AYLESBURY UNITED VS AFC DUNSTABLE

PITCHING IN SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

17th January 2025



PARTNERS WITH
SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

WELCOME

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

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Today's opponents

AFC DUNSTABLE STARTED LIFE AS OLD DUNSTABLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB IN 1981. THE NAME OLD DUNSTABLIANS ORIGINATED FROM AN ORGANISATION FORMED IN 1888 FOR OLD BOYS FROM DUNSTABLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL. THE MOST FAMOUS MEMBER OF THE CLUB IS HOLLYWOOD ACTOR GARY COOPER, WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL IN THE EARLY 1900'S. WHEN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLOSED AND MANSHEAD SCHOOL OPENED THEY TOOK OVER THE MANTLE, BUT THE OLD BOYS CLUB WAS IN DECLINE. IN 1981 THE HEAD TEACHER WAS ASKED IF HE COULD RE-LAUNCH THE NAME, HENCE THE FOOTBALL CLUB WAS BORN. BY 1988 AFTER ITS CENTENARY, THE OLD DUNSTABLIANS CLUB CEASED TO EXIST, BUT THE FOOTBALL CLUB CARRIED ON IN COMMEMORATION AND TO THIS DAY STILL BEARS THE CLUB CREST ON ITS BADGE.

THE CLUB STARTED IN THE DUNSTABLE ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOR A COUPLE OF SEASONS THEN MOVED ONTO THE LUTON DISTRICT AND SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE LEAGUE IN 1983. STILL PLAYING AT MANSHEAD SCHOOL WITH THE 1ST TEAM AND RESERVES, SUCCESS WAS LIMITED WITH THE 1ST TEAM RUNNERS UP TWICE IN DIVISION ONE AND RUNNERS UP IN THE WILLIAM PEASE CUP. WHILE IN THE LUTON LEAGUE THOUGH THE 1ST TEAM DID LAND THE BEDFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CUP BEATING LEIGHTON ATHLETIC ON PENALTIES IN 1989/90 SEASON.

WITH THE CLUB USING DUNSTABLE TOWN CRICKET CLUB AS THEIR SOCIAL BASE IN BULL POND LANE, THE CRICKET CLUB WAS LOOKING TO MOVE TO A LARGER SITE IN TOTTERNHOE AND WHEN THE NEW CLUB WAS OPENED IN 1994, A FOOTBALL PITCH WAS ACCOMMODATED, SO THE FOOTBALL CLUB MOVED THERE FROM MANSHEAD SCHOOL.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN FACILITIES GAVE THE CLUB A CHANCE TO APPLY TO JOIN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE IN 1995. ACCEPTED INTO DIVISION ONE THE CLUB STRUGGLED, AS THEY FLIRTED WITH BEING RELEGATED STRAIGHT BACK TO THE LUTON LEAGUE IN THE FIRST 2 SEASONS. GOING THROUGH NEW MANAGERS EVERY SEASON, THEY FINALLY STARTED TO GAIN SOME CONSOLIDATION AND IN SEASON 2001/02 THE TEAM FINISHED 4TH IN THE LEAGUE AND WON THE DIVISION ONE CUP.
THE FOLLOWING SEASON THEY JUST MISSED OUT OF THE TITLE, WHICH WAS NOW NAMED DIVISION TWO. THEY FINALLY CLINCHED THE TITLE THE NEXT SEASON AND WERE RUNNERS UP IN THE DIVISION TWO CUP. GROUND GRADING ISSUES WERE STARTING TO STOP THE TEAM PROGRESSING AS 2 GROUND SHARING AGREEMENTS WERE TURNED DOWN BY THE LEAGUE. THIS WAS NOW THE START OF A TROPHY LADEN PERIOD, AS THE DIVISION TWO TITLE AGAIN WAS SECURED AND BACK-TO-BACK BEDFORDSHIRE SENIOR TROPHY'S. ADDED TO THAT, THE DIVISION TWO CUP WAS WON AGAIN.

IN 2003/04 THE CLUB DECIDED TO LAUNCH ITS YOUTH POLICY AND WHEN THE UNDER 15'S WERE RUNNERS UP IN THE CHILTERN YOUTH LEAGUE, IT STARTED ON THE PATH TO WORK ITS WAY THROUGH THE FA CHARTER STANDARD. THEY ACHIEVED ADULT STATUS IN 2003/04. THE CLUB THEN MADE THE DECISION TO CHANGE ITS NAME TO AFC DUNSTABLE SO NOT TO GET CONFUSED WITH THE LOCAL RUGBY CLUB, AS THE CLUB STARTED TO GROW AND THE NAME WAS MORE ASSOCIATED TO A FOOTBALL CLUB. THE CLUB KEPT THE NAME THE OD'S, AS THEIR NICKNAME. THE YOUTH SETUP WAS AWARDED THE CHARTER STANDARD IN 2005/06. THE NEXT BIG STEP WAS TO BECOME A DEVELOPMENT CLUB AND A GREAT DEAL OF WORK SAW THE CLUB ACHIEVE THIS IN 2007. NEXT UP WAS A GOAL TO BECOME A FA CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB AND 2008 SAW THE CLUB ACHIEVE THIS. IN THAT TIME THE CLUB HAS BEEN AWARDED THE DEVELOPMENT CLUB OF THE YEAR IN 2008 AND THE COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR IN 2009.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION APPROACHED THE CLUB TO BECOME PARTNERS IN THE NEW CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE IN 2008 AND THIS GAVE THEM THE CHANCE TO MOVE THE 1ST TEAM TO CREASEY PARK AND APPLY FOR PROMOTION TO DIVISION ONE FOR THE START OF THE 2009/10 SEASON, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED. THE TEAM FINISHED A VERY CREDITABLE 5TH IN ITS FIRST SEASON AT THE HIGHER LEVEL.

