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Club. Who's who...

Chairman Dr Abdulla Al Humaidi

Vice chairman Peter Varney

Director Stuart Butler-Gallie

Honorary Associate Director Jessica McQueen

General manager Dave Archer

Club secretary Peter Danzey

Finance manager Cheryl Wanless

Club administrator Matthew Faithorn

Communications manager Ed Miller

Maintenance manager Chris Pilkinton

Caretaker Colin Stevens

Head groundsman Craig Freeman

Catering DRS Caterers

Kit manager Maggie Danzey

Club photographer Dave Plumb

Safety officer Philip Grinter

Stewarding Centre Circle Events

Head steward Duncan Cole

Matchday announcer Dave Lockwood

Club ambassador Shane Huke

Club shop Mike Moyes

Team. Who's who...

First-team manager Daryl McMahon

Assistant manager Steve Gritt

First-team coach David Jupp

Goalkeeping coach Michael Jordan

Physiotherapist Jamie Crosswell

Assistant therapist Lewis Hards

Youth Academy manager Daryl McMahon

Senior Development coach Stacy Long

04.03.2017

Welcome East Thurrock United

WITH FLEET LOCKED IN A BATTLE ROYALE at the top of the table, it is all too easy to think that football is the be all and end all of everything.

It isn't of course – and nothing brings that home like the sort of news we all received early last week with the announcement of Paul McCarthy's passing. As with any untimely death and in one so young, it becomes very difficult to process the fact of its happening. We might ordinarily associate the passing of ex-players, managers or supporters with black and white photos of a bygone age, but with Paul the first thing you remember is that sunny day at Wembley, in glorious colour, only nine years ago... and it doesn't seem to tally with the shock news of his death.

On the occasions I spoke to him, he was always genial, unassuming and clearly loved the club he spent almost a decade at. For those who worked with him, his friends and his family, it must be even more of a shock.

We remember him today on the pitch, the programme cover, within these pages and in our memories – and it's not too extravagant to suggest that the man who graces one of this football club's most famous photographs will never be forgotten at Stonebridge Road.

When history books are written in the future and when this club's greatest achievements are measured, standing tall amongst them all will be our Wembley-winning skipper Paul McCarthy. RIP Paul.

Ed Miller, Editor | Fleet Review

**Today's fixtures**

Concord Rangers v Margate

Dartford v Bath City

Eastbourne Borough v Truro City

Ebbfleet U v East Thurrock Utd

Hemel H Town v Chelmsford City

Maidenhead Utd v Hampton & RB

Poole Town v Hungerford Town

St Albans City v Bishop's Stortford

Wealdstone v Gosport Borough

Weston-s-Mare v Oxford City

Whitehawk v Welling United

Programme Issue 20

The visitors **p9**; Paul McCarthy remembered **p28**; Liam Daish on Paul **p34**; Ross Smith tribute **p36**; Ex-directors' salute Paul **p38**

**Editorial & design**

Ed Miller

Photography

Dave Plumb

Printing Green Inc**Contributors**

Jason Botley, Liam Daish, Roly Edwards, Brian Kilcullen, Ross Smith

Club Honours

FA Trophy 2007-08

Southern League 1957-58

Southern League Cup 1977-78

Southern League, Southern Division

1974-75, 1993-94

Southern League Championship Cup

1978-79

Ryman League Premier 2001-02

Conference South Promotion Final 2010-11

Ryman Full Members Cup 2000-01

Kent Senior Cup

1948-49, 1952-53, 1980-81, 1999-2000,

2000-01, 2001-02, 2007-08, 2013-14

Kent Floodlight Cup 1969-70

John Ullman Cup 1982-83

Fleet Partners

Daryl McMAHON



March is now upon us and welcome to the first game of the penultimate month of the season – and yet despite writing that, there is still a long way to go before 2016/17 is through.

Since our last home game v Hungerford Town, where we picked up another three points and a clean sheet, we've had two tricky away games. Two back-to-back trips is always difficult at any time of the season and whoever you're up against but in Hemel Hempstead and Bath City, we faced tough opponents playing on their own patch.

Looking back on it four points is a good return given the way those games panned out. The first-half performance against Hemel Hempstead was excellent but unfortunately we didn't really back it up in the second and had to take the point with Nathan Ashmore playing a blinder in that.

Away at Bath last week, our spirit was excellent and the way we dug in was terrific and the addition of three points was a measure of this side.

Bradley Bubb scored in both those games to take him to the top of our league scoring charts with nine. In fairness, he's had the chances to have made that total greater. Against Hungerford and Hemel he had a few good opportunities so I'm hoping he can continue to get those and add to the nine league goals. He's certainly hungry for more goals and I do fancy him to get them between now and the end of the season. He's playing ever so well at the minute and hopefully he can fire more for us, with the rest of the squad pitching in with goals from across the positions as they have all done so well up to now.

We've obviously snuck back to the top of the table on alphabetical order – I can't say I've ever heard of that happening before at this stage of

“ Being top on alphabetical order shows how tight things remain and why our focus can only be on the 90 minutes ahead of us... ”

Daryl McMahon



Daryl McMahon is sponsored by
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a season! But it shows how tight things remain and why our focus can only be on the 90 minutes ahead of us. Lots can still change. Chelmsford play Maidenhead on Monday and can close the gap to six points so they'll fancy their chances of making that up. There'll be lots of teams tucked in behind who'll think they've got at least a chance – but if we do our job for the remaining weeks of the season, then it shouldn't matter what they do.

I'd like to welcome John Coventry and his East Thurrock United side and supporters to Stonebridge Road this afternoon. They may have the most draws of any team this season, but they've been quite expansive, open and attacking away from home in the videos I've seen of them. They have some lively players up front who can score goals and we'll have to be alive to that defensively – but then, so will they with our attacking players. Hopefully you'll see an entertaining match this af-

ternoon and we need to be the ones coming out on top.

Finally, this football club lost one of its greatest captains in the weeks since our last home game. I played against Paul McCarthy when I was at Stevenage and followed him into the Ireland youth team, who he had played for 10 years or so before I did. Paul was known in the game to be a fantastic leader and a great professional and person in the changing room. He was obviously a very good player and his terrific career record speaks for itself. It's a tragedy to lose your life so young and I'd like to wish his family all the best at this difficult time for them. And you know from the tributes paid here over the last two weeks that he will also be missed greatly by everyone at Ebbsfleet United.

Thank you for your travelling support this last two weeks. Please get behind us again once more. 📍

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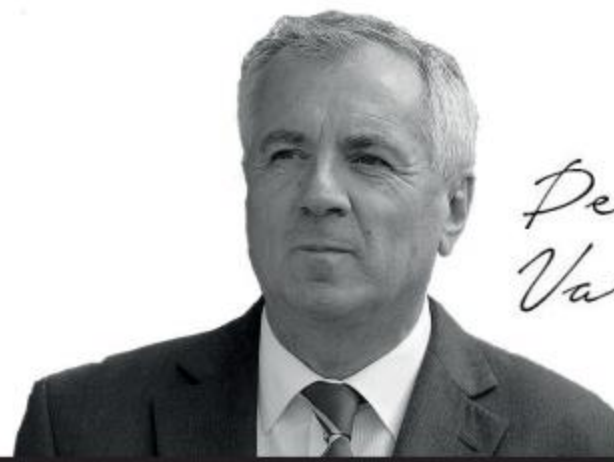
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Peter VARNEY



*Peter
Varney*

When I first got involved in professional football, it was about the sport and sporting success and as a supporter you hardly ever talked or read about money or the business side of a club. The Premier League is the most lucrative and most-watched league in the world but with it has come issues which are eating into the very soul of the beautiful game in this country. I have written often in these notes about the slow death being inflicted upon the FA Cup competition, the greed of modern-day players and agents perhaps best illustrated by Oscar's move to China from Chelsea for a lottery win at the ripe old age of 25 and the wholesale sackings of managers.

I think we have all become hardened to the sackings culture but the soul of the sport took a knock last Thursday with the sacking of the genial Claudio Ranieri. I have had the pleasure of talking to Claudio on a couple of occasions. He is what you see – a decent and personable man with a great knowledge of football. It is only a matter of months since he took Leicester City to the pinnacle of English football by becoming English Premier League Champions defying odds of 5,000/1 and became Manager of the Year and FIFA Coach of the Year. Only last Wednesday his Leicester team held a very strong Sevilla team to a 2-1 defeat with a precious away goal to take into the return leg at the King Power Stadium.



“We are working with the Fleet Supporters Trust on a suitable tribute to Paul but there will be a minute's applause before today's game...”

On any sporting level Claudio deserved to lead his team into that tie and a possible place in the quarter finals. But sport no longer rules and the business side of the club has determined that the riches derived from the Premier League must not be at risk so Claudio must go. Thursday was a sad day for the sport and if reports are true that some players who celebrated the League title with Claudio in May stabbed him in the back last week then

it is a sadder day for the sport still.

It came as a shock to hear of the sudden and premature death on 19th February of our popular

former captain and assistant manager Paul McCarthy. Paul will be most famously remembered for lifting the FA Trophy in 2008. He was just 45 years old and leaves a wife and four young daughters. I can't begin to imagine how they will deal with such a tragic loss but all of us at the club send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family. We are working with the Fleet Supporters Trust on a suitable tribute to Paul further down the line but there will be a minute's applause before today's game.

Finally, I would like to welcome the directors, officials, players and supporters from East Thurrock United who have performed admirably in their first season in the National League South. It was a very tight affair against them earlier in the season and honours were even but hopefully we can go one better today. Your support at our last two away matches at Hemel Hempstead and Bath City was top drawer and the players showed you at the end of both matches what it meant to them. We now have 11 matches to fulfil our ambition for this season. The players are focused and ready so make sure you are too! Enjoy the game. ●



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18.02.2017



(H) Margate

W 1-0

21.02.2017



(H) Poole Town

L 1-2

25.02.2017

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the visitors

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the rocks

VISITOR

WORDS // ED MILLER



CENTRE



Another week and another calendar month passes us by and in between Fleet and Maidenhead United swapped places a couple of times and are now separated only on alphabetical order. In the meantime, Dartford slackened off the pace a little, Chelmsford did some catching up and with their game in hand (which is against Maidenhead) will fancy themselves for a tilt at the top while Poole Town may not have given up the ghost either just yet. In short, you couldn't get a cigarette paper between the title hopefuls at the moment, making it perhaps the most open season for many a year at the top of the table.

East Thurrock United are the next hurdle in the Fleet's way, the second newly promoted side in succession here at Stonebridge Road. It is the Rocks' first ever visit to our stadium as they consolidate at the highest position in their 48-year history.

A very good start to the season saw John Coventry's side hovering just below the play-offs but their fondness for a draw has probably curtailed their chances somewhat. With 12 draws this season they are by some distance the single-point specialists, proving very hard to beat – though recently have only drawn one of their last 10 games. Dartford, Chelmsford, Maidenhead and ourselves have all

been shut out by the Rocks this season and Fleet must be hoping to emulate the Darts who turned an away draw into a 6-1 home win back in January.

That remains East Thurrock's low point of a season that has seen them take to the National League South like ducks to water. With an experienced and proven strike force in Sam Higgins and James Walker, goals from midfield courtesy of Tom Wraith, plus know-how in the back line from the likes of Lee Burns and Ben Wood, the Rocks are plenty capable of holding their own.

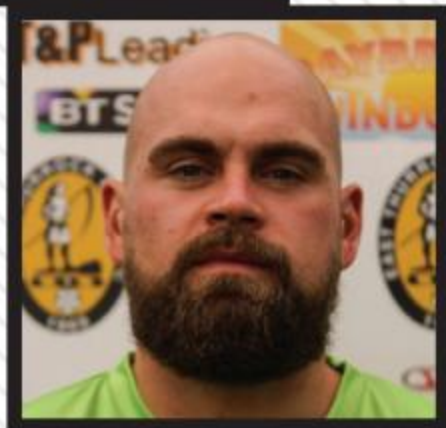
Added to those players is recent loan capture from Dagenham & Redbridge, Scott Heard, who Steve Brown had once been keen to sign for the Fleet from Whitstable Town.

