

V BRACKLEY TOWN WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025 ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE 7.30PM KICK OFF















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# INSIDE TODAY...

### **V BRACKLEY TOWN**

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025 ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE







| WELCOME

We welcome you all to another thrilling league encounter

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Steve Pitt looks ahead to another tough game

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We welcome Brackley Town to Essex

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IRON FILINGS

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WE'VE MET BEFORE

Previous meetings between the two sides

# BRAINTREE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Founded 1898 Incorporated 1986 Companies House 02050949

Address: The Rare Breed Meat Co. Stadium, off Clockhouse Way, Braintree, Essex CM7 3DF

Telephone: 01376 345617

Website: www.braintreetownfc.org.uk

E-mail: info@braintreetownfc.org.uk

Board of Directors: Lee Harding (Chairman), Vic Dixon (Vice Chairman) and Alan Stuckey. Associates: David Green (Hospitality), Alan Robson and Adrian Marston (Secretary)

Life member: Dik Bambrick, Barry Shepherd

Manager: Steve Pitt

Assistant Manager: Karl Duguid. Coach: David Blackmore

Secretary: Adrian Marston
Press Officer: David Ward,
Clubhouse Steward: Matt Amos,
Groundsman: The Lawn Doctor,
Kit Men: Robert Barlow & Richard Nott,
Safety Officer: Andy Gill

Turnstile Supervisor: Dik Bambrick.

#### PRINCIPAL HONOURS

National League

Play-offs for promotion to the Football League 2016

South Division Champions 2011

South Division Play-off winners 2018 & 2024

South Division Play off finalists 2007 South Division Play offs 2007, 2008, 2018, 2023 & 2024

Isthmian League

Champions 2006

Play-offs 2005

Division One promoted 2001

Division Two runners up 1998

Division Three runners up 1997

Eastern Counties League

Champions 1937, 1984 & 1985

Cup winners 1988

Football Association

Challenge Cup 2nd Round 2016

First Round 5 occasions

### Club ownership

The Club is owned by Braintree Town Football Club Limited. No one person or entity has overall control of this company. The shareholders that have a significant interest in this company (who own more than 10% of the authorised and issued shares) are as follows: L Harding 38.78%, The Estate of K.Cowell & Cowell & Coper Ltd 38.78% & V Dixon 10.33%

# FROM THE BOARDROOM



Good evening everyone and welcome to all associated with Brackley Town for an unusual event for us here at Braintree - a Wednesday evening National League fixture!

While we were well beaten at Chelmsford on Saturday in the FA Cup, the competition was kinder to our guests who worked hard to hold League two side Notts County to a 2-2 draw after extra time and then they were successful in the ensuing penalty shootout - needless to say we wish them well in the second round and thereafter.

Saturday afternoon's defeat at Chelmsford was a disappointing and difficult one for all at the club to take - as I think manager Steve Pitt said after the game.

# ... COLLECTIVELY WE FELT WE GOT OUR PREPARATION RIGHT AND HAD SPENT THE DAYS BEFORE THE TIE FOCUSING ON THE JOB AT HAND...

Collectively we felt we got our preparation right and had spent the days before the tie focusing on the job at hand.

But there's no hiding from the fact we were second best on the day and I know that our manager and players will be reflecting on that and Steve will be looking at the squad and resources at his disposal as we now focus on a return to our league campaign.

Looking ahead Saturday he sees us with a relatively local trip round to Ruislip Manor's old ground to play Wealdstone before we return here a week on Saturday when we welcome Truro City.

Finally, we hope to have another batch of Home and Away replica shirts available this evening. This will probably be the last batch that we receive prior to Christmas. So - although it's only early November and I really don't like talking about Christmas this early - if you're after a replica shirt, see Jon in the Club Shop tonight.

Enjoy the game.

# WEEKEND REVIEW

NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUBS BURST INTO THE FA CUP WITH SHOCKS A PLENTY SERVED UP ON SATURDAY.



EFL clubs were sent packing with upsets everywhere you look - and there were some vital Enterprise National League North and South results recorded as well.

Carlisle United completed an incredible comeback to triumph at Reading. Two goals down, they looked out in the 93rd minute of the match.

But Regan Linney was having none of it - he scored twice in the remaining seconds and then again in extra time to complete a stunning reversal in a breathless match in Berkshire.

Today's opponents Brackley Town also took a big scalp -Notts County defeated on penalties after a 2-2 draw. Gavin Cowan's side were behind twice but Callum Stewart in the 96th minute kept their hopes alive and they were composed from the spot.

Gateshead became the fourth National League club to embarrass AFC Wimbledon in the FA Cup in the last five years. The Heed won 2-0 at Plough Lane against the League One club, Kain Adom and Fenton John scored in the capital.

Boreham Wood are on the march once again. Matt Rush scored once again as Crawley Town were knocked out, it ended 3-0.

Slough Town defeated Altrincham at Arbour Park with Wiktor Makowski scoring what turned out to be the winner.

No side will want to face Macclesfield next. A stunning 6-3 win over AFC Totton was lit up by a brilliant Danny Elliott hat-trick.

Chelmsford City were too good for Essex rivals Braintree Town. Lyle Taylor was at the double at a packed Melbourne Park as the day kicked off with an early scalp.

Weston-super-Mare ended Aldershot Town's hopes of a run, the Seagulls soaring into the second round. Kiban Rai put the Shots ahead but Emlyn Lewis made it 1-1 in the closing stages. It went Weston's way in extra time with James Waite mobbed after clinching their progress.

Wealdstone are also through after making the most of an early red card with Olufela Olomola's sending Southend United out in another all-National League match.

Buxton are also through after beating Chatham Town 201, Tate Campbell and Connor Kirby were the heroes.

Despite their poor season, Sutton United are through again. Ashley Nadesan separated the Us and AFC Telford United.

It was late heartache for York City, who went down to a very late winner at Barnsley while it was penalty kick agony for Hemel Hempstead Town at 2013 winners Wigan.

There was no luck for FC Halifax Town, Scunthorpe United, Chester, Ebbsfleet United or Spennymoor Town who all failed to make it through.



# FROM THE DUGOUT

## BRAINTREE TOWN BOSS STEVE PITT LOOKS AHEAD TO THIS EVENING'S ENCOUNTER



Welcome to Cressing Road as we return to League action against Brackley Town and we extend our welcome to all the players, management and supporters of the club.