Today's opponents

HISTORY WAS MADE IN THE 2010/11 SEASON, AS THE TEAM WAS ACCEPTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FA VASE. A FINE RUN THROUGH TO THE 2ND ROUND PROPER WAS ACHIEVED. LOOKING TO IMPROVE ON THE LEAGUE POSITION THE PREVIOUS SEASON, THE TEAM WENT ALL OUT FOR PROMOTION AND FINISHED RUNNERS UP IN THE LEAGUE AND GAINED PROMOTION TO THE PREMIER DIVISION AT THEIR 2ND ATTEMPT, ALSO WINNING THE SSMFL DIVISION ONE CUP.

NOW WITH THE TEAM IN THE SSMFL PREMIER DIVISION AND ENTERED IN THE FA CUP FOR THE 2011/12 SEASON, THEY FINISHED 3RD IN THE LEAGUE. IN THE 2012/13 SEASON THE TEAM CONSOLIDATED IN THE PREMIER DIVISION AND FINISHED A RESPECTABLE 8TH. THEIR RUN IN THE FA CUP SAW THEM GET THROUGH 3 ROUNDS EVENTUALLY GOING OUT TO NORTHWOOD AFTER A REPLAY.

THE TEAM WERE BEING MANAGED BY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PAIR IN THE CLUB'S HISTORY; ALEX BUTLER AND DERMOT BUTLER, BUT THEY DECIDED TO STEP DOWN AFTER 9 YEARS AT THE HELM HALFWAY THROUGH 2013/14 SEASON. THIS LEFT THE TEAM IN DISARRAY, WHICH SAW MANY STALWARTS OF THE TEAM LEAVE. THE CLUB DECIDED TO APPOINT CURRENT MANAGER STEVE HEATH AND THE CLUB WENT ON A REBUILDING EXERCISE. 2014/15 SAW THE TEAM SECURE 3RD PLACE IN THE SSMFL PREMIER DIVISION AS THEY CHALLENGED FOR THE TITLE ALL SEASON. THEY ALSO EQUALLED THEIR BEST RUN IN THE FA VASE GETTING TO THE 3RD ROUND PROPER.

2015/16 WAS THE SEASON THAT THE TEAM BROKE ALL CLUB RECORDS. BEFORE CLINCHING THE SSMFL PREMIER DIVISION TITLE, THEY PROGRESSED THROUGH 2 ROUNDS OF THE FA CUP BEFORE FINALLY GOING OUT TO RYMAN PREMIER LEADERS AT THE TIME LEISTON 1-0 IN THE 1ST QUALIFYING ROUND. THE FA VASE WAS A GREAT RIDE AS THE TEAM MADE IT TO THE 4TH ROUND PROPER. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DREW PHOENIX CLUB SALISBURY WHO HAD COMPETED IN THE CONFERENCE PREMIER ONLY TWO SEASONS PREVIOUS. THE LEAGUE CAMPAIGN WAS A GREAT RIDE. AS THE SEASON REACHED OCTOBER, ONLY 5 POINTS SEPARATED THE TOP 6. BY CHRISTMAS IT LOOKED LIKE LONDON COLNEY WERE STARTING TO BREAK AWAY, GOING 5 POINTS CLEAR. THE CHASING PACK WERE BUNCHING UP BEHIND AS ONLY 6 POINTS WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 2ND AND 7TH. WHEN THE TEAM LOST TO A LAST-MINUTE PENALTY TO BIGGLESWADE UNITED ON JANUARY 2ND, THEY WENT 8 POINTS BEHIND LONDON COLNEY AND IT LOOKED LIKE THE TITLE AMBITIONS HAD FADED. THAT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME AFC LOST IN THE LEAGUE. WITH 7 GAMES LEFT, THE TEAM WENT TOP OF THE LEAGUE AND EVENTUALLY WON THE LEAGUE BY 13 POINTS AGAINST HARTLEY WINTNEY ENDED THE SEASON.

THE 2016/17 SEASON SAW THEM COMPETE IN THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION. THEY COMPETED NEARLY ALL SEASON IN A PLAYOFF PLACE BUT JUST MISSED OUT BY 3 POINTS. THE TEAM THOUGH DID PICK UP SOME SILVERWARE WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS BEDFORDSHIRE SENIOR CUP 2-0 AGAINST DUNSTABLE TOWN AT KENILWORTH ROAD. AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEASON, THE BEDFORDSHIRE PREMIER CUP WAS ALSO WON.

