



July 31 2026

KickOff 19:00

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY | ISSUE 4

The Fleet vs Gillingham

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06



04 RESULTS 2025/26
Complete stats from '25/26

06 WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
Fleet trialists down the years

12 PRE-VIOUS
Previous final pre-season games

14 MATCH REVIEW 1
Cardiff's other team in town

16 MATCH REVIEW 2
Into the (Cray) Valley

18 FIXTURES 2026/27
Get planning!

21 FIXTURE SYNC
Sync our games to your calendars

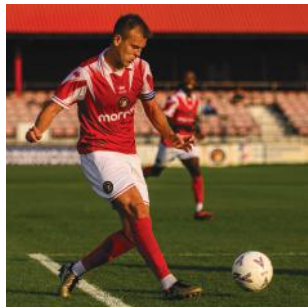
24 THE UNTOLD GAME
Charlton's Ballon Disast'Or

26 PLAYER SPONSORS
Snap up the remaining squad!

28 VISITORS IN FOCUS
The men from Medway

34 LATE IN THE DAY
Late business in the NLS

36 LINEUPS
Tonight's squads



14

16



REFeree

DAN BLADES

Heading into his 12th season as a match official having picked up a whistle aged 14. The Kent FA referee, who works in banking away from the pitch, has officiated in the Isthmian and as of last year National Leagues. He took charge of the National North play-off semi-final last season in a busy campaign that saw him in the middle for 19 National South fixtures.

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COMPLETE RESULTS 2025/26

Date	Opposition	Score	Venue / Attendance	Referee	Starting Players					
AUGUST 2025										
Sat 9	Dagenham & Red.	2:0	Chigwell Cons. Stadium / 1,601	A.Merchant	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 16	Chippenham Town	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,275	D.England	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Tue 19	Chelmsford City	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,636	S.Hughes	Cousins	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 23	Slough Town	0:2	Arbour Park / 796	J.Allsop	Cousins	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Fielding	Nelson
Mon 25	Bath City	1:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,395	Z.Cunningham	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Sat 30	Hampton & Richmond	2:3	Beveree Stadium / 796	C.Hathway	Cousins	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
SEPTEMBER										
Tue 2	Hemel Hempstead T.	0:0	Vauxhall Road / 724	J.Crossley	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 6	Hornchurch	1:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,566	C.Martland	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 13	Ashford T. (Midx) FAC	5:0	Kufink Stadium / 574	F.Roque	Bellagambi	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Ehmer	Fielding
Sat 20	Torquay United	0:1	Plainmoor / 3,246	M.Norton	Cousins	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Nelson
Sat 27	Faversham Town FAC	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 874	T.Ellsmore	Bellagambi	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Fielding
OCTOBER										
Sat 4	Eastbourne Borough	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,395	T.Breen	Cousins	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Dallison
Tue 7	Cray Valley (PM) KSC	4:1	Artic Stadium / 129	S.Finnigan	Bellagambi	Seaman	Manktelow	Nelson	Fielding	Kennedy
Sat 11	Soihull Mills FAC	2:0	Kufink Stadium / 849	C.Walchester	Bellagambi	Seaman	Dallison	Olagunju	Fielding	Kennedy
Sat 18	Dorking Wanderers	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,501	C.Fisk	Bellagambi	Seaman	Dallison	Olagunju	Fielding	Kennedy
Tue 21	Enfield Town	1:3	QE II Stadium / 796	W.Briers	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Dallison
Sat 25	Salisbury	2:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,113	T.Sangowawa	Bellagambi	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Hessenthaler
NOVEMBER										
Sat 1	Grimsby Town FAC	1:3	Blundell Park / 3,392	J.O'Connor	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Manktelow
Tue 4	Maidstone United	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,765	A.Merchant	Bellagambi	Seaman	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 8	AFC Totton	2:0	Testwood Stadium / 1,330	S.Swan	Bellagambi	Seaman	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Manktelow
Tue 11	VCD Athletic KSC	2:1	Oakwood / 112	H.Clark	Macaulay	Passley	Anthony	Chapman	Nelson	Manktelow
Sat 15	Sittingbourne FAT	5:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,047	J.Bloxham	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 18	Weston-super-Mare	0:1	Optima Stadium / 795	H.Warner	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 22	Chesham United	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,119	B.McDonald	Hall	Seaman	Passley	Olagunju	Nelson	Chapman
Tue 25	Horsham	1:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,044	T.Ellsmore	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Chapman
Sat 29	Farnborough	1:1	Cherrywood Road / 754	J.Allsop	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Edser
DECEMBER										
Sat 6	Worthing	1:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,372	C.Hathway	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 13	Braintree T. FAT	3:1	Kufink Stadium / 572	J.Crossley	Hall	Passley	Nelson	Ehmer	Chapman	Kennedy
Sat 20	Chelmsford City	1:0	Melbourne Stadium / 1,557	H.Jones	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Fri 26	Tonbridge Angels	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,695	M.Conn	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 30	Dover Athletic	2:1	Crabble / 813	A.Hursey	Hall	Passley	Seaman	Ehmer	Nelson	Hessenthaler
JANUARY 2026										
Sat 10	Forest Green Rov. FAT	0:2	Kufink Stadium / 887	R.Watkins	Macaulay	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Ehmer
Sat 17	Chippenham Town	4:1	Hardenhuish Park / 649	S.Duchene	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 20	Maidstone United KSC	0:4	Gallagher Stadium / 503	A.Ajibola	Macaulay	Manktelow	Anthony	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 24	Dagenham & Red.	1:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,540	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 27	Maidstone United	0:3	Gallagher Stadium / 2,085	T.Breen	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Ehmer	Kennedy
Sat 31	Maidenhead United	3:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,089	S.Hughes	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
FEBRUARY										
Tue 3	Hemel Hempstead T.	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 895	J.Bloxham	Hall	Fielding	Coker	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 7	Salisbury	1:1	Ray Mac Stadium / 860	T.Ellsmore	Hall	Passley	Coker	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
Tue 10	Enfield Town	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,015	G.Parsons	Hall	Passley	Peake	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 14	AFC Totton	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,215	R.Wharton	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 17	Bath City	2:2	Tuerton Park / 745	S.Read	Hall	Chapman	Fielding	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 21	Chesham United	1:4	The Meadow / 767	C.Fisk	Sandford	Passley	Peake	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 24	Horsham	1:1	Fusion Aviation Stadium / 846	W.Briers	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Nelson	Kennedy
Sat 28	Farnborough	2:2	Kufink Stadium / 1,197	B.Tomlinson	Hall	Passley	Peake	Ehmer	Nelson	Kennedy
MARCH										
Sat 7	Torquay United	3:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,467	K.Morgan	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 10	Eastbourne Borough	3:1	Priory Lane / 791	D.Baines	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Nelson	Barnes
Sat 14	Dorking Wanderers	1:3	Meadowbank / 1,738	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Olagunju	Dallison	Chapman
Tue 17	Maidenhead United	3:2	York Road / 821	J.Crossley	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 21	Weston-super-Mare	1:3	Kufink Stadium / 1,215	A.Merchant	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Olagunju	Dallison	Barnes
Sat 28	Slough Town	2:1	Kufink Stadium / 1,625	S.Hughes	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
APRIL										
Fri 3	Tonbridge Angels	2:1	Longmead Stadium / 1,597	S.Read	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Mon 6	Dover Athletic	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,642	C.Hathway	Hall	Passley	Chapman	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 11	Hornchurch	0:1	Hornchurch Stadium / 1,220	T.Breen	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 18	Hampton & Rich.	4:0	Kufink Stadium / 1,686	K.Morgan	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy
Sat 25	Worthing	0:2	Woodside Road / 4,002	J.Woolmer	Hall	Passley	Coker	Nelson	Dallison	Kennedy

Substitutes

Hessenthaler	Chapman	Moncur	Coley	Appiah	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Samuel	Passley, Fielding, Peake, Bellagambi		
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Moncur	Coley	Samuel	Edser	Cosgrave	Passley	Kennedy	Peake	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Samuel	Seaman, Fielding, Peake, Bellagambi		
Hessenthaler	Kennedy	Peake	Cosgrave	Samuel	Moncur	Coley	Barnes	Edser	Seaman	Emher, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Cosgrave	Chapman	Barnes	Kennedy	Samuel	Peake	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Coley	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Samuel	Coker, Passley, Fielding, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Moncur	Kennedy	Dallison, Nelson, Peake, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Moncur	Dallison, Nelson, Peake, Barnes, Bellagambi			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Moncur	Peake	Cosgrave	Barnes	Chapman	Coley	Seaman	Hessenthaler, Olagunju, Cousins	
Kennedy	Edser	Peake	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Passley	Chapman	Barnes	Manktelow	Fielding, Bellagambi
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Seaman	Edser	Manktelow	Samuel	Moncur, Nelson, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Edser	Appiah	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Fielding	Barnes	Moncur, Peake, Coley, Bellagambi		
Barnes	Peake	Moncur	Coley	Samuel	Domi	Cosgrave	Edser, Olagunju, Cousins			
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Edser	Coley	Samuel	Moncur, Barnes, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave	Nelson	Edser	Moncur	Samuel	Barnes, Coley, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Edser	Appiah	Coley	Manktelow	Samuel	Peake	Moncur	Cosgrave	Barnes, Cousins
Barnes	Peake	Edser	Appiah	Samuel	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Coker	Manktelow	Moncur, Coley, Cousins	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Kennedy	Coley	Cosgrave	Passley	Samuel	Domi	Peake	Barnes	Appiah, Anthony, Cousins
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Appiah	Samuel	Coley	Manktelow	Coker	Passley, Cosgrave, Domi, Cousins		
Hessenthaler	Kennedy	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Macaulay	Moncur	Passley	Samuel	Cosgrave	Domi, Peake
Domi	Peake	Moncur	Samuel	Cosgrave	Kennedy	Coley	Seaman	Barnes	Coker	
Domi	Peake	Moncur	Samuel	Barnes	Cosgrave	Seaman	Edser	Coley	Hessenthaler	
Hessenthaler	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Edser	Cosgrave	Moncur	Peake	Dallison	Samuel, Hall
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Samuel	Edser	Coker	Coley	Dallison	Moncur, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Cosgrave	Edser	Moncur	Samuel	Coley	Peake	Dallison, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Peake	Barnes	Samuel	Coley	Coker	Seaman	Appiah	Cosgrave, Moncur, Nelson, Macaulay		
Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Moncur	Samuel	Peake	Manktelow	Emher, Hall
Edser	Seaman	Peake	Moncur	Appiah	Manktelow	Coley	Dallison	Samuel	Coker, Cosgrave, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Edser	Coker	Emher, Barnes, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Edser	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Coker	Emher, Barnes, Macaulay	
Edser	Chapman	Peake	Coley	Samuel	Coker	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Olagunju, Barnes, Manktelow, Macaulay		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Barnes	Coley	Samuel	Chapman	Kennedy	Appiah	Cosgrave	Manktelow	Peake, Hall
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Emher	Manktelow	Appiah	Peake	Cosgrave	Barnes, Macaulay
Hessenthaler	Fonguck	Moncur	Peake	Barnes	Fielding	Appiah	Chapman	Olagunju	Seaman	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave	Emher, Barnes, Manktelow, Macaulay		
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Nelson	Coley	Edser	Barnes	Cosgrave, Manktelow, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Barnes	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Appiah	Coker, Fielding, Macaulay	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Passley	Manktelow	Coley	Appiah	Cosgrave, Barnes, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Cosgrave	Coley	Appiah, Fielding, Barnes, Manktelow, Sandford			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Chapman	Cosgrave	Nelson	Coley	Appiah	Manktelow, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Emher	Cosgrave	Appiah	Kennedy	Coley	Peake, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Passley	Coley	Emher, Cosgrave, Appiah, Peake, Sandford			
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Coley	Cosgrave	Appiah	Kennedy	Emher, Manktelow, Hall	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Samuel	Wyllie	Appiah	Chapman	Coley	Emher, Peake, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Chapman	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Wyllie	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Coker	Coley	Dallison, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Wyllie	Kennedy	Coley	Moncur, Peake, Barnes, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Fielding	Coley	Kennedy	Cosgrave	Peake, Wyllie, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Appiah	Samuel	Wyllie	Barnes	Cosgrave	Coley	Nelson, Kennedy, Sandford	
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Appiah	Wyllie	Barnes	Cosgrave, Nelson, Peake, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Coker	Kennedy	Samuel	Cosgrave	Wyllie	Peake, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Samuel	Wyllie	Barnes	Coley	Peake	Appiah	Cosgrave, Olagunju
Chapman	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Samuel	Barnes	Cosgrave, Olagunju, Wyllie, Sandford			
Barnes	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Samuel	Coker	Appiah	Olagunju	Manktelow	Cosgrave	Wyllie, Sandford
Chapman	Edser	Seaman	Coley	Appiah	Samuel	Barnes	Olagunju	Cosgrave, Manktelow, Wyllie, Sandford		
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Barnes	Appiah	Coley	Samuel	Olagunju	Cosgrave	Peake	Wyllie, Sandford
Hessenthaler	Edser	Seaman	Chapman	Appiah	Samuel	Coley	Peake	Barnes	Olagunju	Cosgrave, Sandford

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN...



They could have become legends... they didn't!

— EVERY SUMMER, THEY COME AND GO... their names – if they're even known – usually lost to time, largely unrecorded, their faces forgotten as they move on. We speak, of course, of Trialists A-whatever – the players that don't get signed and generally don't appear on the teamsheet under their own names.

Liam Daish, of course, was a master of sorting through trialists, using many, signing a select few. The years since have provided Fleet fans with fewer unsuccessful trialists – Daryl McMahon didn't use many, Dennis Kutrieb only in his first season during Covid, and Danny Searle and Josh Wright just the one or two here and there in early friendlies. Below is a rundown of those we can remember and identify over the past 20 years or so, with plenty of others lost to the mists of time and/or the vagaries of the teamsheet!

2008

We start with perhaps the best-remembered unsuccessful trialist, centre-back **Cedric Ngakam**. He was absolutely torn to shreds in a 6-0 home defeat by Charlton Athletic which more or less made up Liam Daish's mind and he was subbed after 35 minutes, allegedly twisting an ankle with Fleet already 3-0 down. He went on to sign for Walthamstow that season and

later for Dulwich Hamlet, who converted him into a striker, as well as Welling United under Andy Ford, Chatham Town and Billericay Town.

Two players with good pedigree that summer included **Mario Noto**, a

former Spurs youngster who had won the Ryman Premier with Chelmsford City, and ex-League striker **Isaiah Rankin**, a former Arsenal player who had played for Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Barnsley, Brentford



Above:
Ex-Gills youngster **Matty Macarthur** played for the Fleet as a trialist last season but ended up with Chatham Town instead. He'll be back here this season with Billericay Town

Left: Isaiah Rankin was a £1.3m signing in the Premier League for Bradford City... he could have been a Fleet player in 2008

and Grimsby Town. Noto went to Boreham Wood, Harlow Town and Enfield Town and while Daish might have liked to have pursued an interest in Rankin, he was handed an offer by Crawley Town. Others that summer included 21-year-old winger and ex-Crystal Palace youngster **Tyrone Berry**. He was another one Fleet couldn't keep that summer as he signed for today's visitors Gillingham instead and then led a nomadic career around non-league. Another former Palace youngster was **Sam Tucknott** who appeared off the bench that summer but whose main claim to fame was that he later dated TV star Stacey Dooley for five years!

Striker **Efe Echanomi** had played 50 games for Leyton Orient and featured quite heavily for the Fleet in pre-season, even being taken on the club's tour of Cornwall where we beat Torpoint Athletic 9-0, but in the end he wasn't offered a deal and later played for Tiptree United, Grays Athletic and Waltham Forest. Finally, **Nick Jordan** was an ex-Portsmouth academy goalkeeper but not one who Daish followed up with after his trial showing, and he went on to carve out a career with Exeter City, Eastbourne, Crawley,

Bognor Regis, Weymouth and Gosport amongst others. He now runs a coaching academy with ex-Chelsea and current Leicester City goalkeeper Asmir Begovic. Current Fleet striker Kwesi Appiah would have played with many of these trialists that year!

2009

Best known amongst our rejected trialists in summer 2009 (when more than half the existing squad departed for cost reasons) was young defender **Michael Kamara** who had been at Fisher and Woking. He instead found himself playing for Staines Town but returned to haunt us in 2014 as part of the Dover squad that beat us in the play-off final. He later had a long spell with Hampton & Richmond and ended up at SE Dons last season. **Pascal Ebigbo** had played for Bodens in Sweden, represented Nigeria at youth level in the World and African Nations cups and been part of Charlton's academy when he tried to earn a contract at the Fleet. He scored for us in one of the trial games but went to Salisbury instead. Ex-Southend youth **Rhys Henry** didn't make the grade either but later excelled for Maldon & Tiptree and played for numerous clubs in Essex and Suffolk.



Left: Jai Reason, seen here with ex-Fleet midfielder Stuart Lewis playing for Dover against us in 2018/19, was a trialist in 2010... one that we would happily have signed!

2010

Newly relegated from the Conference Premier, the standout trialist in another Fleet rebuild was midfielder **Jai Reason** who had been with Ipswich Town and Cambridge United but he had plenty of other offers and went to Crawley Town. He later played many times against us, something of a thorn in our side, for the likes of Braintree Town, Eastleigh, Maidstone, Chelmsford, Dover and Billericay Town. Other trialists who didn't end up signing included former Dagenham winger **Joao Carlos** (who went on to play 300+ games for Grays); and ex-Gravesend Grammar School pupil and Scottish U20 international **Andy Cave-Brown**.

2011

Back in the top division, Liam Daish's usual rebuilding job wasn't quite as onerous as other seasons – winger **Goma Lambu** seemed the best bet, having played more than 100 times for Woking, but interest in him wasn't pursued and he had a second spell at Woking as well as at Kingstonian.

Malvin Kamara, twin brother of previous trialist Michael, was another who came with a good history having played in the League with Wimbledon, MK Dons and Huddersfield Town. However, he didn't make the grade and went to Lewes. Others who came and went that summer were **Peggy Lokando** (ex-Arsenal and Southend youth) and **Sam Corcoran** (ex-Colchester and later Chelmsford, St Albans, Hemel and Royston Town).

2012

For Liam Daish's last season in charge, there was the standard eye to be cast over trialists, of which a few promising ones with solid careers were jettisoned. **Serge Makoko**, who had just finished a season with Grimsby Town and once been described as being "the same sort

of player as Gareth Bale", scored for the Fleet in pre-season but ended up at Farnborough, before a journeyman career took him to Concord, Cyprus, Whitehawk, Scotland and Merstham! With him to Farnborough went established Conference player **Ashley Winn** (Stalybridge Celtic, Southport, Barrow and Gateshead). **Kirk Hudson** had won promotion to the League with Aldershot and was a former Conference Young Player of the Season. He was still in his prime but failed to impress Daish, joining Canvey Island instead before his career petered out in local Essex football.

POST-2013

With the departure of Liam Daish, pre-season trialists grew fewer. Under new boss Steve Brown, big ex-Crewe and AFC Wimbledon centre-back **Mat Mitchel-King** looked destined for a Fleet

contract in 2013 after playing numerous friendlies including against Dartford... but then he suddenly signed for the Darts a division higher instead! A year later, Brown also trialed French winger **Richie Dilemfu** who spoke no English, had never played in England before and seemed a little put out by the physicality of pre-season! Unsurprisingly he beat a hasty retreat back across the Channel.

Daryl McMahon's unsuccessful trialists included future Eastbourne, Chelmsford and Lewes defender **Kiran Khinda-John**, along with **Roman Michael-Percil** who had been at Spurs with Darren McQueen and Shaq Coulthirst and whose later clubs included Braintree Town and Farnborough. He also gave summer spots to Portuguese winger **Evan Lopes** and Welshman **Brandon Griffiths**, who later played in Germany and Belgium before returning home to feature in the Cymru Premier.



Left:
Mat Mitchel-King
was a Fleet
trialist in
summer 2013
but opted for
Dartford instead,
returning to
Stonebridge
Road with them
in the FA Cup
a few months
later

Garry Hill ended up signing most of his trialists such were his recruitment problems in 2019 but one given short shift was Zimbabwe international striker **David Moyo** who had been with Hemel and St Albans City. Clearly not impressed with being substituted at K Sports in a friendly, Moyo went off to replace Rakish Bingham at Hamilton Academical and later played for Barrow, Barnet, Chorley and Alfreton Town.



Two players who later established themselves at Conference level were trialed by Dennis Kutrieb in the pre-season during lockdown in 2020. **Bradley Stevenson** had just been released by today's visitors Gillingham and after failing to gain a contract at the Fleet, he moved on to Herne Bay and Welling United. He has just finished two seasons at Solihull Moors and signed for Chatham Town.

Another player who turned out in a Fleet shirt and might have been worth a second look was a certain 20-year-old **Charlie Seaman**! Instead of earning a Fleet deal, he went on to play for Doncaster Rovers, Hartlepool United and Maidstone United before coming full circle back to the Fleet last summer. Under Danny Searle in 2024, the most

prominent trialist was winger **Richard Chin** (ex-Charlton and Dartford) who looked bright in the several friendlies he played but perhaps wasn't ready for National League football. He moved on from the Fleet that summer to sign for Farnborough in the South, impressing in his season there, before moving to Raith Rovers and, last month for a fee, on to Ross County.

And finally, last season's main loanee was another ex-Gillingham player, winger **Matty Macarthur**, who moved on to sign for Chatham Town after playing for us in pre-season. He scored the winning goal in Chatham's FA Trophy giant-killing of Carlisle United last season but rejected new terms this summer to head to Billericay instead... so we'll be seeing him again this season.

Left:
Charlie Seaman
in a Fleet shirt
in 2020

Below:
Richard Chin
was a Fleet
trialist in 2024...
he has gone on
to sign for Ross
County and
win a cap for
Malaysia



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How the Fleet's final friendlies of pre-season five, 10 and 15 years ago shaped the seasons ahead



Rakish Bingham nips between two Southend defenders for an early Fleet chance

PRE-VIOUS

12

Fleet 1-1 Southend

August 7, 2021

The Fleet unveiled new loan signing, goalkeeper Josh Gould, after the game and gave departing Jordan Holmes a lap of honour before the match. Gould started in goal against Southend, newly relegated to the National League. He conceded against the run of play on 34 minutes when Matt Rush, now of Boreham Wood, fired in after a free-kick into the box. Fleet equalised 10 minutes from the end of a bad-tempered second-half when good work from Alfie Egan and Lee Martin provided Elliott Romain with the opportunity. Both he and Martin could have won it late on for the Fleet with a pair of glorious chances in the final two minutes.

Sutton United 2-0 Fleet

July 30, 2016

All Fleet's pre-season friendlies in 2016 were away from home due to construction of the new Main Stand and this was the last of them. Somewhat unpopular as far as Fleet fans were concerned given Sutton had beaten us to the title and were now about to celebrate life in the National League. And they rubbed our noses in it again with a 2-0 win at Gander Green Lane, the U's scoring twice in the second-half in an often physical encounter. Fleet were due another friendly at Greenwich Borough but it was postponed to leave the pre-season record as won three, lost three (including to SC Olhanense in Portugal) heading into the season.

Fleet 2-1 Dover Athletic

July 23, 2011

A crowd of 454 watched newly promoted Fleet with three new signings and two trialists – Alex Stavrinou of Charlton and Sam Corcoran, recently of Colchester – finish off a summer schedule that saw them unbeaten, with four wins and a draw. Substitute Michael West's late double stole victory from the jaws of defeat after Dover took the lead through a Donovan Simmonds goal on 52 minutes. It was scrappy stuff with tempers frayed at times and strong words going on between the two managers. West scored his first on 78 minutes when a cross bounced back off the bar and then he won the game in the final minute.

Jack Connors and
Bradleyubb renew
hostilities with Sutton
United in summer 2016



2021/22 season

Finish: 3rd (PO Finalists)

FIRST GAME

Fleet 5-1 Tonbridge Angels

The 75th anniversary season began with an absolute demolition of the Angels, with a first-half Dom Poleon hat-trick and goals from Rakish Bingham and Adam Mekki to celebrate the return from the Covid lockdown.

THE SEASON

The Fleet led the league for a spell over Christmas but gradually fell off the pace as Dorking Wanderers and Maidstone took control of the title race. A late flourish cemented third place and a win over Chippenham Town in the play-off semis set up *that* dramatic final at Dorking.

2016/17 season

Finish: 2nd (promoted)

FIRST GAME

Fleet 4-0 Poole Town

With promotion the aim, the Fleet swaggered through this easy win over the newly promoted Dolphins. Dean Rance, Danny Kedwell, Darren McQueen and a Jack Powell free-kick on his debut did all the damage.

THE SEASON

Yet again, the National League South's ability to produce a dark horse (this time, Maidenhead) denied the Fleet the title in an incredible race. Despite breaking all kinds of records, and achieving 96 points, the Fleet had to rely on the play-offs again... but this time with success!

2011/12 season

Finish: 14th (National Lge.)

FIRST GAME

Fleet 1-2 York City

A tough first game back in the division with late drama after Tom Phipp was sent off. Ten-man Fleet took the lead through Calum Willock with 10 minutes left before Jason Walker scored twice for the visitors in the final seven.

THE SEASON

Having achieved promotion back to the Conference Premier at the first time of asking, the Fleet found it easier than many predicted in the first season back, achieving 14th place with something to spare. The hard slog, however, would come in the following season!

Match Review



EBBSFLEET UNITED

- 1 Buse (Hall 77)
- 3 Vokins
- 4 Hessenthaler
- 5 Gbadebo
- 7 Ogunleye
- 8 Edser (Appiah 46)
- 14 Samuel
- 16 Kennedy
- 18 Box
- 21 Trialist
- 22 Chapman

SUBS NOT USED

Passley, Nelson,
Manktelow, Walker



CARDIFF MET

- 1 Hall
- 2 Seaman
- 3 Coker
- 6 Dallison
- 7 Passley (Olagunju 87)
- 8 Edser
- 10 Appiah
- 12 Nelson
- 18 Kennedy
- 21 Coley (Samuel 71)
- 22 Chapman (Barnes 78)

SUBS NOT USED

Cosgrave, Manktelow,
Wyllie, Sandford





Trialist 31

1-1



Mwandwe 56

Photos: EUFC, Ed Miller/Tom Harris

MORROW STADIUM | 24 JULY 2026
PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY | ATT 415

MATCH REPORT

[Press here for full photo gallery](#)

It was all square for the first ever visit of a solid and well-drilled Cardiff Met side who came back from a goal down to equalise in the second-half of this pre-season game.

Dom Samuel was lively up top forcing the goalkeeper into action on a number of occasions and his shot in the 14th minute fell into the keeper's arms to add to chances for Jake Vokins and Daniel Ogunleye.

Fleet enjoyed the best of the possession for the most part and controlled much of the game, so much so that Samuel's next effort from range resulted in the Fleet earning a corner just past the half-hour mark. Vokins swung that into the area, it was headed back by Camron Gbadebo and all it needed was a touch, which was provided by Fleet's trialist who prodded the ball home from close range.

The Fleet defence was forced into action at the other end of the pitch late on in the half and the visitors should have scored when an attack down the left got round the back line but the low delivery across goal had nobody on the end of it.

Half-time substitute Kwesi Appiah provided early pressure as he sent a ball into the area that picked out Samuel but his attempt was grasped by the goalkeeper once again.

The visitors were strong in defence and managed to snuff out several more Fleet attacks before they found an equaliser. It came when Fumpa Mwandwe took advantage of Will Buse's intercepted kick-out just before the hour mark.

Fleet stepped up the pressure in the closing minutes, with Appiah linking up with Ogunleye only for the young striker's effort to drift wide of the mark. That was one of several chances but the Cardiff back line kept the red shirts at bay.



Match Review



CRAY VALLEY PM

Adegoke
Ming
Smith
Sankoh
Ekipiteta
Deighton
Dua
Shokunbi
Otote
Gayle
Stewart

SUBS

Dickson, Leahy, Whitby,
Turner, Trialist A, Trialist B



EBBSFLEET UNITED

1 Hall (*Buse 78*)
3 Vokins (*Trialist 62*)
5 Gbadebo (*Tizzard 77*)
7 Ogunleye
8 Edser
14 Samuel
16 Kennedy
17 Peake
19 Barnes (*Appiah 62*)
20 Manktelow (*Passley 62*)
25 Walker



Photos: EUFC, Ed Miller/Tom Harris

Shokunbi 14
OG 68

2-3



Samuel 23, 51, 57



ARTIC STADIUM | 28 JULY 2026 | PRE-SEASON

MATCH REPORT[Press here for full photo gallery](#)

The penultimate pre-season match produced a win for the Fleet thanks to a half-hour Dominic Samuel hat-trick at Cray Valley.

Samuel equalised in the first-half and added two quickfire strikes after the break to send his side heading towards this final warm-up game in good form. Camron Gbadebo was flagged offside after netting an early chance and it was the hosts who opened the scoring on 14 minutes as Ade Shokunbi nipped in to space in the Fleet box and took a shot from a tight angle that found its target.

Samuel found the equaliser on 23 minutes as he glided through the Cray defence which left him one on one with the keeper. He still had plenty to do, though, and dispatched a shot from the edge of the area that flew into the bottom right corner. Harvey Walker produced a great solo run that deserved more when he took the ball across midfield and then through on goal but having done all the hard work, his attempt to round that off with a goal missed the target.

The Fleet gave Cray Valley little chance in the opening minutes of the second-half when two quick goals put them firmly in control. It was Samuel once again to provide the excellent finish on 51 minutes from a delivery by Jake Vokins. Last season's top scorer took his time before firing towards goal leaving keeper Prince Adegoke no chance. Two became three six minutes later and Samuel wrapped up his hat-trick in style with a stunning strike from a Toby Edser pass just outside the box that hit the roof of the net for 3-1. The Millers pulled one back 10 minutes later when Mal Turner's cross was a tricky one and it went in off a Fleet player. The visitors had a couple more chances for a fourth. Lennon Peake turned a good opportunity over the bar, Gene Kennedy's header was blocked and a placed Edser effort went over the bar, keeping the Cray Valley defence busy.

Matt Hall also pulled off a strong save to deny Cray an equaliser just before he made way for Will Buse as Josh Wright used all five subs on the night.



morrow



2026-27 FIXTURES



August

Sat 08 - Slough Town
Arbour Park

**Sat 15 - Folkestone Invicta
Morrow Stadium**

Mon 17 - Chelmsford City
Melbourne Stadium

**Sat 22 - AFC Totton
Morrow Stadium**

Sat 29 - Farnborough
Cherrywood Road

**Mon 31 - Horsham
Morrow Stadium**

September

Sat 05 - Walton & Hersham
Elmbridge Sports Hub

**Tue 08 - Hemel Hempstead Town
Morrow Stadium**

**Sat 12 - Salisbury
Morrow Stadium**

Sat 19 - Emirates FA Cup 2Q
tbc

Sat 26 - Tonbridge Angels
Longmead Stadium

Sat 03 - Emirates FA Cup 3Q
tbc

Sat 10 - Hampton & Richmond B.
Beveree Stadium

**Sat 17 - Weston-super-Mare
Morrow Stadium**

**Sat 24 - Maidenhead United
Morrow Stadium**

Tue 27 - Maidstone United
Gallagher Stadium

October

Sat 31 - Truro City
Truro City Stadium



November

Sat 07 - Chesham United
Morrow Stadium

Sat 14 - Isuzu FA Trophy R2
tbc

Sat 21 - Dorking Wanderers
Meadowbank

Tue 24 - Billericay Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 28 - Farnham Town
The Memorial Ground

Sat 5 - Torquay United
Morrow Stadium

Tue 8 - Slough Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 12 - Isuzu FA Trophy R3
tbc

Sat 19 - Folkestone Invicta
Cheriton Road

Sat 26 - Dagenham & Redbridge
Morrow Stadium

Mon 28 - Dover Athletic
Crabble

Sat 02 - Braintree Town
Cressing Road

Sat 09 - Hampton & Richmond B.
Morrow Stadium

Sat 16 - Tonbridge Angels
Morrow Stadium

Sat 23 - Salisbury
Raymond McEnhill Stadium

Tue 26 - Billericay Town
New Lodge

Sat 30 - Dorking Wanderers
Morrow Stadium

December

January

February

Sat 06 - Chesham United
The Meadow

Sat 13 - Truro City
Morrow Stadium

Tue 16 - Maidstone United
Morrow Stadium

Sat 20 - Maidenhead United
York Road

Tue 23 - Hemel Hempstead Town
Vauxhall Road

Sat 27 - Farnborough
Morrow Stadium

Sat 06 - AFC Totton
Testwood Stadium

Tue 09 - Chelmsford City
Morrow Stadium

Sat 13 - Walton & Hersham
Morrow Stadium

Sat 20 - Horsham
Fusion Aviation Stadium

Fri 26 - Dover Athletic
Morrow Stadium

Mon 29 - Dagenham & Redbridge
Victoria Road

Sat 03 - Braintree Town
Morrow Stadium

Sat 10 - Weston-super-Mare
Woodspring Stadium

Sat 17 - Torquay United
Plainmoor

Sat 24 - Farnham Town
Morrow Stadium

March

April

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BALLON DISAST'OR

— **ALLAN SIMONSEN** was undeniably a great footballer. The Dane was European Footballer of the Year in 1977, beating the likes of Kevin Keegan and Johan Cruyff to the award. He played for Barcelona, had been their top goalscorer and found the winning goal in the Cup Winners Cup final, securing a much-needed European trophy for the Catalan side. But when they paid a world record fee for Diego Maradona in 1982, it threw his position into doubt. Spanish football at the time allowed only two European players on the pitch at the time. The Argentine would obviously start, and when it became clear that West German Bernd Schuster would as well, Simonsen took his leave of the club for new pastures. Nobody could have expected those pastures to be... Charlton Athletic.

Simonsen had offers from across Europe, but the front runners turned out to be Barcelona's hated rivals Real

Madrid, and Tottenham Hotspur. Given the tensions between the two Spanish sides, North London seemed the most likely prospect for the Dane, where FA Cup winners Spurs had just achieved their highest finish in a decade and were looking at pushing beyond the fourth place they had found themselves in the previous season. But then Simonsen threw a spanner into those plans, stating he would enjoy a more relaxed footballing environment, something that White Hart Lane didn't really offer. Struggling at the wrong end of the Second Division, Charlton owner Mark Hulyer took his chance, blowing both Tottenham and Real Madrid out of the water with a £325,000 bid. Barcelona accepted on one condition: all of the money was paid up front. They didn't trust Hulyer's vision any more than anyone else.

The Valley at that time could hold 75,000, but hadn't seen even 40,000

Above:
from Barcelona
to the English
Second Division

for 35 years. Charlton averaged 7,000 fans for their home games, but Hulyer wasn't content to sit at that level. The colossal bid for Simonsen, with a high salary (by Second Division standards) and no bank to help finance the deal, was a gamble, but the interest the player would generate, and the success he would bring, would boost attendances so considerably that he would soon repay the money on the pitch. It was an idea with sadly predictable consequences.

Initially, Hulyer was right. Some 4,000 fans turned up for the reserve game where Simonsen would first kick a ball in a Charlton shirt, and more than 10,000 saw him play his first proper game, a gate increase of 50%. And Simonsen, European Footballer of the Year only five years earlier, took to his new team with ease. That first game ended in defeat against Middlesbrough, but Charlton fans saw their star signing score his first goal, and create chance after chance. Having dropped from the pinnacle of European football to the Second Division, the Dane's first 16 games for the club saw a slight upturn in fortunes. He scored nine goals, providing more for his teammates, and usually won man of the match – not a huge surprise for a player deemed a peer of Cruyff. But it was also a frustrating experience for Simonsen. His new teammates were not up to his speed, and incisive through balls, inch-perfect crosses, and magical moments were wasted by teammates who were always behind him. He couldn't do it alone, as evidenced by a 7-1 drubbing against Burnley.

He did have bright moments, the most notable against Chelsea following that Burnley game. Charlton took a two-goal lead in the first half, but let it slip before the hour. Simonsen took charge of the game after that, gliding around the pitch as though he were still a Barcelona player, beating Chelsea

defenders that, like most in the Second Division, were far below his level, and scoring two goals, creating another, for a 5-2 win. He had also doubled the attendance at Charlton, to a peak of 13,000, but it wasn't enough. Just five months after signing him, the south London *galactico* was causing financial problems. Hulyer was looking to sell.

Offloading a Ballon d'Or winner was a simpler, but much less profitable, prospect for Charlton than it had been for Barcelona. Fearing this exact situation, Simonsen's agent had put a release clause into the contract he had signed. When Hulyer approached him to explain that they couldn't afford his wages, the agent triggered the clause and Simonsen left the club in January of 1983. He went back to his homeland, and joined his childhood club VB to see out his relaxed career. Things for Charlton were not so cosy.



Facing the massive financial losses of the Simonsen experiment, Charlton were soon also given an even bigger tax bill of more than £400,000. The club finished that season five places lower than they had the previous, and facing bankruptcy. They were placed into administration and forced to leave The Valley altogether, to share Selhurst Park with Crystal Palace.

So the signing of Allan Simonsen did have the huge impact on Charlton that Hulyer had claimed... just not the one he had hoped for!

Above:
The Valley
shortly before
it fell into
dereliction



PLAYER SPONSORS 2026/27

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Nigel Odd, Paul Bevis
and Mark Colechin

Games | 0
Goals | 0

2 | JOSH PASSLEY



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Sharon Francis

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Goals | 1

3 | JAKE VOKINS



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Games | 31 (+10)
Goals | 1

4 | JAKE HESSENTHALER



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Games | 45
Goals | 4

5 | CAMRON GBADEBO



SPONSOR
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Lucas

Games | 0
Goals | 0

6 | JAMES VENNINGS



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7 | DANIEL OGUNLEYE



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Goals | 0

8 | TOBY EDSEER



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Games | 133 (+43)
Goals | 21

9 | ARAMIDE OTEH



SPONSOR
Chambers
Electrical

Games | 0
Goals | 0

10 | KWESI APPIAH



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Games | 25 (+20)
Goals | 14

11 | CHARLIE SEAMAN



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Games | 46 (+6)
Goals | 8

12 | RONNY NELSON



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Brian
Lucas

Games | 33 (+3)
Goals | 3

14 | DOMINIC SAMUEL



SPONSOR
Simon and Aimee
Beagley

Games | 57 (+35)
Goals | 29

15 | WILL TIZZARD



SPONSOR
Sharon Oatley &
Sharon Stockley

Games | 0
Goals | 0

16 | GENE KENNEDY



SPONSOR
Karen/Jason Humphris
(Infinity Balloons Bexley)

Games | 33 (+17)
Goals | 1

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17 | LENNON PEAKE



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David
Hooton

Games | 20 (+11)
Goals | 2

18 | OLLY BOX



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Games | 0
Goals | 0

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Goals | 7

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Goals | 3

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Goals | 20

24 | MATT HALL



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Swanston

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Goals | 0

25 | HARVEY WALKER



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Games | 0
Goals | 0

GIO BELLAGAMBI



SPONSOR

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Lucas

Games | 12
Goals | 0

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31.07.2026

PRE-SEASON 2026/27

**GILLINGHAM
FC**



PRIESTFIELD STADIUM



WELCOMING THE GILLS

In a repeat of last year's final pre-season match, which Fleet won 2-1, Gillingham arrive at the Morrow Stadium with both teams no doubt keen to get this final 90 minutes of preparation under their belts before the real thing gets under way.

For the Gills, that's not a league start but a Carabao Cup tie against Luton Town next Saturday before the visit of Walsall the following week begins the League Two campaign. Fleet, of course, are straight into league action with a trip round the M25 to Slough Town.

Gareth Ainsworth's pre-season has been tempered by a few injuries. Bradley Dack and Armani Little have sat out much of the summer and the Gills had six senior players missing from the ranks in their win over Millwall. They have also beaten Dover in pre-season and played largely reserve and behind-closed-doors friendlies against Chatham Town (0-1), Brentford B (1-2) and had another planned for earlier today for part of their squad.

Other players on the sidelines include new goalkeeper Ollie Wright plus Garath McCleary and Cameron Antwi. Nevertheless, Ainsworth has a fairly large squad to play with and has been able to split his teams down the middle in games this summer, with a number of younger players coming through to make up the numbers as well, such as Sully Booth and Cruz Beszant. He has also just this week added two new signings – Nick Freeman and Sam Tabares. Many of the current Gillingham squad played here last season when the goals were scored by Lennon Peake and Dom Samuel from the spot for the Fleet, and Joe Gbodé – now of Shrewsbury Town – for the visitors. Keep your eyes peeled for any promising players tonight as, this time last year, Marcus Wyllie (recently signed for Aldershot) appeared for Gillingham only to end the season on loan here with us. So there might be a future Fleet player or two kicking the other way!



MANAGER

GARETH AINSWORTH

Former Preston, Lincoln City, Port Vale, QPR and Wycombe midfielder who became the Chairboys' player-manager in 2012. He spent 11 years as manager at Wycombe, taking the club from League Two to the Championship. After six months as QPR manager in 2023, he moved on to Shrewsbury Town before taking over at Gillingham in March 2025.



FAST FACTS

Founded: 1893

First Football League season: 1920/21 (93 in total)

Best league season: 2002/03, 11th in Division One

Best FA Cup season: Quarter-finals (1999/2000, lost to Chelsea)

Ground: Priestfield Stadium, since 1893 (capacity: 11,582)



LAST FIVE GAMES

Gillingham 1-0 Millwall
(Friendly, 21 July)

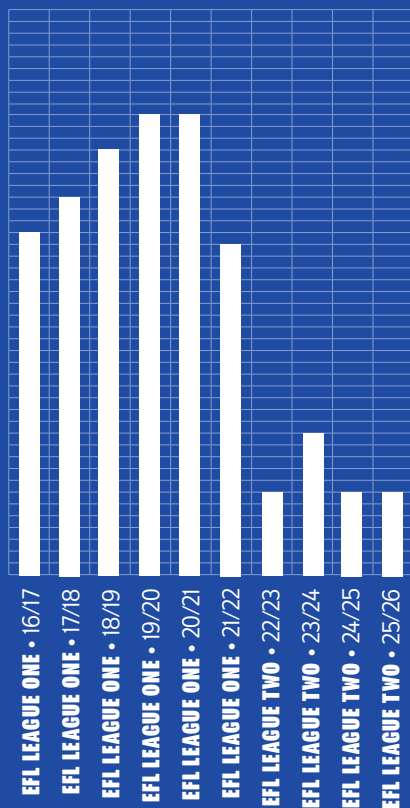
Gillingham 0-1 Charlton
(Friendly, 18 July)

Dover Athletic 0-3 Gillingham
(Friendly, 14 July)

Gillingham 1-0 Shrewsbury
(League Two, 2 May)

Barnet 6-2 Gillingham
(League Two, 25 April)

TEN-YEAR RECORD | GILLINGHAM



NEXT UP...



Slough Town (A)

08.08.26 / 3.00pm

Here we go!! The big kick-off is a little over a week away and Fleet are on their travels on the opening day for the fourth season in a row – having won two of those previous three. Slough have a new manager in the form of ex-goalkeeper Alan Julian, who previously was in charge at Hampton & Richmond Borough. Our last visit to Arbour Park came almost 12 months ago when the Rebels won 2-0 so the Fleet will be hoping instead for a repeat of the last opening-day performance at Dagenham.



THE ONES TO WATCH



SAM GALE

SIGNED : Academy, June 2023
POSITION : Defender
D.O.B. : 1 October 2004 (aged 21)

Gillingham's Young Player of the Year for the last two seasons, and a runner-up in the main award, the centre-back has come on leaps and bounds since loan experience with Sheppey United, Hastings United and Chelmsford City. He made his first-team debut while still an academy player, in November 2021.



WILL GOODWIN

SIGNED : Oxford United, July 2026
POSITION : Forward
D.O.B. : 7 May 2002 (aged 24)

The 24-year-old is a new signing up front for the Gills this season, having started out at Chester. He had permanent spells with Stoke City, Cheltenham Town and most recently Oxford United, as well as loan stays with Hartlepool, Torquay United and last year Wigan Athletic and Colchester United.



RONAN HALE

SIGNED : Ross County, January 2026
POSITION : Forward
D.O.B. : 8 September 1998 (aged 27)

Belfast-born forward who played in Northern Ireland with Crusaders, Larne, Derry City, Cliftonville and in the Republic of Ireland with St Patrick's Athletic. He impressed with Ross County in Scotland, leading to plenty of interest in a player who scored almost 150 goals in his career. He was capped in March 2025.

69

APPEARANCES

1

GOALS

0

APPEARANCES

0

GOALS

20

APPEARANCES

5

GOALS



MF

ZANE ALBARUS**Signed: Brighton & Hove Albion, June 2026**

Central midfield arrival who featured for Premier League 2 champions Brighton's U21s. The 20-year-old can play at right-back as well as in midfield.



MF

CAMERON ANTWI**Signed: Newport County, January 2026**

Spells with Blackpool and Cardiff did not see a breakthrough for the creative mid, which happened on signing for Newport County in 2024 where he played 70 games.



DF

OMAR BECKLES**Signed: Leyton Orient, February 2026**

Grenada international who began his career in Spain and spent three years in non-league before playing for Aldershot, Accrington, Shrewsbury, Crewe and Orient.



MF

CRUZ BESZANT**Signed: Gillingham U18 squad**

One of two players to head out on loan last season at Sheppey United, he was also with Ashford for a spell. He made his League Two debut last August at Oldham.



FW

SULLY BOOTH**Signed: Gillingham U18 squad**

The 17-year-old academy forward has impressed in pre-season and he scored and grabbed an assist on his League Two debut towards the end of last season.



FW

JAMES BROPHY**Signed: Cambridge United, May 2026**

Another player to have started out in non-league, moving from Edgware to Swindon in 2017. He played against the Fleet in four years with Leyton Orient.



MF

ETHAN COLEMAN**Signed: Leyton Orient, January 2023**

Signed for a fee following a loan spell with Bromley, the 26-year-old started out in non-league with Brackley Town and King's Lynn Town before signing for Orient.



MF

BRADLEY DACK**Signed: Sunderland, July 2025**

In all likelihood injured today, the player of the year is in his second spell with the club having played from 2012-17 before hitting the big time with Blackburn Rovers.



MF

LOUIE DAYAL**Signed: Gillingham U18 squad**

The 18-year-old was on loan at Sheppey United last season. An attacking player born in Maidstone, he has played for the first team in the EFL Trophy.



DF

LOGAN DOBBS**Signed: Academy, July 2025**

Young centre-back who has had loan experience with Burgess Hill Town, Welling United, Tonbridge and Ramsgate after progressing through Gills' youth ranks.



DF

LIAM GORDON**Signed: Motherwell, June 2026**

Scottish centre-back who came out of Hearts' youth team, playing for Arbroath, St Johnstone and Motherwell. He left the SPL for League Two this summer.



MF

KADEEM HARRIS**Signed: Salford City, June 2026**

Ex-Wycombe youth who played for Cardiff City and Sheffield Weds. before three years in Turkey. He returned to England for a season each with Carlisle and Salford.



**TAITE HOLTAM****Signed: Academy, May 2024**

Having spent two years loaned around Kent with Herne Bay, Phoenix Sports, Ashford United and Cray Valley, the 21-year-old will be hopeful of further progression.

**NELSON KHUMBENI****Signed: Bolton Wanderers, January 2025**

Signed for a fee from Bolton, the midfielder appeared on loan for AFC Fylde, Morecambe and most recently Accrington before the Gills paid a fee for his services.

**ARMANI LITTLE****Signed: AFC Wimbledon, May 2024**

Club captain and one-time England C international who impressed early in his career with Torquay United and Woking, moving on to Forest Green in 2022.

**LENNON MACLORG****Signed: Charlton Athletic, July 2026**

The 20-year-old Gills fan moved north for a period with Rochdale but was loaned to Whitehawk and Braintree on his return south to sign at The Valley.

**GARATH MCLEARY****Signed: Wycombe Wands., September 2025**

Experienced Jamaican international attacking midfielder with 700 senior games and 100 goals behind him for the likes of Notts Forest and Reading.

**ROBBIE MCKENZIE****Signed: Hull City, August 2020**

After 26 appearances in the Championship with Hull, the midfielder moved to Kent on a free transfer and has since passed the 150-appearance mark for Gills.

**SEB PALMER-HOULDEN****Signed: Bristol City, May 2025**

After two seasons' worth of loan experience with Newport County and Dundee, as well as NLS time at Chippenham, the forward signed for a fee at Priestfield last season.

**ANDY SMITH****Signed: Hull City, February 2025**

The 24-year-old won the National League play-offs on loan with Grimsby Town in 2022 and also spent time with Cheltenham before a permanent switch to Gills.

**DAMIEN THEODORE****Signed: Burgess Hill Town, February 2025**

A young talent who came through Burgess Hill's youth pathway, impressing Gillingham when taken on trial. He has since played on loan for Hassocks and Hastings.

**HARRY WALDOOCK****Signed: Academy, May 2025**

The 19-year-old has advanced to the first-team following senior experience on loan at Ashford United and Whitehawk. He made his League Two debut last season.

**HARRY WEBSTER****Signed: Academy, September 2024**

After making his Gills debut in 2024, the strong, physical and highly rated defender gained further match time at Chatham Town and Ramsgate on loan.

**NICK FREEMAN****Signed: Wycombe Wanderers, July 2026**

The former Wycombe, Stevenage and Shrewsbury midfielder, who can also operate in defence or at wing-back, joined this week following a trial period.

NEW SIGNING



— **LATE PRE-SEASON** is a time when most clubs will have their squads long nailed-down, but the week before the season kicks off also sees a fair few trialists added and one or two late swoops.

Farnham Town were one of those clubs who did plenty of early business but their latest addition last week raised a few eyebrows, with 36-year-old Sam Hutchinson dropping out of League One with AFC Wimbledon to join the newly promoted Surrey club.

At the other end of the age scale, but no less a significant signing, high-scoring Jake Tabor has joined **Hemel Hempstead Town** from Swindon Town. Although the 22-year-old didn't quite cut it in the EFL, he previously scored 107 goals in 72 games for Amersham Town in the Combined Counties League.

Newly promoted **Walton & Hersham** have bagged Junior Dixon from Boreham Wood, a young player who spent time on loan at Hampton and Chatham Town last season.

Dagenham & Redbridge were another club to wrap things up early but this week have brought in two new additions across the middle – Charles Clayden from Boreham Wood and Hamza Semakula from Aveley. **Chesham United** have pounced for three defensive players – Lordon Akolbire from Cheshunt, Harry Hoath from Hanwell Town and Joseph Adewunmi, recently of Dulwich Hamlet, while **Maidstone United** have tied former Sutton winger Nana Boateng to a deal after he impressed on trial. Staying in Kent, former Torquay striker Sonny Fish – who has played in the county before – has moved on to **Dover Athletic**.

Our second Morrow Stadium opponents of the forthcoming season, **AFC Totton**, have brought in two young players this week – Charlie Betts, 18, is a right-back from Swindon Town and Ibby Olateju, 19, arrives from Western League Brislington to bolster new manager Scott Rendell's Stags. Before Totton we take on **Chelmsford City** and they have just added Adam May from Eastbourne Borough.

Above:
Having started out at Chelsea, 36-year-old Sam Hutchinson winds down his career not too far away from the Blues' training camp – at Farnham Town

FLEET REVIEW

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CLUB HONOURS

FA Trophy 2007/08 • Southern League 1957/58 • National League South 2022/23 • Ryman League Premier 2001/02 • Southern League, Southern Division 1974/75, 1993/94 • Southern League Cup 1977/78 • Southern League Championship Cup 1978/79 • National League South Promotion Final 2010/11, 2016/17 • Full Members Cup 2000/01 • Kent Senior Cup 1948/49, 1952/53, 1980/81, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2007/08, 2013/14 • Kent Floodlight Cup 1963/70 • John Ullman Cup 1982/83



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THE FLEET THE GILLS



MANAGER Josh Wright



MANAGER Gareth Ainsworth

EBBSFLEET UNITED



- Will Buse 1
- Josh Passley 2
- Jake Vokins 3
- Jake Hessenthaler 4
- Camron Gbadebo 5
- James Vennings 6
- Daniel Ogunleye 7
- Toby Edser 8
- Aramide Oteh 9
- Kwesi Appiah 10
- Charlie Seaman 11
- Ronny Nelson 12
- Dominic Samuel 14
- Will Tizzard 15
- Gene Kennedy 16
- Lennon Peake 17
- Olly Box 18
- Finlay Barnes 19
- Maxx Manktelow 20
- Ben Chapman 22
- Matt Hall 24
- Harvey Walker 25

- Zane Albarus
- Cameron Antwi
- Omar Beckles
- Cruz Beszant
- Sully Booth
- James Brophy
- Ethan Coleman
- Alfie Cross
- Bradley Dack
- Louie Dayal
- Logan Dobbs
- Nick Freeman
- Sam Gale
- Will Goodwin
- Liam Gordon
- Ronan Hale
- Kadeem Harris
- Taite Holtam
- Nelson Khumbeni
- Armani Little
- Michael Luxton
- Lennon MacLorg
- Garath McCleary
- Robbie McKenzie
- Seb Palmer-Houlden
- Stan Sargent
- Andy Smith
- Sam Tabares
- Damien Theodore
- Harry Waldock
- Harry Webster
- Zack Whitelock
- Ollie Wright

GILLINGHAM



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee DAN BLADES

Assistants LEE VENAMORE, MATTHEW JACKSON • Fourth Official THOMAS SANSON

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