

#WeAreAscot



ASCOT UNITED vs. LANCING

Sat 23 Sep 2023

Isuzu FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round



Matchday
Programme

Respect



Season
2023/24



THE YELLAMEN



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Yellow and Blue

Alex Sykes (GK)
 Hugo Sobte (GK)
 Sam Hayes (GK)
 Adam Everiss
 Brendan Matthew
 Charlie Morgan
 Dan Bailey
 Dan Brown
 Duarte Surpanu
 George Lock
 Harry Grant
 Harry Laffin
 Harry Tucker
 Harvey Killeen
 Jay Welch
 Joe Gater
 Jordan Alanlekoko
 Josh Edwards
 Luke Phillips
 Ollie Harris
 Oliver McCoy
 Oliver Lahtinen-Kalsi
 Rob Gerrard
 Sean McCormack
 Sammy Balogun
 Usman Lalustani

THE LANCERS



White

Aliou Secka (GK)
 Charlie Gibson
 Charlie Bennett
 Will Berry
 Alex Laing
 Sam Bull
 Jaevon Dyer
 Dan Hull
 James Hull
 Harry Heath
 Lukas Franzen-Jones
 Alex Plummer
 Kyle Sim
 George Taggart
 Jacob Thompson
 Leon Fisher
 Noel Fisher
 Callum Dowdell
 Andrew Briggs
 Tyrone Madhani

Jamie Tompkins
 Dean Greenwood
 Alex Sykes
 Steve Quelch
 Stuart Britton
 Nathan Riley

Manager
 Asst. Manager
 GK Coach
 Coach
 Coach
 Physio

David Altendorff
 Jamie Hollis

 Callum Morin

Match Officials

Serhat
 Celik

John
 Perry

David
 Evans

Last Match:	Lewes	H	Fri 15 Sep	1-2	FAC 2Q
Next Match:	Badshot Lea	A	Tue 26 Sep		LC 2





HEDONE

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ASCOT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



Racecourse Ground, Winkfield Road, Ascot, SL5 7LJ

Chairman: Simon Negus

Club Secretary and Football Operations Manager: Ricky Simons

Director of Football: Neil Richards

Director of Football - Women and Girls: Donna Graham

General Manager: Jo Gavin

1st Team Manager: Jamie Tompkins

Assistant Manager: Dean Greenwood

Coach: Steve Quelch

Strength and Conditioning Coach: Stuart Britton

Goalkeeping Coach: Alex Sykes

Allied U18s Team Manager: Adam Clark

Veterans Team Manager: Dave Good

Veterans Reserve Team Manager: Dan Hough

Women's First Team Manager: Darrel Evans / Will Blithing

Women's Phoenix Team Managers: Lisa Phillips / Kelly Rideout

Physio: Nathan Riley

Private Events Manager: Sam Knight

Administration Manager: Emma Paton

Child Welfare Officer / Club Director: Rob Jones

Match Reporting and Programme: Neal Jeffs / William Powell

Other Directors:

Doug Page

Mark Cooper

Phil Wray

Melanie Greaves

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IN THE CHAIR



Simon Negus
Chairman

**A warm welcome to Lancing for today's
Isuzu FA Trophy fixture.**



Good afternoon and welcome to today's FA Trophy tie against Lancing... and a special warm welcome to our visitors from the South Coast. After a successful debut in the Trophy a couple of weeks ago, we hope to continue the run today with dreams of a Wembley return in May... whilst that remains a long way off, we need to remind ourselves where we have come as a club over the past few years and it's good to aim high!

It was great to see so many of our Ascot Utd teams in action over the past couple of weeks. We have 95 teams this season, with over 1200 playing members, so it's been a huge task getting everything ready for the season. Massive thanks to Club Secretary Ricky Simons and General Manager Jo Gavin for getting us over the line! We are proud to be the biggest grassroots club in the country and with the growing success of the senior teams, there is lots to be positive about. We rely heavily on volunteers, from my Board colleagues to coaches and managers of our teams - I hope the whole club can unite and live the "one club" culture that we are trying to create, and the huge increase in average home attendances so far this season suggests that is working.

On the Women and Girls side of the club, it was great to see so many of our girls teams make in through in the County Cups which started last weekend and our Women's First Team have an amazing home tie against Championship side Reading FC in the Senior County Cup... Reading FC have some well publicised challenges whilst we have a 100% start to the season, so we expect a highly competitive fixture in October to look forward to.

This week we were happy to offer up our clubhouse to a local Primary School who were unable to use one of their own buildings due to remedial work being done. We want to act as a local community hub in this way, and are currently reaching out to local schools to build engagement by offering free tickets to home league games in the future - we have seen more and more kids at our games, helped by the Season Tickets that all our junior members have been given and hope this grows as we go through the season.

Don't forget our facilities here at The Racecourse are available to hire at very good prices... reach out to Sam on events@ascotunited.co.uk for further details.

Enjoy the game today. ~ Simon

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FROM THE DUGOUT



Jamie Tompkins
First Team Manager

Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Lancing. Enjoy the game!



