



CentreSpot

The official news bulletin of the

Essex Senior Football League

Season 2017/18 Issue #23 – Sunday 31st December

Mid Season Premier Division Review

Premier Division

Iford and FC Romania were early leaders of the table and as the season went through September and October Takeley and Basildon United both took it in turns to lead the table at certain points during that period. West Essex then reached the summit at the end of September with Sporting Bengal United finding themselves in second spot at the end of the same month before a free fall that saw them plummet down the table. West Essex were replaced by Great Wakering Rovers who took the leadership in early October. Takeley took over for the rest of the month before Basildon United reclaimed the top spot in early November. Redbridge took over the leadership in the middle of November and have been there ever since. The Motormen have opened up a seven point lead but FC Romania, Takeley and Basildon United who sit second, third and fourth respectively do have games in hand. More importantly the leaders have to play Basildon United and Great Wakering Rovers twice in 2018; with returns with Takeley, who won the Station Road encounter in August 2-0, and FC Romania currently scheduled as back-to-back fixtures in March. Those games will all have some bearing on where the title ends up.

Hackney Wick go into the New Year with a relegation battle on their hands. The Wickers are having their inaugural season in Senior Football and currently sit at the foot of the table. It's been a season of transition in many ways with Tony Levoli being the fourth manager in the dugout so far this term. Hackney Wick are certainly no pushovers, the times I have seen them they have always given a good

account of themselves and really test their opponents. However results have not gone their way and they need to find a winning formula sooner rather than later. What a tough January they have seeing as their next three league fixtures are against Great Wakering Rovers, Basildon United and Takeley. The Wickers are scrapping for points and therefore the title chasing teams they will be playing one after the other in January will need to be prepared to work for the win rather than expect it. Wins or draws from those games will certainly aid Hackney Wick's cause and they can take solace in the fact that Burnham Ramblers, Wadham Lodge and Waltham Forest have all been in a similar position before picking up enough points to move them out of the bottom four. Burnham Ramblers are perhaps in safer mid table water whereas the two Walthamstow-based sides still need to add points to keep them out of relegation woes as 2018 progresses.

Hullbridge Sports sit one off the bottom having had a rather interesting season. A manager change has seen Darren Manning take the hot seat and recent results, including a humdinger with Redbridge which they ultimately lost, suggests that they are about to turn the corner. And while league form has seen them fall to the foot of the table at the same time they have been the ESL team that has had the best run in the FA Vase. They travel to Tring Athletic on Saturday in a 4th Round engagement and could find themselves in the unusual position of being in the last sixteen of the Vase whilst fighting a relegation battle. Hullbridge will be hoping league form improves over the next few months. Another team hoping to put aside a testing end of 2017 will be Barkingside who currently sit eighteenth after an alarming run of eight league defeats in a row. The Side need to start winning on a regular basis as they are swimming dangerously close to relegation waters. It's not an ideal way to spend the Christmas period but Easter could be ruined if Barkingside are still in the relegation zone. Stansted are the other side currently occupying a relegation spot with Enfield 1893 and Sawbridgeworth Town both needing to make one of their New Year resolutions to pick up more points to ensure their safety.

Errington Challenge Cup

The Errington Challenge Cup has one Semi Finalist already in the form of Sawbridgeworth Town. The Robins sailed past Burnham Ramblers in the 2nd Round, running out 6-0 winners. They then beat Ilford 3-1 in the Quarter Finals. The Robins were Runners-up last season and will meet the winners of the Quarter Final tie between Hackney Wick and Sporting Bengal United in one of the Semi Finals. Some 2nd Round business will be concluded in the first week in January as Barkingside entertain Basildon United on Monday 8th January and then two days later FC Romania host Waltham Forest. Great Wakering Rovers host the winners of the FC Romania v Waltham Forest clash; while the winners of the Barkingside v Basildon United tie will then host Takeley, current holders of the trophy, in the other Quarter Final tie.

Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy

Ilford have reached the Semi Finals of the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy after knocking out Enfield 1893 and Waltham Forest. They will host either Sawbridgeworth Town or FC Romania, with

that Quarter Final tie scheduled for Tuesday 23rd January. Takeley secured a League Challenge Cup and Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy double last season and are making good on attempting to keep both trophies as they remain in both competitions as we move into 2018. Takeley started their defence of the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy with a penalty shootout win over Barkingside. Next up is a trip to Hackney Wick with Hullbridge Sports awaiting the winners in next round. Sports have struggled in the league but have done well in cup competitions and they pulled off an upset win when they travelled to high fliers Great Wakering Rovers but left them lying low after they won the tie 3-2. Clapton meet Basildon United in the other Quarter Final having both registered 4-0 away wins at Wadham Lodge and West Essex respectively in the previous round.

Buildbase FA Vase

Hullbridge Sports are still flying the ESL flag in the Buildbase FA Vase but there was also a notable run from Enfield 1893, who like Hullbridge were putting aside their league form to have a run in the Vase that ended at the 3rd Round stage. Hullbridge ended that run after Enfield had started their Vase campaign with a win over Haverhill Borough, which gained them revenge after the same opponents had knocked them out of the FA Cup. Enfield then went on to beat Stowmarket Town, Coggeshall Town and Tower Hamlets in the 2nd Round. The 2nd Round draw also threw up another all-ESL tie as Great Wakering Rovers and FC Romania were drawn together with Rovers making it into the 3rd Round after winning the replay 1-0 after the original tie ended in a 2-2 draw. Great Wakering Rovers, just like Enfield 1893, crashed out at the 3rd Round stage as Cogenhoe United left Burroughs Park with a 2-0 victory. Basildon United, Burnham Ramblers and Sawbridgeworth Town all came out of the qualifying rounds to reach the 1st Round proper stage; as did Tower Hamlets who smashed their way past Little Oakley in the 2nd Qualifying Round with a 10-1 win – they were three goals to the good inside nine minutes. Clapton entered the Vase at the 1st Round stage but were knocked out by London Lions despite the Ultras turning up to cheer on the Tons. So that's the Essex Senior League Vase trail as we come into the second half of the season and it's still ongoing as our very own Hullbridge Sports are still in it!

Emirates FA Cup

FC Romania flew the ESL flag the longest in the Emirates FA Cup. The Wolves went through three rounds before finally succumbing to Hayes & Yeading United. However the Evo-Stik South outfit fell 2-1 behind in the original encounter at Theobalds Lane and only equalised in the final ten minutes via a penalty. The replay saw the Wolves lose 2-0 in extra time. Clapton pulled off a great result in the Preliminary Round as they put in a great team performance to beat Norwich United from the Bostik North 2-0. The other club that made its way into the 1st Qualifying Round was Takeley who booked their place after a 4-0 away win at fellow ESL outfit Tower Hamlets. Hullbridge Sports were knocked out at the Preliminary Round stage by St. Margaretsbury. The original game ended 2-2, with both St. Margaretsbury goals coming via penalties. The replay saw Hullbridge take an early lead before their opponents equalised late in the second half via a penalty. Having scored all their goals thus far from the penalty spot means it was no surprise that St. Margaretsbury then went on to win the tie 5-4 on penalties. Takeley and Clapton both put up battling displays in the 1st Qualifying Round

before succumbing to Bostik North opponents but FC Romania were flying the flag into the 2nd Qualifying Round after a 3-2 win over Hadley.

BBC Essex Senior Cup

Basildon United and Southend Manor flew the ESL flag into the 4th Round of the BBC Essex Senior Cup. Starting off with a 1st Round tie with Redbridge, the Bees then went on to beat Stanway Rovers and Ilford before succumbing to a full-strength Billericay Town at the AGP Arena. Southend Manor pulled off a shock result as they knocked out Braintree Town in the 3rd Round before being gunned down by Harlow Town in the 4th Round. Stansted were knocked out in the 3rd Round by Grays Athletic who needed penalties to win the tie, a fate that also befell West Essex who held Brentwood Town to a 3-3 draw before losing the penalty shootout 5-4. Great Wakering Rovers also crashed out at the 3rd Round stage with East Thurrock United winning the tie 5-2.

