The official digital programme of **Boreham Wood Football Club**

Issue #2

Thursday 27 August 2026, 19:45
Enterprise National League



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Club Honours

National League Cup Champions:
2025/26

National League Promotion Final Runners-up:
2017/18, 2025/26

National League South Promotional Final Winners:
2014/15, 2024/25

Isthmian Premier Division Play-off Winners:
2009/10

Isthmian Premier Division Runners-up:
1997/98

Isthmian Division One Champions:
1994/95, 2000/01

Isthmian Division Two Champions:
1976/77

Isthmian League Cup Winners:
1996/97

Isthmian League Cup Runners-up:
1998/99

Full Members Cup Runners-up:
1994/95, 1995/96

Southern League Division One Champions:
2005/06

FA Cup 1st Round:
1973/74, 1977/78, 1998/99, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2023/24, 2024/25

FA Cup 2nd Round:
1996/97, 1997/98, 2017/18

FA Cup 3rd Round:
2020/21, 2022/23, 2025/26

FA Cup 5th Round:
2021/22

FA Trophy Semi-Finalists:
2005/06

Herts FA Senior Cup Winners:
1971/72, 1998/99, 2001/02, 2007/08, 2013/14, 2017/18, 2018/19

Herts FA Senior Charity Cup Winners:
1980/81, 1983/84, 1985/86,1988/89, 1989/90

London FA Senior Cup Winners:
1997/98

Boreham Wood Football Club

Mangata Developments Stadium, Meadow Park
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Website: www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Founded: 1948
Full members of the Football Association & Enterprise National League
Affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA
Home colours: All white
Away colours: Pink, black, pink
Third colours: All black
GK colours: All black (home) & all sky blue (away)

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Instagram: @boreham_woodfc
TikTok: @officialborehamwoodfc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/borehamwoodfc

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Kit Assistants: Mark Hughes & Calum Browne

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Head Academy Coach: Mickey Engwell
Academy Coaches: Joe Freeman & Ronnie Swash
Lead Academy Therapist: Ellen Fender

Ownership

Boreham Wood Football Club Limited (Company no.: 2533129) is 100% owned by it's shareholders. The company is considered to be controlled by Mr D Hunter by reason of his majority shareholding and financial commitment to the company.



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Tue 8 Sept 2026 • 19:00

Harrogate Town
Sat 19 Sept 2026 • 15:00

Everton U21
Wed 23 Sept 2026 • 19:00

Kidderminster Harriers
Tue 29 Sept 2026 • 19:00

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Good evening. This evening we welcome our good friends from Boston United to Meadow Park. May I wish their Directors, Manager, players and supporters an enjoyable stay with us and a safe journey home.

Well, it's fair to say both clubs this evening have started the season well. Both clubs have strong squads, both clubs are ambitious and both clubs have two very good managers.

On the player front, we also have great news to report, as both Zak Brunt and Tom White have this week signed new long-term contracts. It's all part of my, Charlie's, Luke's and the Club's long-term vision to create another period of sustained success and improvement on the pitch, aligned with the continued investment within the stadium and facilities off the pitch.

OK, now feels like the right time to give you some up-to-date transfer news. In truth, other than at the recent Club Q&A, I've stayed very quiet in terms of Abdul Abdulmalik and this drawn-out transfer saga because, as a father and grandfather, I genuinely understand Abdul's frustration and, yes, of course I'm aware that it's an all-consuming saga for Abdul, his family and his advisors.

For me, it's not a saga, a drama or even an all-consuming issue, as in my capacity as owner it must be seen as business as usual and, as such, we must, as a club, act smartly, unemotionally and for some very good reasons.

Firstly, at 64 years of age and having enjoyed 28 seasons here in the Chair, I know our supporters want an experienced owner to stand up to outside noise, to see passive-aggressiveness for what it is and not allow anything, except my own good conscience, to dictate what's right for our dressing room and our football club.

As such, my conscience is very clear, I'm sleeping well and I'm very happy regarding both my and our Club's overall behaviour regarding all things Abdul-related, from his arrival here, his first season, our promotion and winning the National League Cup, through to losing at Wembley and up to the time of writing these notes.

I, of course, understand the new agent, player, family and advisors are not happy, as they are only thinking about Abdul and themselves, but that is very much their concern. I've now watched the behaviour of those concerned up close over the last three weeks. I've seen the constant leaks to Sky Sports and the press, but that's out of my control.

I do understand that some people will think those press leaks will put me under pressure (they don't), but what I will say is that these things are unhelpful to all concerned, as they unsettle the player unnecessarily and just add to the noise, the me, me, me culture and poor behaviour.

I'm old school and always believe that a transparent transfer negotiation must firstly begin with the interested (buying) club making contact with the parent club (us) in good faith. Only if those initial conversations between the clubs are positive can a deal further down the line be done.

