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**2020/21
Season**



**Official
Programme
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ELY CITY FC v BIGGLESWADE FC

Tuesday 22nd September 2020 7.45pm
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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the PEUGEOT range: Urban 34.9 – 80.7 (8.1 – 3.5), Extra Urban 53.3 – 104.6 (4.9 – 2.9), Combined 46.3 – 94.2 (6.1 – 3.0) and CO₂ 136 – 95 (g/km). Figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

Ely City Football Club – Officials 2020/21



Demcom Stadium, Downham Road, Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2SH

Tel: 01353 662035

Nickname: The Robins

Year formed: 1885

Life Members: Gary Rollings, Stan Norman & Peter Yates

President: Brian Jordan

Chairman: Robert Button **Vice Chairman:** Chris Cridford

Secretary: Derek Oakey

Assistant Secretary / Youth Secretary: Vicky Sizer

Treasurer: Vacant

Youth Treasurer: Jennie Wickens

Club Welfare Officer: Carl Lockwood

Assistant Welfare Officer: Vicky Sizer

Adults Managers Representative: Martin Grey

Youth Managers Representative: David Cullum Jnr

Press & Website Officer: Paul Jeffries

Committee: Alan Alsop, Ash Colocomb, Martin Grey

Match Day Team:

Gary Rollings, Gary Creak, Geoff Challis, Jamie Cranwell, Vicky Sizer, Len Cutchey

Advertising & Commercial: Martin Grey, Gary Reynolds, Ash Colcomb

Programme: Gary Reynolds, Simon Barlow, Gary Creak

Volunteer Groundsmen: Gary Reynolds, Jamie Cranwell, Zac Sizer

Match Reporter: Samir Osman

Director of Football: Alan Alsop

COVID-19 Representative: Steve Wickens

MANAGEMENT:

1st Team: Luke McAvoy & Ben Farmer

1st Team Physio: Vinnie Scarrow

Reserves: Paul Dockerill

A Team: Nigel Smith, Ross Elliott & Carl Lockwood

U18s: Nigel Smith, Ross Elliott & Mark Garner

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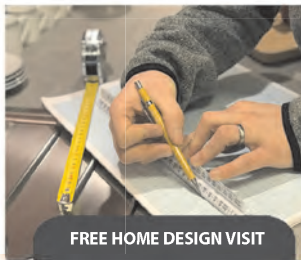
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Welcome to the Demcom Stadium...

**This evening we welcome the
Players, Officials and Supporters of
BIGGLESWADE FC
to the Demcom Stadium for this
FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round
game and hope the match will be a keenly contested and
entertaining game.**

**We also welcome todays Match Officials and hope they have
and enjoyable game.**

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ELY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB COVID-19



SPECTATOR RULES FOR MATCH DAYS

- Track and Trace is operational for anyone entering the premises, this information will be collected upon entry to the ground by QR Code or by hand. Advance Ticket holders we already have your information.
- Current social distancing guidelines must be adhered to by all members of staff and visitors - COMMON SENSE MUST BE USED.
- * Please respect all markings around the ground - the main stand will be closed due to social distancing issues - the stand will only be used for Filming and Media.
- This is a clearly marked one way system through the bar area and we kindly ask you to follow this system.
- Ladies and Gents toilets are situated at the main entrance of the club house.
- CASH and CARD payment WILL BE accepted in the bar but we encourage contactless payment wherever possible
- We will have a designated CASH Turnstile and CARD PAYMENT entrance.
- Face masks are not compulsory, currently, but we do encourage all supporters and members to wear one when moving around the ground and clubhouse.
- All drinks will be served in PLASTIC GLASSES until after the game has finished.
- Please ensure you use the bins provided to dispose of all rubbish.

#STAYSAFE

Thurlow Nunn League - Premier Division Table



POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Kirkley & Pakefield	4	4	0	0	5	12
2	Wroxham	3	3	0	0	7	9
3	Hadleigh United	4	3	0	1	5	9
4	Brantham Athletic	3	2	1	0	3	7
5	Stowmarket Town	3	2	1	0	3	7
6	Norwich United	3	2	1	0	2	7
7	Gorleston	4	2	0	2	-3	6
8	Mildenhall Town	2	1	1	0	1	4
9	Ely City	2	1	1	0	1	4
10	Haverhill Rovers	4	1	1	2	-5	4
11	FC Clacton	3	1	0	2	1	3
12	Walsham Le Willows	2	1	0	1	0	3
13	Whitton United	2	1	0	1	0	3
14	Stanway Rovers	5	0	3	2	-2	3
15	Newmarket Town	1	0	1	0	0	1
16	Long Melford	2	0	1	1	-1	1
17	Godmanchester Rovers	3	0	1	2	-2	1
18	Woodbridge Town	3	0	0	3	-3	0
19	Thetford Town	3	0	0	3	-5	0
20	Swaffham Town	4	0	0	4	-7	0

as of 21/09/2020

NEXT MATCH

Saturday 26th September 2020 - 3pm

ELY CITY FC v NORWICH UNITED

Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division

Demcom Stadium CB6 2SH

THE MAGIC OF THE FA CUP



by Jamie Cranwell

The magic of the FA Cup is well and truly alive in Ely, after the Robins success in the opening two rounds excitement is building. Penalty shoot out success away at Godmanchester set up a tough tie at home to Eynesbury Rovers and what a cup tie it was. An excellent performance from Ely, the whole team pulled together and battled hard for the entire game. A decent sized crowd enjoying the Saturday afternoon sunshine, treated to an emphatic win for the Robins.

There is a sense that the club is on the up, these are exciting times to support and be involved with Ely City Football Club. A lot of hard work is currently going into improving the club in all areas. The clubhouse has received a much-needed makeover and is now looking fantastic. We want to create a friendly welcoming environment for people to come and enjoy. The club rely heavily on the income from the clubhouse and bar and therefore we want to do everything we can to make it successful. In the last round it was great to see people come together, to enjoy themselves, the revamped clubhouse and of course the football. There was genuine excitement and a buzz around the place, and we want that success to continue both on and off the pitch.

The Robins have not reached this round since 2011, and we hope to upset the odds once again tonight against Biggleswade. A good FA Cup run can make all the difference for a club like ours financially. Ely famously reached the 1st round proper way back in 1956 as we faced Torquay at our old paradise ground in front of a crowd of over 4000. If the Robins do win tonight, then we will have to win another three games in order to reach the 1st round proper once again. Why shouldn't we dream, that is what the magic of the FA Cup is all about.

It would be great to see people get behind the Robins both in the cup and the league. We want to continue to see success on and off the pitch, Ely City is a great club with great potential.

So, everyone get behind the team tonight and cheer the Robins onto victory and into the next round and let's show that the magic of the FA Cup is well and truly alive.

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ELY CITY FC Fixtures 20/21

	DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
FAC	02/09/20	19:45	Godmanchester Rovers	Ely City	1-1 FT *Won 4-2 on Penalties
PD	05/09/20	15:00	Stanway Rovers	Ely City	Drew 0-0
PD	08/09/20	19:45	Ely City	Thetford Town	Won 1-0
FAC	12/09/20	15:00	Ely City	Eynesbury Rovers	Won 3-1
FAV	19/09/20	15:00	Downham Town	Ely City	Lost 0-3
FAC	22/09/20	19:45	Ely City	Biggleswade FC	The Demcom Stadium
PD	26/09/20	15:00	Ely City	Norwich United	The Demcom Stadium
PD	30/09/20	19:45	Godmanchester Rovers	Ely City	The David Wilson Homes Ground
PD	03/10/20	15:00	Stowmarket Town	Ely City	Greens Meadow
PD	06/10/20	19:45	Ely City	Swaffham Town	The Demcom Stadium
PD	10/10/20	15:00	Ely City	Hadleigh United	The Demcom Stadium
PD	17/10/20	15:00	Brantham Athletic	Ely City	Brantham Leisure Centre
PD	20/10/20	19:45	Ely City	Godmanchester Rovers	The Demcom Stadium
PD	24/10/20	15:00	Ely City	Haverhill Rovers	The Demcom Stadium
PD	31/10/20	15:00	Newmarket Town	Ely City	The Tristel Stadium
PD	07/11/20	15:00	Ely City	Kirkley & Pakefield	The Demcom Stadium
PD	10/11/20	19:45	Swaffham Town	Ely City	Shoemakers Lane
PD	14/11/20	15:00	Long Melford	Ely City	Stoneylands
PD	21/11/20	15:00	Ely City	Wroxham	The Demcom Stadium
PD	24/11/20	19:45	Thetford Town	Ely City	Mundford Road
PD	28/11/20	15:00	Whitton United	Ely City	King George V Playing Field
PD	05/12/20	15:00	Ely City	Stanway Rovers	The Demcom Stadium
PD	12/12/20	15:00	Walsham Le Willows	Ely City	The Morrish Stadium
PD	19/12/20	15:00	FC Clacton	Ely City	The Austin Arena
PD	28/12/20	15:00	Ely City	Newmarket Town	The Demcom Stadium
PD	02/01/21	15:00	Hadleigh United	Ely City	Millfield
PD	09/01/21	15:00	Ely City	Gorleston	The Demcom Stadium
PD	16/01/21	15:00	Woodbridge Town	Ely City	Notcutts Park
PD	23/01/21	15:00	Ely City	Stowmarket Town	The Demcom Stadium
PD	06/02/21	15:00	Ely City	Mildenhall Town	The Demcom Stadium
PD	13/02/21	15:00	Haverhill Rovers	Ely City	New Croft #1
PD	20/02/21	15:00	Ely City	Whitton United	The Demcom Stadium
PD	27/02/21	15:00	Kirkley & Pakefield	Ely City	Walmer Road
PD	06/03/21	15:00	Ely City	Woodbridge Town	The Demcom Stadium
PD	13/03/21	15:00	Norwich United	Ely City	Plantation Park
PD	27/03/21	15:00	Ely City	Brantham Athletic	The Demcom Stadium
PD	03/04/21	15:00	Ely City	Long Melford	The Demcom Stadium
PD	05/04/21	15:00	Mildenhall Town	Ely City	Recreation Way
PD	10/04/21	15:00	Wroxham	Ely City	Trafford Park
PD	17/04/21	15:00	Ely City	FC Clacton	The Demcom Stadium
PD	24/04/21	15:00	Gorleston	Ely City	Emerald Park



