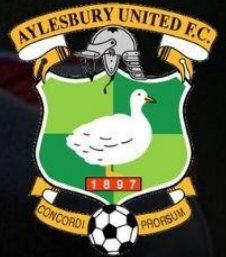


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MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



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HADLEY V AYLESBURY UNITED

The Pitching In Southern League
Division One Central



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Saturday 26 September 2026 | 15:00
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Welcome

Good afternoon and welcome to Brickfield Lane for this Pitching In Southern League Division One Central match against Aylesbury United. We wish their players, officials and supporters an enjoyable short stay with us and a safe journey home afterwards. We also welcome today's match officials.

Aylesbury United arrive here today one point behind us, with 3 points from 4 games played. They do however have three games in hand on us as we have played 7 league games so far. Their last match was a narrow 3-2 loss at home against Royston Town last Saturday. Their top scorer this season is Ike Okwusogu who has 5 goals. Ike featured for Hadley last season, scoring 4 goals in 18 appearances. We wish him well this season, just not today! We followed up last Saturday's hard-earned point against Biggleswade FC with our first win of the season on Tuesday night. A well-taken Finley Aldridge goal after 5 minutes was enough to give a much-needed 1-0 win away at Stotfold. We looked solid and comfortable defensively throughout the game, with Omer Ozer in the Hadley goal not really having to make a save. We nearly doubled our lead late on but Jordan Edwards header was well saved by the Stotfold keeper. A good team performance which we hope to build on today.

We also welcome today's Mascots - Hadley Rangers u10s. The team consists of: Ethan Casey-Neidhardt, Arlo Neill, Griff Merchant, Dylan Bloom, Finlay Myles, Adetoba Adeleke, Isaiah Gordon and Oscar Cardall. They are managed by - Andy Neidhardt and Rory Neill.

Enjoy the game



Facing us today – Aylesbury United FC



Formation

Aylesbury United were founded in 1897 when three local sides: Night School FC, The Printing Works and Aylesbury Town decided to merge. The club, affectionately known as ‘the Ducks’ due to the famous Aylesbury breed, has experienced some incredible highs over our 125-year history but now battle for existence without a home ground to call their own.

Early Years

In the early years United played in local leagues before joining the Spartan League in 1908 where they remained until the Second World War. 1951 saw the Ducks gain their first taste of national publicity as they became the only club from the Delphian League ever to reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, eventually losing to Third Division side Watford.



Icons

Aylesbury turned semi-professional in 1976 and joined the Southern League, a move which got the ball rolling on the club's most successful period. A number of events followed which were to help: In 1983 the club appointed Trevor Gould as manager, and then a year later a young local lad called Cliff Hercules made his debut, unaware that he was to become the most successful player in the club's history. 'Hercy' was, and still is, an Aylesbury icon, and some 20-years later he finally hung up his boots having smashed the club records with 669 appearances and scoring 301 goals.

Buckingham Road

Promotion to the Southern Premier was soon achieved and shortly afterwards the Ducks moved to their new Buckingham Road stadium. This gave the town a new impetus and Gould's talented squad secured the Southern League Championship in 1987-88 and gained promotion to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

England

United then hit the headlines again, becoming the only non-league side ever to take on the full England team, as more than 6000 packed into Buckingham Road to see the Ducks take on the Three Lions. Unfortunately United's brush with the non-league elite only lasted one season, after which the club were relegated to the Isthmian League.



FA Cup

During the period between 1985 and 1992, Aylesbury boasted the best FA Cup record of any side outside the Football League, reaching at least the First Round Proper every season. The highlights being a victory over then Division Four leaders Southend United, a narrow extra time replay defeat against Northampton Town, and being shown live across Europe against Walsall. Ironically though it wasn't Gould, the club's most successful manager, who led the Ducks to their greatest FA Cup achievement, it was his successor Steve Ketteridge in 1994-95. Once again the club became media celebrities as the 'Duck Walk' goal celebration was shown around the world, as Aylesbury went on to reach the Third Round where they lost to Premiership side Queen's Park Rangers at Loftus Road.

