

WATERS

The official programme of Virginia Water FC



VWFC vs Reading City

Tuesday 13th January 2026

Arbour Park, kick off 7.45pm

Cherry Red Records

Combined Counties Premier Division North



Club Info

Chairman: Dave McBride

chairman@vwfc.co.uk

Director of Football: Ceri Jones

director.football@vwfc.co.uk

Treasurer: Ceri Jones

treasurer@vwfc.co.uk

Secretary: Russell Croome

secretary@vwfc.co.uk



Club Address:

The Timbers

Crown Road

Virginia Water

Surrey

GU24 4HS

First Team Playing Address:

Arbour Park

Stoke Road

Slough

Berkshire

SL2 5AY

To enquire about advertising in the programme, or club sponsorship, please use the above contacts

Sponsorship Opportunities

Adult team sponsorship (30 players)

- 1st Team kit sponsorship, your name and logo on back or chest of kit - £2000
- All Senior teams Warm up tops, your name and logo on back or chest - £2000

The research & support charity

Youth section sponsorship (>200 players)

- Youth Team Kit sponsorship, your name and logo on back or chest of kit - £500
- Youth Team Kit and Tracksuit sponsorship, your name and logo on back or chest of kit - £900
- Youth Section training jackets sponsorship (12 Teams every player will get a jacket with your company name on the back) - £2000

Pitch-side banners

- 2m x 600cm Banner pitch side at the Timbers - £500
- Web banners; your company logo on the Virginia Water FC website (1000 hits per month) - £500

Digital Matchday programme

- Quarter page advertisement £250 for a season
- Half Page advertisement £500 for a season
- Full Page advertisement £800 for a season

Please contact the club for more information:

director.football@vwfc.co.uk

chairman@vwfc.co.uk

Chairman's View

A very warm welcome to the players, staff, officials and supporters of Reading City Football Club. Welcome to Arbour Park, I hope you enjoy our facilities.



In order to keep moving the club forward, we are looking for potential sponsors for the; a sample of the areas of sponsorship are in the programme, but if you would like to discuss more detailed specifics available please call me or email me at

chairman@vwfc.co.uk

Games against Reading are always tight affairs and I'm expecting the same tonight. We are on a good run though and hopefully we can continue that too.

Enjoy the game, up the Waters!!

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Our History

Founded in the 1919–1920 season, Virginia Water FC celebrated its centenary in 2020, marking 100 years of grassroots football. In its early days, the club received royal support from King Edward VIII and King George VI, who gifted the club its current ground—a legacy that continues to inspire.

Starting in the Woking & District League, the club progressed through the Surrey Intermediate and Spartan Leagues. A milestone came in 1969 when Sir Stanley Rouse, CBE, then FIFA President, opened the clubhouse at The Timbers, named in honour of founder Harry Timbers. Promotion to the Combined Counties League followed in 1970, along with qualification for the FA Vase. The 1980s brought challenges, including relegation, but the club bounced back in 1990/91, winning the Surrey Intermediate Cup and earning promotion. The mid-90s were a golden era, with three consecutive Surrey County Premier Cup wins and a League and League Cup Treble in 1997.

After stints in various Surrey leagues, the club joined the Surrey Elite League in 2010. Despite cup success, promotion remained elusive until the arrival of Ceri Jones in 2015–16, who guided the team to a fourth-place finish. Following Richard Banks being appointed as Head Coach together they led the club to back-to-back promotions into the Hellenic League Division One and then the Premier Division, capped by a cup double in 2016–17. Following consolidation in the Hellenic Premier, the club moved to the Combined Counties Premier League (North) due to league restructuring. In 2021–22, Ceri Jones became Director of Football, appointing Adam and Jake Bessent. Under their leadership, the club reached the Senior County Cup Final and achieved its highest-ever league finish of 7th place.

The 2023–24 season saw Adam Sams take over as First Team Manager, assisted by Ben Warren, leading the club to another 7th place finish and a League Cup Final appearance. In 2024–25, the team entered a ground share at Slough Town, finishing 9th and reaching the FA Cup First Qualifying Round, narrowly losing to Horsham FC.

At the end of July, Adam Sams stepped down, and Dan Bailey was promoted to Player Manager, supported by Ben Warren, Chris Ellis, and Dave Atkins. On 21 October, Dan Bailey and Chris Ellis stepped down from their roles. The club is now excited to welcome Paul McCarthy and Ryan Parsons as the new management team, supported by Dave Atkins and Ben Warren. Paul brings a wealth of non-league experience, having managed Ashford Town and worked with Chertsey Town, and is known for his strong leadership and success.

