CLAPTON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB

CLAPTON CFC
ALWAYS
ANTIFASCIST



EMILY LINK
FORWARD

Clapton CFC vs
Dulwich Hamlet Res
Thursday
October 29th 2026
Kick-off 7.45pm
London & South East
Regional Women's League
Division One North

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 Owiredu, 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 Onuefa, 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)

OPPONENTS

DULWICH HAMLET RES

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

AFC Phoenix formed in 2010 and its first and reserves teams quickly rose up the divisions. In 2018 they merged to become Dulwich Hamlet. Both teams have had a further promotion since, with the first team playing in the fourth tier since 2023/4 and the reserves in the sixth tier since 2020/21, the highest level that reserve teams are allowed to play.

Form guide

Dulwich are joint top on goal difference with five clean sheets and just one defeat in their eight games. They've just had two blank weekends so will have had plenty of rest.

Previous meetings

Dulwich have the upper hand in our 12 meetings with five wins to our two. Last season, they won their home game 1-0 then it was a 1-1 draw at the Old Spotted Dog Ground. The most memorable was the league cup final at Maidstone United in 2025. With Clapton 2-0 up, the ref and a home official abandoned the game due to the presence of a Palestine flag and banner. The FA later ruled the game should not have been abandoned.

Player/s to watch

Striker Kendal Drake seemed to regularly score against us during a four-season spell with Sport London e Benfica.

CLUB CAPTAINS

Every season the players within the Women/NB set-up vote for their captains. This season, the First Team has chosen **joint captains in** Emily Link **and** Julia Moulton and **two vice captains in** Allana Scoble **and** Annie Lyons. For the Reserves, Lucia Halliwell **and** Elizabeth Atoyebi **are the joint captains**. Meanwhile for the FTFA team, Annie McGrath **is captain** and the **vice captains are** Paula Griffin **and** Tammy Hymas. Finally, for the Devs, Emma Westhead **and** Hannah Blom-Cooper are the **joint captains**. Thanks and congratulations to all!

CUP DRAWS

In the second round of the Capital Cup, we will play the winner of **Denham United** and **Tooting Bec**. The date of that game is still to be confirmed as those two have yet to play their first round game. CCFC progressed to this round due to Ashmount Leigh forfeiting the game so we won by default.

We're also in the London & South East Regional Women's League Cup, where we face higher division **Hammersmith FC** away in the second round on November 8, If we lose that - don't worry, we then drop into the L&SERWL Trophy.

FTFA GAME

A reminder that our FTFA team are playing here on **Saturday, November 7 at 12 noon**. We'll be hosting familiar opponents in **Comets** with plenty of familiar First Team and Reserves players in the FTFA team too. Plus with the early kick off you can get to the Men's First Team match over at **Barking at 3pm too**.

FOOTBALL BLACK LIST

Nominations close tomorrow for the 2026 **Football Black List**, which celebrates people making a significant contribution to football across a range of areas, including grassroots, coaching, management, media and leadership. Know someone whose work deserves recognition? Nominate at **footballblacklist.com/nominations**

ALICE SHARPE

WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM HEAD COACH

Last Sunday's 2-2 draw against Maidstone United was a hard-fought game, and I was proud of the way the players approached it. We started brightly, with Emily Link's pressing rewarded by an excellent opening goal. Emily then doubled our lead just after half-time, finishing calmly after great work from Marta Casanovas.

Of course, it's frustrating to let a two-goal lead slip, but I don't want us to lose sight of the positives. Maidstone are top of the table and unbeaten, and we showed that we can compete with the strongest sides in this division. Rhia Jacobs was outstanding in goal, and the whole defensive unit deserves huge credit for the way they worked together and stood firm under sustained pressure. There's plenty for us to build on.

Now our focus turns to today and another tough home game against Dulwich Hamlet Reserves. We know they're a strong side, and we know they may bring in players from their first team. That's a challenge we should embrace, not fear. We should take it as a compliment that they take our fixture seriously, but ultimately, we need to concentrate on our own performance.

