



## BARKING V ROMFORD

Saturday March 2nd  
KO 3pm



BLUE THRU AND THRU MATCH DAY PROGRAMME OF

# BARKING

## FOOTBALL CLUB



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# EDITOR'S CORNER

## Barking V Romford

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to Lawtech Stadium for this Essex Senior League tie against Romford!

Last time out was a historic day for the Blues, as a comfortable 5-0 victory over Ilford saw Barking make it 17 games unbeaten in all competitions – levelling the current record. Goals from Tony Martin (2), Luke Hirst, Jack Dickinson and a first for the club from Bleron Ademi saw Barking home. A full report can be found on page 4. Today's programme also looks at former results against Romford as well as previous fixtures on this day!



We would also like to wish all fans and players of Romford as well as the officials and any neutrals a safe journey home from Lawtech Stadium today.

Come on you Blues!

**Penned by programme editor Trevor Gilbert**

*Disclaimer: Please note any opinion, statement or views expressed in this programme are those of the various contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by Barking Football Club.*

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## LAWTECH STADIUM GROUND RULES

All persons entering Lawtech Stadium on match days are only admitted subject to these rules and regulations. The club reserves the right to eject from the ground, and prosecute if thought appropriate; any person who within the club's premises is considered by the club to be in breach of the following:

- 1: Entering the ground by any means other than through the proper turnstiles or gates.
- 2: Entering the field of play before, during or after the game.
- 3: Using obscene or abusive language or persistent swearing likely to cause offence.
- 4: Using terms of abuse, racial or otherwise, likely to offend.
- 5: Being drunk or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 6: Making vulgar or obscene gestures.
- 7: Carrying any offensive object or throwing any article onto the field of play.
- 8: No glass bottles, drinking glasses or other such article or object to be permitted.
- 9: Sitting on the perimeter fence is not permitted. All vehicles are parked at the owner's/ driver's risk.
- 10: Spectators are not permitted to bring or play with Footballs in the stadium



# CLUB HONOURS

**Barking FC are steeped in history and below are our major honours, for a full list please visit [www.barking-fc.co.uk](http://www.barking-fc.co.uk)**

<b>Isthmian League - Champions</b>	1978/79
<b>Essex Senior League - Champions</b>	2016/17
<b>Athenian League - Champions</b>	1934/35
<b>London League Premier - Champions</b>	1920/21
<b>London League Division One - Champions</b>	1909-10
<b>FA Non-League Team of the Year</b>	1978/79
<b>FA Cup - Second Round Proper</b>	1978/79, 1979/80, 1981/82, 1983/84
<b>FA Amateur Cup - Runners Up</b>	1926/27
<b>FA Trophy best - Second Round</b>	1979/80
<b>FA Vase Best - Fifth Round (Last 16)</b>	1996/97
<b>London Senior Cup - Winners</b>	1911/12, 1920/21, 1926/27, 1978/79
<b>Essex Senior Cup – Winners</b>	1893/94, 1895/96, 1919/20, 1945/46, 1962/63, 1969/70, 1989/90
<b>East Anglian Cup - Winners</b>	1937/38, 1953/54 (Shared)
<b>Essex Thameside Trophy – Winners</b>	1952/53 (Shared), 1956/57, 1958/59, 1996/97
<b>Gordon Brasted Trophy - Winners</b>	2014/15
<b>Errington Challenge Cup – Winners</b>	2022/23
<b>Dylon Shield Winners</b>	1979/80
<b>Essex Senior League Reserve Division – Champions</b>	2011/12

The club has also been Champions in the following competitions:

Essex Elizabethan Trophy, Essex Intermediate Cup, East Anglian Cup, South Essex League, Leyton & District League, London Charity Cup/ Eastern Floodlight Cup, Essex Floodlight Cup, Mithras Cup and the Premier Midweek league.



## BARKING 5-0 ILFORD

*Saturday 24 February 2024 – Essex Senior League – Report by Trevor Gilbert*

It was a historic day for Barking as they levelled the clubs unbeaten league and cup run with a confident 5-0 victory over Ilford, a record that was first established back in season 1968/69.