If a transfer is being initiated at the start by an agent or by a buying club using an agent, then one club (us), in this case, is usually kept in the dark before an offer is suddenly sent through. Remember, at that point the agent and the player have already agreed their deals, even though NO deal at that point has been struck between the two clubs.

To be even clearer, if a potentially interested club knowingly contacts a contracted player through an agent, without his

parent club's permission, and negotiates his deal, that could constitute an unauthorised approach under the relevant football regulations.

A transfer in normal circumstances is genuinely not rocket science. However, put simply, if an unauthorised approach to a player is made before either an initial agreement with the selling club has been reached or permission to talk to the player has been given, then simply talking to the player, either directly or through his agent, could constitute an unauthorised approach.

If that happens, a player on most occasions has already had his head turned long before the parent club (us) even knows that the player has accepted his deal and long before a low-ball offer is on its way to the parent club. Hope the above makes sense?

Of course, these things do happen and will continue to happen in football, possibly because it's now become common practice and perhaps because agents don't make the monies they want if the market is quiet?

In our defence, we had made it very clear after our Wembley defeat to eight or nine of our players' agents, who we knew might look to attract interest from other clubs, that as a club we had our own ambitions this season and we were not looking to sell certain players here at any price.

I felt we were respectful and very open with every agent and every player, and I was crystal clear on our stance. I now feel I'm being made out to be the bad guy here and slightly held hostage, as it's very late in the transfer window and I'm now forced into negotiating a transfer because the said player, on advice from others, has downed tools.

In truth, I'm not happy with that, nor the silly press leaks after we stayed respectfully quiet and agreed to negotiate in good faith. However, with Abdul now once again downing tools, I'm slightly backed into a corner and feel I need to set the record straight to our loyal supporters by being very honest, while still not airing too much of our dirty washing in public.

As such, I've decided, rather than do an external interview with the many, that I'd quietly set out my thoughts in these programme notes, as I'm the person who controls these types of things here. I'm making it crystal clear that we have negotiated in good faith with a club, but we will not relent on the present asking price, as we have already lowered our asking price by £350k.

When the time is right, I might go into more detail about the real truths behind these press leaks, the downing of tools, the player's conduct, the nonsense and the behaviour of some characters within this transfer saga. But for now, "least said, best mended" is my stance. That said, until the window has closed, the ball is now firmly in the buying club's, player's, agent's and advisors' court because if our valuation is met, then Abdul can go.

For clarity, as far as I'm concerned, the transfer fee is agreed. It's now simply about reaching agreement on some add-ons based on the buying club's league and UEFA success while Abdul is at their club. There are some appearance add-ons, a simple international clause should Abdul become an international (which would increase his worth tenfold) and a fair sell-on. That's pretty much the saga/story in a nutshell.

At the moment, Abdul is refusing to train with us or play, though he is still very much our player and has two years left on his contract. My gut feeling is that the buying club might decide not to come back to the table, but of course I might be wrong? If I was a betting man, and I'm not, I would expect, when the transfer window closes next Tuesday, that an unhappy Abdul will still be with us, but what do I know?

Anyway, enough of that drama and nonsense for at least this evening. All I can say to our loyal supporters is, forget the noise and let me deal with that. Your job is to attend the game, enjoy tonight, enjoy this squad, enjoy this team, enjoy their talent, enjoy Zak and Tom's contract extensions and enjoy our very positive start to the season, as it's joyous.

As I often tell you, "God loves a trier", so with a bit of belief, a fair wind, a little bit of luck and a win this evening, we could be celebrating being top of the league by 10pm tonight. Trust me, our Club is well run, it has a local man at the helm and really does know itself.

I can also honestly tell you this: we are not a one-man team, which I think Saturday's performance at FGR perfectly demonstrated. So please forget the noise. Our valuation is set, it is fair and we will not be lowering it any more than the £350k that we already have over the next five days.

It's now a very simple equation. If the buying club wants to agree the add-ons and finalise a transfer agreement, then let's get on with it, as I'm ready and waiting. If not, trust me, I'll be even happier as the window will be closed and we'll still have Abdul.

For clarity, Abdul, in his position, is the best in this division and the division above by a country mile, hence why he is valued highly. If he stays, he will of course help us enormously with our promotion push and EFL ambition.

That ambition started with me a long time ago. It now continues through my staff, our manager, our dressing room, our sponsors and my partners. It is also now driven by you, our loyal supporters, by our town and by our wider community, as our dream is the EFL. I ask any one of you: how do I put a price on that?

Other club news

Well, since our Wembley loss, the last few months at the Club have been very exciting, and the last two weeks have seen the South End Project really begin to take shape. The dream of building an EFL ground is now more than real. Work has begun but will begin in earnest on 14th September, and the finished design really is quite exceptional.

