

PHOENIX SPORTS CLUB

DIGITAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 6TH AUGUST

7.45pm K.O



PHOENIX SPORTS

VS

EPSOM & EWELL



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Welcome to
THE CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL STADIUM
Home of Phoenix Sports FC



We only do positive. 😊



PHOENIX SPORTS CLUB

Phoenix Sports Club (1982) Limited - Company No 1630598

Phoenix Sports Ground, Mayplace Road East, Barnehurst, Kent, DA7 6JT

Telephone: 07795 182927 (Secretary)

www.phoenixsportsclub.co.uk

CLUB OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Life President	Lennie Carnell
Life Vice-President	Phil Leeds, Pauline Harding, Alf Levy
Chairman	Andrew Mortlock
Vice-Chairman & Commercial Manager	Steve House
Club Treasurer / Secretary	Tony Highsted
Welfare Officer	Jo Gillam
Kent Youth League Secretary	Brian Magennis CBE
First Team Secretary	Albert Panting
Junior Football Secretary	Craig Chapman
Asst Junior Football Secretary	John Barry
First Team Manager	Keith McMahon
First Team Assistant Manager	Tony Rossiter
First Team Kitman	Colin Mair

Football Committee: Alf Levy, John Barry, Andrew Mortlock, Steve House, Tony Highsted, Brian Magennis CBE, Michael Power, Jo Gillam, Albert Panting and Alan Martin

Club Directors: Andrew Mortlock, Steve House, Alf Levy, John Barry, Brian Magennis CBE, Michael Power, Tony Highsted and Jo Gillam

League Honours

Inter-Step Play-Off - Step 4-5

Winners 2022/23

SCEFL Southern Counties East Football League

Winners 2014-15

Play Off Winners 2022-23

Kent Invicta Football League

Winners 2012-13

Runners-up 2011-12

Kent County League Div One West

Champions 1999-2000, 2007-08

Runners-up 1953-54, 1955-56, 1975-76

Kent County League Div Two West

Champions 2004-05

Cup Honours

FA Vase

4th Round Proper 2014-15

Kent Invicta Challenge Cup

Runners-up 2011-12, Winners 2012-13

Kent Invicta Challenge Shield

Runners-up 2011-12

Kent County League

Division One West Challenge Cup

Winners 1993-94, 2012-13

Runners-up 1955-56

West Kent Challenge Shield

Winners 1995-96, 2004-05, 2007-08

Runners-up 1996-97

FA Cup

Second Round Qualifying 2015-16

FA Trophy

First Round Qualifying 2015-16



Respect

Charter Standard Community Club



CHAIRMANS CORNER

ANDREW MORTLOCK

Good Evening and welcome to Phoenix Sports Club!

We hope our visitors from Epsom & Ewell have made the journey here safely and enjoy the facilities on offer.

This is our first home game of the new season and we are straight into the action with an FA Cup Replay following Saturday's draw in Surrey.

For a brand new team I thought that was a decent display for their first competitive game together and as the lads gel and learn about each others capabilities and skills I am sure we will be able to pick up plenty of points and good results as the season progresses.

Tonight is all about the Cup though and a win would see us return here in 10 days time for a tie against Hayes & Yeading.

Thanks to those that followed us to Tolworth on Saturday. I am sure the boys could hear our small but noisy gang and we will need plenty of that passion tonight and going forward.



Come On You Phoenix! ♥♥

morty

PHOENIX SPORTS CLUB

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As part of this 3-year deal our Home Ground has been renamed 'The Christopher Russell Stadium' and we proudly display their logo on the front of our First Team shirts.

We would like to thank Chris and his company for this partnership and are delighted to have them on board.



MATCH PREVIEW

PHOENIX SPORTS V EPSOM & EWELL

By Mark Doig - Kent Sports News

Keith McMahon's new look Phoenix Sports host an F.A. Cup replay when Epsom and Ewell visit the Christopher Russell Stadium, Barnehurst on Tuesday evening.

