

Uhlsport Hellenic
Division 1



Abingdon United

Vs

Pershore Town

Saturday 5th November
2022 (3:00pm)

**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)
Finley	Bates
Oli	Orzechowski
Harry	Sampford
John	Mills (C)
Owen	James

Management Team

Manager	Jon	Beames
Coach	Tayo	Oladele
Assistant	Sam	Elkins
Assistant	John	Mills
Physio	Callum	Warner

Management Team

Manager	Danny	Janes
Assistant Manager	Tom	Milward
Coach	Ashley	Wilkes
Coach	Brian	Wilkes

Today's Match Officials

Referee	Edward	Turner
Asst Referee	Justin	Sercombe
Asst Referee	Keith	Godfrey

Squad From

Eddie	Cox (GK)
Scott	Loader (GK)
Matt	Nuff
Jordan	Adams
Sean	Cooke
Kirk	Layton
Leo	Pinches
Jordan	Stoddart
Harry	Burns
Sam	Clark
Jordan	Jones
Max	Thomas
Steve	Webb
James	Baldwin
Will	Beach
Aidan	Clark
Jamie	Clarke



Abingdon United FC

Pershore Town FC

Football Remembers



*Please join us in a Minutes Silence before todays match to remember all those who gave their lives serving this country.
Lest We Forget*

Chairman- Alan Midwinter
Vice Chairman- Mark Cunningham
Treasurer- Robin Yuill
Football Secretary- Alastair MacDonald
Matchday Operations Manager- Stefan Caira
Commercial Manager- Chris Lewis
Club Welfare Officer- Debbie Blackmore
Function/Catering Manager- Hannah Greenaway
Programme/Social Media Admin- Harry Burton

1st Team Manager- Jon Beames
1st Team Assistant Managers- Sam Elkins & J.P.Mills
1st Team Coach- Tayo Oladele
Physio- Callum Warner
Head of Football Development- Adam French
Development Management Team- Ollie Tilling & Jack White
Vets Team Manager- Adam French
Ladies Management Team- Danial Knight & Declan O'Hanlon
Ladies Team Secretary- Abbie Smith
U18's Management Team- Mark Reynolds & James Booker
U15's Management Team- Chris Hanton & Daniel Hanton
U12's Manager- Adam French
U10's Manager- Steve French
Grounds Team- John Blackmore & Phil Evans



Abingdon
United Club
Personnel



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to all at Northcourt Road. Following a win at home to Malmesbury Vicotira last time out, we are looking to continue with a good performance against our visitors this afternoon, Pershore Town FC. I am very much looking forward to a hard, fair and well contested game. Therefore, I would like to welcome the officials, coaching staff, players and importantly all supporters to tonight's game.

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 afternoon,

Today we welcome table toppers Pershore Town to the Northcourt. They have been a formidable force this season and clearly they are a club with ambition to climb the football pyramid!

They have a great management team and have everything in place to step up to the division above and beyond.

In Terms of us, we are on a journey of our own this season, on and off the pitch.

It was nice to celebrate my 1 year anniversary as Manager with a win last week, but I'm under no illusions about the tough task we face this afternoon.

Once again I'll end by thanking our sponsors. Like all non league clubs we rely heavily on sponsorship and the continued support from our community is fantastic.

Enjoy the game
JB



Jon Beames
Manager

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The Gaffers Column



PLAYING THIS WEEK



Abingdon Utd FC	VS	Pershore Town
WLLDW	Recent Form	WWWWW
Yellow / Blue / Yellow	Home Playing Strip	All Blue

History

Pershore Town Football Club was formed on the back of three local clubs; Pershore United, Pershore Rec. Rovers and a junior club, Pershore Bullets, getting together to form a club that could play in a better standard of football and to improve the facilities at King George IV Playing Fields.

The new club, Pershore Town 88 FC, joined the Midland Football Combination in 1989, initially in Division Two, where they were champions at the first attempt with just four league defeats all season to their record - finishing eleven points clear under the guidance of the club's first manager, John Judge.

Two top half finishes would follow until the 1993/94 season where the club were crowned champions with twenty five wins in forty two games, a 2 - 1 away win over Meir KA on the last day of the season, capturing the league title.

The same season, Pershore Town recorded their best run in the FA Cup, entering for the first time, by reaching the fourth qualifying round, beating Racing Club Warwick, Northampton Spencer, Pelsall Villa and Atherstone United before Yeading proved one step too far.