Reflecting slightly on our last home league game against Altrincham, in fairness I thought we deservedly earned a point and had a clean sheet to boot. But we did more than enough to have scored to have won the game when again we had so many shots at their goal.

It's just that final effort in the last third when attacking that we missed the opportunity to score while defensively I thought we were outstanding again in this match.

I'm confident if we keeping working hard in the direction we're going we will score and win matches, which we have to do. It wasn't idea preparation for the match as we found out Mason Terry had suffered a broken hand. We were able to obtain Jack Thompson in on loan from Derby County and despite his age, I felt he was excellent and was just what we needed. He excelled all afternoon and it was interesting it was not until the 75 minutes did he have a severe shot to save.

It was all a bit frantic at the last moment to get him in and on board. I did all my due diligence to find out about him and I'm pleased it's worked out well and just in this game he showed what an asset he will be to us whilst here.

We have to address what happened in the FA Cup last weekend and I can only apologise to the supporters of the club for the performance. There are bad days at the office and then there was what was served up by my players on Saturday. It simply wasn't good enough. Not aggressive enough in any way, shape or form. Poor decision making. We weren't remotely in the game and we deserved what we got. I'm absolutely devastated. I genuinely thought we had built a foundation to be competitive in the game. We worked hard all week, studied the opposition well and worked accordingly. They were better than us in every department and full credit to them. I wanted to achieve a little bit of history with the club so to have that performance, live on TV too, was just unacceptable.

I'm not going to offer up any excuses or accept any from the players. We have let the club down, we've let the supporters down. I'm looking for a response of worth... and it starts today.

Steve.

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# IN TOWN TODAY

**BRACKLEY TOWN** 





Brackley is a small but growing Northamptonshire market town of around 15000 inhabitants situated between Northampton, Milton Keynes and Oxford. The nearest point of reference for many people would be the Silverstone motor racing circuit and Formula One has a big presence in the town as the base for the multiple world championship winning Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team

### THE MOVE TO ST JAMES PARK

In 1974 the club moved back to the North Bucks League and this coincided with a move to the current St James Park ground. A small clubhouse and changing rooms were built and within 3 years the major step up into the Hellenic League was made. They stayed in Division One until 1983 before moving into the United Counties League, winning the Division One title at the first attempt and gaining promotion into the Premier Division.

Then followed some difficult years with even the very survival of the club in doubt. The 1992/93 season ended with the ignominious

distinction of having the worst playing record of any senior side in the country. It was only the fact that others did not have the required facilities for promotion that they were spared relegation.

But in 1994 they moved back across the pyramid into the Hellenic League and fortunes improved dramatically with former manager Phil Lines returning and in 1996/97 winning the Premier Division title. Minor miracles were then performed in order to make the ground suitable for elevation into Southern League.

With finances at full stretch however, the club was forced into voluntary liquidation in February 1999. It was saved at the last minute to ensure that the season was completed.

The "new" club finished bottom of the Southern Section and were therefore demoted back into the Hellenic League. The 2003/04 season saw an exciting run-in and the championship shield lifted on the last day of the season and with it promotion back to the Southern League.

Mike Ford took over as manager in October 2004, guiding the team to the fringes of the play-off positions. Ford departed in February 2006 with the club again just outside the promotion frame. Phil Lines and his Assistant Andy Sinnott took over and guided the club to a third place finish culminating in the heartbreak of losing in the last few minutes of the play-off final.

The 2006/07 season finally saw the team fulfil its potential. Leading the table from early December, the league was won at a canter. Lines then stepped aside and the club appointed the experienced Roger Ashby as they took the step into unknown territory at Step 3.

With Lines once again back at the helm an eleventh-placed finish in 2008/09 consolidated Premier Division status and the club's growing ambitions and proceeds from a successful FA Cup run, reaching the first round proper for the first time, brought a new all-seater stand behind one goal to match the newly constructed, small covered terrace at the cricket ground end.

# IN TOWN TODAY

# **BRACKLEY TOWN**



The FA Cup run that ended at Eastwood Town was matched by a first appearance in the first round proper of the FA Trophy. Cup success was topped off by a third appearance in the Senior Cup Final and in April 2009 a new era was ushered in by the appointment from the playing staff of former Kettering Town and Rushden and Diamonds player, Aussie Jon Brady as Lines' managerial successor.

2011/12 saw arguably the most successful season in the club's history to that point culminating in winning the Southern League Premier Division and a second Senior Cup victory. The team lifted the Southern League shield at a jubilant St James Park after a 6-0 thrashing of St Albans City.

### INTO CONFERENCE NORTH (STEP TWO)

The new season had seen the start of major ground improvements including new changing rooms, terracing, improved parking and the upgrading of the floodlights.

The first season in the Conference North began with a 4-1 win at Altrincham to announce the arrival of Brackley Town at Step 2 and saw the side make it all the way to the play-off final losing by a single goal to FC Halifax Town at St James Park.

The 2013/14 season brought a 7th-placed finish and FA Cup success beating Division One Gillingham at St James Park in a 1st round replay on live TV. The addition of an artificial grass pitch was a further big boost to the club as it expanded its community programme and improved training facilities.

There followed two difficult seasons each of which ended in fairy-tale escapes at the wrong of the table with last day wins. In April 2015 only three wins from three could

save the Saints and, with two wins in the bag, a 1-0 home win over Hednesford on the final day of the season courtesy of Ryan Rowe's stunning late strike saved the day against all odds.

Jon Brady's time in charge ended in October 2015 with ex-Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair taking temporary charge before former Cobblers striker and Nuneaton and Wrexham manager Kevin Wilkin was appointed to the hot seat.

Wilkin led an FA Cup charge to the first round, losing only in a replay at league side Newport County, but the team laboured at the wrong end of the table until only a last day combination of a Brackley win at home against Tamworth and results elsewhere going their way would be enough to maintain National League North status. For a second successive season the remarkable happened and Glenn Walker's goal allied to Lowestoft's inability to beat Gloucester City brought another heart-stopping afternoon that ultimately saw the Saints survive on goal difference only.

Rumours of moves into National League South proved unfounded and a fifth season in National League North saw Wilkin's side finish just a single point outside the play-off places. The season also saw great cup success reaching Round 2 in the FA Cup having beaten League One Gillingham (again!) in a televised replay at St James Park in Round 1.

