

HARPENDEN TOWN

**v SHEFFORD TOWN
& CAMPTON**

Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division
3pm Saturday, April 13, 2024

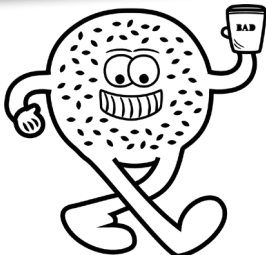


**ONE TEAM
ONE TOWN**



Photo by Freddie Clark

Match programme £1



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GREEN & GOLD



**HARPENDEN TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**
Founded 1891

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One last push...

The photograph on the cover of this edition of Green & Gold was taken by club photographer Freddie Clark in the away changing room at Colney Heath as the players celebrated our fine 1-0 derby win there a couple of weeks ago. It's a great example of Freddie's excellent work documenting our games at home and away while he continues to pursue a career in the media. We'd like to say a big thank you to Freddie for his commitment this season and wish him all the best as he enters his final year at university next season. We hope he'll be able to make frequent visits to Rothamsted Park too.

And, hopefully there'll be plenty more memorable moments for his camera lens to capture before this season is done and dusted, because although this is our final home game it's not the end of the journey.

This week the play-off picture has sharpened a little. Cockfosters, who have a horrendous backlog of games to play, were in league action on Wednesday and Thursday nights following a cup tie on Monday.

They lost both games which means that a win for us today could guarantee our play-off spot. Currently only Tring Athletic and Cockfosters can deny us a place in the top five.

If we win today, Tring won't be able to catch us and if Cockfosters drop points too we'll be guaranteed at least fifth place.

Of course, it's natural at this stage of the season to study the league table and look at the scenarios that could play out, but all we must do today is concentrate on our own performance and see where it leaves us at five o'clock.

As Micky has said, he's looking up the table to see if we can secure a home play-off rather than over our shoulder. So let's all get behind the team and cheer the boys into the play-offs.

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

As this is the final home league game of the season I wanted to say thank you to some of the people who have contributed so much over the past ten months.

Firstly, to the players for their commitment. Sometimes they don't like my decisions and I respect that. I don't expect players to be happy when they are not in the team. But I think they've been good at understanding what we're trying to achieve and they appreciate that whether they play ninety minutes, or nineteen, their contribution really matters and that we are all counting on them.

Certainly in the last few weeks I've rotated the squad and we have got the results we've been after and that is down to the fact that the substitutes are as focused and ready to play as the starting eleven.

My management team have been second to none. Steve O'Reilly can be really loud on the touchline but he's Mr Calm off the pitch. It's almost like he's two different people! He takes a lot of pressure off me and supports me in every decision I make. He literally bleeds Harpenden Town. There's a photo of him in the clubhouse with his head wrapped up in a bandage when he was captain of the team.

Rob Swan – or to give him his proper name, Swanny. What can I say? He's Mr Happy. Wears shorts 12 months of the year. He's never at walking pace – always 100 miles an hour and 110 per cent. The lads adore him and that energy and enthusiasm is so important, never more so than when the chips are down.

My coaches, Ivan Arapov and Noah Horwood. Ivan is so passionate – and still has a great left foot! Noah has stepped up as goalkeeping coach since James Ouston went to Berkhamsted and he's got a very wise head on young shoulders. They do so much hidden work. As they say, many hands make light work. Then there's our under-18 manager Richard Bulling, who's a phenomenal coach. The players also have the luxury of our three physios – Dion, Holly and Rachel.

Without all of the management and coaching staff I'm nothing.

I also want to thank the club's chairman, Roman Motyczak. It's incredible how much he

does for the club and he's always there with a supportive or wise word or two.

It says so much about Roman that we have such a committed team of volunteers. Roman, Ray Collins, Foxy, Steve Hartnup, John Gibbons, Gareth Waldram, Mark McGreevy – and there are lots of others – do so, so much work around the club, preparing and repairing the ground so it's a home we can be proud of, stocking the bar, running the gate, sorting out all the administration that's required for a club of our size.

And, of course, my family – and in fact all the families behind the people who work so hard for this club. Without my family's support I wouldn't be able to put in the hours and the energy, and I know the same goes for everyone else too.

And, of course, to you – our supporters. It's been a great week so far – let's hope we can round off the home season in style. Win, lose or draw I'd like to invite you to pop into the clubhouse after the game to have a drink and a chat before you head home.

There's a lot of football still to be played with two away games next week, potentially a play-off match or two, and a cup final.

It's a long season – 44 weeks of hard work – but it's weeks like this one that we all want to be part of, so let's enjoy it.

