WALTHAMSTOW FOOTBALL CLUB

vs ENFIELD

Saturday 29th February 2020 // 3PM
Wadham Lodge // Essex Senior League

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WALTHAMSTOW FOOTBALL CLUB
Match Day Centres, Wadham Lodge, Kitchener Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4JP

CLUB MANAGEMENT
President: June Brazier
Chairman & Secretary: Andy Perkins
Vice Chairman: Steve Howe
Company Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Vacant
Communications Manager & Assistant Secretary: Andrzej Perkins
Club Historian: David Chapman
Charter Standard & Veterans Secretary: Tony Brazier


FIRST TEAM MANAGEMENT
Manager: Max Mitchell
Assistant Manager: Tony Faulkner
Management Team: Danny Cohen, David Hutton, Krasimir Korsachki
Physio: Lucelta Eugene

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2019-20
Editor: Andrzej Perkins
Contributors: Tony Brazier, David Chapman, Graham Larkbey, Steve Howe, Aaron Moore, Charlie Ward
Videographer: Nathan Hobley
Photographers: Bill Badger and Andrzej Perkins

SOCIAL MEDIA
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Website:walthamstowfc.com
Good afternoon everyone, welcome to Wadham Lodge for our Essex Senior League game against Enfield.

When we played Takeley at home, they appeared happy to settle for a point and nicked all three thanks to a very defensive-minded performance. On Saturday they really came at us, but it just left huge gaps in behind, allowing our front three - possibly the quickest in the league - to get in time after time.

Saturday’s game was only the third the majority of this team has played together, so it was impressive and a testament to Max Mitchell and his coaching staff, to see how quickly the team has gelled and established a thought-out playing style.

Enfield will offer something different this afternoon, and their manager Matt Hanning was in the crowd last Saturday for our game against Takeley so they will no doubt be organised and well set-up. It was at this stage last season that Enfield came to Wadham Lodge and we drew 0-0, putting a huge dent in our title aspirations - let’s hope today isn’t a repeat performance.

The way we played against fifth-placed Takeley fills me with the confidence that we can get the job done against the rest of the title challengers.

After today, the next two weeks will define our season. We’re away to Saffron Walden, Hashtag United and Stansted within eight days. There’s also a Peter Butcher Trophy quarter-final tie this Tuesday, against Hadley. It really is crunch time!

Enjoy the game,
Andrzej
Today we play a home game against Enfield who will be anxious not to have a repeat of our resounding win at their ground, last year.

Two lightning-quick strikers set up the win - the first before the Rabble had even had the chance to take their positions behind the goal and the second before they had even had time to unfurl their flags and banners.

Enfield are struggling at present, just one off the bottom and perhaps the memory of our victory at their place will give them extra an incentive to pull out all the stops today.

Although their position looks a little precarious, they were in a similar situation last season and went on a wonderful run that saw them end up in the top half of the table.

Good luck to them on that but, please don’t start until after today’s game.

Well, the dust has finally settled after the departure of Ryan Maxwell and I wanted to take a few paragraphs to say personal thank you’s as we are now, hopefully, heading, full steam towards promotion under new manager Max Mitchell.

To all of those players who decided to leave the club and have managed, in the main, to sign for Isthmian clubs, which showed the quality of players we had here.
You never gave us less than 100% for the team and the supporters.

To Stanley Muguo and coach Krasimir Korsachki, who held the reigns, whilst we carried out the selection process for a new manager.

Thankfully, both have decided to stay with the club, under the new managership, especially, now that Stanley is fit again and has returned to his reliable self in the team.

To Max Mitchell, Tony Faulkner as assistant to Max and David Hutton as coach.

Whilst Max has a relatively short managerial span, he has only known success and Tony adds the vast experience in the partnership.

A thank you also, to all those new players who have decided to follow Max to the club, three of these are returnees, Prince Madu for a third spell, Reece Conway back after six months at GWR and Michael Toner, who is back after about 12 years (what happened Michael, lose your Sat Nav?).

But, mostly, a thank you to those players who decided to see the job through at Stow and we all hope we can get back into the Isthmian League.

Whilst it is difficult for a batch on new players to fit in all in one go, at our level, it is usual that most if not all of the new players have associations with the new manager and the other new players, the really difficult job, I believe, if for the players who have remained, as they have to contend with a whole host of new faces, some of which, may not be known to them as well as the new manager and coach, who will have a different approach to the manager who they became used to.

Having had, virtually, two free hits, against Harlow reserves in the Peter Butcher Trophy and a home game against rock bottom Sawbridgeworth in the League and I know that is being disrespectful to those opponents, we faced what was our first “real” test, away at Takeley, last Saturday.

We debutant keeper, Charlie Mann and another debutant, Frazer John, coming off the bench, we managed to get our first points and kept our first clean sheet against them, in two seasons.

