# WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

# Wingate & Finchley vs Cheshunt



# Thursday 26th December 2024- 1.00PM KO

**Isthmian Premier Division** 





# > PITCHING <

# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

> Please visit Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk to find out more





## **WINGATE & FINCHLEY FC**

Hello and welcome to the Maurice Rebak Stadium! We hope that all associated with the club, the match officials and the staff, players and officials of Cheshunt enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

This is our final home game of the calendar year, with just one more game of 2024 to be played this Saturday away at Folkestone Invicta.

Our local rivals Cheshunt are the only remaining side in the league which we have not yet faced this campaign, with the away fixture at Theobalds Lane taking place on bank holiday Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

Last season, we defeated Cheshunt 1-0 away on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with a goal courtesy of Zack Newton.

A Carvalho penalty and a Chukwu brace secured a 3-2 home win on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, giving us all 6 points against the Ambers.

#### Company Name and Number:

Wingate and Finchley Development Ltd, 6014465 **Ground:** The Maurice Rebak Stadium, Summers Lane, Finchley, London N12 0PD. Tel: 020 8446 2217 **Company Number:** 6014465 **Training Ground:** Barnet Lane, Barnet, EN5 2DN

League Match Ticket Prices:

£12 adults, £8 concession, £5 for ages 11-18, under 11 free

Chairman: Aron Sharpe Vice Chairman: Nicky Rifat, Joe Sharpe

President: Harvey Ackerman Life Vice President: David Ackerman Life Vice President: David Wolff Life Vice President: Peter Rebak Life Vice President: Steven Astaire Director: Paul Lerman Secretary: Andrew Kouroushi Finance: Liam Blaney

First Team Manager: Ahmet Rifat First Team Coaches: Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel First Team Goalkeeping Coach: Gavin King First Team Analyst: Michael Smith

Kit Manager: Peter Barker Head Groundsman: Andy Ward Welfare Officer: Jonny Georgiou Bar Manager: Lorraine Coleman Matchday Hospitality: Tony Ward Programme Editor: Joshua Palmer

## **CLUB NOTES**

#### Congratulations David Wolff!

Our life vice-president David Wolff has recently received the London FA's Bobby Moore Award for 2024 Grassroots Heroes Award (sponsored by Panini!)

**Congratulations David!** 

Mr Wolff is also chairman of the Maccabi (Southern) GB Football League (since 1970!), overseeing the organisation of the league.

His footballing career began back in the 1950s as a member of the Ivri Maccabi Youth League and is a supporter of West Ham United – once being asked to manage their under 16s team. He joined the MSFL Management Committee in December 1963 as assistant secretary, before rising to vice chairman in 1965 then chairman in 1970. During his directorship, the league has risen from 12 clubs to 66.

David has also chaired the London FA since 2022.

From all at the club, congratulations on your award David!

#### Ending 2024

We are on the road again this Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December when we travel to Folkestone Invicta, 3pm kick-off. Please join us at:

Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5JU

#### New festive hot dogs!

Visit the tea hut under the main stand this afternoon to try our new festive hot dogs!

The Bird & Berry! Turkey & studding with a touch of cranberry!

> Christmas special £7.50

#### Happy New Year!

Good afternoon and welcome to the last game of 2024 at the Maurice Rebak Stadium!

We hope everyone celebrating has a Merry Christmas, a happy Chanukah and a good new year!

We are next here in N12 on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January, vs Cray Wanderers.

#### Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only. Total games: 21 league, 7 cup:

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	19	3	22
Lowe	4	1	5
Drakes-Thomas	2	3	5
Frempah	4	0	4
Georgiou	3	1	4
Oladipo	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Deslandes	2	0	2
Briscoe	1	0	1
Iontton	1	0	1
Newton	1	0	1
Restrepo	1	0	1



"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities. The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all 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 our communities."



# **A VIEW FROM AFAR**

First, as it's Boxing Day, three statements about football on this day only one of which is true, but which one? Answer at the end of the article.

