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THE WOOD



vs.
WOKING

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2017/18

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Winners
2014/15

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2009/10

Premier Division Runners-up
1997/98

Division One Champions
1994/95, 2000/01

Division Two Champions
1976/77

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1994/95, 1995/96

League Cup Winners
1996/97

League Cup Runners-up
1998/99

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2005/06

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2007/08, 2013/14, 2017/18,
2018/19

FA Challenge Cup
First Round
1973/74, 1977/78, 1998/99,
2002/03, 2003/04, 2012/13,
2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19

Second Round
1996/97, 1997/98, 2017/18

FA Challenge Trophy
Semi-finalists
2005/06

Charity Cup Winners
1980/81, 1983/84, 1988/89,
1989/90

London FA Challenge Cup
Winners
1997/98

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A PROGRESS REPORT

Today we welcome our good friends from Woking to Meadow Park. May I wish their Directors, Manager, players and supporters a pleasant stay with us and a safe journey home.



Well it's fair to say that October and November, in my opinion, have finally evidenced a sustained upturn in both performances and results. This will I feel give huge confidence to the dressing room and this newly put together squad, for the second half of the season.

In truth, I've been writing about small steps, progress and patience, since I first walked through the doors here way back in 1999. I still reiterate those same sentiments today and I still continually ask you for your patience each season for obvious reasons, and this season has been no different.

Patience is a big requirement for an underdog club with limited support, as we need to make every penny count and make every resource also work for us. But patience is also necessary when you have a young, talented and improving manager, and also have a lot of young, talented and improving players within an otherwise experienced dressing room.

If I'm honest, inexperience can sometimes lead to a bit of inconsistency and lead to a lack of confidence at times. So for those of you who may advocate change for changes sake, whether it's changing the owner, the chairman, the manager or constantly wanting team selection changes, I say, all football supporters want instant success, because it's now part of the instant everything modern culture.

But I'm an old school Chairman and I simply say patience is a virtue that, unfortunately for society, is almost frowned upon. In fact patience is sadly now a dying virtue for both the game I love and modern society.

This has clearly been demonstrated with two recent managerial sackings, firstly Garry Hill at Ebbsfleet and then Dave Challinor at Fylde. Those sackings I felt were not well thought through, both were knee jerk reactions and both were perhaps unfair?

No doubt if the rumours are true, then the managers at Barnet, Aldershot Town, Sutton United and Chesterfield are now all dreading the vote of confidence from their Chairman in the

next few weeks?

I'm just pleased that we're now getting our reward for patience, and for not over reacting to our early season form or any of the social media nonsense, especially after getting beaten at home to Sutton United, beaten away by Bromley, beaten by then bottom club Ebbsfleet and then beaten down at Eastleigh, as we had just 8 points after 9 games.

I feel that because patience and honesty was shown here, we bounced back by beating Dover 3-1 in early September and we are now better for the experience and we're seeing a tad more consistency.

I hope you'll now see for the remainder of the season what Luke and myself have been striving for over the last 12 months, and that is to have a very competitive squad, as we quietly build a club, stadium and squad in readiness for a tilt at the the Football League.

These small step improvements that I constantly go on about in fact began way back in August of 1999, the day when I first walked through the door as the owner of this football club, that I had purchased from previous Chairman Phil Wallace, because at first this was an unpleasant place to be around.

It was firstly a negative environment to be in, secondly the place was falling to bits and needed urgent investment and thirdly it was run by people I'd inherited under the previous regime and some simply resented me from the off, didn't want change in any way or to listen to any of my ideas.

Looking back I suppose, the club was full of people who had been here a long time and possibly felt entitled? Perhaps they felt their positions were under threat and I was the unwanted intruder who would alter the status quo here?

But for me the chemistry around the club was just not right and not conducive to progress, not open to change and not open to new ideas. Certainly not ideas like the Academy, that I knew could bring about sustained success but, as the

saying goes, you can't make an omelette without cracking a few eggs, so I took a deep breath and, rightly or wrongly, began cracking eggs and changing things.

Fast forward 21 seasons and for me the whole place, both on and off the field, is unrecognisable from the one I inherited. For one thing it's now full of committed, talented people, who are here for all the right reasons.

Even over the last 12 months, I've needed to advocate change and further spend re: the facility builds and the much needed improvements to the first team squad while we built ourselves a brand new North Bank Stand, rebuilt better changing facilities and began to build a vibrant, stronger and more free scoring first-team squad, who in truth make the club much stronger in some very crucial areas.

That for me is shown with new signings David Gregory, Nathan Ashmore, Jordan Thompson, Piero Mingoa, Adam McDonnell, plus Kabongo Tshimanga, Tyrone Marsh and the re-signing of loanee Justin Shaibu from Brentford.

On top of those above, it feels like we've made two other big signings, though both were already in the building, I'm talking about Kane Smith who, after a year out injured, is now back to full fitness and in our academy graduate Sorba Thomas who, for me, is developing beautifully and both, along with Kabby are all shoe-ins to play for England C.

So with the new North Bank and new dressing rooms built and with other facility upgrades almost complete, with the first team squad now showing such positive signs, it's all starting to give me a feeling of cautious optimism and a sense of real momentum.

I am now seeing a more positive mindset around the club once again, I can see it in my day-to-day staff, in the dressing room, in our Academy, even in myself and in you supporters.

Trust me as an owner, as a chairman, even as a grandad, a father, a son, a brother or an uncle, I've really needed a pick up from somewhere on a personal level over recent months, so can I say a big thank you to all my staff and every one of you for your assistance, for your patience, for your loyalty and for your care and hard work.

It's a nice feeling when if you work hard, things suddenly begin to turn around and momentum starts to build at a club because the fear of failure suddenly evaporates and trust me, nobody fears failure or letting people down more than I do.

Failure in whatever I do, has always been a fear that I live with. I feared failing as a Prop Master when working in the film industry, I still fear failing as a football club owner and chairman, fear failing to be a good dad, a good grandad, a supportive

family member, a good friend or just failing to be a stand up guy, as they are all qualities which are hugely important to me.

I certainly felt those pressures and the responsibility of failing, when I first walked through the doors here in 1999 but I knew if I could conquer some of those fears and find a bit of consistency, I'd somehow with my sons and, create some sustained momentum and have a shot at creating a long term plan and structure that could underpin the unseen building blocks that I've spent two decades building.

In truth most of my fears as a person have almost been conquered and as an old school Chairman, I have with a bit of luck and a lot patience and a small steps policy, certainly improved things here across the board since those dark days in 1999.

