



Aylesbury FC

v Welwyn Garden City

Saturday 5th January 2019

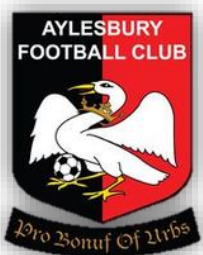
KO 3.00pm

EVO-STIK South Division One Central



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Welcome to Aylesbury FC

Committee & Staff

President	Bill Harrison
Chairman	Tony Masella
Club Secretary	Ian Brown
Treasurer	Rosanna Martone
Communications Manager	Mike Farquharson
Bar/Events Manager	Christine Martone
Groundsman	David Thorn
General Committee	Steve MacDonald
General Committee	Nobby Swain
Club Photographer	Phil Duffy
Match day Reporter	Jools Thomas
Programme Editor	Mike Farquharson
Matchday Co-ordinator	Chris Thorn
Welfare Officer	Maxine Ingram

To ensure the safety of everybody, please observe the following:

Do not use foul or abusive language, or obscene gestures. Any form of racial abuse, or language used to incite or provoke others is a criminal offense under the 'Football Offenses Act 1991'

No glasses or bottles are permitted outside the clubhouse. Do not throw any items onto the pitch. Do not run onto the pitch or encroach on the playing area. Aylesbury Football Club reserve the right to refuse entry to their ground.

AYLESBURY FC is a MEMBERS CLUB

A Word from the Chairman

Good afternoon everyone and today we are back at the SRD Stadium, where we welcome all the players, staff, committee members and fans of Welwyn Garden City, I hope you all enjoy your stay with us and have a safe trip home afterwards.



First of all let me wish you all a happy new year and hope 2019 brings us some luck and performances on the pitch, to help us out of the relegation area, where I honestly feel we do not deserve to be, however that's the situation we find ourselves in and only we can rectify this by starting to turn those close games we have been involved in, into wins and 3 points, hopefully starting today against good opponents, who themselves have held more than their own in step 4.

The Christmas period was a mixed one. First up was last Saturday where we drew 1-1 against play off contenders and a very good side in Coleshill Town, in a game that in the end we were unlucky not to win. On new year's day we then travelled across Bucks to play Aylesbury Utd and left disappointed after losing 2-0. We didn't really get going in the game, especially in the second half, even more disappointing as we felt that after the Coleshill game, without disrespect to Utd, it was a very winnable game, but it wasn't to be and we go again today to try and find that consistency that we need to climb the table. I have seen enough however to believe a run of positive results are not too far away and I'm pleased with the desire that the boys are showing. Until next time, please get behind the team and we hope for a positive performance and result **Tony Masella**



From The Dugout

Good afternoon, Happy New year to you all. I would like to welcome Adam Fisher and his Welwyn Garden City side to the SRD Stadium, I hope your stay with us is a pleasant one.

Adam has done a fantastic job this year and has built a very decent side that has competed well at this level and romped the SML premier division last year, we are looking forward to competing against a very good side this afternoon. If you look at recent results you can see that all the games played are close affairs, so we won't be expecting anything different today.



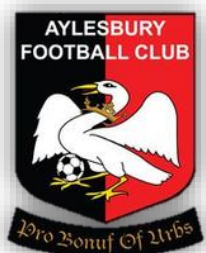
The Christmas period was a very up and down period for us, having competed well against Coleshill we felt we let ourselves and the fans down in the Aylesbury derby. It was a game we felt we should have won but missed chances and a lacklustre second half performance meant we came out of the game with nothing. Highlight of the afternoon was to see so many FC fans over at Chesham, your support was greatly appreciated by us all.

With regards to squad news I'm disappointed to announce Luke Cray was decided to retire from football, he will be greatly missed on and off the pitch and I wish him all the best in the future. This will give opportunities to other members of the squad to prove themselves at this level.

We are under no illusion of the task ahead of us going forward, we need to start winning games, I can assure you all that the team is fully focussed and is determined to make this happen. We had a good session on Thursday night and I hope to bring that intensity and fire into this fixture today.

Thank you all for your continued support and I hope you enjoy the game #moles.

Paul



Aylesbury FC History

The club has enjoyed a long history in senior and junior football dating back to the 1930's under the previous names of Aylesbury Vale, Haywood United, Belgrave, Stocklake and Negretti and Zambra FC, which was founded in the 1930's by workers at the Negretti and Zambra company then based in London's King Cross district. The company moved to the Stocklake Industrial Estate, Aylesbury.

in 1949 and by the mid 50's the premises had a bar, football, cricket and tennis facilities. The football club joined the Aylesbury District League in 1954. The social club changed its name to Stocklake when Negretti and Zambra sold the premises to the local council, who then leased the facilities; hence the different sections adopted the name Stocklake. Under the guidance of Chairman Mr Ernie Crotty, the club gained many honours including runners up in ADL's top divisions, before gaining intermediate status in the Wycombe and District League first and senior divisions. Sadly Ernie was killed in a road accident just before the club moved premises to the present location at Haywood Way in 1987.

