

# HARPENDEN TOWN

## v TRING ATHLETIC

Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division

3pm Saturday, March 9, 2024

Match programme £1



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# GREEN & GOLD



**HARPENDEN TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Founded 1891

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# Welcome back for the final push

Last Saturday we had an unexpected 'home' game against Aylesbury Vale Dynamos at Rothamsted Park. The weather has caused havoc at Aylesbury's Greenfleets Stadium lately and they haven't been able to play a match there since the end of November. A stand was badly damaged by the storm at the start of the year and the relentless rain has led to a series of postponements.

So we were happy to agree to their request to switch the venue to avoid a fixture backlog in the final weeks of the season. The boys in green and gold put together the perfect 'away' performance to seal a 3-0 win.

This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Tring Athletic. This is our third meeting this season and we may well face each other again if we both win our St Mary's Cup semi-final ties. We travel to Oxhey Jets on Tuesday for our semi-final.

Our next match at Rothamsted Park is against Baldock Town on Non-League Day (Saturday March 23). If you have tickets for the England v Brazil friendly that evening, why not drop in at Rothamsted Park on your way to Wembley? We'll be announcing details of an offer for England-Brazil ticket holders shortly so keep an eye on our social media channels.

As we enter the final phase of the season, we are starting to look ahead to the summer and beyond and we're on the look-out for any supporters who want to help the club in a voluntary role. Take a look at page seven of today's programme for details of the roles we have available. Harpenden Town is a community club run entirely by volunteers and we'd love to add to that team to help continue our progress on and off the pitch.

**GREEN&GOLD**

## HONOURS

**Herts County League Western Division champions**

1910-11, 1911-12, 1920-21

**Herts County League champions**

1950-51, 1952-53, 1954-55

**South Midlands League champions**

1961-62, 1964-65

**South Midlands League Division One champions**

1989-90

**Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division Cup**

2017-18

**Herts Charity Shield**

1967-68

# THE GAFFER'S TEAM TALK

Our 1-1 draw on the opening night of the league season at Tring Athletic seems like a long time ago now, but here we are entering the final phase of the season, with ten league games to go and a very clear target to aim for.

We've said all season that the goal is to make the play-offs and we know it's going to take a really good run over these last ten games to do that.

We showed at Real Bedford that we can be a real threat to the best sides, even if the result that night didn't go for us. Having lost to them heavily at home I really wanted us to take the game to them and we did that. We knew they could be vulnerable because they do like to play out from the back and that's how Archie Mac [McClelland] got our goal. We could probably have had another couple because we pressed them so well.

Kyle Rahho getting sent off changed the game and I made my point to the referee afterwards that not long before that a Real Bedford player was shown only a yellow card for a tackle that was just as bad, if not worse. It changed the game for us and although I was massively disappointed not to get at least a point I was very proud of how the players responded, reset themselves and stayed in the game. It was a shame that we held out for so long as 10 against 11 and their goal came after they had a player sin-binned.

Last Saturday we had the bonus of an away game played at home but, having lost to Aylesbury Vale Dynamos here in January we were very aware of the threat they could pose. We did well not to fall into the same trap again by starting the game at the right tempo and creating chances early on. We have been playing some really good football in recent weeks but every good performance is built on getting the basics right and we approached the game in the correct manner and the boys were excellent from start to finish.

At times this season there's been a pattern of making mistakes and causing our own downfall in games. That's not just about the defenders because when we're out of possession we're all defenders. Sometimes we've been a bit naive in certain areas of the pitch and given teams easy chances, but we have stopped doing that of late and I think we've become more resolute as a team.

Of course, everyone wants to win but sometimes winning is about really fighting for the three points and fighting for a clean sheet. Forwards and wingers want to attack, but they are also our first line of defence and I've been pleased with how they've responded when we lose the ball. Steve O'Reilly and I are both big fans of the ex-Leeds manager Marcelo Bielsa and the way his teams hunt in packs to win back the ball. It takes real discipline and determination to do it well but that pressure often pays off late in games, as we saw when we got two really well-worked goals at the end.

Five of our remaining games are at home and I wanted to finish by thanking all of you for your support. I can't tell you the difference it makes when the players come out and see a good crowd of Harpenden supporters there. It gives everyone a lift so keep it up and let's see what we can do between now and the end of April.

