



SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Premier Division
Sat 09 December 2023 15:00
London Lions-v-Tring Athletic

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WELCOME

A warm welcome to you all to our fabulous home here at the Alpha Stadium – we’re all so very proud of the incredible development of the facility here over recent years and, over the summer, that investment continued; the installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system will, we trust, ensure our playing surface remains as good as any outside of the professional game.

And we believe we now have a first team squad capable of doing our home justice, a young group that is beginning to show the fruits of the labours that so many have put into our youth set up that now boasts in excess of 50 teams.

Competing in the Spartan League carries many challenges, and we’re learning how tough it is to maintain consistency in terms of selection and performance over a season that is likely to span approaching 60 matches. But it’s a challenge we are relishing and one we believe we are up to. Last season we started slowly, but once into our groove climbed the table to ensure the top 6 finish that grants clubs at our level the prized reward of an FA Cup place.

Once again it was in the cups that we really excelled, retaining the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy with an Adam Bolle inspired 5-1 win over Belstone before narrowly failing to retain our Divisional SSML cup with a defeat in the final.

We are also incredibly proud that our club supplied approaching 75% of those that represented Team GB on the pitch and as management in the European and Pan-American Maccabi Games in the summer. Led by our own Andy Landesberg, our Open Age side stormed to the gold

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Andrew Landesberg

1st Team Manager

Andy Landesberg

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medal in Budapest, scoring 27 and conceding just 2 on their way to beating a strong French team in the final. That winning mentality is one we hope the boys will bring back to their league football.

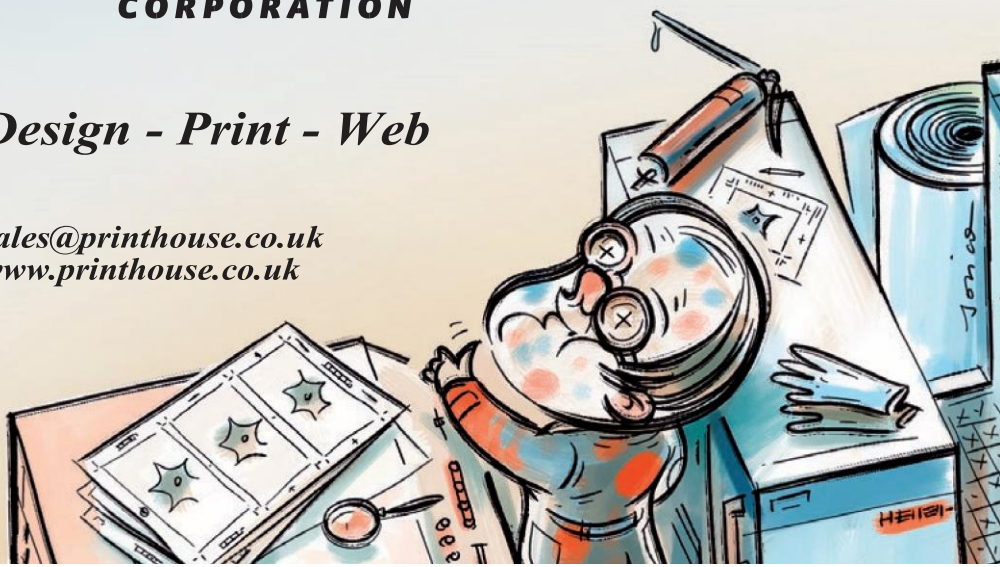
We are though much more than just a first team. Our juniors go from strength to strength, with our U-18's taking on a new challenge as they step out of local Sunday football and into a midweek floodlight league. Our men's section will look to compete at the top end of their divisions while our double winning Masters side continue to show there's plenty of life in some old dogs yet! All goes to show we are a club that looks to inspire itself to greater things at every level, from under 6 to over 55.

On the pitch we hope our play is of the quality to which we aspire, with a competitive spirit and sportsmanship the values that are fundamental to all our sides. Off the pitch we hope we equally do things the right way and strive to be, if nothing else, good hosts!

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So all that's left is to say is enjoy the game and come join us in the clubhouse for a cup of tea at half and full time! May the best team win.

David Kyte

OUR HISTORY

In the summer of 1995, the players and officials of Maccabi Association London (MAL) decided that they had reached the limits of Sunday football and that a new challenge was required. The Hertfordshire Senior County League was a popular choice and the club made its debut in the 95/96 season under a new name of MALEX.

Four years later the club had made many friends but had narrowly missed out on promotion from Division 1 in each season. During the summer of 1999, the club revised its management structure, and decided to change its name to LONDON MACCABI LIONS, whilst retaining its all-Jewish status.