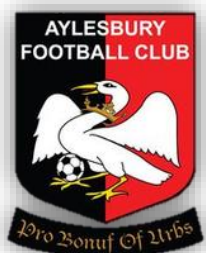
After gaining senior status and promotion to the Chiltern League in 1988, Stocklake enjoyed many further successes including Division One runners up in 1991, Premier Division and League Cup runners up the following season and Wycombe Senior Cup success in 1995. Cup success was also followed on in the following season, this time the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup being added to the trophy cabinet. Belgrave FC was formed in 1983 by Jim Sullivan who lived in nearby Belgrave Road. Jim had two sons who were passionate about football but were limited to where they could play, so formed a team himself with the help of neighbours Lynne and David Hatcher. By 1990, under the guidance of Danny Martone, Belgrave had grown to five youth teams providing football for over ninety boys from the Quarrendon and Haydon Hill areas of Aylesbury.

1996 saw the forming of two senior teams under the Belgrave FC name and by the turn of the millennium teams were represented at all levels from Under 8's through to seniors, some 200 players being registered, this also including Stocklake Ladies. In 2000 four youth teams won league and cup honours, whilst the senior team went on to win the Aylesbury District Cup, the Field Shield and ADL Premier Division runners up.

At the start of the 2000/2001 season, the senior Belgrave FC team was renamed Haywood United following an amalgamation with Stocklake FC with Danny Martone voted in as chairman of the new club. Haywood United joined the Spartan South Midlands League and won promotion into Division One after two seasons. Notable achievements during the 2001/2002 season included league awards for the best kept and most improved ground; this included the erection of floodlights and perimeter fencing, which Danny and his hard working committee fought hard to establish. Another award was gained for the match day programme in recognition of how much the club was developing.

Season 2002/2003 saw a difficult start in Division One, but with the arrival of manager Jon Franklin and his assistant Keith Walker just after Christmas, the club eventually consolidated finishing in 9th place. Promotion was gained to the South Midlands Premier Division the following year after a campaign that saw 23 wins, 7 draws and only 4 losses. Haywood United proved themselves capable of staying in the Premier Division after finishing 3rd in the 2004/2005 season in a campaign that only include one loss in the twenty matches after Christmas. The club also entered the FA Cup and Vase for the first time and won the Buckingham Charity Cup in 2006.

Season 2006/2007 began with Haywood United becoming Aylesbury Vale FC and saw Keith Walker and Steve Gleinster take over as joint managers and steadily build a squad. This was recognised in the 2008/2009 season with a good cup run in the FA Cup and FA Vase, winning three rounds in the FA Cup losing to Level 4 side Gosport after a replay, and losing out in the 4th round of the FA Vase to Leiston Town.



Aylesbury FC History

After Christmas the side suffered due to long term injuries and finished mid table. May 2009 saw a major new development in a new semi professional side. Aylesbury Football Club was formed under the leadership of Chairman Roger Dance and assisted by Vice Chairman Danny Martone. Former Chairman Bill Harrison was made President of the club.

Great success on the field of play was to follow, with the team having a fantastic run in the F.A. Cup. We were the last 'level five' team in the country to remain in the competition and were rewarded with a visit to Haywood Way for the F.A. Cup trophy, allowing the team, supporters and local people to get their hands on this famous trophy and make the most of this memorable occasion. We were finally knocked out of the competition by Wealdstone in a close game. A brave and superb display was witnessed by a bumper crowd of 800 plus.

Meanwhile, away from the midst of F.A. Cup drama, our success continued, becoming 'Double Winners' Winning both the Spartan South Midland League and League Cup capping an extraordinary season and gaining promotion to the Southern League Division 1 Central.

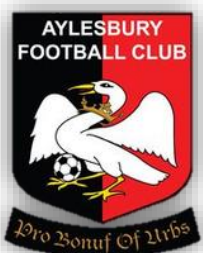
Steve Bateman took over in 2013/14, steered the club to safety in his first 6 months in charge. Then in 2014/15 with Bateman at the helm FC has their most successful season to date most successful to date. Playing at the highest level in the club's history, the team finished third in the League, having been pushing for promotion all season and narrowly lost out in the semi final to Bedworth United having already beaten them twice in the league

the 2015/16 finished with a flourish as the club finished just outside the play off positions, but had the consolation of our first major Cup Final, beating Chesham United in the Berks & Bucks Cup at Windsor. Steve Bateman and his management team resigned at the end of the season and Danny Gordon & Gareth Risbridger took the helm , supported by Paul Bonham , Ryan Wiffin & Aaron Norman. Davis Haule took over from Gordon & Risbridger in December 2016, appointed brother Brian as his assistant and recruited former coaches Fraser McLachlan, Aaron Wiffin and added Ryan Collings to his back room staff for the 2017/18 season.

2017/18 was a difficult season for club finishing 21st and avoiding relegation due to the League re organisation. This season sees a new era with ex Leighton manager Scott Reynolds taking over the reigns assisted by Matt Moran, Lea Coulter and the returning Paul Bonham.

Aylesbury Football Club prides itself on clear ambitions: to progress to higher league football and to achieve higher league status with squads from local talent. The club hopes to continue to work with other local community groups and enhance the clubs facilities to benefit the people within Aylesbury.





Meet the Management



Paul Bonham - Manager

Returning to the club, most recently employed by Oxford United as academy coach and studying his UEFA B license. Paul was Manager of the U18s, Development Side and part of the FC First Team set up in previous seasons and also has experience at Buckingham Athletic.



