

The

WOODS



**FLACKWELL
HEATH**

SATURDAY
31ST JANUARY 2026
3PM KICK-OFF

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB



#DIP THE WOODS

MATCH SPONSOR

**SHAMIRA HAMIRANI
AND THE BYRNE FAMILY**

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JIM TAYLOR





Northwood Football Club

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Northwood Football Club
is a Members' Club

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Goalkeeping Coach	Saj Vigneswaran
Physiotherapist	Gus Payne
Website Editor	Ken Green
Programme Editor	Terry Brumpton
Official Photographer	James Brown

CLUB HONOURS

Founded 1926	
Isthmian League South Central Division play-off semi-finalists	2023
Isthmian League Division One North champions	2003
Isthmian League Division Two runners-up	2000
Isthmian League Division Three promotion	1997
Isthmian League Cup winners	2002
Isthmian Charity Shield winners	2002
Isthmian Associate Members Trophy winners	1993, 2000
Middlesex Senior Cup Winners:	2007, 2016
Middlesex Senior Cup finalists:	2000, 2002
Middlesex Senior Cup semi-finalists:	1992, 1997, 1999, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2022
Middlesex Senior Charity Cup finalists:	1994, 2003, 2005, 2012, 2023
Middlesex Intermediate Cup winners:	1979
Middlesex Junior Cup winners:	1938
Middlesex Junior Cup finalists	1935, 1936
London Spartan League Premier Division champions:	1992
London Spartan League Premier Division runners-up:	1990
London Spartan League Cup winners:	1990, 1992
Hellenic League Division One champions:	1979
Hellenic League Premier Division Cup finalist:	1982
Hellenic League Division One Cup winners:	1979
Middlesex League Premier Division champions:	1978
Middlesex League Premier Division runners-up:	1972, 1977
Middlesex League Challenge Cup winners:	1975, 1977, 1978
Harrow, Wembley & District League champions:	1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1948, 1949

THE WOODS is the official Matchday Programme of Northwood Football Club and is printed and designed by JJ Sports Promotions Ltd. For further information, please contact Terry Brumpton, Tel **07771 802 048** or email terrybrumpton@yahoo.co.uk

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IAN'S INSIGHT

**WOODS CHAIRMAN, IAN BARRY, WELCOMES YOU
ALL TO THE SKYLINE ROOFING STADIUM.**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Skyline Roofing Stadium and our C & G Scaffolding Ltd sponsored Clubhouse for today's Pitching In Southern League match today. We welcome our opponents from Flackwell Heath FC and trust they enjoy their short stay here.

I write on Tuesday before our pitch inspection for the yet again re-arranged game against Beaconsfield, which I'm fairly certain will be postponed due to very heavy rain overnight.

Clearly, the news that Jack and JJ have been relieved of their position as Joint Managers, is something that I wasn't happy to do, but the previous three performances and lack of confidence, motivation and desire played a massive part in this decision; these were big games for us as a club and for some reason, we just didn't turn up and this has been a theme in a number of games this season; mostly involving teams around us, where we have lost to them all in a below par manner.

At Marlow, it was like we gave up the fight and, in any sport, that's unacceptable. As my statement said at the time, We thank Jack and JJ for their hard work in a new role to them and for their commitment. It wasn't to be this time and the reality of four wins in twenty seven league games, was eventually enough to warrant a change, in my opinion. They are both good guys and I genuinely wish them every success going forward.

We have to move on and quickly. The reins have been handed to Mark Chandler and Dennis Quigley to look after the team on an interim basis and we will see where this takes us. They have the authority to make changes as they see fit to try to get the necessary improvement we need in a difficult run in to the end of the season.

The role has been advertised and we will see who wants the job and who is available and of course, who we believe could help us, initially in the short term. At the time of writing, only two players haven't decided on their futures here and the rest have committed, which is good news.

As we are in our 100th year, a massive one for the club, I certainly didn't foresee or expect to be in this position,



but we will all fight tooth and nail to stay at this level. Making this change, hopefully gives us the chance to do so.

As always, thanks for your support of both the club and me personally, as what I do here is often very lonely, despite the number of people I see and speak to each week, but sometimes you have to make decisions, but always in the best interests of the club, our club.

Let's hope we get an uplift today and bring back the smiles we have previously enjoyed.

Up The Woods!

ian

WOODS OUTLOOK

**CLUB SECRETARY,
ALAN EVANS,
BRINGS US ALL
THE LATEST NEWS
FROM AROUND
THE CLUB.**

WELCOME TO THE HEATHENS

Welcome back once again to the Skyline Roofing Stadium for the very first time in 2026 after Tuesday night's scheduled game against Beaconsfield Town failed to survive the heavy rain that was fell throughout the morning and previous night, meaning a third postponement for a game that seems ill-fated.

Our opponents this afternoon are Flackwell Heath FC who arrive in good form having followed three good wins – their best sequence of the season - with last Saturday's 2-2 draw with Rayners Lane after being 0-2 down at half-time. The Heathens currently sit comfortably in mid-table in twelfth place, eleven points off the play-off positions with sixteen matches to play.

Our visit to Wilks Park was back in mid-November and saw the Woods make a blistering start to the match with two goals inside the first five minutes through Dan Williams and Dan Vincent. But our opponents got back into the game through Eli Grant and then levelled with a Lucas Wynn goal on the hour with the final score ending up 2-2.

The corresponding fixture last season was played in March and saw our visitors record a late 0-2 success in a match which proved to be the last in charge for manager Gary Meakin. There was 89 minutes on the clock when substitute Dylan Kearney, currently still on Northwood books, fired the Heathens in front. Top scorer Wiktor Makowski bagged a second in stoppage-time.

Having reached the play-offs last season, in their first campaign back at Step 4 for a long period at the lower level, the Heathens had to recover from losing most of their forward line in the summer. Despite this they made an excellent start to the new term, unbeaten in their first six league matches, while also enjoying an FA Cup run that took them past Tuffley Rovers, Step 3 Lewes, Soul Tower Hamlets and another Step 3 team in Bracknell Town before they were narrowly beaten 1-0 at newly-monied Isthmian North side Maldon & Tiptree in the final qualifying round. It did have a knock-on effect on their league form though, losing four on the trot and six out of seven which saw them plummet as low as sixteenth at one stage. But they have recovered well in recent weeks and will be looking to extend their recent unbeaten run this afternoon. Their squad includes several former Northwood players – Ryan Avery, Matty Ayres and Juwon Akintunde while both Jabir Larana and Nnameka Anyanwu have also made appearances during the season and remain registered with the club.

We hope everyone connected with Flackwell Heath will enjoy their stay with us this afternoon and we wish you all a safe journey home later this evening.

This afternoon's match has been kindly sponsored by Shamira Hamirani and the Byrne family and we trust that those attending will enjoy our hospitality in the Boardroom. Our Match Ball Sponsor is Jim Taylor who has visited us several times this season in his role as Match Reporter for the Middlesex County FA and we thank him for this kind gesture. We'd love to fill in all the spaces for Match Ball sponsors throughout the season so if you can help out with one of the remaining games, please take a look at the grid elsewhere in today's programme (just five more dates are available!) and let me know which you would like. The cost is £50.

MANAGEMENT CHANGE

Following our defeat at Marlow last Saturday, the decision was made to relieve Jack Smith and Jon-Jo Bates from their roles of Joint Managers of the side and we are currently looking for a replacement. The club owe the pair a great deal for stepping up and taking charge last March and playing a huge role in keeping the club at Step 4 for another season. It's been another difficult campaign though and with only six wins in all competitions from thirty matches; just four of them in the league, it was felt that we needed to make a change if we were to have a chance of avoiding the drop once again. We thank both Jack and JJ for their hard work during their time in charge, their first spell in football management and we hope both will be very welcome back at the club at anytime in the future. In the meantime, Assistant Dennis Quigley and Coach Mark Chandler have agreed to oversee things until we make an appointment decision.

LEAGUE NEWS

Since our last programme notes, we have played five league matches but only picked up four points, leaving us back in the bottom four and still very much in danger of relegation. At first, we continued our good run with a creditable 2-2 draw here against play-off seekers Hertford Town just before Christmas. Hicham Bouchareb and Dan Williams got our goals. Our following match, away at fellow strugglers Rayners Lane, proved a good one as a single goal from Jon-Jo Bates proved enough to win the game and get revenge for our home defeat to the Lane back way back in August. It was a good end to 2025.

While our home form appears to be improving, sadly we haven't been able to sustain our form on our travels since the New Year. With the home match against Beaconsfield Town falling foul of the weather on three occasions, it means we have played now three successive away matches and sadly we have lost all of them. At Biggleswade we were certainly beaten by the better side, losing 3-1 with Osa Otote netting our consolation goal. We then had a key game at Enfield

and didn't perform at all, losing 1-0 to a late penalty which also saw skipper Manny Folarin picking up a second yellow card, though we did hit the woodwork on two occasions (as did the home side).

Last Saturday, the Woods travelled to old adversaries Marlow and, though we created a little more this time, we missed a couple of very good chances and were beaten 2-0. Again, we had a player sent-off late in the game, this time young Gabe Cuthbert, though we have appealed this with the result yet to be heard at the time of writing. No new date has been fixed as yet for the home game against Beaconsfield Town.

CUP NEWS

With Uxbridge beating North Greenford United 5-0 in the only quarter-final played in the Middlesex Charity Cup, the County then made the draw for the semi-finals with the following result:

Uxbridge v. Hanwell Town
Broadfields United v. Northwood

So, the Woods must travel to play Broadfields United, who have won the competition in each of the last two seasons (beating Northwood in the first of those) to reach the final of competition for the sixth time! We are still yet to win the Charity Cup so let's hope we can put up a good show in the semi-final which has been scheduled to be played on Tuesday 24th March.

PLAYER UPDATES

Since our last notes, we have seen firstly Manny Folarin and then Hafed Al-Droubi both reach the 50-appearance mark for the club so congratulations to both. The next milestone approaching is for Carl Stewart who is in line to reach 150 appearances next Saturday if selected for both matches.



Carl Stewart - Targeting 150 appearances

Reece Price-Placid, who left us some time ago, has now completed a transfer to Rayners Lane while Chama Torsiello, who picked up an injury just when he was getting a regular place in the side, has now left the club to get more game time and has joined Isthmian North side Walthamstow and we wish him well though unfortunately he was sent-off last Saturday after coming on as a second-half substitute.

MATCH & MATCH BALL SPONSORS

Opponents	Date	Match Sponsor	Match Ball Sponsor
Egham Town	Saturday 2nd August	Shamira Hamirani	Gerry Pimm
Hadley	Tuesday 12th August	-	Dennis Goulding
Hanworth Villa	Saturday 23rd August	Shamira Hamirani	Peter Reynolds
Rayners Lane	Monday 25th August	Colin Seal	Alan Evans
Beckenham Town	Saturday 6th September	Shamira Hamirani	Graham Mann
Biggleswade Town	Saturday 27th September	-	Ian Barry
Marlow	Tuesday 30th September	-	Dennis Goulding
Enfield	Saturday 4th October	-	Gerry Pimm
Leighton Town	Saturday 11th October	Sean Moore	Peter Reynolds
Leverstock Green	Saturday 18th October	Gerry Pimm	Michael & Peter Gant
Ware	Saturday 1st November	-	Michael & Peter Gant
Southall	Tuesday 4th November	-	Alan Evans
London Lions	Tuesday 11th November	-	Ken Green & Sandy Young
AFC Dunstable	Saturday 15th November	-	Gerry Pimm
Aylesbury United	Saturday 29th November	Shamira/Byrne Family	Sean Moore
Stotfold	Saturday 13th December	Graham Mann	Alan Evans
Hertford Town	Saturday 20th December	-	Dennis Goulding
Beaconsfield Town	Tuesday 27th January	Shamira Hamirani	John Bridges
Flackwell Heath	Saturday 31st January	The Byrne Family	Jim Taylor
Milton Keynes Irish	Saturday 14th February	Peter Reynolds	
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 28th February	Gerry Pimm	Gerry Pimm
Barton Rovers	Saturday 21st March		
Thame United	Friday 3rd April		
Biggleswade	Saturday 11th April	Dennis Goulding	
Hitchin Town	Saturday 18th April		

WOODS OUTLOOK

This was also partly because we have welcomed central defender Louis Udeh to Northwood, joining us from fellow Southern Central Division side Beaconsfield Town. Louis had previous experience with near-neighbours Wembley and Harrow Borough and made his first start for the club last Saturday at Marlow. We hope he enjoys a long and successful spell with us. Two other players returned to the club around Christmas time. Mack Miskin is back from his brief sojourn at Hayes & Yeading United while Ronny Mfinda joined from Rayners Lane for his third spell at the club. Welcome back guys!

