

“THE HISTORY OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE”



Above: Eastern Counties League games have been watched from a wide variety of vantage points. Two post-war ECL games were played in front of the magnificent stands at Arsenal's Highbury Stadium and Gorleston played Leyton Orient there in an F.A. Cup tie. However the stand at Somersham in their early ECL days was a rather less impressive structure. (For those unfamiliar with the two grounds, Highbury is on the left).

The Management Committee of the Eastern Counties Football League is pleased to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the League by publishing “*The History of the Eastern Counties Football League*” in November 2010. This exclusive work consists of more than 740 pages and includes almost 600 photographs, some of which have never previously been published.

The book gives a detailed account of the first 75 years of the league's history and includes:

❖ Chronological History, 1935-2010

- How every season unfolded with descriptions of key games and events.
- Every final table, every result, in the League and in the League's cup competitions.
- 316 pages covering 75 years.

❖ Games to Remember

- Detailed descriptions of 50 of the most memorable games in ECL history. (See list below).

❖ Club histories

- The history of every one of the 95 clubs to have played in the league since 1935

❖ Grounds (see introduction above)

- Descriptions of every one of the 107 different grounds to have hosted ECL football.
- Highly illustrated

❖ Players and Personalities

- 81 pages of pen pictures covering the lives and careers of more than 220 of the best known ECL players and personalities. (see list below)
- Many photos

❖ National competitions

- How ECL clubs fared in the F.A. Cup, F.A. Vase, F.A. Amateur Cup, etc.
- Cup records, every result, details of big matches

❖ County Cups

- Brief histories of county cups and result of every final in which an ECL club has featured.

❖ **Information and records**

- 41 pages of ECL records and historical information
- Honours lists, promotions and relegations, when clubs joined and when they left.
- Those who kept applying until they succeeded and those who never made it.
- Best and worst records, biggest wins, record goal-scorers, etc.
- Record attendances at ECL grounds
- Abandoned competitions: Reynolds Cup, Millennium Cup, Jewson Challenge Shield
- Details of ECL representative games
- All the Reserve League tables and cups
- All the Youth League tables and cup-winners
- How clubs' colours have changed.
- Clubs' nicknames and their derivations
- The League's officers
- Financial snippets
- The Essex County League – a one-season wonder.
- A History of ECL sponsorship

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR COPY

The book consists of two volumes which are presented in a substantial slipcase at a total cost of £58, including postage and packing. It will be delivered to your home during November 2010.

If you want a copy, complete and detach the form below, include a cheque for £58 made payable to: "Ridgeons Football League" and send them to:

**Nigel Spurling
16 Thanet Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP4 5LB.**

Please send me _____ copy / copies of:

"The History of the Eastern Counties Football League" at £58 each.

I enclose a cheque for £_____

Your name: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Delivery Address _____

