

# HARPENDEN TOWN

**v BALDOCK TOWN**

Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division

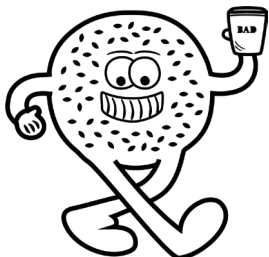
3pm Saturday, March 23, 2024

Match programme £1



**ONE TEAM  
ONE TOWN**

Photo by Marc Aspland



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# GREEN & GOLD



**HARPENDEN TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Founded 1891

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### **HEAD COACH**

Rob Swan

### **COACHES**

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Noah Horwood

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### **WEBSITE**

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# Welcome back to Rothamsted Park

A warm welcome to our visitors from Baldock Town. Our first league game of 2024 was a win in a very competitive game against Baldock at New Lamb Meadow in early January. We know we're in for a tough game but hopefully we can mark Non-League Day with a good performance and a home win.

It's another big weekend at Rothamsted Park as our women's team face Thetford Town here tomorrow (2pm kick-off) as they continue to put pressure on the league leaders Dussindale & Hellesdon Rovers.

Next Saturday (March 30) our men make the short trip to local rivals Colney Heath and hopefully lots of you will make the journey to support the boys in green and gold in the derby.

Then our final three men's league games of the season come in the space of eight days when we face Sawbridgeworth Town, Stansted and Shefford Town & Campton (April 6, 9 and 13). Obviously, results between now and then are vital but that week could determine our season and we'd love to see big crowds at all three games, so spread the word and let's cheer the team into the top five.

Finally, however the league campaign turns out, we know we have a cup final to look forward to at the end of the season after beating Oxhey Jets in the semi-final of the St Mary's Cup. The match was switched to Rothamsted Park as Oxhey's pitch was waterlogged. We fell a goal behind but came back to win 4-1 and will now face either Tring Athletic or Leverstock Green in the final. The provisional date is bank holiday Monday, May 6 at a venue to be decided. Last year's final was held at Hemel Hempstead Town's ground.

**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

We're into the final month of the regular season and today's game is the first of nine cup finals for us. If everything works out the way we hope and we make the play-offs, that'll be ten or possibly eleven big games to look forward to.

Last Saturday we had a setback, losing to a strong Biggleswade United team. It's always a difficult place to go but I'm not going to pretend I wasn't disappointed.

For the first time in the league this season I was able to select an unchanged team. We were good at home against Tring Athletic and won that game well, then we made seven changes for the St Mary's Cup semi-final against a really good Oxhey Jets team and won well again, so there was a lot of competition for places.

At this level of football it's not often you have the luxury of being able to pick the same side two games running but Steve, Swanny and I felt the players who had done so well against Tring deserved to keep the shirts. Perhaps that was a mistake because we didn't produce the exceptional football we've played over the past two months.

We're not going to dwell on it because this week the focus has been all about how we respond for today's game. Having said that, last Saturday was a reminder to the players that the work doesn't start when the referee blows the whistle – we have to be switched on from the moment we get to the ground and prepare in the warm-up with the intensity we intend to show in the game.

It was an up-and-down week because we also had the high of reaching the St Mary's Cup final. I thought Oxhey Jets were a very decent side and they took the lead but we responded well to come back and win 4-1. That gives us a cup final to look forward to and the chance to win a trophy at the end of the season. We've not done all that well in the

cups since I've been here but Steve O'Reilly and Dave Keenleyside remember the last cup final Harpenden Town won, back in 2018, and they'll tell you the boost it can give to everyone associated with the club. Hopefully the final will be played at a good venue to give everyone a great day out.

Before that, though, we have to treat every league game like a cup final, starting today.

After the Biggleswade United game, we heard St Panteleimon had lost and realised that if we'd won our game we'd have been fifth in the table, occupying one of those crucial play-off places on Saturday night. I hope that really reminded everyone that the opportunity is in front of us but that we must take care of what we do every game, because we can't rely on other results going our way every week.

Today is Non-League Day – a great initiative to showcase football at our level and I hope that if you're a regular at Rothy you've managed to persuade a friend to join you this afternoon. And if this is your first visit, I hope you enjoy it. We know we'll be in for a tough test because although we won at Baldock Town at the beginning of January they caused us some problems. But if we approach the game in the right way we give ourselves the best chance of getting three points.