GREEN&GOLD



**MICKY
NATHAN**

WELCOME TO ROTHAMSTED PARK

SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON



Manager: Kane Dougherty **Assistant:** Jim Paul Starling
Home kit: Blue and white **Away kit:** Red and white

HONOURS

South Midlands League champions 1953-54, 1954-55, 1983-84
South Midlands League Division One champions 1982-83
Spartan South Midlands League Division One play-off winners 2021-22
Bedfordshire Senior Cup winners 1949-50, 1952-53, 1954-55

Shefford Town & Campton, nicknamed The Bluemen, are based in Shefford, Bedfordshire. The team plays its home matches at Shefford Sports Club on Hitchin Road in Shefford and at Campton Playing Fields, Rectory Road in Campton. The club is competing in the ninth tier of the English football league system in the Spartan South Midlands Football League Premier Division.

Originally formed in 1910 as Shefford Town, their first successful period came in the 1950s when the team won two South Midlands League championships and three Bedfordshire Senior Cups within five years. Subsequently, the club finished runners-up in the Parthenon League, and won the United Counties League title in 1960-61. Shefford would not match these achievements until the early 1980s, when the club was promoted from the South Midlands League's second tier in 1982-83 and won the league title a year later.

After relegation in 1990, Shefford Town

folded in 1994. The town remained without a senior football team until 2009, when the club was reformed. In 2010 Shefford Town merged with near neighbours Campton.

The club has had success both on and off the pitch in recent years, winning the Bedfordshire County Premier Division in 2011-12, 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Bedfordshire County League Britannia Cup was won in 2011, 2014 and 2019.

At the end of 2018-19 season Shefford announced its intentions to seek promotion into the Spartan South Midlands Football League, wrapped up the Bedfordshire County League title and passed the relevant ground grading, so the club stepped back into the league it folded out of back in 1994

Under the stewardship of Kane Dougherty and James Taylor the club topped Division One during the curtailed season of 2020-21 and they finally guided them to promotion via the play-offs after finishing fourth in the league the following season.

Shefford Town & Campton The past 10 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position	
2013-14	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	11th / 14	
2014-15	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	5th / 16	
2015-16	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	9th / 16	
2016-17	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	7th / 16	
2017-18	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	1st / 16	
2018-19	Bedfordshire County League Premier Division	7	1st / 16	promoted
Joined Spartan South Midlands League from Bedfordshire County League				
2019-20	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	–	abandoned
2020-21	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	–	abandoned
2021-22	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	4th / 20	promoted
2022-23	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	15th / 20	

Source: Football Club History Database fchd.info



Josh Rodrigues, George Robinson and Ryan Plowright lead the celebrations at full time. Photos: Freddie Clark

Harpden Town 5 Stansted 1

All smiles as five-star Harps ground the Airport Army

Harpden picked up where they left off, hitting five goals past Stansted on Tuesday night just three days after beating Sawbridgeworth Town 6-0. The win, combined with Leverstock Green's draw against Milton Keynes Irish on the same night, lifted us up to fourth place in the table on goal difference.

A strong, attacking start to the game was finally rewarded with a goal after 24 minutes when Dave Keenleyside swapped passes with Isaiah Hilaire from a corner, cut inside and curled a left-footed shot past the keeper.

Ten minutes later, Hilaire controlled a great long pass from Archie Locke on the touchline, beat his marker and fired a shot home for the second goal.

Hilaire was involved in almost everything Harps

did going forward and was deservedly named man of the match.

There was a bump in the road early in the second half when Stansted punished a sluggish start and pulled a goal back with a header from close range. But that just sparked Harps into life again.

Five minutes later, they restored their two-goal cushion. Hilaire was again involved setting up Harry Andic to shoot past the keeper from the edge of the box. Another five minutes later it was 4-1. Hilaire's shot was blocked, Andic hit the rebound which took a deflection off Archie McClelland and flew into the net. A fifth goal came nine minutes from time when James Ewington lashed home a shot for his 16th goal of the season.



Bullseye, or is it *one-undred-un-eight-eeeeee*. Harry Andic hit the target twice in our 5-1 win over Stansted.

GREEN & GOLD NEWS

GOOD LUCK, ELLIOT

Our striker Elliot Bailey is running the London Marathon next Sunday to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. His mum, Tina, was diagnosed with MND in January 2022. So far, Elliot has raised £13,000, which is a fantastic effort. If you'd like to sponsor him, scan the QR code below to go to his Just Giving page. Elliot writes: 'This is a horrible disease which attacks our motor neurones. At this time there is no cure and a diagnosis is terminal. My mum has done so much for me in my life and I will not sit tight and let this disease run its course. I will fight for my mum and for all others out there in the same situation as myself. This disease not only harms the person it directly affects but damages an entire family and group of friends. Therefore I want to raise as much money as I can for the MND Association in the fight against this disease.'