Matt Moran - Assistant Manager

Former Leighton Town and Winslow Utd goalkeeper coach. Matt will now be stepping up to the role of assistant manager and will focus some time on match analysis and data as well as working with the goalkeepers. Matt has worked with Scott at all his clubs. Qualified goalkeeper coach who has spent a number of years working alongside ex Watford keeper, Richard Lee, at the GK Icon academy



Phil Cave – Goalkeeping Coach

Phil is a UEFA B licensed outfield and UEFA B licensed goalkeeper coach. His previous experiences include Academy goalkeeper coach at both Brentford and QPR.

Phil has recently moved to Aylesbury and is joining the club as specific goalkeeper coach.



Phil Duffy – Kit Manager

Phil worked with Scott and his team at Leighton Town. Phil is an integral part of match day preparation and responsible for ensuring all kit and equipment is ready prior to player and staff arrival on match day and training nights. Phil will also take over as club photographer and work closely with the media team to enhance the match day experience at Haywood Way



Meet the Players



Nick Bennion

Previous Clubs Southall, Winslow United, Marlow, Rugby Town, Kettering Town, St Ives Town, Corby Town, Aylesbury United, Buckingham Town

Nick is an experienced Goalkeeper with a number of non league clubs to his name. Tall, commanding and aggressive. Nick's presence behind the back four will be a huge asset this season. Nick joins from our neighbours Leighton Town



Craig Carby

Previous clubs: Chalfont St. Peter, Burnham, Northwood, Hendon

Another senior player returns and commits to the Moles. 36 year old central defender who's physical presence will add strength to the back line. Experienced player with a list of non league clubs and successes. We are very pleased to have Craig back at the club.



Austin Schofield

New signing Austin Schofield joins the club having spent all of pre season with Northwood and AFC Hayes.

A solid defender who can play across the back four and in the defensive midfield positioned. Vocal, experienced and brave. A good addition to the squad ahead of Saturday's season opener.



Sam Odusoga

Previous clubs: Edgware Town, Dunstable Town, Hadley, Grays Athletic, Stenhousemuir (Scotland)

Sam joins us from Edgware, has really impressed in training. Very versatile two footed, creative midfielder. Skilful and good at dead ball situations.



Jordan Frederick

Previous Clubs: Berkhamsted FC, Egham Town, Aylesbury United, AFC Dunstable, Hemel Hempstead Town, Leverstock Green

Jordan is a hard working central midfielder play. Joining from Berkhamsted FC, he has played over 130 games for the Comrades. Jordan is a tough tackler, who has plenty of energy and likes to get on the ball



Daniel Carr

Former Oxford United scholar, Dan was released last season, has since been a student of the JMA Reading Academy. He is a very attack minded player and has all the qualities of the modern day full back, with a great engine he is able to get and down the pitch for a full 90 mins. Has a great future ahead of him



Ben Stevens

Previous Clubs Aylesbury United

Local lad & FC legend returns to the Moles after a few months out of the game. A tough tackling versatile defender & can play all along the back line. Ben joined Aylesbury FC when the club formed in 2009 and was part of the double winning side that year. Ben is Mr Consistent who just never has a bad game..



Jordan Jenkins

Previous Clubs Leighton Town

Into his third consecutive season with the club. No nonsense defender but also very comfortable in possession. Scott's first signing of the new season. Important player and local lad.



Lewis Strafford

Former South Shields, Gateshead, Ardley Utd and Banbury defender joins the club. Having known manager Reynolds for a while, Lewis put pen to paper after a very positive defensive performance from himself against Tring Athletic in pre season. Former professional in Sweden, a fantastic character and another great addition to the squad



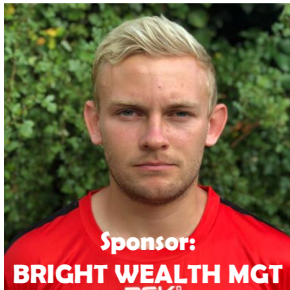
Derek Feyi

Previous Clubs Marlow, Thame United,

A powerful Defender who can play either at the Centre of Defence or at left Back. Derek is returning to club on dual registration with Marlow FC



Meet the Players



Carl Tappin

Disciplined and skilful central midfield player. Tappin is the type of midfield player who reads the game well and does the simple thing on a consistent basis.

Former Southern League Premier Division player with Banbury Utd, but also had a very successful season with Scott at Leighton Town last year. Energy to burn.



Davis Haule

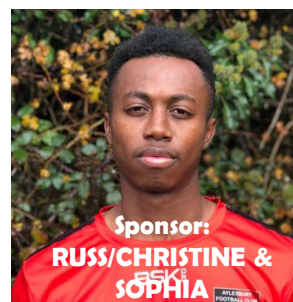
A veteran at nonleague level having played for Woking FC, Wembley FC, Hendon FC, Harrow Borough FC, Staines Town FC and Ashford Town. Davis is an FC legend, extremely hard working, creative and industrious midfielder that tears through midfields. Left the club last season after a season as Manager



Hakim Nyariki

Previous Clubs: Northwood

Hakim joins the club from Northwood. He is a strong and skilful box to box midfielder with an eye for a pass, as well as the ability to really open up defences. Hakim was previously with Wingate and Finchley and Barnet FC, moving to the UK.