The 4-3 win every bit as thrilling as you might expect from the score-line and including James Armson's hattrick

The quarter-final stage was reached in the FA Trophy with defeat at eventual winners York City. Further milestones in 2016-17 were reached

by Glenn Walker and Steve Diggin each completing 200 games for the club.

The 2024-25 season will be remembered for its dramatic conclusion and the enormous achievement of amassing 92 points and 29 wins and finishing ahead of the likes of Kidderminster, Scunthorpe, Chester and Hereford.

The final day denouement needed a Brackley win over relegated Farsley Celtic at St James Park and the unlikely scenario of Kidderminster dropping points at Southport.

A thumping win in front of home supporters delivered the first part and Harriers slipped up at Haig Avenue as the stars aligned. When the news came through of the final whistle at Southport wild celebrations erupted at St James Park as finally Brackley Town had made it to the National League and as final day champions.

There would be no more play-off tension and heart-ache. Incredible away form of 14 wins and just five defeats and a six game final winning run-in conceding just once sealed a two point lead over Scunthorpe as Kidderminster finished third.

And for the 2025-26 season a new chapter opens up with fresh challenges, new teams to play and new grounds to visit – a test on the pitch and off it but one eagerly embraced and let's see where energy and enthusiasm, commitment to the cause and enduring club values can take us.

### THREE TO WATCH

### CAMERON GREGORY: GOALKEEPER

Cameron joined Shrewsbury Town at under 15 level and was awarded a scholarship in the same year.

Whilst still a scholar he was called

# IN TOWN TODAY

**BRACKLEY TOWN** 





up to the first team squad but was an unused substitute in a 3-2 away win, at Coventry City in the EFL Trophy.

He also made the bench in the EFL Trophy games against West Bromwich Albion and Walsall and in May 2018 he signed his first professional contract. In September 2018 he joined National League South side Chippenham Town on a month-long loan and further loan spells followed at the likes of Halesowen Town and Kidderminster Harriers. Gregory signed a new deal at Shrewsbury that would keep him at the club until 2022 but in October 2020 he moved on loan once again this time to Hednesford Town.

Following his release from Shrewsbury Town at the end of the 2021/22 season he joined Kettering Town before signing for Boston United in January 2023. He departed the club at the end of the 2024/25 season. Cameron joined Brackley in July 2025 and made his debut for them in August in the home game against Eastleigh.

### SHANE BYRNE: MIDFIELDER

Shane joined Brackley in July 2024 after a career that began at Leicester City. He was part of the youth team set-up that reached the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup.

In August 2011 he moved on loan to Bury, initially on a three month loan and made his professional debut against Sheffield United in September 2011.

He was released by the Shakers in August 2013 and joined Irish club Bray Wanderers in 2014. Spells followed at Corby Town, Nuneaton Town before he moved to Brackley for the 2016/17 season and ended up being a FA Trophy winner.

Spells followed at Boston United

and Kidderminster Harriers before re-joining Brackley in July 2024.

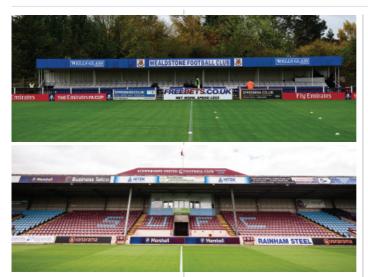
### MIRACLE OKAFOR: FORWARD

The highly-rated 23 year old returned to St James Park permanently for an undisclosed fee, having spent two months on loan previously. He opened his Saints account at Rushall Olympic in our 1-0 win back in November.

Okafor joined Tamworth in the summer having completed two excellent goal scoring seasons, first he netted 27 goals for Sporting Khalsa in the Northern Premier League in 2022/23, and then last season he scored 21 times for Halesowen Town in the Southern League Premier Central. He started his career at in Scunthorpe United's u21 academy before spells at Alvechurch, Guiseley and Stourbridge before joining Sporting Khalsa in January 2022.

# AROUND THE GROUND

### ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE RARE BREED MEAT STADIUM



### SUPPORTERS CLUB

### Membership

Braintree Town Independent Supporters Club are continuing to take new members for the 2025-26 season. We had 249 members last season. We have almost 200 members signed up for this season so far. Application forms are available from the Club Shop. Membership fees remain £3 for Adults & Youths aged 16 and over and £1 for Youths aged under 16.

#### Volunteers Needed!

Supporters willing to volunteer their time to assist us with activities are always very welcome.

### **Away Travel**

We have a coach departing for Wealdstone on Saturday 8th November at 11.40am. Prices are £22 working Adults; £20 Adult concessions: £13 Under 16s. Nonmembers pay an additional £4.

We have a coach departing for Scunthorpe on Saturday 22nd November at 9.25am. Prices are £33 working Adults; £30 Adult concessions: £20 Under 16s. Nonmembers pay an additional £6.

All trips are subject to receiving sufficient interest from amongst supporters.

If you are joining us for any trip, we would expect & be grateful for deposits to be provided in advance.

Please note that if you are unable to make payment in cash you can make an online payment to the ISC Account using the following details:

Business Account Name: Braintree Town Independent Supporters Club

Account Number: 01047880

Sort Code: 30 91 14

If you make payment online or via your bank then please give your full name as the reference and inform me separately that you have made a payment. Posters are up around the ground. Everyone is welcome to place their name & deposit for any trips by seeing an agent around the ground, at our designated table in the clubhouse or in the Club Shop.

### The John Welford Rumble

The John Welford Rumble continues to be very popular. The jackpot currently stands at £675.

If you correctly predict the outcome to all seven selected (ordinarily National League) fixtures, (Home win, Away Win or Draw) you will win or share the jackpot. If you predict the outcome for six of the seven fixtures then you will receive a cash prize of  $\pounds 20$ .

Supporters can complete their Rumble by seeing the Rumble agents around the ground, at our designated table in the clubhouse or in the Club Shop. This must be submitted and paid for prior to kick-off or will not be accepted.

### Upcoming Social / Fundraising Events

Everyone is invited to take part in our upcoming Quiz Night which will be held in the clubhouse on Saturday 29th November, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. £4 per person - Teams up to 6 people. There will be great prizes to be won for the winning team. This quiz will be hosted by David & Carol Bland.

A Raffle will be held on the night. Any donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received. It is always good fun and we hope as many of you as possible can attend.

### **CLUB SHOP**

The new supply of home and away shirts are expected to be available

by the next home game v Truro City. Quite a few of these have been reserved, as we recommended.