Saturday 30th December

Reserves Division

AFC Sudbury 5

Sawbridgeworth Town 0

Redbridge 3 (Olijide Yusuf, Joe Gent, Ali Rajim)

Takeley 2 (Will Green, Lewis Roberts)

Essex Senior League Official Website

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk



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Essex Senior League – Premier Division

(Up to & Including Saturday 30th December)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Redbridge	23	19	1	3	61	26	35	58
2 FC Romania	22	16	3	3	62	24	38	51
3 Takeley	22	16	2	4	60	17	43	50
4 Basildon United	21	16	2	3	41	14	27	50
5 Great Wakering Rovers	21	15	1	5	50	16	34	46
6 Clapton	24	13	5	6	42	31	11	44
7 West Essex	23	12	3	8	41	37	4	39
8 Tower Hamlets	22	11	3	8	45	36	9	36
9 Ilford	22	10	3	9	35	30	5	33
10 Woodford Town (2017)	25	9	3	13	37	57	-20	30
11 Burnham Ramblers	25	9	2	14	49	65	-16	29
12 Southend Manor	22	8	4	10	35	42	-7	28
13 Sporting Bengal United	24	8	4	12	44	55	-11	28
14 Wadham Lodge	25	6	5	14	38	66	-28	23
15 Waltham Forest	23	6	4	13	33	52	-19	22
16 Sawbridgeworth Town	20	5	6	9	30	39	-9	21
17 Enfield 1893	22	6	3	13	37	54	-17	21
18 Barkingside	21	6	1	14	28	45	-17	19
19 Stansted	23	6	1	16	28	45	-17	19
20 Hullbridge Sports	22	5	4	13	32	55	-23	19
21 Hackney Wick	24	5	2	17	30	52	-22	17



Essex Senior League – Reserves Division

(Up to & Including Saturday 30th December)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Southend Manor	13	10	1	2	35	19	16	31
2 Waltham Abbey	11	9	1	1	35	11	24	28
3 Thurrock	13	7	4	2	36	16	20	25
4 Heybridge Swifts	13	8	1	4	40	23	17	25
5 Sawbridgeworth Town	13	6	2	5	28	23	5	20
6 Takeley	13	6	1	6	37	33	4	19
7 Bishop's Stortford	14	5	2	7	27	30	-3	17
8 Grays Athletic	13	5	2	6	27	32	-5	17
9 Redbridge	13	4	3	6	26	29	-3	15
10 AFC Sudbury	12	4	2	6	32	33	-1	14
11 Hullbridge Sports	9	4	1	4	15	14	1	13
12 Great Wakering Rovers	13	3	1	9	13	36	-23	10
13 Stansted	12	2	3	7	20	44	-24	9
14 Woodford Town 2017	12	1	2	9	14	42	-28	5



Grassroots Football Show – Every Thursday from 8-10pm

All things ESL with hosts Adam Richardson and Peter Dudley

LEADING SCORERS – Up to & Including Saturday 30th December

	League	ECC	GBMT	FAC	FAV	CC	Total
James Peagram - Ilford	16	2	3	2	1		24
Brian Moses - Redbridge	19		1	1	1		22
Marcus Bowers - Basildon United	12		2	1	4	2	21
Neil Richmond - Great Wakering Rovers	15			1	4		20
Michael Mignot - West Essex	14			3	1	2	20
Florin Pop - FC Romania	17			1	1		19
Charlee Hughes - Burnham Ramblers	15				2		17
Carl Mullings - Takeley (Including 7 goals for Enfield 1893)	14		1		2		17
Jeffrey Cobblah - Clapton	14		1		1		16
Curtis Pond - Tower Hamlets	7			1	7		15
Calvin Poku - Redbridge	9			1	2	1	13
Bradley Morgan - Burnham Ramblers	10			1	1	1	13
Toby Cleaver - Sawbridgeworth Town (Including 7 goals for FC Romania)	6	2	1	4			13
Luke With - Tower Hamlets	9				3		12
Mitchell Das - Takeley	10			2			12
Oscar Mendes - Sporting Bengal United	12						12
Billy Johnson - Great Wakering Rovers	10	1					11
Jayden Hocking-Rising - Enfield 1893 (Includes 8 goals for Wadham Lodge/Stanted)	10					1	11
Tony Cookey - Ilford (Includes 10 Goals for Barkingside)	8	1	1		1		11
Jimmy Cox - Hullbridge Sports	5		1	2	2	1	11

