

Ware FC Records

Presidents:

Mr. Cox	1892 - ????
Col. R P Croft ¹	1912 – 1922
Col. McMullen	1922 – 1924
Sir T G Devitt Bt ²	1924 – 1927
C (Charles) Ward	1928 – 1950
E Whybrew	1951 – 1959
A A (Albert Alfred) Wiggall	1959 – 1968
N E W (Norman) Loweth	1968 – 1975
C T (Cecil) Hudson	1996 - 2012
W (Wally) Luck	2012 -

Chairmen:

R Hatherill	1935/6 - 1939 approx
W Sampford	1939 - 1947
G Devonshire	1947 - 1950 approx
C Petty	1951/2 approx
W Knight	1952 - 1957
C Petty	1957 - 1964
A J (Jimmy) E Crane	1964 - 1970
N (Norman) E W Loweth ³	1970 - 1975
M (Malcolm) M Urquhart	1975 - 1978
M (Malcolm) J Allington	1978 - 1982
P (Pat) T Danahar	1982 - 1984
C T (Cecil) Hudson	1984 - 1996
W (Wally) Luck	1996 – 2002
S (Steve) King	2002 – 2003
A (Aiden) Mynott	2003 – 2011
M (Mick) Clarke	2011 – 2012
M (Mike) Varney	2012 - 2013
I (İnanç) Elitok	2014 -

Secretaries:

T W Jennings	1892 – 1920
P (Percy) Albany	1920 – 1923
E C Crook	1923 – 1931
R W Whittaker	1932 – 1938

¹ Richard Page Croft had been in the Militia/Territorials and served in the Boer War and then the Great War in which he commanded the 4th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment.

² Sir Thomas Gordon Devitt 1902 to 1995, England rugby union international 1926-8, Cambridge blue and later CO of the Raiding Support Regt 1940 to 1945. At one time he lived at Great Cozens, Ware.

³ Originally the role of chairman was as chair of the management committee with the prime movers in the club being the secretary and treasurer. It is hard to pinpoint when this started to change but Norman Loweth was perhaps the first chairman who was appointed to act as more than someone to chair committee meetings.

A J Risby	1939 – 1948
B W (Bernard) Crook	1948 – 1965
C T (Cecil) Hudson	1965 – 1984
C J (Colin) Dance	1984 – 1990
M (Martin) Rose	1990 – 1995 (Match Secretary)
C T (Cecil) Hudson	1990 – 1995 (General Secretary)
I (Ian) Bush	1995 – 2008
S (Sean) Mynott	2008 – 2009
F (Fred) Plume	2009 – 2012
S (Steve) King	2012 – 2012 (Interim)
S (Sean) Mynott	2012 – 2014
W (Bill) Spink	2014 -

Treasurers:

C Green	1892 - 1904?
B (Bernard) Catling	1904? - 1913
C E Catling ⁴	1913 – 1914
E W Nicholls	1925 – 1929
E Whybrew	1930 – 1950
C Carter	1951 – 1952
R (Ron) Blakes	1952 – 1962
C T (Cecil) Hudson	1962 – 1965
R W (Ron) Slowe	1965 – 1968
W F (Bill) Bridges	1968 – 1969
S (Steve) King	1969 – 1978
C J (Colin) Dance	1978 – 1984
S (Steve) Rowley	1984 – 1986
D (Doug) Lief	1986 – 1988
J Murphy	1988 – 1989
C (Christine) Dance	1989 – 1990
N (Nigel) Lee	1990 – 1996
S (Steve) Yates	1996 - 2002
S (Sean) Mynott	2002 – 2004
S (Steve) King	Feb 2005 – Oct 2007
J (Jon) Bliss	Oct 2007 – 2009 (designated Financial Manager)
S (Steve) King	May 2011 – May 2012
N (Norman) Hankin	2012 - 2014
H (Hayley) Elitok	2014 -

Managers:

E (Ernie) C Beecham	1947 ⁵ - 1949
H F Powell	1949 – 1950
Tommy Law ⁶	1950 – 1955

⁴ One source has Bernard Catling as Treasurer from 1904 though this may be the result of confusion with his brother E C Catling. In his book “An Intention To Play” Steve King has Bernard's start year as 1912 though a copy of the balance sheet of 1912/3 suggests this should have been his final season.

⁵ Until 1950 teams continued to be selected by a sub-committee though doubtless, from 1947, in consultation with the manager.