Since last we met both goalscorers have moved on (Kane Ferdinand to Woking, Stuart Lewis to Maidstone) while the visitors have also seen Joe Ellul depart to join the Billericay revolution and Teddy Nesbitt to Hornchurch. Defender Ryan Sammons has been out with a collar bone injury for several months but is nearing fitness.

For the Fleet, Dean Rance begins the first of a two-match suspension for 10 yellow cards, meaning this will be the first league match since late September in which he hasn't featured. ●

THE ROCKS SPINE

IN GOAL



Lucas Lidakevicius

AGE 23

In his second season with the Rocks, Lukas returned to the UK after a spell in his native Lithuania with A-League side FK Zalgiris during which time he represented his country at U21 level, playing in the European Championships qualifying competition. He has also played youth team football at Fulham before joining Barnsley.

THE BACK



Lee Burns

AGE 34

Lee made a return to East Thurrock in the summer after being one of Dartford's longest-serving players, reaching 300+ appearances for our neighbours (see below). A charismatic player who is popular with the fans, Lee is already something of an iconic player at East Thurrock where he impressed during a previous spell, helping the club to earlier triumphs.

THE MIDDLE



Tom Wraight

AGE 22

A highly-rated young player who was among manager John Coventry's close-season acquisitions. Tom came through the youth setup at Tilbury before joining Witham Town where he impressed enough to earn an extended trial at Ipswich Town. He contributed 20 goals to last season's promotion winning campaign and is regarded as one of Rocks' prized assets.

UP FRONT



Sam Higgins

AGE 27

Club captain and prolific goalscorer who won the Ryman League's golden boot last season for the second year running. He has Conference South experience with Chelmsford City, Concord Rangers and Bromley but has always viewed East Thurrock as his spiritual football home and has enjoyed his goalscoring success there – and passed an incredible 200 goals in 235 games for the Rocks this time last year.

DON'T I KNOW YOU?

FLEET & ROCKS PERSONNEL WITH A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

KENNY CLARK / LEE BURNS

Colleagues in defence just up the A2 at Dartford in our neighbours' season of struggle in the Conference in 2013/14, Kenny was newly joined from Chelmsford City while full back Lee Burns – "the most tanned man in non-league football" according to admiring halfway liners – was a Darts veteran having joined in 2009 and won two promotions with the club. Kenny made 34 appearances before signing for the Fleet in 2014 while Burns had a break from Princes Park for work reasons before returning and then subsequently leaving last summer. Kenny has also played with current East Thurrock United midfielder Reece Harris when the pair were at Thurrock.





Visitors **ROLL CALL**



DF

Michael Clark

Came through the ranks at Leyton Orient where he was U18s captain. The highly promising central defender signed a third year scholarship with the Os in the summer and joined Rocks for the current campaign to gain match experience.



DF

Marvel Elkpiteta

Started in the youth scheme at Oxford United and also had a spell with Stevenage. Decided to take a year out of football in 2014 but towards the end of 2014/15, he appeared briefly for AFC Hayes. He then played for Chelmsford and Bishop's Stortford before recently joining the Rocks.



DF

Marvin Elkpiteta

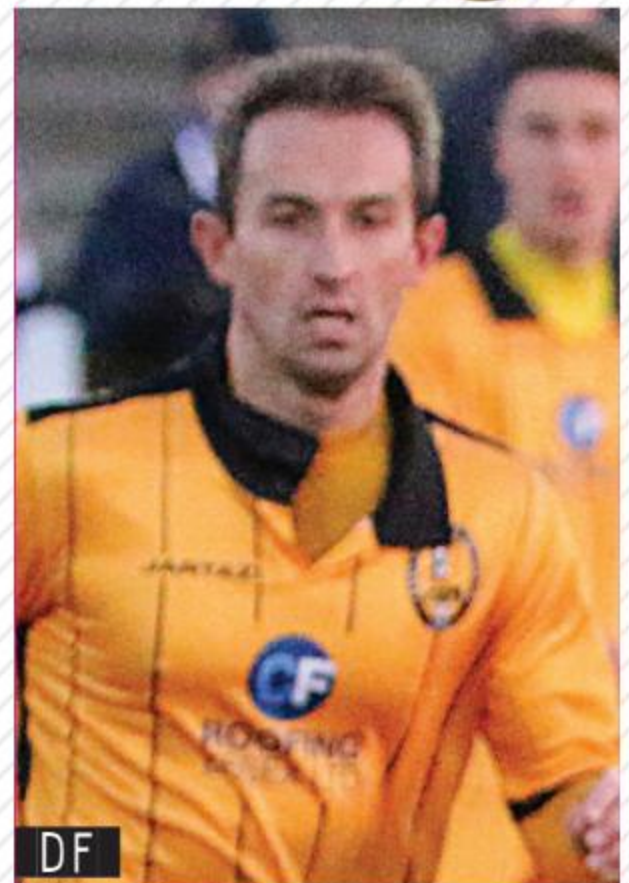
Like twin brother, Marvel started his career at Oxford City and also played for Chelmsford City alongside his sibling. He recently joined the Rocks from neighbours Concord Rangers after spending most of 2016/17 with them.



DF

Ade Osifuwa

Signed in December from Cray Wanderers, Ade also played for Hayes & Yeading United. He numbers AFC Wimbledon, Staines Town, Maldon & Tiptree, Maidstone United, Concord Rangers and Aveley among his other former clubs.



DF

Ben Wood

A centre back at the "veteran" stage of his career but he has been one of the most outstanding players in Rocks' history. Ben carved out a name for himself at Conference South level with clubs including Thurrock and he then joined the Rocks where he played a big role in guiding them back to the Ryman Premier Division. He has "retired" twice in recent seasons but has come back to help out the club when they have had defensive problems. A firefighter by trade and a genuine East Thurrock United legend.

E. THURROCK TIMELINE



Club formed to represent growing towns of Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope with the Corringham Sunday side (pictured) forming the basis of team

1972

After a period of struggle, the Rocks move in on a ground share arrangement with Purfleet, having also played at Stanford-le-Hope, Grays Athletic and Tilbury

1969

The Rocks begin their climb up the pyramid by joining the Metropolitan London League Division Two, winning three titles in a row and promotion to the Premier Division

1979

OUR LAST MEETING

22.10.16 (a) 1-1



A week after Fleet's FA Cup exit, it was another team in yellow proving stubborn. Stuart Lewis' quick reaction in the box gave Fleet the lead after only six minutes. That was cancelled out by Kane Ferdinand's header 15 minutes later and neither side could break the deadlock.



MF

George Craddock

Signed after leaving Margate following their Ryman League Premier promotion at the end of the 2014/15 season, during which he suffered a serious injury that sidelined him for a lengthy spell. George had signed for the Gate from Northampton Town after a previous season on work experience from the Cobblers at Welling where he helped the Wings win the Conference South title and promotion.



MF

Michael Freiter

An addition to the Rocks' midfield core of young, exciting players, 20-year-old Michael cut his footballing teeth coming through the ranks at Gillingham but was released in the close season. He has featured in 22 matches for the Rocks this season.



MF

Reece Harris

Reece returned to East Thurrock after playing for two seasons with Welling United in the National League. He joined the Wings from the Rocks where he had proved a very big hit with local fans. Previous clubs include Concord Rangers.



MF

Scott Heard

A player who Fleet fans might remember when Steve Brown attempted to sign him from Whitstable Town after he impressed in our FA Trophy game against them. Scott moved on to Folkestone Invicta after starring for the Oystermen and from there he was signed by John Still for Dagenham & Redbridge last October. The dynamic wide midfielder has played eight times for the Daggers this season before moving on an initial month's loan to East Thurrock in February.

With loans from the FA, Thurrock Council and Greene King, the club – by now in the Essex Senior League – buys their current site at Rookery Hill, Corringham

1992

The Rocks win Division Three, breaking every club record en route, and they finished their first Division Two season in mid-table, despite topping the league for a long period of the campaign

2011

The Rocks make it to the National League South for the first time following third place in the Ryman and play-off victories over Tonbridge Angels and Dulwich Hamlet

1984

After a second Essex League Cup and third-place finish, East Thurrock are accepted into the Ryman League, finishing eighth in Division Three in their first season

2000

Having spent three seasons in the Ryman Premier, East Thurrock regain that status, winning the Division One title with 30 wins and 95 points

2016

KITTED OUT



Their second season in existence showed the Rocks' fondness for simple amber shirts, though set off here in 1970 by a horizontal dark stripe.



Straying slightly from their amber/black roots, this 2003 shirt shows that Sutton United aren't the only team who can carry off the chocolate brown look... though at least East Thurrock soon dispensed with theirs!



For fans of the old Fleet purple away shirt, feast your eyes on this season's East Thurrock away number. Jealous, are we...?!



MF

Ben Marlow

Highly rated young midfielder who graduated through the West Ham United youth ranks before joining hometown club Chelmsford City. He joined the Rocks last February and was influential in the final stages of the promotion-winning season.



MF

Simon Peddie

A Montserrat international and recent signing who has played for numerous clubs around the M25 including Cheshunt, Boreham Wood, Redbridge and Leyton. He returned recently from a dual registration arrangement at Tilbury.



MF

Kye Ruel

A highly versatile player with an eye for goal who has returned to Rookery Hill after an earlier spell. He includes Leiston, Witham Town and Aveley among previous clubs. He suffered a broken leg in last season's play-off semi-final but is now back in the squad.



FW

Harry Honesty

Pacy midfielder or striker with a real eye for goal. He has flirted at several levels of the non-league game but emerged as a useful asset for the Rocks during the run-in to the play-offs last season and remains a very bright prospect.



FW

James Walker

A much travelled and experienced striker. The former England U18 began his career with Charlton and has since played for Hartlepool United, Bristol Rovers, Leyton Orient, Notts County and Yeovil Town on loan before joining Southend United. After a loan spell at Gillingham he signed for Woking in 2011 and then played for Dover Athletic and Eastbourne Borough. He was called up to play for Antigua & Barbuda in a 2014 World Cup qualifier. In 2013 he moved to Australia to play in the Brisbane Premier League for Albany Creek Excelsior before returning to Eastbourne in 2014 before moving to the Rocks in the summer after a spell at Bishop's Cleeve.

Calling the shots

MANAGER // JOHN COVENTRY



A popular character regarded as an astute coach with a good eye for a young player, John was a tanker driver before he became a sports teacher at a local school. Devoted to football, and in possession of coaching qualifications, he had been coaching the District youth side, producing many players

who have gone on to graduate to the Football League. No mean striker himself at local football level John continued playing into his fifties, and still turns out in charity games from time to time. In charge of more than 500 Rocks games, he led the club to promotion last season.

DOUBLING UP

PLAYERS WITH A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

DWAYNE PLUMMER

Despite the proximity of our two clubs, you have to try quite hard to find players we both have in common. At a push, Craig Braham-Barrett played for

the Rocks but while he was a squad member here, he never pulled on a first-team shirt in anger. So that left Dwayne Plummer, whose Fleet career was almost as brief as Braham-Barrett's. The striker played in the Football League for both

Bristol clubs and Stevenage Borough in the late 1990s and early 2000s before becoming the archetypal non-league journeyman.

He arrived at the Fleet from Harlow Town in 2003, but played just a single game from the subs' bench in a 2-1 home defeat to Margate before being released alongside Jamie Coyle and Danny Lye. After that, he had spells at Aylesbury, Bath City, Crawley Town, Hendon, AFC Wimbledon, Braintree

Town, East Thurrock United (in 2007),

Thurrock, FC Reno and Arnett Gardens in

Jamaica and, finally, Maldon & Tiptree. He made little impression at most of those clubs, with only

Hendon, AFC Wimbledon and Maldon seeing much in the way of a goal return. His LinkedIn profile lists him currently as a football coach.