Rollercoaster

Ketteridge delivered the Isthmian League Cup title to Aylesbury, but it was to be the beginning of a rollercoaster ride for the club. After almost going out of business, the Ducks were pipped to the Isthmian League title by Sutton United a year later, despite heading the table for long periods. The following season saw United back in administration and fighting for survival both on and off the pitch. Despite defeating Football League side Reading in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, for the second time in four seasons, the club was relegated to Division One for the first time in their history. In October 2000, the legendary Hercules took time out from his duties as the club's Community Development Officer to manage the Ducks, and in



his brief spell in charge he secured promotion back to the Isthmian Premier Division and extended the club's proud FA Cup record with a First Round trip to Port Vale.

FA Trophy

2002-03 saw Aylesbury returned to national prominence twice. First the club was privileged to play a major part in an England get together as the Buckingham Road facilities were used by Sven Goran Eriksson for a media conference and by the squad for a training session. Second the club made their first ever appearance in the FA Trophy semi-finals, where the Ducks were beaten by eventual winners Burscough.

Exiled

For various reasons the club then began to cycle through a string of managers at an average of two a season – namely Chris Boothe, Kevin Wilson, Paul Curtis, Danny Nicholls, Jon Franklin, Tony Thompson and Mark Eaton. But nothing was to match the low point of summer 2006. Former chairman Bill Carroll failed in his plans to convert the Buckingham Road pitch to a 3G artificial surface, what he described as his 'last ditch' idea for creating a viable football club, when the Southern League and FA baulked at his ideas. Carroll decided to cut ties with the club he had been involved with since 1997, and popular local businessman Graham Read took over the club. But in a cruel twist Aylesbury were left homeless after their lease expired. Since that time Aylesbury have been forced to play their 'home' matches some 20 miles out of Aylesbury whilst the



committee work hard keeping the club alive. The campaign to 'Bring the Ducks Home' has generated plenty of publicity, but so far, sadly, nothing concrete in terms of a new home for the club. There are still plenty of reasons to remain positive; a glance to our near neighbours Slough Town, who now have definite plans for a new stadium in place to end their own exile, just goes to show that with patience and perseverance it can be done, and Aylesbury United will return to their rightful place eventually.

Recent Seasons

Despite a disappointing early exit in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, the Ducks started the 2024/25 League season in fine form, winning 9 of the opening 13 fixtures, and sitting comfortably in the play offs. However, the early season form faded, with only one more victory until the start of February, when a 4 game winning run enabled enough points to be gathered to keep the Ducks safe from the relegation spots, with the club finishing 15th in the League, as they had done in the previous 2 seasons. David Tuttle was retained as we start the 2025-26 season, looking to build on the points tally of last season.

After a disappointing start to the 2025-26 season, Tuttle and his coaching team stepped down, to be replaced as manager by Paul Batchelor, who was formerly coach to Ben Williams, returning to the club after 3 years away. Batch steered the club away from the risk of relegation, with some impressive results in the last half of the season.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

Paul Batchelor - Manager

Danny Gray - Asst Manager

Darren Jones - Coach

Nikini Jayakody - Club Physio

Will Harvey – Kitman

PLAYERS

Jack Hopwood

Aaron Onginjo

Jake Bewley

Jack Wood ©

Archie Quinlan

Frankie Bircham

Lee Stobbs

Sonny French

Ike Okwusogu

Finlay Reeves

George Cleveland

Wil Turner

James Bone

Rocko Tamplin

Bakary Daffeh

Kian Henry



League Table

Southern League Division One Central

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Didcot Town	6	6	0	0	19	18
2	Potters Bar Town	6	4	2	0	8	14
3	Welwyn Garden City	6	4	1	1	9	13
4	Beaconsfield Town	7	4	0	3	-5	12
5	Biggleswade	5	3	2	0	6	11
6	Royston Town	6	3	1	2	2	10
7	Waltham Abbey	4	3	0	1	8	9
8	Marlow	4	3	0	1	1	9
9	Hertford Town	6	2	2	2	0	8
10	Milton Keynes Irish	7	2	2	3	-4	8
11	Thame United	4	2	1	1	3	7
12	Winslow United	4	2	1	1	2	7
13	London Lions	5	2	0	3	-1	6
14	Biggleswade Town	6	1	3	2	-1	6
15	Barton Rovers	7	1	2	4	-9	5
16	Haringey Borough	5	1	1	3	-5	4
17	Hadley	7	1	1	5	-5	4
18	Aylesbury United	4	1	0	3	-3	3
19	Leverstock Green	6	0	3	3	-4	3
20	Stotfold	5	0	3	2	-6	3
21	Ware	5	0	3	2	-7	3
22	Flackwell Heath	5	1	0	4	-8	3



