

# We Are Rovers



Vs.



Saturday  
14th August  
2021

@GWROVERS

WWW.GWROVERS.COM

Matchday Programme Of  
Great Waking Rovers



# BURROUGHS PARK

## Great Waking Rovers FC Vs. Witham Town

Pitching In, In Partnership With The Isthmian Football League.

Official Matchday Programme

# We Are Rovers

### Club Directory 2021/22

President	Roger Burroughs
Chairman:	David Patient
Vice Chairman:	Mike Lee
Treasurer:	Elaine Pitts
Secretary:	Dan Ellis

#### Other Positions

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Fixtures Secretary:	Dan Ellis
Bar Manager:	Elaine Pitts
Press Officer:	Jim Laird
Programme Editor:	Dan Ellis
Website:	Kerri Webb
Welfare Officer:	Martin Spencer

#### Committee Members

Andrew Knight, Roy Kettridge, Maisie Hare, Jim Johnson

#### Management Team

Manager:	Stephen Butterworth
Assistant Manager:	David Patient
Player/Coach:	Martin Tuohy
Physio:	Lewis Cattling
Assistant Kit Man:	

#### Trustees

Roger Burroughs, Elaine Pitts

“The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination.

Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that

Association.” (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162). The

Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.”

Great Waking Rovers are a members club run by a members committee and Trustees



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# Welcome To Burroughs Park

Good afternoon and welcome to Burroughs Park for today's Isthmian North match between Great Wakering Rovers and Witham Town.

We would like to wish our visiting players, Management, Committee Members and Supporters a very warm welcome and hope they enjoy the facilities on offer.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Match Officials visiting us this today. In the middle we are pleased to have Christopher Hastings and his Assistants Billy Woods & Luke Scottow. we hope you enjoy your short stay with us.

Both teams come in to this game after their last league fixture back in October 2020.

In the last game between Rovers and Witham Town, Rovers come out on top with a 2-0 win on the road when we last visited Spa Road, Rovers goal coming from the onloan striker Hernandez and Martin Tuohy.

In this fixture Rovers have a 60% win rate with 3 wins out of the last 5 games and scoring 7 goals and conceding 6, so it looks like its going to be a close game.

Let's hope today's game is as entertaining as the season has been and is enjoyable for everyone.

Hope you Enjoy the game.  
Dan Ellis  
Club Secretary

# THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

So, here we go again! The 2021-22 season is almost upon us – for some it's already underway.

Most of Step 5 and 6 started from July 31 – July! – while this weekend (August 7) the FA Cup gets started with the Extra Preliminary Round, only nine months before the final on May 14.

For many, competitive football makes a welcome return after an enforced break from the game due to the pandemic.

At NLP HQ we have everything crossed for a 'normal' season, Covid has taken its toll on us too, but we'd like to thank our loyal readers for helping us to keep producing the paper every Sunday. We've not missed one weekend since the pandemic began or indeed for the last 21 years!

The previous 18 months in Non-League has been tough to say the least for all involved. The 2019-20 and the 2020-21 seasons proved fruitless for many although the FA's restructure did at least provide some upward movement for clubs at Steps 4-6.

Step 3 can rightly feel hard done by having been stagnant throughout this time.

It's why the FA's Alliance Committee has been formulating contingency plans, with the feedback of clubs, to try and prevent any more 'null and void' seasons.

There are three approaches to the contingency plans:

Approach 1 – if the season successfully starts between August 14, 2021 and October 31, 2021, but it becomes clear that a division cannot complete 100 per cent of its fixtures, league tables would still be finalised providing the division has completed at least 75 per cent of its fixtures. Final league standings would be determined by using unweighted points per game and promotion and relegation would take place based on those standings.

Approach 2 – if the 2021-22 season cannot commence on or before October 31, an alternate competition would be implemented, with several potential formats under consideration determining promotion and relegation.