PREVIOUS // LINE-UP
v Poole Town 25.02.17 (h) **L1-2**

SUBS
Walker
Marlow
Wood
Craddock
Honesty

CLUB FOUNDED
1969

FIRST GAME v FLEET
2005 (2-0 to GNFC)

FURTHEST FA CUP
R1 (twice)

YEARS AT THIS LEVEL (total)
FIRST SEASON

LEAGUE FINISHES // PAST DECADE

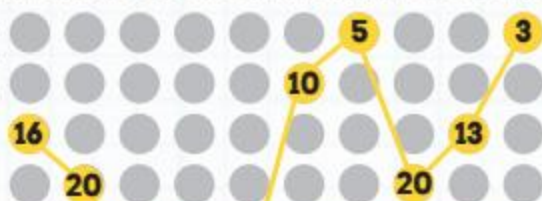
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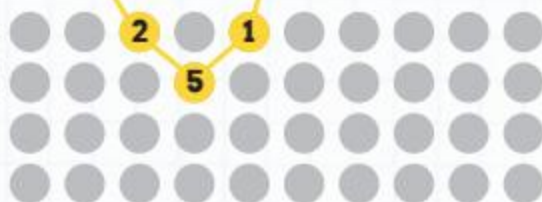
National
League
South



Ryman
Premier
Division



Ryman
Division
One North



2006/07 2007/08 2008/09 2009/10 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 2014/15 2015/16

ONLINE // TWITTER FOLLOWING



11,191



7,849

ETUFC // GOALS

FOR

54

AGAINST

43

RESULTS // 2016/17



WON **10**
DRAWN **12**
LOST **9**

RESULTS v FLEET // 2005-17

PLAYED
2
WE WON
1



DRAWN
1
WE LOST
0

AVERAGE HOME GATE // THIS SEASON vs LAST

533 // 204 (+161%)

RECENT FORM (ALL COMPS.) // 2016/17

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04.03.1950



WORCESTER CITY 4-3 FLEET

Seven goals were shared at St George's Lane in this Southern League clash but Fleet were edged out despite goals by George Baldwin (pictured), Tug Wilson and Bert Hawkins. City's manager that day went by the wonderful name of Percy Percy. Fleet suffered their seventh defeat in nine games and would lose three of their next four as they dropped to an eventual 15th place finish. Baldwin went on to play for Dartford and, for one apparently disastrous game, Gillingham.

TEAM: Gould, Baldwin, Chambers, Deevey, Aldous, Lilburn, Gore, Wilson, Hawkins, Viles, Wipfler.

9
YEARS
AGO

04.03.2008



FLEET 2-1 SALISBURY CITY

Fleet warmed up for their FA Trophy first-leg semi-final v Aldershot with this win over a side who, like ourselves, still had one eye on the play-offs. Chukki Eribenne (pictured) scored a brace in front of a sparse crowd on a bitterly cold evening. He notched both in a five-minute spell around the half-hour, the first from a Stacy Long cross, the second a header from a Luke Moore knock-on. Current Bristol Rovers manager Darrell Clarke netted a late consolation for Salisbury.

TEAM: Cronin, Ricketts (Bull 90), McPhee, Bostwick, McCarthy, Hawkins, Opinel, Long, Eribenne (Nade 86), Moore, Barrett.

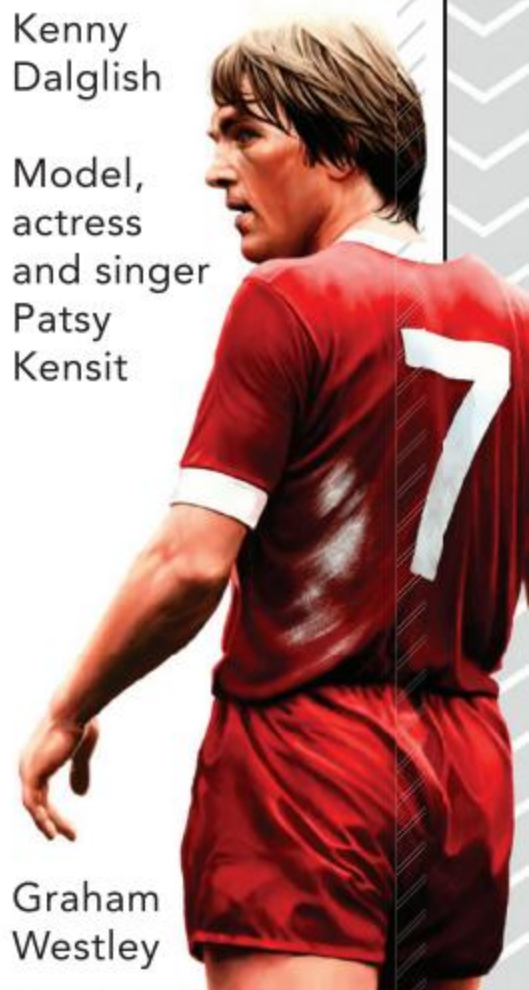
Attendance: 670

Events

- 1461** King Edward IV deposes Henry VI during the Wars of the Roses
- 1890** Forth Bridge opens in Scotland
- 1976** Northern Ireland comes under direct rule from London
- 1980** Robert Mugabe sweeps to power in Zimbabwe

Birthdays

- 1678** Vivaldi, composer
- 1944** Bobby Womack, singer
- 1950** Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
- 1951** Kenny Dalglish
- 1968** Model, actress and singer Patsy Kensit



- 1968** Graham Westley

No.1 single

2008 Duffy – "Mercy"





“We were solid and the work rate was considerable from one to eleven...”



Match report

Bradley Bubb's second-half winner returned Fleet to the top of the table – albeit on alphabetical order – as the visitors came away from Twerton Park with their first win in five years.

As ever in Somerset, it was a tough three points though Fleet had the late luxury of hitting the post in time added on through **Anthony Cook**, who was the first change in Daryl McMahon's starting lineup for five games, as he came in for Sean Shields.

It was a fairly tepid opening though things heated up when George Rigg clattered into **Dean Rance** and earned a yellow card for his troubles as early as the sixth minute, having departed Stonebridge Road with a similar caution back in October.

Nick McCootie was lively for the visitors early on but Fleet gradually imposed themselves on midfield. The first decent chance didn't come until the 15th minute, however, from a promising free-kick position, but **Danny Kedwell** blasted his effort into the wall. Kedwell had the next chance too when his header was off target from an **Andy Drury** corner and Bubb fired wide after a good turn to get past Chas Hemmings but the ball skipped away from him as he shot.

Fleet continued to edge it and **Sam Deering** set Bubb free for a shot wide before the favour was returned with Deering squeezing between two defenders only to see his effort blocked by goalkeeper Max O'Leary. And shortly before half-time, the goalkeeper was again called into action when he had to tip a Kedwell header over the bar, the Fleet skipper then depositing the corner in the same place moments later.

Bath weren't without their chances and Bristol City loanee Shaun McCoulsky flashed one across goal

while Andy Watkins' header at the back post might have caused problems had the home side followed up his header. As it was, **Nathan Ashmore** wasn't unduly tested and it gave Fleet a platform to build on for the second half.

And the visitors didn't take too long to go about their job after the restart. Four minutes in, Rigg was inexplicably casual with a back header from an Ashmore goal kick and Bubb's reaction was swift, racing on to the loose ball and delivering a great lob over O'Leary who was completely stranded and could only watch as it hit the target.

Fleet really piled the pressure on for a period after the goal and one corner produced a goalmouth scramble that was cleared while Kedwell planted another ball over the top.

City won their first corner on 66 minutes and from it McCootie rifled a shot just wide; it heralded a spell of possession for the home side but no real danger for the Fleet. Certainly Ashmore was a lot busier but he claimed the aerial balls well while in front of him, **Dave Winfield** and **Kenny Clark** held off the challenge of the Bath strikers.

After a scrappy 20 minutes, the score really could have risen in the closing stages. First Bath carved out their best opportunity as Shaquille Hunter went agonisingly close, a curling shot deflected past the post. Moments later, with time running out, Fleet had a golden opportunity to put the game to bed when Bath's defence went walkabout and Cook sped into the clear, rounded O'Leary but saw his shot from an angle bounce back off the post. Deering then tried an audacious effort from the halfway line (and he has form for that) with O'Leary out of his goal but the keeper managed to hasten back and clear off the line with his leg.

LINE-UPS // XI v XI

Fleet subs:

Powell for Kedwell, 85



Bath City subs: Diallo for Morgan, 76; Hunter for McCoulsky, 85

MAN OF THE MATCH // BRADLEY BUBB



For the second game in succession, Bradley Bubb registered on the scoresheet and his fine 49th-minute goal put him at the top of the Fleet's league goalscoring chart with nine (11 in all competitions) – not a bad feat considering his almost standing start to the season in terms of minutes. He won the online man of the match poll, well clear of Nathan Ashmore and Anthony Cook behind him.

Fleet youth sides on the March

Congratulations are in order to our U15 and U16 teams who have both reached cup finals, to be played later this month.

The U15s defeated Ramsgate in the semi-finals to reach the Kent County Cup Final where they will meet Aylesford FC. The head to head takes place at Faversham Town FC on Sunday, 19th March, kick-off 10.30am.

Meanwhile, the U16s made it to the Causeway Steel Challenge Cup Final after beating



Bromley in the semi-finals in a match that went to extra-time and penalties. A gallery of photos for that match is viewable at ESA Photos (www.tiny.cc/esa-eufc). They will play Whyteleafe for the cup. The date for that game is Thursday, 30th March, at Sheppey United FC. Kick-off is 7.30pm.

Both teams would very much appreciate the support of any Fleet fans able to make it to help them over the line in their finals.

FLEET GOALSCORERS 2016/17

PLAYER	LEAGUE	CUP	EUFC CAREER
Darren McQueen	7	5	12
Bradley Bubb	9	2	11
Jack Powell	7	3	10
Danny Kedwell	7	1	27
Sam Deering	6	0	6
Sean Shields	6	0	9
Anthony Cook	3	2	25
Kenny Clark	3	1	10
Charlie Sheringham	2	2	20

PLAYER	LEAGUE	CUP	EUFC CAREER
Stuart Lewis	1	2	7
Dave Winfield	2	1	3
Andy Drury	2	0	21
Aaron McLean	2	0	7
Mark Phillips	1	1	2
Dean Rance	2	0	6
Reiss Greenidge	0	1	1
Own goals	2	-	-

Vanarama National League South	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ebbsfleet United	31	20	7	4	62	23	+39	67
2 Maidenhead United	30	20	7	3	62	23	+39	67
3 Dartford	31	18	7	6	55	30	+25	61
4 Poole Town	31	17	8	6	50	30	+20	59
5 Chelmsford City	30	16	10	4	62	35	+27	58
6 Hungerford Town	31	15	9	7	57	37	+20	54
7 Hampton & Richmond	31	14	8	9	62	44	+18	50
8 St Albans City	32	14	7	11	62	51	+11	49
9 Hemel H Town	32	13	8	11	62	60	+2	47
10 Bath City	30	12	8	10	48	34	+14	44
11 Wealdstone	30	12	7	11	40	44	-4	43
12 East Thurrock United	31	10	12	9	54	43	+11	42
13 Eastbourne Borough	31	11	9	11	54	46	+8	42
14 Oxford City	31	10	7	14	39	55	-16	37
15 Welling United	31	9	6	16	48	43	+5	33
16 Truro City	31	9	6	16	39	72	-33	33
17 Weston-super-Mare	29	9	5	15	38	50	-12	32
18 Concord Rangers	31	8	8	15	46	59	-13	32
19 Whitehawk	31	7	6	18	36	54	-18	27
20 Gosport Borough	31	6	7	18	31	81	-50	25
21 Bishop's Stortford	31	6	3	22	24	71	-47	21
22 Margate	31	5	1	25	17	63	-46	16

MAN OF THE MATCH



PHSC plc

IN ASSOCIATION WITH...

Winfield's a winner as he accepts the Hungerford Town man of the match champagne from match sponsors Ebbsfleet Printing Solutions. The Fleet vice captain donated the PHSC-awarded £25 to Cancer Research UK.

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Furniture Installation

Office pick 'n' mix if chairs were fudge, desks were dolly mixtures and filing cabinets were cola bottles, we'd be the of sweets. They're not (which is a shame because we quite like cola bottles), but our products and prices are tasty and we can supply single bits of furniture as you need them or design and deliver a full office fit out. Start accepting!



