

## **BARKING v POTTON UNITED 24/09/2011**

### **PRESS OFFICER'S NOTES**

Good afternoon 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 Potton United for our first ever meeting. They are our third new opponents in four games, following fellow Bedfordshire club Crawley Green and Sporting Bengal United.

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.

### **TODAY'S GAME**

Is the second step towards Wembley in the FA Carlsberg Vase second qualifying round. We beat Crawley Green 2-0 in the first qualifying round while Potton had a bye. The winners will be at home to Royston Town in the first round proper on October 22nd.

Should the scores be level after 90 minutes there will be 30 minutes of extra time. Should the scores still be level, unless the clubs have agreed to kicks from the penalty mark, there will be a replay at Potton on Tuesday followed, if necessary, by extra time and kicks from the penalty mark.

Part of the pleasure of cup competitions is meeting different opponents and travelling to unfamiliar places and this is our first ever meeting. As programme notes used to say in earlier times, may the best team win.

However, winning is not everything. After all, I am reliably informed that the Lord said to Lazarus "Come fourth".

### **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.

Our new clubhouse has attracted interest on the Fans' Focus Essex Senior League Forum, in response to which I posted the following-The answer to the question "Has anyone been in our new bar? " is yes - a large number of people (including a number of large people).It is the result of a lot of very hard work by dedicated volunteers led by our chairman Rob O'Brien. It is cosy and very welcoming and has been busy before, during and after our games this season. After our Vase match the Crawley Green players and officials stayed for a while and I can assure anybody of a warm and friendly welcome. Why not try it for yourselves?

### **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 match against Sporting Bengal.

**Dan Rafis** - Dan was substituted in the match against Basildon after reporting a hip adductor strain. At the moment, Dan is carrying out light stretching exercises on his hip adductors.

**Dan Fowler** - suffered bruising to the knee after a collision at training. Dan has been working on strengthening his quadriceps muscles, and will resume light training this week.

**Joe Turner** - Joe suffered a bruised knee following a tackle about three minutes from the end of the Hullbridge match. Joe has now resumed training.

**Connor Halsey** - has sustained medial collateral ligament damage. Connor is currently working on gentle strengthening exercises on his quadriceps.

**Mark Doyle** - is receiving treatment which will unfortunately probably rule him out for the whole season

### **OUR VISITORS**

A full history of Potton United FC appears elsewhere in this programme. The club was founded in 1943 (the same year that I was founded-or should that be found?) and played in the South Midlands League and Central Alliance before joining the United Counties League where they currently play in Division 1, a level below us. They have been UCL champions and Division 1 champions and have been very successful in county and other local cups.

Last season they were fifteenth in the United Counties League Division 1 and have had a difficult start this season, being currently sixteenth with one point from four games. However they won their last game against Irchester United in

the league cup 3-0. Other results are Burton Park Wanderers 2-2/Huntingdon Town 0-8/Buckingham Town 0-1 and Harborough Town 0-2.

### **THE HISTORY OF THE FA VASE (From the FA website)**

The FA Vase effectively replaced The FA Amateur Cup in 1974. In that year the FA Council had decided to abolish the official distinction between 'amateur' and 'professional' footballers and this meant the end of the Amateur Cup and Amateur Internationals involving England. The Vase was donated by former FA Councillor Frank Adams. For the first time in history, small clubs - even village clubs - had the chance of playing in a national final at Wembley. The first Vase Finalists were Hoddesdon Town from the Spartan League and Epsom & Ewell from the Surrey Senior League. The Hertfordshire side edged home 2-1 before a crowd of 9,000.

Even a competition as democratic as The Vase had its 'elite' clubs in the early years. Billericay Town, initially of the Essex Senior League, won The Vase in 1976, 1977 and 1979. Halesowen Town, then in the West Midlands League, also appeared in three Finals. They lost by the only goal to VS Rugby in 1983, scored by Ian Crawley who also scored the goal that won The Trophy for Telford United in '89, but beat Fleetwood Town in '85 and Southall in '86.

In the 2007 final a record 36,232 fans saw Truro City beat AFC Totton 3-1 after being a goal down.

The current holders are Whitley Bay, having won it for three successive seasons.

### **FA VASE RECORD**

For the first time ever all 11 Essex Senior League clubs competing in the 1st qualifying round were successful in reaching today's second qualifying round where they are joined by three further ESL clubs.