UNDER-18S

The Under-18s made it to the semi-finals of the Isthmian Youth Cup with a tough 4-2 win over Hampton & Richmond Borough and will now play away at AFC Whyteleafe in the semi-final on Monday 9th February. Our opponents have been reinstated into the competition despite losing their quarter-final against Hanworth Villa after the latter decided to cease operations at Under-18 level. The other semi-final saw Burgess Hill Town defeat Kingstonian 3-0 and so the Sussex side await the winners of our tie in the Final. On Wednesday night, our lads were scheduled to play away to Edgware & Kingsbury in the semi-final of the Middlesex Senior Youth Cup so fingers crossed we will have managed to get through.

CENTENARY SEASON

Plans are well established now for how the club can celebrate 100 years of Northwood FC in 2026-27 with a whole range of ideas now pencilled in. The official launch of some of these plans will be in two weeks' time when we play at home to Milton Keynes Irish so make sure you get down to that game for the launch. We do need plenty of volunteers to steward events connected to the Centenary so please let us know if you would be prepared to help out.

RISING BALLERS NEWS

It's not been a good spell for our tenants who have slipped to the bottom of the Division One table in the Combined Counties League, though they have also had a few matches postponed. On Monday night they fell to their sixth successive defeat when beaten 4-1 here at the Skyline by Woodley United who climbed back into the play-off places with those three points. They are due back here on Monday night against near-neighbours Hillingdon Borough, weather permitting and then also take on FC Deportivo Galicia here the following Monday night so if you are at a loss for something to do, pop down and give them a cheer!

MERCHANDISE

In partnership with one of our new sponsors, Flame, we have been delighted to be able to offer lots of new items in our range of merchandise which have been on sale at all of our home games this season. The range includes caps, hoodies, replica shirts (restocked a short

while ago but a limited number available), bobble hats, mugs, scarves and pens. Bucket hats were added along with dog bowls also making an appearance! Scarves also available of course - Wear your colours!

VOLUNTEERING

We have a great working group of volunteers here at the club who all work very hard to keep the club functioning and the ground spick and span throughout the season. But we could always do with a bit of extra help, both on matchdays or during the week around the stadium or the clubhouse. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved, then please let us know. We have been delighted to welcome Ross Jones to the club as a volunteer videographer in recent times and he has already greatly improved our socials with regular updates on YouTube, Instagram and Tik-Tok during that time. The aim is to build the number of followers and subscribers on those accounts and channels so please ensure you take a look, like and subscribe where you can. If interested in helping us out in any way - someone to do X Updates on home matchdays would be good, please speak to either Chairman Ian Barry or Commercial Manager John Joyce and get onboard if you can.

NEXT UP AT THE SKYLINE

The Woods are back on the road next Saturday with a really tough match away at Leighton Town who are currently fighting it out for the title with Hitchin Town at the top of the table with only goal difference splitting the two sides. Any support at this one would be most welcome before we return to the Skyline the following week against Milton Keynes Irish who visit for the first-ever time.

Monday 2nd February

Rising Ballers v. Hillingdon Borough
CCL Division One - 7.45pm

Wednesday 4th February

Under-18s v. Hampton & Richmond Borough
Isthmian Youth League - 7.45pm

Monday 9th February

Rising Ballers v. Deportivo Galicia
CCL Division One - 7.45pm

Saturday 14th February

Woods v Milton Keynes Irish
Southern League Division One Central - 3pm

Thank you for your support once again this afternoon and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Alan



PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hitchin Town	27	9	3	2	31	13	9	4	0	34	10	42	61
2	Leighton Town	27	11	2	0	38	10	7	5	2	28	19	37	61
3	Biggleswade	27	5	6	3	24	21	9	2	2	28	15	16	50
4	Hertford Town	26	9	0	5	36	23	6	3	3	27	16	24	48
5	Biggleswade Town	27	5	6	3	27	22	8	3	2	33	14	24	48
6	Barton Rovers	27	8	2	4	26	19	5	5	3	24	22	9	46
7	Thame United	24	7	1	4	27	22	7	1	4	29	19	15	44
8	Ware	27	6	3	5	28	19	7	1	5	25	24	10	43
9	Hadley	25	5	2	5	26	26	6	5	2	23	16	7	40
10	Beaconsfield Town	27	5	5	4	29	21	5	4	4	23	21	10	39
11	Stotfold	28	8	1	5	27	17	4	1	9	26	36	0	38
12	Flackwell Heath	26	5	4	5	25	18	5	3	4	21	15	13	37
13	Milton Keynes Irish	28	5	2	7	26	39	6	2	6	21	23	-15	37
14	Welwyn Garden City	25	4	5	4	16	16	5	4	3	24	16	8	36
15	London Lions	27	7	2	4	29	29	4	1	9	19	26	-7	36
16	Marlow	28	7	1	6	29	27	3	1	10	14	34	-18	32
17	Aylesbury United	27	4	4	4	20	16	4	1	10	19	31	-8	29
18	Leverstock Green	26	2	6	3	17	18	2	6	7	20	32	-13	24
19	Northwood	27	2	3	8	15	31	2	7	5	19	27	-24	22
20	Enfield	28	2	2	10	17	35	4	1	9	17	38	-39	21
21	Rayners Lane	27	1	1	12	8	31	2	3	8	16	40	-47	13
22	AFC Dunstable	25	1	3	9	10	30	1	1	11	12	36	-44	10

Up to & including Saturday 24th January 2026





Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Southern League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)
to find out more



**TRIDENT
LEAGUES**
VOLUNTEER HUB
POWERED BY ENTAIN



FROM THE DUGOUT

**WITH INTERIM
MANAGEMENT
DENNIS QUIGLEY AND
MARK CHANDLER**

Good afternoon, Woods fans!

Today we hear from Dennis and Mark who have taken over the reins to steer the club through the interim period after Jack and Jon-Jo left the role last Saturday.

One win in our last four away games and considering we've played three teams in and around us at the bottom of the table, we all know from staff to players that it's simply not good enough.

Unfortunately, in times like this when confidence is lacking those 3-4 chances that could ultimately end up as goals are not and at this point in the season when teams are just as hungry as you it's quite simple. You get punished. That's not to make excuses, say we've played well enough or say that we deserved to win those fixtures but when you're away from home the minimum you want is a point on the board, a point closer to safety and leaving it up to the other team to chase us.

Whenever there's change in football it more often than not leads to panic. That wasn't the case for Mark and myself. When the Chairman asked us to step up and take charge it was a no brainer for us. The club is a special place for both of us and we want to do everything we can to turn it around. The players are no different. After a meeting with them on Tuesday night it's safe to say we're all on the same page and ready to right our wrongs and push on together as one. We're looking for an immediate reaction and with hard work and dedication on and off the pitch we have absolutely no reservations that we can't kick on and progress up the table.

Mark and I are very lucky as we've worked together all of this season and have very similar outlooks and philosophies when it comes to football. We sat down and analysed where it's went wrong and where it can improve and came up with a plan and approach that will hopefully help us pick up points and get the best out of the lads. We're also very lucky that Saj, Pav and Gus have decided to stay with us having worked with them all season and we also welcome familiar face Richard Elderfield and his wealth of experience to the management team.

The players took the news as any group of loyal players would. It's always very tough to take when the managers that brought you in to the club move on but after a team meeting called by the players on Sunday morning a very respectable and admirable decision was made. While most players follow suit when a manager departs their message was clear. We played our part in the club being where they are in the table so we need to play our part in getting the club back up the table.



To which we credit each and every one of them. They know as well as we do that this won't be easy, but we all collectively know it can be done. There won't be many changes in the squad as we've backed them all season and continue to do so. Of course, in football change is imminent so there will be new faces to add to the old which will provide strength in depth, competition and experience but make no mistake we still absolutely believe in this squad.

Mark and I have set out targets for the players and staff that everyone is on board with and the message is simple. Put points on the board. We don't know how long we will be in charge it could be 1 week, 1 month or longer but make no mistake for however long it is we will give absolutely everything we have to this club. We're going to take it one game at a time, do our homework, work hard and fight with everything we have to win. So, in the simplest way of wording it, our target... WIN!

We thank you for your support as ever.

Up The Woods!

Den and Mark

MATCH ACTION

WOODS BEATEN AT MARLOW

MARLOW VS NORTHWOOD
SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 2026
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



D'Aversa 17, Empson 49

Marlow's Oak Tree Road stadium has historically, never been a happy hunting ground for the Woods over the years and this match proved no different, extending a losing run at this ground to eight matches over the last ten years and very little went right for the visitors in this important contest.

In what turned out to be his last match in charge, joint manager Jack Smith had to shuffle the side with skipper Manny Folarin out with suspension and opted for a three at the back with a recall for Bryan Mankumbani and a first start for recent signing Louis Udeh. Jon-Jo Bates returned to the starting line-up too with both Osa Otote and Henry Atkinson reverting to the bench.

The Woods were under pressure from an early stage on a heavy surface and the Blues went close to opening the score on twelve minutes when Shamar Moore got the ball in from the right and Mitch Parker probably should have done better than poke his left-foot shot wide of the near-post.

17 MINUTES 1-0 SEB D'AVERSA

But it only took five minutes more for the home side to go ahead and it was Moore who again provided the inviting cross which Seb D'Aversa met with a well-controlled first-time volley.

Only a minute later, Northwood could have been level when Freddie Ford threaded a lovely ball through for Bates to run onto. He got away from his marker and into the box but goalkeeper Tyrese Kamara spread himself well and he blocked the shot.

The home side controlled the game for much of the half though, without too many threats on goal until Parker was quickest onto a knockdown in the box and cut a ball back into the six-yard box but Udeh managed to scramble the ball away to keep it out.

After thirty eight minutes, Calvin Gibbs got past Dan Vincent wide on the right and picked out Parker again unmarked in the box. Once more though he hit his shot wide of the near-post.

Two minutes later, Chris Ovenden knocked in a deep free-kick and D'Aversa leapt well to head just over the bar.



Bryan Mankumbani

The Blues continued to press and after a spell of sustained pressure, Moore knocked in a near-post cross which Parker got his head on but the ball flew over the top with Hafed Al-Droubi just getting a touch to make sure.

After such dominance, it was a touch surprising that Northwood finished the game with two opportunities of their own.

Both were created by Ford, the first by beating his man and picking out Mack Miskin just outside the area and he controlled before hitting a right-foot shot which was just over the bar. The second was chipped into the box to find Dan Williams who did well to turn and shoot but Kamara managed to get down to and keep it out.

HT: MARLOW 1-0 NORTHWOOD

Changes were made at the break to the formation which meant Mankumbani was replaced by Otote in an effort to become more of an attacking threat and it did have that effect almost immediately as Otote's ball in from the left caused a bit of panic in the home defence and when the loose ball ran out to Vincent thirty yards out, his screamer beat Kamara but only smashed against the bar.

49 MINUTES 2-0 JACK EMPSON

Two minutes later, it was 2-0 to Marlow. Parker knocked in a free-kick from the left, Ovenden outjumped Bates at the far post to knock a header back across goal and Jack Empson stooped to head home from three yards.

Once again, almost immediately after conceding, the Woods had a great chance to score themselves. A good ball put Otote through on goal down the left and though Kamara did well to block at his feet, the ball ran loose to Miskin on the edge of the box but he failed to hit the target which was only guarded by two defenders, slotting wide of the far post.



Jon-Jo Bates shoots for goal

That was about as good as it got though for Northwood and though they continued to battle for the ball, Marlow always looked comfortable with their two-goal advantage and were also getting the edge on decisions. Ronny Mfinda and Henry Atkinson replaced Bates and Carl Stewart on seventy one minutes and Atkinson drew a couple of fouls but the Woods were unable to take advantage of their set pieces.

Things got even worse on eighty one minutes as Gabe Cuthbert made a great burst from defence down the left flank, getting past a defender and into the box but when he lost control close to goal, his attempt to retrieve matters by getting between Ovenden and Kamara resulted in being shown a straight red card.

