



Hertfordshire FA



Senior Challenge Cup Final 2024 Berkhamsted v St Albans City

Tuesday 9th April 2024 7:45pm
Top Field, Hitchin



Welcome to Top Field

Our eighth County Cup Final of 2024



Good evening and a warm welcome to Top Field for the 131st Final of the Hertfordshire FA Senior Challenge Cup.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Berkhamsted and St Albans City on reaching the final, we wish you the very best of luck for the match.

We also want to acknowledge both clubs officials and volunteers, whose hard work behind the scenes gives these players the opportunity to be part of this occasion.

Congratulations also to the match officials on your appointment to this game, you thoroughly deserve it and we hope you are able to enjoy the occasion.

Finally we are delighted to welcome Chris Spriggins, President of Hertfordshire FA as Guest of Honour for today's final where they will meet the teams before the game and also present the medals at the end of the match.

We would also like to thank our hosts this evening who have kindly allowed us to use their ground for this match.

Our goal is to create a friendly and welcoming environment for all and therefore ask that you show your appreciation during and after the game in a positive manner.

Graham Phillips,
Chair, Hertfordshire FA

“ **Congratulations to all involved in today's final, whatever the result you should take great pride in the achievement of reaching this stage** ”

Hertfordshire FA Competitions Committee

Chair

Graham Phillips

Secretary

Paddy Donovan

Committee Members and Representatives

Steve Trulock, Graham Martin, Gary Hollingsworth, Peter Waller, Bob Spooner, Alan Wilson



**THERE'S NO SPACE
FOR HATE IN OUR GAME.**

**ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
DISCRIMINATION WILL BE PUNISHED.**

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME

Competition History



This is the 131st Final of the Hertfordshire FA Senior Challenge Cup

The Hertfordshire FA Senior Challenge Cup was introduced in the 1886-87 season and had been played continuously ever since, barring a five year period during the First World War, until the COVID pandemic forced a two year gap without a final.

The inaugural winners were Hoddesdon who defeated Watford Rovers, a result that was repeated the following year. Rovers would later gain some revenge, winning the next two times they met in the final, with all of the first six wins shared between these two clubs.

Since then there have been few periods of significant dominance, with some twenty nine different names added to the trophy over the years. However, it is Barnet who have been most successful, with nineteen wins stretching from 1940 through to 2011.

Berkhamsted are the current holders, having lifted the Senior Cup for the first time in their history last season. St Albans City have reached the final twenty-seven times, with the most recent of their fifteen wins in this competition coming in 2005.

Today's match will be 45 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary. Teams may use five substitutes from a list of five provided to the referee before kick off.

Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019-20 season to be cut short, with winning semi-finalists Hemel Hempsted and St Albans City declared to have shared the competition. The Senior Challenge Cup was not run in the subsequent season before returning in 2021-22.

2012/13	Hemel Hempstead Town	2 - 0	Potters Bar Town
2013/14	Boreham Wood	1 - 1 (3 - 1) P	Bishop's Stortford
2014/15	Hemel Hempstead Town	1 - 0	Boreham Wood
2015/16	Hitchin Town	2 - 1	Boreham Wood
2016/17	Hitchin Town	2 - 1	Bishop's Stortford
2017/18	Boreham Wood	2 - 1	Royston Town
2018/19	Boreham Wood	1 - 0	St Albans City
2021/22	Cheshunt	2 - 0	Hadley
2022/23	Berkhamsted	2 - 2 (4 - 2) P	Hitchin Town

Club Profile

Berkhamsted



The Comrades are looking to retain the Senior Cup after a remarkable double last season

Our nickname is 'The Comrades', after Berkhamsted Comrades which was the name of the club originally formed in the town by servicemen returning from the First World War. They later changed their name to Berkhamsted Town, but folded for financial reasons in early 2009 and the current club was formed shortly after.

The new club entered the Spartan South Midlands League, winning the Division 2 title at the first attempt followed by the Division 1 title a year later. The 107 points total secured in that season was the highest in any of the non-league pyramid and Hertfordshire FA awarded the club The Sir Stanley Rous Memorial Trophy.