Welcome to the Racecourse Ground for today's clash against Lancing in the FA Trophy Second Qualifying Round on this Saturday afternoon. Lancing's journey through this season has been one of mixed fortunes with an impressive victory against Chipstead in the previous round and a setback in the FA Cup against Carshalton. This game today will serve as a reminder of the constant challenge we will face every week at this level of football.

In our recent matches against Leatherhead and Lewes, we demonstrated our commitment to perform for the club and a burning desire to succeed. These games saw our players leave it all on the pitch, giving their absolute best in the pursuit of victory. The incredible commitment displayed by the team should be a source of pride for every supporter, as it signifies the fighting spirit that defines our club.

Despite these efforts and display of desire, the outcomes were not in our favour. Facing two top opponents in Leatherhead and Lewes, we showcased our resilience and competitive edge. Sometimes, football can be a cruel, and results may not always reflect the performances we put forth.

As we gather here for today's game, it's essential to remember that football is a journey filled with highs and lows. Our mixed form has provided us with opportunities to learn and grow as a team.

The dedication and commitment of our players, the fantastic support from our fans, and the guidance of our coaching staff will continue to drive us forward.

So, let's get behind our team today, just as we have done throughout the season so far. The atmosphere motivates our players to excel and will help us secure a victory. Enjoy the match, and thank you for your continued support. Come on, Yellas! ~ JT



Dean Greenwood
Assistant Manager



Stuart Britton
Strength/Con. Coach



Steve Quelch
Coach



Nathan Riley
Physio

ON COURSE!

With Programme Editor Neal Jeffs

Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Lancing for this Isuzu FA Trophy match.



Welcome back for our first Saturday home game for a while, and a special welcome to Lancing. I have to open up by saying that when the draw came out, my wife, who has a total disinterest in football, raised her eyebrows but only because she has a connection with Lancing. Her dad and grandparents hail from the town, and recently during a trip to Worthing she showed me the house where she as a child would go with her parents to visit her nan and granddad; Freshbrook Road for those of you travelling fans of interest! Anyway, this isn't a family roots discussion so onto the football – Lancing had a pretty decent win away over our high-flying division rivals Chipstead to get here, so I can't imagine today will be easy. But one thing JT and certainly everyone else here think is that we are unlucky not to get something out of our last 2 games after such positive performances, so hopefully another one today and it is 3rd time lucky!



50 Up! Jay Welch will make his 50th appearance for The Yellamen when he next features. Jay joined us last season and scored 2 goals, but the 'nearly' goal came when he hit the woodwork at Wembley!

On the pitch, Jay Welch is set to make his 50th appearance when he next graces the hallowed turf, er carpet, and moving on are FA Vase winner Alfie Grant and Luqman Kassim – many thanks and best wishes to them as they find their feet elsewhere. Alfie was, in particular, a massive part of our squad last year and formed the formidable defence in front of Rhys that shut Newport Pagnell out all afternoon. Finally, a shout out to our Women. Last weekend was a fantastic exciting league game where they went 2-0 up, 3-2 down and then won 4-3 against Oxford City. They're home again tomorrow here against Badshot Lea but the one to look out for is their county cup draw at home against Reading FC Women – yes THE reading who came down from the WSL last season – can't wait for that one! Enjoy the game and safe travels! ~ Neal

WELCOME TO THE LANCERS

WELCOME TO THE LANCERS



PITCHING IN

Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Ascot United endorses the zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. We are equally proud to embrace football at all levels. Football is for all, and we help facilitate that desire.



The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination.

Any inappropriate conduct toward others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities.

The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities.

With our focus on positivity, The Isthmian League aims to ensure that all our footballers are able to play in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment and all supporters can enjoy the game in surroundings free from discrimination and hate.