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.

WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM

Alice Sharpe - Head Coach

Brian Bramble and Jack Francis - Coaches

TOP SCORERS

12	Emily Link
7	Maria Mendonca
1	Annie Lyons, Marta Boiro, Vee Hayward

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 Men's First Team programme against Benfleet last week, 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.

ASANTEWAA NISBETH

has been playing football on and off for about 16 years. SantI joined Open Access, then the 11 a-side Development team and won the league with them, and then moved up to the Reserves team and celebrated another league title win.

Q When a club says it is "anti-racist", what should that actually mean beyond putting out a statement or wearing a T-shirt?
AN Not showing any discrimination with the football chants or creating a lads' culture and excluding players.

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?
AN Yes, I think so.

Q Is having Black players in a team enough to make a football club genuinely inclusive?
AN No, it's not, but it's a start.

Q Does football genuinely value Black culture, or does it sometimes value Black players while remaining uncomfortable with Black voices and politics?
AN I think it's a mix of both, depending on who you talk to.

Q What does being a Black player at Clapton Community FC mean to you? Is the club genuinely different from other football clubs you've experienced?
AN I haven't experienced any other club but the culture within the club is making me want to stay regardless of anyone's background. I think I've found my people here.

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?
AN The club gets it right with the cheap prices, the fact that the club is a community club and is community driven. The inclusion in the men's teams, there

are more Black faces in that side of the game but it isn't anyone's fault why there isn't as many in the women's side of the game. I believe the club is doing everything we want it to. That's why we choose Clapton and we stay at Clapton.

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?
AN It can do both as there are people out there that would love to learn and there are others that treat it like certain businesses do, concentrating on it for the whole month before returning back to normal.

Q How important is it for young Black footballers to see people who look like them in positions beyond the pitch?
AN I believe it's very important, it's always great to see someone that looks like you in different positions so you know that you could achieve that as well.

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

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?
AN I think parts of football are genuinely ready to listen, regardless of if it makes them uncomfortable. It could educate them and add to their knowledge.

Q What is something white football supporters genuinely don't understand about being Black in football?
AN Coaches making digs. The banter may not just be banter and there could be underlying meanings or the fact that they've worked twice as hard to get to where they are and deserve to be there.

Q If you could change one thing about football's relationship with Black people tomorrow, what would you change, and why?
AN If a Black player/ person of colour has a bad game they are suddenly not from the country that they are playing for. For example, the aftermath of Saka's penalty miss and Jess Carter's racist abuse.

SIMON HEADLAM is part of the Put Me On zine and pays officials at Men's First Team games, which means they ask him to sort out any 'issues' so you'll find him hiding behind the drum in the Scaffold.

Q When a club says it is "anti-racist", what should that actually mean beyond putting out a statement or wearing a T-shirt?
SH There should be a zero tolerance to racist behaviour from anybody associated with CCFC. I'm personally an advocate of individuals stepping away from the club if they're found to have breached these very simple rules, maybe a moment of reflection or even redemption, but there's no way of learning if we collectively ignore it.

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?
SH My personal experience is fatigue

"I THINK PARTS OF FOOTBALL ARE GENUINELY READY TO LISTEN, REGARDLESS OF IF IT MAKES THEM UNCOMFORTABLE. IT COULD EDUCATE THEM AND ADD TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE."

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and my word vs other(s). This could also be framed at other people and groups who've experienced disgusting incidents or comments at games, I know of women who've asked for incidents not to be escalated for various reasons. So this isn't unique to one group, there's been plenty of times where the club and individuals have made statements to the FA/Governing bodies and next to nothing has happened.

I've certainly felt a chill at certain grounds but I've not experienced racism. Oh hang on... A few seasons ago, I received what we'll call micro aggressions at Burnham Ramblers. It was uncomfortable and I felt intimidated. The chairman and a member of the bar staff found me in the stands and explained that the club was devastated that I'd been the subject of racism and that the group had been made to leave the ground. I was genuinely surprised at the lengths they went to immediately resolve the issue and hold their hands up.