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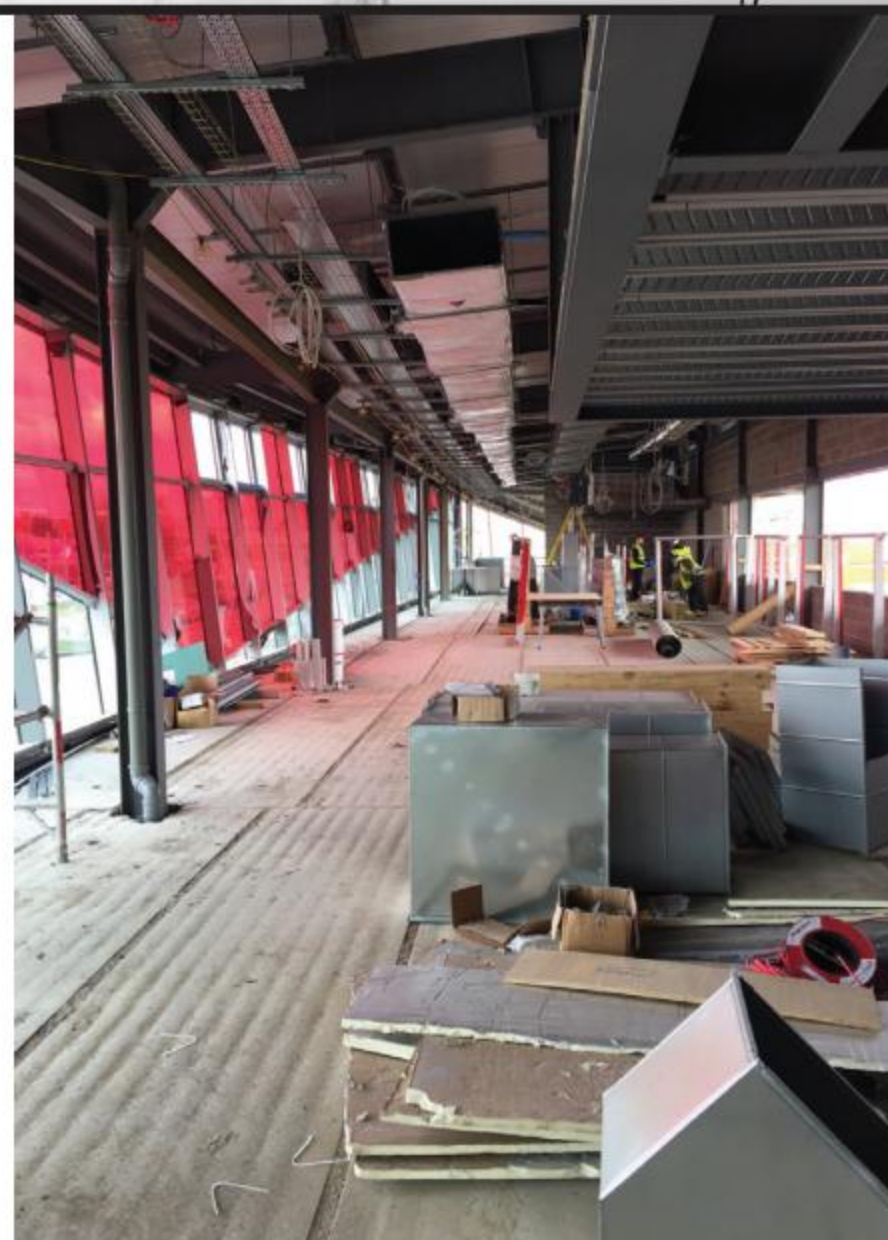


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Building the FUTURE



Dean Pooley



Rather than relate the finer points of cabling, pipework and glass-fitting which might make your eyes glaze over as well as the windows at this point, here are some interior shots of the ongoing work which is as ever busy as we head towards our completion target.

Clockwise from top left: the ticket-office windows are prepared; an impression of the length of what will be the hospitality lounge on the first floor; the view on to the pitch from the first floor and finally, the entire length of the home changing room and its facilities.



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Dave ARCHER



Dave Archer

Everyone at the club was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of club legend Paul McCarthy last week. I have received numerous communications from Fleet fans and it is clear that Paul was immensely popular with fans of this football club. I never knew Paul personally; however, it is clear from the widespread outpouring of grief that he was and will remain a legend to those who knew him and watched him play. The term legend is readily used in football these days – however, in Paul's case, it was entirely warranted.

The club has arranged meetings with Fleet Supporters Trust representatives and will ensure that a fitting tribute is shown to someone enshrined in the club's history.

And so we turn our attention to football matters and welcome the directors, players and supporters of East Thurrock United to Stonebridge Road for this afternoon's match.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to this afternoon's match sponsor **Dendy Neville**. Andy Perkins is a fantastic supporter of the club as well as providing us with our accounting services for many years. Today's match ball sponsors are our kit supply partners from **Macron**. Colin Etheridge and his team at Sportscene provide us with our home and away replica kit as well as all of our training wear. I hope both he and his guests enjoy

the afternoon's hospitality with us. And ensuring another capacity within our Sponsors' Lounge are today's programme sponsors **Nat West Bank**.

I was unable to attend the excellent away victory at Twerton Park last weekend... however, another three points continues our superb current form.


We are sure to encounter another difficult match today and of course the fantastic level of support you

give the team both home and away will be crucial to the side achieving our ultimate goal.

It is very pleasing to see that our home gates continue on an upward curve and I am sure that

will continue to be the case as we reach the business end of the season. With our partners at the Fleet Supporters Trust providing fans with the excellent away travel service, I hope to see as many of you as possible at next week's fixture with St. Albans City.

Finally, as this current season draws towards its finale we have reduced both the home and away replica shirts to £25 for adults and just £15 for junior sizes. This offer is not available online due to size availability. However, personal callers in the Club Shop can snap up the bargains at today's match.

The usual request is for your vocal support from the opening whistle today! 

“It is clear from the widespread outpouring of grief that Paul was and will remain a legend to those who knew him and watched him play...”

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS THIS SEASON





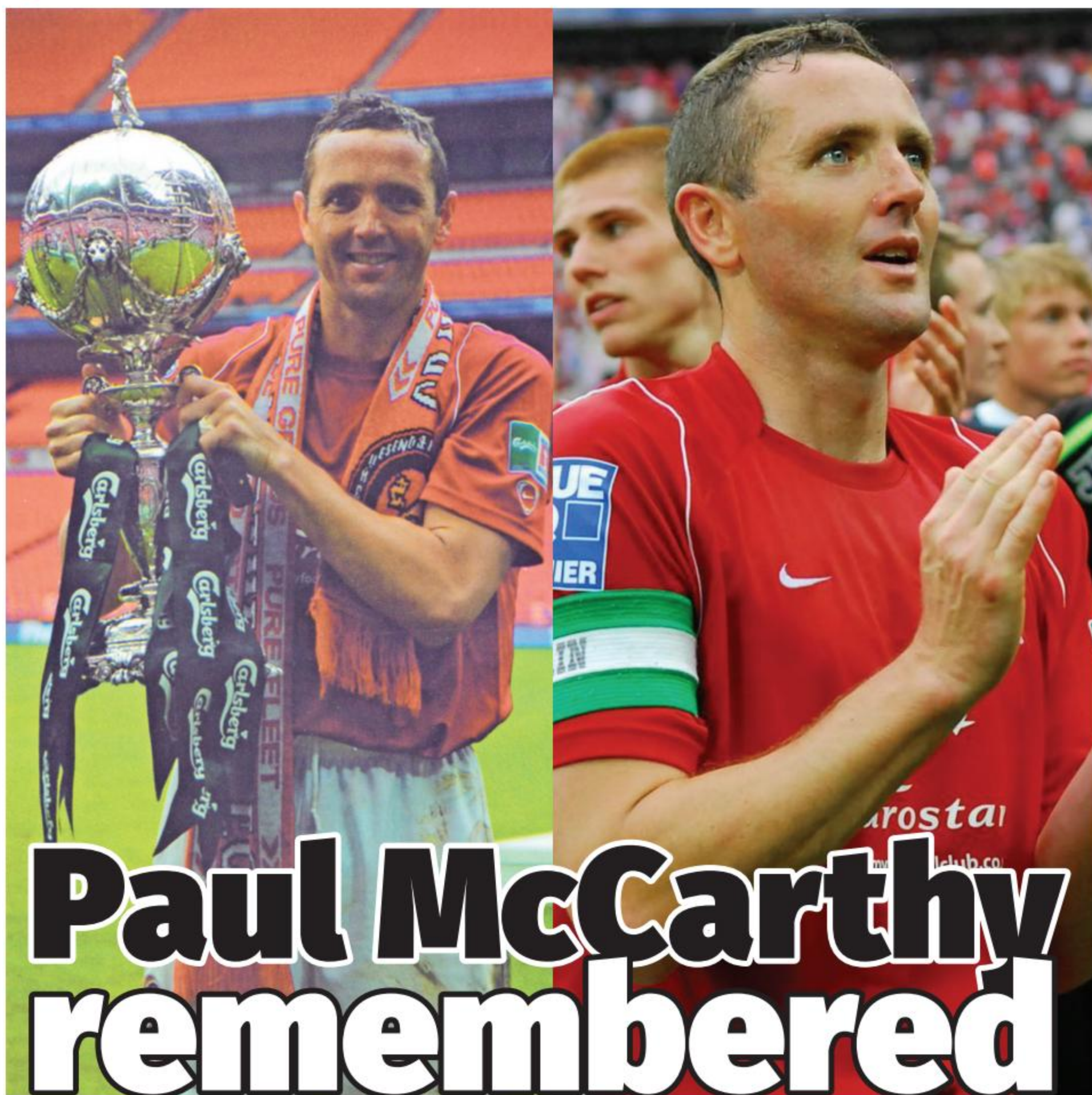
FLEET FIXTURES & RESULTS

Season 2016/17



Kent FA

MONTH	DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	SCORE	ATT.	POS.	Starting XI				
AUGUST	Sat 06	POOLE TOWN	H	4-0	1,031	1st	Ashmore	Shields	Connors	Clark	Winfield
	Tue 09	CONCORD RANGERS	A	1-0	452	1st	Ashmore	Fish	Connors	Kissock	Winfield 1
	Sat 13	HUNGERFORD TOWN	A	1-1	417	2nd	Ashmore	McCoy	Connors	Kissock	Winfield
	Tue 16	WHITEHAWK	H	1-1	933	5th	Ashmore	McCoy	Connors	Rance	Winfield
	Sat 20	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	H	2-2	912	7th	Ashmore	McCoy	Connors	Lewis	Winfield
	Sat 27	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	A	0-0	764	6th	Ashmore	McCoy	Connors	Phillips	Winfield
	Mon 29	MARGATE	H	4-0	1,071	5th	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	Winfield
SEPTEMBER	Sat 03	GOSPORT BOROUGH	A	0-1	566	9th	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Greenidge	Winfield
	Mon 05	CHELMSFORD CITY	A	1-2	901	11th	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Rance	Winfield
	Sat 10	WEALDSTONE	H	4-1	965	6th	Ashmore	Cook 1	Shields	Phillips 1	Winfield
	Tue 13	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	A	3-0	375	5th	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	McCoy
	Sat 17	AFC SUDBURY FAC 2Q	H	5-0	855	N/A	Miles	Cook	Shields	Greenidge	McCoy
	Sat 24	ST. ALBANS CITY	H	3-1	1,039	3rd	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	McCoy
OCTOBER	Sat 01	HAVANT & W'LOOVILLE FAC 3Q	H	7-0	742	N/A	Ashmore	Cook 1	Connors	Phillips 1	Winfield
	Tue 04	SHEPPEY UNITED KSC R1	H	2-1	366	N/A	Miles	Boulding	Miller-Neave	Chapman	Greenidge 1
	Sat 08	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	A	2-0	423	4th	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Phillips	Winfield
	Sat 15	MERSTHAM FAC 4Q	A	1-2	646	N/A	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Phillips	Winfield
	Sat 22	EAST THURROCK UNITED	A	1-1	606	6th	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Phillips	Winfield
	Sat 29	BATH CITY	H	1-0	1,101	5th	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	Winfield
NOVEMBER	Sat 05	TRURO CITY	H	4-2	1,020	2nd	Ashmore	Cook	Shields 1	Phillips	Winfield
	Sat 12	WELLING UNITED	A	2-1	1,014	3rd	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	Winfield
	Tue 15	RAMSGATE KSC R2	A	0-5	183	N/A	Nourse	Boulding	Atkinson	Holmes	Forrest
	Sat 19	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	H	2-3	1,318	4th	Ashmore	Cook	Shields 1	Phillips	McCoy
	Tue 22	HAMPTON & RICHMOND B.	H	1-1	828	4th	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Phillips	McCoy
	Sat 26	HARROW BOROUGH FAT 3Q	H	4-2	613	N/A	Miles	Shields	Connors	John	McCoy
DECEMBER	Sat 03	OXFORD CITY	A	3-1	752	3rd	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	McCoy	Mambo
	Sat 10	WOKING FAT R1	H	1-1	825	N/A	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	McCoy	Winfield 1
	Tue 13	WOKING FAT R1 REPLAY	A	1-0	613	N/A	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Sat 17	GOSPORT BOROUGH	H	2-0	852	3rd	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Mon 26	DARTFORD	A	1-2	2,404	3rd	Ashmore	Cook 1	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
JANUARY	Sun 01	DARTFORD	H	1-0	2,564	2nd	Ashmore	Cook	Shields	Phillips	Winfield
	Sat 07	WEALDSTONE	A	4-2	785	2nd	Ashmore	Cook	McCoy	Phillips	Winfield 1
	Sat 14	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS FAT R2	A	0-3	1,078	N/A	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	Phillips	McCoy
	Sat 21	CHELMSFORD CITY	H	2-0	1,434	2nd	Ashmore	Shields	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Sat 28	POOLE TOWN	A	2-0	681	2nd	Ashmore	Shields	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
FEBRUARY	Sat 04	CONCORD RANGERS	H	4-0	1,028	2nd	Ashmore	Shields 1	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Sat 11	WHITEHAWK	A	3-0	349	1st	Ashmore	Shields 1	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Sat 18	HUNGERFORD TOWN	H	1-0	1,321	1st	Ashmore	Shields	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Tue 21	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	A	1-1	530	2nd	Ashmore	Shields	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
	Sat 25	BATH CITY	A	1-0	695	1st	Ashmore	Cook	Connors	McCoy	Winfield
MARCH	Sat 04	EAST THURROCK UNITED	H								
	Sat 11	ST. ALBANS CITY	A								
	Sat 18	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	H								
	Tue 21	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	H								
	Sat 25	HAMPTON & RICHMOND B.	A								
APRIL	Sat 01	WELLING UNITED	H								
	Sat 08	TRURO CITY	A								
	Sat 15	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	H								
	Mon 17	MARGATE	A								
	Sat 22	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	A								
	Sat 29	OXFORD CITY	H								



