

Wiseman Lighting
Floodlit Cup



Abingdon United

Vs

Malvern Town

**Tuesday 18th October 2022
(7:45pm)**

**Official
Programme**



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TODAYS SQUADS



Squad From	
Eddie	Cavanagh (GK)
James	East
Dan	Chalmers
Connor	McGrath
Sam	Elkins
Daryl	Louise
Kyle	Downie
Ben	Barrett
Rhys	King
Nadeem	Shah
Jack	Badger
Mitch	Larman (GK)
Jack	Powell
Oli	Orzechowski
Harry	Sampford
John	Mills (C)
Owen	James

Management Team		
Manager	Jon	Beames
Coach	Tayo	Oladele
Assistant	Sam	Elkins
Assistant	John	Mills
Physio	Jaz	Simpkin

Management Team		
Co-Manager	Lee	Hooper
Co-Manager	Stephen	Cleal
Therapist	Georgina	Harris
Kitman	Nic	Butler

Today's Match Officials		
Referee	Andrew	Hunt
Asst Referee	Mark	Bowring
Asst Referee	Aston	Bowring

Squad From	
Joe	Bates
Keiron	Blackburn
Joseph	Bullock
Jake	Cavens
Harry	Clark
James	Febery
Elliott	Flint
Philip	Harris
Ben	Hayes
Carrick	Hill
Jack	Horrell
Sam	Judge
Luke	Payne
Lewis	Platt
Dave	Reynolds
Adam	Saunston
Curtis	Smith



Abingdon United FC

Malvern Town



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good evening and warm welcome to all at Northcourt Road. I would like to welcome our visitors this evening Malvern Town,

Following a disappointing result at the weekend, we are looking for a strong performance tonight against the Hellenic Premier Leaders. I am very much looking forward to the game and I am sure we are in for a hard, competitive and well contested game tonight.

I am also delighted to announce some exciting changes this year, including, the return of an Allied counties team under the management of Mark Reynolds, where we hope to find many of our future players. Also the return of Boxing to Abingdon, with Abingdon Town Boxing Club here at the Northcourt.

Earlier in the summer we hosted our 2nd successful prog rock festival, raising many thousands for brain cancer charities. The club is always looking for opportunities to use our facility to support the Abingdon Community, so please if you have any ideas, feel free to contact us.

I also want to take this occasion to share a few personal thoughts on diversity and inclusion.

In recent months here have been harrowing stories of individuals who for merely being different or having a different name are subjected to exclusion, insults, bullying, abuse and denied opportunity that many of us take for granted.

Then I would like you to ask yourself- 'Is this OK?' Put yourself in their shoes and imagine what it would be like for you to experience this, just because you are different. I would hope you would come to the conclusion 'THIS IS NOT OK'.

There is no place in society for someone to feel, experience and be treated like this. We should respect the uniqueness of the individual, just as we respect the individual brilliance and uniqueness of the football legends who have graced our sport.

Therefore I would ask that we all challenge this behaviour and do not accept it. I will be challenging this throughout the season and would request that each and everyone of you do the same at the Northcourt and 'do not walk by'. Together we can build a better community, a better society and a far better united Kingdom.

To complete my thoughts, I just want to say, I am particularly proud of the management, officials and volunteers at Abingdon United FC who have worked and continue to work tirelessly for this community Football Club,

So on behalf of us all, I would like to thank you for spending your time with us this evening and hope that you all enjoy a good game today.

So, be sure to play your part from the stands... and COME ON YOU YELLOWS!

**Alan Midwinter
Chairman AUFC**



Good evening everyone

I'd like to start by welcoming everyone from Malvern Town FC, Tonight's cup game is an opportunity to give some players that haven't had many minutes some much needed game time.

At the end of this month marks my first year as manager of this great football club. We went from being 7 pts adrift at the bottom of the league when I took over, having lost the first 13 games of the season to pulling off the great escape and staying in the division.

This season was all about getting good people in around me and with the support of my chairman, back room staff and my players we have been able to be more competitive on the pitch and currently sit 5th in the league. It's Still very much early days but we are definitely moving in the right direction.

This season is also the return of Allied Counties U18s football. This is huge for our club as it's important to give the youth a pathway into my first team which has happened already this season. We also have a new development team, a Vets team and a very successful ladies team.

