



## **Amersham Town Football Club Season 2025 – 2026**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Amersham Town v Reading City.  
CCFL Premier Division North**

**Kick off 11.30am**



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

Welcome to the players, committee members and supporters of Reading City. This is the return fixture from a week ago when we lost one two at Scours Lane in a well fought game.

Throughout the latter part of the season our big problem has been scoring goals. Up to last week we went more than six hours play without troubling the scoreboard. Last Tuesday, however, we scored two in a well deserved win over Edgware and Kingsbury in a true relegation battle

One football matter which intrigues me is the media handling of soccer issues. To listen to Radio 6 Live or to read the major newspapers you would have the impression that no football is played in this country outside the Premier League. A classic case recently has been the discussion around the proposed change to the offside rule. All the debate on the radio was around whether VAR would be sufficient to determine the outcome. But the rule, if enacted, would presumably apply to all matches, less than one percent of which will be covered by VAR. It's about time that the media updated their thinking and recognized that millions of people are interested in games and sides outside of the Premier League.

Enjoy the game.

Mike Gahagan

**Next game at Spratleys Meadow: Next Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April v British Airways: KO 3.00pm: CCFL Premier North.**

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

## Amersham Town

1. Ben Clargo
2. Josh Quadry
3. Kevin Fernandes
4. Mark Webb
5. Dominic Jones
6. Ethan Sennett
7. Callum Coen
8. Naz Miah
9. Chris Martin-Thomas
10. Ronan Ishmaili
11. Shaun Aram
12. Riley Durkin
14. Josh Penemo
15. Archie Sykes
16. Matt Messer
17. Daniel Fogarasy
18. Kai Bartolo

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

Colours: Black & White

## Reading City

1. Charlie York
2. Jay Herbert
3. Liam Baker
4. Jenson Mansel
5. Ellis Cowd
6. Oliver Bourne
7. Dan Davies
8. Joel Valentin
9. Ousman Darboe
10. Muhamadou Ceesay
11. Sam Tanner
12. Luke Donville
14. Riley Denny
15. Ben Holder
16. Stefan Brown
17. Shane Cooper-Clark
18. Tyler Robinson

Manager: Simon Johnson

Colours: All Blue

**Referee:** Ryan Jones  
**Assn't Ref:** Matthew Downey  
**Assn't Ref:** Brian Capel

## 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 SC
16.9.25	Windsor & Eton	A	2 - 4	Bartolo, Sykes. Chlg 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	1 - 9	Bartolo
13.12.25	Virginia Water	H	0 - 2	
20.12.25	Ashford Town	A	1 - 3	Martin-Thomas
27.12.25	North Greenford	H	1 - 4	Martin-Thomas
10.1.26	Hilltop	H	2 - 2	Coen, Sykes
20.1.26	Windsor & Eton	H	0 - 0	
31.1.26	Burnham	A	1 - 3	Bartolo
21.2.26	Milton Utd	H	1 - 3	Miah
24.2.26	Everett Rovers	A	1 - 4	St Mary's Cup
28.2.26	Kidlington	H	0 - 2	
7.3.26.	Abingdon Utd	H	1 - 1	Aram
10.3.26	Wallingford & C	H	1 - 3	Bartolo

14.3.26	Windsor & Eton	A	0 - 3	
17.3.26	Ashford Tn Mdx	H	0 - 3	
21.3.26	North Leigh	H	0 - 3	
24.3.26	Ardley Utd	A	0 - 1	
28.3.26	Reading City	A	1 - 2	Kelly
31.3.26	Edgware & K'by	A	2 - 0	Kelly 2
4.4.26	Broadfields Utd	A		
6.4.26	Reading City	H		Kick off 11.30am
11.4.26	British Airways	H		
18.3.26	Holyort	H		

### **Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League: Premier Division North**

As at Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

		<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GD</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Ashford Town (Mx)	34	21	6	7	38	69
2	Burnham	34	20	7	7	32	67
3	Broadfields United	35	19	9	7	32	66
4	Windsor & Eton	30	17	10	3	33	61
5	Reading City	32	18	6	8	25	60
6	North Greenford Utd	32	18	6	8	12	60
7	Wallingford & CmsH	35	18	6	11	6	60
8	Ardley United	32	17	6	9	20	57
9	Kidlington	34	13	12	9	5	51
10	Virginia Water	34	13	9	12	3	48
11	Milton United	33	14	5	14	0	47
12	Abingdon United	35	12	8	15	-7	44
13	Wokingham Town	31	12	6	13	2	42
14	Hilltop	33	12	4	17	1	40
15	British Airways	30	11	6	13	-6	36 *
16	Harefield United	33	8	7	18	-14	31
17	Amersham Town	34	6	6	22	-44	24
18	Holyport	35	7	3	25	-56	24
19	North Leigh	32	6	4	22	-31	22
20	Edgware & K'bury	36	6	2	28	-51	20