Games to Remember

The games described are:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|--|
| 29 August 1936. | Lowestoft Town | 3 | Harwich & Parkeston | 3. | ECL championship play-off. |
| 1 May 1951. | Wisbech Town | 3 | Chelmsford City Res. | 3. | ECL Cup, Final. |
| 8 May 1951. | Wisbech Town | 1 | Chelmsford City Res. | 1. | ECL Cup, Final, Replay. |
| 22 August 1951. | Wisbech Town | 1 | Chelmsford City Res. | 0. | ECL Cup, Final, 2 nd Replay. |
| 24 November 1951. | Leyton Orient | 2 | Gorleston | 2. | F.A. Cup, First Round. |
| 29 November 1951. | Gorleston | 0 | Leyton Orient | 0. | F.A. Cup, First Round, Replay. |
| 3 December 1951. | Gorleston | 4 | Leyton Orient | 5. | F.A. Cup, First Round, 2 nd Replay. |
| 21 February 1953. | Leytonstone | 3 | Harwich & Parkeston | 4. | F.A. Amateur Cup, Quarter-Finals. |
| 21 November 1953. | Great Yarmouth T. | 1 | Crystal Palace | 0. | F.A. Cup, First Round. |
| 1 October 1960. | Ely City | 9 | Great Yarmouth Town | 5. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 1 May 1961. | Tottenham H. 'A' | 1 | March Town United | 2. | ECL Cup, Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 24 November 1962. | Stowmarket | 11 | Biggleswade Town | 0. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 12 October 1963. | Bury Town | 3 | Lowestoft Town | 2. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 1 January 1966. | Stowmarket | 3 | Woking | 2. | F.A. Amateur Cup, First Round. |
| 28 October 1967. | Lowestoft Town | 2 | Cambridge United | 2. | F.A. Cup, 4 th Qualifying Round. |
| 1 November 1967. | Cambridge United | 1 | Lowestoft Town | 2. | F.A. Cup, 4 th Qual. Round, Replay |
| 20 May 1968. | Newmarket Town | 2 | Chatteris Town | 2. | ECL Cup, Final, 1 st leg. |
| 22 May 1968. | Chatteris Town | 3 | Newmarket Town | 3. | ECL Cup, Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 24 May 1968. | Chatteris Town | 3 | Newmarket Town | 2. | ECL Cup, Final, Replay. |
| 4 April 1969. | Lowestoft Town | 0 | Great Yarmouth Town | 1. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 5 April 1969. | Great Yarmouth T. | 1 | Lowestoft Town | 0. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 8 May 1969. | Clacton Town | 6 | Lowestoft Town | 3. | ECL Cup, Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 11 May 1979. | Haverhill Rovers | 4 | Chatteris Town | 0. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 2 April 1983. | Great Yarmouth T. | 1 | V.S. Rugby | 1. | F.A. Vase, Semi-Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 28 April 1984. | Wisbech Town | 3 | Braintree Town | 4. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 8 March 1986. | Havant Town | 1 | Wisbech Town | 5. | F.A. Vase, Round Six. |
| 28 November 1987. | March Town Utd. | 3 | Felixstowe Town | 4. | ECL Cup, Third Round. |
| 12 May 1988 | Chatteris Town | 0 | March Town United | 5. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 1 April 1989. | Sudbury Town | 6 | Hungerford Town | 0. | F.A. Vase, Semi-Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 8 April 1989. | Halstead Town | 2 | Braintree Town | 1. | ECL Cup, Semi-Final. |
| 7 October 1989. | Norwich United | 2 | Kings Lynn | 1. | F.A. Vase, Preliminary Round. |
| 6 January 1990. | Thetford Town | 2 | Sudbury Town | 2. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 20 January 1990. | Sudbury Town | 3 | Great Yarmouth Town | 4. | F.A. Vase, Fourth Round. |
| 15 May 1992. | Norwich United | 5 | Gorleston | 2. | ECL Cup, Final, Replay. |
| 29 September 1992. | Baldock Town | 2 | Newmarket Town | 6. | F.A. Cup, 2 nd Qual. Round, Replay |
| 27 April 1993. | Wroxham | 6 | Cornard United | 0. | ECL Cup, Final. |
| 7 May 1994. | Diss Town | 2 | Taunton Town | 1. | F.A. Vase, Final, at Wembley. |
| 14 January 1995. | Halstead Town | 5 | Hadleigh United | 5. | F.A. Vase, Round Four. |
| 19 August 1995. | Whitton United | 7 | Somersham Town | 1. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 31 March 1998. | Soham Town R. | 3 | Wisbech Town | 0. | Cambridge Inv. Cup, Final. |
| 16 March 1999. | Wroxham | 3 | Fakenham Town | 0. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 28 April 1999. | Sudbury Wands. | 7 | Felixstowe Port & T. | 2. | ECL Cup, Final. |
| 6 May 2000. | Gorleston | 1 | Histon | 2. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 5 May 2001. | Dereham Town | 1 | Stanway Rovers | 0. | Eastern Counties League. |
| 23 March 2002. | AFC Sudbury | 0 | Tiptree United | 2. | F.A. Vase, Semi-Final, 1 st leg. |
| 13 March 2004. | AFC Sudbury | 3 | Colne | 2. | F.A. Vase, Semi-Final, 1 st leg. |
| 20 March 2004. | Colne | 1 | AFC Sudbury | 1. | F.A. Vase, Semi-Final, 2 nd leg. |
| 10 December 2005. | Didcot Town | 4 | Mildenhall Town | 4. | F.A. Vase, Third Round. |
| 13 December 2005. | Mildenhall Town | 2 | Didcot Town | 1. | F.A. Vase, Third Round, Replay. |
| 29 April 2006 | Lowestoft Town | 2 | Needham Market | 1. | Eastern Counties League |
| 3 May 2008 | Soham Town Ran. | 4 | Needham Market | 0. | Eastern Counties League |

