AYLESBURY UNITED VS HITCHIN TOWN

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL 14th January 2025



PARTNERS WITH SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

WELCOME

Good evening and welcome to The Meadow for this Pitching In Southern League division one central between Aylesbury United and Hitchin Town. We offer a very warm welcome to everyone, including visiting players, officials and supporters from Hitchin Town. We hope you enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

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Today's opponents

The first Hitchin FC was formed in 1865. The club took part in the first FA Cup in 1871-72, and reached the quarter finals of the competition, losing to eventual finalists Royal Engineers. That first Hitchin club, a struggling professional outfit, folded in 1911, debt-ridden and the victims of a fire at their ground.

It was not until 1928 that Hitchin Town FC was formed, and it was at this point that the nickname, "The Canaries", was established. Hitchin Town gained admission to the Spartan League. The 1930s were a golden age for Hitchin Town. The club won the AFA Senior Cup in 1932, beating Derbyshire Amateurs in the final and in 1935, they won the Spartan League Premier Division. The club entered the Athenian League in 1939, but after two league games and a Herts Charity Cup tie, WW2 intervened.

Hitchin struggled in the aftermath of World War Two in the Athenian League, not recovering until the mid-1950s. In 1956 a record crowd of 7,878 watched Hitchin Town beat Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 in the FA Amateur Cup. At the end of the 1962-63 season, the Canaries moved into the Isthmian League. This move was not an easy one for the club, and the early years were a constant struggle. But in 1968-69, Hitchin finished runners-up in the Isthmian League and a year later, won the London Senior Cup, beating St.Albans 4-2 in the final. Hitchin stayed in the Isthmian League until 2004, when as a result of a reorganisation they transferred to the Southern League. They won the Southern League Cup in 2006, and despite relegation in 2009, they won promotion back to the Premier Division in 2012, and in 2015-16 and 2016-17 they enjoyed their best-ever seasons in the Southern League, reaching the play-offs on both occasions but missing out on promotions through defeatin the semi-final and then the final. The team also won the Herts Senior Cup in both seasons. Since the heights of reaching the play-off final in 2016-17, the Canaries have found survival in the Southern League Premier Division tough going. The seasons between 2017-18 and 2022-23, with or without curtailments, have seen finishes of between 10th and 18th.

It should be noted though during recent years, the Canaries have had a little more success in Cup competitions. A second Southern League Cup success came the way of the Canaries in 2017-18, along with the Herts Charity Cup, which was retained in the 2018-19 season. But the highlight of this season was in the FA Cup, where the Canaries reached the First Round Proper for the first time in 23 years before bowing out at home to Solihull Moors in front of a crowd of 3,148, the highest attendance at Top Field for over 40 years.

Season 2022-23 proved to be, in relative terms, quite successful for the Canaries. The team finished in a very creditable 12th position. The team also reached the Hertfordshire Senior Cup final, where they lost narrowly to Berkhamsted on penalties.

The 2023-24 season is one that is best forgotten. After a really bright start where the Canaries found themselves as high as third place in the table in October, they then embarked on an inexplicable downward spiral, the worst in the Club's history, that resulted in only 13 league points being gained out of the last 78 available, and subsequently relegation on the last day of the season after a 92nd minute header from goalkeeper Charlie Horlockwas blocked on the line in a 0-0 draw against Stourbridge which would have saved the Canaries had it gone in. The season also saw the departure of long-serving manager Mark Burke after 11 years at the helm. New manager Brett Donnelly, who had an impossible six games to try to stop the downward spiral having moved across from Stotfold to take on the charge of his beloved home town club, did his very best and brought in two or three signings to try to lift the morale and mentality of the team, but unfortunately the damage was already done. Both Brett and the Club as a whole had started building for life at Step 4 and the task of a swift return to Step 3 when out of the blue on Tuesday 28th May 2024, as a result of Coalville Town's resignation from the Southern League (and the timing of it), Hitchin Town were handed a reprieve from relegation. That meant an eleventh hour total rebuild of the squad for Brett, and a completely new squad was assembled for the 2024/25 season.
Regrettably , results this season did not go the Canaries' way.Eight points in the first 13 League games, including two consecutive games where five goals were conceded, resulted in Brett being relieved of his duties as manager late in October. Coach Michael Jones, having served a brief term as Interim Manager in which the team won two games and drew one, was appointed Manager. However, with results not going our way in games when perhaps they might have, survival was always going to be a tough uphill battle, and after a 13 year stay in the Premier Division, the Canaries were relegated in 21st place to Division 1 Central.
So the Canaries start the 2025/26 campaign as a complete "reset". What remains to be seen is if they can get into a regular winning mentality having endured two seasons of mainly defeats and wasted opportunities.

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WHO'S WHO?

