



COMBINED COUNTIES

PREMIER DIVISION NORTH 2024/25

VWFC VS WOKINGHAM TOWN

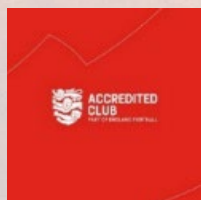
TUESDAY 27TH AUGUST 2024

ARBOUR PARK, 7.45PM KO



VIRGINIA WATER FC

WATERS



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A very warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Wokingham Town FC. Welcome to Arbour Park, I hope you enjoy our facilities.

For the first time in the club's history we will be in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup after our well-deserved 2-1 win against Ascot United. As our reward, we have been drawn against Horsham Town who play in the Isthmian Premier League.

The game is this Saturday 31st and we will be running a coach that will leave from the Timbers, if you want to be included please let me Ceri or Russell know, the cost is £10 per person.

Up the waters!!



THE ELITE CHOICE

WWW.MJM-SPORTS.CO.UK

WE ARE THE WATERS



Virginia Water Football Club was formed during the 1919-1920 season, and celebrated its centenary in 2020. During the reign of King Edward VIII, Waters gained financial support (Royal Patronage) from the Crown, in the sum of £2 per annum. This continued throughout the reign of King George VI, who actually 'gifted' VWFC their current ground. Until 1964 Waters were part of the Woking & District League, at which time they joined the Surrey Intermediate League, moving on to the Spartan League soon after.

In 1969 the clubhouse at the Timbers was erected and opened by Sir Stanley Rouse, CBE, who was then President of FIFA. The Timbers was given this name after the late Harry Timbers, one of the founder members of our Club. In 1970 Waters gained promotion from the Spartan League to the Combined Counties League, and steady progress saw them gain entry into the FA Vase. The 1980's were a disappointing period in our history, that saw successive relegations to the Surrey South Eastern Combination Intermediate League. The 1990/91 season proved a turning point, with Waters winning the Surrey Intermediate Cup, beating Colney Hall 3-0 in the final. This was followed with promotion to the Surrey Premier League and Combined Counties League, but we were only allowed to stay there for one season due to league ground grading rulings.

Despite that relegation, Waters won three Surrey County Premier Cups in 1995, 1996 and 1997, the latter being part of a historic League and League Cup Treble! With league name changes the norm, in 2000 the Surrey Premier League became the Surrey Senior League, where Waters stayed until 2002, before joining the Surrey Intermediate League (Western), for three seasons before another relegation and immediate promotion. In 2010 Waters won promotion to the Surrey Elite League. Despite winning the County and League Cups, further promotion proved elusive.

Ceri Jones was appointed manager in 2015-16, finishing fourth in his first season in charge. The following season he appointed Richard Banks as Head Coach, and Waters duly won back-to-back promotions to the Hellenic League Division One, then Premier (competing at Step 5 for the first time in the club's history) - including a cup double in 2016-17. After a period of consolidation in the Hellenic Premier Division, there was to be another FA National League System adjustment, that saw Waters moved across to the Combined Counties Premier League (North).

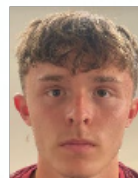
At the end of the 2021-22 season, after 7 successful years as manager, Ceri became Director of Football, and appointed Adam Bessent as his successor along with Jake Bessent as Assistant Manager. The 2022/23 season saw us reach the Senior County Cup final, finishing second to Met Police in the final, and also our highest ever league position - a respectable 7th place. The Bessent's sadly resigned their positions early in to the 2023/24 season. An internal promotion saw Adam Sams take over the reins as the new First Team manager, ably assisted by Ben Warren as first team coach, and successfully lead the club to another 7th place League finish and reach the Combined Counties Premier League Cup Final where we were narrowly beaten by Burnham FC 2-1 to be Runner's Up. The club still aims for continued success, both on and off the pitch, in the future and the move, under a new Ground Share arrangement, to the great facilities at Slough Town is seen as a step forward for the 2024/25 Season.

Waters also have a youth section at the club (VWFC Youth), which the club proudly aspires to, and uses as a direct pathway to adult football. The Youth Section continues to flourish; it now stands at 19 teams and growing rapidly, especially our girls program, in partnership with the FA Wildcats scheme, which will see 4 Girls Teams (U9, U10, U11 and U13) play under the Waters Banner in the 2024/25 season.



