

NEWS

FOOTBALL

100 years of Berkhamsted FC

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'Berkhamsted Football Club is part of the fabric of this town.' That is the view of vice-chairman and life-long Comrades fan Benny Mitchell, as the club marks its centenary year.

And to celebrate the milestone he takes a look back at the team's fascinating history.

"Our club was formed in 1919 on the back of the lads returning from the Somme, and over a period of 100 years the club has been up and down the leagues," Benny explained.

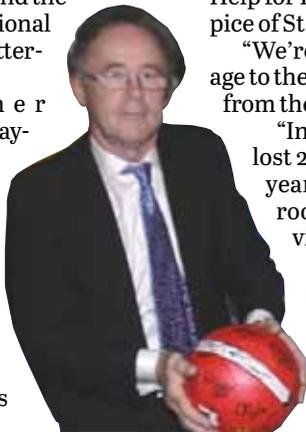
"To celebrate our centenary means a lot to the community, and as our roots are with the military we want to honour them too."

Among the best to play for The Comrades was 'golden boy' Frank Broome, who signed for the club in 1933.

He went on to play for club Aston Villa and the England National team in a glittering career.

Another Comrades playing great was Maurice Cook, says Benny.

"We've had local boys like Maurice who was



transferred from Berkhamsted to Watford, and later on Fulham, which saved Watford from going bankrupt," he said. "And in later life he even sold the match programme at the ground."

Former player James Robert Harrowell went on to be the longest serving director of any football league team when he took on the role at Watford Football Club.

"He was not only Elton John's right-hand man at Watford but he was a good friend of his too," Benny added.

In recent history the Comrades just lost out on the FA Vase title, following a 2-1 defeat to Taunton FC.

Berkhamsted Comrades FC will be hosting six-a-side football tournament to celebrate 100 years since its founding.

Former players have been invited to the family fun day, and money will be raised for Help for Heroes and The Hospice of St Francis.

"We're going to pay homage to the lads who came back from the First World War.

"In Berkhamsted we've lost 20 clubs in the last 15 years, and to me grass-roots football starts at village level."

The family fun day takes place from 1pm on Sunday, August 25, at Broadwater, Berkhamsted.



Benny Mitchell, inset left, and above, the FA Vase final where Berkhamsted came runners up. Below from left, the team winning the Spartan League in 1927, the team in 1953 and Frank Broome.