We had only managed one goal in the previous three games against them and we trebled that this time and kept a clean sheet in the process.

Vinny Murphy scored the opener and could have had at least another by using the conditions superbly and the usual suspects, James and Ibe (sounds like a firm of solicitors) added two more and we led at half time 3-0.

Even though we did not add to the half time score, we could have managed a few others but, that result sends a definite statement of intent, that we will not be derailed in our promotion quest.

After today and the Peter Butcher Trophy game at home to Hadley, we have a couple of easy games away at Saffron Walden and then Hashtag and then follow that up with another “walkover” at resurgent Stansted.

At least it will be a baptism of fire and after that little run, we will know just where we stand in our promotion credentials.

That last attempt, a few years ago, was less than successful, because the calibre of players we recruited was way below the level required but, now we have seen the level of skill that has come out of the senior age group of Ryan, there is every chance that the reserve will prove a vital back up to our senior side.

So it looks like, despite a slight hiccup, in mid-January, the club is being and moving in the right direction - three points today is need to reinforce that belief.
The Stow supporters can’t quite believe their eyes, as Vinny Murphy’s cross flies past everyone, off the back post and in.
Enfield finished 14th in the Essex Senior League, not really having a long run of form throughout the 2018/19 season.

Their season didn’t get off to the best of starts, only taking five points from a possible 15 in their first five games. The club’s best run of form was a six-game unbeaten run in which they drew four times.

The E’s biggest win came at home to Leyton Athletic beating them 6-1 whilst their biggest defeat was a 6-0 thrashing at the hands of Sporting Bengal.

The cup competitions for Enfield were short. They were knocked out of the Errington Cup following a 1-0 defeat away from home to Clapton. They had beaten Clapton away in the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy to reach the Quarter-final but lost that game 6-2 against St Margaretsbury.

Their FA Cup Journey ended in the Extra Preliminary Round with a 2-0 defeat to St Margaretsbury whilst their run in the FA Vase was halted by Leverstock Green in the second round with a 4-1 loss. Although they had beaten Hadley in the second qualifying round whilst their game in the first round with little Oakley went to a replay and they had to rely on the extra time to beat their opponents.

They got a total of eight points from their last five games with Enfield’s season ended with a 1-1 draw with Sawbridgeworth Town.
John Bruce Skinner founded Enfield Football Club in August 1893 as Enfield Spartans, and the club spent its initial season playing friendlies.

The start of the 1894–95 season saw the club play league football for the first time when it joined the Tottenham & District Junior Alliance League. The club made the move to the larger Tucker’s Field and joined the North Middlesex League in 1896. In 1900 the club dropped the Spartans from the end of its name and also made the move to Cherry Orchard Lane. This picked things up at the club and in the 1901–02 and 1902–03 seasons it won back-to-back league titles and so attained ‘senior’ status. The 1903 saw the club join the London League Division Two. Most of the next 50 years, the club played in the Athenian League.

After the First World War, Enfield disbanded. Members of Grange Park F.C., which had been a local junior club before the war, held a meeting at the Bell Inn, Baker Street, Enfield in May 1919 with a view to stepping up to senior football and taking on the mantle of Enfield. The decision to become the “new” Enfield was taken the next month.

They enjoyed little success until the arrival of Thomas Lawrence in the early 1960s. Lawrence was a charismatic centre forward who attracted much stronger players to the club. His career as a player was cut short when he fractured his skull playing for Great Britain in an Olympic Games qualifier.

Successful as a manager, he did even better later in business. Lawrence’s arrival was the origin of the success of Enfield, that lasted 30 years. It was not until 1961–62 that the club won the league title for the first time, and a second successive title in 1962–63 won them entry to the Isthmian League. They won seven further league titles, and were one of the first two Isthmian League clubs to join the Alliance Premier League in 1981.

During their period in the Isthmian league they made their first appearance in the FA Amateur Cup Final, losing 2-1 to Crook Town.

During the early 1980s, Enfield was among the strongest Conference sides, winning the title twice and the FA Trophy twice. Their form slipped and they were relegated to the Isthmian League in 1990. Despite a run of seven consecutive top-three finishes they remained in that league, being denied promotion after winning the title in 1995 because the Football Conference were not satisfied with the club’s financial credentials.

They won their most recent conference title in the final season of the re-election system, but were lost the election ballot considerably.

In 1999, the club sold its Southbury Road stadium, and began ground sharing with several nearby clubs. At this point, a group of fans set up a supporters’ trust, eventually forming their own club, Enfield Town.

After these events, Enfield F.C. struggled in the Isthmian League Premier Division, and was relegated in 2003. The 2003–04 season was even worse, finishing bottom of Isthmian League Division One North. In 2004–05 Enfield F.C had moved to Wodson Park, Ware and came second in the Isthmian League Second Division, winning promotion to the Southern League Division One East.