Ryan Young

Previous Clubs: Stotfold, Berkhamsted, Dunstable Town, Queens Park Rangers

Ryan Young is an exciting young winger who signed this week from Berkhamsted. Ryan has really impressed in training with his pace and trickery and will be a handful for any defence. Last year he was playing in the Southern Premier Division with Dunstable Town.



Bruno Brito

Former Portuguese professional football will soon become a hit with the moles fans. Very skilful and athletic wide player who can also play through the middle. Scorer of some incredible goals at this level and higher. An experiment ex professional who has had spells with Newport Pagnell Town, Aylesbury Utd and Leighton Town since moving to the UK.



Harry Scott

Previous clubs: Thame United, Aylesbury FC U18s

A product of the FC U18s, Harry broke into the first team two years ago. A wide player with pace and skill, Harry is excellent from dead ball situations. Returns from a spell at Thame United.



Brian Haule

'Hauley' has had a long and distinguished career in non league football. He made almost 150 appearances for Hendon, scoring 53 goals and he also played over 80 times for Harrow Borough. A strong and powerful front man, who knows where the goal is. Joined FC originally in 2011-12 and has appeared 207 times for The Moles.



Ken Feyi

Previous Clubs: Aylesbury FC

Brother of Derek, Ken re joins the moles having moved back to Aylesbury following his university commitments. Strong and powerful forward player who has played and scored goals at this level previously. Product of the U18s.



Ty Deacon

Previous Clubs: Kempston Rovers

Ty returns after joining Kempston in the summer. He progressed from the FC U18s side where he was a prolific goalscorer from the age of just 15. Ty is quick and strong, a handful for any defender. Was last season's top goal scorer.



Martin Griggs

Previous Clubs: North Leigh, Leighton Town, Aylesbury FC, Risborough Rangers, Amersham Town

Martin is 29 years old and a prolific goalscorer who has notched up an incredible 182 in 226 games over the past 7 seasons. Martin is blessed with pace and an ability to put the ball in the back of the net.

Grant & Stone

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Fixtures and Results

Date	Time	Comp	H/A	W/L	Opp	H Score	A Score	Att	1	2	3	4	5
18/08/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	L	Coleshill Town	2	0	158	Bennion	Cray	Oladejo	J Jenkins *	Carby
21/08/2018	7:45 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	AFC Dunstable	0	2	105	Bennion	Femiola	Oladejo	Strafford	Munday
25/08/2018	3:00 PM	FA Cup	A	D	Didcot Town	1	1		Bennion	Femiola	Oladejo	Cray	J Jenkins
27/08/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	D	Berkhamsted FC	1	1	174	Bennion	Femiola	Oladejo	Cray	J Jenkins
01/09/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Sutton Coldfield Town	0	2	99	Bennion	Williams	Bayliss	Cray	Strafford
04/09/2018	7:45 PM	FA Cup	H	L	Didcot Town	0	1	116	Bennion	Femiola	Oladejo	Cray	D Feyi
15/09/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	W	Dunstable Town	1	6	93	Bennion	Cray	Carby	J Jenkins *	D Feyi
18/09/2018	7:45 PM	B&B Cup	H	L	Bracknell Town	2	4	65	Bennion	Cray	Oladejo	Carby	D Feyi
22/09/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	D	Bromsgrove Sporting	0	0	168	Bennion *	Cray	Carby	J Jenkins	D Feyi
29/09/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Kidlington	0	1	86	Bennion	Cray *	Oladejo	J Jenkins	D Feyi
02/10/2018	7:45 PM	Lge Cup	H	L	Berkhamsted FC	0	3	60	Bennion	Cray	Oladejo	Strafford	D Feyi
06/10/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	D	Barton Rovers	2	2	76	Malone	Cray	Carby	J Jenkins	D Feyi
09/10/2018	7:45 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Kempston Rovers	1	2	121	Bennion	Cray	Oladejo	J Jenkins *	Carby
13/10/2018	3:00 PM	Trophy	H	L	Herne Bay	1	2	158	Bennion	Cray	Carby	J Jenkins	Fikula *
20/10/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	W	Peterborough Sports	1	0	101	Bennion	Cray 1	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins
27/10/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	L	Corby Town	5	2	363	Bennion	Cray	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins
03/11/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	W	Cambridge City	2	3	190	Bennion	Odusoga	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins
10/11/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Berkhamsted FC	0	3	103	Bennion	Odusoga	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins
17/11/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	L	Bromsgrove Sporting	5	0	1022	Bennion	Strafford	Carby	Nyariki	J Jenkins
24/11/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Thame United	0	3	119	Bennion	Odusoga	Carby	Tappin *	J Jenkins
01/12/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	W	Vaxley	1	3	65	Twidale	Cray	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins 1
08/12/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	D	Barton Rovers	1	1	82	Bennion	Cray	Carby	Tappin *	J Jenkins
15/12/2018	7:45 PM	EVO Lge	H	L	Didcot Town	2	4	84	Bennion	Odusoga	Carby	Tappin	D Feyi
29/12/2018	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H	D	Coleshill Town	1	1	93	Bennion	Carr *	Carby	Tappin 1	J Jenkins
01/01/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A	L	Aylesbury United	2	0	236	Bennion	Carr *	Carby	Tappin	J Jenkins
05/01/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Welwyn Garden City								
08/01/2019	7:45 PM	EVO Lge	A		North Leigh								
15/01/2019	7:45 PM	EVO Lge	A		Bedford Town								
12/01/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		AFC Dunstable								
19/01/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Corby Town								
26/01/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Kidlington								
02/02/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Cambridge City								
05/02/2019	7:45 PM	Bucks Cup	A		Leighton Town								
09/02/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Peterborough Sports								
16/02/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Bedford Town								
19/02/2019	7:45 PM	Bucks Cup	H		Leighton Town								
02/03/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Didcot Town								
16/03/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Dunstable Town								
23/03/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Kempston Rovers								
30/03/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Vaxley								
06/04/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Thame United								
13/04/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		North Leigh								
20/04/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Sutton Coldfield Town								
22/04/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	H		Aylesbury United								
27/04/2019	3:00 PM	EVO Lge	A		Welwyn Garden City								