AFTER ONLY THEIR 2ND SEASON AT STEP 4, 2017/18 SAW THEM TOP THE TABLE AT THE START OF THE SEASON. THEY OCCUPIED A PLAY-OFF PLACE ALL SEASON, WHICH IN THE END SAW THEM FINISH 5TH. A 2-0 LOSS IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE.

2018/19 SEASON WAS PROBABLY THE MOST CHALLENGING AS THEY STUTTERED AT THE START OF THE SEASON. AT CHRISTMAS THEY WERE FLIRTING WITH RELEGATION BUT TURNED THE CORNER AND WENT ON A DECENT RUN THAT SAW THEM LOOKING AT AN OUTSIDE CHANCE OF A PLAY-OFF SPOT, BUT THEY FELL AWAY AND FINISHED 10TH.

FOLLOWING THE DISRUPTED 2019/20 AND 2020/21 SEASONS THE 2021/22 SEASON PROVED TO BE ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING ONE FOR THE OD'S. PROGRESSING THE FURTHEST THEY EVER HAD IN THE FA CUP; AFC WERE KNOCKED-OUT AT HOME BY STEP 3 PETERBOROUGH SPORTS IN THE 3RD QUALIFYING ROUND. THE CUP RUN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN THE LEAGUE. FINISHING 3RD IN THE TABLE, THE OD'S HOSTED WARE FC IN THE PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL BUT LOST ON PENALTIES AFTER THE MATCH HAD FINISHED GOALLESS.

THE 2022/23 SEASON PROVED TO BE THE END OF AN ERA ON AND OFF THE PITCH. THE TEAM STARTED WELL AND WERE IN AND AROUND THE PLAY-OFF SPOTS UNTIL CHRISTMAS. A DISASTROUS OPENING FIVE MINUTES AGAINST WOULD BE CHAMPIONS BERKHAMSTED SAW THE TEAM 2-0 DOWN IN A PERFORMANCE THAT TURNED THE SEASON ON ITS HEAD. THE TEAM FOUND FORM HARD TO COME BY AND A NUMBER OF INJURIES LED TO A 13TH PLACE FINISH.

CHAIRMAN SIMON BULLARD ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY THAT WE WAS TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS ROLE AND STEVE HEATH ANNOUNCED WEEKS LATER THAT HE WAS TO LEAVE AT THE END OF THE SEASON. NEW CUSTODIANS FOR THE CLUB WERE CHOSEN IN THE SHAPE OF VARSITY NINE, A SPORTS MANAGEMENT COMPANY THAT SPECIALISES IN DELIVERING SERVICES FOR HIGH PERFORMING PLAYERS AND STUDENTATHLETES. VARSITY NINE WAS FOUNDED BY THE MANAGEMENT TEAM BEHIND MILTON KEYNES BASED SOCCER ASSIST, RENOWNED FOR ITS SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP SERVICES SERVICE AND PRIVATELY RUN FOOTBALL ACADEMY. VARSITY NINE APPOINTED NEW MANAGERS, WITH JOE OXLEY AND JAMES TOWNSEND TAKING ON THE MEN'S FIRST TEAM LEAD AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

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WHO'S WHO?

At Aylesbury United FC

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

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."*



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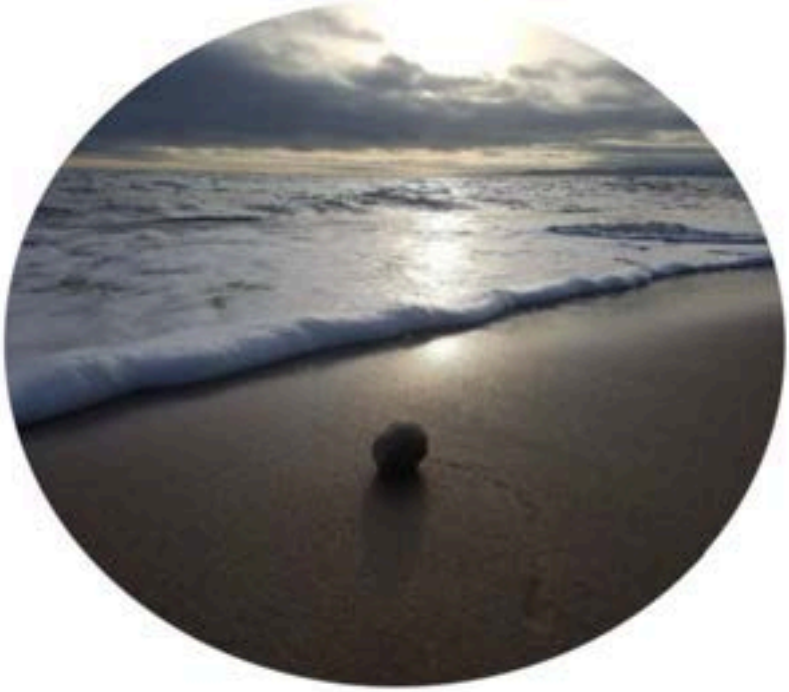

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25/26 FIXTURES

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
10/1/26- Stotfold (A) 2-1 L Tamplin 83'
14/1/26- Hitchin Town (H) 2-0 L
17/1/26- AFC Dunstable (H)
24/1/26- Leighton Town (A)
31/1/26- London Lions (H)
6/2/26- Biggleswade (A)
10/2/26- Thame United (H)
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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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 first on the list of all-time appearances for the Ducks after breaking the record vs Welwyn, 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
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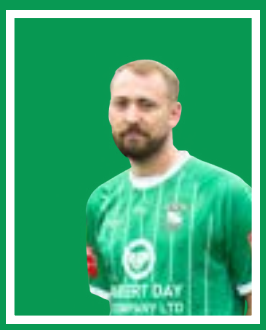
Jake Bewley- Defender



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
Socks sponsored by Jim Rayner

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.

