



2021/22 SEASON BECKENHAM TOWN FC

CHERRY RED
RECORDS



FAMOUS PLAYERS

RAY POTTER

1951-53

Becks Goalkeeper who after signing for Crystal Palace was transferred to West Bromwich Albion for whom he made over 230 appearances.

PAT SAWARD

1950s

Iconic Becks legend who went on to join Aston Villa from Millwall. Cool, confident and a good ball player he was an attacking left-half who helped to restore some of the former glory of Villa – with whom he won an FA Cup winners medal when they beat the legendary 'Busby Babes' in the 1957 Final. Capped 18 times by the Republic of Ireland he also captained them and represented them in the qualifying stages of the 1954 World Cup finals.

WILLIAM LLOYD

1952-53

Legendary Becks keeper who after playing for Becks at Stanhope Grove went on to have a distinguished playing career at The Den with Millwall.

FRANK 'DOTTY' MORRIS

1961-87

A truly talented all-round sportsman who played for Beckenham Town and Crystal Palace (making over 70 appearances for The Eagles) as well as being an accomplished boxer. Played his last match for The Becks in 1987 – when he was 55 years old.

JAN WAWRZEWSKI

1966-81

The club's all-time record goalscorer who once scored 52 goals in one season. Played for Crystal Palace and both the old Beckenham FC and the re-formed Beckenham Town.

DAVE WENTWORTH

1966-81

Goalkeeper who played for the original Beckenham Town before returning to play for the re-formed club under Manager Dave Barker.

LEE FABIAN

1985-2005

The club's record appearance holder having made over 1000 appearances for Becks in an impressive 20 year career.

CLUB HISTORY

BEGINNINGS AND OVERVIEW

Beckenham Town Football Club is one of the older non-league clubs still in existence having first been affiliated to the Kent County Football Association as early as 1887. Records show the club played in the London League 1923-1935 and also 1951-1961 and the Aetolian League between 1961 and 1964, before moving to the Greater London League 1964-1969. In addition to their present day participation in the FA Cup and FA Vase, the club competed in the FA Amateur Cup between 1926 and 1967.

BETWEEN THE WARS

In 1923 the club joined Division One of the London League. They were Division One Champions in 1927/28, earning promotion to the Premier Division. However, after finishing second-from-bottom in their first season, they finished the 1929/30 season in last place, and were relegated back to Division One. Runners-up the following season they were promoted back to the Premier Division. Despite finishing bottom of the Premier Division in 1931/32 they remained in the division, but after coming last again in 1932/33, they were relegated back to Division One. After finishing bottom of Division One in 1934/35 the club left the league.

AFTER THE WAR

They competed in the Kent County Amateur League's Western Section Premier Division until rejoining the London League in 1951. During the 1950's the team was a feeder club for Crystal Palace. Placed in the Premier Division they competed there until joining the Aetolian League in 1961. This merged with the London League in 1964 to form the Greater London League, with Beckenham placed in Section B. A fifth-place finish in the league's inaugural season saw them win a place in the Premier Division for the 1965/66 season. However, after finishing second-from-bottom of the division that season, they were relegated down to Division One. Unfortunately, the original club folded in 1969 merging with neighbours Bromley FC.

1970's REFORMATION

In 1971 the club was reformed, emerging out of the chrysalis of successful local junior club, Stanhope Rovers. Rovers had sprung up in 1959 as the brainchild of teenage footballers and friends, Howard Smith and Geoff Ward in association with Pat Quinn (Head Games Warden at Stanhope Grove) and the club had enjoyed considerable success playing in the Beckenham League and the South East London Amateur League.

By 1971, it had become apparent that they were the top team in the area. Secretary Barry Starmer applied successfully for both the name Beckenham Town FC and the red and white colours that had been so synonymous with the demised predecessor. Elected to the London-Metropolitan League in 1973, they finished runners-up in the Reserve/Intermediate Division in 1974/75 earning Senior status that summer. In 1975 they were placed in Senior Division Two of the new London Spartan League (following the offseason merger of the London Metropolitan League with the Spartan League). After finishing runners-up behind Fisher Athletic in 1977/78, they were promoted to the Premier Division. They would compete there for the next four seasons and achieved their highest position of 6th during that first 1978/79 season. Becks also reached back to back Spartan League Cup Finals in 1978 and 1979 but lost to Welling United and then Farnham Town respectively.

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FAMOUS OFFICIALS SUPERMAC WAS PRESIDENT

The Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan ('Supermac'), Prime Minister from 1957 to 1963 was the local MP for Bromley (1945-64) and was President of the club for a time during this period. Most remembered for saying 'You've never had it so good' as post-war Britain boomed. He died on December 29th 1986.