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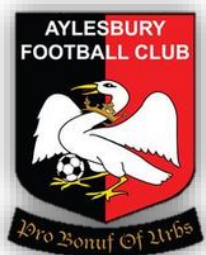
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Upcoming Games

First Team

Sat 5th January 2019 – Home to Welwyn Garden City – League KO 3.00pm

Tue 8th January 2019 – Away to North Leigh – League – KO 7.45pm

Sat 12th January 2019 – Away to AFC Dunstable – League – KO 3.00pm

U18s – Allied Counties Side

Sun 13th January 2019 – Away to Flackwell Heath – B&B Cup KO 11.00am

First Team

Adult £8.00, Concession £5.00 (OAP's / Students), Under 16's £0.00

Development/U18s

Adult £4.00, Concession £2.00 (OAP's / Students), Under 16's £0.00

Season Tickets – £150.00 & £100 Concession

For information on all FC fixtures visit aylesburyfc.com

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Evo-Stik South

Division One Central Table

	Team	P	HW	HD	HL	HF	HA	AW	AD	AL	AF	AA	+/-	Pts
1	Peterborough Sports	20	8	2	0	28	2	7	1	2	23	12	37	48
2	Bromsgrove Sporting	20	9	0	0	36	7	4	4	3	20	19	30	43
3	Corby Town	19	9	0	1	33	10	4	3	2	24	12	35	42
4	Thame United	20	6	1	3	18	17	5	1	4	18	16	3	35
5	Didcot Town	19	7	2	1	27	18	3	2	4	16	17	8	34
6	Coleshill Town	20	4	3	3	15	11	5	3	2	18	14	8	33
7	Berkhamsted	19	4	1	5	12	12	6	1	2	18	14	4	32
8	Bedford Town	18	5	1	2	18	6	4	0	6	28	19	21	28
9	Sutton Coldfield Town	19	3	4	3	15	16	5	0	4	14	9	4	28
10	Barton Rovers	21	3	3	5	11	22	4	2	4	12	13	-12	26
11	Yaxley	21	6	0	4	28	26	2	2	7	14	30	-14	26
12	Cambridge City	20	4	2	4	20	18	3	2	5	12	17	-3	25
13	Aylesbury United	20	4	0	6	15	20	4	1	5	20	26	-11	25
14	Welwyn Garden City	19	5	1	3	13	9	2	2	6	14	22	-4	24
15	AFC Dunstable	20	2	2	6	16	22	5	1	4	15	20	-11	24
16	Dunstable Town	20	2	3	5	19	25	4	1	5	16	16	-6	22
17	Kempston Rovers	20	2	1	7	16	27	4	1	5	17	20	-14	20
18	Aylesbury FC	20	1	3	7	7	20	3	2	4	16	20	-17	17
19	North Leigh	19	3	0	6	16	26	1	2	7	15	30	-25	14
20	Kidlington	20	2	2	6	13	24	2	0	8	8	30	-33	14

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Aylesbury FC 2018/19



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Welwyn Garden City History

Founded in 1921, when the town itself was in its infancy (the first house was completed in December 1920), Welwyn Garden City FC began by playing friendlies (the first being in September 1921) before being admitted to the Mid-Hertfordshire League (Division IIa) for the 1922/23 season, with home games played at Parkway and our first opponents Markyate FC on the 26th August 1922. The club then moved to the Bedfordshire & District League for one season - 1926/27 (finishing 9th of 11 teams) before joining the Spartan League for season 1927/28, where we stayed until the end of the 1934/35 season. Our first outing in the FA Amateur Cup, 1926/27, saw us lose to Wood Green after a replay in the 1st Qualifying Round. After being beaten in the final of the Perry Cup by Ware at the end of the 1926/27 season, the following season we gained our first honour, winning the Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield, beating Hoddesdon Town 5-2. We also entered the FA Cup for the first time, losing 7-4 away to Hampstead in the 1st Qualifying Round having previously knocked out Hitchin Blue Cross and Ware.

In July 1934 the club announced amalgamation with local rivals Shredded Wheat FC. This was due to the club's poor financial position (a deficit of £12 was reported by the Treasurer) and the Spartan League's refusal to admit Shredded Wheat as it would admit no more works teams. It was believed that this merger would prevent competition between the clubs for players and increase gate receipts. The terms of the amalgamation were that City would be regarded as the team representing the town and would play in the Spartan League and have first call on players whilst Shredded Wheat would play in the South Midlands League. Separate committees would be retained and both teams would play at Shredded Wheat's ground, which was adjacent to the works.

