

Cristian Damian BATTOCCHIO (2012-2014) Midfielder

Born Rosario, Argentina, 10 February 1992

Representative Honours

Argentina Under-15

Italy Youth & Under-21

Watford Career

Football League: 37+22 appearances (6 goals)

FA Cup: 3+1 appearances

Football League Cup: 3 appearances (1 goal)

Début: (as sub) 1-5 away defeat v Derby County, Football League Championship, 1 Sep 2012

Final game: 1-4 home defeat v Huddersfield Town, Football League Championship, 3 May 2014

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 22; all competitions 25



Career Path

Newell's Old Boys (*Argentina*); Udinese (*Italy*) (€200,000 2009); **WATFORD** (loan August 2012, free July 2013); Entella Chiavari (*Italy*) (loan August 2014); Stadt Brestois 29 (*France*) (August 2015); Maccabi Tel Aviv (*Israel*) (July 2017)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2012/13	WATFORD	16	8	2	Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 3rd of 24
2013/14	WATFORD	21	14	4	Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 13th of 24

A busy little South American-born midfield player of whom not much was seen in the first half of his inaugural Vicarage Road season but who was frequently involved in the eventful run-in which led to an ultimately disappointing climax in the Football League Championship Play-off Final at Wembley Stadium. During the campaign Cristian Battocchio had been a regular member of Italy's Under-20 side, and before the start of the next had won his first Under-21 cap.

William Alexander BAXTER (1971-1972) Half-back

Born Edinburgh, 23 April 1939

Died Dunfermline, Fife, 25 May 2009

Watford Career

Football League: 11 appearances

Football League Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 1-2 away defeat v Bristol City, Football League Div 2, 9 Oct 1971

Final game: 0-5 away defeat v Blackpool, Football League Div 2, 1 Jan 1972

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 9; all competitions 9



Career Path

Broxburn Athletic (July 1957); Ipswich Town (£300 June 1960); Hull City (£12,500 March 1971); **WATFORD** (loan October 1971); Northampton Town (free June 1972, player-manager October 1972 until May 1973); Nuneaton Borough (October 1973 until 1975)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1960/61	Ipswich Town	19			Football League Division 2 – 1st of 22 (Promoted)
1961/62	Ipswich Town	40			Football League Division 1 – 1st of 22
1962/63	Ipswich Town	42		3	Football League Division 1 – 17th of 22
1963/64	Ipswich Town	42		5	Football League Division 1 – 22nd of 22 (Relegated)
1964/65	Ipswich Town	37		3	Football League Division 2 – 5th of 22
1965/66	Ipswich Town	42		4	Football League Division 2 – 15th of 22
1966/67	Ipswich Town	42		1	Football League Division 2 – 5th of 22
1967/68	Ipswich Town	41		2	Football League Division 2 – 1st of 22 (Promoted)
1968/69	Ipswich Town	39			Football League Division 1 – 12th of 22
1969/70	Ipswich Town	41		1	Football League Division 1 – 18th of 22
1970/71	Ipswich Town	24		2	Football League Division 1 – 19th of 22
1970/71	Hull City	6			Football League Division 2 – 5th of 22
1971/72	Hull City	14	1		Football League Division 2 – 12th of 22
1971/72	WATFORD	11			Football League Division 2 – 22nd of 22 (Relegated)
1972/73	Northampton Town	41		4	Football League Division 4 – 23rd of 24

A tough and accomplished defensive half-back who won a First and two Second Division championship medals with Ipswich Town, where he later came to blows with Bobby Robson as the latter set about establishing his authority early in his managerial career. Although not tall, Bill Baxter was good in the air and attributed his jumping ability to having played basketball in his youth. He was an immensely influential member of the Suffolk club's title wins, and throughout the top-flight triumph under Alf Ramsey in 1961/62 was doing his National Service at Aldershot. Very much less successful was his three-months loan period at Vicarage Road during the dreadful 1971/72 season.

John Thomas BAYLEY (1900) Defender

Watford Career

Southern League: 4 appearances

Bucks & Contiguous Counties League: 2 appearances

Début: 1-0 away win v Maidenhead, Southern League Div 2, 29 Mar 1900

Final game: 5-1 'away' (but played at Watford) win v Wandsworth,

Bucks & Contiguous Counties League Div 1, 21 Apr 1900

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 3; all competitions 3



Career Path

Walsall Swifts (1887); Small Heath (1890); Walsall Town Swifts (July 1893); Gainsborough Trinity (June 1895); Small Heath (August 1899); **WATFORD** (March 1900); Leamington Town; applied for reinstatement as an amateur 1902 – application deferred for 12 months

Football League and Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1892/93	Small Heath	20			Football League Division 2 – 1st of 12
1893/94	Walsall Town Swifts	23			Football League Division 2 – 10th of 15
1896/97	Gainsborough Trinity	30			Football League Division 2 – 7th of 16
1897/98	Gainsborough Trinity	26		1	Football League Division 2 – 9th of 16
1898/99	Gainsborough Trinity	33			Football League Division 2 – 14th of 18
1899/00	Small Heath	1			Football League Division 2 – 3rd of 18
1899/00	WATFORD	4			Southern League Division 2 – 1st of 11 (Promoted)

A late-season signing by Watford, he was transferred in time to take part in the run-in to the Southern League Second Division championship, being used at centre-half and in both full-back positions in his four games in the competition. He had earlier been a first-team regular for several years with Gainsborough Trinity, then members of the Football League.

Darren Shaun BAZELEY (1990-1999) Winger / Full-back

Born Northampton, 5 October 1972

Representative Honours

England Under-21

Watford Career

Football League: 190+53 appearances (21 goals)

FA Cup: 12+1 appearances (3 goals)

Football League Cup: 13+5 appearances (2 goals)

Full Members Cup: 1+1 appearances

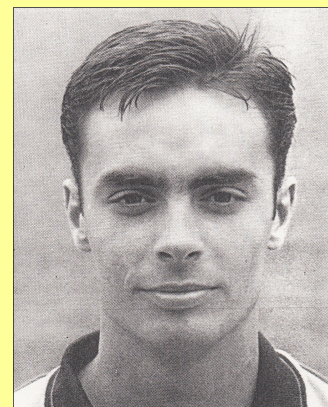
Anglo-Italian Cup: 2 appearances

Associate Members Cup: 3 appearances (1 goal, a penalty)

Début: (as sub) 3-1 home win v Hull City, Football League Div 2, 5 May 1990

Final game: 2-0 win v Bolton Wanderers at Wembley Stadium, Football League Div 1 Play-off Final, 31 May 1999

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 39; all competitions 40



Career Path

Northamptonshire Schools; **WATFORD** (schoolboy December 1986, trainee July 1989, professional May 1991); also Cogenhoe United (a few first-team games at the age of 14); Wolverhampton Wanderers (free July 1999, contract paid up July 2002); Walsall (August 2002, released close season 2004); New Zealand Knights (mid-2005); Waitakere United (*New Zealand*) (2007, subsequently joint assistant-manager); also on New Zealand FA coaching staff (by October 2008)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1989/90	WATFORD		1		Football League Division 2 – 15th of 24
1990/91	WATFORD	1	6		Football League Division 2 – 20th of 24
1991/92	WATFORD	25	9	6	Football League Division 2 – 10th of 24
1992/93	WATFORD	10	12	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 16th of 24
1993/94	WATFORD	6	4	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 19th of 24
1994/95	WATFORD	22	6	4	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 7th of 24
1995/96	WATFORD	35	6	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
1996/97	WATFORD	38	3	3	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 13th of 24
1997/98	WATFORD	14	2	3	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
1998/99	WATFORD	39	4	2	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 5th of 24 (Promoted)
1999/00	Wolverhampton Wanderers	46		3	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 7th of 24
2000/01	Wolverhampton Wanderers	23	1	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 12th of 24
2002/03	Walsall	41	2		Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 17th of 24
2003/04	Walsall	35	4		Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 22nd of 24 (Relegated)
2004/05	Walsall	7			Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 14th of 24

Given his Football League début while still a trainee, Darren Bazeley was at that time one of the dozen youngest players who had ever represented the club at competitive first-team level, but he has since dropped a fairly long way down the list.

Although then a right-winger and occasional striker, he became a sprightly full-back under Glenn Roeder after five months out of action following an injury sustained in the opening game of 1993/94. Colin Lee, the manager who gave him his League début, later signed him for both Wolves and Walsall. His subsequent coaching appointment in New Zealand was under Keith

Pritchett.

Thomas Henry BEACH (1897-1902) Forward / Defender

Born Uxbridge, Middlesex, 20 February 1872

Died Watford, Hertfordshire, February 1940

West Herts / Watford Career

Southern League: 40 appearances (16 goals, including 1 penalty)

FA Cup: 9 appearances (2 goals, including 1 penalty)

Bucks & Contiguous Counties League: 12 appearances (4 goals)

Début: 2-2 home draw v Old St Stephens, Southern League Div 2, 20 Nov 1897

Final game: 0-3 away defeat v Fulham, FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round Replay, 6 Nov 1902

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 15; all competitions 15



Career Path

Uxbridge Caxtonians; Southall; Uxbridge (September 1892); London Polytechnic (November 1893); Uxbridge (April 1894); Middlesex; **WEST HERTS** (Name changed to Watford in 1898) (professional November 1897 to close season 1900, and again September 1902)

Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
?	Uxbridge	?		?	Southern League Division 2
1897/98	WEST HERTS	16		11	Southern League Division 2 – 3rd of 12
1898/99	WATFORD	19		5	Southern League Division 2 – 3rd of 12
1899/00	WATFORD	5			Southern League Division 2 – 1st of 11 (Promoted)

A popular centre-half at Uxbridge, he represented Middlesex on thirteen occasions before becoming one of the first professionals at Cassio Road, where he began as a goalscoring forward and was later used in various defensive positions. Two-and-a-half years after his Watford engagement ended, Tuggy Beach made an isolated appearance for the club in an FA Cup replay in 1902. Of his nine footballing sons, the eldest and youngest both played as professionals and another two signed amateur forms for Watford.

(From the *Uxbridge Gazette*, 4 December 1897: “Beach, the ex-Uxbridge player, and now of the West Herts team, had unpleasant experience through fog last Sunday. He had been to Uxbridge and started to walk to Pinner in the evening (and train thence to Watford). When some distance out, and in spite of the brilliant light from a candle he carried, he fell into a deep ditch or culvert and was soaked with water and mud ere he scrambled out. Afterwards, he and his companion tried to retrace their steps and got lost in some fields where, by shouting, they were ultimately found by a country constable who put them on the right track, after having questioned them as to the probability of their being poachers.”)