As with many non league clubs we rely heavily on sponsorship and we have worked hard this past year at building strong relationships within the community and I personally would like to thank everyone who has and continue to support us.

Enjoy the Game

JB



Jon Beames
Manager

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The Gaffers Column



PLAYING THIS WEEK



Abingdon Utd FC	VS	Malvern Town
LLWWL	Recent Form	WWWWW
Yellow / Blue	Home Playing Strip	Sky Blue/Claret/White

History

As with us Malvern Town were also formed in 1946, as Barnard's Green FC, joining the Worcester League then the Worcestershire Combination in 1955.

After several seasons they joined the West Midlands (Regional) League in 1979, gaining promotion from Division One in 1994 and 2004 from the Premier Division, earning Promotion to the Midland Alliance.

Further Promotion in 2006 saw the Club reach Southern League Division One Midlands but by 2011 were back in the WM Regional League.

2019 saw the Club move to Hellenic D1 West and install state of the art dressing rooms and a 3G pitch.

After 1 ½ Covid disrupted seasons, and having been sat in pole position, they were promoted to The Hellenic Premier.



OUR VISITORS TODAY

HONOURS & RECORDS

West Midlands (Regional)

Premier –
Champions (2003/04)

Midland Combination

Champions - (1955-56)

Worcester Senior Urn

Winners – 8x Times

Best FA Cup

Q3 1981-82 & 1986-87

Best FA Vase

4th Round 1974-75 & 1976-77

Attendance

2,006 Vs Hereford FC 7th July
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POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Pershore Town	10	9	1	0	20	28
2	Milton United	10	9	0	1	17	27
3	Clanfield 85	10	8	0	2	19	24
4	Shortwood United	11	7	2	2	16	23
5	Abingdon United	11	7	1	3	9	22
6	Hartpury University	11	6	2	3	10	20
7	Long Crendon	12	6	2	4	2	20
8	Malmesbury Victoria	12	6	2	4	2	20
9	Calne Town	11	6	1	4	4	19
10	Newent Town	11	5	2	4	-3	17

2022 - 2023 SEASON

Quickfire Questions

With James East



Where are you from?

Reading

Who have you played for?

Thatcham, Henley, Eversley, Mortimer,
Sandhurst & Tadley.

Favourite Team?

Reading FC & Rangers FC

Why did you join Abingdon?

Asked to come over last season by Dave Mudge,
played a cup game and signed that night.

1st Match/Favourite Match?

1st was Tiverton Town in the FA Vase at Wembley in 1998 (all my family are
from Devon).

Favourite is Reading Vs Middlesbrough, Reading's 1st Premier League game
and winning 3-2 from 2 goals behind.

How do you celebrate a win?

A few beers (sometimes) and a takeaway
back at home, nothing too special.

**100m staff and squad race, who comes first
and who comes last?**

First Stallone or Oli and last Gaffer or Eddie
(Goalkeepers don't need to run 100m)

Best & Worst Dressed Player?

I would say I scrub up alright for a night out, I just
keep it simple. Some others are Harry and Daryl.

Worst dressed Rhys (and he will take offence to that
too!)



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 **MARSH**

HISTORY OF ABINGDON UTD FC



AUFC - 1946/47



AUFC - 2022/23

The club was formed in 1946 when a group of ex-service men decided that the town could support two football clubs. The first meeting to form the club was held in the local Anchor Public House on the bank of the River Thames. The new club joined Division 1 of the North Berks League for the 1946/47 season and whilst being relegated, they went onto win the leagues Charity Shield at their 1st attempt.

In 1953/54 season, the club became North Berks champions and cup finalists. However, the club had set its sights on higher things and five years later entered Division 1 of the Hellenic League.

Winning the Hellenic league Division 1 challenge cup during the 1965/66 season and were again present in the final the following season.

Following promotion to the Premier Division in the 1976/77, the club struggled and were relegated to Division One after four seasons. With a more ambitious approach, the club bounced straight back into the Premier League where it remained for 24 straight seasons, winning the Division One Cup in the same promotion year.