Approach 3 – if there is insufficient time for the regular season to achieve 75 per cent of fixtures, or an alternate competition to be completed, a supplementary competition would utilise results from completed fixtures in the 2021-22 season to avoid clubs playing opponents more than twice and ensure there is sufficient data to determine league standings.

The objective is to ensure promotion/relegation but, of course, this cannot be guaranteed. Who knows which way the pandemic will turn next. Such was the extent of the disruption last season, any number of contingency plans wouldn't have prevented the curtailment of Steps 3-6.

Hopefully, these plans will never see the light of day, but at least they are there if needed.

Eventually, we will have all stopped talking about Covid! Until then, we wish you a safe return to football and a successful season following your team. One thing is for sure, win or lose, we must cherish standing on the terraces at 3pm on a Saturday!



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# Witham Town Football Club History

## Origins & Early History



Witham has a history of football teams going back to the 1830's when the first recorded match involving a side representing the town was played at Lanham Green near Cressing. This was before the 'modern' game was codified in England in 1863 following the formation of The Football Association, whose 'Laws of the Game' created the foundations for the way the football is played today. The first formation of a Witham side, post-FA creation, was in 1876 when Mr.H.Green, Mr.W.Rust, Mr.F.Bridge and Mr.E.Turner sought permission from a farmer to play football in a field next to the River Brain in the town, close to Saul's Bridge. This site was Witham FC's home for a few seasons with play later being transferred to The Park, a pitch nearby, which was shared with the town's Cricket Club. The 1885-86 season saw the very first Witham player appear for the County side with that honour going to R.H.Stevens. After some years, however, the cricket side objected to the damage being done to the surface of the pitch, so another move was made, in 1894, to 'The Grove'. The Grove itself was a large private house that was built in the late 1600's, which was eventually demolished in 1932. The pitch, noted as one of the best in the county, was located to the rear of the property not far from the old Witham to Maldon Railway line, which roughly corresponds with today's Mayland Road and Abercorn Way. Mr.P.E.Laurence, a local sports enthusiast and President of the club at that time, owned this field. The entrance to the ground was via Chess Lane, which is now a short cut to an industrial estate. The occupants of the cottages there on 'Finals' days reaped a bonanza from the two pennies charged for bicycles left in their care. Witham's first recorded appearance in a final, that of the very first Essex Junior Cup, came in 1893-94 when they lost 4-1 to Matlock Swifts (today's Leyton FC). During this time the team enjoyed the reputation of being one of the strongest junior sides in the country and built up a large following. They were known in those days as the 'Red Herrings' because of their all red kit. Two days after the Great War broke out in 1914 (28th July) the entire team under the guidance of Reginald Brown went to Warley Barracks near Brentwood to enlist in the 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment.

## Between The Wars

Witham FC re-formed in July 1919 after a meeting held at the Spread Eagle Hotel in the town centre. Again, the side played in red shirts, and, in one season, Witham won 24 matches and only lost once. Postman Mr. Fred Perry used to pay Albert 'Summer' Bickmore one shilling for each goal he scored. Bickmore recalled with pleasure the day he scored five. The re-formed club, which changed its name to Witham Town FC in 1921, won the Braintree & District League Championship in 1920-21, appeared in the Divisional Final of the Essex Junior Cup, won the Braintree & District league again in 1924-25 and secured the Essex Division 2 Shield in 1925-26. During these years the popularity of football seemed to have grown in the town with a Crittall's Athletic team also forming. Crittalls Windows Works, which opened in 1919, was one of the largest employers in the town and the site of the old factory is now occupied by Morrison's supermarket. For a small town like Witham this was perhaps too much for both these clubs to thrive, and, with waning support largely due to the increasing prominence of the Crittall's team, after less than a decade the re-formed Witham Town disbanded.

