



CentreSpot

The official news bulletin of the

Essex Senior Football League

Season 2017/18 Issue #1 – Sunday 30th July

Last grasp Motormen snatch points from Tower Hamlets



(Photo by Philip Lindhurst @themotormen)

Redbridge 2 Tower Hamlets 1 – Essex Senior League Premier Division

Redbridge tore straight into Tower Hamlets right from the first whistle, fell behind to a first half Hasan Mustafa effort – but ended up snatching victory a few seconds before the

final one when Eljay Worrell fired home from close range, taking all the points only two minutes after Calvin Poku had brought the hosts level.

Poku fired Redbridge's first effort over the bar early in the opening period and then tore up the Hamlets defence along with Lindisipho Mtyanda, both exchanging passes that created a shooting opportunity but the two forwards got in each other's way and Poku's shot ended up being blocked by his team mate. Brian Moses was also causing the Hamlets defence problems and he worked his way into the box in the 23rd minute but was halted by Charlie Clarke and then a minute later was upended by Jerome Anthony. Eljay Worrell took the resulting free kick that was well saved by Kieran Bennett. Another ball played into the box ended up with Worrell and Bennett colliding as they both went for the ball which resulted in the keeper needing treatment and Worrell receiving a yellow card.

Hamlets however dug in and started stemming the Motormen's flow although Patrick Duggan did go close for Redbridge with a long range daisy cutter just on the half hour. The visitors then went up the other end and took the lead in the 34th minute when a sweeping ball from the left flank was slammed home from close range by Hasan Mustafa. Hamlets had to clear their lines on a couple of occasions after taking the lead but almost extended it on the stroke of half time when a superb Alhousman Ndure header forced Lewis Greene into pulling off an equally impressive piece of goalkeeping to tip away.

Redbridge opened the second half pressing for an equaliser and it was Brian Moses who almost provided it. The rangy forward latched onto a through ball and his low shot required a full-stretch save from Bennett to tip past the post. Tower Hamlets came out of their shell though and Wade Odedoyin was able to win a

corner after chasing down a long ball that Greene had to deflect away for a corner. And Greene had to also get down low to stop a long range drive from Naamen Gordon.

The hosts continued passing the ball around looking to create openings but the Hamlet defence put their bodies on the line to keep the Motormen at bay and looked to catch their opponents on the counter. Wale Odeboyin was only inches too high with a looping header and then Chaka Barnett was able to use his pace to get himself into space but was only able to rifle off a weak shot that Greene saved easily.

With time ticking away Redbridge went all out to get back on terms and Worrell twisted and turned his way through the Hamlets defence before firing a shot that was only inches wide. Hamlets then rode their luck as Poku had one shot hit the post and then another powerful strike rattle the crossbar. Poku however made it third time lucky in the 88th minute when he drilled the equaliser past Bennett after being set up by Bradley Gates.

The Motormen then captured the points in the 90th minute when Leon Thomas delivered a cross from the right that Worrell rifled home from close range.

Redbride: Lewis Greene, Frankie Naidoo, Eljay Worrell, Remi Nelson, Liam Thomas, Jonathan Mbamarah, Patrick Duggan, Malaki Toussaint, Brian Moses, Calvin Poku, Lindisipho Mtyanda.

Scorers – Calvin Poku (88'), Eljay Worrell (90')

Tower Hamlets: Kieran Bennett, Inesh Sumithran, John Watson, Naamen Gordon, Jerome Anthony, Charlie Clarke, Nathan Ackie (Chaka Barnett 54'), Alhousman Ndure, Wale Odedoyin, Antonio Montiero (Serkan Bunyat 71') , Hasan Mustafa (Lamar Earle 54').

Scorer – Hasan Mustafa (33')

Hullbridge and Waltham Forest share a point apiece after tense battle.

Hullbridge Sports 2 Waltham Forest 2 - Essex Senior League Premier Division

Report by Scott W (@ScottMHC14)



(Photo by NeilHunwicks @ABridgeTooFar16)

On the first day of the new Essex Senior League season, Hullbridge welcomed Waltham Forest to Lower Road.

The match began quite evenly though Forest were slightly more comfortable in possession. However, it was the hosts who opened the scoring after just eight minutes, as full-back Aaron Hunwicks' free-kick from the left was neatly headed home by forward Luka Frankis into the top left corner of the net. Forest levelled just two minutes later in a bizarre manner, with midfielder Mohammed Sagaf's

corner finding its way into the net past the Hullbridge back-line.