Senior status followed in 1985 allowing the club eligibility for entry into the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 the F.A. Cup

The 50th Anniversary and the most successful season of the club to date was during the 1996/97 season, which saw AUFC win the Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy, Hellenic Floodlit Cup, and finishing Runners Up in the Hellenic Premier Division. Away from the pitch the club improved its catering facilities, added a function room, a covered stand and ground floodlighting to support its now capacity of 2,000 people

The following season saw success come to the Northcourt again, with United retaining the B&B Senior Trophy, winning Hellenic Reserve Championship and Allied Counties Youth League.

The 2006/07 season saw the club gain promotion to the Southern League, whilst again improving its facilities by adding new changing rooms, turnstiles, and a 150-seater stand.

The next 7 seasons saw Abingdon United FC compete in the Southern League, but with increasing financial pressures, the club volunteered to return to the Hellenic League Premier Division for the 2013/14 season.

The club currently play in UHlsport Hellenic League Division One.

HONOURS

1946/47	North Berks Charity Shield Winners
1952/53	North Berks Division Two Winners
1953/54	North Berks League Champions
1965/66	Hellenic Division One Cup Winners
1981/82	Hellenic Division One Champions
1983/84	B & B Senior Cup Finalists
1993/94	B & B Senior Trophy Finalists
1996/97	Hellenic Premier Runners Up
1996/97	Hellenic Hungerford Cup Winners
1996/97	Hellenic Floodlit Cup Winners
1996/97	B & B Senior Trophy Winners
1997/98	B & B Senior Trophy Winners
1997/98	Allied Counties Youth Champions
1997/98	Hellenic Reserve Champions
2008/09	Oxford Youth League and Cup Winners
2011/12	Jim Newman Memorial Cup Winners
2011/12	Allied Counties Youth League Winners
2013/14	North Berks Division Two Champions
2020/21	Hellenic League Supplementary Cup - Winners

CLUB HONOURS AND RECORDS



RECORDS

League Position

11th Southern League Division One S & W (2006/07)

Best FA Cup

2nd Qualifying Round (2000/01, 2009/10, 2014/15)

Best FA Trophy

2nd Qualifying Round (2006/07, 2007/08)

Best FA Vase

3rd Round (1988/89)

Attendance

1,500 vs Oxford United (friendly 1994).

Who will you be today?



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& CUP
GAMES**

OCT

15TH: CLANFIELD 85 (A)
18TH: MALVERN T *WLFC* (H)
22ND: MORETON RGRS (A)
29TH: MALMESBURY VICS (A)



2022/23 FIXTURES

NOV

5TH: PERSHORE (H)
12TH: SHORTWOOD (A)
19TH: STONEHOUSE TN (H)
22ND: HARTPURY UNI (H)
26TH: LITTLETON (A)

DEC

3RD: CALNE TN (A)
10TH: CHELTENHAM SARS (H)
17TH: CIRENCESTER DEVS (H)
27TH: CLANFIELD 85 (H)

JAN

2ND: HARTPURY UNI (A)
7TH: MALMESBURY (H)
14TH: NEWENT TN (H)
21ST: SHORTWOOD UTD (H)
28TH: STONEHOUSE TN (A)

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FEB

4TH: FC STRATFORD (A)
11TH: SOUTHAM UTD (A)
18TH: BOURTON RVS (A)
25TH: FC STRATFORD (H)

MAR

4TH: KIDLINGTON RES (A)
11TH: LITTLETON (H)
21ST: LONG CRENDON (A)
25TH: MILTON UTD (H)

APR

7TH: PERSHORE TN
(H)



HISTORY OF ABINGDON

Abingdon holds claim to the title of Britain's oldest town.

As an organised unit, it was first established in the late Iron Age as an 'enclosed oppidum' or valley-fort. Double ten-metre-wide ditches ringed the area of the present town in a semi-circle between the Ock and the Thames. Unlike similar ditches around contemporary hill forts, these were filled with water, fed by the River Stort.

During the Roman period, Abingdon developed into a small town. A number of buildings have been identified by excavations, with stone walls from the 2nd century. The Roman villa excavated at Barton Court, though relatively modest in appearance and decor, has revealed much about the everyday workings of farms of this period.

The town's history is closely intertwined with that of Abingdon Abbey claimed to be the first monastery to be set up in Britain. A title strongly contested by Glastonbury, which was said to have been founded by St. Joseph of Arimathea in AD 63.

