

WINGATE & FINCHLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingate & Finchley vs
Hastings United



VS



Saturday 9th
November 2024

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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 Hastings United enjoy their stay in N12 this afternoon!

We welcome our friends from the south coast to the Maurice Rebak Stadium after Tuesday's win against Carshalton Athletic. Goals from Ben Frempah and Andronicos Georgiou were enough to keep all three points here in North London.

Last season saw us take 4 out of 6 available points from our games against Hastings – a 3-2 win at Pilot Field on Saturday 14th October 2023 and a 0-0 draw here at Summers Lane on Saturday 17th February 2024. Our 3-2 win was thanks to an Eliot Long hat-trick!

Our win midweek puts us up to fourth in the Pitching In Isthmian League table. Our 7 wins and 2 draws from our opening 13 league fixtures gives us 23 points.

We are 6 points behind league leaders Dover Athletic, 2 points behind second placed Billericay Town, and 1 behind Cray Valley PM in third.

We are a single point ahead of Lewes in fifth, the bottom playoff spot, who have played a game less.

Dulwich Hamlet, who are in sixth, are three points behind. We currently have the third highest goal difference in the league behind Dover and Billericay.

Hastings find themselves in 14th place, with 15 points from their opening 12 fixtures - a record of 4 wins and 3 draws.

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!

Fixture changes

Hashtag Utd. (A) – Fixture moved from Sunday 1st November to Saturday 30th November, 3pm kick off

Cheshunt (H) – Fixture remains Boxing Day 26th December, kick off time moved from 3pm to 1pm.

Upcoming fixtures

Tonight is the first of FIVE home fixtures in November, with an away game in Sussex in between:

Tuesday 12th: **Tilbury (H)** (League Cup)

Saturday 16th: **Whitehawk (A)** (Isthmian League)

Tuesday 19th: **Chatham Town (A)** (Isthmian League)

Saturday 23rd: **Horsham (A)** (Isthmian League)

Saturday 30th: **Hashtag United (A)** (Isthmian League)

London Senior Cup

Last week we beat Erith and Belvedere in the London Senior Cup 1-0, thanks to a 90+3rd minute goal from Jaiden Drakes-Thomas. We will now host Charlton Athletic U21. Please see club website for further details on tickets or changes to the fixture.

Top scorers 2024/25

Competitive first team games only.
Total games played: 13 league, 5 cup

	Lge	Cup	Tot.
Obi	11	3	14
Georgiou	4	0	4
Frempah	4	0	4
Lowe	3	0	3
Oladipo	3	0	3
Tanimowo	3	0	3
Deslandes	2	0	3
Briscoe	1	0	3
Drakes-Thomas	1	1	2
lontton	1	0	1

LEAGUE RESPECT STATEMENT



“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.”



Respect

A VIEW FROM AFAR

Today's three facts concern the home town of our visitors from Hastings. Only one of them, though, is true but which one? Answer at the foot of the column:

- *Hastings has the largest beach fishing fleet in the UK*
- *Wilfred Brambell, best known for playing Albert Steptoe in Steptoe and Son, lived in Hastings until his death*
- *An international chess tournament takes place in Hastings every Easter*

Hastings are one of, by my reckoning, six Sussex based side in our division this season. This does suggest a centre of gravity gradually moving south, which might be thought very useful for the likes of the lady wife and I, living as we do in Mid Sussex. It is indeed nice to go to an away game and be home before dark, at least before the clocks go back.

As we know though, football fandom is not necessarily a respecter of geography. I wouldn't dream of mentioning here the fleets of coaches that head to Anfield from places like Basingstoke or the spectators who boost airline profits by flying to the homes of the two Glasgow giants from Belfast every week. Obviously I am not referring here to Angus and Ian McDonald, those notoriously tall twins who live in the Gorbals.