**Matt Jones Goalkeeper**

Product of the QPR academy and an ever present in goal over the past 9 seasons. Consistently impresses

**Freddie Solly Defender**

A young full back signed from Slough Town's Elite Development Squad. Brings youth and enthusiasm to the side

**Finn Evered Defender**

Towering centre back, returning to the club after a 2-year hiatus. Commanding and calm, a big presence at the back

**Chris Ellis Defender**

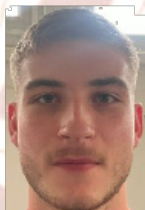
Top signing for the club from close rivals Ascot United. Has a long throw in his armoury, the envy of many

**Ryan Blake Defender**

Stalwart of the Waters defence, with football league pedigree at Brentford. Loyal and committed individual

**Ash Hitchinson Defender**

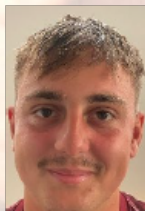
In his second season with VW. Accomplished at Centre Back, full back or central midfield. Big team player

**Sean McGuinness Defender**

Summer signing from 23/24 Champions Flackwell Heath, Sean brings a experience of Step 4 football to the side

**Harrison Marquez Defender**

Another signing from the Slough Town Academy. Comfortable on the ball at centre back or left back

**Sam Blakebrough Midfielder**

Signed from Chalfont St Peter having previously played for Wealdstone. Technical player who likes to get on the ball and impressed when playing against us last season

**Jack Mills Midfielder**

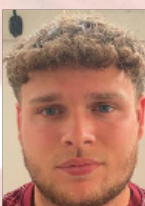
Signed from Spelthorne Sports in 2022. A quality, experienced midfielder whose previous clubs include Hayes & Yeading and Bedfont Sports

**James Goodey Midfielder**

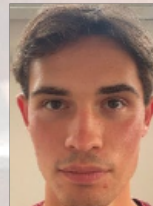
An energetic midfielder and a 2022 signing after impressing in pre-season. Previous step 5 experience with Ascot

**Josh Andrews Midfielder**

Recently signed from the emerging Slough Town Academy. Versatile on the wing or at Left back

**Jack Simmons Midfielder**

Back at Waters after spending two seasons playing college football in the USA. All-rounding midfielder

**Cal Hamilton Midfielder**

Great signing for the Waters, having returned to the area after graduation from Loughborough University. Energetic and quality midfielder

**Saa'im Rafi Midfielder**

Returned to Waters after his spell at Loughborough University. Will add some control and quality in the centre of the park

**Billy Blake Midfielder**

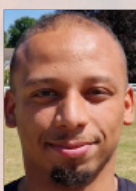
Younger brother of Ryan, joined us a couple of seasons ago from Ashford U18 Allied Counties. Terrific energy in midfield

**Tommy Whitby Forward**

Elusive winger, returned to Virginia Water after a short spell with Fleet Town

**Mark Bitmead Forward**

Experienced and proven goal scorer at various levels of football. An excellent signing for the club from Bedfont Sports

**Turnell Sinclair Forward**

Signed from Molesey in the 21/22 season and ended as our top goal scorer and player of the year. Delighted to have retained his services

Foresters Arms



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RFI FENCING

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Wokingham Town FC: A brief history

Although a new name for many, this season marks the 150th season since Wokingham Town Football Club was formed, making it the fourth oldest club in Berkshire.

In the early days, players came almost exclusively from the 'landed gentry'. At that time, Old Etonians was considered to be the best side in England however, soon after its formation, one of the founders of Wokingham Town Football Club decided the local club should be open for players from all sections of society.



In 1912, Wokingham Town won Division One of the Ascot League alongside the Camberley Hospital Cup. In 1921, it switched to the Reading Temperance League, with the team winning the Division One Championship in 1925. That success brought a desire within the club to own its own ground. A fundraising initiative was launched and in 1928, having raised £750, the purchase of the Finchampstead Road enclosure was completed.

In 1953, the final of the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup was reached, and the stage was set for entry into senior football. The club joined the Metropolitan League, and subsequently transferred to the Delphian League.