At Aylesbury United FC

Manager- Paul Batchelor
Assistant Managers- Danny Gray & Matt Kelloway
Physiotherapist- Grace Wellstood
First team kit- Will Harvey

Chair- Graham Read
Vice Chair- Ken Turnbull
Managing Director- Bob Moody
Club Secretary- Steve Baker
Fixtures Secretary- Ian Pluck
Company Secretary- Roger Simmons
Directors- Graham Read, Alan Sherwell, Ken Turnbull

Safety Officer- Graham Martin
21st Century Ducks chair- Andy Martin
Club chaplain, welfare officer and safeguarding officer- Rev. Martyn Shaw

Legal name- Aylesbury United Football Club
Company number- 05814026
Significant interests (Shareholders/Shareholding)- Graham Read (51%), 21st Century Ducks (39%)

Our community role

Do you know what we do for the community via our Womens and Junior sections of club? Just have a look – we are more than a Step four club, we are a much larger, envied ONE CLUB. Aylesbury United Football Club.

The Womens and Junior sections are still proudly flying the Aylesbury United flag in and around the town. We are proud of them, and they are proud to do so. The Womens section comprise of 17 teams! 14 play in local leagues with another three 'social' playing teams. This amounts to more than 270 players, lead by 60 coaches and volunteers, more than 1,000 parents and club members receiving news and information about the club via social media and newsletters, etc.
Paul Timms, chair of the Women's section says: ''The demand for women's football is growing enormously, and we are proud to be part of it!''

The Juniors section is currently running 25 teams, with 370 players, 94 coaches and volunteers, week in, week out supporting the youth of Aylesbury, and unfortunately turning kids away as they have no capacity to take more (mainly down to the lack of – or poor quality of – facilities e.g. playing fields).
John Stirzaker, Juniors section chairman, states: ''Without facilities, we struggle, the town struggles and kids suffer, this is why it's so important to 'Bring the Ducks Home' and provided the necessary pitches required.''
Below are some amazing figures highlighting the hours given up by volunteers (of both the Womens and Juniors sections) to give the youngsters of Aylesbury the opportunity of playing football and being part of our club. I would imagine the hours are higher now but based on previous years' activity.

- **675 hours of weekly sporting activity by providing access to training.**
- **27,000 hours of sporting activity by providing access to training over a 40 week season.**
- **13,500 hours of additional sporting activity with participation in weekly fixtures.**
- **13,500 hours of sporting activity for members of the wider community who are members of other clubs and participate as our opposition in fixtures**
- **2,500 hours of sporting activity for club members and the wider community at our annual 'End of Season Football Festival'.**

The minimum total sporting activity that is provided to its members over a 40 week period, by AUJFC & AUWFC, is 56,500 hours.

And not forgetting the Pan-Disability and Walking football sections that also do an amazing job for our club. All sections are always on the look out for more volunteers and coaches, so if you fancy it, or know anybody that would be interested in helping the Aylesbury youth of today (and our potential players of tomorrow) then please make contact.
As ever, I appreciate your support, whether it be the Mini Ducks right through to the first team, I thank you, and I know we would not be as strong as we are without you all.

Graham Read
Chairman, Aylesbury United Football Club

Charity Partner Youth Concern



Each season Aylesbury United partners with a local charity to raise funds through various activities associated with the club

The election of a Charity

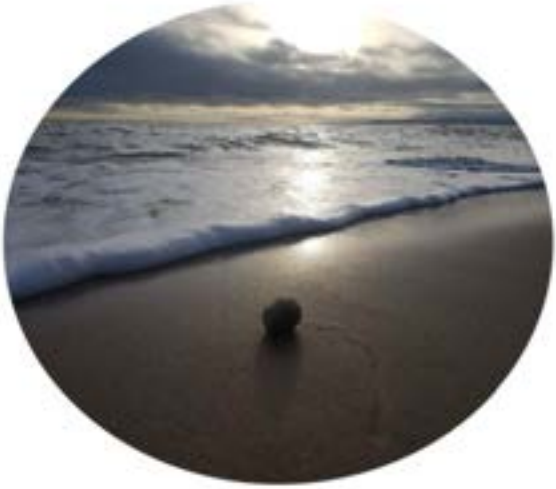
This season Aylesbury United is supporting Youth Concern as our charity partner.

Youth Concern are a youth charity that support young people in Aylesbury Vale. They welcome all 13-25 year olds, but specialise in working with young people who face additional challenges including, but not limited to, those who are financially vulnerable, have mental health needs, homeless or at risk of homelessness, young carers, 'looked after' or affected by domestic/sexual violence or abuse. Youth Concern has a drop-in centre in Aylesbury which provides a range of activities and support.

Hannah Asquith, CEO at Youth Concern, said: *"I'm absolutely thrilled that supporters' of Aylesbury United have chosen Youth Concern to be the club charity partner for the season, and we are grateful for your support. We look forward to working in partnership with the club and wish The Ducks all the best this season."*