Many of these supporters might be termed 'glory hunters', but for others it is simply a case of maintaining contact with their roots. Earlier this season, I was standing on the terrace at Lewes, listening to the usual eclectic conversations that tend to range from the latest production at The Old Vic to the merits of the foreign policy being pursued by the government of Kazakhstan. Alongside me one of the voices sounded vaguely familiar, but I was struggling to place it. I then heard one of his group refer to him by the name Norman and, glancing to my right, I realised that my neighbour possessing the recognisable voice was the former LibDem MP for the area, Norman Baker.

He was interested in the game and I heard him say that he came to games at Lewes 'a few times' each season. Another point of difference from many supporters came when one of his party said they were going to buy a pint and took orders from his friends. 'A cup of tea for me please', said Norman.

The surprising thing to me was that he seemed to be obsessed, not with the drama unfolding on the pitch but with the fortunes of Aberdeen who had, at that stage, won every game they had played this season. Now, they famously had the

A VIEW FROM AFAR

first all seater stadium in Britain at Pittodrie which always drew comment when a report came through on Sports Report. I was unaccountably drawn to getting accidentally lost on the one occasion I have found myself driving through the Granite City, in order to drive along the road outside the ground I had heard so much about. Perhaps Norman Baker had a particular interest in stadium architecture, or a large shareholding in a company manufacturing plastic seats?

But no, on checking with the absolutely infallible Wikipedia, it turns out that Aberdeen was the city of his birth and he has been a dedicated fan throughout his life. So maybe we should be a bit more considered when accusing fans of latching on to a club that appear to have a greater chance of trophies than their neighbourhood side? Perhaps Basingstoke is crammed full of people from Liverpool, no doubt attracted by the glamour, culture and beauty of a new town in the middle of Hampshire....

Which Hastings fact is true?

Hastings does have the largest beach fishing fleet in the UK. It does host a chess tournament each year, but it is at Christmas and Wilfred Brambell didn't live in Hastings, although his screen son Harry H Corbett did!

By Peter Brown

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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!

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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.

WINGATE & FINCHLEY CLUB HISTORY

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 4th position with a record haul 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.

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HASTINGS UNITED – PLAYER PROFILES

Callum Barlow: Forward - Date of Birth:

Callum Barlow plundered 35 goals for Eastbourne United last season. Recently signed from Bognor Regis Town where he made 13 appearances. Previously with the U's Academy.

Finley Chapman: Midfielder - Date of Birth: Feb 28th, 2005 (Age: 19)

Fin came through the Hastings Academy before making the transition to the first team squad.

Joe Clifford: Midfielder - Date of Birth: April 28th, 2007 (Age: 17)

Joe came through the Hastings Academy before making the transition to the first team squad.

Sam Cruttwell: Defender - Date of Birth: Jan 3rd, 1997 (Age: 27)

Sam has made more than 250 appearances for United, the last three of them in the 20-21 campaign, when he returned to the club after playing for SCEFL side Little Common. During last season he once again returned to the U's from Little Common.

Jack Dixon: Midfield - Date of Birth: Sep 29th, 1990 (Age: 34)

Home-town player. 'Dicko' made his debut for Rye United as a 16-year-old in the Sussex County League and had trials at several League clubs before signing for Hastings United in 2011. After 87 matches over two seasons and being an influential member of the team that reached the third round proper of the FA Cup, he transferred to Lewes in July 2013. Joined Dulwich Hamlet in the autumn of 2014 from Lewes for whom he had netted 19 goals from midfield the previous season. Scored on his Hamlet debut at Harrow Borough in November 2014. Jack has over 330 appearances in claret and blue. Awarded President's, Manager's and Players' 'Player of the Season' at the end of 2018/19. Spent the first half of 2023/24 at Whitehawk before returning to the U's.

Tommie Fagg: Midfielder - Date of Birth: December 26th, 1997 (Age: 26)

Tommie spent time at Chatham earlier this season, on loan from Tonbridge Angels. He made a dozen appearances for Chats, scored twice. Tommie joined Ashford United during the pandemic hit 2019-20 campaign, moving from Sittingbourne, where he made 27 appearances during that campaign, thirty-three during 2018-19. He scored eleven times in thirty-four appearances for Ashford United in 2021-22, and his form caught the attention of Angels and soon made a step up to National League South. He played thirty-two times for Angels in 22/23.

