

**Waltham Abbey FC**

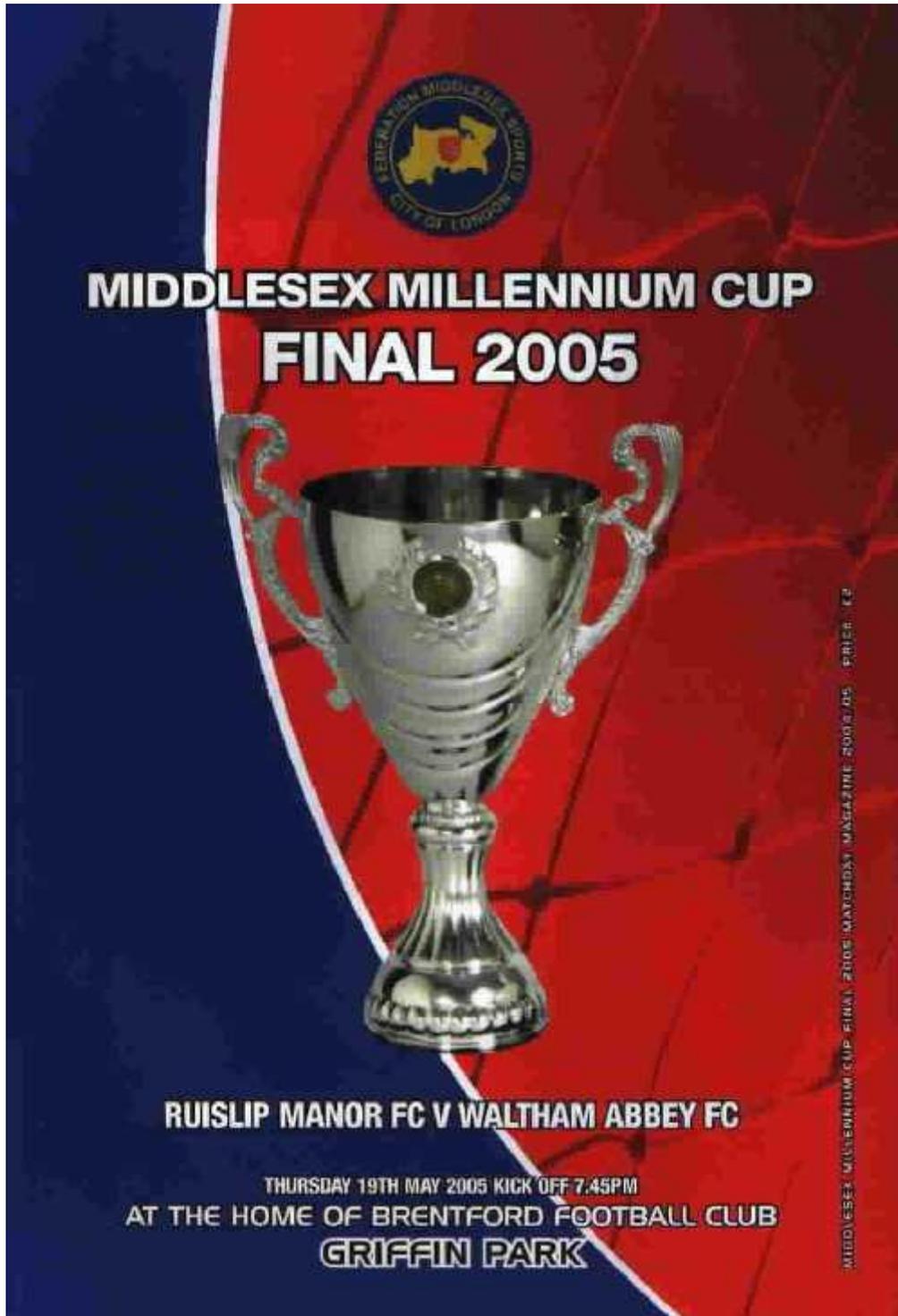
**Middlesex  
Millennium Cup**

**2004/05**

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## Cup Final Programme (Front Cover)



## Fixtures & Results

### North Group

#### Waltham Abbey FC – Results

Saturday, 31 July 2004	Waltham Abbey	2	2	Wealdstone
Tuesday, 03 August 2004	Waltham Abbey	4	1	Hillingdon Borough
Tuesday, 10 August 2004	Waltham Abbey	1	0	Edgware Town
Monday, 30 August 2004	Broxbourne Borough	0	5	Waltham Abbey