Clearly game over after that, Harry McKenna and Jamie Kennedy were introduced in place of Ademide Baruwa and Ford but there was no way back for the Woods who fell to their third successive away defeat to start 2026 and also into the bottom four once more.

Two home games follow this week, a rescheduled visit of Beaconsfield Town, unbeaten in five matches, on Tuesday and then Flackwell Heath at the weekend.

FT: MARLOW 2-0 NORTHWOOD

NORTHWOOD LINE-UP

Al-Droubi, Baruwa (McKenna 85), Mankumbani (Otote 46), Cuthbert, Udeh, Vincent, Ford (Kennedy 85), Stewart (Atkinson 71), Williams, Bates (Mfinda 71), Miskin.

Attendance: 174

Words: Alan Evans **Images:** James Brown



Henry Atkinson looks to attack



Freddie Ford up for a header



3 OF A KIND

MEMORABLE PAST MEETINGS WITH TODAY'S OPPONENTS FLACKWELL HEATH. BY KEN GREEN

SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER 1979 – HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION CUP

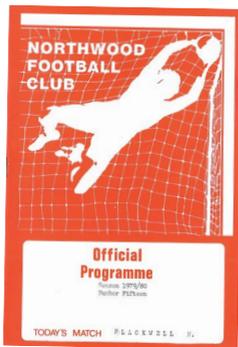
NORTHWOOD 1 FLACKWELL HEATH 0

Flackwell Heath arrived at Northwood as winners of their previous eight matches, and it soon became apparent that the Woods were in for a tough game.

It was as well that the Woods' back-four were back to their best, and that Norman Heslop, revelling in midfield, added steel directly in front of them.

Northwood's cause was not helped by the early loss of Nigel Franklin, the victim of some dubious tackles. However, by this time Northwood were in front when Norman Heslop won the ball in midfield and worked it to Robin Tidd, who in turn set Ian Harvey free. A well flighted cross saw Heslop burst through between the centre half and keeper to send a brave header into the net.

The game swung from end to end, and the visitors put bouts of pressure on the Woods' back four.



Fortunately, Alan Merison and Martin O'Donnell protected the middle with cool class, while the flanks were covered well by Steve Revell and Peter Davies. Northwood were worth their interval lead but an injury to substitute Martin Ellis hampered their second half efforts, and they came under early pressure.

Dave Russell made two superb saves, and some defensive heroics thwarted the visitors. Gradually, the efforts of Boyle, Tidd, Harvey and Heslop regained midfield superiority and the tide turned.

With ten minutes to go, the Woods could have sewn it up, when Roger Livingstone made ground brilliantly, riding three challenges before slipping the ball to Ellis, whose shot rebounded off the keeper goalwards – only to be cleared off the line with a superb saving lunge by a defender.

Northwood: Dave Russell, Peter Davies, Steve Revell, Norman Heslop, Martin O'Donnell, Alan Merison, Robin Tidd, Pip Boyle, Nigel Franklin (Martin Ellis), Roger Livingstone.

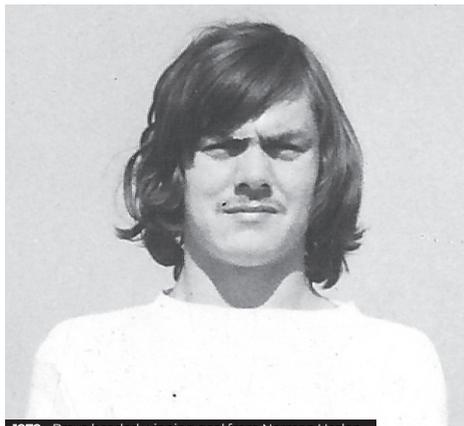
SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY 1993 DIADORA LEAGUE DIVISION THREE NORTHWOOD 5 FLACKWELL HEATH 4

Striker Vic Schwartz hit a four-goal salvo to see fifth-placed Northwood hit back after trailing twice and overtake fourth-in-the-table Flackwell Heath in one of the most entertaining matches seen at Northwood Park for some time.

It took Schwartz just four minutes of this game to find the back of the net with a 25-yard shot following a super header from Rob Holland, who had a fine match.

Flackwell Heath equalised in the 22nd minute with a Toll free kick that took a deflection and then went in front when Northwood lost possession in midfield and Neil Catlin scored.

Northwood hit back, however, and a move involving Paul Curran and Frank O'Mere saw Tim Vincent centre and Paul Rogan's shot put in by visiting player/manager Dave Crook.



1979 - Brave headed winning goal from Norman Heslop



1993 - Vic Schwartz is stopped by the keeper this time

But a minute before the break Tony Woods reacted to some poor defending to put Flackwell Heath ahead again

Vincent started the second half by hitting a post and having a goal disallowed for offside, but Northwood finally equalised when Rogan hit a post after a 30-yard run, and Schwartz was on hand to make it 3-3. Crosses from O'Mere and Buckley saw Schwartz head home Northwood's fourth and fifth goals before they conceded a fourth 10 minutes from time.

Home keeper Ken Lavender confirmed the points when he saved an equaliser with a superb stop in the dying minutes.

Northwood: Ken Lavender, David Nolan, Paul Curran, Ronnie John, Rob Holland, Steve Sailsman, Paul Rogan, Tim Vincent, Frank Omere, Vic Schwartz, Dean Layton (Danny Buckley)

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 1997 ICIS LEAGUE DIVISION THREE NORTHWOOD 4 FLACKWELL HEATH 1

A purple patch of three goals in five minutes at the start of the second half all but secured Northwood's promotion. However, Flackwell Heath gave as good as they got in a first half in which there were a hatful of chances at both ends.

For Woods, midfielder Chris Gell planted a header against the bar and failed to score from close range, while Lawrence Holmes sent a free header wide and was also denied by lanky keeper Lee Knott.

But Northwood did score on 21 minutes when left back Kevin Dobson's hanging cross from the left struck the angle of bar and post and rebounded to Jerome Boadu on the edge of the box. At the other end, Northwood keeper Lee Carroll was forced to save with his knee from Ian Manley's effort from

point blank range.

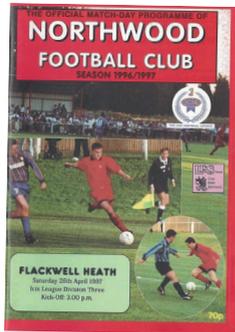
Gary Wiltshire shot wide after Carroll's poor clearance left him in the clear. But the visitors deservedly levelled things up on 40 minutes when Daniel Pedley evaded Steve Tobin's weak challenge and rifled the ball home from the edge of the box.

After the break, there was just seven seconds on the clock when Boadu's shot was acrobatically palmed away by Knott, and Holmes was on hand to tuck away the rebound.

90 seconds later Woods scored again when Chris Gell sent Holmes through to strike a sweet shot into the corner from 20 yards. And on 50 minutes they made it four when skipper Sean Glynn hammered a free-kick into the box and Tony Millard powered a perfect header into the corner from 12 yards.

Millard was denied a second when Knott tipped over another header, while at the other end Carroll saved from James Pritchard in a one-on-one.

Northwood: Lee Carroll, Steve Tobin, Jason Zazzera, Kevin Dobson, Sean Glynn, Tony Millard, Eamon O'Connor (Colin Robinson), Chris Gell, Paul Halbert, (Elroy Richardson), Lawrence Holmes, Jerome Boadu.



1997 - Lawrence Holmes scores the second goal for Woods

YESTERDAY TODAY 31.01

THROUGHOUT NORTHWOOD'S HISTORY – WHICH DATES BACK ONE HUNDRED YEARS TO 1926 – THE CLUB HAVE PLAYED 13 FIXTURES ON 31ST JANUARY; ALL PREVIOUS GAMES ARE LISTED BELOW, AND I TAKE A LOOK AT THREE OF THEM IN MORE DETAIL.



1981

WOODS 0 THAME UNITED 1

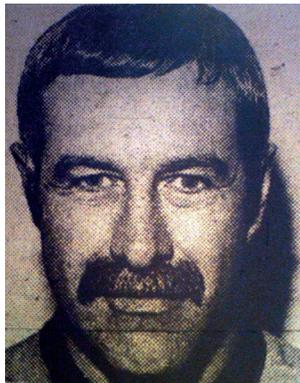
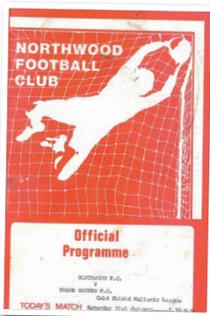
Northwood were sunk when they conceded the winning goal to Thame United in the closing ten minutes of their Hellenic League Premier Division clash.

This 1-0 defeat by high-flying Thame United at Northwood Park is particularly worrying as they have now sunk dangerously near the relegation zone, and gave scant reward for the fine exploits of keeper John Toogood.

It was a hard, tough battle, only controlled by the Woods' rearguard hurling back everything that second-placed Thame threw at them until they grew in belief that they could snatch a breakaway goal.

Northwood found themselves under almost constant pressure – a situation hardly alleviated when a cynical tackle left Toogood limping with a badly damaged knee.

Well as Northwood battled, they were shown the difference in class when a ripping drive by Watts left Toogood no chance and little hope of finding their way back.



1981 - John Toogood's efforts weren't rewarded

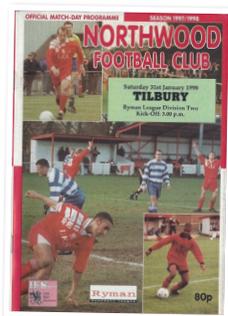
Northwood:

John Toogood, Peter Davies, Steve Revell, Kevin Walton, Peter Carter, Robin Tidd, Norman Heslop, Alan Rowe, Martin Ellis, Kevin Loy, Roger Livingstone (Mark Thomas)

1998

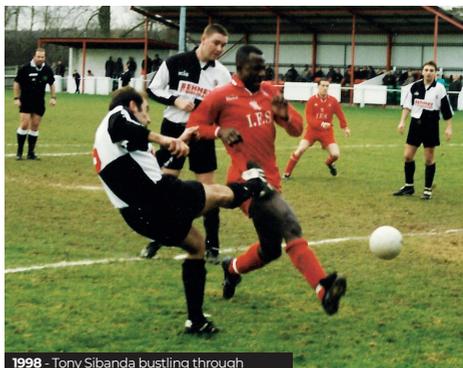
WOODS 4 TILBURY 2

Northwood banged in four goals in an astonishing eight minute spell after an inspired double substitution by manager Tony Choules against Tilbury. Within two minutes of Scott Harvey beating debutant keeper John Gregory from close range in the 53rd minute, Choules replaced Dave Sargent and Gary Boreham with Paul Ripley and Mark Keadell and switched from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2.



This seemed to give tireless skipper Chris Gell more breathing space and the goal rush started when the midfielder seized on a poor back pass to equalize in the 60th minute. A minute later Kevin Dobson and Tony Sibanda worked the opening for Paul Ripley to give Woods the lead.

By now the relegation-threatened visitors were floundering and Gell added his second in the 64th minute with a stunning 25-yard volley that flew past Tilbury keeper Williams in the 68th minute. Sibanda



1998 - Tony Sibanda bustling through

slipped the ball to impressive midfielder Terry Hibbert, who opened his account for the club.

It was almost an unbelievable five goals in ten minutes when Sibanda found the back of the net only to be ruled fractionally offside. A stunning 30-yard free-kick from Kenny Lester pulled one back for the shell-shocked visitors, but it was only a consolation.

In the first half Woods had looked off colour. Hibbert went closest when he had a good effort tipped round the post. But the Dockers also had chances – Steve Tobin made a goal-line clearance and Gregory made an excellent save.

Northwood: John Gregory, Steve Tobin, Dave Sargent (Mark Keadell), Gary Williams, Dave Walters, Andy Reeder, Terry Hibbert, Chris Gell, Gary Boreham (Paul Ripley), Tony Sibanda, Kevin Dobson, Sub. Paul Ford.

2023

WOODS 1 BEDFONT SPORTS 2

The game started at a lively pace with Josh Helmore having early claims for a penalty waved away after he was challenged by Caleb Wright while at the other end, Andrew McCorkell was soon called into action as he gathered Kofi Anyokey-Boadi's shot at the second attempt before Aidan Brown fired wide after a smart turn on the edge of the box.