Tom Howard: Midfielder - Date of Birth: October 17th, 2002 (Age: 22)

Signed ahead of the 24/25 season. Previously at Loughborough Dynamo & Leicester Nirvana.

Freddie Legg: Forward - Date of Birth: June 3rd, 2004 (Age: 20)

Legg signed from Bexhill Utd and enjoyed great success in the 'U's Academy. Freddie netted a great goal in the 21/22 FA Cup tournament in the 3-0 away win over Beckenham Town. Fast and tricky winger. Selected for the England U18s squad following final trials in December 2021.

Adam Lovatt (Captain): Midfielder - Date of Birth: May 11th, 1999 (Age: 25)

Adam played youth and first team football at Eastbourne Borough, before signing for Hailsham Town on loan. A first spell at Pilot Field followed, and Adam made over one hundred appearances before making the step up to Sutton United. Whilst at Gander Green Lane he had several loan spells with Tonbridge Angels in National League South, and another at Angels rivals Dartford. Recently made his 150th appearance for the Club.

Jamal Lubanga: Midfielder - Date of Birth: October 6th, 2003 (Age: 21)

Product of Hastings United's Academy. Given first team exposure in 22/23. Exciting prospect who is now part of the first team squad. Signed a First Team contract in October 2023. Recently returned from a loan spell at Eastbourne Town.

HASTINGS UNITED – PLAYER PROFILES

Finn O'Mara: Defender - Date of Birth: February 3rd, 1999 (Age: 25)

Came through the Gillingham Academy into the first team squad in 2017 making a League One debut on 30 September 2017. Recently returned to the U's after spells with Erith & Belvedere, Faversham Town and Whitstable Town.

Tyrone Mlotshwa: Defender - Date of Birth: February 24th, 2007 (Age: 17)

Tyrone came through the Hastings Academy before making the transition to the first team squad. Member of the U's U18s squad.

Kian Moynes: Midfielder - Date of Birth: February 28th, 2002 (Age: 22)

Academy graduate. Industrious attacking midfielder, Kian had a spell out on loan at Eastbourne Town for season 2021/22 making 38 appearances. Returned to the 'U's at the beginning of last season after a brief spell with Bexhill United. Returning to the first team squad last season after another period out on loan, this time with Little Common FC.

Kane Penn: Defender - Date of Birth: October 15th, 1997 (Age: 27)

Returned to the U's after spells with Folkestone Invicta and Horsham. Now made over 80 first team appearances for United. Netting 3 goals in 3 games in one spell in October 2023.

Calum Pollitt: Midfielder - Date of Birth: October 24th, 2005 (Age: 19)

Signed just ahead of the 24/25 season. Previously with Bexhill United.

Daive Rodari: Forward - Date of Birth: June 23rd, 1999 (Age: 25)

DR7 is a fan favourite. Daive was thrust into the limelight when he scored 8 goals in one match against East Grinstead Town in November 2019, but those in the know had already noted his potential. He made his Utd debut back in 2017-18 after coming through the Development Squad at the Pilot Field, and went on to score 16 goals during that campaign, then got 7 in 9 matches following season. He got 18 in 22 games during an injury-hit 2019-20, attracting the attention of Crawley Town, signing professionally in January 2021. He made 13 appearances for the Red Devils before heading out on loan, first to Worthing, then Dorking Wanderers, and finally Dartford, regularly finding the net with all three clubs. Scored 34 goals in all competitions for the U's in 23/24 setting a club record for goals in a season.

Louis Rogers: Goalkeeper - Date of Birth: Jul 25th, 1998 (Age: 26)

Homegrown talent rising from the U23s. The agile shot stopper was integral to the 'U's table-topping success in the 21/22 promotion season. Returning to the the Pilot Field after spending last season with Lancing.

