

THE FA CUP

EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

15:00, 7TH AUGUST 2021, THE MAYPLACE GROUND BEXLEYHEATH DA7 6JT

TOWER HAMLETS FC

SHEPPEY UNITED FC



VS



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From The Chairman

Welcome to the Mayplace Ground where we play Sheppey United in our third game of the season as we compete in the historic FA Cup!

This is our first ever fixture against Sheppey, as last seasons early curtail of the campaign prevented us from playing this highly-rated side.

We head into this much-anticipated fixture after back to back defeats in the league having lost to Canterbury City and Erith & Belvedere, however this huge fixture is definitely a great one for the boys to bounce back from.

Sheppey head into the game after collecting 4 points from a possible 6 in their opening two league games so far. After comfortably beating Tunbridge Wells they followed it up with a 3-3 draw v Kennington on Tuesday night. They will most definitely be coming into the game with their confidence high.

We wish all those in attendance an entertaining afternoon and a safe journey home.



Tower Hamlets

A Brief History

Tower Hamlets Football Club is an English football club based in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The club are currently members of the Essex Senior League and play at the Mile End Stadium. Up until July 2013 the club was playing under the name Bethnal Green United. The club was established in 2000 by Mohammed Nurul Hoque and Akhtar Ahmed as a community club. The club played in several leagues, including the Canary Wharf Summer League, the Inner London Football League and the London Intermediate League, before joining the Middlesex County League. They were granted Senior status after winning the league's Premier Division in 2009, and were promoted to the Essex Senior League. In the 2009–10 season they finished fifth in the ESL and won both cups operated by the Essex Senior League, beating Burnham Ramblers 4–1 in the final of the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy.

In 2020 our First Team switched leagues to the Southern Counties East and are playing our home games at Phoenix Sports Mayplace Road Ground.

Club Honours

FA Vase – Last 16 – 2011/ 2012 season

Eastern Junior Alliance U18 League Cup Champions - 2010/ 11

Essex Senior League Cup - 2009/10

Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy Champions - 2009/10

Middlesex County 'Premier Division Champions - 2008/09

Middlesex County Open Cup Winners - 2008/09

Middlesex County Premier Division Cup Runners up - 2008/09

Echo League U16 'A' Division Champions - 2008/09

Sheppey United

A Brief History

Sheppey United FC was formed in 1890 by a merger of Sheerness Victoria and Invicta, and initially played at the Sheppey United Cricket Club ground at Botany Road. The first match was at Sittingbourne on 20 September 1890, with Sheppey running out 3-1 winners despite turning up with only ten players. The match report referred to us as 'the Sheppeyites', hence the club nickname 'The Ites', which remains to this day.

They were founder members of both the Southern League and the Kent League in 1894. In the Southern League they were placed in Division Two, in which they finished as runners-up in the first season, before losing the promotion/relegation test match against Clapton 5-1.

At the end of the 1938-39 season Sheppey finished bottom of the league and should have been relegated, but the league was suspended due to the Second World War. After the war Sheppey were placed back in the top division of the Kent league for the 1945-46 season. The club then remained in Division one until the 1958-59 season when the Kent league stopped.

In June 2013 the club merged with Sheerness East FC to become Sheppey & Sheerness United FC competing in the Kent County League Premier Division with the club playing their home games at Holm Park formerly Canning Town Gasworks and then Sheerness Steel Sports Ground. The season saw the club win the Kent FA Intermediate Challenge Shield and finish runners up in the league and were promoted to the Kent Invicta League.

In the summer of 2014 the club was renamed back to Sheppey United FC.

In March 2001 the club resigned from the Kent League and their record was expunged. The senior team was disbanded until being reformed in 2003, when they joined Division Two East of the Kent County League. They finished second in their first season and were promoted to Division One East. The club was renamed AFC Sheppey in 2007, but was disbanded and reformed under their original name prior to the 2010-11 season.

2017-18 saw Sheppey finishing in 11th place and end as losing finalists in the Kent Senior Trophy final. An improved league position the following year was followed by even better performances in 2019/20 and 2020/21. However with promotion a real possibility in both years the Covid-19 pandemic cut each season short so we return in 2021/22 shooting for the stars once more.