OLIVER LACEY



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25/26 FIXTURES

2/8/25- Ardley United (A) FAC 1-0 L
9/8/25- Leverstock Green (H) 0-0 D
12/8/25- Marlow (A) 3-0 L
23/8/25- MK Irish (A) 4-1 W- Larwood 10' French 38' Beadle 49' Tamplin 90+4'
26/8/25- Flackwell Heath (H) 0-2 L
6/9/25- Stanway Rovers (A) FAT 4-0 L
13/9/25- Northwood (H) 2-2 D- Raposo 14' Layman 85'
27/9/25- Enfield (A) 3-0 W- Raposo 33' Bewley 65' Larwood 87'
1/10/25- Leighton Town (H) 1-0 L
11/10/25- Biggleswade (H) 3-2 L Tuttle 43' Kakembo 79'
15/10/25- London Lions (A) 4-1 L Kakembo 27'
18/10/25- Hertford Town (A) 5-1 L Garcia 8'
21/10/25- AFC Dunstable (A) 2-0 L
29/10/25- Beaconsfield Town (A) 3-2 W OG, 71' Larwood 81', 87'
2/11/25- Biggleswade Town (H) 3-0 L
8/11/25- Ware (A) 2-0 L
12/11/25- Welwyn Garden City (H) 2-2 D Martin 93' Reeves 97'
15/11/25- Leverstock Green (A) 3-3 D French 15' Reeves 26' Martin 51'
19/11/25- Hadley (H) 1-1 D OG 91'
22/11/25- Hitchin Town (H) Abandoned
26/11/25- Marlow (H) 2-0 W Bewley 30' Akinbobola 45'
29/11/25- Northwood (A) 2-0 W Akinbobola 17' Stobbs 88'
6/12/25- Barton Rovers (A) 1-0 L
13/12/25- Rayners Lane (H) 3-1 W Reeves 41' French 43' Cameron 62'
20/12/25- MK Irish (H) 2-0 W OG 49' Martin 83'
27/12/25- Flackwell Heath (A) 3-0 L
3/1/26- Thame United (H) P-P
10/1/26- Stotfold (A) 2-1 L Tamplin 85'
14/1/26- Hitchin Town (H)
17/1/26- AFC Dunstable (H)
24/1/26- Leighton Town (A)
31/1/26- London Lions (H)
8/2/26- Biggleswade (A)
14/2/26- Beaconsfield Town (H)
21/2/26- Biggleswade Town (A)
28/2/26- Ware (H)
7/3/26- Welwyn Garden City (A)
14/3/26- Enfield (H)
21/3/26- Hitchin Town (A)
28/3/26- Rayners Lane (A)
3/4/26- Barton Rovers (H)
6/4/26- Thame United (A)
11/4/26- Stotfold (H)
18/4/26- Hadley (A)
25/4/26- Hertford Town (H)

MENS FOOTBALL

At Aylesbury United FC

The men's first team currently play in the Pitching In Southern League Division One Central. They are managed by Paul Batchelor.

Founded in 1897 – when local sides Night School, The Printing Works and Aylesbury Town merged to become Aylesbury United – the first team turned semi-professional in 1976 and joined the Southern League.

For the past decade the team has played in the Southern League at step four of the National League pyramid.

The club was evicted from our home ground in Aylesbury when the lease expired in 2006, and for the past 19 years has had to play home matches outside the town. For the past eight seasons, the team has played at The Meadow, home of Chesham United.

WOMENS FOOTBALL

At Aylesbury United FC

The women's first team currently play in the Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division Three North.

Aylesbury United Ladies was re-established in 2002, following a number of years without a team and the demise of Berkhamsted Ladies. Early highlights including a 7-2 victory over multi-time women's FA Cup winners Southampton Women's FC, and reaching the League Plate Final in 2004. The team picked up its first honours in 2007 with victory in the Thames Valley League Plate Final against Wolverton Wasps by penalty shoot-out. The Ladies won the League Plate again in 2014-15, the same season the club merged with junior side Vale Reds FC, to form Aylesbury United Ladies and Girls.

In 2023 the club changed its name to Aylesbury United Women to better reflect its position as an end-to-end female club for all ages with a clear pathway to the first team.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

At Aylesbury United FC

Aylesbury United Juniors FC has a long history within the town of providing local youngsters with opportunities to train and play football. We currently provide this provision for more than 350 players from 3 years of age; through to 18.

Our Mini Duck sessions are for 3 to 6 year olds. Age groups U7-U12 play in the South Bucks Mini Soccer Conference where fixtures are considered an extension of training and aimed at development; and age groups U13-U17 play competitively at all levels within the Wycombe and South Bucks Minor Football League.
The club's all inclusive disability section also comes under the Juniors' banner and will play in the Berks, Oxon and Bucks Inclusive League.
As an accredited FA Club we will be able to provide regular football, so whether a player is looking to play for enjoyment, or has ambitions to play at a senior level, we can cater for their needs.

All of our volunteers are subject to FA enhanced background checks and are all encourage to develop themselves as coaches as their players progress.
The club also prides itself in supporting all volunteers including young coaches and referees.
If you are interested in joining Aylesbury United Juniors, please email:
membership@aujfc.co.uk

PAN-DISABILITY

At Aylesbury United FC

The Aylesbury United pan-disability team is a fully inclusive side for both children and adults with physical or learning difficulties.

The side is affiliated with the Berkshire Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire Inclusive (BOBi) League, one of the largest pan-disability leagues in the country.

Sessions take place at Ashmead School in Stoke Mandeville on Saturday mornings from 9am to 10.30am.

If children or adults you know would be interested in playing football, please come along to a session, or get in touch. Siblings, family and friends are also welcome to come along. There's no need to book, just bring suitable clothing, football, and something to drink.

The team was first established by James Byrne when his disabled son wanted to start playing football. He coached the team for four years, and it's now organised by Nick Gurney and his team of coaches.

