

CLIF



V LONDON 1.30^{PM} SATURDAY
SAMURAI ROVERS 19TH JANUARY 2019
AT THE STRAY DOG

JIM ROGERS PRESIDENT'S DIVISION ONE CUP

CLAPTON COMMUNITY FC

WE ARE THE CLAPTON

N O P A S A R A N



**GMB Union are in full support of the fan-owned
Clapton Community Football Club and
wish them a successful first season 2018/19**

Warren Kenny
Regional Secretary

Penny Robinson
Regional President

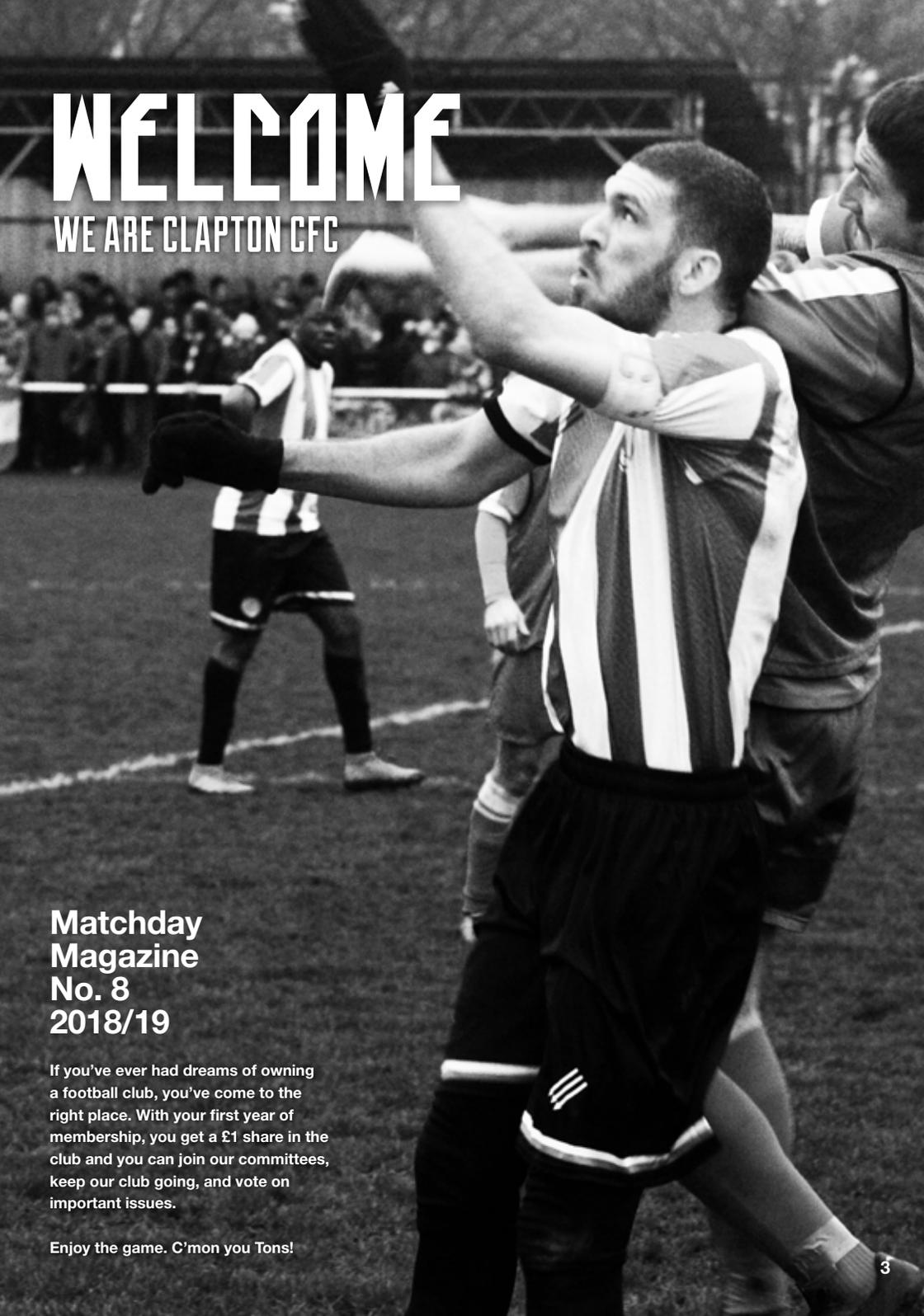
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WELCOME

WE ARE CLAPTON CFC

Matchday Magazine No. 8 2018/19

If you've ever had dreams of owning a football club, you've come to the right place. With your first year of membership, you get a £1 share in the club and you can join our committees, keep our club going, and vote on important issues.

Enjoy the game. C'mon you Tons!

A WORD FROM THE GAFFER

It was another harsh lesson for the players at Stonewall on Saturday but that is football and our luck at the moment.

Anyone who watched the game or viewed the highlights will still be wondering, as we are, how we didn't score or win the game.

However, like football at any level, if you don't take your chances eventually you will get punished.

Performance-wise we went for a more compact shape to be more competitive and I think it worked for at least 60 mins. That's one of the positives to take into the next game.

It was just a shame we couldn't get the result that the performance - and the support from the fans who travelled - deserved.

This is the third time we will be playing London Samurai and we feel we know what to expect this time around.

The league game wasn't really a true reflection of us as a team as we went there with a very depleted squad.

Their manager, who had also done his homework, was relieved when he saw the teamsheet pre match and saw who was missing.

This is a great fixture to get our season back on track by booking a semi final spot and we plan to give the fans something to sing about come the final whistle.





NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Replica shirts back on sale

Clapton CFC is finally able to take orders for replica shirts again after months of hard work behind the scenes.

As you'll remember, we were deluged with thousands of orders within the space of a few days in late August when our away kit went viral.

We had to pause taking any more pre-orders as our non-profit kit supplier Rage Sport, and our own small group of volunteers, couldn't cope with the demand.

Rage Sport have now cleared that backlog and can now dedicate their factory for the next few months to making up to 10,000 shirts.

They have also been able to extend the range of sizes available, from kids to 4XL.

Some shirts have already been made and we will have some sale in person at today's game for £30 and at future fixtures too.

This is the easiest, quickest and cheapest way to get a shirt. If you want to order online, you will need to pay for postage and tracking on top and delivery could take 12 weeks.

If you have a question, then please email: merch@claptoncfc.co.uk

Kids Club Today

We're running a kids club session from 12 noon today inside the Matchday Centre. We'll be designing stickers to brighten up our new temporary stand. All materials provided, all free, just turn up.

We hope to provide more activities for younger fans at home games at the Stray Dog.

Already we ran a Christmas card design event - and it went so well that young CCFC fan, George, won the national Supporters Direct competition with his artwork.