However, local opinion must have been in favour of a true 'town' team, as after a meeting with the Spread Eagle again forming the backdrop, Witham Town FC re-formed again in July 1933. At this meeting, held by Mr.C.Ingram (who was elected club Chairman), Mr.S.Slinger and Mr.S.Howell (who was chosen to be Hon. Secretary) the decision was made to join two competitions, The North Essex League and the Kelvedon & District Junior League with club colours being red shirts and white shorts. In 1934-35 Witham reached the final of the Tolleshunt D'arcy Cup, losing to Tiptree United 4-2, and the following season they became Division 3 Champions of the North Essex League. That same year the club gained the use of the football pitch at Rickstones Road Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, as the clouds of war slowly gathered, and with falling support once more, in 1938 Witham Town folded.

## A New Beginning

In 1948 the Witham Town FC of today re-formed thanks to the efforts of a small band of stalwarts who met in an old British Legion hut under the Chairmanship of Mr.Sid Rice who was the driving force behind the club re-forming. Although the pitch was only a cow pasture with a barn as changing rooms, these basic conditions did not seem to affect the team though as in their first season back playing they became champions of the Chelmsford and Mid Essex League Division 2, winners of the Tiptree Charity Cup and the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Cup

courtesy of a 1-0 win over Feering. During the following season the club moved to the Crittall Windows works ground at The Park in the centre of the town and they also became founder members of the Mid-Essex League Premier Division. Their first game at The Park was a friendly v Ipswich Town which the Suffolk side won 7-0. That year the Premier Division Cup was won. After two more seasons in the CMEL, a dispute with the League over a cup match played in blizzard like conditions, saw Witham Town switch to the South Essex League where they spent seven seasons winning the Championship in 1955-56. A supporters club was then formed and in 1958 the decision was made to join the Essex and Suffolk Border League and thus step up to an intermediate level of football, which came about in 1959.

## Gaining Senior Status

During the 1964-65 season Witham won the Essex & Suffolk Border League Championship and they decided to seek new playing facilities suitable for senior football. The following season, 65-66, they won the E&SB League Cup after beating Whitton United 3-0 and were runners up in the E&SBL in 66-67. 1967-68 saw Witham just miss out on their second League Cup honour when they lost 3-2 to close rivals Tiptree United in the final. In 1970, the club was finally offered its present ground at Spa Road, although the move did not happen until after the end of the 1974-75 season due to the allocated plot being under cultivation. The last game at The Park ground was a 1-0 win against Basildon United on the 19th April 1975. In the meantime, Witham Town again won the Essex & Suffolk Border League (in 1970-71), and were invited to become founder members of the Essex Senior League and were the inaugural Champions in 1971-72, pipping Billericay Town to the title by just one point. Witham went on to spend more than 15 seasons in this league, usually finishing in the top half of the table. In 1981 Witham won the Essex Senior League Cup by defeating Sawbridgeworth Town 4-2 at Chelmsford City's New Writtle Street ground. The mid 1980's provided several top 3 finishes including runners-up in 1984-85 and 1986-87,

with the Championship being won for the second time in 1985-86. March 1985 saw the Spa Road grounds' new floodlights 'officially' switched on in a friendly versus Colchester United. 1986 saw more success as Witham won the Essex Senior Trophy, defeating local rivals Heybridge Swifts 3-2, after extra time. During the following 1986-87 season Town enjoyed their best run in the FA Vase when they reached the last 16 (the 5th round), before losing 2-1 at home to Falmouth, and they also secured the Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy (the predecessor to the Gordon Brasted) after beating Sawbridgeworth Town in the final. This good run of form in league and cup competitions again led the club to seek a higher level of football to play at. They applied to join the Isthmian League and this was accepted in 1987.