During the close season at the end of the 2006–07 season, Enfield had no choice but to liquidate due to the debts owed to the inland revenue by former chairman Lazarou, forcing the club to resign from the Isthmian League Division One North.

The club reformed as Enfield 1893. joined the Essex Senior League and were runners-up in their first season. After finishing as runners-up again in 2008–09, they were league champions in 2010–11. However, they were not promoted as their ground failed the grading criteria.
Enfield are one of the teams we’ve played the most in our history, and earlier this season we reached the 95-game marker.

We’ve won 37 times, Enfield 39, and the two sides have been level 18 times. However, recent form heavily favours the Stow, having lost just five of the previous 16 games. Though two of those three came the season before last - Enfield winning 3-0 and 2-1 in the Essex Senior League.

Their last wins before that were 2-1 in the 2005-6 season, and 5-2 in the Isthmian League Cup in September 1995.

Prior to that, Enfield won 7 in a row, and were unbeaten in 11 between 1960 and 1995, times when the Es were at the height of their success. In 1966 and 1977, the two clubs met in the FA Cup, with Enfield winning 7-0 and 4-0.

The first ever meeting between the clubs was in the 1919-20 Middlesex Charity Cup, a 3-3 draw where Enfield won the replay 1-0.

The most recent series of fixtures are the first time we’ve met Enfield in the league since the early 1960s - showing just how far both these clubs have fallen since their respective heydays. Enfield were of course, denied promotion to what was then the Football Conference on a number of occasions.

We’ve hit at least four goals in a game past Enfield in four of the five Essex Senior League season’s we’ve been playing each other, the only blip being the 2017-18 season where Enfield won twice.

Our biggest victory over Enfield came just a few years ago, in October 2015 when a 6-1 win gave Terry Fogarty his first (and only) win as Waltham Forest manager. Forest were bottom of the table at the time, with Enfield second bottom. In an interesting twist, Terry Fogarty is now joint manager at Enfield, with his former assistant at Forest, Matt Hanning.

Note: Only games since 2003-4 shown.
DECO LOUNGE

BAR OPENS 8PM | 2-4-1 COCKTAILS | CLUB OPEN 10PM - 2AM

INFO ON PRIVATE HIRE, GUEST LIST, TABLES, DICK PACKAGES

TEL 07917 663 349 EMAIL vip@deco-hertford.com

@DecoHertford
STOW

TOTAL MEETINGS | 95

W 38  D 19  L 38

STAT ATTACK

TOP SCORER
Dwade James (38)

MOST APPS
Dwade James (35)

CLEAN SHEETS
19

YELLOW CARDS
57

RED CARDS
3

SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER
@WalthamstowFC

5,695

FACEBOOK
@WalthamstowFC

680

ON THE RECORD

LAST 5 GAMES | 10 PTS

Takeley (A) 3-0 W
Sawbridgeworth Town (H) 4-0 L
Harlow Town Res (H) 6-1 W
Cockfosters (H) 0-2 L
Ilford (A) 2-2 D

Includes two cup games
STAT ATTACK

TOP SCORER
2 players (3)

MOST APPS
Joe Pattison (30)

CLEAN SHEETS
6

YELLOW CARDS
?

RED CARDS
?

BIGGEST STOW WIN
v Enfield
7-1 (2019)

BIGGEST ENFIELD WIN
v Stow
8-1 (1962)

LAST 5 GAMES | 7 PTS

Tower Hamlets (H) 2-2 D
Hadley (H) 0-2 L
Woodford Town Res. (H) 1-0 W
Sawbridgeworth Town (A) 1-0 W
Redbridge (H) 1-2 L

Includes one cup game

LIFE

ON THE RECORD

SOCCER MEDIA

TWITTER
@EnfieldFC

FACEBOOK
@SawboFC

3,687

440
**ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE**

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### WEEKEND FIXTURES

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Note: this is not a definitive statement, it is an interpretation based on statements by the FA.

**Promotion from the ESL:** A total of 24 clubs will be automatically promoted to step 4. For the ESL, this means the League champions will be promoted to step 4. A number of other divisions at step 5 will automatically promote more than one club. The Northern Counties East will, for example, promote the second and third-placed clubs. This is to attempt to make step 4 more geographically balanced. Four of the best runners up, selected by PPG, out of the eleven southernmost Step 5 divisions will be promoted directly; the remaining seven will each play a single away play-off game against a step 4 bottom placed team for possible promotion.

**Relegation from the ESL:** The Clubs in the bottom place in each of the fourteen divisions at Step 5 at the end of the Regular Season will be ranked on a points per match basis (then goal difference, then goals scored if required) - the twelve lowest will be relegated and placed in the most geographically appropriate division of Step 6.

