

CLAPTON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB



CLAPTON CFC
ALWAYS
ANTIFASCIST



Clapton CFC vs
Benfleet FC

Saturday

August 8th 2026

Kick-off 3pm

Men's FA Cup Extra
Preliminary Round



Emirates
FA CUP



ANDRE ODEKU
FORWARD

OLD SPOTTED DOG GROUND

WALTER TULL WAY, 212 UPTON LANE, FOREST GATE, LONDON E7 9NP

CLAPTON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB

Clapton Community FC is a Community Benefit Society [#7768] that is wholly owned and run by our 1500 plus members. We have a women/NB first team, reserves, FTFA team, development team, five-a-side teams and open access training; men's first team, development and over 35s; and many youth teams.

OUR HOME

The Old Spotted Dog Ground, Walter Tull Way, 212 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7 9NP

The charity **Old Spotted Dog Ground Trust** [charity #1199417] operates the OSD on behalf of Clapton CFC members.

HONOURS

CLUB

- > **2026 Non-League Game Award Winners** - Football v Homophobia Awards
- > **2023 Volunteer Grounds Team of the Year** - Grounds Management Association
- > **2023 Community Football Club of the Year** - National Game Awards
- > **2021 Lockdown Heroes Award Winners** - Football Supporters Association

MEN'S FIRST TEAM (M1T)

- > **2026 Eastern Counties Football League Division One South play-off winners**
- > **2025 Brian Lomax Trophy winners**
- > **2025 Southern Counties East Football League Division One Cup winners**
- > **2023 Middlesex County Football League Premier Division champions**
- > **2022 Alec Smith Premier Division Cup winners**
- > **2019 Middlesex County Football League Division One Central & East champions**

- > **2019 Jim Rogers Presidents Cup winners**
- > **WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM (W1T)**
- > **2024 FSA Women's Trophy winners**
- > **2023 FSA Women's Trophy winners**
- > **2022 John Greenacre Memorial Trophy winners**

FTFA

- > **2026 London Saturday Women's Football League Cup winners**

RECORDS

M1T ATTENDANCES

- Men's First Team
- > **2375** vs Rayleigh Town at OSD Ground, May 2026
 - > **1712** vs FC Romania at OSD Ground, Apr 2026
 - > **1432** vs Forest Hill Park at OSD Ground, Apr 2025
 - > **1377** vs Lymore Gardens, OSD Ground, Apr 2026
 - > **1266** vs FC Roast at Stray Dog, May 2019
 - > **1242** vs Forest Hill Park at Mayesbrook Park, 2025

W1T ATTENDANCES

- > **3585** vs Brentford, Brentford Community Stadium, Sep 2024
- > **1153** vs FC United of Manchester at OSD Ground, Jul 2023
- > **775** vs FC St. Pauli at OSD Ground, Jun 2023
- > **697** vs FC United of Manchester, Broadhurst Park, Aug 2021
- > **500** vs Ashford at OSD Ground, Nov 2022
- > **478** vs Brentford, OSD Ground, May 2025

APPEARANCES

200 APPEARANCES:

Jack Francis, Dean Bouho

150 APPEARANCES:

James Briggs, Fred Taylor, Lucy Spours, Noah Adejokun, Maria Mendonca

100 APPEARANCES:

Li Steiner, Julian Austin, Charlie Fagan, Emily Link, Marta Boiro, Marta Casanovas, Cemal Agdelen, Bailey Pryce, Junia Charlton, Geoff Ocran, Annie Lyons, Lenny Holmes, Stefan Kilron

50 APPEARANCES:

Jeff Twumasi, Carl Paul, Verity Phillips, Adam Sidky, Allana Scoble, Fionn Glancy, Joel Akuwudike, Mim Chadwick, Liam Smyth, Noora Oikarainen, Sherwin Stanley, Felix Murray, Lewis Owiredo, Arthur Wright, Dan Anfossy, Joshua Adejokun, Khadir Elyas, Louis Brown, Emmanuel Olasehinde, Polly Adams, Prince Kwakye, Fama Sangare, Alice Sharpe, Teju Callisto, Sin Cheung, Cameron Gordon, Seb Hartwell, Elizabeth Atoyebi, Alasdair Gurney, Ross Broadway, Sam Cook, Kaylee Shurety, Tami Unuefa, James Pavely, Egle Trezzi, Korahn Gayle, Ruby Earle, Guleyman Zahmoul, Ana Holmes, Samba Badjana