It will include new groundworks, drainage, utilities, roads, new changing rooms, a new officials' room and a new office area. It also includes a new lighting design, signage and landscaping, which will all be in situ and completed well before Christmas this year (phase one).

The new Away Fan Zone will be complete with new pathways, fence lines, gates, signage, seating, lighting, turnstiles, toilets, an away bar and catering units. We will also build a new maintenance unit and grounds building. This, we hope, will be completed by February 2027 (phase two).

From February 2027 to July 2027, we will then complete the new South Stand, drop in a control room, build additional pathways, add a gantry and service road, build a new rehab and community Astro pitch, complete further fence lines, a wheel wash, CCTV, Wi-Fi and all things in between, ready before the start of next season (phase three).

As always within my programme notes, I've tried to give our fans an honest update and appraisal of where I believe we sit at present. All I ask in this most important of seasons is that you continue to get behind Luke and the dressing room in the normal way, and let's hope we get a memorable team performance this evening and a table-topping end to the night.

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

Take care,

Danny

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DAZN



Good evening. Firstly, I would like to welcome Paul Hurst his staff and players to Meadow Park for tonight's Enterprise National League fixture.

Paul and Boston United have started the league campaign in great fashion, which is no surprise to me.

Boston have put together an extremely productive off season recruitment drive and with a Manager that has the experience he possesses, they will no doubt be competing at the right end of the table.

Having watched them, they are a side that have an attitude towards their work and show a discipline in their performances when it comes to their organisation, and that's hugely reflective in their goals against tally.

As such, we will need to maintain the work we have been doing in our offensive play to ensure we can be as productive as we have been in front of goal again this evening.

With us currently averaging over 3+ goals a game, this is something that hasn't surprised me, especially in the way we have been performing and the level of personnel we have to our disposal.

That was evident here last Tuesday evening against Leeds United, when Tarryn, Farhaan and Lewis all registered their first goals this season. That performance led to both Farhaan and Lewis earning starts on Saturday, with both playing a huge part in the win.

I speak openly about us having a real depth to our squad now in terms of quality and that is hugely important when we are competing on many fronts. In addition, when you also consider the five second rule that has been implemented this season with regards to restarts from goal kicks and throw ins, we have to get accustomed to the "new normal" quickly, as this is genuinely adding 1/2 a kilometre more to each individual player's running stats per game.

We have done a deep dive as a management team to hopefully see a trend on how we can minimise overuse, whilst still ensuring we can perform to the highest level. As a Manager, upon reflection I've been pretty reluctant in my managerial career to utilise the bench as much as I perhaps should have in previous years, but already I have averaged four subs per match, something that I feel will start to become more frequent.

This is because we are averaging more "in ball" game time than any other team in the division currently with the way we are presenting as a ball based side. I am asking the group to snap in and out of shapes at speed, which can be very demanding physically.

So you will see us utilise players as starters, but I'm asking for buy in from the squad to appreciate and understand we need finishers, and these players are just as important as the ones who start the game.

Tonight, we will once again look to take control of the game as soon as possible and really emphasise and impose ourselves on Boston. We have worked at length this week on certain build and create shapes, where we feel we can really hurt them and look to continue our current run of form, which would allow for us to hit the summit, for 24-hours at least.

Lastly, I want to thank the Chairman for backing me once again, with the extensions of both Tom White and Zak Brunt. Both of these lads are huge to our current success and to have them both on multi-year contracts shows the belief they have in us as a club to want to sign and progress with us in the coming years, which can only be a positive.

This business also future proofs us which is vitally important, as having continuity within a squad is huge and to have the majority of the dressing room on long term deals brings both stability and consistency, which for any Manager is massively important.

Anyway, back to tonight, I hope you enjoy the game and I look forward to seeing you all.

Be loud. Be proud. B'WOOD.

Luke



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Match action

Boreham Wood	3–3	Tamworth
Rush (45+5, 67, 70)		Donnelly (45+1, 57), Milnes (90+12)

Saturday 8 August 2026, 15:00 — Enterprise National League



Boreham Wood were cruelly denied an opening day victory deep into stoppage time as Tamworth earned a dramatic 3-3 draw at Meadow Park.

Kieran Donnelly twice put the visitors ahead, either side of Matt Rush's first goal on the stroke of half-time. Rush then struck twice in three second-half minutes, converting crosses from Abdulmalik and Cashman to complete his hat-trick and turn the match around.

However, Cashman's late foul conceded a penalty, allowing Ben Milnes to equalise in the 102nd minute to share the spoils on opening day.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Gunter, Clarke (Bainbridge 67), O'Connell, Bush, Golden, Booty, White, Richardson (Abdulmalik 56), Brunt (Marshall-Miranda 90+6), Allarakhia (Cashman 67), Rush.