#### Final Table – North Group

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GD</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Waltham Abbey	4	3	1	0	12	3	+9	10
Wealdstone	4	2	2	0	5	3	+2	8
Edgware Town	4	2	0	2	3	3	+0	6
Hillingdon Borough	4	1	1	2	6	8	-2	4
Broxbourne Borough	4	0	0	4	0	9	-9	0

Wednesday, 28 July 2004: Edgware Town v Broxbourne Borough - Home Win was awarded

### Semi Final

Monday, 28 March 2005	Waltham Abbey	1	1	Harefield United
	<small>Waltham Abbey Won On Penalties</small>			
Monday, 11 April 2005	Ruislip Manor			Brimsdown Rovers
	<small>Home Win Awarded</small>			

### Final

Thursday, 19 May 2005	Ruislip Manor	0	2	Waltham Abbey
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## Match Reports

### *Waltham Abbey v Wealdstone Res.*

Waltham Abbey            2 (1)    Holland 45, Cooper 80  
Wealdstone Res        2 (1)    Robinson 16, Walker 68  
Middlesex Millennium Cup  
Saturday, 31st July 2004  
Att. 44

The Abbots entertained Wealdstone Reserves in their opening Middlesex Millennium Cup group match on Saturday, earning a point in a creditable 2-2 draw as they twice came from behind.



The Stones had the better of the early exchanges and went ahead through a Troy Robinson free-kick after 16mins. Undeterred, The Abbots pressed as Ricki Burbridge, Lee White and Billy Holland combined well on a number of occasions. On 36mins, quick thinking by Burbridge released Lee Sontag down the flank. The defender made a bee-line for goal but his run was brought to a premature end as he was fouled on the edge of the area. Burbridge took the free kick and The Abbots were only denied an equaliser by some resolute Wealdstone defending.



Minutes later, the Stones stopped another promising Abbey attack in its tracks, broke away and Jon Hickman, in a one-on-one with Darren Joseph, pulled off a fine save to keep The Abbots in contention.



On the stroke of half time, Holland's persistence allowed him to get the better of defender Sam Ahrin, advance into the penalty area and coolly beat custodian Mitchell Tarr for a deserved equaliser.



The Abbots bossed the first 20mins of the second period but, despite at least half-a-dozen good chances - the pick of the crop being some neat chest control and volley by Albert Bostock - they were not able to get their noses in front.

Against the run of play, Wealdstone took the initiative, once more, as midway through the second half a Jordan Bostock error allowed Micheal Walker to lobb the advancing Hickman.

Despite the setback, The Abbots continued to press and Ben Cooper equalised with a fine solo effort to set up an interesting final 10 minutes.

Waltham Abbey:

Hickman, Page (Gardiner 79), L.Sontag, J.Bostock, Forde, Gilpin (Rutherford 73), A.Bostock, Burbridge, Holland (Elmes 77), White, Sapsford (Cooper 46)

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## ***Waltham Abbey v Hillingdon Borough***

**Waltham Abbey            4 (2)    OG 12, L.Sontag 19, White 55, Cooper 72**  
**Hillingdon Borough    1 (1)    ?? 30**  
**Middlesex Millennium Cup**  
**Tuesday, 3rd August 2004**  
**Att. 82**

Against the backdrop of thundery showers, The Abbots continued where they had left off against Wealdstone on Saturday. This time, however, they annexed the three points that their play deserved.

The opening stages were a tepid affair as both teams evaluated the relative strengths and weaknesses of their opponents.

On 12mins a quite exquisite cross-field pass was delivered with pin-point accuracy to Wes Forde. He headed goalwards and the covering defender only succeeded in helping the ball on its way into the unprotected net.

Seven minutes later Lee Sontag, who caused havoc in the Hillingdon defence all night, doubled The Abbots lead. He broke clear of his marker, drew the keeper and slotted home with some aplomb.

The Abbots were in total control, playing with panache and exuberance that there was little doubt further goals would follow...

... sure enough, on the half hour, the third goal of the evening was duly tucked away. However, it was conceded, not scored as The Abbots inexplicably allowed their guests to claw their way back into the tie. Seconds later, Hillingdon should have been level but the forward, in acres of space and after what seemed like an eternity scuffed his shot wide of the upright.

