peake	Manktelow	Emher, Hall
Edser	Seaman	Peake	Moncur	Appiah	Manktelow	Coley	Dallison	Samuel	Coker, Cosgrave, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Edser	Coker	Emher, Barnes, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Edser	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Coker	Emher, Barnes, Macaulay	
Edser	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Coker	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Olagunju, Barnes, Manktelow, Macaulay		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Barnes	Coley	Samuel	Chapman	Kennedy	Appiah	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Peake, Hall
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Emher	Manktelow	Appiah	Peake	Cosgrave	Barnes, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Fonguck	Moncur	Peake	Barnes	Fielding	Appiah	Chapman	Olagunju	Seaman	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave	Emher, Barnes, Manktelow, Macaulay		
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Nelson	Coley	Edser	Barnes	Cosgrave, Manktelow, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Barnes	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Appiah	Coker, Fielding, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Passley	Manktelow	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave, Barnes, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Cosgrave	Coley	Appiah, Fielding, Barnes, Manktelow, Sandford			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Chapman	Cosgrave	Nelson	Coley	Appiah	Manktelow, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Emher	Cosgrave	Appiah	Kennedy	Coley	Peake, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Passley	Coley	Emher, Cosgrave, Appiah, Peake, Sandford			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Kennedy	Emher, Manktelow, Hall	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Wyllie	Appiah	Chapman	Coley	Emher, Peake, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Wyllie	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Coker	Coley	Dallison, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Wyllie	Kennedy	Coley	Moncur, Peake, Barnes, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Fielding	Coley	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Peake, Wyllie, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Wyllie	Barnes	Cosgrave	Coley	Nelson, Kennedy, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Appiah	Wyllie	Barnes	Cosgrave, Nelson, Peake, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Coker	Kennedy	Samuel	Cosgrave	Wyllie	Peake, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Wyllie	Barnes	Coley	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave, Olagunju
Chapman	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Samuel	Barnes	Cosgrave, Olagunju, Wyllie, Sandford			
Barnes	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Coker	Appiah	Olagunju	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Wyllie, Sandford
Chapman	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Samuel	Barnes	Olagunju	Cosgrave, Manktelow, Wyllie, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Samuel	Olagunju	Cosgrave	Peake	Wyllie, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Appiah	Samuel	Coley	Peake	Barnes	Olagunju	Cosgrave, Sandford





JOSH WRIGHT

MANAGER'S NOTES

— **GOOD AFTERNOON** and on behalf of all my staff, as well as players new and old, what a pleasure it is to welcome you back home for the first time since April. There may not be points at stake just yet, but running out in front of home fans after a break is always a thrill and a taste of what is to come over the weeks and months ahead.

We've worked really hard to reshape the squad in terms of the signings we have made and we have driven them hard since the return to pre-season training. That workload in the early few friendlies are the key elements during the first part of July, more so than results. Now we're at the point where the matches become that little bit more about performance. We've moved on from the two sets of 45 minutes, on to the 60/30s which we switched at Wycombe/Aveley and it will be 75/15 minutes last night and today.

I'm really pleased with how fit and purposeful we're looking. So far we're through the early games and the hard

running in really hot temperatures pretty much unscathed and it allows us to operate with the full squad. It's not just about the football we play this month. We're bedding new people in, learning about each other, making partnerships on and off the field, recognising what our tactical strengths are, where we can improve... it all knits together to make for the sort of robust squad I want and need to take us through to next April. There's still more to do, of course, but the enthusiastic approach from everybody is really invigorating and bodes well for the 2026/27 season.

Thank you to Wayne Burnett and Tottenham for sending their U21s to us this afternoon. It's a different kind of game in a mixed schedule of opposition of different strengths and approaches. But I'm looking forward to it and to the three other home matches we have ahead of us before that first league game. So enjoy the (relative!) relaxation of pre-season from the stands while we get on with the less relaxing work! **JW**



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DAMIAN IRVINE

CEO'S NOTES

— **THE WARMEST OF WELCOMES** – appropriate for this heat wave! – back to the newly renamed Morrow Stadium for the first time since mid-April. As usual, it feels like a long time but that time really does fly through the close season (which is anything but closed) for everybody involved at the club.

We have once again bid farewell to some players and welcomed others as the close scrutiny and huge detail our management staff go into during our recruitment phase begins to pay off through May and June (which, of course, is the culmination of an ongoing recruitment process that never really stops). We have worked hard to shape the squad and the fruits of that will begin from the moment we kick-off at Slough Town on August 8th. As well as players, we welcome new staff to our backroom office and medical teams, plus new interns who gain valuable working experience year on year here at the club.

The National League South continues to be a very tough division, with the two relegated sides from above joined by yet more ambitious clubs in Billericay Town, Farnham Town, Folkestone Invicta and Walton & Hersham. The money being thrown around will affect the balance of power, no doubt, but we continue to take a sensible and competitive approach to our squad-building.

Our fans and business partners continue to show such great affection and loyalty for the club through season-ticket sales and lounge memberships, player sponsorships and other advertising and sponsorship opportunities that are so important with the passing of each season, so thank you one and all for that. On a related note, your season-ticket cards are available for collection now.

Our kits (with a special new one on display today) have been very well received and have been flying out the door. Today's souvenir third kit is a colour that many have asked for but never previously been available in a Fleet shirt. Well, no more! It is just one product in our 80th anniversary merchandise range which can be bought in-store or online.

Finally, at risk of repeating myself on the subject of ownership and stadium development, any firm and new information is passed on to you immediately. The deadline for the development decision remains three weeks away and we eagerly look forward to what we hope will be a positive outcome. There has been progress on the ownership change of control, there is still paperwork and final legal work to be completed so we are loathe to make a formal announcement on that until every T has been crossed and every I has been dotted.