Cyril Walker ⁷	1955 - 1956
Jimmy Crane	1956 - 1964 (with Derek Saunders 1963/4)
Harry Hibbs ⁸	July to October 1960
C F (Pip) Pearson	1964 - 1966
Len Bayliss	1966 - 1969
Peter Fox	1969 - 1970
John Sargeant	1970 - 1971
Reg Williams	1971 - 1976
Jacky Price	1976 - 1977
John Godleman	1977 – 1980 (first match 19 th March 1977)
Barry Hewitt	1980 - 1982
Colin Anderson	1982 - 1983
Arthur Hayes	1983 - 1984
Ralph Coates ⁹	1984 - 1985
John Godleman	1985 - 1990
Steve Turner	1990 - 1991
Stuart Todd	1991 - 1995
John Godleman	1995 - 1996
Dermot Drummy ¹⁰	1996 - 1996 (until 17 th December 1996)
Steve Ringrose	1996 - 2000 (from 21 st December 1996)
Dave Edwards	2000
Graham Norcott	2000 - 2002
Dave Pentecost	2002 - 2004
Jim Clemo	2004 - 2005
Glen Alzapiedi	2005 - 2008
Dennis Greene	2008 - 2009
Paul Halsey	2009
Tony Faulkner	2009 - 2011
Stuart Nethercott ¹¹	2011 - 2012
Kristian Munt	2012
Nicky Ironton	2012 – 14 th Dec 2013
Kem Kemal	28 th Dec 2013 – 7 th Nov 2015
Ken Charlery	7 th Nov 2015 - 3 rd Jan 2017
Anwar Uddin	3 rd Jan 2017 - 27 th Mar 2017
Kem Kemal	27 th Mar 2017 - 6 th Dec 2017
Craig Edwards	6 th Dec 2017 - 2 nd Jan 2018
John Dreyer ¹²	9 th Jan 2018 - 25 th August 2018
Paul Halsey	25 th August 2018

⁶ Tommy Law (1908 to 1976) was a former Chelsea player and Scottish international, one of the Wembley Wizards who trounced England 5-1 on their home turf on 31st March 1928.

⁷ The former professional with Gillingham amongst others. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_Walker_\(footballer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_Walker_(footballer))

⁸ Harry Hibbs player 25 games for England as a goalkeeper and kept a clean sheet in ten of those games. He resigned the manager's role on medical advice.

⁹ Ralph Coates (1946 to 2010) was the former Burnley, Spurs and England player and appeared in numerous games for Ware.

¹⁰ Dermot Drummy (1961 to 2017) left to join the youth staff at Arsenal. Later he moved to Chelsea and managed their U-21 side to the Premier League title amongst several other achievements. He was appointed their international head coach in 2014 before moving to manage Crawley in League Two in 2016.

¹¹ Stuart Nethercott, the former Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall player.

¹² John Dreyer was a player with Luton Town, Bradford City, Stoke City, Oxford United and Stevenage amongst others. He was also assistant manager at Stevenage and Preston North End.

Players' Appearances (over 400):

Gary L Riddle	654
Stuart Todd	481
Steve Ratcliff	479
Jon Bridge	435
Dave Farenden	423
Alf W Cliss	417
Ben E Isaac	402

First player to reach one hundred appearances:

Edmund Pearce on February 19th, 1898 at home to Clove, a 3-0 win. Pearce was also the first to two and three hundred appearances.

Family ties:

The Chapman brothers C, B and F formed the complete half back line in the Herts Charity Cup match against Hailey Rovers on September 24th 1910 and again in the following week's Herts County League match with Hatfield United.

Longest run of appearances:

125 by Horst Breiting.¹³ The run commenced on 8th September 1951 in the 4-1 home defeat to Hatfield Town in the Spartan League Division One (Horst scored our goal). It ended on 26th April 1954 in another home defeat this time 3-2 to Tufnell Park Edmonton in the Spartan League Premier Division.

This record was originally noted as 122 but during this period Horst also appeared in three games that were abandoned. All three abandonments occurred in the second half of the games, one as late as the 83rd minute. Given that any player starting a match in the era of substitutions may well be withdrawn from the game after much less time but still have the appearance credited to their record it seems reasonable to add these games to Horst's record.

The 122 completed games ended with 88 wins for Ware and 23 defeats with goals for (including those in the abandoned games) coming to 419 and against totalling 202.

