

BARKING v BURNHAM RAMBLER 08/10/2011

PRESS OFFICER'S NOTES

Good evening ladies, gentlemen, girls and boys. Today, thanks to the hard work, dedication and generosity both in time and money of the people who voluntarily keep the club going we are able to continue in our 132nd season, our third century and our sixth season in the Essex Senior League.

We are happy to welcome the players, supporters and officials of our Burnham Ramblers, for our third meeting already this season and our 19th in total. We also welcome of course our own supporters, any uncommitted visitors and those most important people the referee and assistants, without whom we would have no game. We hope that you enjoy your visit and that we all have a safe journey home. We would also like to welcome anybody who is making a first visit and we hope that you enjoy the game and the friendly atmosphere and that you will return.

Additionally we would like to extend a special welcome to our former manager Dave Patient who is now Vice Chairman and Assistant First Team Manager at Burnham. As always I cannot mention Dave without also paying tribute to his father Jim, who also managed us at The Vicarage Field and served as press officer.

TODAY'S GAME

Is a league match in which we try to regain our highest position yet of second in the Essex Senior League. If we should win and Bethnal Green United lose we would be second again. However if we win and Bethnal Green draw we would in fact be top of the Essex Senior League for the first time ever as their opponents are Southend Manor. After winning our first five home games v Ramblers we have not won in our last five home meetings, drawing one and losing four. Our last home victory was on 15/2/2008 when we won 2-1. Victory for Ramblers could, subject to other results, take them from ninth to sixth place.

This is our 19th meeting, the first having been on 26/11/1991 in the Eastern Floodlit League when we won at home 2-0. Last season we won away 2-1 and lost at home 2-1 but a more relevant guide to form is our extended FA Cup tie in August when we drew away 1-1 and lost the replay to a late goal 1-0. After 180 minutes of football just one goal separated us.

However, winning is not everything. After all, I am reliably informed that the Lord said to Lazarus "Come fourth". I had previously thought that this instruction was issued to Moses and I would like to thank my old friend John Hockley for correcting this misapprehension.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments can be obtained before the game and at half time from the boardroom window, where Maureen Debenham and her indefatigable assistants will be eagerly waiting to serve you, and also at our small clubhouse, where Debbie O'Brien is in charge and Gilly will be happy to serve you. Service in the clubhouse continues after the game and affords an opportunity to meet and mingle with the players.

SQUAD NEWS

INJURIES

Club physiotherapist Alan Richards reports-

Ben Jones - Ben suffered bruising to his foot in the match against Clapton, and was forced to miss the matches against Sporting Bengal, Potton United and Witham Town.

Connor Halsey - Connor has sustained medial collateral ligament damage. Connor has now resumed light running, as well as working on strengthening exercises on his quadriceps.

Joe Turner and Dan Fowler are both back in training

Additionally Mark Doyle is receiving treatment which will unfortunately probably rule him out for the whole season (DP)

OUR VISITORS

Burnham Ramblers FC was founded in 1900 and played in the North Essex, Mid Essex, Essex Olympian and South East Essex Leagues before joining the Essex Senior League in 1985. They won the Olympian League in 1965/6, the Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy in 1996/7 and the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy in 2008/9, were second in the ESL by one point in 2004/5, were League Cup finalists in 2008/9 and 2009/10, reached the FA Vase last 16 in 1988/9 and three Essex Junior and one Essex Intermediate Cup finals.

Last season they were seventh in the league, one place below us, and won the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy, beating Eton Manor 4-2 in the final. This was appropriate as they presented the trophy to the league in memory of their former player, who went on to play for Arsenal and become chairman of the Ramblers.