In 2022-23 the team enjoyed a quite remarkable season, winning the Southern League Central by 19 points and defeating Hitchin Town on penalties in dramatic Senior Cup Final. As well as winning four divisional team of the month awards, the Comrades were also awarded the Sir Stanley Rous Memorial Trophy for the second time.

The club also runs a midweek side for Under 18s in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League, and a ladies' team who play on Sundays in the Beds & Herts Women's League.



League Season

Pitching In Southern League, Premier Central *As at 05/04/2024*

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Needham Market	36	25	7	4	71	25	46	82
2	Mickleover	36	23	5	8	70	39	31	74
3	AFC Telford United	36	20	10	6	55	31	24	70
4	Stratford Town	36	20	5	11	64	51	13	65
5	Leamington	35	17	12	6	54	29	25	63
6	Redditch United	36	18	6	12	53	49	4	60
7	Stamford	34	15	9	10	71	51	20	54
8	Royston Town	36	16	6	14	56	54	2	54
9	Halesowen Town	37	15	8	14	48	47	1	53
10	Coalville Town	35	14	9	12	64	49	15	51
11	St Ives Town	36	15	4	17	73	62	11	49
12	Barwell	36	12	11	13	56	56	0	47
13	Leiston	35	13	8	14	50	61	-11	47
14	Stourbridge	34	12	7	15	46	44	2	43
15	Kettering Town	35	12	7	16	44	65	-21	43
16	Alvechurch	37	11	9	17	45	65	-20	42
17	Bromsgrove Sporting	36	11	8	17	42	46	-4	41
18	Hitchin Town	36	11	5	20	46	59	-13	38
19	AFC Sudbury	36	7	10	19	42	58	-16	31
20	Long Eaton United	36	4	7	25	36	96	-60	19
21	Berkhamsted	36	2	11	23	26	75	-49	17
22	Nuneaton Borough	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0

Your analysis of the season so far...

After last year's heroics, a tough season for the Comrades has ended in relegation. The club's first time in Step 3 has been a challenge from day one, with a new manager and entirely new squad starting the season. The table doesn't lie, but with eleven draws and fourteen defeats coming by a single goal, the team have always been competitive and take great credit for their persistence, effort and resilience – many opposition managers have left the Glencar Community Stadium with the words, "no way you should be bottom".

More recently, the return of last season's successful manager Chris Devane has given everyone at Berko a lift. The cup run, back to the final again after last season's victory, has been a highlight of the season, with ten goals scored and only two conceded, and the team will not want to surrender their title without a struggle in tonight's game.



Berkhamsted

Currently 21st in the Pitching In Southern League Premier Central
As at 05/04/2024

League Form

Games Won	2
Games Drawn	11
Games Lost	23
Goals Scored	26
Goals Conceded	75

Leading Scorers

5	Matthew Bateman
3	Max Bustamante
3	Lewis Johnson
3	Thomas Newman
3	Mark Riddick

Route to the Final

R1		BYE	
R2	Kings Langley	0 - 5	Berkhamsted
QF	Cheshunt	2 - 3	Berkhamsted
SF	Berkhamsted	2 - 0	Colney Heath



St Albans City

Currently 10th in the Vanarama National League South
As at 05/04/2024

League Form

Games Won	19
Games Drawn	7
Games Lost	16
Goals Scored	72
Goals Conceded	60

Leading Scorers

32	Shaun Jeffers
12	Mitchell Weiss
9	Giorgio Rasulo
5	Zane Banton
3	Romeo Akinola

Route to the Final

R1		BYE	
R2	St Albans City	6 - 0	Hitchin Town
QF	St Albans City	5 - 2	Stevenage
SF	Hertford Town	1 - 4	St Albans City

Club Profile

St Albans City



Non-league stalwarts have seen highs, lows and some unique moments of football history

Having formed in 1908 our league journey began in the Spartan and Herts County leagues. Both were won prior to the Great War. After the war City joined the Athenian League. Winning that twice in three years was an achievement that paved the way to joining the Isthmian League in 1923. Within a year City were crowned champions of that league too, making us the first to win the Spartan, Athenian, and Isthmian League championships. By the end of the decade the club had won the Isthmian title on two further occasions. The 1920s could be seen as St Albans City's golden days with three Amateur Cup semi-final appearances also being made.