## MICKY NATHAN



# WELCOME TO ROTHAMSTED PARK

## TRING ATHLETIC



**Manager:** Ryan Sturges

**Assistants:** Lee Groves, Ian Richardson

**Coach:** Mick Vipond

**Home kit:** Red and black **Away kit:** Yellow

### RECENT HONOURS

**Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division Cup winners** 2008-09, 2021-22

**Spartan South Midlands League Senior Division champions** 1999-00

**Spartan South Midlands League Challenge Trophy winners** 2008-09

**Herts Charity Shield winners** 1999-00, 2001-02, 2007-08

**Herts Senior Centenary Trophy winners** 1999-00, 2000-01, 2002-03

**St Mary's Cup winners** 1996-97, 1998-99, 2004-05, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2015-16, 2016-17

**T**ring Athletic Youth Football Club was formed in March 1958 as a club for youngsters aged under-21. The committee members joined together to buy land at Miswell Lane and built a clubhouse. Despite playing against adult teams, the club won several trophies, including the West Herts League Division One title three times in five years in the 1960s.

The club then went through a lean spell and in 1971 decided to scrap the upper age limit and drop the word 'Youth' from the name, meaning several former players were able to return. In the mid-1970s, Miswell Lane was sold to the council and the club went through a bad time and was saved from folding by a group of loyal members. The team dropped down to Division Three of the West Herts League and it wasn't until 1986 that they were back in the Premier Division.

In 1988, the club joined the South Midlands League and groundshared with Isthmian League club Tring Town before moving back to Miswell Lane in 1992.

Promotion to the Senior Division followed in 1993 and in 1996-97 the club led the league for much of the season until a run of defeats late on saw them drop to third. The club also won the St Mary's Cup for the first time – a trophy they have now won seven times.

In 1997-98, the club were founder members of the Spartan South Midlands League and missed out on the Senior Division title

by the narrowest of margins. New Bradwell St Peter pipped them on goal difference by just two goals.

In 1999, new changing rooms were added to Miswell Lane and the club played a friendly against Watford, watched by a crowd of more than 1,000. Tring referees Graham Poll and Graham Barber took charge of the game.

The subsequent season was the most successful in the club's history as they clinched the Senior Division title by 11 points and reached five cup finals, winning three of them – the Herts Charity Shield, the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy and the Cherry Red Books Trophy. A fourth final, the St Mary's Cup, was not played because of a fixture backlog.

Tring Athletic regularly won trophies in the early 2000s and in 2004 entered into an alliance with struggling Tring Town, moving to the current ground in Pendley, securing senior football in Tring. The first season at the new ground saw the club finish sixth in the Premier Division and win the St Mary's Cup against Hemel Hempstead Town.

The club has enjoyed extended runs in the FA Vase in recent years, reaching the fourth round in 2016-17 and the fifth round twice – first in 2017-18 (losing to Melksham Town), then last season when they lost at home to Bury AFC.

Tring's most recent trophy victory was the 2021-22 Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division Cup.

# Tring Athletic The past 10 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position
2013-14	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	10th / 22
2014-15	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	10th / 22
2015-16	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	12th / 22
2016-17	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	5th / 22
2017-18	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	17th / 21
2018-19	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	2nd / 20
2019-20	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	– abandoned
2020-21	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	– abandoned
2021-22	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	13th / 20
2022-23	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	9th / 20

Source: Football Club History Database [fchd.info](http://fchd.info)



Photo by Freddie Clark

## STRONG DISPLAYS ON THE ROAD

Harpenden Town are fourth in the form table over the past ten league games with only one defeat since the end of January – at leaders Real Bedford.

Archie McClelland (above) got Harpenden off to a flying start with a goal inside the first six minutes and the visitors could have added a second and even a third as they put the Bedford defence under pressure when they tried to play out from the back.

The game turned on two first-half fouls. A Bedford player was lucky to be shown only a yellow card for a late, high challenge on Jake Anthony. Ten minutes later, Kyle Rahho was not so fortunate. While it was a late attempt to win the ball, contact was minimal, if any, but

the referee showed a straight red card.