We strongly suggest that you speak to Jon or Russell as soon as possible to reserve one and ensure that you are not disappointed.

We have received a number of match-worn home and away shirts from the promotion winning 2023-24 season, complete with name and number. These are £15 each, and are proving very popular!

Free 2025-26 team postcards are available from the turnstiles, bar area and club shop. Make sure to pick up yours.

We have also received a small supply of zip tops in various colours and sizes. The adult ones are £30, and kid sizes are £25.

We have a new club metal badge, complete with a scroll that reads 2025-26. This is our second new badge of the season, following on from the '100 YEARS IN ORANGE & BLUE' design that has been selling well throughout pre-season.

Both of these badges are £3 each, and they are complimented by several hundred other badges from clubs at all levels of the game. The 2025-26 scroll comes in two colours.

The shop is the place to go to for beanies (a choice of three colours), and baseball caps. If you are after one of the new bucket hats, you can get those from the Merchandise

Kiosk in the right-hand corner of the ground.

Scarves, key rings, fridge magnets, pennants, pens can all be purchased for cash today, and there is also a quantity of retro football shirts at a bargain £5 each. New ones are coming in all the time.

# CHANGING ROOM ESSENTIALS

At our recent home game with Altrincham, we welcomed C.R.E. (Changing Room Essentials) to the Rare Breed Meat Co Stadium. They supplied the team with C.R.E. v2 grip socks, pro tapes and SiS energy gel.





As the name suggests they supply teams at all levels with all the essential equipment that a matchday changing room can possibly need, from as little as £19 per game.

### **LOAN WATCH**

Fletcher Alexander-Hubbard's loan at Brentwood is over, and he was back in the Iron squad for Saturday's game at Chelmsford. Freddie Hockey played the whole game in Billericay's 5-0 home F.A. Trophy defeat against Bishop's Stortford.

Then 8 days ago he came off the bench to score the Blues' 3rd goal as they defeated Potters Bar Town 3-1. On Saturday he again came off the bench during the 2-1 loss at Folkestone Invicta.

### **ESSEX COMETS U9**

At our last home game we welcomed Essex Comets U9 to the Rare Breed Meat Co. Stadium.

The Thurrock based boys met Buddy before the game, played a game on the pitch in front of the main stand and had their photo taken with the first team.

To cap it all off they then walked out onto the pitch with the team! Everyone enjoyed their day, it was just such a pity that we couldn't rustle up a goal

# HARTLEPOOL VISIT - NEW DATE

Game deferred by 24 hours to Sunday, 21st DAZN and the National League are delighted to announce a feast of football across the Christmas period, kicking off with the 12 Games of Christmas.

As a result, Braintree Town's Enterprise League fixture at home to Hartlepool United has been switched from Saturday, 20th December, to the following day: Sunday, 21st December, with kickoff at (please note) 2pm.

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# THE ROAD AHEAD

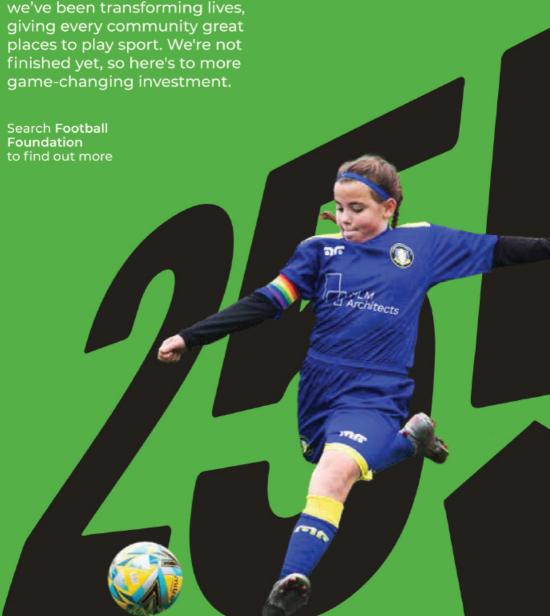
## ALL THE IRON STATS FROM THE 2025/2026 CAMPAIGN

