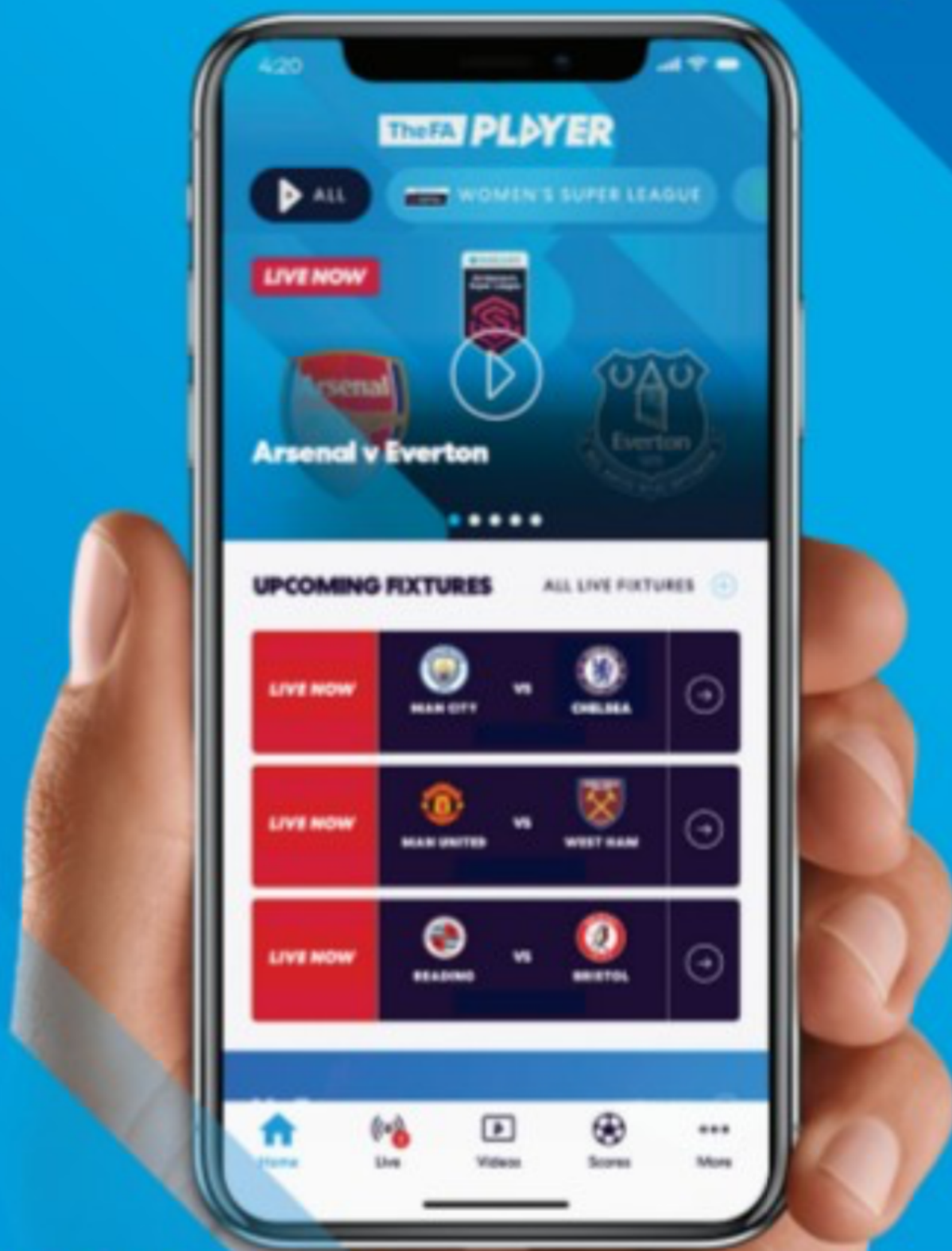


BALDOCK TOWN FC



BALDOCK TOWN FC v SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN FC
TUES 2ND APR 2024, KO - 20:45 PM
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SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN FC - A BRIEF HISTORY

It was in 1897 that members of Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club decided to start a football club during the winter months.

The first match was a "friendly" against a public school XI, (probably Felstead) and a then schoolboy spectator at the game, tells that the Sawbridgeworth XI wore purple jerseys and the ref, (probably a schoolmaster) wore a black and white blazer.

Sawbridgeworth lost 1-0. Their first League was the Stortford and Stansted, and there are fixture cards dating back to 1900, playing at Great Hyde Hall, just on the Herts side of the Herts/Essex border. HQ was a room in the White Lion pub in the town centre.

In the 1920's they played in the East Herts League, winning the title in 1924. During this period they played Burnham Ramblers, (who would become Essex Senior League fellow members 50 years later) in a Cup Final at Coopers Field, a popular ground roughly where the Hand and Crown pub is now.

Gate takings were £50 and as the entry fee was sixpence, that suggests that 2,000 people were at the match! Ramblers won 2—1. In 1930 STFC moved to the present ground. Surrounded by farmland, access was from Cambridge Rd (still used by pedestrians). It became known as 'The Cambridge Road Ground'.

In the late 1960's/early 70's the housing estate was built and a new entrance made at the end of Crofters, hence "Crofters End". After an unsuccessful season in the Spartan League, STFC joined the Herts County League Div One in 1953 but another unsuccessful season saw them join the Bishops Stortford, Stansted and District League in 1955.

The Club was a founder member of the Essex Olympian League in 1966 and League Champions in 1972, also winning the Herts Intermediate Cup, beating Cockfosters 1-0 at Ware's old ground. In 1975 the Club applied to Herts County to gain senior status and were advised to apply for entry into the Herts Senior Cup.

Despite losing 2-1 away to Boreham Wood, they acquitted themselves well enough to attain Senior status. STFC joined the Essex Senior League in 1976 and spent 47 seasons there, League runners up in 1993 on goal average to Ford Utd and runners up to Canvey Island in 1996. The Reserves won their League title twice.

STFC hold the record for the number of League Cup Final appearances (seven times) but only winning it once when beating Stansted 2-0. The Club also won the Herts Charity Shield three times playing the matches at the Hertfordshire HQ at Letchworth.

In 2023 STFC moved from the Essex Senior into the Spartan South Midlands Football League. (Sept 2023)





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