Peter Clifford William James BEADLE (1994-1995) Forward

Born Lambeth, London, 13 May 1972

Watford Career

Football League: 12+11 appearances (1 goal)

Football League Cup: 1 appearance

Début: (as sub) 2-2 home draw v Reading, Football League Div 1, 24 Sep 1994

Final game: 1-1 home draw v Birmingham City, Football League Div 1, 23 Sep 1995

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 15; all competitions 15



Career Path

Lordswood Boys Club, Chatham; Gillingham (schoolboy December 1986, trainee July 1988, professional May 1990); Tottenham Hotspur (£300,000 June 1992); AFC Bournemouth (loan March 1993); Southend United (loan March 1994); **WATFORD** (£5,000 September 1994 plus 20% of subsequent “sell-on” profit); Bristol Rovers (£50,000 November 1995, including increments based on appearances); Port Vale (£300,000 August 1998); Notts County (£250,000 February 1999); Bristol City (£200,000 October 1999); Brentford (free August 2003 on 1-month contract); Barnet (September 2003); Team Bath player-coach (December 2003); Clevedon player & commercial manager (June 2004); Taunton Town manager (June 2005); Newport County manager (September 2005 until April 2008); Clevedon manager (March 2010 until close season 2010); West Bromwich Albion academy staff; Cheltenham Town Centre of Excellence manager; Hereford United (director of youth football April 2013, caretaker-manager March 2014); Sutton United head coach (May 2014); Hereford manager (April 2015)

Football League Career

		Apps	Subs	Goals	League Status and Final Position
1988/89	Gillingham	1	1		Football League Division 3 – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
1989/90	Gillingham	4	6	2	Football League Division 4 – 14th of 24
1990/91	Gillingham	12	10	7	Football League Division 4 – 15th of 24
1991/92	Gillingham	25	8	5	Football League Division 4 – 11th of 22
1992/93	AFC Bournemouth	9		2	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 17th of 24
1993/94	Southend United	8		1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 15th of 24
1994/95	WATFORD	9	11	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 7th of 24
1995/96	WATFORD	3			Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
1995/96	Bristol Rovers	26	1	12	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 10th of 24
1996/97	Bristol Rovers	36	6	12	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 17th of 24
1997/98	Bristol Rovers	38	4	16	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 5th of 24
1998/99	Port Vale	18	5	6	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 21st of 24
1998/99	Notts County	13	1	3	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 16th of 24
1999/00	Notts County	1	7		Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 8th of 24
1999/00	Bristol City	22	3	6	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 9th of 24
2000/01	Bristol City	18	15	4	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 9th of 24
2002/03	Bristol City	11	14	4	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 3rd of 24
2003/04	Brentford	1			Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 17th of 24

A big-money transfer to a top club held the promise of great things for Peter Beadle, but his career came to a halt at White Hart Lane, where his first-team experience amounted to a few friendly games. At Vicarage Road this big striker was dropped for good after 24 appearances; a 25th would have cost the club a further £20,000 under the transfer agreement – and a similar payment would have been due had he doubled that tally. His Football League career ended ignominiously with a sending-off after twelve minutes of his only Brentford appearance.

Roger John BEAMENT (1957) Goalkeeper

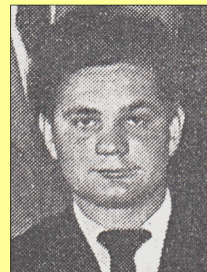
Born Croxley, Hertfordshire, 28 September 1937

Died Watford, Hertfordshire, 20 November 2011

Watford Career

Football League: 1 appearance

Sole appearance: 0-4 away defeat v Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic,
Football League Div 3 (South), 3 May 1957



Career Path

Watford Schools; Croxley Boys Club; Hertfordshire Youth; **WATFORD** (amateur May 1955); Tring Town (December 1957); Hemel Hempstead United (July 1960); Wealdstone; St Albans City; Fox & Hounds (*later* Croxley Casuals); Tudor Corinthians (by December 1967); Watford College of Technology (by April 1977); Rolls Royce

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1956/57	WATFORD	1			Football League Division 3 (South) – 11th of 24

For many years Roger Beament's burly frame was a familiar sight in goal at various levels of the amateur game in south-west Hertfordshire, after he'd played in one Football League match as a 19-year-old, in which he was beaten four times on the south coast in the final fixture of 1956/57. Earlier there had been representative appearances locally as a schoolboy, and also at youth level for the county.

Craig BEATTIE (2011) Striker

Born Glasgow, 16 January 1984

Representative Honours

Scotland Youth, Under-21, 'B' & Full

Watford Career

Football League: 1+3 appearances (1 goal)

Début: (as sub) 0-1 away defeat v Middlesbrough, Football League Championship, 5 Nov 2011

Final game: (as sub) 2-1 away win v Ipswich Town, Football League Championship, 3 Dec 2011

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 3; all competitions 3



Career Path

Rangers youth team; Celtic (July 2003); West Bromwich Albion (£1.25 million July 2007); Preston North End (loan March 2008); Crystal Palace (loan September 2008); Sheffield United (loan February 2009); Swansea City (£500,000 August 2009); **WATFORD** (loan October 2011); Heart of Midlothian (free February 2012 until July 2012); trials with Bedvest Wits (*South Africa*) & Rangers; St Johnstone (free August 2012); Notts County trial (January 2013); Barnet (free February 2013, released close season 2013); trials with Alloa, Scunthorpe United & Partick Thistle; Dundee (September 2013); Żebbuġ Rangers (*Malta*) (free August 2014); Ayr United (September 2014); Stirling Albion (July 2015); Edinburgh City (free July 2016)

Scottish League & Premier League, Football League & FA Premier League Career

		Apps	Subs	Goals	League Status and Final Position
2003/04	Celtic	2	8	1	Scottish Premier League – 1st of 12
2004/05	Celtic		11	4	Scottish Premier League – 2nd of 12
2005/06	Celtic	7	6	6	Scottish Premier League – 1st of 12
2006/07	Celtic	9	7	2	Scottish Premier League – 1st of 12
2007/08	West Bromwich Albion	6	15	3	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
2007/08	Preston North End	1	1		Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 15th of 24
2008/09	West Bromwich Albion	1	6	1	FA Premier League – 20th of 20 (Relegated)
2008/09	Crystal Palace	15		5	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 15th of 24
2008/09	Sheffield United	3	13	1	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 3rd of 24
2009/10	West Bromwich Albion		3		Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
2009/10	Swansea City	12	11	3	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 7th of 24
2010/11	Swansea City	9	13	4	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 3rd of 24 (Promoted)
2011/12	WATFORD	1	3	1	Football League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 11th of 24
2011/12	Heart of Midlothian	4	1	1	Scottish Premier League – 5th of 12
2012/13	St Johnstone		2		Scottish Premier League – 3rd of 12
2012/13	Barnet	1	4		Football League Division 2 (<i>4th tier</i>) – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
2013/14	Dundee	8	10	5	Scottish League Championship (<i>2nd tier</i>) – 1st of 10 (Promoted)
2014/15	Ayr United	15	13	6	Scottish League Division 1 (<i>3rd tier</i>) – 8th of 10
2015/16	Stirling Albion	6	12	3	Scottish League Division 2 (<i>4th tier</i>) – 7th of 10
2016/17	Edinburgh City	15	8	4	Scottish League Division 2 (<i>4th tier</i>) – 7th of 10

Sustaining a minor injury was not the best start to Craig Beattie's loan spell at Vicarage Road, and he saw little action before returning to Wales, but at least he scored in the one game for which he made the starting line-up, a 2-2 draw against Bristol City. For a player who has never managed to hold down a first-team place for long either side of the border, to have won seven Full caps is a creditable achievement, but is also a measure of the decline of Scottish football, until recent times a constant production-line of outstanding and influential players. His last appearance for Celtic was as a substitute in the 2006/07 Scottish FA Cup final, in which Dunfermline Athletic were beaten 1-0. In the same competition in 2011/12 he scored a winning semi-final goal in added time from the penalty spot for Heart of Midlothian – this time *against* Celtic.

Sydney BEAUMONT (1909-1911) Wing-half / Forward

Born Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, 8 October 1883

Died Southport, Lancashire, 12 May 1939

Watford Career

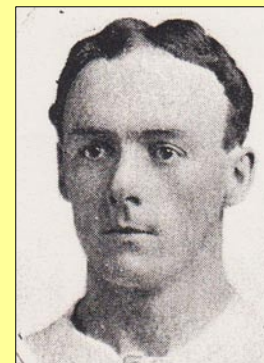
Southern League: 27 appearances (1 goal)

Southern Charity Cup: 3 appearances (3 goals)

Début: 2-1 away win v Northampton Town, Southern Charity Cup 2nd Round, 28 Oct 1909

Final game: 1-1 away draw v West Ham United, Southern League Div 1, 29 Apr 1911

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 5; all competitions 6



Career Path

Biggleswade; Colchester Town; Lincoln City (amateur November 1904, professional December 1904); Biggleswade & District FC (September 1906 until close season 1909); Chelsea trial (August 1907 until September 1907); **WATFORD** (September 1909, initially on trial); Preston North End (£25 July 1911); Merthyr Town (free close season 1912); Troedyrhiw (close season 1913); Barry manager (8 years); Llanelly (secretary, then manager May 1924); Aberdare Athletic manager (close season 1924 until close season 1927); Blackpool manager (June 1927 until May 1928); Bangor City secretary-manager (July 1928); Chester assistant-trainer (1936 until 1939)

Football League & Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1904/05	Lincoln City	5			Football League Division 2 – 9th of 18
1909/10	WATFORD	12			Southern League Division 1 – 19th of 22
1910/11	WATFORD	15		1	Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 20
1911/12	Preston North End	1			Football League Division 1 – 19th of 20 (Relegated)
1912/13	Merthyr Town	15			Southern League Division 1 – 12th of 20

After scoring twice on his Watford début, in a Southern Charity Cup match, Syd Beaumont was in and out of the side for two seasons as a wing-half or forward, before being transferred to Preston. In 1907 he'd played in Chelsea's pre-season trial matches after applying unsuccessfully for reinstatement as an amateur. The application was initially deferred by the FA for twelve months, and then turned down when he renewed it the following year. His managerial career included Aberdare Athletic's last three seasons in the Football League, during which they recorded an 8-1 victory over Watford.