This season they are currently ninth, having beaten Haringey & Waltham Development 2-0, Bethnal Green United 2-1, Clapton 2-1 and Takeley 4-1, drawn 2-2 with Basildon United and lost 3-1 to Witham Town, 4-3 to league leaders Southend Manor to a last minute disputed penalty and 0-1 to Enfield

1893. In the FA Cup, having eliminated us, they were eliminated by Hertford Town by kicks from the penalty mark after drawing 3-3 and 2-2. In the FA Vase they have beaten Broxbourne Borough V & E 3-2 and Takeley 5-2 and will play Sporting Bengal United in the first round proper.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Before last season we had not won in our three previous home meetings but we reversed the trend with a 4-0 victory in January.

P	W	D	L	F	A
18	6	3	9	28	26

Highest score for 5-1 1996/7 Essex Thameside Trophy
Highest score against 3-3 1991/2 Eastern Floodlit League
1-3 2006/7 Essex Senior League
2-3 2007/8 Essex Senior League
1-3 2008/9 Essex Senior League

First meeting 26/11/1991 Eastern Floodlit League H 2-0

Most recent meeting 23/8/2011 FA Cup H 0-1

I would like to thank Gavin Ellis, Bert Pedder, Fay Pedder, Terry Gilbert, Les Wilson and Julia Eason for their valuable work in connection with these results

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO SOUTHEND MANOR

We congratulate our fellow Essex Senior League club Southend Manor on their excellent run in the F A Cup. They have won through four rounds and now play Leighton Town in the third qualifying round. All this and they are also top of the league and still in the F A Vase in which they play Biggleswade United in the first round proper. We wish them further success in their cup runs.

OCTOBER 15TH

As a consequence of Southend Manor's FA Cup success they will not be playing us on October 15th and we presently have no first team game that day. Please check the website for news of any fixture but, if not, do not despair. Our excellent reserve team, which is challenging for the championship of the Essex Senior League Reserve Division in its inaugural season, are at home to Waltham Abbey Reserves that day. We are currently second on goal difference and have won 4 and drawn 1 of our five league games. Having seen us beat Waltham Abbey Reserves 6-2 away last week I can personally assure you of the high quality of our team and the football played.

Coincidentally our first team are at home to Southend Manor on the Tuesday

before their FA Cup match in the League Cup second round first leg.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING MATCHES

Having won our FA Vase second qualifying round tie against Potton United 4-0 we travelled to Witham Town where a draw would have taken us to the top of the Essex Senior League for the first time. However it was not to be and, on the hottest day ever in England in October since records began, we succumbed to an 84th minute goal and are now in third place. Our highest ESL finish has been 6th. The quality of the football in those conditions, especially in the first half, was a tribute to both teams.

We had not lost in our previous six games and our complete record for the season is **P12 W7 D2 L3 F26 A12**.

We have a busy time ahead with four successive home games including today's. On Tuesday we entertain Southend Manor in the League Cup second round first leg and the following Tuesday our visitors are Eton Manor for a league match.

OCTOBER 22ND

We then come to October 22nd when we are at home to Royston Town in the F A Vase first round proper. Royston Town play in the Spartan South Midland League Premier Division i.e. at the same level as us. They are currently second, and have won 12 and lost just three of their 15 games in all competitions this season.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chas Liddiard and his fiancée Emma who produced a new signing last weekend in the person of their son Alfie. We do not have an Under 1s team yet but no doubt Alfie will soon be emulating his dad's goal scoring feats.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE RECENT FORM

We were joint top of the official September league form table with Barkingside

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE SCORERS

Frankie Williams is joint third in the ESL scorer's table with five goals and Chas Liddiard and Ben Jones are joint seventh with four goals. This table only includes ESL competitions and our full scorers list for the season so far is-

PLAYER	ESL	CUPS	TOTAL	CAREER
Chas LIDDIARD	4	6	10	34
Frankie WILLIAMS	5	0	5	5
Ben JONES	4	0	4	16
Jake KING	1	2	3	7
Danny RAFIS	1	2	3	3
Lee CORNHILL	2	0	2	2
Max HOLT	1	1	2	2
Ben TURNER	1	0	1	7
Kevin NEVILLE	0	1	1	1
TOTAL	19	12	31	

With thanks to Terry Gilbert. Although goals win matches and are obviously vital so do saves, tackles, passes and all other facets of the game which are less easy to quantify. It is essentially a team game, including our management team, as I am sure all our scorers listed above would wish to emphasise.