Bedford equalised more or less on the stroke of half-time and although the second half was one-way traffic, Harpenden nearly held on for a draw. Despite the 2-1 defeat it was a very committed team performance which merited a point.

That was the third in a trilogy of good away performances. Sawbridgeworth Town, who are rock bottom, could have been a banana skin but a very thorough display earned a 3-1 win. Then the trip to Cockfosters – who have been a bogey side of late – saw another determined display based on a strong defence and disciplined work throughout the team. McClelland won a second half penalty and stepped up to score to clinch a 2-1 victory.

# QUESTION TIME

## LEWIS WILLIAMS

**Age:** 19

**Favourite playing position and shirt number** Left-back and number 20

**Where are you from?** Luton

**Previous clubs**

Royston Town, Barton Rovers, Histon

**Harpenden Town debut** Stansted away earlier this season. The match was abandoned at half-time because of a waterlogged pitch

**What did you sing for your initiation at Harpenden Town?**

Man in the Mirror by Michael Jackson

**What's your earliest football memory?**

It would be back when Luton were in the Conference. I can't remember the game

**First football shirt you owned**

A Fernando Torres Liverpool shirt – what a player

**Who do you support now?** Luton Town



**What's the biggest match you've played in?** Hemel Hempstead Town away in the FA Cup (with Royston Town)

**What's the best thing about Harpenden?** The people at the club are top

**What do you do for a living?** Sports coaching, as well as going to university

**What are the best and worst things about step five football?**  
Best – the banter. Worst – the pitches, except our gaff

**Favourite ground you've played at** Tamworth – the fans were good fun

**Best game you've ever attended**

Luton v Coventry in the play-off final at Wembley – class

**After football, what other sport are you best at?**  
Tennis or golf

**What's your personal goal for the 2023-24 season?**

A goal would be nice

**Can supporters follow you on social media?**

Twitter / X @lewiswilliams\_3  
Instagram @lewisrw\_



**GREEN & GOLD**

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# ***VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO JOIN OUR TEAM***

Harpenden Town is run by a friendly, enthusiastic and hard-working group of volunteers. We are looking to add to the team and there are a number of volunteer roles we'd like to fill in time for the 2024-25 season. It's been a year of great progress on and off the pitch. Could you help us get to the next level?

## **Clubhouse manager**

Could you manage and run our clubhouse facility and bar at Rothamsted Park?

- Keep the bar well stocked – liaise with suppliers, order stock and source stock from cash and carry
- Maintain EPOS and card payment system
- Organise bar staff to cover all matchdays

## **Matchday announcers**

We are looking for someone to take the microphone on home matchdays at Rothamsted Park.

- Deliver welcome messages and promote club news and events
- Announce team line-ups pre-match
- Run PA system for 30 minutes before the match, at half-time and after the final whistle

## **Matchday gateperson**

We need someone to work on the gate on matchdays, selling entry and admitting supporters.

- Collect entry fees by cash and card
- Sell matchday programme
- Welcome visiting team and match officials
- Two hours required on matchdays

## **Kit manager (men's first team)**

Could you be our kit manager?

- Maintain and launder men's first team kit
- Prepare and lay out kit for home and away matchdays
- Manage and maintain other football equipment



**Join the team at  
Harpenden Town FC**

## **Media team**

We are looking to add to our existing media team for the 2024-25 season. There are a number of roles available helping to give Harpenden Town first-class coverage.

- Matchday programme
- Website, [harpentownfc.com](http://harpentownfc.com)
- Social media
- Help to deliver value for club sponsors

## **Rewards**

- Join a friendly, enthusiastic, developing club
- Free entry to all home games
- A Harpenden Town FC hoodie or T-shirt
- Join the club's social scene

## **To apply**

Go to our website [Harpentownfc.com](http://Harpentownfc.com) for more details and to apply by email



Photo by Freddie Clark

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

With one finger pointing to the sky, the goal celebration is the same – even though the photographs were taken more than three decades apart. On the right is Archie McClelland celebrating his early opening goal at Real Bedford last month. On the left is his Dad, Steve McClelland, who was top scorer for the last Harpenden Town team to win a divisional title.