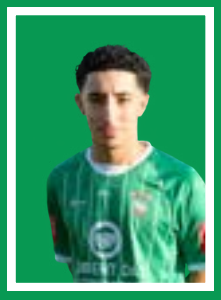
Frankie Bircham- Midfielder



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 squad

Able Damoah - Midfielder

His tall/slender frame may not suggest it, but Able is a dynamic midfielder who combines physical presence with composure on the ball. Comfortable carrying possession through the middle of the pitch, he breaks lines with purposeful runs and adds a constant threat by arriving in advanced areas. His strength and stamina allow him to dominate midfield battles, while his close control and calmness in possession ensure he can dictate play under pressure. Capable of both disrupting opponents and driving his team forward, Damoah provides balance between defensive resilience and attacking ambition.

Akhsiashvili Avtandil - Forward

Akhsiashvilli fondly known as “Avto” within the club, is a rapid and direct forward whose game is built on pace and intelligent movement. Constantly looking to exploit space behind defences, he makes well-timed runs that stretch opponents and open up attacking opportunities. Comfortable operating from wide areas or through the middle, he brings attacking diversity and quick link-up play to the final third. His speed and anticipation make him a constant threat in transition, giving the team an edge on the break and in high-tempo attacking situations.

Eric Frunza - Forward

Eric Frunza is a technically gifted playmaker who excels at creating chances from advanced areas. With close control and flair on the ball, he can drift between lines, carry possession into dangerous spaces, and unlock defences with precise through passes. Comfortable operating both centrally and from wide positions, he provides versatility in the final third while offering a constant creative spark. Known for his ability to strike from distance.

Archie Long-Nicholls - Defender

Archie Long-Nicholls is a calm, composed centre-back with a natural ability to read the game. Strong in his positioning and decision-making, he anticipates danger early and steps in with well-timed interventions that break up attacks without unnecessary risk. Comfortable playing out from the back, he shows maturity in possession, choosing smart options and helping maintain structure when building play. Confident, disciplined, and assured beyond his years, Long-Nicholls brings reliability to the defensive line and demonstrates the qualities of a developing defender with a high ceiling.

Axel Ampedu - Defender

Axel Ampedu is a powerful and athletic defender who brings strength, speed, and energy to the back line. Explosive in his movements, he closes down attackers quickly and is difficult to beat in one-on-one situations. His combination of physicality and mobility allows him to cover large spaces, make decisive recovery runs, and dominate defensive duels. Confident when stepping out with the ball, he offers a dynamic outlet from the back while maintaining a committed, hard-working approach. Ampedu's presence provides assurance, aggression, and reliability across the defensive unit.

Ben Lynch - Defender

Ben Lynch is a commanding centre-back who brings authority, strength, and composure to the defensive line. A natural organiser, he marshals the back four with discipline and ensures the team maintains its structure under pressure. Strong in challenges and reliable in one-on-one duels, he provides a dependable presence at the heart of defence. His leadership qualities, combined with a no-nonsense approach, make him the foundation of the back line and a figure teammates can rely on in demanding situations.

Carmichael Uchenna - Defender

Carmichael Uchenna is a tenacious and technically assured left-back who thrives in both defensive and attacking phases. Strong in one-on-one duels, he times his tackles with precision and shows excellent recovery speed to shut down wide threats. Going forward, he supports the attack with intelligent overlapping runs and composed passing, helping to progress play from deep. His blend of defensive resilience, stamina, and attacking contribution.

Charlie Flanagan - Defender

Charlie Flanagan is a strong, committed centre-back recently promoted from the U18s, bringing maturity and presence beyond his years. Commanding in defensive situations, he shows excellent bravery in duels and a natural instinct for positioning inside the box. With a calm, no-nonsense approach, he defends with authority, making well-timed blocks and clearances while maintaining focus under pressure. Confident in organising those around him and comfortable playing from the back, Flanagan displays the early qualities of a reliable, long-term defensive leader.

Rico Greco – Midfield/Forward

Rico Greco is a highly creative left-footed winger whose technical quality and flair make him a standout attacking threat. Capable of beating defenders with sharp footwork and clever movement, he brings composure and imagination to wide areas, often cutting inside to create chances or deliver dangerous final balls. Even while sidelined with a long-term injury, Greco remains an important figure within the squad, with his natural ability and attacking intelligence marking him as a key player once he returns to full fitness. His presence is missed on the pitch.