That improvement was most definitely not the case in my first season here, as I didn't exactly hit the ground running and in fact I helped get us relegated which is why I'm so glad that my first benchmark has already been hit for this season. As my inner circle will all tell you, my first benchmark every season is to see us 10 points above the relegation places of any league that we now compete in. That ten point buffer is always my first safety gauge, as it tells me we're not going to get relegated that season, and thankfully we reached that 10 point buffer after we beat Maidenhead United here two weeks ago.

It means I will now look again at the budget with both my new Chief Executive Charlie Hunter and with Manager Luke Garrard, and see if we can't start to look at what damage we might be able cause the teams above us in the table.

As I've witnessed many times over the last 21 seasons patience, planning and experience is key when dealing with pressure, talented staff, with a talented manager and when coupled with a talented squad. It allows for overreaction, for mistakes and it allows momentum to build and when it does, it's a nice place to be especially when it's still relatively early in a season.

It also means that training ground lessons are being quietly and quickly taken on board, it means the club's work ethic and expectations have also been taken on board. It also tends to mean that the newer players and staff have or are settling in well, not only to what Luke and his management team want, but because of the togetherness of our senior players like Mark Ricketts, Tom Champion, David Stephens, Kieran Murtagh, Danny Woodards, Ricky Shakes, Jamal Fyfield and Femi Ilesanmi.

When momentum comes, it is a powerful tool, though it tends to need a little bit of Lady Luck, which is often seen in one or two late goals that affect your results in a positive way.

Late goals, when in your favour, simply lead to pure elation, to a happier boardroom, a happier more confident manager and often leads to a less pressured dressing room because belief has arrived to not only them, but to the staff and supporters alike.

In my last programme notes against Maidenhead United, I spoke about how small steps progress was being made. I felt I was seeing those first shoots on the pitch of something more than, say, one decent performance in three and an end to some of the inconsistency that I'd witnessed.

I felt after speaking with Luke, that our second half performance at Yeovil and the home win against Maidenhead United, was me listening to a more positive manager, with a slightly different mindset, who was showing me more maturity and as such I feel further progression is possible both on and off the park.

In my last notes, I also expressed my feeling of disappointment after our away defeat at Torquay in the FA Cup. I had my reasons for that disappointment, but the reality was that lessons have been learnt and in hindsight, perhaps one particular corner was turned after those big away wins at Woking and Halifax?

I feel if we can remain a real attacking threat in all of our pre Christmas games and of course in both the Boxing Day and New Year's Day Derby games with local rivals Barnet, that we'll be a great dark horse. I also believe our players have the ability and fire power to dream of what we might still achieve collectively this season.

As I said after those busy summer builds and rebuilds, we've patiently, intelligently and quietly got the whole club and our Academy into a much better position than it was, say, 12 months ago, and that for me is the perfect backdrop with the FA Trophy and a trip to Royston now looming on the horizon.

As such, I want to thank all my loyal staff and thank Luke and thank the dressing room for their efforts to date because only by us being at times brutally honest with each other, only by us putting in the extra hours and only by us intensifying our Attitude, Discipline and Desire philosophy, have we got ourselves to this point.

I believe that myself, my senior management team and my heads of department have genuinely reconnected and I feel we have somehow become even more focused on what we want to achieve together, after what had been a very disappointing and disjointed year.

In truth, its never easy to sit down and question yourself, it's not easy to question your general manager, question your finance director, question your new chief executive, question your clinical lead or even question your head of football.

It's certainly not easy to question very loyal Heads of Department and ask them to re-look at themselves and I've had to do all those things.

To ask people you both love and respect to somehow re-focus and re-establish their love for this club, was perhaps in some people's eyes, tantamount to asking if I felt they were somehow cheating me and the club? That though, trust me, was never the case but, with my experience, I knew we had all gone stale after Wembley.

So I needed to find out from within, if our underdog mindset was still there, and ensure that my senior staff and everyone within their departments, knew exactly what I expected of them while they were here.

In truth I hadn't been entirely happy with myself or the leadership skills I'd shown for quite some time. I just wasn't happy that my small steps message was actually understood or clear enough anymore, or what we were now all achieving collectively. I was also not happy with what some of both the old and some of the newer staff, considered to be a full working day, a hard working day or that they were totally focused and committed anymore.

As such, after the Arsenal friendly on the 6th July, I knew it was time for me to confront, restructure the club internally and move one or two people either on or into different roles and I knew I had to get myself back to doing what I do best... namely refocusing solely on my football club and my academy - 12 hours a days, 7 days a week and for the whole season ahead.

I felt I needed to convince some of my staff, that this was Boreham Wood Football Club, not Hollywood, as I needed them to somehow follow my lead, to find the fire in their bellies again and to find their underdog ambition to succeed with us once again. I felt, if I led by example, people would see my ambition and hunger to succeed at 57 was still there and that it might perhaps motivate them to give me and the club their 100% commitment once again?

I possibly needed to know if my loyal staff were still capable of refocusing collectively and once again adopting that proven club ethos of Attitude, Discipline and Desire and I'm happy to say, that they have done just that.

Why did I do that? Because the talent within my workforce from boardroom to bar and from academy to first team, if focused, can be frightening. In truth if they believe in what we're doing this season just a tad more, and if we could perhaps add one or two more talented individuals along the way, this could be right up there with our play off final wins and our Wembley season.

But collectively I do still need them to understand, it will be their mindsets and their work ethic, not mine, that will ultimately shape our season. As

everyone knows, I am a very loyal guy but I've never been blindly loyal and as I wrote in my last programme notes, I do always try to create strong bonds within the club, the dressing room and advocate strong relationships with my staff.

But in truth we now need people who firstly want to be here and secondly who want to put us into the Football League. I can say, having been around this football club for 21 seasons, that I often smell falseness a mile away amongst players, management or my day to day staff and I cannot detect too much this season.

In fact, knowing people's own ambitions and their body language, is often an important part of being a smart owner or chairman at this level because you must see beyond yours and an individuals personal ambition, you must try to create a strong collective spirit, but if you take the time to quietly observe people, you can often strike a happy balance.

But by me asking difficult questions and by me challenging certain people at or near the top of my management structure I felt it could only improve the environment we worked in. I knew it would also improve me, and by improving me, I would know exactly where I stood with these individuals - hope that makes sense?

Because in any season, the nearer you get to success, the nearer you get to pressure and when pressure arrives, some people fall apart. I know I'm not always easy to understand, I know I'm very repetitious in my ways and I know that my leadership methods are perhaps an acquired taste haha, but when pressure arrives I know I can somehow deal with it and help my staff to deal with it too.

In truth, you do as a Chairman need to know how your key staff will react when either challenged or under pressure because if we are to have a real tilt at the play offs this season, then I will need this dressing room, all my long serving staff and you supporters, absolutely 100% onboard with me, or trust me this season will evaporate.

