



HL1
15/08/23,
7:45pm
The Northcourt
OX14 1PL



Abingdon United Vs FC Stratford



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good evening and I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has come along this afternoon to the Northcourt for the game. I would also like to welcome our visitors today FC Stratford and like yourselves I am looking forward a hard fought and well contested game.

Following what was arguably the most successful season in our clubs history, which saw Three of our senior teams lift league winner's trophies, I am super optimistic about coming season on many fronts both on and off the field. With a new management team assembled under our manager John Mills and a fresh and talented squad, I feel confident that on the field we are in a good place to build on our strong finish last season, which saw us miss out on a play off spot during the last round of games.

On the pitch we have been working hard to repair the damage done by last years long hot summer, which hopefully will be evident today. Whilst away from the pitch, we have made exciting progress this year, with the installation of a new bar in the Lounge. the ever increasing popularity of the Abingdon Town Boxing Club here at the Northcourt and earlier in the summer we hosting our 3rd successful prog rock festival, raising thousands of pounds 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 thoughts on enjoyment.

I cannot remember a time in my life when I was out with my partner and enjoyed being shouted or sworn at, abused or targeted because our opinion was different.

I am equally sure that everyone who is here today would probably agree that this would not be OK?

So why then I ask myself does this seem to be acceptable during games of football?

Therefore can I ask that all you really great people here today think twice - think RESPECT.

So that this season, everyone here at the Northcourt creates positive memories.

In completing my thoughts today, I just want to say, I am particularly proud of our management team, staff, officials and volunteers here at Abingdon United FC, who work 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 today and hope that you enjoy the game.

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

**Alan Midwinter
Chairman AUFC**



GENERAL TALKS WITH STEFAN CAIRA

Good afternoon and welcome to The Northcourt for another match of what promises to be another exciting season. I write another batch of notes since becoming General Manager of this great club over the summer moving up from Matchday operations manager. We would like to welcome all the officials, players and staff from FC Stratford, who I am sure will make it a good spectacle. The atmosphere around the club has been fantastic all summer with many changes on and off the field to set us in good stead for the season ahead. The players and coaching staff cannot wait to get started now and we're all excited for the season ahead.

Together

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who attended the family fun day here at The Northcourt, it was such a great event which brought all areas of the club together. It showed what a family minded club we are and it was great to see so many visitors enjoying themselves in the sun. As a club we are committed to working towards capturing a new generation of fans and members and by being able to hold events like this it is an important step in our aim. Elsewhere over the summer we have been extremely busy in investing in a new playing surface for our sides on the main pitch with the help from Kieron Jennings, the newly formed youth pitches are being worked on by our Head of Football Development Adam French, his youth coaches and club stalwart John Blackmore. More investment has gone into the club house by giving our Bar a much-needed refurbishment and new external covered area which was donated and built by our Aunt Sally team. All these projects take time by volunteers, committee members and club staff and without them we would not be where we are today. We have much more projects in the pipeline which we will keep you posted with as the season prevails.

Strengthen

Since taking up the role as club GM and working alongside the committee we've sought to strengthen the team off the pitch to help take the club to the next level and I'm delighted to announce the appointments of some key new members of staff off the pitch we have: Sarah Crawley - As our new Finance Officer Kate Fegan - As our new Bar & Functions Manageress Chris Cole - As our new Club Welfare Officer Alongside this we have restructured our Club committee to four individual sub-committees we feel by operating like this it will give us strength in numbers and people's skills will be used better, the four sub-committees will be: Finance Committee headed by our Club Chair Alan Midwinter & Finance Officer Sarah Crawley. Grounds & Facilities Committee which will be headed by myself. Communications & Marketing Committee which will be headed by our u18s manager Mark Reynolds Football Committee which will be headed by our Head of Football Development Adam French The above are all joined by our fantastic volunteer base, we currently have positions on all four committees so if you feel you have the time, knowledge, expertise in the above we would love to hear from you. I