## MICKY NATHAN



# WELCOME TO ROTHAMSTED PARK

## BALDOCK TOWN



**Manager:** Dave McAdam  
**Assistant:** Matt Coker  
**Sports therapist:** Amy Kibler  
**Home kit:** All red **Away kit:** All purple

### **HONOURS SINCE REFORMING**

Herts Senior County League Premier Division champions 2011-12

Herts Senior County League Division One champions 2007-08

Herts Senior Centenary Trophy winners 2012-13, 2017-18

Anagram Records Trophy winners 2011-12, 2012-13

Following the demise of the original club in 2001, the new Baldock Town was formed in 2003 from the Baldock Town Youth FC as an outlet for youth squads. The new Baldock Town played its first competitive match in September 2003 in the North Herts League at 'The Shed' on Clothall Road, Baldock. The match was against Magnum with a Rob Foster hat-trick sealing a 5-1 win. The club then progressed from the North Herts League to the Herts Senior County League and the first team won the Division One title in 2007-08, their debut season in the league.

For three seasons from 2008 the team played its home matches at the County Ground in Letchworth but they returned to Baldock to play at their old ground in Norton Road, now known as the North Herts Arena.

After three near-misses the first team finally won the Herts Senior County League Premier Division title in 2012 only for ground grading issues to deny them a place in the Spartan Southern Midlands League.

In order to achieve its ambition of playing at the highest possible level the club were forced to move to ground share with Hitchin Town FC. The club finished in second place the following season and this proved to be good enough to secure promotion to the Spartan South Midlands League. The side, managed by former player Scott Grant, also won the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy for the first time and retained the Anagram Records Trophy.

The next two seasons saw a period of consolidation for the first team as they finished seventh and tenth, respectively, in Division One of the Spartan South Midlands League (Step 6). After three seasons at Hitchin the club moved to share with Stotfold FC.

Following Grant's resignation in 2015, Luke Gregson took over as manager and, assisted by Dean Gilbert, the team went on a superb run and ended up just missing out on promotion. The third place finish was the highest placing in their recent history.

The 2017-18 season proved to be momentous as Baldock Town continued to progress. They finished second in Division One to earn promotion to the Premier Division. The team finished in fifth place in their first season in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division. The following season Baldock managed to get to 12th position before the season was prematurely ended as Covid-19 started to take hold. Luke Gregson decided to step down at the end of that season and Adam Fisher took over as manager, assisted by Rob Bates.

Baldock only played 12 games in the 2020-21 season as the Covid-19 pandemic eventually won and the league was abandoned. Rob Bates took over as manager during the summer of 2021 and started the season with some great cup performances but failed to turn that into league form. The last couple of seasons have been variable with team development on-going. The team currently groundshare with Arlesey Town and are managed by Dave McAdam.



# Baldock Town The past 10 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position	
2013-14	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	7th / 20	
2014-15	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	10th / 21	
2015-16	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	3rd / 20	
2016-17	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	3rd / 21	
2017-18	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	2nd / 20	promoted
2018-19	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	5th / 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	17th / 20	
2022-23	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	16th / 20	

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

## Recent meetings

Jake Anthony will be relishing today's game because he's scored seven times in four games for Harpenden Town against Baldock Town since December 2021.

In 2021-22 he scored in both league games – getting one in the 2-1 away win then firing four in a 6-1 thrashing at Rothamsted Park in March 2022. The other goalscorers that day were Ryan Plowright and Nathan McGreevy as Harpenden embarked on a run of six wins in their last eight league games to clinch fifth place. (No play-offs that season, of course).

Last season we lost 2-0 at Baldock in October but made amends with a convincing 4-1 home win in February with two goals from Anthony and one each from McGreevy and Isaiah Hilaire.

Anthony was at New Lamb Meadow as a spectator in January – waiting for his move back to Harpenden from Dunstable Town to go through – as two James Ewington goals in the first half put the visitors in the driving seat. Baldock pulled one back in the second half and piled on the pressure looking for an equaliser but Harps held on for the points.



**SUPER SUBS:** Ben Spaul congratulates Ryan Plowright (No.15) after he scored the third goal against Tring Athletic to seal three points last time we were here. In fact, three of the second-half subs combined because Harry Andic (No.14) started the move in midfield, getting the ball wide for Hadley Gleeson (No.17) to supply the cross.