Ethan Holt - Forward

Ethan Holt is a clinical Centre-Forward whose game is built around intelligent movement and ruthless finishing. Always alert in the box, he positions himself to take advantage of chances and applies composure to convert under pressure. Strong in leading the line, he links play effectively while maintaining a constant threat in behind with his sharp instincts. Relentless in his focus on goals, Holt provides a reliable attacking outlet and a decisive edge in key moments. Ethan has been incredibly unlucky with injuries and remains out with a long-term injury this season.

Euan Warlow - Midfielder

Euan Warlow is a disciplined and hard-working midfielder recently promoted from the U18s, bringing reliability and composure to the first-team environment. Intelligent in his positioning and tidy in possession, he keeps the game flowing with simple, effective distribution while showing the awareness to break up play and support both phases of the midfield. His attitude, consistency, and willingness to do the unnoticed work give him a steady presence on the pitch. With strong character and a team-first mentality, Warlow is emerging as a dependable midfielder with the potential to become a long-term asset for the squad.

Felix Ofori - Defender

Felix Ofori is an unassuming but highly effective young defender recently promoted from the U18s. Quiet in his approach but outstanding in his reliability, he reads the game with intelligence and deals with danger decisively. Strong in one-on-one situations and composed under pressure, he defends with calm authority, often making crucial interventions without drawing attention to himself. Comfortable across the back line and confident on the ball, Ofori shows maturity beyond his age and carries the traits of a dependable, long-term defensive option for the squad.

George Joyce - Midfielder

George Joyce is a versatile player with the intelligence and technical ability to excel across midfield and full-back roles. Comfortable dictating play from deeper positions, he has the vision and passing range to control tempo and unlock forward runs. Equally capable of stepping into wider areas, he provides balance by supporting defensive duties and linking play down the flanks. His adaptability makes him a reliable option in multiple systems, combining creativity in possession with discipline off the ball. Always composed under pressure, Joyce is a connector who gives the team flexibility and stability in key moments. A dressing room leader.

Gigi Gogia - Midfielder/Forward

Gigi Gogia is a technically gifted left-footed midfielder who is settling into the squad with his intelligence and composure on the ball. Sharp in tight spaces, he excels at receiving under pressure, turning out of trouble, and keeping play flowing with quick, accurate combinations. His vision allows him to thread passes between lines, while his close control and movement help him dictate tempo in advanced areas. Calm, creative, and constantly available for the ball, Gogia offers a modern, fluid attacking midfield presence with the potential to become a key link between midfield and attack.

Harry Riley - Defender

Harry Riley is a composed central defender who combines calm decision-making with excellent positional sense. Strong in reading the game, he anticipates danger early and makes well-timed interventions without overcommitting. Comfortable on the ball, he contributes to building play from the back while maintaining defensive security. Reliable in one-on-one duels and disciplined in his organisation, Riley brings stability to the back line and leadership to the entire squad.

Joshua Clark-Anderson - Defender

Joshusa Clark-Anderson affectionately known as "JCA" at the club, is an energetic full-back who thrives on his ability to cover ground up and down the flank. With relentless pace and stamina, he supports attacking play by overlapping into wide areas and delivering accurate crosses, while also showing discipline in recovery runs to protect his defensive line. Intelligent in his positioning and fearless in one-on-one duels, he brings balance to both phases of play. His blend of work rate, athleticism, and determination makes him a key outlet in transition and a dependable presence on the defensive end.

Levi Nicholson - Forward

Levi Nicholson is an emerging forward who made his senior debut last season after progressing through the U18s. Energetic, mobile, and intelligent with his movement, he consistently looks to stretch defences by running in behind and creating space for teammates. Confident when carrying the ball and composed in front of goal, he offers a lively presence across the attacking line. Nicholson's work rate, willingness to press, and ability to link play make him a valuable young option with strong potential to grow into a regular contributor at first-team level.

Lewis Matthews - Midfielder

Recently promoted from the U18s Squad. Lewis Matthews is a composed and intelligent young midfielder with a calm, measured approach to the game. Excellent in possession, he keeps the team ticking with his ability to control tempo, pick the right passes, and maintain balance in midfield. His awareness and positioning allow him to break up play quietly but effectively, before transitioning the ball with precision and simplicity. Mature beyond his years, Matthews offers stability, clarity, and reliability in the heart of the pitch, making him as a promising long-term midfield organiser for the squad.

Maks Jarzabek - Midfielder

Maks Jarzabek is a dynamic midfielder who thrives on creativity and forward drive. With sharp vision and quick decision-making, he consistently looks to unlock defences through incisive passes and clever movement between the lines. Confident in possession, he is equally capable of carrying the ball into dangerous areas or finding space to shoot from range. His energy and willingness to press high make him a constant presence in and out of possession, while his flair in the final third gives the team an edge in tight contests.

Matthew Bonsu - Goalkeeper

Matthew Bonsu is reliable and agile goalkeeper whose sharp reflexes make him difficult to beat in close-range situations. Quick off his line and calm under pressure. While young and somewhat inexperienced, he is trusted to deliver match-saving stops and reassurance to the back line through decisive actions and intelligent positioning. His style suits a team that values defensive resilience while looking to launch quick transitions into attack.

