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## Welcome to the Northcourt from Adam Wood







Good afternoon and welcome back to The Northcourt and also a warm welcome to our visitors today Newbury Ladies. I hope you and your families are all safe and

well. Safe to say, it has been an interesting time since the last bit of competitive football here at our home.

Since we unknowingly finished the 2019/20 season in March a lot has happened both in and out of football which was complimented by a whole country lockdown for a couple of months. I join my footballing colleagues in saying the break in football being played didn't stop the work behind the scenes. In fact, for me, it was the busiest close and preseason I have ever had. The introduction of an under 18s team, assisting the club in making Abingdon United "Covid-Secure" whilst working remotely and joining the many parents across the country in home-schooling.

In June we returned to training albeit virtually before socially distanced training in July then later in that very month being able to train competitively and play matches. Luckily, we had friendlies already booked in so managed to avoid the mad rush to get a match. And after a few behind closed doors it was great to be able to welcome fans back!

I think it has been a successful preseason, we saw one draw, one loss and five wins, scoring in every game and with four of the opponents being from the National League. Results should not have a heavy focus during preseason however building confidence is key heading into an unusual season which sees the league campaign start in October. With a heavy preseason does come a lot of impact on the body and we found ourselves having to withdraw from the Leyton Orient friendly last weekend as we needed to rest the bodies.

Before that saw a 4-0 win against local rivals Abingdon Town in the Extra-Preliminary round of today's competition. We were both aware that the winners would be rewarded with a home tie against today's opponents so the incentive to bring the FA Cup magic back to the Northcourt again was huge motivation for the team.

Winners of today's game will see their league campaign delayed slightly further as the next round coincides with the start of the league, 4<sup>th</sup> October. We'd prefer a delay in the league in return for a good cup run and the prize money that is for sure!

Finally, I would like to thank all of you in advance for allowing the return of football safely by abiding to the social distancing guidelines laid

out by the government and our club but also a huge thank you to those required to pay an entrance fee today. This is the first game since forming that we have needed to charge for entrance to help with the costs but hopefully we can reward you all with a great game of football.

I hope you all enjoy the game.

Woody



## Abbie Smith: Captain's Log

Just wanted to give some thoughts on pre-season! What a pre-season it's been, definitely one we won't forget with the Government guidelines being put in place and our management team running around with sanitizer! All that aside, we are all looking ready for the season ahead, we have made some fantastic new signings and have all really gelled together. We have moved to training twice a week, which really shows in our overall fitness in friendlies and are starting to show what we are capable of. Hopefully all the extra work being put in, will reflect on a positive season.

Talking of signings and friendlies, as you may have seen we now have an under 18's team. We have had a few players play for us in friendlies and also train with us. It's a really nice dynamic and it feels we have known all the girls for ages already! There is some real young talent amongst the squad and we are really looking forward to watch and help them grow in to first team players!

We have had a really strong start in the FA cup. It's always difficult to play your next door neighbours! The overall game





was a good intensity, fair play to Town as they had a really good press in the first half but we managed to find the back of the net and all four goals were beautiful. It's always a real buzz for the FA cup regardless of who we have to play, everyone is always so up for it and ready to go! Lets hope today's game against Newbury continues our run in to the next round.

After what seems forever ago since we last had a league game, our first game of the season is actually only around the corner. We are all so ready now for the continuous competitive games to now be up and running. I really do think this is going to be a real competitive league as ourselves and other teams in the league have made some real strong new signings so will make it really interesting. We are going to keep doing what we do on and off the pitch and focus on us. We are all buzzing to get the real stuff underway and hopefully get some good results.

Enjoy the game. Abs

## Today's opponents – Newbury Ladies FC



The Newbury Ladies team was formed in the season 2003/4. The initial group of players comprising players from AFC Newbury Boys and Girls and players who had formerly played for Shaw Boys & Belles which was became part of AFC Newbury Boys and Girls in 1996.

Newbury Ladies 1st team play in the Premier Division of the Southern Region Women's Football League.

Newbury Ladies Development team play in the Division South of the Thames Valley Counties Southern Region Women's Football League.