Unused subs: Kensdale, Ali Wahid.

Star man: Matt Rush.

Attendance: 1,208.

Match stats

3	Goals	3
3.79	xG	2.29
79%	Possession	21%
849 (755)	Passes (Successful)	194 (133)
17 (9)	Shots (On target)	11 (6)
10	Corners	2
2	Offsides	1
4	Fouls	13
1	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0











Match action

FC Halifax Town		Boreham Wood
Tollitt (51)	1-3	Rush (45, 84), Abdulmalik (68)

Saturday 15 August 2026, 15:00 — Enterprise National League



After opening day disappointment, Boreham Wood claimed their first league victory of the season with an impressive 3-1 win at FC Halifax Town.

Matt Rush opened the scoring from close range on the stroke of half-time after Zak Brunt capitalised on a goalkeeping error.

Ben Tollitt levelled six minutes after the restart, but Abdul Abdulmalik restored Wood's advantage with a superb angled finish on 68 minutes. Abdulmalik then supplied Rush for his second, completing a commanding away performance six minutes from time.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Gunter, Golden, O'Connell, Bush, Bainbridge, White, Booty (Marshall-Miranda 87), Allarakhia (Cashman 57), Brunt (Ali Wahid 85), Abdulmalik (Richardson 87), Rush.

Unused subs: Clarke, Kensdale, Stapleberg.

Star man: Abdul Abdulmalik.

Attendance: 1,551.

Match stats

1	Goals	3
1.5	xG	2.67
45%	Possession	55%
410 (331)	Passes (Successful)	455 (369)
12 (3)	Shots (On target)	15 (5)
6	Corners	10
2	Offsides	1
8	Fouls	7
1	Yellow cards	2
0	Red cards	0











Match action

Boreham Wood	5–2	Leeds United U21
Booty (8), Richardson (31, 45+4), Ali Wahid (41), Allarakhia (45+2)		Chambers (69), McDonald (75)

Tuesday 18 August 2026, 19:00 — National League Cup



Boreham Wood began the 2026-27 National League Cup in emphatic fashion, beating Leeds United U21's 5-2 at Meadow Park as Luke Garrard's side launched their title defence.

Regan Booty opened the scoring from a seventh-minute corner before Lewis Richardson headed home Ollie Bainbridge's cross to double Wood's advantage. Farhaan Ali Wahid marked his first Wood start with an outstanding finish after smart interplay between himself, Booty and Cashman, and then supplied Tarryn Allarakhia for a spectacular curling fourth. Richardson struck again before the interval to complete a remarkable five-goal first half.

Garrard introduced fresh legs after the restart and, although Sam Chambers and Josh McDonald reduced the deficit for Leeds, Wood remained in control. Late chances for Matt Rush, Ollie Kensdale and Farhaan Ali Wahid might have extended the margin, but the holders had already done more than enough to open their campaign with an entertaining and confident victory.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Gunter, Clarke, Bainbridge (Golden 46), Bush (O'Connell 46), Kensdale, Marshall-Miranda, Booty (White 46), Richardson (Rush 59), Allarakhia (Brunt 59), Ali Wahid, Cashman.

Unused subs: Abdulmalik, Stapleberg.

Star man: Farhaan Ali Wahid.

Attendance: 704.











Match action

Forest Green Rovers	0–3	Boreham Wood
		Brunt (2), Richardson (19), Rush (55)

Saturday 22 August 2026, 15:00 — Enterprise National League



Boreham Wood produced an outstanding display to earn their first victory at the New Lawn, sweeping aside tipped title challengers Forest Green Rovers 3-0.

Wood made a blistering start as Zak Brunt finished brilliantly after two minutes, before Lewis Richardson doubled the advantage on 19 minutes.

Matt Rush completed the scoring ten minutes after half-time, converting Brunt's pass as Luke Garrard's side controlled the contest in style.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Gunter, Golden, O'Connell, Bush, Bainbridge, White, Booty, Richardson (Allarakhia 60), Brunt (Marshall-Miranda 84), Ali Wahid (Cashman 60), Rush (Clarke 89).

Unused subs: Kensdale, Stapleberg.

Star man: Lewis Richardson.

Attendance: 1,628.

