

Risborough Rangers Football Club started in 1970 as a team of 12-year olds who wanted to play competitive football. The main motivators were Life Presidents Tony Elsey and Derek Wallace. Derek was instrumental in forming the Wycombe Star League that now provides football for hundreds of youngsters in the Wycombe area, and Risborough Rangers currently have teams at all ages ranging from the Under 10 to Under 16 playing in this league.

In the 1975/76 season, the previous years Under 16's went into the Wycombe & District League as a men's team, and in their second season in adult football won the 3rd Division. Unfortunately, the team then folded, after which the club provided only boy's football until the Under 16's of 1979/80, having won the United-Carr Cup, went into the Reading Youth League for two seasons, and then the Wycombe & District League. They won promotion in successive seasons and were followed two years later by the following years Under 16's as a reserve team, who emulated the feats of their predecessor, ending up in the Ercol Senior League and the FA Walters Premier League consecutively. At around this time, Rangers moved to 'Windsors', their current ground. 'Windsors' had been the home of the now defunct Princes Risborough Town FC who were one of the founder members of the Hellenic league in 1953. Within several years, club members had managed to improve the ground substantially by building the clubhouse.

In 1989 Risborough accepted an invitation to join the South Midlands League Division 1. In the first two seasons the club found the level difficult and finished second from the bottom and therefore had to apply for re-election. The 1991/92 season saw a great improvement when Risborough finished in 8th position whilst also celebrating its 21st anniversary. In the 1994/95 season, they were promoted to the newly formed Senior Division, after finishing 4th under the management of Frank Carter and they consolidated with a mid-table position in the next season. In the mid-90s, Bob Rayner became manager for the first time and saw the establishment of a sound youth policy with an Under 18's team in the Wycombe & South Bucks Youth League. After a reasonably successful spell, in which the club reached the semi-final of the Senior Division Cup and the quarter final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy, Bob was offered the job of Brackley Town manager in the Southern league and took the opportunity to test himself at a higher level.

After Bob left at the start of the 1998/99 season, former assistant Jon Franklin took over as manager and maintained a consistent level of football at the club. After Jon's departure, the club began to struggle and were eventually relegated to Division Two.

In 2005, chairman Richard Woodward persuaded Bob Rayner to return to the club following his departure from Thame United. Finishing fourth in his first two seasons back and just missing out on the runners up spot in the final game in the second season, Bob has had to rebuild his side from the Rangers junior ranks. He has patiently waited for his young side to blossom and the patience began to pay off in the 2010/11 season when Rangers achieved a fifth-place finish and reached the semi-final of the Challenge Trophy, losing 2-0 to the eventual winner and Premier Division champions, Chalfont St Peter. On route to the semi-final, Rangers beat four teams from divisions above them including division one champions Berkhamsted Town.

The 2011/12 season was Risborough's best season of late with a late charge securing runners up spot in the league, and a first cup final reached in over 20 years, losing the Anagram Records Trophy final 1-0 to Baldock Town of the Hertfordshire County Senior League. The next season brought two good cup runs.

Risborough's progress in the Anagram Record's Trophy was halted in the Semi Final by Baldock Town. The rematch of the previous season's final ended up with the same score line as Baldock went on to defend the trophy. A second cup final in two years was achieved via the Division 2 cup, although the prospect of lifting the cup once again alluded Rangers, this time losing 2 nil to Aston Clinton. A league finish of fourth was achieved, and with the hard work off the pitch, including securing the funding for floodlights which were erected in time for the 2012/13 season.

In 2016 Risborough finally won some silverware, after several near misses over the last few years. The Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup was claimed after a 2-1 AET win over United Counties League Olney Town. 2016/17 season saw Bob Rayner retire and his son Jamie take charge saw the club finish in a creditable 6th position and reach the semi-finals of the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup before losing on penalties to eventual winners Woodley United. The 2017/8 season started with some promise but sadly this didn't last with the club finishing in 8th place, the highlight of the campaign, however, was a run in the Challenge Trophy which included victories over Premier Division sides

Leighton Town, Oxhey Jets, Edgware Town and London Colney, but alas were beaten 3-1 in the Final by fellow Division One side Broadfields United at Colney Heath.

In October 2018 then current manager Jamie Rayner decided to step down from his position because of work commitments. The Club advertised the position and after a healthy response, the Board appointed the former Hemel Hempstead Town, Arlesey Town, Leighton Town Aylesbury United, Aylesbury FC boss Mark Eaton as their new man. When Eaton took over the club were 19<sup>th</sup> in Division One and a massive negative goal difference but come the end of the season Rangers finished in 7<sup>th</sup> spot with a positive goal difference as the season was turn on it's head. The season ended though with some silverware when London Lions were defeated 2-0 in the final of the Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup, which was played at Leverstock Green.