ONLINE

claptoncfc.co.uk | oldspotted.dog

@claptoncfc on Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Threads, TikTok, Twitter[X]

OPPONENTS

BENFLEET FC

Welcome to today's visiting players, coaches, supporters and officials

The club started in 1922 under the name Benfleet United later becoming Benfleet Rangers after a merger but they became simply Benfleet in 1972 when they joined the Essex Olympian League. They won a variety of honours but the cost of improving the club's Woodside Park ground to Step 5 standards proved prohibitive. In 2018 due to an FA restructure they landed a three-promotion jump to the Eastern Counties League, ground-sharing at Canvey Island FC. After several near misses, they were promoted in 2024 and were able to start life at Step 5 back at a redeveloped Woodside Park.

Form guide

Benfleet have finished sixteenth and then ninth at this level so far and started the season with a 1-0 home win last Saturday.

Previous meetings

There were two really exciting and competitive league meetings in 2023/24. We won the home game 2-1 thanks to two goals from Noah Adejokun, but lost 1-0 late on in the season as Benfleet marched on to win the title.

Player/s to watch

Many of the players we faced three seasons ago are still with the club, including striker Max Jobson who has hit double figures each season.

LATEST GROUND WORK NEARLY COMPLETE



Looking around London's oldest senior football ground today, you will hopefully see the results of a lot of hard work over summer. Along both the clubhouse and the Ham Park Road sides, there are new concrete pathways and new pitch perimeter fencing. The ground is now more accessible and safer.

This marks the final stage of the Old Spotted Dog Ground Trust's Pathways and Accessibility Project, funded by £10,000 of donations. The project was completed in three phases: design and fundraising, installation of the scaffold fence, and finally the laying of the concrete path.

Each stage brought its own challenges, but thanks to creative thinking and a huge effort from volunteers, we have achieved something most clubs could only dream of: a new path and fence

delivered at a fraction of the usual cost. A pitch perimeter fence alone can cost around £50,000 before labour. Our fence, however, uses recycled scaffold poles.

As is often the case with projects of this scale, much of the volunteering was carried out by a small group of people. Whether you were one of the lucky few who got to drive a dumper truck, one of the slightly less lucky people raking concrete in 35 degree heat, or someone who donated to the fundraiser; everyone played a vital role.

Many gave up their time to dig out the old turf and lay the concrete, with their expertise and contacts helping to deliver significant savings throughout the project. A special thank you to Joe and Nick, who led the final stage from start to finish and delivered such a significant piece of work in a far shorter time than we are used to with construction projects. We also relied on expert help and it is difficult to overstate the impact our friends at Betongpark had in getting this over the line.



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD TODAY'S COMPLETE
MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

GEOFF OCRAN

MEN'S FIRST TEAM MANAGER

Last week's opening day defeat to Soul Tower Hamlets was not the result our performance deserved but as the saying goes, 'Goals wins games'.

There wasn't much between the sides but when presented with a chance, they took it, similar to the Enfield friendly two weeks ago. Once Soul took the lead, their experience and know-how showed in the second half to see the result out, which is another lesson that we need to different answers to different scenarios.

It would be more of a concern if we weren't creating opportunities but as you tend to find in a more senior division, chances on goal become fewer. So it's even more imperative that you have a higher conversion rate against the better opposition as you might not have another chance.

Next up is the first FA Cup tie for the Men's First Team today vs Benfleet, who we did beat the last time they visited the OSD. They are an experienced Step 5 side now who we don't expect to give too much away.

