



Amersham Town Football Club

Season 2025 – 2026

Saturday 22nd November 2025

Amersham Town v Harefield Utd
CCFL 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 Harefield Utd. A particular welcome to Harefield's manager, Richard Paquette, who spent a very successful past two seasons here. However, the exception to this was our record against Harefield Utd. Last season we played them three times and lost on each occasion: two nil at home, one nil away and then one nil again in the play-offs.

I have noticed this season that the quality of referees seems to have improved. I'm surprised how often I find myself entering marks on MOAS that are in the 'good,' 'very good' or 'excellent' category. The referees on average also seem to be getting younger, or it may be that I am getting older.

Last Saturday we were a little unlucky to lose two nil at Abingdon Utd. Our problem, clearly, is scoring goals. We have a solid defence and some creative players. But we seem to be unable to put the ball in the net. In the last five games we have scored one goal. Let's hope that we put an end to that curse, and reverse our record against Harefield, this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

Mike Gahagan

Next game at Spratleys Meadow: Saturday 6th December v Ardley: Combined Counties League: 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	3 - 0	Aram 2, Georgiou
16.8.25	Royal Wootton Bassett	A	1 - 3	Roman. FA Cup Preliminary Rnd
19.8.25	Holyport	A	1 - 2	Bartolo
23.8.25	Brook House	H	0 - 1	FA Vase
25.8.25	Harefield Utd	A	0 - 3	
30.8.25	Ardley Utd	H	2 - 0	Aram, Georgiou
3.9.25	Hilltop	A	2 - 4	Jones, Sennett
9.9.25	Holmer Green	H	2 - 3	Aram, Austin B&B Senior Cup
16.9.25	Windsor & Eton	A	2 - 4	Bartolo, Sykes. CCFL Challenge Cup
20.9.25	North Leigh	A	1 - 2	Johnson
27.9.25	Burnham	H	1 - 0	Johnson
4.10.25	British Airways	A	0 - 2	
11.10.25	Edgware & K'y	H	1 - 0	Aram
18.10.25	Milton Utd	A	2 - 3	Aram, Martin-Thomas
22.10.25	Kidlington	A	0 - 0	
25.10.25	Broadfields Utd	H	0 - 4	
1.11.25	Wallingford & C	A	0 - 0	
8.11.25	Wokingham Tn	A	1 - 6	Martin-Thomas
15.11.25	Abingdon Utd	A	0 - 2	
22.11.25	Harefield Utd	H		
29.11.25	Reading City	A		
6.12.25	Ardley Utd	A		
13.12.25	Virginia Water	H		
20.12.25	Ashford Town	A		
27.12.25	North Greenford	H		
10.1.26	Hilltop	H		

Amersham Town

1. Pompeyo Castillo
2. Joshua Clay
3. Josh Quadry
4. Mark Webb
5. Archie Sykes
6. Ethan Sennett
7. Jayden Gibson
8. Dominic Jones
9. Chris Martin-Thomas
10. Naz Miah
11. Shaun Aram
12. Shane Johnson
14. Matt Messer
15. Craig Griffith-Dunbar
16. Daniel Fogarasy
17. Rhys Rabess
18. Ryan Austin

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

Colours: Black & White

Harefield Utd

1. Jacob Ballheimer
2. Steven Green
3. Kristian Swaby
4. Samir Shaffi
5. Rhys Paul
6. Joel Jacobs
7. Montel Brown
8. Pierce McNamara
9. Dylan Kearney
10. Louis Bircham
11. Aiden Swaby
12. Jake Sobalak
14. Sam Wood
15. Austen Edwards
16. Josh Andrew
17. Max McLeish
18. Kyle Mendez

Manager: Richard Paquette

Colours: Red & Black

Referee: Louie Chaisty

Assn't Ref: Brian Capel

Assn't Ref: Simon Cook

Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League: Premier Division North

As at Saturday 15th November 2025

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Ardley United	16	12	2	2	26	38
2	Broadfields United	18	10	4	4	24	34
3	Burnham	15	11	0	4	16	33
4	Wallingford & Cmhd	18	10	3	5	0	33
5	Windsor & Eton	15	9	5	1	16	32
6	Hilltop	20	9	3	8	11	30
7	Ashford Tn (Middx)	14	8	4	2	13	28
8	Kidlington	16	7	6	3	7	27
9	Reading City	14	7	4	3	14	25
10	Milton United	17	7	2	8	-3	23
11	Wokingham Town	16	6	4	6	7	22
12	North Greenford Utd	15	6	3	6	-3	21
13	Abingdon United	15	6	2	7	0	20
14	Amersham Town	17	5	3	9	-12	18
15	Harefield United	16	5	1	10	-13	16
16	British Airways	16	5	3	8	-8	15 *
17	North Leigh	18	4	3	11	-13	15
18	Holyport	19	4	1	14	-34	13
19	Virginia Water	14	3	3	8	-11	12
20	Edgware & K'bury	17	0	2	15	-37	2

* adjustment made

Harefield Utd History.