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Email: 100club@elycityfc.org for more details

Biggleswade Football Club

Member of The Pitching In Southern Football League

Web: www.biggleswadefc.co.uk Email: BiggleswadeFC@outlook.com



CLUB HISTORY

Biggleswade FC was formed in May 2016 from the very successful Biggleswade Town Under 18s side that competed in the Thurlow Nunn Youth League.

2014/15 season

Town's Under 18s lost just one league game all season as they romped to the Northern Division title.

The young Waders, along with all the other area divisional league champions in the Thurlow Nunn Youth Leagues, entered a knockout competition called the Champions Trophy.



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After defeating Brightlingsea in the Semi-Final, they won a thrilling Final beating Woodbridge Town 4-2 after extra time with goals coming from Keinan Davis, Lee Northfield, Zac Tyrrell and George Bailey. Keinan was later to secure a five-year professional contract with Aston Villa – a magnificent achievement for both himself and the Under 18s side.

2015/16 season

After league changes, the Waders were placed in the Cambridge Division, which provided a number of different opponents to the previous season.

Two defeats by Ely City and Godmanchester Rovers early in the campaign were not enough to stop them taking the league title once more. The feat being achieved with a solid victory against Royston Town in the final match of the season.

Victory away to the Northern Champions Kings Lynn set up the chance to retain the Champions Trophy. Waiting in the final were Sudbury Town Academy, whose side contained many ex-Ipswich Town and Colchester United Academy players.

Although the first half was a tight affair, Sudbury took a half time lead. The second half though was a totally different matter as the Biggleswade youngsters took total control. Goals from Rhys Thorpe, George Bailey and George Riley ensured that the young Waders emphatically retained their Trophy and title as Champions of East Anglia.

The team also entered the FA Youth Cup that season, where they progressed through four ties to reach the Second Round Proper before going down to Worthing in a seven-goal thriller. The competition was eventually won by Chelsea FC.

At the end of that season, with no further pathway at Biggleswade Town available, the decision was taken to form a new club. After a ground share agreement was put in place with Biggleswade Town



Chairman – Jeremy Reynolds

Secretary – Lee Rusbridge

Treasurer – Fay Northfield

Biggleswade Football Club

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at their fantastic facility on Langford Road - Biggleswade FC was born.

The Club applied to enter the Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One at Step 6 of the Non-League System. After two meetings and a successful appeal with The FA at Wembley, on 7th June 2016, Biggleswade FC were awarded their place at Step 6.

2016/17 season

In their very first season in senior football, Biggleswade FC's squad of young, talented players won the SSML Division One title. They finished with 99 points, six clear of Harpenden Town in second place and were duly promoted to the Premier Division - totally vindicating the decision to start off at Step 6 football.



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The new club made a huge impact on and off the pitch and succeeded in doing things the right way. The players, under the astute management of Dave Northfield and Mark Inskip, deserved a huge amount of credit. Not only for playing football as it should be played, but also for working and bonding so well together – a real team in every respect.

Some of the performances were breathtaking and the 8-1 destruction of high-flying Langford at Christmas and the 4-2 away win at previously unbeaten Baldock Town were both particular highlights.

Others saw the team fighting to the very last minute to secure vital wins, such as the matches at Risborough Rangers and Hillingdon Borough. Setbacks against Kensington Borough at home and the unexpected loss at Bedford merely served to galvanise the players and they then went on subsequent runs of wins to get back on course.

One of the defining moments of the season was the titanic home game against Baldock. Bombarded by a very physical side and long balls, FC went behind in the second half and were seconds away from losing the league leadership.

However, a last-minute penalty got it back to 3-3 in front of a large crowd that exploded with excitement, shattered our opponents and effectively secured us promotion and subsequently the title.

Another side was shown by the youngsters on that evening. They stood up to immense pressure, really dug in and showed how much they had matured into senior players. The sheer excitement of the journey during the season was fantastic to experience by everyone connected with the club and its growing band of supporters and football 'family'.

As well as the successes in the league, the Club also had a thrilling FA Vase run. There was another last-minute winner against Essex Senior League Takeley and then the extraordinary "see-saw" game down in London as FC beat Essex Olympian League Canning Town 5-4 after extra time.



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The nine-goal thriller was a game that some social media sites called the “Match of the Season” at Step 6 – this to go with the statistic that the Club were also the leading goalscorers in the country at this level. This was all the more remarkable when one considers that the team’s goals were shared around so many members of the team.

The toughest possible draw came in the Second Round Proper where FC were handed an away draw at Peterborough Sports, who were current leaders and eventual comfortable winners of the United Counties League Premier Division.

In going down 5-3, FC made a huge impression on their high-flying opponents and they were glowing in their praise of the football the youngsters played.

On and off the field, Biggleswade FC won a lot of friends over their first season in senior football. Crowds increased, more supporters and sponsors came on board and the club set out to cultivate links with the local community, especially children and their families.

There have been match day mascots from Biggleswade Academy and Biggleswade Town Under 7s, whilst the club’s badge was designed by a local 12-year old school girl for whom there was a special presentation on FC’s ‘Launch Day’ back in October 2016. The Chairman of the SSML and an FA representative were also in attendance.

League officials have been regular attendees at matches and there have also been visitors from as far afield as Suffolk and Southampton. Biggleswade FC has had excellent weekly coverage in *The Biggleswade Chronicle* and has also featured in the national *Non-League Paper*.

2017/18 season

The Club's second full season in senior football, will probably be remembered for our exploits in the FA Vase. Victories over Northampton Sileby Rangers (5-3), Basildon United (2-0), Crawley Green (2-0) and eventual SSML Premier Division champions Welwyn Garden City (2-1 after extra time) saw FC reach the last 32.

We were drawn against Hellenic League highfliers Thatcham Town, who were in the middle of an incredible 41-match unbeaten run that would take them to a league title and FA Vase double. We had our chances on the day and with a bit more luck might have progressed, but it wasn't to be as we went down 2-1. The fact everyone was deeply disappointed and that we lost to the eventual winners speaks volumes for the ambition at Biggleswade FC.

The experience only whetted the appetite and created a bigger determination to go further in the competition.



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It was a case of an opportunity missed not lifting the League Challenge Trophy. Broadfields United (who again went on to lift the trophy) played FC in the Semi-Final at possibly the best time when we had suspensions and were in the middle of a poor run. Broadfields would go on to beat Risborough in the Final after leaving Langford Road with a 2-1 win.

The league campaign on the whole was a successful one, finishing in 5th place in our first season at the ninth tier of English Football. Six wins and a draw from the opening seven games - including a 7-2 rout at Holmer Green - had FC setting the pace early on, but ultimately inconsistency and dropping points against sides in the bottom half of the table saw them fall away in the final couple of months.

Our first venture into the FA Cup ended with a 4-1 home defeat to Wisbech Town, but again we could point to the fact that it had taken a team who went on to get promotion to stop us in our tracks.

Other notable moments in the season were taking our landlords Biggleswade Town to penalties in the Beds Senior Cup Semi-Final, whilst also beating eighth tier AFC Dunstable 5-3 in one of our best performances in an earlier round. We also claimed four points from two meetings with local rivals Biggleswade United, which both attracted healthy three-figure crowds.