Players and Personalities

Players whose pen pictures are included in the book are listed below under the past or present ECL clubs they played for, or the ECL clubs with which they were connected.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| AFC Sudbury | Sam Banya, Gary Bennett, Ricky Cornish, Brian Devereux, Robbie Devereux, Tom English (Jun.), Keith Martin, Michael Mills, Alex Rhodes, Colin Rimmer, Peter Scott, Robert Sims, Brian Tatum, Derrick Yallop |
| Arsenal "A" | Allen Batsford, Danny Clapton, Brian Close, Ray Daniel, Joe Haverty, Cliff Holton, Jack Kelsey, George Male, Ben Marden, Arthur Milton, Norman Uprichard |
| Biggleswade Town | Mike Cole |
| Braintree Town | Steve Allen, Richard Bates, Gary Bennett, Ian Brown, Brian Devereux, John Dick, Steve Dowman, Dave Hubbick, Charlie Jones, Bryan Klug, Mick Lambert, Keith Martin, Bob Mayes, Christian McClean, Matt Metcalf, Simon Milton, Roger Osborne, Alex Rhodes, Edgar Rummey, Chris Symes |
| Brantham Athletic | Paul Adams, Nigel Crouch, Colwyn Rowe, Clive Stafford, Chris Symes |
| Brightlingsea United | Steve Dowman, Chris Mack, Christian McClean |
| Bury Town | Terry Bly, Larry Carberry, Ricky Cornish, Jimmy Duthie, Len Flack, Ivan Fryer, Tony Godden, Joe Hannah, Lance Key, Mick Lambert, Derek Lewis, John Linford, Bob Mayes, Steve McGavin, Matt Metcalf, Simon Milton, Jimmy Moran, Louis Newman, Craig Oldfield, Colwyn Rowe, Richard Skelly, Peter Smith, Clive Stafford, Gary Stevens, Chris Symes, Doug Tooley, Richard Wilkins |
| Cambridge United | Cedric Anselin, Gareth Baldwin, Hugh Barr, Nigel Cassidy, Ricky Cornish, Steve Dowman, Alan Doyle, Mike Fairchild, Leo Fortune-West, Jez George, Gary Johnson, Nolan Keeley, Wilf Mannion, Sammy Morgan, Paul Overton, Dave Simmons, John Taylor, Richard Wilkins, Robert Woodcock |
| Chatteris Town | Johnny Bailey, Jamie Brighty, Alan Doyle, Bill Feary, Dave Gregory, Stuart Hodson, Peter Munns, Paul Overton, Andy Rogers, Mick Simmons, Steve Taylor |
| Chelsea "A" | Frank Blunstone, Jimmy Leadbetter, Bobby Smith |
| Clacton Town | Les Bennett, Ian Brown, Steve Dowman, Tom Galley, Andy Hillier, Adam Hillier, Paul Hillier, Sean Hillier, Chris Mack, Bob Mayes, Christian McClean, Steve McGavin |
| Colchester Town | Benny Fenton |
| Cornard United | Ricky Cornish, Brian Devereux, Robbie Devereux, Tom English (Sen.), Mark Falco, Dave Hubbick, Keith Martin, Christian McClean, Robert Sims, Chris Symes |
| CRC | Jez George |
| Debenham LC | Stuart Jopling, Bob Mayes |
| Dereham Town | Cedric Anselin, Simon Barnes, Jordan Blyth, Greg Downs, Neil Hart, Robert Taylor |
| Diss Town | Cedric Anselin, Sam Banya, Alan Barnard, Paul Chick, Ricky Cornish, Robert Fleck, Jackie Gallagher, Paul Gibbs, Stuart Jopling, Bob Mayes, Peter Mendham, Matt Metcalf, Bill Punton, Clive Stafford, Robert Taylor, Paul Tong, Matthew Upson, Richard Upson, Mark Vincent, Paul Warne, Robert Woodcock, Clive Woods |
| Ely City | Hugh Barr, David Braybrooke, Neil Hart, Stuart Hodson, Peter Munns, Mick Simmons, Eric Simper, Steve Taylor, Doug Unwin |
| Eynesbury Rovers | Johnny Bailey, Dennis Emery, Charlie Revell |
| Fakenham Town | Simon Barnes, Luther Blissett, Jackie Gallagher, Nolan Keeley, Mark King, Matt Metcalf, Paul Tong |
| Felixstowe Town | Paul Adams, Sam Banya, Ian Brown, Glen Driver, Ivan Fryer, Bob Mayes, Louis Newman, Craig Oldfield, Roger Osborne, Colwyn Rowe, Peter Smith, Clive Stafford, John Wark |
| Fulbourn Institute | Jonny Gavin, Shaun Sowden |
| Godmanchester Rov. | Darren Bent |
| Gorleston | Eric Arnold, Mike Bailey, "Sailor" Brown, Mike Cassidy, Tim Coleman, Bruce Cunningham, Robert Fleck, Paul Gibbs, Dale Gordon, Stewart Larter, John Linford, Mal Lucas, Phil Lythgoe, Jimmy Moran, Sammy Morgan, Martin Peters, Sid Plunkett, Kevin Ready, Jamie Stokeld, Mike Sutton, John Taylor, Robert Taylor, Paul Tong |
| Gothic | John Blyth, Paul Chick, Derrick Lythgoe, Kevin Ready, Clive Woods |
| Great Yarmouth T. | Eric Arnold, Alan Barnard, John Blyth, Mel Blyth, Jack Bradley, Bobby Brennan, Danny Canning, Paul Chick, John Cogger, Tim Coleman, Fred Cutting, Steve Davy, Greg Downs, Mike Fairchild, Albert Foan, Dale Gordon, Neil Hart, Roy Hollis, Nolan Keeley, John Linford, Derrick Lythgoe, Mick Money, Jimmy Moran, Jack Pegg, Sid Plunkett, Bill Punton, Derrick Rackham, Kevin Ready, Stewart Roach, Mike Sutton, Paul Tong, Mark Vincent, Paul Warne |
| Hadleigh United | Louis Newman, Colwyn Rowe, James Rush, Dean Skinner |
| Halstead Town | Steve Allen, Simon Atangana, Ricky Cornish, Brian Devereux, Robbie Devereux, Glen Driver, Tom English (Jun.), Tony English, Keith Martin, Christian McClean, Colwyn Rowe, Chris Symes |
| Harwich & Parkeston | Paul Adams, Kevin Beattie, Ian Brown, Mike Cole, Andy Crane, Nigel Crouch, Glen Driver, Tom English (Sen.), Tom English (Jun.), Tony English, Ian Gillespie, Andy Hillier, Terry Howard, Mick Lambert, Les Lusted, Christian McClean, Steve McGavin, Les Medley, Bill Nicholson, Craig Oldfield, Keith Sanderson, Eric Tyrrell, George Waites |
| Haverhill Rovers | Tom English (Jun.), Wilf Mannion, Roger Staples, Roy Stephenson, Steve Taylor, Doug Tooley, Richard Wilkins |