On Saturday, Isthmian League South East Division Phoenix travelled to Surrey for their Extra Preliminary Round tie and chances were few and far between with the hosts goalkeeper Fabien Witter making the only real save of the goal-less match.

During the summer, McMahon has been busy recruiting an entirely new squad so all made their Phoenix debuts at Epsom, who ply their trade in the Combined Counties Football League.

One newcomer who may be recognisable to home fans is Alex Gaggin who played for the Sports in 2020. He has since played for McMahon at both VCD Athletic and Whitstable Town.

Other Phoenix players who may be known to North West Kent / South East London clubs' supporters include Alfie Bloomfield, who represented Beckenham Town last season, and Noah Joyce, who spent a month on loan from Bromley to Erith and Belvedere prior to his departure from the Ravens in the summer.

The winners of the replay have a home tie awaiting them in the Preliminary Round with Hayes & Yeading United awaiting the outcome.





PITCHING IN

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](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)
to find out more



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LEAGUES**
VOLUNTEER HUB
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ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

THE UNTOLD GAME

73 DAYS OF SUMMER

Football has had a rocky history in North America. Despite some initial success in the 1920s and a boost in popularity from exceptional European teams who were paid to tour the New World, it has been difficult for the world's most popular sport to gain a foothold in a land where native sports - Gridiron Football, Ice Hockey and Baseball - reign supreme. That has not prevented some ambitious people from trying to grow the game though, and with the growth of the MLS and the recent formation of the Canadian Soccer League, maybe they have finally found a way to make their game sustainable. A word that was disastrously untrue of the Canadian Professional Soccer League of 1983.

In some ways, it's easy to see why Canada's football authorities saw 1983 as the ideal time to start a league. The 1982 World Cup had brought new fans to the game, and the North American Soccer League (a forerunner to the MLS) was entering its fifth season, apparently showing that the game could indeed survive and thrive in North America. There were Canadian teams in the NASL; The Calgary Boomers, the Edmonton Drillers, and the Vancouver Whitecaps, who had European stars like Alan Ball and Ruud Krol playing for them, along with exciting youngsters Bruce Grobbelar and Peter Beardsley. But Canadian fans struggled to travel the distance to see their team play in San Jose, Los Angeles or Houston, and those long journeys caused significant financial distress to the NASL's Canadian teams. The CPSL would apparently solve that problem, bringing football north of the border in the first fully national competition.

Unfortunately, and seemingly a surprise to the Canadian Soccer Association, Canada itself is the size of a continent, even when you exclude the United States. In an effort to keep costs low, the CSA required only a \$50,000 fee for owners to enter a team into the new competition (vastly reduced from the NASL requirement), and budget caps were introduced. Each squad would be limited to just 16 players, with a maximum of five internationals. The league would run with FIFA's rules, unlike the NASL which had attempted to generate more interest with American-style rules that they thought made for a better spectacle. Despite this, attendances would remain low throughout the competition.

The original plan had been to hold the league in two groups - an eastern and a western conference - with finals between each group's champions. But initially only five teams were interested in joining the league; Edmonton Eagles, Hamilton Steelers, Mississauga Croatia, Toronto Nationals and FC Inter-Montreal. A sixth team from Kitchener pulled out, but were replaced before the season started by the Calgary Mustangs. The league was reformatted into one, single, nationwide group.

In the weeks before the season started, owner of the NASL's Montreal Manic announced that he was going to turn his team into Team Canada, presumably as a means to head off the threat posed by the CPSL. This was an unexpected blow, and the Canadian Soccer Association turned its attention to this new Team Canada, allowing the CPSL to flounder before it had even begun. Regardless, the season kicked off. It was a disaster.

On 21st May, the first game of the new league saw the Toronto Nationals defeat FC Inter-Montreal 2-1, but in front of just 3000 supporters. Weeks later, ignoring his league commitments, the Toronto owner entered his team into a friendly tournament with Marseille, Udinese and Avellino. The Europeans also played Hamilton and Mississauga on their tour of the country, disrupting the CPSL. Despite these revenues, on 20th June, less than a month after the start of the new season, Toronto folded. Montreal did the same on the very same day. A month into the first ever season, the CPSL had lost a third of its clubs.

