

priced just £1 – with giveaways and competitions – including the chance to win an online subscription to The NLP – with proceeds going towards Prostate Cancer UK. Last year, they raised £7,500 for the charity.

Supporters can even book a boarding pass and a seat on a 16-seat minibus for £5 return that leaves Harlow Town sta-

tion at 8.30am by pre-booking via secretary@essexsenior-league.co.uk

League secretary Michelle Dorling said: “Non-League football isn’t just about football, it’s about being an asset to the community.

“Mostly it’s a place where people can feel they belong, that they are appreciated and welcomed.”

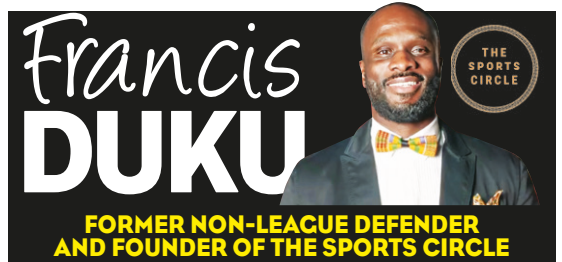
• TOOTING & Mitcham are offering free entry for every parent of any age, when accompanied by their son/daughter, for their game against Badshot Lea.

• Fans can also get involved in a Soccer Skills and Penalty Shootout competition, while discounts will also be available on club merchandise.

• The club are also offering free 1932 Club Membership, including money-off vouchers.

• CHIPPENHAM Town are offering all season ticket holders of EFL & Premier League sides discounted entry (£10 off) as they look to “Pack The Park” for their National League South match with Chelmsford City.

• At the same time, all Chippenham Town season ticket holders will receive a free drink from the Bluebirds Bar.



Francis DUKU

FORMER NON-LEAGUE DEFENDER AND FOUNDER OF THE SPORTS CIRCLE

ONE BIG A TEAM EFFORT

EXCITEMENT is really building for Non-League Day – we’re looking forward to another enjoyable occasion.

Clubs and leagues are ramping up their own preparations, the @non-leaguedayuk social media mentions are really filling up too as the whole game gets involved.

As always, there are so many great ideas. Every club can have a different one – and a different reason behind it – to encourage people through the turnstiles. It’s a great day to test out ideas. Does it work? Is there a good appetite for a particular offer? Generally people find out there is. Then can you rinse, repeat and build and consider how to best make use of the day to become more sustainable and grow.

For many, Non-League Day has been their entry into this level of the game. They loved it and now keep coming back regularly. When Non-League Day was founded in 2010 by James Doe, who’d have thought it would spread as far and wide as it has?

The fact this idea has taken itself through Europe just shows the strength of interest that exists for clubs at these levels. Over the years we’ve had conversations with groups from Holland, Germany and France. Athletic Bilbao now hold their own version in the Basque region – and this year we’ve got support from Palermo and Juventus.

To see European giants like Juve linking up with Maidenhead United and Barnton because of this campaign is amazing.

As always, it’s a huge team effort. We are a small team ourselves and this year have worked with the likes of The Premier League, Prostate Cancer UK, The FSA’s Fans for Diversity, and our new friends in both Italy and Spain among others, to be able to put the day together!

As an official partner, The Sports Circle is launching its #SaferTogether campaign with this year’s event – and the statistics make clear why it’s badly needed.

As I’ve previously discussed in this column, at least 12 young people in the UK die every week from undiagnosed heart conditions, many with no previous symptoms, and playing sport can be a trigger. Also alarming is around 5,300 men die by suicide in the UK each year and it is the single largest cause of death for men under 50 – tragic events that are very worthy of our attention.

I set up The Sports Circle to use sport and exercise as a medium to create healthier communities, including by improving individual physical and mental health. Our #SaferTogether campaign enables us to provide meaningful support to Non-League clubs who want to deliver to their communities.

Working with companies including Vitality, HSE, MIAL Healthcare, Isokinetic London, Sports Interactive, Powerleague, Myzone, and Cream Financial Services, we’ve built infrastructure that makes our foundational membership – The Support Circle – completely FREE to all. Everyone who joins receives access to CircleCare: 24/7 telephone mental health support for the whole family, up to six face-to-face counselling sessions, and a pathway that reduces or fully covers the cost of a cardiac screen. Consider this our investment in you – but we need at least 1,000 members to deliver it. Every registration isn’t just a sign-up. It’s an act of collective protection.

This is what #SaferTogether means. It’s not a hashtag. It’s a movement that needs 1,000 people to get started. No subscription. No barrier. No reason not to. Register at thesportscircle.co.uk – and be one of the 1,000.

BOARD WITH CELEBRATION

REBELS NET FLIX DATE FOR BIG REUNION

FC UNITED of Manchester are welcoming back old friends to celebrate Non-League Day – to repay a club who hold a special place in their history.

Back in 2005, Flixton FC took a chance on the newly-established Red Rebels, agreeing to give them only their fourth ever game.

Flixton FC were eventually dissolved in 2012 but have now returned and applied to join the North West Counties League for the 2026-27 season.

Now, 21 years, and four promotions on from the clubs’ first meeting, FC United have used a free week from their NPL Premier promotion programme to invite their neighbours back for a celebratory reunion as Flixton FC embark on their own exciting journey.

Flixton managers Alex Mortimer and Rhodri Giggs are both FC United legends hav-

By Jon Couch

ing helped the club to a league and cup double in 2006-07 – in only their second ever season.

Mortimer, a tough-tackling left-back, made 44 appearances for the Rebels, scoring twice, while Giggs, who like his brother Ryan was a pacy left-winger, scored 18 goals during two spells with the club, between 2006-07 and 2012-14.

Giggs said: “All the lads are really looking forward to playing FC United.

“I always enjoy going back to Broadhurst Park because I have fond memories there. They are the best fans in the world for me.

“I’m sure we’ll bring plenty of our fans too for what should be a great match.”

Prices for the match, which kicks off at 3pm, are just £10 for adults, £6 concessions and £2 for under-18s.



• KINGS Langley are rolling out a range of exciting offers to help boost the crowd for the visit of Spartan South Midlands play-off rivals Biggleswade United to The Orbital Fasteners Stadium.

The club are offering 50% off adult entry if you:

- Bring your dog
- Wear Kings Langley club merchandise
- Present a Blue Light Card
- Show a Premier League or EFL season ticket

Whether you’re a regular or a first-time visitor, there’s never been a better opportunity to come along and enjoy the action.

• HIGHWORTH Town will be waving goodbye to the grass in style when they face Fairford Town in a tasty Hellenic League derby.

The club will be playing their last game on the current surface before work starts on their new 3G pitch. Live music from Jordan Marvell will then take place in the clubhouse, from 5pm to 7pm.

Kick-off is at 2pm and groundhoppers are welcome before the grass is dug up.

• WROXHAM are offering admission at £5 for adults, £4 concessions and £1.50 for 16-18 year-olds for their visit of Stanway Rovers in Isthmian North – if you pre-book before midnight on Thursday March 26.

Under 16s will be admitted free with a paying adult.