**As things stand (26/2/20):** Saffron Walden (Champions) and Walthamstow (PPG) will be promoted automatically. Hashtag United (PPG) will be in a play-off. Sawbridgeworth Town (PPG) will be relegated.
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Today we welcome one of our oldest friends and fiercest opponents in Enfield Football Club. We have now met a few times in the Essex Senior League, but we first met as members of the Middlesex Senior League, that was way back in 1919.

The first meeting was on 20th December 1919 in the Middlesex Charity Cup when we drew 3 – 3, losing the replay by the only goal. In the two league games Enfield did the double.

Then Enfield were elevated into the Athenian League and we stayed where we were whilst also playing in the South Essex League before we too moved into the London League the following season. Leyton caught up with Enfield in 1927/8 when as reigning FA Amateur Cup holders we were also admitted to the Athenian League. That rivalry continued until Enfield were promoted to the Isthmian League in 1962/3.

Today’s programme is from 21st February 1931, so almost eighty-nine years ago. It was played at the old delightfully sounding Cherry Orchard Lane ground. We won the game by the only goal, although Enfield won the return fixture at the County Ground.

On the day Leyton had one of the really great Amateur players in George Armitage, a real gentleman player. Almost the last of amateur players to play for the full national side, when he was then with Charlton Athletic, in 1924.

In the summer of 1935 George was riding in a car driven by chairman Lionel Smith which was involved in a fatal crash. Although uninjured his mental state was such that he eventually ended up in a sanatorium for some time.

In September 1936 George threw himself under a railway train at Temple Mills. At an inquest he was said to have committed suicide ‘while of an unsound mind’. A truly sad ending.

Other Leyton players were Jim Preston, an amateur international, Sonny Graves and Ted Collins. Not to be outdone Enfield fielded a couple of amateur internationals in J E Anderson and R C Beswarick.

George Collins scored the only goal of the game with a capital shot in the second half. Enfield were handicapped by the loss of centre-forward Green who received a bad injury.

Before the game Leyton were lying second behind Barnet with Enfield down in sixth place.

I noticed inside the programme that Charles Buchan would be writing exclusive reports for the News Chronicle. Charlie Buchan began his football career with Leyton back in 1911 before his world-record transfer to Sunderland.
"Ye Olde Hop Poles"
Proprietor: L. A. C. FAIRLIE (Headquarters Enfield Football Club)
BAKER STREET, ENFIELD.
Buses pass the door
Wines, Spirits and Cigars of the Finest Quality
TRUMAN’S SPARKLING BEER. LUNCHEONS & TEAS Provided at shortest notice
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Enfield Football Club
Season 1930-31.

Chairman: Mr. J. B. SKINNER.
Hon. Sec.: Mr. W. MALONE, 321 Baker St.,
Enfield. 'Phone—Enfield 1652.
Hon. Treas.: Mr. H. HIRD.
15 Chase Green Avenue, Enfield.
Hon. 1st Team Sec.: Mr. T. E. C. PILBEAM,
14 Palace Gardens, Enfield.
Hon. Res Team Sec.: Mr. E. C. WALKER,
4 Radcliffe Avenue, Enfield.

Ground: CHERRY ORCHARD LANE, Enfield.

Official Programme
ONE PENNY

LOVIBONDS
FAMILY BREWERS — WINE MERCHANTS
136 HIGH STREET, WALTHAM CROSS. (Telephone 173)
Motor Deliveries throughout the entire district
Ask for YEOMAN ALE and OLD BOND WHISKY

Printed by Meyers, Brooks & Co., Ltd. Lancaster Hall, Enfield:
Lewis Francis has been in a rich vein of form recently. Together with Dwade James and Callum Ibe, he forms the league’s most dangerous front three.

**WHAT YOUTH CLUB(S) DID YOU PLAY FOR?**
I was at Dagenham & Redbridge and Leyton Orient.

**WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALLING IDOL GROWING UP?**
It has to be Ronaldinho. I never stopped watching his videos when I was a kid.

**WHAT DID/DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT TEAM?**
Fulham FC. I’ve always followed Fulham since I was a kid.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN FOOTBALL?**
I’d probably say playing in Sweden in the Gothia Cup and getting to the final. To play in front of 5,000 people was incredible.

**WHAT ARE YOU AMBITIONS?**
I want to play as high as I can. Where I suffered a lot of injuries, it’s been a massive cut-back on my footballing years so I want to try and go as high as I can.

**WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING FOR WALTHAMSTOW?**
It has to be playing in the front 3 with Cal and Dee. Just knowing I can inter change with them both just makes my game so much easier for myself. Just a serious joy to play with them lads.

**WHAT IS THE BEST GAME YOU’VE BEEN INVOLVED IN?**
For me, I’ll say the home game against Hoddesdon Town. From being 1-0 down, to then score the equaliser as a sub and get the assist for the last minute winner. The scenes and celebrations were amazing.

**WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM CLUB TO PLAY FOR?**
Liverpool. That’s a no-brainer for me. Just to play in front of the Kop end would just be a dream or to even score at Anfield.

**WHO IS THE WORST DRESSED?**
Prince!

**WHO HAS THE WORST TASTE IN MUSIC?**
Haven’t heard many people jumping on the speakers but Kras’ first game in charge, the music was shambolic.

**WHO HAS THE WORST BANTER?**
Hard for me to comment on that one. With the new players coming in, it’s hard to see who’s the worst. So I can’t dig anyone out yet!

**WHO THINKS THEY ARE THE CLUB’S HARD MAN?**
Vinny. No-brainer there!
Welcome to one and all for today’s game! After Tuesday night’s fixture we have three Away trips on the bounce.

The first of these is to the delightful and historic town of Saffron Walden, which as you’d expect has no shortage of tempting olde-world pubs.

According to CAMRA’s online guide, whatpub.com, the nearest to the ground is the King’s Arms (1) in Market Hill, a venerable multi-roomed pub with wooden beams and log fires. Regular beers are Adnam’s Bitter, Oakham JHB and Woodforde’s Wherry, plus two guests, one of which is often a mild or dark beer. Food is served at lunchtimes.

The Eight Bells in Bridge Street is food-oriented with three changing beers, while the High Street offers the Saffron Hotel (Greene King IPA plus a guest), the
Cross Keys (850 years old, primarily a restaurant but with Wells & Young’s Eagle and Bombardier on tap), the Duke of York (Fuller’s London Pride, Sharp’s Doom Bar, Woodforde’s Wherry) and the Temeraire (Wetherspoon’s), a former working men’s club with old photos decorating the walls.

Finally, in Gold Street the Old English Gentleman is an 18th century pub with log fires, a warm welcome and Adnam’s Bitter and Woodforde’s Wherry on offer, plus bar meals and sandwiches.

After that Awayday highlight, it’s back down to earth with a hike out to the beer desert of Tilbury for the game against Hashtag United. Best bet here is to get off the train at Grays and take the short walk down towards the river and the White Hart (2) - a large, lively pub with Dartmoor Best and locally-brewed Wibbler’s Dengie Gold plus three guests, one of which is usually a dark.

The pub also stocks an extensive selection of bottled Belgian beers, and has an impressive array of Pub of the Year awards to its credit. On the opposite corner, the Theobald offers a smaller, quieter option, serving four changing beers focusing on local independent breweries, plus a range of bottles. It also has an unusual hexagonal pool table. Buses run from Grays Bus Station to a stop near the ground.

Finally we head up to Stansted, where right outside the station the Queen’s Head is a small traditional local with two changing beers. Nearby, the King’s Arms (3) and Dog & Duck are both Greene King houses. Nearest pub to the ground is the Cock in Silver Street, a friendly local offering Greene King and Morland’s plus reasonably-priced food.
Proud Sponsors of Walthamstow FC
All the best to Walthamstow FC for the 2019-20 season from Wild Card Brewery
Walthamstow FC are delighted to have entered into partnership with local youth club Ryan FC. This will benefit both parties, not only providing a pathway for Ryan’s extremely talented youth players into men’s football, but allowing Walthamstow first team players to play for Ryan’s Senior XI in the Essex Olympian League.

Having been at Ryan FC since he was 4, Luke Hillier is starting to make progress. The 18 year-old has featured for the Ryan FC Under 18 Blues this season, scoring 1 goal in a 3-0 win over Witham Town. Now he has taken a big step towards fulfilling his dream.

Since Max Mitchell has taken charge, Luke had made the matchday squad three times, featuring on the bench against Harlow Town Reserves, Cockfosters and Takeley last Saturday whilst making a sub’s appearance against Cockfosters in the Errington Challenge Cup. Possibly the next prospect to come out of the fantastic Ryan FC set-up, it’s fair to say Luke is enjoying his time with the first team squad.

“It felt good getting promoted to the first team as I know it’s not only a big step for me as a player but for Ryan FC as well as it shows young players that there’s a way through into a higher level of football through Walthamstow.”

“It was also a good feeling to be involved in the squad even if I don’t get onto the pitch.

The team and coaching staff are all very supportive and the experience is always good for me as a young player. When I came on as a sub, we were already losing 2-0 and I came on out of position as a left-back and didn’t concede for the 35 minutes that I was on so that was a confidence boost for me. After the game, there was a lot of support from the players which was also a welcoming feeling.”

“Training with senior players has been a great experience as I learn a lot each session. The standard and tempo of the sessions is higher than what I normally would train and the physicality level is completely different but all the other players are very supportive and push me in training which has helped me improve since I’ve been in the squad.”