Impact

On the pitch it has been a fairly eventful close season at the club but I am delighted that we start the season in good shape with Millsy getting to know his squad in numerous pre-season games, like any working environment you are met with different personalities and characters but it's the people on the sides who make these individuals click and form part of a solid XI. We have welcomed some high calibre players this season and some that come to mind for me is Ash Taylor, Mani Roper, Macauley Dobson, Casey Highmoore, Harry Acklund and Ollie Creed. I would like to offer my personal welcoming's to the new players and look forward to getting to know you throughout the season. Alongside this we are delighted that Eddie Cavanagh, Harry Sampford, Ben Barrett, Nadeem Shah, James Williams have all opted to stay and progress their journey in football at the club. On the sidelines I would like to welcome Aaron Woodley & Graham Sloper who join the club as Assistant Manager & Goalkeeping coach to Millsy, the experience they bring to the team will be invaluable and will show throughout the season.

Thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the club who has worked so hard over the summer in preparation for the new season. I'd also like to thank our supporters and in particular the ones who have taken the time to volunteer and contact us in relation on how we can take the club forward. I'm sure tonight's game against Kidlington Res will be a tough and challenging encounter so get behind the team and together deliver the three points. Please remember my email is always open and welcome positive and any negative experiences you have during the game aufcmatchday@outlook.com

BW Stefan Cairn General Manager



CLUB OFFICIALS

Position	Name
Chairman	Alan Midwinter
Vice Chairman	Mark Cunningham
General Manager	Stefan Caira
Finance Officer	Sarah Crawley
Treasurer	Robin Yuill
Commercial Manager	Chris Lewis
Communications Officer	Mark Reynolds
Head of Media	Harry Burton
Club Welfare Officer	Chris Cole
Football Secretary (Mens)	Alistair MacDonald
Football Secretary (Ladies)	Abbie Smith
Head of Football Development	Adam French
First Team Player/Manager	John Mills
First Team Player/Assistant Manager	Aaron Woodley
First Team Goalkeeper Coach	Graham Sloper
Physio	Callum Warne
Development Management Team	Jack White & Ollie Tilling
Abingdon United Vets Team Manager	Adam French
Abingdon United Ladies Management Team	Danial Knight & Declan O'Hanlon
Abingdon United Ladies Development Team	Jon Ward & Paul Biddle
Abingdon United Under 18's Management Team	Mark Reynolds & James Booker
Abingdon United Under 13's Team Manager	Adam French
Abingdon United Under 11's Team Manager	Steve French
Abingdon United Under 9's Team Manager	Lewis Andrews
Kit Manager	John Blackmore
Grounds Team	John Blackmore & Jennings Pitch Maintenance
Grounds Caretaker	Alex Armstrong
Bar & Functions Manageress	Kate Fegan



TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Clanfield 85	3	3	0	0	12	9
2	F C Stratford	3	3	0	0	7	9
3	Devizes Town	2	2	0	0	7	6
4	Sporting Club Inkberrow	3	2	0	1	5	6
5	Tytherington Rocks	3	2	0	1	3	6
6	Southam United	3	2	0	1	0	6
7	Shortwood United	3	1	1	1	2	4
8	Malmesbury Victoria	2	1	1	0	2	4
9	Calne Town	3	1	1	1	1	4
10	Hartpury University	3	1	1	1	0	4
11	Newent Town	3	1	1	1	-1	4
12	FC Bristol	3	1	1	1	-2	4
13	Abingdon United	2	1	0	1	-1	3
14	Moreton Rangers	3	1	0	2	-5	3
15	Stonehouse Town	3	0	1	2	-3	1
16	Chipping Sodbury Town	3	0	1	2	-9	1
17	Kidlington Res	2	0	0	2	-2	0
18	Long Crendon	2	0	0	2	-7	0
19	Cheltenham Saracens	3	0	0	3	-9	0



STATS

Abingdon United Player Stats 2023-24

Name	Apps	Goals	Assists	Clean Sheets (GK)
Harry Ackland	1	0	0	
Ben Barrett	2	0	0	
Fin Bates	1	0	0	
Eddie Cavanagh	2	0	0	0
Ollie Creed	2	0	0	
Lewis Dix	2	0	0	
Macauley Dodson	2	0	0	
Casey Highmoor	1	0	0	
Kyreece Martei	1	0	0	
John Mills	2	0	0	
Zach Morey	2	0	1	
Mani Roper	2	0	1	
Harry Sampford	2	0	0	
Ash Taylor	2	0	0	
James Williams	2	2	0	
Aaron Woodley	1	0	0	