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RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	H/A	Comp	Result	Att	Scorers
05-Aug	Ardley United	A	FAC KP	1-1	96	Lafin
08-Aug	Ardley United	H	FAC KP	2-1	141	Killeen, Matthew
12-Aug	Ravnes Park Vale	A	ISTH SC	2-3	220	Matthew, Killeen
19-Aug	Mangotsfield United	H	FAC P	5-1	137	Matthew 3, Ajanlekoko, H. Grant
26-Aug	Guernsey	H	ISTH SC	4-0	189	Matthew 2, H. Grant, McCoy
28-Aug	Badshot Lea	A	ISTH SC	1-0	178	McCormack
02-Sep	Westfield	A	FAC 10	1-0	206	McCoy
09-Sep	Horndean	A	FAT 10	3-2	110	Matthew 2, Balogun
12-Sep	Leatherhead	H	ISTH SC	0-1	246	
15-Sep	Lewes	H	FAC 20	1-2	451	OG
23-Sep	Lancing	H	FAT 20			
26-Sep	Badshot Lea	A	LC 2			
30-Sep	Sutton Common Rovers	H	ISTH SC			
07-Oct	Hartley Wintney	A	ISTH SC			
14-Oct	Hanworth Villa	H	ISTH SC			
17-Oct	Ashford Town (Middx)	A	ISTH SC			
21-Oct	Chinstead	A	ISTH SC			
24-Oct	Binfield	H	ISTH SC			
31-Oct	Thattham Town	A	ISTH SC			
04-Nov	Corinthian-Casuals	A	ISTH SC			
11-Nov	Southall	H	ISTH SC			
18-Nov	South Park (Reigate)	A	ISTH SC			
25-Nov	Marlow	H	ISTH SC			
02-Dec	Westfield	A	ISTH SC			
09-Dec	Northwood	H	ISTH SC			
16-Dec	Metropolitan Police	A	ISTH SC			
23-Dec	Chertsey Town	H	ISTH SC			
26-Dec	Uxbridge	A	ISTH SC			
30-Dec	Leatherhead	A	ISTH SC			
01-Jan	Badshot Lea	H	ISTH SC			
06-Jan	Thattham Town	H	ISTH SC			
13-Jan	Binfield	A	ISTH SC			
20-Jan	Hartley Wintney	H	ISTH SC			
27-Jan	Sutton Common Rovers	A	ISTH SC			
30-Jan	Ashford Town (Middx)	H	ISTH SC			
03-Feb	Hanworth Villa	A	ISTH SC			
10-Feb	Chinstead	H	ISTH SC			
24-Feb	Corinthian-Casuals	H	ISTH SC			
02-Mar	South Park (Reigate)	H	ISTH SC			
09-Mar	Southall	A	ISTH SC			
16-Mar	Westfield	H	ISTH SC			
23-Mar	Marlow	A	ISTH SC			
30-Mar	Guernsey	A	ISTH SC			
01-Apr	Uxbridge	H	ISTH SC			
06-Apr	Ravnes Park Vale	H	ISTH SC			
13-Apr	Chertsey Town	A	ISTH SC			
20-Apr	Metropolitan Police	H	ISTH SC			
27-Apr	Northwood	A	ISTH SC			

MATCH REPORT ROUNDUP

LEWES EDGE OUT ASCOT IN CLOSE FA CUP TIE

ROOKS SQUAWK LOUDEST - BUT WITH SQUEAKY BUMS

Friday 15th September 2023, Emirates FA Cup 2QR, Ascot United 1 - 2 Lewes



Lewes edged out gritty Ascot United 2-1 in the Emirates FA Cup Second Qualifying Round on Friday evening. The Yellamen, who had never before gone past the previous round, gave a fantastic account of themselves in fighting back from 2-0 down, but could not find a leveller in front of a Friday night crowd of 451.

Stern test for Ascot under the lights

The Yellamen had more than matched illustrious league rivals Leatherhead in defeat three days earlier, but this was a significant step up against a strong Sussex side that had formerly played as high as the National League. Now playing one tier higher than Ascot at Step three, The Rooks are already in the mix in their league and have a squad with a wealth of experience at National and Football league levels.

Ascot show their intent

But the cup is a great leveller, and Ascot were on top for most of the opening quarter of-an-hour, but it quickly changed when Chris Whelpdale capped a quick counter-attack by striking an exquisite effort from long-range that snook into the top left hand corner.

Home 'keeper Hugo Sobte then produced a brilliant love save to thwart Tommy Wood after Whelpdale's sublime through-ball had played him in, but it was Ascot who would otherwise match their visitors.

Harry Grant's deflected effort brought the best out of Nathan Harvey in the Lewes goal as he turned the midfielder's wicked strike around a post, but Brendan Matthew's clear sight of goal after leaving his marker for dead in the 44th minute teed up his side's best chance; Matthew slashing wildly over; 0-1 at the break.

Yellamen continue to press but Lewes show their class

The second half saw Ascot continue to match Lewes and 55th minute substitute Harvey Killeen almost scored with his first touch only to fire over when well-placed.

Whelpdale then threw a bucket of cold water on Ascot's resurgence with a side-footed finish in the 58th minute to make it 2-0, but the hosts should have cut the deficit almost immediately only for Harry Grant to fire over with the goal at his mercy.

But the Yellamen were given a lifeline when Lewes defender Harvey Hughes slide horribly into his own net from a Sean McCormack's corner – and with a quarter of the game remaining the boisterous home crowd got behind their troops.

In a see-saw encounter Lewes' substitutes Archie Tamplin and Deshane Dalling linked up for the latter to clatter the crossbar as the Rooks sought a killer third, but despite Ascot's late pressure they just couldn't find a way past Harvey and it remained 2-1.

What's next for Ascot?

Aside from hoping the growing support base continues to stick, The Yellamen will look forward to eight days off before Lancing are the visitors in the FA Trophy second qualifying round next weekend.