LADIES

More good results were achieved by our ladies who drew 0-0 at home to Stevenage Borough and 1-1 away to Bedford Town who were fourth, three places above us. Vicky Bruce scored her 1st goal of the season. This extended our unbeaten run to four games and we have lost just 1 of our 6 games this season. We stay in seventh place and on Sunday we are away to 2nd placed Peterborough Sports. On Sunday October 23rd we are at home in the FA Women's Cup second qualifying round to Arlesey Town who beat Sawbridgeworth Town 6-1 in the first qualifying round.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW PART 1

Former Blue Shamraz Darr is now at Enfield 1893, as I am reliably informed is our former coach Neil Day.

Former Barking Lady Nicola Carty is now starring for league leaders C&K Basildon and also representing Essex. Congratulations Nicola and may many more caps come your way.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW PART 2/HISTORY FEATURE

In our home programme versus Hayes on December 31st 1955 the Supporters' Association Notes stated " The prospect of setting new record figures for membership are bright. Last season's figures of 3,700 have already been

reached." It must be remembered that not everybody who attended games joined the association. Sadly, given that this was 56 years ago, those who, like me, can remember that season are few and the answer to where are they now is probably that many of them are in the graveyard but where are their successors ?

On a fashion note items for sale in club colours included ties, blazer badges and berets! Activities included theatre trips, members' socials and a juveniles' Christmas party.

Happy days indeed.

RESERVES

We achieved a resounding 6-2 victory away to Waltham Abbey with goals from Billy Rainford, Craig Greenwood, Gary Strongman, Danny Rafis, Zak Harry and Sam Jones and Sam scored again in our 3-1 Essex Saturday Premier Cup defeat away to Old Southendians. We are second in the league on goal difference and are unbeaten in our five league games so far. Today we are away to Burnham Ramblers and next Saturday at home to Waltham Abbey.

For four days after our midweek victory at Waltham Abbey we were top of the Division.

MATCH REPORTS BY JEFF SEARS

Waltham Abbey Reserves 2 v Barking Reserves 6

We fielded a much changed squad in this match with six 1st Team players included in the team. This was due to there being no 1st team fixture scheduled, and with a busy October coming up game time for our whole squad is essential.

With so many new faces involved it was inevitable that it would take time to get used to one another but we started solidly against a young Waltham Abbey side. Wide midfielders Jason Kane and James Barlow created several half chances with good crosses into the box. It looked like only a matter of time before we would open the scoring. Unfortunately after 10 minutes a succession of several misplaced passes and poor decisions somehow allowed the Waltham Abbey centre forward a clear path to our goal and he slotted home from the edge of the box. One gift of a goal.

Despite this setback we responded well and with experienced midfielders Scott Walsh, Lee Cornhill and Danny Rafis taking an increasing hold in the middle of the park we started to move the ball around much better. After 15 minutes right back Billy Rainford timed a great forward run into space created by some excellent off the ball movement, latching onto a cross field ball to fire in the equaliser. The following 10 minutes were all Barking

with Craig Greenwood rifling!!! (his word not mine) in a shot from just outside the box (the 6 yard box!!!) to make the score 2-1 and shortly after Gary Strongman also finished from close range for a much deserved first league goal of the season. We were now 3-1 in front and dominating the game.

Next came a moment that Barking keeper Mark Richardson will want to forget, following a regulation back pass, he tried to dummy the oncoming centre forward who basically 'didn't buy it', and was left with the simplest of tap-ins into an empty net, Gift No. 2. This put a real spring in our opponents step and put us under a little pressure until the half-time break. Instead of going in with a comfortable 3-1 lead it was now 3-2.

Apologies were offered and accepted for both goals conceded during the break and some small positional changes were discussed and implemented for the second half.