Match stats

0	Goals	3
0.17	xG	1.93
49%	Possession	51%
475 (388)	Passes (Successful)	525 (426)
5 (0)	Shots (On target)	9 (5)
2	Corners	5
0	Offsides	2
13	Fouls	8
2	Yellow cards	1
1	Red cards	0













2026-27 season
Enterprise National League

		Home				Away				Total							
POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Southend United	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9
2	Sutton United	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	6	1	5	9
3	Harrogate Town	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	10	5	5	7
4	**Boreham Wood**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**9**	**4**	**5**	**7**
5	Hartlepool United	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	6
6	Boston United	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	6
7	Hornchurch	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	6	5	1	6
8	Eastleigh	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
9	Worthing	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
10	Forest Green Rovers	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	5	6	-1	6
11	Yeovil Town	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	5	2	3	5
12	Carlisle United	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	1	7	5	2	4
13	AFC Fylde	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4
14	Aldershot Town	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
15	Kidderminster Harriers	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4
16	FC Halifax Town	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	2	7	7	0	3
17	Gateshead	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
18	Woking	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3
19	Scunthorpe United	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
20	Barrow AFC	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1
21	Wealdstone	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1
22	Tamworth	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	5	9	-4	1
23	Altrincham	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3	1	5	-4	0
24	Solihull Moors	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	3	10	-7	0

Leading scorers

#	Player	G (A)
1	Matt Rush	6 (0)
2	Harvey Bunker	3 (1)
=3	Kieran Donnelly	3 (0)
=3	Zak Gilsenan	3 (0)
=5	Oliver Coker	2 (1)
=5	Ben Tollitt	2 (1)

Fixtures

Thursday 27 August 2026
Boreham Wood v Boston United

Friday 28 August 2026
AFC Fylde v Forest Green Rovers
Aldershot Town v Harrogate Town
Altrincham v FC Halifax Town
Barrow AFC v Yeovil Town
Gateshead v Sutton United
Hartlepool United v Eastleigh
Hornchurch v Woking
Scunthorpe United v Solihull Moors
Southend United v Kidderminster Harriers
Tamworth v Worthing
Wealdstone v Carlisle United

Tonight's mascot



Jonah Cohen

Age: 7-years-old
Favourite team: Aston Villa
Favourite player: Amadou Onana
Favourite Wood player: Zak Brunt
Score prediction: 3-1 to the Wood

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Feature interview: Tom White

"It's credit to everyone at the club, we could have been forgiven for coming in and feeling sorry for ourselves after last year, but we have used it as our fuel."

In those momentous strides onto the Wembley turf in May, the play-off final represented the zenith of so many players' careers – none more so than Tom White.

Having plied his trade in the northern spheres of the country for his entire career, a move to Hertfordshire last summer represented a significant change for the 29-year-old, moving away from family and adapting to life in unfamiliar surroundings.

Nonetheless, he quickly flourished in his new environment and was at the heart of our record-breaking campaign, with a severe hamstring injury not haltering his impressive start to life in WD6.

White is determined to use last season's melodrama as the fuel to go one better this time around.

"Luckily, I have not lost too many games in a Boreham Wood shirt, and long may that continue," he said.

"We have to use what happened last season as motivation and recount the events of Wembley to push us on in hard moments.

"The boys are so hungry to succeed this year and get promoted."

That quest to make the step into the Football League is already gathering momentum with an unbeaten start to the campaign, most notably a dominant 3-0 victory at fellow promotion hopefuls Forest Green Rovers last time out.

The former Morecambe midfielder has hardly been surprised by the flying start.

"I think the fact we went unbeaten in pre pre-season set the tone," White explained.

"We worked incredibly hard during that time to lay the foundations for what was on paper a tough start.

"We are big on habits and winning becomes the best habit you can have in football.

"It's credit to everyone at the club, we could have been forgiven for coming in and feeling sorry for ourselves after last year, but we have used it as our fuel."

Another tough test lies ahead under the lights on Thursday, with Paul Hurst's Boston United outfit touted as play-off contenders after an excellent upturn in form since the former Ipswich Town manager's arrival.

White repeatedly draws back to the heartbreak to Rochdale but only through a positive lens, highlighting how this season's squad carries the decisive edge – one he believes could prove pivotal when the going gets tough.

"We are a lot more youthful and probably have more options across the pitch," he outlined when comparing to last season.

"I think the quality in this squad must be the envy of most clubs in our league.

"There are match-winners on the bench every week to come on and change games.

"I have never been part of a squad which has so many options, whether people start the games or finish them.

"There's zero dip in ability whatsoever and it gives you a big boost when you see the type of personnel on the sidelines waiting to come on and impact the game.

"We are also a year wiser – last year was unexpected in terms of nobody had us in the top half, never mind in the top four."

Recovering from such a major injury is testament to White's character, with his return in mid-March coinciding with a fine end-of-season form of one defeat in seven matches.

It also led to him taking the captain's armband, leading the Wood out in the play-offs, and leading by example with stellar performances which have carried on into this season.

White explains how much he values having the added responsibility and the importance of his role given the number of young players within the squad.