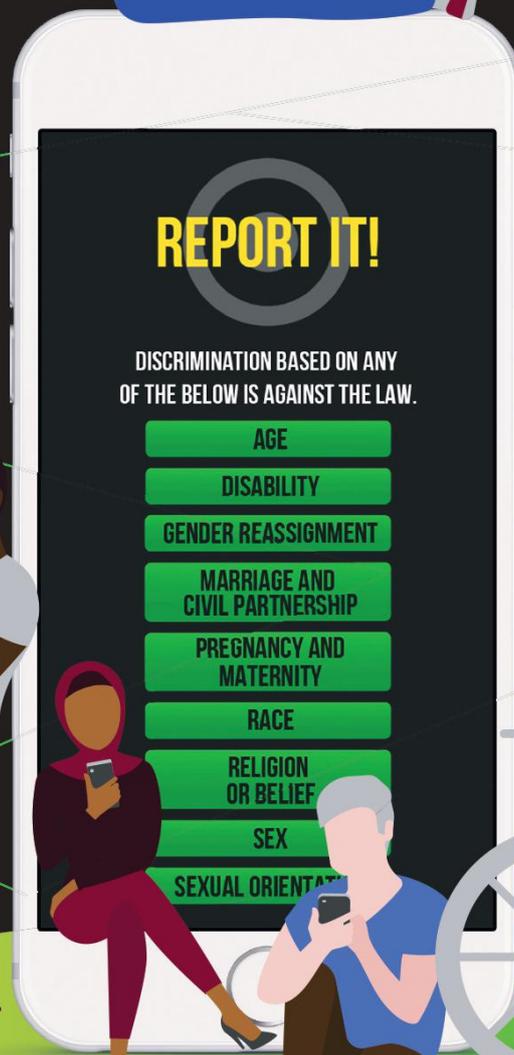
**Phoenix Sports Club
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No spectator or unauthorised persons are permitted to persistently stand in a seated area or smoke in any area of the stadium where smoking is not permitted.

“The Southern Counties East Football League strongly support recent FA statements that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to the relevant County Association for action by that Association.”

“The Southern Counties East Football League supports the ‘Swearing – Let’s Tackle It’ campaign and strongly condemns the use of foul and abusive language at football matches.”

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Match Filming



Tower Hamlets are proud to be working with VEO who will be recording our games during the 2021/22 Season

If any opposition or spectators are looking to also film or use professional photography at our home games please politely inform us at info@towerhamletsfc.co.uk

veo

Opponent watch

Kennington 3-3 Sheppey United

SCEFL Premier Division - 3rd August

Sheppey United came back from 3-1 down to secure a 3-3 draw on Tuesday evening in a game where mistakes were to cost them.

The Ites made two changes from the weekend with Richie Hamill and James Jeffrey starting ahead of Ryan Freeman and Junior Aikhionbare.

The away side started brightly enough with Jack Midson's header from a corner hitting the side section of the goal frame. At the opposite end Kennington won a few corners with Midson and then Bennett clearing. The home side were starting to look the most likely to score with Molloy saving well on 12 minutes and a few minutes later Gary Lockyer shot wide. Kennington then edged ahead on 18 minutes – Gary Lockyer taking full advantage of a loose back pass to slot neatly past Molloy for 1-0. The Ites should have equalised on 22 minutes. Jack Midson played a ball to Hamill down the left and his cross was blasted over the crossbar by Jeffrey with Tenyue also ready to line up a shot. Four minutes later Jeffrey turned provider when he ran down the left and swept over a low cross which Danny Smith hit first time for 1-1.

On the half hour mark Midson flicked the ball towards Bennett with a Kennington defender doing well to get a toe to the ball and prevent Sheppey from getting through on goal. A bit later in the half, Tenyue's first time ball set Bennett running, he found Jeffrey who was dispossessed when he maybe could have played to Roberts.

Then on the stroke of half-time Kennington went ahead again. Callum Peck converted into the bottom corner of the net after Gary Clarke had hit the post.

