

RAG OF THE ROVERS



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF STANWAY ROVERS • ISSUE 9 • £2.00



versus

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN FC

Saturday 6th January 2024 | 15:00

Essex Senior League

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WELCOME TO THE HAWTHORNS HOME OF STANWAY ROVERS

CLUB OFFICIALS

President Richard Degville
Vice President Dennis Clark
Patron Ivan Senter

TRUSTEES

Richard Degville, Dennis Clark,
Steve Blake, David Jones

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Kevin Mather
Vice Chairman Steve Blake
General Manager Jerry Carter
Director of Football Andrew Partner
Head of Youth Kevin Lay
Head of Women's Football Leo King

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Joint Managers
Rick Andrews & Jamie Shaw
Head Coach
Jon Moody

NON-FOOTBALL STAFF

Club Secretary Mark Hayton
Groundsman Robert Ritchie
Media Manager Vacant
Programme Editor Vacant
Commercial Manager Vacant

Good Afternoon.

Welcome to back to The Hawthorns for today's Essex Senior League fixture, this afternoon we entertain, Saffron Walden Town FC. We extend a very warm welcome to their Players, Staff and Supporters who have made the trip to be with us.

Saffron Walden Town FC arrive here today 12th in the Essex Senior League, with 29 points from 19 games played. 9 wins, 2 draws and 8 defeats.

Stanway currently sit 13th in the league with 28 points from 23 games played - 8 wins 4 draws, and 11 defeats.

Enjoy the game and Up The Rovers!



ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

LEAGUE STANDINGS



POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	TILBURY FC	20	14	3	3	32	45
2	SPORTING BENGAL UNITED FIRST	23	13	5	5	12	44
3	ROMFORD FIRST	23	13	4	6	16	43
4	WOODFORD TOWN FC	22	11	7	4	22	40
5	GREAT WAKERING ROVERS FC	21	11	5	5	28	38
6	HALSTEAD TOWN FC	24	11	5	8	5	38
7	WEST ESSEX FC	21	10	6	5	21	36
8	HULLBRIDGE SPORTS FC	23	10	5	8	3	35
9	ATHLETIC NEWHAM FC	22	11	1	10	6	34
10	BARKING FC	22	9	6	7	0	33
11	LITTLE OAKLEY FIRST	22	8	6	8	2	30
12	SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN FIRST	19	9	2	8	-2	29
13	STANWAY ROVERS COMMUNITY FIRST	23	8	4	11	1	28
14	FC CLACTON FIRST	22	7	5	10	-9	26
15	WHITE ENSIGN FC	20	6	7	7	-2	25
16	TAKELEY FC	22	6	6	10	-12	24
17	BUCKHURST HILL FC	22	7	2	13	-18	23
18	FRENFORD FC	23	6	4	13	-18	22
19	ILFORD FC	25	4	4	17	-45	16
20	COGGESHALL TOWN FC	23	2	3	18	-42	9

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THE HISTORY OF STANWAY ROVERS FC



Records show that the current Stanway Rovers reformed on Tuesday 10th July 1956. However local newspaper cuttings tell us that there was a football club operating in the Stanway area in the early 1900's.

We were accepted into Division 2 of the Colchester & East Essex League, and by 1960 we had gained promotions to the Premier Division.

In 1967/68 the Rovers won the Colchester & East Essex League, and the 1973-74 season saw Stanway Rovers enjoying their most successful season to date when they won the League title and all the other competitions trophies.

1975-76 season saw the first team join the Essex & Suffolk Border League playing in Division 1.

In 1979, the 'home' of the Rovers was subject of discussion with the Local Authority, who agreed to lease the Club 4.6 acres of land in New Farm Road for a 99 year period. Stanway Rovers finally had its own home – and the first wooden Clubhouse was opened on 18th November 1982, carrying the name of The Hawthorns after the shrub which grew prolifically in the area at the time.



Despite failing to receive a grant from the National Lottery, the Club finished the rebuilding of its current Headquarters at the Hawthorns – the Members Bar, Committee/Board Room and the Hawthorn suite of function rooms being officially opened on 28th March 2001 by Colchester MP Bob Russell.

In November 2003 Jim McIntyre was appointed Manager with Ian 'Dan' Daly joining him assistant a few months later They set about assembling a good squad of players and after 14 seasons in Division One, in 2006 the Rovers were crowned Division 1 Champions and promoted to Step 5 for the first time in our history where we have remained ever since



The 2017-18 season saw major changes take place with the departure of the Chairman and the FA decision to move the club to the Essex Senior League.

A new management team of Fisher and Jones took charge of the team but following the appointment of a new Chairman, in the form of Dave Jones, Angelo Harrop returned to the club as Director of Football and he and Jones appointed a new manager; Terry Spillane. Spillane guided Rovers to safety before leaving the club.