It was 3-0 at half time, with two goals for Tony Martin and one for Luke Hirst. Man of the Match Jack Dickinson and Bleron Ademi rounded out an excellent day late in the second half.

From last weeks starting eleven Dan Purdue took over from Max Spence between the posts. Brad Rowland replaced Bleron Ademi and Jack Dickinson took over Sam Dowridge who was injured.

Martin should have had his first goal just a minute in, Luke Hirst capitalised on a scuffed clearance and cut the ball back to Martin in the box but he skied the shot. **Tony Martin** made up for the miss after 12 minutes: debutant goalkeeper Dan Purdue launched the ball forward, it pinballed around the Ilford box but eventually fell to Luke Hirst through on goal, his low shot was saved well by Ilford keeper Wilkinson Boateng but the ball fell invitingly at the feet of Martin who had an easy tap-in.

Barking doubled their lead four minutes later as Hirst and Martin swapped roles – Martin cut the ball back to **Luke Hirst** from the right wing, the initial shot was blocked but it bounced nicely back to Hirst and his half volley whistled past Boateng at his near post and into the net.

Barking continued to pressure and ask questions of the Ilford defence and were rewarded with a third with 25 minutes on the clock, Brad Rowland blocked a clearance from Boateng and squared the ball across the box to **Tony Martin** who had another easy tap-in to an open net for 3-0.

Barking was comfortable for the rest of the first half and into the second half. There were some half chances for George Forrest and Brad Rowland but it was Tony Martin who should have his hattrick with 30 minutes remaining: Jack Dickinson blocked a clearance, drove down the wing, cut into the box and beat two Ilford players on a mazy run before cutting back to Martin on the penalty spot but he lent back slightly as he opened his body up to side foot the ball and his effort cleared the bar. **Jack Dickinson** got himself on the scoresheet 14 minutes later however as Rowland floated a free kick from the right touchline to the far post where Dickinson rose highest and nodded past Boateng at his near post.

Substitutes Greg Akpele, Warren Kayembe and Bleron Ademi continued to cause problems for the Ilford defence: Warren saw his powerful effort palmed away before **Bleron Ademi** scored a wonderful long range shot after 87 minutes, Ademi run onto a pass from Kenedi Dariri and launched a thunderbolt which smacked the inside of the post as it found the net to round off a memorable day for the Blues.

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# 12<sup>TH</sup> MAN SCHEME

Barking FC are delighted to announce that their 12<sup>th</sup> man scheme is officially **OPEN**, meaning that fans will be able to contribute to the club financially, with the money ringfenced for the first team playing budget. Importantly, these funds will not be used to replace money that is already in the budget, all monies raised will be an **addition** to our current budget.

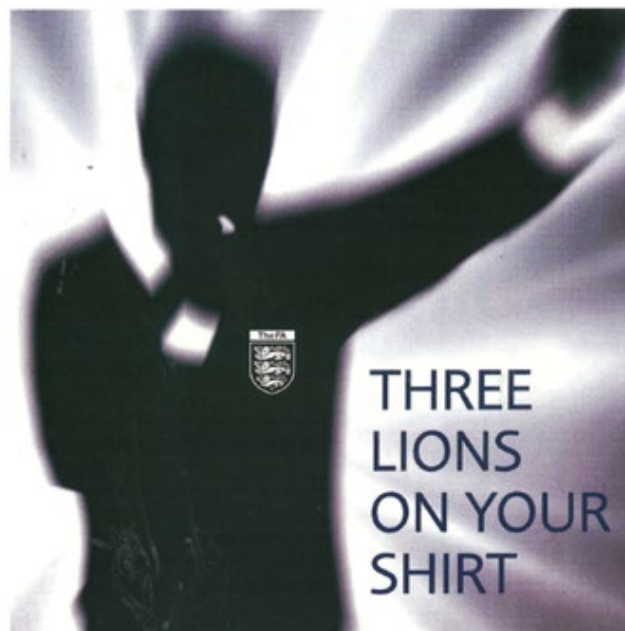
## There are a few ways you can contribute:

- 1) Online Banking – use your online account to set up a monthly standing order. Here are all the details you need:

**Name: Barking FC 12th Man**  
**Account Sort Code: 30-93-23**  
**Account Number: 26420160**

- 2) You can also set up a standing order by going into the local branch of your chosen bank. You may be able to set it up solely using the details above, but we would recommend filling out a standing order form and taking that into your branch. The form can be collected on a matchday or found online on the club website.