WALKING FOOTBALL

At Aylesbury United FC

Walking Football was only invented in 2011. As the name suggests, no running – either with or without the ball – is allowed, and it is a no contact sport so all tackling must be done without touching the opponent. Teams are six-a-side, and is open to men over 50, and women over 40.

Our team was formed back in October 2015, thanks to the vision of the late Matthew Doherty. With an enthusiastic bunch aged between 18 and 78 turning out on a cold autumn night, Aylesbury United Walking Football Club was born. The ethos behind the club has always been to allow an inclusive environment for all to take part in the game we all love.

The team's success means there are two teams at Over 50 – the Aylesbury United Greens, and the Aylesbury United Stripes, as well as an Over-60s side, all of which participate in the Thames Valley Walking Football League. As the team is one of the pioneers of Walking Football, they often find themselves up against 'big' names of Football, and previous matches have seen the Ducks take on Watford, Oxford United, and even Arsenal.

Weekly sessions take place at the Aylesbury Vale Academy on Wednesday evenings between 7-8pm. The minimum age is 48 to participate due to the popularity and space available.
If you'd like to take part and get involved, please contact the team via its Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages.

Paul Batchelor- Manager



'Batch' rejoins the club where he began his management career in the managerial role, he started the season with Aylesbury Vale Dynamos. Paul emphasises opportunities for young players to come through into the first team and will bring the ducks an exciting style of play.

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Danny Gray- Assistant manager

A former Aylesbury United player, Danny joins the ducks as an assistant manager.

Sponsorship available

Matt Kelloway- Assistant manager



Matt has previously worked with Batch, as U23 manager at Aylesbury Vale Dynamos. He joined the ducks along with Batch and Danny in October 2025.

Sponsorship available

Will Harvey- Kitman



Having been a supporter of the club for nearly 10 years, Will started working for the ducks in November 2024 in a media role, before taking up the role of first team kitman in February 2025.

He currently runs the social media platforms and produces the matchday programme, as well as his kitman responsibilities.

Sponsorship available

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Jack Hopwood- Goalkeeper

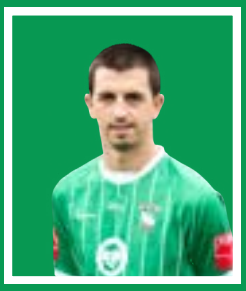


Goalkeeper who joined the ducks from Tring Athletic in 2018. Hoppy left the club in 2021 following his relocation but returned just a year later for the 22/23 season. He spent a year playing for Kidlington before returning to the ducks for a third spell in 2024/25.

Jack has won multiple end of season awards for his excellent performances and service to the ducks.

Sponsored by Grace and Tom Nelms

Jack Wood- Defender, Captain

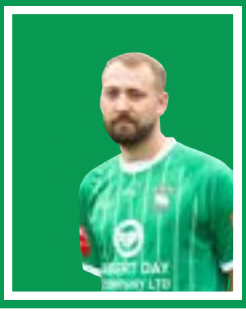


Long-serving club captain, Jack initially joined the club on loan from Luton Town in March 2010, before making the move permanent the following summer. An outstanding and versatile talent, he lines-up in central defence these days, but came to the club as a midfielder and has also featured in the wide positions.

He is joint-first on the list of all-time appearances for the Ducks after equalling the record vs Ware, and has made more than 650 appearances for the club. He continues to display incredible loyalty to the club despite several offers to ply his trade elsewhere.

Sponsored by Jack Silbermann

Jake Bewley- Defender



Ever reliable attack-minded left back who has barely missed a game since being recruited from former landlords Leighton Town in summer 2014 after a four-year association with the Bedfordshire side, having previously played for Dunstable Town and AFC Dunstable before that. Jake's year-on-year improvement culminated in him being named Supporters' Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year at the end of the 2016-17 campaign, having been named the Most Improved Player in 2015-16. Always eager to support attacks on the left flank, he has an excellent left foot which can also be turned to set piece speciality, Jake weighing in with a number of direct free kick goals and penalties over the course of his ducks career.

Sponsored by Richard Lloyd

Liam Batchelor- Morgan- Defender



Full back signed in summer 2024 from Biggleswade. Has also previously played for Hilltop and Tring Corinthians. Liam is an attack-minded right back, who was our highest appearance maker in 24/25.

Sponsored by Jenny Rayner

Luke Martin- Defender



An intelligent CB that reads the game and presents a tactical awareness to dictate defensive structure with calm authority. A defensive prowess combined with on the ball-ability including a diverse passing range, and a versatility which allows him to play full-back and in midfield.

Sponsored by Jim Rayner

Kian Henry- Defender



Central defender signed in summer 2024 from Wokingham and Emmbrook. He was previously a junior with Beaconsfield Town.

Sponsored by Dave Brown

Ben Peters- Midfielder



Midfielder signed from Risborough Rangers in December 2023, who was previously part of the Academy 23 set-up with both Slough Town and then at Beaconsfield Town.

Sponsored by Alex Pluck

Hayden Beadle- Midfielder



Central midfielder who came through the youth and development system at Thame United before breaking into the first team. Joined the Ducks in Summer 2023 before playing elsewhere in 24/25 before rejoining this summer.