"It is a huge privilege and one I'll never take for granted," he proudly explained.

"I have been lucky enough to have played under some great captains in my time – Callum (Reynolds) is one of the best fellas I've met, both on and off the pitch, so he is one I always try and learn from.

"I enjoy that side of the game, helping others, giving them confidence, but also holding people to their own standards.

"A lot of our boys are at an age and ability where, with a bit of experience passed down and guidance, they can go and have special careers.

"It's a special group to lead, I just try to be authentic and they all know how much I think of them."

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Scout report: Boston United

Nickname:	Manager:	Stadium:	Capacity:	2025-26 finish:
The Pilgrims	Paul Hurst	Jakemans Community St.	5,061	12th, National League



Current form

1-0	2-3	0-1	0-1	2-0
Altrincham (H)	Birmingham City (H)	Solihull Moors (A)	Aldershot Town (H)	Hednesford Town (A)
22.08.2026 • ENL	18.08.2026 • NLC	15.08.2026 • ENL	08.08.2026 • ENL	01.08.2026 • Friendly

In the dugout



Paul Hurst

Manager • Last club: Shrewsbury Town

Paul Hurst is an experienced English football manager who returned to Boston United as manager in January 2026, almost 15 years after leaving the club. His first spell, alongside Rob Scott, was highly successful, winning three trophies in 2009–10, including promotion. Hurst later managed Grimsby Town, Shrewsbury Town, Ipswich Town and Scunthorpe United, gaining a reputation for achieving promotion and building competitive teams. He guided Grimsby to promotion in 2016 and 2022 and took Shrewsbury to the League One play-off and EFL Trophy finals in 2018.

One's to watch



Jamie Grimes

Defender • 22/12/1990 (35) • Last club: Chesterfield

Experienced defender Jamie Grimes completed a permanent move to the Jakemans Community Stadium in July 2026, having spent a hugely productive loan spell with the Pilgrims between February and April the previous season. Originally arriving on loan from Chesterfield, where he had won the National League title in 2024, Grimes lost only three of 16 games as a Pilgrim, as Paul Hurst's side secured a top half finish.



Gavan Holohan

Midfielder • 15/12/1991 (34) • Last club: Hartlepool United

Evergreen midfielder Gavan Holohan became Boston United's first summer signing of 2026. Having previously played under Paul Hurst at Grimsby Town, the pair were re-united in May 2026, following the player's spell with Hartlepool United. Time in Ireland was supplemented by a stint with Crawley Town.



Tom Cursons

Forward • 13/09/2001 (24) • Last club: Harrogate Town

Boston United clinched the signing of striker Tom Cursons in January 2026 - and he played a massive role in firing the Pilgrims away from relegation trouble and into the safety of mid-table. He bagged successive 1-0 winners in his opening home appearances against Sutton United and Gateshead and then scored a hat-trick in a stunning 6-3 win at Scunthorpe United. The former Harrogate Town striker signed a multi-year deal upon his arrival at the Jakemans Community Stadium.

Haven't we met before?

Boston United **0-2** Boreham Wood

Brunt (49), Abdulmalik (61)

Saturday 9 September 2025, 15:00 — Enterprise National League



Boreham Wood secured a fourth successive league victory with a deserved 2-0 win at Boston United.

After controlling much of a goalless first half, Wood found their cutting edge after the break. Zak Brunt opened the scoring on 49 minutes, finishing a slick move involving Abdul Abdulmalik and Tom White. Abdulmalik then doubled the lead on the hour mark following fine work from Jeff King down the right wing.

Boston threatened late, but resilience from Chris Bush, Callum Reynolds and goalkeeper Finlay Herrick comfortably preserved the clean sheet.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Herrick, King (Coxe 75), Reynolds (Benton 90+2), Bush, Ilesanmi, White, O'Connell, Brunt, Abdulmalik (Dixon 75), Richardson (Clayden 67), Rush.

Unused subs: Ashmore, Newton, Henry.

Star man: Abdul Abdulmalik.

Attendance: 1,815.

Match stats

0	Goals	2
0.14	xG	1.29
40%	Possession	60%
330 (238)	Passes (Successful)	453 (357)
3 (1)	Shots (On target)	12 (5)
1	Corners	6
2	Offsides	0
12	Fouls	12
3	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

Haven't we met before?

Boreham Wood **1-2** Boston United

Abdulmalik (45+1)

John-Lewis (52), Hiwula (81)

Saturday 31 January 2026, 15:00 — Enterprise National League



Boreham Wood suffered a third successive National League defeat as Boston United came from behind to win 2-1 at Meadow Park.

Abdul Abdulmalik put Wood ahead in first-half stoppage time with a powerful strike from the edge of the box, but the contest turned after the interval. Femi Ilesanmi was dismissed for conceding a penalty, which Lenell John-Lewis converted on 52 minutes.