- I once scored at both ends in a friendly game between teams made up of Old Fincunians at Lyttelton Playing Fields
- The very first known Boxing Day match was in 1860 between Sheffield FC and Hallam FC
- In 2012, the match between Woking and Aldershot in what is now the National League, was abandoned due to torrential rain after 81 minutes, with Woking leading 7-2. When the game was replayed in February, Aldershot won 1-0

It always seems that Cheshunt visit us at this time of year. Last year it was much later of course, on New Years Day which, now I think of it, was this year but I'm sure you understand what I mean. This always seems a significant point in the season, roughly half-way through and with a cluster of matches based around seasonal fare and spectators full of bonhomie, or possibly Christmas Pudding.

I notice that in last season's corresponding article, I was moved to produce some New Year resolutions, or as they appear to be looking back, demands. Not being one to think of something new unnecessarily, I will do the same today. So here goes; in 2025

- 1. The FA will declare that all professional teams must revert to the area in which they were formed. Thus MK Dons will henceforth play in Wimbledon, Arsenal in Woolwich and Port Vale in a valley of their choice
- 2. The Isthmian League will introduce a new rule which compels anybody kicking a ball out of the ground to go and get it back, while the game carries on without them
- 3. A ban on industrial action or engineering works to be implemented on the Thameslink lines between Haywards Heath and New Southgate on days that Wingate and Finchley have a home fixture

## **A VIEW FROM AFAR**

- 4. The price of half time chips at non-league grounds to be regulated by a new QUANGO, to be entitled Chip Ratification Amenity Partnership, or CRAP for short
- 5. Half and half scarves to be banned and anybody found wearing one to be sentenced to three games watching Millwall
- 6. Goalkeepers to be allowed one sortie upfield with ball in hand, which can be placed at any point outside the penalty area. They then have to leave the field until the next occasion that any player is heard to swear; this is usually 2 seconds
- 7. Referees at non-league level, without access to VAR, to have the right to seek a second opinion on any decision from a representative of the home side based in the dugout, who will promise to tell the truth. Failing that, a loud-mouthed spectator behind the goal could be seconded for this role
- 8. Any team considering installing an artificial pitch to be deducted 10 points
- 9. Physios to be allowed on to treat players without the game stopping, as in rugby.
- 10. The rule to be rescinded whereby referees are allowed to add time until Liverpool score

These would, I feel enhance the entertainment value of matches, plus ease the Lady Wife and I in our travels to the stadium and ensure that even fewer people than normal actually understand the laws of the game. Disagreements thus provoked always add to the general goodwill that is a well known feature of the football terrace and stand. Obviously an eleventh one can be added; Wingate and Finchley to be guaranteed 3 points on Boxing Day. Merry Christmas!

Which fact is correct? It's the Sheffield v Hallam match. The other two are complete fiction!

#### **By Peter Brown**

Wingate and Finchley Football club can trace its roots back to the formation of Finchley Football Club in 1874 making it one of the oldest clubs in the country. Founded by Pa Jackson, who also was instrumental in the creation of the Corinthians, The London Football Association as well as later serving as secretary of the FA, Finchley became founder members of the Athenian League in 1912 after spells in the London League and North London League. They finished fourth in the maiden season, higher than such luminaries as Grays Athletic, Chelmsford City and Enfield.

However their stay was cut short due to the onset of World War One and they would only return for a lone season in 1929 before returning to the London League and forging success. The club's first piece of silverware was won during the 1934-1935 season when the League Cup was captured, with the taste of achievement forming Finchley went on to win the London League in 1936-1937 before World War Two scuppered their winning streak.

It was immediately after the conflict that saw Major Harry Sadow, Frank Davis, George Hyams and Asher Rebak form a Jewish Football Club believing the field of play was a ground of battling the ignorance of anti-Semitism. So in 1946 Wingate Football Club began life in the Middlesex Senior League. The club was named after General Orde C. Wingate who despite not being Jewish himself oversaw the creation of the Israeli Army during the Second World War. The club enjoyed early success and by 1952 they were promoted to the London League.