Histon Gareth Baldwin, Alan Doyle, Gary Johnson, Lance Key, Giuliano Maiorana, Peter Munns, Paul Overton, Richard Skelly, Shaun Sowden

Holbeach United Dave Gregory

Ipswich Wanderers Sam Banya, Gary Bennett, Jason Dozzell, Tom English (Jun.), Ruel Fox, Louis Newman, Colwyn Rowe, John Wark

Kings Lynn Cedric Anselin, Jimmy Brain, Alan Doyle, Jackie Gallagher, Tony Godden, Dale Gordon, Dave Gregory, Nolan Keeley, John Linford, Derrick Lythgoe, Wilf Mannion, Peter Mendham, Mick Money, Kevin Ready, Stewart Roach, Dick Scott, Richard Skelly, Robert Taylor, Mick Tooley, Cliff Whitelum, Mick Wright

Kirkley Jordan Blyth, Carl Chenery, Paul Highfield, Stewart Larter, Jamie Stokeld, Ivan Thacker, Robert Woodcock

Leiston Sam Banya, Carl Chenery, Jason Dozzell, Glen Driver, Ivan Fryer, Ian Gillespie, Ted Phillips, Stewart Roach, Ian Smith

Long Melford Brian Devereux, Michael Mills, Roger Staples, John Taylor

Lowestoft Town Cedric Anselin, Eric Arnold, Alan Barnard, John Blyth, Mike Cassidy, Nigel Cassidy, Micky Chapman, Carl Chenery, Paul Chick, Mike Cole, Bruce Cunningham, Mike Fairchild, Albert Foan, Mike Grice, Roy Hollis, Stuart Jopling, Sandy Kennon, Stewart Larter, John Linford, Mal Lucas, Derrick Lythgoe, Phil Lythgoe, Mick Money, Richard Money, Jimmy Moran, Charlie Peck, Stewart Roach, Colwyn Rowe, Dick Scott, Ian Smith, Roy Stephenson, Jamie Stokeld, Ivan Thacker, Mick Tooley

Maldon Town Sam Banya, Ian Brown, Neil Harris, Bob Mayes

March Town United Johnny Bailey, Wally Beach, George Ephgrave, Bill Feary, Oscar Hold, Keith Martin, Mick Simmons