2023 - Goalscorer Josh Helmore battles it out with Sports defender

and Carl Stewart trying their luck from distance. And they continued in a positive vein after the break as Lomas picked out Pavia whose low ball into the box agonisingly evaded the waiting Helmore.

The Eagles won a free-kick in the Northwood half, Steve Ngunga's 30-yard effort narrowly evading the woodwork while at the other end, Jackson and Gallagher weren't far away with their set-piece attempts. However, the whole tone of the evening changed when having failed to get that all-important second goal, Woods were pegged back as the Eagles drew level on 77 minutes from the penalty spot, the ball spinning away from McCorkell after he came off his line to challenge Ngunga who was brought down by Gallagher as he looked to get a shot in – Aidan Brown making no mistake from 12-yards.

Then Northwood failed to deal with a corner and Reyon Dillon bundled the ball to give the visitors the winner with four minutes left on the clock.

Northwood: Andrew McCorkell, Harry Gallagher (James Gurteen), Andy Lomas, Riccardo Alexander-Greenaway, Luke Tingey, Keagan Cole (Sandro Costa), Junior Paiva, Micah Jackson, Josh Helmore (Juwon Akintunde), Gareth Chendlik, Carl Stewart

As the half progressed, Junior Pavia found room to fire over a cross-shot which narrowly cleared the bar, before Helmore combined with Gareth Chendlik on the edge of the box with the latter's shot curling wide. Northwood maintained their attacking momentum and they got their reward by taking the lead on 38 minutes, Micah Jackson's corner being helped on by Chendlik to Helmore who converted from close range.

Woods kept up the pressure as both Keegan Cole

GAMES THE WOODS HAVE PLAYED ON 31 JANUARY

Date	Competition	Opponents	F-A	Scorers	Att
Sat 31 Jan 1931	H Harrow & District League Division 1	Courtfield A C	1-3	King	
Sat 31 Jan 1953	A Harrow & Wembley League Premier Division	Alperton O B	3-6	?	
Sat 31 Jan 1959	H Northwood Hospital Charity Cup round 2	South Harrow	9-2	Ratcliffe 5, P Byrne 3, o.g.	
Sat 31 Jan 1964	H Harrow Senior Charity Cup round 1	Harrow St Marys	3-1	?	
Sat 31 Jan 1970	A Friendly	Cranford Park	7-1	Byrne 3, Gould, Roche, Sanders, Millward	
Sat 31 Jan 1976	A Middlesex League	Viking Sports	0-2		
Sat 31 Jan 1981	H Cold Shield Hellenic League Premier Division	Thame United	0-1		
Tue 31 Jan 1995	H Diadora League Division 3	Tring Town	4-0	Holmes, Hutchinson, J Walsh, Morris	131
Sat 31 Jan 1998	H Ryman League Division 2	Tilbury	4-2	Gell 2, Ripley, Hibbert	114
Tue 31 Jan 2006	H Middlesex Senior Cup QF	Hendon	2-1	Dean, Heselton	108
Sat 31 Jan 2009	H Ryman League Division 1N	Thamesmead Town	2-0	Page, Figueiredo	132
Sat 31 Jan 2015	H Evo Stik Southern League Division 1C	Daventry Town	2-1	Turner, Asamoah	105
Tue 31 Jan 2023	H Pitching-In Isthmian League Division 1SC	Bedfont Sports	1-2	Helmore	127



VISITING THE SKYLINE STADIUM

FLACKWELL HEATH



16

Flackwell Heath FC was founded in 1907 and the club joined the High Wycombe and District League for its inaugural season.

The Heathens proved to be a major force in local football, winning twelve Wycombe League championship titles and fourteen High Wycombe Senior Challenge Cup finals. In the 1950's Flackwell joined the Great Western Combination League winning this league twice before returning to the Wycombe League.

Through the 60's and 70's the club continued their success on and off field and a new clubhouse was built in 1974. In 1975 The Heathens won the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup and the Reading Senior Cup. In 1977 the club achieved Senior status and moved up into the Hellenic League Division One. Promotion to the Premier Division was achieved at the first attempt. After five seasons in this league, during which time floodlights were installed at Wilks Park, Flackwell were elected into the Athenian League.

In 1984 they joined the expanding Isthmian League. The club's first season in this competition saw

them playing in Division Two (North) and they finished in a respectable eighth position. The following season Flackwell was switched to Division Two (South) where life turned out to be even tougher.

At the end of season 1990/91, after finishing below mid table, The Heathens found themselves placed in the newly formed Ryman League Division Three.

In 2002/03 for the first time in their history Flackwell reached the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup and finished third in the newly formed Ryman League Division Two, the highest position achieved to date.

In 2004/05, The Heathens reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the second time in three years and were runners-up in the Ryman League Associate Members Cup. Flackwell finished fourth in Ryman League Division Two in 2005/06, narrowly missing out on promotion.

After the end of 2006/07 the FA reorganised the non-league pyramid and Flackwell were due to be relegated into the South Midlands Spartan League until Barking

and East Ham United went out of business, and they took their place in the Ryman Division One (North).

After finishing bottom of the league they were relegated into the Hellenic Premier Division for season 2008/09.

The 2014/15 season saw them gain promotion into the Southern League Division 1. However, after the Southern League moved Heath from the Central Division into the South West Division, FHFC were unable to accept promotion and stayed in the Hellenic League Premier Division for season 2015-16.

Earlier that season FHFC reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup losing to Conference side Weston Super-Mare 4-1. For the first time in club history they also reached the last sixteen of the FA Vase.

2015/16 season under the continued management of Graham Malcolm assisted by Paul Shone saw FHFC finish 3rd in the Hellenic League also winning three cup finals – the Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy, the UHlsport Challenge Cup and the Wycombe Senior Cup.

After Graham Malcolm's decision to move to Spain, Paul Shone took over

the managerial role assisted by Sean Kelleher.

Unfortunately, this combination did not work out and in November 2017 they were replaced by Marcus Richardson, formerly of Highmoor Ibis FC, assisted by Fabian Coultress. Marcus had to start rebuilding the team from scratch, bringing in lots of young players and former Youth team players.

That season the team finished a respectable 5th, following with 8th position in 2018/19.

The first Covid-19 hit season of 2019/20 finish saw Heath placed 9th, and when the second season was similarly curtailed, FHFC sat top of the Hellenic League having only lost one game.

However, FA promotions and restructuring using a points per game system saw the club finishing 4th over the previous two seasons, thereby missing out on promotion for 2021/22.

The restructuring saw FHFC take up a place in the Spartan South Midlands League, Premier Division.

This disappointment was tempered by a very successful run in the 2020/21 FA Vase. FHFC reached the Quarter Finals for the 1st time in their history finally losing to US Portsmouth FC 2-0.

Chris Ayres took over the 1st team management mid-way through the 2021-22 season, finishing in 6th place.

2022/23 saw FHFC move yet again, this time to their preferred League, The Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League, North Premier Division winning the Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup 22-23.

Flackwell Heath remained there for season 2023-24 with Chris Ayres continuing as manager, assisted by Paul Shone supported by Wycombe legend Keith Ryan. Stacia Murray is our very able physio. 2023/24 was one of the most successful seasons in the clubs history. The First Team winning the Combined Counties Premier League and gaining promotion to Step 4, to join the Southern League Division 1 Central. The Development Team, The Allied Counties Team and the Vets all winning their respective League titles.



MANAGER CHRIS AYRES

Chris is now in his fifth season managing the Heathens and initially joined the club to coach Flackwell Heath Minors. Since taking over as first team manager, he has led the Heathens to win the Combined Counties League Premier North Division title at the end of his third season, then took them to the Southern League Div One Central Play Off final last season. As well as managing Flackwell Heath, he is Head Coach at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre where he has been coaching since 2010.

THREE HEATHENS TO WATCH



CALLUM MAPLEY DEFENDER

Vice-captain Callum is a strong experienced defender who had a very good season last year. He is really dominant in the air and is great at setting up attacks from deep. The 28-year-old defender has been at the club for several seasons and has previously played for Beaconsfield, Aylesbury United and Thame United.



JACK SHAKESPEARE MIDFIELDER

Jack is a 25-year-old midfielder who had another excellent season last year, scoring the most goals from midfield. Jack is pivotal to the team playing well. A really complete midfielder, he is also an ever-present this season.



JUWON AKINTUNDE FORWARD

An experienced forward who started his career in college football in America before playing for East Grinstead Town, Harrow Borough, Chalfont St. Peter, Aylesbury United, GPS Portland Phoenix in USA, Uxbridge, Northwood and Royston Town.

MATCH ACTION

WOODS LOSE TO LATE GOAL

ENFIELD VS NORTHWOOD
SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY 2026
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Vukaj 82 (pen)

Northwood slipped up in their efforts to put some distance between themselves and the bottom four with this narrow defeat away at fellow strugglers Enfield who completed a double over the Woods and improved their own precarious position. Northwood chose the wrong time to fail to score in an away game this season while the E's gained their first home league win since the August Bank Holiday Monday.

Joint Manager Jon-Jo Bates dropped himself to the bench in the only change to the side who had lost at high-flying Biggleswade a week earlier, with the replacement being Dan Vincent who started for the first time since picking up an injury in mid-December.

The game started in bright sunshine but it took until the ninth minute for the first attacking action as Gabe Cuthbert picked out Dan Williams with a neat ball forward and the Woods striker did well with a run across two defenders before his shot lacked composure and it flew over the bar.

Four minutes later, some good patient approach work saw Henry Atkinson play Carl Stewart into the box and his touch got him into the box only to miskick with just the keeper to beat.

The home side had been unable to get into the final third and their first effort on goal came after eighteen minutes when Tami Ogunnowo hit a strong shot from distance but it was straight at Hafed Al-Droubi who saved comfortably.

There was no great fluency to the game but after twenty eight minutes, Mack Miskin's ball down the left saw a defender miss a clearance and Williams was able to seize on the loose ball, drive into the box and square for Atkinson who had timed his run well but just couldn't reach it, perhaps put off by a slight push in the back.

Enfield began to add some headway into the final third to their possession after this and Samir Ali got down the right to knock in an inviting cross but Ogunnowo was unable to connect and then Malachi Soile also found joy down the same flank to burst into the box but his effort only found the side-netting.

Into the final five minutes of the half and Williams



Manny Folarin

managed to get his head on a neat chip into the box from Osa Otote but it looped over and then, at the other end, a free-kick for the E's picked out George Sykes and his flicked header bounced onto the crossbar and over.

On forty three minutes, Manny Folarin won a tackle in his own half and Freddie Ford quickly threaded a ball through for Williams to run onto but he was halted by a tight offside call but then, just before the break, Folarin was harshly penalised for a challenge on George Thompson and picked up a yellow card. The free-kick, taken by Andre Wholasspencer was an easy take for Al-Droubi.

HT: ENFIELD 0-0 NORTHWOOD

To start the second-half, Enfield made two changes with the experienced pair of Joni Vukaj and Freddie Moncur both introduced. But just three minutes in, Northwood should have been ahead. Ford knocked a good ball into the box for Williams and although Matt Hurley nicked it off him, his touch only set up Otote for an open goal but the Woods winger saw his effort agonisingly hit the post rather than see the net bulge.

Four minutes later, there was a good chance for the home side as Sykes flicked on another header which put Vukaj into the box but he sliced his effort wide.

On fifty six minutes, Otote made a good run across the edge of the area before being bundled over by Soile, just inches away from the penalty-box. After much deliberation, it was Vincent who was given the responsibility from the free-kick but he hit his shot well wide of the target and another opportunity had been spurned.

On the hour, Enfield were awarded a free-kick from out on the left and Vukaj did better with his effort, fighting it across goal and the ball crashed back off the crossbar. Bates replaced Vincent for the final twenty minutes but



Gabe Cuthbert up well for a corner

by now the flow of the game was deteriorating with both sides picking up yellow cards with depressing regularity. It was after seventy eight minutes that Northwood went close to snatching the lead again, this time when Otote set up Ford for a shot from distance which beat goalkeeper George Edgeworth but crashed back off the bar.

82 MINUTES 1-0 JONI VUKAJ (PENALTY)

Just two minutes later, the game swung the way of the home side as a good run from the left was ended by a rash challenge from behind by Folarin. A second yellow card for the skipper ended his afternoon as the Woods were reduced to ten men and Vukaj had no problem tucking away the resulting spot-kick as he had at the Skyline earlier in the season. Manny Folarin had picked up his second dismissal of the season, the only Northwood player to have been red-carded, and coincidentally, by the same referee each time.