Paul McCarthy remembered

I WE RECALL THE CAREER OF OUR FORMER SKIPPER AND ASSISTANT MANAGER, WHO DIED SUDDENLY TWO WEEKS AGO, AGED JUST 45

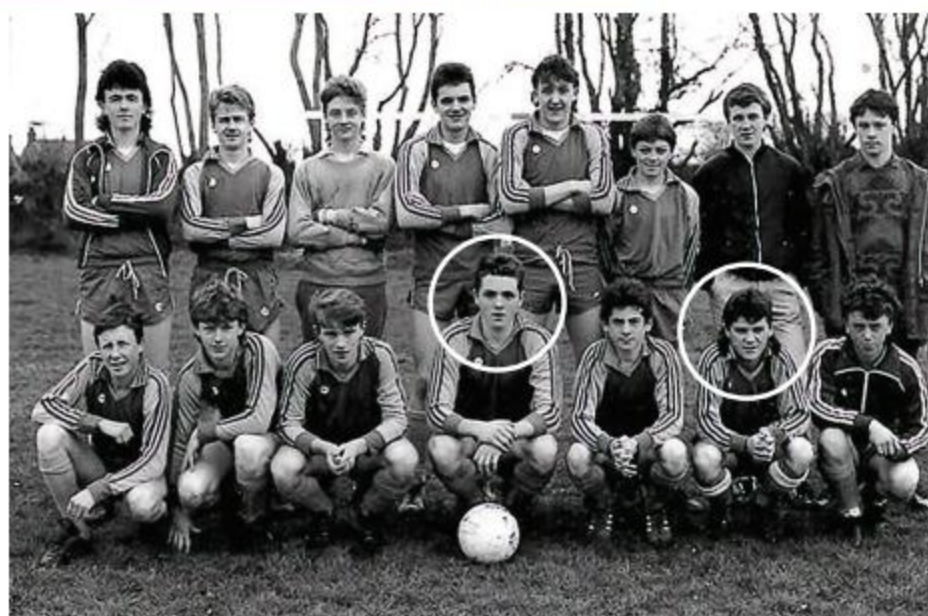
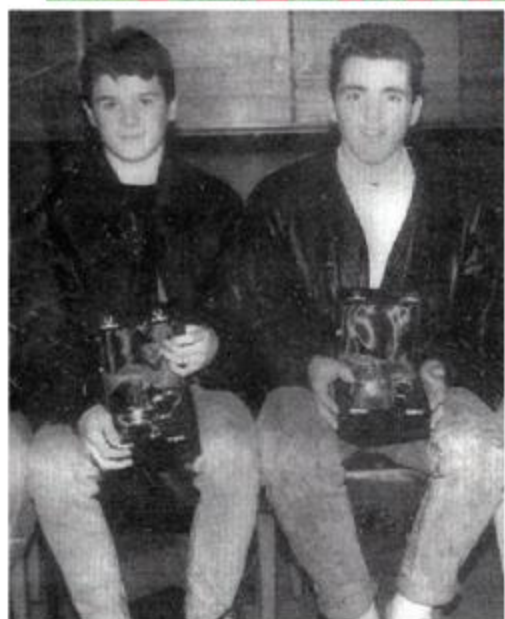
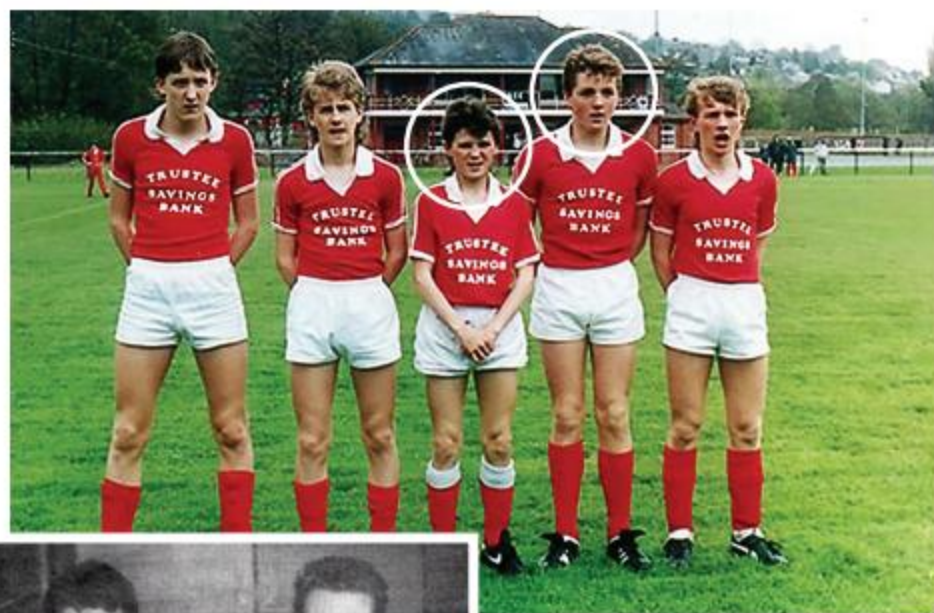
WORDS // ED MILLER

Not too many non-league fans will get to say they saw one of their own lift a trophy at Wembley. It was our finest sporting hour – and it was probably his, too. In 70 years of a succession of immense Fleet club captains, Paul McCarthy – the man who is etched in our all-too-recent memory holding that piece of silverware aloft – will in all likelihood stand tallest of them all. Here, we recall his career and in the following pages, run tributes sent in to us by

Liam Daish, Ross Smith, Brian Kilcullen, Jason Botley and Roly Edwards, together with some of the many tweets published in Paul's memory...

Paul McCarthy was born on 4th August, 1971, in the Irish city of Cork – six days before Roy Keane, who also hailed from the same place. Paul played gaelic football and hurling but the two budding young sportsmen played U12–U16 soccer together for Rockmount AFC, a junior club local to Cork, from the early Eighties and they progressed together. When Keane won the

Photos: Rockmount FC



The early days: Paul with Roy Keane, playing for Rockmount FC in Cork. The pair progressed into the national side's U15s together and (above) were also part of the same Republic of Ireland U21 side

U14s Kennedy Cup in 1984

as captain of Cork, Paul was alongside him. And the two moved up to U15 Ireland level together, eventually appearing side by side in the Irish U21 lineup.

INTO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Paul made the move to England 18 months earlier than Keane, landing on these shores aged just 16 in the summer of 1988 to take up an apprenticeship with Brighton & Hove Albion, then in the Second Division (equivalent to the Championship). Within two years he had progressed to the first team and, appropriately enough, played the first game of what was to be a 19-year career on St Patrick's Day, 1990.

He enjoyed six more years with Brighton (pictured right), all of them in the reorganised Second Division (now League One), during which time he captained the club and was voted Ireland's U21 player of the year. As an Irish youth international, he collected 10 caps, playing in the

World Youth finals in 1991

in Portugal. In 1996, it was on to Wycombe Wanderers for a fee of £100,000 where he played at League One level. His most memorable season for the Chairboys was, of course, their FA Cup run of 2000/01 when



his goals were instrumental in Wycombe's progression. In Round Two, he scored the winner against Millwall with an overhead kick of all things! He added another to keep Wanderers in the competition in Round Three, in a 1-1 draw against Grimsby Town and scored again in the replay.

He netted a last-minute winner to keep the club in the competition against Wimbledon in the Fifth Round before firing home a penalty in the 8-7 shootout) and grabbed a memorable fifth of the competition alongside another future Fleet man in Roy Essandoh (left) to dump Leicester City out at the quarter-final stage. Paul then featured in the semi-final against Liverpool at



Danny
Kedwell...
meet
Macca



Mr Mambo @MistarrYads

6d

Still can't believe Macca is gone! Such a great man who took me under his wing ❤️

🙏 RIP Macca

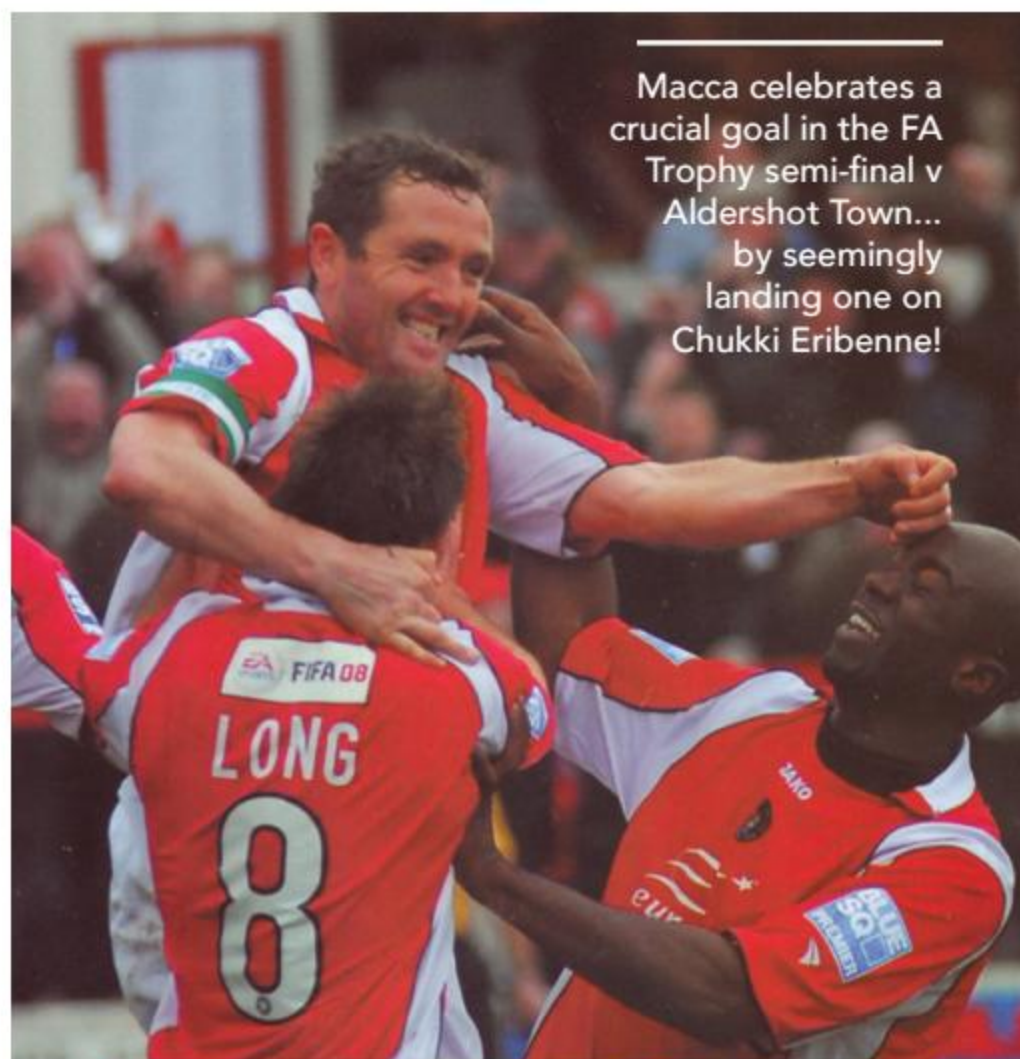
Anfield, faced with keeping Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen quiet.