Ascot United: Sobte, Lock, Tucker, Edwards, McCormack, H. Grant, Ajanlekoko (Laffin 84'), Matthew, Lahtinen-Kalsi, Lalustani (McCoy 75'), Balogun (Killeen 55'). Subs unused: Edgcombe, Welch, A. Grant, Gater. Entertainment: 4 / Reporter's Star Man: Chris Whelpdale (Lewes) / Away fans (estimate): 50

PHOTOZONE



Action from last weekend's FA Cup defeat against Lewes. **Clockwise from top left:** Harry Grant in a midfield battle, Harvey Killeen is wrestled for his shirt, impressive George Lock with a header, Jordan Ajanlekoko side-foots the ball forwards, Lewes' goal comes under pressure in the first half. Photos courtesy of shooting-stars.co.uk.



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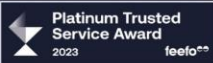
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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - 23/24

Sponsorship Opportunities	Cost excluding VAT	Benefits	Electronic
Pitch-side board at Racecourse	£1400 per season, renewal price £1000 per season	Pitch side presence viewable to an average weekly footfall of over 1500 people, plus visibility in match photos on social media	Logo in club sponsor area on AUFU website with link to sponsors website with contact details.
5 a side Teams	£500 per season	Set of 8 shirts with sponsor logo	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
7 a side Teams	£600 per season	Set of 10 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
9 a side Teams	£800 per season	Set of 12 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
11 a side teams (ex. adult teams)	£950 per season	Set of 16 shirts with sponsor logo on	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details.
Men's First Team – next available 25/26 season	EPOA per season	Set of Home & Away shirts with sponsor logo on Front. Warm up shirts with logo on Front. Free advertising in programme with option for sponsor's message. Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details. Promotion via social media channels.
Women's First Team – next available 25/26 season	EPOA per season	Set of Home & Away shirts with sponsor logo on Front. Warm up shirts with logo on Front. Free advertising in programme with option for sponsor's message. Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Promotion via social media channels.
Vets Team – next available 24/25 season	£2,000 per season	Set of shirts with sponsor logo on Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Social media support
Allied Counties Youth Team – next available 25/26 Season	£2,000 per season	Set of shirts with sponsor logo on Pitch-side board to sponsor's design	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details Social media support
First Team Programme	£300 per season	Sponsors name on full page advert.	Logo on AUFU team home page and AUFU club sponsor area with link to sponsors website with contact details
Multiple New projects looking for sponsorship ranging from Stands to benches, box goals to footballs and many more.	POA	Dependant on project, ranges from visible branding on site, pitch side presence, social media engagement, membership and community support	Logo on AUFU website and social media support. Package can be tailored to requirements
Match Day Sponsorship	£500 per game	Advert in match day programme Free entrance for up to 6 people at sponsored games Reserved table in the bar Complimentary lunch for six with a beer or glass of wine Pre and post-game social media shout outs Vote and present the award for player of the match Photo opportunity with players	Pre and post match social media support Advert in the online programme

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Neil Graham
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



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FIXTURES

Saturday

Isuzu FA Trophy 2QR

AFC Dunstable	v	Brightlingsea Regent
Anstey Nomads	v	Loughborough Dynamo
Ascot United	v	Lancing
Avro	v	Stalybridge Celtic
Badshot Lea	v	Sutton Common Rovers
Basildon United	v	Lowestoft Town
Belper Town	v	Walsall Wood
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	v	Frome Town
Biggleswade	v	Hadley
Bishops Cleeve	v	Bristol Manor Farm
Boldmere St Michaels	v	Grantham Town
Bowers & Pitsea	v	Bedford Town
Brighouse Town	v	Clitheroe
Bury Town	v	Walthamstow
Carlton Town	v	Chasetown
Chertsey Town	v	Hythe Town
City of Liverpool	v	Witton Albion
Cray Valley PM	v	Hartley Wintney
Cribbs	v	Bashley
Felixstowe & Walton United	v	Hertford Town
Hanley Town	v	Sheffield
Hinckley LRFC	v	Harborough Town
Kidlington	v	Exmouth Town
Kidsgrove Athletic	v	Sporting Khalsa
Metropolitan Police	v	Ashford United
Mousehole AFC	v	Tavistock
Nantwich Town	v	Dunston
North Ferriby	v	Prescot Cables
Quorn	v	Leek Town
Ramsgate	v	Sevenoaks Town
Sheppey United	v	Sittingbourne
South Park (Reigate)	v	Three Bridges
Southall	v	Leatherhead
Stockton Town	v	Bootle
Vauxhall Motors	v	Stocksbridge Park Steels
Waltham Abbey	v	Heybridge Swifts
Westfield	v	Marlow
Witham Town	v	Redbridge

Isthmian League South Central

Binfield	v	Hanworth Villa
Chipstead	v	Raynes Park Vale
Northwood	v	Ashford Town (Middx)