Meanwhile Finchley, back in the Athenian League, were in the middle of their glory years with the 1952-1953 season proving to be the pinnacle. That year saw their progression to the Third Round Proper of the FA Cup. Defeated along the way were Chelmsford City, Kidderminster Harriers (1-0 at Aggborough) and Crystal Palace (3-1 at Summers Lane) before the Finches were finally beaten 2-0 at Gay Meadow against Shrewsbury Town.

Despite an Amateur Cup semi-final appearance, losing to bitter local rivals Hendon at Highbury in 1965, a sense of decline was starting to emerge. A switch to the Isthmian Premier League failed to stop the halt, and in 1980-81 Finchley were relegated to the second division.

Wingate by now had become a senior club and were competing in the Athenian League. Many players had become members of the Middlesex FA representative side and also partook on behalf of Great Britain in the Maccabiah Games. Disaster struck though in 1972 when their Hall Lane ground in Hendon was lost to the M1 extension and despite a short ground share with Finchley FC the club reverted to junior football. Wingate finally returned to the senior game with a brief merger with Leyton FC. This partnership proved to be unsuccessful and despite a 1984-1985 League Cup victory, ironically defeating Finchley in the final, both clubs went their separate ways.

In 1991 with Finchley struggling in the Isthmian League Second Division and with mounting debts it was announced that a merger with Wingate would take place in the

summer. After extensive refurbishment and a name change of the Summers Lane ground in honour of long time Wingate supporter Harry Abrahams, Wingate and Finchley took to the field for the start of the 1991-1992 season.

Success was immediate and despite starting life in the South Midlands League the club were quickly competing in the Isthmian League and by season 2003-2004 were members of the newly formed Division One North.

In recent seasons the club has continued its growth. A brief flirtation with the Southern League was shortly followed by the arrivals of Manager Michael Stone and Chairman Aron Sharpe. Now back in the Isthmian League a youthful squad achieved seventh position in the First Division North in the 2008-2009.

Stone sadly left the club in 2009 after being offered the post of Assistant Manager at Conference giants Rushden and Diamonds. The club's first team manager in time for the start of the 2009/10 season was former Oswestry Town manager and Total Network Solutions Llansantffraid midfielder David Norman. At the end this season the Club finished in a record high position of 3rd in the Ryman Division One North, mainly thanks to a record run of 17 matches without defeat from the turn of the year, a run which included 13 wins. The Club reached the playoffs but lost out to Enfield Town in the semi-final 3-2 in an incredible match. This paved the way for what was to be a monumental and unforgettable 2010/11 season.

The Club was quickly becoming the most progressive non-league club in the area, thanks to Sharpe's focus on youth development. Bobby Aisien and Medi Alabimba had progressed from Hadley Wood and Wingate to earn professional contracts, and in 2011 over 20 of the U16-18 age group represented their County. Six boys at U16's were given scholarships with pro sides and the club developed into a community club with a Mencap disability initiative, work with schools, and it entered its fourth year of the Flex educational scheme.

A consistent league season for the First Team saw the side match their previous 3rd place league finish and earn a second crack at the playoffs. In the semi-final Harlow Town were beaten 4-2 after extra time, and promotion to the Ryman premier Division was won with a 118th minute winner over Brentwood Town in extra time of the final - The Blues winning 3-2 on their home turf.

This victory was the middle leg of a remarkable and unique Treble. Earlier that season the club had lifted the Ryman League Cup having beaten Dulwich Hamlet 2-0 at Imber Court, and London Senior Cup success was to follow shortly afterwards when Hendon were convincingly beaten 3-1 in the final.

Success flowed throughout the Club this year, with the youth teams also building on their previous season's work as they progressed superbly. The U18's won the Middlesex County Cup, and at U15 level the League Title and three Cup trophies followed (two County cups and the League cup). Even the Under 10's were getting in on the action as they lifted the Spring Cup!

