

## SPORT

## sport

## Football

**Clapton assistant manager Wayne Seal is looking forward to coming up against former colleague AJ Ashanike as they face Tower Hamlets this weekend.**

The Tons host east London rivals Hamlets at the Old Spotted Dog on Saturday (3pm kick-off) and Seal believes it's got everything to be a great match.

"I know their joint-manager AJ quite well," he said.

"I know him on a personal level so that adds a bit of spice to the match for both of us."

Seal's men moved up into seventh place in the win with last week's 3-1 win against Sporting Bengal but still sit one spot behind their opponents in the Essex Senior League table.

"They're going on a bit of a run this season and are in really good form right now so there confidence is going to be sky high.

"It's a derby so it will be a good to get the bragging rivals over them, but it's not just about that it's mainly about getting the three points.

The former Witham Town and Ilford first-team coach admits he is expecting a real game of football and also revealed how important the league points are for the Forest Gate-based club.

"I'm looking forward to getting back to league action and getting some points on the board as well," Seal said. "It's going to be a good old fashioned ding dong battle as both teams like to play football.

"It's got all the ingredients of an exciting game.

"The league campaign is really important to Jon, the club and I as we want to have a real go at it.

"Last year the club had a really good season and we want to do that again."

Seal and Ashanike worked alongside each other at Ilford last season and Seal admits he is looking forward to coming up against him and seeing how he has improved the Mile End-based club.

"It will be nice to see AJ again as we worked together at Ilford last season," he said.

"I know they have Wale who I worked with at Ilford and he's a good player.

"I'm sure AJ has brought some good new faces into the club as well.

"Tower Hamlets are a big community club so I know they look to integrate players in from the youth set up as well."



Youngsters from the Bobby Moore Academy cut the ribbon to officially open the new track at Stratford.

Picture: NEB

# It's a new era for Newham and for Beagles athletics as they move into Stratford

**When the Olympic Stadium was built in Stratford, it came with a promise that Newham & Essex Beagles would be able to use the warm-up track in the future.**

And that day came last Wednesday when the new London Marathon Community Track was opened in a special ceremony.

A host of dignitaries were there for the opening which included the naming of the stand after London Marathon founders Chris Brasher and John Disley.

It has been five years since the Olympics and much has changed since those days with West Ham United making the stadium their home, so is it a worthwhile move for the Beagles.

Club patron Tony Shiret certainly thinks so: "The track itself is superb and it is so much easier for our athletes to get to," he said. "It will be a new part of

## Athletics

Newham for us to tap into and the facilities are excellent."

Beagles athletes Asha Philip and Rabah Yousif were both in attendance, while Beagles coach George Choat put a 20-strong group of year seven athletes from the nearby Bobby Moore Academy through their paces.

"It is different to the Terence McMillan Stadium, but hopefully in the future it will be better," said Tony. "We will still be able to use the indoor facilities there for the next year."

But it is not all plain sailing for the Beagles as Shiret admits.

"It only has six lanes which means that we will not be able to have British League matches there," he said. "We haven't had one since 2011 and we will be able to have other matches there."

There were a number of

speeches at the ceremony with Philip saying. "I warmed up here ahead of winning my silver medal and it's great it is now being opened up for kids and my fellow Beagles to use.

"Having such an amazing new facility next to the Stadium that hosted the Olympics, Paralympics and World Championships is really exciting."

Shiret added: "We have a proud history in athletics and have seen some of the greats compete for our club including Sir Mo Farah, Daley Thompson and now Asha Philip and Rabah Yousif.

"This fabulous new facility will help us bring on the next World and Olympic champions and to serve the families of Newham."

Change is never easy and there may well be some teething problems along the way, but this could mean a great new era for Newham and the Beagles.

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**AC Milano returned to winning ways in the Essex Combination at the weekend with a comfortable 2-0 win over Forest Elite.**

With no wins in their last three games, they needed to get back to winning ways and they did it with a battling display.

Milano were awarded a penalty in the first half when Zuber Patel

was fouled and Shamraz Darr slotted the kick past the Forest keeper.

They had a whole host of chances to add to that, but Forest hit back after the break and won a penalty.

However, Milano keeper Mohammed Ali denied them with a fine save.

Chance came and went for Milano after that, including an

incredible open goal miss by Charlie Parker.

They finally made the game safe when substitute Umar Faruk Ahmed scored with a right-foot finish.

**Milano: M Ali, S Darr, N Kakuji, U Hussain, W Ahmed, I Khan, T Hussain, A Semiu, S Karim, Z Patel, C Parker, U Faruk, R Shafqat, F Mehboob, M Saeed, A Ali.**

## sport

## School Sport

**Aldersbrook years five and six boys' football team had plenty to celebrate after winning the Langdon School Sports partnership football competition.**

Forty schools took part in the event, with teams split into eight groups of five for the first round.

The top two in each group then qualified for the knockout stages, which began with the round of 16, followed by the quarter-finals.

Aldersbrook had safely negotiated their way to the semi-finals, along St Anthony's, Elmhurst and Rosetta.

The semi-finals saw plenty of drama, with both ties going to a penalty shoot-out and Aldersbrook and Elmhurst progressing to the final, with Rosetta winning the play-off for third.

In the final, Aldersbrook were able to record a 2-0 victory over Elmhurst to claim the title and be crowned champions at the end of what was a thrilling day of competition.

## Football Extra

**Upton Park FC will celebrate the first ever goal in the FA Cup with a special match against Clapham Rovers on November 5.**

The first ever goal in the famous old competition was scored on November 11 1871 by Clapham Rovers' Jarvis Kendrik at West Ham Park, where the celebratory game will take place.

Kick-off is at 1.15pm with free entry, and the park is just a five minute walk from West Ham tube station.

There will also be a football skills competition for boys aged 13 and under on the day, with entrants advised to arrive at 1pm for a 1.30pm start.

The winner of the skills competition will receive two tickets to the final of this season's FA Cup, and will also be presented with a trophy from former West Ham United Academy director Tony Carr.

All other participants will receive certificates. Anyone interested in taking part in the event is required to register, which can be done at <http://bit.do/dLjgd>.