Another momentous day for the club but these occasions are always more memorable if we win and get into the next round. Availability is getting better along with a reduced injury list so our squad will be slightly stronger than last week as we look to get our season up and running.

#FACup #Step5 #OSD
#WeGoAgain #ClaptonFamily

ABOUT US

Clapton Community FC is a Community Benefit Society (#7768) wholly owned and run by our members. The charity Old Spotted Dog Ground Trust operates the ground on behalf of Clapton CFC members.

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

Geoff Ocran - Manager
Sham Darr - Assistant Manager
Jack Mellors - First Team Coach
Aqs Hafeji - First Team Coach/Data Analyst
Robin Philpott - Goalkeeper Coach
Kasita Boateng - Physiotherapist


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OUR COMMITTEES

MATCHDAY COMMITTEE

WHAT WE DO

Football doesn't just happen at 3pm on a Saturday, or 2pm on a Sunday. Every Clapton Community FC fixture is the result of **dozens of small jobs, quiet conversations** and plenty of **planning behind the scenes**.

The Matchday Committee makes sure all those moving parts come together. From coordinating the set up of turnstiles [cashbox] and the operators, liaising with organisations or people running stalls and setting up the many, many, many banners and signs. Matchday are the committee that make sure everything is ready when the gates open.

On the day you'll spot us checking things are running smoothly, answering questions, supporting volunteers and coordinating the brilliant team of pink high-viz safety reps. If the match goes ahead without anyone noticing the work that's gone into it, **we've probably done our job well**.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST 90 MINUTES

Despite the name, the work doesn't begin on matchday.

Throughout the week we're confirming the food vendors, answering emails, checking volunteer numbers, booking our great SIA team and making sure everyone knows where they need to be. **Every fixture has its own checklist**, and as soon as one game finishes, preparations for the next one begin.

It's not the most glamorous role in the club, but it's **one of the most important**. Good organisation creates the space for **everything else to happen**, from the football on the pitch to the atmosphere in the stands.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A WEEK?

You don't need to know the Laws of the Game or have years of football experience to get involved.

If you're **organised, reliable and happy helping things run smoothly**, there's **a place for you**.

Whether you can help during the week, lend a hand before kick off or take on regular

matchday responsibilities, every extra volunteer makes the workload lighter.

With both our women's and men's first teams playing at the Old Spotted Dog Ground, we're hosting more football than ever before. That means more fixtures, more visitors and more opportunities for people to get involved.

GET INVOLVED

Clapton has always been powered by **volunteers**. The Matchday Committee is another example of members doing the unseen work that keeps our club running.

If you've ever thought, "Someone must organise all this," **the answer is yes**. And that someone **could be you**.

Whether you can offer an hour a week or become part of the regular matchday team, we'd love to hear from you. **Help us make sure every match is welcoming, safe and ready for football**.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE ESL

THE NO MAN'S LAND

THE LEAGUE IS TAKING YOU BEHIND
THE SCENES FOR THE 26/27 SEASON

9 EPISODES | 9 STORIES

THE SPACE BETWEEN ELITE & GRASSROOTS

For all details visit the Essex Senior League website and social channels where there will be regular updates, with the league telling the stories of the club's staff, volunteers, players and more.



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MATCH REPORT

01.08.26 – CLAPTON CFC MIT

0-1 Clapton CFC against
Soul Tower Hamlets

Clapton CFC Men's First Team were given a tough introduction to life in the Essex Senior Football League, going down to a narrow defeat to last season's runners-up.

Despite the season having started, the first twenty minutes had a distinctly pre-season feel to it. The sun blazed down, both sides looked a little lethargic, and the CCFC faithful had to content themselves with dusting off the songbook and speculating about the new signings. Samir Sedaoui and Gideon Ssonko made the starting line-up with Tevis Panariti and Rafael Da Mata on the bench. Indeed, the only incident of note was a yellow card for Soul Tower Hamlets' number six around the twenty-minute mark.