Sponsored by Colin Jitlal

Finlay Reeves- Midfielder



17 year old winger who impressed on his debut against Beaconsfield, Fin joins the ducks from Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, where he scored in their FA Cup tie against St Albans City.

Sonny French- Midfielder



Talented midfielder who has made effortlessly gliding past opponents in midfield something of an art form. Sonny signed for Aylesbury United on registration day in March 2015 from town neighbours Aylesbury FC, where he was a former Player of the Season winner. Began his career with Hemel Hempstead Town, before becoming an important part of the Aylesbury FC team, scoring just short of 40 goals during his four years with the club. Made more than 280 appearances, scoring 62 times for the Ducks, before departing in summer 2023 for Kings Langley. Re-signed for a second spell in September 2024.

Sponsored by John Woodhouse

Lee Stobbs- Midfielder/ Fullback



Rejoined The Ducks this summer following a spell away playing at Tring, Stobbsy has previously played over 50 games for us. He is known for his excellent delivery in the final third.

Frankie Bircham- Midfielder



Midfielder recently signed from Rayners Lane

Sponsorship available

Abdullah Jellal- Midfielder



Powerful striker signed in March 2025 from Kidlington. Scored his first ducks goal in a pre-season game against Chalfont St Peter.

Rocko Tamplin- Winger



Rocko rejoined the ducks this season, scoring on his return to the ducks against MK Irish. Previously playing for the club in 22/23, Rocko's pace and flair makes him exciting to watch on the pitch!

Fabian Garcia- Winger



The rapid winger had spells with Thame United and Aylesbury Vale Dynamos last season including one outing against the Ducks.

Sponsored by Lee Cotton

Reece Cameron- Striker



Reece is a familiar striker for the Ducks, having played for the club a few years ago, returned from AFC Welwyn to play under Batch

Opposition Profiles

Tyler McGregor 23-year-old goalkeeper recently signed on loan from Real Bedford, for whom he featured as part of their promotion winning team last season.

Josh Bowler – 22-year-old goalkeeper who began his football career at AFC Dunstable before joining Luton Town's academy as a youngster. Josh spent most of last season at Berkhamsted FC before he was sidelined with an injury. He then saw out the season at Kings Langley.

Alfie Bonfield – Alfie joined Hitchin Town at the end of August 2025 following injury to our number 1 keeper Josh Bowler. Alfie finished the 24/25 season at Stotfold and lists Leverstock Green, Edgware Town and Shefford and Campton as some of his former clubs. His father Darren Bonfield appeared 106 times as a goalkeeper for the Canaries.

Lewis Franklin - 22-year-old defender joined at the start of the season from Stotfold. Prior to this he has also played for Welwyn Garden City and Baldock Town. He was also a member of our Hitchin academy setup and is now one of our coaches for Hitchin Town Community FC. Lewis has quickly become a favourite since joining the first team and in 2024/25 secured both the Supporters and Managers Player of the Year awards.

Josh Jackman – A vastly experienced player who joined the Canaries at the start of this season. The 33-year-old defender played over 300 games and captained National League South side Slough Town before having to leave at the end of 2024/25 due to work and personal commitments.

Charlie Briggs – An experienced defender, 28-year-old Charlie joins from Biggleswade Town where he was captain and helped to secure promotion for them to Step 3 in 2023/24. Previous clubs include Stotfold Town, Berkhamsted and Biggleswade United

Toby Syme - Former Norwich City academy defender. Previous clubs also include Kings Langley and Harpenden Town. Toby rejoined the Canaries for a second spell in 2022/23 where he established himself at centre back and won the Manager's Player of the Year award. He has now achieved over 150 appearances for Hitchin Town.

Blue Joy – 18-year-old centre back whose recent excellent performances with the Hitchin Town academy have resulted in him signing first team registration papers and featuring at the end of the 2024/25 season.

Ciaren Jones – Ciaren started his career playing for Luton U18s before a move to Norwich City's U23 side. He won the Manager's Player and Player's Player of the Year awards for the Canaries at the end of 2021/22 season. Ciaren joined Brackley Town in the National League North at the start of the 2022/23 season but spent most of the season back at the Canaries on a loan spell and rejoined the Canaries on a permanent basis for the 2023/24 season. He has since become club captain and has also surpassed 150 appearances for Hitchin Town.

Callum Kane – Another product of the Hitchin Town academy, Callum first made five appearances for Hitchin Town in 2022/23 before heading off to gain further experience at Shefford Town and Campton, Baldock Town and Stotfold FC, where he had been for the last two seasons.

Sam O'Nions – Defender Sam O'Nions joined Hitchin Town in November 2025. The left back joins from Baldock Town to provide additional cover in defence. He has impressed whilst at Baldock picking up a Player of the Month award.

Fernando Bell-Toxtle – Fernando is a 26 year old midfielder who joined Hitchin Town at the start of the 24/25 season but has then unfortunately been out with a long term injury since the pre-season of that year. It's great to see him rehabilitated and now back in a Canaries shirt for 25/26.

Josh Coldicott-Stevens – Further experience in midfield from Josh who returns to the Canaries this season having previously made 93 appearances for the club between 2019 and 2023. He then moved to Royston Town FC where he has been a firm fan favourite before leaving at the end of 2024/25 due to work commitments.