Mildenhall Town Ricky Cornish, Tom English (Jun.), Jez George, Stuart Jopling, Mick Money, Andy Pearson, Richard Skelly, John Taylor

Needham Market Sam Banya, Derrick Bloomfield, Glen Driver, Stuart Jopling, Andy Sapey

Newmarket Town Ricky Cornish, Johnny Gavin, Gary Johnson, Mick Lambert, Giuliano Maiorana, Andy Pearson, Alex Rhodes, Dave Sexton, Dave Simmons, Richard Skelly, Shaun Sowden, Roger Staples, John Taylor, Mick Wright

Norwich City "A" Maurice Norman, Dick Scott, Doug Tooley, Mick Tooley

Norwich United Cedric Anselin, Jordan Blyth, Paul Chick, Bruce Cunningham, Phil Lythgoe, Peter Mendham, Mick Money, Paul Tong, Robert Woodcock

Soham Town Ran. David Braybrooke, Alan Doyle, Gary Johnson, Paul Overton, Andy Pearson, Dave Simmons, Shaun Sowden

Spalding United Jamie Brightly, Dave Gregory, Stuart Hodson, Derrick Rackham

Stanway Rovers Paul Brierley, Glen Driver, Tom English (Jun.), Steve McGavin, Andy Sapey

Stowmarket Paul Adams, Derrick Bloomfield, Ian Brown, Glen Driver, Dave Hubbick, Stuart Jopling, Bryan Klug, Bob Mayes, Louis Newman, Craig Oldfield, Ted Phillips, Matt Platt, Cliff Whitelum

Sudbury Town Bill Bower, Ian Brown, Mike Cassidy, Andy Crane, Robbie Devereux, Tony English, Dave Hubbick, Bryan Klug, Jimmy Leadbetter, Bob Mayes, Christian McClean, Steve McGavin, Matt Metcalf, Mick Money, Louis Newman, Craig Oldfield, Roger Osborne, Colwyn Rowe, Edgar Rumney, Peter Scott, Richard Skelly, Peter Smith, Shaun Sowden, Clive Stafford, Roger Staples, John Taylor, Derrick Yallop

Sudbury Wanderers Ricky Cornish, Brian Devereux, Keith Martin, Michael Mills, Colin Rimmer, Andy Sapey, Peter Scott, Robert Sims, Brian Tatum

Swaffham Town Mick Simmons

Team Bury Ricky Cornish, Richard Skelly

Thetford Town Mick Bailey, Ted Bates, Paul Chick, Mike Cole, Bruce Cunningham, Steve McGavin, Simon Milton, Mick Money, Kevin Ready, Dick Scott, Kevin Seggie, Richard Skelly, Doug Tooley

Tiptree United Gary Bennett, Tom English (Jun.), Leo Fortune-West, Neil Hart, Mick Lambert, Christian McClean, Edgar Rumney, Chris Symes

Tottenham H. "A" Peter Baker, Danny Blanchflower, Terry Dyson, Ron Henry, Mel Hopkins, Tony Marchi, Bill Nicholson

Walsham-le-Willows Andy Crane

Warboys Town Tony Godden, Steve Taylor

Watton United Simon Barnes, Dave Gregory, Nolan Keeley, Mark King, Peter Mendham, Mick Simmons, Robert Taylor, Clive Woods, Mick Wright

West Ham U. "A" John Bond, Ken Brown, Noel Cantwell, Harry Hooper

Whitton United Sam Banya, Ian Brown, Ruel Fox

Wisbech Town Jamie Brightly, Bill Feary, Jackie Gallagher, Stuart Hodson, Oscar Hold, Peter Munns, Steve Taylor, Clive Woods

Wivenhoe Town Paul Brierley, Steve Dowman, Tom English (Sen.), Mark Falco, Tony Godden, Paul Hillier, Sean Hillier, Stuart Jopling, Bob Mayes, Christian McClean, Dean Skinner, Chris Symes

Woodbridge Town Andy Crane, Ivan Fryer, Dave Hubbick, Craig Oldfield, Colwyn Rowe, Clive Stafford, John Wark

Wroxham Simon Barnes, John Blyth, Paul Chick, Bruce Cunningham, Greg Downs, Stewart Larter, John Linford, Phil Lythgoe, Keith Martin, Peter Mendham, Matt Metcalf, Mick Money, Mick Tooley, Paul Wame, Robert Woodcock, Clive Woods

Yaxley Ricky Cornish