William BECKETT (1945-1947) Inside-forward

Born Born Kirkdale, Liverpool, Lancashire, 4 July 1915

Died Aughton Park, Lancashire, 5 April 1999

Watford Career

Football League: 7 appearances (1 goals)

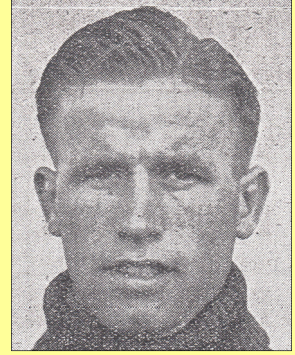
FA Cup: 8 appearances (1 goal)

Second World War competitions: 18 appearances (6 goals)

Début in peacetime competitions: 1-1 home draw v Southend United, FA Cup 1st Round, 1st Leg, 17 Nov 1945

Final game: 1-1 home draw v Swindon Town, Football League Div 3 (South), 5 Apr 1947

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 3; all peacetime competitions 6



Career Path

Liverpool Schools; Litherland; New Brighton (amateur June 1934, professional November 1934); Tranmere Rovers (June 1936); South Liverpool (free September 1936); Blackpool (April 1937); Bradford City (July 1938); **WATFORD** (free May 1939); South Liverpool & Walsall guest player during Second World War; Northampton Town (free June 1947, released close season 1948)

Football League Career

		Apps	Subs	Goals	League Status and Final Position
1934/35	New Brighton	22		3	Football League Division 3 (North) – 16th of 22
1935/36	New Brighton	3		1	Football League Division 3 (North) – 22nd of 22
1938/39	Bradford City	5		1	Football League Division 3 (North) – 3rd of 22
1946/47	WATFORD	7		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 16th of 22

After joining the club he had to wait more than six years for his début, first of all in games which were still being played under wartime-league conditions in 1945/46, and then in the FA Cup when it resumed in earnest in the same season. Although used as an inside-forward at Watford, Bill Beckett began his Football League career as New Brighton's regular outside-left for much of the latter part of the 1934/35 season, but saw very little League action thereafter.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, Ltd.

Extract from Agreement between Watford Football Club
and William Beckett professional player.
Period of Engagement 6th December, 1945 to 4th May, 1946
Wages £ 3 : - : - weekly from 6th December, 1945 to 4th May, 1946
£ : : weekly from..... to.....
Other Special Clause: Permission granted to carry on with his job.
£1. per week extra when playing in 1st team.
(Signed) L. B. Minnis Secretary.
6th December, 1945 Date
Previous Service with League Clubs (including Scottish and Irish):—
Club and Season Blackpool 1937-8. Bradford City 1939.
Signed for Watford 1939-40
(Signed) William Beckett. Player.
REGULATION 36: "In the case of a professional player, a certified copy of or extract from the Agreement must also be forwarded to the League Secretary on the form provided."

Martin BECTON (1909-1910) Forward

Born Preston, Lancashire, 25 March 1883

Died Fulwood, Lancashire, 18 April 1965

Watford Career

Southern League: 20 appearances (2 goals)

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Southern Charity Cup: 3 appearances

Début: 3-4 away defeat v Queens Park Rangers, Southern League Div 1, 1 Sep 1909

Final game: 0-2 away defeat v Croydon Common, Southern League Div 1, 30 Apr 1910

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 10; all competitions 11



Career Path

Christ Church, Preston; Lytham; Preston North End (August 1906); Nelson (August 1908); **WATFORD** (July 1909 until close season 1910)

Football League and Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1906/07	Preston North End	16		2	Football League Division 1 – 14th of 20
1907/08	Preston North End	7		1	Football League Division 1 – 12th of 20
1909/10	WATFORD	20		2	Southern League Division 1 – 19th of 22

After helping Lytham to win the Lancashire Amateur Cup, Martin Becton played in the top flight of professional football for Preston North End, as had his brother Frank (an England international) some years earlier. In 1912 he married the sister of another England man, Dickie Bond, who had been his rival for a first-team place at Deepdale. A right-winger or inside-right, Becton was transfer-listed by Watford after one season at a valuation which the Joint Leagues Board reduced to £20, but there were no takers and he didn't re-sign for 1910/11.

Edmund BEEVOR (1891-1892) Forward

Born Hingham, Norfolk, 23 May 1867

Died Pulham St Mary, Norfolk, 1 November 1948

Watford Rovers Career

Herts County Cup: 4 appearances

Début: 6-2 win v St Albans (at Hatfield), Herts County Cup Final, 28 Mar 1891

Final game: 5-2 win v Hoddesdon (at Ware), Herts County Cup Final, 2 Apr 1892

Longest run of consecutive appearances: 2

Career Path

Aldenham School; **WATFORD ROVERS**

For some years in the late-19th century Watford Rovers/West Herts enjoyed a close relationship with Aldenham School, and Beevor, younger son of a baronet, was a former pupil at the school. He went on to Cambridge University, following which, having returned to Aldenham as an assistant master (and later a housemaster for 27 years), he made his appearances in the Rovers forward-line. His first and last competitive outings both resulted in resounding victories in the Herts County Cup Final.

He also appeared in 4 first-team friendlies and scored twice.

Valon BEHRAMI (2015-2017) Midfielder

Born Titova Mitrovica, Yugoslavia, 19 April 1985

Representative Honours

Switzerland Full

Watford Career

FA Premier League: 40+8 appearances

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 2-2 away draw v Everton, FA Premier League, 8 Aug 2015

Final game: 0-5 home defeat v Manchester City, FA Premier League, 21 May 2017

Longest run of consecutive appearances: FA Premier League 13; all competitions 11



Career Path

Mendrisio-Stabio (*Switzerland*) (1993); Chiasso (*Switzerland*) (1997); Lugano (*Switzerland*) (2000); Young Fellows Juventus (*Switzerland*) (2002); Udinese (*Italy*) (January 2004); Genoa (*Italy*) (2004); Hellas Verona (*Italy*) (loan 2004); Lazio (*Italy*) (€2.7 million July 2005); West Ham United (£5 million July 2008); Fiorentina (*Italy*) (January 2011); Napoli (*Italy*) (July 2012); Hamburg (*Germany*) (€4.5 million August 2014, plus €2 million after 20 appearances); **WATFORD** (£3 million July 2015); Udinese (*Italy*) (undisclosed fee August 2017)

FA Premier League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2008/09	West Ham United	24		1	FA Premier League – 9th of 20
2009/10	West Ham United	24	3	1	FA Premier League – 17th of 20
2010/11	West Ham United	6	1	2	FA Premier League – 20th of 20 (Relegated)
2015/16	WATFORD	14	7		FA Premier League – 13th of 20
2016/17	WATFORD	26	1		FA Premier League – 17th of 20

Steve Leo BELECK (2012) Striker

(Full name Steve Leo BELECK A'BEKA)

Born Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21 February 1993

Representative Honours

Cameroon Youth

Watford Career

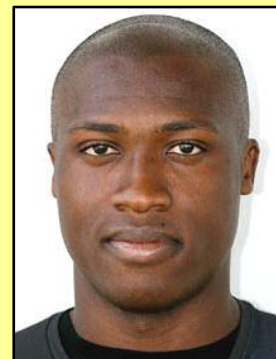
Football League: 0+5 appearances

Football League Cup: 1 appearance

Début: (as sub) 0-1 home defeat v Ipswich Town, Football League Championship, 21 Aug 2012

Final game: (as sub) 2-0 home win v Nottingham Forest, Football League Championship,
22 Dec 2012

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 2; all matches 3



Career Path

Panthrakikos (*Greece*) (professional July 2009); Udinese (*Italy*) (€1.5 million July 2010); AEK Athens (*Greece*) (loan July 2011); **WATFORD** (loan July 2012); Stevenage (loan from Watford January 2013); Mons (*Belgium*) (loan August 2013); Fiorentina (*Italy*) (June 2014); Crotone (*Italy*) (loan close season 2014); Mantova (*Italy*) (loan May 2015); CFR 1907 Cluj (*Romania*) (loan July 2015); Ümraniyespor (*Turkey*) (loan August 2016)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2012/13	WATFORD		5		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 3rd of 24
2012/13	Stevenage	6	7		Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 18th of 24

A son of a Cameroon international, Steve Beleck made little impact at Vicarage Road and became the first player who, while on loan to one English club, was put out on loan by that club to another English club. His move to Stevenage highlighted one of the absurd anomalies in the regulations governing loan transfers from overseas, which were subsequently amended.

Essaïd BELKALEM (2013-2014) Defender

Born Mekla, Algeria, 1 January 1989

Representative Honours

Algeria Youth, Under-23, 'A' and Full

Watford Career

Football League: 5+3 appearances

Football League Cup: 2 appearances

Début: 2-0 home win v AFC Bournemouth, Football League Cup 2nd Round, 31 Aug 2013

Final game: 1-3 away defeat v Charlton Athletic, Football League Championship, 29 Apr 2014

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 1; all competitions 2



Career Path

JS Kabylie (*Algeria*) (2006); Udinese (*Italy*) (free July 2013); **WATFORD** (loan August 2013, free February 2014, released August 2016); Trabzonspor (*Turkey*) (loan [for which Watford received £400,000] August 2014); Orléans (*France*) (September 2016, released June 2017)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2013/14	WATFORD	5	3		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 13th of 24

Although he spent three full seasons on Watford's books, the hefty Essaïd Belkalem's only first-team appearances for the club were in the first of them, and he played in a winning side only three times in his ten outings. As well as his Full international credentials, which included participation in the 2014 World Cup Finals, he represented the Algeria Military XI shortly before his arrival at Watford.

John BELL (1924-1926) Centre-forward / Inside-forward

Born Tannochside, Lanarkshire

Watford Career

Football League: 20 appearances (6 goals)

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 1-0 home win v Northampton Town, Football League Div 3 (South), 30 Aug 1924

Final game: 0-5 away defeat v Luton Town, Football League Div 3 (South), 23 Jan 1926

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 13; all competitions 13



Career Path

Ashfield; Heart of Midlothian (1915/16); Third Lanark (1916/17); army football; West Ham United guest player during First World War; Dundee (October 1919); Albion Rovers (player-exchange 1922); Hamilton Academical (February 1923); Albion Rovers (April 1923); Newport County (July 1923); **WATFORD** (free July 1924); Arbroath (free July 1926 until close season 1927)

Scottish League and Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1915/16	Heart of Midlothian	7		3	Scottish League Division 1 – 6th of 20
1916/17	Third Lanark	5			Scottish League Division 1 – 5th of 20
1919/20	Dundee	28		28	Scottish League Division 1 – 4th of 20
1920/21	Dundee	36		25	Scottish League Division 1 – 4th of 22
1921/22	Dundee	17		3	Scottish League Division 1 – 4th of 22
1922/23	Dundee	6		1	Scottish League Division 1 – 7th of 20
1922/23	Albion Rovers	9		1	Scottish League Division 1 – 19th of 20 (Relegated)
1922/23	Hamilton Academical	2			Scottish League Division 1 – 18th of 20
1923/24	Newport County	21		9	Football League Division 3 (South) – 10th of 22
1924/25	WATFORD	18		6	Football League Division 3 (South) – 11th of 22
1925/26	WATFORD	2			Football League Division 3 (South) – 15th of 22
1926/27	Arbroath	6		4	Scottish League Division 2 – 18th of 20

After scoring prolifically in the Scottish First Division for two seasons immediately after the Great War, Bell's career at first-team level became one of fits and starts. When he reached Watford there was a useful opening spell at centre- or inside-forward, but it was not maintained, and a broken toe suffered in mid-season did nothing to help. When he left and returned to Scotland he'd made only two Football League appearances in the last season-and-a-half.