Founded in 1868 Harefield United Football Club is the oldest in Middlesex.

The Club has had a number of names throughout it's history, one of the earliest being Harefield Victoria where the local paper of 1891 has a match report of a 1-0 win over Rickmansworth Rovers, the goal being scored by G Harland. The team was D Collett (goal), C Milton and J Varcos (backs), A Oates and J P Richardson (half backs), C Brown Jnr and G Webster (centres), W Prickett, G Winship, C Armour and G Harland (forwards).

One of the next names was Breakspear Institute FC, who played in the local Uxbridge leagues. The oldest copy of a document is the minutes of their AGM held in 1897. We also have early team photographs of Breakspear from 1903 showing some of the many honours won at the turn of the century. There is also a programme from 1922 when Breakspear and Harefield played against each other in front of 1922 people. The merger with Harefield FC was in 1934 when the team became Harefield United. However, they are one of those longstanding clubs who has had success on the football field but little at the senior level.

Harefield United originally played in local leagues, including the Uxbridge & District League, before the team progressed to the Great Western Combination in 1947. During the years spent in the U&DL Harefield United managed to win Division 3, the Uxbridge Junior Cup and Uxbridge Premier Cup.

The Club spent nearly twenty years in the Great Western Combination league winning Division 2 in their first year along with the Chesham Cup. The Club winning Division 1 in 1951 followed this. The Reserves had their success during the 1960s in the Great Western Combination Reserve Divisions. Harefield's next bit of silverware came after a move to the Parthenon League in 1964, the Championship being won in the debut campaign. . After two season the 'Hares' moved on to the Middlesex League and it was in that competition that they had their most successful period to date. The league Championship was won on 4 occasions between 1966 and 1971 and the League Cup was also taken twice in that period.

1975 saw Harefield accepted into the Athenian League where they remained for nine seasons. It was a period of slow consolidation for the 'Hares' who eventually claimed the Runners-up spot in 1983/84, so earning themselves the right to a place in the newly expanded Isthmian League. United became founder members of the Division Two (North) in 1984/85 and played in that Division for two seasons before changing over to Division Two (South), the Club being caught up in the no-man's land where the boundaries of the regionalised divisions met.

Harefield struggled to make an impact in Division Two (North), finishing 18th out of the twenty clubs in both of the two campaigns spent in that Division. However, the change to the South section led to better performances and in 1986/7 they finished in 10th place out of 21 clubs, this was followed by a final placing of 13th the next season and then in season 1988/89 the 'Hares' were 5th. They dropped to a disappointing 12th the following campaign, but the final year of the regionalised leagues saw 7th place achieved. This meant that Harefield had made the cut off point for qualification to play in the first year of the newly formed Diadora (Isthmian) Division Two the following season.

The new division was a struggle for the Middlesex Club and they just missed relegation in the first year, but the next season were demoted along with Southall to Division 3. Despite this set back, the achievements of the Club in recent years have been quite remarkable considering that Harefield is a comparatively isolated location with a small population and consequently small crowds. The record attendance at Preston Park is 430, for a FA Vase tie against Bashley, which the Hares won 1-0. 1995/96 proved to be the last in the Icis (isthmian) League. Due to lack of funds to carry out ground improvements, the 'Hares' resigned from the League in November and were allocated to the Spartan League for season 1996/97.

The Hares spent one season in the Spartan League before it merged with the South Midlands League. There were two Premier Divisions in the first season, and the clubs, which finished in the top half of each Division, formed the Premier Division for the following season. Unfortunately the Hares only managed 11th position so they had to play in the Senior Division (now changed to Division 1). However, in 2002 the Hares gained promotion to the Premier, finally missing out on the League

Championship by just one point. The consolation was beating the league champions, Greenacres, 4-1 in the final of the League Cup. There then followed more success during 2002/03 season, winning the Challenge Trophy, beating Dunstable Town (the league winners) 4-1 over two legs. The Hares also reached the final of the Premier League Cup and finished 4th. The Club also had good runs in both the FA Cup and FA Vase, beating Ryman sides on the way. This success continued during 2003/04 with a SSM Premier League Cup win, 1-0 against Brook House, and getting beaten 2-1 (aet) by Wealdstone in the Middlesex Senior Charity Cup. Season 2004/5 saw the teams consolidate their positions in near the top of their leagues and we had the inaugural season for a U18 side in the Allied Counties East division.