- 3) By Post – Some banks also accept postal standing orders –please visit our website and contact your bank for more information.



Due to the ongoing interest in football we are looking for more referees. Should you be interested in getting involved and would like more information, we would like to hear from you.

More details can be found on [www.londonfa.com](http://www.londonfa.com)

Contact: Adrian Shorter (London FA)

Tel: 020 7610 8375 to request an Information Pack

Email: [adrian.shorter@londonfa.com](mailto:adrian.shorter@londonfa.com)



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## Fundraising 2023-24

There are some great ways to raise money for our great club. Contact Dave Blewitt  
**07875 842 805** for further details



### NEW FUNDRAISING PACKAGES!

#### GOLD ★ PACKAGE

**£1000** - Three 6ft by 3ft pitch side banners, company logo entry in our match day magazine and website advert.

#### SILVER ★ PACKAGE

**£750** - Two 6ft by 3ft pitch side banners and website advert.

#### BRONZE ★ PACKAGE

**£500** - One 6ft by 3ft pitch side banner and company logo entry in our match day magazine

PLEASE CONTACT DAVE BLEWITT FOR FURTHER DETAILS





# ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Tilbury FC	27	21	3	3	45	66
2	Woodford Town FC	28	16	7	5	25	55
3	Romford First	28	17	4	7	24	55
4	Barking FC	28	14	7	7	19	49
5	Sporting Bengal United First	28	14	5	9	11	47
6	Athletic Newham FC	29	15	2	12	11	47
7	Halstead Town FC	31	13	6	12	4	45
8	Hullbridge Sports FC	29	13	6	10	1	45
9	Great Wakering Rovers FC	24	12	6	6	28	42
10	Saffron Walden Town First	26	13	3	10	2	42
11	West Essex FC	28	11	6	11	13	39
12	Stanway Rovers Community First	29	11	6	12	6	39
13	FC Clacton First	30	10	9	11	-6	39
14	Little Oakley First	29	9	10	10	-1	37
15	White Ensign FC	30	7	9	14	-18	30
16	Frenford FC	29	8	6	15	-20	30
17	Takeley FC	27	7	8	12	-14	29
18	Buckhurst Hill FC	28	9	2	17	-23	29
19	Ilford FC	30	5	4	21	-56	19
20	Coggeshall Town FC	28	2	3	23	-51	9

## A NEW SPONSOR

Everyone at the club would like to welcome LSH Decorating to the Barking FC family! LSH have provided sponsorship for our U12, U13 and U16 girls teams, as well as sponsoring some of our races from last weekend's race night!



[www.lshdecoratingservices.co.uk](http://www.lshdecoratingservices.co.uk)