Robert McDicken BELL (1957-1964) Full-back

Born Ayr, 16 September 1934

Died Bournemouth, Dorset, 23 February 2007

Watford Career

Football League: 268 appearances (2 goals)

FA Cup: 23 appearances

Southern Floodlight Cup: 3 appearances

Football League Cup: 9 appearances

Début: 1-2 away defeat v Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic,
Football League Div 3 (South), 24 Aug 1957

Final game: 0-1 away defeat v Grimsby Town, Football League Div 3, 17 Oct 1964

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 50; all competitions 58



Career Path

Whitletts Victoria (amateur July 1953); Falkirk (August 1954); Ayr United (free May 1956); **WATFORD** (free May 1957); Folkestone (free July 1965 for 4 years); also West Herts Wanderers; Wealdstone; Rolls Royce (permit to play as an amateur granted October 1969, reserve-team manager July 1979); Leverstock Green coach (by October 1981); Mill End coach (June 1988); Hammer trainer (by 1992)

Scottish League and Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1955/56	Falkirk	1			Scottish League Division 1 – 14th of 18
1956/57	Ayr United	15			Scottish League Division 1 – 18th of 18 (Relegated)
1957/58	WATFORD	33		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 16th of 24 (Relegated)
1958/59	WATFORD	40		1	Football League Division 4 – 15th of 24
1959/60	WATFORD	24			Football League Division 4 – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
1960/61	WATFORD	45			Football League Division 3 – 4th of 24
1961/62	WATFORD	40			Football League Division 3 – 17th of 24
1962/63	WATFORD	37			Football League Division 3 – 17th of 24
1963/64	WATFORD	40			Football League Division 3 – 3rd of 24
1964/65	WATFORD	9			Football League Division 3 – 9th of 24

Released by Bob Shankly at both Falkirk and Ayr, and signed by Neil McBain for both Ayr and Watford, Bobby Bell was a curly, fair-haired and determined right-back who for more than seven seasons was rarely absent from Watford's first team. He was superseded by John Price for the early part of the 1959/60 season, but having regained his place remained a fixture in the Holton-inspired promotion run and for four more seasons afterwards. The game was up, however, when Ken Furphy arrived as player-manager and took the No 2 shirt himself. Bell's brother Richard was on the Vicarage Road groundstaff before returning to Scotland in January 1960, and their father had been, like Bobby, an Ayr United professional.

Herbert BELLAMY (1921-1923) Wing-half

Born Kettering, Northamptonshire, 7 April 1896

Died Grimsby, Lincolnshire, 16 November 1978

Watford Career

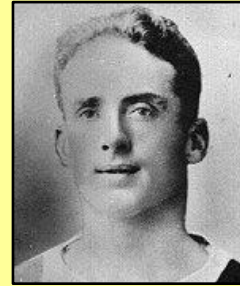
Football League: 36 appearances (2 goals)

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 0-0 home draw v Swansea Town, Football League Div 3 (South), 27 Aug 1921

Final game: 1-2 home defeat v Brighton & Hove Albion,
Football League Div 3 South), 10 Feb 1923

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 16; all competitions 16



Career Path

Kettering Fuller Institute; Kettering White Cross; army football during First World War; Kettering Town (on being demobilized in 1919); Crystal Palace trial (August 1919); **WATFORD** (free May 1921); Swansea Town (free June 1923); Brentford (May 1926); Wellingborough Town player-manager and trainer (May 1927); United Counties Bus Company, Irthlingborough (permit to play as an amateur granted February 1928); Kidderminster Harriers (July 1928); Finnish FA “travelling trainer”, advising a succession of clubs from June 1929 in Turku, Tampere, Helsinki, Viipuri, Varkaus, Kuopio & Vaasa); Gamlakarleby Bollklubb (*Finland*) trainer (September 1929 until October 1930); Feyenoord (*Netherlands*) manager (circa 1931); coach to a Dutch second-division club in The Hague (by 1936)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1921/22	WATFORD	21		2	Football League Division 3 (South) – 7th of 22
1922/23	WATFORD	15			Football League Division 3 (South) – 10th of 22
1923/24	Swansea Town	36		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 22
1924/25	Swansea Town	42		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 1st of 22 (Promoted)
1925/26	Swansea Town	12			Football League Division 2 – 5th of 22
1926/27	Brentford	33			Football League Division 3 (South) – 11th of 22

Having developed in army football during the Great War, on being demobbed Bert Bellamy joined Kettering, where he was known as “Bobbin”. He and Frank Smith were colleagues there. Two years later he reached Cassio Road and performed outstandingly as a left-half at the start of his Watford career, but his form soon fell away and he was in and out of the side for the remainder of his two seasons with the club. When his playing career was over he had a succession of engagements on the Continent in the 1930s, and when employed as Gamlakarleby Bollklubb trainer he played for that club in a series of friendlies and also worked in a sweets factory in Kokkola. There was further army service as a sergeant in the Second World War, and by the early 1950s he was running a pub near Folkestone.

Héctor BELLERÍN (2013-2014) Wing-back
(Full name Héctor BELLERÍN MORUNO)

Born Barcelona, Spain, 19 March 1995

Representative Honours

Spain Youth, Under-21 & Full

Watford Career

Football League: 6+2 appearances

Début: 0-3 home defeat v Yeovil Town, Football League Championship, 30 November 2013

Final game: (as sub) 1-0 home win v Birmingham City, Football League Championship, 11 Feb 2014

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 4; all competitions 4



Career Path

Barcelona (*Spain*) (2003); Arsenal (scholar September 2011, professional July 2013); **WATFORD** (loan November 2013)

Football League and FA Premier League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2013/14	WATFORD	6	2		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 13th of 24
2014/15	Arsenal	17	3	2	FA Premier League – 3rd of 20
2015/16	Arsenal	36		1	FA Premier League – 2nd of 20
2016/17	Arsenal	27	6	1	FA Premier League – 5th of 20

Héctor Bellerín was signed on loan by Watford soon after earning his first professional contract, having been recruited from Spain by Arsenal at the age of 16. He was due to remain at Vicarage Road until the end of the 2013/14 season, but was recalled to Highbury in February. A wing-back with an impressive turn of speed, he went on to play a significant part in the London club's FA Premier League campaign the following season.

Trevor Junior BENJAMIN (2005) Forward

Born Kettering, Northamptonshire, 8 February 1979

Representative Honours

England Under-21

Jamaica Full

Watford Career

Football League: 2 appearances

Début: 0-0 away draw v Crewe Alexandra, Football League Championship, 24 Sep 2005

Final game: 1-3 away defeat v Coventry City, Football League Championship, 28 Sep 2005

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 2; all competitions 2



Career Path

Wellingborough Town Colts; Northamptonshire youth; Rushden & Diamonds youth team and Reserves; Cambridge United (trainee July 1995, professional February 1997); Leicester City (£1 million+ July 2000); Crystal Palace (loan December 2001); Norwich City (loan February 2002); West Bromwich Albion (loan March 2002); Gillingham (loan September 2003); Rushden & Diamonds (loan November 2003); Brighton & Hove Albion (loan January 2004); Northampton Town (free December 2004); Coventry City (undisclosed fee February 2005); Peterborough United (free July 2005); **WATFORD** (loan September 2005); Swindon Town (loan January 2006); Boston United (loan 2007); Walsall (loan March 2007); Hereford United (free August 2007, released close season 2008); trials with Cheltenham Town, Chester City, St Neots, Aldershot Town & Woking; Gainsborough Trinity (non-contract August 2008); AFC Bournemouth (September 2008); Gillingham (September 2008); Stevenage Borough (September 2008); Northwich Victoria (October 2008); Hednesford Town (November 2008); Wellingborough Town (December 2008); Kidsgrove Athletic (February 2009); Harrogate Town (October 2009, released November 2009); Woking (November 2009, released December 2009); Sunshine George Cross (January 2010); Bedlington Terriers (February 2010); Wroxham (loan March 2010); Morpeth Town (loan September 2010, player-manager September 2010, resigned as manager May 2011); Seaton Delaval Amateurs (by April 2012, assistant-manager by January 2013); Northumberland Council All-Stars (2014); Newcastle United Women manager (April 2014 until May 2015)

Football League and FA Premier League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1995/96	Cambridge United		5		Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 16th of 24
1996/97	Cambridge United	1	6	1	Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 10th of 24
1997/98	Cambridge United	16	9	4	Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 16th of 24
1998/99	Cambridge United	37	5	10	Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
1999/00	Cambridge United	42	2	20	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 19th of 24
2000/01	Leicester City	7	14	1	FA Premier League – 12th of 20
2001/02	Leicester City	4	7		FA Premier League – 20th of 20 (Relegated)
2001/02	Crystal Palace	5	1	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 10th of 24
2001/02	Norwich City	3	3		Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 6th of 24
2001/02	West Bromwich Albion		3	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
2002/03	Leicester City	18	17	8	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
2003/04	Gillingham	1	3	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 21st of 24
2003/04	Rushden & Diamonds	5	1	1	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 22nd of 24 (Relegated)
2003/04	Brighton & Hove Albion	10		5	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
2003/04	Leicester City	2	2		FA Premier League – 18th of 20 (Relegated)
2004/05	Leicester City	2	8	2	Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 15th of 24
2004/05	Northampton Town	5		2	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 7th of 24
2004/05	Coventry City	6	6	1	Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 19th of 24
2005/06	Peterborough United	5	15	1	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 9th of 24
2005/06	WATFORD	2			Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 3rd of 24 (Promoted)
2005/06	Swindon Town	5	3	2	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
2006/07	Peterborough United	15	12	7	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 10th of 24
2006/07	Boston United	2	1		Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
2006/07	Walsall	8		2	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
2007/08	Hereford United	15	19	10	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 3rd of 24 (Promoted)

Here was a man who liked to be on the move once he'd left Cambridge United – there were eighteen transfers, including loans, between July 2000 and August 2007. Altogether Trevor Benjamin, a heavyweight striker, represented sixteen different clubs in the Football League, and continued in the same peripatetic vein when he dropped to lower levels of the game.