Under the management team of Bobby Fisher and Adam Solomons the 1st team lost only three league games that season as they won the Division 1 and reached the semi-finals of the Aubrey Cup. The club grew into one of the strongest teams in the Premier League but had to wait to land its first major honour in 2007 when Lions beat Metropolitan Police to lift the Herts Centenary Trophy. This was supplemented by the Reserves who were also promoted as champions, in 2002, and made it to three Herts Reserve Cup finals, winning one in 09/10.

After a decade in the Herts Premier, in 2009/10 now under the stewardship of Tony Gold and Steve Grenfell, Lions won the Herts Senior County League for the first time in the club's history, winning promotion to the Spartan South Midlands League in the process. The following season – the club's first in the South Midlands Division One – they added a second Herts Centenary Trophy beating Letchworth Garden City Eagles 3-2 in the final. Lions were able to go on better in 2012/13, winning the South Midlands Division One title and promotion to the heights of the South Midlands Premier Division. The club also made their debut in the FA Cup, winning 4-0 against Clapton.

Now just one league away from semi-professional football, it was a tall order for a team missing a number of players who had departed following promotion, and so 2013/14 saw Lions suffer their first ever relegation at the end of a difficult season. Having steadied the ship, the club decided to return to the Herts Senior County League for 2015/16 in order to rebuild.

Seeking to promote a new generation under manager Andy Landesberg, there was immediate reward by winning the Anagram Records Trophy at the end of their first season, with most of the starting XI having come through the club's massive youth set up. We then achieved an unprecedented treble in winning the league, Centenary Trophy and, for the first time, the Aubrey Cup.

The club was welcomed back to Spartan South Midlands League where we have won further honours in the shape of the Division One Cup (2018), Herts Centenary Trophy (2019) and Spring Cup (2021) while threatening to get promotion to the Premier Division before Covid struck.

The club was reassigned to the Combined Counties League Division One in the summer of 2021 and we are again targeting promotion to the next step, as well as representing our community with pride.

Spartan South Midlands League Division One

Winners 2012/13

Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup

Winners 2017/18

Runners-Up 2018/19

Spartan South Midlands League Spring Cup

Winners 2020/21

Anagram Records Trophy (Capital Counties Trophy)

Winners 2015/16

Herts FA Senior Centenary Trophy

Winners 2006/07, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2018/19

Runners-Up 2017/18

Herts Senior County League Premier Division

Winners 2009/10, 2016/17

Runners-Up 2008/09

Herts Senior County League Division One

Winners 1999/00

Aubrey Cup

Winners 2016/17

Spartan South Midlands League Reserve Challenge Trophy

Runners-Up 2010/11

Herts Senior County League Reserve Division One

Runners-Up 2004/05

Herts Senior County League Reserve Division Two

Winners 2001/02

Club Records

Record Win: 14-2 v Bedmond (2010/11, Herts County Premier Div.)

Record Defeat: 1-11 v Cockfosters (2013/14, South Midlands Prem. Div.)

Most Appearances in Career: Adam Myeroff (507)

Most Goals in Career: Adam Stoleran (134)

Most Goals in a Season: 46, James Gershfield 2017/17

Most Goals in a Game: 6, Adam Bolle v Broadfields United (W 6-3), SSMFL Div 1, 2017/18

Best Performance in FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round, 2013/14 2015/16

Combined Counties Football League 21/22

21/22 – Division One Winners

**Austin Lipman – top goal scorer 21/22
CCFL Division One**

Club of the Year 21/22 CCFL

**Combined Counties Football League
22/23 Premier Division North**

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CLUB HISTORY

THE EARLY YEARS

Tring Athletic Youth FC was formed in March 1958 by a group of local men who contributed towards the purchase of 3.4 acres at Miswell Lane. The cost of providing changing rooms, fencing, equipment and ownership of the ground was approximately £2,000, a lot of money in those days. Committee members, players and friends carried out most of the work, including the building of the changing rooms and during the early days the team had to play on another pitch in Tring. Originally the Club was formed to provide football for youngsters aged under 21 and despite playing against adult teams we won many trophies in the West Herts Saturday League during the early 1960's including the Division 1 title 3 times in 5 years.

THE 70's/80's

We then went through a lean spell and in 1971 decided to scrap the upper age limit and drop youth from our name. Many former players returned and we had another successful period during the early 1970's. Over the years many fine players appeared in our shirts and many went on to play for professional/senior clubs.

In the mid-seventies the Miswell Lane ground was sold to the Council and we had a bad time and but for the efforts of a few loyal members would have certainly folded. The Reserves were disbanded and the First Team dropped down to Division 3. We decided to turn to youth again and gradually forced our way back up through the league and by 1986 we were competing in the Premier Division and running a Reserve side again.