# MATCH CENTRE

DATE	OPPONENTS	COMP	SCORE	ATT	GOAL SCORERS
<b>29 Jul 23</b>	<b>Buckhurst Hill</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Adu-Gyamfi</b>
2 Aug 23	White Ensign	ESL	0-0	91	
5 Aug 23	Cockfosters	FAC EPR	<b>1-0</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Oloko</b>
<b>8 Aug 23</b>	<b>Tilbury</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>107</b>	
<b>12 Aug 23</b>	<b>Stanway Rovers</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>4-2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Dariri, Mabassa, Nyanja, Isioma</b>
15 Aug 23	Romford	ESL	2-2	154	Okoye, Okah
19 Aug 23	Heybridge Swifts	FAC PR	0-2	214	
26 Aug 23	Potton United	FAV 1QR	0-3	114	
<b>28 Aug 23</b>	<b>Sporting Bengal</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>Spencer (pen)</b>
9 Sept 23	Little Oakley	ESL	1-2	76	Tuohy (pen)
<b>12 Sept 23</b>	<b>Great Wakering Rovers</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>Rowland, Hirst</b>
<b>16 Sept 23</b>	<b>Coggeshall Town</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>3-2</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>Rowland, Hirst, Tuohy</b>
28 Sept 23	Frenford	ESC 1R	2-1	82	Haysman, Kileba
<b>30 Sept 23</b>	<b>FC Clacton</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>0-5</b>	<b>61</b>	
7 Oct 23	West Essex	ESL	0-2	127	
<b>10 Oct 23</b>	<b>Hullbridge Sports</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>Tuohy</b>
<b>14 Oct 23</b>	<b>Takeley</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>3-2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>Kileba, Dickinson x2</b>
21 Oct 23	Ilford	ESL	5-1	52	Troubridge, Hirst x2, Gordon, Kileba
24 Oct 23	Buckhurst Hill	ESC 2R	1-2		Dickinson
<b>28 Oct 23</b>	<b>Halstead Town</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>0-6</b>	<b>47</b>	
4 Nov 23	Saffron Walden Town	ESL	2-2	202	Hirst, Akpele (pen)
11 Nov 23	Frenford	ESL	4-0	46	Nche x3, Martin
<b>14 Nov 23</b>	<b>Leyton Orient</b>	<b>LSC 1R</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>Folan</b>
17 Nov 23	Buckhurst Hill	ESL	2-0	106	Martin, Hirst
25 Nov 23	Stanway Rovers	ESL	2-0	100	K. Kayembe, Akpele
6 Dec 23	Woodford Town	ESL	1-1	89	K. Kayembe
<b>16 Dec 23</b>	<b>Little Oakley</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Shaban</b>
19 Dec 23	Haringey Borough	LSC 2R	3-1	132	Dickinson, Hirst, Shaban
23 Dec 23	Coggeshall Town	ESL	3-0	<b>55</b>	Hirst x2, K. Kayembe
<b>6 Jan 24</b>	<b>Woodford Town</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Hirst, K.Kayembe, W.Kayembe (pen)</b>
<b>13 Jan 24</b>	<b>White Ensign</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>Hirst x2, Dickinson, Martin x3</b>
20 Jan 24	Sporting Bengal	ESL	2-1	45	Martin (pen), Hirst
27 Jan 24	Great Wakering Rovers	ESL	0-0	131	
30 Jan 24	Coggeshall Town	PBMT 2R	1-0	44	Dowridge
3 Feb 24	White Ensign	ECC 1R	4-0	63	Hirst, Martin x3 (1 pen)
17 Feb 24	Hullbridge Sports	ESL	4-0	56	Martin x2, Rowland, Hirst
<b>24 Feb 24</b>	<b>Ilford</b>	<b>ESL</b>	<b>5-0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>Martin x2, Hirst, Dickinson, Ademi</b>
<b>2 Mar 24</b>	<b>Romford</b>	<b>ESL</b>			
5 Mar 24	Charlton Athletic U23	LSC QF			
<b>9 Mar 24</b>	<b>Athletic Newham</b>	<b>ESL</b>			
12 Mar 24	Tilbury	ECC 2R			
<b>16 Mar 24</b>	<b>Saffron Walden Town</b>	<b>ESL</b>			
19 Mar 24	Hullbridge Sports	PBMT QF			
23 Mar 24	Halstead Town	ESL			
26 Mar 24	Tilbury	ESL			
<b>30 Mar 24</b>	<b>Frenford</b>	<b>ESL</b>			
6 Apr 24	Takeley	ESL			
10 Apr 24	Athletic Newham	ESL			
<b>13 Apr 24</b>	<b>West Essex</b>	<b>ESL</b>			
20 Apr 24	FC Clacton	ESL			

# ROMFORD

The original Romford Football Club was founded in 1876, playing only friendly matches for the first two seasons. There were notable FA Cup runs in the 1880s, reaching the quarterfinals in 1880-81 and meeting Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park in 1884-85, who were on their way to the first of a hat-trick of F A Cups. League football for Romford began in 1896, but with modest success for the most part.