## The Isthmian Years

Their first match in the Isthmian League (Division 2 North) in 1987-88 saw Witham win 6-0 at Ware which ended with the club finishing in 7th place. During this time, former Southend United manager Steve Tilson started his career with the club before moving on to the Shrimpers as a player. The end of the 1990-91 season would see the two Isthmian Division 2's (North and South) 'de-regionalise', therefore making a top half finish imperative if Witham were to retain their Division 2 status and avoid the drop into what would be the next seasons new Division 3. A good finish saw Witham end up in 6th place, thereby ensuring their position in the restructured division and the club also made a semi-final appearance in the Loctite Associate Members Trophy. In 1993-94 Witham had their highest ever league finish, 5th in the Isthmian League Division 2. Back in the mid-90's there was no 2nd tier to the Conference so this was their best finish at what was then Step 4. Unfortunately, this could not be built upon and Town were relegated at the end of the 1999-2000 season to Division 3 after 13 years in Div 2. However, during the previous season, 1998-99, Witham saw their best run in the FA Cup, to the 3rd Qualifying Round, before losing out to Havant & Waterlooville in a replay. The next few years saw further restructuring of the Isthmian League culminating in a runners-up spot in Division 2 (formerly Div 3) at the end of 2005-06 as Witham took their place the newly formed step 4 Division 1 North. A goal difference of just +1 separated Witham from Brook House and 3rd place. In 2007-08 they achieved their best run in the FA Trophy, making it to the 3rd Qualifying Round. After beating Chatham Town away 3-0 Spa Road saw a giant killing over Horsham who at that time were leaders of the Isthmian Premier Division. Town crashed out in the next round though after losing at Hayes & Yeading. During 2008, one of Town's rising stars, top scorer Cody McDonald, moved on to Maldon Town and then Dartford, before being bought by the then Championship side Norwich City. This move to the Canaries makes Cody our highest profile ex-player.

## A short(ish) visit to the Essex Senior League

At the end of the 2008-09 season Witham Town finished 21st out of 22 teams consigning them to relegation to the Essex Senior League. Despite the obvious disappointment at being relegated the club had the chance to start afresh in the same league where their senior aspirations were initiated back in 1971. Off the field, former player Olly Murs became the TV show X Factor's runner up in December 2009. As the 2009-10 season drew to a close, and on the back of eight straight wins, Witham earned the necessary point on the last game of the season at Barkingside in a tense 2-2 draw that guaranteed runners-up position just ahead of Burnham Ramblers.



Unfortunately, this was not enough for Town to regain their spot in the Isthmian League. During the 2010-11 season, for the last 4 games, current manager Garry Kimble took over the reins as the club finished third. In the following campaign, Kimble's first full term in charge, Witham Town enjoyed what could arguably be claimed to be their most successful season ever as they broke many long standing club records on the way to the Essex Senior League title, last won in 1986, and therefore securing a return to Isthmian football. As well as the league, Witham won the League Cup, Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy and the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Cup and remained unbeaten away in the league. Striker Billy Hunt also secured the Don Douglas Trophy by becoming the league's top scorer, with Rob Whitnell and John Watson coming second and third highest league scorers as well.

## The Isthmian Years (Part 2)

The return to Isthmian level began in spectacular style as the club finished 4th in the Isthmian League Division 1 North and qualified for the Play Offs only going down 3-2 to eventual winners Thamesmead Town. The club also retained the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Cup beating Heybridge Swifts 4-0.

They went one better in 2013-14, finishing in their highest ever league position, runners up in the Isthmian League Division 1 North. In the play-offs Needham Market were beaten 1-0 in the Semi Final and Harlow Town 3-0 in the Final as Witham secured a place in the Isthmian Premier Division for the first time.

A gallant attempt was made to compete at Isthmian Senior Level, but this proved too much for a club with limited resources and the club were relegated in 2014-15. The next season was a difficult one as a number of key players moved on following relegation and it was difficult to find a settled squad. With another relegation looking likely, it was time for a management change. Garry Kimble left the club and a new management team was appointed, consisting of Adam Flint and James Robinson, both of whom had spent time with the club previously. Relegation was averted and the club finished in 19th place.