Billy Vigar: Forward - Date of Birth: October 22nd, 2003 (Age: 21)

Signed just ahead of the 24/25 season from Arsenal, having signed pro forms with them in July 2022. Powerful and versatile forward with strong aerial ability, Billy spent the second half of 22/23 on loan at Derby County, featuring 9 times for the U21s. Centre-forward Billy, who also operates wide on the right, had loan spell with National League South side Eastbourne Borough last season. Made 4 appearances in Premier League 2 for Arsenal in 22/23.

George Walker: Defender - Date of Birth: September 24th, 2003 (Age: 21)

Signed just ahead of the 24/25 season. The right-sided defender has been an Under-18 and Under-21 star with Millwall. Lions fans were rather surprised that he was released earlier in the summer. Manager Danny Bloor believes that he will quickly become a fans favourite.

Leo Young: Defender - Date of Birth: November 26th, 2005 (Age: 18)

Signed on loan from AFC Wimbledon. First recipient of AFC Wimbledon's Academy Nigel Higgs Development Award. Graduated from the Dons Academy and signed pro forms in June.

HASTINGS UNITED – CLUB HISTORY

The present Hastings United Football Club appears to have existed continuously since 1901 having undergone three changes of name. One consequence of those name changes has been that the club's history has become inclined to be interwoven with that of other clubs with similar names and only recently may its history have been disentangled which is why this what is considered accurate history may now read somewhat differently to previous versions. The origins of the club began with the founding of old town side Rock-A-Nore in 1894; however, five years later they became defunct but in 1901 a new club started-up using the same name. In April 1921 it was agreed to change the name to Hastings and St. Leonards Football Club.

Another name change to "Hastings Town" was passed in the 1960's, but then in June 1985, the already existing "Hastings United" ceased trading when it was found they could no longer sustain their accumulated debts. Hastings Town made application to take over their Southern League place but Witney objected as United's demise had saved them from relegation from the Premier Division and, instead, Town were offered a place in the League's Southern Division. Several ex-United players joined Town and the unified side featured in the promotion race during their first two seasons but just missed out finishing third and fourth in 1986 and 1987, respectively.

Season 1998/99 saw an attempt to transfer to the Isthmian League refused but having resigned from the Southern League they were only accepted back as new entrants and started season 1999/2000 in the Eastern Division which they won in 2002. At this time the club finally acquired the company name Hastings United and since have played under that title.

Promoted to the Premier Division a twentieth position finish saw them make an immediate return to the Eastern Division but a first appearance was made in the F.A. Challenge Cup competition proper when the side went through to the first round proper after winning in a replay at Kettering Town. Sadly, there was to be no meeting with a Football League side to evoke memories of their namesake's glorious cup history, instead it was a visit to another Conference side, Stevenage Borough, where the dream ended with a 0-1 defeat. Relegation and the F.A.'s Non-League restructuring moved the side into the *Ryman* Isthmian League where they finished in eleventh and twelfth places in Division One in 2005 and 2006. Following a fourth place finish in season 2006/07, promotion to the Premier Division was won by defeating second placed Tooting & Mitcham United in the end of season play-off final.

HASTINGS UNITED – CLUB HISTORY

The 2009/10 season was United's most successful since gaining promotion. They looked likely to make the end of season play-offs until a late dip in form saw them finish in seventh place. They reached the semi-finals of the Sussex Senior Cup, losing to Brighton & Hove Albion but found no success in the FA Cup, FA Trophy or League Cup.

Manager Tony Dolby left the club in December 2010 and was replaced by Jason Hopkinson who was previously assistant manager at Lewes. Results picked up which enable the club to retain its Premier Division status. Results in the cup competitions were again disappointing. Jason left the Club during October 2011 following a disappointing start to the season and was replaced by central defender Sean Ray. United again found themselves in a relegation battle but managed to preserve their Premier Division status.

A poor league season in 2012/13 saw the club relegated from the Ryman League Premier Division. There was considerable cup success, however. An FA Cup run saw United reach the third round proper before losing 4-1 away to Championship side Middlesbrough. They also reached the semi-finals of the League Cup, losing away to Concord Rangers, and the Sussex Senior Cup when they lost 1-0 to Bognor Regis Town.