The first season in the Ryman Premier Division in 2011/12 saw the side secure safety in this new level with a comfortable mid-table finish, ending up closer to the playoffs than from relegation. The final third of the season saw breakthroughs for youth players Liron Mannie and David Smouha who both played big roles in the first team squad. Meanwhile there was huge cup success at youth level yet again; The Under 18's won the AFA Cup, beating Valley Park after extra time, as well as the London County Cup. The Under 17's won a double as they beat Thurrock in the EJA League Cup final to add to their earlier AFA Cup success having beaten Bethwin 8-1! The Under 16's also got in on the action securing their AFA Cup title beating Woodford FC, which they added later on securing their EJA (Herts) League title.

Success of the youth sides prompted three players - Ross Weinreb, Nathan Sollosi and Joe Sharpe - to earn selection to the Great Britain Maccabi Team for the world games in Israel during July 2013. Meanwhile the Barnet Mencap disability sides grew in strength as they entered the fourth season with the club, with three sides now competing in the Camden Step Leagues. The year ended on a high as McDonalds joined in lucrative sponsorship deal.

The following season, 2012-13, was a difficult one for the first team. Early season poor form led to the departure of Norman in November as ex-Northwood boss Gary Meakin came in. The Club flirted with relegation all season until a momentous 3-2 victory over Lowestoft two days before the final day secured survival. However Norman rejoined the Club in the summer as Director of Football, as veteran defender Daniel Nielsen was put in place as Head Coach. Meanwhile a new Under 21 Development squad was set up to compete in the inaugural Ryman U21 League.

There was continual success for the youth sides. The U17's added the London County Cup to an earlier EJA league title, the EJA cup and the AFA cup. These were also followed up with the League Regional Playoff title. The U16's won two cups in this season, the EJA and AFA trophies.

In 2014 the side faced another relegation fight in the league, which was lost on goal difference on the final day of the season despite a 5-0 victory over Billericay Town. However, when Worksop Town pulled out of the Southern League due to financial problems, Wingate & Finchley were the first in line to earn the reprieve back to the Ryman Premier Division.

The 2014-15 season resulted in a record finish of 12th place in the Ryman Premier League, and at the end of the season Norman departed, to be replaced by Simon Lane as Director of Football. However for the start of 2016 he was replaced by former Northern Ireland International Keith Rowland and the side finished in a stable 13th position. In August 2016 the stadium at Summers Lane was re-named after Wingate FC co-founder Maurice Rebak who had passed away in February of that year aged 95.

The 2016-17 season saw the club set a new record, finishing in 5th place in the Ryman Premier League and qualifying for the end of season playoffs. A last-minute defeat at Bognor Regis Town in the semi-final ended the season, but this was a magnificent achievement and saw the Blues win the League's Team Performance of the Year Award.

A ninth-place finish followed in 2017-18 as the Blues narrowly missed out on a second successive play-off berth. There was success for the Under 23 side who won the Isthmian Development League North Division at a canter. Over the summer the Club embarked on an extensive state-of-the-art refurbishment of the stadium, for the first time since 1991's merger, giving the clubhouse a much-welcomed overhaul and making the stadium one of the most impressive in non-league football.

The subsequent three seasons saw a period of uncertainty both on and off the pitch, with short management stints for ex England International Nicky Shorey, ex Premier League stalwart Glen Little and ex West Ham Academy and Wingate & Finchley favourite Steve Clarke, followed by two null and void seasons under the stewardship of Spencer Knight due to the COVID pandemic. However, during this period there were still many successes, including U18s winning County Cup in consecutive seasons and the London Champion of Champions trophy, U23 Development Squad being victorious in Herts League Cup fielding a squad largely made up of Under 18s, while both U13s and U12s secured League Titles.

In the summer of 2021, Club legends Ahmet Rifat (Director of Football) and Marc Weatherstone (Manager) were appointed as a new Management Team after nearly 1000 first team appearances between them. Later in the 2022/23 season Ahmet Rifat was to take sole charge.