We started the second half in much the same way as the first by controlling the game with Sam Dennis and Craig Greenwood dominant at the back and full backs Billy Rainford and (to a lesser extent due to Billy's many forays down the right flank) Kevin Neville linking up well. A fourth goal was scored by Danny Rafis latching onto a curling Lee Cornhill free kick and eventually (stylishly!! His words not mine!!) bundling the ball into the net to restore our 2 goal lead. The remainder of the game was played out almost exclusively in our opponents half. Chance after chance was created, and spurned, until Zak Harry (a 65 minute replacement for Lee Cornhill) finished well after some good work down the left by James Barlow put us 5-2 up and then the best goal of the evening was brilliantly finished by substitute Sam Jones, who topped off a terrific four man move with a cut infield and a cross-shot into the far corner to make it 6-2.

In the end we had to be happy with the scoreline but several lessons were again learned about treating our opponents with the necessary respect and making the right decisions at the right times, which against more experienced opposition could have cost us dearly.

Oh by the way I forget to mention as a result of last night's win;

'We are top of the league, say we are top of the league'

Please forgive me that but I've never been in this position before.

Squad: Richardson, Rainford, Dennis, Greenwood, Neville, Kane, Cornhill (Clarke 60), Walsh, Barlow, Rafis (Harry 65) Strongman (Jones, S 75).

Subs not Used : GB Dumata, Massey-Reed

Old Southendians 3 v Barking Reserves 1

We should have known things were not going to go our way when it took us over two hours to travel the 20 miles from Barking to Southend due to horrendous 'Indian Summer' traffic heading for the coast last Saturday. Arriving in several different cars at vastly different times meant that our normal pre-match preparations were impossible.

Our opponents were obviously up for the challenge and employed a long ball game almost from the off with 2 big target men playing up front and pacey midfield players picking up the pieces, forcing us to defend far deeper than we would have liked. When we did manage to get possession we gave it away by being in too much of a hurry trying to turn defence into attack. Gary Strongman once again turned in a fine performance, holding the ball up well but our midfield tended to go past him instead of supporting. This meant that we were forced to play the ball into the opposing penalty area earlier than we normally do. Our final ball was, as on Tuesday evening, not good enough and frustratingly we never seemed to learn from our mistakes and were unable to adapt. Whilst we rarely looked in danger of conceding a goal, we did not really look like scoring one either.

Then came a moment that was to have a profound effect on the game. After 30 minutes Strongman got himself in the way of a keepers kick from hand and with everyone, including us, expecting the referee to penalise him, tried to retrieve the loose ball. To everyone's surprise the ref ignored the any complaints and signalled play on. Nothing came of this but obviously our opponents made a mental note, more of which I will go into later.

Half time saw the teams locked at 0-0 and we discussed some tactical changes and how we could nullify our opponents' long ball approach. The referee also informed both sides that he would be stopping the game midway through the half in order for the players to take on water due to the freakishly hot weather.

The early period of the second half saw us improve considerably and we forced our opponents onto the back foot and the pressure eventually told when on 55 minutes Sam Jones scored with a fine volley from the edge of the box. We were playing better now and made some good chances with Jason Kane hitting the crossbar and Sam Jones putting another volley over the crossbar from slightly closer in.

The referee then called 'time-out' the game stopped and the players took on some much needed fluid. Unfortunately this affected us and the momentum after the break shifted back to opponents. Despite this James Barlow had an excellent chance after good work by Zak Harry, to double our lead but put his cross-shot wide.

Then came, what I consider to be the turning point in the game. Barking

keeper Mark Richardson attempted a clearance from his hands and, as in the first half, the Old Southendian forward stood directly in front of him blocking his clearance, again the referee ignored the offence and unfortunately for us the ball dropped to the centre forward who proceeded to roll it into the net. Needless to say this did not go down well and, it has to be said, caused us to completely lose our composure.