Forest did have the better of the game after their equalizer, with forward Muhammadu Faal a threat with his trickery and pace. Faal, Sagaf and winger Nana Yiadom all had efforts on goal saved by the busy home keeper Ryan Emery in the space of ten minutes. Although Forest had more of the chances, Hullbridge stood firm to keep parity at the break.

The second half began in the same even manner as the first, with Hullbridge midfielder Sam Dulieu having a point-blank shot well-saved by visiting keeper Nathan Warren. Hullbridge re-took the lead just five minutes after the re-start as Frankis was well-found in the box from a good right-wing cross and made no mistake with his tap-in.

Once again though, Forest responded and levelled for the second time six minutes later as Yiadom stroked his shot into the bottom left corner after some decent build-up play. Both sides had chances after that, mid-way through the second half Forest full-back Bradley Harris powered a long-range strike which was well-stopped by Emery.

Hullbridge forward Michael Edgar's strike was well-saved by Warren with 17 minutes remaining. The visitors did have an effort

cleared off the line though Hullbridge held on for a battling point. To their credit, Forest did create a number of chances and well, they may surprise a few teams this season, if they can keep their consistency of play.

Hullbridge Sports : Ryan Emery (GK), Aaron Hunwicks, Sam Taylor, Ben Perry (C) (Charlie Gerada 71'), Rob Hodgson, Ollie Quick, Jamie Buffin, Sam Dulieu (Howard Wright 79') ,Luka Frankis, Ashley Pibworth, Michael Edgar.

Scorers – Luka Frankis (8', 50')

Waltham Forest : Nathan Warren (GK), Juelmo Agebane, Bradley Harris, James Curran (C), Boris Kipeva, Mohammed Sagaf, Arjanit Krasniqi (Callum Bailey 86'), Muhammadu Faal (Harrison Twedde 79'), Jake Connaris (Danilo Cruz 52'), Glen Tonga, Nana Yiadom



Essex Senior League Official Website

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk



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Premier Division Round

Clapton's fans fancied a trip to a place called Bas Vegas on Saturday but the team otherwise known as **Basildon United** made sure they returned to E7 with no more than memories of a good day out – as the points remained in Basildon. Tommy Barton opened the scoring for the Bees in the 27th minute before Marcus Bowers notched the other in the 55th minute to seal a 2-0 win. A crowd of 281 witnessed last year's runners-up come unstuck on the opening day.

Iain O'Connell told the Southend Evening Echo in midweek that he was unconcerned about the favourites tag but he must have been happy to see his **Great Wakering Rovers** team open their latest Essex Senior League saga with a 2-0 home success over **Stansted**. Bradley Nobbs rifled home a penalty on the hour before Aaron Russell made sure of victory by adding a second in the 82nd minute.

Newboys **Hackney Wick** posted three points to the board after a 3-1 win at Burnham Ramblers. The hosts took the lead through Adam Brotherton but then had a man sent off before Magnus Orelaja scored a peach of an equaliser. The Wickers then scored twice in the second half via Matteo King in the 53rd minute and Jeffrey Idemuda who put his name down on the score sheet in the 66th. The Wickers even managed to miss a penalty along the way.

West Essex started their campaign with a 3-1 win at **Sawbridgeworth Town** but they had to come back from behind to achieve it. George Pullen fired the Robins into the lead in the 10th minute but they held onto that lead for only two minutes, with Joe Lefley levelling up. Cameron Gray and Issac Marfo banged home goals in the 82nd and 85th minute respectively to win it for the visitors.

It didn't take long for Stuart Zanone to open his 2017/18 goal account; his 3rd minute penalty was his, **Takeley's** and the ESL's

first goal of the season. Mitchell Das notched a further goal in the 15th minute in the 2-0 home win over **Sporting Bengal United**.

FC Romania left it late at **Wadham Lodge** with both goals coming in the final ten minutes. Cosmic Anton finally broke the deadlock in the 84th minute before George Taban doubled the lead in the 87th minute; and with it the points.

Ilford put their troubled close season behind them with a comprehensive 5-0 away win at **Woodford Town 2017**. Khadean Campbell scored twice, in the 22nd and 68th minutes, as did James Peagram in the 75th and 79th. Josh Coulson notched the other goal in the 61st minute to put the Foxes 2-0 up but by then the hosts had been reduced to nine men following two red cards.