However, following a very successful 1934/35 season, where we achieved our highest ever league position to that time of third place in the Spartan League Division 2 East (out of 14 teams), the club was forced to resign from the league just nine days before the League AGM as use of the Shredded Wheat facilities was withdrawn "... owing to extensive programmes that are being arranged for the Wheat teams." and no other suitable ground in the town was available (the Club needed an enclosed ground to enable it to collect gate money, without which it was unable to cover running costs and their former Parkway ground had been redeveloped). As a consequence the club was formally wound up in July 1935 with debts of just over £20.

This situation lasted until May 1937 when Shredded Wheat FC was wound up by the company management who finally lost patience at the team not being allowed to compete in higher level leagues. Shredded Wheat management then took the generous decision of making their football facilities - adjacent to their factory site in Broadwater Road - available for the re-establishment of a Welwyn Garden City team, which included a donation to help establish the new team. This enabled the newly-established club to re-join the Spartan League for the 1937/38 season where we finished bottom. The use of the Shredded Wheat ground only lasted for that one season and during the 1938/39 season we ground-shared with Murphy Radio FC at their Handside Playing Fields ground. Following repeated requests to the local authority, a permanent home was found in Springfield in time for the start of the 1939/40 season. However, in common with all leagues, the Spartan League was suspended in August 1939 due to the war, the club only playing one league fixture and an FA Cup tie. For the remainder of the 1939/40 season we competed in the Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Combination. However, the club committee was finding it increasingly difficult to raise a team and so, at a meeting held in August 1940, they decided, "to carry on with the club with the present committee"



Welwyn Garden City History

Our next recorded action on the pitch is from the 1944/45 season with the club competing in the Mid-Hertfordshire League. Things returned to normality for the 1945/46 season with the club once again competing in the Spartan League, where we remained until joining the London League for the 1950/51 season. Our three season stay in the London League lasted until the end of the 1954/1955 season, when we re-joined the Spartan League, where we stayed until 1959. At this time the Club were managed by Harry Hibbs, the former England goalkeeper (25 caps), Harry being one of two ex-internationals to be in charge of The Citizens, the other being Alex Massie who was capped by Scotland. In 1956 we were elected Associate Members of the Football Association.

After finishing 15th (out of 16 teams) in the Spartan League (1958/59 season) our next stop was county football with a move to the Hertfordshire County League for the 1959/1960 season, where we stayed until the end of the 1969/1970 season. During this time we moved to our present home, Hens Way, in 1968 and staged our first fixture at senior level, against Knebworth in the Aubrey Cup, on the 16th November that year.

In 1970 the club joined the London League for the second time in our history. The following season - 1971/72 - the club became a founder member of the Metropolitan London League, where we remained for two seasons. In 1973 we merged with local rivals Welwyn Garden United to form Welwyn Garden FC. The merged club took over Welwyn Garden United's place in the South Midlands League for the 1973/74 season, winning the Premier Division championship at the first attempt - the first championship win in our history (Welwyn Garden United reformed as a separate club for the 1975/76 season and took up a place in the Hertfordshire County League). Here we stayed for 24 seasons - our longest uninterrupted period in one league to date.

During this time, in the 1974/75 season, we reached the final of the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy, only to be beaten by Barton Rovers 3-1 on aggregate. 1976/77 saw us lose our top-flight status and there began a five-year battle to reclaim it. During these First Division years the club was to finish no lower than 5th. In 1981 we changed our name back to Welwyn Garden City and in 1981/82 we won the First Division title. In that league-topping year we also reached the final of the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy but once again had to settle for runners-up, this time losing 3-0 on aggregate to Stotfold.

The season 1984/85 brought us cup success for the first time since the club was reformed, when under the management of John Sneddon we beat Pirton 2-0 to lift the first ever Hertfordshire FA Senior Centenary Trophy. At the end of the season John decided to call it a day and he was replaced in the close season by ex-Sudbury Court boss, Ray Sullivan, whose first task was to rebuild the side. Twelve months later we finished runners-up, missing out on the Premier Division title by four points (2 points for a win) to Selby FC, due to some erratic form in the closing games.

In 1986/87 and 1987/88 we lifted the Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield, making us only the sixth team to retain the Shield. The close of the 1986/87 season also saw floodlights installed at the Hens Way ground. This was celebrated with a match versus Tottenham Hotspur.



Welwyn Garden City History

In 1988/89 we gained a top six league finish along with an appearance in two cup-finals, the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy and the Hertfordshire FA Senior Centenary Trophy. However these were both lost in the space of five days. The 1990/91 season saw yet another cup final loss, losing on penalties in the final of the Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield.

Ray Sullivan stepped down as manager in 1990 and so followed a lean spell during which we tried several managerial combinations, including Dave Lawrence, Jock Bruce, former player Pat Maslen and Ian Priest. The closest we came to winning anything was another Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield Final appearance, during Pat Maslen's reign. However, this was lost on penalties.

In 1996/97 the club looked as manager to local man Malcolm Doctor, who the previous season had guided our arch-rivals Hatfield Town to second place in the South Midlands League. Everyone at the Club was optimistic about glory days returning to Herts Way. Two cup-finals were reached, the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy and the Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield but once again we missed out at the final stages.