As for the Reserves, they enjoyed a solid first season in the Bedfordshire County League finishing just below mid-table in Division One. After a difficult start in which many of the squad were making their first steps into senior football, Phil's side finished the season strongly picking up 20 points from a possible 33.

Another pleasing aspect of the season was that by the end, there were a number of players on the fringes of the first team squad. George Holman in particular didn't look out of place when called upon and announced himself with a wonder goal at Stotfold.

2018/19 season

In 2018/19, the club really announced itself on the local and national stage. For the second time in three seasons, FC were league champions - this time clinching the SSML's Premier Division title by six points after a four-way tussle with Tring Athletic, Hadley and Biggleswade United for much of the season.

They made it a league and cup treble lifting the Premier Division Cup with a 2-0 win over Baldock Town in front of over 300 spectators and in excess of 200 turned out to see FC lift the North Beds Charity Cup for the first time with a 5-1 demolition of Amptill Town at Bedford FC.

They also captured the imagination of the local community with crowds in excess of 500 at home to both Stowmarket Town and Windsor in the FA Vase. The fairytale didn't quite go as far as Wembley, but a memorable day out saw three coaches travel to Faversham and in excess of 600



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witnessed FC go down 2-1 to an experienced Canterbury City side at the Quarter-Final stage.

Not to be outdone, our promising young Reserve side claimed a Beds County League Division One and Centenary Cup double going unbeaten in all competitions over 23 matches, a run that stretched back November. Although the club is very much in its infancy, Saturday 20th April 2019 will go down as a special day in our history as both teams clinched their respective league titles on a baking hot afternoon, celebrated together at Stotfold's Roker Park before the party went on long into the night.



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2019/20 season – the season that never was!

The 2019/20 season saw the club rub shoulders with some illustrious non-league opponents in the Southern Football League for the first time. With much optimism going into the start of the campaign, FC had a rude awakening as they were comprehensively beaten by AFC Dunstable and Welwyn Garden City early on.

Whilst they struggled to find their feet at Step 4 early on, they were having their best run in the Emirates FA Cup to date. After a comfortable 4-1 win over Mildenhall Town in the Extra Preliminary Round, FC dispatched fellow Southern Leaguers Yaxley 4-0 in the next round.

Isthmian League North outfit Tilbury were the next up and it looked like FC's interest in the competition might be in jeopardy as The Dockers took a shock first half lead despite being reduced to 10-men. Alex Marsh levelled from the spot after the break and just when it looked like we'd be heading round the M25 for a midweek replay, Ryan Inskip snatched victory for FC in injury time.

FA Vase holders Chertsey Town finally ended our best FA Cup run to date with a professional performance at Langford Road, but despite defeat FC had had their best crowd of the season (272) and earned over £10,000 in prize money for their exploits.

FC continued to struggle in picking up points in the Southern League despite some better performances as the run towards Christmas went on, but a weather-enforced winter break in December allowed us to nurse some key personnel back to fitness.

This would coincide with a complete different Biggleswade FC post-Christmas starting with an important 4-2 victory over fellow strugglers Kempston Rovers. The boys in green didn't look back from then and accumulated an incredible 28 points from a possible 36 to elevate them from a bottom half side to play-off contenders in a matter of three months!

The pandemic then took hold and unfortunately for us our charge was brought to a halt. However, there is plenty to be positive about as FC look to build on a very solid foundation laid at this level.



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Treasurer – Fay Northfield



DONATE A METRE OF SPECTATOR FENCE

We hope that everyone is well and getting through these strange times!

Ely City Football Club need to replace our existing spectator fence that is now 20 years old, tired and uneven so we are hoping to find people or businesses to help support and donate towards a new spectator fence as shown below.



**So we are looking for a donation of £30 per metre!
In return we will put your name/business logo onto your
metre(s) of fence to show our appreciation of your support.
360m required - feel free to have more than 1 metre if you wish!**

**If interested
please DM or email spectatorfence@elycityfc.org**

 **@ElyCityFC**

Thank you for your support

Ely City FC 2019–2020 Season Diary



May 2019

- 28 May Voted through unanimously at AGM that Club will proceed with formal merger with Ely Crusaders FC
- 29 May Recycling company Ellgia, who sponsor the ground and first team kits withdraw from 3-year deal after just 2 years.

June 2019

- 01 June Following promotion FA Women's National League, announced that **Cambridge City Ladies** will play home games at Downham Road.
- 15 June Defender **Adam Capel**, who joined on loan last season from **Cambridge City** signs. Confirmed that majority of last year's squad have re-signed,
- 15 June Cambs County League announce provisional constitution for 2019/20. Having completed merger with **Ely Crusaders** the Club will now have three senior teams in the league. Crusaders who finished 8th in the Mead Plant & Grab Division 2B, will now play under the name of **Ely City B**. The A Team won promotion last year move up to Division 1B. The Reserves remain in the Kershaw Premier.
- 16 June Confirmed only one club to be relegated from Premier League. Potentially two clubs to be promoted as result of non-league Pyramid restructure.

July 2019

- 01 July Defender **Scott Callaghan** joins **March Town United**.
- 04 July **Ash Walter** and **Dan Jeffery** sign for another season. **Chris Lewis** and **Rukky Diejomaoh** depart.
- 16 July After losing their first two pre-season games Ely beat a weakened **Soham Town Rangers** side 8 - 1, with potential new signing **Ryan Harwell** scoring three times.
- 17 July **Michael Harvey** signs. Previously with Mildenhall Town for eleven season he was at **Hadleigh United** last season. Forward **Ryan Harnwell** joins. He was a scholar at **Cambridge United** and has played for **King's Lynn Town** and last season **Wisbech Town**. His father, **Richard Harnwell** had two spells with Ely in the late 1990's early 2000's. **Rhys Mazey** joins **Lakenheath FC**.
- 20 July Ely suffer an embarrassing 4 - 0 reverse at reigning Cambs Premier League champions **Great Shelford**, their third defeat in four pre-season friendlies.
- 22 July **Like Crisp** signs from Cambs Premier Club **Fulbourn Institute**.
- 23 July Ely secure a 0 - 0 draw at Southern Premier Division - Central side **St Ives Town** in penultimate friendly game.
- 26 July **Alex Theobald**, who missed much of last season through injury, damages knee ligaments in pre-season game against **Chatteris Town**.

August 2019

- 02 Aug Forward **Jordan Foster** signs on eve of the season from **Great Shelford**.
- 03 Aug Ely open season with a 2 - 1 win at **Gorleston**. **Steve Holder** and **Adam Capel**, his first for the Club, scoring.
- 6 Aug **Jordan Foster** scores a hatrick on his home debut in a 3 - 1 win over **Mildenhall Town**.
- 10 Aug Ely proceed to next stage of the FA Cup for the first time since 2012/13 with a 2 - 1 at Minerva South Midlands Premier side **Potton United** securing a winner's fee of £2,250.
- 24 Aug. City come from behind twice to draw 2 - 2 at Step 4 **Wisbech Town** in FA Cup to earn a replay.
- 31 Aug City exit FA Vase at the first hurdle losing to United Counties Premier side **Peterborough Northern Star** 6 - 4 aet. Defender **Joe Brannan** has the dubious honour of being first Ely City player to be sent to the Sin Bin.

September 2019

- 03 Sep. Ely are brushed aside 4 - 0 by **Wisbech Town** in the FAC Preliminary Round Replay to book a home tie with **Hitchin Town**. **Steve Holder** receives a second half red card on a disappointing night.



- 06 Sep **Harry Farrow** joins on a one-month loan from **Cambridge City**.
07 Sep. City battle to a 0 – 0 draw with undefeated **Stanway Rovers**. **Farrow** makes debut and defender **Charlie Tunnell** makes first start of season.
09 Sep **Jordan Foster** signs for **Newmarket Town**. Wide-man **Nick Heap** also departs after three seasons.
10 Sep Ely concede a 95th minute goal in 3 - 2 home defeat to **Newmarket Town**. Ex-Ely captain **James Seymour** is amongst the Jockeys goal-scorers.
14 Sep Ely fielding a much-weakened side through injuries and suspensions are beaten 5 – 1 at **Godmanchester Rovers**. Under 18s player **Ollie Ward** scores a late consolation having come on as a substitute to make his debut. **Sam Goodge** also makes first appearance of the season as a second-half substitute.
14 Sep The Club withdraw the B Team from Cambs league Division 2B due to lack of players.
21 Sep Ely secure a useful point with a 1 - 1 draw against 2nd placed **Norwich United**. The Planters goalkeeper is sent off early in the second half for handling outside the area.