Don't be a mug



We have a limited run of mugs designed by Clapton CFC members. There are two designs, one with the Clapton CFC logo and the other featuring classic Tons kits over the years.

These mugs can be yours for £8 each (£10 for non-members) from the merch stall on home matchdays while stocks last.

Today's Cover Art

Today's cover is by our own Ed (of AcidFC.com) who puts together our programme. Nice.

If you want to design a cover for one of our programmes this season, email us at comms@claptoncfc.co.uk or via Twitter or Instagram.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

MEMBERS MEETING

30th January 2019 - 7-9pm
Durning Hall Community Centre
Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB

In preparations for next month's general meeting, we've produced some guidance on how to submit a proposal for the general meeting, based on lessons that we've learned from last time. We're anticipating that we'll have a lot to get through at this meeting,

We've suggested a timeline below if you have any submissions, but please feel free to get in touch if you've got any queries etc beforehand.

~~14th January~~

Deadline for proposals for the 30th January General Meeting have passed. The board will work with those making proposals to make sure that they're as clear as possible, request any further information, etc.

23rd January

Proposals to be sent out to members, alongside a final agenda for the meeting

To learn more about becoming a member and be involved in the club, visit <https://membermojo.co.uk/ccfc>



The closing stages saw a succession of crosses flying into the six yard box, but a wall of bibbed Star men were deflecting everything.

FC Star London emerged victorious from an exciting league clash at The Stray Dog on Saturday afternoon. Clapton CFC had strong spells and a flurry of late chances, but the clinical finishing of the visitors made the difference.

Without Jordan Odofin, who had recently moved to Cambridge City, Tons player-manager Geoff Ocran gave Alex Akanbi a debut in central defence, with fellow newcomer Cemal Agdelen on the bench.

Having only brought their red home kits, FC Star had to borrow some blue bibs to avoid a clash.

There were no clear cut chances until quarter of an hour in. That first opportunity fell to Star forward Cosmin Dragan, who ran onto a chipped ball into the area only to have his shot stopped by the feet of Dan Anfossy.

On 20 minutes Star thought they had taken the lead when Ilie Cristinel turned in a cutback from the right touchline. The assistant flagged that the ball had gone over that touchline and the goal was chalked off.

Against the run of play, Clapton then took the lead. Josh Adejokun rushed into the right side of the penalty box to meet a chipped through ball from Ocran. He shrugged off the Star defender and slotted home.



PHOTO Max Reeves

With 25 minutes played, the dangerous Dragan burst into the box and took it round Anfossy. He stroked it goalwards but defender Ashley Headley was on the line to turn behind for a corner.

Elliot Crosbie then had a chance to double the home side's lead when he hustled into the penalty area. He feigned and feigned, the Star defenders backed off and backed off, but his shot curled straight into the goal's arms.

The fans in the gleaming new scaffold struck up a chorus of 'come on Geoffrey Ocran, score a goal for Clapton.' Just then, Crosbie beautiful flicked the ball into the path of the Tons gaffer, rushing through on goal. But it would have been too perfect – the Star keeper came out to smother it.

With the clock ticking towards halftime, Cristinel drove through the heart of midfield, breezing past a couple of CCFC players. He then absolutely smacked it towards the top right corner. It cannoned off the underside of the bar and in.

This was probably the most beautiful goal the Stray Dog has seen to date.

The teams went in at the break at 1-1.

The second half started much like the first, with a lot of midfield battling but little goalmouth action.

On the 60 minute mark, Star broke upfield from a wasted Clapton free kick at the other end. The ball was fizzed in from the right but the player who tapped into the net had been offside.

This warning shot wasn't heeded by the home side. A few minutes later a loose ball dropped in the box and Dragan slotted it past Anfossy to give Star the lead.

It was nearly worse for the Tons when an FC Star attacker found himself alone in the box with just the keeper to beat. However Headley powered back to make a crunching challenge that prevented a likely goal.

In spite of this, Clapton were applying most of the second half pressure. Crosbie had a turn and shot from outside the box that went straight to the Star goalie. Sherwin Stanley tried a chip that skewed just wide of the post.

The closing stages saw a succession of crosses flying into the six yard box, but a wall of bibbed Star men were deflecting everything.

Then, the sucker punch.

Some slack play at the back gifted the ball to a Star attacker, who lifted into the box. Time metaphorically stood still. The Clapton defence literally stood still. Cristinel darted round a helpless Anfossy to score.

Only upon going 3-1 down did Clapton really pile the pressure on their opponents. Injury time saw a full on assault on the Star goal, that somehow failed to even offer a consolation goal.

Substitute Agdelen had a good shot that was pushed round the post. From the resulting corner the ball was agonisingly close to floating straight in but was cleared off the line.

The crowd bayed that it had crossed the line. VAR hand signals were made by fans behind the goal. The ref was having none of it.

Another corner again caused chaos but no-one in red and white could bundle it in. The last chance to go a-begging saw sub Phil Blakesley chip over the top to Stanley, who volleyed straight at the keeper.

The positive for Clapton is that with so many quality teams in the league, they are all bound to take points off each other. The negative is that they are mostly taking points off Clapton as well.

CCFC Anfossy, Bouho, Smyth, Akanbi, Headley, Ocran, Nielsen, Hashim, Stanley, Crosbie, Adejokun **Subs** Agdelen, Blakesley, Kwakye, Panescu, Rabia

How did they build the pyramids? Who really killed JFK? Why is Piers Morgan? How did Clapton Community lose this game 4-0?

These are the great mysteries, which will probably never be solved.

In contrast to the deserved defeats in the previous two league games against Ealing Town and FC Star, the Tons created the vast majority of the chances against league leaders Stonewall FC, only to come away empty-handed.

The hosts defended resolutely and picked Clapton off at the end with some clinical finishing.

There were seven changes to the Tons side that took the field against FC Star the previous week. Manager Geoff Ocran handed first competitive starts to Yacine Rabia, Ben Kadler and Cemal Agdelen.

Clapton had the first goalscoring opportunity. Eliot Crosbie was hemmed in on the left flank, but managed to whip a beautiful ball to Sherwin Stanley. The unmarked striker headed wide from only a few yards out.

In what would be a theme of the opening period, Stanley played through the energetic Josh Adejokun on the right. However, the winger miscued his shot into the sidenetting.

Then, from the other side, Liam Smyth had a potshot from distance that flashed just past the post.

On 27 minutes, Stonewall had their first good chance when a defensive header fell to striker James Baker in the box. Dan Anfossy made a smart one-handed stop.

Just past the half hour mark, the Stonewall defence survived a massive scare. A swirling Smyth corner caused chaos in the six-yard box. Adejokun's header was flicked onto the bar by a Stonewall defender. During the ensuing melee, a follow-up pinged off the post.