Within weeks, with just four teams, it was decided to cancel the season and advance directly to the playoffs, which had a four-team format anyway. Edmonton saw off Calgary in the semi-finals, where they were met by Hamilton. The Eagles won the Championship game 2-0, and took the first and only Canadian title back to Edmonton. The league announced it's closing the very next day. The successful NASL would last only one more season, folding in 1984.

It has been 40 years since that experiment, and North American football is still struggling to find its feet. While the MLS feels finally to have stabilised, helped by the arrival of Beckham, Zlatan and Messi, the new Canadian league is much younger, having been founded in only 2019. Of the finalists from the CPSL, the new Edmonton franchise folded in 2022, but Hamilton (now Forge, not Steelers) have won four of the five Canadian Premier League titles. It's not as flashy as its southern counterpart, it's not as rich as its European rivals, but maybe, this time, Canadian football can survive.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame

MATCH IMAGES

EPSOM & EWELL 0-0 PHOENIX SPORTS

By Gemma Jarman



MATCH IMAGES

EPSOM & EWELL 0-0 PHOENIX SPORTS

By Gemma Jarman





CLUB HISTORY

PHOENIX SPORTS



Founded in 1935 as St. Johns Welling, later Lakeside, the club was renamed Phoenix post-WWII, symbolizing a rise from the ashes after the blitz. Initially, they played at various local venues before settling at Mayplace Road East, Bexleyheath in 1950, where both football and cricket were played, though cricket has since moved.

Phoenix competed in the Sidcup, Kent Amateur, and Dartford Leagues before settling in the Kent County League Division One West. They joined the Spartan League in 1986, then returned to the Kent County League, winning the Challenge Cup in 1993-94. Promotion to the Premier Division came in 1999/2000, followed by relegations and a return to the Premier Division by 2007/08.

In 2011, management changes led to the appointment of Steve O'Boyle and Tony Beckingham. The club installed floodlights and seating, achieving an F Grade. Phoenix then won the Kent Invicta League, securing promotion to the Kent League (now Southern Counties East Football League). They finished sixth in their first season and had a notable FA Vase run.

Phoenix earned promotion to the Isthmian League North Division after a strong league performance. They finished 14th initially, then improved to 8th. A lateral move placed them in the Isthmian League South for 2017-18, finishing 11th, then 9th the following season. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons.

In 2021/22, Phoenix were relegated to the SCEFL but bounced back with a playoff win under O'Boyle, securing promotion at VCD Athletic thanks to a last minute Ryan Hayes penalty.

O'Boyle led the team to a safe finish in 2023/24 before Keith McMahon took over for another season at Step 4.



CLUB HISTORY

EPSOM & EWELL



Epsom Juniors Cricket Club, founded in March 1918, transitioned to Epsom Juniors F.C. that autumn and entered competitive football in 1919 with the Surrey Junior League. Rebranded as Epsom Town F.C. in 1922, the club enjoyed early success, winning multiple trophies and moving up to Intermediate and then Senior football.

The club relocated to West Street in 1925, achieving significant success, including winning the London League in 1927/28. Despite a strong 1930s era, including a notable FA Cup run, World War II caused a temporary suspension.

Post-war, Epsom F.C. returned to competitive play and joined the Corinthian League in 1949, achieving varied success through the 1950s and '60s. Renamed Epsom & Ewell F.C. in 1960, the club faced challenges, including relegations, but also won the Surrey Senior Shield and had notable cup runs. The 1970s saw resurgence with league and cup victories, and in 1977, they joined the Isthmian League, achieving promotion to Division One.

The club experienced fluctuations in performance and management changes through the 1980s and '90s. In 1993, Epsom left West Street, sharing grounds with Banstead Athletic and later others, and faced mixed results. The 2000s brought managerial changes and league transitions, culminating in a notable FA Vase run in 2009/10.