Sunday

Isuzu FA Trophy 2QR

Cambridge City	v	Leighton Town
Hamworthy United	v	Larkhall Athletic



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LEAGUE TABLES

Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Raynes Park Vale	4	4	0	0	12	5	7	12
2 Leatherhead	4	3	1	0	5	2	3	10
3 Uxbridge	4	3	0	1	11	4	7	9
4 Sutton Common Rovers	5	3	0	2	13	9	4	9
5 South Park (Reigate)	5	3	0	2	8	6	2	9
6 Chipstead	4	2	2	0	12	5	7	8
7 Chertsey Town	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
8 Marlow	3	2	0	1	10	3	7	6
9 Northwood	2	2	0	0	8	1	7	6
10 Ascot United	4	2	0	2	7	4	3	6
11 Thatcham Town	4	2	0	2	4	4	0	6
12 Hartley Wintney	4	2	0	2	9	10	-1	6
13 Badshot Lea	5	2	0	3	5	9	-4	6
14 Ashford Town (Middx)	5	1	2	2	7	4	3	5
15 Southall	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
16 Guernsey	5	1	0	4	5	11	-6	3
17 Corinthian-Casuals	5	1	0	4	4	18	-14	3
18 Westfield	4	0	2	2	1	8	-7	2
19 Hanworth Villa	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1
20 Metropolitan Police	4	0	1	3	4	12	-8	1
21 Binfield	3	0	1	2	2	11	-9	1

Non League Pyramid (Extract)

Step 1 National League

Step 2 National League South

Step 3 Isthmian League Premier

Step 4 Isthmian League South Central

Step 5 Combined Counties League

APPEARANCES AND GOALS

	Season 2023/24		All-time	
	App	Goals	App	Goals
A Sykes	-	-	4	-
H Sobte	10	-	10	-
S Hayes	-	-	2	-
A Everiss	-	-	26	1
A Grant	3	-	34	6
B Matthew	10	9	64	56
C Morgan	-	-	5	1
D Bailey	5	-	115	15
D Brown	5	-	5	-
D Surpanu	-	-	57	10
G Lock	10	-	224	10
H Grant	8	2	60	9
H Laffin	4	1	156	85
H Tucker	7	-	47	3
H Killen	7	2	7	2
J Welch	8	-	49	2
J Gater	2	-	2	-
J Ajanlekoko	8	1	63	5
K Allsopp	4	-	4	-
J Edwards	5	-	5	-
L Phillips	-	-	2	1
L Kassim	5	-	52	13
O Harris	-	-	20	12
O Lahtinen-Kalsi	10	-	10	-
R Gerrard	-	-	34	4
S McCormack	10	1	104	19
S Balogun	7	1	22	1
T Thompson	-	-	11	-
U Lalustani	6	-	81	22
O McCoy	6	2	6	2
Own Goals	-	1	n/a	n/a
	140	20	1,281	279



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THE FA Cup first round proper will always be the Holy Grail for the majority of Non-League clubs.

Yes, of course, the third round proper can be - and often is - the stuff of fairytales.

But, for most, getting to the first round would be something talked about for years to come - especially if that ideal draw comes out.

It's not just about the finances, although they are huge and can help a club immeasurably. But it's also the profile it can bring to a small town or village, the increased interest and, ultimately, the memories for the hard-working volunteers who give their time and energy.

The dream is already on hold for another year at least for hundreds of clubs. The cards of defeat dealt while the summer evenings are still with us.

For others, it inched that bit closer last weekend - and in midweek - following the second round qualifying games.

The third round qualifying draw was released on Monday lunchtime with just two wins required to get into that famous first round proper hat in front of the live TV cameras.

But perhaps that doesn't tell the full depth of story in the FA Cup. With so many former ex-Football League clubs now in Non-League, these days the fourth round qualifying almost has the same feel of the first round proper.

Take last season when Anstey Nomads welcomed Chesterfield at that stage. Not many people at Coalville Town will forget their upset of Notts County on the same say South Shields stunned then-Step 1 Scunthorpe United and Southern League Needham Market beat Maidstone United, also plying their trade in Non-Leagues top flight at the time.

Notts obviously ended up back in the Football League while Scunny and the Stones dropped down - making them big draws in these two qualifying rounds before the Step 1 clubs enter.

Maidstone travelled to Southern Combination side Steyning Town last Saturday in the second round qualifying - a huge day for the Step 5 club that may have ended in defeat, but was rewarded with a 1,000-plus gate and a will only boost the club's standing in the community As manager Kev Green told us in the build-up to the Maidstone last week, it was a day to savour for the whole club.

"We've got 400 youth players, boys and girls, a fantastic women's section," he said. "The players and staff are all getting loads of messages saying, unbelievable, well done.

"I dropped a message to the chairman to say, 'You guys deserve as much praise as anyone else for this. You've put it together'. They deserve a lot of credit. Let's enjoy it."

Throw in AFC Stoneham taking on Yeovil Town, Larkhall Athletic welcoming city neighbours Bath City and Tadcaster Albion giving Chester a scare on the BBC's red button.

The feel-good stories come long before the first round proper. ~Matt Badcock

MEET THE YELLAMEN

Hugo Sobte – goalkeeper. Signed for the 23/24 campaign having previously played for Windsor FC and most recently Step 4 football with Hanwell Town. A strong all-round keeper with good distribution and is particularly comfortable with the ball at his feet.



Alex Sykes – goalkeeper. Goalkeeping coach and reliable backup. Has international experience having played for the England Futsal team. Part of the successful double-winning squad of 22/23.