Hat Trick Heroes

Karl Swanborough	Wadham Lodge 1 Burnham Ramblers 5 – Wed 29 th Nov 2017
Hassan Nalbani	Hackney Wick 4 Burnham Ramblers 0 – Wed 22 nd Nov 2017
Eljay Worrell	Tower Hamlets 0 Redbridge 5 – Mon 20 th Nov 2017
Neil Richmond	Great Wakering Rovers 7 Hullbridge Sports 1 – Sat 18 th Nov 2017 Great Wakering Rovers 4 FC Romania 0 – Sat 30 th Sept 2017 Great Wakering Rovers 6 Sporting Bengal United 1 – Sat 9 th Sept 2017
Liam Thomas	Redbridge 3 West Essex 1 – Fri 17 th Nov 2017
Reside Coxi-Sebastfao	Woodford Town (2017) 2 Redbridge 4 – Tues 7 th Nov 2017
Carl Mullings	Takeley 7 Barkingside 0 – Sat 4 th Nov 2017
John Bricknell	Enfield 1893 5 Woodford Town (2017) 1 – Sat 4 th Nov 2017
Marcus Bowers	Basildon United 5 Sporting Bengal United 1 – Sat 4 th Nov 2017 Basildon United 3 Tower Hamlets 0 – Sat 30 th Sept 2017
Jake Gordon	Enfield 1893 1 Great Wakering Rovers 7 – Sat 28 th Oct 2017
Florian Pop	Sporting Bengal United 2 FC Romania 6 – Sat 28 th Oct 2017 FC Romania 8 Burnham Ramblers 2 – Sat 12 th Aug 2017
Charlee Hughes	Burnham Ramblers 4 Redbridge 3 – Tues 17 th Oct 2017
Miguel Lopez Demarco	Takeley 5 Enfield 1893 4 – Sat 14 th Oct 2017
Jack Addlington	West Essex Basildon United 5 – Wed 10 th Oct 2017
Tony Cookey	Barkingside 3 Hackney Wick 0 – Mon 2 nd Oct 2017
Curtis Pond	Tower Hamlets 10 Little Oakley 1 – Sat 23 rd Sept 2017 x4
Michael Mignot	Wadham Lodge 3 West Essex 3 – Sat 14 th Oct 2017 Clapton 3 West Essex 4 – Tues 19 th Sept 2017
Eaia Embalo	Sporting Bengal United 4 Sawbridgeworth Town 2 – Wed 20 th Aug 2017 x4
James Peagram	Enfield 1893 0 Ilford 3 – Sat 12 th Aug 2017
Jeffrey Cobblah	Ilford 1 Clapton 4 – Wed 2 nd Aug 2017

LEADING RESERVE DIVISION SCORERS – Up to & Including Saturday 30th December

	League	RS	CC	Total
Yusuf Olijinde - Redbridge	12	2	1	15
Anthony Fox - Heybridge Swifts	10		2	12
Lewis Roberts - Takeley	11	1		12
Afolabi Soyenu - Grays Athletic	10	1		11
Charlie Avent - Takeley	10	1		11
Ross James - Heybridge Swifts	9	1		10
Lance Ledgister - Waltham Abbey	5	2		7
Lewis Ball - Takeley	7			7
Joel Massamba - Grays Athletic	7			7
Andi Pearce - Sawbridgeworth Town	6			6
Henry Branston - Sawbridgeworth Town	6			6
Callum Maltese - Waltham Abbey	4	2		6
Ellis Lentell - Waltham Abbey	6			6
Grecious Obiji - Bishop's Stortford	3		3	6
Nathan Reid - AFC Sudbury	4	2		6
Andrew Fennell - Heybridge Swifts	3	2		5
Mason Page - Takeley	5			5
Dean Merrett - Heybridge Swifts	4		1	5
Claudio Goncalves - Thurrock	5			5
Tim Ogruinde - Thurrock	5			5

