

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY 2022



VS



Abingdon United FC

15.00

Cheltenham Saracens



UHLSPORT HELLENIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Players		Position
Cameron	Midwinter	Goalkeeper
Lee	Johnson	Goalkeeper
Gareth	Thomas	Defender (C)
Connor	McGrath	Defender
Bradley	Chalmers	Defender
Daryl	Louise	Defender
Paul	Taplin	Defender
Cameron	Abery	Midfield
Rhys	King	Midfield
Mite	Mitev	Midfield
Euan	Vosper	Midfield
Joe	Webb	Midfield
David	Inyang	Midfield
James	East	Midfield
David	Murphy	Forward/Mid
Connor	Ferguson	Forward
Isiah	Stallone	Forward
Nat	Robinson	Forward
Danny	Langford	Forward



TODAYS SQUADS



Management Team		
Manager	Dave	Mudge
Assistant	Jon	Beames
Coach	Matt	Stowell
Physio	Banjo	Malcolm

Management Team		
Manager	Ryan	Betteridge
Assistant	Sean	Bryant
Coach	TBA	
Physio	Liam	Baker

Today's Match Officials		
Referee	Tom	George
Asst Referee	Gary	Roe
Asst Referee	Martin	Woodley



Players		Position
Joseph	Bloomfield	GK
James	Barnes-Wills	TBA
Jordan	Bryan	TBA
Joshua	Beadle	TBA
Sam	Mattock	TBA
Ryan	Dobbins	TBA
Harry	Duncan	TBA
John	Evans	TBA
Luke	Finch	TBA
Oluwasemilore	Ibidapo	TBA
Lewis	Hitchman	TBA
Thomas	Hoskins	TBA
Andy	Hunt	TBA
Aaron	Lond	TBA
Aaron	Mason	TBA
Toby	Soule	TBA
Austin	Parker	TBA
Connor	Stalley	TBA
David	Waters	TBA
Kyle	Gibbs	TBA
Oliver	Whelan	TBA

Abingdon United FC

Cheltenham Saracens

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HISTORY OF ABINGDON UTD FC



AUFC - 1946/47



AUFC - 2021/22

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).



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to all at Northcourt Road, where we greet all our visitors today. We are now in second half of the season and I can't tell you how good it feels to be able to look forward to a completed league season for the 1st time in 3 years.

I'm optimistic on many fronts, with a new management teams and squads filled with players who I am confident will play an integral role in moving this club forward during the rest of the season and beyond.

Away from the pitch, we've been delighted to make a number of exciting changes this year. We have partnered with OFD education and Abingdon & Witney college to bring in an academy learning programme and earlier in the summer we hosted our very 1st prog rock festival, raising over £4,500 for brain cancer charities. The club is always looking for innovative ways to use our fantastic facility and have a range of live music events lined up at the Northcourt throughout the year.

I also want to take this occasion before today's game to share a few personal thoughts on diversity both on and off the Pitch.

I have recently heard harrowing stories of individuals who for merely being different or having a different name are subjected to homophobic or racist insults, physically bullied, mentally abused, denied opportunity and sometimes shunned by others around them.

Then I would like you to think for one minute – 'What if this were you?' Put yourself in their shoes. Imagine what it would be like to experience this, just because you are different, whether this be due to gender, name, race, ethnicity, sexual orientations, religious beliefs, age, status, physical abilities or ideology'.

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.

We should never reject diversity but embrace and celebrate the individual differences of all around us, on our way to building a better team, a better society and a better world.

To complete my thoughts for now, I just want to say that during the difficult times over recent years, I am particularly proud of all at Abingdon United FC who have worked tirelessly for this community Football Club,

So on behalf of us all, I would like to thank you for spending your afternoon with us.

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

**Alan Midwinter
Chairman AUFC**





PLAYING THIS WEEK



Abingdon Utd FC	VS	Cheltenham Saracens FC
WDLWL	Recent League Form	LWWWL
Yellow / Blue	Playing Strip today	Red / Black

OUR VISITORS TODAY



Cheltenham Saracens

Formed in 1964 as part of a multi-sport club, they joined the Cheltenham League Division 5. Gradually the football section grew in strength and was soon running two sides in the Cheltenham League, two in the Stroud & District, two Sunday teams and several youth teams.