The 1957/58 season saw a memorable FA Amateur Cup run. The club caused upset after upset from the early qualifying rounds to reach the quarter finals. In round three, Wokingham Town produced its finest display, defeating West Auckland. After the match, West Auckland lodged a complaint that Town had played an ineligible player. The FA ordered a replay, and a large crowd saw Wokingham Town win 3-2. In the next round, due to the national publicity, a crowd of almost 10,000 saw Wokingham Town lose 3-2 at Crook Town. That remains the largest crowd to ever watch a Wokingham Town match.

The 1969 season saw the club's first success in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. In 1981/82, Wokingham Town won the Isthmian League Division One by 13 points, thereby gaining promotion to the Premier Division. Although only finishing in 17th position, that season marked another milestone for the club by reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first and only time. A 1-1 draw against Cardiff City at Finchampstead Road was followed by a 3-0



defeat at Ninian Park in Wales. That same season also saw Wokingham Town's second success in the Berks & Bucks Cup with a 2-0 win over Bracknell Town.

The 1987/88 season was perhaps the most successful in the club's history. The semi-final of the League Cup was reached for the first time, and the Berks & Bucks Cup saw a narrow defeat in the final.

However, the club reached the semi-final of the FA Trophy, being paired in two-legs against favourites Telford United. The two legs, which ended in a 3-0 defeat, saw a combined total of more than 6,000 spectators.

After selling its Finchampstead Road ground, the club led a nomadic existence until 2004, when it returned to the town with a merger with Emmbrook Sports to create Wokingham & Emmbrook FC. Playing initially in the Hellenic League Division One East, the club collected the Reading Challenge Cup under the stewardship of former Reading FC professional Wayne Wanklyn in 2010 - a feat it would repeat for three consecutive seasons.

The club returned home to Wokingham in 2013, but had to ground share to play step 5 until 2019 when we returned home to 1floodlights and a 100-seat covered grandstand approved and installed at its Lowther Road home.

Last season was a momentous one for the club, who sat bottom of the league with 12 games remaining. Under the new management of Darren Purbrick and Matt Eggleston, the team won six of its final 11 games during the month of April to eventually secure a respectable 15th position.

The club now boasts players from more than 62 teams representing Wokingham Town from the age of 7, including thriving girls and women's teams, U18 Allied team, Reserves and an over-50s walking football team.

NAME: Freddie Solly

POSITION: Right or Left Back

NICKNAME: Solly Dog

FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF: I've played football with Moises Caicedo at a Nike event

- 🏆 What is your day job?
Personal 1-2-1 football coach
- 🏆 Best player you've played with?
Carlos Richards (formerly at Derby County)
- 🏆 Previous clubs played for?
Bedfont U18, Beaconsfield U18, Slough Town EDS
- 🏆 What 3 words would describe your football playing style?
Energetic, bombing, fitness

- 🏆 What's been your best football moment to date?
Reaching the FA Youth Cup first round proper in back to back years

- 🏆 Matt Jones is buying the drinks, what are you having?
Birra Moretti

- 🏆 If you were stuck on a desert island, what 3 things would you have to have (no mobiles!)?
Tent, pick axe and water

- 🏆 The team get a last minute penalty, who are you trusting to take it?
Millsy any day

- 🏆 What's the best food you've ever had?
Jaffa Cakes all the way

- 🏆 Being honest... what's your keepy up record?
230



IN PROFILE

FROM THE BOSS

Good evening and a warm welcome to today's match officials and everyone associated with Wokingham Town FC.

A week is a long time in football! We had the highs of beating Ascot in the FA Cup when we were last here at Arbour Park, and then back down to earth with a draw away at Holyport and Saturday a poor performance away to Edgware. On behalf of myself and my management team I apologise for that performance on Saturday. It was embarrassing and

totally unacceptable! But maybe it was the wake up a call a few needed. The positive thing is we have tonight to put things right!

Today's match brings another challenge, as we know full well tonight will be a tough game and we need to be at our best to get anything from it. Darren has had time to build his squad and style of play, which we had a taste for at the end of last season. They had their own disappointment on Sunday, going out of the FA Vase on penalties, so with both teams looking for a reaction I anticipate a tough game.

This will be the last opportunity I have before Friday to wish Matt Jones all the best, who is getting married! I hope Matt and Mrs Jones-to-be have a great day celebrating their marriage and wish them all the very best for the future.

It's a big week for the club but we need to start it off in the right manner with a good performance tonight.

UP THE WATERS!!