October 2019

- 05 Oct **Johnny Herd** and **David Cooper** join on short-term loans from **Peterborough Sports** and **Mildenhall Town** respectively. Both players start in the 1 - 0 home defeat to **Wroxham**.
10 Oct Loanee **Johnny Herd** departs after playing just one game to join **Godmanchester Rovers**. **Marco Pereira** joins from **Lakenheath FC**
12 Oct **Marco Pereira** makes first appearance for the Club as substitute in a 3 – 1 defeat at **Long Melford**. Ely have now gone 9 league games without a win.
15 Oct Ely's sequence of three consecutive CIC finals is halted in the 1st Round with a 2 - 1 defeat at home to Cambs Premier League **Cambridge University Press**.
22 Oct Ex-Robin **Richard Chadwick** joins on a dual registration from Milton Cambs League **Milton**. He makes his second debut in a 2 – 0 defeat at home to **Godmanchester Rovers** in the 2nd round of the League Challenge Cup. Midfielder **Ardended Hida** a new arrival on a dial registration with **Cherry Hinton FC** also makes his debut.
25 Oct Ely record a first league win since 6th August with a 3 - 2 victory at **Haverhill Rovers** with both **Charlie Tunnell** and **Luke Crisp** opening their accounts for the first team.

November 2019

- 06 Nov Defender **David Cooper** returns to his parent club, **Mildenhall Town**.
09 Nov The mini-revival of two consecutive wins is halted with a 4 - 0 defeat at **Walsham-le-Willows**.
10 Nov Goalkeeper **Harry Reynolds** side-lined with a head injury after being attacked in a Nottingham Night Club.
14 Nov Midfielder **Joshua Revell (19)** signed from **Haverhill Rovers**. Goalkeeper, **Barney McLaughlin** joins from Cambs Premier side **Cherry Hinton** on a dual registration basis as temporary cover for the injured **Reynolds**. Reserve goalkeeper, **Evan Jeckells** joins Cambs Premier League side **Eynesbury United**.
16 Nov **Oliver Shackleton** joins on loan from **Wisbech Town**. **Alex Knowles** signs on a dual registration from **Chatteris Town**, having previously played for the Club in 2014/15 & 2015/16. Both players play, as do other debutants, **Joshua Revell** and goalkeeper, **Barney McLaughlin** in the 1 - 4 home defeat to **FC Clacton**. Defender **Tom Williams** is sent off as City slip to 3rd from bottom
23 Nov More new signings as Goalkeeper, **Craig Foxall**, joins on loan from **Soham Town Rangers** and forward **Charlie Cooke** on loan from **Bury Town**. Both players make their debuts in the 2 - 0 defeat at **Wroxham**.
30 Nov Ely lose to bottom-club **Hadleigh United** 3 - 2. Manager **Brady Stone** is red carded for dissent on a poor day for the Club.

December 2019

- 02 Dec The Club confirm Manager **Brady Stone** and Assistant Manager, **Martin Grey** will leave at the end of the year. They will remain in post until the end of December to enable the Club to find and appoint a new Manager



- 07 Dec. Ely make it five consecutive defeats (and nine from the last eleven) with a 1 - 0 loss at **Woodbridge Town**. **William Fox**, **Mitchell Drewitt** and **Branham Ince** all start.
- 20 Dec **Luke McAvoy** and **Ben Farmer** appointed as new management team. They will take up their posts after Brady and Martin's final game in Charge against **Haverhill Rovers** on 27 December. The duo join from Kershaw Premier League club **Cambridge University Press**.
- 20 Dec. Central defender **Tom Williams** joins ECL Division One side **Lakenheath FC**. Reserve players **Owen Johnson** and **Jordan Johnson** also leave. **Eric Simpson**, who made 323 league and cup appearances for Ely in the 1960's and early 1970's passes away at the age of 79. He also managed the Club for a 3-month spell in 1988.
- 21 Dec Ely halt a run of six consecutive defeats with a 1 - 1 draw at **Kirkley & Pakefield**, who score a last-minute equaliser. **Mitchell Drewitt** scores his first goal for the First Team. **Harry French**, signed from Anglian Combination side **Brandon Town** makes debut.
- 27 Dec Ely draw 1 - 1 at home to **Haverhill Rovers** in Manager Brady Stone's final game in charge. Midfielder **Harvey Bullinaria**, signed from **Haverhill Rovers**, makes debut.

January 2020

- 04 Jan **McAvoy** and **Farmer's** first game in charge ends in a 3 - 2 defeat at **Whitton United**. **Harry French** scores his first goal for the Club as City recover from two goals down only to succumb to a late winner. **Harry McGregor**, and **Tom Rigby** make their debuts.
- 05 Jan Striker **Steve Holder** (32) leaves Club to join **Hadleigh United** as Assistant Player-Manager.
- 18 Jan Ely are crushed 7 - 1 at runaway leaders **Stowmarket Town**.
- 25 Jan Full back **Alex Brown** re-joins the Club from **Soham Town Rangers**. Defender **Nick Harrison**, currently at **St Neots Town** and who previously played for **Thame United**; plus, midfielder **Babacar Camara** (**Cambridge University Press**) also join. All feature in the 5 - 1 home defeat to **Woodbridge Town** in which **Matthew Simpson** received a first-half red card.

February 2020

- 01 Feb Ely secure first league win since 2 November 2019 with a 1 - 0 success at **Thetford Town**.
- 08 Feb **Harry French** scores three times in a 4 - 1 win over bottom-side **Gorleston**. He is the first Ely player to score a league hattrick since **Dan Brown's** triple at **Long Melford** on the equivalent weekend two years ago (10 February 2018).
- 13 Feb Defender **Joe Brannan** joins **Lakenheath FC**.
- 22 Feb **Ben Marshall** makes debut coming on as a second half substitute in the 4 - 1 defeat at 2nd placed **Norwich United**.

March 2020

- 06 Mar Ely lose a crucial match against fellow relegation candidates **Thetford Town** 3 - 2 at home. A returning **Luke Brown**, signed from **Soham Town Rangers** and **Alex Shepherd**, signed from United Counties League Division 1 strugglers **Huntingdon Town** feature.
- 13 Mar The Eastern Counties League suspend all ECL matches until the 30th March with immediate effect as a result of the escalating Coronavirus outbreak. Position to be reviewed at end of the month.
- 26 Mar The FA confirm termination of the 2019/20 season due to the Coronavirus pandemic. All results for the season are expunged with no promotion or relegation.

Written by Simon Barlow



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ELY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

A Brief History



Ely City, nicknamed the Robins after their red shirts, are the oldest senior club in Cambridgeshire. They were formed from the original members of a team called Ely St Etheldreda Football and Cricket Club in Circa 1885. For over ninety years the Club played at the Paradise Ground in the centre of the City, before moving to their present Downham Road location in 1986.

Having initially only played friendlies and entered local cup competitions, Ely joined the Cambridgeshire League in 1901. They withdrew prior to the 1902–03 season after a dispute over fees but re-entered the following season. Having merged with local junior side Ely Albion in 1908, City won their first silverware with back-to-back Cambs Senior League titles in 1910-11 and 1911-12.

At the end of World War I, City joined the Isle of Ely Junior League, winning the title in 1920-21 and 1921-22. City returned to the Cambs League in 1922-23, finishing Division 1 runners-up and also claiming the Cambs Challenge Cup with a 2 - 0 win over strong favourites Newmarket Town. In what was a successful period, the Challenge Cup was retained in 1923-24 and another 2nd place achieved in 1924-25. The Cambs league was restructured in 1928-29 with Ely placed in Division One A, where they finished bottom and were relegated to Division One B. Further league restructuring occurred in 1931, which saw Ely promoted to the newly formed Premier Division. The 1930's was a period of struggle and culminated in relegation to Division 1 (Section B) in 1936-37, where they remained until the outbreak of World War II.

At the end of hostilities, City joined and won the 1945/46 Cambs League (Northern Division) title. Now back in the Premier Division, Ely secured a unique double in 1947-48 by winning both the Cambridgeshire Senior Cup competitions - Creake Shield and Cambs Challenge Cup - in the space of a week. Special trains were organised to take around 1,000 supporters from Ely to the two finals played in March and Histon respectively. In 1949-50, City were Runners-up in the Premier Division and again reached the final of the Creake Shield, losing out in both competitions to then dominant local side, Camden United.

In 1951-52, Ely joined the Peterborough and District League Premier Division and in their first season reached the league cup final which was lost to Cambridge United Reserves. Under newly appointed player-manager and ex-professional George King, Ely won the Premier Division in 1955-56 and reached the First Round Proper of the Amateur Cup, a considerable achievement for a club of Ely's size at that time. However, the crowning glory was achieved the following season when having disposed of higher status teams Histon, Cambridge United, Cambridge City, March Town and Sudbury Town, they reached the first Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 6 - 2 to Division Three (South) high-flyers Torquay United in front of a record crowd of 4,223. In a truly remarkable season, City also finished 2nd in the league and again reached the first round of the Amateur Cup. Another 2nd place finish was achieved in 1957-58, following which the Club took the decision to turn professional and joined the newly formed Central Alliance League (Division One South). Ely finished 8th and 5th in their two seasons and were losing finalists in the 1959-60 league cup.