Today's Matches

Saturday 26th September 2026

Southern League Division One Central

Barton Rovers v Marlow

Biggleswade Town v Beaconsfield Town

Hadley v Aylesbury United

Hertford Town v Leverstock Green

Milton Keynes Irish v Flackwell Heath

Royston Town v Potters Bar Town

Stotfold v London Lions



Upcoming Hadley FC Matches



Marlow v Hadley

Tues 29 September 2026 | 19.45 ko

Southern League Division One Central



Ware v Hadley

Sat 10 October 2026 | 15.00 ko

Southern League Division One Central

View all at www.hadleyfc.co.uk/matches

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Rob Manaley



George Alfieri

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Lorri Byrne

AWAY SPONSOR
Lorri Byrne



Lenny Asamoah

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Bruce Mercer

AWAY SPONSOR
Richard Funnell



Bobby Bircham

HOME SPONSOR
Rob Manaley

AWAY SPONSOR
Paul Melvin



Jordan Edwards

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Bruce Mercer

AWAY SPONSOR
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Cameron Ferguson

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Tristan Smith

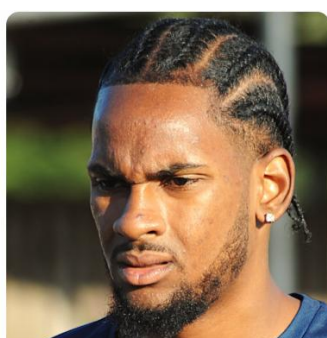
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Rio Grant

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JJ Roofing

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Available



Mo Habib

HOME SPONSOR
JJ Roofing

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Available



Billy Hayes

HOME SPONSOR
Jonathan Smith

AWAY SPONSOR
Kim Hunt



The Team



Callum Ismail

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Neil Blackaby

AWAY SPONSOR

Dave Richards



Luke Massingham

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Aylmer Motorworks



Romey Meoded

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Available

AWAY SPONSOR

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**Basim
Mirtahmasebi**

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Old Fold Manor Golf Club

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**Wilson Palomeque-
Bernal**

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Juan Quejada

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Winkworth Barnet

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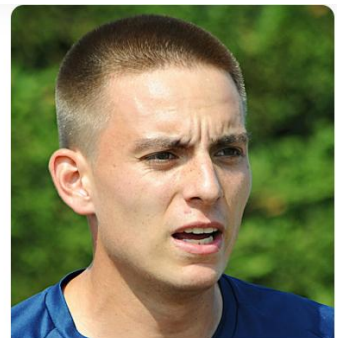
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Dave Winston

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Fraser Allen



Eric Schulz

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Charlie Taylor

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Levi Young

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Player Stats

Appearances (2026-27 season)

Bobby Bircham	9
Jordan Edwards	9
Callum Ismail	9
Lenny Asamoah	8
Rio Grant	8
Finley Aldridge	7
Luke Alfano	7
Billy Hayes	7
Romey Meoded	7
George Alfieri	6
Cameron Ferguson	6
Hermes Gbio	6
Eric Schulz	6
Louis Udeh	6
Mo Habib	5
Juan Quejada	5
Charlie Taylor	5
Omer Ozer	4
Tommy Roberts	4
Chibueze Echem	3
Basim Mirtahmasebi	3
Wilson Palomeque-Bernal	3
Levi Young	2
Ridwan Euba	1

Goalscorers (2026-27 season)

Finley Aldridge	2
Luke Alfano	1
Lenny Asamoah	1
Bobby Bircham	1
Jordan Edwards	1
Basim Mirtahmasebi	1