City achieved just two more top two finishes before, along with Corinthian Casuals, being the first club to be relegated within the newly expanded Isthmian League in 1974. A second relegation was endured nine years later but it proved to be the spark for an upturn in fortunes. City turned to one of their former players John Mitchell to be manager and with two promotions in three years the club was back in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League. City were later denied promotion to the Conference in 1993 after finishing second to Chesham United when they took exception to a 140-year-old oak tree situated within the terrace. The tree was felled in 1998, clearing the way for City to join the Conference South as founder members in 2004 following a play-off victory over Bedford Town.

Having battled against relegation for much of that first season, the Saints, now managed by Colin Lippiatt, gained promotion a year later with victory in the play-off final over Histon. After just one season in the Conference National, St Albans were relegated back to Conference South but went down with the highest points total of any side to finish bottom of the Conference since the league added two extra Divisions. Life back in Conference South was far from easy and in 2011, following a deduction of ten points and a fine of £9,500 for financial irregularities, City were relegated to the Southern League.

After just three seasons, Graham Golds and Jimmy Gray led City back into Conference South with a play-off victory at Chesham United. Facing relegation in 2016, City turned to Ian Allinson with the former Arsenal player not only guiding the club to safety but settling in for a six-year stint at Clarence Park. Allinson left the Saints in October 2022 with his replacement, former City player David Noble, leading the club straight into the play-offs. Victories over Chelmsford City and Dartford took City through to the promotion final where a dominant Oxford City side were triumphant, leaving the Saints to settle for another promotion pushing season in the National League South.

League Season

Vanarama National League South *As at 05/04/2024*

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Yeovil Town	41	26	8	7	72	40	32	86
2	Chelmsford City	43	23	10	10	71	41	30	79
3	Braintree Town	42	21	11	10	59	38	21	74
4	Maidstone United	42	21	11	10	63	48	15	74
5	Worthing	42	22	6	14	91	66	25	72
6	Hampton & Richmond	41	19	11	11	58	49	9	68
7	Bath City	41	18	12	11	66	48	18	66
8	Farnborough	42	18	12	12	71	63	8	66
9	Aveley	43	19	9	15	63	59	4	66
10	St Albans City	42	19	7	16	72	60	12	64
11	Chippenham Town	41	15	13	13	58	53	5	58
12	Slough Town	41	15	12	14	72	65	7	57
13	Tonbridge Angels	43	15	11	17	62	60	2	56
14	Weston-super-Mare	40	15	7	18	59	65	-6	52
15	Weymouth	40	12	15	13	56	59	-3	51
16	Hemel Hempstead Town	43	13	9	21	52	67	-15	48
17	Welling United	42	11	15	16	54	70	-16	48
18	Truro City	38	13	7	18	51	59	-8	46
19	Torquay United	41	16	7	18	64	72	-8	45
20	Eastbourne Borough	41	11	8	22	45	71	-26	41
21	Dartford	42	10	10	22	50	68	-18	40
22	Taunton Town	39	9	13	17	41	63	-22	40
23	Havant & Waterlooville	42	10	6	26	50	83	-33	36
24	Dover Athletic	42	4	14	24	38	71	-33	26



Do You Know How to Help Keep Your Child Safe in Football?

Hertfordshire FA Designated Safeguarding Manager
Gemma Chaffey on how you can play your part



Safeguarding is about creating safe environments and preventing children from experiencing harm or abuse. Put simply, safeguarding refers to measures we take to protect our children - and keep them safe and well. Whether that's your kids, the opposing players or even the referee, every young person has the right to enjoy football.

The FA offer a short Safeguarding for Parents Course designed to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in. It starts by explaining the importance of safeguarding in football and the child-centred approach the game takes.

It will then guide you through questions you should ask to ensure the club or venue where your children play has the correct safeguarding policies, people and practices in place. The course also highlights signs that should concern you – and how to report these concerns.



Together we can help make football safe for all. Take the free Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers course today!

bit.ly/HFA-SAC

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Don't wait for someone else to do something about it

A child or young person may inform you directly that they are concerned about someone's behaviour towards them. Or you may become aware, through your own observations or through a third party, of possible abuse occurring. Either way you need to report it.