SOUTH MIDLANDS - THE 90's

In 1988 we joined the South Midlands and as a result gained senior status with the Herts FA. In 1989 we entered into a 3 year ground sharing arrangement with Isthmian League side Tring Town moving back to Miswell Lane in 1992 where the Reserves had continued to play. We established ourselves in the South Midlands by gaining promotion to the newly formed Senior Division in 1993. In 1994/95 the First Team reached the final of the Senior Division Cup whilst the Reserves were finalists in the Apsley Junior Cup for the second year running. In 1996/97 we led the Senior Division throughout the season and looked favourites to win the title. However, some unlucky defeats in the last few games saw us drop down to 3rd place. In addition to our impressive league form we also had some terrific cup runs during that season. In 1997/98 we just missed out on the Senior Division title by the narrowest of margins to New Bradwell St Peter - a goal difference of just 2! We finished the season in fine style, suffering just 1 defeat in our last 21 league games. The Reserves went one better by winning their league by a clear 10 points and in doing so achieved 100% success in their league games at home. In 1998/99 we picked up our first major South Midlands trophy when we won the Senior Division Cup. We also won the St Marys Cup for the 2nd time in 3 years. In the league a terrific run of just 1 defeat in our last 28 games saw us finish in 3rd place. During this magnificent run we went 15 hours without conceding a goal. The 1999/2000 season proved to be one to remember. During the summer we spent over £50k on building new changing rooms and extending the social and bar area. To mark the opening of the new changing rooms we played a Watford XI in front of a huge crowd of about 1,000 people. The game was refereed by Graham Poll and Graham Barber. The season turned out to be the most

successful in the Club's history. In addition to winning the Senior Division title by 11 points we also reached 5 finals. We won the Herts Charity Shield, Herts Senior Centenary Trophy and the Cherry Red Books Trophy in its inaugural year. We were narrowly beaten 1-0 by Letchworth in the Senior Division Cup. Our achievements were recognised by the South Midlands who awarded us the Houghton Regis Cup for achievements in outside competitions and Mick Eldridge, Ray Brimson and Richard Vincent were voted Managers of the Season. In 60 games in all competitions we lost on only 6 occasions.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

After finishing the old millennium in style we continued our success into the new one (2000/01) by retaining the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy and the Cherry Red Books Trophy. The Reserves won the League title and a newly formed B Team claimed the runners-up spot. The following season (2001/02) we won the Herts Charity Shield for the 2nd time.

SEASON 2002/03 - More success followed as we capture the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy for the 3rd time, to become the first club to do so. We finished 3rd in the table and won the League Cup for the 2nd time, to make 12 major trophies in 7 years. We were also finalists in the Cherry Red Books Trophy. The A Team finished runners up as did the Under 16's in their first season, the B Team won the sporting award for the 2nd year running and the Ladies had a great run in the Women's FA Cup. For the 3rd year running Darrel Bodimeade won an award for the best playing surface, which is just reward for the tremendous job he continues to do for the club.

SEASON 2003/04 - Following our failure to secure floodlights at Miswell Lane we entered into an historic

alliance with Tring Town to play our first and reserve team football in season 2004/05 at Pendley where lights were already in place. The main focus was to be to raise the funds needed to build a new Clubhouse, the previous building burnt down in March 2003.

SEASON 2004/05 - New season at a new ground in a new division with fantastic facilities. First team finished 6th in the Premier Division and also won the St Mary's Cup for the 3rd time defeating Hemel Hempstead in the Final. We were also Runners Up in the South Midlands Floodlit Cup Final losing on penalties to Oxhey Jets. Played in the F A Vase for the first time.

SEASON 2005/6 - The Club entered the F A Cup for the 1st time in its history but was defeated in the prelim round. In a disappointing season the highlight was a victory over Watford in the Herts Senior Trophy with a large crowd enjoying a 1-0 win. Defeat in this competition came at the hands of Stevenage Borough of the Conference league.

SEASON 2007/8 - Winners of Herts Charity Shield - We defeated Weylwn Garden City in the final of this County Cup to win the trophy for the 3rd time in our history. This was the first trophy for the new management team of Manager, Phil Casserley, Assistant, Terry Nightingale and Coach Julian Robinson.

SEASON 2008/9 - Treble Winners - SSMFL Challenge Trophy Winners - Athletic defeated Chalfont St Peter at Harefield United's ground to lift this trophy in their first appearance in the final of this competition. SSMFL Premier Division Cup Winners - Athletic defeated St Margaretsbury to lift this trophy in their first appearance in the final. St Marys Cup Winners - Athletic defeated Leverstock Green to lift this trophy for the 4th time.

SEASON 2009/10 - The First Team finished without a trophy however they finished third in the league, the highest position in the Club's history.