Josh Edwards – defence. Signed for the 23/24 season for Thatcham Town where he was player of the season in 22/23. A strong, powerful defender and excellent in 1 v 1 scenarios. Previously with Basingstoke Town.



Oliver Lahtinen-Kalsi – defence. Exciting addition for the 23/24 campaign having joined us on a season-long loan from National League neighbours Aldershot Town.

Dan Bailey – defence. Experienced centre back and club captain. Previously played at a higher level with Marlow and has a FA level 2 coaching qualification. A great communicator who shows incredible commitment and leadership on the pitch. Pivotal member of our double-winning campaign in 22/23, leading the team to victory at Wembley.



George Lock – defence. A fearless right back previously with Binfield and Bracknell. Technically strong and a consistently high performer who likes to get forward and has weighed in with important goals. Has made over 200 appearances heading into the 23/24 campaign. Another FA Vase winner.

Toby Thompson – defence. A product of the Ascot United junior ranks having also captained the Allied Under 18 side. Spent part of last season at Step 5 outfit Sheerwater, helping them escape relegation.



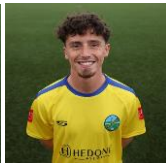
Harry Tucker – defence. Strong, commanding defender who oozes confidence on the ball and has excellent distribution. Previously with Kings Langley and Thame United. FA Vase winner.

Joe Gater – defence. Highly respected defender on the local scene having previously played Step 4 football with Bracknell Town and Binfield. Tall and physical with a strong aerial presence.



Rob Gerrard – defence. Powerful full back and technically strong. Big part of the FA Vase campaign, scoring a late equaliser in the semi-final and in the starting line-up Wembley before a head injury curtailed his afternoon. Signed from Thatcham Town in November 2022.

Jay Welch – midfield. Signed in 22/23, a versatile player who can play in defence or midfield. Bundles of energy and tenacity alongside great technical ability. Massive performance in winning the FA Vase and only denied a Wembley goal by the woodwork.



Harvey Killeen – midfield. A fantastic addition for 23/24 having signed from North Greenford United, for whom he starred against us in 22/23. Works incredibly hard, pops up all over the pitch and scores bags of goals despite not being an outright attacker.

Charlie Morgan – midfield. Exciting young talent who first featured in 22/23 and will continue to improve.



MEET THE YELLAMEN

Ollie Harris – midfield. Signed from near neighbours Binfield in 22/23 where he was a huge part of The Moles' run to the FA Vase final in 20/21. A true clubman, he was a huge part of Ascot's double-winning campaign in 22/23 despite long-term injury and will bounce back in 23/24. Exceptionally quick and talented forward with bags of tricks.



Harry Grant – midfield. A Rolls Royce of a player and an excellent addition to the club in 22/23. Ex-professional at Gillingham, winning EFL League 2 and the FA Vase with Thatcham Town in 2017/18 before repeating the feat with Ascot United in 22/23.

Jordan Ajanlekoko – midfield. Cultured midfielder who signed in 22/23 after Step 3 experience with Beaconsfield. Previously featured for the Yellamen on loan with 2 appearances in 17/18 and became a permanent addition for the 22/23 season. Unavailable for the FA Vase final but a huge part of the cup run.



Sammy Balogun – midfield. Signed midway through the 22/23 season and proved invaluable in midfield with some big performances, especially in the 22/23 FA Vase Semi Final. Reads the game exceptionally well. Unused substitute at Wembley.

Sean McCormack – forward. Skilful forward signed from Walton and Hershaw in 21/22 and previously with Maidenhead United and Bracknell Town. Was the players' and supporters' POY in his first campaign after dazzling on the right wing. Incredible workrate and vision and tracks back to cover the defence. Another FA Vase winner.



Harry Laffin – forward. Needs little introduction. 'Laffers' is a goal-machine who returned late in the 22/23 season to add more attacking options having scored 29 goals in 30 appearances for Ascot in 21/22. Has netted over 80 goals for the club heading into 23/24 in just over 150 games.

Brendan Matthew – forward. Exceptionally quick and a proven goalscorer. Signed for the 22/23 season from Egham Town and smashed Ascot' goalscoring record with 47 goals in his first season. Subsequently won just about every award at the end-of-season presentation evening. On his day he is simply irrepresible. Another FA Vase winner.



Dan Brown – forward. Experienced striker who joins for 23/24 from Ashford Town having also featured for Wingate & Finchley.

Usman Lalustani – forward. Rejoined The Yellamen in 22/23 after featuring in 18/19 and 19/20 when he netted 11 goals from 38 appearances. Maintains high fitness levels and on his day will cause problems for any defence. An ice-cool character, he scored the winning penalty in the FA Vase Quarter Final in but was suspended for the final.



MEET THE YELLAMEN

Jamie Tompkins – manager. Highly respected throughout the club who won the league cup in his first season (18/19) and almost won the league in 20/21 only for COVID to strike. However, overseeing a league and FA Vase double in 22/23 eclipsed all that went before and he now gets the chance to have a crack at Step 4 in 23/24. Jamie is also Senior Director of Football Development at Brentford FC.



