



Amersham Town Football Club Season 2025 – 2026

Saturday 9th August 2025

Amersham Town v Wokingham Town
Cherry Red Combined Counties League:
Premier Division North
Kick off 3.00pm

Chairman: Paul Serkis
Secretary: Bryan Fisher
Manager: Jason Owens



Welcome to the players, committee members and supporters of Wokingham Town. It's a pleasure to welcome them to this, our first home game of the season.

As you will no doubt know, we have a new management team and a completely new squad. At present there is no player still with us who played last season. We may well miss some, such as our leading scorer, Jake Tabor and I, for one I will be particularly interested to observe how he gets on at Swinden Town.

It's been a challenge for Jason Owens, our manager, and Alfie Sanger, our head coach, to put together a squad that is competitive at this level. And it will come as no surprise to know that our player budget is far more constrained in these stringent times. Fortunately, both Jason and Alfie are experienced at this level and our friendlies have gone well. So we start the season with hope and ambition.

The theme of renewal runs throughout the club. Simon Damery, our Chairman for ten years, resigned last February. Our new Chairman, Paul Serkis, has made a point of bringing in new blood which is already paying dividends. Thanks to Peter Nelson, one of the committee members who joined us last season, we have also completed the ground works required to maintain our step 5 status.

Enjoy the game.
Mike Gahagan

Next game at Spratleys Meadow: Saturday 23rd August v Brook House. FA Vase, kick off 3.00pm.

ENTRY: Adults £8, Senior Citizens £6, Children under 16 free

Amersham Town FC: results and fixtures.

Date	Opponents	H/A	Score	Scorers
29.7.25	North Greenford	A	1 - 1	Miah
2.8.25	Cinderford Town	A	1 - 0	Johnson FA Cup: extra preliminary round
9.8.25	Wokingham Tn	H		
16.8.25	R Wootton B or Lydney	A		FA Cup Preliminary Rnd
19.8.25	Holyport	A		
23.8.25	Brook House	H		FA Vase
25.8.25	Harefield Utd	A		
30.8.25	Ardley Utd	H		
3.9.25	Hilltop	A		
6.9.25	Virginia Water	A		
9.9.25	Holmer Green	H		B&B Senior Cup
13.9.25	Ashford Town	H		
20.9.25	North Leigh	A		
27.9.25	Burnham	H		

Amersham Town

1. Ben Clargo
2. Joshua Quadry
3. Ramane Griffith-Dunbar
4. Mark Webb
5. Daniel Fogarasy
6. Craig Stephen-Lett
7. Razvan Roman
8. Naz Miah
9. Shane Johnson
10. Charles John
11. Shaun Aram
12. Joshua Penemo
14. Dominic Jones
15. Joshua Clay
16. Lucas Georgiou
17. Elliot Few
18. Kai Bartolo

Manager: Jason Owens
Head Coach: Alfie Sanger
Coach: Ben Clargo
GK Coach Mark Bonnick.

Colours: Black & White

Wokingham Town

1. Alex Badshah
2. Alfie Johnson
3. Archie Collier
4. Callum Vidler
5. Charlie Terry
6. Connor Richardson
7. Dan Harris
8. Declan Joyce
9. Dontae Hamblin
10. Ed Port
11. Emilio Fantocchio
12. George Davis
14. Jack Gibbs
15. James Forster
16. Jamie Goodwin
17. Joao Jardim
18. Joe Hybert

Managers: Matt Eggleston,
Darren Purbrick
Coaches: Oscar Crowley, Jamie
Sheppard, Luke Harris

Colours: All Blue

Referee: Joshua Helm-Cowley

Assn't Ref: Brian Capel

Assn't Ref: Jude Keya

Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League: Premier Division North

As at Saturday 2nd August 2025

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Ardley United	1	1	0	0	4	3
2	Wokingham Town	1	1	0	0	4	3
3	Abingdon United	1	1	0	0	2	3
4	Harefield United	1	1	0	0	2	3
5	Kidlington	1	1	0	0	2	3
6	Windsor & Eton	1	1	0	0	2	3
7	Burnham	1	1	0	0	1	3
8	British Airways	1	1	0	0	1	3
9	Amersham Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
10	North Greenford Utd	1	0	1	0	0	1
11	Ashford Tn (Middx)	1	0	1	0	0	1
12	Virginia Water	1	0	1	0	0	1
13	Reading City	1	0	0	1	-1	0
14	Broadfields United	1	0	0	1	-1	0
15	Edgware & K'bury	1	0	0	1	-2	0
16	Hilltop	1	0	0	1	-2	0
17	Milton United	1	0	0	1	-2	0
18	North Leigh	1	0	0	1	-2	0
19	Holyport	1	0	0	1	-4	0
20	Wallingford & Cm'sh	1	0	0	1	-4	0

A History of Wokingham Town FC



Although a new name for many, this season marks the 151st season since Wokingham Town Football Club was formed, making it the fourth oldest club in Berkshire. In the early days, players came almost exclusively from the 'landed gentry'. At that time, Old Etonians was considered to be the best side in England however, soon after its formation, one of the founders of Wokingham Town Football Club decided the local club should be open for players from all sections of society.

