

### Abingdon United FC 19.45 Southam United FC



### UHLSPORT HELLENIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Players		
Edward	Cavanagh	
Jack	Badger	
Bradley	Chalmers	
Connor	McGrath	
Daniel	Chalmers	
Daryl	Louise	
Kyle	Downie	
Joshua	Dutton-Black	
James	East	
Nadeem	Shah	
Oscar	Griffiths	
Mitchell	Larman	
John	Mills	
Oliwier	Orzechowski	
Harry	Sampford	
Isiah	Stallone	



## TODAYS SQUADS

Management Team			
Manager	Jon	Beames	
Assistant	Keith	Stopps	
Coach	Ταγο	Oledele	
Player Coach	Brad	Chalmers	
Physio	Jaz	Simpkin	

Today's Match Officials			
Referee	Mark	Foreman	
Asst Referee	Ben	Richards	
Asst Referee	Adam	Dewar	





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T.A	

Management Team

TBA

Manager

Assistant

Physio

	/
Ellis	Champkins
Ethan	Champkins
Joshua	Dixon
Sam	Dunn
Charlie	Fitzmaurice
Lewis	Hudson
Melvinino	Mauritson
Adam	Neale
Shane	Osbourne
Solomon	Bloomer
Theo	Drummond

Simon

Players

Barby

Southam United FC

### Abingdon United FC

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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 entryinto the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 the F.A. Cup

The 50<sup>th</sup> 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 for 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

## **CLUB HONOURS AND RECORDS**





#### <u>RECORDS</u>

#### **League Position**

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

#### **Best FA Cup**

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

#### **Best FA Trophy**

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

#### **Best FA Vase**

3<sup>rd</sup> Round (1988/89)

#### Attendance

1,500 vs Oxford United (friendly 1994).



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good evening and a very warm welcome to all at Northcourt Road. Following a hard fought 1-1 draw on Saturday, we greet our visitors today Southam United, where we are looking forward to a well contested game in this new Hellenic League season.

I'm optimistic about this season on many fronts both and off the field. With a new management team assembled under our manager Jon Beames and a fresh and talented squad, I feel confident that on the field we are in a good place to build on a solid end to last season.

Away from the pitch, we've been delighted to maké a number of exciting changes this year. We seen the return of an Allied counties team under the management of Mark Reynolds, where we hope to find many of our future players. We are also delighted to host the return in September of the Abingdon Town Boxing Club here at the Northcourt, Earlier in the summer we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> successful prog rock festival, raising many thousands 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 Northcourf throughout the year.

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

Then I would like you to ask yourself - 'Is this OK?' So on behalf of us all, I would like to Put yourself in their shoes and imagine what it would be like for you to experience this, just because you are erent. 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 araced 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 world.

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,

thank you for spending your time with us today and hope that you enjoy the aame.

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

Alan Midwinter Chairman AUFC







Come support <u>Abingdon United</u> <u>Football Club</u> and <u>The Mobile</u> <u>Bike Cafe</u>.





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### **Southam United FC**

Known as the "Saints", they celebrated their centenary in 2005, having been founded in 1905 following the amalgamation of two village teams. From 1947 to 1956 the club dominated the Coventry and North Warwickshire League. They took the step up to the Midland Combination in 1980–81 and immediately won the Division Three title. When the League was reorganised in 1983–84, United were placed in the Premier Division, but after several seasons of struggle they were downgraded to Division Two when it was discovered that their pitch was now too short owing to the construction of a bowling green next to it. Finally in 1995–96 United made it back to the Premier Division after two promotions in seven years.

The 1997–98 season was the Saints' most successful as they finished as Premier Division runners up and also won the Birmingham County FA Vase with a 3–0 victory over Shirley Town, but league form since then has been disappointing, with four successive finishes in the bottom two between 2001 and 2004 seeing relegation only staved off each time by a lack of teams with acceptable facilities to be promoted.

In 2001, Saints merged with **Southam Town Junior Sports Club**, a progressive junior club formed in 1972, which amongst other achievements, pioneered ladies and girls football in Warwickshire.

Although finishing in 15th place in the 2009–10 seasons, Saints had finished 3rd in each of the previous two seasons and, in addition, won the Birmingham County FA Midweek Floodlit Cup in 2008–09 with a 3–1 win over Darlaston Town and won the Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup in 2010-11 with victory at the Ricoh Arena over Alvis.

The club finished bottom of Division One of the Midland Football League in 2016–17, after which the adult team ceased to exist. The team was reformed to join Division Two North of the Hellenic League for the 2019–20 season. As part of their reformation they moved to a new built ground not far from the old one. The old ground was purchased by Bloor Homes who are looking to develop properties on the site.

In 2019–20 season, they were top of the league after 17 games when the season was abandoned due to Covid-19. Following the abandoned 2020-21 season they were transferred to the Oxfordshire Senior Football League Premier Division were they finished second, gaining promotion for the 2022-23 season back to Step 6 in Division One of the Hellenic League.