Clapton's next effort was more refined. Crosbie released Adejokun on the right, who swung in a delicious ball. Stanley volleyed goalwards, but keeper Dennis Aware lived up to his name and palmed it over.

From the resulting corner Nabeel Hashim, who had come on for an injured Agdelen, stabbed just wide of the post through a forest of legs.

The home defence were like a wall, made out of some kind of sturdy material.

At the other end, Nasar Nakhli had a snapshot from the edge of the box. Anfossy, rooted to the spot, was relieved to see the ball squirm just wide.

The keeper made a fine save shortly afterwards when Jehmeil Lemonius, breaking through on goal, tried a cheeky lob. But Anfossy reacted quickly to tip it away.

Even with these late Stonewall chances, it was the visitors who went in at half time feeling they should have had their noses in front.

Against the run of play, the home side took an early second half lead.

It seemed that Nakhli was going nowhere on the touchline, only for him to twist and turn, make an angle and fire into the bottom corner.

The Stonewall players celebrated wildly in front of the Clapton fans.

The response was almost immediate. Crosbie curled a beautiful long range shot over the stranded goalkeeper, only for it to cannon back off the bar.

A poor goalkick saw Clapton coming straight back at them. Adejokun looped the ball along the goal line, with goalie Aware nowhere to be seen. Stanley rushed in, but just failed to connect to tap into the empty net. The ball went all the way through to an off-balance Crosbie, who couldn't turn in from the tight angle.

Then, Clapton went even closer.

An Anfossy goal kick was flicked on by Stanley. Adejokun popped a header over the Stonewall keeper, who had rushed out of his box. The ball trundled towards the goal line, but Gaku Sato managed to sprint back and hook off the line.

The defender ended up tangled up in the back of the net, which is what you want to see from a good goal line clearance.

Past the 80 minute mark, substitute Bogdan Panescu cracked a long range effort against the base of the post.

The goal frame was emerging as a strong contender for Stonewall's man of the match.

Call it bad luck or call it wastefulness. Either way, Clapton were severely punished for not taking their chances.

Pressing for an equaliser, the Tons committed too many players upfield. This allowed Stonewall sub Georgios Volis to burst through on the right. He squared to Baker, who stroked home an easy finish.

The Stonewall players celebrated wildly in front of the Clapton fans for a second time, this time knowing it was gamew over.

A few minutes later, Anfossy saved an acrobatic effort from Denisas Zadeikis, but it fell straight to Oliver Rabie for another simple conversion. 3-0.



PHOTO Max Reeves



The one-sided scoreline aside, the match was a great advert for this level of non-league football.

There was still a touch more time for Rabie to run onto a lofted through pass and dink over Anfossy for his second and the home side's fourth.

The Stonewall players seemed too embarrassed to wildly celebrate in front of the Clapton fans by this point and just jogged back to halfway.

The ref blew up straight after the restart.

The one-sided scoreline aside, the match was a great advert for this level of non-league football.

Perhaps it would have been a better candidate to have been played at Wembley, where

Stonewall defeated Wilberforce Wanderers earlier in the season!

Even though he didn't manage to get on the scoresheet, Eliot Crosbie produced the best Barnes performance since John's rap on World in Motion.

Special mentions too for Josh Adejokun (who had the Stonewall left back on toast), Ben Kedler's terrier-like shift in central midfield and the calm, classy defensive work of Stefan Kilron.

Considering it ended in a 4-0 defeat, there wasn't a single sub par performance in red and white.

CCFC Anfossy, Stevens, Smyth, Rabia, Kilron, Ocran, Adejokun, Kadler, Stanley, Crosbie **Subs** Blakesley, Hashim, Panescu, Bouho, Darr

TRANSPARENCY

Latest Financials

In December 2018, Clapton CFC spent £33,207/09, with the largest costs (£28,873.18) for the production of 2,000 replica shirts in advance of the reopening of our online store. Last month also saw the construction of our new stand and costs associated with sending out membership packs to an influx of new members.

Expenditures (December 2018)

Payment for replica shirt production	£28,873.18
Part payment of scaffolding for stand	£2,000.00
Postage	£346.95
Match day security	£316.80
Printing of programmes	£298.00
Payment to match officials	£240.00
Payment for players Xmas meal	£215.27
Team kit	£200.45
Physio	£120.00
Additional membership cards	£103.20
Donation to End Deportations	£102.00
Food for players	£90.00
Membership certificates	£83.75
Laundry	£62.00
Ground maintenance supplies	£61.58
Essex FA - payment of disciplinary fines	£50.00
Room booking	£24.00
Envelopes	£19.91

Additionally, CCFC made a donation of £600 to the Community Links Xmas Toy Appeal and £102 to End Deportations in solidarity with the Stansted 15

Total income in December 2018 was £8745.81

The Board

Thomas Daniel Bleasdale

Evanthia Georgiou

Jack Glover Gunn
Secretary

Matthew Cunningham

Martin Silver

Robin Cowen

Paul Rutherford

Kevin Blowe **Treasurer**

Christopher Patrick Tymkow
League Representative

Gary David Price

Contact
finance@claptoncfc.co.uk



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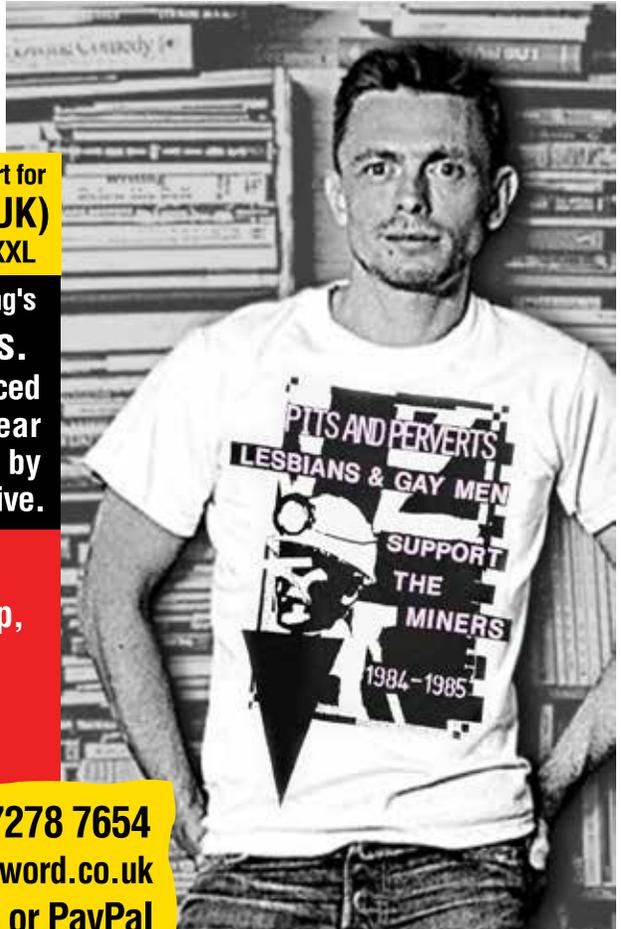
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Lesbians and Gays Supports the Miners continues to support workers in struggle in Britain & internationally through t-shirt sales, including:- TGI Fridays & McDonalds Strikers, The Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and Lesbians & Gays Supports the Migrants.