### **BARKING IN THE VASE**

Our best season was 1996/7 when we reached the fifth round as follows-

Bye - 1st Rd

23/11/96 Boston Town - 2nd Rd Away 3-1 Brett, John, Hoddy

14/12/96 Saffron Walden Town - 3rd Rd Home 1-1 Rogan - AET

17/12/96 Saffron Walden Town – Replay Away 3-1 Parish 2, M. Rogan

18/01/97 Woodbridge Town - 4th Rd Home 1-0 Rogan

01/02/97 Mossley - 5th Rd Away 0-1 Att: 431

Our best in recent seasons was in 2007/8 when we reached the second round by beating Sileby Rangers 2-1 and Daventry United 4-2 before losing 6-1 to Stanway Rovers in the first game after our manager Rod Stringer and most of our first team players left the club

### **POTTON UNITED IN THE VASE**

Potton's best is also reaching the 5th round in 1989/90 when they lost 2-1 away to Billericay. In 2006/7 they reached the fourth round, losing 2-1 to AFC Totton, of whom we also have unhappy memories. Last season they lost 5-1 to Shrivenham in the first qualifying round.

### **PREVIOUS RESULTS**

None

### **BARKING ACHIEVE DOUBLE SECOND**

Following our first team's 4-0 defeat of Sporting Bengal United and our Reserves' 2-1 victory at Hullbridge Sports we now occupy second place in both divisions of the Essex Senior League.

This is our highest position so far in the Premier Division since joining the league in 2006/7 and, as this is the initial season for the Reserves Division, also our highest yet in that division.

We have, of course, played at higher levels for most of our history and were champions of the Isthmian (Ryman) League Premier Division in 1978/9 and reached the Southern League Division 1 play offs in 2004/5 and 2005/6, the two seasons before we were demoted by the Football Association for non-playing reasons.

We are at our highest position since April 2006 which is a tribute to all the hard work of many volunteers both on and off the pitch and particularly to our current players and management team, so ably led by manager Steve Munday. Of course there is a long way to go yet this season and we will do our best to be at or near the top next April. We are guaranteed to be second until at least October 1st as none of the teams playing league matches before then can overtake us.

### **RECENT AND FORTHCOMING MATCHES**

On Tuesday we fought back well from a 2-0 deficit against an energetic, competitive Clapton side to salvage a point and followed this with a 4-0 victory over Sporting Bengal United. This was the third match in which we have scored four goals and our second 4-0 win and took us up to second place, just one point behind Southend Manor.

Our complete record for the season is **P10 W6 D2 L2 F21 A10** and we have lost just one of our last nine games and are unbeaten in our last five.

Subject to a possible replay on Tuesday our next match is a challenging trip to fourth placed Witham Town next Saturday and on Wednesday October 5th we travel to Waltham Abbey to play Eton Manor in the Essex Senior Cup second

round. Our next home game is on Saturday October 8th when we have the opportunity to exact revenge from Burnham Ramblers for our FA Cup with Budweiser defeat.

Frankie Williams is joint third in the ESL goals scorers list with five goals. Chas Liddiard also has five but one was scored in the FA Vase and Ben Jones has four and is joint sixth in the ESL list.

### **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.

### **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 travelled to Hullbridge Sports Reserves and achieved another excellent result with a 2-1 victory to retain our unbeaten record .Our scorers were Jason Kane, on his birthday, and Billy Rainford . Our next game is on Tuesday September 27th away to Waltham Abbey Reserves.

We are now second in the table and Waltham Abbey are bottom, having lost both their games .

### **MATCH REPORT BY JEFF SEARS**

Hullbridge Sports Reserves 1 v Barking Reserves 2

There must be something magic about my boots. In our first game of the season Wale Adedeji borrowed a pair of my boots and scored two, today 'birthday boy' Jason Kane forgot his boots, borrowed mine, and went on to bag the opener in

this victory over an experienced Hullbridge side.