DATE	OPPO	F/A	ATT	TEAM					
Sat Aug 9	FC HALIFAX TOWN	3-0	1011	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	Smith •	F.Terry	Vennings
Tue Aug 12	LEICESTER CITY (NLCup1)	2-0	291	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	Smith**	F.Terry*****	Judge***
Sat Aug 16	Hartlepool United	0-2	3424	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	Smith	F.Terry	Miranda
Wed Aug 20	Boreham Wood	1-2	974	M.Terry	K.Smith	F-Clarke	T.Smith •	F.Terry •	Miranda
Sat Aug 23	YEOVIL TOWN	1-0	1009	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	T.Smith	K.Smith •	Miranda****
Mon Aug 25	Carlisle United	0-5	6761	M.Terry	K.Smith***	Langston	T.Smith	F-Clarke	Miranda
Sat Aug 30	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	0-0	1007	M.Terry	K.Smith •	T.Smith	F.Terry	F-Clarke	Miranda
Tue Sep 2	TAMWORTH	1-2	931	M.Terry	K.Smith *	T.Smith	F.Terry	F-Clarke	Omoroe
Sat Sep 6	Rochdale	0-2	2,562	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston****	T.Smith*	F.Terry	Miranda
Sat Sep 13	YORK CITY	2-3	1,409	M.Terry	Pinnington**		F-Clarke	F.Terry****	Vennings
Tue Sep 16	NOTTS FOREST (NLCup2)	1-0	244	M.Terry	Pinnington	Langston	F-Clarke	F.Terry	Omrore
Sat Sep 20	Eastleigh	3-1	2,132	M.Terry •	Pinnington	Langston	F-Clarke	F.Terry	Vennings
Wed Sep 24	Boston United	0-2	1,356	M.Terry	Pinnington	Langston	F-Clarke	F.Terry	Vennings
Sat Sep 27	GATESHEAD	1-2	1,007	M.Terry	Pinnington**	**Langston	F-Clarke	Clayton	Miranda
Tue Sep 30	Aldershot Town	1-1	1,567	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	F.Terry	Pinnington	Vennings •
Sat Oct 4	SUTTON UNITED	0-0	1,042	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	F.Terry	Pinnington	Babic
Sat Oct 11	FARNBOROUGH (FAC4Q)	2-0	606	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston	F.Terry	Pinnington	Miranda
Sat Oct 18	Solihull Moors 12.30pm	0-2	885	M.Terry	F-Clarke	Langston •	F.Terry	Pinnington •	Miranda 🔵
Tue Oct 21	WEST BROM (NLCup 3)	2-3	169	Gray	F-Clarke	Smith*	F.Terry	Pinnington	Omrore***
Sat Oct 25	ALTRINCHAM	0-0	901	Thompson	Pinnington	F-Clarke	Langston	Terry	Miranda
Tue Oct 28	Tilbury (ESC3)	1-8	123	Athersmith		G-Morriss*		d McPherson	Murphy
Sat Nov 1	Chelmsford City (FAC1)	1-4	3,502		Pinnington	F-Clarke		Terry	Miranda***
Wed Nov 5	BRACKLEY TOWN		-,					,	
Sat Nov 8	Wealdstone								
Sat Nov 15	TRURO CITY								
Sat Nov 22	Scunthorpe United								
Tue Nov 25	WOLVERHAMPTON WAND	ERERS (1	NLCup4) 7P	М					
Sat Nov 29	MORECAMBE	,							
Sat Dec 6	FC Halifax Town (or FAC2)								
Sat Dec 13	TBA (FAT3)								
Sun Dec 21	HARTLEPOOL UNITED 2pm								
Fri Dec 26	SOUTHEND UNITED								
Tue Dec 30	Woking								
Sat Jan 3	Yeovil Town								
Sat Jan 10	(Date of FAT4)								
Sat Jan 17	BOREHAM WOOD								
Tue Jan 20	BOSTON UNITED								
Sat Jan 24	York City								
Wed Jan 28	(Date of NLCupQF)								
Sat Jan 31	EASTLEIGH								
Sat Feb 7	Gateshead								
Wed Feb 11	Sutton United								
Sat Feb 14	SOLIHULL MOORS								
Wed Feb 18	(Date of NLCupSF)								
Sat Feb 21	Altrincham								
Wed Feb 25	ALDERSHOT TOWN								
Sat Feb 28	Truro City								
Sat Mar 7	WEALDSTONE								
Sat Mar 14	Morecambe								
Wed Mar 18	(Date of NLCupF)								
Sat Mar 21	SCUNTHORPE UNITED								
Tue Mar 24	Brackley Town								
Sat Mar 28	CARLISLE UNITED								
Fri Apr 3	Southend United								
Mon Apr 6	WOKING								
Sat Apr 11	Forest Green Rovers								
Sat Apr 18	ROCHDALE								

					CLIDC					
Miranda 🔸	Walker?	Hubbard**	Thorpe***	Akinde*	SUBS Omrore	Judge**	Cooper***	Pinnington	Kamara*	Hockey
Babic		Cooper	Thorpe*	Walker****	Omrore****	Vennings	Miranda****		Pinnington**	Hubbard*
Omrore		Obper Hubbard*	Thorpe**	Akinde****	Judge*	Cooper**	Babic	Pinnington	Kamara****	Hockey***
		Cooper	Kamara**	Akinde***	Omrore	Vennings*	Babic**	Pinnington	Hockey	Thorpe***
				Akinde**	Omrore	Judge****	Cooper**	Babic	Hockey***	Kamara*
		Hubbard*	Cooper**	Akinde****	Judge****	Babic		Hockey	F.Terry*	Thorpe**
Vennings Vennings	Walker***		Kamara****	Akinde	Omrore**	Judge*/**	Cooper ***		Pinnington****	
		Miranda	Cooper***	Akinde	Langston*	Babic	Pinnington		Hubbard***	Hockey
		Hubbard***	Kamara**	Akinde	Omoroe****	Vennings***	Cooper**	Pinnngton*	пирраги	
Miranda		Babic**	Works 2	Akinde*	Omrore**	McPherson	Kamara***	Hockey*	Hubbard****	
		Hubbard**		Hockey***	Miranda***	Babic*	H-Annous**		пирраги	
	Cooper Cooper		Kamara Works**		Blackwell 2*		H-Annous Hubbard		Davis**	
Omrore				Hockey*				Clayton***		D 1. ***
		Babic**	Works***	Blackwell*	Omrore	Akinde**	Kamara	Hockey	Clayton*	Davis***
Vennngs	Davis*	Babic**	Works	Blackwell***	Omrore	Akinde***	Kamara	Hockey**	F.Terry*	Thorpe****
	Clayton**		Akinde*	Works***	Omrore**	Blackwell*	Babic	Kamara	Hockey***	Davis
Miranda	Clayton***		Works*	Akinde**	Omrore	Blackwell*	Walker**	Kamara	Hockey	Thorpe ***
	Clayton		Works	Akinde	Omrore	Vennings		Walker	Kamara	Thorpe
		Cooper***	Works	Akinde*	Omrore	Vennings**	Blackwell	Smith	Thorpe***	Davis*
Vennings	Thorpe***		Davis****	Blackwell**	Langston *	Miranda***	Cooper*****		Babic****	
Vennings		Kamara*	Works**	Akinde	Omrore	Babic	Clayton	Davis**	Thorpe*	
Bain		lge** Wood		Kent	Howatt*	Bowes**	Palacios***	A.Mansfield		
/ennings	Cooper	Babic**	Works*	Akinde	Omrore	Walker*	Smith***	Kamara	Hubbard	Thorpe**

# 25 YEARS CHAMPIONING GRASSROOTS

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# THE FUTURE IRONS



OUR UNDER 18'S WERE DUE TO HOST MALDON & TIPTREE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ALTRINCHAM GAME.



Heavy rain on the day of the game led to its cancellation, so they haven't had a league game since 15th October.

Circumstances led to the first team's Essex Senior Cup tie at Tilbury falling four days before the Chelmsford F.A. Cup tie. To avoid injuries to players, it was agreed that the Under 18's would play that game. Despite the 8-1 defeat the players battled valiantly and will have learned a great deal from the experience.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly Joe Wood's goal. It came from an indirect free-kick in the penalty area, which seems such a rarity these days. Charlie Kent teed up Joe to smash the ball through the wall and past the unsighted keeper. A special word for Lewis Athersmith who had an outstanding game in goal, despite the result.