In the second period, The Abbotts made their superiority count as they doubled their tally without reply.

Lee White made it 3-1 within 10mins of the restart and, with 20mins remaining, Ben Cooper scored in successive games as he tapped in a fine L.Sontag cross. This feat was nearly replicated by Billy Holland moments later but his superb strike from the edge of the box was palmed away to safety by the visiting custodian.

Team:

Hickman, Ayres, L.Sontag, J.Bostock, Forde (Page), Gilpin, White, Burbridge (Holland), Elmes (Sapsford), Cooper (A.Bostock), White (Gregory), Rutherford

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## ***Waltham Abbey v Edgware Town***

**Waltham Abbey            1 (1)    L.Sontag 25**  
**Edgware Town            0 (0)**  
**Middx Millennium Cup**  
**Tuesday, 10th August 2004**  
**Att.53**

Lee Sontag continued his fine early season form as he netted the only goal, midway through the first period, to take The Abbotts back to the top of their group.

After a quiet start, The Abbotts sprang to life after 15mins, when Ben Cooper sliced open the Edgware defense with a peach of a pass to leave Billy Holland with an unobstructed run at goal. However, the Edgware custodian, Darren Bonfield, did his job and Holland's shot came to nothing. Minutes later, Holland turned provider as, after combining well with Dave Ayres, he released L.Sontag to score what proved to be the winner.

With the half drawing to its conclusion, The Abbotts were awarded a number of free kicks as Edgware's play became littered with niggley fouls particularly on Rikki Burbridge who seemed to be singled out for 'special attention'. The majority of the free kicks were taken by Lee White but, despite his dead ball accuracy, Edgware held firm.

From the outset of the second period, The Abbotts attacked and were immediately rewarded with a free kick. From a dangerous position, Burbridge came close to making them pay for the early indiscretion.

As the half progressed the 'Wares, following a number of personnel and tactical changes, started to edge ahead - aided and abetted by some 'interesting' Abbotts defending. Midway through the half there was a breakdown in communication between Jordan Bostock and John Hickman which almost presented Edgware with an unlikely equalizer.

With 15mins to go, The Abbotts awoke from their mid-half slumber and were denied a clear penalty when John Sapsford was brought down in the box. Nothing more than a corner was awarded which Sapsford delivered and Harry Elmes flashed over the bar. Minutes later, a less conclusive case for a penalty was also denied.

Deep into stoppage time, Edgware's Wayne Grant was sent off for a second bookable offense.

Team:

Hickman, Ayres, L.Sontag, J.Bostock, Forde, Gilpin, White, Burbridge (Elmes), Holland (Sapsford), Cooper (A.Bostock), Rutherford

## **The following report was extracted from the Edgware Town FC website**

The Supporters View  
Waltham Abbey (1)1 – Edgware Town(0)0  
Millennium Cup  
Tuesday 10th August 2004

Edgware certainly struggled to find their feet against a fast, well disciplined Waltham Abbey side tonight and an over zealous referee, Mr Fanny, with only one official assistant, showed the Wares 5 yellow cards and sent Wayne Grant off in injury time.

Ian Grey, now in charge after the departure of Solomon Abrahams last weekend, had brought a number of new players into the squad to strengthen the side, giving Michael Roach a run out for his second spell at Edgware.

It was only 15 minutes into the half when the home sides Ben Cooper put the Wares on notice, running on to a cross from Dave Ayres, overlapping on the right wing, only to be denied his shot by Adil Salih although it was Salih's free kick minutes later that allowed Martin Farrow a shot on goal, but only into the arms of John Hickman the Abbey's goalie.

The home sides long ball play and the speed of there front runners were causing the visitors some major problems, Cooper's miscued shot, when through on goal, was a let off for Edgware and Billy Holland's back header from a corner on 22 minutes was only just over the bar when Lee Sontag volleyed it goalwards. However, it was another fine run down the wing by Ayers that put Sontag clear to beat big Darren Bonfield 25 minutes into the half to give his side a 1-0 lead. Holland missed a chance a few minutes later and Bonfield held a fine effort by Rikki Boridge on the half hour.