“I have really enjoyed being under the management of Max. He is always very supportive of me and always encourages me during training. You can see in the changing room how passionate he is and the positive impact he has had on the team when on the pitch. The personal touch that Max has shown me, where he has rung me directly to check I have received the team’s messages and to see if I have concerns questions or need any support.”
Wish Walthamstow FC all the best for the new season!

53 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17 4SA
A couple of weeks ago I was fortunate enough to represent Walthamstow at an anti-racism workshop run by Show Racism The Red Card. It was hosted at Leyton Orient and although the event was aimed at teachers there were also representatives from Arsenal, Tottenham and Dagenham and Redbridge, so I was proud that the club could also there.

Most people are familiar with Kick It Out, who campaign against and are usually the first to respond to racial incidents within football. Show Racism The Red Card (SRTRC) is an educational charity, which use football as a vehicle to engage with kids in an effort to eradicate discrimination in all walks of life. They teach children about the impact of discrimination and prejudice as well as racism, to promote inclusivity.

Even though the workshop was aimed at educating children it wasn’t too hard to relate the messages from the workshop to football supporting adults. Like school-rooms every clubs fans are a diverse group of people that come together with a shared purpose. The culture and rules amongst fan groups develop more organically though and fans heavily influence the values that the club is judge on. I am proud every time someone tells me what a friendly and welcoming club Walthamstow is. As a community club, ensuring that we continue to be as inclusive and welcoming to all is an ongoing process.

There is a lot of focus on racist incidents in grounds at the moment because it is easily understood. People understand what is right and wrong and would recognise and condemn racist abuse when they hear it. It is harder to understand and appreciate the impact of
non-abusive discriminatory behaviour. It’s never comfortable when our language and behaviours are challenged because it feels like we are being criticised and attacked. It is particularly hard when it is for using terms we’ve previously understood to be correct and we don’t understand why it is now wrong. We get understandably defensive because we think we are decent and fair people and so we can’t be the ones in the wrong.

One of the biggest barriers to eradicating discrimination right now is the idea that “political correctness” is a set of rules to be followed and anyone breaking the rules will be punished and condemned.

If PC stood for “Personal Consideration” of others it would be easier to understand and harder to argue that it was a bad thing. To treat others as we would wish to be treated ourselves means sometimes stepping back and not just hearing that they are offended by something but also why they are offended.

The focus on racism in football isn’t just because of the sport’s profile. The culture of our game blurs lines we wouldn’t cross in our everyday lives. Football in England wouldn’t be the same without wit and the mocking humour that exists in dressing rooms and on the terraces. The jokes often sail close to the wind but they are all the funnier for it.

But for humour to be funny it should be sharp and original. Comments based on prejudice that is rooted in tired old stereotypes are neither and are as unfunny as they are offensive. Worse still they simply alienate and exclude groups of potential fans and players. It confirms that however friendly and welcoming we may appear, we still see them as different to “us” based on sweeping generalisations.

Non-British and non-white players frequently have narrow, usually negative, personality traits applied to them in a way that doesn’t happen for white players. For instance, I’ve often heard black players and refs called the name of more famous black players (e.g. any bald black man is Ian Wright, any black goalkeeper is Shaka Hislop) even if the resemblance is minimal beyond skin colour. Lots of Non-Anglo-Saxon names are treated either with amusement or are garbled, merged and appropriated. It reinforces the idea that they are part of a group of ‘others’ and indecipherable from each other.

That results in players and anyone else in earshot feeling that they are seen only as part of a group, their individual personalities replaced by sweeping generalisations based on their colour or nationality. On the face of it that might not seem like a big deal because it is human nature for people to be grouped together. It is a different story if that group is constantly judged on broad negative stereotypes.

Different labels are applied black and white players that demonstrate the same traits. A black player is difficult - a white player is a character. A white player is passionate - a black player sulks. Through a combination of “othering” players and applying stereotypes to different groups, even sub-consciously, it is made harder for black and Asian players to succeed and easier to single them out when things aren’t going well.
Sorry to disappoint the groundhopping fraternity amongst the crowd today, but they’ve missed the opportunity for a tick which only comes around once a year.

That ground can’t be found on the Groundhopper app, nor is it on any football stadium guide. The pitch, if you can call it that is around three miles long, and as little as ten yards wide in places.

A game lasts two days, with play between 2 pm and 10 pm each day, and has upwards of 2,000 players at any one time.

On Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday every year, the town of Ashbourne into Derbyshire descends into chaos for the Royal Shrovetide football match.
The Mills have long-since been demolished, but part of their millstones still stand on the bank of the river, serving and scoring posts. Teams are decided by which side of the river participants were born.

In 1996, the posts were replaced by purpose-built millstones, but in a sinister twist by the organisers, the stones were placed in the river itself, meaning players have to be in the river itself to ‘goal’ a ball.