Mwita Mgoyo - Defender

Mwita Mgoyo is an athletic and dependable defender who combines composure with strong physical attributes. He shows confidence in possession and uses his pace to recover quickly in defensive transitions. Strong in tackles and assured in aerial duels, he provides security at the back while also supporting attacking phases with well-timed forward runs. His consistency, adaptability, and work rate make him a valuable presence in maintaining balance between defence and attack.

Shawn Joseph - Defender

Shawn Joseph is a composed left-footed defender who brings balance and stability to the back line. Calm under pressure and assured in possession, he builds play confidently from defence with accurate passing into midfield. Strong in duels and intelligent in his positioning, Joseph relies on anticipation and reading of the game rather than rash challenges. His leadership through composure and consistency makes him a dependable presence, providing security at the heart of defence while also offering a natural outlet with a good range of passing.

Tommy Blennerhassett - Forward

Tommy Blennerhassett is an intelligent forward who thrives on link-up play and movement rather than aerial dominance. With sharp awareness and clever positioning, he creates space for teammates while consistently finding pockets between defenders. Technically assured, he excels at combining in tight areas, holding the ball under pressure, and supplying incisive passes in and around the box. Always composed in front of goal, Blennerhassett provides a reliable finishing touch while also enhancing the fluidity of attacking play through his vision and unselfish style.

Ike Okwusogu - Forward

Ike Okwusogu is an explosive attacking player who thrives in one-on-one situations and brings constant energy to the final third. With sharp dribbling and pace, he drives at defenders to create openings, whether cutting inside to shoot or stretching play wide. His direct style makes him a constant threat in transition, while his ability to adapt across the front line gives the team valuable versatility. Confident, unpredictable, and attack-minded, Okwusogu adds flair and end product to the side's attacking options.

Zack Braverman - Goalkeeper

Zach Braverman (on loan from Watford FC) is a tall, commanding young goalkeeper with a calm presence and excellent shot-stopping ability. Strong in his positioning and confident when dealing with high balls, he brings assurance to the penalty area and handles pressure situations with maturity. His reach and reflexes make him difficult to beat, while his composed decision-making gives stability to the defence in front of him. Focused, disciplined, and continually developing, Braverman shows all the attributes of a promising long-term option between the posts.

21st Century Ducks is the Aylesbury United Supporters Trust

"Run by the fans, for the fans"

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#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.

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Making your brand work harder

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

Member of Parliament
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Photo credit: Aylesbury.info

I'm Laura, your local Member of Parliament.

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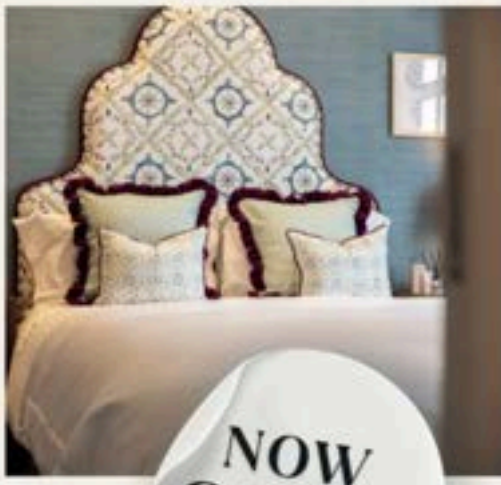

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Stadium Safety

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

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- Free entry for one guest at three League games per season (with prior notice)
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- 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.