George Morrall - George joined Hitchin Town at the start of the 2024/25 season from St Albans City FC. Unfortunately, the 21-year-old attacking midfielder suffered a knee injury early in the season and underwent surgery and rehabilitation before returning to the pitch at the start of this season.

Kye Tearle – Kye is another first team player who originates from Hitchin Town's academy. He first broke into the first team in the 2020/21 season before returning to the Canaries after a brief spell at Berkhamsted. He is a utility player who can play either in central midfield (his preferred position) or right-back/wing-back.

Stephen Gleeson – Vastly experienced former Republic of Ireland international midfielder, capped four times by his country who featured for the likes of MK Dons, Birmingham City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Ipswich Town at Football League level, before moving north of the border to spend two seasons at Aberdeen. He joined the Canaries in November 2021. In 2023/24 Stephen moved into a player/assistant manager role, supporting Michael Jones in leading the group.

Liam Brooks – 29-year-old Liam returned to Top Field at the start of the 2024/25 season, having spent the previous season at Division One champions Biggleswade Town. "Brooksy" previously made 67 appearances for the Canaries and was part of the play-off final team against Leamington in 2016/17. Has also played for Hendon.

Callum Nicolson – The 22 year old midfielder joins the Canaries from Real Bedford. He joined Real Bedford in 24/25 and was part of their squad winning promotion to Step 3). Prior to this he was captain at AFC Dunstable. He started his career in Luton Town's academy from which he had a loan spell at Welwyn Garden City.

Will McNeill – Will is another player who has impressed the Hitchin Town management team whilst completing his course at Hitchin Town's academy. Will has gained experience at AFC Welwyn before breaking into the Canaries squad and making eight appearances at the end of the 24/25 season.

Plamedi Bomolo – A 20-year-old attacking player who joined Hitchin Town following an impressive spell at Shefford Town and Campton in 2024/25 where he tallied 13 goals and three assists in just 16 games.

Taylor Rhiney – An experienced striker who joined the Canaries from Barton Rovers on the eve of the 2025/26 campaign. In 2024/25 Taylor scored 28 goals from 51 games for the Rovers and secured their Golden Boot award. His record at previous clubs is just as impressive, scoring 123 goals in his 231 career appearances before joining the Canaries. His previous clubs include Biggleswade United and AFC Dunstable.

Cole Butler – Cole is a 23 year old forward who has impressed during pre-season as a trialist and now signed for the 25/26 season joining from St Neots Town. Cole also lists Biggleswade United and Potton United as former clubs.

Mbunya Alemanji – The 21 year old striker joins the Canaries having most recently played for Farnborough in the 24/25 season. Originally starting out at Cambridge United Mbunya went on to represent teams including Roma, Bishops Stortford and Welling United.

Diogo Freitas-Gouveia – 24 year old midfielder Diogo has rejoined Hitchin Town FC for his third spell with the club. Originally joining on loan from Colchester United in 2019/20 Diogo first returned in 2022. Unfortunately, he picked up an injury and following treatment and recovery decided to spend some time away from football due to family commitments. He has now returned to Hitchin Town once more in the 2025/26 season.

Ade Gbolahan – 25 year old powerful Striker Ade joined the Canaries in November 2025 from Beaconsfield Town. Ade played 30 games for Hertford Town last season and amassed an impressive 15 goals. He also counts Northwood, Blyth Spartans and Eastbourne Borough as former clubs.

21st Century Ducks is the Aylesbury United Supporters Trust

"Run by the fans, for the fans"

Our Mission

#Bring The Ducks Home	Build a sustainable and inclusive club
Strengthen "The Ducks" community	Give supporters a voice
Safeguard the club for future generations	Raise awareness about the club



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I was awarded 'The Club Person of the Year trophy' for the 24/25 season, in recognition of the work that I do to promote AUFC on social media.

Amanda Heritage Digital Solutions

amanda@amandaheritagedigitalsolutions.co.uk

www.amandaheritagedigitalsolutions.co.uk

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP
Member of Parliament
for Aylesbury & the villages

Photo credit: Aylesbury.info

I'm Laura, your local Member of Parliament.

It's my job to serve you and represent your interests in the House of Commons. If there's anything I can do to support you, please get in touch:

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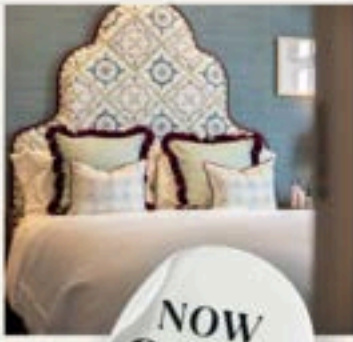

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Stadium Safety

Aylesbury United want to make you awareof measures being taken across all of football, and the National League System (NLS), to ensure everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience. We are supporting strong action from the FA, and across the NLS to tackle antisocial and criminal behaviours that put all of us at risk

Please remember the following activities are illegal, dangerous, have serious consequences and have no place in our game:

- **Carrying or using smoke bombs or pyros**
- **Invading the pitch or entering the pitch without permission**
- **Throwing objects onto the pitch**
- **Drug use within the football ground**
- **Discriminatory behaviour**

For everyone's safety, we will report anyone carrying out these offences to the police, which can result in a criminal record.