The 19-20 season heralded a new era under Danny Slatter and a return to the Eastern Counties league but unfortunately both the 19/20 and 20/21 were aborted due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The 21/22 season saw the club move sideways back into the Essex Senior League under the continued leadership of Chairman Dave Jones and Manager Danny Slatter. At the beginning of the 2022/23 season Dave Jones stepped down and remained as Trustee, Kev Mather took the role as Chairman moving forwards.

THE HISTORY OF SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN FC



Saffron Walden Town FC was formed in 1872, and are the oldest club in Essex still in existence, and the 19th oldest in the world. Arthur Smith negotiated the use of the present field in Catons Lane which became known as "The Meadow", The "Bloods" as they are known, because of the red in the club colours were founder members of the Essex County Football Association in 1882. The clubs first ever league match was at Halsted Town in 1899 in the Haverhill & District League. They won this league title in the 1908-09 season for the first time. It was not their first championship, for in 1907-08 Walden entered the Stansted & District League for the first time and won without losing a game, they won the league six more times before 1924. Just before the First World War Saffron Walden took part in the Cambs, Senior League, and after the war, between 1922-25 they took part in the Cambridge Football League. The thirties were a 'golden era' for the bloods. The Second World War saw a dip in the clubs fortunes; they had no success until finishing runners up in the premier Division of the Herts County League in 1969. In 1971 with nine other clubs Saffron Walden Town FC became founder members of The Essex Senior League. As champions they moved into the Eastern Counties League in 1974-75 season. In October 1979 they were able to pay for a set of floodlights. In 1982-83 local manager John Ryan embarked on a run of 29 unbeaten games. Walden was elected into a new division of the Isthmian League at the start of the new football 'pyramid' system in 1984. After several strong pushes for promotion into division one of the Isthmian League, a bombshell was delivered in 1996 when the Isthmian League introduced a rule change regarding the sloping pitch at Catons Lane, deeming it to have "excessive undulations". After twelve years in the competition, Walden had to resign from the League or face massive fines and were effectively demoted two divisions in the 'pyramid' when accepted into the Essex Senior League. With the loss of the manager and almost the entire playing squad it took the return of local player Stuart Wardley from Bishops Stortford FC in 1998 to help turn things around, that season they came third in the league and won the Harry Fisher Trophy and Uttlesford Charity Cup. Stuart Wardley was sold to QPR at the end of the season where he went on to become their top scorer and 'Supporters Player' of the year in his first season. The "Bloods" had their best season ever in 1999-2000, winning five trophies. Despite the great success, the club was unable to progress in the 'pyramid' because of the sloping pitch. In August 2000 work began on reducing the slope. The club finished second in the league even with playing away from home the whole season and although qualifying for promotion were unable to do so as ground work was incomplete. In 2001 the loss of income and massive debts meant the club were in financial trouble and tough measures were needed to the club back on a sound footing. The next season saw no competitive football for the "Bloods" as they had to "sit out" a year before being allowed to transfer from the Essex Senior League to the Ridgeons (Eastern Counties) League The 2004-05 season saw SWTFC back in the Ridgeons competition after an absence of 20 years, and after a slow start, the club finished in 15th place. The 2005-6 season saw the Bloods finish twelfth in the League while winning the Saffron Walden Cup. 2006-2007 saw success in the South Midlands Floodlight Cup as well as reaching the Final of the Ridgeons League Division One Cup as the Club continued to develop. In 2006-2007 Walden were the best supported club in the Ridgeons League First Division and also the third best supported club within Step Six of the football pyramid in the entire Country. 2012 was an eventful year for Saffron Walden Town FC. Following a decision to withdraw from the Eastern Counties League for financial reasons, footballing activities at Saffron Walden Town in 2011- 12 focused on the SWTFC Youth Teams. Youth activities are central to the future of the Football Club and every Saturday the regular Soccer School provides coaching for around 150 children with a dozen or so SWT Youth Teams playing League football aged from Under 9s through to Under 16s. In March 2012 a Public Meeting in the Town - which saw around a hundred people attend - agreed to form a new Committee and set forward a huge amount of activity to bring Senior Football back to Saffron Walden. This culminated in a return to the Eastern Counties League in 2012-2013 where both the first and reserve teams had solid seasons and were in promotion contention for much of the season. The return of some familiar faces strengthened the squad for 2014-15 and with the Club now established as a Community Benefit Society and with Stuart Wardley in the manager's seat the club won promotion for both its First and Reserves teams. A difficult first half to the season which saw the Bloods fail to win at home in the League before Christmas was transformed in the New Year with the First Team climbing the table to finish comfortably in the top half ahead of both Swaffham Town and Long Melford who were both promoted with the Bloods the previous season. Despite the poor start to the season, 2015-16 saw the Bloods fine support out in force: being the best supported club in the TN Premier Division, Reserves League and Youth League. 2016-2017 saw another season of solid performances and good attendances. The team once more finished in the top half of the table while off the field sadly lost our club president and historian Paul daw who passed away in 2017 and will be sorely missed.