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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
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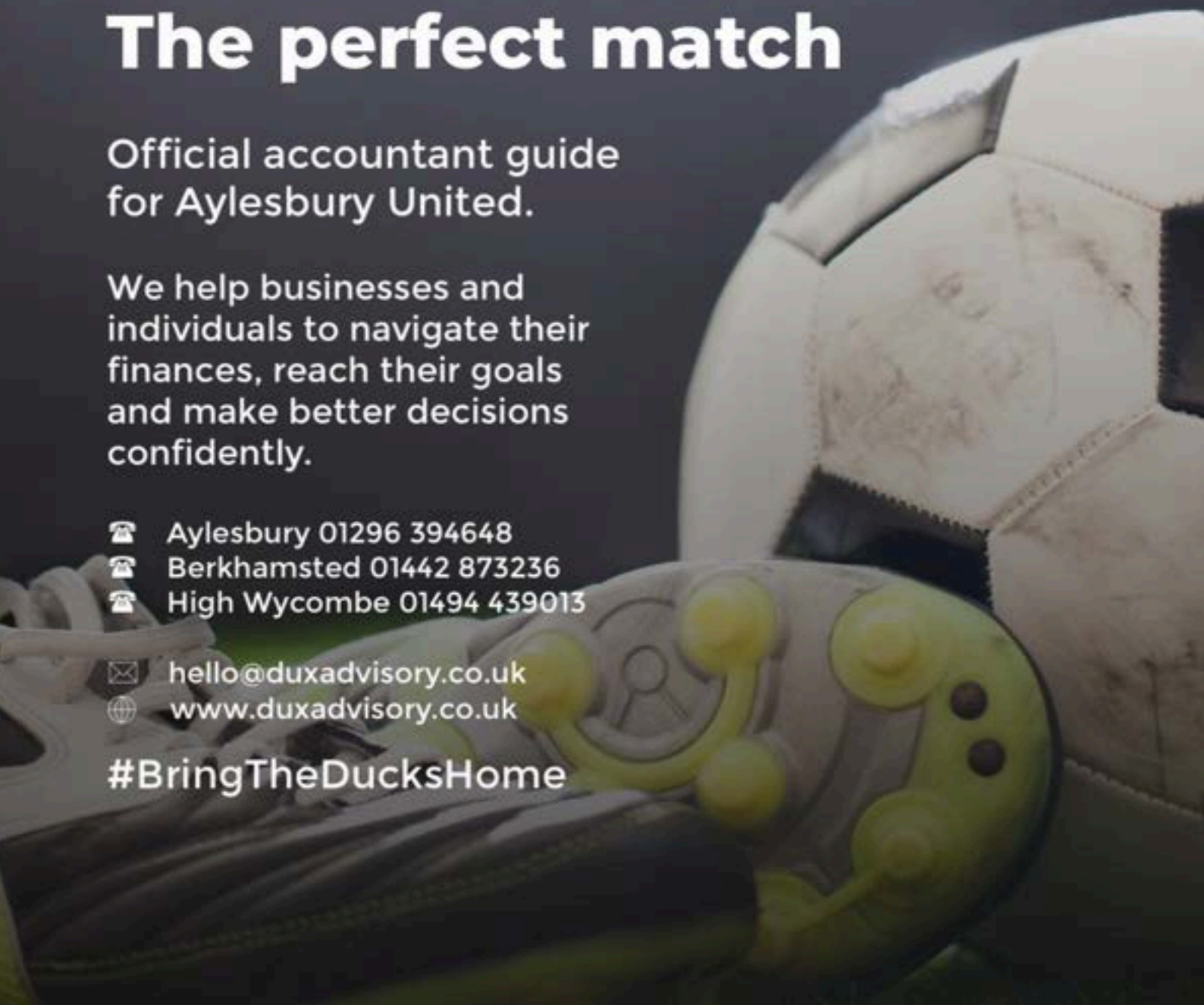

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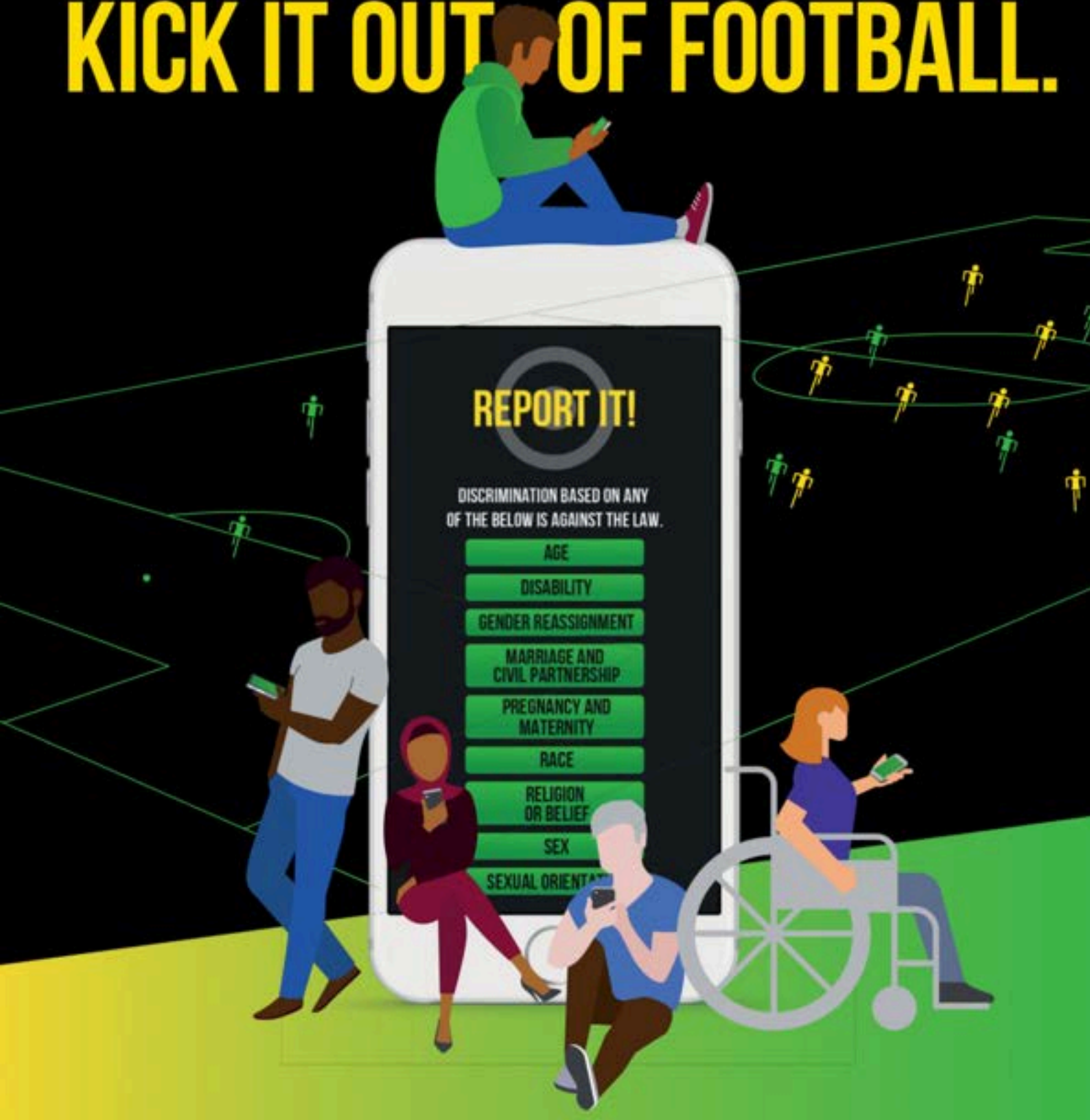