The Woods had a bit of time to rescue a point and brought on Louis Udeh and Bryan Mankumbani at the back to allow others to push forward but it brought no joy. Enfield took their yellow card tally to seven, including one from the bench while Northwood kept it to just the six. Not a game for the purists that's for sure.

A week to work on things now before a tough trip to Marlow next Saturday with the Blues only just above Northwood in the table having lost their last four matches.

FT: ENFIELD 1-0 NORTHWOOD

NORTHWOOD LINE-UP

Al-Droubi, Baruwa (Udeh 82), Miskin, Folarin, Cuthbert, Vincent (Bates 68), Atkinson, Williams (Mfinda 79m), Ford, Otote (Mankumbani 82). **Unused sub:** McKenna

Attendance: 85

Words: Alan Evans **Images:** James Brown



Osa Otote should score but hits the post



Osa Otote on the charge



WOODS MATCH BY MATCH

AUGUST			F-A	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Sat 2	EGHAM TOWN	H	FACEPR	0-1	204	Al-Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Empson	Stewart
Sat 9	AFC DUNSTABLE	A	LGE	2-2	108	Al-Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin 1	M. Folarin	Empson	Stewart
Tue 12	HADLEY	H	LGE	0-2	147	Al-Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Empson	Stewart
Sat 23	HANWORTH VILLA	H	FATPR	3-1	110	Al-Droubi	Atkinson	McGovern	M. Folarin	Empson	Baruwa
Mon 25	RAYNERS LANE	H	LGE	2-4	173	Al-Droubi	Atkinson	Sharifi	Miskin	Empson 1	Stewart
SEPTEMBER											
Sat 6	BECKENHAM TOWN	H	1QR	0-1	138	Al-Droubi	Atkinson	Miskin	M. Folarin	Empson	Stewart
Sun 14	AYLESBURY UNITED	A	LGE	2-2	203	Morris	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin 1	Empson	Stewart
Sat 20	HERTFORD TOWN	A	LGE	2-1	218	Morris	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Torsiello	Baruwa
Tue 23	EDGWARE & KINGSBURY	A	MSCI	2-1	43	Al-Droubi	Atkinson	McKenna	Torsiello	Empson	Smith
Sat 27	BIGGLESWADE TOWN	H	LGE	1-4	122	Al-Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	Torsiello	Mankumbani	Baruwa
Tue 30	MARLOW	H	LGE	1-2	102	Al-Droubi	Atkinson	Miskin	M. Folarin	Mankumbani	Smith
OCTOBER											
Sat 4	ENFIELD FC	H	LGE	0-2	109	Al Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Mankumbani	Smith
Sat 11	LEIGHTON TOWN	H	LGE	0-5	184	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Miskin	M. Folarin	Mankumbani	Bates
Sat 18	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	H	LGE	1-1	115	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Miskin	M. Folarin	Mankumbani	Stewart
Sat 25	HITCHIN TOWN	A	LGE	1-1	632	Al Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Stewart
Tue 28	MILTON KEYNES IRISH	A	LGE	1-1	205	Al Droubi	Sharifi	Miskin	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Stewart
NOVEMBER											
Sat 1	WARE	H	LGE	1-1	133	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Rowe
Tue 4	SOUTHALL	H	MSCQF	0-0*	77	Al Droubi	Atkinson	McKenna	M. Folarin	Mankumbani	Stewart
Sat 8	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	A	LGE	2-2	122	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert 1	Rowe
Tue 11	LONDON LIONS	H	LGE	2-5	121	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Rowe
Sat 15	AFC DUNSTABLE	H	LGE	3-1	185	McCorkell	Baruwa	McKenna	Cuthbert	Mankumbani	Vincent 1
Tue 18	FLACKWELL HEATH	A	LGE	2-2	105	Al Droubi	Baruwa	McKenna	Cuthbert	Mankumbani	Vincent 1
Sat 22	BARTON ROVERS	A	LGE	1-3	201	Burrows	Baruwa	McKenna	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Vincent
Tue 25	HADLEY	A	LGE	1-1	101	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Vincent
Sat 29	AYLESBURY UNITED	H	LGE	0-2	161	Al Droubi	Baruwa	McKenna	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Vincent
DECEMBER											
Sat 6	THAME UNITED	A	LGE	3-6	98	McCorkell	Baruwa	McKenna	M. Folarin	Mankumbani 1	Vincent
Sat 13	STOTFOLD	H	LGE	2-0	130	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Vincent
Sat 20	HERTFORD TOWN	H	LGE	2-2	156	Al Droubi	McKenna	Mankumbani	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Ford
Sat 27	RAYNERS LANE	A	LGE	1-0	101	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Miskin	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Ford
JANUARY											
Sat 10	BIGGLESWADE	A	LGE	1-3	132	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Miskin	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Ford
Sat 17	ENFIELD FC	A	LGE	0-1	85	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Miskin	M. Folarin	Cuthbert	Vincent
Sat 24	MARLOW	A	LGE	0-2	174	Al Droubi	Baruwa	Mankumbani	Cuthbert	Udeh	Vincent
Sat 31	FLACKWELL HEATH	H	LGE								
FEBRUARY											
Sat 7	LEIGHTON TOWN	A	LGE								
Sat 14	MILTON KEYNES IRISH	H	LGE								
Sat 21	Ware	A	LGE								
Sat 28	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	H	LGE								
MARCH											
Sat 7	LONDON LIONS	A	LGE								
Sat 14	BIGGLESWADE TOWN	A	LGE								
Sat 21	BARTON ROVERS	H	LGE								
Tue 24	BROADFIELDS UNITED	A	MSCSF								
Sat 28	STOTFOLD	A	LGE								
APRIL											
Fri 3	THAME UNITED	H	LGE								
Mon 6	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	A	LGE								
Sat 11	BIGGLESWADE	H	LGE								
Sat 18	HITCHIN TOWN	H	LGE								
Sat 25	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	A	LGE								
TBA	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	H	LGE								



WOODS SCORE SHOWN FIRST; **GOAL SCORER (1)**;
FIRST SUB; **SECOND SUB**; **THIRD SUB**; **FOURTH SUB**; **FIFTH SUB**; **YELLOW CARD**; **RED CARD**

* Northwood lost 3-4 on penalties.



Emirates
FA CUP



7	8	9	10	11	Used Substitutes	OG
Price-Placid	Baruwa	Kearney	Totesaut	Lewis-Thomas	Clarke-Rowe, Bates, Ford, Kennedy, Otote	
Price-Placid	Baruwa	Kearney	Totesaut 1	Otote	Ellis (67), Kennedy (67), Torsiello (71), Bates (62)	
Price-Placid	Baruwa 1	Kearney	Totesaut	Otote 1	Ellis (61), Ford (61), Bates (72), Torsiello (72)	
Price-Placid	Bates	Kearney 1	Kennedy 1	Bouchareb 1	Otote (74), Torsiello (75), Ellis (81), Totesaut (72) 1, Smith (90)	
Otote	Clarke-Rowe	Totesaut 1	Kennedy	Bouchareb	Torsiello (30), Baruwa (46), Price-Placid (46), McKenna (66), Smith (90)	
Price-Placid	Baruwa	Totesaut	Bates 1	Williams	Ford (66), Otote (67), Kearney(71), Kennedy (84), Torsiello (87)	
McKenna	Baruwa	Totesaut	Otote	Williams 1	Price-Placid (46), Bouchareb (79), Kennedy (89)	
Ellis 1	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates 1	Bouchareb 1	Price-Placid (55), Otote 1 (60), Ford (64), Empson (84),	
Price-Placid	Ford 1	Kearney 1	Totesaut 1 1	Kennedy	Bouchareb (33), Mankumbani (67), Baruwa (84)	
Ellis	Stewart	Williams	Totesaut	McKenna	Price-Placid 1 (14), Smith (46), Atkinson (62), Kearney (73), Ford (73)	
Price-Placid	Stewart 1	Kearney	Baruwa	Williams 1	Ford (67), Totesaut (68), Ellis (83)	
Price-Placid	Stewart	Kearney 1	Baruwa	Williams	Atkinson (56), Bouchareb (71), Totesaut (77), Ford (90)	
McKenna	Stewart	Williams	Ford	Bouchareb	Smith (64), Kearney (64), Kennedy (67), Talla (89)	
Price-Placid 1	Rowe	Totesaut 1	Bates 1	Williams	Sharifi (79), Kennedy (79), Bouchareb (80)	
Price-Placid	Baruwa	Totesaut	Ford 1	Smith-Jones	Williams (54), Bates (80), McKenna (88), Otote (90)	
Rowe 1	Baruwa	Totesaut	Ford	Williams 1	Otote (61), Smith-Jones (61), Bates (81)	
McKenna	Stewart	Williams	Bates	Otote 1	Ford (68), Price-Placid (79), Totesaut (81)	
Price-Placid	Rowe	Totesaut	Ford	Otote	Baruwa (52), Bouchareb (64), Bates (67), Daly (79)	
Price-Placid	Stewart	Williams 1	Ford	Otote	McKenna (54), Bouchareb (67), Totesaut (89), Atkinson (89), Sharifi (73)	
McKenna	Stewart 1	Williams 2	Ford	Otote	Totesaut (46), Bates (58), Bouchareb (70), Sharifi (70), Atkinson (85)	
Atkinson	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates 1	Otote	Daly (68), Ford (68), Sharifi (87) 1	
Price-Placid	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates	Otote	Totesaut (71), Ford (84), Bouchareb (84)	
Williams 1	Stewart	Totesaut	Ford	Otote 1	Bouchareb (73), Atkinson (77)	
Price-Placid	Stewart	Williams	Ford 1	McKenna	Atkinson (59), Totesaut (72), Bates (74)	
Price-Placid	Stewart	Williams	Rowe	Otote	Ford (70), Bates (70), Mankumbani (82), Daly (84)	
Ford	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates 1	Otote	Bouchareb (58), Bombelenga (58), Tarrant (71), Daly (71)	
Bombelenga 1	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates	Ford	Otote (78), Kennedy (86)	
Bombelenga	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates 1	Bouchareb 1	Otote (65), Mfinda (82) 1, Kennedy (71),	
Bombelenga	Stewart	Williams	Bates 1	Bouchareb	Otote (62), Mfinda (68), Kennedy (73), Torsiello (90)	
Atkinson	Stewart	Williams 1	Bates 1	Otote 1	Vincent (46), Udeh (71), Mfinda (71)	
Atkinson	Stewart 1	Williams 1	Ford	Otote	Bates (68), Mfinda (79), Mankumbani (82), Udeh (90)	
Ford	Stewart	Williams	Bates 1	Miskin 1	Otote (46), Atkinson (71), Mfinda (71), McKenna (85)), Kennedy (85)	





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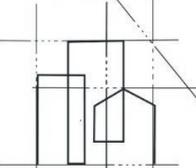


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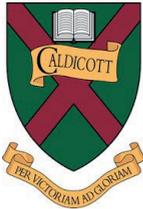


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COMMERCIAL CORNER

WITH JOHN JOYCE

Northwood FC Commercial Manager

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Welcome to another commercial corner piece. Seems like it's ages since I last updated you all with news and it has been five weeks since the game against Hertford Town FC.

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and have settled into 2026!

Having thought we'd turned a corner on the field, recent away results haven't been good enough and joint managers Jack Smith and Jon Jo Bates have since departed. I'd like to thank them for their efforts especially last season when they managed to keep us up. Hopefully a new manager can do something similar this year!

It's been a more positive start on the commercial front with the announcement



of Screwfix Ltd as a new Premium Sponsor. It's fantastic news for the club to secure a company of that size. I contacted them back in May and they touched base in November and after a very productive meeting they agreed to become a Woods sponsor. With over 970 stores across the UK, Ireland and France, and an extensive range of 70,000 products, Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and competitively priced, helping busy tradespeople get their jobs done quickly, affordably, and the right time. Their nearest branch to our ground is the City store in Pinner.

Before Christmas, myself and Ian visited a few of our local sponsors and it was once again very well received. It was great to say hello and thank these companies for their support and there really are some lovely people we deal with. You will hopefully have seen posts from the visits on social media. We do like a photo!