Having made a number of previous attempts, Ely were elected to the Eastern Counties League in 1960-61. The Club initially struggled to find its feet at this level, and it was not until the appointment of former Northern Irish international Hughie Barr as player-manager in 1967, that the tide turned. Having secured the Club's highest ever league position of 4th in 1968/69, City were runners-up in 1969/70 and 3rd in 1970/71. That season, City also won the Cambs Invitation Cup (CIC) for the first time and were league cup finalists, losing out to Wisbech Town over two-legs. Barr was replaced by ex-Wisbech Town Player-Manager Mel Harnwell in 1971/72 as Ely secured 5th place and also reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, losing to a Kettering Town side led by fledgling manager Ron Atkinson. Other than finishing bottom in 1975-76 and having to seek re-election, City remained a predominantly mid-table team for the remainder of the seventies.

Ely's next season of note came in 1979/80 when the Club won the League Cup for the first and so far, only time, defeating Lowestoft Town over two legs. Despite securing 4th place and scoring a century of goals in 1980/81, the remainder of the 80's was a period of perpetual struggle in which numerous



managers came and went and which finally ended in relegation to the recently formed ECL First Division in 1988/89. At the end of 1985/86, Ely had moved from Paradise to the present Downham Road location on the outskirts of the City. Improvements to the ground have continued to be made over the years and the Club now boasts some of the best facilities in the league.

After relegation steady progress was made during the early nineties under the initial management of ex-Cambridge United man Tom Finney and then Steve Clark. Management duo David Pinkowski and Tony Lyes were appointed in 1994/95, and they secured City's first piece of silverware since 1980 by winning the Hinchingsbrooke Cup in 1995/96. City then romped to the 1996/97 First Division title by a margin of 15 points over closest challengers Histon. The following season, Ely defied all expectations by finishing second in the Premier Division, just two points behind Wroxham – who effectively won the title following a winner-takes-all match-up in the penultimate game of the season. This however proved to be a brief period of success for Ely as Pinkowski and Lyes - and nearly all the squad – left at the end of the season. Ex-professional Alan Biley stepped into the breach at late notice but City almost inevitably finished in bottom-place and were relegated.

Under Steve Taylor, Ely secured an immediate return to the Premier and also won the First Division KO Cup in 1999/00. Having re-established themselves in the top-tier City, now managed by Kevin Pritchard, went on to win the Cambs Invitation Cup for a second time against higher grade Histon in 2001/02. Following the departure of Pritchard, the Club were again relegated at the end of a disastrous 2002/03 campaign. The Club would have to wait until 2007/08 before securing another promotion, this time under the astute management of Dennis Lightning. In the interim, the Club won the First Division KO Cup a further two times in 2004/05 and again in 2007/08. Alan Alsop took-up the managerial reins in 2010 and in only his second season (2011/12) led unfancied City to runners-up spot, once again behind Wroxham. The CIC was also won that season against local rivals Soham Town Rangers and retained the following year (2012/13) with a 3 - 0 win over Southern Premier League side Cambridge City. That season City also reached the 4th Round of the FA Vase.

Following Alsop's departure in January 2014, senior players Brady Stone and Ben Lawrence took charge for the remainder of the season and somewhat against the odds steered the team away the relegation zone. With a severely reduced budget, Stone, now assisted by Martin Grey was unable to repeat the trick in 2014/15, and Ely were unsurprisingly relegated. However, the seeds of a young and talented squad had been sown, and City secured promotion at the first attempt as runners-up in 2015/16 in a campaign that included a club record run of 14 consecutive league wins.

Back in the Premier for 2016/17, City secured a creditable 13th place and reached the fifth round of the FA Vase, a best ever performance in the competition, finally bowing out to Midlands side Sporting Khalsa in front of a crowd of 646 - a record attendance for the ground. City were also runners up in the CIC, losing to Cambridge City in the final. In 2017/18 the Club finished 14th and won the CIC for a fifth time, defeating Cambridge United Development with a stoppage-time winner at the Abbey Stadium. Although City struggled for much of 2018/19, they staved off relegation in exciting fashion in the penultimate game of the season by scoring twice in injury time to defeat 3rd placed Godmanchester Rovers. Remarkably, City also reached the CIC final for a third year in a row, this time defeating ECL Champions, Histon 2 - 1 to retain the trophy.

Brady Stone and Martin Grey stood down in December 2020, to end a successful six-year tenure. The new joint management team of Luke McAvoy and Ben Farmer were embroiled in another relegation battle when the season was declared null and void in March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2020/21 season will provide the new management team with the opportunity to put their own stamp on the team to and write their own chapter in Ely's long history.

The Club currently run a Reserve side, A Team and Under 18 side. In May 2020, City formally merged with local junior side Ely Crusaders to form a new Club Ely City Crusaders. The vision of the merger being to create a clear pathway into senior football for local youngsters in the City and surrounding area. The Club is affiliated with the Cambridgeshire FA and is an Associated Member of the Football Association.

ELY CITY PEN PICS 20/21



Harry Reynolds - GK

Signed from Soham Town Rangers in 2015. Harry is vastly experienced having played over 200 games for the club, which makes him a important part of the dressing room and provides valuable leadership.

Sheldon Weinman - DF

Joined the club this season having played for Histon in there title winning side in 2018. Has a great attitude and is already a popular member of squad.

Alex Brown - DF

Re-joined the club from Soham Town Rangers last season. Has become a regular in the team with some impressive performances.

Tom Williams - DF

Re - joined the club this season from Lakenheath. An experienced and commanding centre back with an eye for a goal.

Nick Harrison - DF

Joined the club last season from St Neots Town. Added experience and quality to the squad. Previously played for Thame United

Adam Capel - DF

Adam was part of the Cambridge United Academy System until the age of 16. He then moved to Cambridge City before joining the club in the 2018/19 season. Very popular member of the squad and made over 50 appearances.

Jamie Alsop - DF

Experienced defender in his second spell with the club. Set piece specialist with an exceptional delivery.

Harvey Bullin - MF

An academy graduate from Peterborough United. Strong midfielder full of energy and with a excellent passing range.

Luke Crisp - MF

Joined at the beginning of the 20/21 season from Fulbourn institute. Hard working midfielder who is now becoming a regular in the side after some impressive displays during pre season.

Joshua Revel - MF

Joined the club from Haverhill Rovers last season. Was very unlucky with a serious injury and only featured in 2 games. Now becoming an important part of the squad after impressing during pre season.

George Darling - MF

George is a experienced centre midfielder whose been with the club for over 5 years. Nearing his 200th appearance. Has great passing ability and is a leader on and off the pitch.

Ryan Harnwell - CF

Re-joined the club after playing for Wisbech St Mary last season. A striker with bags of energy and really impressed during pre season. Made his return to club in the win against Thetford Town.

Josh Townshend - CF

Signed from Kershaw prem champions Great Shelford. Very versatile forward player, who has great pace and skill. Made his debut against Godmanchester Rovers in the Fa cup win.

Jordan Foster CF

Previous clubs include Great Shelford and Newmarket Town. Another versatile forward player. Returned to the club this season away to Stanway.

Luke Young CF

Signed this season from University of East Anglia. Impressed in pre season after moving back to the area. Made his debut in 1-0 win against Thetford Town.



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Match Report -FA CUP Preliminary Round

Saturday 12th September 2020

Ely City 3 v 1 Eynesbury Rovers

Ely lineup: 1: Reynolds, 2: Weinman, 3: Brown, 4: Alsop (c), 5: Williams, 6: Harrison, 7: Darling, 8: Bullinaria, 9: Harnwell, 10: Crisp, 11: Townsend

Subs: 12: Brannan, 14: Revell, Foster, 16: Young

Fantastic attacking play sends Ely City through to FA Cup 1st Qualifying round with goals from Townsend, Bullinaria and Foster.

The Robins were on the front foot early on in this game and within the first minute had created two chances. The first came when Jamie Alsop took a free kick just inside the half which found Ryan Harnwell but the number 9's shot was deflected over. From the resulting corner the ball went straight to the goalkeeper. Eynesbury were playing very high up but not really creating many chances. Ely's defence did really well to deny them the space in behind for crossing and shooting chances. In the eighth minute right back a good cross from midfield found Sheldon Weinman who despite doing well to get to the ball in the first place could only head wide.