Another tradition says that St. Helen herself later founded a church on the site of the present one dedicated to her memory. Her son, the Roman Emperor Constantine, gave her foundation one of the nails from the Holy Cross of the Crucifixion. St. Birinus later restored this Roman church, and it became a Saxon Minster. The Witan (Saxon parliament) met there in AD 989. St. Helen's is said to be the widest church in the country.

The church's finest treasure is the beautiful painted ceiling of the Lady Chapel. Dated about 1391, its fifty-two panels feature Christ's ancestors. The church was home to the Fraternity of the Holy Cross. This was a kind of guild set up by King Henry VI in the early 1440s and dedicated to the Holy Cross. Behind St. Helen's stands the delightful Christ's Hospital (or Long Alley Almshouses) founded by the brotherhood a few years later.

In the fifth century, the legendary St. Abban, the only man to escape the original Night of the Long Knives (when the Saxons massacred the British at a peace conference at Stonehenge) is said to have built himself a hermitage on Boar's Hill. In AD 675, a religious community was set up by Prince Hean, the nephew of King Cissa of Upper Wessex. However, the stream on Abban's Down interfered with the church's foundations and Hean was forced to move his community down into the valley below: and he took the name, **Abing-don**, with him.

Abingdon has an impressive Anglo-Saxon heritage. Some of the earliest Germanic settlers in Britain have been identified in an Abingdon cemetery. One group of male burials there seem to have been deliberately set apart for at least two generations and, from their Frankish swords, it would appear that they were a warrior class. During King Alfred the Great's reign, the Abbey was burnt to the ground by the Danes from Reading, and there was a small skirmish outside the town.

King Edgar the Peacemaker was educated at Abingdon Abbey by St. Aethelwold. The monastery was then in a very ruinous state and he promised that if he became King he would restore all neglected churches. After his coronation, he held good to his word, for Abingdon was the first of several Abbeys to be rebuilt.

While inspecting his new church buildings one day, Aethelwold came across Aelfstan, in the kitchen, preparing dinner for the workmen. Struck by a sudden impulse to test Aelfstan's obedience, the Abbot ordered him to thrust his hand into a boiling cauldron to retrieve a dumpling from the bottom. Aelfstan did so, and miraculously pulled both dumpling and his unscathed hand from the pot! St. Aelfstan died in AD 971 and, though he was buried at Abingdon, the monks seem to have made little of his saintly remains.

Pilgrims flocked to Abingdon Abbey during the Middle Ages for it held the great Nail of the Holy Cross, inherited from St. Helen's. The Abbey also held the relics of St. Vincent. During King Canute's reign, the monks had stolen them from their brethren of Glastonbury whilst they were staying at the Abbey. The King approved and gave them a fine silver & gold shrine in which to house the bones. It was inscribed with the names of the King, his wife & Abbot Aethelwin. Aethelwin gave another shrine for relics he had collected & a splendid silver cross. Abingdon also acquired relics of St. Edward the Martyr during Canute's reign. The young saint had visited the shrine of Our Lady of Abingdon (said to be the oldest in England and housing a Roman sculpture of the Virgin) during his short time as king.

Later, his own shrine at Shaftesbury Abbey was sending out parts of his body to Glastonbury, Salisbury, Leominster & Durham. On travelling through Berkshire, the relic bearers were miraculously halted at Abingdon. As the saint evidently wanted to stay in the town, they decided to leave many of his bones in the Abbey Church. Abingdon venerated the relics of many other saints too.

While the Abbey provided employment in the town, it was not a universally popular institution. The townsfolk were jealous of the Abbot's hold over Abingdon and its market. It came to a head in 1327. An angry group of men tried to burn down the Abbey gate, but the monks defended themselves and killed two attackers, and captured others.

These were later released but the townsfolk were furious and sent to Oxford for reinforcements. A few days later, a huge crowd of Oxfordians arrived and there was a violent riot. They burnt the Abbey gates and attacked the monks. The monks fled into the River Thames, but several of them drowned in the confusion.

The rioters ransacked the whole complex, stealing anything of value and burning all the Abbey's ancient deeds and manuscripts. The Prior later met with them and agreed to give up the Abbey's rights, but the Abbot appealed to the King, and he sent a number of lords with a detachment of archers to bring the people of Abingdon into line. Some of the ringleaders fled, but others were captured and taken to Wallingford Castle where they were hanged.

