



Amersham Town Football Club Season 2025 – 2026

Saturday 30th August 2025

Amersham Town v Ardley Utd
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 Ardley Utd. Ardley finished mid-table last season but have made a convincing start to this campaign, beating Wallingford & Crowmarsh five one in the league before going on to triumph over Aylesbury United in the FA Cup by the only goal.

I hear very good reports about our training sessions. Clearly, the players enjoy them and it shows on the pitch. We are a very young side, I think that Ethan Settle at twenty eight was the old man in the outfield at our first game at North Greenford. Sometimes it takes a while for such teams to find their blend but we seem to be well advanced in that respect.

One major improvement by the FA this season has been the adoption of the club portal. The ability to do almost anything through the portal reduces significantly the number of websites that have to be visited. I suspect that we might see several such innovations in the next couple of seasons.

Enjoy the game.
Mike Gahagan

Next game at Spratleys Meadow: Tuesday 9th September v Holmer Green/ B&B Senior Cup, kick off 7.30pm.

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	R Wootton Bassett	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		
9.9.25	Holmer Green	H		B&B Senior Cup
13.9.25	Ashford Tn (Mx)	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

Ardley Utd

1. Craig Hill
2. David Inyang
3. Conor Taylor
4. Sam McConnell
5. Jake Humphreys
6. Elliot Barton
7. Luke Swan
8. James Watts
9. James Casbieri
10. John Dennis
11. Oliwier Orzechowski
12. Reuben Harry
14. Felix Robertson
15. George Cowmeadow
16. Harri Dawson
17. Hayden McConnell

Manager: Mark Massingham

Colours: Blue & White

Referee: Joanne Horwood

Assn't Ref: Simon Cook

Assn't Ref: David Cox

Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League: Premier Division North

As at Saturday 9th August 2025

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

Ardley United history.

Ardley United were formed in 1945 just after the end of the Second World War. In the early years, the club plied its trade in the Lord Jersey FA and played on a pitch which was situated close to the railway line on the Oxford Road. The 1950's and '60's were successful for the club as they won both league titles and cups; most notably the Oxfordshire Junior Shield on three occasions as well as many other trophies. The acquisition of the current Playing Field site in the mid-60's enabled the club to move into the heart of the village, and a number of volunteers led by life-long supporter Doug Hodges built modest changing rooms.

Ardley continued to compete in the Jersey League throughout the 70's and early 80's without much success but this was to change in the mid-'80's with the arrival of Norman Stacey as chairman.

In 1988 the club were promoted to the Oxfordshire Senior League and won the Division One title at the first attempt, following this up with the Premier Division title the following season. Accepting a place in the Hellenic League for the 1993/4 season, Ardley spent six seasons in the 'old' Division One winning it in both 1996/7 and 1997/8 as well as winning the Division 1 Cup for a record four consecutive seasons before it was merged with the Premier Division Cup to become the Challenge Cup that we know today. The manager during those years was ex-Oxford United leading scorer Peter Foley and he was to be the first in a line of managers to keep Ardley at the forefront; they were Paul Spittle, Paul Berry, Dan Still and Kevin Brock.

Major change was to come in the early 2000's as, along with the Ardley Playing Field Committee, Ardley United oversaw the construction of dedicated facilities, along with a separate village hall, which enabled the club to be independent of community activities. The new clubhouse, which had been awarded the Non-League Paper's Hungerford Cup for most-improved facilities, allowed the club to be promoted to the Hellenic Premier Division and so began the club's most successful years to date.

Kevin Brock took the reins for seven seasons which saw Ardley win several cups, including the Oxfordshire Senior Cup in 2013/14, a season during which they narrowly lost out on the Premier Division title by just two points. Following Brock's departure, Paul Davis took over as manager for nearly two seasons until the resignation of long-time chairman, Norman Stacey in June 2017, due to personal reasons.

Ian Feaver took over the role of Chairman and appointed Craig Adey as First Team Manager. A decision to be voluntarily relegated to UHlsport Hellenic League Division One West gave everyone some breathing space to adjust to the new regime.

Craig brought with him a talented squad of players and they won the Division title and gaining promotion back to the Premier Division at the first time of asking. The 2018/2019 season had its ups and downs, however, the team finished on a high winning the Hellenic League Floodlit Cup.

During the interrupted period due to covid, we made the most of the opportunity to gain more support from people in the village and created a strong and vibrant community club off the pitch. We now have committees, with a social committee, a football committee, a commercial committee, and our exec committee, who are all helping steer the club to new heights.

Our aim is to progress on the pitch and as a result the club appointed Julian McCalmon as our first team manager. Jules had been a great player for Ardley United many years ago and then went on to achieve great success as a manager at Kidlington Football Club.