A few minutes later the Robins had another opportunity. A cross from Eynesbury's number 3 was won back superbly well by Ely's midfield. Josh Townsend did excellently to jink in and out of the opposition's midfield but was tackled on the edge of their box. Ely came even closer to opening the scoring just before the twenty minute mark when Ryan Harnwell had his edge of the box cross cleared away for a corner. In the build up to this Townsend did well to battle against his full back down the right hand side to get Ely up the pitch. From the resulting corner Nick Harrison had a great chance with a stabbed shot on target inside the six yard box but unfortunately the ball was cleared.

Next it was Eynesbury's turn to have a chance. They did well to break beyond Ely's midfield and fed the ball out wide to their number 3 who could only fire over the bar. With just over twenty two minutes gone Josh Townsend went on another mazy run from just inside Eynesbury's half. The forward advanced Ely up the pitch and fed the ball to Harnwell who's shot went over with the help of a deflection. From the resulting Alsop corner, Tom Williams thought he'd scored but his header went inches agonizingly just over the bar. Ely wouldn't have to wait too much longer for the opening goal however and it was the players who created the previous chance who were involved again.

A corner from Jamie Alsop was headed back across goal into the path of the on rushing Josh Townsend who flicked the ball home to give Ely the lead. Well deserved on the balance of play.

In the remainder of the half both sides exchanged a couple more chances without adding to the scoreline.

Two minutes after the goal an Alsop free kick was headed away by the Eynesbury defence before the away side had a free kick in their right hand wing position. They did well to hook the ball into the box but Harry Reynolds managed to punch away to danger.

Half time: Ely City 1 Eynesbury 0

The second half began with a foul on Harnwell on the edge of Rovers box. George Darling could only drag wide but it was the first chance of many that the hosts would create.

There was a brief flash point and flaring of tempers when a foul was angrily reacted too but pleasingly it didn't last too long and the game continued. Rovers had a chance after their wide players took the ball past Nick Harrison who tried defend it. The ball was crossed in and was headed just wide. Ten minutes into the half Harnwell was fouled yet again after a pass from Townsend. The ball was expertly whipped by Alsop but just like in the first half Williams could only manage to head just over the bar- but this chance was far closer than the first half attempt.

The chances kept on coming on for Ely though and their next chance came when full back Alex Brown passed the ball to Harnwell out wide. The striker did really well to get down the line and into the box and shoot straight at the goalkeeper. With half an hour to go Ely finally managed to add to the score. Josh Townsend down the right hand side passed to Ryan Harnwell who after holding the ball up on the edge of the box made his way into the box and forced a very strange error from the keeper who gave the onrushing Harvey Bullinaria the easiest chance he's probably ever had! The number 8 finished with venom beyond the goalkeeper to double Ely's lead. Just after doubling the lead and with twenty minutes to go Josh Townsend went off for Luke Young. Young was heavily involved in Ely's third and final goal along with fellow sub Foster (who came on for Ryan Harnwell) when he ran down the left wing and passed to Foster who tapped home beyond the goalkeeper to make it three nil. Eynesbury got an equaliser when Reynolds was beaten at his near post but it was Ely City who march on into the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Samir Osman

Ely City Football Club (*formed 1885*)

Honours to date...



League

Eastern Counties League (Runners-up) 1969-70, **Premier Division** (Runners-up) 1997-98, 2011-12
Eastern Counties League (1st Division) (Winners) 1996-97 (Runners-up) 1999-00, 2007-08, 2015-16
Peterborough League (Premier Division) (Winners) 1955-56 (Runners-up) 1956-57, 1957-58
Cambridgeshire League (Senior Division) (Winners) 1910-11, 1911-12 (Runners-up) 1901-02
Cambridgeshire League (Premier Division) (Runners-up) 1949-50
Cambridgeshire League (1st Division) (Runners-up) 1922-23, 1924-25
Cambridgeshire League (Northern Division) (Winners) 1945-46
Isle of Ely Junior League (Winners) 1920-21, 1921-22

National Cup Competitions

FA Cup (Best Performances) 1st Round Proper v Torquay United 1956-57 and 4th Qualifying Round v Kettering Town 1972-73
FA Amateur Cup (Best Performance) 1st Round Proper 1955-56 v Alton Town and 1956-57 v Erith & Belvedere
FA Trophy (Best Performance) 2nd Qualifying Round v Alfreton Town 1973-74
FA Vase (Best Performance) 5th Round v Sporting Khalsa 2016/17

Other Cup Competitions

Eastern Counties League Cup (Winners) 1979-80 (Runners-up) 1970-71
Eastern Counties 1st Division KO Cup (Winners) 1999-00, 2004-05, 2007-08
Cambs Invitation Cup (Winners) 1970-71, 2001-02, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2017-18 & 2018-19 (Runners-up) 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1963-64, 1969-70, 1971-72 & 2016-17
Hinchingsbrooke Cup (Winners) 1995-96
Hunts Premier Cup (Runners-up) 2001-02
Peterborough Senior League Cup (Runners-up) 1951-52
Central Alliance League Cup (Runners-up) 1959-60
Cambridgeshire Challenge Cup (Winners) 1922-23, 1923-24, 1947-48 (Runners-up) 1931-32, 1951-52
Creake Shield (Winners) 1947-48 (Runners-up) 1949-50
Cambs Junior Cup (Runners-up) 1898-99, 1899-00
Upwell Nursery Cup (Winners) 1921-22, 1922-23, 1951-52, 1952-53
Cottenham Cup (Winners) 1949-50, 1950-51
Chatteris Challenge Cup (Winners) 1949-50 (Runners-up) 1948-49
Chatteris Engineering Works Cup (Runners-up) 1934-35
Wisbech Charity Cup (Runners-up) 1912-13
Isle of Ely Junior Cup (Runners-up) 1921-22, 1922-23
Scott Gatty Cup (Winners) 1949-50
Soham Charity Cup (Winners) 1966-67, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1994-95, 1996-97, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01 (Runners-up) 1962-63, 1967-68, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1988-89, 1990-91, 2001-02
Soham Nursery Cup (Runners-up) 1933-34, 1968-69, 1969-70
Soham Coronation Cup (Runners-up) 1952-53
Townsend Cup (Runners-up) 1949-50, 1951-52, 1953-54, 1959-60
Cranfield Cup (Winners) 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1958-59, 1966-67, 1969-70, 1971-72 (Runners-up) 1952-53, 1957-58, 1963-64, 1970-71, 1972-73
Ely Invitation Cup (Winners) 1962-63, 1963-64, 1988-89, 1996-97 (Trophy Shared) 1957-58 (Runners-up) 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1991-92, 1994-95, 1997-98

Previous Leagues

1885 – 1901 Not affiliated to any league
1901 – 1951 Cambs League (Excluding 1902-03 and duration of WWI and WWII)
1951 – 1958 Peterborough League
1958 – 1960 Central Alliance League
1960 – Present Eastern Counties League



Previous Grounds

1885 – 1890 Various locations in and around Ely
1890 – 1986 Paradise Recreation Ground
1986 – Present The Unwin Ground, Downham Road

Colours

Home Red with White Trim
Away Blue with White Trim

Nickname

The Citizens (pre-war), The Robins

MANAGERS

Pre 1955 team selected by Committee

1955 - 1959 George King* 1959 - 1961 Tommy Savage* 1961 - 1964 Jimmy Munro* 1964 - 1967 Maurice Smith*
1967 - 1972 Hughie Barr* 1972 - 1975 Mel Harnwell* 1975 - 1976 Brian Symonds 1976 - 1979 Roger Pauley
1979 - 1980 Roger Crane* 1980 - 1982 Lester Newell* 1982 Jon Tippett* 1982 - 1983 Ted Robbins* 1983 - 1986 Roger Crane*
1986 - 1987 Andy Parker* 1987 - 1988 Roger Pauley 1988 Derek Warwick 1988 Eric Simper 1988 - 1989 Derek Warwick
1989 - 1992 Tom Finney* 1992 Alan Biley* 1992 - 1994 Steve Clark* 1994 - 1998 Dave Pinkowski and Tony Lyes 1998 Mel Mattless
1998 - 1999 Alan Biley* 1999 - 2001 Steve Taylor 2001 - 2002 Kevin Pritchard 2002 Rob Swain and Jerry Hutton
2002 - 2003 Rob Swain 2003 Martin Pammenter* 2003 Martin Pammenter* and Steve Taylor 2003 - 2005 Steve Taylor
2005 - 2006 Steve Taylor and Dennis Lightning 2006 - 2009 Dennis Lightning 2009 Trevor Munns 2009 - 2010
Dennis Lightning 2010 - 2014 Alan Alsop 2014 *Brady Stone and Ben Lawrence 2014 - 2019 Brady Stone
2020 Luke McAvooy and Ben Farmer
*Denotes Player-Manager