There isn't much left of Abingdon Abbey today. It lies buried beneath the Abbey Gardens. Don't be fooled by the sham ruin there. It's only a folly put up in the 1920s. Some of the stones do come from the old buildings though. The Abbey gateway is the most obvious of the Abbey's remains. This beautiful 15th century building adjoins the Norman Church of St. Nicholas, also built by the monks on the edge of their enclave. St. Edmund of Abingdon's mother was buried here. St. Edmund was the eldest son of an Abingdon merchant who was so wealthy he could afford to send his offspring to University in Oxford (where St. Edmund's Hall is named after him). Edmund became Treasurer of Salisbury and eventually rose to be Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1240, he died on his way to see the Pope in Rome.

He was buried in Pontigny Abbey where his shrine became an important pilgrimage centre. The people of Abingdon built a small chapel dedicated to him on the site of his birthplace in St. Edmund's Lane.

One of the Abbey's institutions which seems to have survived the Dissolution was its educational facility, which is today known as Abingdon School. Its earliest history is difficult to trace. It was certainly in existence in 1372, but a certain Richard the Pedagogue is claimed to have been the first recorded headmaster in 1100. Its origins probably lie in St. Aethelwold's instruction of King Edgar and other noble children in the AD 950s, making it the oldest school in the country! With the departure of the monks,

Christ's Hospital (the successor to the Fraternity of the Holy Cross) kept the school going until it was refounded in 1563 by John Roysse, an Abingdonian who had made his fortune as a merchant in London. He desired to create some new heirs for himself after disinheriting his son for he "hath married against my will another man's wife.

Rebellion always remained popular in Medieval Abingdon and, in 1381, it was the only town in Berkshire to which officials were sent to arrest supporters of the Peasants' Revolt. Fifty years later, Abingdon was the centre of Jack Sharpe's Rising. It was a rebellion ostensibly against the protectorship of the Duke of Gloucester, although the local popularity of its Abingdon ringleader seems to have stemmed from continued jealousy of the powers of the Abbey. The Duke himself squashed the rebels and Jack Sharpe's head was sent to London on a pole. Seven years later, the Fraternity of the Holy Cross set up the town's once famous market cross in front of the Abbey Gates. It was a monument to the town and probably went some way to reasserting Civic pride after recent demoralizing events. One of the most fabulous stone crosses in the country, it stood some 57ft high and consisted of four, mostly hexagonal, tiers with niches and finely carved statues. There were six each of kings, virgins & prelates and prophets.

In May 1644, the magnificent cross was destroyed by the Puritanical Roundhead troops stationed in the town. They had just returned from an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Thames at Newbridge and attack Oxford. Thus thwarted, they took their anger out on the town's great monument. Being so near to Oxford, it was originally a Royalist town, but was taken by the Parliamentarians.

Throughout the parliamentary garrison, conditions were appalling for both townsfolk and soldiers. There were many desertions. Major-General Browne wrote numerous times for relief, but none came. Despite continuous attacks from the Royalists at Oxford, particularly by Prince Rupert's men in the January of 1645, the Roundhead garrison managed to hold out for victory in early 1646.

Abingdon has the grandest Town Hall in England. A fine classical building built in 1678/82 by Wren's mason who created the Dome of St. Paul's. It is of the open-ground-floor type usually associated with small market towns. Its size, however, is hugely out of proportion to the size of the community. Abingdon was Berkshire's County Town until 1867, when Reading took over.



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Trivia

- Which player scored the fastest hat-trick in the Premier League?
- Which player, with 653 games, has made the most Premier League appearances?
- Three players share the record for most Premier League red cards (8). Who are they?
- With 260 goals, who is the Premier League's all-time top scorer?
- When was the inaugural Premier League season?
- Which team won the first Premier League title?
- With 202 clean sheets, which goalkeeper has the best record in the Premier League?
- How many clubs competed in the inaugural Premier League season?
- Which three players shared the Premier League Golden Boot in 2018-19?

Answers

- Sadio Mane (2 minutes 56 seconds for Southampton vs Aston Villa in 2015)
- Gareth Barry
- Patrick Vieira, Richard Dunne and Duncan Ferguson
- Alan Shearer
- 1992-93
- Manchester United
- Petr Cech
- 22
- Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane



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