Due to the regional changes at Step 5, after 28 years of playing in the Hellenic League, we moved to the Spartan South Midlands Football League, which required far less travelling for us.

However, the 2023/24 season saw us moving into the Combined Counties Premier League – North Division and, moving forward, our goal is to achieve Southern League football, and as a club we will do all we can to support Mark, his management team and his players in achieving this.

The Man in the White Scarf – Miroslav Blažević

Sometimes, a national hero is found in an unlikely place. When Croatia tried to use football as a symbol of their national identity in the aftermath of the Balkan Wars, it was a mammoth task. They needed an icon, who could lead the team to success as well and represent them. They turned to a controversial, chain-smoking Bosnian, known for tactical innovation and the ubiquitous white scarf he wore in the dugout: Miroslav Blažević. It was an inspired choice.

Ironically born in Bosnia rather than Croatia, Blažević understood how potent a force nationalism could be in lifting a football team. An average player, he spent most of his professional career in his adopted land, moving between Dinamo Zagreb, Lokomotiv Zagreb and NK Rijeka before a swansong in the West, joining Swiss sides Sion and the Moutier before retiring. He was 31, and having accepted his limitations as a player, he was eager to make his mark as a manager.

A decade in the Swiss league saw him return to Sion, where his fatherly presence helped guide them to a Swiss Cup, but he left them to take interim charge of the Swiss national side in 1976, before returning to Yugoslavia.

Back in his homeland, Blažević forged a reputation for success and controversy. He led Rijeka to a uninspiring 10th placed finish, but reached the final of the Balkans Cup and reached the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners Cup, losing to Juventus. It attracted the attention of Dinamo Zagreb, one of Yugoslavia's 'big four'.

In Croatia, the idea of a 'big four' was not altogether accepted. The Yugoslavian Federation was based in Serbia, staffed by Serbians, and there was a feeling that the bias helped Serbians, meaning that really there was just a big two. Over the 47 years of the Yugoslavian Championship, Red Star Belgrade won nineteen titles, Partizan Belgrade eleven. Hajduk managed seven, and Dinamo, when Blažević took charge, had managed just three.

The Bosnian claims to have invented the 3-5-2. It's a bold claim, and not entirely backed up by the facts, Carlos Bilardo of Argentina has also claimed that honour (Blažević is on record calling him a 'prick' for doing so). Regardless, his influence on Balkan football is undeniable. The national side kept the formation right up to 2006, and in the Croatian league it was a mainstay for a decade more.

At Dinamo, it was revolutionary, and Zlatko Kranjcar inspired the team to their first league title in 24 years. But Blažević was unable to repeat the success the following season, and with the trigger-happy nature of Croatian football, he was soon out of a job again.

He spent the 1980s on a jaunt across Europe, managing Dinamo twice more along with stints in Greece and France, before war came. Sportspeople were exempted from military service, the national government believing they could draw attention to the conflict, and it just so happened that the football team had made up most of the Yugoslavia World Youth Champions in 1987.

Blažević became Croatia's first ever manager. They qualified for their first tournament at the first attempt, Euro 96, but by 1998 they were really singing. Not that the football world paid much attention. Brazil, France, Argentina, the Netherlands. Even England. There was surely too much storied talent there for the Balkan upstarts to make a real mark. Blažević used their apathy, creating a siege mentality to add to the nascent nationalism. Along with the likes of Slaven Bilic, Robert Prosinecki and Davor Suker, of course.

Suker scored in both of Croatia's group stage wins as Blažević and his system set the world alight and secured early qualification. Another goal in a win against Romania brought them up against Germany, one of the giants of European football. Unfazed by reputations, Croatia them off the park. Suker had another in a 3-0 win, which didn't surprise Blažević. "I convinced my players we were the best in the world and they accepted it... We destroyed the German machine and we showed them how Croatians play football."

Sadly for Blažević and his team, they came up against an altogether different prospect in the semi-finals. Robert Prosinecki wasn't fully fit,

and missed out. Blažević considers it the worst mistake of his career not to risk the Ballon d'Or contender. Nevertheless, Croatia showed their best against France, taking a lead and coming close to an upset, before the hosts proved too much for them. But they beat the Netherlands in the third place playoff before they went home. It was an exceptional performance from a nation making their world cup debut, and Blažević was the hero behind it. Twenty years later, Croatia would go one better, reaching the final but suffering another defeat to France. Returning to a heroes welcome, Luka Modric heralded the 1998 team as their inspiration. And the inspiration behind the 1998 team: Miroslav Blažević, the man in the white scarf. Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, *The Untold Game*

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Miroslav Blažević



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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