Playing records

Best League Win (Eastern Counties League) Ely City 9 Gothic 0 (1973-74)
Worst league defeat (Eastern Counties League) Lowestoft Town 13 Ely City 1 (1964-65)
Best Home Win (any Competition Post War) Ely City 12 Upwell Town 0 – Peterborough Premier League (1956-57)
Best away win (any competition Post War) Downham Town 1 Ely City 11 – Peterborough Premier League (1957-58)

Attendances

Record Home League Attendance 2,292 v Newmarket Town – Peterborough Premier League (1957-58)
Record Home Attendance in any competition 4,223 v Torquay United – FA Cup 1st Round (1956-57)
Record attendance for any game involving the club 6,993 v Cambridge City (A) FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round (1956-57)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1 The club were required to seek re-election in their first three seasons in the Eastern Counties League (1960/61 – 1962/63)
- 2 Cambridgeshire's premier cup competition the Cambs Invitation cup has been won by the club on four occasions (1969-70 2001-02, 2011-12 and 2012-13). They have been runners-up a further six times.
- 3 In the 2001-02 Cambs Invitation Cup final Ely defeated Histon 1 – 0 at the Abbey Stadium in front of 423 spectators. Histon were lying 4th in the Dr Martens Southern League (Eastern Division) at the time. Ely had beaten Cambridge City of the Southern League Premier Division in the semi-final. They also defeated higher grade opposition in the two following finals in 2012 (Soham Town Rangers – Ryman League Division 1 Central) and 2013 (Cambridge City – Southern League Premier).
- 4 Ely appointed their first manager in June 1955. Prior to this team selection had been decided by committee.
- 5 **Former Cambridge United, Derby County and Portsmouth striker, Alan Biley managed the club on two separate occasions. He was at the helm when the club's depleted squad were relegated from the Eastern Counties Premier League in 1998-99.**
- 6 **Ely first wore numbered shirts in the 1946-47 season.**
- 7 The Club turned semi-professional when they joined the Central Alliance (1st Division South) in 1958.



- 8 Ron Atkinson was in his first managerial position (player-manager) when Kettering Town visited Ely in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup in 1972-73.**
- 9 Stan Woodgett, Ely's goalkeeper of the late 1940's and early 1950's was the club's designated penalty taker. He scored one of Ely's goals in the 2 - 3 defeat against Cambridge United Reserves in the Peterborough Senior Cup Final (1951-52). This was the first time that a club making its debut in the Peterborough league had reached the final of the league's cup competition.**
- 10 England World Cup winner Martin Peters played as a sweeper against Ely at the Paradise Ground in a 2 – 2 draw during the 1981-82 season. He was booked.**
- 11 In the 1982-83 league campaign Ely lost 37 of their 42 games, winning just 2 and drawing the other 3. They amassed a total of 7 points (2 points for a win) for the season, only one of which came away from home. They scored a total of 21 goals and conceded 129. Although finish rock-bottom the club were re-elected.**
- 12 The club's final game at the Paradise Ground was a 2 - 3 defeat against Felixstowe Town on 5th May 1986. Nigel Fuller scored Ely's final goal on the ground.**
- 13 The first competitive game played at the Unwin Ground, was a 1 – 4 FA Cup defeat against Tiptree United in on 13 September 1986. Kevan Cambridge scored Ely's first goal at their new home.**
- 14 Floodlights were erected in the 1986-87 season. The first competitive game played under the lights was a 1 - 0 league win over Thetford Town. New lights were erected for the 2016/17 season.**
- 15 Ely's 120 seat stand, The Roger Pauley Stand, was officially opened prior to the 0 - 1 league defeat against Downham Town on Boxing Day 1993.**
- 16 Ely City, then a 1st Division club, defeated Arlesey Town 6 - 0 in the final of the Hinchbrook Cup in 1995-96. Arlesey went on to win the Minerva South Midlands Premier League that season. It was Ely's first mainstream honour since lifting the Eastern Counties League Cup in 1980.**
- 17 In their 1st Division championship season of 1996-97 Ely won the league by a margin of 13 points over Histon. They lost just 2 of the 34 matches played in the league that season.**
- 18 In 1997-98, their first season back in the Premier Division since relegation in 1988-89, Ely finished runners-up to Wroxham by 2 points, despite amassing 95 points. A 0 - 2 defeat at Wroxham in the penultimate game of the season was watched by a crowd of 900+, was ultimately the deciding factor between the two teams. Second place equalled the club's previous best league position achieved in 1969-70. This position was achieved again in the 2011-12 season when Ely again finished runners-up to Wroxham.**
- 19 Ely's best run in the FA Vase ended in the 5th Round in 2016/17 with a 3 – 0 home defeat against Sporting Khalsa of the Midlands Premier League in front of a crowd of 646.**
- 20 Johnny Fretwell and Lester Newell, members of the 1971 Cambs Invitation Cup winning team, were also in the Ely side that won the Eastern Counties league Cup in 1980.**
- 21 Mike Dixon, father of ex-England international Kerry Dixon, played one season for the club in 1968-69. The centre forward, renowned for his heading ability, finished the season as top scorer with 32 goals. He subsequently left to play for Bedford Town. Kerry Dixon was manager of the Letchworth side that knocked Ely out of the 2001-02 FA Vase.**
- 22 Goal scoring centuries for the club are: P E Newstead (1920's), A E 'Nibs' Ellingham (1930's), Albert Butcher (1930's, 40's & 50's), Jack Lockwood (1930's, 40's & 50's), Tony Green and George King (1950's), Lester Newell (1960's, 70's & 80's), Maurice Smith (1960's & 70's) Karl Simper (1980's & 90's) and Matthew Eden (1990's & 00's)**
- 23 Eric Simper played over 500 games for the club between 1958 and 1973. He also had a short spell as manager. In the 1 His son, Karl was a centre forward for Ely in the late 1980's and early 1990's – scoring a total of 109 goal. He is one of only ten goal scoring centuries for the club.**
- 24 A number of ex-league players have turned out for the club, including George King (Newcastle United, Carlisle United and Barrow), Lindsey Smith (Cambridge United), Alan Biley (Cambridge United, Derby County and Portsmouth), Tom Finney (Cambridge United & Northern Ireland) and Trevor Quow (Peterborough United and Northampton Town).**



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THE ROBINS IN THE FA CUP



As Ely have never played Biggleswade FC in a competitive match before (although we did meet in a pre-season friendly at Langford Road in July 2027, which FC won 3 - 2) I thought I'd take the opportunity to dig out some random FA CUP facts involving City.

- Ely first entered the competition in 1935/36, when still members of the Cambs League, losing 2 – 0 at home to Chatter Engineers in the Preliminary Round.
- They did not enter again until 1954/55, and probably wished they hadn't, as they were thumped 8 - 0 at Thetford Town. This is the Club's worst defeat in the competition, although it was equalled when Bury Town won by the same score at the Unwin Ground in 2005/06. Bizarrely this was a replay, as City had initially secured a 1 - 1 draw at Ram Meadow
- City's biggest win in the competition was in 2012/13 when they defeated Raunds Town 7 - 1 in the Extra Preliminary Round.
- Ely's best performance in the competition was of course 1956/57, when they reached the 1st Round Proper and entertained Division 3 (South) side Torquay United – having defeated Histon, Cambridge United, Cambridge City and Sudbury Town, all higher-grade clubs, en-route to this stage.
- The attendance at Cambridge City of 6,993, in the 1956/57 run is the highest an Ely side has ever played in front-off. Player-Manager George King scored the only goal in what was considered to be a major upset.
- In preparation for the Torquay game, City's tiny Paradise Ground was transformed by £200 (a lot of money then) worth of temporary terracing equipment contracted from a firm in Wisbech and various seating arrangements utilising empty beer crates from a local brewery and railway sleepers to accommodate the record 4,223 crowd.
- Less well remembered is the fact City reached the 4th Qualifying Round in 1972/73. Having defeated Great Yarmouth, Chatteris Town and Thetford Town in the preceding rounds, they narrowly went down at home (2 - 1) to a Kettering Town side that would go on to win the Southern Premier League that year under player-manager, Ron Atkinson. The attendance was a 1,702.
- Ely have been drawn against local rivals Soham Town Rangers on just the one occasion in 1969/70... and it did not end well at any level. The Preliminary Round tie at Soham ended 1 - 1 with the replay at Paradise lost 3 - 2. However, in what was always going to be feisty occasion, tempers flared at the end of the match where it was recorded in the local press that... 'disgraceful scenes occurred, during which the referee was assaulted'. The FA subsequently fined Ely £25 and ordered the posting of official warning notices. Not our finest hour.