Half-time: Kennington 2 Sheppey United 1

Sheppey introduced Ryan Freeman in place of Hamill at half time. Both sides forced early corners and Jack Midson also had an attempt blocked on 52 minutes before Kennington then went on to score again. It came on 53 minutes when they had a shot knocked wide for a corner – the ball came through a crowded area where Gary Clarke emerged unmarked after the ball cannoned off Molloy to stab home for 3-1.

Sheppey immediately threw-on Junior Aikhionbare in place of Jack Midson – and he made an instant impact. After being found on the left of the Kennington area he took a few strides before firing hard past Mant's near post for 3-2 on 57 minutes. Aikhionbare was turning the momentum for the Ites and this showed on 63 minutes – the forward stormed down the right and cut the ball back to Freeman who touched to Roberts, with the wingers first time curler going whizzing past the post.

Sheppey got level at 3-3 on 64 minutes and again it involved Aikhionbare. As the ball went flying across the 6-yard box Aikhionbare and a defender both met it with the ball going beyond keeper Mant. Kennington then had a spell of trying to pin the Ites back before Taurean Roberts then had an effort saved by Mant with the follow-up from Aikhionbare hacked off the line.

A Kennington corner was cleared on 79 minutes whilst Ryan Freeman forced Mant into a save with 82 showing on the clock. With 5 minutes to go Dan Birch played long for Junior Aikhionbare to charge onto – this time the Mant prevented him from converting. A minute later the home side went desperately close from edging in front again when Tommy Scorer almost converted from a corner. The last chance of the game fell to the hosts but a weak free-kick fell straight to Molloy.

Full Time: Kennington 3 Sheppey United 3

Our Last Game

SCEFL Premier Division - 4th August



Tower Hamlets 1-5 Erith & Belvedere

It was our first home game of the season and second game of the campaign following our opening day defeat v Canterbury FC, 2-1. Although we kept the same formation a number of players were rotated due to either injuries and tactical decisions. Raphael Duyile was replaced at right back by Ishmed Turay and Elliot Assi Balo would take Trevor Harding's position as the central attacking midfielder.

The game didn't start as planned, we would concede within the first 5 minutes. Defending poorly from a corner and Drew Allassani would slot the ball home for the visitors. This really set Erith and Belvedere on as they continued applying the pressure especially through their two dynamic wingers. The 25th minute mark would see our right back Ishmed make a explosive run for the first time down the right and as he crossed the ball in Erith and Belvederes 18 yard box, the keeper would mishandle the ball. In came Wale Odedoyin to capitalise on the mistake and slot home his second goal of the season in as many games. So far so good on his return back to the club.

As the game carried on it would see both sides have half chances until Ollie Bate of Erith and Belvedere converted home their second of the game. The game was definitely still all to play for however just before the half time whistle left back George Turner would receive his second yellow card of the game and be sent off. Hard work undone. Heading into the break this was always going to be a tough game come in the second half. 10 men and a goal behind.

Our Last Game

The second half would begin and being a man down really did start to show. Cramped into our own half as we were limited with creating chances. We were still in the game however until the 61st minute where Erith and Belvederes rapid winger would come running into the box only to be taken down by our number 1 Kevin Manuel. Penalty. Benga Ogunseye stepped up and made no mistake as he sent Kevin Manuel the wrong way. 1-3. At this stage the game was running away from us.

This would force us into making changes as Nader Zessini and Trevor Harding would come on in search of some hope in place of Elliot Assi and Tami Ogunnowo. Neither were able to make the impact we thrived for as Benga Ogunseye would score his second of the game and an absolute wonder goal as he chipped Kevin Manuel from the edge of the box. Goal of the season contender? The boys refused to give in as they continued to try and pose attacks however on the counter attack in the 87th minute Ollie Bate scored from close range to claim his second our visitor's 5th.

This would be the last notable action of what was a disappointing game from us. Huge credit to Erith & Belvedere who most definitely deserved to take all 3 points. Fantastic team with a group of excellent players. It just wasn't our day, but we still however believe we have the squad to battle with some of the best in the league. This now has us sitting with 0 points after two successive defeats, however we now have a great opportunity to bounce back as we play Sheppey United in the FA Cup. A huge game and fireworks are definitely expected.



Player Sponsors



Tower Hamlets are welcoming Player Sponsors for our 2021/22 Season in the Southern Counties East Football League.