Dale Owen BENNETT (2008-2012) Defender

Born Enfield, London, 6 January 1990

Watford Career

Football League: 14+9 appearances

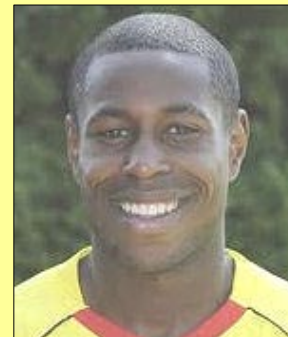
FA Cup: 1 appearance

Football League Cup: 1+1 appearances

Début: (as sub) 1-0 home win v West Ham United, League Cup 2nd Round, 23 Sep 2008

Final game: 1-1 away draw v West Ham United, Football League Championship, 7 Mar 2012

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 6; all competitions 6



Career Path

WATFORD (scholar July 2006, professional July 2008); Wealdstone (loan February 2008); Kettering Town (loan November 2008 and January 2009); Brentford (loan October 2011 and January 2012); AFC Wimbledon (loan August 2012); Yeovil Town (loan November 2012); Forest Green Rovers (free January 2013)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2009/10	WATFORD	8	2		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 16th of 24
2010/11	WATFORD	5	6		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 14th of 24
2011/12	Brentford	5		1	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 9th of 24
2011/12	WATFORD	1	1		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 11th of 24
2012/13	AFC Wimbledon	5			Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 20th of 24
2012/13	Yeovil Town		1		Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 4th of 24 (Promoted)

Unable to command a regular first-team place at Vicarage Road, Dale Bennett was loaned to Brentford three years after his Watford début and promptly scored his first senior goal in his opening appearance which secured a 2-1 win over Chesterfield. There was no immediate opportunity to build on this start because injury prevented him from playing again in the loan spell, but he returned to Griffin Park a few weeks later. In his final Watford appearance he suffered a head injury which caused enough concern for the game to be held up for seven minutes before he was taken to hospital.

Edward Ernest BENNETT (1953-1956) Goalkeeper

Born Kilburn, Middlesex, 22 August 1925

Representative Honours

England Amateur
Great Britain Amateur

Watford Career

Football League: 81 appearances

FA Cup: 5 appearances

Début: 3-1 home win v Shrewsbury Town, Football League Div 3 (South), 19 Dec 1953

Final game: 0-2 home defeat v Crystal Palace, Football League Div 3 (South), 18 Feb 1956

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 71; all competitions 75



Career Path

Willesden Town (close season 1946); Southall; Queens Park Rangers (amateur February 1949); Southall (close season 1949); **WATFORD** (professional December 1953); Gravesend & Northfleet ("small fee" September 1956)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1948/49	Queens Park Rangers	2			Football League Division 2 – 13th of 22
1953/54	WATFORD	23			Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 24
1954/55	WATFORD	46			Football League Division 3 (South) – 7th of 24
1955/56	WATFORD	12			Football League Division 3 (South) – 21st of 24

After winning eleven England Amateur caps and guarding Great Britain's goal in the 1952 Olympics, on turning professional he immediately became Watford's first-choice goalkeeper when Dave Underwood was transferred to Liverpool. From his début Ted Bennett missed only one game in a sequence of 82 League & cup fixtures (he was ever-present in 1954/55) before suffering a broken finger. He toured the West Indies with an FA representative side in 1955, and later ran a greengrocery business in Kilburn.

Michael David BENNING (1959-1962) Winger

Born Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, 3 February 1938

Watford Career

Football League: 103 appearances (14 goals)

FA Cup: 14 appearances (1 goal)

Football League Cup: 5 appearances

Début: 2-3 home defeat v York City, Football League Div 4, 14 Feb 1959

Final game: 3-1 home win v Barnsley, Football League Div 3, 17 Feb 1962

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 74; all competitions 71



Career Path

Watford Schools; Croxley Boys Club; Luton Town (amateur May 1955, released close season 1955); **WATFORD** (amateur July 1956, professional September 1956); Cambridge City (July 1962); Bedford Town (£200 June 1964); also West Herts Wanderers; Dunstable Town; Hatfield Town (by April 1968); Tudor Corinthians (January 1970, later manager); Ambassadors

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1958/59	WATFORD	3			Football League Division 4 – 15th of 24
1959/60	WATFORD	45		4	Football League Division 4 – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
1960/61	WATFORD	37		6	Football League Division 3 – 4th of 24
1961/62	WATFORD	18		4	Football League Division 3 – 17th of 24

After only three previous first-team outings, Micky Benning was an automatic choice throughout the memorable 1959/60 season and attracted much attention with his pacy right-wing play which contributed to the Holton/Uphill goalscoring bonanza. This, despite being only a part-timer who was employed in the print industry. Transfer talk came to nothing, but Watford listed him at £7,500 and retained his Football League registration when he went to Cambridge City, whom he immediately helped to win the Southern League championship in 1962/63. As a youth he'd played for the South East Counties League representative side, which also included Peter Barnes and Chelsea's goalscoring phenomenon Jimmy Greaves. Benning's son Paul made two Football League appearances for Peterborough United.

Steven BERGHUIS (2015-2016) Winger

Born Apeldorn, Netherlands, 19 December 1991

Representative Honours

Netherlands Youth, Under-21 & Full

Watford Career

FA Premier League: 0+9 appearances

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Football League Cup: 0+1 appearance

Début: (as sub) 0-0 home draw v West Bromwich Albion, FA Premier League, 15 Aug 2015

Final game: (as sub) 2-4 away defeat v Norwich City, FA Premier League, 11 May 2016

Longest run of consecutive appearances: FA Premier League 4; all competitions 3



Career Path

WSV Apeldorn (*The Netherlands*) (2008); Go Ahead Eagles (*The Netherlands*) (2008); FC Twente (*The Netherlands*) (2010); VVV-Venlo (*The Netherlands*) (loan January 2012); AZ (*The Netherlands*) (£400,000 June 2012); **WATFORD** (£4.6 million July 2015); Feyenoord Rotterdam (*The Netherlands*) (loan August 2016, £5.8 million July 2017)

FA Premier League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2015/16	WATFORD		9		FA Premier League – 13th of 20

Arthur Charles BETTS (1907-1910) Full-back

Born Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, 2 January 1886

Died Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1967

Watford Career

Southern League: 93 appearances

FA Cup: 7 appearances

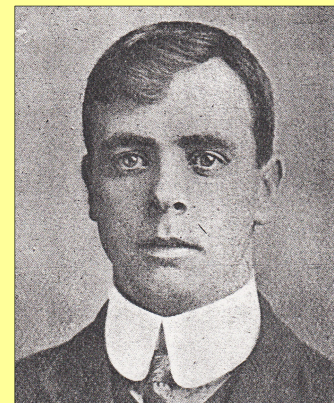
South Eastern League: 2 appearances

Southern Charity Cup: 3 appearances

Début: 1-0 home win v Portsmouth, Southern League Div 1, 7 Sep 1907

Final game: 3-0 home win v Plymouth Argyle, Southern League Div 1, 20 Apr 1910

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 42; all competitions 49



Career Path

North Lindsey; Gainsborough Trinity (May 1905); Lincolnshire; **WATFORD** (May 1907); Gainsborough Trinity (free May 1910); Newcastle United (£150, of which Watford received “a nice little sum”, June 1911); Derby County (October 1911); Hull City (May 1914); Scunthorpe & Lindsey United (June 1920); Normanby Park Steelworks player-coach (May 1923); also Normanby Park Schools coach (May 1923); Lysaght Sports coach

Football League and Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1905/06	Gainsborough Trinity	28			Football League Division 2 – 15th of 20
1906/07	Gainsborough Trinity	37		1	Football League Division 2 – 14th of 20
1907/08	WATFORD	25			Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 20
1908/09	WATFORD	36			Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 21
1909/10	WATFORD	32			Southern League Division 1 – 19th of 22
1910/11	Gainsborough Trinity	28		1	Football League Division 2 – 18th of 20
1911/12	Derby County	27			Football League Division 2 – 1st of 20 (Promoted)
1912/13	Derby County	33			Football League Division 1 – 7th of 20
1913/14	Derby County	11			Football League Division 1 – 20th of 20 (Relegated)
1914/15	Hull City	34			Football League Division 2 – 7th of 20
1919/20	Hull City	17			Football League Division 2 – 11th of 22

Showing a fair turn of speed, Arthur Betts (who became known as “Charlie” in his subsequent Derby and Hull days) had three good seasons after replacing the departed Joe Brooks at left-back. He left Newcastle United without having made the first team, but settled in immediately at the Baseball Ground and won a Second Division championship medal in his first season there. This will have come as a particular personal satisfaction – his only Football and Southern League seasons prior to this had brought six low-table finishes. He was stonemason by trade.

David George BEWLEY (1953-1956) Full-back

Born Bournemouth, Hampshire, 22 September 1920

Died Cirencester, Gloucestershire, 6 March 2013

Watford Career

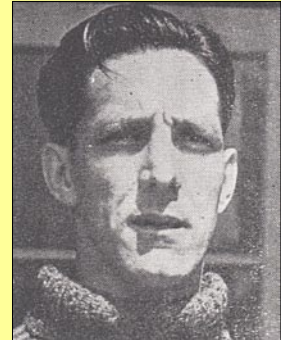
Football League: 113 appearances (1 goal)

FA Cup: 7 appearances

Début: 0-2 away defeat v Southampton, Football League Div 3 (South), 19 Aug 1953

Final game: 0-2 home defeat v Brentford, Football League Div 3 (South), 28 Apr 1956

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 93; all competitions 98



Career Path

Bournemouth Schools; Poole Town; Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic (September 1937 until close season 1939); Gravesend in Second World War; Aldershot & Southampton guest player in Second World War; Fulham (May 1945); Reading (March 1950); Fulham (November 1950); **WATFORD** (£500 May 1953); Folkestone (free June 1956); Hemel Hempstead Town coach (October 1957 until January 1959); Fulham scout (April 1963)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1946/47	Fulham	1			Football League Division 2 – 15th of 22
1947/48	Fulham	10		1	Football League Division 2 – 11th of 22
1948/49	Fulham	6			Football League Division 2 – 1st of 22 (Promoted)
1949/50	Reading	10		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 10th of 22
1950/51	Reading	1			Football League Division 3 (South) – 3rd of 24
1953/54	WATFORD	46			Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 24
1954/55	WATFORD	46		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 7th of 24
1955/56	WATFORD	21			Football League Division 3 (South) – 21st of 24

Although considered for international honours as a schoolboy – he was selected for an England Schools trial match, but missed it through injury – he was 26 before playing in peacetime League football. Ever-present in his first two seasons at Vicarage Road, he was a cool, cultured full-back. Dave Bewley captained Oxhey Cricket Club, and after leaving full-time football was employed by Kodak at Hemel Hempstead for 26 years. In retirement in the West Country he eventually achieved the status of Watford's oldest living player until his death at the age of 92.