If you have a safeguarding concern you should raise it with your Club Welfare Officer, or alternatively contact our Designated Safeguarding Manager. Please call Gemma Chaffey on 07538 990836 or email safeguarding@hertfordshirefa.com.

If you cannot contact one of the above or you are worried about a child outside of football, you can also call Children Services 0300 123 4043 or the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000.

If you believe someone is in immediate danger of harm, always call the Police on 999

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your child safe in football?**

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in partnership with
NSPCC

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To learn more about our work and how you can help with donations of kit visit our website.

www.kitaid.net

Reg Charity No. 1113968

Hertfordshire FA County Cup Finals 2024



Saturday 23rd March 10:00am
Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup

Won by Hertford Town Girls

Saturday 23rd March 2:30pm
Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup

Won by Hitchin Belles Youth

Wednesday 27th March 7:45pm
Senior Centenary Trophy

Won by Hoddesdon Town

Friday 29th March 3:00pm
Junior Cup

Won by Sarratt Reserves

Sunday 7th April 10:00am
Under 18 Boys Challenge Cup

Won by Cheshunt Youth

Sunday 7th April 3:00pm
Sunday Intermediate Cup

Won by Brewster Plumbing

Tuesday 9th April 7:45pm*
Senior Challenge Cup

Berkhamsted vs St Albans City

Wednesday 10th April 7:45pm
Charity Shield

Tring Athletic vs Oxhey Jets

Sunday 14th April 10:00am
Under 14 Boys Challenge Cup

Sun Sports Youth vs Kings Langley Youth

Sunday 14th April 3:00pm
Sunday Junior Cup

Hertford Club De Futbol vs Northaw Res

Sunday 21st April 10:00am
Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup

Stags vs St Albans City Youth

Sunday 21st April 3:00pm
Women's Senior Challenge Cup

Royston Town vs Watford FC Development

Sunday 28th April 10:00am
Under 16 Boys Challenge Cup

Sun Sports Youth vs Hemel Aces

Sunday 28th April 3:00pm
Sunday Senior Cup

WD Bushey vs Strafford Arms

Saturday 4th May 10:00am
Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup

Stevenage Starlets vs Hitchin Belles Youth

Saturday 4th May 3:00pm
Under 18 Girls Challenge Cup

Garston Ladies Junior vs Oaklands Wolves

Sunday 26th May 10:30am
Women's Trophy

Colney Heath vs Stevenage FC Development

Date to be confirmed*
Charity Cup

Potters Bar Town v St Albans City

Date to be confirmed
Intermediate Cup

Finalists to be confirmed

** All finals to be played at The County Ground, Letchworth, with the exception of the Senior Cup which is to be played at Top Field in Hitchin and the Charity Cup for which the venue is still to be confirmed*



V



Jamie Head
Rex Cannon
Kyal Williams
Sam McClelland
Dan Newton
Luke Massingham
Raul Da Silva
Callum Ismail
Jordon Frederick
Connor Toomey
Adam Watkins
Ross Oulton
Sami Bessadi
Jeremiah Luwero
Matt Bateman
Max Bustamante
Alex Stelmach

Ibrahim Akanbi
Romeo Akinola
Zane Banton
Samuel Bentley
Ryan Blackman
Daniel Bowry
Samuel Brown
Jake Burger
Michael Clark
Aidan Francis-Clarke
Kieran Gauthier
Harun Hamid
Dominic Hutchinson
Jack James
Shaun Jeffers
Michael Johnson
Dylan Joyce
Olumayowa Lawal
Benjamin Mensah
George Morrall
Joseph Partington
Giorgio Rasulo
Ben Smith
Callum Tripp
Mitchell Weiss
Kyrán Wiltshire
Ben Wyatt

Manager: Chris Devane
Assistants: Darren Locke, Jake Howells
Colours: Yellow Shirts, Blue Shorts

Manager: Jon Meakes
Assistant: Harry Wheeler
Colours: Blue Shirts, White Shorts

Referee:
Jorden Gibson

Assistants:
Tom Cartwright, Neil Angus

Fourth Official:
Kyfer Mayhew