During these formative years, the club also won the Robert Biggart Memorial Cup, and incredible three times, the Worcestershire Junior Cup and the Jack Mould Cup - alongside this, being runners-up in the Worcestershire Senior Urn.

Following the league win, Pershore Town would become one of the founder members of the Midland Football Alliance - the top ten teams from both the Midland Combination Premier Division and the West Midland Premier League created this league.

OUR VISITORS TODAY

Ahead of the 2018/19 season, Pershore Town were moved from the Midland Football League and joined the West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division, finishing 14th in their first season before the next two were abandoned for COVID-19.

A league move wasn't the only change at Pershore Town, former Malvern Town manager Les Jones was appointed First Team Manager along with Derek Doyle as his Assistant Manager.

With the league restructure, Pershore Town were moved from the West Midlands Regional League to the Hellenic League ahead of the 2021/22 season.

During the 2021/22 season and following a poor start, Neil was replaced in November with former Pershore Town player, Danny Janes. Janes joined the club from fellow Hellenic League side, FC Stratford - a club he had taken to the top of the league before returning to the Community Stadium.



Honours

Midland Combination Premier Winners 1993/94, Midland Combination Division Two Winners 1989/90, Worcestershire Senior Cup Winners 2021/22, Worcestershire Senior Urn Winners 1995/96, Worcestershire Junior Cup Winners 1990/91, Hellenic League Supplementary Cup Winners 2021/22, Smedley Crooke Memorial Cup Winners 2021/22, Jack Mould Trophy Winners 1990/91, Robert Biggart Cup Winners 1990/91, 1991/92, 1994/95, 1996/97 Marley Cup Winners 1990/91

Best FA Cup Run Fourth Qualifying Round 1993/94 Best FA Vase Run Third Round 1995/96



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UHLSPORT HELLENIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

1	Pershore Town	11	10	1	0	23	31
2	Milton United	12	10	0	2	18	30
3	Shortwood United	13	8	2	3	22	26
4	Abingdon United	13	8	2	3	10	26
5	Clanfield 85	12	8	0	4	15	24
6	Hartpury University	12	7	2	3	12	23
7	Long Crendon	13	7	2	4	4	23
8	Malmesbury Victoria	14	7	2	5	2	23
9	Calne Town	12	6	1	5	2	19

2022 – 2023 SEASON

Quickfire Questions

With Oli Orzechowski



Where are you from?

Originally born in Poland in Krakow but lived in Oxford ever since I was 1

Who have you played for?

Started off at Yarnton Blues then played for Oxfordshire rtc in the jpl for many years and played Sundays for Mansfield Road at the same time

Favourite Team?

Liverpool

Why did you join Abingdon?

I joined Abingdon because I had a few friends playing aswell and wanted to start playing mens football

Highlight of your career?

Has to be winning the u16s jpl national cup... all the young boys can back me on this one won it on penalties what a feeling

First/Favourite Match?

Can't think of my first match so I'll go with my favourite, has to be Liverpool vs Barcelona 4-0. The highlights of that game still give me goosebumps to this day

How do you celebrate a win?

No better way than celebrating a win then a bowl of ice cream and a domino's pizza

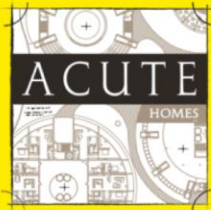
100m staff and squad race, who comes first and who comes last?

100m I back myself to win it but last has to be Daniel Chalmers

Best & Worst Dressed Player?

Best dressed would have to go with Nadeem... guys got some serious style and worst dressed is a tough one gonna have to say Daryl

Abingdon United Partners 2022/23



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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 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

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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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 Huan, the nephew of King Cissa of Upper Wessex. However, the stream on Abban's Down interfered with the church's foundations and Huan 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

- 1). Which country did England play in the 1966 World Cup semi-finals?
 - 2. How many times has Liverpool won the UEFA Champions League (formerly known as the European Cup)? ANSWER: Six (1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005, and 2019)
 - 3. Yellow and red cards were first introduced at which year's World Cup? ANSWER: 1970 (Mexico)
 - 4. Terry McCann in 'Minder' and Wolfie Smith in 'Citizen Smith' both supported which team?
 - 5. Name the only team in the top 4 divisions of the English football league that has a name which contains all 5 vowels? ANSWER: Rotherham United
 - 6. The 1954 FIFA World Cup Final saw West Germany beat which heavily fancied team?
- Answers
- 1. Portugal
 - 2. Six (1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005, and 2019)
 - 3. 1970 (Mexico)
 - 4. Fulham
 - 5. Rotherham United
 - 6. Hungary

