

HARPENDEN TOWN

v STANSTED

Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division

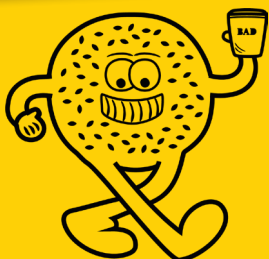
7.45pm Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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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Let's all strive for more of the same

We're back again just three days after our biggest win of the season – Saturday's 6-0 victory against Sawbridgeworth Town – aiming to replicate the level of performance we've seen over the past three league games.

Tonight's encounter is our penultimate home league game of the season. If we can force our way into third place, we would have home advantage for the play-off semi-final but, as things stand, Saturday's match against Shefford Town and Campton will be our final home game of the season.

As a thank you for your fantastic support all season we have cut prices for tonight and Saturday's games – entry will be £5, with concessions £3.

We'd love to see a big crowd here on Saturday, so see if you can persuade a friend to join you so they can see for themselves the entertainment, commitment and skill on display at this level of football.

Season tickets for the 2024-25 campaign are already on sale and, for a limited time, we've frozen prices too. Turn to page seven of today's programme for details. Hopefully you'll agree this is fantastic value, especially considering it gives entry to all men's and women's home league fixtures plus the women's under-23, men's development team and under-18 fixtures at Rothamsted Park. We've put season tickets on sale early partly because any revenue we can generate now will help planning the next campaign.

Finally, a warm welcome to all our visitors from Stansted. It's one of the longer away trips of the season for them, and not an easy one to make for a midweek fixture, so we hope you enjoy your visit to Rothamsted Park.

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

There's not a lot of down time at the moment but I had a nice relaxing Sunday with my family after Saturday's game before checking on the players' availability for tonight's game.

With two games a week every week, it's a very busy time, but it's an exciting time and we wouldn't have it any other way. We have got four cup finals to go and all of our focus is on winning as many points as possible.

I was really pleased that we could bring in some fresh legs on Saturday and win the game so well. I made a few changes largely because we knew how hard the players had worked to get three points at Milton Keynes Irish on Tuesday night. The data showed that as a team we covered more ground than in any second half this season. We got all the physios in on Thursday to help the players with a recovery session and a massage, and from some of the screams I could hear from the changing room I know a few of them were still feeling the effects of Tuesday night.

To make those changes, score six and keep a clean sheet was very pleasing and it gives us a lot of confidence going into our final four games.

We needed Eman to be at his best again in the opening few minutes, and he made another good save later on in the first half. We were debating in the bar afterwards which of the two saves was best. Eman reckoned the first one but I thought the second was even better because he was a bit unsighted. Either way, those saves were as important as the goals we got at the other end of the pitch.

Apart from those opening five minutes I thought we were excellent. The first goal was a lovely move and I was delighted for Harry Andic that he finished it off. And what a finish it was. He's such a lovely player to work with. He glides across the pitch – he's the sort of player who doesn't leave footprints in the

snow and I think it shows just how strong we are in that area of the pitch that he's not a regular in the team. But every time we call on him he does everything we ask.

Then James Ewington scored a fantastic hat-trick. We know he's deadly when he gets the ball in the penalty area and he was already on the move anticipating the pass when Archie McClelland and then Dave Keenleyside won the ball back by pressing so well high up the pitch.

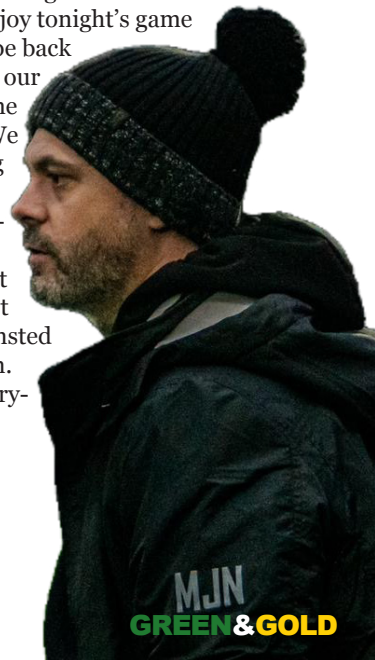
Ewey has been fantastic for us. He and his wife have had a baby quite recently and we gave him a bit of flexibility to miss training every now and then because we know the quality he brings on a matchday.

As good as the result was, it'll mean very little when we kick off tonight. We have to reproduce that level of performance and commitment every time we step onto the pitch. We lost when we travelled over to Stansted and they have pulled away from the bottom into mid-table recently, so we know it'll be a very tough match.

We're not looking too far ahead but I am definitely looking up the table rather than behind us because I genuinely think we can get a place or two higher in the table.

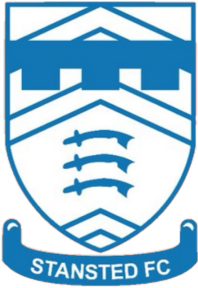
I hope you enjoy tonight's game and that you'll be back on Saturday for our final league game of the season. We would love a big crowd to cheer us into the play-offs. And who know... maybe it won't be our last game at Rothamsted Park this season. We'll give it everything we've got.

MICKY NATHAN



WELCOME TO ROTHAMSTED PARK

STANSTED



Managers: Paul Pittuck and Dave Watters
Coaches: Neil Tillotson and Dave Limber
Physio: Laurie Mallyon
Home kit: All blue **Away kit:** White and grey

HONOURS

FA Vase winners 1983-84

Essex Senior League champions 2009-10

runners-up 1982-83, 2010-11 2018-19

League Cup winners 1984, 2011 **East Herts League champions** 1934-35

Records show the club goes back as far as 1902 and the greatest day in Stansted's history was in 1983-84. The club won the FA Vase when the players and fans made the trip to Wembley and beat Stamford 3-2 in front of a crowd of 8,500. Memories of that great occasion are portrayed in the club's committee room to this day.

Stansted had never been beyond the first round of the FA Vase before that season, despite playing in the competition every year since it started a decade earlier. The team's assistant manager at Wembley was Dave Hoddle, uncle of Spurs midfielder Glenn.

There has been a period of darker days in more recent years when in 2012-13 a lack of leadership at the helm of the club led to a situation whereby outstanding debts meant there was a distinct possibility of the club folding. However a new committee of fresh faces was found and, under the stewardship of Glyn Warwick, the club managed to see off the threat of the bailiffs knocking at the club door. The new committee members put plans in place, and over several years have attracted new sponsors and supporters to the club, ensuring a brighter future.

At the end of the 2018-19 season many Stansted followers (known as The Airport Army) were reflecting on what had been the most successful season in many years. The club won the League Cup, the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy and also a shield for finishing runners-up in the league.

The club were not considered by many to

be in contention for any honours after the experience of the previous season when they won a late reprieve from the FA and avoided relegation to Step 6 status. That made the success even more remarkable and was great testament to the hard work put in by the whole coaching staff and players.

The club were founder members of the Essex Senior League and were league champions in 2009-10 and have won the League Cup in 1983-84 and 2010-11

The 2020-21 season saw the introduction of three junior teams at different age groups with the goal of kick-starting a long-term plan of providing a pathway through to senior football.

There was also the introduction of an over-45s veteran team, giving former players who thought their playing days were behind them a chance to put their boots on again. The team won promotion to the Premier Division of the Essex Veterans League in 2021-22.

Operating a football club at this level in the FA pyramid is extremely challenging, with financial burdens, player expectations and the need to compete with other major sports organisations in the geographical area, therefore great emphasis is placed on all the volunteers associated with the club.

After more than half a century in the Essex Senior League, the club was given a new challenge at the start of this season when FA reorganisation meant a sideways move to the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division.

Stansted The past 10 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position	
2013-14	Essex Senior League	5	17th / 20	
2014-15	Essex Senior League	5	7th / 20	
2015-16	Essex Senior League	5	9th / 21	
2016-17	Essex Senior League	5	8th / 22	
2017-18	Essex Senior League	5	18th / 21	
2018-19	Essex Senior League	5	2nd / 20	
2019-20	Essex Senior League	5	–	abandoned
2020-21	Essex Senior League	5	–	abandoned
2021-22	Essex Senior League	5	4th / 21	
2022-23	Essex Senior League	5	9th / 20	

Source: Football Club History Database fchd.info

Harps consigned Milton Keynes Irish to their first home defeat of the season with a fantastic performance on a soggy night last Tuesday.

The first half saw the visitors at their attacking best as they took a 2-0 lead thanks to goals from Isaiah Hilaire, with a curling, slightly deflected shot into the top corner, and a well-worked move finished off by Archie McClelland.

The second half turned after Harps were reduced to ten men when Kyle Rahho was shown a second yellow card for a foul. Irish pulled one back from the resulting free-kick.

Irish also blazed a penalty over the bar and piled the pressure on for the final half-hour as they went in search of an equaliser, but the Harps defence held firm to clinch three big points.

MK Irish 1 Harpenden Town 2 Heroic 10-man Harps hold on to beat Irish



Archie McClelland fires home our second goal at MK Irish and (above) Jake Collins celebrates.



Harry Andic (left), who opened the scoring, and Archie Locke, strike a pose for Freddie Clark's camera.



James Ewington doubles our lead with the first goal of his 23-minute hat-trick that put us 4-0 up at the break.

Harpenden Town 6 Sawbridgeworth Town 0

First-half Ewington hat-trick helps hit Sawbo for six

With a schedule of five games in 15 days ahead of him, manager Micky Nathan made four changes from the side that beat Milton Keynes Irish for the visit of Sawbridgeworth Town.

Harps looked lively from the start, although needed Eman Olajide to be at his best to tip over a shot from point-blank range with just three minutes on the clock.

The opening goal came five minutes later after a nice move down the left wing and a cross from George Robinson was converted by Harry Andic with an audacious, improvised flick off his heel.

Olajide made another fine stop, low down to his left to preserve the lead and a few minutes after that Harps got their second. Archie McClelland

dispossessed the Sawbo defender and slipped the ball into the path of James Ewington to apply the finish. Two minutes later, Dave Keenleyside pressed and forced another mistake, pinching the ball and playing it to Ewington for a very similar goal.

Ewington got his hat-trick – and 15th goal of the season – just before half-time when Reece Crowther crossed into the box and he took a touch before firing home.

In the second half, Harps added a fifth when a Mickey Shuttlewood header from a Keenleyside corner thumped in off the bar. Hadley Gleeson got the sixth with a low shot into the corner and there was even time for a seventh Harps goal, but that was ruled out for offside.



WELL PLAYED, ARCHIE

Our player of the month for March, selected by the management team, is Archie Locke. He played a pivotal part in the wins against Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Tring Athletic and Colney Heath and scored the crucial equaliser in the 1-1 draw against Baldock Town. Archie has scored five goals from defence this season, having joined from Hoddesdon Town in the summer.



2024-25 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Get your 2024-25 Harpenden Town season ticket at this season's price

All men's first team league matches for £80*

That's £4.31 per match (based on 19 home games)

PLUS all women's first team league matches

Plus Development team, Under-18 and Women's Under-23 matches played at Rothamsted Park. *Cup matches not included*

* £80 + £2 platform booking fee

Why buy a season ticket?

Buying a season ticket is a great way to support the club. It gives you entry to all league matches played at Rothamsted Park for a great price.

And buying early helps the club generate much-needed revenue to plan for the new season.

#OneTeamOneTown

SCAN CODE



harpentownfc.com/tickets

KEY LEAGUE GAMES

Tonight

Leverstock Green v MK Irish
Real Bedford v FC Romania

Tomorrow (Wednesday)

London Lions v Harpenden Town

Thursday 11th

Arlesey Town v MK Irish
Aylesbury Vale v Cockfosters

Saturday 13th

Cockfosters v Dunstable Town
FC Romania v MK Irish
Harpenden Town v Shefford Town
Real Bedford v Tring Athletic
Stansted v Leverstock Green

Tuesday 16th

Aylesbury Vale v Tring Athletic
Cockfosters v MK Irish

Wednesday 17th

FC Romania v Harpenden Town

Thursday 18th

Baldock Town v Leverstock Green
Potton United v Cockfosters

Saturday 20th

Biggleswade Utd v FC Romania
Colney Heath v Cockfosters
Dunstable Town v Harpenden Town
Leverstock Green v Shefford Town
MK Irish v London Lions
Tring Athletic v Baldock Town

Tuesday 23rd

Leverstock Green v Tring Athletic

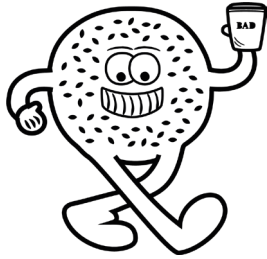
Wednesday 24th

Shefford Town v Cockfosters

Saturday 27th

Cockfosters v London Lions
Crawley Green v FC Romania

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— CHANGING LIVES —

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Harpenden Construction



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



QUESTION TIME

HADLEY GLEESON

Age: 20

Favourite playing position and shirt number

My favourite position is playing on the wing and my favourite shirt number is definitely No.7!

Where are you from? Born and raised in north-west London

Previous clubs I played for Barnet FC for four years and then after lockdown spent a few seasons at Colney Heath

Harpenden Town debut

I made my debut at the start of the season against Tring Athletic with the score finishing 1-1

What did you sing for your initiation at Harpenden Town? All Falls Down by Kanye West

What's your earliest football memory?

Going to watch Fulham v Juventus in the Europa League when we won 4-1!

First football shirt you owned A 2008-09 Fulham shirt

Who do you support now? Fulham

What's the biggest match you've played in? It was in the FA Youth Cup when Barnet played against Bournemouth at the Vitality Stadium

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

Kevin Hart, Denzel Washington, Jadon Sancho and Cristiano Ronaldo

And what would you cook (or order in)? Chicken wings and spicy rice

What's the best thing about Harpenden? I'd say the supporters and how friendly everyone is

What do you do for a living?

I work in a gym currently training to be a personal trainer

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

The best thing is getting to play with or against people from all different walks of life and the worst thing has to be playing in the winter on terrible pitches

Favourite ground you've played at

It would have to be the Vitality Stadium for obvious reasons. It was a carpet!

Best game you've ever attended

Fulham at Wembley when they beat Aston Villa 1-0 in the Championship play-off final

Who do you travel to away games with?

I usually travel with my grandad, if I'm not driving myself

You're travelling to an away game and you're in charge of the music. What's on the playlist?

Drake – Over. Lil Baby before a game is mandatory And then D-Block Europe have to be played as well

Which of your teammates has the best dress sense?

I'd say everyone dresses pretty well but Eman might take top spot

After football, what other sport are you best at?

Back when I was in school, I was pretty good at athletics. I held the school record for long jump and high jump so I'd say athletics

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

To get as many goals and assists as I can to help the team gain the one goal we are all fighting for – promotion!

Can supporters follow you on social media?

Instagram
@27hadz
Twitter/X
@hgpriv2



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	2-1	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	Ewington, 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	1-1	234	Locke
Sat 30	Colney Heath	A	1-0	205	Palmer

April

Tue 2	Milton Keynes Irish	A	2-1	143	Hilaire, McClelland
Sat 6	Sawbridgeworth Town	H	6-0	189	Ewington 3, Andic, Shuttlewood, Gleeson

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

TBC Final v Tring Athletic or Leverstock Green (neutral venue)

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Bedford	32	26	5	1	108	23	85	83
2 Milton Keynes Irish	31	24	5	2	92	23	69	77
3 FC Romania	31	18	6	7	75	50	25	60
4 Leverstock Green	31	17	7	7	67	49	18	58
5 Harpenden Town	32	17	5	10	64	49	15	56
6 Tring Athletic	32	14	7	11	55	51	4	49
7 Cockfosters	28	12	9	7	58	40	18	45
8 Potton United	32	11	8	13	42	51	-9	41
9 Biggleswade United	33	12	5	16	64	76	-12	41
10 London Lions	30	11	7	12	64	63	1	40
11 Stansted	32	11	7	14	46	58	-12	40
12 Colney Heath	30	12	3	15	45	43	2	39
13 Dunstable Town	33	10	9	14	49	60	-11	39
14 Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	30	11	5	14	52	68	-16	38
15 Baldock Town	33	11	4	18	59	75	-16	34*
16 Arlesey Town	33	9	7	17	36	66	-30	34
17 Crawley Green	33	7	6	20	44	81	-37	27
18 Shefford Town & Campton	30	7	5	18	41	81	-40	26
19 Sawbridgeworth Town	32	1	6	25	24	78	-54	9
20 St Panteleimon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0***

***Resigned from the league *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

Dan Westmore

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

STANSTED

Manager: Paul Pittuck

& John Watters

Colours: All blue

Charlie Turner (GK)

Harrison Crowther (GK)

Charlie Adams

Jardel Francis-Adeyinka

James Baughurst

Lewis Broughton

Freddie Burrell

John Clarke

George O'Conner

Carl Conway

Billy Coyne

Correy Davidson

Jake Davis

Finley Gregory

Stanley Gurney

Maliq Jiqiemi

Jack Mitchell

Thando Moyo

Scott Piggott

George Pullen

Joe Pullen

Jason Reynolds-Blanche

Sonny Shilling

Match officials: Chad Greateorex, Steve Hart, Ian Wright

COMING SOON AT ROTHAMSTED PARK

MEN'S TEAM

Saturday, April 13

Shefford Town & Campton (League) 3pm

WOMEN'S TEAM

Sunday, April 28

Mulbarton Wanderers (League) 2pm

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