Because of the ongoing re-construction of the non-league system the club made a lateral movement to the Hellenic League Division One East from the Spartan for the start of the 2019/20 season. The 2019/20 season saw Rangers unbeaten and top the league by 12 points with a game in hand over 2nd place Abingdon United after playing 23 games out of the full 32. The COVID pandemic put an end to any hopes of promotion to step 5 for the first time in the club's history however as the season was officially voided. However, in 2021 the club were promoted to the Premier Division of the Spartan South Midlands League based on their results in the abandoned 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons.

Season 2021/22 saw the club promoted to the Premier Division of the Spartan South Midlands Football League by the FA based on their results in the abandoned 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons. Overall it was a very strong debut season at Step 5 with the Club never being outside the top two from the start of October. In a exciting two horse race with New Salamis which culminated in a last day shootout at the B.E.P. Stadium between the teams. New Salamis won the game 2-0 to become Champions and Rangers had to settle for second place, 10 points clear of 3rd placed Hadley. Further disappointment was to follow with the Ground Grading which the Club failed with Hadley taking Rangers place at Step 4.

Season 2022/23 was a season of two halves, early exits from all cup competitions and mediocre league form meant the club was languishing in mid-table but following a lengthy period of inactivity due to the inclement weather, Rangers were able to reset and go again. This meant that the team were to go on a strong second half of the season which resulted in 3<sup>rd</sup> position, three points behind 2<sup>nd</sup> place Stotfold.

Season 2023/24 will see the club laterally move to the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Division North.

### **Club Awards**

Molten SSMFL Top Secretary Award	2010/11 Nick Bishop
Groudsman Award 3rd Place	2010/11 Richard Woodward
Molten SSMFL Club Achievement Award	2010/11
SSMFL Sportsmanship Award	2014/15

### **First Team**

Wycombe & District League Division 3	Runners-up 1982/83
J.A Walters Divisional Sportsmanship Award	1983/84
Berks & Bucks Junior Cup	Winners 1985/86
Ercol Senior Divisional Sportsmanship Award	1988/89
South Midlands League Sportsmanship Award	1990/91
Molten SSMFL Challenge Trophy Semi-Finalist	2010/11
Anagram Records Trophy	Runners-up 2011/12
Molten SSMFL Division 2	Runners-up 2011/12
Molten SSMFL Division 1 Cup	Runners-up 2013/14
Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup	Winners 2015/16
Spartan South Midlands League Challenge Trophy	Runners-up 2017/18

Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup  
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division

*Winners 2018/19*  
*Runners-up 2021/22*

### **Reserve Team**

Maidenhead Cup  
Wycombe League Division Three  
Mansworth Cup  
Reg Wilkes Cup  
Wycombe Challenge Cup  
Wycombe League Division Two  
Wycombe League Division Two  
Reading Junior Cup  
Wycombe League Reserves Cup  
Wycombe League Reserves Cup  
Spartan South Midlands Res Div. Three  
Spartan South Midlands Res Div. Three  
Spartan South Midlands Res Div. Fair Play Award  
Spartan South Midlands Res Div. Fair Play Award  
Molten SSMFL Reserve Div. Fair Play Award  
Molten SSMFL Reserve Div. 2  
SSMFL Reserve Challenge Trophy  
SSMFL Development Challenge Trophy

*Runners-Up 1983/84*  
*Winners 1984/85*  
*Runners-up 1984/85, Winners 1986/87*  
*Winners 1984/85, 1985/86*  
*Winners 1984/85*  
*Winners 1985/86*  
*Runners-Up 1986/87*  
*Winners 1987/88*  
*Winners 1987/88*  
*Runners-up 1988/89*  
*Runners-up 1995/96*  
*Runners-up 1997/93*  
*2005/06*  
*2009/10*  
*2010/11, 2015/16*  
*Runners-up 2010/2011*  
*Winners 2014/15*  
*Runners-up 2017/18*

### **Fourth Team**

Aylesbury & District League Division Three  
Aylesbury & District League Division Two  
Aylesbury & District League Reserve Division Cup

*Winners 1997/98*  
*Winners 1998/99*  
*Runners-up 1998/99*

### **u21's**

Aylesbury & District League u21 Cup  
Aylesbury & District League u21 Cup

*Winners 1983/84, 1987/88*  
*Runners-up 1985/86, 1989/90, 1996/97*

### **u18's**

Wycombe Youth League Division Two  
Wycombe Youth League Division Four  
South Bucks League Division One  
South Bucks u18 Colwyn Cup  
Berks & Bucks u17 Cup  
South Bucks League Division One  
South Bucks Youth League Cup  
South Bucks Youth League Division 4  
South Bucks Youth League Div. 4  
South Bucks Youth League Div. 4  
South Bucks Youth League Div. 3

*Winners 1994/95*  
*Winners 2001/02*  
*Runners-Up 2006/07*  
*Winners 2006/07*  
*Winners 2006/07*  
*Winners 2007/08*  
*Winners 2007/08*  
*Winners 2008/9*  
*Runners-up 2010/11*  
*Winners 2014/15*  
*Runner-Up 2014/15*

### **Ladies Team**

Jubilee League Cup  
Northern League  
Chairman's Cup

*Finalists 1997/98*  
*Winners 1998/99*  
*Winners 1998/99*