



Amersham Town Football Club Season 2025 – 2026

Tuesday 6th September 2025

**Amersham Town v Holmer Green
Berks & Bucks County Cup:
First Round
Kick off 7.30pm**

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



Welcome to the players, committee members and supporters of Holmer Green. It's a particular pleasure to welcome Holmer as they are our nearest neighbours in the Combined Counties League.

This is our third knock-out competition so far this season. Our performance in the FA Cup was very good, beating Cinderford Town away and then going down away to a very good Royal Wootton Bassett team. We were then far less impressive losing one nil at home to Brook House in the Vase. This was a great disappointment to me as I felt that we had the attributes to go quite far in this competition but it was not to be.

Off the field you may have noticed some improvements to the bar area in the clubhouse. Credit for this is due to David Edwards who has worked wonders in the clubhouse since he took over as manager. Not surprisingly, in a facility which is used five days a week, it suffers from a fair amount of wear and tear. But David has kept on top of it and we regularly receive compliments about it.

Enjoy the game.
Mike Gahagan

Next game at Spratleys Meadow: Saturday 27th September v Burnham, 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
6.9.25	Virginia Water	A	3 - 1	Aram 2, Jones
9.9.25	Holmer Green	H		B&B Senior Cup
16.9.25	Windsor & Eton	A		
20.9.25	North Leigh	A		
27.9.25	Burnham	H		
4.10.25	British Airways	A		
11.10.25	Edgware & K'y	H		
18.10.25	Kidlington	A		
25.10.25	Broadfields Utd	H		

Amersham Town

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

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

Colours: Black & White

Holmer Green

1. Samuel Bell
2. Aaron Bryan
3. Lloyd Ronald Majaya
4. Liam Butters
5. Archie Witney
6. Adetola Baruwa
7. Ollie Saunders
8. Ozi Dow
9. Joshua Peck
10. Alex Coverd
11. Harrison Holbrook
12. Harry Loakes
14. James Mangan
15. Elias Lubbat
16. Alastair Grass
17. Sabido Camara
18. Ben Booker

Manager: Keith Scott
Head Coach: Jez Hodges
Physio: Jack Woodbridge

Colours: Green & White

Referee: Richard Blackwood

Assn't Ref: Sean Sing

Assn't Ref: Billy Midgley

Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League:

As at Saturday 6th September 2025

Premier Division North

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Burnham	6	6	0	0	8	18
2	Broadfields United	9	5	1	3	13	16
3	Milton United	8	5	1	2	5	16
4	Kidlington	7	4	2	1	6	14
5	Windsor & Eton	7	4	2	1	6	14
6	North Greenford Utd	6	3	2	1	1	11
7	Amersham Town	7	3	1	3	1	10
8	Hilltop	8	3	1	4	0	10
9	Harefield United	6	3	1	2	-3	10

Division One

1	Bedfont	9	7	0	2	17	21
2	Woodley United	8	6	2	0	11	20
3	Penn & Tylers Green	8	6	2	0	10	20
4	Brook House	8	6	1	1	14	19
5	Wembley	9	6	1	2	9	19
6	Westside	10	4	5	1	10	17
7	Holmer Green	8	4	3	1	11	15
8	Berks County	10	4	3	3	2	15
9	PFC Victoria	7	4	2	1	6	14
10	Oxhey Jets	9	4	1	4	4	13



Holmer Green • Club History

Originally founded in 1908, Holmer played initially in The Chesham and District League. Matches were played at Campbell's Meadow, (now the Rosetti Estate), close to a tennis racket factory. Sometime before 1934 the Club moved to Holmer Green Common and set up headquarters in The Bat and Ball. In 1934 the Club switched to The Wycombe Combination League. The first trophy won by Holmer Green was The Chesham Charity Cup in 1939, the first of 28 Cups and Championships won thus far by the 1st XI.

