



## That Boy Jack Midson!

As the popular terrace refrain about tonight's special guest used to begin "he scores with his left...he scores with his right..." but arguably Jack Midson's two most memorable AFC Wimbledon goals came from a header and via the penalty spot!

Midson put the hard yards in on the non-league circuit before getting the chance to turn fully professional arose in 2009 – with Oxford United – close to his 26th birthday. Before that, he combined turning out for Stevenage Borough, Harlow Town, Hayes, Hendon, Chelmsford City, Arlesey Town, Dagenham & Redbridge, Hemel Hempstead Town and Bishop's Stortford, with coaching tennis, football and being a primary school PE teacher.

But it was 25 goals in 65 games at Histon – where his teammates included future Dons Mat Mitchel-



King and Gareth Gwillim – that got him noticed and persuaded Oxford to help them regain their Football League place, which included his first career hat-trick against Torquay United in 2011. But that summer, AFC Wimbledon joined the U's in League Two, completing a miraculous rise from ground zero in just nine years. And Jack had big boots to fill, following the departure of talismanic striker Danny Kedwell.

Jack was Dons manager Terry Brown's marquee summer signing and Midson didn't disappoint, finishing the season with 20 goals in all competitions, including 18 in

League Two where he ended joint-top scorer. AFC Wimbledon then fended off a six-figure bid from Rotherham United for his services and the first of his two iconic Dons goals came in December 2012, when a fine diving header levelled the scores in an FA Cup tie in Buckinghamshire that captured the attentions of the football nation.

Later in 2012/13 came another and more important goal as AFC Wimbledon found themselves staring down the barrel of losing their hard-won EFL status on the final day of the season. Needing to beat Fleetwood Town at



Kingsmeadow to stay up, Curtis Osano was bundled over in the area and Midson – on his 100th appearance for the Club – stepped up to coolly slot home from the spot to guide the Dons to safety – and to finish once again as the Club's top scorer with 15 goals.

When Jack was released a year later, he joined Eastleigh and then Braintree Town, before dropping down the pyramid where his experience and know-how served several clubs on and off the field, in playing and assistant manager roles, with Leatherhead, Concord Rangers and a return to Hemel Hempstead. In 2020, he joined Sheppey United, later becoming player/manager, where the goals continued to flow, with 24 in 46 matches. He now runs successful coaching schools in Kent and we are delighted to welcome him and his family back to Plough Lane this evening.