Adam





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
- Youth section sponsorship (>110 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

Various availability for 24/25 seasons depending on team requirements – please enquire with the club for specific team contacts

Pitch-side banners

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

Matchday programme

- Printed and online for 1st team for all home games
- Quarter page advertisement £250 for a season
- Half Page advertisement £500 for a season
- Full Page advertisement £800 for a season

With all of the above sponsorship your company will be added to our social media activities

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 contact the club using the above email addresses

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Recent Results

26/08/24

- L Ardley United 2-0 Milton United
- L Broadfields United 3-4 Amersham Town
- L Holyport 3-0 Hilltop
- L North Greenford United 3-1 Edgware & Kingsbury
- L Wallingford & Crowmarsh 1-0 Risborough Rangers

Fixtures Today

- L Egham Town v Bedfont Sports
- L **Virginia Water** v Wokingham Town
- L Wembley v British Airways

| Pos | Team | P | W | D | L | GD | PTS |
|-----|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | Ardley United | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 15 |
| 2 | North Greenford United | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 15 |
| 3 | Amersham Town | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 |
| 4 | Holyport | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 11 |
| 5 | Virginia Water | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| 6 | Wallingford & Crowmarsh | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | -1 | 9 |
| 7 | Egham Town | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | Milton United | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | -5 | 7 |
| 9 | Bedfont Sports | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| 10 | Harefield United | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 11 | British Airways | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 12 | Risborough Rangers | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | -5 | 4 |
| 13 | Burnham | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 14 | Reading City | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -2 | 3 |
| 15 | Edgware & Kingsbury | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -3 | 3 |
| 16 | Wokingham Town | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -5 | 3 |
| 17 | Wembley | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -7 | 3 |
| 18 | Hilltop | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | -10 | 3 |
| 19 | Berks County | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | -11 | 2 |
| 20 | Broadfields United | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | -10 | 0 |

Team Form: WWWDDL

- 06/08/24 A vs Berks County W 1-3
- 10/08/24 A vs Hilltop W 1-4
- 13/08/24 H vs British Airways W 2-1
- 17/08/24 H vs Ascot united W 2-1
- 20/08/24 A vs Holyport D 1-1
- 24/08/24 A vs Edgware L 3-0

Top Scorers (all comps)

- Turnell Sinclair 7
- Jack Mills 3
- Mark Bitmead 2
- Billy Blake 1
- Jamie Di Guiseppe 1
- Sean McGuinness 1
- Albie Nolan-French 1

THE TEAMS



Virginia Water FC

Kit: Maroon Shirts

Maroon Shorts & Socks
GK: Turquoise

Manager: Adam Sams

Assistant Manager: Ben Warren

Coaches: Dave Atkins, Brad Jones, Mark French

Physio: Elisha Timms

Squad:

Joshua Andrew | Mark Bitmead | Billy Blake | Ryan Blake | Sam Blakebrough | Andrio Brandao | Ryan Case | Jamie Di Giuseppe | Chris Ellis | Finn Evered | Reece Gairy | James Goodey | Callum Hamilton | Ashley Hitchinson | Matthew Jones | Idir Kermoud | Harrison Marquez | Sean McGuinness | Pierce McNamara | Jack Mills | Albie Nolan-French | Saaim Rafi | Jack Simmons | Turnell Sinclair | Freddie Solly | Adrin Tajik | George Tims | Tommy Whitby



Wokingham Town FC

Kit: Orange & Black Shirts

Black Shorts & Socks
GK: Yellow

Managers: Darren Purbrick & Matt Eggleston

Coaches: Oscar Crowley, Jamie Shepard

Fitness Coach: Chris Hunt

Physios: Ewan Plank & Sam Pedder



Squad:

Max West (GK) | Emilio Fantocchio (GK) | Jack Webb | Connor Richardson | Joao Jardim | Tahir Carmichael | Jamie Goodwin | Ty Moorcroft | Tom Jordan | Max West | Sam Green | Toby Haworth | Jack Gibbs | Joe Allchurch | Luke Scope | Kasper Hok | Emilio Fantocchio | Archie Collier | Dennis Haxhiu | Mikey O'Connor | Sam Martin | James Clark | Alex Badshah | Ellis Wint | Oliver Turner | Dan Harris

Match Officials

Referee: Alfred Finch-Critchley

Assistant Referee: Brian Capel

Assistant Referee: Nigel Hickes