Consolidation was the aim in 2016-17 and this was achieved with mid-table finish in 13th place, followed by 11th place in the following season. At the end of the 2017-18, Adam and James moved on to manage Bishops' Cleeve. Mark Ashford became the new Witham manager before the start of the 2018-19 season. John Sussex and Kevin Wren joined later as joint assistant managers. Mark Ashford resigned at the end of the season in which safety from relegation was only assured on the last day of the season at Basildon.

Marc Benterman was appointed before the start of 2019-20 and needed to assemble almost a complete squad in a few weeks to start the season. This was done and the club were in 15th place with 28 games played when Covid-19 caused the season to be abandoned.

Season 2019-20 only lasted until late October 2020, so Marc has yet to complete a season in charge.

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At the start of 2021-22 we have a mixture of experienced and youthful players. In the management team Marc is assisted by John Sussex, Chris Taylor and club stalwart Daniel Barrell.

# Meet our visitors

## **Rhys Madden**

Rhys is an experienced goalkeeper who is in his second spell at Witham, having been with the club some years ago. Rhys has played with distinction for all his clubs including Tilbury, Aveley, Thurrock and Ware. He once scored for Witham against Leyton at Spa Road.

## **Liam Whipps**

Liam is a local boy from a family who are immersed in Witham Town. Liam has been at the club from a very young age. In the past few seasons he has had loan spells at Ilford and Halstead. He has matured as a dependable left-back who can also play in more attacking positions.

## **Chris Taylor**

Chris is an experienced central midfielder who can also play in defence. He has played more than 150 times at Step 4 clubs including Tilbury and Romford.

## **Ollie Emsden**

Ollie is a busy and effective midfield player who previously represented Histon. He has also played at left-back. He has previously represented Histon.

## **Billy Willis**

Billy can play at right back and in midfield. He has steadily grown in influence in his time here and he is currently wearing the captain's armband. He previously played for Heybridge Swifts.

## **Greg Akpele**

Greg is a strong and dynamic striker whose previous clubs have included Romford, VCD Athletic, Harlow Town, Hendon, Kingstonian and Enfield Town.

## **Harrison Cole**

Harrison is a goalkeeper who featured in our reserve team last season and has been a first team substitute. He was previously with Hutton.

## **Josh McFaul**

Josh has played in Australia and was recently with Hatfield Peverel.

## **Jordi Papple**

Jordi is a young striker who impressed for us last season. He was previously with Braintree Town.

## **Jamahl Godward**

Jamahl is a right-winger who has stepped up from the reserves and was previously with Colchester United and Needham Market.

## **Callum Matthews**

Callum is a central midfielder has played for Tilbury and Bowers & Pitsea.

### **Kye Jude**

Kye is an experienced defender who is in his second spell with us. His previous clubs have included Great Wakering, Basildon United, Southend Manor and Burnham Ramblers.

### **Kahlil Kirwan-Meade**

Kahlil is a centre-back who has played for Tower Hamlets and Tilbury.

### **Luke Ige**

Luke impressed at the Simarco Stadium during a loan spell with us from Colchester United. He has signed for us this season and has also played for Merstham.

### **Luke Stanley**

Luke is an experienced full back / midfielder who has played for Walthamstow, Aveley, Redbridge, Romford and Basildon United.

### **Ahmed Mohammed**

Ahmed is a central mudfielder and has played for Cockfosters.

### **Ben Search**

Ben is a central midfielder and a product of the impressive youth system at Concord Rangers.

### **A'maree Robinson-Jones**

A'maree impressed us when playing for Hackney Wick in a friendly against us. He is a left-sided attacker with real promise.

### **Adam Cheniti**

Adam is another young attacker from Hackney Wick who has displayed a lot of talent for them.

### **Chinedu Osadebe**

Chinedu is a striker who has returned to the Simarco Stadium after playing for Barking and Heybridge Swifts. Chi featured in our youth and reserve teams before breaking into our first team.

### **Jack Nolde**

Jack is a young left-back has played for Hullbridge Sports

### **Luke Hornsley**

Luke is an experienced striker who was previously with Great Wakering Rovers

### **Alhaghie Jafa**

Alhaghie has played for Coggeshall United.