# THE RUN-IN

With less than a month to go to the end of the regular season, there's a very close race for the title and for the remaining play-off places. Postponements mean a packed schedule with most clubs playing twice a week over the closing four weeks of the season.

## THE TITLE RACE

The battle for the championship title and the one automatic promotion place to Step 4 is between two clubs. Real Bedford have led for much of the season and are currently top with 77 points. Five of their remaining seven games are at home. Realistically, Milton Keynes Irish are the only side who can deny them the title. They are currently six points behind but have three games in hand. However, seven of their ten remaining games are away.

## THE PLAY-OFFS

The clubs finishing second to fifth qualify for the play-off semi-finals. The runners-up spot will likely go to either Real Bedford or Milton Keynes Irish, meaning three spots are still up for grabs. Currently, seven points split Leverstock Green in third place and Harpenden Town in sixth. Biggleswade United gave their slim chances a boost by beating us last week but they are still five points behind us in seventh place. So, how do the contenders' remaining games look? Below are the fixtures and the current league positions of the opponents.

### 3rd place – play-offs LEVERSTOCK GREEN

56 points  
9 games to go

<b>Today</b>	<b>Cockfosters</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>12th</b>
Mar 26	Tring Athletic	A	8th
Mar 30	Crawley Green	A	19th
<b>Apr 4</b>	<b>Tring Athletic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>8th</b>
Apr 6	Dunstable Town	A	11th
<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>MK Irish</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2nd</b>
Apr 13	Stansted	A	14th
Apr 18	Baldock Town	A	17th
<b>Apr 20</b>	<b>Shefford Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>18th</b>

### 4th place – play-offs FC ROMANIA

54 points  
9 games to go

<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>Potton United</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>13th</b>
Mar 30	London Lions	A	9th
<b>Apr 3</b>	<b>St Panteleimon</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>5th</b>
Apr 6	Potton United	A	13th
Apr 9	Real Bedford	A	1st
<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>MK Irish</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>Harpenden Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>6th</b>
Apr 20	Biggleswade Utd	A	7th
TBC	Crawley Green	A	19th

### 5th place – play-offs ST PANTELEIMON

50 points  
9 games to go

Today	Potton United	A	13th
<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>Stansted</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>14th</b>
Apr 3	FC Romania	A	4th
Apr 6	MK Irish	A	2nd
Apr 9	Aylesbury Vale	A	15th
<b>Apr 15</b>	<b>Crawley Green</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>19th</b>
<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>Shefford Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>18th</b>
Sat 20	Arlesey Town	A	16th
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Aylesbury Vale</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>15th</b>

### 6th place HARPENDEN TOWN

49 points  
8 games to go

<b>Today</b>	<b>Baldock Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>17th</b>
Mar 30	Colney Heath	A	10th
Apr 2	MK Irish	A	2nd
<b>Apr 6</b>	<b>Sawbridgeworth</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>20th</b>
<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>Stansted</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>14th</b>
<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>Shefford Town</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>18th</b>
Apr 17	FC Romania	A	4th
Apr 20	Dunstable Town	A	11th



## GREAT SHOT, MARC

The photograph on the front page of today's programme is a stunning shot of a rainbow high above Rothamsted Park taken during our recent win over Aylesbury Vale Dynamos by award-winning photographer and Harps fan Marc Aspland.

Marc is chief sports photographer for *The Times* and *Sunday Times* and his job takes him all over the world covering the biggest sports events.

When his work schedule allows he likes to take in a game at Rothy – and often brings his camera too. His Harpenden Town pictures

sometimes feature in *The Times'* Unseen gallery.

Last February, he captured this wonderfully atmospheric shot during our 0-0 draw with Dunstable Town – one of the last matches to be played on the grass pitch at Rothy.

This picture – along with a photo of Lionel Messi winning the World Cup for Argentina – was part of Marc's entry for the UK Press Awards Sports Photographer of the Year prize. Marc is one of the finalists and the winner will be announced next month. Good luck, Marc! A framed print also graces the wall in our clubhouse.