OTHER NEWS

Can I now on behalf of everyone at Boreham Wood FC congratulate our Club Captain David Stephens on the birth of a beautiful baby girl. Both mother and daughter are doing well and hopefully Stevo will concentrate on his football once again haha - heartfelt congrats big man.

Anyway, back to today's game, and onto the business in hand. Over the last 10 games we have taken 16 points and been more than competitive but against an Alan Dowson dressing room, and especially against this Woking team, who have lost just 5 games all season and just beaten joint leaders Bromley, we will need to be at our very best to get a result.

Dowse for me is one of those old school, shrewd managers who I like and respect very much, though with that Geordie accent In truth "I canny understand a single word he says man".

As an aside, my late Grandfather Len Hunter was born on Tyneside and In 1936 he walked from Jarrow to London on the very famous Jarrow March or Jarrow Crusade. It was a march by honest hard working men, that captured the imagination of the press and the whole nation.

Those brave men from Jarrow and the surrounding areas, simply marched in protest, all on foot from Jarrow to London. They were mainly put up and fed along the way by the general public or work houses, and the working people came out in their thousands to support them and all signed their 'right to work' petition in their hundreds of thousands.

The aim of those men, including my Grandfather, was to simply deliver their 'right to work' petition to the House of Commons and ask Parliament's sitting MP's, to debate their case and ask for their closed shipyard to be re-opened and for more investment be given in the North East, so they could simply work and support their families.

Anyway what's the point of my story? The point is even my old Grandad who was a proud working man from Tyneside, would not be able to understand one thing from Dowse's lips haha...

Below shows our league positions after 23 games over the last three seasons. Those comparisons are still showing us that just about anything is still possible but I feel if my gaffer and his dressing room can somehow nick a win today, it would tell me the dressing room is now on its way and only looking up.

Finally, whoever you support, let's hope for an open, attacking game and may the best team win.

It's over to you,

Danny

	P	W	D	L	F	A	POINTS	POSITION
2017/18	23	10	8	5	34	22	38	7 TH
2018/19	23	8	7	8	24	25	31	11 TH
2019/20	23	8	7	8	33	28	31	14 TH

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LUKE GARRARD MANAGERS NOTES

Good Afternoon. Firstly I would like to welcome Alan Dowson, his Players and Staff to Meadow Park for our National League Fixture.

Alan has done fantastic this year with an impressive start to the campaign and has shown a consistency that has kept them with the chasing pack.

He has tinkered slightly with his squad since our first meeting and I can imagine it will be just as tight as that first encounter.

We know their strengths and where they will look to hurt us, we need to make sure we are up to the task and are well drilled and organised to ensure we don't get done.

For us we need to continue with the work we have been doing, I've been witnessing a side full of confidence and a team that wants to express itself.

As a Management team we have been working aggressively on our offensive play as we felt we could improve the manner in which we have attacked teams.

We have played Yeovil, Hartlepool and Notts County in our last three away fixtures and have maintained an unbeaten recording which I feel has put us in good stead against today's opposition.

You look at the performance especially the second half at Yeovil and large periods of both the Hartlepool and Notts County game we should be full of confidence to replicate that on our home patch.

We could put ourselves in a great position if we were to get maximum points today, and that's be expressed to the dressing room to achieve.

We know as a group it's all about momentum and having the belief to continue to do the work that has been getting us results.

We have a dressing room that is currently very exciting, look at the average age of our front five just being 22.

That shows the belief the experienced players have in them and more importantly the Management. They know what I expect from them, and a lot of that is structured when we are out of possession.

I'm a strong believer in loosening the shackles on them when they're in possession of the football as they are all very talented individuals and I don't want to suppress their ideas.

As long as they show me a work ethic and a hunger to regain the ball you won't hear many grumbles from me.

So let's hope we are now showing a consistency that has been lacking in the early parts of the season, to hopefully put a positive run together Prior to the turn of the year.

Let's hope for a productive start with a positive performance today

Regards

Luke

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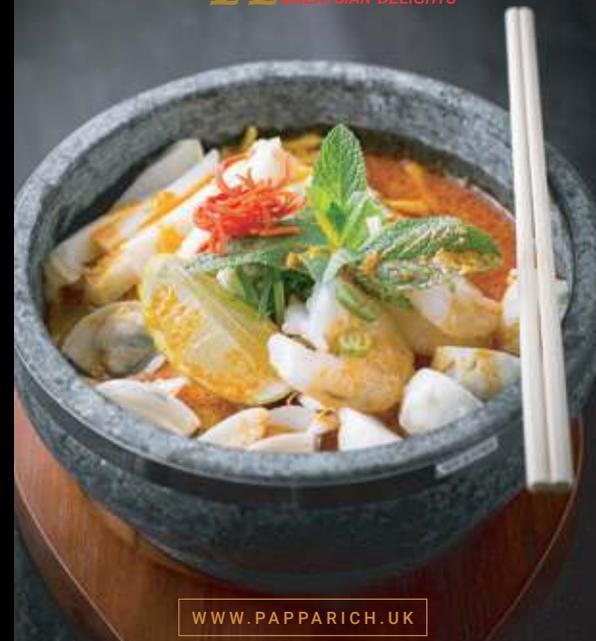
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NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE



#	Team	Pl	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1.	Barrow	22	7	1	3	6	1	4	13	2	7	41	27	14	41
2.	Solihull Moors	23	9	0	2	3	4	5	12	4	7	37	23	14	40
3.	Bromley	23	6	4	1	5	3	4	11	7	5	40	29	11	40
4.	Woking	23	4	5	3	6	3	2	10	8	5	35	29	6	38
5.	FC Halifax Town	23	5	2	4	6	3	3	11	5	7	32	28	4	38
6.	Yeovil Town	22	6	3	3	5	1	4	11	4	7	37	27	10	37
7.	Harrogate Town	23	7	3	2	3	4	4	10	7	6	35	30	5	37
8.	Torquay United	23	6	1	4	4	3	5	10	4	9	41	36	5	34
9.	Notts County	23	5	5	2	3	3	5	8	8	7	35	27	8	32
10.	Hartlepool United	23	3	4	4	5	4	3	8	8	7	36	32	4	32
11.	Eastleigh	22	5	5	1	3	3	5	8	8	6	29	29	0	32
12.	Dover Athletic	22	2	4	6	7	1	2	9	5	8	29	30	-1	32
13.	Stockport County	23	6	1	5	3	4	4	9	5	9	26	36	-10	32
14.	Boreham Wood	23	4	3	4	4	4	4	8	7	8	33	28	5	31
15.	Barnet	23	5	4	3	3	3	5	8	7	8	34	32	2	31
16.	Dagenham & Redbridge	23	5	3	4	3	3	5	8	6	9	29	30	-1	30
17.	Maidenhead United	23	2	3	6	6	1	5	8	4	11	30	30	0	28
18.	AFC Fylde	22	4	3	3	3	3	6	7	6	9	28	36	-8	27
19.	Aldershot Town	23	4	2	5	3	3	6	7	5	11	24	33	-9	26
20.	Sutton United	22	1	4	6	4	3	4	5	7	10	22	29	-7	22
21.	Chesterfield	22	3	2	6	2	5	4	5	7	10	29	41	-12	22
22.	Wrexham	22	4	5	3	0	3	7	4	8	10	25	33	-8	20
23.	Chorley	23	2	4	5	1	7	4	3	11	9	20	39	-19	20
24.	Ebbsfleet United	23	1	4	6	3	3	6	4	7	12	33	46	-13	19