Season 2024/24 will go down on record as one of our finest if not the finest. Finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> position with a record hall of 76 points and scoring 78 goals. Ahmet Rifat's charges made it to the play offs on the last day of the season with a 3-0 win over Carshalton.

We faced local rivals Enfield Town in the play off Semi finals at the QE II Stadium. We narrowly lost a very tight match 1-0 in front of a crowd of 2,225 that night. A fine season was ended, but what memories it brought.

What does 2024/25 hold, a new revamped side, and a manager and coaching squad with that extra years experience. Looking forward to the journey.

# THE BOHEMIA YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB & BREWERY 10% OFF ALL FOOD ORDERS ON MATCH DAY





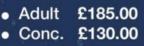


#### EARLY BIRD

- Adult £135.00
- Conc. £90.00
- Under 18 FREE

\*EARLY BIRD AVAILABLE UNTIL 31st JULY \*\*Concessions over 65 and Students. \*\*\*Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5 (U18 Season tickets only available on early bird)

#### FULL PRICE



\*FULL PRICE FROM 1st AUGUST \*\*Concessions over 65 and Students \*\*\*Match Day Tickets £12, Conc-£8, U18 £5 EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

£6.43 £3.80

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

£8.80 £6.19

Principal Club Sponsor

# **CHESHUNT PLAYER PROFILES**

Teddy Jefcoate – GK – Teddy has made the progression from Cheshunt Youth u18 to the first team squad and is currently studying at Lincoln University

Preston Edwards – GK – A vastly experienced keeper at the top levels of Non League football, Preston grew up in Cheshunt and returned to his home town club this season as player/assistant manager.

Lordon Akolbire – D – A fast and versatile full back who has played on both flanks for Cheshunt, Lordon excels on timing his overlapping runs but also has the energy to get back to fulfil defensive duties, Lordon starts his second spell at Cheshunt having been with the club during the NLS 22/23 season.

Darion Furlong – CH – Darion has footballing DNA being a member of the Furlong family and brings a calming influence to the back line with his assured play and reading of the game, a strong & quick defender, he is a definite threat in the opposition box too.

Raul Da Silva – CH – Raul returned recently to the Ambers for a second spell having had a season away. A regular in the NLS team his presence in either box is substantial and his aerial presence is a key part of his game.

Sam Mvemba – D – A key signing for the Ambers having had an impressive season at Royston Town in the Southern Central Premier, Sam swaps to the Isthmian Premier with Cheshunt for the 24/25 season.

Fionn Murphy – D – Another player to make the transition from Cheshunt Youth to the first team squad. Fionn has represented the club at Youth, under 23 and senior level already this season and has impressed with his calm approach, and reading of the game.

Sam Granville – M – A fan favourite, Sam is a former Barnet player who spent a season long loan with Cheshunt in 23/24 and as a local, decided to make the move permanent for 24/25. A strong player who sees passes early, holds the ball well, and can be a handful dribbling at speed. Sam opened the Ambers goalscoring account this season and is looking to improve his stats in front of goal.

Taylor Miles – M – Another fan favourite, off the pitch a genuinely nice quiet guy with a unique sense of humour, On the pitch, a warrior, determined, driven and

# **CHESHUNT PLAYER PROFILES**

a player who leaves it all out there every time. his eye for a pass and accuracy is a key asset for a player who enjoys playing centrally, but has also impressed at full back this term.

Nathaniel Orafu – M – Last season's Fans, Players & Managers player of the season, Nathaniel continues to impress in an advanced midfield position, deceptively strong he appears to glide with the ball at his feet, and doesn't do tap ins, the majority of Nathaniel's goals are spectacular shots that the Ambers fans behind the goal have now come to expect.

Jack Thomas – M – Captain this term, a no nonsense midfielder with an engine that gets him up and down the pitch for the full ninety plus. With plenty of experience at steps 2 & 3 Jack made 188 appearances for Bishops Stortford before switching to Hertfordshire rivals Cheshunt.