Eight Ely City players have scored hattricks in the FAC:

- George King v Thetford Town 1955/56 - 1 QR
 - Tommy Savage v Chatteris Town 1960/61 - 1 QR
 - Bernard Shaw v Haverhill Rovers 1964/65 - 1 QR
 - Mike Dixon v Newmarket Town 1968/69 - 1 QR
 - Tony Bissett v Chatteris Town 1972/73 - 3 QR (r)
 - Ozie Foster v Newmarket Town 2002/03 - Ex Prelim
 - Nick Impey v Langford 2006/07 - Ex Prelim
 - Richard Gammon v Rothwell Corinthians 2012/13 – Ex Prelim
- George King is the Club's leading FAC goals-scorer with 10, followed by Lester Newell (8) and Steve 'Midge' Green (5).
 - This season is the 58th season that City have entered the FA Cup. In total they have played 105 matches; winning 30; drawing 18; and losing 57. Total goals scored 173 with 237 against.

Simon Barlow

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2020/21 PEN PICTURES

Tyler Josephs (Goalkeeper)

Following the departure of Ross Tompkins, FC's management team identified Tyler as their number one target to replace him. The young keeper arrived in July 2019 from neighbours Potton United and has fitted seamlessly into the FC rearguard.



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Luke Oswick (Defender)

21-year-old Luke arrived from Royston Town in July 2019 and featured as a left back initially. However, having picked up some injuries at centre half, he was moved into the heart of the FC defence for the win over Kempston Rovers in December and he's been an absolute revelation since.

Michael Simpson (Defender)

"Simo" arrived from Stotfold in July 2018. A player that was on Dave Northfield's wanted list for a while. After initially starting in the Reserves, once he forced his way into the 1st Team he has made the left back position his own. A solid and dependable player who rarely has a bad game.

Adam Hunt (Defender)

An exciting attacking right back, "Hunty" captained FC to the SSML Division One title in the club's debut season in 2016/17. His performances got him a move to Welwyn Garden City for 2018/19 and despite some good performances for The Citizens, Adam decided to "come home". One of only two players to clock up over 150 appearances for the club.

Nathan George (Defender)

Played in the club's first-ever game in 2016. An impressive goalscoring record reaching double-figures in two out of four campaigns, mainly down to him being the club's regular penalty-taker. An influx of new centre-halves saw him lose his place in the side earlier in the 2018/19 season, but he returned with some big performances in the run to the Treble.

Joe Gauge (Defender)

A January 2020 arrival from Southern League neighbours Hitchin Town. Joe caught the eye of the FC management team at cross-town rivals Biggleswade United where he scooped three awards at the club's End of Season Presentation in his first season of senior football. Has already formed a solid partnership with Luke Oswick.



Chairman – Jeremy Reynolds

Secretary – Lee Rusbridge

Treasurer – Fay Northfield

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Dom Mason (Defender/Midfield)

Signed this summer having scored 12 goals in 23 appearances for Cambridgeshire County League outfit Eynesbury United last season. Another ex-Cambridge United scholar - Dom was training with Bedford Town earlier in pre-season, but made the switch to Langford Road. A larger-than-life character who has already opened his FC account with a goal against AFC Dunstable.



Tom Coles (Midfield) - Club Captain

A mid-season arrival from Eynesbury Rovers in 2017/18 where he had scored over 100 goals in just over six seasons, "Colesy" averaged just over a goal every other game for FC in his first couple of seasons. Having dropped into a deeper midfield role his goalscoring contributions may have lessened, but his leadership, experience and all-round importance to this young squad has only increased.

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Elliot Kettle (Midfield)

The 23-year-old American joined us this summer. The creative midfielder had been training with a number of clubs since moving to the UK in December 2019, but FC moved quickly to secure his services after a couple of impressive displays in pre-season. A classy footballer that already looks like being a very good addition to the FC squad.

Pat McCafferty (Midfield)

Pat spent all of his youth playing days with Luton Town, but was released as a 16-year-old. Their loss has certainly been FC's gain though, making over 120 appearances for the club to date. Always in the right place to break up play, but equally as adept at driving from midfield with the ball at his feet. An all-action class act, who will be essential to FC's future successes.

Matt Richardson (Midfield)

20-year-old Matt already has Senior Football experience with Ampthill Town under his belt and has shown plenty of promise since arriving at the club. Been very stop, start for him over the past couple of seasons as he's been unlucky with injuries, but he's another local lad with bags of potential.

Conor Inskip (Midfield)

Another midfielder who has had his injuries problems in recent seasons, but he looks to have put them behind him now with some solid and combative performances in pre-season. Will provide good competition in the centre of the FC midfield.



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Joe Bradbury (Midfield)

An experienced midfield player who has formerly been with Eynesbury Rovers, Crawley Green and Bedford FC. He maybe one of the older members of the squad, but he is undoubtedly one of the fittest. His opponents always know they've been in a game when they come up against his all-action and energetic style of play.

Lee Northfield (Midfield/Forward)

"One of the originals" from the all-conquering Biggleswade Town under 18s side. Lee spent six years at Ipswich Town before moving on to Stevenage FC. Over 40 goals and 25 assists for FC to date and despite getting a bit of stick for being the manager's son, he is certainly a creative cog in the free-scoring FC machine.



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Kian Coles (Midfield/Forward)

After some impressive performances for the Reserves in the last couple of seasons, the Biggleswade-youngster has forced his way into the 1st Team squad. Technically gifted and a sweet left foot. A player who could be an important part of FC's success in the coming years.

Alan Fleming (Forward)

The 21-year-old former Norwich City and Luton Town youngster could well be one of the finds of the season. Recommended to us by ex-Northwood & Welwyn GC manager Dean Barker after he left Wingate and Finchley. After an impressive substitute appearance in pre-season, the FC management team moved quickly to secure his services. He's already repaid some of that faith with key goalscoring contributions against Histon and AFC Dunstable.

Ryan Inskip (Forward)

First FC player to reach 150 appearances for the club. "Skippy" was one of FC's star performers in 2018/19 chipping in with 20 goals including a cup final brace against Baldock Town. His quick feet and close control make him equally adept at creating goals as he is at scoring them.

Sam Johnson (Forward)

Another late pre-season acquisition for FC. The 25-year-old all-action attacking midfielder will bring some much needed experience to a young FC squad having been in and around the Southern League for the past two or three seasons with spells at Kempston Rovers and AFC Rushden and Diamonds.



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George Bailey (Forward)

Prolific in his first season and a half for Biggleswade FC. Form that earned him a cracked at Step 3 football with both Biggleswade Town and St Ives Town. Dave Northfield has tried on numerous occasions to bring him back to the club, but finally he's got his man this summer. Could be another excellent attacking addition.

Scott Joseph (Forward)

October 2019 capture from neighbours Bedford Town. The 31-year-old forward has bags of experience with spells at AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Bedford Town, St Ives Town and Barton Rovers to name a few. The strong and powerful front man made an immediate impact scoring eight goals in seventeen games including at hat-trick at Wantage Town.



Home Kit & Main Sponsor:



Tom Cookman (Forward)

"Cookie" is a talismanic forward who leads from the front. Although his goal return has dwindled over the past couple of seasons, there is no doubting his importance and experience to this young squad. One of only three players to score over 50 goals for the club so far. He is a nightmare for defenders (and referees ;-p).

Daniel Bond (Forward)

"Bondy" arrived from neighbours Langford in November 2019 having scored 12 goals in 16 appearances in a short stint down the road at Forde Park. He also has Step 4 experience though having had spells goalscoring spells with both Hertford Town and Welwyn Garden City in recent seasons.

Adam Drakulic (Forward)

"Drax" has found regular 1st Team appearances hard to come by since his arrival in October 2018, but there is no doubting his first-class attitude and his infectious character. Made some very key contributions for both 1st Team and Reserves in their trophy-laden 2018/19 campaign.



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From

- 1 Harry Reynolds
- 2 Sheldon Weinman
- 3 Alex Brown
- 4 Adam Capel
- 5 Nick Harrison
- 6 George Darling
- 7 Luke Crisp
- 8 Jordan Foster
- 9 Josh Revell
- 10 Ryan Harnwell
- 11 Josh Townshend

From

- Tyler Josephs 1
- Adam Hunt 2
- Michael Simpson 3
- Elliot Kettle 4
- Joe Gauge 5
- Luke Oswick 6
- Tom Coles (c) 7
- Sam Johnson 8
- Alan Fleming 9
- Kian Coles 10
- Ryan Inskip 11

- 12 Jamie Alsop
- 14 Luke Young
- 15 Joe Brannan
- 16 Harvey Bullinaria
- 17

- Scott Joseph 12
- George Bailey 14
- Adam Drakulic 15
- Dom Mason 16
- Nathan George 17
- Conor Inskip 18
- Pat McCafferty 19

Luke McAvoy
Ben Farmer

Managers/Coaches

Dave Northfield
Mark Inskip



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