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LATEST RESULTS Tuesday 26th November

- Barnet 5 - 2 Ebbsfleet United
- Barrow 2 - 2 Chorley
- Chesterfield 1 - 5 Hartlepool United
- Dagenham & Redbridge 1 - 2 Sutton United
- Dover Athletic 3 - 4 Maidenhead United
- Eastleigh 3 - 2 Torquay United
- Harrogate Town 2 - 2 FC Halifax Town
- Notts County 2 - 2 Boreham Wood
- Stockport County 1 - 4 Solihull Moors
- Woking 2 - 1 Bromley
- Wrexham 0 - 1 AFC Fylde
- Yeovil Town 2 - 2 Aldershot Town

TODAYS FIXTURES Saturday 30th November

- Aldershot Town vs Chesterfield
- Boreham Wood vs Woking
- Bromley vs Yeovil Town
- Chorley vs Dagenham & Redbridge
- Ebbsfleet United vs Wrexham
- Maidenhead United vs Barrow
- Sutton United vs Harrogate Town
- Torquay United vs Stockport County

UPCOMING FIXTURES Saturday 7th December

- Barnet vs AFC Fylde
- Barrow vs Aldershot Town
- Chesterfield vs Bromley
- Dagenham & Redbridge vs Maidenhead United
- Dover Athletic vs Boreham Wood
- Eastleigh vs Ebbsfleet United
- Harrogate Town vs Torquay United
- Notts County vs Sutton United
- Stockport County vs Chorley
- Woking vs Hartlepool United
- Wrexham vs Solihull Moors
- Yeovil Town vs FC Halifax Town