William BIGGAR (1904-1910) Goalkeeper
(formerly William BIGGERS)

Born Mexborough, Yorkshire, 16 October 1874

Died Surrey, 11 July 1935

Watford Career

Southern League: 217 appearances (1 goal, a penalty)

FA Cup: 17 appearances

South Eastern League: 16 appearances

United League: 29 appearances (1 goal, a penalty)

Southern Charity Cup: 4 appearances

Début: 2-0 away win v Millwall, Southern League Div 1, 3 Sep 1904

Final game: 0-2 away defeat v Croydon Common, Southern League Div 1, 30 Apr 1910

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 100; all competitions 70



Career Path

Mexborough 'A'; Thurnscoe Victoria; Birtley (professional March 1900); Sheffield United (March 1900); West Ham United (May 1902); Fulham (close season 1903); **WATFORD** (May 1904); Rochdale (May 1910 until retirement close season 1917, also trainer from August 1916); Leyland Motors (1919/20); Earlestown player-coach (August 1931); Oldham Athletic staff

Football League and Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1899/00	Sheffield United	1			Football League Division 1 – 2nd of 18
1900/01	Sheffield United	5			Football League Division 1 – 14th of 18
1901/02	Sheffield United	8			Football League Division 1 – 10th of 18
1902/03	West Ham United	7			Southern League Division 1 – 10th of 16
1903/04	Fulham	6			Southern League Division 1 – 11th of 18
1904/05	WATFORD	34			Southern League Division 1 – 9th of 18
1905/06	WATFORD	33			Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 18
1906/07	WATFORD	38			Southern League Division 1 – 9th of 20
1907/08	WATFORD	38			Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 20
1908/09	WATFORD	38		1	Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 21
1909/10	WATFORD	36			Southern League Division 1 – 19th of 22

A goalkeeping giant, in every sense, of Watford's Southern League era, Billy Biggar made a club-record number of appearances in that competition and was captain for 15 months. In 1909 he performed the extraordinary feat of both scoring and saving a penalty in the same Southern League match, and at the end of the 1909/10 season he was offered half summer wages, which he "curtly refused". In a meeting on 30 May 1911 the Joint Leagues Board reduced his Watford and Sheffield United valuations (he was still on the transfer-list of both clubs) to £150 and £25, respectively. Earlier in his career he understudied the celebrated Fatty Foulke at Bramall Lane. The family name was Biggers when he was born, but as an adult he took to calling himself Biggar, and his death was registered, inexplicably, as Frederick William Biggar.

Charles Roy BILLINGTON (1957) Centre-half

Born Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 8 November 1927

Died Newbold, Derbyshire, 19 November 1985

Watford Career

Football League: 14 appearances

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Southern Floodlight Cup: 2 appearances

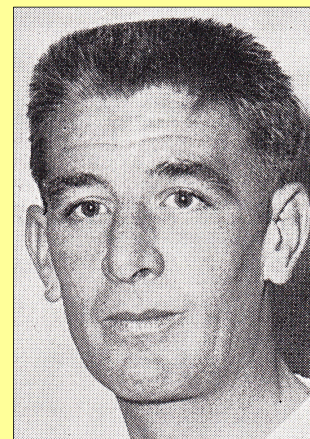
Début: 1-2 away defeat v Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic,

Football League Div 3 (South), 24 Aug 1957

Final game: 0-3 away defeat v Queens Park Rangers,

Football League Div 3 (South), 30 Nov 1957

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 8; all competitions 9



Career Path

Parkhouse Colliery; Chesterfield (amateur 1944); Royal Army Medical Corps; Aldershot (amateur June 1946, professional December 1946); Norwich City (January 1956); **WATFORD** (June 1957); Mansfield Town ("small fee" June 1958 until January 1959); Burton Albion (May 1959)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1946/47	Aldershot	3			Football League Division 3 (South) – 20th of 22
1947/48	Aldershot	3			Football League Division 3 (South) – 19th of 22
1948/49	Aldershot	17		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 21st of 22
1949/50	Aldershot	42			Football League Division 3 (South) – 20th of 22
1950/51	Aldershot	16			Football League Division 3 (South) – 18th of 24
1951/52	Aldershot	9		1	Football League Division 3 (South) – 12th of 24
1952/53	Aldershot	11			Football League Division 3 (South) – 19th of 24
1953/54	Aldershot	44		4	Football League Division 3 (South) – 17th of 24
1954/55	Aldershot	39		2	Football League Division 3 (South) – 14th of 24
1955/56	Aldershot	28		3	Football League Division 3 (South) – 15th of 24
1955/56	Norwich City	7			Football League Division 3 (South) – 7th of 24
1956/57	Norwich City	15			Football League Division 3 (South) – 24th of 24
1957/58	WATFORD	14			Football League Division 3 (South) – 16th of 24 (Relegated)
1958/59	Mansfield Town	1			Football League Division 3 – 20th of 24

This was a Football League career which was played out entirely at Third Division level. Charlie Billington's nine seasons with Aldershot, whom he joined on being posted there by the army, encompassed over two hundred League appearances. A hefty, old-fashioned centre-half, he announced himself in Watford colours by being installed as captain and getting himself sent off on his début, at Bournemouth. His first-team career at Watford was over before December. In the summer he had won the Southern Region championship of the Professional Footballers' Association Golf Tournament.

Charlie Duncan Valentine BIRSE (1946-1947) Half-back

Born Dundee, Angus, 26 October 1916

Died Dundee, Tayside, 31 October 1995

Representative Honours

Scotland 'Junior'

Watford Career

Football League: 7 appearances

FA Cup: 2 appearances

Début: 1-1 away draw v Brighton & Hove Albion, Football League Div 3 (South), 2 Nov 1946

Final game: 2-4 away defeat v Norwich City, Football League Div 3 (South), 26 Apr 1947

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 3; all competitions 3



Career Path

Broughty Ex-Service (amateur May 1935, also professional May 1935); Hibernian (March 1937); Darlington, Heart of Midlothian & Middlesbrough guest player during Second World War; **WATFORD** (May 1946); Northampton Town (free July 1947)

Scottish League and Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1937/38	Hibernian	29			Scottish League Division 1 – 10th of 20
1938/39	Hibernian	11			Scottish League Division 1 – 13th of 20
1939/40	<i>Hibernian</i>	?			<i>Scottish League Division 1 – season abandoned</i>
1946/47	WATFORD	7			Football League Division 3 (South) – 16th of 22

He spent the war years on Hibernian's books, having originally attracted their attention and won 'Junior' (the Scottish equivalent of non-League) honours when playing close to home on Tayside. Charlie Birse was a tall centre-half, but with Les Farnen monopolising the No 5 shirt he was used only at right-half and on the right wing in his few first-team appearances for Watford. After leaving football he went into the catering trade, working at a Linlithgow hotel and as steward of a Monifieth golf club.

William BLACK (1937-1938) Centre-forward

Born Airdrie, Lanarkshire, 15 January 1915

Died Glenrothes, Fife, 1980

Watford Career

Football League: 16 appearances (3 goals)

Division 3 (South) Cup: 4 appearances (4 goals)

Début: 4-0 home win v Bristol Rovers, Football League Div 3 (South), 28 Aug 1937

Final game: 3-1 home win v Queens Park Rangers,

Football League Division 3 (South), 2 Apr 1938

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 12; all competitions 16



Career Path

Airdrie Academy; Airdrieonians (August 1932); Blantyre Victoria (free August 1933); Wishaw (June 1934); Hibernian (October 1934); **WATFORD** (free May 1937); Dunfermline Athletic ("small fee" October 1938 until close season 1946)

Scottish League and Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1932/33	Airdrieonians	1			Scottish League Division 1 – 18th of 20
1934/35	Hibernian	23		10	Scottish League Division 1 – 11th of 20
1935/36	Hibernian	33		15	Scottish League Division 1 – 17th of 20
1936/37	Hibernian	22		12	Scottish League Division 1 – 17th of 20
1937/38	WATFORD	16		3	Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 22
1938/39	Dunfermline Athletic	?		?	Scottish League Division 2 – 5th of 18
1939/40	<i>Dunfermline Athletic</i>	?		?	<i>Scottish League Division 2 – season abandoned</i>

Although on the small side for a centre-forward, Bill Black went straight into the first team after moving down to Vicarage Road. He scored four times in a Division 3 (South) Cup tie against Notts County, but this was more than half his tally in 20 senior games as a Watford player. After refusing terms for a second season he was transferred back to Scotland.. His brother Dick played centre-forward for Manchester United.

Albert George BLAKE (1929-1933) Wing-half

Born Fulham, London, 15 October 1904

Died Southall, London, 18 November 1987

Watford Career

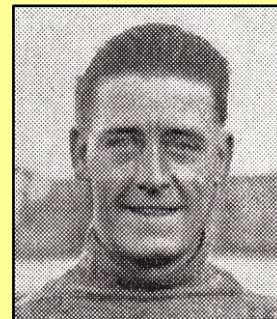
Football League: 28 appearances

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 2-1 away win v Bristol Rovers, Football League Div 3 (South), 12 Oct 1929

Final game: 2-1 home win v Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic,
Football League Div 3 (South), 6 May 1933

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 14; all competitions 14



Career Path

Fulham (May 1928); **WATFORD** (free July 1929); Queens Park Rangers (free August 1933); Tunbridge Wells Rangers (July 1936 until close season 1937)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1929/30	WATFORD	7			Football League Division 3 (South) – 15th of 22
1930/31	WATFORD	20			Football League Division 3 (South) – 18th of 22
1932/33	WATFORD	1			Football League Division 3 (South) – 11th of 22
1933/34	Queens Park Rangers	38		5	Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 22
1934/35	Queens Park Rangers	38		4	Football League Division 3 (South) – 13th of 22
1935/36	Queens Park Rangers	5			Football League Division 3 (South) – 4th of 22

The latter part of Albert Blake's Vicarage Road career followed a strange pattern, in that he was re-engaged for 1932/33 after being given a free transfer, recalled for the final game of that season after two years out of the first team, and then released again (for good this time) immediately afterwards. A wing-half who looked classy in distribution, he was less proficient when defending.