In 1986 the club were elected to the Hellenic League and stayed in Division 1 until they were promoted to the Premier Division in 1999/2000 with the second team also winning the Reserve Section that same year. After two years in the Premier the team were relegated back to Division 1 in 2001/2002.

In 2015/2016 the club narrowly missed out on winning the Division 1 title but secured promotion to the Premier Division by finishing second, however the club decided to remain in Division 1.

The club has now a strong base to move forward with three senior teams on Saturdays and junior teams aged between 6-14.

Honours

GFA Primary Challenge Cup Winner 1971/1972

Minor Charity Cup Winner 1990/1991

Cheltenham League Division 5 Winner 1990/1991

GFA Senior Amateur Cup Winner 1991/1992

Hellenic League Division 1 Winner 1999/2000

Hellenic League Reserve Section Winners 1999/2000

Cheltenham League Div 4 Winners 2009/2010

Cheltenham Minor Charity Cup Winners 2009/2010

Hellenic League Division 1 Runners up 2015/2016

Who will you be today?



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UPCOMING FIXTURES

Date	KO	Home/ Away	Comp	Opposition
15/01	15:00	H	HL1	Cheltenham Saracens
22/01	15.00	A	HL1	Studley FC
29/01	15.00	H	HL1	Malmsbury Vics
05/02	15.00	A	HL1	Worcester Raiders
12/02	15.00	A	HL1	FC Stratford
19/02	15.00	A	HL1	Shortwood United



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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		Overall						Home					Away					GD	PTS
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1	Studley	20	16	0	4	64	19	8	0	2	36	10	8	0	2	28	9	+45	48
2	Worcester Raiders	21	16	0	5	65	28	7	0	3	30	17	9	0	2	35	11	+37	48
3	Cheltenham Saracens	19	12	4	3	46	27	8	2	1	27	12	4	2	2	19	15	+19	40
4	Clanfield 85	22	12	3	7	59	30	5	2	4	27	16	7	1	3	32	14	+29	39
5	Milton United	19	12	3	4	56	33	8	3	1	38	18	4	0	3	18	15	+23	39
6	FC Stratford	21	11	4	6	54	35	6	2	2	29	16	5	2	4	25	19	+19	37
7	Hereford Pegasus	18	10	5	3	46	22	7	3	1	33	14	3	2	2	13	8	+24	35
8	Pershore Town	21	10	3	8	45	33	4	1	4	20	16	6	2	4	25	17	+12	33
9	Littleton	21	11	0	10	44	34	7	0	5	26	13	4	0	5	18	21	+10	33
10	Stonehouse Town	22	10	2	10	41	37	5	1	4	20	19	5	1	6	21	18	+4	32
11	Shortwood United	21	7	5	9	39	49	3	2	5	15	30	4	3	4	24	19	-10	26
12	Malmesbury Victoria	17	5	4	8	35	42	2	2	3	14	18	3	2	5	21	24	-7	19
13	Newent Town	23	5	4	14	32	55	5	2	6	22	28	0	2	8	10	27	-23	19
14	Moreton Rangers	25	5	3	17	28	72	5	0	7	14	28	0	3	10	14	44	-44	18
15	Abingdon United	20	4	1	15	19	51	2	0	10	10	36	2	1	5	9	15	-32	13
16	Cirencester Town Development	18	3	2	13	21	56	0	1	6	7	24	3	1	7	14	32	-35	11
17	Bourton Rovers	20	3	1	16	18	89	0	1	6	5	24	3	0	10	13	65	-71	10

MEET OUR CAPTAIN

Gareth Thomas (20/12/85)