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2019/20

DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	RESULT	ATT	STARTING LINE-UP										SUBSTITUTES										
AUGUST																									
SAT 3 AUG	TORQUAY UNITED	A	L 1-2	3138	GREGORY	ILESANMI	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA	MCDONNELL*	TSHIMANGA***	MURTAGH	FYFIELD	THOMAS**	SMITH	WOODARDS	RICKETTS*	MARSH** 1	THOMPSON	SHAIBU***					
TUE 6 AUG	WREXHAM	H	D 2-2	845	GREGORY	ILESANMI*	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA	MCDONNELL	TSHIMANGA**	MURTAGH 2	MARSH***	THOMPSON	SMITH	WOODARDS**	RICKETTS	THOMAS*	SHAKES	SHAIBU**					
SAT 10 AUG	CHESTERFIELD	H	D 2-2	715	GREGORY	ILESANMI	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA	MCDONNELL 1	TSHIMANGA 1P	MURTAGH	MARSH*	THOMPSON	SMITH	WOODARDS	RICKETTS	HUDDART	SHAKES	SHAIBU*					
TUE 13 AUG	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	A	W 3-0	1179	GREGORY	ILESANMI	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA	MCDONNELL*	TSHIMANGA 2 (1P)	MURTAGH***	MARSH***	WOODARDS	SMITH	THOMPSON	RICKETTS*	THOMAS	SHAKES***	SHAIBU** 1					
SAT17 AUG	SUTTON UNITED	H	L 0-1	407	GREGORY	ILESANMI	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA	MCDONNELL	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH***	MARSH*	WOODARDS**	SMITH	THOMPSON	RICKETTS**	THOMAS**	SHAKES*	SHAIBU					
SAT 24 AUG	BROMLEY	A	L 0-1	1443	GREGORY	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MINGOIA**		TSHIMANGA	FYFIELD	SHAIBU*	WOODARDS***	SMITH	THOMPSON	ILESANMI	THOMAS**	SHAKES***	MARSH**					
MON 26 AUG	EBBSFLEET UNITED	H	L 1-2	533	GREGORY	RICKETTS	CHAMPION**	STEPHENS	ILESANMI	MCDONNELL***	TSHIMANGA**	MURTAGH	THOMAS	WOODARDS	SMITH	THOMPSON**	SHAIBU*	HUDDART	SHAKES	MARSH***					
SAT 31 AUG	CHORLEY (LIVE ON BT SPORT)	A	W 3-1	1035	GREGORY	RICKETTS	THOMPSON	STEPHENS 1	MARSH 1	MCDONNELL*	TSHIMANGA**	MURTAGH	THOMAS	WOODARDS***	SMITH	MINGOIA	SHAIBU**	HUDDART	SHAKES*	WICKHAM***					
SEPTEMBER																									
TUE 3 SEP	EASTLEIGH	A	L 0-2	1641	GREGORY	RICKETTS**	THOMPSON	STEPHENS	MARSH***	ILESANMI*	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH	THOMAS	SHAKES	SMITH	CHAMPION*	SHAIBU**	HUDDART	MCDONNELL**	WICKHAM***					
SAT 7 SEP	DOVER ATHLETIC	H	W 3-1	493	GREGORY	RICKETTS	THOMPSON	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI*	TSHIMANGA**	MURTAGH	THOMAS*	FYFIELD	SMITH	SHAKES*	SHAIBU**	HUDDART	MCDONNELL	WICKHAM					
SAT 14 SEP	HARROGATE TOWN	A	D 0-0	942	GREGORY	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH***	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	SMITH	SHAKES	SHAIBU*	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL	MINGOIA					
SAT 21 SEP	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	W 4-0	744	GREGORY	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH 1	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA 2*	MURTAGH	THOMAS 1*	FYFIELD	SMITH**	SHAKES**	SHAIBU***	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL	MINGOIA*					
TUE 24 SEP	NOTTS COUNTY	H	L 1-2	756	GREGORY	RICKETTS***	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH 1P	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA*	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	SHAKES*	HUDDART	SHAIBU**	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL***	MINGOIA*					
SAT 28 SEP	WOKING	A	W 2-1	2219	GREGORY	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA 2**	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	MINGOIA*	HUDDART	SHAIBU**	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL	SHAKES*					
OCTOBER																									
SAT 5 OCT	SOLIHULL MOORS	H	W 1-0	540	ASHMORE	MCDONNELL*	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH 1	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	MINGOIA	GREGORY	SHAIBU	THOMPSON	WOODARDS	SHAKES*					
TUE 8 OCT	BARROW	A	L 1-3	1758	ASHMORE	MCDONNELL	THOMPSON**	STEPHENS	MARSH 1	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA*	MURTAGH***	THOMAS	FYFIELD	WOODARDS	GREGORY	SHAIBU*	WICKHAM	MINGOIA**	SHAKES***					
SAT 12 OCT	FC HALIFAX TOWN	A	W 2-0	2244	ASHMORE	MCDONNELL 1	CHAMPION 1	MINGOIA**	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA***	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	WOODARDS*	GREGORY	SHAIBU***	WICKHAM	THOMPSON*	SHAKES***					
SAT 19 OCT	TORQUAY UNITED (FAC40)	A	L 2-3	1952	ASHMORE	MCDONNELL*	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH 1P	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA**	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	SMITH	WOODARDS	SHAIBU**	WOODARDS	THOMPSON	SHAKES		MINGOIA		RICKETTS*	
SAT 26 OCT	AFC FYLDE	H	L 0-2	501	ASHMORE	RICKETTS	CHAMPION**	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA*	MURTAGH	THOMAS*	FYFIELD	SMITH	WOODARDS	SHAIBU**	WOODARDS	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL					
TUE 29 OCT	ALDERSHOT TOWN	H	D 0-0	619	ASHMORE	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA*	MURTAGH	THOMAS	FYFIELD	SMITH	MINGOIA	SHAIBU*	WOODARDS	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL					
NOVEMBER																									
SAT 2 NOV	YEovil TOWN	A	D 1-1	2879	ASHMORE	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH	THOMAS	WOODARDS*	SMITH	MINGOIA	SHAIBU*	SHAKES	THOMPSON	MCDONNELL					
SAT 16 NOV	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	H	W 2-1	624	ASHMORE	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA 1*	MURTAGH	THOMAS	SHAIBU 1	SMITH	MINGOIA	WOODARDS	SHAKES*	THOMPSON	FYFIELD					
SAT 23 NOV	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	A	D 2-2	3377	ASHMORE	RICKETTS	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA 1	MURTAGH	THOMAS 1P	SHAIBU*	SMITH	MINGOIA	WOODARDS	SHAKES*	THOMPSON	FYFIELD					
TUE 26 NOV	NOTTS COUNTY	A	D 2-2	3256	ASHMORE	RICKETTS**	CHAMPION	STEPHENS	MARSH	ILESANMI	TSHIMANGA	MURTAGH	THOMAS 1P	SHAIBU 1*	SMITH	MINGOIA*	WOODARDS	MCDONNELL**	THOMPSON	FYFIELD					
SAT 30 NOV	WOKING	H																							
DECEMBER																									
SAT 7 DEC	DOVER ATHLETIC	A																							
SAT 10 DEC	ROYSTON TOWN HSC2	A																							
SAT 14 DEC	ROYSTON TOWN FAT1	A																							
SAT 21 DEC	HARROGATE TOWN	H																							
THUR 26 DEC	BARNET	A																							
SAT 28 DEC	EASTLEIGH	H																							
JANUARY																									
WED 1 JAN	BARNET	H																							
SAT 4 JAN	STOCKPORT COUNTY	A																							
SAT 11 JAN	FA TROPHY 2ND ROUND																								
SAT 18 JAN	SOLIHULL MOORS	A																							
SAT 25 JAN	BARROW	H																							
FEBRUARY																									
SAT 1 FEB	AFC FYLDE	A																							
SAT 8 FEB	FC HALIFAX TOWN	H																							
SAT 15 FEB	ALDERSHOT TOWN	A																							
SAT 22 FEB	YEovil TOWN	H																							
SAT 29 FEB	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H																							
MARCH																									
SAT 7 MAR	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	A																							
SAT 14 MAR	TORQUAY UNITED	H																							
SAT 21 MAR	WREXHAM	A																							
SAT 28 MAR	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	H																							
APRIL																									
SAT 4 APR	CHESTERFIELD	A																							
FRI 10 APR	EBBSFLEET UNITED	A																							
MON 12 APR	BROMLEY	H																							
SAT 18 APR	SUTTON UNITED	A																							
SAT 25 APR	CHORLEY	H																							



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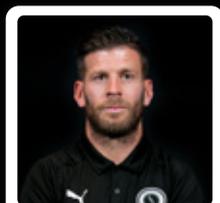
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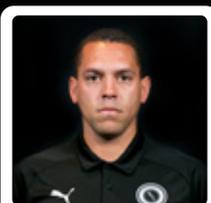
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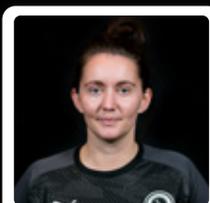
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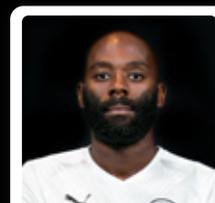
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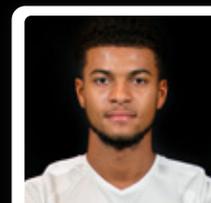
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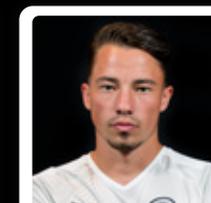
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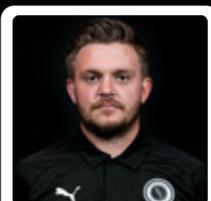
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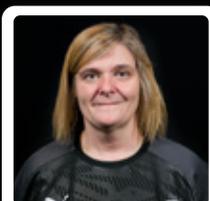
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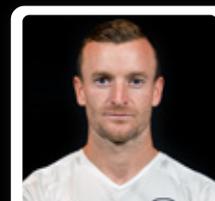
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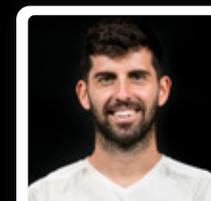
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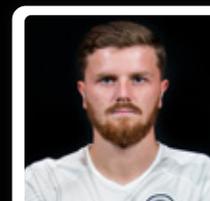
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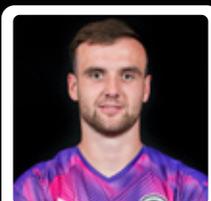
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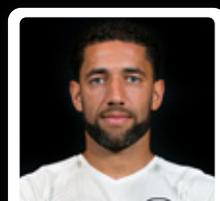
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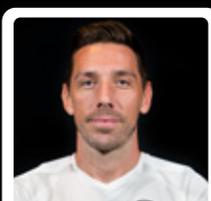
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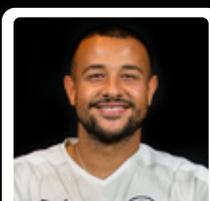
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For many football fans, the mere suggestion of a 3G pitch still conjures up memories of the artificial surfaces in the 80s, causing outrageously bouncing balls and carpet burns to any goalies brave enough to play without wearing long trousers. Luton, QPR, Preston and Oldham all experimented with 'plastic pitches' until they were banned in the football league from 1995.