Old Southendians second goal also came following an apparent clear foul by one of their midfield players who appeared to flatten our midfielder Tony McDonald in an aerial challenge before setting the ball through for his forward to score. By now we realised that the game was slipping away from us and inevitably, with our players now extremely frustrated, a third goal, which incidentally was the best goal of the game swiftly followed, a fine header from a well flighted free-kick.

We had a long chat after the final whistle and agreed that we must be able to adapt to different styles of play, control our emotions when we perceive that things are going against us (both players and management) and take opportunity to put things right in our next league game against Burnham Ramblers on Saturday. All in all a bad day at the office-but as long as we learn from it maybe not a complete waste of time!!!

Squad: Richardson, Rainford, Gabriel, Kane, Markaj, McDonald, Jones (S) (Gross 75), Clarke, Barlow(Adeiwale 80), Harry (Dumata 70), Strongman. All Subs Used

COMMUNITY TEAM

We set a new club record at this level with a 9-0 victory over Thurrock Wanderers in the Bellamy Cup Group 1. Details of scorers are still awaited. We are top of the group after this first round of games and we remain fourth in the Premier Division.

ACADEMY

ACADEMY RESULTS AND SCORERS SEPTEMBER 25TH

GIRLS

UNDER 12 A Essex County Girls' League Central/London Division West Ham United U12 0-12

ACADEMY

BOYS /YOUTHS

UNDER 13 Eastern Junior Alliance Essex H Wingate & Finchley U13 1-3 Scorer Charlie Maguire

UNDER 15 London F A Youth Cup U15 A Snaresbrook & Interwood U15 1-1 AET Kicks from the penalty mark 6-5 Scorer Elie-Fanga Atems

UNDER 16 Eastern Junior Alliance London H Romford U16 2-2 Scorers George Sullivan-Sparks,Ezekiel Akinola

UNDER 17 Eastern Junior Alliance Challenge Cup 1st round A Wingate & Finchley U17 0-1

UNDER 18 Eastern Junior Alliance London A Tilbury U18 1-5 Scorer Lewis Doherty

ACADEMY RESULTS AND SCORERS OCTOBER 2ND

GIRLS

UNDER 12 H Essex County Girls' League Central/London Division Tigers 0-6

UNDER 16 A Essex F A Cup first round Island 1-4 Scorer awaited

BOYS /YOUTHS

UNDER 13 A Eastern Junior Alliance Essex Chelmsford City 2-2 Scorers Jordan Russell, Olamiji Ayoola

UNDER 15 H Eastern Junior Alliance Tilbury1-2 Scorer details awaited

UNDER 16 A Eastern Junior Alliance London Ryan 1-2 Ben Alefounder

UNDER 17 H Eastern Junior Alliance Burnham Ramblers 2-2 Kicho Bela 2

UNDER 18 No game

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HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Some of the past meetings with Burnham Ramblers

LAST MEETING

August 23rd 2011 – FA Cup - Extra Preliminary Round - Replay

Barking 0 Burnham Ramblers 1

Barking: Chris Clark, Bobby Port, Dan Mackin, Greg Tiffin, Ben Turner, Scott Walsh, Danny Rafis, Jake King, Chas Liddiard, Ben Jones, Ben O'Brien
Subs: Kevin Neville, Lee Cornhill, Frankie Williams, Craig Greenwood, Dan Fowler

FIRST MEETING

November 26th 1991 – Eastern Floodlight Competition

Barking 2 (Mason, Benstock) Burnham Ramblers 0

Barking: Broderick Tucker, Chris Harvey, Craig Coney, Perry Coney, Elliott Davidson, Graeme Lane, Jeff Mustafa, David Jarvis, Jamie Hoy, Danny Benstock, Lou Mason
Subs: Terry Beck, Steve Portway

