

WATERS

The official programme of Virginia Water FC



VWFC vs North Leigh

Saturday 7th March 2026

Arbour Park, kick off 3pm

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**

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 North Leigh Football Club. Welcome to Arbour Park, I hope you enjoy our facilities.



Following on from my previous notes regarding Lars and his wife's operation, I am happy to report a good update.

It's great news the growth on her brain was benign and she should make a full recovery given time. We wish Aliza all the best and hope to see her around the club again soon.

aid of This is a huge relief to everyone involved with the club and puts life into perspective.
BREAST CANCER NOW The research & support charity

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

North Leigh Football Club | History of the Club



North Leigh were formed in 1908, but it was only following the Second World War that the club started to make its mark in Witney and District League. The club won the Witney and District League Premier Division title seven times in the 1950's and also enjoyed success in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup. In the 1980s the club resumed its trophy winning habits with five successive Witney and District League titles earning it a place in the Hellenic League Division 1 for the season 1990/91. The club enjoyed a good first season in the Hellenic League, finishing in 4th position and being the Division's highest goal scorers apart from Champions Cinderford Town. In the club's second season it again achieved 4th position averaging two points per game, scoring 84 goals in the process. In the third season, the club finished runners up to

Tuffley Rovers in Division 1 and so took its place in the Hellenic League Premier Division along with the champions. In 1997/98 the club reached the second round of the FA Vase for the third time before losing to Elmore. They finished the season in 4th place in the Hellenic League Premier Division, and capped their season off by reaching the final in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup where they were only narrowly beaten by their Oxfordshire rivals Witney Town 1-0 after extra time.

The season 2001/02 was without doubt been the most successful in the club's history to date. After a superb season of consistently high performances and an epic struggle with both Gloucester United and Yate Town throughout the season to occupy top spot, the club eventually succeeded in winning for the very first time, the Premier Division title. The club also reached the final of both the Oxfordshire Senior Cup and the Hellenic League Challenge Cup. In season 2002/03 the club went one better and with smaller squad than the previous year and arguably stronger league opposition, retained the title with a winning margin of 10 points over Yate Town (the team pipped the previous year) and local rivals Carterton. Unfortunately the ground at this stage was not up to required standard for the team to take promotion to the next level. In season 2003/04 a disappointing eighth place in the league was offset by a tremendous run in the FA Vase where club reached the last 32 and with reasonable luck would have progressed further. In 2004/05 the club finished in seventh place in the league but the highlight was the truly memorable run in the FA Cup as the last Hellenic team left in the competition defeating Deal Town, Walton Casuals and Edgware Town and only losing out to Conference South outfit Newport County in Wales after holding them to a draw at Eynsham Park. In season 2005/06 after an excellent start and leading the table during the early part of the season the club narrowly missed out on promotion to the Southern League finishing in fourth place after a disappointing late run. In season 2006/07 after a head to head contest with Slimbridge and narrowly finishing behind them after an epic struggle and a particularly strong finish to the season including a double win home & away against them, the club were severely disappointed to learn of their withdrawal from promotion to the Southern League at a stage too late for them to be replaced even though North Leigh's home ground had by now received the necessary FA approval to play at the higher level. In season 2007/08 in the club's centenary year it looked to be a minor image of the previous year with the team vying for the top spot throughout the season and just losing out in the final push for promotion. However in a truly magnificent finish to the season the team overhauled the long term leaders of the division, Almondsbury Town in their very last league game, winning the league title and promotion on goal differences. In addition and a few weeks later prior to winning the league title, the club won the Oxfordshire Senior Cup for the first time in history defeating on Oxford United team in the QF and Banbury United (Southern League Premier in the final. So the club climbed to its highest ever position in the non-league pyramid by joining the Southern League S&W in

2008 and during its membership over the past eleven years has been a model of consistency finishing in a top ten position in every season until last. Major changes occurred in 2016 with the departure of long serving Manager Mark Gee and the appointment of John Brough who had just won the league with Cinderford Town. John had a successful first season steering the club to its best ever FA Cup and Trophy run and just missed out on a play off place in the league. So the club climbed to its highest ever position in the non-league pyramid by joining the Southern League S&W in 2008 and during its membership over the past eleven years has been a model of consistency finishing in a top ten position in every season until last. Major changes occurred in 2016 with the departure of long serving Manager Mark Gee and the appointment of John Brough who had just won the league with Cinderford Town. John had a successful first season steering the club to its best ever FA Cup and Trophy run and just missed out on a play off place in the league.