Everyone at Harpenden Town will be with you every step of the way, Elliot.



PLAY-OFF DATES

The provisional date for the play-off semi-final is Wednesday, May 1. The second-placed team will host the fifth-placed, while third will be at home to fourth. If we finish the season in third place we'll have a home semi-final at Rothamsted Park to look forward to, otherwise we'll be away.

The two winners will then meet in the final on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6 at the home of whichever team finished highest in the league.

ST MARY'S CUP FINAL

Tring Athletic will face Leverstock Green on Saturday, April 27 in the second semi-final of the St Mary's Cup. We will then face the winners in the final.

The cup final is scheduled to be played on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6 but a new date (likely to be May 10) will be found if either of the finalists is involved in the Premier Division play-off final on the same day.

As things stand, it's likely the St Mary's Cup final will be played at Hemel Hempstead Town's Vauxhall Road ground.



GREEN & GOLD

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ROMAN'S PROSE

It's been a landmark season in the 133-year history of Harpenden Town Football Club. With three games to go, we are in with a shout of making history – achieving promotion to Step 4 of English football's non-league pyramid for the first time.

Hopefully, we have hit form at the right time, and full credit to the players and management team for getting us into a position where we have everything to play for going into the final week of the campaign.

It's been a fantastic week so far, with 11 Harpenden goals to cheer, a very good crowd last Saturday, and a sense that momentum is gathering pace for the final run-in.

When I think back to September, when we had more than 400 people in the ground for that first home game of the season, it makes me reflect on the progress we've made. It's been a year of significant improvement on and off the pitch but that in itself was almost a decade in the making.

There have been so many high points this season. The improvement to the ground has given us a fantastic facility and seeing players young and old – from the youngest EJA team to our development teams and the veterans side – enjoying the new pitch (in correct footwear only, please!) has been one of the many joys of the season so far.

It's been one of the wettest seasons I can remember and we are so fortunate that we are not impacted in the way we would have been with the old grass pitch. That security alone has given us the foundation to focus on things that can help to grow and develop the club rather than wasting time, energy and money fretting whether a game is going to be on.

Attendances are up – that 400-plus crowd for our first men's game of the

season was exceeded by the crowd for the women's FA Cup first round tie against Luton Town. That tells me that there is enough interest in the town to sustain a club at the next level, and – one day – the level above that.

We have grown our base of volunteers, getting new people involved. We've installed a public address system to make matchday more of an occasion. Everything is moving in the right direction. Next, we have plans to remodel the clubhouse. It's been a record year for revenue – but it's also been a record year for expenditure, so to continue our progress we have to attract more funding.

I'd like to thank everyone who has played their part – supporters, sponsors, volunteers, players and management. If you would like to be part of our future in some capacity do please get in touch.

Of course, people come to the football to support, to be entertained and above all to see their team win. All the work off the pitch must serve that ultimate goal – to be successful on the pitch and represent the town well in everything we do.

Seeing experienced players like James Ewington, Dave Keenleyside and Archie McClelland, who have Harpenden Town in their DNA, return to the club to add that essential touch of local identity to a talented, committed group of players is something that really motivates me.

Let's work together now to embrace the challenge and seize the opportunity in front of us. Whether promotion comes our way or not, it's the journey we've been on together, the things we've learned, and the memories we've created that matter most because they are the things that will help us next season – whichever level we are playing at. Our first step to our future is today's game, so let's all get behind the team in green and gold and cheer them to a win.



ROMAN MOTYCZAK

Review of the season

August

With work continuing on laying the new 3G pitch and improving the facilities at Rothamsted Park, we started the season with six consecutive away games, starting with a 1-1 draw at Tring Athletic when a late Jake Anthony penalty rescued a point.

There was a familiar face in our midfield as Dave Keenleyside returned to the club he began his senior career with after a spell at Welwyn Garden City.

As if to foreshadow the wettest winter in recent memory, our FA Cup tie at Essex club Stanway Rovers was postponed after a heavy downpour and rescheduled for Tuesday night. With players unavailable we went out of the cup at the first hurdle, losing 3-1.

Hadley Gleeson, a new signing from Colney Heath, hit the target as we got our first win of the season at Shefford Town & Campton. James Younger came off the bench to score twice and Richard Oluwatoyin got the other one in a 4-2 win.