In 1912, Wokingham Town won Division One of the Ascot League alongside the Camberley Hospital Cup. In 1921, it switched to the Reading Temperance League, with the team winning the Division One Championship in 1925. That success brought a desire within the club to own its own ground. A fundraising initiative was launched and in 1928, having raised £750, the purchase of the Finchampstead Road enclosure was completed. In 1953, the final of the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup was reached, and the stage was set for entry into senior football. The club joined the Metropolitan League, and subsequently transferred to the Delphian League. The 1957/58 season saw a memorable FA Amateur Cup run. The club caused upset after upset from the early qualifying rounds to reach the quarter finals. In round three, Wokingham Town produced its finest display, defeating West Auckland. After the match, West Auckland

lodged a complaint that Town had played an ineligible player. The FA ordered a replay, and a large crowd saw Wokingham Town win 3-2. In the next round, due to the national publicity, we lost 3-2 at Crook Town. That remains the largest crowd to ever watch a Wokingham Town match.

The 1969 season saw the club's first success in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. In 1981/82, Wokingham Town won the Isthmian League Division One by 13 points, thereby gaining promotion to the Premier Division. Although only finishing in 17th position, that season marked another milestone for the club by reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first and only time. A 1-1 draw against Cardiff City at Finchampstead Road was followed by a 3-0 defeat at Ninian Park in Wales. That same season also saw Wokingham Town's second success in the Berks & Bucks Cup with a 2-0 win over Bracknell Town. The 1987/88 season was perhaps the most successful in the club's history. The semi-final of the League Cup was reached for the first time, and the Berks & Bucks Cup saw a narrow defeat in the final. a crowd of almost 10,000 saw Wokingham Town.

However, the club reached the semi-final of the FA Trophy, being paired in two-legs against favourites Telford United. The two legs, which ended in a 3-0 defeat, saw a combined total of more than 6,000 spectators.

After selling its Finchampstead Road ground, the club led a nomadic existence until 2004, when it returned to the town with a merger with Emmbrook Sports to create Wokingham & Emmbrook FC. Playing initially in the Hellenic League Division One East, the club collected the Reading Challenge Cup under the stewardship of former Reading FC professional Wayne Wanklyn in 2010 - a feat it would repeat for three consecutive seasons. The club returned home to Wokingham in 2013, but had to ground share to play step 5 until 2019 when we returned home to 1 floodlights and a 100-seat covered grandstand approved and installed at its Lowther Road home.

Under the new management team of Darren Purbrick and Matt Eggleston the club finished a respectable fourteenth last season. The club now boasts players from more than 62 teams representing Wokingham Town from the age of 7, including thriving girls and women's teams, U18 Allied team, Reserves and an over-50s walking football team.

The American Dream

When we think of football in the United States – and not the Super Bowl kind – we tend to think of it as a fairly modern invention. The North American Soccer League of the 1970s and 80s that attracted the likes of Pele, George Best, Johann Cruyff and, in a slightly bizarre turn of events, a young Peter Beardsley. After its demise, the MLS' faltering start and thus far successful revival after David Beckham's move to LA Galaxy. But soccer has a long history in the USA, and the first national league created was earlier than some of the top European leagues. The inaugural season of the American Soccer League kicked off in 1921.

Football in the USA goes back to the nineteenth century. In 1869, the representatives of Princeton and Rutgers Universities took part in one of the more pivotal games in sporting history. It has gone down as the first gridiron game in history. But the laws used that day were the FA's Laws of the Game, and there was definitely spherical ball. This was a game of European football.

Football in the United States then filtered its way down to the working classes, exploding in popularity, especially among European immigrants. Teams started to spring up in American cities. By 1884 an American Football Association had been formed, just in time to prevent the formation of what would have been the first league, backed by the owners of Major League Baseball teams to give their players something to do in the winter. The AFA, even at this early stage, was unwilling to lose its control of the game.