SEASON 2010/11 - The First team finished in the highest position, runners up to Chalfont St Peter in the SSMFL Premier Division. They also won the St. Mary's Cup for the fifth time, defeating Leverstock Green 2-1 after extra time. The season finished with a 2-0 defeat to Royston Town in the South Midland Floodlight Cup Final.

SEASON 2011/12 - Julian Robinson and Tony Armitage took charge in the summer of 2011 knowing that many of last year's successful First Team had departed. A great rebuilding job was undertaken with a very credible 6th position achieved in the league and defeats by the odd goal in 3 cup semi finals.

SEASON 2012/13 - Mixed season with the 1st team winning their initial FA Cup tie at Bedford and then losing in the next round to Ashford Town after a replay. In the League we finished just below half way, lost on penalties to Hadley in the semi final of the Premier Division Cup and were finalists in the St Mary's Cup losing to local rivals Berkhamsted. Midway through the season Tony Armitage left and Ian Richardson stepped up from the Reserves to assist Julian Robinson. Long serving, Stuart Stedman, was appointed coach to assist Colin Phillips with the Reserves who again had an excellent year bringing many players through to the First team.

SEASON 2015/16 - The First Team won the St Mary's Cup for the 5th time defeating Sun Sports and finished mid-table in the SSMFL Premier Division. The Reserves did the

"double by winning the Suburban Football League North Division and also the Challenge Plate Competition.

SEASO 2016/17: First team won the St Mary's Cup, were finalists in the Herts Charity Shield, 5th position SSMFL Premier Division and reached the 4th round of the F A Vase. Reserves were finalists in the Suburban Football League Challenge Trophy.

SEASON 2017/18: The First Team reached the last 16 of the F A Vase for the first time losing unluckily to Melksham Town in front of a crowd of 1,236.

The "A" Team set a Club record winning the West Herts Premier League and Cup double and only losing one game that being the final of the Herts Junior Cup.

SEASON 2018/19: The First Team were Runners Up in SSMFL Premier Division, equalling our best ever position. The Reserves were Suburban Football League Central Division Champions and the "A" Team were Herts Junior Cup Winners and West Herts Senior Cup Finalists.

SEASON 2019/20. Massive change at the club with long serving manager Kevin Richardson standing down and 14 from the previous year's successful squad moving on to other clubs. Kevin Christou took over the reins for six months, replaced by Chris Juraszek, who had run our reserve team for several years. Chris' remit was to return the club to its traditional values of operating prudently and developing local talent, which he did. In a season truncated due to covid we finish second.

SEASON 2020/21. A season decimated due to the covid pandemic, playing in fits and starts and behind closed doors until finally the league took the decision to cancel the competition.

SEASON 2021/22. We began this season with a new management team, headed by Ryan Sturges and Lee

Groves, both former players at the Club. The covid pandemic provided us with the opportunity to complete a number of behind-the-scenes projects including installing new floodlights and re-furbishing the clubhouse. We had an understandably slow start to the season on the playing side but kicked on massively from the turn of the year. Our victory in the Premier Division Cup Final was just reward for the players and for the behind the scene group.

SEASON 2022/23. We finish ninth in the league, whilst the highlight of the season was our unprecedented run in the FA Vase competition, losing only narrowly in the fifth round to Bury AFC.

SEASON 2023/24. We have lofty ambitions of a top 5 finish and a shot at the new play off arrangements for promotion to Step 4. We shall see!

Colin Phillips returns to the club to run our U23 side and we show our commitment to you and to pathway football by fielding three U18 sides and one U16 side.

SQUAD

Eric Negraru
Lee Stobbs
Harrison Cornick
Tommy Smith
Dave O'Connor
Luke Peeless
Frankie Hercules
Harry Shepherd
Guiseppe Delgaudio
Max Hercules
Harry Jones
Greg Deer
Jamie Ovington
Harrison Mead
Jack Harvey
George Carbery



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Respect





London Lions

Jake Rinsler

Benji Weinberger

Adam Lipman

Jack Mordecai

Jake Furman

Max Kyte

Austin Lipman

Liron Mannie

Daniel Creese

Levi Levenfiche

Teddie Levenfiche

Felix Shalom

Adam Arnold

Mikey Perkins

Ben Barnett

Zak Jackson

Barr Slagter

Ezra Aaron

Nathan Bloohn

Colours
<i>Keeper: All Green</i>
<i>Shirts: White</i>
<i>Shorts: Blue</i>
<i>Socks: Blue</i>
Management
<i>Manager: Andy Landesberg</i>
<i>Manager: Darren Yarlett</i>
<i>Coach: Steve Grenfell</i>
<i>Physio: Pete Sheppard</i>

Match officials

Official 1: Nick Reece

Official 2: Noel Glavin

Official 3: Steven Pordes