After a spell at Oxford United in 2003/04, he first became acquainted with our fans when he helped lower-league Hornchurch knock out a Fleet side including Andy Drury and Jay Saunders in the 2004/05 FA Cup.

INTO THE FLEET

Yet within a month of that game, Paul was a Fleet player. With a financial crisis engulfing the Urchins across the river, Andy Ford swooped to sign him for the Fleet (having failed to do so in the summer) to fill a defensive gap and he came across the Thames with Hornchurch teammate, little-known Serbian Zeljko Popovic, who became his first if somewhat short-lived central defensive partner at the club.

A lot happened in his first season at the club. Andy Ford lasted only two more months in the job and Paul was suddenly handed the reins of caretaker manager alongside another 'Macca' – Steve McKimm – for a period of three games until Liam Daish was appointed in February 2005. Perhaps it was fate given the close association of the two men that followed, but Paul scored the first goal at Stonebridge Road of the Liam Daish era against



Macca celebrates a crucial goal in the FA Trophy semi-final v Aldershot Town... by seemingly landing one on Chukki Eribenne!



Michael Gash @Gashman9

6d

Sad news seeing that former Captain and teammate Paul McCarthy has passed away! Proper defender and true gent off the field! RIP #Macca 🙏🙏

👉 🔄 ❤️ ...

Tamworth, a week after the manager's appointment.

Paul had numerous defensive partners that season including Popovic, Chris Moore, Nathan Bunce and Graham Porter before sustaining an injury in an FA Trophy quarter-final at Bishop's Cleeve in March which ruled him out for the rest of that season.



James Smith @Mj1085Smith · Feb 25

The most influential and the best centre half I have played with has sadly past away. Taught me everything. God bless Paul McCarthy.

👉 🔄 1 ❤️ 4

Paul was a calming and authoritative presence throughout the next few years as part-time players went and full-time players



Craig Stone @stone_craig

Feb 20

Absolutely devastated to hear the news regarding Macca !! He is truly the nicest/toughest guy you would meet !! My thoughts go to his family



came in, a period that wasn't without the problems of any such transition.

In 2005/06, he played 37 games, welcoming new partners in defence in Ross Smith and James Smith and the following season, added 42 more games as Fleet just missed out on the Conference play-offs.

Shorn of reliable comrade Ross Smith in 2007/08 who had departed to Dagenham & Redbridge, Paul turned in his most memorable season in a Fleet shirt, scoring his only goal of the season in the FA Trophy semi-final v Aldershot. It was a crucial goal against the Conference champions-elect, coming just two minutes after the Shots had given themselves a lifeline at 2-1; Paul's goal kept them at bay and gave Fleet a solid foundation in the second leg.

He was overwhelmingly voted player of the year across three award categories (*see box, right*) and you could see why when his experience got Fleet through a rather nervous and shaky opening at Wembley against Torquay United. The Fleet ultimately rode the early discomfort thanks largely to Paul's marshalling of the defence and the rest – with Paul and the injured Danny Slatter lifting the Trophy – is, of course, history.

There was no let up in 2008/09, with Paul still managing 23 games despite being laid up over most of the autumn and winter with injury, though he didn't manage to appear in any of Fleet's games in defence of their Trophy title. The Fleet skipper was clearly eyeing coaching roles, however, and alongside Ian Docker he began to bring through some of the club's young players via the PASE scheme, most noticeably Michael West.

INTO THE DUGOUT

It was little surprise, then, upon the departure of Alan Kimble in the summer of 2009 that Paul stepped up to assist Liam Daish. Having all but hung up his boots, he signed on as a player for 2009/10 intending only to be used for emergencies. He added five last appearances that season, four of them defeats, as Fleet's young and largely untested squad initially struggled to come to

Player of the Year 2007/08

Fleet fans might recall how Paul's haul of the end-of-season awards in our Trophy season went a little bit awry. Having bagged all three player of the year trophies on offer, it was decided to present them all to him just before the final game of the league season at home to Oxford United.

So picture the scene – poor old Macca runs out to take up his accustomed spot on the edge of the box before a PA announcement has him trotting back over to the tunnel to receive his supporters' player of the year trophy. Repeat this scene twice more as he had to run off and return to pocket two more trophies and it was little wonder that within 30 seconds of the whistle, the Fleet defence was all over the place and had gone 1-0 behind. By the half-hour mark, it was 3-0 to Oxford and Macca – presumably feeling the effects of all that silver polish from the pre-match festivities – was substituted at half-time.

Thankfully, it all had a happy ending as two weeks later he was picking up an even more important trophy at Wembley. Suffice to say, however, I don't think player of the year awards were ever again given out before kick-off under Liam Daish!



jay saunders @jaysaunders8 · Feb 20

Absolutely gutted to hear the news about Paul McCarthy probably the best centre back and captain i ever played with and a top bloke #rip



terms with some very good opponents.

His first and last seasons as assistant to Liam were amongst the most trying in the club's recent history. The 2008/09 campaign saw much of the core of Fleet's successful side leave as MyFC renewals nosedived and the club's income went with them. CEOs and chairmen came and went but somehow the ship was steadied and Liam and Paul built a promotion squad from the ashes in 2010/11. The



The greatest day: May 10th, 2008: Paul celebrates with Gary MacDonald (left) and raises the Trophy with Danny Slatter (above)



Gary MacDonald @GaryMacDonald6 6d
One of the most memorable days of my career shared with this man - gone too soon !! True leader and genuinely nice guy, can't believe it 🍊

disappointment of relegation at Tamworth was surpassed by the sight of Liam and Paul with a second trophy in their hands the following spring.

A first season back in the Conference in 2011/12 saw Fleet breeze clear of relegation by quite some distance, finishing 14th – with standout performances by Michael West, a Paul McCarthy protégé who was sold to Crewe Alexandra that summer.

But in Paul and Liam's final season, the financial chickens again came home to roost and Fleet – along with many of the players and management – were running on empty by the end of 2012/13. Pretty much already relegated in April 2013, the troubles were summed up during a farcical trip to Barrow

to when he praised Paul McCarthy's spirit in adversity.

With the management pair's departure from Stonebridge Road, Paul even donned his boots again to play and coach for his local club Crowborough Athletic at Sussex County League level.

INTO OUR HISTORY

Paul's time at Stonebridge Road straddled several eras at the Fleet – he began under Andy Ford when we were a club simply trying to stay afloat in the big pond of the Conference; he held together a side under Liam Daish that would just miss out on the play-offs and win the FA Trophy; he was skipper as MyFC arrived; and then he suffered relegation, rebirth and relegation once more that brought this club to the brink. The

A colourful career: From left – Republic of Ireland U21s, Brighton, Wycombe, Oxford United, the Fleet and Crowborough Athletic



**Mark Ricketts** @Ricko707

Feb 20

Shocked to hear the sad news about Paul McCarthy, the best skipper & CB I've ever had the honour of playing with. A great guy, R.I.P Macca 🍀

**Neil Barrett** @NeilChezBarrett

Feb 20

Shocked to hear of the passing of Paul McCarthy, privilege to play with him and genuinely the nicest guy, thoughts to his family #Macca 🙏

**Mike West** @Mike23West

Feb 20

Lost for words hearing the news about Paul McCarthy passing away, played such a pivotal role in career a guy I looked up to immensely #EUFC

players he played alongside or worked with mirror this transition – everyone from part-time favourites like Jimmy Jackson and Steve McKimm through our talented young guns like Stacy Long, Michael Bostwick and Michael West, then as a coach on to Preston Edwards and Paul Lorraine. Two players in the current squad – Andy Drury and Yado Mambo – will also have shared a changing room with Paul.

So many of us will have looked at those Wembley photographs over the past fortnight and wondered how pictures of such elation will now forever carry an undertone of sadness. But I'm sure the lasting memory of Paul – a proud and model professional and born winner by all accounts – will be the grin of triumph, the flash of Irish green on his captain's armband as he lifts the Trophy and the history he was making so late in his career at the age of 36.

Well over 1,000 men have worn the red shirt of the Fleet in the past 70 years, only one of them has done what Paul McCarthy did. Rest in peace, Paul.

■ Paul, who lived with his family in Sussex for close on 30 years, is survived by his wife Cath and four daughters Erin, Liberty, Scarlett and Cassidy; his parents, Paul and Mary; brothers Rodney and Jonathan and sister Alison. The thoughts and sympathies of everyone at Ebbsfleet United Football Club is with them. 🍀

CAREER RECALL // PAUL McCARTHY

**Date of birth** 4 August 1971**Place of birth** Cork, Republic of Ireland**Club career** Ebbsfleet Utd, Hornchurch, Oxford Utd, Wycombe W, Brighton & HA**First senior game** 17.03.1990 for Brighton v Bradford City**First game for Fleet** 27.11.2004 v Woking**First goal for Fleet** 19.02.2005 v Tamworth**Last game for Fleet** 17.10.2009 v Barrow**Fleet career stats** 161 (+1) apps, 8 goals**2004/05** 18 appearances, 2 goals**2005/06** 37 appearances, 2 goals**2006/07** 42 appearances, 1 goal**2007/08** 36 (+1) appearances, 1 goal**2008/09** 23 appearances, 1 goal**2009/10** 5 appearances, 1 goal

The Big Men

LIAM DAISH WORKED WITH PAUL FOR EIGHT YEARS. HERE, IN HIS OWN WORDS, HE REMEMBERS HIS COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND



Firstly I'd like to thank Ed Miller for allowing me to write this tribute to my mate Macca. It's an absolute privilege and honour to do so, even though I can't believe I am.

When I joined Gravesend & Northfleet as manager, my first task was to meet the players on a training night down at a local school. I walked into the changing room alone looking for Macca as he was the only player I really knew from my time of playing the game – and I needed someone I could at least relate to even though I had never met him personally or even spoken to him. But playing against him was at least a start to what became a long working and personal relationship.

I remember to this day he stood up in that changing room, walked towards me with his shoulders back and his chest out and offered me his hand to shake, which I obliged. If you ever shook Paul's hand you will understand what I mean by

saying it left an impression on me – literally! "Good to meet you gaffer," he said straight away. I felt at ease within the group. Paul made me feel at ease, which he was very good at.

Paul soon became my captain, and what a captain he was for this football club. His performances and the way he conducted himself on and off the pitch were all you could ask for from your skipper. He had a great manner about him and he set himself a high standard in his performances and how he trained. His relationship, as skipper, with the other players was perfect. The players not only respected him as a player and as a man, they loved him as well. He looked after them; he guided them and looked out for them. Although being an old pro who was coming to the end of his career, Paul could connect with the youngest of players in the squad and make them feel part of everything; that is a real quality.

When he played he left nothing in the tank and played the game as it should be played – with



From despair to... promotion:

Liam Daish and Paul McCarthy after relegation at Tamworth (left) and (above) a year later alongside Ron Hillyard winning their third piece of silverware together

honesty, commitment and with a personal pride in his performance.