That was back in 1989-90, when Harps won the championship title to return to the South Midlands League Premier Division after several seasons struggling in Division One. The club had won the Premier Division title twice in the 1960s, but were relegated in the early 1980s and by the end of the decade were bumping along at the bottom of the league.

The previous campaign, 1988-89, had been the lowest point in the club's decline and one of the worst in their history. They had failed to win a league game until late January and ended the season with just four victories as they finished rock bottom. Manager John Sharman resigned in early 1989 and captain Kelvin Gregory took over as caretaker boss while Harps looked for a successor. In April it was announced that Alan King and Lee

Edwards would be joining from Sandridge Rovers in the summer and after Harpenden lost their final game of the 1988-89 season to fellow strugglers Stony Stratford, King said: 'The whole aim of next season will be to win the Division One title.'

Given Harpenden had finished in the bottom three in each of the previous three seasons – and had just been described by the *Herts Advertiser* as 'no hopers' – it was a bold claim.

But King and Edwards overhauled the squad and made an immediate impact. They opened the season with a 1-0 win over Stony Stratford, then followed that up with a 5-0 victory against Cranfield United.

One of the goalscorers against Cranfield was Steve McClelland, who had just joined the club from Markyate.

Steve takes up the story. 'I'd played a lot of my football in the Luton League with village clubs like Studham and Flamstead and I'd been playing at Markyate and scored a lot of goals. Tony Gumigan went from Markyate to be Harpenden's reserve manager and I went over to watch them train one night. They were doing five-a-side games and they were short of a player for one of the teams so I



joined in and they asked me to play for the reserves on the Saturday.

‘I scored a couple of goals in my first game for the reserves so they put me in the first team and I never looked back.’

After a strong start, Harpenden were front-runners almost all season and were well clear having lost only one game as winter turned to spring. But a lean spell in March saw them drop points and Wingate closed the gap, emerging as genuine title contenders.

McClelland scored twice in a 7-0 win at Sandy to get Harpenden back on track. The manager, King, told the local press after that game: ‘After all the problems of the previous month, where we have been diabolical at times, this was a sensational return to form. We could have had ten.’

Just before Easter, Harpenden beat Tring Athletic 3-0 while Wingate lost. It left Harps five points clear but Wingate still had three games in hand. They faced a punishing schedule of three matches in four days over the Easter weekend while Harpenden had the diversion of an O’Brien Butchers Cup semi-final to take their minds off the title race.

Harpenden secured promotion by beating Bedford United 3-0, which set up a final-day championship decider against Wingate at Rothamsted Park. Wingate had dropped points over Easter but went into the final game only a point behind, meaning they could take the trophy with a win, while Harpenden knew a draw would be enough to get their hands on the silverware.

Wingate took the lead in the first half, then



● Line-up — Harpenden Town players pictured before Saturday's game.

McClelland equalised only for Wingate to go back in front in the second half. On a roasting hot early May afternoon, temperatures were rising on the pitch and Harpenden were reduced to ten men after one foul challenge too many.

But that galvanised the Harps and Mark Vidgen equalised before adding a winner with 13 minutes to go to crown the home side champions.

Veteran Town player and former caretaker manager Kelvin Gregory said: ‘When we were 2-1 down with ten men it was going to be an uphill struggle. But it showed the character of the players to come back and win the match and the league.’

‘Lee and Alan promised they’d win the league when they arrived at Harps and they’ve actually come up with the results.’

‘Our record speaks for itself. Before the Wingate game, in 27 league matches we’d only conceded 14 goals.’

A few days after the title decider, Harps completed the league and cup double with a 2-1 win over Caddington in the O’Brien Butchers Trophy thanks to goals from Vidgen and McClelland.

Steve finished the season as top scorer, but he’s not sure how many he got. ‘You’re testing my memory now,’ he says. ‘It was in the twenties, I know that.’

His Mum kept a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings and his league and cup medals are at home somewhere, ‘probably in the loft’ he says. Now his son Archie is scoring goals for Harpenden it’s tempting to say ‘like father, like son’, although Steve is reluctant to make comparisons beyond the goal celebration style.



● Steve McClelland, scoring Harpenden's second goal.