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

SH I'd say no as a generalisation but England is still struggling to understand or appreciate its relationship with Black culture. There's some corners in football that are entwined with Black culture, a lot of people are making their way in the game in many different ways and have been able to inform and educate a wider audience as to the connections of Black culture and football. Football like CCFC means different things to different people, just as Black culture means different things. It's hard to nail down as the culture we speak of hasn't been transmitted outside the pitch, that's really the only representation of culture in football until recent years. There's barely any Managers, Owners, or Terrace Culture to speak of, so again it's hard to really know what the solutions are.

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

SH Personally I'm proud to be a CCFC supporter. It's absolutely different from any club I've known or played for. I don't blindly support everything the club has done and know it's made mistakes along the way but as a general rule it's crystal clear CCFC has created a better environment for all folk to enjoy games. I don't go to CCFC games worried that I might be singled out or feel uncomfortable with the language/aggression towards players. That has been clear from day one. The folk I stand with and the wider group of fans at away games don't tolerate that sort of behaviour.

"PERSONALLY I'M PROUD TO BE A CCFC SUPPORTER. IT'S ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT FROM ANY CLUB I'VE KNOWN OR PLAYED FOR."

GEOFF OCRAN needs no introduction to anyone connected to Clapton CFC, having been manager of the Men's First Team from day one in 2018 and leading the team to three promotions and three cup final wins.

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

GO Beyond the T-shirts and the gestures, being antI racist is having a zero tolerance attitude internally and externally to any issues regarding race.

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?
GO I wouldn't be surprised if some people felt like that. In a scenario of my word against someone else, without key witnesses then it's down to the panel's discretion. I think tolerance for any sort of racial abuse is at its lowest so you should feel comfortable to speak out now. I've been fortunate to not experience it personally, but have been on the pitch when it happened to a teammate a while back and we just took the law into our own hands, Cantona-esque.

Q Is having Black players in a team enough to make a football club genuinely inclusive?
GO Inclusion shouldn't stop at just having Black players in the team or squad, it should be creating an environment for different backgrounds to be welcomed into the club.

Q What does being a Black supporter/ player at Clapton Community FC mean to you? Is the club genuinely different from other football clubs you've experienced?
GO Out of all the clubs I've been involved in, Clapton is definitely the most proactive and vocal regarding any race issues. That is internally and externally as we will publicly support any club that have experienced any sort of racial discrimination in football.

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?
GO Walter Tull is a cult hero around these parts which is great to see but maybe we can also create other cult heroes who endured similar racial bigotry over the course of time and champion them also.

Q How important is it for young Black footballers to see people who look like them in positions beyond the pitch?
GO The next generation will only believe something is possible if they see it visually and have a role model to aspire to, especially off the pitch as we know about the demographic of black coaches and managers higher up in the game.

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?
GO It all starts with listening to understand and not disregarding lived experiences of Black people on and off the field especially during an era when racism wasn't challenged in stadiums so players learnt to just get on with it. Other demographics would not have experienced the subtle micro-aggressions that Black people often have to endure so it's important that they are educated and willing to understand.

Q If you could change one thing about football's relationship with Black people tomorrow, what would you change, and why?
GO I very much live by not just pointing fingers but providing solutions and answers. So for example we took the knee before games but then what next? How do we convert that exposure and awareness into more opportunities for Black people higher up the pyramid? This is where we can do better as a community as we aim to leave the game more diverse like the Black icons of the game fought before us during the 70s and 80s.

"THE NEXT GENERATION WILL ONLY BELIEVE SOMETHING IS POSSIBLE IF THEY SEE IT VISUALLY AND HAVE A ROLE MODEL TO ASPIRE TO."

NO MORE DEATHS AT THE HANDS OF THE STATE!



