

#F22/04

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MK IRISH FC

Official Match Day Programme

Saturday 27th August 2022

KO 3PM

Manor Fields

MK Irish FC vs Arlesley Town FC

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Entrance:

£8 Adults £4 Concessions £2 U12-16s



uhlsport



uhlsport
UNITED COUNTIES
FOOTBALL LEAGUE



CLUB NOTICE

Please note that under F.A Regulations

Alcohol and Glasses are not allowed around the pitch

Alcohol and Glasses that are taken out of the club are only allowed to be consumed in the clubhouse area.

This is also part of the drinks license so failure to adhere to these rules could result in the offender being asked to leave the premises.

Also, please note we are a family club and will not tolerate foul and abusive language and as a club fully support the leagues Mind Your Language campaign and the Football Associations Respect and Give Racism the Red Card campaigns.

This is non standing stadium, please do not restrict other peoples viewing.

Many thanks and enjoy the game.

The Committee MK Irish FC



CHARTER STANDARD CLUB



uhlisport

**UNITED COUNTRIES
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

MK Irish First Fixtures 2022-23

Date	Competition	Venue	Opposition	Result	Score
30.07.22	League	Home	Coventry Utd	L	0 - 1
02.08.22	League	Home	Easington Sports	W	2 - 0
06.08.22	FA Cup	Home	Tilbury	L	2 - 4
13.08.22	League	Away	Long Buckby	W	1 - 0
23.08.22	League	Away	Godmanchester Rovers	L	0 - 1
27.08.22	FA Vase	Home	Arlesley Town		
30.08.22	B&B Cup	Home	Amersham Town		
03.09.22	League	Home	Eynesbury Rovers		
10.09.22	League Cup	Away	Quorn		
13.09.22	League	Home	Cogenhoe Utd		
17.09.22	League	Home	Rothwell Corinthians		
27.09.22	League	Away	Bugbrooke St Michael		
01.10.22	League	Away	Lutterworth Town		
08.10.22	League	Home	March Town Utd		
15.10.22	League	Away	Desborough Town		
29.10.22	League	Home	Histon		
05.11.22	League	Away	GNG Oadby Town		
12.11.22	League	Home	Wellingborough Town		
19.11.22	League	Away	Coventry Sphinx		
26.11.22	League	Home	Bugbrooke St Michael		
03.12.22	League	Away	Rugby Town		
10.12.22	League	Away	Eynesbury Rovers		
17.12.22	League	Home	GNG Oadby Town		
26.12.22	League	Home	Newport Pagnell Town		

#unitedtogether

UHLSport United Counties League

Premier Division South - 2022/2023 Table as at 26th August 2022

Club	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
MARCH TOWN UTD	4	4	0	0	14	12
NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN	4	3	1	0	5	10
RUGBY TOWN	3	3	0	0	4	9
WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN	4	2	1	1	3	7
GNG OADBY TOWN	5	2	1	2	0	7
EASINGTON SPORTS	3	2	0	1	3	6
COVENTRY SPHINX	3	2	0	1	3	6
MILTON KEYNES IRISH	4	2	0	2	1	6
COVENTRY UTD	3	2	0	1	-2	6
BUGBROOKE ST MICHAELS	4	2	0	2	-3	6
COGENHOE UTD	4	1	1	2	0	4
GODMANCHESTER ROVERS	4	1	1	2	-4	4
LUTTERWORTH TOWN	4	1	0	3	-3	3
DESBOROUGH TOWN	3	1	0	2	-3	3
HISTON	3	1	0	2	-3	3
EYNESBURY ROVERS	4	1	0	3	-5	3
LONG BUCKBY AFC	3	0	1	2	-3	1
ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS	4	0	0	4	-5	0

MK IRISH FC - NEXT GAMES

Tuesday 30 August ko 7.45pm

FIRST home vs Amersham Town (County Senior Cup)

Wednesday 31 August ko 7.30pm

U18s away vs Kempston Rovers U18s (FA Youth Cup)



Short History of MK Irish FC

On June 1st 2020 the club was formed when Milton Keynes Robins, Unite MK and Milton Keynes Irish Veterans joined together to operate as one club going into the 2020/21 season, Milton Keynes Irish FC! The first team playing at Step 6 in the Spartan South Midlands Division One, the newly formed reserve team playing in the UCL Reserve Division and the Veterans playing in the Veterans League Division One. There are also an adult team in the Milton Keynes Sunday League.

Our first season as a club was unfortunately brought to an early finish due to the effects of COVID-19. The 2020/21 season was looking to be very promising as we found the first team sitting second in the table after 9 games played with the best PPG in the league and went on an exciting run in the FA Vase which saw us get knocked out in the 3rd round on penalties after advancing through 4 rounds beating three higher league opposition.

The season was officially curtailed, however due to performances under Milton Keynes Robins, the club earned promotion to the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division (Step 5) based on PPG over the previous 2 seasons.

2021 also saw the addition of an U18 Floodlit team (run by MK College under the Adopt a Team Scheme) and another 5 youth teams who came over to join under the MK Irish banner from Scot FC, increasing the number of teams to 11, another 2 youth teams were added in 2022.