Three days prior to the start of the new season manager Sean Ray resigned his position. Assistant Mark Stapley and coach Terry White are in temporary charge. John Maggs was appointed as manager towards the end of August 2013, formerly with Crawley Town, Horsham and Crawley Down Gatwick.

John Maggs was dismissed towards the end of January 2014 and replaced by former player Terry White. Two other managerial changes were made during the season when results were disappointing especially as many had tipped the club to be challenging for a play-off place.

Towards the end of season 2014/15 the club changes hands when a new board of directors was appointed. Garry Wilson was appointed as manager during the close season with Danny Bloor joining as assistant manager.

Garry Wilson and Danny Bloor stepped down at the end of the 2015/16 season to be replaced by former United player Darren Hare who had previously been with Gillingham FC undertaking a number of roles including caretaker manager. Darren rebuilt the squad during the close-season with a number of new signings.

HASTINGS UNITED – CLUB HISTORY

After an excellent season which ended with a play-off semi-final defeat, on penalties, away to Dorking Wanderers, Darren Hare resigned. His replacement was Adam Hinshelwood who once again had to rebuild the side as a number of players moved on. Adam resigned during September 2017 to take on the managers role at Worthing FC and was replaced by his assistant Chris Agutter who remained at the helm on a full time basis until his resignation at the end of October 2021. November 2021 saw Gary Elphick appointed as Men's First Team manager with Andrew Brown as coach and Jon Meeney brought in to strengthen the coaching staff as Assistant Manager.

Season 2021/22 see the 'U's achieve promotion by winning the Isthmian League South East Division and taking their place back at Step 3 for the first time since 2013.

Following an 8th place finish in the Isthmian Premier for 2022/23, missing the play-off spots by just three points and goal difference, the Club underwent an ownership and management change with Dean White becoming Club Chairman. Chris Agutter returned to the role of First Team manager towards the end of October 2023. Following a 7th place league finish and reaching the Final of the Sussex Transport Senior Cup, Agutter resigned to take up the vacant managers role of National League South Worthing FC.

Ahead of the 2024/25 campaign, the Club appointed Danny Bloor as First Team manager. He in turn appointed Sean Ray as his assistant.

SEASON TICKETS 2024/25



EARLY BIRD

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult **£135.00** **£6.43**
- Conc. **£90.00** **£3.80**
- 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

EQUIVALENT PRICE PER MATCH

- Adult **£185.00** **£8.80**
- Conc. **£130.00** **£6.19**

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



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Manager: Ahmet Rifat

Coaches: Ruben Gaspar, Jonny Georgiou, Ricky Machel

Goalkeeping Coach: Gavin King

Analyst: Michael Smith

Kit Manager: Pete Barker



Caretaker Managers: Sean Ray

Caretaker Assistant Manager: Bobbi-Jay Deegan

Tyrece Briscoe

Toby Byron

Billy Cracknell

Jaiden Drakes-Thomes

Ben Frempah

Rhamar Garrett-Douglas

Andronicos Georgiou

Fergal Hale-Brown

Loic Hernandez

Ryan Lowe

Zack Newton

Tommy Roberts

Ogo Obi

Ferdinand Oko

Destiny Oladipo

Khristopher Oti

Lonit Talla

Ayo Tanimowo

Bobby Webb

Callum Barlow

Finley Chapman

Joe Clifford

Sam Cruttwell

Jack Dixon

Tommie Fagg

Tom Howard

Freddie Legg

Adam Lovatt ©

Jamal Lubanga

Tyrone Mlotshwa

Kian Moynes

Finn o'Mara

Kane Penn

Calum Pollitt

Davide Rodari

Louis Rogers (GK)

Billy Vigar

George Walker

Leo Young

NEXT UP IN N12:

Tilbury (VLC) – 12/11/2024

Chatham Town (ILP) – 19/11/2024

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Stuart Kyle

Assistants: Thomas Hood & Stephen Williams