The team's next game is at the Rare Breed Meat Co. Stadium tomorrow night, against Witham Town U18. They won the away game in Witham at the Simarco Stadium a month ago. The following Thursday the team visit Holland U18. Tomorrow's match only costs £4 for adults to get in (£1 concessions) and the bar, food bar and club shop will all be open. The U18's

have launched a new matchday programme – 12 colour pages for £1.

Please purchase one when you attend a game. Putting on these games is very expensive and every little helps.

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	F-A
17-Jul-25	BRANTHAM ATHLETIC U18	FR.	Α	0-1
14-Aug-25	STANSTED U18	FR.	Н	1-3
20-Aug-25	BRAINTREE ATHLETIC	FR.	Н	1-1
4-Sep-25	<b>BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT U18</b>	TNYLS	Н	1-4
11-Sep-25	Bratham Athletic U18	TNYLS	Α	1-0
25-Sep-25	HOLLAND U18	TNYLS	Н	6-0
1-Oct-25	Witham Town U18	TNYLS	Α	2-1
9-Oct-25	LITTLE OAKLEY U18	TNYLS	Н	2-2
15-Oct-25	Maldon & Tiptree U18	TNYLS	Α	1-3
6-Nov-25	WITHAM TOWN U18	TNYLS	Н	
13-Nov-25	Holland U18	TNYLS	Α	
19-Nov-25	Heybridge Swifts U18	TNYLS	Α	
27-Nov-25	<b>BRANTHAM ATHLETIC U18</b>	TNYLS	Н	
4-Dec-25	Brightlingsea Regent U18	TNYLS	Α	
11-Dec-25	HARWICH & PARKESTON U18	TNYLS	Н	
18-Dec-25	Stanway Rovers U18	TNYLS	Α	
8-Jan-26	STANWAY ROVERS U18	TNYLS	Н	
15-Jan-26	Little Oakley U18	TNYLS	Α	
22-Jan-26	Harwich & Parkeston U18	TNYLS	Α	
2 <b>9-Jan-26</b>	HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS U18	TNYLS	Н	
TBA	MALDON & TIPTREE U18	TNYLS	Н	

# IRON SHARE THE POINTS

ALTRINCHAM PROVE DIFFICULT TO BREAK DOWN IN LEAGUE STALEMATE



BRAINTREE Town boss Steve Pitt felt his side did enough to win the game after their 0-0 home draw with Altrincham, writes DAVID WARD.

The Iron claimed a vital point in their effort to ease away from the National League relegation zone.

But in reality, they played well enough and at times dominated the game enough to have won all three points in a tough encounter, at the Rare Breed Meat Stadium.

With again players missing through injury - the latest being Tom Blackwell - and a goalkeeping crisis that forced manager Pitt to quickly find a late replacement for the injured Mason Terry, the side certainly showed more all round spirit and determination than in their previous league game.

It was always going to be a tough

encounter against a side equally struggling to score goals and having sacked their long-standing manager earlier in the week.

But to their credit, the Iron players were up for the challenge and in the first half were clearly the better side but failing to find that killer instinct in front of goal. As everyone knows, it's goals that win football matches at any level and Pitt felt Braintree played well and should have won. With keeper Terry out for some weeks with a broken hand, Pitt used his wide knowledge of contacts to get promising young Derby County goalkeeper Jack Thompson in as cover and he was full of praise for the 18-year-old's debut performance.

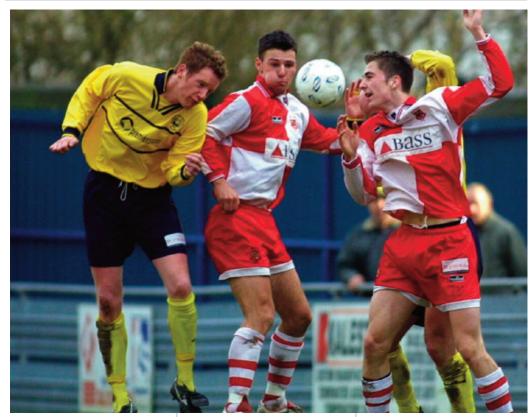
Thompson said he enjoyed his debut and was particularly pleased to have kept a clean sheet on his debut.



# **IRON FILINGS**

**GAVIN COWAN** 





Brackley Town manager Gavin Cowan began his senior football career here at Braintree Town, after starting at Exeter City as a youth. Initially in the reserves in the 1998-99 season, he made his debut in the 1-1 draw at Grays Athletic on 2nd March 1999.

Following injury to Russell Tanner, Gavin was able to claim the left-back spot as his own once the 1999-00 season got underway, also playing in central defence and midfield. His first goal for Iron came in the first ever league meeting with Bishop's Stortford, a 3-0 win at Cressing Road that was played out in front of a season's best crowd of 563.

In March 2000, Iron manager Richie Powling resigned. Ken Varney's only win as caretaker manager came on 1st April although that home game with Bedford Town is best remembered for a dramatic incident. After a clash of heads, injuries to Gavin and Bedford's Paul Covington were deemed serious enough for the Essex Air Ambulance to be called.

The pitch and stadium had to be cleared as the helicopter landed on the pitch. At one stage it looked like the game would be abandoned but it restarted after a 55 minute delay. Both players were released from Broomfield Hospital later in the day and allowed home. Cowan's number 6 shirt was cut up by the paramedics, which led to the number 16 being used in subsequent games. Bedford Town held a collection for the Essex Air Ambulance at their next home game. Cowan missed two games but

# **IRON FILINGS**

### **GAVIN COWAN**

returned to the side for the final runin.

At the end of his first full season, he had started 43 games, been a sub twice and scored twice.

Iron were the top scorers in Ryman League Division One in 2000-01, with 112. Cowan was a regular in defence, starting 48 games - the third highest - and getting 3 goals. In an F.A. Trophy replay at the now defunct Rothwell Town, Cowan scored in the successful penalty shoot-out....the first of several notable spot-kick successes. He also played in the 10-0 win over Romford at Cressing Road, the last time we hit double figures in a competitive game. Playing in the next match, away to Staines Town, the 2-2 draw secured the point needed to promote Iron to Step 2 for the first time.

In Iron's first season in the Ryman League Premier Division, 2001-02, 7 wins from the first 9 games heightened hopes that the team could get promoted to the Conference at the first attempt. Ultimately, we finished 4th. Cowan again started 48 games, and scored 5 times – his best ever season for goals. Iron knocked North Ferriby United out of the F.A. Trophy on penalties. On that occasion Cowan did not take one, as he had already gone off injured.