1997/98 saw the merger of the Spartan League and the South Midlands League to form the Spartan South Midlands League, with the club joining the Premier North Division and finishing high enough (6th) to qualify for the Premier Division the following season.

In 1998, following the departure of Malcolm Doctor, we forged a link with near neighbours Stevenage Borough FC and strengthened our squad with Boro's EFCO youngsters along with the management pairing of Dave Bullock and Bill Bannister. However despite reaching the 3rd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 4-2 to Ford United after a 2-2 draw at Herts Way (the furthest the Club has ever progressed in the competition to date), the season collapsed midway through and with the break-up of the squad a battle with relegation followed.

1999/2000 saw a rebuilding process with former Somerset Ambury V&E boss Dave Steadman being appointed manager and being given the task of leading the Citizens into the new millennium. However the Club's downward trend continued and at the end of the 2000/01 season we were relegated to the First Division, thus ending one of the longest unbroken spells in the Premier Division. Guillermo Ganet was appointed manager in 2002 with the task of restoring the glory days back to the club and after two seasons steered the club back to the Premier Division. Our first season back saw us finish in a very creditable third place. However, the end of the campaign saw the manager and most of the playing squad depart for Berkhamsted Town.

Howard Cowley was given his chance as manager in 2005/06; he brought a wealth of experience from not only the Spartan South Midlands League but also all divisions of the Ryman League. During his tenure the team achieved a 19 game unbeaten run in all competitions and also equalled our best ever FA Cup run when losing narrowly 2-1 away to the then Conference South leaders Histon in the 3rd Qualifying Round. The team also exceeded its best ever run in the FA Vase by reaching the 5th Round only for an administrative error to deny them the chance to go even further.



Welwyn Garden City History

The 2006/07 season saw the club achieve fourth spot in the league, becoming the only side to beat eventual League and Cup champions Edgware Town at their White Lion ground whilst doing the double over local rivals Hertford Town with two fine victories.

Following the departure of Howard Cowley, a quick succession of managers tried to revive the fortunes of the club. However this did nothing to ensure success; in fact it had the opposite effect with relegation back to the First Division at the end of the 2009/10 campaign. A feature of the 2009/10 season was the forming of an 'A' team (the Reserve team having relocated to Arlesey Town), managed by Simon Braine who was assisted by Mark Zienkowicz and which won the North & Mid-Hertfordshire League Division 1 title.

2010/11 saw our poor form continue, against a background of severe financial struggle which at one time threatened the survival of the club. This wasn't helped by having three managers during the season, Phil Read, Rob Pattwell and Simon Braine. The latter, with the help of assistant manager Adam Fisher, helped to steer the club away from potentially ruinous relegation. Adam then moved on to Barton Rovers FC as their Assistant Manager.

2012/13 saw manager Scott O'Donoghue working alongside Pablo Ardiles as his assistant. Scott left at the end of the season and was replaced by our former player and assistant manager Adam Fisher, assisted by another former player, Richard Teixeira.

In his first season in charge in 2013/14, Adam led us to a highly creditable fourth place in the First Division, having challenged for promotion until the final run-in. A feature of the season was 51 goals from striker Jason Caswell, a new club record, outstripping Terry Hayes' previous best of 47 from the late 1980s. Jason was ably assisted by strike partner Joel Norris, who scored 33 goals as the side topped 100 goals for the season.

The 2014/15 season was one of the most successful for many years with a First Division Championship and Cup 'double'. We won the division title by seven points, ahead of FC Broxbourne Borough – who were promoted alongside us – and took the Division 1 Cup for the first time – thanks to a 2-0 final victory over Crawley Green at Langford FC. Joel Norris surpassed his 33 goals of the previous season by scoring 41 in the campaign and was deservedly voted player of the season by both the management and his fellow players.

The highlight of the following season was winning the Spartan South Midlands League Challenge Trophy for the first time, having lost in the final of this and its South Midlands League equivalent on four previous occasions. We were also runners-up in the Dudley Latham Memorial (Premier Division) Cup. The following season, 2016/17, was one of consolidation on and off the pitch as extensive ground improvements were completed, necessary for us to compete at a higher level.

The 2017/18 season was one that supporters will remember for a long time. A club record of 25 consecutive games unbeaten in all competitions was set as well as going 18 consecutive league games unbeaten, also a club record. On the 12th November 2017 Tottenham Hotspur Ambassador and World Cup winner Osvaldo Ardiles unveiled stadium upgrades – which included two turnstiles from the old



Welwyn Garden City History/ Pen Pics

White Hart Lane ground donated by Tottenham Hotspur - after we had received a Premier League grant. The league championship was won for the first time since the merger of the Spartan and South Midlands leagues and was only the second title ever for the club at this level. Even the disappointment of yet another defeat in the final of the Hertfordshire FA Charity Shield - our sixth defeat in nine finals - and another loss in the final of the Dudley Latham Memorial (Premier Division) Cup couldn't overshadow the achievement of Level 4 football in the Southern League for the first time in our history.

Dan Green (goalkeeper): Taken over as first choice goalkeeper for this season, after his signing from Biggleswade FC, where he was one of the most consistent and impressive keepers in the SSML last campaign. Tall, powerful keeper, with a strong presence.