The Club was taken over in 1909 and the entire committee replaced; however, the new regime proved disastrous and the Club was suspended by the FA in March 1911, folding without playing another match. The ousted committee had immediately formed a new club in 1909, initially known as Romford United, and they met with rather better fortunes. After becoming Romford Town in 1911, they won the Essex Senior Cup a year later but closed down operations in 1915.

Resuming in 1919, the Club struggled to find its feet again and after merging with the local Ivyleafers club in 1920, themselves folded in mid-season. Moves were made to restore the Club in 1929, and after two seasons in the London League, the new club joined the Athenian League and had its greatest success in the late 1930s, with back-to-back championships in 1936 and 1937, and reaching the semi-finals of the FA Amateur Cup in 1936 and 1938. By this time, they had acquired the nickname Boro, which remains to this day. They were accepted into the Isthmian League in 1939 but had only played one game before it was halted for the Second World War.

Romford were among the strongest teams in the Isthmian League up until the mid-1950s, and reached the FA Amateur Cup Final in 1949, losing 1-0 to Bromley in front of 93 000 spectators in the first final to be played at Wembley. The second half of the decade saw a sharp decline, and it was decided that the Club should turn Professional in 1959, joining the Southern League. Boro won promotion to the Premier Division immediately, and after steadily building a squad they won the league championship in 1967. That success could not be sustained and they gradually slipped down the table until they were relegated in 1975.

Financial difficulties from the development of their stadium at Brooklands meant they had to sell the ground, moving out in 1977 and borrowing grounds for a season while a new stadium was being built; however, that was abandoned when the money ran out and the Club closed down in 1978. The present club was formed in 1992, and initially shared a ground with Hornchurch while playing in the Essex Senior League. The Club's first entry into the F A Cup saw them reach the Third Qualifying Round in 1994-95, while league placings steadily improved and Romford won the Essex Senior League and Cup double in 1996, while sharing with Ford United at Rush Green.

A controversial merger with Collier Row enabled Boro to move into their ground at Sungate and bypass Division Three of the Isthmian League, and indeed win Division Two in 1996-97. After a strong start in Division One which saw Romford finish as top scorers in the division, reach the Fourth Qualifying Round of the F A Cup for the first time and win the East Anglian Cup, the withdrawal of their chief backer led to a traumatic decline which saw them finally relegated to Division Two in 2001, and vacate Sungate after years of problems with the condition of the ground which prompted the Club to resign from the Isthmian League completely in 2002.

Returning both to Rush Green and the Essex Senior League, Romford won the league's Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy in 2004 and were generally among the league's front-runners each year, finishing as runners-up and League Cup finalists in 2007/ Former reserve team manager Paul Martin took over the first team midway through 2007-08, and he guided Boro to the league title in 2009.

By this time Romford had left Rush Green for a groundshare at Aveley, which enabled them to return to the Isthmian League where they managed to keep their heads above water year after year, despite having no playing budget. The Club moved to Thurrock in 2012 and continued to stay out of the relegation battle for the most part until 2017-18, when they defied all expectations by overcoming a huge points deficit to escape the drop on the last day.

## ROMFORD

Relegation was again avoided from a similar position in 2019, this time by way of a reprieve, and Boro looked like they were heading for another season at the bottom in 2019-20 when they were suddenly taken over by businessman Glenn Tamplin. He eventually managed to get them off the bottom of the table just in time for football to be cancelled because of the Covid pandemic, with the following season only lasting a few months before going the same way, with Boro at least in a more comfortable position.

Tamplin left the Club at that point however, and the 2021-22 season saw relegation finally catching up with Romford. Romford had moved to Barking's Mayesbrook Park in 2020, following a season at each of East Thurrock United and Brentwood Town, and the beginning of a third spell in the Essex Senior League saw an improvement in fortunes including Romford's best FA Cup run since 1999-2000, reaching the Third Qualifying Round.