Solidarity Forever!



FROM GUANAJUATO TO WEST HAM PARK

Spare a thought this afternoon for our beleaguered email and social media inbox monitors.

They've made a monumental effort, replying to literally thousands of inquiries about replica Clapton shirts. It is an unrelentingly repetitive and time consuming job.

For the person that opened the 5,000th email asking when CCFC away shirts would be back on sale, they could've been forgiven, in that moment, for wishing a different design had won the away shirt vote back in June.

As it happened, the most popular non-league football top in history, commemorating the Spanish Republic and those who travelled to defend it, did get through the members' poll.

A kit that was supporter-designed and community-funded became an international news story, sending our various inboxes into meltdown.

Despite being a notifications nightmare, having the shirt so widely talked about in so many different places, had the amazing result of re-founding historic links between our corner of East London with regions and neighbourhoods in Spain, and beyond.

Since then we have had some fantastic emails and messages from people with family connections to those events - whose parents and grandparents volunteered and fought for the Republic.

continued over >>>

LEFT

Virgilio Fernández, one of the last surviving members of the International Brigades.

In September we received a handwritten letter from Alfred Head. Now resident in France, Alfred volunteered, as a teenager in North London, to help provide aid for Spain during the Civil War.

Voluntary Aid For Spain was a scheme where workers from Britain & Ireland could volunteer unpaid overtime, with goods equivalent to cost of hours worked being shipped to Republican Spain.

A follow-up letter, along with a photo of Alfred proudly wearing his Clapton shirt on the Nice seafront gave our club the gift of a direct link with the history we'd hoped to honour.

It was a great lift to our club volunteers to get that sort of approval from someone who has held these principles for over 80 years.

All the while emails continued to flood our inboxes from every direction, including a Facebook message from Mexico, with a familiar question, asking whether we had any CCFC away shirts left.

This message was from a neighbour of Virgilio Fernández, one of the last surviving members of the International Brigades.

Virgilio was a medic who spent the majority of the conflict, between 1936 - 1939, on the front lines of Madrid and Guadalajara. He participated in some of the most decisive battles of the Civil War, alongside volunteers from across Europe and America.

After 32 months of conflict, having been integrated into the 35th Division of the International Brigades, Virgilio was captured by Nationalist forces and interned in a concentration camp in France.

He later escaped and was exiled to Mexico, where he continued to work in medicine and campaign against fascism.

Virgilio Fernández turned 100 last Boxing Day. We were extremely lucky to be able to send him a gift from East London ahead of time.

One of the main inspirations behind the idea to design an away shirt in the colours of the Spanish Republic was a modest plaque on a bench in West Ham Park, just metres from our historic home ground, the Old Spotted Dog.

The plaque remembers David Marshall, an International Brigader from Forest Gate who passed away in 2005.

David Marshall was born in 1916, and, while we have no idea if he had any interest in football, if he knew West Ham Park, he would have certainly been familiar with the Spotted Dog and the famous amateur team that played there.

Somehow, amid the thousands of emails and social media messages, our football club has become, in a small way, a link between international comrades.

Something that wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for our embattled inbox monitors. Here's some of the correspondence we've received:

"My father left Liverpool as a 17-year-old and because they would not take him as a member of the International Brigade (too young), he made his own way across Europe and over the Pyrenees.

He was still not allowed to fight so he was a medical orderly throughout the conflict and then joined the RAF as a mechanic and fought throughout the Second World War fighting fascists. It was heartening and exhilarating to hear about your wonderful away kit choice.

I have become a member and you will have my wholehearted support.

*Thank you.
Kevan*

p.s, I have supported Liverpool for my whole life and always refused to buy a team kit of any kind. Repeat I have never had a team colours kit of any kind. I will wear yours with pride."





"I've just read about your new shirts. I was born in Clapton (Sach Road) in 1950 and my father fought against fascism in Spain in the civil war - he actually heard the famous "No pasarán" speech by La Pasionaria.

I would really like to buy a shirt which I will proudly wear! It represents where I'm from and what we believe in.

*All the best
Julian"*

"I am 95 years of age and when I was 13 years of age I was proud to volunteer for "Aid for Spain" organisation in Islington, London.

I am not a football fan, but my children and grandchildren are supporters of West Ham United.

Nevertheless I would be proud to wear your Clapton 'Away' shirt to my walks along the Promenade des Anglais here in Nice.

*Best wishes for your success,
Alfred"*

IN FOCUS: OUR BOARD

Who we are, why we're here, what we do (come join us!)

We are not a proper board. Well, we are. But with a couple of differences. Despite being a members' club, we still, legally, need to have a Board to make sure that the club is financially viable. We also do some of the general grunt-work behind the club, such as setting the scope for committees for agreement by members, and putting together documentation for setting up our club. There are a couple of legally-obligated roles that we needed to fill, such as that of Secretary and Treasurer. Other institutions, such as the FA and League also require named positions - but we try to make sure that these roles are shared as much as possible.

Our job now, given that the Finance Committee is up and functioning, is to make sure each Committee doesn't have any major issues, and organise General Meetings. We don't have any special power, but we try to facilitate general Club business as much as possible, with as little fuss as possible. We're working hard to ensure that the club is as transparent as possible and to make this easy.

There are currently 9 of us on the Board, elected at every AGM - but we can have up to 12. We'd like to fill the Board with 12, including bringing in a new Secretary. We'd especially like to hear from members who might be underrepresented in other working groups, perhaps people who are local to Forest Gate or Walthamstow, people of colour, people with disabilities, people who may experience other oppressions as a result of their gender, sexuality, cultural background or any thing else.

If you're interested, send us an email at info@claptoncfc.co.uk with a few lines about why you'd like to get involved,

and we'll be in touch with more information!

Thom Bleasdale

Though I've moved away from London in the last few months, since being elected to the board, Clapton CFC remains one of the closest things to my heart and it is one of the best things I've ever put myself into. Having a club that is so committed to being a part of our local community and so dedicated to remembering its history is very important to me. I'll be back as often as I can, which won't be half as often as I'd like. I came to this club because we had a good group of supporters and I stayed because we had a great history. That was a long time ago now and since then we have only improved on both of those and there is plenty more to come.