The home side were not having it all there own way, Michael Roach's work rate was tiring to watch and he distributed the ball superbly from midfield ,but to no real effect as the Wares passes were not finding feet on the bumpy surface. Roache's frustration showed when the referee awarded a dubious free kick and his objection earned him a yellow card 35 minutes in. Then 5 minutes later Anthony Finn conceded a free kick and earned Edgware's second Yellow for dissent.

Edgware sent on Ian Kennedy for Roach and Andrew Francos for Paul Marks in the second half but it was Cooper again who threatened early, his quickly taken free kick was pushed out by Bonfield diving to his right only for Borribge to volley back the loose ball, somehow the big goalie twisted back and saved again, much to the relief of his team mates.

Whatever the manager had said in the break it certainly stirred up the Wares and with some substitutes for tired legs they put up a much better performance in the second half, containing their opponents and making some good chances themselves. A long ball through the centre was clipped inches past the left post by Ross Stout and a Glen Parry thunderbolt was just pushed wide on 75 minutes. Wayne Grant, Edgware's big centre forward, was making waves in the home defence and his fierce shot 10 minutes from time forced a great save by Hickman. Moments later Grant was pushed over the ball and although the referee awarded Edgware a free kick he booked Grant for reacting to the perpetrator. It was in extra time that a comment from Grant earned him a second yellow and he was sent off.

Interviewed after the game Ian Grant said, " I played a makeshift side with a number of new players. The first half was very poor ,we lacked movement and we deservedly came off 1-0 down. The second half was a big improvement and we created a lot of chances, their keeper made some good saves and I think we were certainly the better side in the second period. In my opinion we should have taken something from the game but it's a learning curve, I'm looking at the players to see who I need to bring in and who is here that is good enough. I've learned a lot tonight".

EDGWARE: Bonfield, Salih, Finn (Grant), Ried, Brown, Caran, Marks (Francos), Pessotti (Parry), Jones (Stout), Farrow, Roach (Kennedy)



## **Waltham Abbey v Harefield United (Semi-Final)**

**Waltham Abbey 1 (1) Power 45**  
**Harefield United 1 (0) Nelso 48**

**Middx Millennium Cup - Semi-Final**

**Monday, 28th March 2005**

**1-1 AET (Won 3-1 on Penalties)**

**Att: 107**

After the Gordon Brasted Trophy Final on Saturday, the last thing that The Abbotts wanted was another 2hr contest. But, that's exactly what they got as Spartan South Midlands Premier Division side Harefield United tried to spoil the carnival atmosphere at sunny "Capershotts".

Harefield were quickest out the blocks and, in only the 2min, John Hickman pulled off a superb point-blank save from a powerful Leon Nelson header. During the first quarter, Nelson was proved to be quite a handful but The Abbotts defense held firm. On 15min Dave Ayres was unlucky not to break the deadlock when his sweetly struck volley, from a corner, was tipped onto the bar by Nathen Cobb and scrambled to safety. The Abbotts put their noses in front just seconds before the break through Luke Power.

Effectively, the lead lasted less than 3min as Nelson finally notched the goal he deserved soon after the restart. On the hour, a well taken free-kick by Lee White saw Billy Holland ghost in to volley past the stranded Cobb. Unfortunately, the strike was chalked out due to an off side flag fluttering in the breeze. White had a free-kick which just cleared the cross bar and, moments later, following a great run down the wing, he crossed for Power who was denied by Cobb.

On virtually the stroke of full time, Daryl Craft was dismissed for a second bookable offense - a very late challenge on Jordan Bostock.

The first period of extra-time nearly got off to a sensational start when, right from the off, John Sapsford tried a cheeky shot but Cobb was alert enough to prevent any potential embarrassment. Minutes later, a thunderbolt from Rikki Burbridge hit under side of bar and bounced out to safety. Harefield struck back and from six yards out, with the goal beckoning, Nelson just failed to connect. Despite the numerical advantage, The Abbotts could not find the winning goal they deserved and nearly came unstuck when, in the last minute, Daniel Barance, did a Kanu impression to blast over in front of an open goal.

In the penalty shoot-out, Hickman was the hero of the hour as he saved three out of the four kicks against him.