In very difficult conditions skipper Mark Richardson chose to go against the strong wind and bright sunshine in the first half forcing us to try to get the ball down and play a counter attacking game for the initial period. We withstood an early onslaught with centre halves Sam Dennis and Luke Gabriel winning several headers from long balls. We then started to get a grip on the midfield, with Charlie Massey-Reed playing in a new holding midfield role winning several excellent challenges and Jason Kane, his usual hardworking self regularly breaking forward. Sam Gross and Billy Rainford playing in the wide midfield positions used the available space well to create openings for Zak Harry and Gary Strongman to capitalise on. The forwards began to see much more of the ball and we carved out a few half chances before on 32 minutes 'Jeff's magic boots' weaved their magic when Zak Harry fed Kane into the inside right channel and he finished well against the wind into the far post. With this we immediately grew in confidence and ten minutes later Billy Rainford burst through the home defence and planted the ball into the net despite the keeper getting a hand to his shot. We finished the half well on top and, with the conditions in our favour still to come, looked forward to a comfortable second half.

Right full back Tony MacDonald felt a slight groin problem and Matt Stephenson came on for his league debut to partner Sam Dennis with Luke Gabriel moving to right back for the second half. This caused little disruption to our formation but we definitely took our foot off the gas a little, forsaking our effective passing game and getting a bit carried away with playing long balls up to our front players. Despite this we made several good chances but were unable to convert any of them through some poor decision making and heroic goalkeeping from the Hullbridge keeper. A strange and slightly mystifying decision from the official meant that after us playing the ball off the pitch so a Hullbridge player could get some treatment, he suggested that we return the ball to our opponents rather than have them return it to us. They then launched the ball up-field, crossed it into the box and plant the ball into the back of our net. This is only the second goal we have conceded this season and it meant that, once again a nervy last ten minutes had to be endured by the management (me!!!) until the final whistle went for another away win.

Ps: Jeff's Magic Boots are available for Hire £10 for 90 Minutes.

Squad: Richardson, MacDonald(Stephenson 45), Gabriel, Dennis, Markaj, Gross (Adedeji 75), Massey-Reed, Kane, Rainford (Jones, S 80), Harry, Strongman.

### **LADIES**

We won 2-1 away to Thorpe United and went up a place to seventh with one or two games in hand of all the teams above. Our scorers were Harriett Sim, her first of the season, and Liane Prior, her third.

## COMMUNITY TEAM

We lost 3-2 to SFC Dagenham and are now fourth with a game in hand of the team in third place.

## ACADEMY

The Under 16 boys romped into the 2nd round of the Alliance Cup with a 4-1 win away to Stanway Rovers . The Under 18s lost a 9 goal thriller by 5-4 in their league match versus local rivals Ilford.

## ACADEMY RESULTS SEPTEMBER 18TH

### GIRLS

**UNDER 12** - Essex County Girls' League Central/London Division No game

**UNDER 14** - H Essex County Girls' League Division C - Chigwell To be advised

**UNDER 16** - Essex County Girls' League B Division No game

### BOYS /YOUTHS

**UNDER 13** H Eastern Junior Alliance Essex - Bowers & Pitsea Postponed

**UNDER 15** A Eastern Junior Alliance Challenge Cup first round - Woodbridge Town U15 1-4 Scorer Patrick Okeji

**UNDER 16** A Eastern Junior Alliance Challenge Cup first round - Stanway Rovers U16 4-1 Scorers James Odukoya 2, Anton Wallace, Ben Alefounder

**UNDER 17** H Eastern Junior Alliance London - Thurrock 2-4 Scorers Kicho Bela, Luke Wilson

**UNDER 18** H Eastern Junior Alliance London - Ilford 4-5 Scorers Eden Nelson 2, Thuloni Busumani, Muhamed Osman

Full details of all our teams' results, fixtures and league tables are on our excellent website edited by Terry Gilbert.

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## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

As we have never previously met Pottton United below are some of our previous matches in the second qualifying round of the FA Vase

September 18th 2010

Biggleswade United 0 Barking 3 (King, Liddiard, Doyle)

**Barking:** Chris Clark, Mark Doyle, Dan Mackin, Ben O'Brien, Jason Kane, Scott Walsh, Jonathan Mogege, Johnny Offei, Chas Liddiard, Lee Pyne, Jake King  
Subs: Des Gallen, Joe Tungate, Daryl Paskell, Carl Walker, Russ Harley

September 19th 2009

Barking 2 (Sandiford, Pyne Pen) Basildon United 2 - After Extra Time

**Barking:** Chris Clark, Craig Leader, Scott Walsh, Craig Greenwood, Alf Dickinson, Dan Mackin, Johnny Offei, Danny Hopkins, Ruel Sandiford, Greg Tiffin, Lee Pyne  
Subs: Mequel De Souza, Abraham Adejokun, Scott Borthwick, Joe Turner, Jared Small