Anyone who enters the pitch without permission and those carrying or using smoke bombs or pyros will now receive an automatic club ban. These measures could also now apply to the parents or guardians of children involved in these activities.

This reflects the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause life-changing injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials.

It also impacts the hard working volunteers, who ensure that our special part of the game continues to run.

We know those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters. Please work with us to call out the risks.

Aylesbury United reserves the right to remove or refuse entry to the ground at any time.

Attached are the ground regulations for Aylesbury United Football Club

https://aylesbury.football/filep_BlobStorage.aspx?id=167657



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THE GOLD CLUB

The Gold Club is Aylesbury United's super season ticket!
The proceeds from our Gold Club membership directly support the playing budget and have played a crucial role in helping the team remain competitive at Step 4.
For a minimum membership fee of £25 a month, it includes these benefits:

- Free entry to all home 2025-26 league matches
- Membership card can be used by a friend in your absence
- Free entry for one guest at three League games per season (with prior notice)
- Access to the boardroom, pre-match and at half-time, with free tea and coffee
- 3 pre-match meals, with Q&A with the manager, a board update, guest speakers, quizzes, and a chance to talk 'duck' with fellow members
- Exclusive WhatsApp group with up-to-the-minute updates of important Ducks news
- Your name included in the matchday programme
- Free matchday programme advert for business members.

All of this for a minimum fee of £25 a month by standing order.
Beyond the great perks, joining the Gold Club is about being part of something bigger. It's a community of passionate Ducks supporters who share in the highs and lows of the season together.
As a member, you'll be among the first to hear inside news, enjoy genuine behind-the-scenes insight, and connect with fellow fans who love talking football as much as you do. It's your chance to get closer to the club you love, make lasting friendships, and be part of the heartbeat that drives Aylesbury United forward.

Join the Aylesbury United Gold Club
Join the Gold Club today and get closer to the Ducks than ever before! Enjoy free entry to all home league games, exclusive behind-the-scenes access, and a host of other benefits all while supporting the team's playing budget.
Sign up in seconds by scanning the QR code, visiting 21ducks.co.uk/members/goldclub, or speak to Nick Nelms (membership@21ducks.co.uk). Then, set up your minimum £25 monthly standing order and become part of the exclusive club within a club!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GOLD CLUB MEMBERS
Liam Ahern, Aylesbury Glazing Repairs Ltd, Jason Attridge, Dave Brown, Pete Chilcott, Phil Clark, Josh Cotton, Lee Cotton, Mario DiCarlo, Robert Day & Company Limited, Dan Harvey, Dux Advisory, Rob Hiscock, David Horne, Rob Joel, Anil Kiadhra, Simon Lacey, Oliver Lacey, Richie Livings, Bob Moody, Nick Nelms, John Newman, John Palman, Ian Pluck, Jim Rayner, Salesmade, Mike Snell, Paul Snell, Roger Simmons, Richard Spittles, John Stirzaker, Rob Waller, Steve Woodage, Xpress Labels

Your excellent continued support is greatly appreciated by everyone at the club

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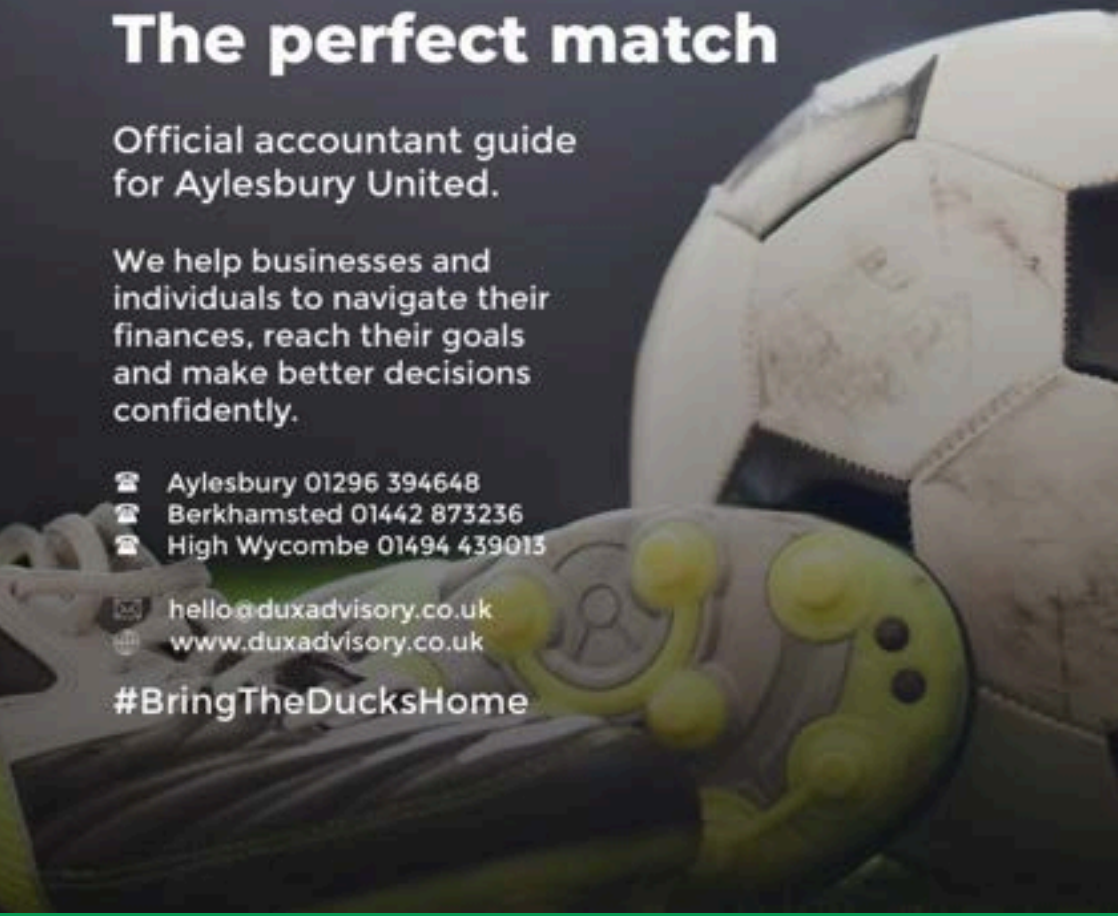