The penalty kicks went thus :

#	Harefield United		Waltham Abbey	Score
1	Craig Totten	Saved	Lee White	Scored 0-1
2	Ben Rowens	Saved	Ben Cooper	Saved 0-1
3	Daniel Barance	Scored	Bill Holland	Scored 1-2
4	Leon Nelson	Saved	John Sapsford	Scored 1-3

Team:

Hickman, Ayres, L.Sontag, J.Bostock, Forde (White), Page, A.Bostock (Holland), Rutherford (Cooper), M.Sontag, Elmes (Burbridge), Power (Sapsford)

## ***Waltham Abbey v Ruislip Manor (Final)***

**Waltham Abbey            2 (2)    Burbridge 8, Elmes 13**  
**Ruislip Manor            0 (0)**  
**Middx Millennium Cup - Final**  
**Thursday, 19 May 2005**  
**Att : 412**  
**At Brentford FC**

The Abbots traveled to Brentford FC's Griffin Park for this one-off show piece final, to celebrate 1300 years of Middlesex, against Ruislip Manor, which, in truth, was won inside the first 15 minutes with two cracking goals.

The Abbots started the stronger with Rikki Burbridge and Harry Elmes terrorizing the Manor defense at will. On 8min, The Abbots made the breakthrough which their play deserved when a period of pressure culminated in Westley Rutherford being up ended just outside the "D". Up stepped Burbridge, who gave Steve Flower no chance, as he curled the free-kick into the top corner.

From the restart, Darren Murphy launched a clearance into The Abbots area for Toby Francis to chance his arm but John Hickman made a comfortable save. From the resultant clearance Harry Elmes single handily carved the Manor defense to shreds and finished with some aplomb to put The Abbots two up.

From then on, the Manor changed their tactics by actually playing the ball around instead of just hoofing it up field at every opportunity and started to enjoy more possession. Mark Smith tried his luck with a long free-kick which Hickman saved with ease and Francis had a good effort which was just wide of the mark.

On the half hour, Lee Sontag had a trade-mark run prematurely and illegally brought to an end by a covering defender. Luke Power delivered a pin point free kick which was headed just over. Minutes later, Ryan Upton blasted over from a good position. Just before the break Francis forced Hickman into another fine save and Burbridge nearly emulated his earlier goal but this time his free kick was just over.

At the start of the second half Flower pulled off a good save from a Burbridge header to keep the Manor in the game. The Abbots had a lot of possession and, once again, forced the Manor to defend deep. On 55min a Lee White / Burbridge free kick just outside the "D" nearly produced dividends and minutes later Elmes was unlucky not to capitalize on a poorly headed back pass from Murphy.

Fighting to get back into the contest, the Manor enjoyed a purple patch as the match entered the final quarter and carved out a couple of good changes. First, Upton worked his way into a good position but scooped his shot over the bar with only Hickman to beat and then, seconds later, Francis stabbed a shot wide from close in.

The pendulum swung again and it was The Abbots who enjoyed a period of concerted pressure for the remainder of the game. On the stroke of full-time, following a superb run from John Sapsford, Sam Underhill was just a whisker away from connecting at the far post.

Team:

Hickman, Ayres (M.Sontag), L.Sontag, J.Bostock, Forde, Page, White, Burbridge (Sapsford), Elmes (Underhill), Rutherford (Cooper), Power (A.Bostock)

## Cup Final Photographs



2004/05 Trophies  
Middlesex Millennium Cup, u/18s, ESL League Cup,  
Roy Bailey Memorial Trophy, Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy



Outside "Griffin Park" Brentford FC



Waltham Abbey FC Players inspecting the pitch.



Waltham Abbey FC players inspecting the pitch



Waltham Abbey FC Assistant Manager Lee Johnson



Waltham Abbey FC Mascot Steph



Waltham Abbey FC Chairman Joe Collins



Waltham Abbey FC Match Secretary Derek Bird



Teams enter the arena ...



... and shake hands





Presentation to the dignitaries



Waltham Abbey celebrate scoring their first goal





After the presentations



Celebration time... Ben Cooper, John Hickman, Rikki Burbridge, Jordan Bostock (captain)



Harry Elmes joins in



Back Row : John Sapsford, Wesley Forde, Albert Bostock, Dan Page, Luke Power, Rikki Burbridge, John Hickman, Marc Sontag, Harry Elmes  
 Front Row : Dave Ayres, Ben Cooper, Westley Rutherford, Jordan Bostock (captain), Lee Sontag, Lee White