Saturday 29th July 2017

Premier Division

Basildon United 2 (Tommy Barton 27, Marcus Bowers 55)

Clapton 0

Att.281

Burnham Ramblers 1 (Adam Brotherton 17)

Hackney Wick 3 (Magnus Orelaja 44, Matteo King 53, Jeffrey Idemudia 66)

Att. 19

Great Wakering Rovers 2 (Bradley Nobbs 60p, Aaron Russell 82)

Stansted 0

Att. 83

Hullbridge Sports 2 (Luca Frankis 8, 50)

Waltham Forest 2 (Mohammed Sagaf 9, Nana Yiadom 57)

Att.47

Redbridge 2 (Calvin Poku 88, Eljay Worrell 90)

Tower Hamlets 1 (Hasan Mustafa 34)

Att.51

Sawbridgeworth Town 1 (George Pullen 10)

West Essex 3 (Joe Lefley 12, Cameron Gray 82, Issac Marfo 85)

Att.40

Takeley 2 (Stuart Zanone 3p, Mitchell Das 15)

Sporting Bengal United 0

Att. 65

Wadham Lodge 0

FC Romania 2 (Cosmic Anton 84, George Tahan 87)

Att.30

Woodford Town 2017 0

Ilford 5 (Khadean Campbell 22, 68, Josh Coulson 61, James Peagram 75, 79)

Att. 30

Essex Senior League – Premier Division

(Up to and including Saturday 29th July)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ilford	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
2 Hackney Wick	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
3 West Essex	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
4 Basildon United	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
5 FC Romania	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
6 Great Wakering Rovers	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
7 Takeley	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
8 Redbridge	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
9 Hullbridge Sports	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
10 Waltham Forest	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
11 Barkingside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Enfield 1893	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Southend Manor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Tower Hamlets	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
15 Burnham Ramblers	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
16 Sawbridgeworth Town	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
17 Clapton	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
18 Sporting Bengal United	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
19 Stansted	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
20 Wadham Lodge	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
21 Woodford Town 2017	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0



League Cup draws broadcast on the Grassroots Footy Show



The Errington Challenge Cup, Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy and Reserve Shield were conducted live on Thursday 27th July on the Grassroots Footy Show, broadcast by East London Radio on www.eastlondonradio.org.uk. Hosted by Adam Richardson and Peter Dudley, the show welcomed Robert Errington and Michelle Dorling, along as guests. The Grassroots Footy Show is the Essex Senior League's partner radio show, so expect lots of guests from our member clubs in the forthcoming weeks and months. The Grassroots Footy Show is broadcast every Thursday evening at 8pm and then for the next 2 hours discusses the recent news and events in the Essex Senior League.

The **Errington Challenge Cup** 1st Round pitted Redbridge against local rivals in a mouth-watering derby encounter. Woodford Town 2017 are paired up with Waltham Forest; West Essex entertain Basildon United, while Clapton's large support may be up for a trip to

the seaside as they have been drawn away to Southend Manor.

Holders Takeley start their defence of the honour they won last season in the 2nd Round, hosting Hullbridge Sports. Last season's runners-up, Sawbridgeworth Town, also start off with a home tie in the 2nd Round with Burnham Ramblers coming to visit Crofters.

Takeley also begin their defence of the **Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy** in the 1st Round being drawn away to Barkingside. Hullbridge Sports host Sporting Bengal United; Tower Hamlets are paired with Stansted and Southend Manor have home advantage over FC Romania in other 1st Round ties.

An interesting 2nd Round tie pits West Essex against Basildon United. The two teams are paired in the 1st Round in the Errington Challenge Cup; so the losers of that one might be looking to gain revenge in the other ESL Cup waiting to be claimed come April.

Errington Challenge Cup

1st Round

Barkingside v Enfield 1893

Redbridge v Ilford

Southend Manor v Clapton

West Essex v Basildon United

Woodford Town 2017 v Waltham Forest

2nd Round

Barkingside/Enfield 1893 v West Essex/Basildon United

FC Romania v Woodford Town 2017/Waltham Forest

Great Wakering Rovers v Tower Hamlets

Redbridge/Ilford v Wadham Lodge

Sawbridgeworth Town v Burnham Ramblers

Southend Manor/Clapton v Hackney Wick

Stansted v Sporting Bengal United

Takeley v Hullbridge Sports

Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy

1st Round

Barkingside v Takeley

Hullbridge Sports v Sporting Bengal United

Southend Manor v FC Romania

Tower Hamlets v Stansted

Woodford Town 2017 v Redbridge

2nd Round

Burnham Ramblers v Southend Manor/FC Romania

Great Wakering Rovers v Hullbridge Sports/Sporting Bengal United

Hackney Wick v Barkingside/Takeley

Ilford v Enfield 1893

Sawbridgeworth Town v Tower Hamlets/Stansted

Wadham Lodge v Clapton

Waltham Forest v Woodford Town 2017/Redbridge

West Essex v Basildon United

Sawbridgeworth Town Res. start their defence of the **Reserve Shield** at Burnham Ramblers Res. The 1st Round draw offers up a local derby as Thurrock Res. welcome Grays Athletic Res.; Hullbridge Sports Res. have a short trip down the road to meet Great Wakering Rovers Res; while AFC Sudbury Res. have a long trip to Redbridge Res.