George Patrick BLAND (1945) Goalkeeper

Born Tutbury, Staffordshire, 24 February 1915

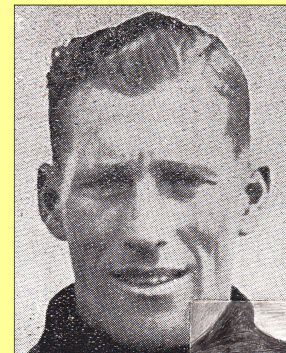
Died Peterborough, Northamptonshire, 1970

Watford Career

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Second World War competitions: 1 appearance

Sole appearance in peacetime competitions: 1-1 home draw v Southend United,
FA Cup 1st Round, 1st Leg, 17 Nov 1945



Career Path

Horncastle Town; Lincoln City (amateur May 1936, professional June 1936); Bradford Park Avenue (May 1938, cancelled December 1938); **WATFORD** (January 1939); Boston United & Notts County guest player during Second World War; Ransome & Marles (free close season 1936 until April 1947); later Spalding United

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1936/37	Lincoln City	1			Football League Division 3 (North) – 2nd of 22

A tall goalkeeper who was an emergency signing – at first on just a month’s trial – to understudy the promoted Jock McHugh following injury to Jim McLaren. Pat Bland made his first-team début nearly seven years later, in the club’s first post-war FA Cup tie – it was the first line-up consisting solely of Watford-registered players since 1940. He subsequently made his only other first-team appearance in one of the competitions which were still being played under wartime conditions.

Luther Loide BLISSETT (1976-1992) Forward

Born Falmouth, Jamaica, 1 February 1958

Representative Honours

England Under-21, 'B' & Full

Watford Career

Football League: 369+46 appearances (148 goals, including 22 penalties)

FA Cup: 32+2 appearances (15 goals, including 2 penalties)

Football League Cup: 41+3 appearances (17 goals, including 2 penalties)

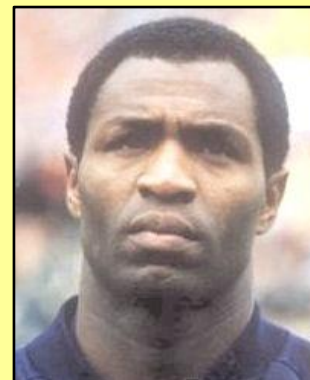
Football League Trophy: 8 appearances (6 goals, including 2 penalties)

Full Members Cup: 1+1 appearances

Début: (as sub) 1-0 home win v Barnsley, Football League Div 4, 3 Apr 1976

Final game: (as sub) 5-2 home win v Bristol City, Football League Div 2, 2 May 1992

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 102; all competitions 122



Career Path

Kingfisher (aged 12); **WATFORD** (youth team, professional June 1975); AC Milan (*Italy*) (£1 million June 1983); **WATFORD** (£550,000 August 1984); AFC Bournemouth (£60,000 November 1988); **WATFORD** (£40,000 August 1991); West Bromwich Albion (loan October 1992); Wimborne Town (free July 1993); Bury (free August 1993); Derry City (free October 1993); Bury (November 1993); Mansfield Town (loan December 1993); Southport (loan March 1994); Fakenham Town (free July 1994); also **WATFORD** marketing assistant (June 1995); **WATFORD** (joint-coach February 1996, assistant-manager May 1996, coach close season 1997, reserve-team manager close season 2000 until close season 2001); Bournemouth Veterans (1999/00); Queens Park Rangers scout (early 2001/02); York City coach (May 2002 until January 2003); Portsmouth coaching staff part-time (March 2004); Chesham United manager (February 2006 until close season 2007); Hemel Hempstead Town assistant-manager (March 2010 until close season 2010); Stevenage Under-16s coach (2010/11); Burnham (head of youth development March 2016, briefly caretaker-manager August 2016)

Football League Career

		Apps	Subs	Goals	League Status and Final Position
1975/76	WATFORD	1	2	1	Football League Division 4 – 8th of 24
1976/77	WATFORD	1	3		Football League Division 4 – 7th of 24
1977/78	WATFORD	17	16	6	Football League Division 4 – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
1978/79	WATFORD	40	1	21	Football League Division 3 – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
1979/80	WATFORD	40	2	10	Football League Division 2 – 18th of 22
1980/81	WATFORD	42		11	Football League Division 2 – 9th of 22
1981/82	WATFORD	40		19	Football League Division 2 – 2nd of 22 (Promoted)
1982/83	WATFORD	41		27	Football League Division 1 – 2nd of 22
1984/85	WATFORD	38	3	21	Football League Division 1 – 11th of 22
1985/86	WATFORD	20	3	7	Football League Division 1 – 12th of 22
1986/87	WATFORD	35		11	Football League Division 1 – 9th of 22
1987/88	WATFORD	17	8	4	Football League Division 1 – 20th of 21 (Relegated)
1988/89	WATFORD	3		1	Football League Division 2 – 4th of 24
1988/89	AFC Bournemouth	30		19	Football League Division 2 – 12th of 24
1989/90	AFC Bournemouth	46		18	Football League Division 2 – 22nd of 24 (Relegated)
1990/91	AFC Bournemouth	45		19	Football League Division 3 – 9th of 24
1991/92	WATFORD	34	8	9	Football League Division 2 – 10th of 24
1992/93	West Bromwich Albion	3		1	Football League Division 2 (3rd tier) – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
1993/94	Bury	8	2	1	Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 13th of 22
1993/94	Mansfield Town	4	1	1	Football League Division 3 (4th tier) – 12th of 22

Unsurpassed in popularity, Luther Blissett epitomised Graham Taylor's Watford with a combination of attacking flair and athleticism which brought the club's first England honour at senior level (he went on to win 14 caps) and a major transfer to Italy. That one-season foray into continental football produced a return of only six goals from a total of 48 appearances, his strengths proving incompatible with the AC Milan style of play, an outcome which ought to have been foreseen. He came to England at the age of six, and played his early football in the Willesden area. Although not always used as an outright striker, he was the top flight's leading scorer in his first season at that level, and set a string of Watford goalscoring and appearance records. AFC Bournemouth, for whom he scored four times on his home début, benefited to the tune of 56 League goals in 121 appearances, which helped to boost his career total to 207 goals in the competition, 27 of them in Watford's first-ever top-flight campaign – the highest tally that season in the entire Football League. A season in Norfolk with Fakenham Town at the age of 36 brought him selection for the county and a winner's medal in the Norfolk Senior Cup.

Dominic John BLIZZARD (2004-2006) Midfielder / Centre-half

Born High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 2 September 1983

Watford Career

Football League: 22+7 appearances (2 goals)

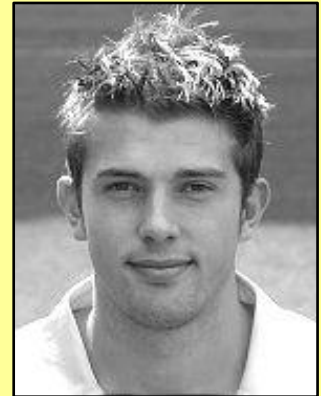
FA Cup: 1 appearances

Football League Cup: 4+2 appearances (1 goals)

Début: (as sub) 1-2 home defeat v Norwich City, Football League Div 1, 24 Apr 2004

Final game: 0-0 home draw (won in penalty shoot-out) v Accrington Stanley,
Football League Cup 2nd Round, 19 Sep 2006

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 10; all competitions 10



Career Path

Watford Schools Under-11s; **WATFORD** (schoolboy June 1998, trainee July 2000, professional April 2002); Stockport County (loan February 2007); Milton Keynes Dons (loan March 2007); Stockport County (free August 2007); Bristol Rovers (free July 2009); Port Vale (loan March 2011); Yeovil Town (free July 2011); Plymouth Argyle (free July 2013, released close season 2015)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
2003/04	WATFORD	1	1	1	Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 16th of 24
2004/05	WATFORD	12	5	1	Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 18th of 24
2005/06	WATFORD	9	1		Football League Championship (2nd tier) – 3rd of 24 (Promoted)
2006/07	Stockport County	7			Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 8th of 24
2006/07	Milton Keynes Dons	10			Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 4th of 24
2007/08	Stockport County	22	6	1	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
2008/09	Stockport County	30	1	3	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 18th of 24
2009/10	Bristol Rovers	22	12	1	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 11th of 24
2010/11	Bristol Rovers	3	2		Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 22nd of 24 (Relegated)
2010/11	Port Vale	1			Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 11th of 24
2011/12	Yeovil Town	24	6	3	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 17th of 24
2012/13	Yeovil Town	15	9	1	Football League Division 1 (3rd tier) – 4th of 24 (Promoted)
2013/14	Plymouth Argyle	21	5	1	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 10th of 24
2014/15	Plymouth Argyle	25	7	1	Football League Division 2 (4th tier) – 7th of 24

Big, strong and energetic, Dominic Blizzard demonstrated that elegance of movement is not essential to effectiveness by scoring as a substitute on his first-team début. After starting the 2005/06 campaign with a regular first-team place he was kept out of action by illness for several months. Unable to re-establish himself in the senior squad thereafter, he was eventually released at the end of the following season after a couple of loan spells away from Vicarage Road.

Michael John BLOCK (1966-1967) Winger

Born Ipswich, Suffolk, 28 January 1940

Representative Honours

England Youth

Watford Career

Football League: 11+2 appearances (2 goals)

Début: 2-0 home win v Middlesbrough, Football League Div 3, 8 Oct 1966

Final game: 2-2 home draw v Oldham Athletic, Football League Div 3, 22 Apr 1967

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 5; all competitions 5



Career Path

Chelsea (amateur May 1955, professional February 1957); Brentford (January 1962); **WATFORD** (October 1966, initially on trial for 2 months); Chelmsford City (free July 1967)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1957/58	Chelsea	20		4	Football League Division 1 – 11th of 22
1958/59	Chelsea	13		1	Football League Division 1 – 14th of 22
1959/60	Chelsea	2			Football League Division 1 – 18th of 22
1960/61	Chelsea	1			Football League Division 1 – 12th of 22
1961/62	Chelsea	1		1	Football League Division 1 – 22nd of 22 (Relegated)
1961/62	Brentford	20		2	Football League Division 3 – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
1962/63	Brentford	42		8	Football League Division 4 – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
1963/64	Brentford	35		11	Football League Division 3 – 16th of 24
1964/65	Brentford	20		3	Football League Division 3 – 5th of 24
1965/66	Brentford	29		6	Football League Division 3 – 23rd of 24 (Relegated)
1966/67	WATFORD	11	2	2	Football League Division 3 – 3rd of 24

After playing for Watford in the League while on trial, Mike Block was taken on for the remainder of the season, but then released. A left-winger, he'd been one of the outstanding clutch of England Youth internationals produced by Chelsea in the mid-1950s, and played in the First Division before enjoying the bulk of his Football League experience with Brentford.