League form suffered and it was only a late upturn in form that saw them finish the season in fourteenth place. 2023-24 started well and saw Boro mounting a concerted promotion challenge, along with the news that they would be moving back to Rookery Hill following the demise of East Thurrock, hoping that being in control of their home ground at long last will be a platform for greater things to come.



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# PHOTO REVIEW: BARKING 5-0 ILFORD

Saturday 24 February 2024 – Essex Senior League – Photos by Trevor Gilbert



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**Any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association.” (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162).**





# HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Our last meetings with **Romford** compiled by Terry Gilbert

**August 16th 2023 - Essex Senior League**

**Romford 2**

**Barking 2** (George Okoye, Dan Okah)

**February 24th 2023 - Essex Senior League**

**Romford 3**

**Barking 4** (Luke Hirst 3, Ronaldo Kapica)

**December 23rd 2022 - Essex Senior League**

**Barking 0**

**Romford 2**

**October 23rd 2021 - Isthmian League North Division**

**Romford 2**

**Barking 3** (George Purcell 2, Charlie MacDonald)

**December 27th 2021 - Isthmian League North Division**

**Barking 3** (Harvey Browne, Kieran Jones, Georgie Fairhead)

**Romford 1**

**November 27th 2019 - Velocity Sports Trophy Group 2**

**Barking 0**

**Romford 0**

## ON THIS DAY

A selection of Barking games from this day in the past by Terry Gilbert

**March 2nd 2019 - Isthmian League North Division**

**Barking 0**

**Coggeshall Town 3**

**March 2nd 2013 - Essex Senior League**

**Barking 1** (Dumebi GB-Dumaka)

**Eton Manor 2**

**March 2nd 2002 - Ryman League Division 1**

**Staines Town 2**

**Barking & EHU 1** (Jamie Dormer Penalty)

**March 2nd 1996 - ICIS League Division 1**

**Whyteleafe 2**

**Barking 0**

**March 2nd 1991 - Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division**

**Wokingham Town 1**

**Barking 0**

**March 2nd 1985 - Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division**

**Barking 2** (Jon Bolle, John Harrison)

**Hitchin Town 1**

**March 2nd 1976 - Premier Midweek Floodlit League**

**Barking 4** (Dennis Francis, Dave Weights 2, Peter Burton)

**Grays Athletic 0**

**March 2nd 1968 - Isthmian League**

**Corinthian-Casuals 0**

**Barking 1** (Mick Cannon)



# ROMFORD 2-2 BARKING FC

*Wednesday 15 August 2023 – Essex Senior League – Report by Terry Gilbert*

The Double O's of Barking: George Okoye and Dan Okah scored both goals as Barking rescued a point in another encounter with our old rivals Romford, the match didn't fail to deliver in excitement as both teams battled to a dramatic draw. The second half stretched on and on for 60 minutes, testing the patience of players and supporters alike from both sides.

Barking coming off the back of Saturday's 4-2 win over Stanway Rovers, made just one change to their lineup from the previous match, with Aundre Spencer stepping in for Ciaran Burke.

The opening minutes of the game saw little action, but Romford quickly made their presence known with a strong penalty appeal when Kenedi Dariri tangled with a Romford attacker.

Despite the protests, the referee remained unmoved. The deadlock was broken in the 7th minute when Aundre Spencer's corner caused confusion in Romford's defence. Scott Doe and goalkeeper Jake Anderson both went for the ball, but it fell to Martin Tuohy whose shot was blocked. **George Okoye** was quick to react, slotting the ball home and giving Barking the lead.