Most appearances in one season:

Paul Messer – 52 games out of 55 played in 1965/6 before the advent of floodlights. In the era of substitutes Paul Burton appears in 62 competitive games out of the 64 played in 2007/8

¹³ Horst Breiting served with the Afrika Korps in WWII and was captured in 1942. He was held in a prison camp in the US before coming to Britain after the war. He didn't want to return to his home town in what was by then East Germany and gained permission to stay in Britain where he made his home.

National recognition whilst with Ware:

Bernard Catling - played in the South vs North trial match for the England amateur side on 10th February 1908. Match drawn 1-1.

Luke Woods - selected for the Malta Under-21 side for matches against Bosnia-Herzegovina (twice), Wales and France in 2007.

Mackye Townsend-West – Played for Montserrat in the Concacaf Nations League 2024.

Youngest player:

Danny Gibbs - 15 years and 329 days when he made his debut as a substitute in the 3-0 Herts Senior Cup defeat at Cheshunt on 2nd November 1999.

Ethan Gannon - 16 years and 26 days when he played in goal for the full ninety minutes in a drawn Isthmian League Cup group game at Histon on 24th September 2019 and was 16 years and 44 days when keeping goal for a full Isthmian League win by 3-1 at Bedfont Sports on 19th October 2019.

Cameron Currie - 16 years and 229 days when he played outfield for the full ninety minutes in a Southern League Cup 2-2 draw against Northwood on 13th October 2015.

Youngest scorers:

Sonny Silenti - 16 years and 34 days when he scored in the 2-1 defeat at Redbridge on 24th March 2012.

Danny Gibbs - 16 years and 148 days when he scored twice in the 5-2 home win over Kingsbury on 4th May 2000.

Daniel Bradford - 16 years and 289 days when he scored in the 4-1 win at Witham Town on 9th December 2006.

Goal Scorers (over 100):

Harry Blakes	287
M (Mo) Hibbert ¹⁴	230
Cyril Long	183
Damon Miles ¹⁵	168
George H Dearman	159
John Frendo ¹⁶	149
Alf W Cliss	121
Ben E Isaac	120
Fred (Topper) Clark	113
Graham Tibbals	110
Derek J Tucker	105

Most goals in a season (individual):

George H Dearman¹⁷ 98 (1926/7)

George Dearman also scored in fifteen consecutive matches (a record for the club) covering the end of the 1925/6 season and the beginning of the next. The total of goals in this run was 34 making an average of over two a game. His record may be longer (18 games) as the scorers in the match preceding this run were not recorded.

Harry Blakes was another who scored in fifteen consecutive matches in the 1899/1900 season scoring 33 goals. Like Dearman's record, Blakes' is also potentially longer (though only by one game) because the scorers in the preceding match were not recorded.

Most goals in a season (team):

188 in 1926/7 – P39 W31 D2 L6 GF188 GA79

Most goals in a league season (team):

131¹⁸ in 1951/2 Spartan League Division One - P30 W24 D3 L3 GF131 GA44

¹⁴ Mo's performance was one of persistence. He was never top scorer in any of his eleven seasons at the club but persevered whilst other star names like Fred Clark and Cyril Long flared and then disappeared.

¹⁵ Damon Miles was Isthmian League Div 2 top scorer in season 1994/5. His all seasons total includes sixteen hat tricks which included scoring all Ware's goals in a 4-1 win at Hungerford Town in 1994/5.

¹⁶ John Frendo represented the club in five out of six consecutive seasons and was top scorer each season. He also won the Isthmian League top scorer award in 2007/8 and was the highest scorer throughout Step 4 that season.

¹⁷ George Dearman's total included two six-goal hauls, five fives, four fours and seven hat tricks.

¹⁸ This is the highest "goals for" total recorded in the Spartan League and the highest "goals per game" in it and its successor the Spartan South Midlands League.

Most goals in one game (eight):

Harry Blakes vs Hoddesdon Town - East Herts League Division 1 17th February 1900 (13-0)

Most goals in a game (seven):

Fred Clark for the reserves vs Argos Rovers – Rolleston Cup 2nd January 1954 (13-0)

Most goals in one game (six):

G J Pearce vs Welwyn - Friendly, 28th December 1895 (9-0)

Walter Green vs Stevenage Town – Herts County League North and East Division, 29th April 1922 (9-1)

George H Dearman vs Kryn & Lahy (Letchworth) - Herts Senior Cup Rd 3, 19th February 1927 (8-0)

George H Dearman vs Hatfield United – Perry Cup Semi-Final, 28th April 1927 (9-1)