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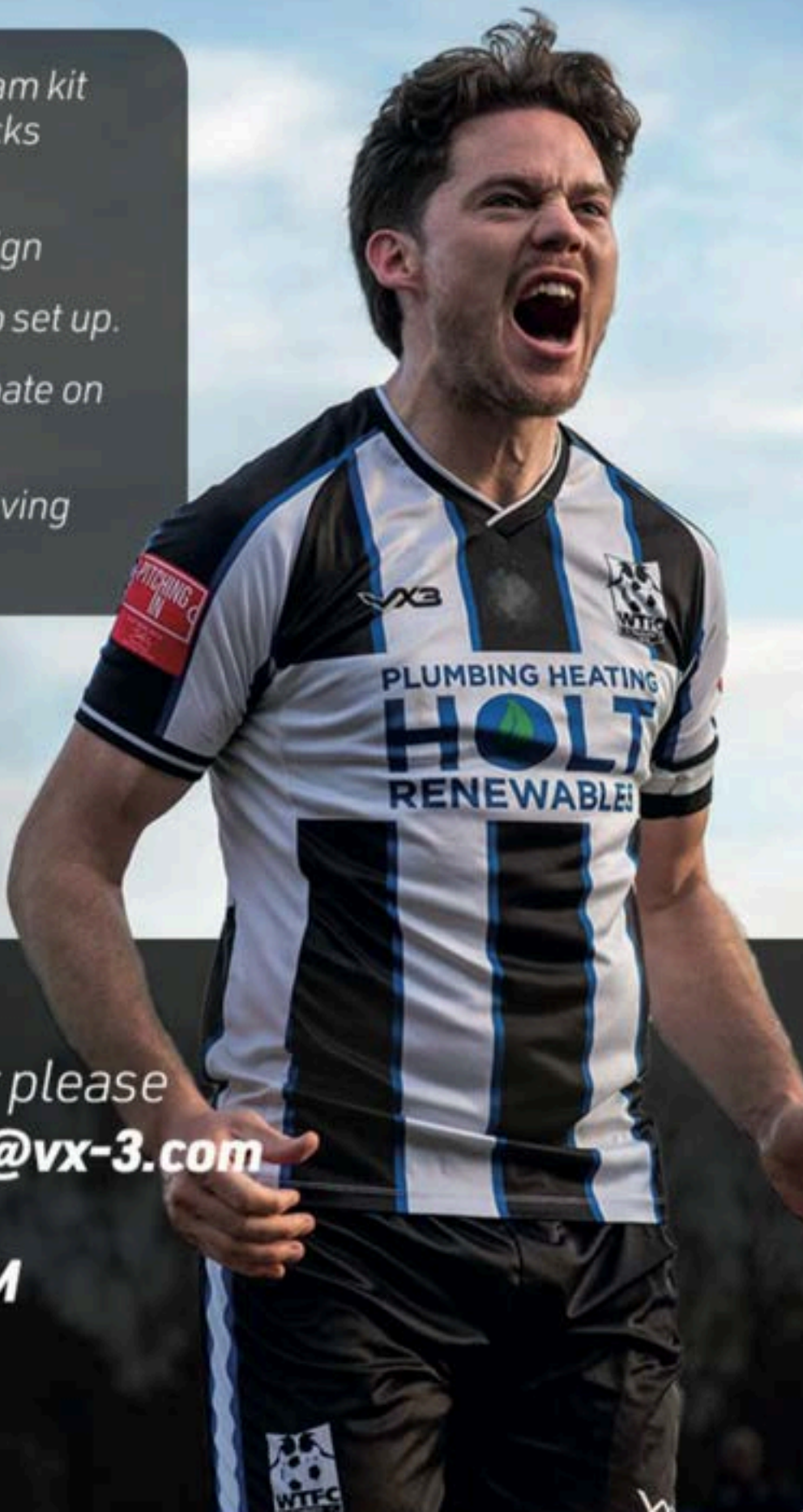

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Ronan Ismali
Abdullah Jellal
Fabian Garcia
Lee Stobbs
Hayden Beadle

AFC DUNSTABLE

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Axel Ampedu
Carmicheal Uchenna
Abel Kyeremeh
Ben Lynch (C)
Mwita Mgoyo
Euan Marcus Ray Warlow
Maksymilian Jarzabek
Levi Darren Nicholson
Gigi Gogia
Zack David Braverman
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