2018/19 saw North Leigh fighting for their survival both in the Southern League and as a club with financial struggles impacting every decision made on and off the pitch. With the departure of John Brough, joint Managers Craig Dore and Darren James took the helm with an almost impossible task ahead. Arriving from years working in the Oxford City youth program, they had a strong desire to play young attacking football but a very limited playing budget meant a lot of hard results to swallow including an 8-1 home defeat to Corby Town. Despite occupying a relegation zone spot for most of the season and being 8 points from safety with 6 games to go, the Millers completed the great escape with a final day draw against league champions Peterborough Sports. Following a season of restructuring and consolidation, the Millers started the 19/20 season in a much-improved position. A number of familiar faces returned to the first team fold, following spells playing elsewhere and these were joined by a couple of standout additions. The first team were clearly much stronger as the team hovered around mid-table and looked well positioned to make a late push towards the play-offs as the season came to a conclusion. However, nobody would have foreseen in August of 2019 how the 19/20 season would be curtailed and in what manner. The season still deemed a success by the club; highlights included reaching the Second Qualifying round of the FA Cup and a trip to local rivals Oxford City and young starlet Henry Landers notching all 5 goals in an away victory at Bedford Town. Only a handful of matches were completed during the 20/21 season, with the club sitting second bottom of the league when proceedings were halted in November 2020. It had been a difficult start to the season for the Millers, exiting the FA Cup in the first competitive match of the season at Marlow and only registering a single victory in the seven completed league matches. The undoubted highlight was an FA Trophy run to the First- Round proper, equalling the club's best run in the competition. Much of 2020 and 2021 has seen North Leigh consolidate and safeguard the club's future during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has worked hard to ensure the club remains on a sound financial footing, whilst where possible working hard to continue modernising and ensuring the club is in a positive position for the resumption of competitive football for the 2021/22 season. There is an optimistic and confident feeling around the club, and everyone associated is extremely excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, both on and off the field.

Season 2021/22 was a historic season for the Millers; Manager Eddie Odhiambo, in his first season of football management, lead his side to promotion via the play-offs and brought Step 3 football to Eynsham Park for the first time in the club's history. The club's play-off place secured despite finishing 6th and only confirmed after the last game of the season as Welwyn Garden City were excluding as a result of ground grading complications. Semi-Final victory on the road at Berkhamsted and victory at Ware in the final thanks to two injury time goals from journeyman striker Jefferson Louis. What a season!! Unbeaten in Oxfordshire derby matches, 2 defeats on the road all season, Oxon Senior Cup Semi-Finalists; all that was missing was a cup run in the FA Competitions!



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Foresters Arms



From the Dugout

Good afternoon everyone, welcome to Arbour Park for this home game against North Leigh. We wish their club officials, management team and players a warm welcome.

The boys have enjoyed a ten day break due to the way fixtures have been allocated, so they'll be firing to go today.

Last time out against Abingdon, we were electric for the first 20 minutes and it looked like it could be a good evening.

Ultimately, like recent weeks, we haven't taken our chances, and they took theirs when they came. Although, looking back at it, it was an incredibly harsh penalty given against us, and of course, a red card never helps.

Today will again be a tough one, where North Leigh are fighting for points to climb out of the relegation zone.

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: Marc Lansdowne

Position: Centre Back

Era(s) played at VW: 2011-2024

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

It was mostly spent either winning trophies or being injured!

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

It's a long list but mainly Richard Goffe, Geoff Osgood and the Ceri Jones/Richard Banks combo.