SQUADS

Abingdon United



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Eddie Cavanagh (VC) | 12. Nadeem Shah |
| 2. Lewis Dix | 14. James Williams |
| 3. Ollie Creed | 15. Dan Chalmers |
| 4. Harry Sampford (C) | 16. Ellis Walker |
| 5. Ash Taylor | 17. Fin Bates |
| 6. Macauley Dodson | 18. Zach Morey |
| 7. Aaron Woodley | 19. John Mills |
| 8. Ben Barrett | 20. Kyreece Martei |

Colours

Shirts- Yellow

Shorts- Blue

Socks- Blue

Keeper- Black

Manager- John Mills

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Referee
Mawgan
Andrew

Assistant
Referee
Ryan Stubbs

Assistant
Referee
Michael
George

FC Stratford



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Callum Monaghan (GK) | 12. Gov Hayer |
| 2. Cian Hodson | 13. Louis Bereford (GK) |
| 3. Sacha Everard | 14. Hany Cook |
| 4. Ben Cook | 15. Nick Cox |
| 5. James Kilroy | 16. Kyle Porter |
| 6. Josh Kilbride | 17. James Pomeroy |
| 7. Ollie Taylor | 18. Dan Chaundy |
| 8. Tom Traverse | 19. Jude Hill |
| 9. Joe Sykes | 20. Robbie Sone |
| 10. Dan Atkins | 21. Reece Newe |

Colours:

Shirts- Navy & Orange

Shorts- Navy

Socks- Navy

Keeper- Green

Manager- Jon Hill



ABINGDON UNITED CLUB HISTORY

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, as there were no club facilities. They joined the North Berks League and within two seasons had won its Charity Shield. The following year 1953/54 they won the league and cup finalists. The club had its sights on higher things and five years later entered the Hellenic League. Since then it has remained in this league and during this time had success in the lower divisions. In 1965/66 they won the Division One Challenge Cup and the following season were the cup finalists.

No further honours came the club's way until winning promotion in 1976/77 to the Premier Division. After a struggle at this level, relegation back to Division One came after four seasons. With a more ambitious approach, the club bounced back into the Premier League where it has remained ever since. It also won the Division One Cup in the same promotion year. Senior status was achieved in 1985 allowing it to be eligible for the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 entered the F.A. Cup for the first time. A Members Room, Function Room, Covered Stand and Floodlighting have been completed in recent years to improve the off pitch facilities. 1996/97 has seen the club complete its 50th season and it's most successful. United won the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy and also winning the League's Floodlit Cup.

The highest ever league position was attained when finishing as Runners Up in the Hellenic Premier Division. The following season again saw success come to Northcourt Road with retaining the County Senior Trophy, Hellenic League Reserve Championship and Allied Counties Youth League winners. 2001 saw the construction of new changing rooms, together with turnstiles, to the Northcourt Road Ground and 2005 saw the construction of a new 150-seater stand and a covered stand. The club clinched promotion to the Southern League in season 2005/06. The club returned to the Hellenic League in 2013/14. United gained runners-up in Division 1 in season 2016/17 to clinch promotion back to the Hellenic Premier League. The 2017/18 saw the young Development team clinch runners up in the Hellenic Div 2 and also winning the League Challenge cup. The 2017/18 season also saw the introduction of United's first women's team who obtained League promotion in its first season together with the County Cup and League Cup. Season 2018/19 saw the women team progress into the Southern Region League, while the First Team were dropped down to the Hellenic Division 1.



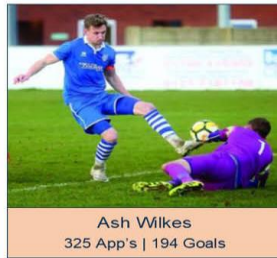
Club History

FC Stratford - originally known as Stratford Town A, joined the Midland Combination League ahead of the 2009/10 season.