Reserve Shield

1st Round

Burnham Ramblers Res. v SawbridgeTown Res.

East Thurrock United Res. v Bishops Stortford Development

Great Wakering Res. v Hullbridge Sports Res.

Heybridge Swifts Res. v Takeley Res.

Redbridge Res. v AFC Sudbury Res.

Stansted Res. v Waltham Abbey Res.

Thurrock Res. v Grays Athletic Res.

Woodford Town 2017 Res. v Southend Manor Res.

ESL Clubs on the FA Cup trail



Twenty ESL clubs start off in the Extra Preliminary Round of the Emirates FA Cup next Saturday with two clubs, Hackney Wick and Wadham Lodge making their FA Cup debuts. The Wickers host Long Melford from the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division. To entice the people to come to the Old Spotted Dog, the club will be charging a mere £2 entrance with free entrance to senior citizens and U18s. Wadham Lodge make a long journey into Suffolk to face Thurlow Nunn Division One outfit Framlingham Town. The game will be recorded by BBC Sport for their FA Cup Preview Show, giving the club and the league some valuable exposure. There are a further ten ties against Thurlow Nunn League clubs with Great Wakering Rovers, now starting off in the earliest FA Cup round due to their relegation from the Bostik League, travelling to Newmarket Town. Southend Manor have been drawn to Wroxham, who were also relegated from the Bostik League last season. Clapton are drawn away to FC Clacton, Sporting Bengal United visit Hadleigh United, while Basildon United travel to Walsham le Willows. Enfield 1893, Hullbridge Sports, Ilford, Takeley and Barkingside all hosts sides from the Norfolk and Suffolk region. Burnham Ramblers are away to St Margaretsbury on the Sunday 6th August - the same day that Barkingside host Stowmarket Town. Tower Hamlets travel to FC Broxbourne Borough. The home side may have finished bottom of the Spartan South Midland League Premier Division last season but are now managed by Roy Bleu who last season took the club's U18s right through to the last sixteen in the FA Youth Cup. A tough assignment could be in order

Waltham Forest flew the ESL flag furthest in the FA Cup last season, reaching the 2nd Qualifying Round. The run started with a 5-1 win at fellow ESL outfit Redbridge in the Extra Preliminary Round and ended at the hands of Folkestone Invicta from the Bostik Premier. This time around they face-off against fellow ESL rivals FC Romania. It is one of three all ESL affairs as Redbridge are at home to Stansted; while Sawbridgeworth Town take on West Essex.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 1st August

Premier Division

Burnham Ramblers v Stansted
Great Waking Rovers v Barkingside
Hackney Wick v Tower Hamlets
Hullbridge Sports v Southend Manor
Redbridge v Sawbridgeworth Town
Takeley v Waltham Forest
West Essex v Sporting Bengal United

Wednesday 2nd August

Premier Division

FC Romania v Enfield 1893
Ilford v Clapton
Wadham Lodge v Woodford Town 2017

Saturday 5th August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Enfield 1893 v Haverhill Borough
FC Broxbourne Borough v Tower Hamlets
FC Clacton v Clapton
FC Romania v Waltham Forest
Framlingham Town v Wadham Lodge
Hackney Wick v Long Melford
Hadleigh United v Sporting Bengal United
Hullbridge Sports v Ipswich Wanderers
Ilford v Woodbridge Town

Newmarket Town v Great Waking Rovers

Redbridge v Stansted

Sawbridgeworth Town v West Essex

Southend Manor v Wroxham

Takeley v Wivenhoe Town

Walsham le Willows v Basildon United

Sunday 6th August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Barkingside v Stowmarket Town (KO 2pm)
St Margaretsbury v Burnham Ramblers

Tuesday 15th August

Premier Division

Basildon United v Hullbridge Sports
Burnham Ramblers v Ilford
Sawbridgeworth Town v Stansted
Woodford Town 2017 v FC Romania

Wednesday 16th August

Premier Division

Hackney Wick v Sporting Bengal United
Southend Manor v Takeley
Wadham Lodge v Great Waking Rovers

Friday 25th August

Premier Division

Tower Hamlets v Clapton