SYDNEY BOX AMONGST THE CLUB'S FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS

Sydney Box was a British film producer and screenwriter, and brother of another prominent British film producer Betty Box. In 1940, he founded the documentary film company Verity Films with Jay Lewis. He produced and co-wrote the screenplay, with his then wife Muriel Box, for 'The Seventh Veil' (1945), which received the 1946 Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. Box ended his cinema career in 1958 to concentrate on working in television and was part of a consortium that launched Tyne Tees Television in 1959. He died in Perth, Western Australia on May 25th 1983.

'THE MIGHTY ATOM' WAS A VICE PRESIDENT

Also amongst the Club's list of Vice Presidents was Camberwell born Sydney Charles Wooderson MBE. Dubbed the 'The Mighty Atom' – he was one of Britain's greatest middle-distance runners whose peak career was in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1934 he won the silver medal in the one mile event at the British Empire Games. At the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, he suffered an ankle injury and failed to qualify for the 1500 metres final. He set a world mile record of 4:06.4 at London's Motspur Park on August 28th 1937 - it was a record that stood for nearly five years. In 1938 he set world records in the 800m and 880 yards with times of 1:48.4 and 1:49.2, respectively. Off the track Wooderson was a City of London solicitor and missed the 1938 Empire Games in Sydney because he was taking his law finals. Immediately after the war, in 1945, he ran his fastest mile, 4:04.2, just behind Arne Andersson of Sweden. In Oslo at the 1946 European Championships, he won the 5,000m in 14:08.6, the second-fastest time to that point. His versatility was demonstrated when he won the national cross-country title in 1948. He was awarded an MBE in the 2000 Birthday Honours List for services to local club Blackheath Harriers and athletics. He died on December 21st 2006 in Dorset.

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

BREAKING NEW GROUND

In July 1980 Becks moved from Stanhope Grove to their current home Eden Park Avenue, which they obtained from the London Borough of Bromley, initially on a twenty-five year lease. With one eye on the future, they formed a limited company at the same time. On August 16th 1980, Whyteleafe were the first visitors in what would be their penultimate season in the London Spartan League. But in November that year manager Dave Fitzgerald resigned having been with the club for six years. In 1982 the club transferred to Division One of the Kent League. This became the Premier Division in 1998. In 2003 Beckenham Town FC were awarded £100,000 by the Football Foundation for ground improvements which enabled their venue to become enclosed with hard standing all around the perimeter and for their award-winning pitch along with an improved drainage system to be laid in 2004. The first official fixture at the new-look venue was a Kent League match against Ramsgate on August 28th 2004.

SUCCESS AT LAST

On the pitch there had been two losing appearances in the Kent League Cup Final in 1985 (Greenwich Borough 2-3 aet) and 1993 (Ramsgate). They also finished as runners-up to Maidstone United in the Kent League Premier Division in 2005-06. The league was subsequently renamed the Southern Counties East Football League in 2013. In 2014 - following three unsuccessful final appearances in 1982 (when they lost 3-1 to Fisher Athletic at Bromley's Hayes Lane ground), 2005 (0-1 vs Thamesmead Town at The Belmont, Whitstable) and 2008 (0-2 vs Thamesmead Town at Welling United's Park View Road) - the club finally lifted the Kent Senior Trophy with a 4-0 win over Ashford United. 22 days later they beat Corinthian 2-0 to also lift that season's League Cup. In August, they then secured the 2014 Roy Vinter Shield after a 3-0 victory over the previous season's league champions Whyteleafe.

MORE RECENTLY

After finishing mid-table for six straight years, Beckenham struggled in 2016-17 when they finished 18th - only avoiding relegation to the SCEFL First Division (Step 6) by a single point on the final day of the season. But that mediocre form has been turned on it's head in recent seasons. They finished fourth in 2017-18 - thanks in part to the goals of the division's leading scorer Richard Atkins. And that was followed by a fifth place finish in 2018-19 and another appearance in the Kent Senior Trophy Final - only to have two goals disallowed as they went down 1-0 to Chatham Town after extra-time on Maidstone United's 3G pitch in front of a crowd 1128.

With the clear aim of gaining promotion, long serving manager Jason Huntley and his coaching staff oversaw a huge squad overhaul in the summer of 2019 and by March 2020, Becks were league leaders and looking a good bet for one of the TWO promotion spots in a fascinating four-way title race. Then Covid struck. And the season was subsequently declared null and void. The huge disappointment carried over into the 2020/21 where Becks had a sluggish start before climbing to 5th before the league was suspended as the nation went back into a national lockdown with that season also subsequently abandoned.

The summer of 2021 saw the FA's restructuring move Becks sideways into the Combined Counties Premier Division South. Squadwise Huntley retained the bulk of the players and added returning goalkeeper Nick Blue, new skipper and former Bromley, Dulwich Hamlet and Billericay fan favourite Danny Waldren as well as former Thamesmead Town and Ashford Utd midfielder Tom O'Connor. The club also welcomed back former players Nick Curran, Danny Fitzsimmons and Damien Ramsamy as well as signing some exciting younger prospects.

