

DUNMOW

It has been a source of regret and frustration that a place as big as Dunmow has not been able to put a team in the league for some years. They were regulars for a long period but since they dropped out in 1983, there has not been a stirring.

They had teams in the league from the mid 60s and became something of a force in the league under the indomitable John Letch. By 1970 they had two teams in division one plus a C and D team lower down. With a team built round Letch, Cec Butcher, Malcolm Mosedale and later Dean Andrews, they yo-yoed between the top two divisions – although it was a rather curious yo-yo that saw them finish top of division two in 1974, bottom of the same division in 1975 and second in 1976. They opted out of promotion in 1974 after losing Mosedale but no one expected them to plummet to the depths the next season. They were spared relegation and brought in Len Viner to replace Peter Short – not a substantial change – and jumped up the table again.

Letch, Andrews and Keith Martin were relegated in 1979, returned to the top flight in 1980 before finishing bottom again in 1981.

They failed to gain promotion the following year despite fielding the strong looking side of Butcher, Martin, Short, Paul Wellington and Phil Sinclair.

They dropped from fourth to fifth in 1983 and then shut up shop, moving en bloc to Rayne, where Dean Andrews had gone the previous season and where most of them remain.