

CLAPTON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB



CLAPTON CFC
ALWAYS
ANTIFASCIST



Clapton CFC vs
Benfleet FC

Saturday

October 24th 2026

Kick-off 3pm

Essex Senior
Football League



OKWUTE IZUCHUKWU
DEFENDER

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, Julian Austin, Li Steiner

100 APPEARANCES:

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 Owiredun, 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 Atogebi, Alasdair Gurney, Ross Broadway, Sam Cook, Kaylee Shurety, Tami Unuefa, James Pavely, Egle Trezzi, Korahn Gayle, Ruby Earle, Suleyman Zahmoul, Ana Holmes, Samba Badjana, James Goldring

ONLINE

claptoncfc.co.uk | oldspotted.dog

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



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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 are on the fringes of the play-offs with a lot of goals scored, almost as many conceded and only one draw.

Previous meetings

In August we won 3-0 here in our first ever Men's FA Cup game with goals from Adam Sidky, Fred Taylor and Lewis Owiredu. 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

Mason Shave and Jacob Wiggins are joint top scorers with four.

PRE-GAME PUB GUIDE UPDATE

Anyone who has passed through Forest Gate on the way to The Dog will already be familiar with the **Fox & Hounds** and **Forest Tavern**. Each owned by chains, these side-by-side pubs cater for very different tastes and budgets.

Three years ago, we produced a guide to great independent pubs for a pre- or post-game drink if you fancy a drink elsewhere, including the **Forest Gate Hotel**, the **Bay Tree** and the **Rising Sun**. Here's an update with three more.

The Buccaneer

Distance from OSD: **0.8 miles.**

Closest station: **Plaistow**

Most locals will recognise The Buccaneer as The Britannia. Once owned by Frank Lampard Snr, the old Brit had a legendary, sometimes infamous, history, with many a West Ham legend having passed through its doors. New landlord, Rishi, has big plans for the pub and looks to have spent a fair chunk on building something that is definitely his own vision. As well as having a range of beers on tap, The Buccaneer has a decent set of screens for sport and a pizza kitchen in the back.

Ye Olde Black Bull

Distance from OSD: **1.0 miles.**

Closest station: **Stratford**

Once named Mooro's after its former owner, local-national-international legend Bobby Moore, The Black Bull continues to be a solid, traditional East London pub. It has a comfortable, wood panelled interior, with a decent drink selection and screens. It doesn't do food, but you're not short of the world's grub options within stumbling distance in any direction.

The Blakesley Arms

Distance from OSD: **1.6 miles.**

Closest station: **Manor Park**

A Sikh-owned boozer and a prominent Manor Park landmark, this is an old West Ham United stronghold. The interior is a time capsule, which looks as if it's been frozen in time since the FA Cup last rested in East London. There are screens for football and a large back room linked by a central bar, while the beer options are mostly your standard lager and Guinness staples.

Another four pubs in next Saturday's programme.

RC



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

GEOFF OCRAN

MEN'S FIRST TEAM MANAGER

In the last week, we've had the 2-0 defeat away to Romford followed by a 3-0 home loss to West Essex. You could literally copy and paste the critical events from game to game which shows we are still not learning collectively.

Set pieces and cheap penalties are gifts at this level and we are leaving ourselves too much to do against experienced teams who know how manage leads.

All we can do for now is work on it at training and hopefully it hits home as our concentration levels have to extend over 90 minutes and not just 70 or 80.

Injuries and availability have been issues of late and we haven't been able to play consistent teams over a three/four game period without losing someone. So we have upped the recruitment drive of late and will hopefully be adding up to five new players over the next week or so to help with the squad depth, experience and quality.

We can't dwell too much on the past with two more home games to come starting today against Benfleet and we must stop the losing streak. This is where we need cool heads and leaders to navigate through games especially if we feel hard done by with poor officiating of late.