Off the pitch, Virginia Water FC continues to thrive. Plans are underway for a new ground development back in Virginia Water. The Youth Section is booming, with 27 teams (20 boys and 7 girls) and over 300 players. On Saturdays, the club runs three joiner classes—Wildcats, Squads, and Football Fanatics—welcoming 50 new players to begin their football journey.



club Sponsors

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RFI FENCING

Today's opponents



Reading City Football Club | History of the Club

We often get asked why we are called Reading City when Reading is not a city yet. We chose the name of Reading City rather than Reading Town to preserve the history of Reading Town who sadly dissolved in 2016, but also to preserve the history of Highmoor and Highmoor Ibis, so rather than writing over their history people can see how each of these local clubs fed into Reading City, as we're now

known. We also wanted a name that better reflected the area that we served as here at Reading City Football Club we pride ourselves on being at the heart of the local community.

THE HIGHMOOR YEARS

Highmoor is a small village in South Oxfordshire that has a population of less than 300 and is home to a small but very attractive cricket and football ground, this is where our journey began. Most of the original football team came from the neighbouring villages of Sonning Common, Stoke Row, and Woodcote. Tracing back over the records, a Highmoor Football Club can be found in existence up until 1935. It would be another 32 years before the club that's come to be known as Reading City Football Club was formed. The newly formed Highmoor Football Club started competitive football in peculiar fashion, having applied to the Reading Combination League for membership they were accepted but had to play under the name of Nettlebed Reserves in Division One of the Reserve Section as it was only due to their withdrawal that Highmoor were accepted into the league. The club continued to develop and the site for the ground was found adjacent to the Woodman Public House. Prior to 1990, the club enjoyed little success and in the late 1980s was very close to extinction as they struggled to fill the 2 teams. It was during this period that the current club secretary, Chris Gallimore took over and recruited now Club Chairman, Martin Law, to become 1st team manager, and between them, they assembled a strong squad of players and success was to follow.

THE HIGHMOOR IBIS YEARS

**CANCER
NOW** The research & support charity

As the club progressed through the divisions and into the Reading Senior League (now Thames Valley Premier League), they outgrew their original home in Highmoor and in 2001 proposed a merger with Ibis Football Club based at the Ibis Club (now The Atrium Health Club) in Scours Lane, Reading next to our current home the Rivermoor. The Ibis FC was formed in 1913 and is the sports and social club of Prudential Assurance Company. The Ibis name some say because many rowing clubs took the names of waterfowl. Others believe it derived from the cry Come on the Ibis which habitually drowned out the supporters of the OBs in departmental team events. (IB standing for the Industrial Branch and OB standing for the Ordinary Branch of the Prudential). Since 2001 the club has achieved various successes including winning the Reading Senior League (now Thames Valley Premier League), twice, Maidenhead Norfolkian Senior Cup, BTC Intermediate and Senior Cups, and Reading Invitation Challenge Cup Senior as well as the A team winning league and cup competitions. View our Club Honours. The 2003/04 season saw the club be crowned winners of the Reading League Senior Division (now Thames Valley Premier League) without losing a match but sadly because facilities at Scours Lane didn't meet the Hellenic League ground requirements and had no alternative pitch, we were unable to accept the promotion and would therefore stay in the Reading League Senior Division (now Thames Valley Premier League). In 2005/06 the club won the Reading Senior Cup in 2005–06, beating Woodley Town 4–1 in the final at the Madejski Stadium. After finishing as runners-up in 2006–07 and

2008–09, Highmoor were champions of the Reading League Senior Division again in 2010–11 earning us promotion to Division One East of the Hellenic League.

THE MOVE TO PALMER PARK

Since becoming Highmoor Ibis, our home games were played at the Ibis Club (now The Atrium Health Club), but following promotion to the Hellenic League Division One East in 2011 an opportunity we weren't going to miss, after having had to turn down a promotion in 2004 as we didn't meet the Hellenic League ground requirements due to not have a stand or floodlights. Having secured a lease at the Palmer Park Stadium, a general use stadium including a 780-seater stand and athletics track around the pitch in East Reading we were able to move up to the Hellenic Football League. The 2011/12 saw us competing in the Hellenic League for the first time in our clubs rich history and what a fantastic inaugural season we had, not only did we secure promotion to the Hellenic Football League Premier Division having finished runners up to Newbury, we were also runners up in the Hellenic League's Supplementary Cup and the Reading Invitation Challenge Senior Cup. At the end of the 2014/15 season, we finished as runners up to Flackwell Heath in the Hellenic League Premier Division and remained in the league until the end of the 2020/21 Season.