🏆 Did you win anything here?

Yes! Back-to-back promotions in 2017 and 2018, the 2017 league cup and the reserve league cup

🏆 Who was your favourite/best teammate?

Either Josh Hill – I was telepathically cleaning up his mess for years - or Steven Williams... Rolls Royce of a player.

🏆 Did you score any memorable goals?

I scored the extra time winner in the league cup final, BOSH!

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

I try to get down once a month, but spend most of it chasing a toddler around the ground.

🏆 Are you still involved in football in some capacity?

Purely watching now, the legs have had it (quavers)...



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

Has to be winning away on final game of the 2017 season to leapfrog the oppo (Tooting Bec, if memory serves?) and win the league for our first of the two promotions. A close second is watching Dave Atkins attempt the world's slowest Cruyff turn and then kick ground instead of ball and fall over to let the striker run through and score.

BREAST



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

I'd change two things; both of my legs, in the hope I'd last 90 minutes a few more times!

Competition Info

Recent Results

04/03/26

PDC Kidlington 1-1 Windsor & Eton (pens 2-4)

03/03/26

PDN Ardley United 0-0 Abingdon United

PDN Broadfields United 0-2 North Greenford United

PDN Edgware & Kingsbury 0-1 British Airways

PDN Milton United 1-2 Reading City

PDN North Leigh 1-1 Harefield United

Fixtures Today

PDN Amersham Town v Abingdon United

PDN Ardley United v Holyport

PDN Burnham v Harefield United

PDN Milton United v Wallingford & Crowmarsh

PDN North Greenford United v Ashford Town (Middx)

PDN Reading City v Broadfields United

PDN Virginia Water v North Leigh

PDN Windsor & Eton v Kidlington

PDN Wokingham Town v British Airways

League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Burnham	31	18	7	6	27	61
2	Broadfields United	29	17	7	5	31	58
3	Ashford Town (Middx)	28	16	6	6	29	54
4	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	31	16	5	10	4	53
5	Windsor & Eton	25	14	9	2	28	51
6	Ardley United	26	15	5	6	21	50
7	Kidlington	30	13	11	6	10	50
8	North Greenford United	27	15	4	8	8	49
9	Milton United	29	13	5	11	4	44
10	Reading City	24	12	5	7	16	41
11	Hilltop	33	12	4	17	1	40
12	Virginia Water	30	11	7	12	-2	40
13	Wokingham Town	26	10	6	10	5	36
14	Abingdon United	29	9	6	14	-8	33
15	Harefield United	29	8	6	15	-9	30
16	British Airways	24	9	4	11	-4	28 *
17	Holyport	32	7	2	23	-51	23
18	Amersham Town	26	5	5	16	-33	20
19	North Leigh	27	5	4	18	-26	19
20	Edgware & Kingsbury	32	4	2	26	-51	14

* adjustment made

Top Scorers

11 - Lewis Flatman

8 - Jack Mills

7 - Jojo Kinzonzi

5 - Cal Hamiton

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



North Leigh FC

Kit:

Yellow Shirts

Black Shorts & Socks

GK: Blue

Manager: Rhys Denton

Physio: John McDonough



Squad:

Thomas Russell (gk) | Dale Freeman (gk) | Rueben Githua | Brendan Neale | Jack Hobbs | George Rushton | Helton Biague | Charles Cooke | Thomas Taylor | Mekhi Thomas | Bukunmi Maxwell | Jacob Sapwell | Andre Bromfield | Viktor Hernandez | Awadh Awadh | Calvin Allen | Gerald Muchetere | Kyron Webb | Denzel Tengwana | Nassor Abdalla | Bradley Morton | Phil Arko | Tyler Blackford | Charlie Herbert | Kian Mirnam | Ethan Phillips | Mekhai Amari Bessasa-Grant | Frankie Cato | Princewill Madu

Match Officials:

Referee: **Adrian Newby**

Assistant Referees: **Michael Oakes, Tim Guichard**

Observer: **Ken Clark**