Though it is legal to kick the ball, it rarely touches the ground. The game isn’t played with any old football either — a special, larger ball is used, which is filled with cork from Portugal to help it float when it ends up in the river. It is usually pained in a way related to the local dignitary who turns up to get the game underway. Those who score (or ‘goal’ in local dialect) get their name painted on the ball, and get to keep it as a souvenir.

There are a few other rules which worryingly, need to be made explicit:

- Committing murder or manslaughter is prohibited. Unnecessary violence is frowned upon.
- The ball may not be carried in a motorised vehicle.
- Cemeteries, churchyards and the town memorial gardens are strictly out of bounds (fair enough).

There looks to be a slight advantage in picking an end, with the Down’ards only winning twice in the last 13 meetings.

They are made of hardier stuff when you get past Watford; the game has only been
cancelled twice since a roll of honour was started to be recorded in 1891 – both times for the outbreak of Foot-and-mouth disease. The game even carried on during the two World Wars, and the Ashbourne Regiment even played a version of the game in the trenches during the First World War.

There are two other Shrovetide games played nationally – one in Atherstone, Warwickshire and one in Alnwick, Northumberland. There have been others in the past too, including one in Kingstone, where some bloke who looked like the Prince of Wales turned up to watch the 1860 game.

The local paper reports “A rumour gained ground that His Royal Highness was in the two, and so firm became the belief that the band played “God save the Queen,” and Mr Lish went over to the Sun with the view of presenting one of the balls to His Royal Highness, and it was with some little difficulty that Mr Lish was convinced that he was under a misapprehension, and even now many are still persuaded that it really was His Royal Highness. The affair created considerable amusement for the worthy host of the Sun and his guests”.

Shrove Tuesday in 2021, (should we make it that far), is on the 16th of February. Pencil that one in your diaries.
THE HISTORY

The history of our great club is not what you’d call
straightforward. Having reformed on at least three
occasions, we’ve played under seven different names,
but can lay claim to being the second-oldest club in
London, and one of the oldest in the country.

The initial Leyton FC was formed in 1868 when The
Reverent Morgan Lloyd obtained a pitch behind The
Lion & Key public house. The first Leyton played
mainly friendlies, but did take part in the FA Cup,
before folding in 1880 when they lost their ground.

Seven years later, the members of Matlock Cricket
Club, based on Hoe Street established a football club
named after the Matlock Villas, which overlooked the
club’s pitch. In 1894, Swifts moved out of Leyton, to
a new ground in Blackhorse Road, Walthamstow. This
lasted just a season though, as the club moved back to
Leyton and changed their name to Leyton FC in the
process.

The club won the Essex Senior Cup on no fewer than
five occasions, and the London Senior Cup, as well as
the South Essex League four times.

Leyton turned professional in 1904, joining the
London League. The following year, Leyton moved
to Osborne Road, which would later become Leyton
Orient’s Brisbane Road.

In April 1912 a loan by a donor was called-in, and
without any hope of paying it, the club disbanded for
a second time.

Only a year later a third Leyton was formed, but this
incarnation was extremely short-lived. The outbreak
of war meant there was essentially no one to watch or
play for the club, and it was suspended.

The fourth Leyton was established in 1919, and it
would be arguably the most successful period for the
club, now back at the Hare and Hounds. Leyton won
the FA Amateur Cup (now FA Trophy) twice, and
were runners-up on four more occasions. They also
reached the first round of the FA Cup four times and
the second round three times.

After a successful 1950s and 60s, things dried up for
Leyton, and by the 1970s they could not carry on,
so a merger was completed with Wingate from north
London.

The pinnacle of this club was winning the Athenian
League in 1982, but by the early 90s with most of
the former ‘Wingate’ committee now either deceased
or having had left, the newly-merged Wingate &
Finchley requested Leyton drop the ‘Wingate’ title
from their name.

By 1995, the Hare & Hounds was really beginning to
show its age, and with Leyton not having the funds
to bring it up to standard, a merger was completed
with Walthamstow Pennant, with the new club being
Leyton Pennant and playing at Wadham Lodge.

This club spent most of its life in Divisions One and
Two of the Isthmian League, with no notable success,
save for two London Challenge Cup final appearances.
It’s first season in 1995 saw the club finish 4th in
Division One, but it was mostly mid-table obscurity
after that.

In 2003 the club changed names to Waltham Forest,
and were bankrolled heavily with aspirations of playing
in the Football League. Sadly, these never came
to fruition and an Essex Senior Cup was the only
silverware to show for it.

Disputes with the then-management at Wadham
Lodge in 2008 saw the club exiled for five seasons,
playing in Ilford. The first season back at Wadham
Lodge, in 2013 ended in relegation to the Essex
Senior League for the first time in the club’s history.