MOVE TO THE RIVERMOOR

In 2016 the club moved from Palmer Park Stadium bringing an end to five years spent in East Reading to come back West Reading where we last played in 2011 and took up residence at our current home in Scours Lane which was renamed as the Rivermoor as part of our relocation. The move to West Reading came about as a result of the sad demise of Reading Town who previously occupied the ground. Reading Town were sadly dissolved in 2016 after 50 years of serving the community of Reading, we're now proud to pick up that baton. The Rivermoor is now the hub of the community, where we proudly have ground sharing agreements with Woodley United and Sister Club Tilehurst Panthers as well as playing host various footballing events throughout the football season. Since 2016 we have also been working hard to improve the facilities at the Rivermoor and picked up the coveted 2018/19 Berkshire Football Award for best ground, an award we are very proud of.

THE READING CITY YEARS

In the summer of 2018, we took the difficult decision to rebrand from Highmoor Ibis to Reading City. The rebrand ended a long chapter of success and setbacks with the intent of becoming a non-league club the whole town can be proud to be associated with. Our ambition as a club is to become the football club that everybody under Reading Football Club wants to aspire to play for and be involved in. When interviewed in 2018 about the name change, Club Chairman Martin Law told the Reading Chronicle "With every organisation you have to have commercial branding associated with your location". Since then we have worked tirelessly to ensure the brand is well recognised within the local community, the hard work paid off as the club won the coveted 2018/19 Berkshire Football Award for Best Social Media and Website.

THE COMBINED COUNTIES YEARS

The Football Association laterally moved us to the newly formed Combined Counties League Premier Division North as part of their overhaul of the National League System. Reading City made history by kicking the first-ever ball in the brand-new Combined Counties League Premier Division North against Southall FC, here at the Rivermoor on the 31st July 2021 with a 3-1 win. In our inaugural Combined Counties Football League season, we reached the semi-final of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.



THE ELITE CHOICE

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Club Sponsors



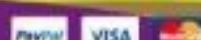
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Foresters Arms



From the Dugout

Good evening everyone, welcome back to Arbour Park for this home game against Reading City. We wish their club officials, management team and players a warm welcome.

It was a great result against Edgware & Kingsbury Saturday, especially as we didn't really get going in the first half. Having said that we had two or three great opportunities, where we could have been in front. Credit to the boys for the reaction in the second half and we gained another much needed three points.

Today will be tough. Reading City have always been in around the top five/six in the last few years and they have quite a few games in hand. So, we'll need to on top of our game if we want to take anything out of it.

As always, enjoy the game and I'll always be available in the bar after if anyone would like a chat.

Up the Waters!

Macca

Just For Fun

Can you guess the professional player from the clubs they have played for? Answer is on the last page!



Where are they now?

We catch up with some Waters' Alumni and ask them about their time at the club, and what they are up to now

Name: Dan Basheer

Position: Defender, Midfielder and later Dev Team Manager

Era(s) played at VW: 2003-18 with intermittent breaks



In a nutshell, can you give a brief overview of your time at the club? I initially came to the club after having had a spell of not playing football due to work. I changed jobs, and was looking to get back into playing, and my mate Lee Parkes – who was the first team goalkeeper at the time – brought me to the club. I was in and out of the first team and had a couple of seasons where I played for other clubs. But I returned and spent the latter years of my career in the Reserves, then player/managing the Development Team with the crop of youngsters we had at the club coming through.



Who was your manager(s) at the club when you played?

I first played under Richard Maybey, then the list just got bigger... Russ Croome, Richard Smyth, Matt Edwards, Alan Para, Mick Smith, Richard Goffe, Gareth Morgan... I'm sure there's a couple I missed.



Did you win anything here?

You'd think being at the club for so long I would have won more than I did – just the Reserves Challenge Cup though.



Who was your favourite/best teammate?

I've played with so many good players it's hard to name just one. The standouts for me though are James Edwards and Matt Gullick.



Did you score any memorable goals?

I didn't score that many but can confidently remember the good ones that I did! My only headed goal was against Chiddington, I made Abbey Rangers' keeper

look a bit silly going round him in the six yard box before tapping home, I lobbed a goalkeeper from the edge of the box on the half-volley in a cup game (although can't remember who that was against) and against University of Surrey I controlled a clearance on my chest before hitting a dipping volley over the keeper from 20-odd yards.

⌚ Do you keep up to date with what Waters are doing nowadays?

I certainly do. I don't get to go to as many games as I would like, but I am still on hand to assist the chairman with any IT problems he has, and I also update the club website from time to time.

⌚ Are you still involved in football in some capacity?

Aside from the intermittent work for the club (as above!), I play for a vet's team on Saturdays and also ferry my six-year-old son around to his training and games.

⌚ What was the standout memory for you during your time at Waters?