REVIEW — Thursday, October 5, 1989 - 25

# WE'RE GOING UP!

HARPENDEN clinched promotion to the Key Consultants South Midlands Division One with a great display against Bedford.

And now Town only need a draw with nearest rivals Wingate at Rothamsted Park on Saturday to clinch the title.

Joint manager Lee Edwards was justifiably delighted that he and Alan King had taken Harps back to the top flight in their first season at the helm.

And Edwards paid tribute to the players who overcame a sticky spell to produce two months of almost non-stop victories to lift Harps back to the top of the table.

"This season has been hard work and the players

## Harpenden 3 Bedford 0

have responded very well," said Edwards.

"They were absolutely brilliant on Saturday. It was the best we have played for six weeks.

"The attitude of the players for this time of the season has been fantastic.

"I said all along this season that we would get promoted, and we have.

"It's an amazing turnaround from last season."

Harpenden have spent much of the past few years as everybody's favourite whipping boys.

But the tables have really turned this term.

And Bedford, who the previous week had beaten Wingate, were no exception to the rule.

Town knew they needed a win to be sure of promotion. And after 40 minutes Kelvin Gregory set them on their way, finishing off after good work by Dave Hatton and Gary Lumsdon.

A minute before the break Steve McClelland headed in John Thompson's cross.

And after 70 minutes McClelland made sure of victory from the penalty spot.

Harps face Wingate at Rothamsted Park on Saturday at 3pm and then travel to Caddington for an 11am match on Bank Holiday Monday.

'The football is very different now,' he says. 'And our playing styles are hard to compare. I would shoot from anywhere – left foot, right foot, inside the box, outside. I joined Harpenden relatively late in my career – I was 28 – and it was a big step up from where I'd been playing before but I just took to it and I ended up staying at the club years, well into my late 30s until my legs started going.'

What are Steve's strongest memories of that title-winning 1989-90 season?

'It just clicked straight away even though it was a new side, pretty much. We had some really good players – Keith Burrows in goal, Dave and Alan Stevens, who still come up and watch Harpenden these days, Lee Attfield the captain, John Thompson, Mark Vidgen and there were others.

'I can't remember individual games or goals that well but I remember the last game of the season against Wingate. There was a big crowd at Rothamsted Park and it was a real occasion.

'My better memories are of the social side. It was a really good club – it still is. We had some late nights in the old clubhouse, or we'd go to Billy's bar in the High Street and then on to Luton or somewhere. The social side of it was great. The club's bar was always full and there was a real atmosphere.

'After we'd won the league, there was a presentation at the old town hall, which they'd decked out in yellow and blue, which were our colours then. Lee Dixon, the Arsenal player, who used to drink in Billy's Bar with some of the other Arsenal players who lived in Harpenden, presented us with the trophy and medals.'

Steve's son, Archie, returned for a second spell at Harpenden in the autumn, after winning the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division title with Leighton Town last season, before moving to Bedford Town.

Steve is a regular at Rothamsted Park and at away games, even when Archie isn't playing. 'If I can make it, I'll go and watch,' he says. 'It's my club and it's good to see them doing well. For the small number of volunteers they've got running it, they deserve everything they get.'

And what about Harpenden's Class of 1990? Alan King stepped down as manager as soon as the season ended and his assistant Lee Edwards took over, steering the club to a comfortable seventh-place finish in the Premier Division. McClelland carried on playing for the best part of a decade.

The South Midlands League merged with the Spartan League in the late 1990s to form the competition we know today and Harpenden have gone between the top two divisions without adding another title to the club's roll of honour. They've come close, finishing second in Division One (2003 and 2017) and third in the Premier Division (2018). Hopefully it won't be long before the town hall is again decked out in the club's colours – although it'll be green and gold next time...

### HOW THE LEAGUE FINISHED SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1989-90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Harpenden Town	30	21	7	2	74	19	+55	70
2 Wingate	30	20	6	4	96	37	+59	66
3 Caddington	30	18	5	7	52	31	+21	59
4 Buckingham Athletic	30	16	3	11	59	38	+21	51
5 Ashcroft	30	13	7	10	55	49	+6	46
6 Cranfield United	30	13	6	11	53	46	+7	45

# HALF A CENTURY FOR HARPENDEN

**HARPENDEN Town topped half a century of goals this season at the weekend. But manager Alan King was far from pleased.**

The scrappy victory kept Harpenden firmly at the peak of the South Midlands League Division One.