Regan Booty later received another straight red, reducing Wood to nine men, before Jordy Hiwula struck Boston's 81st-minute winner to take all three points back to Lincolnshire.

Boreham Wood (4-2-3-1): Ashmore, Coxe (Robinson 81), Kensdale, Bush, Ilesanmi, O'Connell, Booty, Clayden (Marshall-Miranda 57), Brunt, Abdulmalik (Newton 71), Rush (Henry 81).

Unused subs: Curd, Payne, Sousa.

Attendance: 1,157.

Match stats

1	Goals	2
0.31	xG	2.09
49%	Possession	51%
407 (322)	Passes (Successful)	494 (409)
8 (3)	Shots (On target)	19 (9)
5	Corners	2
0	Offsides	1
14	Fouls	16
2	Yellow cards	1
2	Red cards	0

Classic campaigns: Boston United

Football historian **Leigh Edwards** selects ten post-war Boston United 'Classic Campaigns'

1955/56

Player-manager Ray Middleton plotted Boston United's memorable 1955/56 FA Cup run. The Pilgrims won five of their first six Midland League games and maintained their title challenge. They defeated Sutton Town 8-2 and Northwich 3-2 in the FA Cup before gaining an epic 6-1 second round victory at Derby County: Ray Middleton, Ralph Robinson, Geoff Snade, Don Hazledine, Dave Miller, Tommy Lowder, Reg Harrison, Geoff Hazledine, Ray Wilkins, Johnny Birkbeck, Reg Howlett. The team included six former Rams and lost 4-0 at Spurs in the third round. Boston were Midland League runners-up to Peterborough.

1971/72

Boston United reached the FA Cup third round under player-boss Jim Smith in 1971/72. The Pilgrims lost only one of their first 13 Northern Premier League games, hammering Bradford PA 5-1 and Skelmersdale 4-0. Top scorer John Froggatt and Bobby Svarc starred as Boston triumphed 6-0 at Netherfield, then beat Matlock 5-3. They defeated Winterton 3-0, Ellesmere Port 3-0 and Hartlepool 2-1 in the FA Cup before narrowly losing 1-0 at home to Portsmouth in the third round. Unbeaten in their last 19 matches, Boston hit five goals past Kirkby and Northwich as they finished runners-up to Stafford Rangers with 69 points.

1972/73

Boston United stormed to the Northern Premier League title in 1972/73. They were unbeaten in their first 32 games of the season, despite Jim Smith leaving in October to manage Colchester United and star player Bobby Svarc following him to Layer Road two months later. Keith Jobling succeeded 'Bald Eagle' in charge and Phil Waller made his home debut as Boston beat Barrow 5-1. The run ended with a 1-0 reverse at Skelmersdale in late February but the Pilgrims bounced back to hit four goals past Morecambe, Runcorn and Altrincham. John Froggatt was leading marksman as Boston won the championship by nine points.

1973/74

Boston United won the Northern Premier League 'treble' under Keith Jobling in 1973/74. Matt Tees was signed from Grimsby and Boston won their opening five games, beating Northwich 2-1 in the Northern Premier League Shield. They trounced Barrow and Matlock 4-1 in consecutive home matches and beat Corby 2-1, Hayes 2-1 and Hitchin 1-0 in the FA Cup before taking Derby County to a third round replay. Player-coach Howard Wilkinson was a key figure as Boston remained unbeaten in 15 successive games, clinching the title with a 2-0 win over Morecambe and defeating Altrincham in the League Cup final.

1976/77

Bobby Brown scored 27 goals as Boston United won the Northern Premier League title in 1976/77. The Pilgrims were unbeaten in their first five matches and defeated Runcorn 2-1 in the Northern Premier League Shield. They also beat Lincoln City 3-1 in the Lincs Senior Cup final and player-boss Howard Wilkinson scored four times in a 5-1 victory at Buxton shortly before leaving in December to manage Mossley. Freddie Taylor and Gordon Bolland replaced him in charge at York Street and Boston gained a vital 2-1 win at home to rivals Northwich, going on to pip them to the championship on goal difference.

1977/78

Mick Walker guided Boston United to the Northern Premier League title in 1977/78. Overcoming a poor start, the Pilgrims soared up the table with four straight victories and went top in January after an 11 match unbeaten run. Bobby Brown scored twice in a 7-3 win over Frickley, then leading marksman Jim Kabia grabbed a hat-trick in a 6-0 demolition of Workington. They completed the double over rivals Wigan, also beating them in the League Cup. Boston clinched the title with an eighth successive win, 2-1 at Mossley, but it was Wigan who were elected to the Football League as York Street was not the required standard.