THE FIRST PRE-SEASON

Into our 80th anniversary, and we look back on the Fleet's first pre-season in 1946... one that had effectively lasted seven years!



— AS WE COMMENCE OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, it makes for an interesting comparison to travel back eight decades to that first summer of 1946. Parts of Stonebridge Road would look very similar – the old stand view is much the same, right down to the tea hut and flagpole. The Plough End didn't exist, instead called the College End and its backdrop wasn't Wallis Park but a canopy of trees behind which the spire of the since demolished Huggens College poked through.

Opposite, the Swanscombe End lacked any terracing and was just a bank of scrubland, flat in places and elevated

by piles of earth in others for a better view. Along the roadside, which was all fields where the business parks are now, the small Edwardian pillared stand from the old Rosherville pleasure gardens stood, roughly where Blocks C-H of the new Main Stand are situated today.

The playing surface had, for much of the duration of the war, been strewn with weeds, small rocks and stones, with the pre-war pitch invisible after six years of abandonment to grazing sheep and the odd few cattle that local farmers made use of. When the war in Europe ended in May 1945 – 10

Above:
the Fleet take on the Royal Marines side in 1946 – that view of Stonebridge Road has remained largely unchanged in the 30 years before and 80 years after this picture was taken



It hardly needs recounting again how, before the war, our predecessor club Northfleet United had for 15 years been the nursery club of today's visitors... effectively a pre-war 'U21 academy' honing future Spurs stars here at Stonebridge Road.

The last competitive football match played by the first Fleet was on September 2nd, 1939, the day before the outbreak of war with Germany. Following that 4-3 win at Dartford, the gates at Stonebridge Road were closed and the club mothballed, effectively bringing to an end the existence of Northfleet United.

Players who turned out on that day included Les Bennett, Sid Tickridge and Len Hiscoke, with a few more having returned from the Fleet to White Hart Lane that summer – Ted Ditchburn, Sid Lown, Bill Adams, Norman Evans and Roddie MacLean.



years after the pitch had been levelled and returned at a cost of a thousand pounds (half of which had been paid by Tottenham) – the grass was almost two feet high.

Fast forward to 1946, and Bennett and Ditchburn helped Spurs to promotion and later their first English league title. Spurs manager Arthur Rowe was himself an ex-Fleet player

Above:
Northfleet in
1939 with Spurs'
Ted Ditchburn
and Les Bennett
(circled)

Dartford 3, Northfleet United 4
After being a goal behind for half-an-hour, Northfleet United defeated Dartford on the latter's ground. Collins gave Dartford the lead, and soon after the interval Roberts equalised. Later Bennett, Simpson and Browne netted for the winners and Collins and Dowsett for the losers.
After the match, Mr. J. B. Lingham, Northfleet's president, and other officials visited the dressing rooms and said au revoir to the players.

Tuesday Express
KENTISH EXPRESS MID-WEEKLY
No. 1230 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1945 ONE PENNY

BRITAIN KEEPS HER WORD
WAR WITH GERMANY TO STOP AGGRESSION
PREMIER'S HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT
A STATE of war between Britain and Germany has existed since the outbreak of the Second World War. It is now the duty of the British people to stand by their word and to continue the struggle until the aggressor has been completely defeated. The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, has just made this historic announcement in the House of Commons.

FOOTBALL AFFECTED BY WAR CRISIS
SMALL ATTENDANCES AT LEAGUE GAMES
The Football League has announced that the season will be curtailed due to the war crisis. The league has decided to play a reduced number of games, and the season will end in December.

HELP!
The Football League has announced that the season will be curtailed due to the war crisis. The league has decided to play a reduced number of games, and the season will end in December.

and graduates from the Northfleet 'academy' that helped shaped Spurs post-1946 also included Bill Nicholson, Ron Burgess, Les Medley, Freddie Cox, Vic Buckingham and George Ludford.

However, while those former Fleet young guns emerged back into peacetime to rekindle their football careers with Spurs, the old Northfleet was in no shape to do the same. As described above, the pitch and derelict ground might have survived German bombs, but they were still in a state of utter disrepair and the club itself, shorn of its leader and founder Joe Lingham who had died in 1943, was little more than a memory, with a defunct committee and purposeless officials in name only.

Towards the end of 1945, there were discussions about reviving Northfleet as a Kent

League side. Tottenham had long since moved on from the pre-war nursery format and their links with Northfleet had been severed by the conflict. West Ham had been sounded out as a replacement to lend any resurrected Northfleet club their patronage but negotiations to become a Hammers nursery ended in January 1946.

To cut a long story very short, over a period of several months from late 1945, events moved quickly. Northfleet's neighbours Gravesend United had carried on playing throughout the war at local amateur level. Their ground was too small, their attractiveness to supporters negligible and their funds meagre, but they had enthusiasm and momentum on their side. Gravesend chairman Mr J. Buckley eyed the comparative grandeur of Stonebridge Road and with it the rich history of Northfleet United – and together with his committee members, they resurrected long-dead attempts to finally merge the two clubs into one 'Gravesend and Northfleet'.

The project gathered steam quickly. In March 1946, at a meeting at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend United passed a resolution to form a new 'Gravesend and Northfleet' public limited liability company, with the intention to play in the Kent League. Shares were issued and supporters pledged assistance to raise capital.

Left, top:
"Officials visited the dressing rooms and said au revoir to the players" – how it all ended for Northfleet United after their last ever game in 1939. Tottenham's Les Bennett scored one of the club's last goals

Left, bottom:
Northfleet United's final result (circled) is but a footnote in a wider history as the Second World War began

Below: we've just spent the summer telling Americans it isn't soccer, yet here we are in 1946...

Soccer At Stonebridge Road Again?
MOVE TO FORM GRAVESEND AND NORTHFLEET F.C.

