[**West Ham United Football Club**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Ham_United_F.C.) are based in [Upton Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Park,_London), [Newham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Borough_of_Newham), east London and have played their home matches at the 35,016[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_West_Ham_United_F.C.#cite_note-1) capacity [Boleyn Ground](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boleyn_Ground) stadium since 1904.

The club's formative roots stretch back to their formation as a professional side in 1900, but existed for at least five years prior to this under the name [Thames Ironworks F.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thames_Ironworks_F.C.)who themselves were built upon the remains of [Old Castle Swifts F.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Castle_Swifts_F.C.) (a club formed in 1892).

They initially competed in the London League (Winners 1897–98) later joining the Southern League (Division 2 Champions 1898–99) and Western League (Western League Champions in 1907–08) before joining the full [Football League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League) in 1919. They enjoyed their first top flight season in 1923 and have never fallen outside the top two divisions. They have won the [FA Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup) three times: in 1964, 1975 and 1980 (runners up 1923, 2006), and also captured the now defunct [Cup Winners Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Cup_Winners%27_Cup) in 1965 (runners up 10 years later) and the [Intertoto Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intertoto_Cup) in 1999. They also won the first [War Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_War_Cup) in 1940. Their best finish in the top flight was a third place finish in 1986. They have been runners up twice in the[Football League Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_League_Cup) (1966 and 1981) and shared the 1964 [Charity Shield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charity_Shield)