#### Notable dates for Newbury Ladies FC

2003-4 Berks and Bucks Women's County League Plate Winners

**2004-5** Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Cup Winners

**2004-5** Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division 1 Champions.

Promoted to Southern Region Womens Football League Division 1

**2008-9** Reserve Team Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division 3 Runners Up.

Promoted to Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division 2

**2010-11** Reserve Team Thames Valley Counties Womens Football League Shield Runners Up.

2011-12 Southern Region Jubilee Cup Runners Up.

2013-14 Southern Region Division 1 North Champions.

Promoted to Southern Region Women's Football Premier League

2017-18 Development team formed



















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## Abingon United Under 18s

#### Sponsored by Boston House

After a good preseason the #AUWFC Under 18s started their league campaign last weekend with a convincing 18-0 win over relatively new side Maidenhead United Ravens Olivia Day scored eight whilst Beth Chapman scored a hattrick and those were complimented by braces from Ellie Bradbury and Abbie Blackmore with Amelia Turner, Shanice Wright and Megan Kerley also scoring. A game that saw some great football played and compliments from the opposition management in Abingdon's style of play. Elizabeth Wotherspoon was commended by manager Danial Knight for her player of the match performance in the middle of the park.

#### **Results:**

01/08/2020	PSF	Home vs Boldmere	0-5	
15/08/2020	PSF	Home vs Carterton Reserves	4-1	Chapman 3', Cooke 12', 36', 73'
22/08/2020	PSF	Away vs City Belles	5-4	Day 6', Blackmore 61' 96', Harries.L 87'
29/08/2020	PSF	Away vs MK City	0-2	Turner 51', Bradbury 75'
03/09/2020	PSF	Home vs Headington Amateurs	5-1	Elias 27', Blackmore 51', Wright 58', 74', Chapman 85')
12/09/2020	LG	Away vs Maidenhead Utd Ravens	0-18	Day 10',33',37',63',71',75',77',78', Turner 13', Chapman 19',49',66', Bradbury 23',27', Blackmore 29',38', Wright 46', Kerley 61'

#### **Upcoming Fixtures:**

19/09/2020	LG	Away vs Kidlington Youth
26/09/2020	LG	Home vs Wycombe Wanderer
03/10/2020	LG	Away vs Maidenhead
10/10/2020	LG	Home vs Chesham United
17/10/2020	LG	Home vs Charlbury Town
24/10/2020	LG	Away vs Summertown Stars



#### Under 18's Squad:

Alyshia Allen	Leanne Elias
Abbie Blackmore	Ella Harries
Kate Bosley	Lily Harries
Ellie Bradbury	Sophie Harris
Beth Chapman Sponsored by Clinic	Ruby Higgs
on the Green	Aimee Hunt
Jamie Cooke	Jazmine Hutchinso
Rosie Cullen	Megan Kerley
Olivia Day	

Elisha Owen Grace Richards Amelia Turner Elizabeth Wotherspoon Shanice Wright





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### Abingon United WFC

Colours: Yellow and Blue

Abbie Blackmore

Nell Boxall

Ellie Bradbury

Steph Carrick

Amy Chivers

Hannah Cox

Megan Crawford

Rosie Cullen

Charlotte Deeley

Chloe Duckett

Ella Harries

Beth Hawtin

Olivia Hazell

Lily Harries

Kiera Isaac

Sophie Kirby

Molly Lygo-Jackson

Lauren May

Rosie McCabe

Taya McCalmon

Amy Pipe

Grace Richards

Tizzy Russell-Cartwright

Abbie Smith

Kelly Talbot

Sadie Timbs

Katie Totton

Heather Young

DRAIN

Referee: Andy Bell

Assistant Referees: Ian Wood and Euzebio Mohr

### **Newbury LFC**

Colours: Red and Black

Rebecca Anderson

Samantha Atkins

Nicole Beesley

Katherine Brown

Natasha Carroll

Erin Davis-Donne

Shelley Forster

Kendall Gilmour

Louise Gulliver

Saide Gulliver

Lauren Hanson

Nicola Isted

Lorna Kinder-Parr

Megan Kirby

Amy Lambden

Sam Mcconnon

Nicole Pearce

Fllernore Reed

Samantha Richards

Maria Rodrigues

Leanne Saunders

Lauren Sheldon

Gabriely Tavares Da Silva

Ayala Truelove

Claire Turley

Rebecca Walker

Joanne Walsh-Perks