### **Deolindo Dos Santos Lima**

Deolindo was previously with Coggeshall United and Herongate Town.

# PITCHING IN



## North Division



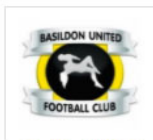
AFC Sudbury



Aveley



Barking



Basildon United



Brentwood Town



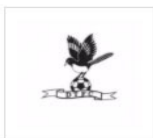
Bury Town



Canvey Island



Coggeshall Town



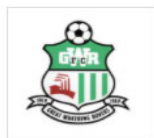
Dereham Town



Felixstowe & Walton  
United



Grays Athletic



Great Wokingham  
Rovers



Hashtag United



Heybridge Swifts



Hullbridge Sports



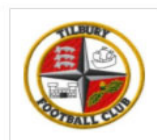
Maldon & Tiptree



Romford



Stowmarket Town



Tilbury



Witham Town

AFC Sudbury

Aveley

Barking

Basildon

Brentwood Town

Bury Town

Canvey Island

Coggeshall Town

Dereham

Felixstowe & Walton

CO10 7HN

RM15 4PX

RM8 2JR

SS14 3AW

CM15 9NN

IP33 1XP

SS8 7PX

CO6 1NT

NR20 3PX

IP11 9HT

Grays

Great Wokingham

Hashtag United

Heybridge Swifts

Hullbridge Sports

Maldon & Tiptree

Romford

Stowmarket Town

Tilbury

Witham Town

RM15 4UA

SS3 0HH

SS13 2BE

CM9 8JA

SS5 6BJ

CM9 5JQ

RM19 1YN

IP14 1JQ

RM18 8NL

CM8 1UN

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# Rovers @ Home

Date	Time	Opponents	Competition	Score
14/08/2021	3pm	Witham Town	Isthmian North	
21/08/2021	3pm	Heybridge Swifts	Emirates FA Cup	
30/08/2021	3pm	Basildon United	Isthmian North	
18/09/2021	3pm	Brentwood Town	Isthmian North	
28/09/2021	7:45pm	Grays Athletic	Isthmian North	
16/10/2021	3pm	Hullbridge Sports	Isthmian North	
30/10/2021	3pm	Bury Town	Isthmian North	
13/11/2021	3pm	Romford	Isthmian North	
04/12/2021	3pm	Hashtag United	Isthmian North	
18/12/2021	3pm	Aveley	Isthmian North	
01/01/2022	3pm	Barking	Isthmian North	
08/01/2022	3pm	Coggeshall town	Isthmian North	
22/01/2022	3pm	Tilbury	Isthmian North	
05/02/2022	3pm	AFC Sudbury	Isthmian North	
19/02/2022	3pm	Stowmarket Town	Isthmian North	
05/03/2022	3pm	Heybridge Swifts	Isthmian North	
19/03/2022	3pm	Maldon & Tiptree	Isthmian North	
02/04/2022	3pm	Felixstowe & Walton United	Isthmian North	
16/04/2022	3pm	Canvey Island	Isthmian North	
23/04/2022	3pm	Dereham Town	Isthmian North	

# Rovers @ Away

Date	Time	Opponents	Compotition	Score
27/08/2021	7:45pm	Aveley	Isthmian North	
11/09/2021	3pm	Dereham Town	Isthmian North	
14/09/2021	7:45pm	Tilbury	Isthmian North	
25/09/2021	3pm	Maldon & Tiptree	The FA Trophy	
02/10/2021	3pm	AFC Sudbury	Isthmian North	
23/10/2021	3pm	Stowmarket Town	Isthmian North	
06/11/2021	3pm	Heybridge Swifts	Isthmian North	
20/11/2021	3pm	Maldon & Tiptree	Isthmian North	
27/11/2021	3pm	Felixstowe & Walton United	Isthmian North	
11/12/2021	3pm	Witham Town	Isthmian North	
27/12/2021	3pm	Basildon United	Isthmian North	
03/01/2022	3pm	Canvey Island	Isthmian North	
15/01/2022	3pm	Brentwood Town	Isthmian North	
29/01/2022	3pm	Grays Athletic	Isthmian North	
12/02/2022	3pm	Hullbridge Sports	Isthmian North	
26/02/2022	3pm	Bury Town	Isthmian North	
12/03/2022	3pm	Romford	Isthmian North	
26/03/2022	3pm	Hashtag United	Isthmian North	
09/04/2022	3pm	Coggeshall Town	Isthmian North	
18/04/2022	3pm	Barking	Isthmian North	