Kevin Blowe

I have lived in Newham and been a community organiser and campaigner in the borough since the early 1990s and for a decade until 2014 was head of the Community Involvement Unit at Durning Hall Community Centre in Forest Gate. For 25 years I was also an activist in the anti-racist community group Newham Monitoring Project (NMP) and I am now Coordinator for the Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol) and a trustee of INQUEST, the charity that supports bereaved families following a death in custody. I am also a trustee of a charity that set up the Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School in Haryana in northern India, which is named after my friend and NMP comrade who died in 2007. I started attending Clapton games in early 2013 and from the start, the supporters' ambition to create an overtly anti-racist, anti-fascist space to watch football was a major reason to

get involved. Despite some changes resulting from the onward march of gentrification, Newham remains at the bottom of every list of deprivation and urgently needs a rebirth of local organising against poverty and for social justice. CCFC supporters have always supported progressive causes beyond football and I firmly believe the club can play a positive, even radical role in mobilising for change in the local community. More than anything, however, this means returning home to the Old Spotted Dog Ground - this is what I am hoping for most in 2019.

Robin Cowan

I am a social care worker now living in Stratford. As a Clapton/Leyton-based Celtic supporter, I grew up chasing games at various lower League and non-League football grounds around east and north London. After my closest club, Leyton FC, folded in 2011 I started going regularly to the Old Spotted Dog and, along with friends, helped on various initiatives to raise local awareness of Clapton FC. In 2014, when life members decided to revive the Members Club, I was encouraged to volunteer for the board. I wanted to honour that commitment when CCFC was voted into existence early last year.

Matthew Cunningham

I am a charity campaigner who's been living in East London for 20 years. I grew up watching non-league Worcester City before I moved to Newcastle to study and get a season ticket at St James' Park. Later I worked at the football research centre at Leicester University where I focussed on football governance.

By the time I first visited the Old Spotted Dog, though, I was all but done with football. Mike Ashley's Newcastle

were a zombie club. City no longer had a ground. The modern game was rubbish and any delusions I had about fan power had run into cold reality. But by halftime of that first Clapton game I had found my new home. First it was the humour and energy. Then it was the history. Then it was the collective conviction to not just fight back but to actually build something together. I joined the Real Clapton board relatively late, when the current regime at the Spotted Dog began its petty war against the fans and the members it had disavowed. For me that period spelled out what we needed to do, and what we stood to gain. And now look what we've done.

Eva Georgiou

I think being a female football fan and having an interest in fan-owned clubs goes hand in hand. 'Modern Football' thrives on disenfranchising football fans, and it was exasperation at the effects of both that drove me to Clapton. There are a lot of parallels with the other big thing in my life, setting up and running another members club: a music and social centre called DIY Space for London. I'm really inspired by other fan-owned clubs and supporter groups that we know and have links with - from our famous international friends, to friends supporting Premier League teams running foodbanks at games, to the women making sure that free sanitary products are available at stadiums. Football has always been a vehicle for social change, and one of the best things about CCFC is how much we're learning, together. I'm really proud of what we've achieved so far, and I'm excited for our future.

Gary Price

I am retired from a career in retail spent working in England and Ireland. I gave

up my long standing season ticket at West Ham as I lost my belief and passion in the modern game. I started going to Clapton in early 2012 and my passion for football became rekindled as I got to know increasing numbers of like minded people. I believe a club should be fan owned, inclusive, and actively involved in its community. I am proud of and delighted to be part of the success of CCFC.

Paul Rutherford

Originally from Scotland I moved to East London in 2010, spending most of that time in Clapton (including 18 months in the house next door to where Clapton were founded on Hackney Downs) and currently live in Walthamstow.

Professionally, I have spent 16 years working in various roles in the financial sector and have experience of running my own business, this experience has proved invaluable in managing the more administrative tasks following the runaway success of the away shirt. I attended my first Clapton game at the Old Spotted Dog in 2012, after a couple of friends had been down and fell in love with the ground. To see the crowds in the Scaffold grow from 3 on my first visit to hundreds within a few years has been a truly surreal and rewarding experience. Life commitments meant that I was unable to attend games much for a few years, but with the formation of the fan-owned club I felt it was the right time to get back involved and devote my energies to creating something bigger than just a football team that you watch on a Saturday.

Martin Silver

I lived in Forest Gate during WW2 and went to Stratford Grammar School which has now relocated opposite the OSD. I discovered Clapton FC by

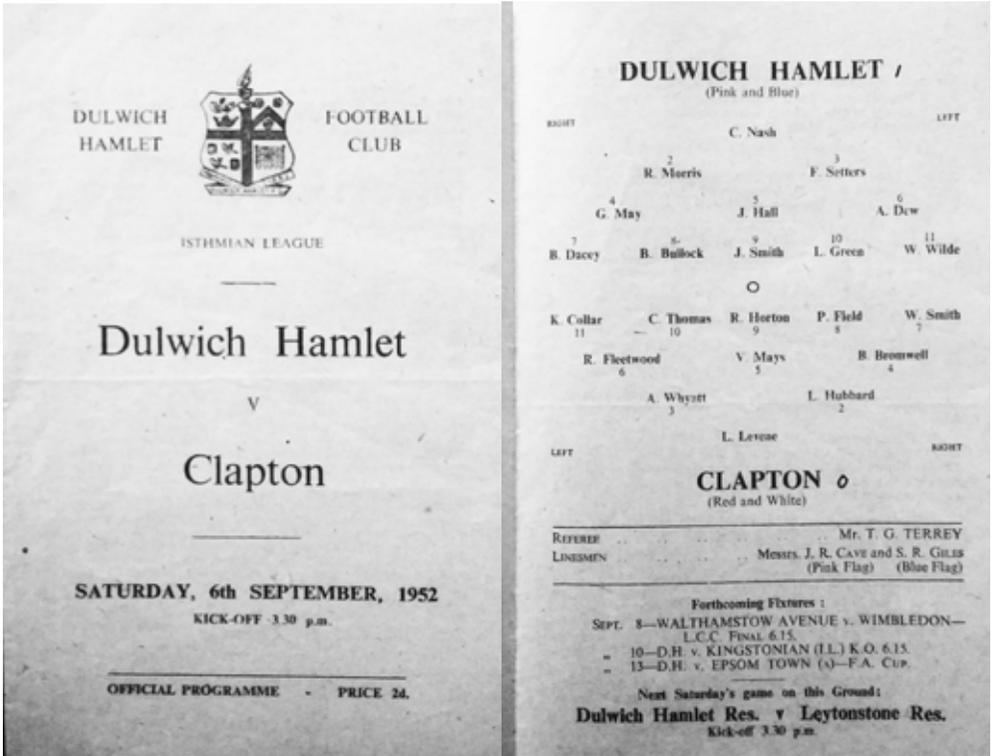
chance around 1944, as it was hidden away just as it is now. Although all my pals were West Ham supporters, I continued with CFC although they were either bottom or near the bottom every season. The "old boys" explained that it was a true amateur club unlike the others who would leave a ten shilling note inside the players boot. Due to studies and business commitments, I was unable to see any football until retirement in 2000 and returned. The club seemed poorly run, at one time losing its liquor licence and eventually was relegated to the ESL. When the Ultras appeared it seemed like a breath of fresh air. Unfortunately they seemed not to be welcomed by the management and the rest is history.