Patrick BLONDEAU (2001-2002) Full-back

Born Marseilles, France, 27 January 1968

Representative Honours

France Full

Watford Career

Football League: 24+1 appearances

FA Cup: 1 appearance

Football League Cup: 2 appearances

Début: 0-3 away defeat v Manchester City, Football League Div 1, 11 Aug 2001

Final game: 0-3 home defeat v Sheffield United, Football League Div 1, 6 Apr 2002

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 6; all competitions 7



Career Path

Septemes (*France*); Martigues (*France*) (1987); AS Monaco (1989); Sheffield Wednesday (£1.8 million July 1997); Bordeaux (*France*) (£1.25 million January 1998); Olympique Marseille (*France*) (1998); **WATFORD** (free July 2001, contract cancelled July 2002); Union Sportive Créteil-Lusitanos (*France*) (close season 2002, retired 2005, director of sport by February 2007); football agent.

FA Premier League and Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1997/98	Sheffield Wednesday	5	1		FA Premier League – 16th of 20
2001/02	WATFORD	24	1		Football League Division 1 (2nd tier) – 14th of 24

The influence of Watford's renowned but (as things turned out) unsuccessful manager, Luca Viali, and preposterous sums of money, attracted a clutch of foreigners to Vicarage Road in 2001/02, including the captain of Olympique Marseille, who played in the 1998/99 UEFA Cup final with Pierre Issa and had won two Full international caps. It was a return to English football for Patrick Blondeau: he'd had a brief and inglorious spell with Sheffield Wednesday four seasons earlier and was sent off in one of his six appearances. He didn't stay for a second season at Vicarage Road, and he wasn't the only one.

Alfred BLYTH (1896-1897) Full-back

Born Norwood, Surrey, 6 August 1878

Died Watford, Hertfordshire, 26 February 1958

West Herts Career

Southern League: 3 appearances

Début: 2-3 away defeat v Chesham, Southern League Div 2, 3 Oct 1896

Final game: 0-2 away defeat v Warmley, Southern League Div 2, 6 Mar 1897

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 2; all competitions 2

Career Path

Watford Ramblers; **WEST HERTS**

Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1896/97	WEST HERTS	3			Southern League Division 2 – 9th of 13

This left-back played in the first team on three isolated occasions in the club's first season of Southern League football, including the first away game in the competition – a 3-2 defeat at Chesham. His brother Reuben was in the team on each of the three occasions, and only seven other pairs of brothers have been in action simultaneously as West Herts/Watford players in the Southern/Football/Premier Leagues. The Blyths were both employed in the print industry.

Reuben BLYTH (1895-1897) Wing-half

Born Bromley-by-Bow, Middlesex, 26 January 1872

Died Watford, Hertfordshire, 10 April 1953

West Herts Career

Southern League: 18 appearances

FA Cup: 2 appearances

FA Amateur Cup: 4 appearances

Herts Senior Cup: 2 appearances

Début: 2-1 home win v Norwich Church of England Young Men's Society,
FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round, 12 Oct 1895

Final game: 2-1 home win v Dartford, Southern League Div 2, 7 Apr 1897

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 16; all competitions 22



Career Path

WEST HERTS (1894/95 until 1897); Hertfordshire; Bushey Grove (1895/96); Queens Park Rangers; Watford St Mary's (1896/97); Queens Park Rangers (1897/98)

Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1896/97	WEST HERTS	18			Southern League Division 2 – 9th of 13

The older of the Blyth brothers by more than six years, Reuben was already in the first team when the club entered the Southern League. He was a versatile member of the side in that first season of competition, mainly at wing-half. The captaincy was offered to him for 1897/98, but he declined as he would frequently be unavailable. He was employed in the print trade and became a colour etcher.

John BLYTHE (1911-1913) Wing-half

Born Tweedmouth, Northumberland, 1876

Died North Shields, Northumberland, 13 May 1944

Watford Career

Southern League: 44 appearances

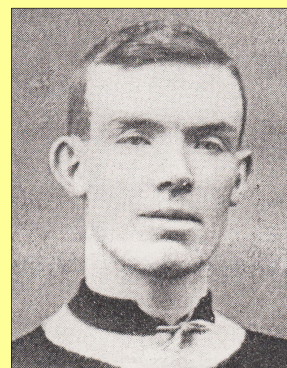
FA Cup: 5 appearances

Southern Charity Cup: 1 appearance

Début: 0-6 away defeat v Millwall, Southern League Div 1, 23 Sep 1911

Final game: 1-1 away draw v Portsmouth, Southern League Div 1, 24 Mar 1913

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Southern League 18; all competitions 23



Career Path

Spittal Rovers; Delaval Villa; Blyth Spartans (November 1896); Jarrow (August 1898); Everton (February 1899); West Ham United (May 1902); Millwall (May 1904); **WATFORD** (free September 1911); Blyth Spartans player/manager/captain/trainer/groundsman (June 1913 – playing, perhaps only occasionally, until 1923/24, and trainer until circa 1926)

Football League and Southern League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1898/99	Everton	8			Football League Division 1 – 4th of 18
1899/00	Everton	19		1	Football League Division 1 – 11th of 18
1900/01	Everton	1			Football League Division 1 – 7th of 18
1901/02	Everton	6			Football League Division 1 – 2nd of 18
1902/03	West Ham United	30			Southern League Division 1 – 10th of 16
1903/04	West Ham United	23			Southern League Division 1 – 12th of 18
1904/05	Millwall	34			Southern League Division 1 – 15th of 18
1905/06	Millwall	33		1	Southern League Division 1 – 12th of 18
1906/07	Millwall	35			Southern League Division 1 – 7th of 20
1907/08	Millwall	33		1	Southern League Division 1 – 3rd of 20
1908/09	Millwall	36			Southern League Division 1 – 11th of 21
1909/10	Millwall	40			Southern League Division 1 – 16th of 22
1910/11	Millwall	33			Southern League Division 1 – 15th of 20
1911/12	WATFORD	29			Southern League Division 1 – 9th of 20
1912/13	WATFORD	15			Southern League Division 1 – 14th of 20

The first match in which Jack Blythe appeared in a Watford line-up ended in a six-goal defeat at the hands of the club he'd just left. Six months later the former Millwall man became the only player in a Watford first-team shirt to be sent off between 1902 and 1923. On his return home to Blyth Spartans his responsibilities were wide and various (he was even used as an experimental goalkeeper in April 1914) and Spartans won the Northumberland Senior Cup in both 1913/14 and 1914/15. His Cassio Road service had been exclusively at left-half.

Ian Robert BOLTON (1977-1983) Defender / Midfielder

Born Leicester, 13 July 1953

Watford Career

Football League: 233+1 appearances (28 goals, including 8 penalties)

FA Cup: 15 appearances (2 goals, including 1 penalty)

Football League Cup: 29+1 appearances (5 goals, including 2 penalties)

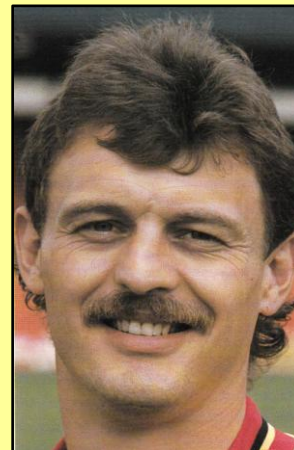
Football League Trophy: 5 appearances (1 goal)

UEFA Cup: 3 appearances

Début: 2-1 home win v Reading, Football League Cup, 1st Round, 1st Leg, 13 Aug 1977

Final game: 0-3 away defeat v Sunderland, Football League Div 1, 12 Nov 1983

Longest run of consecutive appearances: Football League 65; all competitions 49



Career Path

Birmingham City (apprentice September 1968 until October 1970); Notts County (March 1972); Lincoln City (loan August 1976); **WATFORD** (£12,000 July 1977); Brentford (£5,000 December 1983, cancelled July 1984); Barnet (close season 1984, released October 1984); Kettering Town (October 1984); Chalfont St Peter (July 1985); also Oxford United pools promoter (1985/86); Evergreen (1986 until 1987); also Kingsbury Town (mid-1986/87); Hayes (until retirement 1988)

Football League Career

		<u>Apps</u>	<u>Subs</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>League Status and Final Position</u>
1971/72	Notts County		1		Football League Division 3 – 4th of 24
1973/74	Notts County	10	2		Football League Division 2 – 10th of 22
1974/75	Notts County	24	1	1	Football League Division 2 – 14th of 22
1975/76	Notts County	24	3	3	Football League Division 2 – 5th of 22
1976/77	Lincoln City	1			Football League Division 3 – 9th of 24
1976/77	Notts County	3	2		Football League Division 2 – 8th of 22
1977/78	WATFORD	44		6	Football League Division 4 – 1st of 24 (Promoted)
1978/79	WATFORD	43		9	Football League Division 3 – 2nd of 24 (Promoted)
1979/80	WATFORD	39		4	Football League Division 2 – 18th of 22
1980/81	WATFORD	21		4	Football League Division 2 – 9th of 22
1981/82	WATFORD	42		5	Football League Division 2 – 2nd of 22 (Promoted)
1982/83	WATFORD	37			Football League Division 1 – 2nd of 22
1983/84	WATFORD	7	1		Football League Division 1 – 11th of 22
1983/84	Brentford	14		1	Football League Division 3 – 20th of 24

Graham Taylor had him on loan at Lincoln City and brought him to Watford for what proved an absurdly small fee. In both midfield and defence the tall and powerful Ian Bolton was a master of the long driven pass and the explosive shot, attributes which played a significant part in the club's rise to prominence and to the top-flight runners-up spot, following which his career fell away very quickly. He received a cash settlement when his Brentford contract was cancelled after half a season and he was released by Barnet three months later owing to the club's financial difficulties.