1984/85

Boston United were FA Trophy finalists under player-manager Arthur Mann in 1984/85. Bob Lee netted a hat-trick as Boston kicked off their Gola League campaign with a 4-2 victory at Yeovil, winning their first four games before settling in mid-table with inconsistent results. The Pilgrims defeated Alvechurch 2-1, Blyth Spartans 5-4, Frome 4-0, Wokingham 1-0, Runcorn 3-0 and Altrincham 3-2 in the FA Trophy before losing 2-1 to Wealdstone in the final: Kevin Blackwell, Paul Casey, Ian Ladd, Gerard Creane, Ray O'Brien, Brian Thomson, Mick Laverick (Gary Mallender), Gary Simpson, Dave Gilbert, Bob Lee, Chris Cook.

1988/89

George Kerr managed Boston United to third place in the Conference in 1988/89. The Pilgrims raced to the top of the table with four straight wins but lost 4-1 at home to Maidstone, then Runcorn triumphed 6-0 at York Street. Boston's 5-0 win over Barnet was their sole victory in 11 matches as they slipped to mid-table by December. Newcomers Steve Buckley and Peter Rawcliffe contributed to an upturn in results as Boston lost only twice in 23 games, finishing with six wins to achieve their highest position in the Conference at that time. Chris Cook and Paul Wilson scored 15 goals apiece, while John McKenna was ever-present.

1999/00

Mark Rawle netted 20 goals as Boston United swept to the Southern League title in 1999/2000. Steve Evans' side kicked off with a 6-0 victory at home to Salisbury and won their first five games. The Pilgrims recovered from a 1-0 defeat at Ilkeston to remain unbeaten in their next 14 Southern League matches, then maintained pole position with six straight wins including a 6-1 victory at Crawley. Paul Bastock and Joby Gowshall were ever-present as they finished with a 13 match unbeaten run, winning the title with 92 points. Other notable players included David Rennie, Mickey Nuttell, Andrew Stanhope and Paul Wilson.



2001/02

Daryl Clare scored 25 goals as Steve Evans guided Boston United to the Conference title in 2001/02. The Pilgrims lost 1-0 at home to Margate in their opening match but soared to the top with five wins in their next six games. They overcame a 2-1 defeat by rivals Dagenham & Redbridge to maintain their title challenge with a 15 match unbeaten run. Three successive defeats, including a 1-0 reverse at Dagenham, appeared to dash title hopes but new signing Jim Rodwell helped them win nine of their last 14 games. Boston pipped the Daggers to the title on goal difference after winning 2-0 at Hayes in their final match.



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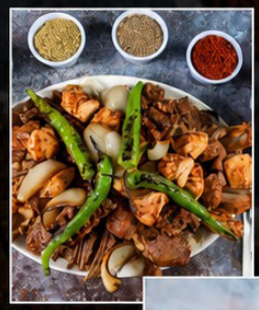
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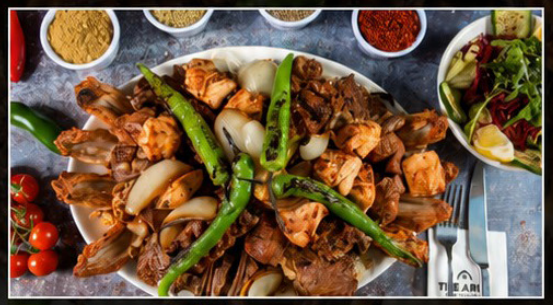
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The squads

Boreham Wood

Manager: Luke Garrard

1	Luca Gunter
2	James Clarke
3	Oli Bainbridge
4	Tom White
5	Chris Bush
6	Charlie O'Connell
7	Lewis Richardson
8	Zak Brunt
9	Danny Cashman
10	Abdul Abdulmalik
11	Tarryn Allarakhia
16	Callum Reynolds
20	Farhaan Ali Wahid
21	Marley Marshall-Miranda
23	Regan Booty
25	Ollie Kensdale
32	Matt Rush

Boston United

Manager: Paul Hurst

1	Luke Faxon
2	Sai Sachdev
3	Lewis Shipley
4	Connor Teale
5	George Ward
6	Niall Canavan
7	Jack Holmes
8	Gavan Holohan
9	Tom Cursons
10	Connor McBride
11	Ken Aboh
12	Jacob Scott
13	Louis Chadwick
14	Lenell John-Lewis
18	Lennon Wheeldon
20	Jake Rooney
21	Arjan Raikhy
22	Ben Hammond
23	Jamie Grimes
24	Dylan Hill
27	Kai Mauro
28	Terrell Agyemang
30	Nicholas Pozo

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Assistant referee 1: Elliott Mayer
Assistant referee 2: Conor Farrell
Fourth official: Daniel Baines

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