But Cranfield never provided strong enough opposition and Harpenden were always in command, although King would have liked his men to have seen a larger victory margin instead of his players keeping him on a nervous tightrope until the end.

"We hadn't played for two weeks and it showed," growled King, "we were a bit rusty and

## Cranfield 1 Harpenden Town 2

In fact it was Joe Guest and Steve McClelland who plundered the vital second-half goals at Cranfield.

Harpenden: Burrows, Stevens, Attfield, Murphy, Hutton, Delderfield, Bracey, Viden, Guest, Subs. Thompson and Nichol.

This weekend Harpenden entertain London Colney in the semi-final of the Herts Centenary Trophy — a bit of ground.

"Fifty-one goals this season in the League is very good and Guest and McClelland have been sharp in front of goals."

**SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE)**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
HARPENDEN T.N.	19	13	5	1	51	14	37	44
Buckingham A.....	20	12	7	6	43	24	19	38
Wingate .....	15	11	3	1	53	19	34	36
Caddington.....	10	7	7	3	31	21	10	27

## Sport 2



Send it in — A Harpenden player, light shirt, to another cross in against Wingate on Saturday.

# Harps butcher 'em!

**Town battle to semi-final**

**Harpenden 1 Wingate 0**

And the match paid dividends in the 10th anniversary, deep contest was a soggy affair on the ground by Lee Nichol, and Viden's head supplied the finishing touch.

Delderfield then earned his care with a brave interception, although he secured his head in the process and later needed five stitches.

The Saturday Harpenden take on Colney at Rothamsted Park.

# Edwards' men cruise on with another easy win

## Super Harpenden home in on title

HARPENDEN put the heat on fellow title hopefuls, Wingate as they strode to their second hat-trick victory.

The Rothamsted Park side were overpowered by their hosts who scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.



**Harpenden 3 Tring Athletic 0**

Harpenden's victory was a convincing one as they scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.

### Worshipful Victory for Town

Harpenden's victory was a convincing one as they scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.

Steve McClelland put Harpenden off to a perfect start as he scored in the first half.

Harpenden's victory was a convincing one as they scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.

The hat-trick was completed through the middle by Steve McClelland and Alan King.

Harpenden's victory was a convincing one as they scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.

### Boss left fuming

Harpenden manager Alan King was left fuming after his side's victory over Wingate.

Harpenden's victory was a convincing one as they scored three goals in the first half and a fourth in the second.

### KEY CONSULTANTS SOUTH MIDLAND LEAGUE



Harpenden Town's Cez Bassil, surrounded by Toddington players, still gets his shot in.

Thanks to Steve McClelland for digging out his scrapbook. Newspaper cuttings courtesy of the Herts Advertiser and St Albans Review.



Champion — Mark Viden, right, jumps for joy after scoring the goal that won Harpenden the title.



Champions — Lee Attfield holds the SML Division One championship trophy aloft on Saturday



The South Midlands First Division Championship Trophy safely in the hands of captain Lee Attfield.



## WELCOME BACK, MICKEY

Mickey Shuttlewood has returned to Harpenden Town to bolster the defensive options for the run-in.

Shuttlewood made 24 appearances last season and six at the start of this campaign before joining local rivals Colney Heath.

Back in August he headed home an injury-time winner for us at St Panteleimon. He was also part of the starting line-up for the historic 4-0 win over Dunstable Town, when we celebrated the reopening of the revamped Rothamsted Park.

If you don't hear him helping to organise the Harps defence soon, you can catch him on Apple or Spotify because he's one of the hosts of the Spartan Talk podcast.

## AND, HELLO CONNOR

Micky Nathan and the management team have added Connor Coulson to the goalkeeping department for the run-in. Connor joins from Dunstable Town but he's also spent time at Leighton Town and Bedford Town. He joins to ensure there's cover between the posts for the final six weeks of the season.