Chris Tymkow

I am a 59 year old Newham resident working in elderly care. Formerly a season ticket holder with West Ham United, I found myself becoming more interested in lower-league football and the opportunities it offered for fans to get directly involved with their clubs. I started to follow Clapton FC, at first just the odd game, then more regularly. Thanks to the insight of others who followed the Tons, I became aware that what was happening at the Old Spotted Dog was the opposite of what should have been happening - a club closed to new membership and with no transparency in its activities. In contrast, I am regularly staggered at the amount of work and goodwill brought to our club by its members, and feel proud to be able, in any way, to help Clapton CFC be as inclusive and open as can be. Our match days are pretty awesome too!

HISTORY

The Dog Derby: Dulwich Hamlet v Clapton 1952 by Gary Price



On the 6/9/1952 Clapton travelled south of the Thames to Dog Kennel Hill to play Dulwich Hamlet in the Isthmian League. Hamlet played at the spacious Champion Hill, one of the finest non league venues in the country, capable of holding over 20,000 spectators. Neighbours Nunhead were the first visitors to the newly opened stadium in 1931 and drew a crowd of 17,000, still a record for an amateur league game.

Hamlet formed in 1893 enjoyed a status in the amateur game comparable to Clapton in the era before the Second World War. After gaining election to the Isthmian from the Spartan League in 1907, Hamlet lifted the title in 1920, 1926 and 1933. Clapton

took the title in 1911 and 1922. Hamlet took the FA Amateur Cup back to Champion Hill in 1920, 1932, 1934, and 1937. In the same period Clapton went one better, lifting the cup five times, 1907, 1909, 1915, 1924 and 1925.

By the early 1950's though, both clubs fortunes were on the wane, Clapton's more markedly so. Since 1946, Hamlet had only finished outside the top five once in the 15 team league, and lifted the title for the 4th and final time in 1949. In contrast Clapton only finished once above the bottom four, in 1950.

The fixture in September 1952 was the 35th league meeting between the clubs in south

London. The previous 34 meetings had seen Hamlet hold the upper hand, Clapton winning only 8 times on the Hamlet turf.

P	W	D	L	F	A
34	8	7	19	39	76

Since 1946 , Clapton had only gained a single point in 7 games at Champion Hill, a goalless draw in 1951/52. They suffered heavy defeats in 1946/47 and the following season by 0-7 and 0-6 respectively.

The four page programme issued for the game was printed in Hamlet's distinct colours of pink and blue. The advert free content contained club notes and that afternoon's line ups. Among the notes there was a report on Hamlet's previous fixture, a 0-2 home defeat to Walthamstow Avenue, in front of a crowd of 5.968. Mention was also made of the absence of Tom Jover, due to holiday commitments. Jover was to become a club legend, serving Hamlet for 70 years as player, official and president. He was to become the 2nd highest scorer in Hamlet's history, behind the legendary Edgar Kail. Kail who scored 427 goals in a 14 year career for Hamlet, holds the distinction of being the last amateur to play for England while representing an amateur club. Another notable absentee against Clapton, was full back Reg Merritt, who went on to play a club record 576 games for Hamlet.

The programme paid tribute to Clapton's great spirit and readiness to persevere with local youngsters during their recent decline. At the time Clapton were coached by former playing legend Viv Gibbins, who combined coaching duties at The Dog with teaching at the local Harold Road school.

As to the game , Clapton's poor run at Hamlet continued with a 0-1 defeat, Hamlet completed a league double with a 4-2 at The Dog later in the season. The season

was nothing short of disastrous for Clapton, finishing bottom of the Isthmian league for the first time in its history.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
28	2	5	21	27	71	9

Both wins came at The Dog , against 14th placed Oxford City 3-0 and 1-0 against 4th placed Wimbledon. A notable draw was achieved on the road , a 2-2 draw at runners up Bromley. Both major cups brought little joy as Clapton went out at the first stage of the FA and FA Amateur Cups, both at The Dog. Finchley of the Athenian League defeated Ton 1-0 in the FA Cup, while fellow Athenian side , Hayes thrashed Clapton 5-0 in the FA Amateur Cup. Clapton's reserve side also finished bottom of their league with a disastrous record.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
28	1	2	25	25	93	4

Clapton's 3rd team, the A side, avoided a clean sweep of bottom finishes, achieving a 9th place finish in a 12 team league.

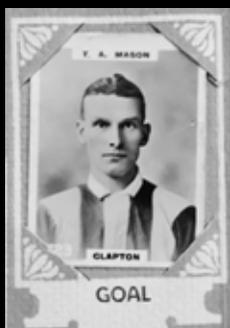
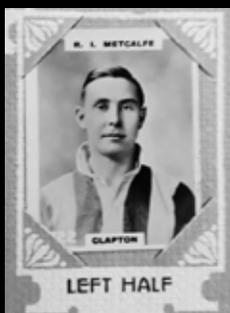
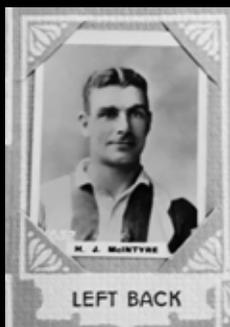
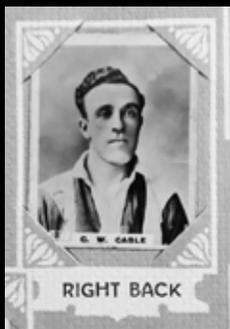
Hamlet improved on the previous season's 8th place by climbing to 6th. The following two seasons saw the clubs move closer in status to each other with Clapton finishing above Hamlet for the 1st time since 1928. Hamlet and Clapton were to meet regularly in the league until 1978.

In 1973 the Isthmian League was expanded to two divisions. Clapton were relegated in 1976, Hamlet a season later. Hamlet bounced back at the 1st attempt, while Clapton languished in the lower reaches until demotion to the Essex Senior League in 2006. Hamlet remained an Isthmian League side until 2018, when promotion to the National League South was achieved.