EVERY season there are stories that stop you in your tracks and aren't forgotten. Often they come with a message that transcends well beyond the 90 minutes of action we are usually discussing. This month football had just that following the scary scenes seen at Chippenham Town in their National League South match with Chelmsford City when Pablo Martinez collapsed. For the Bluebirds chairman Neil Blackmore, the story has a simple reminder for clubs and all sport facilities – make sure you have a defibrillator for that situation you hope will never happen. Like many clubs, Chippenham have the life-saving piece of equipment. Never did they expect to use it – especially on one of their own players. But during the first half of their recent game with the Clarets, it became very apparent something was wrong when 21-year-old Martinez went down. “It was a real shock – you just don't expect to see it,” Blackmore told The NLP. I've been in football for a number of years and seen quite a lot of injuries. Broken legs, dislocated joints, cuts and things like that. As bad as they can be at the time, none of them are ever life threatening – or very rarely. “But to see the club's doctor knelt over him doing CPR is really shocking and hopefully we never see it again. “The way everybody reacted was fantastic. He collapsed and straightaway the physio and a team-mate, who is first aid trained, came onto the pitch and turned him over. Anton, the physio, said, ‘He's stopped breathing’. Straightaway they started CPR. Our club doctor and paramedic ran on – a they got the defib out and gave him a shock and he came round first time. “The emergency services were fantastic too. Literally within minutes we had two ambulances and a rapid responder and a few minutes later an air ambulance landed. I can't praise them highly enough. “By the time he left in a land ambulance he was sat up and gave us a wave. He actually said to the doctor from the helicopter, ‘Will I be OK to play on Tuesday?’” Of course, that game came a bit too soon for the former Bristol Rovers defender but he was due to be fitted with an ICD (Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator) like Denmark international Christian Eriksen and hopes are he will play again. The fact this is a good news story is down to a lot of people. When the medical process swings into action, there can be positive outcomes. And Blackmore said it has hit home quite how important a defibrillator is. “It sits in the cupboard and it comes out once a year to be serviced,” he said. “You don't think you're ever going to use it. That day you need it, you can't put a value on it. It saved Pablo's life. “I would say to everyone, it doesn't matter if you're a sports club or not, if you haven't got access to a defib, please get one. Get some funding, get some sponsorship, get yourself a defib. They are really easy to use and hopefully it will sit in your cupboard and never be used. But that day you need it, it's an amazing piece of medical kit.”

FA Vase 2022-23 1st Qualifying Round Preview

By Phil Annets (@FAVaseFactfile)

586 - The total number of clubs involved in the 2022-23 FA Vase, a mixture of Step 5 and Step 6 clubs in the newly revised Football Pyramid, the fewest number of entrants for seven years.

176 - The number of ties in this season's 1st Qualifying Round involving 352 clubs.

8 – The number of clubs involved in the 1st Qualifying Round participating in the FA Vase for the first time: **Horde Community Welfare, Chester-le-Street United, Letchworth Garden City Eagles, Basildon Town, London Samurai Rovers, Hartpury University, AFC Whyteleafe** (all new to national Cup competitions) and **Frickley Athletic** who have extensive participation in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy.

6 – The number of other clubs that have yet to go beyond the 1st Qualifying Round and have not yet won a match in the FA Vase: **Ilkley Town, Moreton Rangers** and **Faversham Strike Force** (all in just their 2nd campaign), **Langley FC** (in 3rd campaign), **Lewisham Borough (Community)** (in 5th campaign) and **FC St Helens** (who had their entry accepted last season but didn't actually participate due to not playing at Step 6).

6 – Six is also the number of clubs in the 1st Qualifying Round at the other end of the success scale; former Vase winners: **Whickham FC** (1981), **Brigg Town** (1996 and 2003), **Arlesey Town** (1995), **Deal Town** (2000) and two former winners that actually face each other this season, **Stansted FC** (1984) and **Hoddesdon Town** (1975, the first ever Vase winners).

5 – **Stansted FC** and **Hoddesdon Town** are also two of five clubs involved in the 1st Qualifying Round that have participated in all 47 previous Vase competitions along with **Calne Town, Holbeach United** and **Stotfold FC**.

30 – The number of 1st Qualifying Round ties involving clubs that have met in the Vase before with **Biggleswade United** maybe the keenest to avenge past defeats having twice lost to **Southend Manor** including a heavy 8-0 reverse just last season.

2 – **Biggleswade United** and **Southend Manor** are clubs involved in the most common match-ups having met each other twice in the Vase in the past. **Ashington FC** versus **Billingham Town, Shawbury United** versus **Westfields FC, Wellingborough Town** versus **Bugbrooke St Michaels** and **Shortwood United** versus **Calne Town** are all ties where both clubs have one win apiece over the other. **Esh Winning** twice defeating **Newton Aycliffe** and **Cogenhoe United** twice beating **Rothwell Corinthians** are the only other instances where one club has beaten their 2022 opponent more than once in the Vase.