# Born On This Day In Sport



So good they named  
him twice

## Jay-Jay Okocha

Okocha joined Bolton Wanderers on a free transfer after leaving PSG in the summer of 2002 after the FIFA World Cup. His debut season, despite being hampered by injuries, made him a favourite with the Bolton fans, with the team printing shirts with the inscription “Jay-Jay – so good they named him twice”. He steered the team away from relegation with seven goals, including the team Goal of the Season in the vital league win against West Ham United. This was voted Bolton’s best Premier League goal in a fans vote in 2008. The next season saw Okocha receive more responsibility as he was given the captain’s armband following Guðni Bergsson’s retirement. As captain he led Bolton to their first cup final in nine years where they finished runners-up in the 2004 Football League Cup to Middlesbrough.

In 2006, he was stripped of the captaincy – something he said he had seen coming, as there had been a change in attitude from some staff members. This had probably been due to his proposed move to the Middle East, which had been growing in speculation. At the end of the season, he refused a one-year extension in order to move to Qatar.

Following Bolton’s relegation from the Premier League in 2012, Okocha stated that his time at the club was now rendered a waste of time, because the club had not invested and improved on the foundations that were laid during his time there.

### Hull City

After just one season in Qatar, Football League Championship side Hull City signed Okocha on a free transfer in 2007, after the player had been linked to Real Salt Lake and Sydney FC. It was a move he made saying that “God had told him to do so”. He however was not able to contribute greatly to Hull’s promotion campaign due to fitness and constant injury problems, playing only 18 games and scoring no goals. Hull still succeeded in winning promotion to the Premier League, for the first time in their 104-year history. At the end of the season, after changing his mind on a proposed retirement due to Hull’s promotion, he was released by the club, which ultimately sent him into retirement.

# Matthew Etherington



Matthew Etherington (born 14 August 1981) is an English former professional footballer who played as a winger. He manages the under-18 team at Peterborough United.

Born in Truro, Cornwall, Etherington began his footballing career at Peterborough United and was a stand-out performer for the Posh, which attracted the attention of Premier League clubs. He joined Tottenham Hotspur in 2000, along with Simon Davies. He struggled at Tottenham and left for West Ham United in 2003. At the East London club, Etherington showed his true form and became a vital player for the Hammers. However, he had personal problems related to an addiction to gambling and in 2009 was sold by manager Gianfranco Zola to fellow Premier League side Stoke City.

At Stoke, Etherington became a vital member of the side under manager Tony Pulis, winning the player of the year award for the 2009–10 season and also played in the 2011 FA Cup Final. Etherington remained a regular under Pulis in 2011–12 and 2012–13 before he was released by Mark Hughes at the end of the 2013–14 season.

## International career

Etherington appeared for the England Under-20 team at the 1999 FIFA U-20 World Cup, playing alongside players such as Stuart Taylor, Ashley Cole, Peter Crouch and Andy Johnson. However, the team failed to score a single goal in their three group matches, and finished bottom of their group.

## Personal life

Etherington had a gambling addiction while he was at West Ham, who issued him a £300,000 loan after he accumulated debts in excess of £800,000. He also spent time at Tony Adams' Sporting Chance Clinic.[54] Matthew's father, Peter, has thanked Stoke City for saving his son's career and helping him to combat his gambling addiction. In 2015, Etherington spoke to BBC journalist Victoria Derbyshire concerning the impact of gambling on professional footballers. His own debts caused by gambling throughout his career were reported as £1.5 million. He grew up supporting Liverpool.