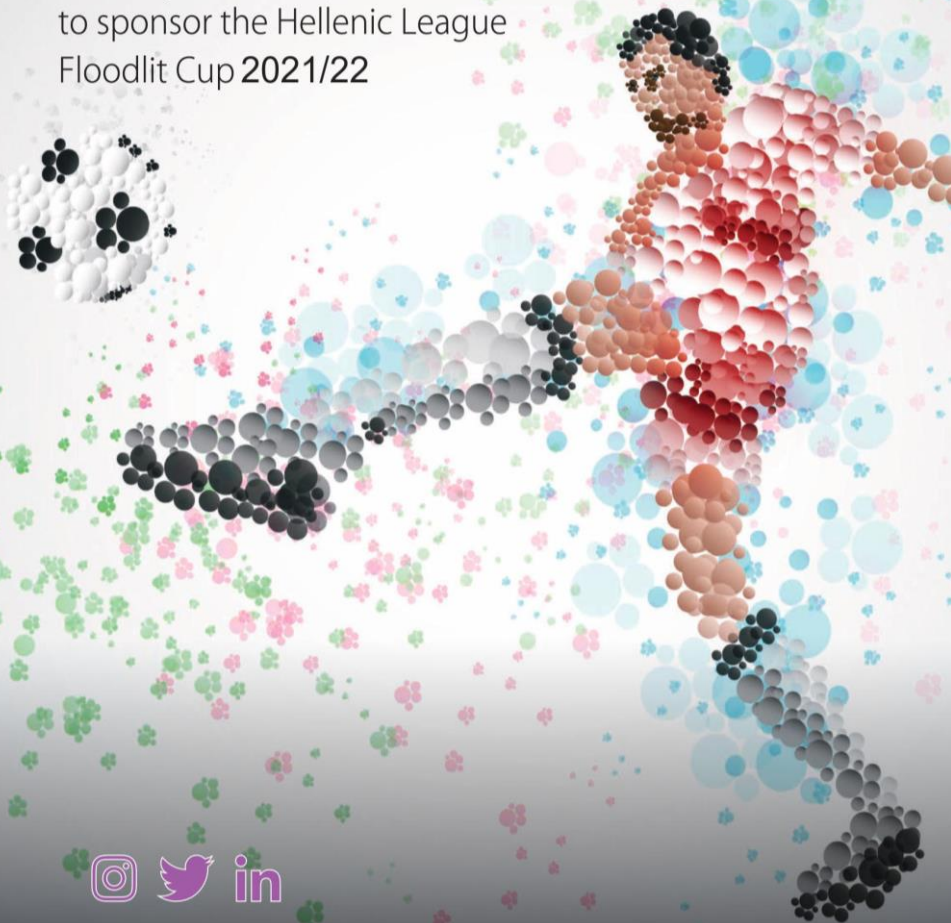
Gareth has returned after playing for us in the southern league, A battling centre half, with a never-say-die attitude, Gareth is great in the air and very comfortable with the ball at his feet. He has a wealth of experience including winning the FA Vase at Wembley.

Previous Clubs

Hungerford Town,
Winchester City,
Abingdon Utd,
Thatcham Town,
Didcot Town,
Tadley Calleva.

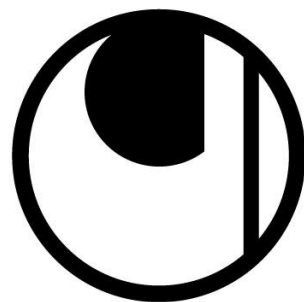


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Trivia

Ten low spots in English Football

1923: Huge crowds stampede at Wembley before, during and after the first ever FA Cup final to be staged at the new stadium, between Bolton wanderers and West Ham. Hundreds are injured.

1968: Alan Mullary becomes the first England player to be sent off during a full international. Mullary was dispatched after kicking a Yugoslavian opponent who had felled him with a late tackle.

1971: Rioting Leeds fans win the support of the club manager and chairman. 'I don't blame them at all. The referee's decision in allowing West Bromwich's second goal was diabolical,' said Don Revie. 'I am not blaming the spectators. There was every justification for it,' Alderman Percy Woodward, the club's chairman, declared.

1974: Billy Bremner and Kevin Keegan are the first Football League players to be sent off at Wembley during that year's Charity Shield.

1985: More than 50 fans die as fire sweeps through the main stand at Bradford City's ground during a match against Lincoln.

1985: More than 40 people are killed after a safety fence collapses at Heysel Stadium following an onslaught from rioting Liverpool and Juventus fans.

1989: Ninety-four soccer fans are crushed to death at Hillsborough during the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

1995: Eric Cantona executes a kung-fu-style kick on a Crystal Palace fan.

1999: Robbie Fowler celebrates a goal by sniffing the touch line as if it were a line of cocaine.

2004: Three Leicester City players are held after a mid-season training break in Spain ends in allegations of sexual misconduct.



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