B Darton vs Ministry of Health – Spartan League Div. 2 (East), 13th April 1929 (8-0)

*A Todd*¹⁹ at Harlow Town - Spartan League Div. 2 (East), 29th October 1938 (6-1)

Most goals in one game (five):

G B Newport at Ware Excelsior - Friendly, 22nd April 1899 (7-0)

Harry Blakes vs Port Vale Rovers - East Herts League Div. 1, 7th October 1899 (9-1)

C Wheeler at Hoddesdon Town - Herts Senior Cup Round Two, 23rd December 1899 (12-1)

G Newell vs Bishop's Stortford - Friendly, 2nd October 1909 (7-4)

G Newell vs Hailey Rovers - Herts Charity Cup Round One, 24th September 1910 (5-0)

Petts vs Sawbridgeworth Town - East Herts League Div. One, 9th April 1921 (8-0)

Joe Long vs Norton - Herts County League (North East), 17th December 1921 (10-2)

Walter Green vs Letchworth Town - Herts County League, 15th March 1924 (9-1)

Brenchley vs Bishop's Stortford - Herts Charity Shield Round One, 24th October 1925 (10-0)

George H Dearman on five separate occasions in 1926/7

Neal vs Lea Bridge Gas - Spartan League Division Two (East), 15th April 1933 (8-2)

A Todd at Allenburys - Friendly, 18th November 1939 (7-4)

Fred "Topper" Clark at Wingate - FA Cup Preliminary Round, 17th September 1949 (5-1)

Cyril Long at Epping Town - Spartan League Div. One, 29th December 1951 (9-0)

Cyril Long vs Berkhamsted Town - Herts Charity Cup Rd 1, 19th August 1953 (12-2)

Ben Isaac vs Welwyn Garden City - Perry Cup Round One, 25th April 1955 (7-1)

Derek Tucker vs Rickmansworth Town - FA Amateur Cup 1st Qualifying Round, 19th October 1963 (12-3)

Neil Prosser vs Eastbourne United - Isthmian League Division 2, 17th December 1983 (7-0)

¹⁹ Todd was to die in the Second World War.

Last person to score four goals in one game:

Jon Clements at Hertford Town – Southern League Division One (Central), 26th August 2024 (5-1).

Fastest debut goal?

Elliot Bailey scored after 30 seconds of his first game for the club in the 4-2 defeat at Kings Langley in the Southern League Division One (Central) on 21st November 2015.

Best goal scoring on debut:

Mo Hibbert scored four on his debut in the Spartan League Division One (East) game at home to Harlow Town on 6th March 1948. Ware won 11-0

Bernie Skeggs scored four on his debut in the Athenian League Division Two game at home to Aylesbury United on 21st November 1964. Ware won 8-2.

First player sin-binned:

Geggs Awoyemi was sin binned in the Under-23 fixture at Bury Town on Monday, 9th September 2019. Sin bins or temporary dismissals for ten minutes had been introduced by the FA for all games up to Step 5. There was no explanation as to why the referee chose to sin-bin a player at this level.

Best start to a season:

2019/20 - Thirteen competitive games unbeaten from 17th August to 1st October inclusive covering eight wins and five draws with 39 goals scored and 19 conceded.

1973/4 - Five consecutive league wins from 18th August to 1st September with 15 goals scored and two conceded.

Best winning sequence (all games):

13th November 1926 to 13th March 1927 inclusive.
P16 W16 D0 L0 GF84 GA20

Best undefeated sequence (all games):

10th February 1973 to 1st September 1973 inclusive.
P21 W15 D6 L0 GF52 GA20

Worst losing sequence (all games):

8th September 1981 to 22nd October 1981 inclusive.
P12 W0 D0 L12 GF4 GA25

Worst non-winning sequence (all games):

9th August 1983 to 19th November 1983 inclusive.
P27 W0 D5 L22 GF14 GA90

Best winning sequence (league):

4th February 1967 to 11th April 1967 inclusive (Athenian League Division Two).
P11 W11 D0 L0 GF33 GA6

Ware Reserves 28th November 1970 to 22nd February 1971 inclusive (Athenian League Division Two Reserve Section Autumn and Spring leagues, the spring competition was won with a 100% record).
P16 W16 D0 L0 GF54 GA10

Best undefeated sequence (league):

26th January 1952 to 28th February 1953 inclusive (Spartan League Division One and Premier Division). P27 W24 D3 L0 GF100 GA28