He was a fierce competitor and a winner.

Although not the quickest or tallest for a central defender he was rarely caught out as he read the game so well and sniffed out danger very early which is so important for a defender.

I believe Paul made the absolute most of the talent he was given as a player. He was a great professional, his attitude was first class and his effect on those around him were second to none.

As you all know in 2008 the club reached the FA Trophy Final and went on to win it in front of 40,000 people. Without Paul in the side, I believe we wouldn't have. The team was so young and inexperienced and needed a real leader and in Macca they had one.

I know if you speak to any player who played with Paul they will back me up in what I have just said, I'm absolutely positive of that.

At the final whistle of the final, Paul – off his own back – grabbed Danny Slatter, who had injured his knee badly and missed the latter part of that season, and led him up the Wembley steps to collect the Trophy with him. That was a mark of the man.

I really got to know Paul as a person when he became my assistant. We enjoyed many highs whilst we worked together and went through some tough times in really difficult circumstances also.


Throughout, Paul always remained on the level. He never wanted to get involved in the politics that became a daily battle at times but he was always there to listen and give me support if it was getting me down.

I have many great memories of my time at this club and Paul, along with Ron Hillyard, is a major reason why I have so many. I used to love to listen to the two of them go at each other on the bus, arguing over something trivial. The Irishman had strong views, especially on sport, and would keenly back them up – and with Ron being a stubborn Yorkshireman, it made for great viewing.

I shared many a pint of the black stuff with Macca after a game, win or lose, and sometimes a cheeky cigar if the result had been the right one. It became tradition.

I miss being around good men like Paul and Ron.

Macca was a man you don't meet every day. He was a proud Irishman, a devoted father and husband, a good solid player and a man you could trust and rely on. I will miss him.

My thoughts are with his family... his wife Cath and his beautiful daughters Erin, Libby, Scarlett and Cassidy, who Paul idolised. His legacy will live on in those girls. Till we meet again, Big Man... X. 

Liam

Macca – honour, loyalty, pride and dedication



ROSS SMITH PLAYED MORE THAN 100 TIMES IN THREE SPELLS FOR THE CLUB – MOST OF THEM ALONGSIDE PAUL McCARTHY. HE PENS A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE ABOUT A CAPTAIN WHO SET MORE THAN AN EXAMPLE



Ross Smith and Macca, either side of Sacha Opinel, in 2007

I want to be the next Macca. Not the next Ronaldo or Messi.... Macca." If one day I have a son with soccer ambitions, I hope these will be his words, and that this will be the man he will choose to emulate.

With my son on my lap, I will show him videos of how this lion of a man played the game, and how he led a group of young men, week in and out, into battle. I will tell him stories of how this man carried himself off the pitch, how every individual he came into contact with was a better person for it.

One day when he is old enough, I will surprise my son with a trip to England... to Gravesend. Walking into Stonebridge Road, into the home team's changing room, I will point to the seat where, on game day, Macca would sit, one leg crossed over the other quietly going through the programme, reading it word for word, occasionally picking his head up to listen, smile and for a second join in on the banter going on in the dressing room. How he would return to his programme and quietly keep an ear out to monitor the young men around him to make sure the locker room was right.

I will recall the story of when I gave a bad ball away at training and Macca dug me out. Sharply I spoke back to Macca and I remember the look he gave me and how frighteningly quiet he went, seemingly making a mental note. The next chance he had in the small-sided game, he put his studs right through me, consequently leaving us both laying on the pitch, hurt, each holding our leg. The training ground went completely silent, and Liam Daish looked on with a wry smile. The gaffer knew what that was all about. He knew that was his captain restoring order. Picking ourselves up off the ground and hobbling in for treatment, for the next hour together, not one word was said. Finally, I felt a gentle hand on my shoulder and a strong Irish rasp voice say, "You okay son?" A question to show how much he cared, and a message left in my leg to let me know that is one battle never to take on again.

As I walk out into the tunnel with my son, I will tell of a man who stood at the front of the line wearing the armband. His broad shoulders seemingly blocking any light from outside entering in, as he stood in a calm stance looking out onto the pitch. The confidence he exuded carried right through the line of his teammates knowing that our leader, who now seemingly stood 7 feet tall in front walking us onto the pitch, wouldn't let us down... ever.

Standing on the pitch, I will recount the time I stuck my head in to win a knee-high ball, only because I heard Macca shout, 'Head it!', resulting in a broken nose as my face met a foot. I always did what the voice called out for from behind me though – because it was always right. Even if it did mean a knock or an injury now and again, you put a foot or a head into things for the sake of the team... for Macca. He understood that a pail gets filled by a million little drops, and that each and every tackle and battle builds a win.

To turn to him after hearing the referee's final whistle, knowing we had just won a game 1-0, with a steely look in his eye, firm clench of the fist and forceful grind of the teeth, you could see how proud

of you he was. To this day there is no better feeling in this world.

Going back inside, I will recollect with great admiration and respect, how after games, while the rest of the lads lollygagged and bragged and bantered in the changing room, Macca was always the first out the door, showered, offering up "Well done lads, see you Monday," as he raced out the door eager to return to his family.

Now and again, Macca would coach the next day, and so he would ask if he could stay with Aaron Kerr, my brother and I at the players' house across the road on Railway Street.

When I walk across the street with my son, I will remember that these were the best nights. With Stellas in hand, and countless stories on the lips, we would talk in our tiny, barely furnished living room until the early hours of the morning. We never did talk about the game that was just played. If we did, it was brief. Macca wanted to talk about other things. The best moments of the night were when he

"I will quickly become grateful for the time I had with him, for the footballing path that led me to him..."

talked about his 'girls' – his wife and four daughters. He showed me what it meant to be a good family man. He showed me a different side to a person that a few hours before was fiercely competing; he showed me what

it meant to be a devoted father, husband and true friend now gently chatting.

After the "memory lane" tour and stories with my son, I will have to be aware that he may feel overwhelmed with the size of boots he would have to fill in order to emulate this once warrior. But I won't drop the standards. Macca never once did.

While I'm sure my eyes will continue to fill with tears for years to come every time I think of Macca – as they are now while I write this note – I will quickly become grateful for the time I had with him, for the footballing path that led me to him. Macca showed me how to live my life in the same way the game should be played, with honour, loyalty, pride, dedication, unwavering love and uncompromising strength.

Rest in peace Macca. 🍀

First impressions and lasting impact



FORMER CHAIRMAN BRIAN KILCULLEN AND CLUB SECRETARY ROLY EDWARDS WERE BEHIND THE SCENES WHEN PAUL ARRIVED – AND SAW A PROMISING SIGNING BECOME A COLOSSUS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Most of us unfortunately get word of something dreadful from time to time, but the sad news about Paul McCarthy was an absolute shocker. As well as his relative youth and knowing he leaves his wife Cath and four young daughters behind, it is also that Paul had something about him that made this news hit harder.

Myself and fellow directors and colleagues at the club were lucky enough to get to know Paul as a player and a coach, but also as a person. The first impression was the firm handshake and quiet but engaging manner. As you got to know him, it was the ready smile and glint in his eye. He was a man

you never heard a bad word about.

When we recruited "Macca", he was a big signing for the club. His ability and track record were above the level we normally recruited at and, naturally enough, his wages would reflect that. Our wage budget was not high and we were a little nervous about the outlay. We had nothing to worry about, of course, as he went on to become our FA Trophy-winning captain, did a great job coaching the Youth Team and struck up a formidable and successful partnership with Liam Daish in the role of first-team coach. We have great memories of the football achievements along with the post-match discussions and socialising.

ONE OF OUR FINEST MEN // BY ROLY EDWARDS



A lot has been written in recent days but Paul truly was one of the nicest men you could wish to meet and it is so hard to comprehend that he is no longer with us.

My first memory of him was as an opponent

when we played Hornchurch in the FA Cup in 2004. He was awesome that day, so strong and powerful and clearly a natural leader. I can recall him rising to head a ball goalward, the ball unluckily crashing against the bar... I swear that

bar is still shaking today! Surely this was a player that we could only aspire to have at our club... little did I know that only a few weeks later he would be joining us. I knew from the start that we had signed an excellent player but what I didn't realise was how much he would enhance the lives of everyone around him as years progressed. His intelligence, mental strength and physical toughness always shone through but he also had an air of calmness and was a very gentle man too. He gained respect for all the right reasons and he had charm in equal measure.

He grew into our club and made it his own...

Paul was a proud Irishman who loved sport and in particular to chat about the Irish rugby team. But despite this, it wasn't from him you would hear that he had played U21 international football and was a regular team-mate of Roy Keane. He was modest and unassuming. There was no ego with him.



Leadership and presence are also what you associate with Paul. He was an uncompromising centre half who used his top-level professional experience to great effect with the Fleet. Off the pitch, he had a generous spirit and would put himself out for people. Despite only having had four hours sleep in two days, he once made the effort to drive a good distance to attend a special party for one of the directors. It turned out the reason he had so little sleep was that he was doing a work favour for another friend.

Paul dealt with things in a calm and assured way. Forgive me a personal memory, but I remember when my youngest child, TJ, was to be a mascot for the Fleet at the age of two (pictured above).

Most footballers would be a little nervous about looking after a mascot so young. We wondered whether the occasion may be too much for TJ and half expected him to duck out at the last minute and not go out on the pitch. We needn't have worried. Paul just

grasped him up in his arms, strolled on to the pitch, conducted the pre-match formalities and then had a one-to-one kickabout with him until the game kicked off. A lovely moment for a little lad and his family, but Paul made it look easy.

Above all he was a family man. We will all miss him for different reasons; but of course it is as nothing compared to the sorrow his family must be feeling. Our thoughts are with them and we hope the fact that Paul is a Fleet legend and so respected, both as a person and a player, will provide a little degree of comfort to them over the coming weeks and months. ●

● **Brian Kilcullen was chairman of Gravesend & Northfleet from 2000 until 2006, and continued to serve on the board of directors until 2010.**



we can never underestimate what he did as a player in our Trophy-winning season, as a coach within our Youth Scheme and as an assistant to Liam Daish. His legacy lives on with many of our young players that are still making their way in football today.

Whatever Paul did he did properly, he gave

his all in everything and he was the consummate family man. He loved nothing more than being in his caravan on the south coast with his family around him. He beamed when recalling stories about his girls, he lived and worked for these days... days that have tragically been cut short.

I will miss him but console myself with the fact that I was fortunate enough to have spent time in his company. He must not only rank as one of our finest players... but better still one of our finest men.

● **Roly Edwards was Fleet club secretary at the time Paul McCarthy signed as a player in 2004 and worked with him until 2009.**

From captain to coach...

ANOTHER FORMER FLEET CHAIRMAN, JASON BOTLEY, RECALLS THE MAN THAT WAS PAUL MCCARTHY AWAY FROM THE GLARE OF THE FIRST TEAM WHEN HE COACHED EMERGING YOUNG TALENT AT STONEBRIDGE ROAD

Paul swapped the team shirt for a tracksuit in 2009 and continued to assist Ian Docker (inset) in coaching the youth team, a role he first undertook before hanging up his boots



Alongside my memories of Paul as an outstanding player and leader of the first team, are those spent with him and Docks [Ian Docker] focused upon the development of the club's academy players – which at the time was known as the PASE team. His professionalism and dedication to the development of many young lads over the years – not only from footballing perspective, but also in terms of personal skills (good manners, discipline, high standards, strong work ethic, courtesy and respectfulness) – was second to none.

He did this through his coaching ability, but also by the way he conducted himself. He led by example. He was extremely proud of the academy lads and wanted them all to maximise their potential. He had the balance right when coaching them

in terms of being focused, firm when needed, but also making things enjoyable. He was demanding (rightly so) of the club and the school in terms of facilities, he wanted the best environment for them to succeed and would not hold back if he believed things could be improved to achieve this.

“He was extremely proud of the academy lads and wanted them all to maximise their potential...”

Paul had a positive impact on so many people, influencing the development of young men into adulthood. Many of whom did not carve out careers in football, but all of whom would have greatly benefited from his instruction, support and guidance. He was a truly inspirational man and his legacy will live on through those he touched. ●

● Jason Botley was chairman of the Fleet from 2006 to 2008 after serving as a director from 2000.