The early 70's saw the start of a very successful thirty years in the Club's history. Holmer Green moved to their present ground, Watchet Lane, in 1975 when the new Holmer Green Sports Association pavilion was fully ready. Holmer won The Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup in 1976-77. Senior Status was thus achieved and since then the Club has striven to play at the highest level possible for a strictly amateur club.

The Club, through current President John Anderson, was heavily involved in the moves that set up The Chiltonian League in 1984. That League embraced clubs from no less than six different counties. Holmer had been very successful in the Chiltonian, and believed that a move to a better run league, where the clubs were encouraged to improve facilities, should be the next step. The Chiltonian were reluctant to lose their "flagship" club and tried to stop the move to the The South Midlands League. Not until August 1995 did Holmer Green, through the FA's appeal system, successfully, switch Leagues. This move gave Holmer Green the impetus to finally erect a Stand, now called The Don Want Stand in honour of the late former long-serving Groundsman, President, and Chairman. In 2014 Don was presented with some mementos to mark his 50 years with the Football Club. He passed away in 2022.

Premier Division status was achieved in 1999 after winning the Senior Division twice in four seasons, being 2nd and 4th in between. Floodlights were erected. Centenary events started with a visit from a

full Wycombe Wanderers team in July 2007 when the ground record of over 800 was recorded.

In 2008 the Senior Club formally merged with Holmer Green Minors FC to become “One Club” and this occasion coincided with the new Club as a whole being named “Club of the Year 2008” by Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Partnership. Season 2008-09 was Holmer’s 10th successive one in the Premier Division. After an unexpectedly long stay in the Premier Division, Holmer Green was demoted to Division One for season 2009-10, despite avoiding the two relegation positions.

Work immediately began to regain the “F” Grading required for Step 5 football to return to Watchet Lane. The 1st XI won the First Division by three points in 2009-10 losing only 3 of 40 games. The coveted “F” Grading was achieved again in 2011.

Manager Chris Allen, who was appointed in 2009, kept the regained Step 5 status for another incredible nine seasons before stepping down in May 2019, with Holmer having gained enough points by early March. By this time the Club had been moved, most unwillingly, into the geographically ridiculous Hellenic League. Chris’ successor, Dave Lynch, resigned after a poor start in August and September 2019. Matt Stowell succeeded Lynch, and results turned before the season was ended due to Covid-19. Matt continued to rebuild for 2020-21 with a seventh place when the season was again terminated early. The club were very happily returned to The Spartan South Midlands League in Summer 2021, with Matt continuing in charge. But a series of poor results including three or four very heavy defeats lead to Matt’s resignation in early December 2021. Assistant Manager, and then Physio, Tom Bryant took over in the meantime, with assistance from experienced ex-Player and ex-Manager Jez Hodges.

This return “home” meant local games with Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Tring Athletic, Risborough Rangers, Harefield United, Leighton Town, Leverstock Green, Oxhey Jets, and Dunstable Town. And more importantly, no away trips over an hour long! Unfortunately, Holmer slipped into the relegation position on the last day of the season and another long stint at Step 5 came to an end. Worse news was to follow

as the FA's push to "perfect" the non-league pyramid at Steps 4-6 has created a situation where some Step 5&6 leagues have more travelling in their lower division. Quite the opposite of what was intended, and indeed promised.

The Greens now faced games as far away as Lutterworth in Leicestershire, and Rugby in Warwickshire, as well as a handful of games in Northamptonshire. However, in the annual reshuffle of the Non-League Pyramid by The FA in 2023 The Greens were transferred to The Combined Counties League where they will be reunited with many former SSMFL opponents.

The next phase of continuing improvement saw the club installing a full-size floodlit 3G facility alongside the current main grass pitch late last year. This should greatly benefit all the local community and provide income to drive The Club further forward.