Jay Rolfe (defender/midfield): Versatile performer who performs outstandingly either at full-back, in central defence or midfield. One of a number of players who joined from Cockfosters for season 2017-18. Chips in with some useful goals. Player's Player of the season in 2017-18.

Jon Sexton (full-back): Consistent full-back who also joined from Cockfosters, where he was a regular. Has made the left-back spot his own at WGC, but missed games last season with a troublesome ankle injury.

Yasin Boodhoo (central defender): WGC's joint longest serving player and a very popular, adaptable defender, with an eye for goal. Joined five seasons ago from now defunct St Peter's FC, St Albans. Has played all along the back line for the Citizens. Has missed the first half of the current season, with a serious back injury.

Dave Corran (central defender): Close season signing in 2017-18 from Barton Rovers. Versatile, as he can also play at full-back. Also has experience in the Southern League with Hitchin Town.

Danny Payne (midfield): Skipper of the side and in his fifth season at the club. Has filled in central defence on occasion. Experienced performer who has seen Southern League service at Hitchin Town and Barton Rovers.

Ben Spaul (midfield): Outstanding all-action midfielder, who is another who joined from Cockfosters, where he was skipper for several seasons. Has played with National League South St Albans. Player of the season in the 2017-18 title-winning season.

Nick Elliott (midfield): Attacking midfielder who joined last mid-season from Biggleswade United, where he was club captain. Has had previous experience with Harpenden Town. Strong, powerful presence in midfield, with an eye for goal.

Lee Close (central defence/midfield): Experienced close season signing for the new Southern League campaign, in which he has previously played for AFC Dunstable and Barton Rovers. Began his career with National League Borehamwood and has SSML experience with London Colney.

Josh Bronti (winger): In his fifth season at Herts Lane, where he has finished top scorer in two of them. Fast, direct winger with an eye for goal. He has also played in the SSML for Stotfold. Currently sidelined with a groin injury.

Jon Clements (striker): His close season signing in 2017-18 was a major coup for WGC. He spearheaded former club London Colney's successful bid for the SSML title with his 44 goals in 2016-17 and scored 32 goals for the Citizens, the following season. Several higher grade clubs were interested in his signature close season.



Welwyn Garden City Pen Pics

Ashley Kersey (striker): WGC's tallest player at six foot four inches. In his fourth season with the Citizens, having signed from Bedford FC, whom he served for eight seasons. Always a threat in the air from set pieces.

Daniel Bond (striker): Signed from Bostik League Hertford Town, whom he joined having been Stotfold's top scorer in the 2016-17 SSML campaign. Made his mark at the BP Mitchell Stadium last season, where he finished second top scorer in the SSML title-winning season.

Kaan Fehmi (striker): Recruited from Hayes & Yeading of the Bostik League, he previously was a regular marksman in a lengthy spell serving Royston Town of the Southern League Premier. Had previous spells at Borehamwood and Stevenage. Currently sidelined for two months with a badly broken left arm.

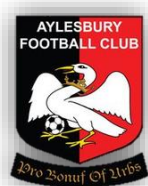
Stuart Zanone (striker) Recently signed from Essex Senior League club Takeley, for whom he was a regular marksman. Played prolifically in Kent football, including a record-breaking spell with Ashford United, for whom he set a new club goalscoring recent.

Danny May (midfield): Joined from AFC Dunstable, where he began the season. Experienced midfielder, who began his career at Northampton Town, where he made 25 appearances. Played over 200 times for Hemel Hempstead and has had spells at Royston and Hayes & Yeading.

Dave Keenleyside (midfield): Signed from Hertford Town of the Bostik League, after an outstanding season in the SSML with Harpenden Town. Picked in the SSML team of the season last campaign. Talented passer of the ball and very creative in midfield.

Charlie Smith (midfield/full-back): A signing from Hitchin Town, where he played regularly in his second spell with the Canaries. Also previously had a spell with Barton Rovers. Plays down the left either in midfield or defence.





Aylesbury FC

Red & Black

Welwyn Garden

Yellow & Black



Nick BENNION (GK)	1	Dan GREEN (GK)
Ben STEVENS	2	Jay ROLFE
Craig CARBY	3	Jon SEXTON
Jordan JENKINS ©	4	Danny PAYNE
Sam ODUSOGA	5	Lee CLOSE
Derek FEYI	6	Dave CORRAN
Austin SCHOFIELD	7	Ramone CASSIDY-SINCLAIR
Hakim NYARIKI	8	Ben SPAUL
Davis HAULE	9	Stuart ZANONE
Daniel CARR	10	Dave KEENLEYSIDE
Lewis STRAFFORD	11	Jon CLEMENTS
Carl TAPPIN	12	Nick ELLIOTT
Ryan YOUNG	13	Dan BOND
Jordan FREDERICK	14	Ashley KERSEY
Harry SCOTT	15	Theo SACKY-MENSAH
Bruno BRITO	16	Danny MAY
Martin GRIGGS	17	
Ty DEACON	18	
Brian HAULE	19	
Alfi TOUCEDA	20	
	21	
	22	

Manager: Paul BONHAM

Manager: Aadam FISHER

Main Sponsors:



Match Officials

Referee: Grzegorz Kornasiewicz

Assistants: Daniel Frizzell & Thomas Green