After multiple relocations, the club settled at Cobham F.C. in 2023/24 and appointed new management, aiming for stability but the 2024/25 season saw the club move again, this time to King George's Fields, the home of Corinthian Casuals F.C. Warren Burton continued as manager alongside coach Glynn Berry.

Meanwhile, the search continues for a new ground back in the Borough...

PHOENIX SPORTS

FIXTURES - 2024/25

Sat Aug 3 - (FAC) Epsom & Ewell 0-0 Phoenix Sports

Tues Aug 6 - (FAC) Epsom & Ewell (H)

Sat Aug 10 - Hythe Town (A)

Sat Aug 17 - FA Cup

Sat Aug 24 - Three Bridges (H)

Mon Aug 26 - Erith Town (A)

Sat Aug 31 - Eastbourne Town (H)

Sat Sep 3 - (FAT) Uxbridge (A)

Tue Sep 10 - Sittingbourne (A)

Sat Sep 14 - East Grinstead Town (H)

Sat Sep 21 - Lancing (A)

Tues Sep 24 - (KC) Folkestone Inv (A)

Sat Sep 28 - Sheppey United (H)

Sat Oct 5 - Ramsgate (H)

Sat Oct 12 - Littlehampton Town (A)

Sat Oct 19 - Herne Bay (H)

Sat Oct 26 - Merstham (A)

Sat Nov 2 - Steyning Town (H)

Wed Nov 6 - Sittingbourne (H)

Sat Nov 9 - East Grinstead Town (A)

Sat Nov 16 - Lancing (H)

Sat Nov 23 - Sheppey United (A)

Sat Nov 30 - Margate (H)

Sat Dec 7 - Deal Town (A)

Sat Dec 14 - Broadbridge Heath (H)

Sat Dec 21 - Ashford United (A)

Thu Dec 26 - AFC Croydon Athletic (A)

Sat Dec 28 - Hythe Town (H)

Wed Jan 1 - Erith Town (H)

Sat Jan 4 - Sevenoaks Town (A)

Sat Jan 11 - Beckenham Town (A)

Sat Jan 18 - Burgess Hill Town (H)

Sat Jan 25 - Margate (A)

Sat Feb 1 - Deal Town (H)

Sat Feb 8 - Ramsgate (A)

Sat Feb 15 - Littlehampton Town (H)

Sat Feb 22 - Herne Bay (A)

Sat Mar 1 - Merstham (H)

Sat Mar 8 - Steyning Town (A)

Sat Mar 15 - Broadbridge Heath (A)

Sat Mar 22 - Ashford United (H)

Sat Mar 29 - Burgess Hill Town (A)

Sat Apr 5 - Beckenham Town (H)

Sat Apr 12 - Sevenoaks Town (H)

Sat Apr 19 - Eastbourne Town (A)

Mon Apr 21 - AFC Croydon Athletic (H)

Sat Apr 26 - Three Bridges (A)



Fixtures are subject to change

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST FIXTURES - 2024/25

Saturday 10th August 2024

AFC Croydon Athletic	v	Ramsgate
Deal Town	v	Lancing
Eastbourne Town	v	Beckenham Town
Erith Town	v	Ashford United
Hythe Town	v	Phoenix Sports
Margate	v	East Grinstead Town
Sevenoaks Town	v	Burgess Hill Town
Sittingbourne	v	Broadbridge Heath
Steyning Town Community	v	Merstham
Three Bridges	v	Sheppey United

Sunday 11th August 2024

Littlehampton Town	v	Herne Bay
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Saturday 24th August 2024

Ashford United	v	Margate
Beckenham Town	v	Hythe Town
Broadbridge Heath	v	Deal Town
East Grinstead Town	v	AFC Croydon Athletic
Merstham	v	Eastbourne Town
Phoenix Sports	v	Three Bridges
Ramsgate	v	Sittingbourne
Sheppey United	v	Sevenoaks Town

PLAYER PROFILES

PHOENIX SPORTS

Keith McMahon: The Manager – Former VCD Athletic and Thamesmead Town boss McMahon has begins his life at Phoenix Sports in a league he knows well. He knows our Club very well too and spent a short time as Assistant Manager here working with Steve O’Boyle last season.