Again, there isn't just one. I loved my playing days – you can't beat playing football and being part of a team, hence why I still try to do it! I made some great friends over the years. I also helped pioneer and setup the youth section back in 2015/16. We had a modest three teams at the start, but it's grown so much now it's great to see it flourish. And I was also lucky enough to play more than a fair share of games on the same team as my oldest son when he broke into the senior sides.

⌚ If you could go back and change one thing when you played here, what would it be?

I wouldn't really change anything. But I was never the fittest player – I could get around the pitch but was never an athlete – so I sometimes wonder if I had been fitter and faster if I could have had more of an impact in some games.



Competition Info

Recent Results

10/01/26

PDN	Amersham Town 2-2 Hilltop
PDN	Ashford Town (Middx) 5-1 North Greenford United
PDN	Burnham 2-0 North Leigh
PDN	Harefield United 2-2 Abingdon United
PDN	Kidlington 1-3 Reading City
PDN	Virginia Water 2-1 Edgware & Kingsbury
PDN	Windsor & Eton 5-2 Holyport
ASC	Wokingham Town 2-1 Aldershot Town

Fixtures Today

PDN	Abingdon United v Wokingham Town
CC	Uxbridge v North Greenford United
PDN	Virginia Water v Reading City

League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Burnham	23	14	5	4	22	47
2	Broadfields United	24	13	7	4	28	46
3	Ashford Town (Middx)	22	13	5	4	23	44
4	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	25	13	4	8	-1	43
5	Ardley United	20	13	2	5	22	41
6	Hilltop	29	12	4	13	9	40
7	Windsor & Eton	18	11	6	1	24	39
8	Milton United	23	11	4	8	7	37
9	Kidlington	21	9	7	5	6	34
10	North Greenford United	21	10	3	8	-1	33
11	Reading City	18	9	4	5	15	31
12	Virginia Water	21	9	4	8	-1	31
13	Wokingham Town	21	8	5	8	3	29
14	Harefield United	24	8	4	12	-4	28
15	Abingdon United	20	6	4	10	-5	22
16	British Airways	20	7	4	9	-5	22 *
17	Amersham Town	22	5	4	13	-27	19
18	North Leigh	24	5	3	16	-23	18
19	Holyport	25	4	1	20	-47	13
20	Edgware & Kingsbury	25	2	2	21	-45	8

* adjustment made

Top Scorers

- 7 - Lewis Flatman
- 6 - Jojo Kinzonzi
- 5 - Cal Hamiton, Jack Mills
- 4 - Aiden Payne-James

The Teams

Virginia Water FC

Kit:

Maroon Shirts

Maroon Shorts & Socks

GK: Purple

Manager: Paul McCarthy

Asst. Manager: Ryan Parsons

Coaches: Dave Atkins, Ben Warren

Physio: Elisha Timms



Squad:

Freddie Babbage | Josh Baines | Ryan Blake | Emerson Butcher (gk) | Kai Boylan | Firas Chniba | Armani Church | Guy Davies | Aderi Dede | Jamie Di Giuseppe | Rayan Djouadj | Adam Dougui | Uriel Ekperuoh | Lewis Flatman | James Goodey | Cal Hamilton | Ash Hutchinson | Shay Honey (gk) | Shuaib Jalloh | Matthew Jones (gk) | Harry Kidd | Jehovany Kinzonzi | Harry Laflin | Eddie Lazarczuk | Conor Lee | Darnell Lemar | Jack Mills © | Billy Murphy | Kris Naicker | Albie Nolan-French | Aston Nunn | Jibril Sharmarke | Turnell Sinclair | Ikpemwinoghena "Pemi" Yakubu



Reading City FC

Kit:

Yellow Shirts

Yellow Shorts & Socks

GK: Green

Managers: Simon Johnson

Asst. Managers: Michael Butcher, Dave Tarpey

Coaches: Jamie Williams, Kieran Jennings, Charlie Wyeth, Dave Wyeth



Squad:

George Armstrong | Ashleigh Artwell | Liam Baker | Reiss Baker | Oliver Bourne | Stefan Brown | Michael Butcher | Tristan Campbell | Adam Cashin-Murray | Muhamadou Ceesay | James Clark | Joseph Corker | Ellis Cowd | Ousman Darboe | Daniel Davies | Riley Denny | Luke Donville | Louis Eade | Bobbi Emery | Ben Halliday | Jay Herbert | Ben Holder | Jenson Mansel | Emil Mursalov | Jonathan O'Sullivan | McKoy Palmer | Mitchell Parker | Joe Pilling | Tyler Robinson | Charlie Samuel | Samuel Tanner | David Tarpey | Hamish Thomson | Joel Valentin | Charlie York

Match Officials:

Referee: Ivan Yordanov

Assistant Referees: Brian Capel, Paul Bennett