It's imperative to get something over the next two games for inner belief as we have dropped to 18th and need to steer further away from the relegation zone. So it's up to us to make things happen and show the fans that we have the fight to establish ourselves at this level.

#Wegoagain #ClaptonFamily
#Step5 #OSD

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 1st 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

TOP SCORERS

4	Andre Odeku
2	Fred Taylor
1	Julian Austin, Noah Adejokun, Junia Charlton, Cameron Gordon, Okwute Izuchukwu, Lewis Owiredun, Enzo Pina, Adam Sidky, Flavien Stierlen

NO MORE DEATHS
AT THE HANDS OF
THE STATE!



ANNUAL
REMEMBRANCE
PROCESSION

Saturday
31st October, 2026
12pm Trafalgar Sq

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: MORE THAN A MONTH

October is Black History Month, a time to celebrate Black history, culture, achievement and the contribution of Black communities to our society and to communities across the country.

We want to use BHM as an opportunity to reflect on the club we are and the club we want to become. One of the most important things we can do is listen. So on these pages and in the Women's First Team programme against Dulwich Hamlet Reserves on 29th October, Black players, supporters and volunteers share their own experiences

and perspectives through a Black History Month Q&A.

The questions are deliberately not limited to easy or comfortable subjects. We want to explore issues around representation, racism, identity, belonging and the experience of being Black in football. Most importantly, these are their voices. Their experiences will be

different, and sometimes they may disagree with one another. That is part of the value of the conversation. Some answers may make us think. Some may challenge us. Some may celebrate positive experiences, while others may highlight areas where football still has work to do.

By giving people space to talk openly about their experiences, we hope it can help start conversations among players, supporters, volunteers and members that continue beyond Black History Month.

JACK FRANCIS is captain and goalkeeper for the Men's First Team and coach for the Women's First Team...

Q Do Black players and supporters sometimes feel pressure to let racist comments or behaviour go because they don't want to be labelled as difficult?

JF I don't know one Black supporter or player that hasn't experienced racist comments on the pitch or in the crowd. We played against a team that was found guilty multiple times of racist behaviour, including against us, and it seems to be a slap on the wrist as a punishment. I think we're just a little tired of having to be the educators of what is and isn't appropriate as well as the ones that have to call it out.

Q Does football genuinely value Black culture, or does it sometimes value Black players while remaining uncomfortable with Black voices and politics?

JF I've heard M1T back in the day described as too aggressive, which was a hard listen. You only have to listen to the bias in commentary when describing a 'beast' or 'rapid' Black player when compared to their more 'technical', 'skilful' counterparts.

Q What does being a Black player at Clapton CFC mean to you? Is the club genuinely different from other football clubs you've experienced?

JF I've been lucky and played for clubs where it would be weird if there wasn't Black representation. The demographic of the crowds and the Women's/Non Binary teams isn't lost on me but many of those members are actively anti-racist. We're in a fortunate position of having actual supporters and furthermore ones that have politics of protest and solidarity at their core. I'm always grateful for that.

Q Clapton CFC talks a lot about community, equality and inclusion. Where do you think the club gets it

right, and where could it do better?

JF Last year I was told if I cared so much about Black history why didn't you write anything. Which you could argue is a valid point. I don't think for months celebrating other marginalised communities you would ever only rely on that community to get a conversation started, and especially not at CCFC. Additionally it's not on us to educate you, as a club that preaches anti-racism. However, there's lots we get right. Cultures are accepted and celebrated on a daily basis within the club.

Q How important is it for young Black footballers to see people who look like them in positions beyond the pitch?

JF Incredibly so. We all know we can be incredible players. It's perhaps more important to see the physios, club secretaries, doctors, sports scientists, educators and all the other incredibly important voices around a football club so that we're heard.

Q Can someone love football, support a club and still be part of a culture that excludes Black people?

JF People do. Enough stadium bans will show you that's the case. It's not on me to tell people how to act right. I'm very much pro free speech but I'm not anti-consequence.