11 – The biggest margin of victory in a past FA Vase meeting as **Cornard United** look to try to avenge their 11-0 defeat by **Haverhill Rovers** in the competition from 10 years ago.

21 – The number of years **Elmore FC** have had to wait for the chance to avenge the 5-2 defeat by **St Blazey** in the Vase in 2001.

5 – **Penn and Tylers Green** continue their weird stat of only having faced clubs in the first half of the alphabet in the FA Vase with **Burton Park Wanderers** becoming their 5th such opponent this year.

MK IRISH FC 2022-23 SEASON

GOALKEEPERS



JAMIE ADIM



OWUSU KYEREMATENG



JACK TAYLOR

OUTFIELD PLAYERS



'NIMMY' AJIGBOLAMU



NAT BEECHER



GEORGE BOLAND



STEPHEN BROOKS



OLIVER COLEMAN



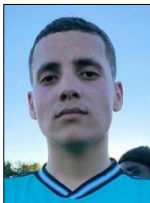
MATTHEW COOKE



SCOTT DUMMETT



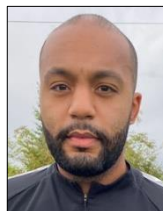
MO ECHCHARKI



NAWFAL ECHCHARKI



LUKE GARDNER



LLOYD KPAMBER



WESLEY IREGBU

MK IRISH FC 2022-23 SEASON

OUTFIELD PLAYERS



DOMINIC LAWLESS



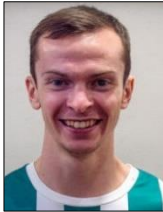
SAMUEL OLAWALE



ANDRE OLUKANMI



POWFIL RAPOSO



KEELAN SHAND



GEORGE SHRIEVES



NATHAN SMITH



RYAN SMITH



LIAM SMYTH



SHAHEIM WARD



CLINTON ZAWÉ

MANAGEMENT



TERRY SHRIEVES



GLYN CREASER



LEE BROWN

MK IRISH FC 2022-23 SEASON

Pen Pictures

NAME: OWUSU KYEREMATENG
AGE: 33
POSITION: GOALKEEPER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MK IRISH, WINSLOW UTD
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD: GHANA JOLLOF RICE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP:

NAME: JACK TAYLOR
AGE: 28
POSITION: GOALKEEPER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: OLNEY TOWN, NORTHAMPTON ON CHENECKS,
NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
FAVOURITE FOOD: INDIAN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: CRAIG DAVID

NAME: AARON HALAI
AGE: 26
POSITION: GOALKEEPER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MK IRISH ATHLETIC, UNITE MK, WOLVERTON TOWN,
LEIGHTON TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: LIVERPOOL
FAVOURITE FOOD: NANDOS CHICKEN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: JACKSON 5

NAME: STEPHEN BROOKS
AGE: 30
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN, BEDFORD, LANGFORD,
BALDOCK TOWN, STOTFOLD
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
FAVOURITE FOOD: MUMS SPAG BOL
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: FOALS

NAME: NATHANIEL BEECHER
AGE: 24
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE
FAVOURITE CLUB: WEST HAM
FAVOURITE FOOD: CURRY GOAT
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: BOBBY VALENTINO

NAME: MATT COOKE
AGE: 24
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: BUCKINGHAM ATHLETIC, WHETSTONE
FAVOURITE CLUB: LEICESTER CITY
FAVOURITE FOOD: CARBONARA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: WHAM!

NAME: LIAM SMYTH
AGE: 34
POSITION: DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: AYLESBURY UTD, NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: DERBY COUNTY
FAVOURITE FOOD: PASTA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: WESTLIFE

NAME: LUKE GARDNER
AGE: 24
POSITION: DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NORTHAMPTON TOWN, AFC RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD: BURGER
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: OASIS

NAME: HARRY ROBERTSON
AGE: 22
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: WILLEN
FAVOURITE CLUB:
FAVOURITE FOOD: KEBAB
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: ARTIC MONKEYS

NAME: LIAM MURPHY
AGE: 25
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: AFC SANTANDER, NEW BRADWELL ST PETER
FAVOURITE CLUB: EVERTON
FAVOURITE FOOD: STEAK
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: OASIS

NAME: KEELAN SHAND
AGE: 25
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: WAVENEY
FAVOURITE CLUB: NORWICH
FAVOURITE FOOD: PIZZA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: EARTH, WIND & FIRE

NAME: HARRY PHILLIPS
AGE: 16
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: WALTON, ASPLEY GUISE
FAVOURITE CLUB: MAN UTD
FAVOURITE FOOD: STEAK
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: IMAGINE DRAGONS

NAME: EMMANUEL APPIAH
AGE: 22
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: BLETCHLEY SCOT, AFC SANTANDER, FUTURE ELITE ACADEMY
FAVOURITE CLUB: CHELSEA
FAVOURITE FOOD: CHICKEN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: WSTRN

NAME: FARHAN UDDIN
AGE: 24
POSITION: DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: UNITE MK, MK IRISH ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB: MAN UTD
FAVOURITE FOOD: CHICKEN BURGER
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: COLDPLAY