They did, however, set up a cup for teams to compete in, This first organised competition drew teams from factory towns, usually made up of factory workers and often sponsored by the company. The first three were won by Clark ONT, owned by the Clark Thread Company. But then it was dominated by Fall River Rovers, who won six of the next seven. They were the only team to win both the American Cup and the later Challenge Cup, although the struggles of their parent company forced Rovers to withdraw by the start of the twentieth century.

Turmoil, it seemed, was catching. When the AFA applied for FIFA membership in 1912, a breakaway organisation (The American Amateur Football Association) applied at the same time. FIFA rejected both, needing just one governing body. The delay in FIFA affiliation did little to hurt the growth of the sport, but did not stop teams from as far afield as Third Lanark in Scotland and Hakoah Wien in Austria to embark on lucrative tours. Third Lanark won 24 of their 25 games in the United States, eventually drawing the last against Fall River Rovers. Hakoah Wien, full of exciting central European talent drew record-breaking crowds and at least one of their players chose not to return to Austria at the end of the tour, finding the life of celebrity and riches too enticing to give up.

As the AAFA gained the upper hand over their rival federation, it changed its name to the USFA and, before eventually turning its attention to a league. The American Soccer League claimed to be a national competition, but because of travel difficulties in reality it was limited to the northeast. Not that this impacted on popularity. Football was never as popular as baseball, but it was very lucrative, and those riches were used to attract European players, much to European chagrin. As a result, early crowds in the tens of thousands threatened to make soccer America's second sport, ahead of gridiron.

Sadly, as so often with football in America, it wasn't to be. The ASL fell out with the USFA when the latter tried to impose new rules to boost popularity even further. These American innovations included end of season playoffs and a league table sorted by winning percentage rather than points. Also, interestingly, the USFA wanted substitutions. The ASL conceded this and introduced them in 1926; the World Cup didn't allow substitutes until 1970.

In the end, the ASL initiated a boycott of the USFA's challenge cup. Three teams went against the boycott and were kicked out of the league, but the courts found in their favour. Rancour and disharmony within the sport smashed headlong into the collapsing American economy, and fans decided against spending what little they had watching football. By 1932, amid falling crowds and financial problems, the league eventually folded.

But not before it sent a team to the first World Cup, to finish third, still the best finish for a team outside of Europe and South America. Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green *The Untold Game*

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Fall River Rovers in the 1880's



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19.10-20.10 - MIXED ABILITY - AMERSHAM TOWN FC

TUESDAY

12.20-13.20 - MIXED ABILITY - BARN MEADOW HALL

THURSDAY

09.15-10.15 - MIXED ABILITY - AMERSHAM TOWN FC
10.30-11.30 - BEGINNERS/IMPROVERS - AMERSHAM TOWN FC
17.15-18.00 - MIXED ABILITY - AMERSHAM TOWN FC

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF AMERSHAM TOWN FC

Amersham Town FC was formed in 1890. An inaugural meeting took place at the Crown public house, now a hotel, on 10 October 1890. The Chairman was a local headmaster who was very friendly with W. G. Grace and was, in fact, recommended by that great cricketer. Among the original rules were no bad language on the pitch, that no player should wear any nails, an annual subscription of 1/6d (or 7.5p) and an agreement that the club colours would be black and white.

The club originally played at Barn Meadow, down the road from the current ground. Amersham Town moved to Spratleys Meadow in 1920, thanks to the generosity of a local entrepreneur - a Mr Brazil - who founded the famous sausage and pie company bearing his name.

Amersham joined the Hellenic League in 1952 and then the Spartan League in 1972. The Clubhouse, a former school room, was erected in 1968 and extended to its current size in 1983. New floodlights were installed in 1977. In 1998 the Club secured a ninety nine year lease on Spratleys Meadow and built a new stand. In 2000, new pitches were provided across School Lane for the Youth Section.

In 2006/07 the club enjoyed a major refurbishment. The original changing rooms, which were commandeered in the war as an emergency mortuary in the event of an air raid on Amersham, were demolished and modern facilities constructed. The pitch, which had a slope of 11ft 4 inches from touchline to touchline, was levelled and now provides an excellent playing surface. In 2022 the clubhouse was comprehensively remodeled and modern floodlights installed for this season.. Amersham Town was granted Charter Standard Club status in 2013.

The club moved to the Cherry Red Combined Counties League in season 22/23 and was promoted to the Premier Division North for last season. The team is managed by Jason Owens and the club has developed close links with Kings Church FC, a well organised local club which runs more than twenty junior teams.

A hard copy or an on-line booklet recording the club's history, prepared for its 125th anniversary in 2015, can be obtained by emailing Mike Gahagan on michaelgahagan89@gmail.com