



Marsh Challenge
Cup
09/09/23
3pm
The Northcourt



Abingdon United Vs FC Stratford



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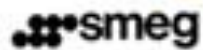
#WeAreAbingdon @Abutdfc





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Good afternoon and I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has come along this evening 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**



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	Malmesbury Victoria	9	8	1	0	19	25
2	Clanfield 85	8	6	1	1	19	19
3	Shortwood United	9	5	2	2	12	17
4	FC Bristol	10	5	1	4	-1	16
5	Southam United	7	5	0	2	5	15
6	Devizes Town	9	5	0	4	4	15
7	F C Stratford	5	4	1	0	8	13
8	Abingdon United	8	4	0	4	0	12
9	Sporting Club Inkberrow	7	3	2	2	8	11
10	Stonehouse Town	8	3	2	3	-2	11
11	Hartpury University	5	3	1	1	10	10
12	Tytherington Rocks	8	3	1	4	1	10
13	Calne Town	8	3	1	4	-1	10
14	Long Crendon	8	3	1	4	-4	10
15	Kidlington Res	8	2	1	5	-8	7
16	Newent Town	8	2	1	5	-11	7
17	Cheltenham Saracens	9	1	1	7	-15	4
18	Moreton Rangers	8	1	0	7	-20	3
19	Chipping Sodbury Town	8	0	1	7	-24	1



STATS

Abingdon United Player Stats 2023-24				
Name	2023/24 Appearances	2023/24 Goals	2023/24 Assists	2023/24 Clean Sheets (GK)
Harry Ackland	1	0	0	
Ben Barrett	7	0	2	
Fin Bates	2	0	0	
Eddie Cavanagh	7	0	0	1
Dan Chalmers	4	0	0	
Dylan Conlan	2	0	1	
Ollie Creed	7	0	0	
Lewis Dix	6	0	0	
Macauley Dodson	7	0	0	
Casey Highmoor	6	0	0	
Kyreece Martei	5	0	0	
John Mills	7	3	1	
Zach Morey	5	0	1	
Alfie Presley	3	2	1	
Mani Roper	7	3	3	
Harry Sampford	5	1	1	
Ash Taylor	7	1	0	
Ellis Walker	3	0	0	
James Williams	5	2	1	
Aaron Woodley	2	0	0	



SQUADS

Abingdon United



1. Eddie Cavanagh (VC)
2. Lewis Dix
3. Ollie Creed
4. Harry Sampford (C)
5. Ash Taylor
6. Macauley Dodson
7. Aaron Woodley
8. Ben Barrett
9. Harry Ackland
10. Casey Highmoor
11. Mani Roper
12. Nadeem Shah
14. James Williams
15. Dan Chalmers
16. Ellis Walker
17. Fin Bates
18. Zach Morey
19. John Mills
20. Kyreece Martei
21. Dylan Conlan
23. Alfie Presley

Colours

Shirts- Yellow

Shorts- Blue

Socks- Blue

Keeper- Black

Manager- John Mills

Referee
Robert Herrett

Assistant
Referee
Harjit Samra

Assistant
Referee
Matthew
Topp

FC Stratford



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

Colours:

Shirts- Navy & Orange

Shorts- Navy

Socks- Navy

Keeper- Green

Manager- Jon Hill

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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.



FC STRATFORD CLUB HISTORY



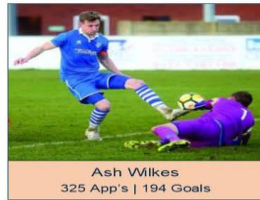
Club History

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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Ellis Walker



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Nadeem Shah



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Dan Chalmers



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Lewis Dix



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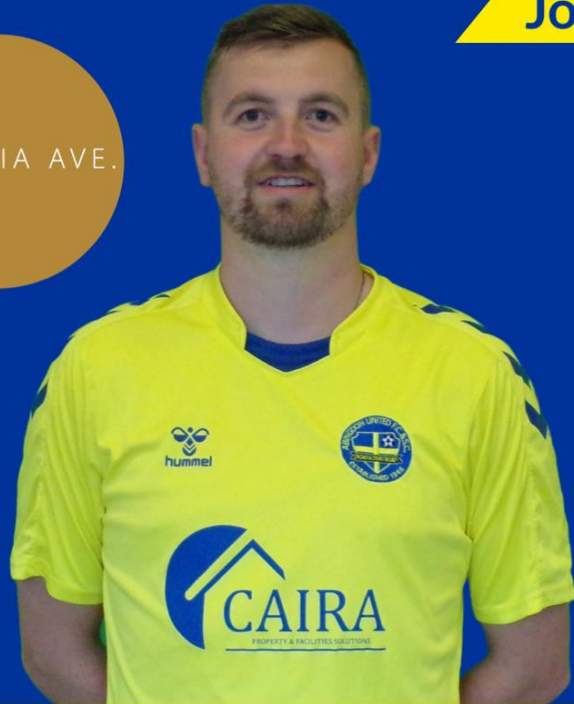




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