Worst losing sequence (league):

4th April 1983 to 24th September 1983 inclusive (Isthmian League Division Two).
P14 W0 D0 L14 GF5 GA47

Worst non-winning sequence (league):

4th April 1983 to 19th November 1983 inclusive (Isthmian League Division Two).
P24 W0 D2 L22 GF12 GA80

Longest run of most compressed fixtures:

6th March 2014 to 26th April 2014 inclusive. This was caused by postponements for bad weather earlier in the season and success in the Isthmian League Cup. Games were played at the rate of three a week throughout this period of seven weeks and three days. P23 W8 D5 L10 GF39 GA36

Biggest home win:

Ware 14 Broxbourne 0 - Friendly, 18th January 1896 & Ware 13 Hoddesdon Town 0 - East Herts League Div 1, 17th February 1900
Ware 'A'²⁰ 24 Rye Park 0 - 29th October 1938.

²⁰ In a period after the end of the first world war up to the second world war the reserve side played as Ware 'A'

Biggest away win:

Hoddesdon Town 1 Ware 12 - Herts Senior Cup Rd 2, 23rd December 1899

Heaviest home defeat:

Ware 2 Dulwich Hamlet Reserves 12 - Friendly, 9th September 1946

Heaviest away defeat:

Barnet 11 Ware 0 - Herts Senior Cup Semi-Final, 23rd March 1940 & Walthamstow Ave 11 Ware 0 - FA Amateur Cup Rd 2, 22nd January 1955

Most goals in a game - 15:

Ware 14 Gordon Rovers 1 - Friendly, 4th April 1896. Ware scorers were Hurford 4, G Pearce 3, Newport 4, E Pearce 2, Albany

Ware 8 Tufnell Park 7 - Friendly, 28th August 1938. Ware scorers were Todd 3, Orme 2, Whittaker, Wallace, Wilbourne.

Earliest goal?:

Spencer Pugh scored after 13 seconds in the league cup home win over Whyteleaf on 12th November 1991.

Highest scoring draw:

Ware 6 Tilbury 6 - Associate Members Trophy Round 1, 11th December 1990. Ware scorers were Lol Stapleton 3, Spencer Pugh, Dave Barker and an own goal. This was after extra time. The replay was drawn 1-1 (Stapleton) with Ware winning through 6-5 on penalties, again after extra time.

Best start to a game?:

Ware went 2-0 up against Northwood in the first 63 seconds of the Isthmian League Division One (North) game played at Wodson Park on 8th December 2007. Chris Ellerbeck and Paul Burton were the scorers. Ellerbeck and Steve Horsey scored further goals in what was ultimately a 4-1 win.

Highest attendance (home):

3,800 - 12th January 1957, FA Amateur Cup Round 1, Ware 1 Hendon 1 at The Recreation Ground (Buryfield)

Highest attendance at current ground:

2,123 - 10th November 2007, FA Cup Round 1, Ware 0 Kidderminster Harriers 2.

Highest attendance (away):

10,982 - 16th November 1968, FA Cup Round 1, Luton Town 6 Ware 1
7,100 - 23rd January 1954, FA Amateur Cup Round 1, Bishop Auckland 6 Ware 1

Grounds

Presdales	1892 - 1892 or 1893
Highfields ²¹	1892 or 1893 – 1899
Canons Park	1899 – 1901
London Road ²²	1901 - 1921
Presdales Lower Park ²³	1921 - 1923
Page's (or Albany's) Field ²⁴	1923 - 1926
The Recreation Ground ²⁵	1926 - 1995 ²⁶
Wodson Park	1995 ²⁷ -

Musley Fields was also used from time to time for reserve matches pre-WWI.

²¹ The location would appear to be what is now the home of Hertford Rugby Club.

²² This is approximately where the Marsh Lane industrial site is now located.

²³ It is likely that this was much the same location as the club's first ground in 1892.

²⁴ This appears to have been land close to what is now Fanshawe Crescent.

²⁵ Erroneously but popularly referred to as Buryfield. Buryfield was actually the adjacent land occupied by Allen & Hanbury's factory.

²⁶ The last league game was played on 4th November 1995 against Hungerford Town (a 1-0 defeat) and the last match of any kind on 21st November 1995 in the Roy Bailey Memorial Trophy against Brimsdown Rovers (a 4-2 win).

²⁷ The first match at Wodson Park was a league game played on 2nd December 1995 against Collier Row (a 2-0 defeat).