Eight minutes later Tuohy delivered an excellent cross narrowly missing the lurking Okoye. Romford, determined to level the score, showed their intent with a fierce shot in the 17th minute, but Barking's keeper Girling managed to deflect the effort away and Bruno Gomes fired the rebound wide as the first half progressed, both teams had their moments, with Fahad Nynja backheeling the ball to Spencer, whose cross narrowly missed Tuohy's head. On the half hour tempers flared as Henry Mabassa pulled down Sam Deering just outside the box and the Barking defender was lucky to see only a yellow card. The resulting free kick taken by Deering ended up wide of the goal. Five minutes from the break Barking are caught up field and Charlie Morris of Romford is allowed to get away and deliver a dangerous cross but thankfully this is cleared by the covering Kenedi Dariri who then gets up to the other end and fires in a shot which bounces off the body of keeper Anderson, with Tuohy's follow-up effort flagged offside. In the second minute of added time Isioma Richard and Tuohy do a lovely one two and the former crosses to Brad Rowland but he fires wide. Barking goes into the break a goal up, but there is more to come

Gomes of Romford has the first shot of the second half thinking Girling is off his line but Barking's keeper gathers the ball at the second attempt and on 49 Romford came close once again, as a menacing cross reached Deering and his header rattled the crossbar before sailing over the goal. Romford equalised on 62 but it was not without controversy as the ball went out for a throw in that was clearly Barking's, the Assistant was overruled by the referee and the Barking's defence switched off, allowing the cross to come in to give Gomes a straightforward chance to equalise. A couple of minutes after this Brad Rowland was sin-binned for ten minutes and Barking found they were down to ten men and nearing the end of Rowland's 'sentence: a goal down. Deering found the time and space to curl a precision shot into the net, giving Romford a 2-1 lead in the 73rd minute. The goal aside, Barking did manage to handle the loss of Rowland and refused to buckle under some heavy pressure. The turning point came in the 81st minute when a free kick from Spencer resulted in a goalmouth scramble and **Dan Okah** managed to nod the ball over the line despite Anderson's desperate attempt to save it and put Barking back at 2-2.

In the dying minutes of the match, Tuohy showcased his creativity with a flick that set up sub-Gabriel Oloko for a promising opportunity, but the lack of support denied them a late winner. However, the dramatics continued as Oloko's frustration boiled over, resulting in a red card after a clash with Romford's Darren Phillips leaving Barking to hold out the remaining minutes once again with ten men.

# ROMFORD 3-4 BARKING FC

*Friday 24 February 2023 – Essex Senior League – Report by Trevor Gilbert*

Barking squeezed past Romford in a pulsating Friday night encounter at the Lawtech Stadium, with Barking designated as the “away” side.

Luke Hirst gave Barking a 2-0 lead after just five minutes, before a Romford fight back, then a Ronaldo Kapica knuckleball gave Barking the lead again before another Romford equaliser but Luke Hirst was on hand for three goals and three points.



Injuries played their part again denying the away team the services of Kenidi Dariri and Tim Ogunrinde, with Alfie Leach reporting unwell on his arrival – it was a reshuffled back line with

Kyrell Palmer going to centre half and Harry Baker moving from the bench to right back

Barking had the lead after 40 seconds: Sam Shaban chased down a long ball and as Romford goalkeeper Matthew Cafer failed to deal with it the ball fell nicely to **Luke Hirst** who lifted the ball over the stranded Cafer and a backtracking Romford defender. **Luke Hirst** doubled his tally and Barking’s lead just four minutes later as he again combined with Shaban – this time Shaban set Hirst through on goal who slotted the ball low under Cafer.

Romford came into the game and should have halved the deficit after 21 minutes as a driven cross from the right wing found Praise Ogbemor at the far post but he contrived to put the ball behind him rather than in front for an easy tap-in. Cafer was called into action after 35 minutes as he palmed away a near post shot from Ronaldo Kapica away but it was Romford who deservedly clawed their way back into the game four minutes later as Hassan Nalbant thunderbolted the ball home from the left edge of the box leaving Harvey Simson with no chance. Romford sensed blood and continued to push, being denied only by Ergis Kastrati heading the ball off the line after a cross was headed back across goal just before the half time whistle.

If Barking and their fans were relieved by the half time whistle, they did not feel the same with the whistle for the resumption of the second half as Hassan Nalbant took a leaf out of Luke Hirst’s book as he scored his second, being set through on goal before slotting low under Simson. Equilibrium lasted only five minutes, as the Yellows capitalised from the referee playing advantage with **Ronaldo Kapica** picking up the ball on the edge of the box and driving a shot high over the stranded Cafer, moving and dipping as it smacked into the net.