Harpenden needed two late goals to rescue

a point at London Lions. Having taken an early lead through Spencer O'Leary, Harps found themselves 4-2 down with 20 minutes left. Substitute Harry Andic pulled a goal back after 86 minutes and then, with goalkeeper Alex Desmond joining the attack for a set-piece, Rhys Monaghan forced the ball over the line to equalise.

Dan Palmer, who had scored at London Lions, was on target again at St Panteleimon, but it took an injury-time winner from Mickey Shuttlewood to secure three points.

Striker James Ewington returned to the club after a career that had taken him to St Albans City at Step 2.

Harps tasted defeat for the first time in the campaign at Leverstock Green, going down 2-0 after a subdued performance.

The league leaders at the end of August were Biggleswade United. Harpenden, who had been second, slipped to sixth after losing at Leverstock Green. New signing Kyle Rahho was named player of the month.



Above: Harpenden Town: September 9, 2023



Hadley Gleeson blasts the first goal on the new pitch against Dunstable

September

The grand opening of the refurbished Rothamsted Park was on a scorching hot day when we welcomed Dunstable Town and a huge crowd of 427. Hadley Gleeson scored the first goal on the new 3G pitch with a stunning strike from a tight angle. James Ewington added the second and third before Spencer O'Leary wrapped up an impressive 4-0 win.

Harps followed that three days later with a tight 2-1 home win over Potton United. Biggleswade United handed us our first home defeat of the season and then came an unexpectedly heavy loss to Wembley in the FA Vase. Wembley were in the lower reaches of the Combined Counties League Premier Division North at the time but they cruised to a comfortable 4-0 win.

We rounded off the month with a hard-fought 2-1 win over FC Romania with Ryan Plowright and Archie Fitzgerald getting the goals and a penalty save from Eman Olajide, who was named player of the month.

There were key reinforcements in defence as Archie Locke joined from Hoddesdon Town and Josh Rodrigues returned to the club.

October

It was a disappointing month on the pitch as Harpenden slipped from sixth to ninth in the table after failing to win a game. First there was a 1-0 defeat to a physical St Panteleimon team at Rothamsted Park. A few days later there was a 4-0 defeat to Step 4 Ware in the Herts Senior Cup.

October was a busy month off the field with a number of players coming and going. Archie McClelland arrived for a second spell at Harpenden, joining from Bedford Town having won the league last season with Leighton Town before following manager Lee Bircham to Bedford.

Left-back Lewis Williams arrived from Royston Town and Conor Clarke came in for a brief spell before heading on to Stotfold.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Alex Desmond and striker Jake Anthony both joined Dunstable Town.

McClelland made his debut in a crazy game at Crawley Green – on the night we debuted

our new orange away shirt, sponsored by Zappaty. We fell 3-0 down in the second half before mounting a fightback. Hadley Gleeson scored twice and fellow substitute Jamie Riley got the other as we drew level.

As we pushed for a late winner, Crawley hit on the counter-attack in injury time and won a penalty which they converted to clinch the game 4-3.

Heavy rain made conditions tricky at Stansted and we fell 2-0 down inside 12 minutes before pulling one back only for the referee to abandon the game at half-time because of a waterlogged pitch.

Our only league point of the month was earned in a 2-2 home draw against Arlesey Town.

Meanwhile, it was a fantastic month for Harpenden Town Women who beat Toby 6-2 and Brantham Athletic 8-0 to reach the FA Cup first round proper and a dream tie against Luton Town.



Archie Locke celebrates his goal against Leverstock Green the day before Fireworks Night.

November

We started the month with a statement win over fellow promotion-chasers Leverstock Green. It was especially impressive as Harps trailed at half-time. James Ewington got us level within a minute of the restart, then Archie Locke put us in front shortly afterwards. A late third wrapped up a 3-1 win.

A tense goalless draw at Potton United was followed by a penalty shoot-out win over St Panteleimon in the Gladwish Challenge Trophy.

Winger Reece Crowter arrived from Arlesey Town and scored on his debut as a substitute in a thrilling 3-2 win over London Lions at the end of the month. Seventeen-year-old goalkeeper Matt Burch made a string of fine saves as he stepped into the side for his first team debut.

A huge crowd of almost 500 watched as we went out of the Women's FA Cup 3-0 to a very strong Luton Town side.

Review of the season

December

League leaders Real Bedford inflicted the heaviest defeat of the season when they ran out 5-0 winners in freezing conditions at Rothamsted Park. Harps conceded early but stayed in the game reasonably well until Real got their second and cut loose in the final 20 minutes. That was followed by a deflating home defeat against Cockfosters, who were developing a reputation as something of a bogey side. Harps were unfortunate that an equaliser was ruled out for an extremely iffy offside decision.

A couple of new signings bolstered the squad. Central defender Tommy Smith returned to the club from Tring Athletic, although it would turn out to be a brief stay. Ben Spaul, on the other hand, arrived from Bedford Town having been a key part of last

season's league champions Leighton Town and quickly established himself in midfield.

Spencer O'Leary dropped down a division, joining Ampthill Town in search of regular first-team football.

It was a happy Harpenden Christmas after a solid 2-0 win at Arlesey Town thanks to goals from Dave Keenleyside and Josh Rodrigues.

A Reece Crowter goal secured a vital 1-0 derby win over Colney Heath on a night when the defence withstood a late onslaught from the visitors.

The final game of the year was a 3-2 home defeat to an impressive Milton Keynes Irish side, despite a strong Harps performance.

George Robinson was named player of the month.

January

The first game of the new year was another trip to Arlesey, to face ground-sharers Baldock Town. James Ewington scored twice in a 2-1 win.

Jake Anthony returned to the club after his brief spell at Dunstable Town.

Three points slipped away at home to Aylesbury Vale Dynamos. Keenleyside scored twice to give us a 2-1 lead only for Dynamos to strike twice in the final ten minutes.

Penalty shoot-out defeats on consecutive Tuesday night away trips saw us exit two cup competitions. A very late Reece Crowter equaliser forced a shoot-out at Potton United in the Gladwish Trophy. Keeper Eman Olajide scored a penalty and saved a couple but it was not enough. A good performance and a draw at Cockfosters in the Premier Division Cup was followed by another exit on penalties.

The month ended with a 2-1 defeat on a boggy pitch at Stansted.

Meanwhile, Harpenden Town Women faced their closest challengers, Dussindale and Hellesdon Rovers, in back-to-back meetings, losing 3-2 in Norfolk before winning 2-1 at Rothamsted Park to keep the title race finely balanced.



George Robinson and Ryan Plowright after the festive derby win over local rivals Colney Heath.

February

A 2-1 home win over Crawley Green kick-started a run of 11 wins in 14 games in all competitions as Harps remounted a bid for the play-offs. A comfortable win at bottom-of-the-table Sawbridgeworth Town was followed by an Archie McClelland hat-trick in an entertaining 4-0 St Mary's Cup win against Chipperfield Corinthians.

Then came a gritty 2-1 win at Cockfosters. James Ewington gave us an early lead only for the hosts to level. It took McClelland's second penalty in a week late on to clinch the points after a great Harps display.

Another McClelland goal gave us an early lead at table-toppers Real Bedford. The game turned on two refereeing decisions after similar fouls in the first half. Bedford's player was booked, Kyle Rahho was sent off. The ten men battled hard but conceded an equaliser just before half-time before the seemingly inevitable Bedford winner in the second half.

Defender Mickey Shuttlewood returned to the club from Colney Heath.



April

A Tuesday night trip to Milton Keynes Irish produced arguably the result and performance of the season. First-half goals from Isaiah Hilaire (above) and Archie McClelland put Harps in the driving seat. Rahho was sent off for a second yellow card early in the second half and Irish pulled a goal back straight away. They then laid siege to the Harps goal but the visitors held on to become the first team to win at Irish this season. That was followed by 11 goals in four days as Sawbridgeworth Town and Stansted were thrashed at Rothamsted Park.

March

Wet weather meant Aylesbury Vale Dynamos switched their home game to Rothamsted Park. We strolled to a confident 3-0 win with goals from Reece Crowter and two for Jake Anthony from the bench.

That was followed by an equally impressive 3-1 home win over Tring Athletic and a 4-1 win against Oxhey Jets in the St Mary's Cup, meaning a first cup final appearance for Harpenden since the 2018 Premier Division Cup win over Welwyn Garden City.

There was a blip against a strong, physical Biggleswade United side, who ran out 3-1 winners and that was followed by a 1-1 draw against Baldock Town. A late Archie Locke header salvaged a point on Non-League Day.

The shock news that St Panteleimon were to fold and withdraw from the league with immediate effect threw the race for the play-offs wide open and lifted Harps into that crucial fifth place.

And the team got back on track with a fantastic 1-0 derby win over Colney Heath, with injury-time heroics from penalty-saving keeper Eman Olajide to deny the hosts an equaliser.

SIX OF THE BEST

An entirely subjective list of our six best matches of the season so far...

1. Milton Keynes Irish A 2-1

A truly heroic display in which everyone played their part. Excellent in the first half, down to ten men for much of the second against a team that hadn't lost at home – it rarely gets better.

2. Dunstable Town H 4-0

A huge crowd, glorious sunshine, four great goals. A historic day.

3. FC Romania H 2-1

A penalty save and an injury time winner against a top side.

4. Colney Heath A 1-0

Late drama with Eman's penalty save in injury time completing the double over our rivals.

5. Leverstock Green H 3-1

An excellent second half display to come from behind.

6. Sawbridgeworth Town H 6-0

A first-half hat-trick, 4-0 up at the break. Great entertainment.



TITLE RACE SET TO GO DOWN TO THE WIRE

Harpenden Town Women went top of the table by the narrowest of margins after a 7-3 win over Histon on Sunday.

Second-half substitute Jasmine Hughes scored a hat-trick while Sophia Amanor and Belle Shannon got two each. It put Harpenden top of the table ahead of Dussindale and Hellesdon Rovers. Both sides have a goal difference of plus-31, but Harps have scored more goals.

The two title contenders each have three games to play with Harps finishing their season against Mulbarton Wanderers at Rothamsted Park on Sunday, April 28.

Dussindale and Hellesdon's games are all away from home but their final match is scheduled for May, so Harps may be in for a nervy wait to see if they've done enough to win the title and promotion to the Premier Division.

PROGRAMME SPONSOR

We're looking for a programme sponsor to cover the cost of printing copies of Green & Gold next season. If you are interested, contact us through our website harpentownfc.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We've had a great response to our call for volunteers over recent weeks and have attracted a bookkeeper and a couple of people to help run the gate on matchdays.

Match announcer Ben Voss made his debut on the microphone on Tuesday night. Ben has previously run the PA at Barnet FC and lives in Harpenden. Welcome aboard everyone.

We still need a clubhouse manager to help run the bar facility which raises vital funds for the club, and a kit manager for the men's team. If either role suits you, contact us through harpentownfc.com

THE SPARTAN BIKE RIDE

Harpenden Town supporter Lionel Birnie is riding his bike to each of the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division grounds next week, taking in our final two games against FC Romania and Dunstable Town on the way.

Two years ago Lionel, who co-founded The Cycling Podcast, rode to all 42 Scottish football grounds. The subsequent podcast series won an award at the Sports Podcast Awards.

He's riding 301 kilometres to raise money for the Rennie Grove hospice in St Albans which supported his mum as she underwent chemotherapy treatment in 2022.

If you want to support the cause, go to <https://gofund.me/e4d17a66>

Day one takes him from Rothamsted Park to Cheshunt, arriving in time for kick-off against FC Romania, via five other grounds. The ride continues on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning with the last leg back to Harpenden.

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* £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.

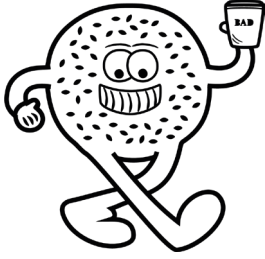
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Hot food available at
The Portland Arms on
first team matchdays
@Stburgerherts



QUESTION TIME

MICKEY

SHUTTLEWOOD

Age: 27

Favourite playing position and shirt number
Centre half and my favourite shirt number is 26

Where are you from? Born in Luton, made in London Colney

Previous clubs Where do I start... London Colney, Colney Heath, Arlesey Town, Harpenden Town

What was your Harpenden Town debut?
Two years ago against Basildon (in a friendly). Lasted 18 minutes and got a straight red card

What did you sing for your initiation at Harpenden Town? Shaggy – Angel. Best to ever do it

What's your earliest football memory?
Earliest football memory is getting my first pair of football boots for my birthday. Wasn't all great as Mum didn't let me use them till I could tie my laces. And first game I went to was West Ham v Gillingham with my grandad, who was a season ticket holder

What was the first football shirt you owned?
A John Terry Chelsea shirt

Who do you support now? Chelsea

What's the biggest match you've played in?
FA Youth Cup v Norwich, quarter-final

You're hosting a dinner party, which four guests would you invite?
Elvis, Jimmy Carr, Freddie Mercury, Liam Gallagher

And what would you cook?
Seafood paella, with a side of fresh village bread. Washed down with some lovely red wine

What's the best thing about Harpenden? Dave Keenleyside

What do you do for a living?
Site investigator drill technician

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

Best things are it's the most entertaining league in the world on and off the pitch. Worst thing is people think they're professional when they

can't pass a ball five yards but want highlights off Veo doing the Cruyff turn

Favourite ground you've played at
Stamford Bridge or Veltins Arena, which is FC Schalke's ground. That was a crazy experience

Best game you've ever attended
Best game I've attended is Bayern Munich v Chelsea in the Champions League final

Who do you travel to away games with?
I travel with James Ewington – lovely top of the range Range Rover SVR. Paid for with the wages he's collected from Harpenden!