Those sponsoring a player will have a season long mention in this matchday programme, receive Social Media mentions and feel the warm glow of helping support their local football club.

For more details or to sponsor one of the lads for just £50 please contact the Chairman or email us at info@towerhamletsfc.co.uk

TOWER HAMLETS

Fixtures and Results

League	Canterbury City (A)	L 1-2
League	Erith & Belvedere (H)	L 1-5
FA CUP	Sheppey United (H)	07/08
League	Rusthall (A)	14/08
League	Welling Town (H)	18/08
League	Hollands & Blair (A)	28/08
League	Fisher (A)	30/08
League	Glebe (H)	04/09
FA VASE	Balham (A)	11/09
League	Erith Town (A)	15/09
League	Lordswood (H)	18/09
League	Holmesdale (H)	29/09
League	K Sports (A)	02/10



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So, here we go again! The 2021-22 season is almost upon us – for some it's already underway.

Most of Step 5 and 6 started from July 31 – July! – while this weekend (August 7) the FA Cup gets started with the Extra Preliminary Round, only nine months before the final on May 14.

For many, competitive football makes a welcome return after an enforced break from the game due to the pandemic.

At NLP HQ we have everything crossed for a 'normal' season, Covid has taken its toll on us too, but we'd like to thank our loyal readers for helping us to keep producing the paper every Sunday. We've not missed one weekend since the pandemic began or indeed for the last 21 years!

The previous 18 months in Non-League has been tough to say the least for all involved. The 2019-20 and the 2020-21 seasons proved fruitless for many although the FA's restructure did at least provide some upward movement for clubs at Steps 4-6.

Step 3 can rightly feel hard done by having been stagnant throughout this time.

It's why the FA's Alliance Committee has been formulating contingency plans, with the feedback of clubs, to try and prevent any more 'null and void' seasons.

There are three approaches to the contingency plans:

Approach 1 – if the season successfully starts between August 14, 2021 and October 31, 2021, but it becomes clear that a division cannot complete 100 per cent of its fixtures, league tables would still be finalised providing the division has completed at least 75 per cent of its fixtures. Final league standings would be determined by using unweighted points per game and promotion and relegation would take place based on those standings.

Approach 2 – if the 2021-22 season cannot commence on or before October 31, an alternate competition would be implemented, with several potential formats under consideration determining promotion and relegation.

Approach 3 – if there is insufficient time for the regular season to achieve 75 per cent of fixtures, or an alternate competition to be completed, a supplementary competition would utilise results from completed fixtures in the 2021-22 season to avoid clubs playing opponents more than twice and ensure there is sufficient data to determine league standings.

The objective is to ensure promotion/relegation but, of course, this cannot be guaranteed. Who knows which way the pandemic will turn next. Such was the extent of the disruption last season, any number of contingency plans wouldn't have prevented the curtailment of Steps 3-6.

Hopefully, these plans will never see the light of day, but at least they are there if needed.

Eventually, we will have all stopped talking about Covid! Until then, we wish you a safe return to football and a successful season following your team. One thing is for sure, win or lose, we must cherish standing on the terraces at 3pm on a Saturday!

Southern Counties East Football League

Premier Division Fixtures

Friday 13th August

Glebe v Punjab United

Saturday 14th August

Canterbury City v Hollands & Blair

Chatham Town v Bearsted

Crowborough Ath v Erith Town

Deal Town v Tunbridge Wells

Erith & Belvedere v K Sports

Holmesdale v Kennington

Rusthall v Tower Hamlets

Sheppey United v Fisher

Welling Town v Lordswood

Monday 16th August

K Sports v Crowborough Ath

Tuesday 17th August

Bearsted v Rusthall (7.30pm)