Starting the 2002-03 season with a goal in a 2-2 friendly draw with Southend United, Cowan played 22 games and scored twice – both penalties. In the F.A. Cup he was one of three players sent off at Billericay Town, a match that led to the



sacking of Ben Embury. Gary Bellamy came in as manager, but Cowan played just four more games before being sold to Canvey Island.

The following season, Cowan was the hero as he struck the winning penalty in an F.A. Trophy Semi Final shoot out for Canvey, against Telford United. They then lost the final to Hednesford Town, played at Villa Park.

In the summer of 2005 Cowan moved into the Football League, signing for Shrewsbury Town.
Coincidentally, Braintree reached the F.A. Cup First Round and were drawn away to Shrewsbury. Cowan remained on the subs bench as his side won 4-1.

At the end of the 2008-09 season.

Cowan was able to put his penalty expertise to good use, converting the decider in the National League Cup Final for A.F.C. Telford United away to Forest Green Rovers.

He also played for Nuneaton Borough/Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Grays Athletic, Fleetwood Town, Gainsborough Trinity and Solihull Moors. Managerial success followed with A.F.C. Telford United and now Brackley Town.

In total, Gavin Cowan played for Braintree Town for five seasons between 1998-2003, starting 162 games, coming on as a sub 12 times and scoring 12 goals.

### JON WEAVER

Jon is still writing the two-volume history of the club.





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# WE'VE MET BEFORE



# PREVIOUS MEETINGS - BRAINTREE TOWN V BRACKLEY TOWN

SEASON	COMP		SCORERS	ATT.	AWAY	SCORERS	ATT.
2006-07	FAC2Q	0-2		365			
2017-18	FAC3Q				1-4	Oliyide	383
	FAT1	0-0		249			
	FAT1R				0-2		238
2022-23	FAT2	1-0	Clemons	287			
2023-24	FAC3Q	3-2	Blackwell, W. Davies, Blair	443			
2024-25	FAC4Q				0-0p4-	5	1121
2025-26	ENL	5-Nov			24-Mar		

### **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

After being drawn against each other 6 times in 19 years in either the F.A. Cup or F.A. Trophy, tonight we finally get to play Brackley Town in a league match.

After no wins in our first four meetings, we finally knocked our visitors out of the F.A. Trophy in the 2022-23 season, with a strike from Willie Clemons. The following year there were groans when we were paired here in the F.A. Cup Third Round Qualifying. That one was dramatically won 3-2 with a rocket from Aaron Blair. Surely it couldn't happen again?

With both clubs in the 2024-25 F.A. Cup First Round, the last thing either club was hoping for was yet another meeting but the respective balls were pulled out together, with the game taking place in Northamptonshire.

130 Iron fans made the relatively short trip. The gate of 1,121 was not only the lowest of the round but also the entire competition proper. An exciting game produced no goals, even after extra time. This was the first season where replays had been outlawed from the First Round Proper onwards. If the previously respected rules had still been in place, Iron would have earned a replay after 90 minutes. The tie moved on to a penalty shoot-out, at the end populated by The Iron Army.

Brackley went first, and all of the first seven penalties were converted to put them 4-3 ahead. Vennings, Langston and Blackwell scored Iron's first three kicks. Powell then missed the fourth, which gave Brackley the opportunity to settle the tie.

Covolan pulled off a crucial save, and Akinde kept his cool to regain parity at 4-4 after five kicks each. Into the drama of sudden-death, Covolan dived to save the next penalty, putting Iron a penalty kick away from just their



FRANKIE TERRY IN ACTION DURING LAST SEASON'S F.A. CUP MATCH AT BRACKLEY

second appearance in the F.A. Cup Second Round. Robinson stepped up, but his effort was at a comfortable height, and was saved by Maxted. Brackley scored their next one, putting Kyrell Lisbie under pressure to score just to keep Iron in the tie.

He rolled the ball onto the left upright, and Iron were out. The 84 seconds of BBC match highlights did not show a single Braintree shot, and only the final two penalties

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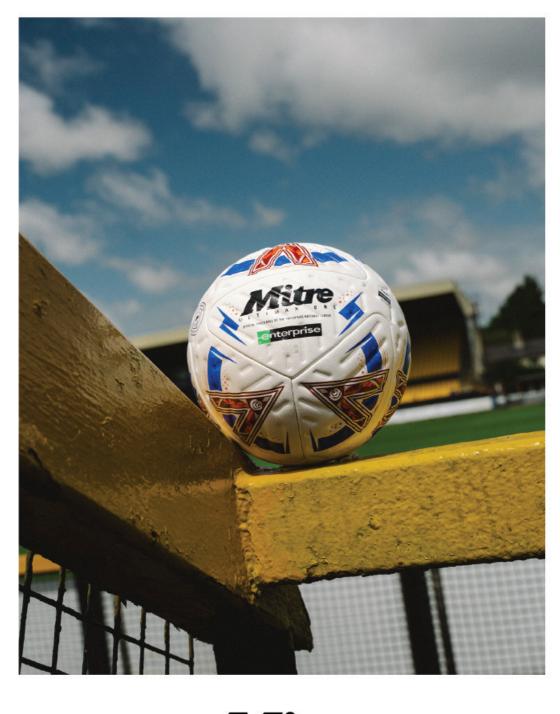
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EMMANUEL OMRORE HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



JAMES VENNINGS HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



TOM BLACKWELL HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



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MARSHALL-MIRANDA
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INDEPENDENT
SUPPORTERS CLUB



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HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



CHAY COOPER HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



JOHN AKINDE HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



TOMMY SMITH HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



GORAN GOGO BABIC HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



JACOB PINNINGTON HOME AVAILABLE AWAY AVAILABLE



HOCKEY

HOME

AVAILABLE

AWAY

AVAILABLE



FLETCHER
ALEXANDER
-HUBBARD
HOME & AWAY
INDEPENDENT
SUPPORTERS CLUB



HOME
AVAILABLE
AWAY
AVAILABLE



SAHID KAMARA JR HOME & AWAY DICKERSONSWILLS & PROBATE



HOME
AVAILABLE
AWAY
AVAILABLE

**TYRELL** 



28

# PLAYER STATS

### FIGURES UP TO & INCLUDING TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025

STATISTICS		IRON CA	REER TOTAL			2025/26 TOTAL				
	TOTAL APPS	STARTS	SUB APPS	GOALS	ASSISTS	TOTAL APP	S STARTS	SUB APPS	GOALS	ASSISTS
AAKINDE, John	69	51	18	12	7	18	15	3	1	2
ALEXANDER-HUBBARD, Fletcher	10	7	3	1	0	10	7	3	1	0
ATHERSMITH, Lewis (GK)	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
BABIC, Goran	13	10	3	0	1	13	10	3	0	1
BAILEY-JONES, William	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
BAIN. Oscar	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
BLACKWELL. Tom	110	84	26	15	15	8	3	5	3	0
BOWES, Archie	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
CLAMPIN. Rvan	40	37	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
CLAYTON, Regan	7	5	2	0	0	7	5	2	0	0
COOPER, Chay	69	45	24	10	13	20	14	6	4	5
CUNNINGHAM, Elliot	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAVIS, Olly*	6	2	4	1	0	6	2	4	1	0
FRANCIS-CLARKE, Aidan	46	44	2	1	2	21	21	0	0	0
GARNER, Jack	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GORMLEY-MORRISS, Jay	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
GRAY, Henry (GK)*	23	23	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
HARRIMAN-ANNOUS, Brandon*	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
HOCKEY, Freddie**	11	3	8	0	0	11	3	8	0	0
HOWAT, Mason	4	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
*IVANOV, Konstantin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUDGE, Alan*	20	6	14	0	0	7	2	5	0	0
KAMARA JR. Sahid	14	8	6	1	1	14	8	6	1	1
KENT, Charlie	2	1	1	0	1	14	1	0	0	1
LANGSTON, George	70	68	2	1	6	19	17	2	0	1
MANSFIELD. Archie	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MANSFIELD, Archie	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
MARSHALL-MIRANDA, Marley	56	49	7	2	1	20	17	3	1	1
			0					-		
MAURER, Thomas (GK)	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
McPHERSON, Cameron									0	0
MORALES-BROWN, Bradley	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0		
MURPHY, Lenny	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
OLLIER-WATERIDGE, Harvey	1	1	-		-		1	_	_	
OMRORE, Manny	12	5	7	0	0	11	5	6	0	0
PALACIOS, Nico	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
PINNINGTON, Jacob	37	27	10	0	3	15	12	3	0	1
SMITH, Kyle*	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0
SMITH, Tommy	11	10	1	0	1	11	10	1	0	1
TERRY, Frankie	44	42	2	3	0	20	18	2	2	0
TERRY, Mason (GK)	18	18	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	0
THOMPSON, Jack (GK)	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
THORPE, Elliot	12	5	7	0	1	12	5	7	0	1
VENNINGS, James	57	50	7	0	4	18	14	4	0	2
WALKER, Lewis	10	7	3	2	1	10	7	3	2	1
WOOD, Joe	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
WORKS, Terrell	10	10	0	5	0	10	10	0	5	0
* Has left the club ** Out on loan										

**BRAINTREE TOWN SUPPORTERS F.C.** 

Our Sunday Supporters team lost 2-1 at Notley Sunday three days ago, in an Invitation Cup group match. The previous weekend was more successful. The team defeated Premier Division side Kavern 4-2 on the training pitch, to progress in the Gordon Snell Trophy. Remarkably, the game will be remembered for the TWO backheeled goals that the team scored. First up was Craig Tomlinson pictured here), who played in 4 games for the Iron first team between 2004-07, and also netted for the reserves and under 18's. Soon after, Beck Pascal repeated the trick to seal the win. This Sunday morning, the team host Harwich & Parkeston F.C.'s long standing Sunday side, Sunday Shrimpers, in the Essex Sunday Junior Trophy. The match kicks off at 10.30 a.m. The visitors have scored 43 times in their first 7 Colchester Sunday League games, so I am sure that the lads would appreciate your support for this one!





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# DEFEAT IN NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP

### **BRAINTREE LEAD TWICE AGAINST WEST BROM, BUT LOSE 3-2**

Last Tuesday evening we entertained a lively West Brom side here in the National League Cup and lost our first match in this competition - going down by the odd goal in five. Tom Blackwell gave us a twelfth minute lead before the West Midlands side levelled up through Mandby 9 minutes before the break.

Oli Davis restored our lead five minutes after the re-start, only for Mohamed to level for the second time three minutes later. With both sides pushing forward for the winner, it was West Brom who broke the deadlock in the second minute of time added on through McDonald.

With one match of the four group games still to play - a win in our last match would still give us a reasonable chance of progressing on this competition.





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# THE TEAMS BRAINTREE TOWN BRACKLEY TOWN



PLD SUB GLS • •		PLD SUB GLS 🔸 🔸	
	1 MASON TERRY		1 JONNY MAXTED (GK)
	2 AIDAN FRANCIS-CLARKE		2 TYLER LYTTLE
	3 RYAN CLAMPIN		3 RICCARDO CALDER
	4 GEORGE LANGSTON		4 JACK PRICE
	5 EMMANUEL OMRORE		5 KYLE MORRISON
	6 JAMES VENNINGS		6 GARETH DEAN
	7 TOM BLACKWELL		7 SCOTT POLLOCK
	8 MARLEY MARSHALL-MIRANDA		8 ZAK BROWN
	9 LEWIS WALKER		9 MIRACLE OKAFOR
	11 CHAY COOPER		10 MORGAN ROBERTS
	13 JACK THOMPSON		11 MATT LOWE
	14 JOHN AKINDE		12 MICHAEL NOTTINGHAM
	15 TOMMY SMITH		14 DANNY WALDRON
	16 GORAN GOGO BABIC		15 BAILEY HOBSON
	17 JACOB PINNINGTON		17 JUSTIN DONAWA
	18 SAHID KAMARA JR		19 ZAK LILLY
	20 FLETCHER ALEXANDER-HUBBARD		21 CAMERON GREGORY (GK)
	21 REGAN CLAYTON		23 SHANE BYRNE
	24 FRANKIE TERRY		27 CONNOR HALL
	33 OLLY DAVIS		37 RYAN HAYNES
	38 TERRELL WORKS		

# **MATCH OFFICIALS**

REFEREE - tba Assistant referee -tba Assistant referee -tba Fourth official -tba

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39 ELLIOT THORPE

NATIONAL LEAGUE SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025 SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025 3.00PM KICK OFF

WEALDSTONE

NATIONAL LEAGUE 3.00PM KICK OFF