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All clubs to honour 'Mr Heybridge' on Saturday

Before tomorrow's matches there will be a minutes applause in memory of Mick Gibson.

Mick was Chairman of Heybridge Swifts for many years, a League Director, and, from 2018 when he stood down from that role, a Life Member of the League. We will be forever grateful for his friendship, wisdom and hard work, and we will join together to mourn his passing.

All players across the League will wear black armbands.

# Sponsor a player



Stephen Butterworth



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Perry Dunn



Jake Gordon



Billy Harris



Louie Hay



Lewis Jaggs



Connor Martin



Charlie Morris



Jake Pitty



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Tam Eyong



Adam Vyse



Mitchell Gilbey



Billy Johnson



Danny Hurford



If you would like to sponsor a player

please speak to our Chairman David Patient  
or  
Secretary Dan Ellis



# PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Isthmian League - North Division

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 AFC Sudbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 Aveley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 Basildon United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5 Brentwood Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6 Bury Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7 Canvey Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8 Coggeshall Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9 Dereham Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10 Felixstowe & Walton United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11 Grays Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12 Great Wakering Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	13 Hashtag United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14 Heybridge Swifts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15 Hullbridge Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	16 Maldon & Tiptree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17 Romford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18 Stowmarket Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19 Tilbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20 Witham Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# This week in the north

Today Saturday 14th Aug

AFC Sudbury Vs Aveley

Dereham Town Vs Heybridge Swifts

Felixstowe & Walton Vs Basildon

Grays Athletic Vs Bury Town

Great Wakering Rovers Vs Witham Town

Hullbridge Sports Vs Barking

Romford Vs Maldon & Tiptree

Stowemarket Town Vs Canvey Island

Tilbury Vs Brentwood Town

Sunday 15th Aug

Hashtag Utd Vs Coggeshall Twon

Some Fixtures from The Emirates FA Cup  
Saturday 21st Aug

Basildon United Vs White Ensign

Baking Vs Ilford

Canvey Island Vs Waltham Abbey

Coggeshall Town Vs Berkhamsted

Felixstowe & Walton Vs Southend Manor

Great Wakering Rovers Vs Heybridge Swifts

Maldon & Tiptree Vs Aveley

Walthamstow Vs Hullberidge Sports

Ware Vs Hashtag Utd





## **Great Waking Rovers FC**

**Manager**  
**Stephen Butterworth**

**Tim Brown**  
**Jaiden Babalola**  
**Sam Carter**  
**George Cox**  
**Sam Dulieu**  
**Perry Dunn**  
**Tam Eyong**  
**Mitchell Gilbey**  
**Jake GJordon**  
**Billy Harris**  
**Louie Hay**  
**Danny Hurford**  
**Lewis Jaggs**  
**Billy Johnson**  
**Connor Martin**  
**Shaye McKenzie-La-Rose**  
**Charlie Morris**  
**Jake Pitty**  
**Matin Tuohy**  
**adam Vyse**



## **Witham Town**

**Manager**  
**Mark Benterman**

**Rhys Madden**  
**Billy Willis (captain)**  
**Jack Nolde**  
**Kye Jude**  
**Luke Ige**  
**Callum Matthews**  
**Jamahl Godward**  
**Ahmed Mohammed**  
**Luke Hornsley**  
**Ben Search**  
**A'maree Robinson-Jones**  
**Ollie Emsden**  
**Khalil Kirwan-Meade**  
**Adam Chetini**  
**Jordi Papple**  
**Harrison Cole**

**Referee: Lloyd Wood**

**Assistants: Billy Woods & Luke Scottow**

**Up Next for Rovers**  
**Saturday 21st Aug In The Emirates FA Cup**  
**Vs Heybridge Swifts 3pm**