## JET SET FOR SEMI-FINAL

On Tuesday, the boys in green and gold will be looking to reach the club's first cup final since they won the 2018 Premier Division Cup against Welwyn Garden City

We travel to Oxhey Jets, who play near Watford, for a St Mary's Cup semi-final tie. The kick-off is at 7.30pm and the winners will face either Tring Athletic or Leverstock Green in the final.

## FEBRUARY PLAYER OF THE MONTH BEN SPAUL

Ben joined from Bedford Town in December and has established himself in the Harps midfield since the turn of year. Like Archie McClelland, he was part of the Leighton Town team that won the Spartan South Midlands League title last season and his work-rate, physicality and experience have been invaluable in the team's recent run of form.

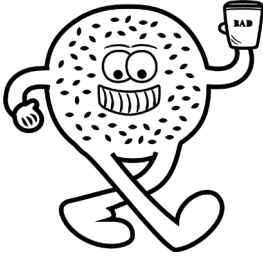


## NON-LEAGUE DAY – Saturday, March 23

### HARPENDEN TOWN v BALDOCK TOWN

Non-league day was created in 2010 by James Doe as a way to encourage football supporters to go to a non-league game during international breaks when Premier League and Championship teams are not playing. We are at home on Non-League Day and with bigger non-league clubs in our area, such as St Albans City and Hemel Hempstead Town, both away that day we're hoping for a bumper crowd. We'd love every Harpenden supporter to persuade a friend to come along to the game against Baldock so they can see what Step 5 football is all about and, hopefully, get bitten by the green and gold bug.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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CHANGING LIVES

*Andrew Keenleyside*  
Paintings and Prints

**Harpenden Construction**



Hot food available at  
The Portland Arms on  
first team matchdays  
@Stburgerherts



**Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division****August**

Tue 1	Tring Athletic	A	1-1	137	Anthony (pen)
Sat 12	Shefford Town & Campton	A	4-2	91	Younger 2, Oluwatoyin, Gleeson
Wed 16	London Lions	A	4-4	60	O'Leary, Palmer, Andic, Monaghan
Sat 26	St Panteleimon	A	3-2	30	Palmer, Shuttlewood, og
Tue 29	Leverstock Green	A	0-2	118	

**September**

Sat 9	Dunstable Town	H	4-0	427	Ewington 2, Gleeson, O'Leary
Tue 12	Potton United	H	2-1	127	Anthony, Locke
Sat 16	Biggleswade United	H	1-3	169	Ewington
Sat 30	FC Romania	H	2-1	167	Plowright, Fitzgerald

**October**

Sat 7	St Panteleimon	H	0-1	151	
Tue 17	Crawley Green	A	3-4	40	Gleeson 2, Riley
Sat 28	Arlesey Town	H	2-2	131	Ewington, Rahho

**November**

Sat 4	Leverstock Green	H	3-1	201	Ewington, Locke, og
Sat 11	Potton United	A	0-0	101	
Sat 25	London Lions	H	3-2	142	Ewington, Andic, Crowter

**December**

Sat 2	Real Bedford	H	0-5	224	
Sat 16	Cockfosters	H	0-1	130	
Sat 23	Arlesey Town	A	2-0	80	Keenleyside, Rodrigues
Wed 27	Colney Heath	H	1-0	191	Crowter
Sat 30	Milton Keynes Irish	H	2-3	222	Spaul, McClelland

**January**

Sat 6	Baldock Town	A	2-0	96	Ewington 2
Sat 20	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	H	2-3	231	Keenleyside 2
Sat 27	Stansted	A	1-2	108	Hilaire

**February**

Sat 3	Crawley Green	H	2-1	115	Hilaire, Anthony
Sat 10	Sawbridgeworth Town	A	3-1		Hilaire, Crowter, Ewington
Sat 17	Cockfosters	A	2-1	157	Ewington, McClelland (pen)
Tue 27	Real Bedford	A	1-2	110	McClelland

**March**

Sat 2	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	A*	3-0	125	Anthony 2, Crowter
Sat 9	Tring Athletic	H			
Sat 16	Biggleswade United	A			
Sat 23	Baldock Town	H			
Sat 30	Colney Heath	A			

**April**

Tue 2	Milton Keynes Irish	A			
Sat 6	Sawbridgeworth Town	H			
Tue 9	Stansted	H			
Sat 13	Shefford Town & Campton	H			
Wed 17	FC Romania	A			
Sat 20	Dunstable Town	A			