## GREEN & GOLD

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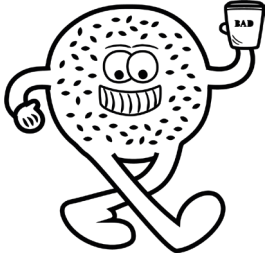
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# QUESTION TIME

## DAVE KEENLEYSIDE

**Age:** 32

**Favourite playing position and shirt number**

Number 10 role when I was younger – therefore the Number 10 shirt

**Where are you from?** Born in St Albans

**Previous clubs** St Albans City, Dunstable Town, Welwyn Garden City

**Harpenden Town debut**

When I was 17 – away at Amersham Town (I think). No idea what the score was

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

I didn't do one when I first played but I sang *Silent Night* when I came back this season

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

Earliest memory is wearing my first pair of football boots to bed when I was five

**Who do you support now?**

Arsenal

**What's the biggest match you've played in?**

Southern League play-off final for St Albans City at Chesham United (won 3-1)

**You're hosting a dinner party, which four guests would you invite?**

The cast of *League of Their Own*. Flintoff, Whitehall, Cordon and Redknapp. Plus I'd have to have Dennis Bergkamp as well.

**What's the best thing about Harpenden?**

The progress the club has made in the last 10 years on and off the pitch

**What do you do for a living?**

Director of sport at a secondary school

**What are the best and worst things about step five football?**

Best – the standard of pitches, playing styles and players has improved. Worst – I've known some players at this level to have agents, which blows my mind

**Favourite ground you've played at**

A full Clarence Park [St Albans City] was pretty special

**Best game you've ever attended**

Watching Bergkamp, Henry, Pires, Vieira etc play when they went unbeaten was great as a big Arsenal fan

**Which of your teammates have the best dress sense?**

Eman's up there for both. What he wears looks good on him but would look terrible on anyone else

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

Cricket. I played county cricket for eight years

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

To help Harpenden finish in the play-offs and contribute with as many goals and assists as possible



**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	3-1	179	Keenleyside, Hilaire, Plowright
Sat 16	Biggleswade United	A	1-3	104	McClelland (pen)
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\* 4-1 80 Anthony, Keenleyside,

McClelland, Crowter

May 6 Final v Tring Athletic or Leverstock Green

## Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Bedford	31	24	5	2	102	25	77	77
2 Milton Keynes Irish	28	22	5	1	86	19	67	71
3 Leverstock Green	29	17	5	7	64	46	18	56
4 FC Romania	29	16	6	7	70	48	22	54
5 St Panteleimon	29	14	8	7	56	39	17	50
<b>6 Harpenden Town</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>
7 Biggleswade United	30	13	5	12	66	72	-6	44
8 Tring Athletic	30	12	6	12	48	51	-3	42
9 London Lions	30	10	9	11	63	62	1	39
10 Colney Heath	28	12	3	13	41	42	-1	39
11 Dunstable Town	31	10	9	12	49	54	-5	39
12 Cockfosters	27	10	8	9	54	42	12	38
13 Potton United	30	10	7	13	36	49	-13	37
14 Stansted	29	10	5	14	43	57	-14	35
15 Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	26	10	3	13	48	61	-13	33
16 Arlesey Town	31	8	6	17	33	63	-30	30
<b>17 Baldock Town</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>27*</b>
18 Shefford Town & Campton	26	6	5	15	37	72	-35	23
19 Crawley Green	29	5	6	18	39	74	-35	21
20 Sawbridgeworth Town	29	1	6	22	24	70	-46	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

# BALDOCK TOWN

Manager: Dave McAdam  
Colours: All red

Abraham Ajiboye
David Archer (GK)
Lewis Barker
Malaki Black
Jamie Breen
Kit Brown
Newman Carney
Ellis Coker
George Devine
Mamadou Diallo
Flavins Drescanu
Sonny Gardner
George Kingham
Albert McGregor
Archie O'Brien
James O'Connor
Dominik Robertson
Owen Robertson
Marley Rochester-Stein
Max Ryan
Harry Watson
Match officials
Daniel Jones
Kevin Dunnings
Andrew Marsh

## COMING SOON AT ROTHAMSTED PARK

### MEN'S TEAM

Saturday, April 6  
Sawbridgeworth Town (League) 3pm  
Tuesday, April 9  
Stansted (League) 7.45pm

### WOMEN'S TEAM

Tomorrow (Sunday, March 24)  
Thetford Town (League) 2pm  
[Check harpendentownfc.com](http://checkharpentownfc.com)  
for any fixture changes