Hat Trick Heroes

Grecious Obiji	Weston 6 Bishop's Stortford 3 – Sat 9 th December
Billy Cottrill	AFC Sudbury 3 Southend Manor 8 – Sat 18 th Nov 2017
Ross James	Heybridge Swifts 8 Woodford Town (2017) 1 – Sat 21 st Oct 2017
Anthony Fox	Heybridge Swifts 8 Woodford Town (2017) 1 – Sat 21 st Oct 2017
Lewis Roberts	Stansted 3 Takeley 6 – Sat 21 st Oct 2017 Great Wakering Rovers 1 Takeley 6 – Sat 14 th Oct 2017 x4
Oliver Miller	Great Wakering Rovers 3 Hullbridge Sports 3 – Sat 30 th Sept 2017
Andi Pearce	Sawbridgeworth Town 8 Stansted 0 – Sat 16 th Sept 2017 x4
Ellis Lentell	Takeley 0 Waltham Abbey 7 – Sat 26 th Aug 2017
Ronnie Pallett	Hullbridge Sports 5 Grays Athletic 1 – Sat 19 th Aug 2017
Charlie Avant	Bishops Stortford 1 Takeley 6 – Tues 15 th Aug 2017 x4
Harry Branston	Woodford Town (2017) 0 Sawbridgeworth Town 5 – Sat 12 th Aug 2017

PREMIER DIVISION ATTENDANCES

(League Games Only)

	Played	Highest	Lowest	Average	Total
Hackney Wick	11	785	21	131	1448
Basildon United	12	281	76	130	1562
Barkingside	10	273	48	98	987
Tower Hamlets	11	468	27	92	1018
Great Wakering Rovers	12	112	52	81	979
Redbridge	11	160	32	70	779
Takeley	12	145	39	67	808
Enfield 1893	12	69	56	61	739
Southend Manor	12	90	31	61	734
Ilford	10	175	28	59	590
Hullbridge Sports	11	86	31	58	648
Clapton	12	83	37	57	692
Waltham Forest	11	60	37	55	607
Stansted	12	92	26	47	564
Sporting Bengal United	12	180	15	43	521
Sawbridgeworth Town	11	82	15	43	476
FC Romania	11	68	14	35	395
West Essex	11	78	17	34	378
Woodford Town (2017)	11	65	15	28	309
Wadham Lodge	13	41	15	26	347
Burnham Ramblers	10	31	14	23	230

Leading Premier Division Attendances

785	Hackney Wick v Clapton – Sat 7th Oct 2017
468	Tower Hamlets v Clapton – Fri 25 th Aug 2017
281	Basildon United v Clapton – Sat 29 th July 2017
273	Barkingside v Clapton – Fri 10 th Nov 2017
194	Basildon United v Hullbridge Sports – Tues 15 th Aug 2017
180	Sporting Bengal United v Clapton – Wed 18 th Oct 2017
178	Hackney Wick v Basildon United – Sat 26 th Aug 2017
175	Ilford v Clapton – Wed 2 nd Aug 2017

Forthcoming Fixtures

Wednesday 3rd January

Reserves Division

Great Wakering Rovers v Woodford Town
2017

Saturday 6th January

Buildbase FA Vase 4th Round

Tring Athletic v Hullbridge Sports

Premier Division

Basildon United v West Essex

Burnham Ramblers v Barkingside

Hackney Wick v Great Wakering Rovers

Ilford v FC Romania

Redbridge v Stansted

Sawbridgeworth Town v Sporting Bengal
United

Takeley v Wadham Lodge

Tower Hamlets v Enfield 1893

Waltham Forest v Clapton

Reserve Shield Quarter Final

Bishop's Stortford v Sawbridgeworth Town

Grays Athletic v Redbridge

Heybridge Swifts v Great Wakering Rovers

Reserves Division

Southend Manor v Woodford Town 2017

Thurrock v Waltham Abbey

Monday 8th January

Errington Challenge Cup 2nd Round

Barkingside v Basildon United

Premier Division

Tower Hamlets v Sawbridgeworth Town

Tuesday 9th January

Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy 2nd Round

Hackney Wick v Takeley

Premier Division

Redbridge v Great Wakering Rovers

Reserves Division

Waltham Abbey v Southend Manor

Wednesday 10th January

Errington Challenge Cup 2nd Round

FC Romania v Waltham Forest

Premier Division

Woodford Town 2017 v Southend Manor