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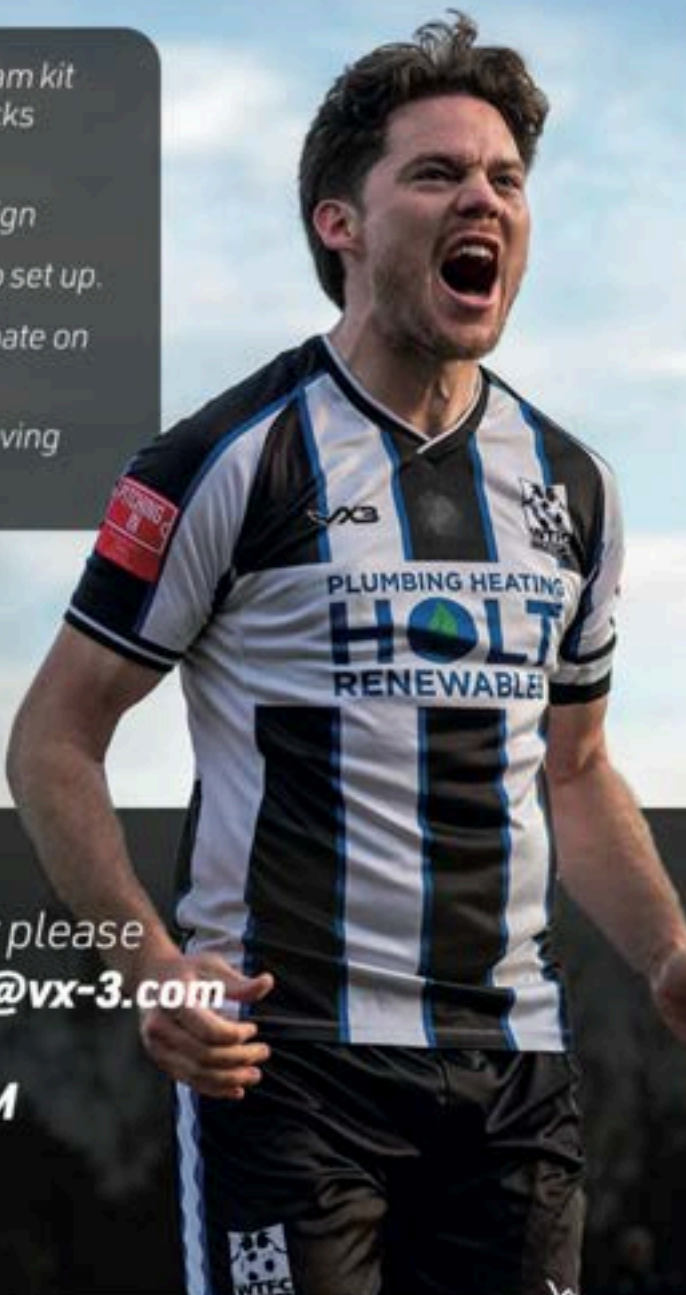

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The Trident Leagues and Pitching In have recently launched a new online Volunteer Hub where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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PITCHING IN

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Aylesbury United	Hitchin Town
Jack Hopwood	Tyler Mcgregor
Ben Peters	Josh Jackman
Jack Wood	Callum Kane
Jake Bewley	Toby Syme
Luke Martin	Blue Joy
Sonny French	Cairen Jones
Rocko Tamplin	Kye Tearle
Fabian Garcia	Stephen Gleeson
Finlay Reeves	Liam Brooks
Reece Cameron	Lewis Franklin
Frankie Bircham	Callum Nicolson
Ronan Ismali	Cole Butler
Liam Batchelor-Morgan	Josh Coldicott-Stevens
Lee Stobbs	Taylor Rhiney
Abdullah Jellal	Diogo Freitas-Gouveia
Wil Turner	Ade Gbolahan
Ollie Garcia	
Tomoyasu Yamaguchi	

Officials

Referee: Craig Charles

Asst 1: Kieran Fitzpatrick

Asst 2: Sam Waterhouse

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