THE ARCHIVES

Clapton FC Archive is at:
The Bishopgate Institute
230 Bishopgate
London
EC2M 4QH
020 7392 9200

Cigarette Cards c1922 by Chris Tymkow



Among a pile of miscellaneous items deposited at Bishopsgate with the Clapton FC minute books by Life Member Mike Fogg was a pale blue sheet of card with slots, capable of holding eleven small picture cards. A number of such sheets were produced in the early 1920s, some bearing the name of a football club in the top left-hand corner. This one doesn't, and we do not have the entire team, but there are six cards mounted, each one showing a Clapton player. The players are: H. J. McIntyre, R.I. Metcalfe, S. G. J. Earle, T. A. Mason, C. W. Cable, A. Turner.

From other sources, these cards belong to one of at least three large sets of football cards produced by Pinnacle for the cigarette company Godfrey Phillips, based in Commercial Street, E1. An edition of 1,100 such cards was turned out in 1920, a further 2,462 were produced in 1922, and another 940 in 1923. A lot of smoking was needed to collect the set!

There is an entry in the club's minute books that may relate in part to these cards. The Committee meeting of 30th October 1922 was advised that the Secretary had received a request from someone called E. C. Dixon who had wished to photograph players on the 28th October "at Tufnell Park". Mr Dixon had also requested a history of the club, and both requests had been granted.

An article appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on 27th October 1922, number 9 in a weekly series on "Amateur Clubs of Mark", which was all about Clapton FC, "London's Oldest Club". This gave a history of the club and featured a photo of the team's captain, S. G. J. Earle, "acknowledged to be the best forward playing outside the leading professional clubs". The photo is clearly the same as that used in the cigarette card. So perhaps the requested photo-shoot took place before 28th October, or Earle's picture had already been taken and Mr Dixon was after some of the others to complete his Clapton team set for Pinnacle?

An online search recently showed two complete Pinnacle team sets – for Derby County and Preston North End – on offer for over £30 each. These are mounted on the same type of pale blue card as our Clapton FC players. The card gives each player's position directly beneath their photos, but the Clapton sheet being incomplete, our players' cards were placed into random slots which do not necessarily reflect their true positions.

SQUAD SPONSORS

If you want to sponsor a player for the season for £25 and include a message of support in the programme, get in touch with us at: fundraising@claptoncfc.co.uk tell us who you're after and what you want to say and we'll be in touch with payment details.

Goalkeepers

Daniel Anfossy
Gravy Ultras aka CCFC
Northern Supporters.

Vladyslav Bendovskyy
Keep 'em out
keeper.
Martin

Defenders

Andrew Lastic
Good luck, skipper.
From CCFC Northern
Supporters aka
Gravy Ultras

Dean Bouho
Your clearances
threaten low-
flying aircraft.
Keep up the
hard work

Liam Smyth
... and we both
looked at each
other and said
"Bobby Moore!"
J

Romelle Pile
Keep it up!
East London Workers
and Peasant's Red
Army.

Tom Carding
Monday Night
Football's very
own has made it
to the big leagues!
TB

Ellick Coleman Available
Ethan Dixon Available
Yacine Rabia Available
Ashley Headley Available
Alex Akanbi Available

Midfield

Geoff Ocran
C'mon Geoffrey
Ocran, score a
goal for George
and Charlie.

Joshua Adejokun
Fly down
that wing.
Paul Rutherford

Stefan Kilron
I've joined the
DKMS register.
Have you?
SJ

Phil Blakesley
Best of luck for
the season.
The Homer Tons
A&E Disco Division

Louis Rene
Louis Rene - the
only good
thing about the
right wing
Paul HL

Sham Darr
Thatcher
Died Alone
@thisGRAEME

Nabeel Hashim
Keep on
keepin' on!
The Irn Bru Cru

Ben Kadler Available
Louis Rene Available
Jake Stevens Available
Callum Keir Available
Maxwell Nwofor Available
Paul Oshin Available
Prince Kwakye Available
Tré Cartier Available
Cemal Agdelen Available

Attack

Bogdan Panescu
Forza Clapton!
Danny Daly

Eliot Crosbie
Oh Eliot Crosbie -
Keep banging in
the goals
Stan, Austin and Cole

Stefan Nielsen
Tons' very own
Michael Laudrup.
Gary Price

Sherwin Stanley
Good Luck for the
rest of the season.
Colin

Jon Akaly Available
Charlie Fagan Available
Saïd Jaffa Available
Tashan Benjamin Available
Lewis Owiredu Available



PLAYER

PROFILE

Full Name: Thomas Carding **Place of Birth:** Chester **Birthdate:** 14/12/1987
Height: 6 feet 2 inches (188cm) **Weight:** 13 stone 5 lbs (85kg) **Place where you live:** Forest Gate **Day job:** Sixth form teacher **Previous clubs:** Kitroom FC, Downs FC **Favourite player:** Ivan Zamarano **Favourite team, apart from Clapton CFC:** Ipswich Town **Most memorable match played in:** I won the double with my university team, and lifted the cup as captain **Favourite ground played at:** I liked the Friday night at Wadham Lodge, but the first game at the Stray Dog with over 400 fans there was pretty memorable too **Biggest high in football:** Probably this season so far to be honest. Unlike most of the lads, I've not played at a higher level before, and I've loved the buzz and the support so far **Lowest point in football:** The elbow to the face a couple of years ago which split my lip and left me needing stitches and time off work and playing **Likes and hobbies:** Football, cycling, politics, music, food **Dislikes:** I think Sham's answer to this a couple of weeks ago summed it up really well ('Racism, sexism, homophobia, Tories') **Favourite charity:** Lola's Homeless does great work in Newham **Favourite country visited:** Italy **Favourite food:** Indian **Favourite music/performers:** Talking Heads **Favourite TV shows:** The Wire, The Sopranos, Bake Off **Favourite film:** I'm going to watch Land and Freedom again after all the interest in the Spanish Republic shirts **What you love about football:** Winning, clean sheets, slide tackles **What you hate about football:** Conceding, not starting **Biggest influence on you:** My parents **Footballing ambition:** Establish myself as a starter and help Clapton CFC do the double (at least) **Who would you most like to meet?** I always find this question a bit strange. They say you shouldn't meet your heroes. Let's say some of our Spanish fans on an end-of-season tour!



OPPONENTS

LONDON SAMURAI ROVERS



Today's Jim Rogers President's Cup Division One quarter final opponents are the formidable London Samurai Rovers.

It will be the third of four clashes between the sides this season. Clapton notched a narrow 1-0 win in pre-season, only for Samurai to exact revenge with a 5-1 league thumping at their place in November.

They will be back at The Stray Dog for the return fixture on April 27.

The Southall-based side were formed last summer by a merger between Middlesex Counties League rivals London Samurai and JL Rovers.