FOOTBALL may return next season to the Stonebridge Road ground, Northfleet, for years the home of Northfleet United, and a ground where many giants of the game have played.

the A.P.C.M., and an offer to acquire the stands which were owned by Northfleet United F.C., and certain equipment.
The grandstand would hold 1,000, and the small stand between 100 and 120.
The rent would be £100 the



GRAVESEND AND NORTHFLEET F.C. —Fred Lester, well known as a former Gillingham and Sheffield Wednesday player, talks over the prospects with Mr. J. Davies (vice-chairman of Gravesend F.C.), one of the promoters of the proposed Gravesend and Northfleet F.C.

Stonebridge Road's landlords APCM offered the new entity the two stands that Northfleet owned and equipment still at the ground for a £100/year rent, rising to £150 through to 1950.

Northfleet United officially died in April 1946 at a meeting at Factory Hall, just up the road at the top of Stonebridge Hill, when incumbent chairman WJ Treadwell declared *"It is impossible for Northfleet to continue in the present circumstances. We regret this action has been unavoidable and wish the new club the very best in its future endeavours."* Gravesend agreed to pay £1,000 to transfer all the old club's remaining assets to its name.

The new directors decided at that point to raise their ambitions with an undertaking to appoint a full-time manager and they also recommended applying to the Southern League, instead of the Kent League. Until the new manager was in place, they put former Gillingham player Fred Lester in charge as temporary manager (he would go on to become the Fleet's permanent

manager from 1947) and he made initial signings of mainly amateur players.

Gravesend & Northfleet, as a public limited company, was incorporated on June 3rd, 1946, and the club was accepted into the Southern League the very next day. Within three more days, the new manager was appointed – former Hearts, Chelsea and Middlesbrough centre forward, Andy Wilson. The new man was well regarded, having fought and lost use of a forearm at the Battle of Arras in 1915, a disability that didn't stop him later scoring 13 goals in just 12 appearances for Scotland (nor from being a talented golfer and snooker player). He also managed Walsall before the Second World War. The first professional players arrived that month, including the manager's two sons, Andy Jr and Jimmy (who was still in the RAF in India). Recruitment was far from complete, however, and would continue right up to the week of the first league match.

From the end of June, volunteers including the Boy Scouts laboured at

Above left: Former Scotland international Andy Wilson was the Fleet's first manager but (above right) the man who succeeded him in 1947, Fred Lester, was also placed in temporary charge in the spring of 1946

the ground to bring it up to a playable standard, with £200 in costs paid out for specialist help to remove larger obstacles and flatten areas. Weeds were cleared, two-foot-high grass cut, surfaces rolled... but even well into July, there was still a considerable amount of work to do. The club offered free season-tickets to any supporter giving in excess of 25 hours voluntary work as the clock ticked down to the end-of-August kick-off.

Training began for the new club on August 6th at Stonebridge Road, giving the players just over three weeks to bond. Without a full side as yet, the club welcomed "players who have asked for a trial or who are keen to play" to turn up alongside those already signed. Local talent was expressly encouraged to apply and a number of players were signed this way, including future stalwarts Len 'Truxy' Wakeman and Sam Chambers. Manager Wilson trained the players himself in the absence of help, which eventually arrived when ex-Liverpool player Ted Harston – Division Three North's all-time top scorer – was appointed two weeks before the season began.

The club's actual pre-season programme was limited to just two games, both trial matches. The first on August 17th – an unseasonally wet affair – was a public trial match at Stonebridge Road in front of 800 people to benefit Gravesend Hospital.

The second friendly was due to be played against Gillingham at Priestfield to raise money for Kent League clubs' post-war restoration fund but the Fleet ended up pulling out to stage another trial game at home.

A week before the big kick-off, the Fleet's Southern and Kent League sides faced each other, watched by 1,600 people at Stonebridge Road, the largest gathering at the ground for almost seven years. It did not bode well. The forwards in

particular came in for criticism, with "passing and shooting that was inclined to be erratic and there was a tendency to overkick." Several promising moves by forwards on both sides were "spoiled by indecision in front of goal". Proof, if it were needed, never to get too concerned about pre-season results... even in 1946!

The defenders, by all accounts, were a bit better... "they seem to be adequate" was the *Maidstone Telegraph's* far-from-effusive view but there was no time left to do anything more about it. The two trial games and the first-teamers hand-picked over two months by Andy Wilson would have to suffice to see the new Gravesend & Northfleet through the first game of its existence and on into the future.

That came a week later on August 31st, 1946, against Southern League runners-up Hereford United. The band of the 402 Squadron ATC played in front of the Mayor and Mayoress plus up to 6,000 eager new supporters. The Fleet kicked-off at 3.30pm. A new era was born.

And here we are, 80 years later...

GET RID OF THE FLEET!

"Cheer, cheer, here come the... Twin Towners..."

Not quite got the same ring about it, has it? Yet before GNFC began in 1946, the local paper was frowning on the use of the nickname 'The Fleet' – saying that Northfleet's old nickname "will not do" for the new Gravesend and Northfleet FC!

Thankfully, it was ignored but it does beg the question, if not the Fleet, what might we have been called for the past 80 years instead?!

EVERY football club has a nickname and one is needed for the new Gravesend and Northfleet F.C.

Gravesend F.C. were always called the "Shrimpers," and Northfleet United were generally referred to as the "Cementers" or the "Fleet."

But none of these names will do for Gravesend and Northfleet F.C. Here is a chance for local soccer fans to put their thinking caps on and suggest something that will be suitable to both Gravesend and Northfleet people.



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

Match Review



EBBSFLEET UNITED

- 1 Buse
- 3 Vokins
- 5 Gbadebo
- 7 Ogunleye
- 8 Edser
- 11 Seaman
- 12 Nelson
- 14 Samuel
- 16 Kennedy
- 17 Peake
- 18 Box

FROM 60 MINS

- 1 Hall
- 2 Passley
- 4 Hessenthaler
- 6 Vennings
- 9 Oteh
- 10 Appiah
- 15 Tizzard
- 19 Barnes
- 20 Manktelow
- 22 Chapman
- 25 Walker





Aromolaran 76

Photos: ©EUFC/Ed Miller

1-4



OG 17, Box 43
Seaman 56, Barnes 74

PARKSIDE STADIUM | 14 JULY 2026 | PRE-SEASON

MATCH REPORT

[Click here for full photo gallery](#)

The goals flowed at Aveley as Fleet's pre-season ramped up another notch ahead of a return to home soil this weekend. The Millers, runners-up in last season's Isthmian Premier, had already beaten Folkestone Invicta in pre-season and they lined up with a full-strength side that included former Fleet midfielder Matt Johnson (although with rather less hair than when he played in red!).

On another baking evening with the sun still casting half the pitch in its glow, the Fleet made most of the early running and they were rewarded on 17 minutes when Lennon Peake slung a free-kick over from the right that came off an Aveley head to loop into the net.

It was the visitors who continued to enjoy possession and Will Buse was rarely troubled in the Fleet goal. Toby Edser, Jake Vokins and Dom Samuel tried their luck until shortly before half-time, Daniel Ogunleye opened the defence with a ball wide to Samuel. He played it across the box, stranding the last defender and goalkeeper, allowing Olly Box to run in and convert his side's second goal of the evening.

It was all-change on the hour mark for the Fleet, but not before Charlie Seaman produced one from his bag of tricks. After a foul on Ogunleye, he stepped up to smash a free-kick into the roof of the net, reminding us all that the ongoing France-Spain World Cup semi-final was a mere sideshow by comparison!

Ben Chapman and Finlay Barnes had good efforts to extend the lead and it was Barnes who fine-tuned his range to make it 4-0 on 73 minutes, sizing up his target before sending a great shot into the top corner from the edge of the box. Aveley grabbed a consolation almost immediately when Toby Aromolaran was first to a ball down the middle but the hard work was done by then ahead of two games in two days this weekend.



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2026-27 FIXTURES



August

Sat 08 - Slough Town
Arbour Park

**Sat 15 - Folkestone Invicta
Morrow Stadium**

Mon 17 - Chelmsford City
Melbourne Stadium

**Sat 22 - AFC Totton
Morrow Stadium**

Sat 29 - Farnborough
Cherrywood Road

**Mon 31 - Horsham
Morrow Stadium**

September

Sat 05 - Walton & Hersham
Elmbridge Sports Hub

**Tue 08 - Hemel Hempstead Town
Morrow Stadium**

**Sat 12 - Salisbury
Morrow Stadium**

Sat 19 - Emirates FA Cup 2Q
tbc

Sat 26 - Tonbridge Angels
Longmead Stadium

Sat 03 - Emirates FA Cup 3Q
tbc

October

Sat 10 - Hampton & Richmond B.
Beveree Stadium

**Sat 17 - Weston-super-Mare
Morrow Stadium**

**Sat 24 - Maidenhead United
Morrow Stadium**

Tue 27 - Maidstone United
Gallagher Stadium

Sat 31 - Truro City
Truro City Stadium



November

Sat 07 - Chesham United
Morrow Stadium

Sat 14 - Isuzu FA Trophy R2
tbc

Sat 21 - Dorking Wanderers
Meadowbank

Tue 24 - Billericay Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 28 - Farnham Town
The Memorial Ground

Sat 5 - Torquay United
Morrow Stadium

Tue 8 - Slough Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 12 - Isuzu FA Trophy R3
tbc

Sat 19 - Folkestone Invicta
Cheriton Road

Sat 26 - Dagenham & Redbridge
Morrow Stadium

Mon 28 - Dover Athletic
Crabble

Sat 02 - Braintree Town
Cressing Road

Sat 09 - Hampton & Richmond B.
Morrow Stadium

Sat 16 - Tonbridge Angels
Morrow Stadium

Sat 23 - Salisbury
Raymond McEnhill Stadium

Tue 26 - Billericay Town
New Lodge

Sat 30 - Dorking Wanderers
Morrow Stadium

February

Sat 06 - Chesham United
The Meadow

Sat 13 - Truro City
Morrow Stadium

Tue 16 - Maidstone United
Morrow Stadium

Sat 20 - Maidenhead United
York Road

Tue 23 - Hemel Hempstead Town
Vauxhall Road

Sat 27 - Farnborough
Morrow Stadium

Sat 06 - AFC Totton
Testwood Stadium

Tue 09 - Chelmsford City
Morrow Stadium

Sat 13 - Walton & Hersham
Morrow Stadium

Sat 20 - Horsham
Fusion Aviation Stadium

Fri 26 - Dover Athletic
Morrow Stadium

Mon 29 - Dagenham & Redbridge
Victoria Road

Sat 03 - Braintree Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 10 - Weston-super-Mare
Woodspring Stadium

Sat 17 - Torquay United
Plainmoor

Sat 24 - Farnham Town
Morrow Stadium

March

April

December

January



Former Fleet youngster Shilow Tracey playing for Spurs here in 2017. He has just been released by Crewe

THE GRADUATES

Where are the Spurs U21s players now who played against the Fleet in previous seasons?

— THIS WILL BE THE FOURTH MEETING between the Fleet and Tottenham's young prospects in the past nine years or so. In 2024/25 we drew 1-1 in the National League Cup (Spurs winning on penalties), while pre-season friendlies in 2019 and 2017 also paired the two sides, resulting in a 2-2 draw and 3-1 victory respectively.

Since we last met in October 2024, several Tottenham players that night have moved on. But how have the careers of Spurs players who played against us in the past progressed since?

Defender **Max Robson** spent 15 years at Tottenham before he left the club last summer, going on to sign for Forest Green Rovers. He played here at Stonebridge Road for them in last season's FA Trophy, although that was one of only seven games in which he featured last season.



Left: ex-Spurs U21 Max Robson (right of photo) was here back in January with Forest Green Rovers

The most prominent player from that squad in terms of his career since leaving Spurs is **Jaden Williams** who signed for Colchester United and played 35 times in League Two last season.



Others who featured against us that night were **Maxwell McKnight** who signed for Brentford's B-team, **Jahziah Linton** who moved to Dubai to sign for Arabian Falcons (managed by Jonjo Shelvey) and **Yusuf Akhamrich** who has just joined Leyton Orient on loan. More young Spurs who have had less luck since leaving are **Will Andiyapan** who has dropped into the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division with Colney Heath (where he was voted Players' Player of the Year) and recently released **Tyrell Ashcroft**, **Leo Black** and **Dante Cassanova**, all currently without a new club.

In our other meetings in 2017 and 2019, several young Spurs of the time – many of them ex-England youth internationals – have progressed to a professional career,



although none have really made it as Premier League stars.

Dennis Cirkin has spent the last five years in Sunderland's defence, winning promotion from League One and the Championship with the Black Cats, although he only made nine Premier League appearances in 2025/26 and departed the club this summer.

TJ Eyoma went on to make 140 EFL appearances with Lincoln City and Northampton Town and is currently with Lommel in Belgium.

Above left: Jaden Williams takes on Tom Dallison here in 2024 and (above) getting a regular start in League Two with Colchester United last season

Dennis Cirkin against the Fleet in 2019 and as a regular at Sunderland in more recent years



Tashan Oakley-Boothe was another to play for Lincoln City as well as Stoke City in the Championship before a spell in Portugal. He was back in the headlines this season with Dunfermline Athletic where he scored the winning penalty in the semi-final to take them to a Scottish Cup Final against Celtic, where he played at Hampden Park. Others to have made it in the Championship include winger **Dilan Markanday** who was at Blackburn Rovers (and later Aberdeen and Leyton Orient) and is currently at Chesterfield.

Luke Amos had a couple of seasons with QPR before moving into the Scottish Premiership with Hibs. Now 29, the player who featured here for Spurs in 2017 then went to Perth Glory in Australia and is currently in South Korea with Paju Frontier.

Paris Maghoma is one of only two currently playing in the Championship. After leaving Spurs, he was with Brentford, AFC Wimbledon, MK Dons and Bolton Wanderers before joining Norwich City for a fee earlier this year. His brother Christian (also with Spurs as a youth) was a one-time Fleet transfer target who has just left Dagenham & Redbridge.

The other current Championship player is **Japhet Tanganga** who



appeared here in Spurs' 3-1 defeat in 2017. He went on to feature for Millwall, where he won the player of the year in 2024/25. He joined Sheffield United last season for a fee approaching £10 million.

Winger **Keanan Bennetts** moved to Germany to feature for Borussia Mönchengladbach and also played in Austria and on loan for Ipswich Town. He returned to England to help Notts County to promotion to League One last season but was released in May.

Another Spurs youngster to move abroad was **Brooklyn Lyons-Foster** (brother of former Tonbridge defender Kodi) who is currently in Finland with HJK Helsinki where he has played in the UEFA Conference League.

Three ex-Spurs players featured in the EFL for Cambridge United. Our own former youth player **Shilow Tracey** played for them before time with Crewe Alexandra, from where he was recently released. Gravesend-born **Ryan Loft** – who was also a Fleet youth player – is currently a Cambridge player, after turning out for Carlisle, Scunthorpe, Bristol Rovers and Port Vale. And Malawi international **Jubril Okedina** played more than 100 times for the U's before a short spell in Dublin with Bohemians. He is now back in England looking for a new club.

Left: Tashan Oakley-Boothe marks Callum McGregor in the Scottish Cup Final last season and (above) playing here seven years ago

Below: former Spurs youth Ryan Loft, now at Cambridge, attended Northfleet Technology College



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ZAIRE'S FEARS



After a World Cup peppered with “minnow” nations, including England’s opponents DR Congo, we recall the 1974 incident from that country’s first appearance

— IT’S ONE OF THOSE

THINGS THAT, after seeing it, you never forget. In the 1974 World Cup, minnows Zaire (as DR Congo was known until 1997) took on the might of reigning champions Brazil. Amateur players, on the biggest stage, against the greatest stars in the world. Brazil did a professional job, and were 2-0 to the good

going into the final moments. They got a free kick, on the edge of the Zaire box, but as they discussed what to do with it Mwepu Ilunga broke from the wall and smashed the ball upfield. He was booked, and became a laughing stock for not knowing the rules, an example



many said of why the World Cup should have higher standards for qualification. But, it turned out, he knew exactly what he was doing.

As a youth, Ilunga joined TP Mazembe, in Lubumbashi, and was part of what became one of the most successful teams in the country.

Mazembe won the league title in 1966, 1967 and 1969, coinciding with a young Ilunga’s early presence in the side. They won it again in 1976. They also won the Congo Cup in 1966 and 1967, and in 1976. Most impressively, the club won the African Cup of Champion Clubs,

Above:
Jairzinho puts
Brazil ahead
against Zaire
in 1974

the precursor to the African Champions League, in 1967 and 1968. At the end of the 1960s, Mazembe were the best side on the continent. Their success was the country's success, as the national side benefited. Zaire won the African Cup of Nations in 1967, and with Ilunga in the team from 1971, they won it again in 1974. It was perfect preparation for the World Cup in West Germany. The players made their way to Europe in high spirits.

It was only after they arrived in Germany, with a schedule that meant months away from their families, that things began to fall apart. Word got around that promised bonuses had been intercepted by the dictatorial Mabutu regime, which had been eager to praise the players when it was convenient for propaganda. There was talk among the squad about whether they should refuse to play, but when they tried to strike for their second match against Yugoslavia (having already lost 2-0 to Scotland), they were threatened with imprisonment upon their return. They played, intentionally poorly, and lost by a humiliating 9-0.

This was not the propaganda that Mabutu had intended by sending the African champions to Europe. He sent another message to the side as they prepared for their second game; any scoreline worse than a 3-0 defeat, and the players would not be welcome to return home. There was a problem with this, however. Even if the players had been motivated and at their best, their opponents were the reigning World Champions. It was entirely possible they could lose by a bigger scoreline, even with maximum effort.

To their credit, Zaire coped relatively well with Brazil, despite going 2-0 behind. And then they got that famous free kick, and with it a chance to take Zaire's players' literal survival to the wire. Ilunga made a decision.

He burst from the wall, and put his foot through the ball. His plan was to get himself sent off, hopefully avoiding the consequences of an embarrassing defeat. I'm not entirely sure how dictators treat players who cost their team by getting sent off, but it doesn't seem the brightest of ideas. Regardless, the Romanian referee merely booked him, and the footballing world laughed at the 'poor little Zairean' who didn't understand the rules. It was humiliation of a different kind.

Brazil did score a third in the closing stages, but it was within the margin that Mabutu had demanded. Even so, he was furious when the players returned home, and with him most of the country who had hoped to see their heroes give them some national pride. They were treated as pariahs, and the football association withdrew from the qualifying campaign for the 1978 World Cup as a result.

Later in his life, when it was safer to speak freely, Mwepu Ilunga – who died in 2015 – explained himself. It was an act of frustration on all counts; against the regime, against the way the Zaire football association had failed to stand up for the players, and against the Brazilian players who had apparently made sarcastic comments throughout the game. He had wanted to get sent off, yes, but mostly Ilunga just wanted to show his anger at the charade that was taking place around him. As far as he knew, there was a prison cell waiting for him when he got home, and he was supposed to be playing with pride.

His explanations mostly fell on deaf ears. Any compilation of footballing gaffes will include the 'silly' player who didn't understand the rules. But for Mwepu Ilunga, his was an act of pride and dignity, even if the rest of the world couldn't see it.

Below:
the infamous
free-kick
moment





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Goals | 0

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PRE-SEASON 2026/27

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR U21





WELCOMING SPURS

It's the first of our home friendlies for 2026/27 and the first here under the new 'Morrow Stadium' banner of our sponsors, with Tottenham Hotspur being the first of successive U21 visitors this week.

Wayne Burnett's side finished in eighth place in last season's Premier League 2 – a league they won three years ago – and weren't far off repeating that feat. The PL2 format means a set number of clubs make it through to an end-of-season Round of 16 knockout format, where the winning finalists take the title. In the case of today's visitors, they reached the semi-finals, only to lose to eventual champions Brighton & Hove Albion.

Six U21 talents — Pele Arganese-McDermott, Tyrell Ashcroft, Leo Black, Dante Cassanova, Matthew Craig and Calum Logan – departed in the summer along with four from the U18 squad: Elijah Upson, Jamel Beggs, Samal Bangura and Leon Myrtaj. A couple of players have also gone on loan to EFL clubs, with the stars of the side – Mikey Moore and Will Lankshear – expected to complete moves before the start of the new season. Spurs have since added Cole Ramsey from Aston Villa to their U21 ranks while they have a number of players who gained valuable experience by featuring in senior football via EFL loans last season.

After today's game, Spurs go on to meet more non-league opposition in Boreham Wood and two recent NLS teams – promoted Hornchurch and relegated Enfield Town.

The Fleet are, of course, well into the swing of things with five away friendlies now behind us (Canvey Island, Dartford, Wycombe Wanderers, Aveley and last night Brentwood Town) so expect more minutes into the legs of players rather than the two sides per 45 minutes that has featured up to now. West Ham's U21s follow hot on the heels of this one, on Tuesday evening.

**MANAGER****WAYNE BURNETT**

Former Leyton Orient, Plymouth, Huddersfield and Grimsby midfielder who followed that with a management career in non-league with Fisher Athletic, Dulwich Hamlet and Grays before two years in League Two as manager (and before that assistant) at Dagenham. He has been with Spurs' academy since 2017.

**FAST FACTS**

Best PL2 season:
Winners, 2023/24

Last PL2 season:
8th, 2025/26

FA Youth Cup last season:
Round 3 (lost to Brighton)

Best FA Youth Cup season:
Winners (1970, 1974, 1990)

Ground: Hotspur Way,
Enfield

**LAST FIVE GAMES**

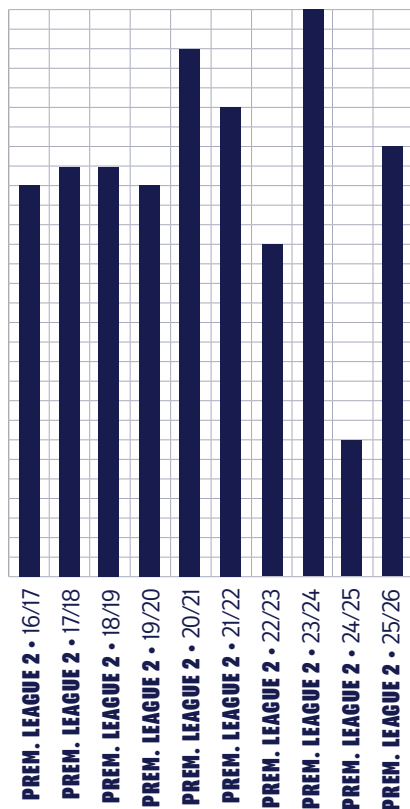
Spurs U21 1-3 Brighton U21
(PL2, 8 May)

Chelsea U21 1-3 Spurs U21
(PL2, 1 May)

Spurs U21 1-0 Leicester U21
(PL2, 24 Apr)

Blackburn U21 0-2 Spurs U21
(PL2, 17 Apr)

Spurs U21 1-0 Wolves U21
(PL2, 10 Apr)

TEN-YEAR RECORD | TOTTENHAM / PL2**NEXT UP...**

West Ham U21 (H)
21.07.26 / 7pm

The now traditional visit of West Ham's U21s is up next and Fleet will be looking to continue the good results against the young Hammers over the past few seasons. We won 2-0 in each of the last two summers and 2-1 before that, with the Hammers winning the other clash, in the National League Cup, in January 2025.



THE ONES TO WATCH



JAMES ROWSWELL

SIGNED : From youth team, March 2024
POSITION : Defender
D.O.B. : 13 July 2006 (aged 20)

Versatile performer who can play either as a centre-back or right-back. An U17 Premier League Cup-winner, he joined the Spurs youth setup aged just five years old. He was capped by England at U16 level. After a couple of first-team squad inclusions as substitute, he made his Premier League debut in March at Anfield.



RONNY MONCUR

SIGNED : From youth team, July 2024
POSITION : Midfielder
D.O.B. : 14 October 2007 (aged 18)

We've had two Moncurs at the Fleet before, so here's a potential third. Cousin of George and Freddie, and nephew of ex-Spurs player John, the youngster joined the club initially aged eight. Part of the U17 Premier League Cup-winning squad in 2024/25, he made his U21 debut that season as well.



RIO KYEREMATEN

SIGNED : From youth team, July 2021
POSITION : Midfielder
D.O.B. : 9 June 2005 (aged 21)

A goalscoring central midfielder and one of the older players in the squad, he has been at Tottenham since the age of eight. He has featured regularly for the U21s over the last two seasons, helping Spurs to the PL2 title in 2023/24. He also won the U18 Premier League Cup in 2022/23 and scored here in the NL Cup.

51

APPEARANCES

4

GOALS

82

APPEARANCES

8

GOALS

135

APPEARANCES

26

GOALS

**GEORGE ABBOTT**

England U19 who has plenty of EFL experience on loan with Notts County, Wycombe Wanderers and Mansfield Town. He made his first-team debut in 2023 and went on to captain the U21s to the league title.

**MIRACLE ADEWOLE**

Stuttgart-born right-sided wide player who has caps for Germany's U16s. He signed his first professional contract in April 2025 and has since played in the UEFA Youth League and National League Cup.

**DAMOLA AJAYI**

The winger was on loan at Bromley last season, when he also featured in League One for Doncaster Rovers. He scored on his debut during Spurs' successful Europa League campaign in 2025.

**SAM ARCHER**

The goalkeeper was born and raised in Hertford and played for local side Hertford Town as a youngster before joining the Academy. He has played for Barton Rovers on loan.

**CAREY BLOEDORN**

Born in Pakistan but grew up in Milton Keynes, the 20-year-old was previously at Norwich City. He spent time on loan at Aveyly in the National League South during the 2024/25 season.

**HARRY BYRNE**

The Irish left-back has been with the club since the age of seven. A dead-ball specialist, he is an U17 Premier League Cup winner and earned his first international call-up for the Irish U19 side.

**JAMIE DONLEY**

Attacking midfielder who has scored twice in eight games for Northern Ireland. The 21-year-old has played in the EFL with Leyton Orient, Stoke City and Oxford United and in the PL three times.

**ALFIE DORRINGTON**

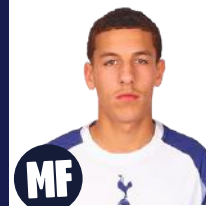
Capped 13 times from England U15–U19 level, the centre-back was signed from Cockfosters' youth side. He has played on loan for Aberdeen and Salford City in recent seasons.

**REISS ELLIOTT-PARRIS**

The 18-year-old Leytonstone striker signed a new deal this summer, having scored 13 times in all competitions at U18 level last season. He also made his debut for Guyana's U20s.

**LUCA FUNNELL-GILL**

Centre-back who signed from Liverpool in February 2025, where he featured in the Reds' U18s and U21s. Before that he played for Preston North End's youth team. He is on a contract to 2028.

**TYE HALL**

Born in Warrington, the central midfielder was the club's U18s captain. He turned professional in 2024 and signed a new long-term contract earlier this year. He is the son of ex-QPR player Fitz Hall.

**TYRESE HALL**

Current Jamaican international whose first cap was a World Cup play-off against DR Congo. He spent last season on loan with promotion winners Notts County, where he scored seven goals.

**MALACHI HARDY**

With almost 30 caps at England U15-U18 level, the defender started training with the Spurs first-team as an U18 player. A commanding, mature and calm centre-back, he signed his first deal in March 2025.

DF**OLIVER IROW**

Former England U17 international who signed his first contract in 2023. Since then, he scored on his debut in a loan spell with Mansfield Town and signed a contract extension at Spurs until 2028.

FW**MAESON KING**

A left-sided defender who has just signed a new deal, he played a key role in the U21s' Premier League 2 title in 2023/24. He fought back from injury last season to make eight appearances in PL2.

DF**ELLIS LEHANE**

Having made his FA Youth Cup debut while still a schoolboy in 2022, the striker has attracted interest from Italian clubs. He signed his first professional contract this time last year.

FW**AARON MCGUIRE**

On loan at Hampton & Richmond Borough at the end of last season, playing against the Fleet here in April, the Republic of Ireland U21 has a contract at Spurs through to next year.

GK**MAX MCFADDEN**

A signing from Leeds United in July of last year, the 20-year-old attacking midfielder has also spent time in the youth ranks of Colchester United, West Ham and Southend United.

MF**MASON MELIA**

A full Republic of Ireland international born in Wicklow, he played 75 times for St Patrick's Athletic before moving to London. He is the youngest ever player to play in an FAI Cup Final.

FW**CALLUM OLUSESI**

Having represented England from U16-U20 level, the Lambeth-born midfielder made his debut as a substitute for Djed Spence at Liverpool in March, having already played in the Europa League.

MF**COLE RAMSEY**

The newest arrival to the squad, the young attacking midfielder joined from Aston Villa earlier this month. He spent 13 years with the Midlands club, winning the U18 Premier League title in 2024/25.

MF**REISS-ALEXANDER RUSSELL-DENNY**

Central midfielder who made the switch from Chelsea in February 2025 on a three-year deal. He won U18 honours with Chelsea and has since represented England at U17-U19 levels.

MF**ELISHA SOWUNMI**

The winger has played here for the past two summers for West Ham United's U21s, making the move to Spurs in January for an undisclosed fee. He had been at West Ham since U8 level.

FW**TYNAN THOMPSON**

England U18 player and lively left winger who helped Spurs lift the U17 Premier League Cup. He has scored 23 goals in various youth competitions since entering U18 football.

FW



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David Kerslake in Tottenham
colours during the 1994/95 season

KERS OF THE SPURS

Recalling our assistant manager's White Hart Lane days

— **OF ALL THE PLAYERS WHO** David Kerslake casts his eye over at Fleet training sessions, it's perhaps our right-sided defenders who have most to gain from the assistant manager's coaching. For it was the right-back position that delivered 300 appearances in the Football and Premier Leagues for Kers in his playing-days prime.

Born a little over a month before England's 1966 World Cup triumph, Kerslake won 29 England Youth caps, a record at the time. He started out with QPR in the early 1980s alongside players such as David Seaman, earning his debut off the subs' bench in 1985 – on the very same day that his opposite number in the Newcastle United

dugout also took his first steps in the game, a certain Paul Gascoigne!

He had reached almost 200 games for the Hoops, and later Swindon Town and then League champions Leeds United, before he became a Spurs player in 1993, costing the North London club almost half a million pounds.

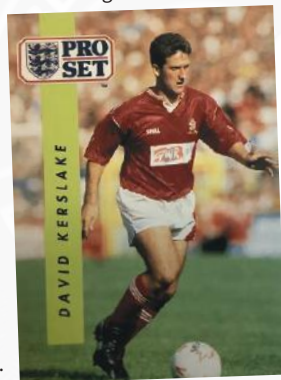
In his four years at Spurs, Kerslake lined up alongside some excellent players – Teddy Sheringham, Darren Anderton, Sol Campbell, Jürgen Klinsmann and the late Justin Edinburgh to highlight just a few – and against the big Nineties names of Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton and others.



It was, however, troubled times for Tottenham who were punished for financial irregularities committed under the club's previous owners during the 1980s. The club was fined £1.5m and initially docked 12 league points and banned from the 1994/95 FA Cup (although the latter two penalties were later rescinded). In his two best seasons in a Spurs shirt, in 1993/94 and 1994/95, the club finished 15th and then 7th in the Premier League and reached the FA Cup semi-finals.

before his playing career ended at Canvey Island in 1999, just before the brief Isthmian rivalry between the Gulls and the Fleet. In a neat bookmark to his career, having started his senior path on the same day as the famous Paul Gascoigne, Kerslake's Canvey career began by being substituted by the slightly less famous future reality TV star Jeff Brazier!

In his subsequent coaching career, Kerslake has come up against his former side on a couple of occasions, most notably as Cardiff City assistant manager who took on Spurs in the Premier League in 2013/14. He was in the same role at Gillingham when they travelled to White Hart Lane in the Third Round of the 2016/17 season and again in 2024/25 in the somewhat less salubrious surroundings of the National League Cup when the Fleet took on Tottenham's U21s.



FLEET REVIEW

Editorial, design & layout Ed Miller • **Photography** Dave Plumb, Tom Harris, Ed Miller • **Printing** Footie Print / www.footieprint.co.uk

CLUB 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, 1993/94 • Southern League Cup 1977/78 • Southern League Championship 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, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2007/08, 2013/14 • Kent Floodlight Cup 1963/70 • John Ullman Cup 1982/83



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THE FLEET SPURS



MANAGER Josh Wright



MANAGER Wayne Burnett

EBBSFLEET UNITED



Will Buse	1
Josh Passley	2
Jake Vokins	3
Jake Hessenthaler	4
Camron Gbadebo	5
James Vennings	6
Daniel Ogunleye	7
Toby Edser	8
Rem Oteh	9
Kwesi Appiah	10
Charlie Seaman	11
Ronny Nelson	12
Dominic Samuel	14
Will Tizzard	15
Gene Kennedy	16
Lennon Peake	17
Olly Box	18
Finlay Barnes	19
Maxx Manktelow	20
Ben Chapman	22
Matt Hall	24
Harvey Walker	25

George Abbott	Ronny Moncur
Miracle Adewole	Callum Olusesi
Damola Ajayi	Cole Ramsey
Sam Archer	James Rowswell
Dan Batty	Reiss-Alexander
Carey Bloedorn	Russell-Denny
Harry Byrne	Elisha Sowunmi
Jamie Donley	Dylan Thompson
Alfie Dorrington	Tynan Thompson
Reiss Elliott-Parris	Luca Williams-Barnett
George Feeney	
Luca Furnell-Gill	
Tye Hall	
Tyrese Hall	
Malachi Hardy	
Oliver Irow	
Maeson King	
Rio Kyerematen	
Ellis Lehane	
Aaron Maguire	
Max McFadden	
Mason Melia	

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee NICK DUNN

Assistants BYRON BEARD, GEORGE LOWE • Fourth Official STEVE GOLDUP

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2026/27 CAMPAIGN • PRE-SEASON