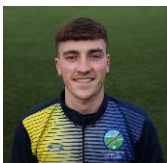
Dean Greenwood – assistant manager. Joined the coaching team in November 2022 and also has first team management experience from his spells in charge at Ashford Town (Middx) and Camberley Town. Also helped mastermind the league and FA Vase double.

Steve Quelch – coach. Many years of experience in the local game with Chalvey Sports and is a UEFA B coach, joined the club ahead of the 2019/20 season. A big character, especially during our 22/23 double-winning campaign.



Stuart Britton – strength and conditioning coach. Joining in the summer of 2021, 'Stu' joined to focus on the fitness, recovery and injury prevention and rehabilitation of the squad which was invaluable during the gruelling 22/23 league and FA Vase campaign.

Nathan Riley – physio. Joined us in 22/23 and becomes the club's main physio for 23/24. Another important member of our double-winning team.



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CLUB HISTORY - ASCOT UNITED

Ascot United as we know it, was founded in 1965 by a men's team who played their games at Sunninghill with "after match meetings" in The Wells in Cheapside village (now Mikado's). Teams played as long ago as 1928 under the name "Ascot United" but nothing to link them directly to the current club. In 1965, the club had gained permission from the Ascot Racecourse Trustees to convert the land east of coach park 10 into a football pitch. A wooden clubhouse was built, and this team went on to win many prestigious trophies in the years that followed.

Various youth teams represented Ascot United over the years up to 1988, and in 1992 the East Berks 7-a-side Association was formed by our then Chairman Keith Wicks, introducing small-sided junior games and having disbanded in 1980 the men's team also reformed. The men's senior team enjoyed early success through the East Berks League gaining continued promotions to the Senior division and winning various Cups including the Fielden Charity Cup in 1996/7. In 2001, the First Team join the Reading Senior League, were awarded FA Charter Standard status in 2004, and won the Reading Evening Post Senior Cup at the Madejski Stadium in 2006. Promotion to the Hellenic League Division 1 soon followed in 2007, before promotion to the Premier Division in 2009.

"The Yellamen" made their debut in the FA Cup in 2011 with a home tie against Wembley FC. The game attracted 1,149 people to The Racecourse on a Friday evening where the famous trophy itself was on display, and the match was streamed live on Facebook. In 2012-13 and 2015-16 we reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase twice, enjoyed two top-three finishes in the UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division, and won both the Bluefin Sport Challenge Cup and Perpetua Press Floodlit Cup. In 2018-19, new manager Jamie Tompkins led his side to the top of the table for long spells, and although they couldn't hang on to their lead, they would taste league cup glory once again by defeating Windsor FC 3-1.

A lateral move to the Combined Counties Premier Division for the 2019-20 season, combined with the installation of a new 3G pitch provided a platform for further development both on and off the pitch. The Yellamen were clear at the top of the league before COVID curtailed their first crack at the title before the 2021-22 season saw them reach the Bucks Senior Cup Final after defeating three sides from higher divisions, including Wycombe Wanderers in the semi-final in front of a club-record crowd of 1,267.

However, it is the 2022-23 campaign that will surely remain the club's most successful for decades to come. Tompkins' side dominated the league, taking 102 points from 38 league matches to win the title with four matches to spare. And if that wasn't enough, they achieved an incredible double by lifting the Isuzu FA Vase at Wembley in front of over 4,400 travelling Ascot United supporters and the BT Sport cameras. Impressively, they entered in the very first qualifying round before winning ten matches in a mesmerizing run; Kai Walters heading home in the 79th minute to secure a 1-0 win over the then-holders Newport Pagnell Town.

The club has also enjoyed much success at all levels particularly in the Women's and Girls Section. Our Senior Women won promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern Region Women's Football League in 2017-18 and enjoyed their best season in 2022-23 when they were runners-up but ended on a high by winning the league cup. Our Women's Phoenix side achieved back-to-back promotions from the Thames Valley League to take their place just one level below the Senior side for 2023-24, and the newly-formed Junior Premier League (U18s) also won their league title at the first attempt in 2022-23.

Ascot United has grown to become one of the largest Community football clubs in the UK with over 1,000 registered players and over 90 teams playing every weekend embracing all ages and abilities from 5 year olds through to veterans. We are also extremely proud to have a mixed-ability team representing our club, the Ascot United Warriors, who are affiliated with Special Olympics GB. The future is bright.



CLUB HISTORY - LANCING

The club is proud of its long-standing history, central to the village of Lancing. The committee, in particular Ron George, are currently in the process of collating much of the older history of the Lancers, founded in 1941. The long-term aspiration is to publish a book and/or website about the club and its history, from its foundation, achievements, historic players & talent, the war, and the present day.