Hollands & Blair v Deal Town

Kennington v Canterbury City

Lordswood v Chatham Town

Punjab United v Sheppey United

Tunbridge Wells v Holmesdale

Wednesday 18th August

Erith Town v Erith & Belvedere

Tower Hamlets v Welling Town



Southern Counties East Football League

Premier Division Results

Saturday 31st July

Bearsted 0-5 Glebe

Canterbury City 2-1 Tower Hamlets

Chatham Town A-A Deal Town

Crowborough Athletic 2-2 Welling Town

Erith & Belvedere 3-1 Hollands & Blair

Erith Town 4-1 Lordswood

Fisher 5-0 Rusthall

K Sports 1-0 Holmesdale

Punjab United 3-2 Kennington

Tunbridge Wells 1-3 Sheppey United

Monday 2nd August

K Sports 2-2 Tunbridge Wells

Tuesday 3rd August

Bearsted 2-2 Crowborough Ath

Chatham Town 2-0 Canterbury City

Fisher P-P Welling Town

Glebe 4-0 Erith Town

Kennington 3-3 Sheppey United

Lordswood 0-3 Deal Town

Punjab United 1-2 Hollands & Blair

Wednesday 4th August

Rusthall 2-4 Holmesdale

Tower Hamlets 1-5 Erith & Belvedere



Southern Counties East Football League

Premier Division Table

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Glebe	2	2	0	0	9	0	9	6
2	Erith & Belvedere	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
3	Sheppey United	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	4
4	K Sports	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
5	Fisher	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
6	Deal Town	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
7	Chatham Town	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
8	Holmesdale	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
9	Punjab United	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
10	Erith Town	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
11	Hollands & Blair	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
12	Canterbury City	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
13	Crowborough Athletic	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
14	Welling Town	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
15	Kennington	2	0	1	1	5	6	-1	1
16	Tunbridge Wells	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1
17	Bearsted	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	1
18	Tower Hamlets	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0
19	Lordswood	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
20	Rusthall	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0