As you all know it's the club's Centenary year and we have a series of events planned. The launch day is Saturday 14th February and everything will be announced before the game. Please come in the clubhouse that day to be a part of what should be a very memorable year!

Social media numbers continue to grow with one post at 2.2 million views on Instagram! A lot of posts are regularly hitting over 10k and is helping to gain us new followers and spread the word on the Woods!

Our Instagram matchday sponsors for today's game is Fauna Vets.

Until next time, Up the Woods!

John





UNDER 18'S

CUP PROGRESSION BUT FIRST LEAGUE DEFEAT FOR WOODS...

After a month without a game, the Under-18s returned to action in mid-January for the visit of fellow West Division side Hampton & Richmond Borough in the quarter-finals of the Isthmian Youth League Cup.

The Woods took an early lead when Jack Boardman, a former Northwood Youth player who was recently released by QPR, got forward from left-back to fire home. The visitors showed that they were up for a battle with an equaliser on 25 minutes and having still been level at the break, Hampton then took an early lead right at the start of the second period.

It was clearly going to be a tough task to regain the advantage but this Woods side are always up for the challenge and on 57 minutes Aidan Tarrant headed in a Freddie Ford free-kick to level things up again at 2-2.

After 65 minutes, Tobi Faleye fired in a third and with the visitors pushing again to try to force penalties, the Woods wrapped up victory when James King converted another Ford cross in the final minute for a 4-2 success.

There were thoughts that the semi-final, scheduled to be away at Hanworth Villa who have withdrawn from all U18 competitions, might become a bye to the Final for Northwood but the League committee have decided otherwise and reinstated AFC Whyteleafe, who were beaten by Villa in the quarter-finals, have been reinstated into the competition and we now go there on Monday 9th February for a place in the final. Any support would be very welcome.

The following week, the Woods faced a rare Tuesday night fixture away at Bracknell Town and with a couple of players missing, things didn't go to plan and the home side secured a narrow 1-0 win with a late goal. Amazingly, this was the side's first League defeat (in Isthmian and Allied Counties) since a 2-1 reverse at Rayners Lane almost two years ago – on 30th January 2024. It shows that there is still a lot of work to be done and a lot of tough away games still to come if we are to achieve the target of an Isthmian title this season.

We will know by today if the side managed to bounce back in the Middlesex Senior Youth Cup semi final on Wednesday night away at Edgware & Kingsbury. Awaiting the winner of that tie in the Final will be Hampton & Richmond Borough who were given a bye in their semi-final after the previously mentioned withdrawal of Hanworth Villa!

This week, we are due to play a League match at home to....Hampton & Richmond Borough! Wednesday night if you can make it.

Top Appearances:

17 L. Atkinson, Daly, King, **16** Faleye, Havard, Pullem, Tarrant **15** Burrows, Flemming, Ford, Loveday. **14** Gardner.

Top Goalscorers:

12 Daly. **7** Ford. **6** Tarrant **5** H. Atkinson, Pullem, Swaby.

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2025/26

Date	Opposition	F-A
August		
Wed 20	Fleet Town	IVL 4-1 H Atkinson 2, Wright, Daly
September		
Wed 3	Tring Athletic	FAY 4-0 Pullem 2, Ford, H Atkinson
Mon 8	Bedfont Sports	IVC 5-0 Faleye, Kelly, Pullem, Wright, Daly
Wed 17	Hayes & Yeading United	FAY 2-0 Pullem, Daly
October		
Thu 2	Kings Langley	FAY 1-1 Ford (Woods won 3-2 on pens)
Fri 17	Eastbourne Borough	FAY 0-0 (Woods lost 5-6 on pens)
Tue 21	Broadfields United	MXV 4-1 Faleye, Tarrant, Daly, Ford
Wed 29	Maidenhead United	IVL 4-2 Swaby 3, Daly
November		
Wed 5	Farnham Town	IVC 3-0 Daly, Ford 2
Wed 12	Ascot United	IVL 3-1 Daly, 2 Ford
Wed 17	Bedfont Sports	MXV 4-2 Wright, Havard, Daly, Swaby
Thu 27	Aldershot Town	IVL 3-1 Pullem, H Atkinson 2
December		
Wed 3	Farnham Town	IVL 5-0 King, Tarrant 2, Havard, Swaby
Wed 10	Walton & Hersham	IVC 3-1 Ford, Daly, Havard
Mon 15	Badshot Lea	IVL 4-2 Tarrant 2, Daly 2
January		
Wed 7	Hampton & RB (QF)	IVC 4-2 Boardman, Tarrant, Faleye, King
Tue 20	Bracknell Town	IVL 0-1
Wed 28	Edgware & Kingsbury (SF)	MXV
February		
Wed 4	Hampton & RB	IVL
Mon 9	AFC Whyteleafe (SF)	IVC
Wed 18	Aldershot Town	IVL
Tue 24	Ascot United	IVL
March		
Wed 4	Fleet Town	IVL
Wed 11	Badshot Lea	IVL
Wed 18	Maidenhead United	IVL
Wed 23	Hampton & RB	IVL (At Bedfont Sports FC)
April		
Wed 1	Bracknell Town	IVL
Wed 8	Camberley Town	IVL
Wed 15	Farnham Town	IVL
Mon 20	Camberley Town	IVL

ISTHMIAN YOUTH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Northwood	7	6	0	1	23	8	15	18
2 Maidenhead United	7	4	1	2	17	15	2	13
3 Hampton & RB	5	4	0	1	20	10	10	12
4 Camberley Town	3	3	0	0	8	1	7	9
5 Bracknell Town	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
6 Aldershot Town	8	1	3	4	15	16	-1	6
7 Badshot Lea	7	1	2	4	16	19	-3	5
8 Ascot United	5	1	2	2	9	12	-3	5
9 Farnham Town	5	1	0	4	5	17	-12	3
10 Fleet Town	4	0	1	3	4	18	-14	1

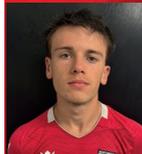
IVL = Isthmian Youth League; FAY = FA Youth Cup; IVC = Isthmian Youth League Cup
 MXV = Middlesex Youth Cup



UNDER 18'S SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship available for £30

Plenty of players still need a sponsor for the new season. It's only £30 so if you can help, please use the link from the club's website to make payment (or just pay cash).

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MATCH ACTION

WOODS LOSE OPENING GAME OF THE YEAR

BIGGLESWADE FC VS NORTHWOOD
SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 2026
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



L. Marsh 4, Bell 33, A. Marsh 57

Otote 49

The Woods fell to defeat in their opening game of the New Year with Biggleswade cementing their own place in the play-off places with an impressive first-half performance that proved enough to take all three points.

Northwood had to make a couple of changes to the side that had won their last fixture at Rayners Lane with Henry Atkinson replacing the injured Stephane Bombelenga in attack on the right while Osa Otote returned in place of Hicham Bouchareb on the opposite flank. There was a new face on the subs bench with Louis Udeh, a recent signing from Beaconsfield Town, making his first appearance.

Biggleswade turned out in an unexpected white and black kit rather than their usual green and made one change to their line-up that had won at Ware the previous week with Bradley Bell replacing Daniel Bond. Former Woods midfielder Charlie Hayford was only on the bench for FC.

4 MINUTES 1-0 LAWRIE MARSH

And the home side made the perfect start in just the fourth minute when some slick passing in the final third gave Biggleswade an extra man coming in from wide left and Lawrie Marsh was able to easily steer a low left-footed shot in off the far post.

The Woods were on the backfoot in those early stages and four minutes later, Adam Hunt's run down the right was assisted by a lucky ricochet which put him in on goal but Hafed Al-Droibi, making his fiftieth appearance for the club, managed to block his shot with Ademide Baruwu clearing the loose ball.

Northwood's first excursion into the danger-zone came on fifteen minutes when Otote picked up the ball in his own half and sped down the left before cutting back across Bell and knocking in a centre which saw Jon-Jo Bates just beaten to it by Lawrie Marsh who was able to clear the danger while also getting a whack on the ankle for his woes.

Biggleswade were still looking dangerous but with the visitors gradually getting more of the ball with Freddie Ford and Atkinson both making some inroads and they forced



Ademide Baruwu

a corner on twenty nine minutes from which they had a chance of an equaliser.

Carl Stewart's ball in was headed out to the left-edge of the box and Dan Williams played it quickly to Bates who had plenty of space in the box but perhaps rushed his shot and it was always rising over the bar.

33 MINUTES 2-0 BRADLEY BELL

It was after thirty three minutes that FC netted a crucial second goal. The Woods were caught out down the right as Hunt made another excellent break forward into a huge amount of space and he drilled a low ball across the six-yard box which was flicked home by Bell.

It could have been all over by half-time as Biggleswade went close twice later in the half, George Bailey seeing his effort well saved by Al-Droubi and then Alex Marsh headed just over from a well-delivered corner from Sonny Coughlin-Brown.

HT: BIGGLESWADE FC 2-0 NORTHWOOD

Dan Vincent was brought on at half-time for the already booked Bates, while the home side made a rare change in goal at half-time, replacing the untroubled Liam Coyne with 17-year-old Blade Early.

49 MINUTES 2-1 OSA OTOTE

Just four minutes into the second-half, the Woods raised the hopes of their travelling band of supporters when Otote took full advantage of a mix-up between the two home central defenders to quickly chip the stranded 'keeper and reduce the arrears.

The Woods raised their game and put FC under pressure. After fifty six minutes, a good ball from Williams saw Ford and Atkinson combine neatly to set up Stewart but he hit his first-time strike just over the bar and three minutes later Biggleswade struck again.



Osa Otote scores

59 MINUTES 3-1 ALEX MARSH

This time it was more route one and it caught the Woods defence pushing too high with Manny Folarin's header only helping the ball into the path of danger man Alex Marsh and he raced through to score his twelfth of the season.

Almost immediately, the Woods thought they might have reduced the arrears again when a ball spilled away from Early under a challenge from Otote and the loose ball was knocked in but the Referee gave a foul which looked on the soft side. A minute later, Williams cut in from the left and hit a powerful strike which only found the side-netting.

But it was end-to-end stuff at this stage though and, after a good flick-on by Alex Marsh, Al-Droubi pushed a shot from Coughlin-Brown away to safety before Northwood responded by going close twice in quick succession. Firstly, Ford's shot from the edge of the box dipped and it needed the touch over the bar from the 'keeper. From the resulting corner, recycled by Williams with a good cross, substitute Udeh got a good header in on goal and Early tipped that over too.

Time was running out on eighty eight minutes, as a Woods free-kick was played in by Stewart and when Gabe Cuthbert headed on, substitute Ronny Mfinda stole in to poke a shot which went just wide of the target.

Despite the five additional minutes, it was Biggleswade who threatened most in those closing-stages and only some stout defending from Cuthbert and Folarin kept substitute Temi Akinbusoye at bay when he attacked at pace.

The Woods will be looking to bounce back on Tuesday night in the rescheduled home game against Beaconsfield Town and the Rams will provide stern opposition having recovered from a defeat at Leverstock Green by winning their last three matches.

FT: BIGGLESWADE FC 3-1 NORTHWOOD

NORTHWOOD LINE-UP

Al-Droubi, Baruwa (Udeh 71), Miskin, Folarin, Cuthbert, Stewart, Atkinson, Ford, Williams, Bates (Vincent 46), Otote (Mfinda 71).

Unused sub: McKenna, Bouchareb.

Attendance: 132

Words: Alan Evans **Images:** James Brown



Osa Otote evades the tackle



Manny Folarin flicks on



Henry Atkinson on the attack



MATCH ACTION

WOODS GET LOCAL BRAGGING RIGHTS

RAYNERS LANE VS NORTHWOOD
SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2025
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Bates 12

Northwood picked up a much-needed three point maximum from this local derby holiday fixture to climb out of the bottom four just before the turn of the New Year.

There were two changes to the starting line-up that had held title-challengers Hertford Town to a draw a week earlier with Ademide Baruwa back from a hamstring issue to replace Harry McKenna at right-back while Mack Miskin was back from his two-month stint at Isthmian League Hayes & Yeading and immediately restored at left-back.

The home side were playing their fourth game following the return of manager Josh Bostock to the club, but only their second under his sole management and were hoping to follow up their excellent 2-2 draw at Hitchin Town the previous Saturday. Changes to the side have not been wholesale as yet and only veteran defender Junior Luke came in for a Lane debut in this game.