In 2018, the club changed names once more to
Walthamstow FC. We hope this new change kick-
starts success both on and off the field, and enables
the club to form part of the local community which
deserves a thriving non-league club.
HONOURS

As Leyton FC (1868-1894)
FA Cup Second Round: 1875/6
FA Cup First Round: 1874/5, 1876/7, 1878/9

As Matlock Swifts (1887-1895)
Essex Junior Cup Winners: 1893/4
London Junior Cup Winners: 1894/5
Leyton & District Alliance Champions: 1892/3, 1893/4
Herald Cup Winners: 1891/2

As Leyton FC (1876-1904)
Essex Senior Cup: 1896/7, 1897/8, 1899/0, 1900/1, 1901/2, 1902/3
London Senior Cup Winners: 1903/4
South Essex League Champions: 1895/6, 1876/7, 1899/0, 1899/0
Walthamstow Charity Cup Winners: 1896/7
Walthamstow Charity Cup Runners-Up: 1897/8, 1901/2
West Ham Charity Cup Runners-Up: 1900/1

As Leyton FC (Professional) (1904-1912)
FA Cup Third Round: 1909/10
FA Cup First Round: 1910/1, 1911/2
London Challenge Cup Runners-Up: 1908/9
Southern League Division 2 Runners-Up: 1905/6

As Leyton FC (1919-1976)
FA Amateur Cup Winners: 1926/7, 1927/8
FA Amateur Cup Runners-Up: 1928/9, 1933/4, 1936/7, 1951/2
FA Cup Second Round: 1925/6, 1929/30, 1951/2
FA Cup First Round: 1927/8, 1928/9, 1952/3, 1955/6
Athenian League Champions: 1928/9, 1965/6, 1966/7
Essex Senior Cup Winners: 1929/30, 1930/1, 1934/5
Essex Senior Cup Runners-Up: 1932/3, 1949/50
London Senior Cup Runners-Up: 1933/4, 1937/8, 1945/6
London Challenge Cup Runners-Up: 1927/8
London League Champions: 1923/4, 1925/5, 1925/6
Essex Thameside Trophy Runners-Up: 1964/5, 1972/3
East Anglian Cup Winners: 1972/3
Grays & Tilbury Cup Winners: 1939/40, 1941/2 (shared)
Grays & Tilbury Cup Runners-Up: 1942/3
London Charity Runners-Up: 1934/5, 1936/7
London Charity Runners-Up: 1932/3, 1946/7, 1966/7, 1970/1
West Ham Charity Cup Runners-Up: 1929/30
West Ham Charity Cup Runners-Up: 1924/5, 1925/6
Leyton & Walthamstow Hospital Cup Winners: 1925/6

As Leyton-Wingate FC (1976-1992)
FA Cup First Round: 1985/6
Athenian League Champions: 1981/2
Athenian League Division One Champions: 1976/7
Essex Senior Trophy Winners: 1984/5
Isthmian League Division Two (N) Champions: 1984/5

As Pennant FC and Walthamstow Pennant FC (1965 – 1995)
London Senior Cup Runners-Up: 1990/1
London Junior Cup Winners: 1974/5
SW League Junior Cup Winners: 1968/9
SW League Intermediate Cup Winners: 1969/70
SW League Senior Cup Winners: 1970/71
SW League Premier League Winners: 1972/3
London Metropolitan League Winners: 1974/5
Spartan Reserve League Winners: 1980/1, 1990/1
Spartan Reserve League Runners-Up: 1987/8
Spartan Reserve League Cup Winners: 1980/1, 1988/9, 1990/1

As Waltham Forest FC and Leyton Pennant FC (1995-2018)
Essex Senior Cup Winners: 2005/6
London Challenge Cup Runners-Up: 1995/6, 1996/7
Essex Senior Trophy Winners: 1995/6
Eastern Floodlit Cup Winners: 1997/8, 1998/9
Essex & Herts Champion’s Cup Winners: 1996/7
Essex & Herts Border Comb Cup Winners: 1996/7
London Intermediate Cup Runners-Up: 1996/7
Suburban League Division Winners: 2005/6
Essex Veterans Cup Winners: 2017/8, 2018/9
Youth Teams
EJA Under 18s Trophy Winners: 2003/4
EJA Under 15s Trophy Runners-Up: 2014/5
Conference Youth League: Winners: 2005/6
Pelly Cup Runners-Up: 2005/6
Awards
Essex County FA Website of the Year: 2012
Essex Senior League Programme of the Year: 2017/8
## Walthamstow

**Manager:** Max Mitchell

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<td>Luke Hillier</td>
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## Enfield

**Manager:** Matt Hanning

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<tr>
<td>Daniel Chambers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Johnson</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Next Matches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hadley (H)</td>
<td>3.3.20</td>
<td>7.45PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saffron Walden Town (A)</td>
<td>7.3.20</td>
<td>3PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashtag United (A)</td>
<td>10.3.20</td>
<td>7.45PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>