The First Oriundo

Commissioner Marone, as the new Torino President liked to style himself, was not a natural leader of the sport he had invested in. He was heir to a colossal alcoholic fortune, and would later become the Count Cinzano, but in the mid-1920s he took charge of his hometown club and decided that he would play a part in Mussolini's pursuit of nationalistic pride. Nobody thought much of it when he visited Buenos Aires on a business trip, he was just absent from the boardroom for a few months. But when he disembarked from a steamer, back on home soil, he brought with him two footballers. One became ill and soon went back home, but the other was Julio Libonatti, who would dominate Italian football, before becoming it's first oriundo, and a national hero.

Libonatti had already been making a name for himself in South America. Born to a poor immigrant family, he had a natural talent for goalscoring. When he was old enough, he went along to what is now one of Argentina's great clubs – Newell's Old Boys – who had been founded two years after he had been born, and showed what he could do. The coaches were

impressed, and signed him up there and then. He was just fifteen years old, and within a couple of years he was in the first team, continuing to do what he did best.

Football was booming in Argentina in the early 1920s, as a fierce rivalry with Uruguay drove both sides on to greatness; by the end of the decade, Uruguay were two times World Champions, beating Argentina in both finals. So Libonatti's undoubted talent was difficult to miss. Over seven years to 1925, he played 141 games and scored 78 goals, delighting supported with his flair and trickery, along with his unerring accuracy. Nobody quite knows how Marone involved himself with Libonatti, but one can imagine that he took notice when he arrived in Argentina. Contracts were signed, and both made their way back to Italy.

In Turin, he was as much of a sensation as he had been in Buenos Aires. His agility and trickery earned him the nickname *Matador*, and it was well deserved. Not only did he improve his scoring rate, scoring 106 goals in his first 109 games, he also developed a reputation for laying on goals for his strike partners. The full package, unsurprisingly Torino's tactics in this period could be described as 'give it to Julio'. And he didn't disappoint, leading his side to two national titles (one of which was revoked) and a final which was lost.

As fascism really embedded itself into Italian lives, Benito Mussolini understood the value of sport in unifying a country. It is a tactic that has been used ever since, by historical heroes and villains, but in the 1920s, the rapid professionalisation and nationalisation of the game required an added element; Italianness. Foreign players were banned from the league, with the exception of the *oriundi*, those who were able to trace their heritage back to an Italian ancestry. Fortunately for Libonatti, he could do just that.

Despite having made 15 appearances for Argentina before leaving the country (scoring at his customary rate of one in two), FIFA rules allowed players to change nationality as required; because moving around the world was a difficult thing to do, and because two world wars made borders and nationalities both fluid and dangerous. The great Alfredo di Stefano, for example, played for three different teams. So when Libonatti

got his Italian passport, he also made himself available for the Italian national side. Augusto Rangone was the man in charge of the national side and called him up. And so he became the first oriundo.

Rangone may have been in charge when Libonatti first got the call, but before long it was the legendary Vittorio Pozzo who had been charged by Mussolini personally to bring the national team success on the world stage which he did, in both 1934 and 1938. Libonatti's career wouldn't last to that zenith, but he did lay the groundwork, scoring 15 goals in 18 games for Italy. Sadly, they refused to travel for the first iteration of the World Cup, so he didn't get to show his skills at the inaugural competition, and by the 1934 edition in his adopted homeland, he had dropped into the Second Division with Genoa, where age had slightly slowed his scoring.

The idea of oriundi is a tradition that continued throughout the twentieth century, and in the twenty first, with modern travel a much expanded international game, player for the country of one's ancestors has become commonplace. But in Italy at least, Julio Libonatti was the first oriundo.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green *The Untold Game*

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media, [@TheUntoldGame](https://www.instagram.com/TheUntoldGame)



Julio Libonatti



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Respect



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MONDAY

09.00-10.00 - HIIT&PILATES (WITH LL FITNESS) - BARN MEADOW HALL
18.00-19.00 - MIXED ABILITY - AMERSHAM TOWN FC
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 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 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