Q If you could change one thing about football's relationship with Black people tomorrow, what would you change, and why?

JF Black players can be slow, they can be goalkeepers, they can be technically gifted, they can be intelligent. But enough about me. I love the game but it doesn't owe me anything. I love my heritage and it's nothing that I had any hand in [Cheers Dad]. Football is life and with life we face adversity [though not as much as our predecessors] and we use our spirit

to battle through it which makes success sweeter. BHM is a CELEBRATION of who we are and all the great things we have, can and will achieve.

RIC PRESCOD is CCFC's League Representative as well as a member of Merch, Matchday, Membership and the General Organising Committee.

Q When a club says it is "anti-racist", what should that actually mean?

RP For me, being anti-racist has to be something you actually see in the way a club operates. It can't just appear when there is a particular incident or when October comes around. Being anti-racist means challenging racism when it happens, having clear expectations about behaviour and being prepared to have difficult conversations. It also means looking at the structure of the club and asking who has opportunities, who gets heard and who is involved in making decisions.

**"BHM IS A
CELEBRATION OF
WHO WE ARE AND
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CAN AND WILL
ACHIEVE."**

Q Do Black players and supporters sometimes feel pressure to let racist comments or behaviour go because they don't want to be labelled as difficult?

RP I think they can. There is sometimes an unspoken pressure to decide whether something is "worth making a fuss about". You don't necessarily want to be the person who changes the atmosphere, causes an argument or gets labelled as difficult. But if you continually let things go because they're individually "not that serious", eventually you create an environment where people know they can get away with things.

Q Is having Black players in a team enough to make a football club genuinely inclusive?

RP No. It's an important part of

representation, but it isn't the whole picture. A club can have a very diverse playing squad but still have very little diversity among the people making decisions. For me, inclusion means having the opportunity to participate and having your contribution taken seriously when you do.

Q What does being a Black supporter and member of Clapton Community FC mean to you? Is the club genuinely different from other football clubs you've experienced?

RP I think there is a fundamental difference between being a customer of a football club and being part of a football club. CCFC gives me the opportunity to be part of it. It's about knowing that you can occupy space and have something meaningful to contribute.

Q Clapton Community FC talks a lot about community, equality and inclusion. Where do you think the club gets it right, and where could it do better?

RP I think the club gets it right in understanding that football isn't just about the men's first team. But I don't think we should congratulate ourselves too much. We should continually ask ourselves who isn't participating and why. Are there people who feel the club isn't for them? Are there barriers to volunteering? Do people feel confident putting themselves forward? Are we hearing enough different voices when decisions are made?

Q How important is it for young Black footballers to see people who look like them in positions beyond the pitch?

RP Extremely important. A young Black player shouldn't have to think that their only possible future in football is as a player. Being able to see

people from different backgrounds involved in the running of football helps demonstrate that those spaces are available to you too.

Q Is football genuinely prepared to listen to Black people when they say something uncomfortable, or only when they say something that makes everyone feel good?

RP It's easy to listen when someone tells you that you're doing a good job. Sometimes the most useful conversations are the uncomfortable ones. Being member-owned gives us a mechanism to have those conversations. We shouldn't be frightened of that. If somebody raises an uncomfortable point about race or inclusion, the first response shouldn't be defensiveness. It should be to listen and ask whether there is something we need to learn.

BRIAN BRAMBLE is coach for the Women's First Team and is a key figure and mentor across the women/NB and community football structure...

Q When a club says it is "anti-racist", what should that actually mean beyond putting out a statement or wearing a T-shirt?

BB Words are easy to say, perhaps have workshops from time to time to get to know people's lived experiences.

Q Do Black players and supporters sometimes feel pressure to let racist comments or behaviour go because they don't want to be labelled as difficult?