Romford were not deterred and the goals kept coming, they counterattacked a Barking corner, with Simson making a very impressive save from Nalbant but he had no chance from the resultant corner, as Barking failed to clear, and a second cross was headed home by the unmarked Anthony Furlong. There was time for a slight breath before **Luke Hirst** secured his hat-trick – it was a case of deja vu as Luke Hirst nipped in between a defender and Cafer from a long ball to steal the ball away and then side footed the ball into the unguarded net to make it 4-3 to Barking with 26 minutes remaining.

The drama continued as Adalberto Pinto was sent off shortly after, a dangerous late slide tackle on Ergis Kastrati leaving the referee with no choice but to brandish a straight red card. Romford pushed forward with nothing to lose but despite the pressure the depleted Barking backline managed to stand firm and the Yellows were rewarded with all three points.



# **Barking Football Club**

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**E-Mail:** **[secretary@barking-fc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@barking-fc.co.uk)**



Barking FC are an unincorporated association run by a committee.

## **Club Personnel**

### **President**

Dave Blewitt

### **Life Vice Presidents**

Eddie McClusky, John Wilson, Derek Pedder, John Harrison

**Club Chairman:** Rob O'Brien

**Vice Chairman:** Mick O'Shea

**Club Secretary, Match Day Secretary & Treasurer:** Keith Whittington

**Website Editor & Archivist (on-line archives):** Terry Gilbert

**Match Day Programme Editor & Press Officer:** Trevor Gilbert

**Archivist (written and printed archives):** Derek Pedder

**Public Address System:** Dave Blewitt

**Boardroom Hospitality:** Maureen Debenham

**Clubhouse Hospitality:** Debbie O'Brien & Maureen Debenham

**Head Groundsmen:** Rob O'Brien & Mick O'Shea

**Ground Maintenance:** Keith Whittington, George Rose

**Match Day Dressing Room Security:** Archie Buckland

**Club Safety Officer:** John Hockley

**Equality & Diversity Officer:** Anna Russell

**First Team Joint-Manager:** Jonny Fowell

**First Team Joint-Manager:** Michael Walther

**Under 23s Manager:** Alan Dickens

**Academy Director:** Mick O'Shea

**Head of Youth Football & Welfare Officer:** Anna Russell

**Sunday Team Manager:** Joe Blewitt

**Sunday Team Secretary:** Julie Ricketts

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**Essex Senior League**  
**Saturday 2 March 2024**  
**Kick Off 3:00pm**



**Barking FC**

**Daniel Purdue**

**Bradleigh Rowland**

**Fahad Nyanja**

**Kenedi Dariri**

**George Forrest**

**Jack Folan**

**Shaye La-Rose**

**Jack Dickinson**

**Luke Hirst**

**Anthony Martin**

**Karl Kayembe**

**Greg Akpele**

**Giovanni Palmer**

**Bleron Ademi**

**Warren Kayembe**

**Max Spence**

**Jonny Fowell (Joint-Manager)**

**Michael Walther (Joint-Manager)**

**No.**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**

**11.**

**12.**

**14.**

**15.**

**16.**

**17.**

**Romford**

**Jake Anderson**

**Junior Luke**

**Scott Doe**

**Darren Phillips**

**Remi Sutton**

**Kris Newby**

**Jacob Wiggins**

**Ashaan Siddik**

**Mike Faulkner**

**Finlay Dorrell**

**Charlie Morris**

**Amaree Robinson-Jones**

**Daniel Nakipov-Getmansky**

**Lee Hursit**

**Reece McGovern**

**Toheeb Elegushi**

**Dan Spinks (Manager)**

**John Hughes (Assistant Manager)**



**Robert Davies**



**Martin Quinn**  
**Rasmus Adamah**

**NEXT UP AT LAWTECH STADIUM**  
**SATURDAY 9 MARCH 3PM**  
**ATHLETIC NEWHAM**  
**ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE**