

# WATERS

The official programme of Virginia Water FC



VWFC vs Abingdon United

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Arbour Park, kick off 7.45pm

Cherry Red Records

Combined Counties Premier Division North



# Club Info

**Chairman: Dave McBride**

[chairman@vwfc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@vwfc.co.uk)

**Director of Football: Ceri Jones**

[director.football@vwfc.co.uk](mailto:director.football@vwfc.co.uk)

**Treasurer: Ceri Jones**

[treasurer@vwfc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@vwfc.co.uk)

**Secretary: Russell Croome**

[secretary@vwfc.co.uk](mailto: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)

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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- Youth Team Kit sponsorship, your name and logo on back or chest of kit - **£500**
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- 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](mailto:director.football@vwfc.co.uk)

[chairman@vwfc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@vwfc.co.uk)

# Chairman's View

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



For the first time in what seems like forever, I've felt some warmth in the air! The rain has made this winter a tough one for everyone, but Spring is definitely on the way.

We are coming round the final furlong of the season and, as we are unfortunately out of all the cup competitions, the lads will soon be on their well-earned break as we wrap up before the end of April.

It will make a change to actually give the players a good six-to-eight weeks off, as pre-seasons seem to start earlier and earlier every year as soon as June arrives.

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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Director  
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# RFI FENCING

# Today's opponents

## Abingdon United Football Club | History of the Club



The club was formed in 1946 when a group of ex-service men decided that the town could support two football clubs. The first meeting to form the club was held in the local Anchor Public House on the bank of the River Thames, as there were no club facilities. They joined the North Berks League and within two seasons had won its Charity Shield. The following year 1953/54 they won the league and cup finalists. The club had its sights on higher things and five years later entered the Hellenic League. Since then it has remained in this league and during this time had success in the lower

divisions.

In 1965/66 they won the Division One Challenge Cup and the following season were the cup finalists. No further honours came the clubs way until winning promotion in 1976/77 to the Premier Division. After a struggle at this level, relegation back to Division One came after four seasons. With a more ambitious approach, the club bounced back into the Premier League where it has remained ever since. It also won the Division One Cup in the same promotion year. Senior status was achieved in 1985 allowing it to be eligible for the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 entered the F.A. Cup for the first time. A Members Room, Function Room, Covered Stand and Floodlighting have been completed in recent years to improve the off pitch facilities. In 1994 a record attendance of 1500 against Oxford United to open the floodlights was set. 1996/97 had seen the club complete its 50<sup>th</sup> season and it's most successful. United won the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy and also winning the League's Floodlit Cup. The highest ever league position was attained when finishing as Runners Up in the Hellenic Premier Division. The following season again saw success come to Northcourt Road with retaining the County Senior Trophy, Hellenic League Reserve Championship and Allied Counties Youth League winners.

2001 saw the construction of new changing rooms, together with turnstiles, to the Northcourt Road Ground and 2005 saw the construction of a new 150-seater stand and a covered stand. The club clinched promotion to the Southern League in season 2005/06. The following season saw the clubs current highest finish of 11<sup>th</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> tier. The club maintained a solid status in the Southern League until 2012/13 when financial pressures led to the club resigning from the league and dropping into the Hellenic Premier. After a 1st team restructure which saw a priority on home grown young

players, the club were relegated to Hellenic Division 1 in 2015/16. However the club immediately returned to the 9<sup>th</sup> tier, securing 2nd place promotion in the 96th minute of the final game. After a solid 13<sup>th</sup> placed finish in 2016/17, the following season saw a bottom of the table finish and relegation.

However 2017 did see the introduction of a Women's team who currently sit in the 4th tier of Women's football. Two Covid interrupted seasons came with the Hellenic League being abandoned in 2019/20 and 2020/21. During this time the club went close to folding before the arrival of current Chairman Alan Midwinter, who alongside the committee stabilised the club. The club tragically lost 1st team player Jack Badger following his passing in September 2023 but the local community rallied to break the club's record attendance. 1567 attended the Challenge Cup match with Wantage Town. The two clubs met again in April 2025 in the Hellenic Division 1 play off final. Once more a new record attendance of 1621 was set and Abingdon secured promotion to the 9<sup>th</sup> tier with a 2-0 win. The club were then placed in the Combined Counties Premier North for the first time in their history for the 2025/26 season.

## **Honours**

- 1946/47 North Berks Charity Shield Winners
- 1952/53 North Berks Division Two Winners
- 1953/54 North Berks League Champions
- 1965/66 Hellenic Division One Cup Winners
- 1981/82 Hellenic Division One Champions
- 1996/97 Hellenic Premier Runners Up
- 1996/97 Hellenic Hungerford Cup Winners
- 1996/97 Hellenic Floodlit Cup Winners
- 1996/97 B & B Senior Trophy Winners
- 1997/98 B & B Senior Trophy Winners
- 1997/98 Allied Counties Youth Champions
- 1997/98 Hellenic Reserve Champions
- 2001/02 Hellenic Hungerford Cup Winners
- 2008/09 Oxford Youth League and Cup Winners
- 2011/12 Jim Newman Memorial Cup Winners
- 2011/12 Allied Counties Youth League Winners
- 2013/14 North Berks Division Two Champions
- 2020/21 Hellenic League Supplementary Cup - Winners



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# Club Sponsors



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# From the Dugout

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

Saturday was a bit frustrating. On reflection, we actually played really well and showed some good football at times.