The Woods started the first-half well and after nine minutes, Stephane Bombelenga did well on the right to get past his marker and knock in a good cross which saw home goalkeeper Trent Carter-Rogers claim at the near-post with Jon-Jo Bates threatening to get a headed touch to.

12 MINUTES 0-1 JON-JO BATES

Three minutes later Northwood got their noses in front. Freddie Ford won a tackle in the centre of the park and also got a fortunate ricochet that saw him play a quick ball forward to send Bates through the centre. His turn of pace took him beyond the chasing defenders and he didn't need Dan Williams unmarked and free to his right as he steered a left-foot shot past the 'keeper.

It was an ideal start for the visitors and they continued to press, hoping to increase the advantage. Carl Stewart saw a couple of effort from just outside the box blocked before chipping another ball forward which had Williams stretching but he just couldn't get a touch.

Then Hicham Bouchareb did well to knock in a dangerous cross from the bench which former Wood Jeremy Stewart failed to cut out and Bombelenga was about to pounce at the far post when Carter-Rogers managed to grab the ball.



Stephane Bombelenga

Rayners Lane began to get into the match from about twenty five minutes with Kleyton De Biazze Junior starting to make an impact but the Woods defence looked solid enough until a corner on the half-hour saw Stewart meet it with a glancing header that flew across the face of the goal.

After thirty seven minutes Carter-Rogers swiped an inswinging corner off the head of Gabe Cuthbert but it was from another home corner that Lane had a chance to level before the break as De Biazze Junior got a shot in that bounced down and wide of the target.

HT: RAYNERS LANE 0-1 NORTHWOOD

It meant that Northwood only had a one-goal lead to defend against an occasionally strong wind in the second-half. The Lane made a double-substitution at the break and after they had dealt well with a dangerous Manny Folarin flick-on from a Baruwa long-throw, they were awarded a free-kick close to the edge of the box after fifty minutes. There seemed a generous amount of space at the near-post for De Biazze Junior's right-footed up and down strike but it swung wide of the post.

Two minutes later, the Woods went close to doubling their advantage as a good ball from midfield put Williams into the box but his early strike was kept out by the 'keeper who also recovered quickly to get to the ball as it ran loose.

By now, Northwood were defending deep, restricting Rayners Lane to long-range efforts and they did go close after fifty nine minutes when Luke was given too much space to aim a shot that arched towards the top corner of the goal but fortunately was just too high with Hafed Al-Droubi just a spectator. Soon after, an attempted clearance



Jon-Jo Bates slots past the keeper to score

from Cuthbert inadvertently gifted a free header to a home attacker but he steered it straight at a grateful Al-Droubi.

The Woods made a couple of substitutions themselves with Osa Otote replacing Bouchareb and then Ronny Mfinda, playing against his former club, coming on for goalscorer Bates. Almost immediately, Williams was put through on goal again but this time his first-time shot was wild and well wide.

Tariq Straker, back at Rayners Lane after a spell with Hendon, got forward well on seventy three minutes but drove his shot across goal and wide as the Lane's best efforts continued to be repelled by the Woods.

And the Woods continued to defend stoutly with only a couple of low shots from distance testing Al-Droubi who looked comfortable on each occasion and time was running out for the home side.

There was three minutes of stoppage-time played when a rare Woods attack saw Ford find space for a shot from the edge of the box but it lacked the power to really test Carter-Rogers. It did ease the pressure though and Northwood held on comfortably in the remaining time to secure the victory and their first away clean-sheet of the season.

The Woods now go into the New Year with a home game against Beaconsfield Town who secured an excellent 4-1 victory over Marlow to move back into the top half of the table and will clearly provide challenging opposition.

FT: RAYNERS LANE 0-1 NORTHWOOD

NORTHWOOD LINE-UP

Al-Droubi, Baruwa, Miskin, Folarin, Cuthbert, Stewart, Bombelenga (Kennedy 73), Ford, Williams (Torsiello 90), Bates (Mfinda 68), Bouchareb (Otote 62). **Unused sub:** Mankumbani.

Attendance: 101

Words: Alan Evans **Images:** James Brown



Dan Williams surges forward



Carl Stewart on the ball



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MATCH ACTION

WOODS BATTLE TO EARN VALUABLE POINT

NORTHWOOD VS HERTFORD TOWN
SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2025
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE CENTRAL



Bouchareb 23, Williams 86 (pen)

Herd 29, Mosanya 54

The Woods had to settle for a point for the tenth time this season as they shared four goals with second-placed Hertford Town in this enthralling encounter at the Skyline Roofing Stadium. Leaving Northwood just inside the bottom four on goal difference.

The management team had to cope without the injured duo of Ademide Baruwa and Dan Vincent with Harry McKenna returning to his former right-back role for the first time this season while youngster Freddie Ford dropped back into the centre of midfield with Hicham Bouchareb coming in on the left flank. There was a place on the bench for Ronny Mfinda, returning to the Woods for a fourth spell, having transferred from Rayners Lane.

The Blues arrived unbeaten in six games and in top form having beaten two top sides in Leighton Town and Biggleswade Town in their two previous matches. However, Northwood had notched their only away victory of the season at Hertford back in September so were looking to complete a "double" over their visitors. Hertford were also able to bring in influential skipper Billy Mardell-Smith after illness and he replaced Isaac Evans.

Both sides showed plenty of attacking intent from an early stage but it was the Woods who had the first real chance on ten minutes when McKenna got down the right and cut a cross back from the byline which was met by Dan Williams but his attempt at the near-post went wide.

Hertford were knocking the ball around comfortably too and Gabe Cuthbert did well to head away a dangerous cross to concede a corner. Soon after, a deep cross was well controlled by Joe Nardelli and he got a sight on goal but crashed his powerful shot well over the bar.

Bouchareb got into the game after eighteen minutes when he knocked in a good cross but it was just too high for Jon-Jo Bates and although Williams rescued the half-cleared header, he was unable to take advantage. Almost immediately, The visitor's top scorer Noah Mosanya picked his way across the edge of the box and got a shot in but Hafed Al-Droubi saved comfortably.

23 MINUTES 1-0 HICHAM BOUCHAREB

The Woods got themselves in front though just two minutes later when Bates led a charge from midfield



Bryan Mankumbani races down the left

and sprayed the ball wide to Stephane Bombelenga. The wide man showed good skills to beat his and whip in a cross which brushed the head of a Hertford defender but dropped kindly to Bouchareb and he took a touch before sweeping a right-footed shot just inside the post. It was his first league goal for the club and his first since scoring on his debut in the FA Trophy back in August.

29 MINUTES 1-1 BEN HERD

The lead didn't last long though; just six minutes. A free-kick was harshly given against Northwood wide on the left and, straight from the training-ground, player-manager Ben Herd got an early run on his marker to meet the well-delivered ball and coolly flicked it home from close-range.

Northwood continued to press to get back in front before the break though. After thirty five minutes, Bouchareb did well to drive into the penalty-area and make space for a shot but it lacked the power to beat goalkeeper James Callan. Then, three minutes later, after a Williams strike was blocked, Bates was quickest to the loose ball but Callan did well to narrow the angle and block his shot.

Bates did pick up a yellow card for a reckless soon after and just before the break Hafed Al-Droubi was called into action to save for the first-time as he kept out a low strike from Mosanya who had found himself in plenty of space in the box and should have done better.

HT: NORTHWOOD 1-1 HERTFORD TOWN

Still all to play for after the break, it was quickly end-to-end stuff with the Blues putting in a dangerous cross from the right which missed everyone and then Ford played a neat exchange of passes with Bombelenga and found room to dig out a shot across goal but it flashed just wide of the far post.



Dan Williams steps up and scores his penalty



Two more chances soon followed for the home side with Williams hitting a dipping shot from the edge of the box which was only just over and then Bates hit a first-time volley on the turn which was just wide of the target.

54 MINUTES 1-2 NOAH MOSANYA

Hertford hit back once more with Al-Droubi palming an accurate long-range effort from Nardelli over the bar on the hour but five minutes later the visitors got themselves in front with a fine solo goal from Mosanya as he robbed Ford in midfield and ran through, shrugging off another challenge from the back-tracking Ford before firing into the top corner to give AL-Droubi no chance.

Now, it was Northwood who needed to hit back and Osa Otote replaced Bombelenga for fresh legs. They sent in a couple of good crosses, firstly from Bouchareb and then from a Stewart corner, won by Otote, but Callan dealt well with the former while Cuthbert's effort to hook the ball over his head went over the bar.

After seventy five minutes, a corner from the visitors picked out Nardelli who sent a strong header goalwards and Al-Droubi dived to his left to push it away with strong hands.

86 MINUTES 2-2 DAN WILLIAMS (PENALTY)

Mfinda replaced Bates on eighty two minutes and four minutes later, Otote cut in from the left and found the substitute on the edge of the box. His touch invited Herd into a slightly mistimed tackle against Mfinda and the Referee's decision was a foul right on the penalty-area with a spot-kick awarded. Williams stepped up to fire the Woods level with what was the first penalty awarded this season.

It was Northwood who went closest to winning the game in the closing-stages. First Otote set up Williams for a shot which was deflected just wide for a corner and then more good work by Otote on the left produced an excellent cross which Williams chested down, touched past his marker and hit a shot that beat Callan but was also the wrong side of the post.

FT: NORTHWOOD 2-2 HERTFORD TOWN

NORTHWOOD LINE-UP

Al-Droubi, McKenna, Mankumbani, Folarin, Cuthbert, Stewart, Bombelenga (Otote 65), Ford, Williams, Bates (Mfinda 82), Bouchareb (Kennedy 87). **Unused sub:** Torsiello, Tarrant.

Attendance: 156

Words: Alan Evans **Images:** James Brown



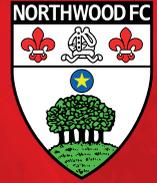
Jon-Jo Bates wins a header



Stephane Bombelenga



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HAFED AL-DROUBI



Experienced goalkeeper who joined the Woods for a second spell in November 2024 on dual registration from Walthamstow. The 30-year-old Jordanian-born keeper played at Besiktas in Turkey and Luton Town as a youngster. He has played for Chesham United, Harrow Borough, Beaconsfield Town, Potters Bar Town and Hendon amongst others as well as for the England six-a-side international team. Left to help Berkhamsted to play-off promotion success but is now back for a third spell at the Woods.

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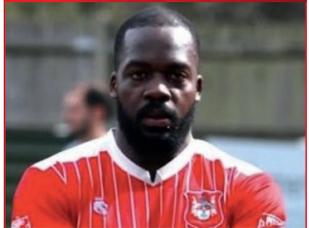
ANDREW MCCORKELL



Experienced goalkeeper who first had a spell with the Woods in 2017 after release from MK Dons where he picked up representative honours for Northern Ireland U19s. He had already made appearances for Hendon and Chesham United. In more recent years he has had spells with Beaconsfield, Hayes & Yeading, Chalfont St Peter and Bedfont Sports before joining the Woods in 2022. Ever-present and voted in the League's team of the season, he then returned to Northwood after a brief spell at Uxbridge before joining Harrow Borough in 2024.

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MANNY FOLARIN



Experienced, 33-year-old defender who switched from Rayners Lane to Northwood in November 2024. Previous clubs include Tilbury, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, Hayes & Yeading, Berkhamsted, Braintree Town, Eastbourne Borough and Leighton Town. Had a great season with the Woods, winning the Managers' Player of the Year award and has been named Skipper for the new season.

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ROMARIO JONAS



27-year-old defender who joined the Woods on dual registration with Hanwell Town in July 2022. He made his name with some impressive performances at Ashford Town (Middx) and earned a move to Step 3 side Hendon where he made almost 50 appearances over two seasons. He has had short spells with Bracknell Town and Chalfont St Peter but was then part of the successful Hanwell side that won promotion through the play-offs in May 2022. Injuries plagued his next couple of seasons with just a few appearances here and at Harefield but he's back to play a big part.

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CARL STEWART



Former Watford youth midfielder Carl Stewart signed on a dual-registration basis from Beaconsfield Town in November 2021. Carl is a 27-year-old who was also at Udinese as a youngster and then played in Poland for Zagłębie Sosnowiec. He has also had short spells at Oxford City, Banbury United, Bedfont Sports, Wingate & Finchley and Marlow. He won the coveted Players' Player of the Year award in 2022 and was virtually ever-present in the Woods midfield, with over 100 appearances before spending a season at Harrow Borough, returning in July 2025.