You're in charge of the music travelling to an away game.

What's on the playlist?
Shaggy – Angel, Queen – Bohemian Rhapsody, Dizzee Rascal – You've Got the Dirttee Love

Which of your teammates have the best dress sense? Best – Eman. Worst – Reece Crowter!

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

What's your personal goal for the 2023-24 season? To get in the starting eleven. [Interview was done before Mickey tore his LCL. Get well very soon.]

Can supporters follow you on social media?

Twitter @MickeyShutts96
Instagram @mickeycharles
[Mickey also co-hosts the excellent Spartan Talk Podcast]

Mickey Shuttlewood celebrating his injury-time winner in the early season away win at St Panteleimon. With their record expunged after they withdrew from the league, that goal technically doesn't count (!) so for good measure he scored after coming off the bench against Sawbridgeworth Town.



HARPENDEN TOWN WOMEN

Eastern Region Women's League Division One North

August

Sun 13 Histon A 3-4

September

Sun 3 Biggleswade United A 2-1

Sun 17 Fakenham Town H 7-2

Thur 21 Wootton Blue Cross A 2-1

October

Sun 15 Stevenage Development H 4-2

Sun 29 Newmarket Town H 4-0

November

No league games

December

Sun 3 Biggleswade United H 6-0

Sun 17 Wootton Blue Cross H 5-1

January

Sun 7 Dussindale & Hellesdon A 2-3

Sun 21 Dussindale & Hellesdon H 2-1

February

Sun 4 Newmarket Town A 2-1

March

Sun 10 Thetford Town A 1-0

Sun 17 Stevenage Development A 3-3

Sun 24 Thetford Town H 5-2

April

Sun 7 Histon H 7-3

Sun 14 Mulbarton Wanderers A

Sun 21 Fakenham Town A

Sun 28 Mulbarton Wanderers H

FA Cup

Sept 10 Stanway Pegasus H 3-2

Oct 1 Toby H 6-2

Oct 22 Brantham Athletic H 8-0

Nov 12 Luton Town H 0-3

Herts Senior Cup

Nov 19 Cheshunt H 3-1

Mar 3 Royston Town A 0-4

League Cup

Nov 26 Wodson Park A 3-1

Dec 10 Bowers & Pitsea H 2-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Harpenden Town	15	12	1	2	55	24	37
2 Dussindale & Hellesdon Rovers	15	12	1	2	47	16	37
3 Newmarket Town	18	7	3	8	35	32	24
4 Histon	17	7	1	9	37	47	22
5 Wootton Blue Cross Lionesses	16	7	0	9	36	36	21
6 Mulbarton Wanderers	12	6	3	3	24	29	21
7 Thetford Town	15	6	1	8	30	28	19
8 Stevenage Development	16	4	3	9	28	46	15
9 Biggleswade United	15	4	2	9	20	40	14
10 Fakenham Town	15	3	3	9	29	43	12

MEN'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Herts Senior County League Division One