\* adjustment made

## **A History of Reading City FC.**

The club was established in 2001 as Highmoor Ibis by a merger of Highmoor and Ibis,<sup>[1]</sup> both of which were playing in the Reading Senior League, Highmoor in the Senior Division and Ibis in the Premier Division. Ibis had also previously played in the Chiltonian League.<sup>[2]</sup> The new club took Highmoor's place in the Senior Division and were league champions in 2003–04 without losing a match. They won the Reading Senior Cup in 2005–06, beating Woodley Town 4–1 in the final at the Madjeski Stadium.<sup>[3]</sup>

After finishing as runners-up in 2006–07 and 2008–09, Highmoor were champions again in 2010–11, earning promotion to Division One East of the Hellenic League.<sup>[1]</sup> In their first season in Division One East they finished as runners-up and were promoted to the Premier Division. They were Premier Division runners-up in 2014–15.<sup>[1]</sup> In June 2018 the club were renamed Reading City.<sup>[4]</sup> At the end of the 2020–21 season the club were transferred to the Premier Division North of the Combined Counties League. In 2023–24 they finished fourth in the Premier Division North, qualifying for the promotion play-offs. They subsequently lost 5–2 to Bedfont Sports in the semi-finals. Last season they finished a commendable thirteenth in the table.

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## **Vasco versus Racism and Rice Powder**

Vasco da Gama are one of the more successful clubs in Brazil. In a country with no long-term dominant force, their four league titles are bettered by just four teams, and just one from the Rio do Janeiro region (Flamengo). The club that gave us Romario and the excellently named Roberto Dinamite is a fixture on the Brazilian and continental stage, winning the Copa Libertadores in 1998 and, despite some recent struggles, consistently competing at the summit of Brazilian football. But their proudest moment wasn't any of their league titles. It wasn't even their South American dominance. It was when they were kicked out of the league.

Football was a game for the elites in Brazil. It came to the country late,

two decades later than it had in neighbouring Argentina and Uruguay, and reflected some of the worst attitudes of Brazilian society. They had been the last nation on the continent to abolish slavery, and carried the racism of those days into the sport, where white players were expected.

The problem for Brazilian society was that some black and dual-heritage players were simply too good to ignore. Arthur Friedenreich, son of a black Brazilian mother and German father, was included in the team for Brazil's first ever match, against a touring Exeter City side. His contemporary, Carlos Alberto, forced his way into the Fluminense team that had won five of the first seven regional championships. But while Friedenreich played in his own skin, Fluminense would very literally have preferred Alberto to play out of his. They whitened his face with rice powder, and when he sweated it off and the ruse became clear, it gave Fluminense their dark, derogatory nickname: rice powder.

Vasco da Gama were a sailing club for the first decade and a half of organised football around Rio de Janeiro, fitting for a club named after the famous Portuguese explorer. They allowed members of any colour, but football has always been a booming business in Brazil and in 1921 the sailing club added football to its list of activities, and joined the Campeonato Carioca. Not without comment.

Despite the reservations of the region's other clubs, including Fluminense, Vasco continued to accept and play black players. Rio's clubs initially held their noses and allowed their new member to compete in the 14 team league, while Vasco became increasingly proud of their stand against the racism of their opponents. And then, disaster struck, at least for 12 of other clubs in the Campeonato.

Having finished the previous season 8th out of 8 in the Campeonato's Serie A, Vasco improved. And then continued to improve. The 1923 competition was, to use a phrase, a whitewash. Vasco lost just one game on the way to their first trophy, winning the league by six points - the highest margin for five years - and causing chaos among the region's clubs.

Twelve of their opponents immediately withdrew from the league in protest at the regional football association's allowances of non-white

players. They broke away to form their own league, with rules they controlled, and most importantly with their own racial criteria. Vasco, as reigning champions, were invited to join, on the understanding that they would fulfil those racial criteria. Vasco, to their credit, refused. Villa Isabel followed their lead.

The 1924 season was farcical. The original league was flooded with clubs from the region, presumably to try to recreate the competitiveness that had come before. Vasco dominated once more, against teams that had previously been in Serie B, or not even included in the league the previous season. The breakaway league contained the biggest names in Rio de Janeiro's footballing landscape - Botafogo, Flamengo, and of course Fluminense - and was far more competitive. But tainted, even as it progressed, by the absence of the champions. It was won, almost as a direct challenge to Vasco's ideals, by Rice Powder themselves, Fluminense.

Vasco issued a statement saying they would not sacrifice the twelve non-white players who had helped them to win their first trophy, and would continue to play competitive (or uncompetitive) football to the values they had always held. They won the public relations battle, being seen as the future of Brazilian football, and the breakaway clubs eventually folded. Vasco were admitted for the 1925 season.

They lost their title in a close fought campaign to Flamengo, but they had already won the real battle. They forced the door open a little bit wider for non-white players, and without their stand against racism who can say what talent might have been lost to the game. All the titles in the world can't add up to the impact of actually changing the sport.

Enjoy the game.

**Martyn Green, *The Untold Game***

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



Vasco 1923

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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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, can be obtained by emailing Mike Gahagan on [michaelgahagan89@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgahagan89@gmail.com)