## **OUR VISITORS TODAY**



Honours

#### **Best league performance:**

 Midland Combination Premier Division runners-up, 1997–98

#### Best FA Cup performance:

Second qualifying round, 2008–09

#### **Best FA Vase performance:**

Second qualifying round, 2000–01 and 2007–08

### Who will you be today?

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#### 58.PT

3HD MILTON UNITED (A) 6TH: MORETON RORS (H) 13TH: PERSIORE TN (A) 17TH: CAINE TN (H) 24TH: MANDOTEFIELD TN (A)

#### 0ct

187: CHELTENHAM SAR (AS 07H: CLRENCERTER DEVE (H) 157H: CLANFIELD 65 (A) 22ND: HARTFURY UNI (H) 29TH: MALMERBURY VICE (A)



### 2022/23 FIXTURES

#### NOV

STH NEWENT TN ()() 13TH SHORTWOOD UTD (A) 19TH STONEHOUSE TN ()()

#### Dec

SED CALME TN (Å) 107H: CHELTENHAM BARB (Å) 17TH: CIRENCESTER DEVS (Å) 27TH: CLANFIELD 85 (H)

#### JAN

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



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

#### MAR

4TH: KIDLINGTON RES (A) 11TH: LITTLETON (H) 18TH: LONG CRENDON (A) 25TH: MILTON UTD (H)

#### APR

1st: Moreton Res (A) 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 Stert.

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 Aelflstan'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 openground-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.



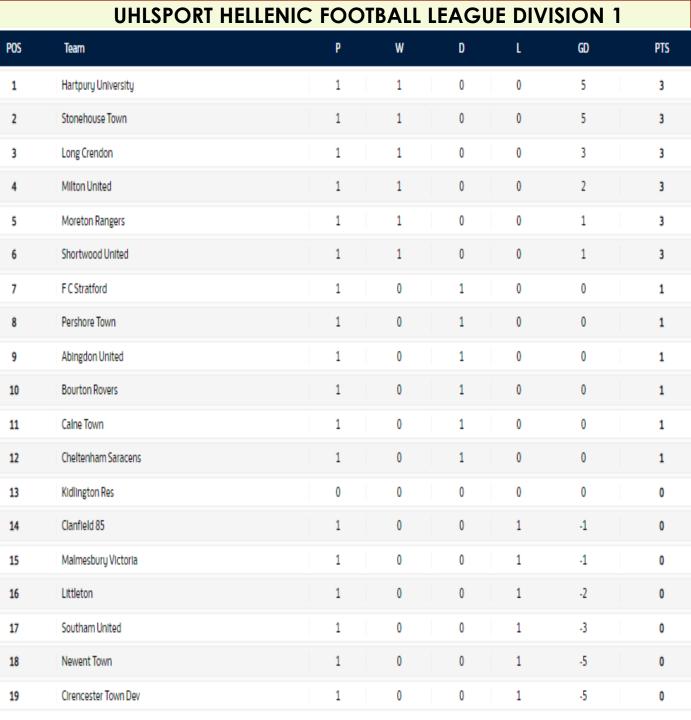
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#### **Jon Beames**

Jon has returned to Abingdon United FC after playing for us during our time in the Southern and Hellenic Leagues, where Jon played over 500 games.

A brave and commanding keeper, he now enters his 1<sup>st</sup> full season as our manager.

Jon returned to Abingdon as manager towards the end of last season and turned the fortunes of the club on the field around. We are looking forward to a successful season under Jon's stewardship.

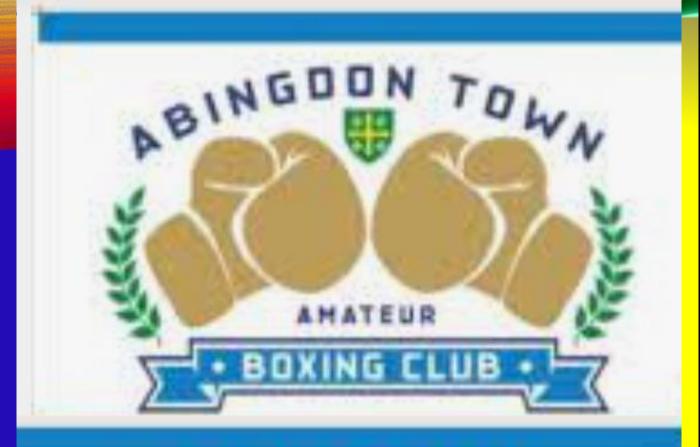
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#### <u>Trivia</u>

#### **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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### Abingdon and Witney College

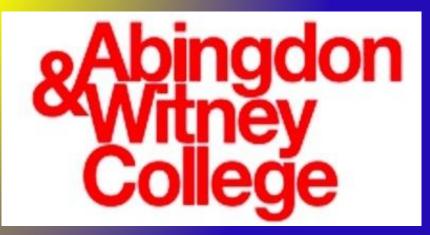
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for more info

Contact info enquiries@abingdon-witney.ac.uk









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Tayo Oladele first team coach, Jon Beames manager, Brad Chalmers assistant/player manager, Keith Stopps assistant

and the



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