UNITED FAMILIES & FRIENDS CAMPAIGN
UFFC

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE PROCESSION

Saturday
31st October, 2026
12pm Trafalgar Sq

WE DEMAND AN END TO STATE VIOLENCE - WILL YOU JOIN UNITED FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



United Families & Friends Campaign (UFFC) is a coalition of families from across the UK affected by a death at the hands of the state, and the subsequent lies and coverup concerning the circumstances of their loved ones' deaths.

Established in 1997 as a network of Black families, UFFC now includes people from all backgrounds affected by these injustices.

On the last Saturday of October every year is our annual remembrance procession - first a silent walk to remember all those killed by the state, and then we raise our voices to demand justice.
Will you join united families and friends?

WWW.UFFCAMPAIGN.ORG

MATCH REPORT

25.10.26 – CLAPTON CFC W1T

2-2 Clapton CFC draw against Maidstone United

Clapton CFC had to settle for a point despite a high-intensity performance against league leaders Maidstone United at the Old Spotted Dog Ground.

Emily Link's two goals either side of half-time put Clapton on course for an unlikely win against a team who haven't lost a league game since January 2025 until a late fightback saw the Stones grab a draw.

In swirling winds, Clapton started brightly and opened the scoring in the 17th minute. As Maidstone knocked the ball around at the back, captain Link chased down and dispossessed the goalkeeper, then coolly slotted into an empty net.

Just moments into the second half, more pressing saw Marta Casanovas take the ball and tee up Link for a second of the afternoon, and 12th of the season.

With 25 minutes left, Maidstone were reduced to ten. Clapton keeper Rhia Jacobs rushed out to thwart a breakaway but was kicked while on the ground after making the save.

With a two-goal cushion and a player advantage, three points seemed very much in CCFC's grasp. However, the red card seemed to sting Maidstone into life, and on 78 minutes they were handed a lifeline when Kylie Manktelow pounced on a defensive mistake.

Maidstone pushed hard for an equaliser in a nervy closing period, with Clapton tiring. And the visitors levelled with just five minutes left when a speculative free-kick almost from the halfway line sailed in from top scorer Megan Wood.

Clapton held on for a commendable point, and will look to carry this resilient performance into tonights fixture against Dulwich Hamlet Res.





2–2 Clapton CFC draw against Maidstone United

Clapton held on for a commendable point. **Rhia Jacobs** won player of the match for her performance in goal. **Emily Link** scores her second of the afternoon, and 12th of the season.



CCFC

WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM

GOALKEEPERS

Ella Bowles
Rhia Jacobs

DEFENDERS

Ruby Earle
Ellie Dunn
Lucia Halliwell
Flo Hobbs
Lenny Holmes
Annie Lyons
Julia Moulton
Noora Oikarainen
Allana Scoble

MIDFIELDERS

Marta Boiro
Ching Chun
Ciara Monahan
Lucy Spours
Li Steiner
Egle Trezzi

FORWARDS

Genevieve Buabeng
Teju Callisto
Marta Casanovas
Vee Hayward
Gilia Iannuzzi
Emily Link
Maria Mendonca
Aimee Shaw



DULWICH HAMLET RES

Alex Andrews
Jade Asagba
Emily Auld
Daisy Bali
Hermione Cruttwell
Imogen Dilling
Kendal Drake
Gracie Ellish-Alexander
Ava Fowler
Dalia Fraga Martinez
Kyla Hussain
Eleanor Kelly
Gloria Kelly
Kyleigh Krames
Hannah Lees
Neve Mayes
Emma McClement
Alyssa Miranda
Nikiya Palmer-Steele
Shakirra Sesay
Isabel Sinclair
Katie Smale
Christina Sofianos
Anna Stones
Gwyn Rita West
Amiya Williams

OSD

NEXT GAME HERE AT THE OLD SPOTTED DOG GROUND

Saturday, October 31st 3pm -

CCFC Men's First Team vs Ilford FC

OFFICIALS

Referee
David Dice

Assistant Referees
Andrew Wood
Amaan Ramzan

100% FAN-OWNED FOOTBALL

BECOME A MEMBER, JOIN A COMMITTEE, GET INVOLVED, LEND A HAND, BUILD THE CLUB