September

Sat 2 Hatfield United A 1-2

Sat 16 Knebworth H 5-4

Sat 23 AFC Welwyn Dev H 6-1

Sat 30 Bovingdon Reserves H 1-4

October

Sat 14 Hemel Hempstead Rovers H 2-4

November

Sat 4 Hemel Hempstead Rovers A 1-2

Sat 11 Evergreen H 4-1

Sat 25 Old Parmeritians A 3-1

December

Sat 9 Waltham Cross A 1-3

Sat 16 Owens A 1-3

January

Sat 13 Hatfield United H 2-1

Sat 20 Old Parmeritians H 1-1

February

Sat 3 Knebworth A 5-2

Sun 10 Waltham Cross H 2-0

March

Sat 9 Letchworth Garden City A 2-4

Sat 16 Hertford Heath H 6-0

April

Mon 1 Letchworth Garden City H 3-2

Sat 6 Owens H 2-2

Sat 13 Hertford Heath A

Sat 20 Westmill H

Tue 30 Bovingdon Reserves A

May

Sat 11 Evergreen A

Tue 14 Westmill A

Sat 18 AFC Welwyn Dev A

Herts Intermediate Cup

Oct 7 Allenburys Sports A 5-0

Nov 18 Westmill H 2-3

Norman Appleby Trophy

Oct 28 Everett Rovers A 2-6

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Owens	20	15	1	4	41	46
2 Waltham Cross	23	12	3	8	21	39
3 Hemel Hempstead Rovers	15	11	3	1	19	36
4 Evergreen	17	11	1	5	18	34
5 Letchworth GC Eagles U23	22	10	4	8	4	34
6 Bovingdon Reserves	17	9	5	3	13	32
7 Harpenden Town Dev	18	9	2	7	11	29
8 Westmill	14	8	1	5	18	25
9 Hatfield United	19	7	3	9	-9	24
10 Old Parmeritians	18	5	2	11	-19	17
11 AFC Welwyn Development	16	5	1	10	-13	16
12 Hertford Heath Development	20	3	0	17	-40	9
13 Knebworth	21	2	0	19	-64	6

On the road with the green & gold army



Wednesday, April 17
v FC Romania
Theobolds Lane
Cheshunt FC, 7.45pm

Distance from Harpenden

22 miles / 40 minutes

Recent meeting A thrilling home game in September. Eman Olajide saved a penalty and 17-year-old Archie Fitzgerald scored in the last minute, seconds after coming on for his first-team debut, to clinch a 2-1 win.



Saturday, April 20
v Dunstable Town
Creasey Park
3pm

Distance from Harpenden

12 miles / 25 minutes

Recent meetings One good – the 4-0 win at home in September – and one bad – a 5-1 defeat on the 3G adjacent to their main ground at the end of last season.

Keep in touch over the summer break

With two away games, a potential play-off semi-final and the date for the St Mary's Cup final to be confirmed, there'll be plenty of Harps-related news to keep up with in the coming weeks.

The best way to stay up-to-date is to follow **@Harpenden_Town** on Twitter/X, check out **Harpendentownfc.com** or follow our page on Facebook.

Also, sign up for our forthcoming monthly newsletter **Green & Gold** by entering your email address on our website.

KEY DATES

Season tickets for 2024-25 are on sale now.

Early June

Our pre-season fixture schedule will start to be confirmed on social media and our website.

Early July

The FA Cup extra preliminary and preliminary rounds will be drawn, as will the early round of the FA Vase.

The fixture list for the Spartan South Midlands League will be released.

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Bedford	33	27	5	1	114	23	91	86
2 Milton Keynes Irish	33	25	6	2	94	24	70	81
3 FC Romania	32	18	6	8	75	56	19	60
4 Harpenden Town	33	18	5	10	69	50	19	59
5 Leverstock Green	32	17	8	7	68	50	18	59
6 Tring Athletic	32	14	7	11	55	51	4	49
7 Cockfosters	30	12	9	9	61	47	14	45
8 London Lions	31	12	7	12	69	65	4	43
9 Colney Heath	31	13	3	15	48	43	5	42
10 Potton United	32	11	8	13	42	51	-9	41
11 Biggleswade United	34	12	5	17	66	79	-13	41
12 Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	31	12	5	14	54	69	-15	41
13 Stansted	33	11	7	15	47	63	-16	40
14 Dunstable Town	33	10	9	14	49	60	-11	39
15 Baldock Town	33	11	4	18	59	75	-16	34*
16 Arlesey Town	34	9	7	18	36	67	-31	34
17 Shefford Town & Campton	32	8	5	19	44	86	-42	29
18 Crawley Green	33	7	6	20	44	81	-37	27
19 Sawbridgeworth Town	32	1	6	25	24	78	-54	9
20 St Panteleimon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

** Withdrew 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

SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON

Manager: Kane Dougherty
Colours: Blue and white

Josh Mollison
Arun Khan
Dempsey Thomas
Charlie Milton
Freddie Laraman
Carmichael Uchenna
Chris Uchenna
Tom Cooksley
Vinnie Baker
Ola Okeowo
Luke Carter
Ryan Lewis
Conrad Holland
Sam Day
Adam Drakulic
Alfie Roffey
Tobin Marshall
Scott Metcalfe
Henry Jones
Kurtis Alleyne
Luke Baranowski
Match officials
Rikki Woolford
Kevin Dunnings
Nigel Hickes

COMING SOON AT HOME AND AWAY

MEN'S TEAM

Wednesday, April 17
FC Romania (A) League 7.45pm
Saturday, April 20
Dunstable Town (A) League 3pm

WOMEN'S TEAM

Sunday, April 28
Mulbarton Wanderers (H) League 2pm
[Check harpendentownfc.com](http://www.harpendentownfc.com)
for any fixture changes