BB Black players and supporters can feel pressure when they hear racist statements because at the moment they may not want the extra

"FOR ME, INCLUSION MEANS HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVING YOUR CONTRIBUTION TAKEN SERIOUSLY WHEN YOU DO."

attention this may bring as the perpetrator could simply deny it, and in a minority this can be hard.

Q Is having Black players in a team enough to make a football club genuinely inclusive?

BB No not necessarily, because in the professional game football is a business so it's just about making money and if clubs were all inclusive we would see more Black people in management and the boardroom.

Q Does football genuinely value Black culture, or does it sometimes value Black players while remaining uncomfortable with Black voices and politics?

BB Like a lot of businesses you are primarily useful for making money so promoting Black culture is not a priority. There are a lot of home truths that people don't want to hear.

Q What does being a Black coach at Clapton Community FC mean to you? Is the club genuinely different from other football clubs you've experienced?

BB Clapton is so different to many other clubs because Clapton is prepared to talk about important issues others don't want to and are passionate about it.

Q Clapton Community FC talks a lot about community, equality and inclusion. Where do you think the club gets it right, and where could it do better?

BB Overall Clapton does a great job but because there are many causes we are fighting for sometimes certain important issues can slip down the order.

Q Does Black History Month genuinely educate people, or can it sometimes become a month of well-meaning gestures before everything returns to normal in November?

BB I think people should not confine Black history to one month because it sort of devalues the importance of Black history. It is important to recognise the

"CLAPTON IS PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES OTHERS DON'T WANT TO AND ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT IT."

great things certain people have achieved but Black history is not just that.

Q How important is it for young Black footballers to see people who look like them in positions beyond the pitch?

BB It is very important for young Black footballers otherwise they won't believe in it.

Q Can someone love football, support a club and still be part of a culture that excludes Black people?

BB This is difficult but we must continue to believe that changes can be made. Football doesn't exist in isolation, it also reflects our society.

Q Is football genuinely prepared to listen to Black people when they say something uncomfortable, or only when they say something that makes everyone feel good?

BB Football isn't ready to listen to Black people who say uncomfortable things mainly because they don't really know how to deal with it.

Q What is something white football supporters genuinely don't understand about being Black in football?

BB Unless people walk in your shoes they cannot understand what it is like. People tend to judge by their own experiences and most other things are uncomfortable.

Q If you could change one thing about football's relationship with Black people tomorrow, what would you change, and why?

BB I would like to see Black people who contribute so much on the field be given the same opportunities off the field.

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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CCFC

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

GOALKEEPERS

Jack Francis
Chris Mathers
Robin Philpott

DEFENDERS

Daniel Adjei
Tiere Beaupierre
Dean Bouho
Andrea Caio
Junia Charlton
Sam Cook
Charlie Fagan
Seb Hartwell
Okwute
Izuchukwu
Emmanuel
Olasehinde
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

Matthew
Abebrese
Noah Adejokun
Bernardino
Andeme
Louis Brown
Nico Bunduku
Korahn Gayle
Cameron Gordon
David Makisi
Rafael Da Mata
Will Miller
Andre Odeku
Lewis Owiredo
Samir Sedaoui
Flavien Stierlen
Fred Taylor
Jacob Wintour
Miftau Yusuf

BENFLEET FC

Andrew Adegbite
Aaron Akoman
Billy Bonham-Dare
Billy Carter
Hugh Chapman
Gianni Frankis
Florent Gislette
Cameron Harris
Reece Latimer
Callum Legg
Joseph Lovett
Billy Purdy
Aaron Russell
Mason Shave
Billy Shulver
Matthew Stevens
Brown
Tommy Sykes
George Unwin
Jacob Wiggins
Billy Willis

OSD

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

**Tomorrow - Sunday, October 24th at 2pm -
CCFC Women's First Team vs Maidstone United**

OFFICIALS

Referee

Terrance Connolly

Assistant Referees

Andrew Wood
Robert Collins



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