Rob Budd: Rob is a highly experienced goalkeeper who joins us in the twilight years of his career. He has worked with our manager previously at both Thamesmead Town and VCD Athletic.

Connor Walsh: A young keeper Connor joined us July 2024 and has previously played at Chessington and Hook. Kept a clean sheet on debut for us in the FA Cup.

Kevin Diomande: Kevin joins after reaching the Isthmian North Division Play Offs with Southall last season. The right back has also played for Bedfont Sports and Hendon previously.

Marcus Travers: Our new Captain is a centre-back that has plenty of experience at this level. Most recently played for Met Police and can count Corinthian Casuals, AFC Croydon, Redhill and Tooting & Mitcham among his former sides.

Harrison Mayhew: Centre-back that has just finished a great season for Crowborough Athletic. making 31 appearances as the Crows came in third in the SCFL. Before that he was part of the academy at Tonbridge Angels

Emmanuel Dasho: We add to our defence with the signing of Emmanuel Dasho. He finished last season at Witham Town and can count Aveley, Sittingbourne, Faversham and Walthamstow among his former clubs.

Alfie Young: A highly rated left back that has had spells at Chipstead and AFC Croydon Athletic.

Jaiden Chang-Brown: A hardworking and industrious centre-midfielder and can play as a center half. He has most recently played for Abbey Rangers and Tooting & Mitcham.

PLAYER PROFILES

PHOENIX SPORTS

Marcel Brown: Marcel is a dominant midfielder who has joined us from Sutton Athletic, where he played 34 league games last season, scoring 5 times.

Noah Joyce: Noah is a 20-year-old midfielder and joins from Bromley FC. Tall and athletic Noah stands out from the crowd and is someone sure to entertain the Phoenix faithful this year.

Alex Gaggin: Back at the club following a spell here in 2020. The winger is well known to the boss having worked with him at VCD Athletic and Whitstable Town. His other clubs have included East Grinstead and Margate.

Harvey Browne: An attacking midfielder that was at Welling United's Academy before moving on to Barking FC then Tooting & Mitcham. He won the Essex Senior League last year at Tilbury FC.

Seye Okunlola: A strong and athletic attacking player that can count Marlow and Braintree Town among his former sides.

Jack Marney: Young attacking midfielder that has played for the England 6-a-side team. Previous clubs include AFC Croydon, East Preston, Merstham and Sheppey United.

Ade Batula: Young hungry forward who spent last season at Epsom & Ewell following spells with Dulwich Hamlet and Chatham Town. Previously an academy player at Dulwich Hamlet and has also played for Chatham, Fisher and Spelthorne.

Eri-Oluwa Akintimehim: At 22 years of age Eri is an exciting attacking player who can count Whitstable Town and Lydd Town as previous clubs.

Alfawaz Dada: Alfa is a speedy young winger who previous clubs include Hollands and Blair, Chipstead and Tunbridge Wells.

Alfie Bloomfield: Alfie comes in after ending last season at Beckenham Town. Our new centre-forward had previously played for Punjab United, Sittingbourne, AFC Croydon and Bromley.



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.

With our focus on positivity, The Isthmian League aims to ensure that all our footballers are able to play in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment and all supporters can enjoy the game in surroundings free from discrimination and hate.

PHOENIX SPORTS PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

Player Sponsorship is now open for the 2024/25 Season!

If you are looking for a unique, cost-effective way to advertise your business, a special gift for someone or you're a group of mates wishing to show your support for your favourite Phoenix player, sponsoring them for the season could be the perfect choice.

Benefits include...

Your Business, Organisation or Name on our Website, in the Match programme and regular Social Media shoutouts when your player hits the headlines! - Plus the warm buzz of knowing you are supporting your local football club!

Partnering with a player starts from £50 per season and can be done by contacting Dave Claggett on 07986 368590 or at dave.claggett@gmail.com



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GOAL!

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ALFIE BLOOMFIELD

The image shows a man in a grey polo shirt holding a green football jersey. The jersey has a sponsor logo that reads 'Christopher Russell PROPERTY SERVICES'. To the right of the man, the text 'PHOENIX SPORTS' is written in green, and 'GOAL!' is written in large, white, hand-drawn letters. Below this, there are two rectangular boxes: the top one contains 'SPONSORED BY' and the bottom one contains 'YOUR NAME HERE!'. At the bottom left of the image, the name 'ALFIE BLOOMFIELD' is written in green.

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THERE'S nothing quite like the FA Cup to spark debate among football fans.

Whether it's kick-off time on FA Cup final day - incidentally this year's is 3pm - or clamours for a return to semi-finals away from Wembley, the world's oldest competition always stirs debate.

You will have no doubt seen the furore around the news replays will be scrapped from the first round proper onwards next season.

A big trigger, apparently, is the expanding UEFA schedule going forward and there are promises of more funding for the grass-roots game.

A post on BBC Sport's X account suggested it would divide opinion - the reality was a large part of it fell on one side.

There probably isn't enough space in this programme column to go through all the 'he saids, she saids', and much more. But it has ignited passionate views from all corners of the game, to say the least.

What's your view? Are replays outdated or the very fabric of the great FA Cup?

For many in the lower leagues and Non-League, replays not only represent a chance to make extra money on top of a current cup run through gates and potential broadcast fees, they are also an opportunity to create memories.

Many clubs have come out and said exactly that over this past week.

Steve McKimm's Cray Valley PM held Charlton Athletic to a draw earlier this season and earned the right to welcome the League One club to their intimate Artic Stadium home in front of the live TV cameras.

"The money they're saying will be passed down is great - but money doesn't make memories," McKimm told us. "We've had memories this season that will never be taken away from our staff, players and fans. And I only speak for our club - Horsham did the same.

"We both had away games to start with so we had the experience of playing at their grounds. Then we had the opportunity to bring good players, good teams, back to our home ground on live TV. That's gone now.

"But it's the memories that matter more than the money. For clubs that make money off it, such as us, it's great. It helps a club be sustainable and it helps it move on. But it also gives the club memories.

"Cray Valley have never had a League One side come and play a competitive game at our stadium. We've done that now."

As the Millers boss says, Horsham did the same in this year's competition - earning a replay after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Barnsley before a memorable home tie with the Tykes.

There are many other examples. Think back down the years to Burton Albion, then in the Conference, taking the mighty Manchester United to a second game. The tangible legacy is seen at the club today, but for fans and players the memories burn bright too.

Football, as a whole, should be sure it's happy giving moments like those up.



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MEET THE TEAMS

PHOENIX
SPORTS

VS

EPSOM
& EWELL



KEITH MCMAHON

WARREN BURTON

Connor Walsh
Kevin Diomande
Alfie Young
Jaiden Chang-Brown
Harrison Mayhew
Marcus Travers
Alex Gaggin
Noah Joyce
Alfie Bloomfield
Harvey Browne
Eri-Oluwa Akintimehim
Jack Marney
Alfawaz Dada
Seye Okunlola
Marcel Brown
Fletcher Davis
Emmanuel Dasho

Feabian Witter
Toby Young
Ethan Nelson-Roberts
Adam Grant Green
Callum Wilson
Craig Charles Dundas
Luke Miller
Thompson Adeyemi
William Kendall
Carlos Polo-Infante
Anthony Kenneth
Fabio Nunes
Sirak Negassi
Carl Oblitey
Zack Ingram-Wright
Reece Tierney

Referee: Thomas Nicholls
Linesman: Gary Baker
Linesman: Alec Spoja

STARTING LINE-UPS WILL BE POSTED ON THE CLUBHOUSE WALL BEFORE 7.30PM