Despite significant improvements in artificial surfaces over the last few decades, the EFL remains reluctant to reconsider its regulations. In non-league however, 3G pitches are very much being used. For lower league clubs, their benefits are clear. They provide a more consistent surface that doesn't cut up in the winter months. They rarely succumb to waterlogging or freezing in the way grass pitches do. From November onwards, non-league groundsmen battle the elements to get games on, artificial surfaces provide a much more reliable alternative that will rarely fail a pitch inspection.

It's because of these advantages, that clubs down the pyramid are increasingly favouring 3G pitches for new stadiums. In 2012 Maidstone United moved into the Gallagher stadium with an artificial surface. Similarly Hendon and Edgware, now share the 3G at Silver Jubilee Park. Last summer Hertfordshire's Ware FC made the choice to replace their grass with 3G. Doing so brought with it another benefit, the club was able to attract tenants in Brimsdown - bringing with it extra income.

A surface that doesn't wear out means multiple teams can use the facility without

issue. It also functions with a minimal level of care and maintenance. With lower league clubs having to rely on volunteer groundsmen to paint, cut and repair the grass turf, a 3G pitch is one less time-consuming job on the to-do list.

In the National League, Sutton United is flying the flag for artificial surfaces. Gander Green Lane hosted Arsenal in the FA Cup 5th Round in 2017 without any criticism or concern from the Premier League side. The following year, the club was on the verge of promotion to the football league before defeat to Boreham Wood in the playoffs. That Michael Folivi winner was perhaps a blessing disguise for the London club, as a promotion to the Football League would have required them to rip up and replace their famous surface.

Of course, not everyone is a fan of the artificial surface. Last season saw a public dispute between Berkhamsted FC and Berkhamsted Raiders. The Raiders submitted plans for their rival's home stadium to be converted to a 3G surface, allow them to share the facility at Broadwater. The proposal was not well received by Berkhamsted FC who've played on grass for over a century.

Whilst if we're being truly honest, players and fans alike would rather watch the game being played on traditional grass (and mud). With the improvement in 3G surfaces, they are a useful option for grassroots football. Many clubs are embracing the benefit of a reliable surface that can host multiple teams. With artificial pitches being allowed by UEFA competitions, perhaps it's time for the EFL to rethink their approach too.



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WOKING FC CLUB HISTORY

Woking Football Club, known as the Cards (from the Cardinal red of the red and white halves), was formed in 1889. The Club joined the West Surrey League in 1895/96, winning the title by one point on the final day of the season. However, within 21 years of being formed, the Club was in danger of folding for financial reasons. The turning point came when, in January 1908, Woking played Bolton Wanderers in the First Round of the FA Cup, having battled through five qualifying rounds. Despite losing the away game 5-0, the Club made it into the national press. Bolton Wanderers, impressed by the minnows they had defeated, travelled to Woking for a friendly match the following season, which kept the Club solvent.

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The next season saw the Club become part of FA Cup folklore. Entering the competition at the Fourth Qualifying Round, they beat three Conference sides to set up a Third Round tie away to West Bromwich Albion. Recovering from being a goal behind, Woking triumphed 4-2, thanks to a superb team effort and a never-to-be-forgotten hat-trick from Tim Buzaglio. To be drawn out of the hat with a home game against Everton was beyond everyone's wildest dreams. The tie was switched to Goodison Park and, against a team packed with internationals, the sides were separated only by a solitary Kevin Sheedy goal. Over 34,000 people remained in the ground to give the players a rapturous standing ovation.

Promotion to the Conference was achieved in 1991/92. The Isthmian League title was clinched in early April, with seven games still to be played. Nearest rivals, Enfield, had been swept aside 5-0 in a scintillating display of flowing, attacking football and the season ended with the Club 18 points clear of the Londoners.

The new season kicked off with very few of the all-conquering championship side in the line-up. After a shaky start a very respectable eighth place finish was achieved. The following summer saw Chapple make one of the most inspired signings in the history of the Club, Clive Walker, the former Chelsea, Sunderland, Fulham and QPR winger, was signed from Brighton & Hove Albion and he was to prove the catalyst in the most successful period in the Club's history. The FA Trophy was won in 1994, 1995 and 1997 and the Cards also achieved five successive top five finishes in the Conference, including being runners-up in 1994/95 and 1995/96.

The Club also continued to enjoy fine FA Cup runs. Barnet were defeated in successive seasons. In 1996/97 the Cards beat Millwall, then top of Division Two, and Cambridge United, who were challenging for promotion from Division Three. The Third Round draw paired the club with Coventry City. The game was closely fought, with the Premiership outfit 1-0 ahead with only seconds remaining at their Highfield Road ground. Then Steve Thompson struck to earn a replay. Although Coventry City ran out 2-1 winners at Kingfield, courtesy of a cruel own-goal, many people felt that Woking had more than held their own.

At the end of the 1996/97 campaign, having just clinched

the FA Trophy for the third time, Geoff Chapple and his coach, Colin Lippiatt, left the Club and joined Kingstonian. John McGovern, the former Derby County, Nottingham Forest and Leeds United midfielder, was appointed. Hopes were high that he would lead Woking into the League but, although the Club finished in third place, his style of play and his personality did little to endear him to the fans. A poor start to the 1998/99 campaign led to his dismissal. Brian McDermott, the former Arsenal player, joined Woking on a non-contract basis and achieved a temporary upturn in fortunes, guiding the team to a ninth place finish.

However, the Club struggled again in 1999/00 and McDermott was relieved of his duties in March 2000. Colin Lippiatt returned and secured a 14th place finish. The 2000/01 season saw yet another poor start. The signing on loan of Chris Sharpling proved crucial in enabling the Cards to pull clear and achieve another 14th place finish. The team struggled once more in the 2001/02 season. Defeat in the FA Cup, by Newport County, saw Colin Lippiatt stand down and become the number two at the Club, with a certain Mr Geoff Chapple back as manager.