However, following the hydration break, the game stirred to life. In the 28th minute, what looked like a fairly routine situation of passing round the ball at the back turned into an almighty defensive mix-up. A Soul shot was saved by Jack Francis' feet, but the rebound fell kindly to striker Shermandin Artmeladze who slammed the ball into the bottom corner. 1-0 Tower Hamlets.

Conceding seemed to galvanise CCFC. Fred Taylor was desperately unlucky not to score on 32 minutes. Last season's top scorer unleashed a heat-seeker from outside the area, which crashed off the underside of the bar, bounced off the opposite post and somehow stayed out.

Andre Odeku was the next to go close, connecting well with a far post header, only to see it saved by the keeper. As the interval approached, CCFC were enjoying their best spell of the game but an equaliser didn't come.

The second half began in much the same slow way as the first. Manager Geoff Ocran was the first of the coaches to take action, bringing on James Goldring and Lewis Owiredu for Ross Broadway and Sedaoui. Tower Hamlets soon followed suit after what looked like a nasty back injury to their number 8, who fell awkwardly off of a fairly innocuous aerial duel. Moments after he was helped from the pitch and given an ovation by the ground, play was paused again for a second hydration break. On came Panariti for his debut, replacing Odeku. Off too went Enzo Pina and Ssonko to be replaced by Nico Bunduku and Da Mata.

The game perked up as it crept into the final ten minutes. First, Taylor went down in the penalty area - moments later, Tower Hamlets had a penalty shout of their own after a tackle from Bailey Pryce, who was injured in the process. With no substitutions left, Pryce had to battle on until the whistle.

CCFC fashioned one more chance. After winning the ball excellently, Julian Austin looked up and perfectly picked out the advancing Da Mata on the right. After burning his full-back for pace and finding himself through on goal, Da Mata cut back inside and aimed for the top corner. Sadly the shot was always rising and drifted over the bar.

CCFC will feel they could, and probably should have got a point on the board from a first outing in the ESL. However, it's worth noting that Soul Tower Hamlets were 90 minutes from promotion last season, and we're unlikely to face much sterner tests this season. Ocran and his players will take heart from having looked like they belong at this level, with many, many games to play yet.

Rob Stafford



0-1 Clapton CFC against
Soul Tower Hamlets

Fred Taylor was desperately
unlucky not to score on
32 minutes. **Julian Austin**
won player of the match.





CCFC

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

GOALKEEPERS

Jack Francis
Chris Mathers
Robin Philpott

DEFENDERS

Dean Bouho
Junia Charlton
Sam Cook
Charlie Fagan
Seb Hartwell
Tevis Panariti
Bailey Pryce
Adam Sidky
Tami Unuefa

MIDFIELDERS

Joel Akuwudike
Julian Austin
Samba Badjana
James Briggs
Ross Broadway
Nathan Cook
Azariah
George-Lawal
James Goldring
Pete Jamieson
Felix Murray
Enzo Pina
Adam Sokhal
Gideon Ssonko
Jeff Twumasi

FORWARDS

Louis Brown
Nico Bunduku
Korahn Gayle
Cameron Gordon
David Makisi
Rafael Da Mata
Will Miller
Andre Odeku
Lewis Owiredu
Samir Sedaoui
Flavien Stierlen
Fred Taylor
Jacob Wintour

BENFLEET FC

Billy Carter
Michael Fitzgibbon
Gianni Frankis
Florent Gislette
Jake Godfrey
Cameron Harris
Reece Latimer
Billy Purdy
Aaron Russell
Mason Shave
Billy Shulver
Henry Sims
Matthew Stevens
Brown
Tommy Sykes
Alfie Whiteaker
Jacob Wiggins



OSD

**NEXT GAME HERE AT THE
OLD SPOTTED DOG GROUND**

**Tomorrow at 2pm - CCFC Women's First Team
vs Hammersmith (friendly)**

OFFICIALS

Referee

Pavlos Anastasi

Assistant Referees

Kieran Evans
Simon Cudne



100% FAN-OWNED FOOTBALL
BECOME A MEMBER, JOIN A COMMITTEE,
GET INVOLVED, LEND A HAND, BUILD THE CLUB