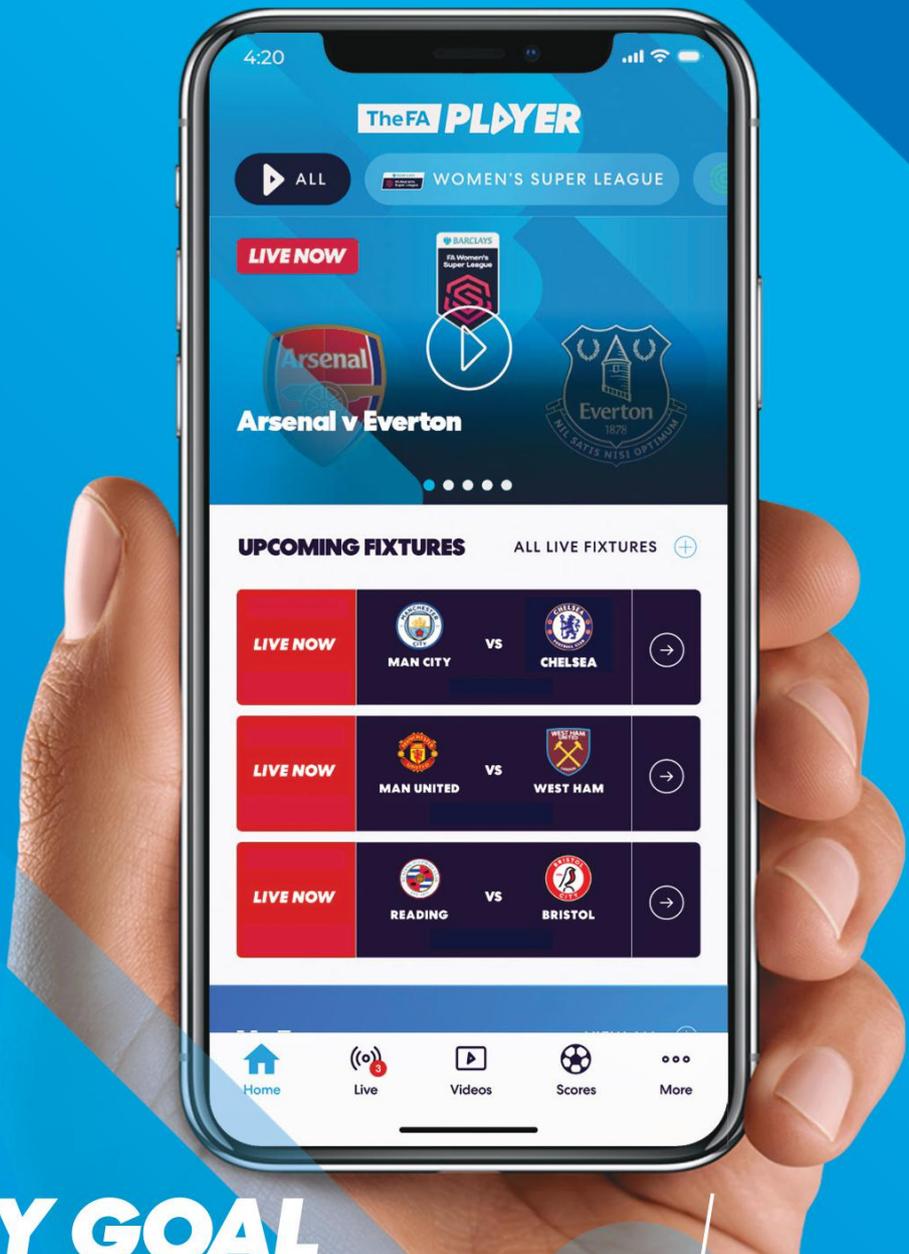
Updated to 6th August



Today's selected FA Cup Fixtures

Extra Preliminary Round

Balham v Canterbury City
Banstead Ath v Bearsted
Chatham Town v Eastbourne United
Crawley Down Gatwick v Welling Town
Crowborough Ath v AFC Croydon
Deal Town v Southall
Fisher v Raynes Park Vale
Glebe v Abbey Rangers
Hollands & Blair v Holmesdale
K Sports v Rusthall
Kennington v Horley Town
Lordswood v Knaphill
Mile Oak v Punjab United
Sheerwater v Erith Town
Tooting & Mitcham v Erith & Belvedere
Tower Hamlets v Sheppey United
Walton & Hersham v Tunbridge Wells



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Why and how Tower Hamlets are one of the best non league team about.

Although recent years and results may suggest Tower Hamlets are not as good as made out sometimes they are also possibly the best team in the whole of the non league pyramid at producing players.

With the season ending early last season they failed to gain a single win and with back to back defeats in their first two league games this new season many are using this to judge one of the teams who have changed how football should be run.

After leaving the Essex Senior League it has been a tricky and difficult rollercoaster for the club but let's not forget what they have still managed to achieve during these tough periods. Last season saw Hamlets yet again produce talent and field a whole squad under the age of 23 bar one player (Tola). The likes of Denilson Carvalho would later be moved onto Dartford, Benas to Nowotaniec LSK Cosmos, Jermaine Anderson to Basildon, Kahlil to Witham Town and Deese Kasinga awaits a move which will be revealed in due time. This is just the list of ballers produced from the tough 20/21 campaign.

If you wanted to through back the years you'd have seen Hamlets produce Randell Williams initially to Crystal Palace, Omar Rowe who was formally from Southampton, Ali Omar to Barnsley, Yoan Marc Oliver to FC Istogu, Ben Brooks to Basildon, Raphael Balde to Basildon and many more. The list goes on for this club who continuously produce the next wave of ballers in London. This may sound crazy to many but I honestly believe if you were to create an all star squad from 2010-2021 of all the best players who have come through the ranks at Tower Hamlets you'll have a team who could compete at League two. Just my opinion.

For a club to endure such tough results and continue to field and believe in the youngsters pays homage to their ability to stick to their task of giving chances to the younger generation.



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THE TEAMS



Manager
Carlos Santos

Kevin Manuel
Raphael Duyile
Anthony Musoke
Ishmed Turey
Tola Odedoyin
Abdirahman Abdi
Javaan Campbell
Tyler Hinds
Wale Odedoyin
Trevor Harding
Ardian Fera
Paolo Okeye
Fabio Latchena
David Bangurah
Nadeer Zeddini
Tosin Akinbobla
Fernandez Magba
George Turner
Balo Assi



Manager
Ernie Batten

Adam Molloy
Danny Smith
Jahmal Howlett-Mundle
Richie Hamill
Billy Bennett
James Jeffrey
Jack Midson
Taurean Roberts
Dan Birch
Renford Tenyue
Lex Allan
Ben Wilson
Ashley Sains
Luke Carey
Ryan Freeman
Junior Aikhionbare
De Niro Pinto
Kane Phillip
Liam Northwood