The 2002/03 season saw the Club get off to its best-ever start in the Conference. However, 'black September' brought seven consecutive defeats and a rapid descent into the relegation zone. Geoff Chapple resigned and Glenn Cockerill took over as manager, initially on a temporary basis. After an incredible sequence of results - winning and losing alternate games in a run of 12 matches and then embarking on nine consecutive draws - it all turned on the last day of the season. Woking went into the final game second from bottom, knowing that even a win over Telford would not guarantee their Conference status for 2003/04.

Disappointingly, the Cards failed to mount a challenge for a play-off place in 2005/06, finishing in 11th place. But they made the most of favourable draws in the FA Trophy, reaching the Final at Upton Park, only to lose 2-0 to Grays Athletic. 2006/07 was another season of underachieving and, despite bringing in fresh faces during the January transfer window, Glenn Cockerill was unable to turn around a poor run of results and left Kingfield at the end of March 2007, with relegation a distinct threat.

Baker was confirmed as Manager just before the season ended and set about building a new side to compete in the Blue Square South, with Jimmy Dack as his assistant. A storming end to the 2009-10 season saw the Cards clinch 5th place. Dover Athletic were beaten in the play-off semi-final but the Cards lost to Bath City in the final.

The revival continued apace in the 2011-12 season, with the Cards reaching the top spot in late September and staying there throughout the campaign in spite of being pushed hard by Dartford. The BSBS title was won by nine points, with only five games lost all season.

The 2014-15 campaign saw the Club finish in a commendable 7th spot, missing a play-off place by only three points. Garry Hill maintained his record of top-half finishes the following season as the side ended in 12th position. But the summer of 2016 saw the loss of some experienced players and the side struggled throughout the 2016-17 season, eventually averting relegation thanks to generally improved form from the new year onwards, finishing in 18th place.

In May 2017, following an announcement that new investment would take place in the Club, Anthony Limbrick was appointed manager, with Jason Goodliffe joining him as assistant manager shortly afterwards. The Club also announced that it would be moving gradually to full-time status.

Goalkeepers

Sam Howes

The promising young goalkeeper joined Woking in the summer of 2019 following his release by Premier League side Watford, a club the Cards know well, having faced them in the third round of the FA Cup the previous season.

Christian Paulat-Brigg

The former Leeds United scholar joined the Cards on a short-term deal in November 2019 to provide cover for first choice keeper Craig Ross.

Craig Ross

The hugely experienced goalkeeper and product of the Woking youth academy signed a new contract in the summer of 2019. He played a crucial role in helping the Cards win promotion from National League South after re-joining his boyhood club the previous September.

Defenders

Manny Parry

The towering defender joined Woking from National League side Boreham Wood in the summer of 2019, following the Cards' promotion from National League South the previous season.

Josh Casey

The Woking captain signed a two-year contract extension in the summer of 2019 after the Cards promotion to the National League at the end of the 2018/19 campaign.

Glen Rea

The defensive-minded player, who can play at centre-back or in a defensive midfield role, joined Woking on loan from Championship club Luton Town in October 2019.

Ben Gerring

The powerful centre-back activated a clause in his contract upon the club's promotion from National League South which ensured him an extended stay at the Laithwaite Community Stadium.

Shaun Donnellan

The defensive midfielder player, who can also play at centre-back and has been utilised as a full-back in the past, joined the Cards in the summer of 2019 following the expiration of his contract with Maidstone United and a successful trial.

Moussa Diarra

The giant and hugely popular left-sided centre-back joined Woking on a permanent deal in the summer of 2019, having enjoyed a brief but extremely successful loan spell with the club during the final two months of the previous season, culminating in the Cards' promotion to the National League.

Jack Cook

The versatile defender was one of the first to sign a new contract with the Cards following the club's promotion to the National League in the summer of 2019.



THE FACTFILE

Name:
Woking FC

Nickname:
The Cardinals

Formed:
1889

Ground:
Kingfield Stadium

Capacity:
6,036

Honours Won:
52

2018/19 finishing position:
2nd Place
(National League South)

Highest attendance:
7,020 vs
Finchley (1957)



THE GAFFER Alan Dowson

Alan, better known as 'Dowse', took over as Woking manager in May 2018 following the Cards relegation from the National League. Despite starting the season with just one contracted player as well as a whole host of other issues to be resolved both on and off the pitch, he enjoyed a superb first season as boss, earning an immediate return to the top flight of non-league football with promotion via the play-offs. After finishing as runners-up to Torquay United, the Cards defeated Wealdstone and Welling United in the end of season competition to bounce back at the first attempt, much to the delight of everyone associated with the club.

It wasn't just in the league that Dowse tasted success, as he also led the Cards to the third round of the FA Cup for the first time since 1997, knocking out League 2 side Swindon Town on route to a third round meeting with Premier League Watford, which ended in an admirable 2-0 defeat in front of a sold out crowd at the Laithwaite Community Stadium.

Dowse has an enviable record of success throughout a 15-year run in non-league football. After enjoying a playing career which had taken him to Millwall, Fulham, Bradford City and Darlington, he became player-manager at Walton and Hersham in 2004. In 2007 he moved to Kingstonian where he led the club to promotion from the Isthmian Division One South as champions. Twice he reached the play-offs of the Isthmian Premier Division, including one final in 2010, which saw the K's defeated by Boreham Wood.

In 2014, supported by his backroom team of Ian Dyer and Martin Tyler, Dowse joined Hampton and Richmond Borough, winning promotion from the Isthmian Premier at the second attempt as they went up as champions. Their fine form continued into National League South as back-to-back play-off campaigns. Dowse took his self-proclaimed dream job at Woking in summer 2018 - quickly winning over supporters with his selfless work off the pitch to engage and galvanise the local community, whilst backing it up with results and ultimately promotion on it.

Nathan Collier

The vastly experienced utility man signed a new contract with Woking in the summer of 2019 after playing a key role in the team promoted from the National League South.

Midfielders

Tyreke Johnson

The hugely promising young winger joined the Cards on loan from Premier League side Southampton just before the start of the 2019/20 season - signing a deal running, initially, until January.

Max Kretzschmar

The goalscoring midfielder joined the Cards for the second time in the summer of 2018, following a successful season with Hampton and Richmond Borough, and signed a new contract ahead of the 2019/20 season.

Jamar Loza

The exciting forward, who can play out wide or through the middle, joined Woking for a second spell in September 2019 on loan from National League South side Chelmsford City.

Godfrey Poku

The combative midfielder joined the Cards for a second spell in the summer of 2019 following the club's promotion to the National League.

Jack Skinner

A versatile attacking player who can play out wide or behind the striker in the number ten role, Jack signed for the first-team in the summer of 2019, after graduating from the club's academy.

Christ Tiehi

The French-born midfielder joined the Cards in September 2019 after a successful trial - which included a goal against Millwall's Under-23 side in a friendly win.