## Cup ties

### FA Cup

Aug 8 Stanway Rovers A 1-3 Machado

### FA Vase

Sept 23 Wembley H 0-4 127

### Herts Charity Shield

Sept 19 Tring Athletic A 1-3 Younger

### Herts Senior Challenge Cup

Oct 10 Ware H 0-4 92

### Gladwish Challenge Trophy

Nov 14 St Panteleimon H 2-2 65 Ewington, Locke

*won 5-4 on penalties*

Jan 23 Potton United A 1-1 75 Crowter

*lost 4-5 on penalties*

### Premier Division Cup

Jan 30 Cockfosters A 2-2 Anthony, Rahho

*lost 4-5 on penalties*

### St Mary's Cup

Feb 13 Chipperfield Corinthians H 4-0 77 McClelland 3, Locke

Mar 12 Oxhey Jets A

---

## Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Bedford	29	23	4	2	100	25	75	73
2 Milton Keynes Irish	26	22	3	1	85	18	67	69
3 Leverstock Green	27	16	5	6	60	44	16	53
4 FC Romania	27	15	5	7	68	47	21	50
5 St Panteleimon	26	13	8	5	51	33	18	47
<b>6 Harpenden Town</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>46</b>
7 Biggleswade United	27	11	5	11	57	64	-7	38
8 London Lions	28	9	9	10	59	58	1	36
<b>9 Tring Athletic</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>36</b>
10 Colney Heath	26	11	2	13	38	41	-3	35
11 Potton United	28	10	5	13	35	48	-13	35
12 Cockfosters	24	9	7	8	50	39	11	34
13 Dunstable Town	27	8	8	11	41	48	-7	32
14 Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	24	10	2	12	46	55	-9	32
15 Stansted	27	9	5	13	37	51	-14	32
16 Arlesey Town	28	8	4	16	29	58	-29	28
17 Baldock Town	28	8	3	17	53	72	-19	24*
18 Crawley Green	27	5	5	17	36	70	-34	20
19 Shefford Town & Campton	23	5	4	14	31	65	-34	19
20 Sawbridgeworth Town	27	1	6	20	24	67	-43	9

\*Three points deducted

# HARPENDEN TOWN

Manager: Micky Nathan

Colours: Green and gold

---

Eman Olajide (GK)

---

Connor Coulson (GK)

---

Jake Collins

---

Andrew Simmons

---

George Robinson

---

Archie Locke

---

Daniel Palmer

---

Joshua Rodrigues

---

Mickey Shuttlewood

---

Ben Spranger

---

Lewis Williams

---

Joshua Kassaye

---

David Keenleyside

---

Ryan Plowright

---

Kyle Rahho

---

Ben Spaul

---

Harry Andic

---

Archie Fitzgerald

---

Elliot Bailey

---

James Ewington

---

Hadley Gleeson

---

Archie McClelland

---

Reece Crowter

---

Isaiah Hilaire

---

Jake Anthony

---

# TRING ATHLETIC

Manager: Ryan Sturges

Colours: Red and black

---

Owen Brooks-Tonkin (GK)

---

Daniel Gould (GK)

---

Harry Jones

---

George Carbery

---

Harrison Cornick

---

Greg Deer

---

Jack Harvey

---

Noah Butler

---

Harry Shepherd

---

Frankie Hercules

---

Max Hercules

---

Benjamin Kakembo

---

Harrison Mead

---

Liam Smyth

---

Adam Sawyer

---

Charlie Bradshaw

---

Lee Stobbs

---

David O'Connor

---

Jonah Howgego

---

Elijah Hearn

---

Match officials

---

Connor Mackay

---

Thomas Fogden

---

Darron Howard

---

## COMING SOON AT ROTHAMSTED PARK

### MEN'S TEAM

Saturday, March 23

Baldock Town (League) 3pm

Saturday, April 6

Sawbridgeworth Town (League) 3pm

### WOMEN'S TEAM

Sunday, March 24

Thetford Town (League) 2pm

[Check harpendentownfc.com](http://checkharpentownfc.com)  
for any fixture changes