FIRST LEAGUE MEETING

October 21st 2006 – Essex Senior League

Barking 3 (Bruce, Carr, Vaughan) Burnham Ramblers 0

Barking: Tony Tucker, Jamie Murat, James Hughes, Bradley Woodards, Ryan Doyle, Ben Wood, Carl Bruce, Jon Higgs, Paul Carr, Wayne Vaughan, Jason Henry
Subs: Darren Bennett, Danny Cook, Remi Nelson, Craig Murray, Mark Doyle

OTHER MEETINGS

September 26th 2006 - Gordon Brasted Trophy – First Round

Barking 1 (Vaughan) Burnham Ramblers 0 - After Extra Time

Barking: Graham Hill, Jamie Murat, Jason Henry, Bradley Woodards, Stuart Brown, Ben Wood, Danny Cook, Jonathan Higgs, Paul Carr, Bradley Jones, Wayne Vaughan
Subs: James Hughes, Dave Reilly, Carl Bruce, Ryan Doyle, Mark Doyle

November 12th 1996 – Essex Thameside Trophy – First Round

Barking 5 (Marsh 2, Parish 2, Rogan) Burnham Ramblers 1

Barking: Marc Baker, Steve Munday, Jamie Holloway, Robbie Lock, Trevor Riley, Billy Saunders, Lee Parish, Kevin Hoddy, Mark Lord, Ted John, Ashley Marsh
Subs: Paul Rogan, Tony Slatford

ON THIS DAY

A selection of Barking games from this day in the past

October 8th 2005 – Southern League – Division 1 East

Wingate & Finchley 1 Barking & EHU 1 (Willis)

Barking: Tony Tucker, Liam Baptiste, Ben Wood, Ben Willis, Gary Waters, Carl Bruce, Steve Blaney, Jamie Murat, Ryan Brown, Wayne Vaughan, Sam Taylor
Subs: Joel Palmer, Jay Devereux, John O'Sullivan, Troy Braham

October 8th 1994 – Diadora League – Division 1

Berkhamsted Town 2 Barking 2 (Richards 2)

Barking: Tony Williams, Micky Tarling, Danny Gibson, Steve Newman, Alan Day, Robbie Gammons, Gary Seymour, Dave Reilly, Jeff Wood, Winston Richards, Jimmy Prue
Subs: Mick Cole, Hilroy Emmanus

October 8th 1988 – Vauxhall-Opel League - Premier Division

Barking 0 Leytonstone & Ilford 1

Barking: John O'Brien, Billy Goldstone, Adrian Lemoine, Steve Moseley, Steve Hatter, Perry Coney, Warren May, Mark Kane, Tony Field, Andy Wallace, John Campbell
Subs: Mick Engwell, Vince Callcut

October 8th 1985 – Vauxhall-Opel League - Premier Division

Barking 1 (Bolle) Dulwich Hamlet 1

Barking: Mervyn Cawston, Robert Waterfall, Paul Watts, Keith Elley, Jeff Spooner, Gary Anderson, Martin Coates, Nicky Phillips, Nicky Lane, Neil Satchell, Jop Bolle,
Sub: Dennis Bailey

October 8th 1977 – FA Cup – Second Qualifying Round

Barking 1 (Weights) Hillingdon Borough 3

Barking: Nicky Markwick, Gary Anderson, Bobby Makin, Keith Barrett, Gary Twidell, Nicky Ironton, Chris Ballard, Terry Dibble, Peter Burton, Bryn Key, Tony Brothers
Sub: Dave Weights

October 8th 1960 – Friendly match

Barking 1 (Turner) Southall 3

Barking: D. O'Leary, W. Blake, Len Harvey, Steve Turner, Terry Sproul, J. McGinty, R. Hammond, R. Moore, Vic Harrison, Ron Southgate, Ken Ellis

October 8th 1938 – Athenian League

Barking 3 (Stevenson 2, Sibley) Wealdstone 1

Barking: John Wilson, T.J. Clark, E. Godwin, W. Macnamara, Frank Butterworth, J. Lee, Albert Sibley, E.C. Stevenson, B.A. Clements, R. Lamb, A. Sargeant