A strong first season in Division Three led to a fifth-placed finish out of sixteen sides. FC also just missed out on a Challenge Urn final spot following an agonising 6:5 defeat to Blackwood over two legs.

FC would however suffer second season syndrome in 2010/11, finishing a lowly tenth out of fourteen sides.

Despite a poor league season, FC were to go one better in the Challenge Urn by reaching the Final against Aston at Pilkington XXX. An even final finishing 2:2 was decided by penalties. FC secured the Challenge Urn with a 4-1 penalty shoot-out victory.



Ash Wilkes
325 App's | 194 Goals

At the end of the 2010/11 season, Division Three of the Midland Combination was disbanded and sides were placed into Division Two.

Stratford Town A also changed their name to FC Stratford.

Over the next couple of seasons, FC achieved mid-table finishes in Division Two.



However, the 2013/14 season proved a real challenge for FC. Manager Pete Stephens struggled to field a side most weeks culminating in the club finishing fourteenth in the sixteen side league.

During the Summer of 2014, the Midland Combination joined forces with the Midland Alliance to form the Midland Football League (MFL). FC remained in the lowest division, Division Three.

The 2014/15 season proved to be much like the previous one. Each week continued to be a struggle and FC finished twelfth of fifteen teams.

However, the following season saw the tide begin to turn for FC. A strong start saw the club become one of the favourites for promotion. Unfortunately a mid-season blip saw FC lose touch but nevertheless, FC finished a well-placed fourth.

In the cup competitions, FC were to experience semi-final heartache twice: a 2:0 defeat in

the Coventry Evening Telegraph Cup against Woodlands WMC, and a 3:0 defeat in the Smedley Crooke Memorial Charity Cup against Chelmsley Town.

Overall, the season had seen FC make really good progress and had certainly been their best so far.

The 2016/17 season saw Pete Stephens move 'upstairs' with the appointment of former Alcester Town Manager, Dave Poulson as boss.

With Division Three now containing some strong teams, FC had their work cut out to match their previous season. After a good start, FC finished sixth out of fourteen teams.



Dave Poulson

FC did enjoy another good cup run though, this time reaching the Les James Challenge Cup Final at Walsall's Bescot Stadium, following a semi-final penalty shoot-out victory over local rivals Redditch Borough. Unfortunately, FC were swiftly removed from the competition after inadvertently fielding a cup-tied player.

Dave Poulson's new signings helped FC get the 2017/18 season off to a flyer. Despite a dip in form, FC finished third in a tough league won by GNP Sports.



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Nadeem Shah



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Lewis Dix



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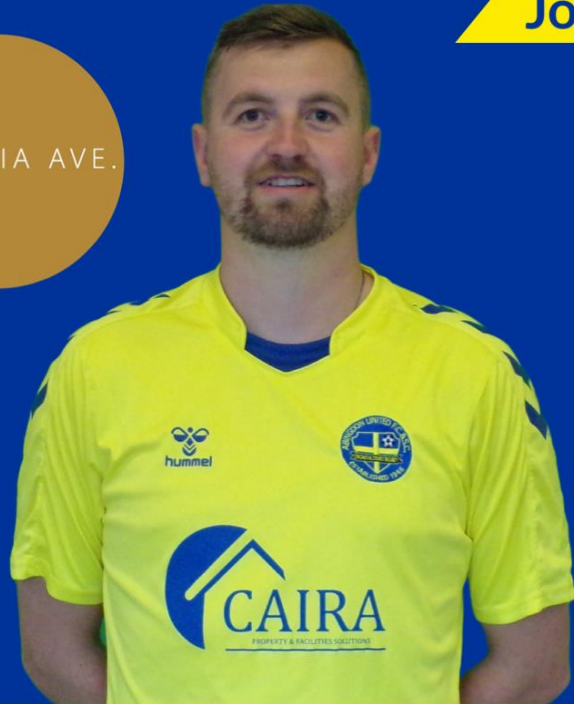
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