A brief history of Hadley FC

Founded in the 1882/83 season, a notable achievement during the early years was a 1-0 defeat of Tottenham Hotspur. This was at a time when the club attracted crowds of several hundred to Hadley Common. Lester Finch joined Hadley in 1925 and later went on to become a Barnet FC legend, also representing Great Britain at the 1936 Summer Olympics and playing for England in 1941. We played in a number of different leagues at lots of different home grounds for many years before moving to Brickfield Lane in 1992. Despite success on the pitch in the Herts County League in the early 2000's, facilities at Brickfield Lane did not enable promotion. Therefore, in 2008 we joined the Spartan South Midlands League Division Two and began ground-sharing at Potters Bar Town FC. Back-to-back promotions saw us reach the Premier Division (Step 5 of the National League System) by 2010-11. In 2016 we returned to Brickfield Lane following over £500,000 worth of facilities improvements. In the summer of 2019, we were moved to the Essex Senior League where we stayed for two seasons but unfortunately neither season was completed due to COVID-19. In the summer of 2021, following more restructuring of the National League System by the FA, we were moved back into the Spartan South Midlands League. The 2021-22 season was very successful, reaching the Second Round Qualifying of the FA Cup, narrowly losing 2-1 at home against Enfield Town in a replay. We then went on to reach the final of the Herts Senior Cup where two late goals gave Cheshunt (who went on to gain promotion into the Vanarama National League South at the end of the season) a 2-0 win. We finished third in the league but due to Risborough Rangers not meeting the FA ground grading, we were promoted to Step 4 (for the first time in our history) and the Southern League Division One Central for the 2022-23 season. The 2021-22 season was topped off by us winning the Gladwish Challenge Trophy following a 3-1 win against Stotfold in the final. Our first two seasons in the Southern League Division One Central saw us finish in 9th and 8th position respectively. Last season (2024-25) saw us make the playoffs, a fantastic achievement. We also won the Herts Charity Cup and reached the Third Round of the FA Trophy narrowly losing away at Oxford City after beating AFC Telford United, Hastings United, Carshalton Athletic, Ipswich Wanderers and Grays Athletic in the previous rounds - again a fantastic record that will be hard to beat. 2025-26 was another credible finish in the Southern League Division One Central, finishing just above mid-table in 10th position. A highlight of the season was an FA Trophy Third Round Qualifying win against Dartford - another big non-league club who we have defeated in the competition. We look forward to the 2026-27 season.



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Who's Who at Hadley FC

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Steve Gray - Chairman

Guy Slee - Vice-Chairman & General Secretary

Paul Melvin - Match & Referees Secretary

Tristan Smith - President & Commercial Manager

Ian Gray - Committee member & Honorary Life Member

Bob Henderson - Committee member

Mick Hore - Committee member

Rob Jones - Committee member

Dave Pearce - Committee member

Oliver Deed - Media & Press Officer

Vice Presidents

Paul Abbott, Paul Bass, Steve Betts, Andy Clark, Peter Clark, Ted Dinnage, Ian Gibson, Rob Gray, Stephen Brian Gray, Simon Hall, Bob Henderson, Mick Hore, Rob Jones, Richard Kennedy, Toby Murrill, Chris Nash, Martin Seller, John Shields, Derek Slee, Colin Tyers, Daren West, Mark Wootten



FA Rule 2.13

Publication of Ownership

In accordance with Football Association Rule 2.13 (Publication of Ownership), Hadley Football Club is a wholly-owned entity of Hadley Football Club Limited, Company Number 14266734 (incorporated on 1 August 2022). Steve Gray has a significant interest as defined by the Football Association. Hadley Football Club Limited does not issue a dividend to any directors or shareholders and there are no employees of the company - it is not-for-profit. The Management Committee of Hadley Football Club looks after the day-to-day operation of the club.

Directors

Oliver Deed, Steve Gray, Graham Hill, Robert Kent, Steve Pankhurst

Shareholders

Steve Gray, Rob Manaley, Graham Hill, Steve Pankhurst, Stephen Brian Gray, Martin Seller, Dave McLean, Tristan Smith, Chris Nash, Roger Tichborne, Oliver Deed, John Morris, Adam Perry, Henry Strevens, Neil Blackaby, Adrian Aldridge, Gerald Bates, Peter Clark, Matt Gray, Bob Henderson, Heather Mellor, Bruce Mercer, Roger Browning, Kim Hunt, Shailesh Bhatt, Tony Swinger, Bryon Barnes, Adam Bourn, Jonathan Smith, Steve Smyley, Mark Wootten, Gareth Lewis, Dave eorge, , Mark Shepherd, Stephen Betts, Alan Bourn, Roy Murray, Kevin Purcell, Derek Rocholl, John Bassett, Liam Doyle, Richard Funnell, Tom Hammond, Chris Jones, Symon Jones, Stephen Kearns, Richard Osman, Martin Taylor, David Winston



Hadley Rangers

We work in partnership with Hadley Rangers FC - a youth football club based in Barnet with teams from U7s through to U18s.