MJ Muyembe – M – A skilful & industrious midfielder signed this season from St Neots, he also has experience at Biggleswade Town & Kempston and appears to have made the transition to step 3 smoothly. MJ puts the hard work in , and is adept at supplying or running the channels in support of his forwards.

Tommy Wood – F – A new signing this season the Ambers were very pleased to eventually secure the signature of Tommy Wood with plenty of competition pre season. Tommy scored five minutes into his first competitive start for Cheshunt and the fans have taken to his typical number 9 style, at home with the ball at his feet or in the air, facing or with his back to goal we look forward to Tommy adding to his career goal tally acquired with AFC Wimbledon, Tonbridge Angels, Hampton & Richmond and Lewes.

Jeremy Bisau – F – A Kenyan international at 18, Jeremy is a product of Brooke House College and has joined the Ambers this season with ambitions to make it into the professional ranks. A player who operates on both flanks his opening performances have shown great promise.

Tobias "Tee" Braney – F – Tobias has been a forward Manager Craig Edwards has kept tabs on since he left Luton Town. He has experience with Chesham United and was signed in August from Bowers & Pitsea.

## **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

Festive greetings one and all! This years' festive quiz is based on Christmas number 1's! 1-10 will be guess the year of the Christmas number 1, whilst 11-20 will be guess the Christmas number one from that year

1) Moon River
2) Green, Green, Grass of Home
3) Lily the Pink
4) Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West)
5) Lonely This Christmas
6) There is No One Quite Like Grandma
7) Mistletoe and Wine
8) Earth Song
9) That's my Goal
10) Last Christmas

11) 1972 12) 1976 13) 1979 14) 1986 15) 1990 16) 1997 17) 2000 18) 2001 19) 2006 20) 2007

By Tom Salinger

#### Quiz answers

1) 1961 2) 1966 3) 1965 4) 2005 10) 2023 6) 1980 2) 1980 8) 1995 9) 2005 10) 2023

11) Long Haired Lover from Liverpool 12) When a Child is Born 13) Another Brick in the Wall Pt2 14) Reet Petite 15) Saviours Day 16) Too Much 17) Bob the Builder 18) Something Stupid 19) A Moment Like This 20) When You Believe

**By Tom Salinger** 

And an error on the team sheet

2 pints a tenner

3 games unbeaten

- - - -

4 flags hanging

**5 GOLDEN GOALS** 

6 hoppers chatting

7 bars card only

8 home fans moaning

9 fixture changes

10 programme bundles

11 new grounds ticked off

12 away supporters

SOMEHOW it is December already! Where has the time gone? To start getting us into the festive mood, Tom Salinger has penned his annual 12 days of groundhopping Christmas:

#### **12 DAYS OF GROUNDHOPPING CHRISTMAS**

# 5 PITCHING C

proudly supports THE TRIDENT TRUST FUND

Providing access to grants and funding for your club, in your community







Manager: Ahmet Rifat **Coaches:** Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel Goalkeeping Coach: Gavin King Analyst: Michael Smith Kit Manager: Pete Barker

**Tyrece Briscoe Toby Byron Billy Cracknell** Luke Deslandes **Jaiden Drakes-Thomes Ben Frempah Rhamar Garrett-Douglas Andronicos Georgiou Charlie Grainger Fergal Hale-Brown** Loic Hernandez **Arthur Iontton Ryan Lowe** Zack Newton **Tommy Roberts** Ogo Obi **Ferdinand Oko Khristopher Oti Camilo Restrepo** Lonit Talla **Avo Tanimowo Bobby Webb** 

#### **NEXT UP IN N12:**

#### MATCH OFFICIALS

Cray Wanderers (ILP) - 04/12/2024 Dartford (ILP) - 18/01/2024

Referee: Jorden Gibson Assistants: Luke Griggs, Ezra o'Neill