NAME: CHRISTIAAN BEAUPIERRE
AGE: 37
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: FRENFORD, LONDON APSA, ENFIELD, CHESHUNT
FAVOURITE CLUB:
FAVOURITE FOOD: CURRY GOAT/MUTTON
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: THE DIPLOMATS

NAME: BENJAMIN ANSAH
AGE: 24
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE
FAVOURITE CLUB: CHELSEA
FAVOURITE FOOD: JOLLOF RICE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: THE WAILERS

NAME: CLINTON ZAWÉ
AGE: 19
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MK COLLEGE
FAVOURITE CLUB: MAN UTD
FAVOURITE FOOD: SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP:

NAME: SHAHEIM WARD
AGE: 21
POSITION: DEFENDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MK COLLEGE
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD: CHICKEN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: CHRIS BROWN

NAME: JESSE FORSON
AGE: 25
POSITION: DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MURSLEY UTD
FAVOURITE CLUB: CHELSEA
FAVOURITE FOOD: CHICKEN & RICE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: JACKSON 5

NAME: GEORGE SHRIEVES
AGE: 25
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN, WINSLOW UTD
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
FAVOURITE FOOD: LASAGNE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: CHRIS BROWN

NAME: WELSEY IROGBU
AGE: 26
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: CRAWLEY GREEN, TRING ATHLETIC, AYLESBURY UTD
FAVOURITE CLUB: LIVERPOOL
FAVOURITE FOOD:
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP:

NAME: OLIVER COLEMAN
AGE: 19
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: SCOT FC, NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD: INDIAN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: AC/DC

NAME: CAMERON JOHNSON
AGE: 21
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE
FAVOURITE CLUB: SOUTHAMPTON
FAVOURITE FOOD: ROAST CHICKEN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: GEORGE EZRA

NAME: NAWFAL ECHCHARKI
AGE: 21
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB: CHELSEA
FAVOURITE FOOD: PIZZA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: NWA

NAME: JAMIE PARKER
AGE: 34
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: BLETCHLEY TOWN, MURSLEY UTD, UNITE MK,
MK IRISH ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB: MAN UTD
FAVOURITE FOOD: NANDOS
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: ARTIC MONKEYS

NAME: SHEIKH JAGNE
AGE: 22
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: AFC SANTANDER, SG BENRATH HASSELS, MK WANDERERS
FAVOURITE CLUB: BORUSSIA DORTMUND
FAVOURITE FOOD: PASTA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: NSG

NAME: NATHAN SMITH
AGE: 19
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM
FAVOURITE FOOD: MAC & CHEESE
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: MIGOS

NAME: RYAN SMITH
AGE: 20
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: HITCHIN TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM
FAVOURITE FOOD: CURRY GOAT
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: MIGOS

NAME: GEORGE BOLAND
AGE: 25
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: BEDFORD TOWN, KEMPSTON ROVERS, LEIGHTON TOWN
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD:

FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: LIL BABY
NAME: JUSTICE GLOVER
AGE: 37
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NETHERTON UTD, WHITTLESEY ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB:
FAVOURITE FOOD: STEAK & CHIPS
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: MUMFORD & SONS

NAME: 'NIMMY' AJOGBOLAMU
AGE: 22
POSITION: STRIKER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: DUNSTABLE TOWN, CRAWLEY GREEN
FAVOURITE CLUB: MK IRISH
FAVOURITE FOOD: JOLLOF RICE WITH CHICKEN AND PLANTAIN
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: P-SQUARE

NAME: DANIEL ADETOYE
AGE: 24
POSITION: STRIKER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEW BRADWELL ST PETER, RADFORD
FAVOURITE CLUB: MAN UTD
FAVOURITE FOOD: THAI
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: 4PF

NAME: MOHAMMED ECHCHARKI
AGE: 23
POSITION: STRIKER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB: ARSENAL
FAVOURITE FOOD: PIZZA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: 21 PILOTS

NAME: POWFIL RAPOSO
AGE: 24
POSITION: STRIKER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MK IRISH ATHLETIC
FAVOURITE CLUB: CHELSEA
FAVOURITE FOOD: PASTA
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: GIVEON

NAME: DOMINIC LAWLESS
AGE: 35
POSITION: STRIKER
PREVIOUS CLUBS: NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN, ST IVES TOWN, BEDFORD TOWN,
BANBURY UTD, KEMPSTON ROVERS, AFC RUSHDEN &
DIAMONDS, EYNESBURY ROVERS
FAVOURITE CLUB: TOTTENHAM
FAVOURITE FOOD: ROAST
FAVOURITE BAND/GROUP: BOYZ 2 MEN



ARLESEY TOWN F.C. HISTORY

ARLESEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

A Brief History...

Arlesey Town Football Club celebrated their centenary in 1991, having been formed by a group of local people before the turn of the last century. Before the Second World War, Soccer was played on a localised basis, and in common with many clubs in the area, Arlesey competed in the flourishing Biggleswade & District League and entered the Biggleswade Knock-out Cup.

During the 1920's, the club joined the Bedfordshire County League - which was later to become the South Midlands League. Arlesey originally played at 'The Bury' before moving to their former home, 'Lamb Meadow.' The ground took its name from 'The Lamb,' a former Public House situated near the site which, for many years acted as the club's headquarters and changing rooms. The birth of the modern era is owed to the foresight of officials of the late 1940's and early 1950's. They purchased the premises and became landlords for the princely sum of just £500 in 1948. Four years later, in 1952, an adjoining area was bought and this is where the clubhouse used to stand. The story goes that two Committee members missed their train to Kings Cross and with time to kill, saw a notice in a local Estate Agent's window for a forthcoming auction of the land. They returned the following week and purchased the said land for the clubhouse. The area lay unused for a number of years until the arrival of 'Biggs Wall' who negotiated with the club to build temporary offices and canteen facilities - which the Football Club then bought back, turning them into what was then, the clubhouse. The first competitive match under floodlights was played in January 1981 against the now defunct 'Pirton FC' and two months later the Blues played host to Luton Town for the official opening in front of over 1,000 spectators.

Playing fortunes have fluctuated since the war and season 1950-51 saw the Blues finish as runners-up to Bletchley Town in the S.M.L. Premier Division. The following season the 1st XI lifted the championship crown and the second string were crowned S.M.L. Division Two champions with the Youth team winning three trophies. The 1952-53 season began North Beds Charity Cup final win over Biggleswade Town (the match was held over from the previous season), and ended with a second successive championship win, Arlesey amassing S.M.L. record 52 points. In February 1954, the developing Arlesey Town Colts, local players, reached the 4th round of the F.A. Youth Cup and were drawn away to Portsmouth. The 1950's had seen the Blues compete in the South Midlands and Parthenon Leagues. Season 1968-69 saw one of Arlesey's favourite sons in charge of team affairs; Roland Legate, (who played football professionally for Luton Town) took the helm as player-manager and during his four-year spell, he took the Blues to a league runners-up spot. The start of the 1975-76 season saw Legate return as manager and the trophies came with him, 3 Hinchingsbrooke Cup successes, one Beds Senior Cup, the Biggleswade K.O Cup twice and the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy once. Supporting the Executive Committee's wish to cross the pyramid to the United Counties League. With two indifferent terms in the U.C.L., Arlesey lifted the Premier Division crown in season 1984-85. During the late 1980's the Blues won the United Counties League, Premier Division Cup and a Beds Premier Cup final appearance against Luton Town. During the 1991 centenary year in the blues lifted the South Midlands Floodlight Cup with a fine victory over fellow U.C.L. side Irthlingborough Diamonds, who went on to become Rushden & Diamonds in the football league. With the rising cost of UCL travel and the attraction of more 'local derbies' in 1991-92 it was decided to resign from the United Counties League and cross to the familiar surroundings of the South Midlands League. A

successful first year campaign saw the Blues finish in third place and in their second season finished sixth in the league and lifted the Premier Division Cup. The club also gained national recognition following a marvellous run in the FA Vase to the quarterfinals, with victories Flackwell Heath 2-0, Ware 1-0, Haverhill Rovers 2-1, Eastwood Hanley 2-1, Falmouth Town 5-3, and Oadby Town 2-1. In the quarterfinal the blues faced old U.C.L. foes Boston in a thrilling game and lost out to an injury time winner. With changes to support and playing staff for 1994/5 the results exceeded expectations. The South Midlands League championship was won with a record 107 points, but even this memorable feat was eclipsed when Arlesey Town defeated Oxford City at Wembley Stadium in front of over 13,000 spectators to lift the F.A. Carlsberg Challenge Vase on May 13, 1995. On their way to the greatest day in the club's history, the Blues had beaten Hoddesdon 2-0, a vengeful 2-1 victory at Boston, a 2-0 win at Barnstaple, a 1-0 home win over the holders Diss Town and a 3-0 quarter-final demolition of Cammel Laird before facing U.C.L. side Raunds Town in a two-legged semi-final. The first leg, played at Raunds, saw Arlesey beaten out of sight by a score of 3-0 and very few pundits gave them much chance of overturning the deficit in the return match the following week at Lamb Meadow. Three nil at 90 minutes and 5-0 after extra-time, including a penalty save by Arlesey 'keeper Steve Young meant that the Blues were off to grace the most hallowed of turf! Arlesey Town's Wembley side that day were:- S. Young, N. Cardines, G. Bambrick, P. Palma, C. Hull, P. Gonsalves, S. Gyalog, G. Cox, N. Kane, R. O'Keefe and G. Marshall. Subs: A. Ward & T. Nicholls. The Vase travelled home to Bedfordshire for the first time.

In 1995/5 season saw the Blues crash out of the Vase at the first hurdle but the South Midlands League Championship Crown was retained. The season culminated in three Cup finals for the club; the 1st XI were runners-up to Ely City in the Hinchingsbrooke Cup, the Under 16 Youth side were beaten East Anglian Youth Cup finalists while Peter Milton's Reserve side lifted the S.M.L. Reserve Challenge Trophy. After finishing in third place the 1996/7 campaign ended with the Blues relinquishing the S.M.L. title. However the Lamb Meadow trophy cabinet remained in a healthy position as they lifted the Beds Senior Cup (the first time since 1979) and also lifted the Hinchingsbrooke Cup (last won in 1982). May 1997 saw Robbie O'Keefe tender his resignation, moving on to a higher grade of football with Baldock Town. In just three seasons Arlesey Town had achieved national recognition with F.A. Vase success and two league championships, a County Senior Cup victory and a Hinchingsbrooke Cup triumph. For season 1997-98 team were unable to keep pace and their championship aspirations soon evaporated. An FA Vase 3rd round exit occurred in Cornwall's Porthleven in December and the Blues' last chance of picking up any silverware disappeared at the hands of arch rivals Stotfold who loosened Arlesey's grip on the Hinchingsbrooke Cup with a 2-0 semi-final victory. After a lengthy campaign the club finally received planning permission for a new ground just a few hundred yards along Hitchin Road. After a development project the club moved in on April 30th, 1999 and are now able to boast some of the finest facilities in the area with a purpose built Members Bar, multi-purpose Function & Conference Suite, all-seater stand and training pitch. During the 1998/99 close season, Arlesey Town appointed Gary Pilsworth as manager however, things didn't work out and after 16 matches with the club rooted at the bottom of the league table, the management team replaced him with Nicky Ironton who had gained a wealth of experience having been at QPR, Barnet, Maidstone, Enfield, Barking and Baldock Town. Nicky was a former England semi-professional international. Nicky brought as his assistant former team-mate Billy Harrigan and together with Russell Ball, their objective was to avoid relegation and build a side capable of attaining promotion to the Ryman Isthmian League the following season. The Blues ended the season without silverware however, but a fantastic run from the end of January signalled the club's intents. Manager Nicky Ironton had built a side more than capable of attaining Arlesey's aim of playing a higher grade of football and the Blues looked forward to season 1999-2000 with optimism.

The first season at the new Hitchin Road ground began with nine straight Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division victories as Ironton's men stormed to the top of the table. A mid season blip in form threatened the side's hard work but having secured the services of coach Alan Dawson, the Blues went from strength to strength and went on to lift their fifth South Midlands League Championship. A run in of eight consecutive victories culminated in a 2-0 triumph at Milton Keynes City on Thursday 4th May meant the Blues secured the championship. With their ground grading 'Arlesey Town were promoted to the Ryman Isthmian League Division Three. The sale of Dave Kitson to Nationwide Football League Club Cambridge United halfway through the season, did little to upset their cause indeed, the signing of ex Stevenage Boro' striker Neil Trebble boosted their season. A prolific striker,

Treble netted an amazing 18 goals from 17 starts and one wonders just how many he would have scored had he been with the Blues at the start of the season. A magnificent first season in the Ryman League, saw the club lose just two league matches (one at home and one away) as they raced away to win the Third Division Championship scoring an Isthmian League record of 138 goals and the Blues also gained the record of being the first club to attain a 100 + goal difference in the league's 96 year history. During 2002 season Chairman Bryan Ellis fulfilled his promise to elevate the club to another level following a successful application to the 'Football Stadia Improvement Fund.' A six-figure grant enabled the club to meet the league's ground-grading criteria that gave the Blues a new covered stand for 600 spectators, a new open terrace and two new turnstiles. On the pitch, Arlesey boss Nicky Ironton led his side to the last 16 of the FA Carlsberg Vase, secured a highly creditable final Division Two fourth place and lifted the Beds Premier Cup for the first time since 1984. The 2002/2003 season was a consolidation for the rapid successes of the previous years and the highlight was an extended run in the FA Cup winning 4 away matches in reaching the fourth qualifying round. The reward was yet another away fixture, this time at Nationwide Conference club, Hereford United. Arlesey Town represented the Ryman League Division One north and after going behind to a sixth minute 'soft' goal, they more than matched their opponents in all departments, even having a goal disallowed. It was such a gallant performance that at the end of the tie, the relieved Hereford fans gave their guests a standing ovation. At the end of the 2002/3 Arlesey's Hitchin Road ground hosted two UEFA Ladies qualifying fixtures including England versus Spain. It was seen as a just reward for all the hard work that had been done at the Club by many of its members in recent years. Season 2003/2004 saw Arlesey Town yet again in the national limelight following a fantastic run to the last 16 of the FA Trophy defeating on the way, both after away draws 'Hayes FC' from the Ryman Premier Division and 'Dagenham & Redbridge FC' from the Nationwide Conference league. This resulted in an away game with 'Exeter City FC' who had just been relegated from the football league. Although losing the game the blues gained respect with an outstanding performance. The season ended with Arlesey Town failing to gain promotion to the new premier structure on goal difference but small consolation was gained when the Blues lifted the 'Bedfordshire Senior Cup' after defeating fellow Ryman League club outfit Leighton Town at Hitchin Road in May. In season (2004/05) Arlesey Town played in the Southern League Division One East and after the successful six-year reign of Nick Ironton it was a consolidation period. Because of the club's success, visibility and recognition most of the players moved to play in the 'Conference League' and premier league. After an indifferent start to the season Nicky Ironton decided to hand over the manager's position to Jon Taylor, whom he had dealings with in the past. Jon imported a new team of players during November with the single objective of maintaining the club's status within the Southern League Division 1. This was achieved with a mid-table position and during that close season Jon added more players with a wealth of football league and senior club experience. The season (2005/06) Arlesey Town again played in the Southern League Division One East with Jon Taylor and Scot Houghton in charge. With an exciting start 9 wins out of 10 culminating in destroying Boreham Wood's unbeaten run 3 - 0 at their home fortress. In both the FA Cup and Trophy there were unfortunate fixtures at Premier Clubs, Heybridge Swifts (1 - 0) and Leyton (90th minute goal) ending our cup interests. Arlesey Town had a mixture of excellent and mediocre results and achieved a mid-table position. The 2006/2007 seasons saw Arlesey Town reverting to the Ryman Isthmian Football league along with many of last season's opponents also being reassigned. Again during the close season Jon Taylor had added players with a wealth of football league and senior club experience for the next season's campaign we were looking to climb the non-league structure. Darren Hay took on the team management during the early stages of 2006/2007 season, when Jon left for personal reasons, with Mike Brooks as the assistant manager and coach and they put together a very young and eager team for the coming 2007 campaign. This included both experienced senior players supporting by young players who broke into the first team towards then end of the previous season. During the season there were several disruptions and there were three chairmen and three managers in succession which disrupted the development of the team because of the club management changes. Arlesey Town finished in the bottom half of the Ryman league with Matt Corbould as the manager and a very young side. Season 2008/2009 saw Arlesey Town reverting to the BGB Southern League with the consequence of substantial extra travelling miles and additional costs. Because of the league restructure Matt had to put together a totally different team comprising of a number of young players. As a result of Arlesey Town successful cup runs there were three players who were playing professional football for the 2008 season with Dave Kitson, was is a main A.T.F.C. sponsor, and who moved from Reading to newly promoted

Stoke City to remain in the Premiership, Craig Machail-Smith and Shane Blackett were with newly promoted Peterborough United. This is a record to be proud of for a small club like Arlesey.

Season 2008/2009 saw Arlesey Town escape relegation by the skin of their teeth. No honours were forthcoming in the season. But the Club were hoping season 2009/2010 would be more fruitful, which it so proved. With a complete new management structure in place and a new Management team, of: Gary King Director of Football, Lee Cowley Manager, Zema Abbey Assistant Manager, and Darren Staniforth as Coach, Arlesey played the season with renewed style and passion, finishing the season in 9th place in the League and getting through to the first round proper of the F.A. Trophy and lifting the Beds Senior Cup in the last game of the season. Season 2010-11 saw them staying in the Zamaretto Southern League in the new "Central Division" and saw them looking forward with a lot more hope and even more optimism, with the whole team showing great experience and growing in strength and confidence on and off the field all of the time. The season in which Arlesey were in the top echelons all season finished in dramatic style as they won 10 games on the bounce, had 9 points deducted on the day they thought they had won the league away at Hayes and then beat long term arch rivals and near neighbours Hitchin Town on Hitchin's own ground on their last game of the season to be finally crowned League Champions. This was followed soon after by beating Biggleswade Town to retain the Beds Senior Cup at Luton Towns Kenilworth Road ground to give Arlesey a League and Cup Double and see them promoted to the new Evo-Stick Southern League Premier Division, a truly tremendous season. The season was topped of in early August of this year as Arlesey beat neighbours Luton Town in the Beds Premier Cup to make a quite unique "treble" for the side. The first season in the Premier League was seen as a settling in period targeting staying up and a good cup run, both of these ambitions were achieved with the club reaching the F.A. Cup 1st round proper for the first time in their history.

The second season again saw a good FA Cup run that went again to the 1st round proper before it ended at the Ricoh Stadium against Coventry City. The season finished on a knife edge as Arlesey missed out on the play off spot of the Premier Div by just a single point. Although promotion was narrowly missed the Red Insure League Cup was won in a 2 legged final v Frome to bring home yet another impressive piece of Silverware. The squad like all good squads was rebuilt again through the summer and we looked forward to another successful season. But as the Abbeyes left to take up management elsewhere we had a change of Management and in November 2013 Rufus Brevett arrived to take the club forward. Although his 1st season was "steady" a very difficult season in 2014-15 saw several changes of management as results failed to materialise a Rufus gave way after Christmas to ex manager Nick Ironton but again this failed to halt the slide and he in turn gave way during the season as Zema Abbey came back with brother Nathan as joint managers, Although this led to an improvement in playing style but they were unable to prevent relegation in the end back to the Central Division. The new season saw us struggle to get to grips with the style of the new division and early form showed us propping up the division but a second half resurgence saw us push up the division to finish in a mid-table position. Last season saw us with most of last season's players returning to try to prove their point that they somewhat under achieved in the previous season. Season 2017-18 proved a very difficult year with a season plagued by injuries and problems and indeed a terrible record of no league wins at home all season saw us unfortunately get relegated from the Southern league. This now presents a new challenge in the South Midlands league for this year and to that end a new management team of Matt Endersby and James Hatch were appointed during the close season and they have rebuilt the team and gathered together a whole new coaching staff. We look forward to the new season with a degree of confidence that was perhaps missing in the previous season. The new League started well with a good start although a cup run eluded us and things went reasonably well until the Christmas period when a series of injuries knocked results but things were slowly rebuilt leaving us an 8th place finish that left a feeling of under achievement that led again to a rebuild. A change in management as Matt Endersby left the club at the beginning of October the club appointed Chico Ramos in November to try to push the club forward again. His reign has been blighted by the Covid pandemic with two uncompleted seasons although some progress seems to be happening on the pitch. Also off the pitch much change is happening with a complete refurbishment of the clubhouse and dressing rooms. Also a change off the pitch saw ex player Dave Kitson come back to the club he started at as Chairman.