Hadley Rangers teams play in the Watford Friendly League and the Junior Premier League and they provide great value and quality coaching. Most of the teams are based at our 3G training pitch at our home ground in Brickfield Lane.



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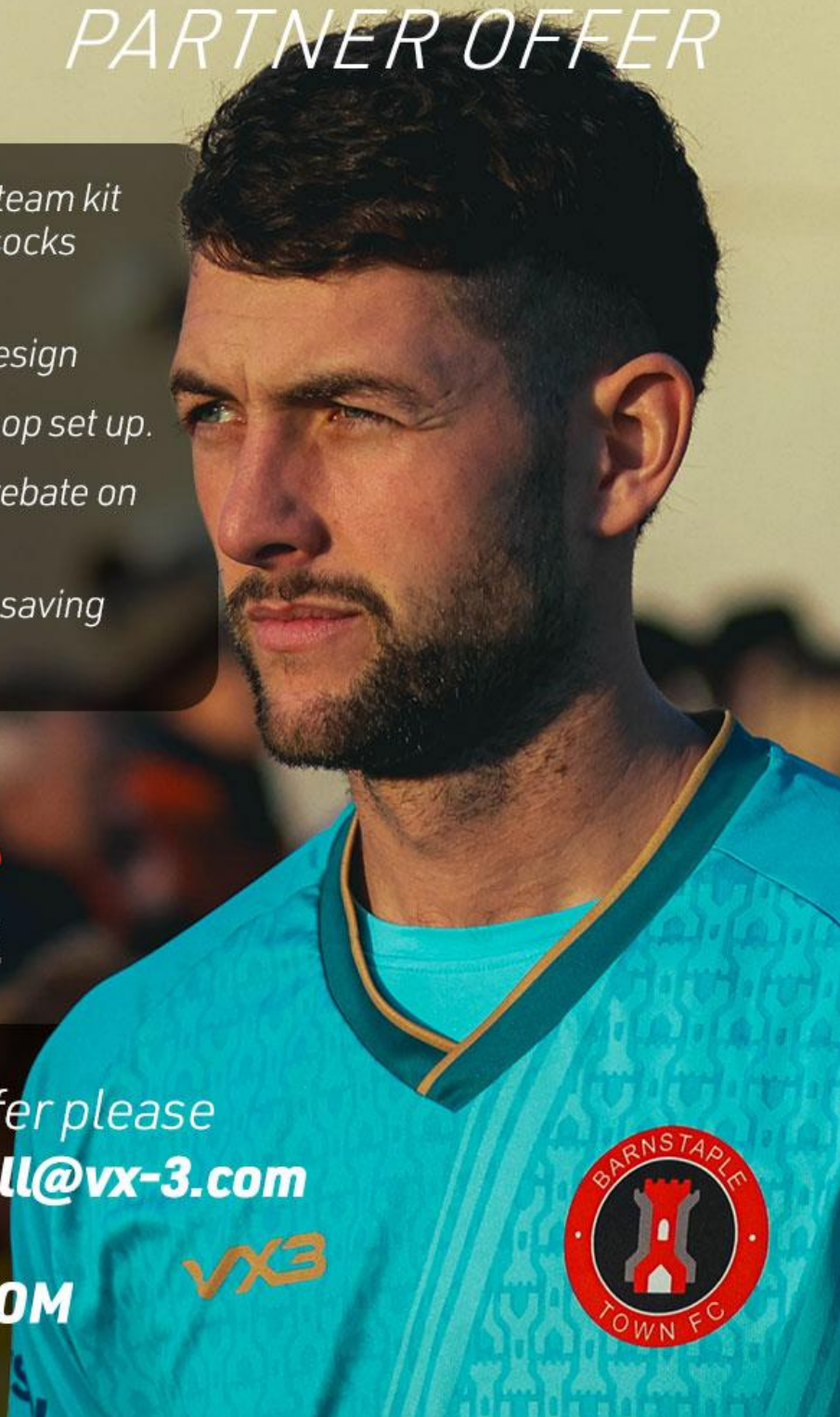
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