Unfortunately, though, it was a game made up of moments, and Wallingford took their opportunities when they arose, and punished us with the goals.

Tonight will be another good game, against a good Abingdon United side. There are certainly no easy games in this league, regardless of anyone's league position, and we'll be looking to bounce back after the weekend's result.

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



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# Just For Fun

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



THE WATERS



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# 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:** Paul May (Maypole)

**Position:** Centre Mid

**Era(s) played at VW:** 2005-2017



**🏆 In a nutshell, can you give a brief overview of your time at the club?**

My time at waters was some of the best years in my life; we worked hard, played hard and enjoyed Saturday nights out as a group. I started as a player, then captain & then player/assistant manager.

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

Wally, Richard Goffe, Matt Edwards, Dan Basheer & myself.

**🏆 Did you win anything here?**

We won couple of trophies and of course, helped the club on its way forward to where it is today.

**🏆 Who was your favourite/best teammate?**

There isn't a standout player or favourite one, as we had the bond as a team. The whole group was a class act.



🏆 Did you score any memorable goals?

I didn't score many goals - I was more remembered for the tackles 😊. Saying that, I was the designated penalty taker, so it wasn't like I never scored!

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

I see results from VW every now and then - I'm proud of what they set out to do, and the achievements recently of making it onto the non-league ladder proper.

🏆 Are you still involved in football in some capacity?

Not really. Football has changed so much in recent years, so I don't really take much notice nowadays.

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

The standout memory for myself was no matter what was thrown our way we dealt with it. And, once during training we were doing a road run. Knowing a few short cuts along the route, me and a couple of others obviously took them - only to find out all the others stopped halfway waiting for us 3 that cheated. We were back at club for 35 minutes before they realised!

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

If I could change anything, it would be to not listen to David (Dum-Dum) Atkins' wisdom on football. Yep, same David Atkins who is currently first team coach 😊



# Competition Info

## Recent Results

21/02/26

PDN	Amersham Town 1-3 Milton United
PDN	Broadfields United 3-2 Reading City
PDN	Harefield United 0-1 Wokingham Town
PDN	Holyport 2-1 Edgware & Kingsbury
PDN	Kidlington 1-1 Ardley United
PDN	<b>Virginia Water</b> 0-3 Wallingford & Crowmarsh
PDN	Windsor & Eton 2-0 Abingdon United

## Fixtures Today

PDN	Ardley United v Reading City
SMCC	Amersham Town v Everett Rovers
PDN	Ashford Town (Middx) v Burnham
PDN	Holyport v Milton United
PDN	North Greenford United v Windsor & Eton
PDN	North Leigh v Broadfields United
PDN	<b>Virginia Water</b> v Abingdon United

## League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Burnham	29	17	7	5	27	58
2	Broadfields United	27	16	7	4	31	55
3	Ashford Town (Middx)	26	16	5	5	30	53
4	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	30	16	5	9	5	53
5	Windsor & Eton	23	14	8	1	29	50
6	Kidlington	29	12	11	6	8	47
7	Ardley United	23	13	4	6	19	43
8	Milton United	26	12	4	10	4	40
9	North Greenford United	24	12	4	8	2	40
10	Hilltop	33	12	4	17	1	40
11	<b>Virginia Water</b>	29	11	6	12	-2	39
12	Wokingham Town	26	10	6	10	5	36
13	Reading City	21	10	5	6	15	35
14	Abingdon United	27	9	4	14	-8	31
15	Harefield United	27	8	5	14	-8	29
16	British Airways	22	8	4	10	-4	25 *
17	Holyport	30	7	1	22	-48	22
18	Amersham Town	25	5	5	15	-31	20
19	North Leigh	25	5	3	17	-24	18
20	Edgware & Kingsbury	30	3	2	25	-51	11

\* adjustment made

## Top Scorers

11 - Lewis Flatman

7 - Jojo Kinzonzi, Jack Mills

5 - Cal Hamiton

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 Hitchinson | Shay Honey (gk) | Shuaib Jalloh | Matthew Jones (gk) | Harry Kidd | Jehovany Kinzonzi | Conor Lee | Darnell Lemar | Jack Mills © | Billy Murphy | Kris Naicker | Albie Nolan-French | Aston Nunn | Jake Rangecroft | Jibril Sharmarke | Turnell Sinclair | Dominic Wall | Devonte Webster Swack | Ikpemwinoghena "Pemi" Yakubu



## Abingdon United FC

### Kit:

Yellow Shirts

Blue Shorts & Socks

GK: Orange

**Manager:** Julian McCalman



### Squad:

Eddie Cavanagh (gk) | Hamza Jabari | Isaac Shaw | Caleb Moir | George Gilmore (c) | Pablo Haysham | Fin Beckett | Tyrae Njogu | Anaclet Odhiambo | Leo Cole | Freddy Dunham | Jack Brind (gk) | Aaron Woodley | Harry Walters | Ashley Howell | Romeo Nuzi | Oli Bach | Joshua Edwards | Tom Lawer | Charlie Bates | Fin Bates | Andi Noka | Zion Nditi

### Match Officials:

Referee: **Tom Simmons**

Assistant Referees: **Scott Sanders, Steve Hart**

Observer: **Ken Clark**

Guess the player answer: Gareth Bale