Although progress was made a further change in management came in December 2021 as Martin Standen was appointed to take charge of the team. Martin left the club after a short tenure and skipper Adam Randall took the reins until the end of the season. With the new season the club appointed Nick Brown as manager and he has started to evolve his new team.

Arlesey Town F.C. **Pen Pics 2022/ 23**

Ryan Hilliard; Goalkeeper

Local lad who has come up through the youth section and has impressed all the way through. Went to Royston to gain some experience at senior level and returned to claim the keepers shirt last season.

Ollie Skinner; Goalkeeper

Young goalkeeper who with Letchworth and Baldock last season. Another local lad who looks a good prospect for the future.

Vinnie Baker; Defender

Young full back in his breakthrough year who is another local lad breaking into his local side. Exciting prospect.

Courtney Brooks-Ritchie; Defender

Tom Millett; Defender

Young defender who has come up through the u23s and has impressed from the start. Solid and dependable now in his 2nd season with the 1st team.

Adam Randall; Defender

An experienced player who has also played for Ampthill Town. An experienced and accomplished centre back who has proved to be an asset to the team. Made team Club Captain last season and interim manager last season in two separate spells.

Tarik Dallas; Defender

A big strong and experienced central defender who comes in this season from Southern League Kempston. Has also played for St Neots, Eynesbury, Harpenden and Bedford FC

William McClelland; Defender

Another big strong experienced central defender who comes in this season from Saffron Walden. Has also played for Harpenden, Colney Heath, Baldock, Welwyn Garden City, Codicote, Hertford and Langford.

Dan Wappett; Defender

Young central defender who came in at the end of last season from the u23 side and immediately impressed from game one and who didn't look in the slightest out of depth with the raise to adult football.

Ethan Tuttle; Defender

Young defender who came to us from Codicote last year.

Jesus Mendoza; Defender/Midfield

A quick and tricky player who hails from Spain who's previous club in Spain was UD Bellvitge. Returns to us after a spell at Staines. Good defender who is equally comfortable going forward.

Aedan Gaffney; Midfield

Tricky midfielder who come back to us from ground share club Baldock. He has also played for Ware FC. Works hard breaking up attacks and starting his own a good "engine room" player.

Alex Taylor; Midfield

Another "local lad" who has played at a higher level with Berkhamsted but came back to his local club. Tough and uncompromising midfielder who has a "terrier bite" when needed.

Joseph Swadling; Midfield

Raphael Azimi; Midfield

Furkan Cankurt; Midfield

Bruno de Brito; Forward/ Midfield

A vastly experienced player who come to us from Aylesbury Vale. He has a long list of clubs in England, Portugal from where he originates Cyprus, and China where he played for Macau and scored 30 goals in 33 games.

Jake Davis; Midfield/Forward

A fleet footed winger who isn't afraid to take anyone on. Came to the club last season from local rivals Stotfold. Has also been with Kempston and Harpenden. Lives local and another that has come up through the youth teams.

Akintomide Jejeola; Midfield/Forward

Amado Kanu; Midfield/Forward

Thami Mmakola; Midfield/Forward

Muhammad Zilboud; Forward/Midfield

Young forward or midfielder breaking into senior football from our u23s last season, now looking to be a regular player. He is a useful player with loads of enthusiasm and is improving with every game.

Stuart Mortimer; Forward

Lavel Davis-Thomas; forward

Manager..... Nick Brown

Assistant Manager.....Malcolm Harkness

Physio.....Pebbles Folorunso

Colours: --- Shirts Blue----- Shorts Blue,---- Socks blue. GK all Orange.

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MATCH DAY SQUADS from:

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Oluwanimilo Ajigbolamu

Nat Beecher

George Boland

Stephen Brooks

Oliver Coleman

Mo Eckcharki

Lloyd Kpamber

Owusu Kyeremateng

Samuel Olawale

Andre Olukanmi

Powfil Raposo

Keelan Shand

Nathan Smith

Ryan Smith

Liam Smyth ©

Jack Taylor

Shaheim Ward

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W McClelland

J Mendoza

T Millett

T Mmahola

S Mortimer

A Randall

O Skinner

J Swadling

A Taylor

M Zilbound

Terry Shrieves

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