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John Burgess

Well here we are in March with the Fleet unbeaten in 2017. A trip to Bath on a blustery, wet day saw the team overcome a spirited Romans side on a pitch made greasy by the rain and harvest another three points.

On the journey down, the DVD of the 2008 FA Trophy Final reminded us all of the sad loss of Paul McCarthy. It is still hard to comprehend and our thoughts go to his wife and daughters. He will forever be in the memory of Fleet fans, especially today, as we mark his passing with a tribute of one minute's applause before the game. He holds a unique place in the history of the club as the only captain to have held the FA Trophy aloft.

Further to today's tributes, the Fleet Supporters' Trust is working with the club to formulate an appropriate longer-term tribute to Paul's memory and support for his family.

On Tuesday we said goodbye to Tony Pilcher, a long-serving member of the staff, who passed away after a battle with illness. Tony was a real gentleman and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him.

The winner of the 50/50 at the game v Hungerford Town kindly made a donation to the Fleet Supporters' Trust which was greatly appreciated, as is the

generous support of all who buy a ticket.

Away travel is still well supported and it will help Steve if you can check in no later than 15 minutes before departure time. If you have booked but are unable to travel please let him know as soon as possible as he may be able to fill the seat. It is also very helpful if payment is made when you book.



“ On the journey down to Bath, the DVD of the 2008 FA Trophy Final reminded us all of the sad loss of Paul McCarthy... ”


At the recent Fleet Supporters' Trust Board meeting concerns were drawn to our attention around the service in the Social Club bar.

These will be made known to the club so they can be addressed.

As we approach the business end of the season the Board will be making arrangements for the Supporters' Player of the Season and the sponsors' presentation evening. The Fleet Supporters' Trust sponsor a number of staff and players and it is anticipated that a draw will be made of those members wishing to have the chance to be presented with a shirt and

photo opportunity. Members will be informed when names are needed.

We face another tricky fixture today so let's get behind the team and do our utmost to continue the great run for another three points.

Enjoy the game and Up The Fleet! 





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Fleet in the COMMUNITY



In a week tinged with sad loss and happy memories of both Paul McCarthy and Tony Pilcher, we all look to future memories as the Fleet hopefully sails on to another victory today against East Thurrock United. Helping to create new memories and as promised, Kenny Clark has organised the first competitive EUFC Over 50s Walking Football game, an away fixture against the Medway Marauders (those mean-looking gentlemen pictured above) to take place on Friday, 28th April at 12.30pm at the Strood Leisure Centre. Kenny is still working on the first home game to be played at Stonebridge Road before the end of the season.

Other Community events taking place in March include the official unveiling of Gravesend's restored Clock Tower (pictured right) on the evening of Friday 17 March by The Mayor of

Gravesham, Cllr Greta Goatley. The occasion will be marked by turning on the new lighting scheme at approximately 7pm. The restoration of the Clock Tower was made possible by the National Lottery through a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £172,300, with the remaining funding provided by Gravesham Borough Council.

A commemorative parade is also being held to mark the 400th anniversary of Pocahontas' arrival and death in Gravesend. Gravesham council has been working with a number of schools and community groups across the borough to remember the life of Pocahontas. The

Pocahontas 400 project has included a series of activities including talks by local historians and academic lecturers, art workshops, a visit from former US Ambassador Matthew Barzun and a commemorative parade.

The key event in the Pocahontas 400 calendar is a community parade on Tuesday, 21 March.

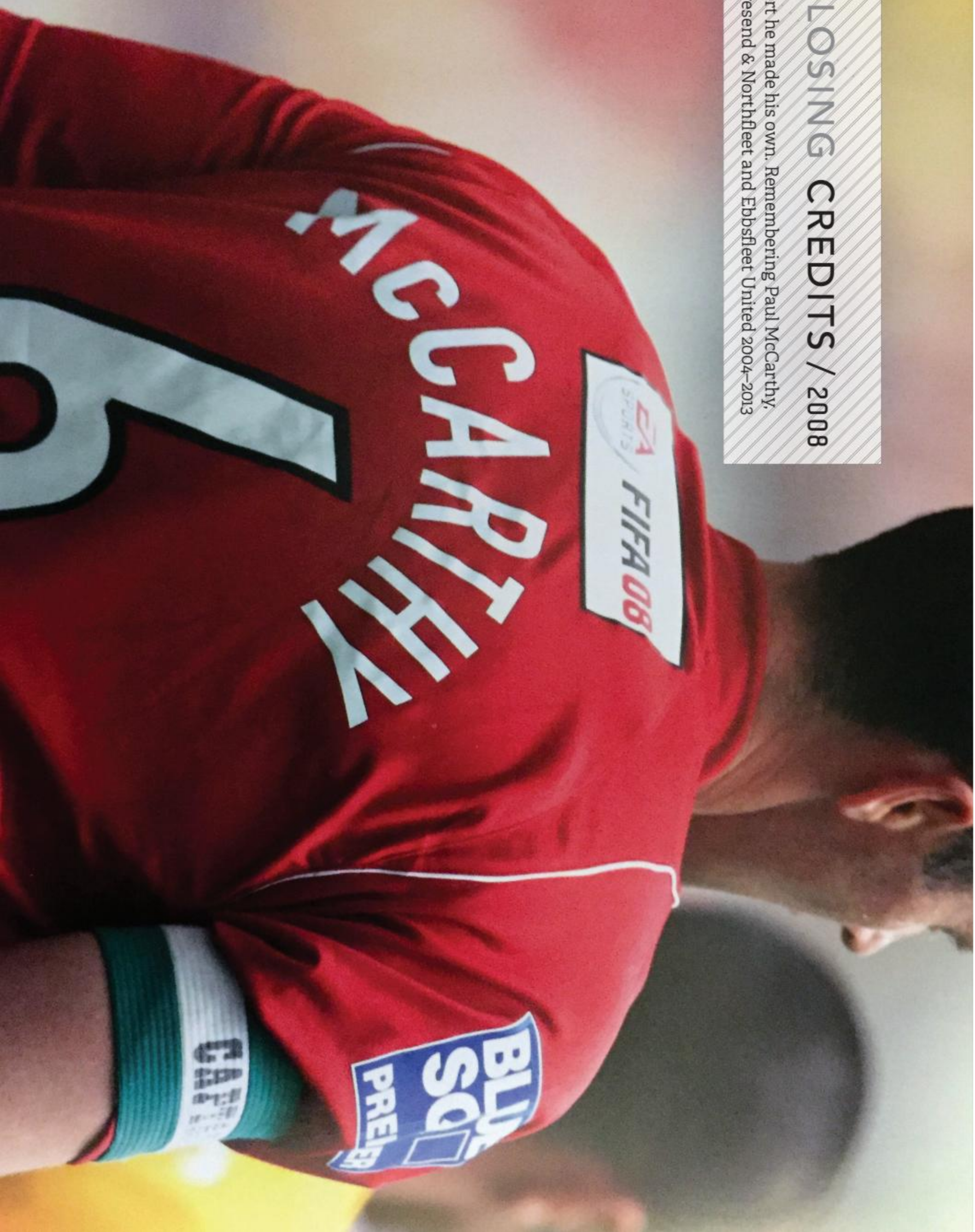
Everyone is invited to the riverside at St Andrew's Arts Centre at 1.30pm where the parade will begin. It will then go up the High Street, down Jury Street and on down to St George's church and the Pocahontas statue. 📍





CLOSING CREDITS / 2008

NO.6 The shirt he made his own. Remembering Paul McCarthy, 1971–2017; Gravesend & Northfleet and Ebbsfleet United 2004–2013



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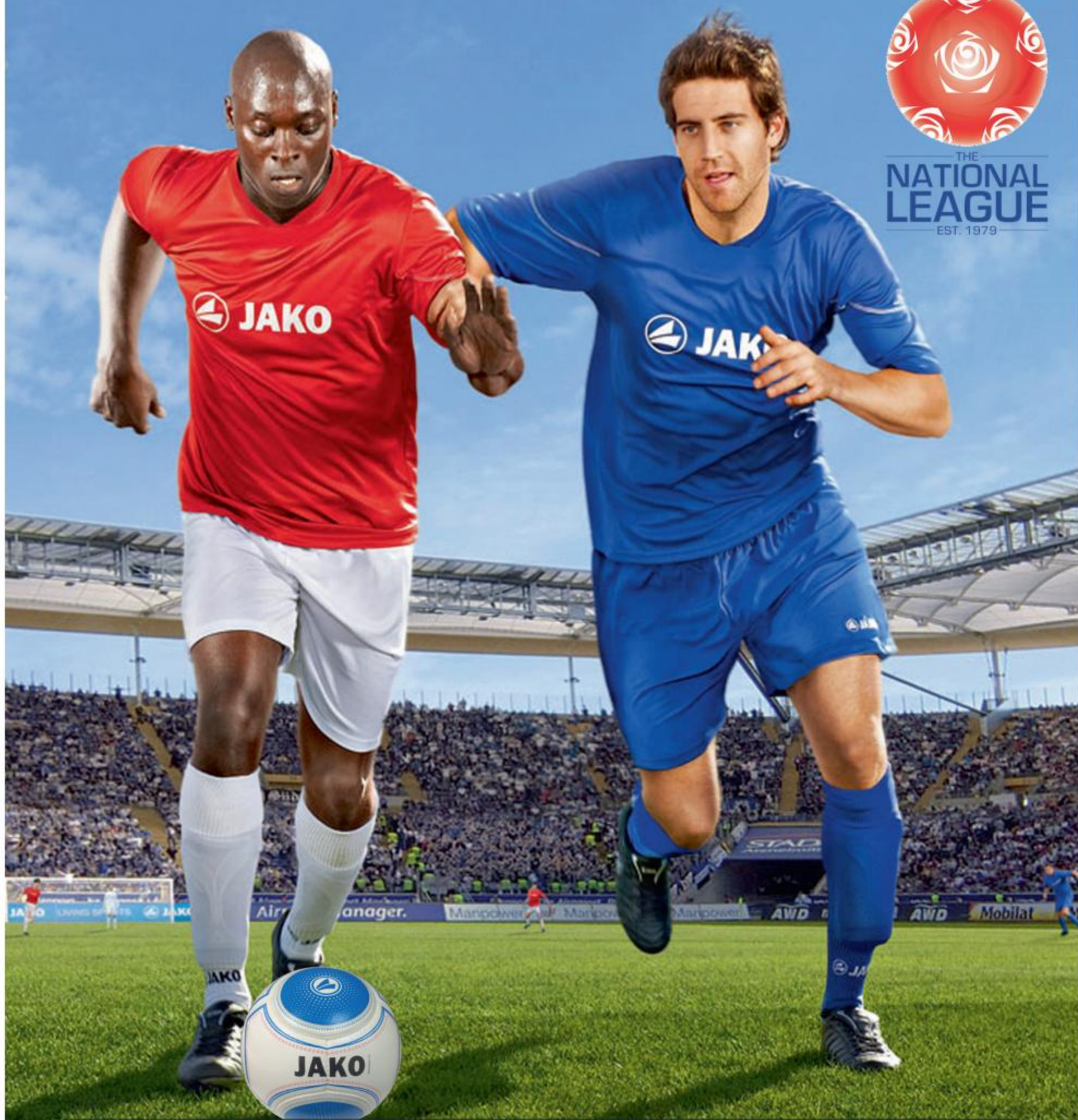


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 Marvin **McCOY**
 Aaron **McLEAN**
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 Mark **PHILLIPS**
 Jack **POWELL**
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 Dave **WINFIELD**

Away

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Lee **BURNS**
 Michael **CLARK**
 George **CRADDOCK**
 Marvel **EKPITETA**
 Marvin **EKPITETA**
 Michael **FREITER**
 Reece **HARRIS**
 Loui **HAZELWOOD**
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 Sam **HIGGINS**
 Harry **HONESTY**
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 Kye **RUEL**
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 James **WALKER**
 Ben **WOOD**
 Tom **WRAIGHT**



EAST THURROCK UNITED FC



Referee **Paul Howard**



Assistants **Michael Marsh, Isaac Searle**



NEXT AT HOME

Saturday, March 18th
v Weston-super-Mare



NEXT AWAY

Saturday, March 11th
v St Albans City