They have an extensive youth system and even offer a Study Abroad programme for Japanese children wanting to practice both their English and their football skills.

The youngsters can particularly draw inspiration from Maya Yoshida, the Southampton defender and Japan captain, who is also a London Samurai Rovers club ambassador.

Currently third in the league, the top team suffered a setback over the New Year, when three of their strikers relocated back to Japan.

Manager Hideyuki Miyahara told us how he believes Samurai's excellent setup can help them overcome the problems of many of their squad not being permanently settled in the UK: "With so many Japanese players, we regularly lose guys who have gone back to Japan. That's why our first team have to work in tandem with the development team for us to compete throughout the season. In addition, we can call on players brought through our academy to support both these teams. Our energies are fully focussed on trying to win every game in 2019, whether that be in the league or the cup."

Samurai's results certainly haven't wavered: they have won their last five games by a mind-boggling aggregate score of 31-2.

Impressively, they have beaten both league title challengers Stonewall and NW London away from home. Indeed, if they win the three games they have in hand over Stonewall, they will go back to the top of the division.



But while promotion must be Samurai's main goal, they are certainly not going to fall on their katanas in the cup competitions.

Samurai warmed up for this fixture with a 4-0 MCFA Junior Cup quarter final win over Deportivo Galicia Reserves, the very team Clapton dispatched in the Jim Rogers to set up this tie.

Today's victors will earn a semi-final against whoever comes through the quarter-final between Wilberforce Wanderers and FC Roast or Yeading Town (who haven't played their second round clash yet).

The final is scheduled for the 13th of April.

RESULTS

2018/19 Season

Cherry Red Records Middlesex County Football League Div. 1 unless stated

Sep 15 Ealing Town FC 1 **CCFC 2 (Smyth, Oshin)**

BBC Essex Premier Cup Round 1

Sep 22 **CCFC 4 (Oshin, Crosbie, Stanley 2)** Hutton FC 5

Jim Rogers President's Division One Cup

Sept 29 South Kilburn Reserves 2 **CCFC 4 (Crosbie, Bouho, Nielsen 2)**

Oct 6 **CCFC 4 (Stanley 3, Bouho)** FC Roast 4

Friendly

Oct 12 Walthamstow FC 1 **CCFC 0**

Anagram Records Trophy Round 1

Oct 20 **CCFC 3 (Adejokun 2, Smyth)** Epping Town FC 1

Nov 3 **CCFC 11 (Crosbie 5, Stanley 2, Rene 2, Stevens 2)**
Hereford Palace 1

Anagram Records Trophy Round 2

Nov 10 Letchworth Garden City Eagles 0 **CCFC 2 (Stanley 2)**

Jim Rogers President's Division One Cup

Nov 17 FC Deportivo Galicia Reserves 1 **CCFC 4 (Crosbie 2, Adejokun, Stanley)**

Nov 24 London Samurai 5 **CCFC 1 (Nielsen)**

Dec 1 **CCFC 1 (Owiredu)** Eastfield 1

Dec 8 The Curve 1 **CCFC 2 (Oshin, Crosbie)**

Dec 15 **CCFC 1 (Stanley)** Ealing Town FC 4

Jan 5 **CCFC 1 (Adejokun)** FC Star London 3

Jan 12 Stonewall FC 4 **CCFC 0**

FIXTURES*

Jim Rogers President's Division One Cup

Jan 19 **CCFC** v London Samurai 1.30pm

Feb 2 **CCFC** v Wilberforce Wan's 2pm

Feb 16 **CCFC** v Stonewall FC 2pm

Anagram Records Trophy Round 3

Feb 23 **CCFC** v Chip. Corinthians 2pm

Mar 2 **CCFC** v NW London FC 2:30pm

Mar 9 Wilberf. Wan's v **CCFC** 2:30pm

Mar 16 FC Star Lond. v **CCFC** 2:30 pm

Mar 23 FC Roast v **CCFC** 2:30 pm

Mar 25 Barkingside FC v **CCFC** 7:45pm

Mar 30 Eastfield v **CCFC** 2pm

Apr 6 NW London FC v **CCFC** 3pm

Apr 13 **CCFC** v The Curve FC 3:00 pm

Apr 27 **CCFC** v London Samurai 3pm

May 4 Hereford Palace FC v **CCFC** 3pm

*All fixtures subject to change (please check our website for the most up-to-date list).

GOALS/ASSISTS/ APPEARANCES

Sherwin Stanley	11/7/11
Eliot Crosbie	10/2/11
Joshua Adejokun	4/2/7
Paul Oshin	3/0/7
Stefan Nielsen	3/7/10
Liam Smyth	2/3/13
Jake Stevens	2/1/3

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Stonewall	11	9	1	1	39	5	34	28
2 NW London	11	8	1	2	47	26	21	25
3 London Samurai	8	7	0	1	33	5	28	21
4 Wilberforce Wders	12	6	1	5	39	32	7	19
5 The Curve	11	4	1	6	32	18	14	13
6 FC Star London	8	4	1	3	15	6	9	13
7 Ealing Town	12	3	3	6	22	26	-4	12
8 CLAPTON CFC	9	3	2	4	23	24	-1	11
9 Eastfield	10	2	3	5	22	28	-6	9
10 FC Roast	7	2	1	4	18	27	-9	7
11 Hereford Palace	11	0	0	11	8	100	-92	0

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Unite regional secretary Peter Kavanagh

CLAPTON CFC

GOALKEEPER

Daniel Anfossy
Vlad Bendovskyy

DEFENCE

Andrew Lastic
Ashley Headley
Dean Bouho
Ellick Coleman
Ethan Dixon
Liam Smyth
Romelle Pile
Tom Carding
Yacine Rabia
Alex Akanbi

MIDFIELD

Ben Kadler
Callum Keir
Geoff Ocran
Jake Stevens
Joshua Adejokun
Louis Rene
Maxwell Nwofor
Nabeel Hashim
Paul Oshin
Phil Blakesley
Prince Kwakye
Sham Darr
Stefan Kilron
Gemal Agdelen

ATTACK

Bogdan Panescu
Charlie Fagan
Eliot Crosbie
Jon Akaly
Saiid Jaffa
Sherwin Stanley
Stefan Nielsen
Tashan Benjamin
Tre Cartier
Lewis Owiredu

LONDON SAMURAI ROVERS

Cameron Gilmartin (c)

Jang-Kun Hwang
Wataru Tobe
Ahmad Fisal Bawer
Shunya Kaga
Ryoya Hamada

Takahiro Yamamoto

Rafiullah Andar
Koshi Takeuchi
Ahmadllah Andar
Marko Kovac
Sadaharu Yoshida

Fumiya Komatsu

Keigo Kameya
Keita Kasai
Bishal Tamang
Koki Kobayashi

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