Paul Hodges

The versatile forward, who can play out wide or in the number ten position supporting the striker, signed a contract extension with the Cards in the summer of 2019 after becoming a key part of manager Alan Dowson's promotion winning team.

Jake Gray

The central midfield player, who can also play out wide, joined the Cards in late August 2019 following his release by Yeovil Town at the end of the previous season.

Kane Ferdinand

The Cards' current longest-serving player extended his stay at the Laithwaite Community Stadium into a fourth season in the summer of 2019 following the club's promotion to the National League.

Forwards

Jake Hyde

The powerful centre forward signed a new contract with Woking in the summer of 2019 after finishing the previous campaign as the club's joint leading goalscorer in all competitions.

Ibrahim Meite

The powerful striker joined the Cards on the eve of the 2019/20 season after impressing throughout a prolonged pre-season trial period - signing an initial one-month loan deal from Crawley Town.

Dave Tarpey

The experienced striker joined Woking on a permanent deal in the summer of 2019 following his release by Barnet, having previously spent a one-month loan spell with the club the previous season, helping the Cards to promotion from National League South.



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THE TEAMS LINE UP



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MARSH TRIES HIS LUCK



STEPHENS IS ALL SMILES



MAN OF THE MOMENT SHAIBU



KANE SKIPS PAST HIS MAN



SORBA STEPS UP...



SORBA MAKES IT COUNT FROM THE SPOT. 1-0



TEAM CELEBRATE SORBA'S GOAL



KABS STRIKE MAKES IT 2-0



YET ANOTHER KABS CELEBRATION



THE TRAVELLING FANS ENJOYING THAT ONE



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As looks likely, we will have sufficient travelling fan numbers for this away fixture, **Dover Athletic**. As such we will be running an official supporters coach to this fixture.

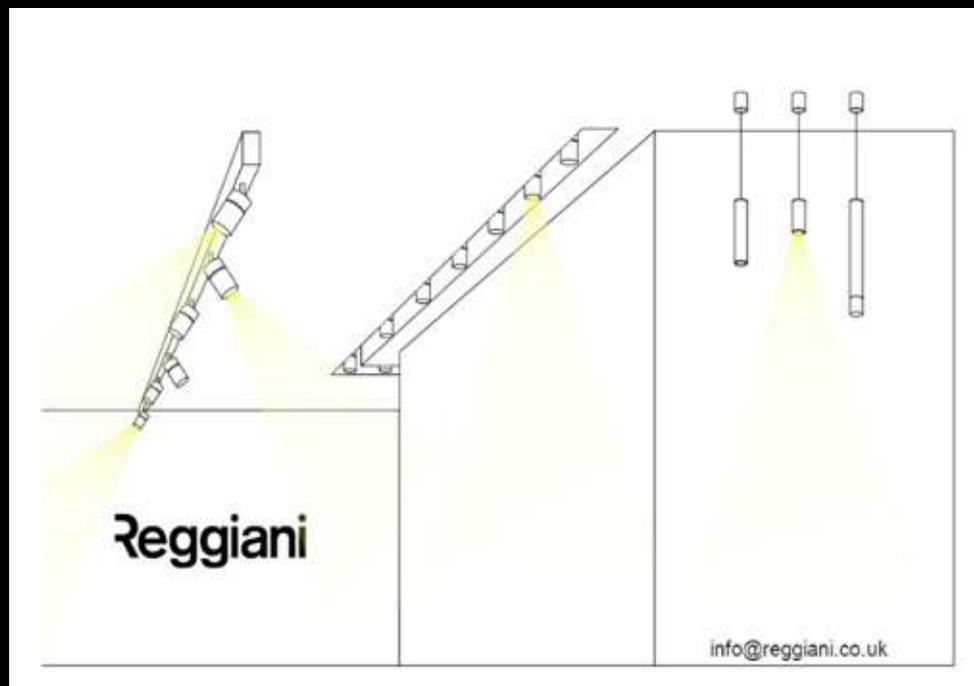
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(£5 Discount for ST Holders)

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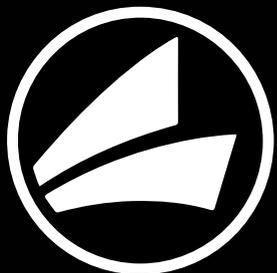
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[^]Terms and conditions apply, ask in Centre for details.

SQUADS



MANAGER
LUKE GARRARD

PLD

GLS ■ ■ ■

- 1 **David Gregory** ● ● ●
- 2 **Danny Woodards** ● ● ●
- 3 **Femi Ilesanmi** ● ● ●
- 4 **Mark Ricketts** ● ● ●
- 5 **Tom Champion** ● ● ●
- 6 **Dave Stephens** ● ● ●
- 7 **Piero Mingoa** ● ● ●
- 8 **Adam McDonnell** ● ● ●
- 9 **Kabongo Tshimanga** ● ● ●
- 10 **Keiran Murtagh** ● ● ●
- 11 **Tyrone Marsh** ● ● ●
- 12 **Jamal Fyfield** ● ● ●
- 14 **Sorba Thomas** ● ● ●
- 15 **Ricky Shakes** ● ● ●
- 16 **Jordon Thompson** ● ● ●
- 17 **Nathan Ashmore** ● ● ●
- 18 **Charlie Wickham** ● ● ●
- 19 **Kane Smith** ● ● ●
- 20 **Justin Shaibu** ● ● ●



MANAGER
ALAN DOWSON

PLD

GLS ■ ■ ■

- 1 **Sam Howes** ● ● ●
- 2 **Jack Cook** ● ● ●
- 3 **Josh Casey** ● ● ●
- 4 **Manny Parry** ● ● ●
- 5 **Ben Gerring** ● ● ●
- 6 **Moussa Diarra** ● ● ●
- 7 **Dave Tarpey** ● ● ●
- 8 **Kane Ferdinand** ● ● ●
- 9 **Jake Hyde** ● ● ●
- 10 **Max Kretzschmar** ● ● ●
- 11 **Paul Hodges** ● ● ●
- 12 **Nathan Collier** ● ● ●
- 13 **Craig Ross** ● ● ●
- 14 **Godfrey Poku** ● ● ●
- 15 **Jack Skinner** ● ● ●
- 16 **Shaun Donnellan** ● ● ●
- 17 **Tyreke Johnson** ● ● ●
- 18 **Ibrahim Meite** ● ● ●
- 21 **Christian Paulat-Brigg** ● ● ●
- 22 **Jamar Loza** ● ● ●
- 23 **Glen Rea** ● ● ●
- 24 **Jake Gray** ● ● ●

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee
Peter Gibbons

Assistant Referee
Aurel Onita

Assistant Referee
Jack Fagg

Fourth Official
Jamie Pope