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HARRY MCCORKELL



Harry returns to the Woods for a second spell in the summer of 2025 having had a year with Harrow Borough where he was named as Players' and Managers' Player of the Year. Now 26, Harry had previously had six seasons at Harefield United and a great year with North Greenford. He will now look to take a big role in the centre of midfield to add to his 32 appearances in 2023/24.

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ADEMIDE BARUWA



A new arrival at the Woods in the summer of 2025, Adz joins the club from Leverstock Green where he has been a mainstay of their midfield over the past couple of seasons, clocking up over 70 appearances. Prior to this the 25-year-old has played for CB Hounslow, North Greenford United and Belstone.

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RICCARDO CLARKE-ROWE



Rico joins the Woods in the summer of 2025 having been out of the game for a while since spells with Broadfields United and Amersham Town. Now 23, he will be working hard to establish his place in the new squad.

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JORDAN ELLIS



30-year-old wide player, Jordan has been out of the game for around 18 months having been badly injured in a play-off fixture at the end of several seasons with Hanworth Villa. He will be looking to get back to both fitness and sharpness in pre-season.

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BRYAN MANKUMBARI



23-year-old defender who played at Welling United as a youth but arrived at the Woods in September 2025 having previously played in Jamaica for Montego Bay and Treasure Beach and in Croatia for NK Sokodija.

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DYLAN KEARNEY



An experienced striker with an excellent goalscoring record, 27-year-old Dylan joined the Woods in summer 2025 having returned from serious injury with games at Flackwell Heath last season. He has had previous spells with the likes of Uxbridge, Wealdstone, Harrow Borough, Sutton United, Dulwich Hamlet, Hayes & Yeading, Hendon, Wingate & Finchley and Beaconsfield.

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KUSHON LEWIS-THOMAS



A new signing for the Woods in the summer of 2025, Kush is a 21-year-old attacker who can play up front or on the left. He enjoyed an excellent season with Langley FC back in 2022/23 with over 20 goals for the Step 6 side but hasn't been playing in recent years. With plenty of pace and creativity, Kush will be looking to get back to enjoying his football with the Woods this season.

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DEVONTE TOTESAUT



Striker who returned to the Woods in February 2025 having had a previous spell in the Covid-hit 2020-21 season where he made 11 appearances and scored three goals. After a few years out of the game he returned to play for Yaxley and AFC Peterborough earlier last season. Now 30, previous clubs include Chesham United and Brunos Magpies in Gibraltar, amongst others.

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BRIAN MCGOVERN



Brian joins the first-team squad after a superb season in the Woods Under-18s and having made an impressive first-team debut at the end of that season at Barton Rovers. The 18-year-old also gained experience playing for Oxhey Jets and has a bright future ahead of him.

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HARRY MCKENNA



Woods Young Player of the Year in 2024, having impressed throughout since joining from Aldershot Town's Development side in October 2023. He returned to the Woods for a second season and had clocked up over 60 appearances before a dislocated shoulder ruled him out for the rest of the season in early March. Back for a third season, Harry can play anywhere on the right.

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FREDDIE FORD



Promising young attacking midfielder player, only 17, who has been impressing for the Woods Under-18s side since March 2024. He's in double figures for the youth side and has already scored a couple of times for the first team.

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STEPHANE BOMBELENGA



An experienced attacker, Stephane joined the Woods in December 2025 on dual-registration from British Airways FC having finished last season at Harrow Borough. The 27-year-old started out as a youth at Ipswich Town and has also played for Eastbourne Borough at Step 3 and abroad in Poland with SportisLochowo and Ghana with Legon Cities.

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GABE CUTHBERT



Central defender Gabe, just 17, is currently on work experience at the Woods from Queens Park Rangers where he captains their Under-18s. He's been with the Rs since the age of eleven, having moved into their Academy from the Northwood Youth set-up

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HICHAM BOUCHAREB



Hicham is a 22-year-old tricky, wide player who started out with Hampton & Richmond Borough and then played in development sides at Basildon United, Beaconsfield Town and Rising Ballers. Joins the Woods after a couple of years out of the game.

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JAMIE KENNEDY



Young midfielder who arrived at the Woods in the summer of 2025 having played for Harrow Borough, both U23 and around a dozen first-team matches last season, winning the Young Player of the Year Award. Only 19, his previous youth experience was at Brentford.

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OSARETIN OTOTE



23-year-old pacy winger, Osa has returned for a second spell at the club having originally signed in February 2023. He hit the headlines with a hat-trick early the following season against Corinthian-Casuals but the former Huddersfield Town youth then left and has since travelled around with spells at Enfield Town, Sutton Common Rovers, Frenford, Met Police and Sevenoaks Town.

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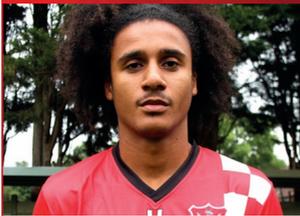
DAN WILLIAMS



Dan has returned to Northwood for a third spell at the club in September 2025. He was the Woods Golden Boot winner in 2023-24 but left to join Harrow Borough and then moved on in January to help Bedford Sports to promotion from the Combined Counties League. The 28-year-old striker has also played for Chalfont St Peter, Tooting & Mitcham United and Uxbridge.

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CHAMA TORSIELLO



Young, 20-year-old defender who has joined the Woods in July 2025 from Essex Senior League side Buckhurst Hill having previously played for Harrow Borough's Under-23 side and Spartans Youth when they played here at Northwood. He will be looking to make the step up to Step 4 football this season and has earned that chance with some solid performances in pre-season.

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JON-JO BATES



Attacking midfielder who came out of retirement in January 2025 for a second spell at Northwood. After playing as teenager at Bedford Town, he joined Dagenham & Redbridge on pro terms, then Harrow Borough and Hampton & Richmond Borough before his first spell with Woods. Other clubs since include Maidenhead United, Chesham United, Uxbridge, Beaconsfield and Egham Town.

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DENNIS QUIGLEY



Interim Manager

Sponsored by Tom Day

MARK CHANDLER



Interim Manager

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STEVE RINGROSE



Director of Football

Sponsored by Dennis Goulding

SAJ VIGNESWARAN



Goalkeeping Coach

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GUS PAYNE



Physiotherapist

Sponsored by Robin Piper

WOODS ROLL CALL



Player	2025/26 SEASON										WOODS CAREER						Woods Debut
	League				Cup				Total		League		Cups		Overall		
	Xi	Sub	Total	Goals	Xi	Sub	Total	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	
Ademide Baruwa	25	1	26	0	3	2	5	0	31	0	26	0	5	0	31	0	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
Carl Stewart	27	0	27	0	3	0	3	0	30	0	122	3	26	1	148	4	Chipstead (A) Nov '21
Freddie Ford	14	9	23	2	2	2	4	1	27	3	25	2	4	1	29	3	Kings Langley (H) April '25
Hafed Al-Droubi	22	0	22	0	5	0	5	0	27	0	41	0	11	1	52	1	Slimbridge (H) Sept '20
Manny Folarin	22	0	22	1	4	0	4	0	26	1	48	2	5	0	53	2	Thame United (A) Nov '24
Dan Williams	23	1	24	12	1	0	1	0	25	12	66	29	12	4	78	33	Merstham (A) Feb '23
Osaretin Otote	14	7	21	4	1	3	4	0	25	4	31	7	13	1	44	8	Binfield (A) April '23
Jon-Jo Bates	12	8	20	3	2	2	4	0	24	3	59	8	6	0	65	8	Leighton Town (A) Mar. '13
Devonte Totesaut	9	7	16	2	4	1	5	1	21	3	35	6	8	2	43	8	Westfield (A) Sept. '20
* Reece Price-Placid	10	5	15	2	5	0	5	0	20	2	15	2	5	0	20	2	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
Bryan Mankumbani	15	2	17	1	1	1	2	0	19	1	17	1	2	0	19	1	Edgware & Kingsbury (A) Sept '25
Mack Miskin	16	0	16	1	2	0	2	0	18	1	27	1	5	0	32	1	Ware (A) Nov '19
Harry McKenna	12	4	16	0	2	0	2	0	18	0	71	0	9	0	80	0	Thatcham Town (A) Oct '23
Gabe Cuthbert	16	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	16	1	16	1	0	0	16	1	Hitchin Town (A) Oct. '25
Hicham Bouhareb	5	8	13	1	1	2	3	1	16	2	13	1	3	1	16	2	Hanworth Villa (H) Aug '25
Henry Atkinson	5	7	12	0	4	0	4	0	16	0	12	0	4	0	16	0	Hanworth Villa (H) Aug '25
* Nasir Sharifi	9	4	13	0	1	0	1	0	14	0	13	0	1	0	14	0	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
Jamie Kennedy	1	8	9	0	2	2	4	1	13	1	9	0	4	1	13	1	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
Daniel Vincent	9	1	10	2	0	0	0	0	10	2	12	2	1	1	13	3	Brentford B (H) Oct. '24
Dylan Kearney	4	2	6	0	3	1	4	1	10	1	7	0	3	1	10	1	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
* Chama Torsiello	2	4	6	0	1	2	3	0	9	0	6	0	3	0	9	0	AFC Dunstable (A) Aug '25
* Jack Empson	4	1	5	1	4	0	4	0	9	1	38	1	7	0	45	1	Ashford Town (Middx) (H) Aug '24
Omar Rowe	6	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	7	0	10	0	1	0	11	0	Ware (H) March '25
Jack Smith	2	3	5	0	1	1	2	0	7	0	34	2	12	0	46	2	Burnham (A) Nov. '13
Jordan Ellis	2	3	5	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	5	0	1	0	6	0	AFC Dunstable (A) Aug '25
Ronny Mfinda	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	12	0	1	0	13	0	Bracknell Town (A) Dec. '19
Stephane Bombelenga	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	1	0	0	4	1	Thame United (A) 'Dec. '25
Rowan Daly	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	Southall (A) Nov. '25
Louis Udeh	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	Biggleswade (A) Jan '26
* Sam Morris	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	Aylesbury United (A) Sept. '25
Andrew McCorkell	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	66	0	18	0	84	0	Uxbridge (A) Sept '17
Rahzir Smith-Jones	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	Hitchin Town (A) Oct. '25
Brian McGovern	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	Barton Rovers (A) April '25
Rico Clarke-Rowe	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
* Matt Burrows	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Barton Rovers (A) Nov. '25
Aidan Tarrant	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	Kidlington (A) March '25
Brandon Talla	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Leighton Town (H) Oct. '25
Kush Lewis-Thomas	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	Egham Town (H) Aug '25
Harry McCorkell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	2	6	0	31	2	Corinthian Casuals (H) Aug '23
Michael Kelly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	Beaconsfield Town (H) Aug '24

Up to 19th December 2025 * No longer at club





NORTHWOOD



INTERIM MANAGERS

Dennis Quigley &
& Mark Chandler

Hafed Al-Droubi
Andrew McCorkell
Kai Mussilhy
Ademide Baruwa
Henry Atkinson
Harry McKenna
Bryan Mankumbani
Manny Folarin
Gabe Cuthbert
Aidan Tarrant
Chama Torsiello
Dan Vincent
Carl Stewart
Jon-Jo Bates
Freddie Ford
Harry McCorkell
Jamie Kennedy
Jordan Ellis
Hicham Bouchareb
Rowan Daly
Dan Williams
Stephane Bombelenga
Osa Otote



FLACKWELL HEATH



MANAGER

Chris Ayres

Henry Upstell
Jack Brooker
Ryan Avery
Lewis Patrick
Harry Mephram
Sean McGuinness
Lewis Pegg
Callum Mapley
Medo Conte
Jamie Ayres
Matty Ayres
Jack Shakespeare
Juwon Akintunde
Lucas Wynn
Ben Stallard
Matt Roberts
Eli Grant
Rio Oat-Ut
Bruce Ovbiye Nsang
Josh Light
Nnaemeka Anyanwu

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Chris Poole

ASSISTANTS: Luke Burford & Luke Griggs

NEXT HOME GAME

MILTON KEYNES IRISH

Saturday 14th February 2026, 3pm

Pitching In Southern League Division One Central



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