Season 2005/06 had its highs and lows. Despite the first team finishing 4th, its highest place since Stuart Leavy took over the senior side the team missed out getting promoted under the new league structure on goal difference. However, the ground improvements needed to get an E grading were completed before the deadline, this puts us in good stead for the future. The good news is that the U18 side not only won the East Division to get promoted to the Premier but they won the Middlesex Youth Cup. To cap off a good season for the Club the Reserves came runners up in the North Division of the Suburban and are now in the Premier.

The club has since remained in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division finishing runners-up twice, in the 2006–07 season and the 2008–09 season where they lost out on goal difference against Biggleswade Town.

Manager Ian Crane left to join A.F.C. Hayes in the summer of 2012, and he was replaced by Uxbridge reserve boss Phil Granville. However, Granville left in the summer of 2015 to become Hanwell Town's manager and he was replaced by Jason Shaw in May 2015.

In the 2018-2019 season, Jason Shaw lead Harefield United to promotion with 5 games to spare in his fourth season with the club. The club would join Arsenal and Preston North End going the whole league season unbeaten in the 2018-2019 Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One and were promoted to the Premier Division. The club

transferred to the Cherry Red Combined Counties League for the 2022 – 23 season.

The Basque Country Refugees

When war erupts, football can seem a trivial distraction. But it also takes on an extra significance. When the world is falling apart, the distraction and, in some cases, the revenues of football can keep what little is left afloat. More importantly, football can provide a platform for legitimacy for regimes that are under threat, fighting for their very existence. So it was during the Spanish Civil War, when fascist Franco focussed the fiercest fighting on the independence-seeking, socialist Basque Country. As their countrymen joined the fight, footballers from the region were sent out into the world, to raise funds and to raise awareness of the struggle for freedom. In Mexico, they went on an adventure.

They had been sent by the Basque government in waiting, and it was a star studded side. Athletic Club, the Bilbao based giants, were the dominant force in Spanish football before the war, and were made up of local players. These players formed the backbone of the Spanish national team, but their fierce nationalism ensured that their loyalty was never in question. After a couple of matches amongst themselves to raise funds, which were diverted to the purchase of arms and ammunition, they headed off for France. They played our two credible results against French champions Racing Paris, before a trip east to Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Soviet Union. Again, they held their own, and were treated like heroes because of the socialism that was associated with their republican movement. They were competitive, apart from a game against Spartak Moscow that saw the Russians bring in other players from around Moscow, and a heavy suspicion that the referee was bribed. They returned to the west to play in Denmark and Norway, finishing their tour.

In Spain, the war raged on into the autumn of 1937. The Basque footballing heroes returned, but not for long before deciding to head off on another trip. At a dinner in Paris, they agreed to move beyond Europe, and head to South America, where tours were historically lucrative. But

there was a difficulty. FIFA, not happy about the politicised nature of the Basque Country football team, tried to put a block on clubs arranging friendlies. A handful of matches were played in Cuba, Argentina and Chile, but the difficulty in getting games meant that, when they went to Mexico, a different plan had to be formed. With the agreement of the Mexican FA, the Basque Country team was admitted into the Mexican League for the 1938/39 season.

The experience wasn't completely alien. CD Euskadi, as they were known, had already played against some of the clubs in the Mexican league on their tour. Some of the players had also made the trip in 1935, with Athletic Club. On top of that, as a foreign curiosity, they immediately received considerable backing from the locals. They were excited to see some of the superstars. Isidro Langara in particular, was singled out for special treatment, carried from the train and out of the station of supporters' shoulders before Euskadi's first match. He scored a hat trick in that match.

It set the tone, and they spent most of the season up near the top of the table. Even going into the last day, they had a chance to win the most unlikely of titles. But a team without a home, always on the road and travelling long distances finally caught up with them. They suffered a heavy defeat on the final day, allowing Asturias to leapfrog them and take the trophy.

Before the next season could start, the Spanish Civil War came to an end. The Basque Country lost, and was subsumed into Franco's Spain. Euskadi had no home to which they could return, and their players were enemies of the state. The Basque government, in one of its final acts, sent the players 10,000 pesetas each to start a new life. Some took that money and arranged to travel to Argentina, while others started looking for contracts with other Mexican teams. Euskadi played one final match, a pulsating and violent 4-4 draw against Atletico Corrales that finally ended in a brawl on the pitch. After that, the players went their separate ways.

Franco's dictatorship would last well beyond the careers of the Euskadi players, and beyond some of their lives, but their legacy wasn't totally lost. In Mexico, they are credited with boosting football to its enthusiastic, sometimes manic levels of support, and they began the process of

professionalisation in the country. When we look at the exceptional players that have come out of the Basque Country in recent decades, they are heirs of that legacy.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, *The Untold Game*

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media, @TheUntoldGame



Athletic Club

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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 remodelled 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 Preier 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