The club was established in 1941, initially as a multi-sport club under the name Lancing Athletic. They joined the Brighton, Hove & District League in 1946 and went on to win the Division One and League Cup double in their first season. The club applied to join the Sussex County League but were rejected. However, after retaining the Brighton, Hove & District League title in 1947–48, the club were then admitted to the Sussex County League, at which point they became a separate organisation to the remainder of the sports club. They were Sussex County League runners-up in 1949–50, only missing out on the title on goal average. When the league gained a second division in 1952 the club became members of Division One but were relegated to Division Two after finishing bottom of the table in 1956–57.

In 1957 the club dropped Athletic from their name. They were Division Two champions at the first attempt, earning promotion back to Division One. The club won the League Cup in 1964–65, beating Chichester City 2–0 in the final, and went on to win the Sussex RUR Cup the following season with a 3–0 win over Rye United. However, they were relegated again at the end of the 1967–68. Although the club won the Division Two title in 1969–70 and were promoted back to Division One, two seasons later they were relegated back to Division Two after finishing bottom of Division One. The club won the Division Two Cup in 1981–82.

Lancing remained in Division Two until a second-place finish in 1982–83 saw them promoted to Division One. They were relegated again at the end of the 1989–90 season and spent the next ten seasons in Division Two, winning the Division Two Cup again in 1992–93, before earning promotion with a third-place finish in 1999–2000. However, the club were relegated back to Division Two at the end of the following season. In 2010–11 they were Division Two runners-up, earning promotion to Division One. In 2015 the league was renamed the Southern Combination, with Division One becoming the Premier Division.



CLUB HISTORY - LANCING

In the 2017/18 season, first team manager Jon Sharman, assisted by Nigel Geary & Malcolm Saunders, led the Lancers to 10th place in the Southern Combination Premier League. At the end of the season, Chairman, Jon Rea, resigned from his role, in addition to Jon Sharman and Nigel Geary.

For the 2018/19 season, Steve Taylor was elected Chairman to replace the departing John Rea, and Barry Sutton was promoted to the role of Vice-Chairman. With 4 new teams – Ladies, two Under-18 squads and a Veterans side – joining the existing First Team and Under-23s, the club gained FA Charter Standard Community status in February 2019. Unfortunately, Ash Bailey was forced to retire from his post as First Team manager in September for family commitments and was replaced by Mark Pulling who enabled the team to finish 13th in the SCFL Premier Division table.

During the season, the club launched a new mental health initiative, named the 'You're Not In This Alone' campaign, through offering free entry to supporters with mental health issues, raising over £400 for Mind Lancing, supporting the Time to Talk Day in February 2019, and raising over £1,000 for CALM – The Campaign Against Living Miserably. In addition, Lancing supported the Fairtrade Foundation through the purchasing of Fairtrade certified footballs for the new Ladies squad. The club came runners-up in the Active Sussex 'Club of the Year' category in November 2018, where a presentation was held at The Grand Hotel, Brighton.

On 16th February 2019, the club was saddened to hear about the passing of long-serving committee member, Michael Clark, who managed the 100 Club, manned the turnstile and supported the club in the later years of his life. In the 2019/20 season, the club introduced a new Disability team, and appointed a new First Team management team, consisting of Naim Rouane, David Altendorff and Kane Louis for the season. The first team had an excellent season, the best in the club's history, however the season was brought to a premature end following the COVID-19 outbreak. The Lancers were top of the league looking to be promoted, but with the season voided by the FA, were left to compete in the SCFL for another season.

Ahead of the 2020/21 season, Kane Louis and James Rhodes were appointed Joint Managers of the first team following the departure Rouane & Altendorff. James and Kane kept the existing backroom staff of Matt Evans, Mark Stuart, Lloyd Osland and Georgina Hill.

Following a second curtailed season due to COVID-19, thanks to FA restructuring, Lancing were promoted to the Pitching In Isthmian League – South East Division, finishing top on PPG in the SCFL Premier Division over the course of two seasons. This movement from Step 5 to Step 4 in the English football pyramid marked a huge achievement for the club, in what was appropriately also their 80th anniversary.

Now competing in their second season at Step 4 the Club escaped relegation last season beating Newhaven 2-1 in a Play Off final at Culver Road after they finished 3rd bottom. This season the Club has been consolidating its position in the League with some encouraging results under joint managers Alex Walsh and Dale Hurley who took over from Kane Louis and James Rhodes after they both stood down at the end of last season but were rocked by their sudden departure along with Coach Matt Evans in early December when they joined local rivals Haywards Heath Town, The Club however wasted no time in appointing their replacements with the experienced Dean Cox taking over the reins. Cox comes to the Club having made over 300 appearances with League Clubs Brighton & Hove Albion, Leyton Orient and Crawley Town. Latterly he has played for Burgess Hull Town, Eastbourne Borough and Worthing. He is joined by Will Hendon as his assistant.

However, after a brief spell Cox and his management team left for Burgess Hill Town just after the season ended having guided the Club to safety, The Club again wasted little time in finding a replacement and appointed David Altendorff who had previously been the Club's assistant manager before Covid interrupted proceedings back in 2020. He has spent the summer building a useful squad with just two players remaining from the previous regime.