September 22nd 2009

Basildon United 0 Barking 1

**Barking:** Chris Clark, Craig Leader, Scott Walsh, Craig Greenwood, Alf Dickinson, Dan Mackin, Johnny Offei, Abraham Adejokun, Ruel Sandiford, Greg Tiffin, Lee Pyne  
Subs: Darren Quincroft, Danny Hopkins, Joe Turner, Joe Tungate, Jared Small

September 22nd 2007

Barking 2 (Kayernbe, Hughes) Sileby Rangers 1 - After Extra Time

**Barking:** Adam Rafis, Billy Sendall, James Hughes, Ryan Doyle, John Maskell, Jamie Murat, Ben Bradbury, Christian Wheeler, Wayne Vaughan, Elie Kayembe, Bradley Barnes  
Subs: Darren Bennett, Nicky Wettner, Bradley Thomas, Manzi Mbala, Ade Cole

September 23rd 2000

Barking 3 (McKenzie 2, R. Thomas) Wingate & Finchley 0

**Barking:** Stuart Horne, Jon Buffong, Andy Sussex, Terry Beck, Kevin Ramsay, Reg Gardner, Darren Boland, Richard Thomas, Danny Clarke, Chris Rose, Tony McKenzie  
Subs: Tony Barnes, Jamie Holloway, Nathan Smith, Richard Halle, Ashley Marsh

October 3rd 1998

Barking 1 (Hoddy) Beaconsfield SYCOB 0

**Barking:** Marc Baker, Jamie Holloway, Ian Wignall, Jason Modeste, Micky Rogan, Kevin Hoddy, Carl Pickering, John O'Sullivan, Gary Ansell, Danny Whybrow,

## ON THIS DAY

A selection of Barking games from this day in the past

September 24th 2005 – Southern League - Division 1 East

Arlesey Town 1 Barking 3 (Vaughan 2, Aransibia)

**Barking:** Tony Tucker, Troy Braham, Ben Wood, Ben Willis, Gary Waters, Steve Blaney, Carl Bruce, Jamie Murat, Andy Aransibia, Wayne Vaughan, Sam Taylor  
Subs: Joel Palmer, Ryan Doyle, Jay Devereux,

September 24th 1994 – FA Cup - First Qualifying Round

Barking 2 (Prue, Campbell) Baldock Town 2

**Barking:** Tony Williams, Micky Tarling, Danny Gibson, John Varney, Alan Day, Robbie Gammons, Dave Reilly, Gary Seymour, Jeff Wood, Steve Newman, Jimmy Prue  
Subs: John Campbell, Mick Cole

September 24th 1988 – FA Trophy - First Qualifying Round

Barking 1 (Hatter Pen) Basildon United 1

**Barking:** John O'Brien, Billy Goldstone, Adrian Lemoine, Steve Moseley, Steve Hatter, Perry Coney, Warren May, Vince Callcutt, Tony Field, Andy Wallace, Martin Wood  
Subs: George Borg, Richard Cherry

September 24th 1985 – Vauxhall-Opel League - Premier Division Collier Row 2  
Barking 0 Billericay Town 0

**Barking:** Mervyn Cawston, Phil Boyce, Paul Watts, Derek Wells, Mick Fyfe, Martin Coates, Gary Anderson, Nicky Phillips, Darren Dennis, Neil Satchell, Jon Bolle  
Sub: Peter Berwick

September 24th 1975 – FA Trophy - Preliminary Round Replay

Barking 3 (Burton, Francis 2) Milton Keynes City 0

**Barking:** Alan Dear, Tony Marchant, John Ford, Bobby Americas, Maurice Tate, Gordon Ferry, Jeff Bookman, Chris Ballard, Peter Burton, Bryn Key, Dennis Francis  
Sub: Ken Varney

September 24th 1927 – Athenian League

Enfield 1 Barking 4

**Barking:** E. T. McCracken, J. S. Carman, R. E. Gibbs, J. S. Kemp, Alf Vango, R.H. Young, Albert Evans, A.G. Keeble, J. Weller, W.V. "Mickey" Guyton, W.S. Lucas